WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS • SPRING & SUMMER 2023

ON THE COVER
Cover art by Lindsey Cleworth for Divining, A Memoir in Trees, by Maureen Dunphy (page 4).

AWARD NEWS!

Getting to the Heart of the Matter
Winner, Michigan Notable Book Award
Jewish Cultural Studies
Winner, National Jewish Book Award, Education and Jewish Identity
Jewish Women’s History from Antiquity to the Present
Finalist, National Jewish Book Award, Women’s Studies—Barbara Dobkin Award
Rescue, Relief, and Resistance
Winner, French-American Foundation Translation Prize

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AWARD NEWS!

NO EQUAL JUSTICE
The Legacy of Civil Rights Icon George W. Crockett Jr.
Edward J. Littlejohn and Peter J. Hammer
The story of Civil Rights icon and Black lawyer who fought racism and political oppression with uncommon devotion.
2022, ISBN 9780814348765
$36.99 Jacketed Cloth

“George Crockett is an inspiration for freedom fighters everywhere, and it’s an honor to carry on his legacy of working for the people in Congress. A true people’s lawyer, his life serves as a model of courageous, unflinching advocacy, and it’s long past due that new generations learn about his pioneering civil rights and social justice work.”
—Rashida Tlaib, Congresswoman

GETTING TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER
My 36 Years in the Senate
Carl Levin
Former senator Carl Levin’s memoir demonstrates the value of pragmatism, empathy, and compromise.
2021, ISBN 9780814348390
$29.99 Jacketed Cloth

“Getting to the Heart of the Matter is an account of a splendid Senate career by one of its greats. But it is also a well-timed reminder of what the Senate is supposed to be: a place where the national good is earnestly considered, not a viper’s nest for conspiracy theories and vitriol. Levin, a Democratic stalwart if ever there was one, was never a shrinking violet when it came to issues he cared about, and there were plenty of those. But his old-fashioned sense of fair play helped him forge productive relationships with Republicans and craft bipartisan legislation in the days before that phrase became an oxymoron.”
—Jeffrey Robbins

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A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

As I write this in September 2022, Wayne State University Press is once again enjoying book signings and conferences and getting to know the people and places that make publishing great books for this community something we are passionate about doing well. The press publishes to the interests of communities from Detroit to the international community of readers, scholars, and book-lovers.

In June 2022, we attended the Detroit Book Fest, and it was sheer delight to see so many readers and booksellers engaged and excited to talk about the written word. We have been encouraged to see that so many independent booksellers have weathered a challenging time and have emerged with community partnerships that are stronger than ever.

We’re excited about the evolution of our seasonal list, and this season marks new directions in some important subject areas. **Paper Valley** is the remarkable story of the fight to clean up a Superfund site that resulted in a billion-dollar price bill for the corporate polluters. Continuing the thematic interaction around the natural world are two new Made in Michigan gems: **The Orchestra of Wind Chimes** by Geoffrey Jacques and **Divining, A Memoir in Trees** by Maureen Dunphy. Finally, the exciting anthology **The Lyric Essay as Resistance** opens space for new voices and new forms of writing, while fostering meaningful change.

We continue to specialize in Cultural Studies, Film and Media Studies, and Fairy-Tale Studies—with Anne Duggan as the new editor of The Donald Haase Series in Fairy-Tale Studies. With the combined effort of Senior Acquisitions Editor Marie Sweetman and new Acquisitions Editor Sandra Korn to locate and shape the best books, you’ll begin to see fresh approaches and intriguing topics in these subject areas. Under the stalwart leadership of our journals manager Julie Warheit, we have launched our twelfth journal, Jewish Folklore and Ethnology.

We are excited to shape and grow the press and are pleased to have you on this journey with us. Thank you so much for your support, and we hope you enjoy this fantastic new list!

Stephanie Williams
Director

PS: If you’re a frequent reader of our seasonal catalogs, you may notice some subtle improvements our design, thanks to Design and Production Manager Carrie Teefey, who has also designed our new Jewish Studies catalog!
PAPER VALLEY
The Fight for the Fox River Cleanup
P. David Allen II and Susan Campbell

The true story of the tumultuous fight for the $1B Superfund site cleanup—and how the corporate polluters were ultimately held accountable.

When government scientist David Allen arrived at his new jobsite in the 1990s, the Fox River near Wisconsin’s Green Bay was dominated by hulking paper mills, noxious industrial odors, and widespread ecological damage. Confronted by his lack of resources to force the politically powerful “Paper Valley” polluters to fix their mess, Allen proceeds against all bureaucratic odds in building a $1 billion case against the paper company bosses. Two small but vital players, Allen along with journalist Susan Campbell, were relentless in bringing the case to the public at the time. They do so again in this book: an act of radical transparency to uncover the intrigue that nearly blocked the cleanup behind the scenes at US Fish and Wildlife, Wisconsin’s Department of Natural Resources, and the US Environmental Protection Agency. In a rare and major environmental win, the Fox River became the site of the largest polychlorinated biphenyls cleanup in history, paid for by the paper companies rather than taxpayers, to the tune of $1.3 billion, and completed in 2020.

This true story of struggle, perseverance, and success inspires hope for environmentalists who strive to restore natural landscapes. Allen and Campbell eloquently outline the problematic bureaucracy involved in environmental cleanup efforts and reveal tactics to compel corporate entities who would dodge accountability for decades worth of contamination.

P. David Allen II is a retired wildlife biologist and environmental consultant, who has worked for federal, state, tribal, and local governments in twenty-five states.

Susan Campbell is a former environmental reporter for the Green Bay Press-Gazette and the coauthor of Beyond Earth Day: Fulfilling the Promise, with the late Earth Day founder, Senator Gaylord Nelson.

April 2023
6x9, 296 pages, 28 black-and-white images
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Great Lakes Books Series

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THE LYRIC ESSAY AS RESISTANCE
Truth from the Margins

Edited by Zoë Bossiere and Erica Trabold

Resistence and representation manifests in the subversive genre of the lyric essay.

Lyric essayists draw on memoir, poetry, and prose to push against the arbitrary genre restrictions in creative nonfiction, opening up space not only for new forms of writing, but also new voices and a new literary canon. This anthology features some of the best lyric essays published in the last several years by prominent and emerging writers. Editors Zoë Bossiere and Erica Trabold situate this anthology within the ongoing work of resistance—to genre convention, literary tradition, and the confines of dominant-culture spaces. As sites of resistance, these essays are diverse and include investigations into deeply personal and political topics such as queer and trans identity, the American BIPOC experience, reproductive justice, belonging, grief, and more. The lyric essay is always surprising; it is bold, unbound, and free. This collection highlights the lyric essay's natural capacity for representation and resistance and celebrates the form as a subversive genre that offers a mode of expression for marginalized voices.

Zoë Bossiere is a genderfluid writer from Tucson, Arizona. She is the managing editor of *Brevity: A Journal of Concise Literary Nonfiction* and coeditor of its anthology, *The Best of Brevity*.

Erica Trabold is an assistant professor at Sweet Briar College, author of *Five Plots*, and recipient of the Deborah Tall Lyric Essay Book Prize.


March 2023
5.5x8.5, 224 pages, 17 black-and-white images
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OF RELATED INTEREST

PSYCH MURDERS
Stephanie Heit

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THE SPOOK WHO SAT BY THE DOOR, Second Edition
Sam Greenlee

With an Introduction by Natiki Hope Pressley
2022, ISBN 9780814349571
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DIVINING
A Memoir in Trees
Maureen Dunphy

*Essays exploring the intimate yet universal intersection of one human life with trees.*

In sixteen essays, each named after a species of tree, Maureen Dunphy explores the nature of human-arboreal relationships, and how each of these trees has—literally—served as a friend, a confidante, or a place to rest. The depth and diversity of these relationships are revealed through essays that are both intimate and universal, moving and informative. While Dunphy's relationships with trees are unique and personal, her work reveals the deep-rooted complexity that connects all of humanity to our staunch, upright companions in life, the members of the “Standing Nation.” Beyond providing oxygen, food, and shelter, trees can be sites of emotional refuge, sources of intellectual enrichment, and a boon to physical, mental, and spiritual health.

With essays such as “Stairway to Heaven: The American Sycamore” and “Rocky Mountain High: The Colorado Pinyon,” Dunphy gives readers many ways to reimagine our relationships with nature and self. While technology, screens, and the stress of the modern world directs our attention elsewhere, Dunphy brings the reader back to the trees right outside our windows.

Maureen Dunphy is the author of *Great Lakes Island Escapes* (Wayne State University Press, 2016), which received the 2017 Michigan Notable Book Award, and *All About the Great Lakes*. She leads writing workshops privately and for Springfed Arts and, through Dunphy Consulting Services, coaches writers and provides professional editing. Dunphy lives in the Detroit metropolitan area.

February 2023
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OF RELATED INTEREST

**GREAT LAKES ISLAND ESCAPES**
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Maureen Dunphy
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**A FINE CANOPY**
Poems by Alison Swan
$17.99 Paperback
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See page 23 of this catalog for details
THE ORCHESTRA OF WIND CHIMES

Poems by Geoffrey Jacques

Thought-provoking poems that challenge preconceptions of form and style while focusing on themes of everyday experience, class, politics, literature, and more.

This powerful collection of poems draws on American and African-American experimental lyric traditions, pushing language and form to their limits. Geoffrey Jacques’s poetry inspires deep thought, taking up themes of music, psychology, and literature. This work embodies the potential of poetry to forge new connections between aesthetic expression and the often onerous facts of human existence. Poems such as “Still Life” and “Detour Ahead” produce a juxtaposition of inspired poetic form and rich, complex realities of life, addressing topics of joy and love, race, class, politics, and the aesthetics of the everyday. With a contemporary and sophisticated tenor, Jacques lends his uniquely moving and provocative perspective to advancing discourse in these critical topics. For all of the social themes they address, these poems equally serve to investigate modes of producing poetry in general. “Ars Poetica,” “The Problem of Speech Genres,” “The Subject of the Poem,” and many others directly challenge traditional notions of form through intentional and intricate reflexive commentary. Through these poems, Jacques has achieved a balance between form and function, allowing readers to embark on a rhythmic journey of expression, language, and human existence.

Geoffrey Jacques is a Detroit poet and critic whose work has been published internationally. He is also a teacher and author of works about literature, culture, politics, film, and the visual arts. He is a recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) fellowship.

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OF RELATED INTEREST

JUST FOR A THRILL
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Geoffrey Jacques
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COME SEE ABOUT ME, MARVIN
poems by brian g. gilmore
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MAD MEN
Gary R. Edgerton

A captivating and analytical compendium to the hit show—and its creation, story, and impact on contemporary media and popular culture.

This one-stop primer offers a succinct analysis of one of the most skillfully produced, artistically innovative, and culturally resonant scripted series in modern television. It opens by explaining how Mad Men (AMC, 2007–2015) functions as a representative example of much deeper and more profound structural changes happening in television since the 2000s. Gary R. Edgerton highlights influences driving the creation of the show, including creator Matthew Weiner’s personal connections to the subject matter and the development of the main character, Don Draper (Jon Hamm). Analysis of the show’s story progression is delineated by a pivotal shift from a culturally relevant Zeitgeist phenomenon to a narrative more concerned with Draper’s introspective and existential journey to reconciliation and self-awareness. Cultural reflections are also explored with interrogations of privilege and prejudice, the American Dream, ethnicity, race, gender politics, and class as witnessed through the program’s complex and conflicted characters.

Following its debut, Mad Men quickly became a bellwether of contemporary culture. Throughout its seven seasons, the series struck a delicate balance of being both complex and cerebral while also entertaining and accessible, a balance that Edgerton skillfully carries over to this book.

Gary R. Edgerton is professor of creative media and entertainment at Butler University. He has published twelve books, including The Sopranos (Wayne State University Press, 2013), and more than ninety essays on a variety of television, film, and cultural topics.

April 2023
5x7, 144 pages, 20 black-and-white illustrations
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TV Milestones Series

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Gary R. Edgerton
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THE AMERICANS
Linda Mizejewski
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PARKS AND RECREATION

Holly Willson Holladay

“Treat yo’ self” to this captivating analysis of critically acclaimed, fan-favorite television series Parks and Recreation.

An homage to Parks and Recreation (2009–15) and an exploration of how the show evolved as a traditional network sitcom in a post-network era. This deep dive into the series highlights the new norm of digital fandom, where social media has become a means for fans to engage with the series beyond its runtime.

While the media landscape evolved, so did American sociopolitical discourse; Holladay examines the series contained entirely within Barack Obama’s presidency as it reflects the role of politics in American life on a micro scale.

The series follows the career and personal life of Leslie Knope (Amy Poehler), a self-possessed, midlevel bureaucrat whose initial ideology reflects the optimistic tone of politics ushered in with Obama’s campaign and early presidency. Throughout its run, Parks and Recreation engaged with political debates simmering in American culture, offering a humorous ripped-from-the-headlines take on issues such as same-sex marriage, distrust of politicians, government shutdowns, and corporate bailouts. Through compelling analysis, Holladay untangles representations of women and BIPOC in the series as they engage with contemporary discourse surrounding media and identity politics.

Holly Willson Holladay is associate professor of media theory and criticism at Missouri State University. She received her doctorate in media and cultural studies from the University of Missouri. Her research about identity, popular media, and media audiences has been published in journals such as Journal of Fandom Studies, Feminist Media Studies, the Journal of Popular Culture, and in various edited collections.

March 2023
5x7, 128 pages, 25 black-and-white illustrations
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TV Milestones Series

OF RELATED INTEREST

THE GOOD PLACE
Erin Giannini
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THE GOLDEN GIRLS
Kate Browne
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RECOLLECTING COLLECTING
A Film and Media Perspective
Edited by Lucy Fischer

The impact of unique material collections that have helped shaped research, practice, and education in film and media studies.

This intriguing volume sheds light on the diverse world of collecting film- and media-related materials. Lucy Fischer's introduction explores theories of collecting and representations of collecting and collections in film, while arguing that collections of film ephemera and other media-related collections are an important way in to understanding the relationship between material culture and film and media studies; she notes that the collectors have various motivations and types of collections. In the eleven chapters that follow, media studies scholars analyze a variety of fascinating collected materials, from Doris Day magazines to Godzilla action figures and LEGO. In many cases, collections that began as informal and personal have been built up, accessioned, and reorganized to create teaching and research materials which have significantly contributed to the field of film and media studies. Readers are offered glimpses into diverse collections comprised of films, fan magazines, records, comics, action figures, design artifacts, costumes, props— including Buffy the Vampire Slayer costumes, and Amazing Spider Man comics. Recollecting Collecting interrogates and illustrates the meaning and practical nature of film and media collections while also considering the vast array of personal and professional motivations behind their assemblage.

Lucy Fischer is distinguished professor emerita in film and media studies at the University of Pittsburgh, where she also served as director of the program. She is author or editor of fourteen books, including Cinemagrritte (Wayne State University Press, 2019).

Contributors: Kara Lynn Andersen, Erika Balsom, Joanne Bernardi, Mark Best, Blair Davis, Lucy Fischer, Krin Gabbard, Barry Keith Grant, Tamar Jeffers McDonald, Leah Kerr, Adam Lowenstein, Josh Stenger

April 2023
6x9, 300 pages, 38 black-and-white images
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Dennis Broe
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Queer Imaginings
On Writing and Cinematic Friendship

David A. Gerstner

*Discovering the queer auteur and their seductive cinematic delights and possibilities.*

How do we identify the “queer auteur” and their queer imaginings? Is it possible to account for such a figure when the very terms “queer” and “auteur” invoke aesthetic surprises and disorientations, disconcerting ironies and paradoxes, and biographical deicts and ambiguities? In eighteen eloquent chapters, David A. Gerstner traces a history of ideas that spotlight an ever-shifting terrain associated with auteur theory and, in particular, queer-auteur theory. Engaging with the likes of Oscar Wilde, Walter Benjamin, James Baldwin, Jean Louis Baudry, Linda Nochlin, Jane Gallop, Cáel Keegan, Luce Irigaray, and other prominent critical thinkers, Gerstner contemplates how the queer auteur in film theory might open us to the work of desire.

*Queer Imaginings* argues for a queer-auteur in which critical theory is reenabled to reconceptualize the auteur in relation to race, gender, sexuality, and desire. Gerstner succinctly defines the contours of a history and the ongoing discussions that situate queer and auteur theories in film studies. Ultimately, *Queer Imaginings* is a journey in shared pleasures in which writing for and about cinema makes way for unanticipated cinematic friendships.

David A. Gerstner is professor of cinema studies at the City University of New York, College of Staten Island and Graduate Center. He has previously published over thirty articles in the subject of queer film studies and eight books including *Christophe Honoré: A Critical Introduction* (Wayne State University Press, 2015).

March 2023

6x9, 416 pages, 27 black-and-white images

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Queer Screens Series

**OF RELATED INTEREST**

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David A. Gerstner and Julien Nahmias
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Flashpoints of Cinema, History, and Queer Politics
Edited by Matt Bell
Paperback
FROM LEFT TO RIGHT
Lucy S. Dawidowicz, the New York Intellectuals, and the Politics of Jewish History

Nancy Sinkoff

Intellectual biography of Holocaust historian Lucy S. Dawidowicz.

From Left to Right: Lucy S. Dawidowicz, the New York Intellectuals, and the Politics of Jewish History is the first comprehensive biography of Dawidowicz (1915–1990), a pioneer historian in the field that is now called Holocaust studies. Dawidowicz was a household name in the postwar years, not only because of her scholarship but also due to her political views. Dawidowicz, like many other New York intellectuals, was a youthful communist, became an FDR democrat midcentury, and later championed neoconservatism. Nancy Sinkoff argues that Dawidowicz’s rightward shift emerged out of living in prewar Poland, watching the Holocaust unfold from New York City, and working with displaced persons in postwar Germany. Based on over forty-five archival collections, From Left to Right chronicles Dawidowicz’s life as a window into the major events and issues of twentieth-century Jewish life.

Nancy Sinkoff is the academic director of the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life and professor of Jewish studies and history at Rutgers University–New Brunswick. She is author of Out of the Shtetl: Making Jews Modern in the Polish Borderlands, of “Yidishkayt and the Making of Lucy S. Dawidowicz,” the introductory essay to Dawidowicz’s reissued From that Place and Time, A Memoir, 1938–1947, and co-editor with Rebecca Cypess of Sara Levy’s World: Gender, Judaism, and the Bach Tradition in Enlightenment Berlin.

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Winner of the 2020 National Jewish Book Award—Biography
A Natan Notable Book

“Sinkoff’s engaging and revelatory biography is a reminder of Lucy Dawidowicz’s important place among twentieth-century American intellectuals. She may have been forgotten by intellectual historians, but her works should, and hopefully will, continue to find their place on the shelves of those who care for the truths of the Jewish past and who want to strengthen the prospects of the Jewish future.”
—Mosaic

OF RELATED INTEREST

SURVIVORS AND EXILES
Yiddish Culture after the Holocaust
Jan Schwarz
$36.99 Paperback
* PANDEMIC PUBS SALE eligible *
See page 32 of this catalog for details
INVISIBLE INK

A Memoir by Guy Stern

The incredible autobiography of one of the WWII Ritchie Boys.

Guy Stern’s story begins with his parents—“the two met, or else this chronicle would not have seen the light of day (nor me, for that matter).” Then, in 1933, the Nazis come to power, ushering in a fiery and destructive timeline that Stern recollects by exact dates and calls “the end of [his] childhood and adolescence.” The only member of his family to flee Nazi Germany, Stern immigrated to the United States at the tender age of fifteen. While attending St. Louis University, Stern was drafted into the U.S. Army and soon found himself selected, along with other German-speaking immigrants, for a special military intelligence unit that would come to be known as the Ritchie Boys (named so because their training took place at Ft. Ritchie, MD). Their primary job was to interrogate Nazi prisoners, often on the front lines. Although his family did not survive the war (the details of which the reader is spared), Stern did. He has gone on to have a long and illustrious career as a scholar, author, husband and father, mentor, decorated veteran, and friend.

Guy Stern is Distinguished Professor Emeritus in the Department of Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures at Wayne State University and the former director of the Harry and Wanda Zekelman International Institute of the Righteous at the Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus. He is the author of War, Weimar, and Literature: The Story of the Neue Merkur, Literature and Culture in Exile, and numerous scholarly papers.

Published 2020
6x9, 272, 40 black-and-white images
ISBN 978-0-8143-4759-1
$27.99 Jacketed Cloth

We’re celebrating the incredible life of Guy Stern with a special price on his amazing memoir! Invisible Ink is $19.59 when combined with any other 4 units of sale titles (see pages 20–32) from 1/1/2023–4/30/2023. Use Code PP23

OF RELATED INTEREST

GETTING TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER
My 36 Years in the Senate
Carl Levin

$29.99 Jacketed Cloth
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See page 30 of this catalog for details
Jewish humor operates as a system of meaning-making for many Jewish Americans. By mapping humor onto both the generational identity of those making it and the use of Judaism within it, new insights about the development of American Judaism emerge. Caplan’s explication is innovative and insightful, engaging with scholarly discourse across Jewish studies and Jewish American history; it includes the work of Joseph Heller, Larry David, Woody Allen, Seinfeld, the Coen brothers films, and Broad City. This example of well-informed scholarship begins with an explanation of what makes Jewish humor Jewish and why Jewish humor is such a visible phenomenon. Offering ample evidence and examples along the way, Caplan guides readers through a series of phenomenological and ideological changes across generations, concluding with commentary regarding the potential influences on Jewish humor of later Millennials, Gen Z, and beyond.

Jennifer Caplan is the Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati Chair in Judaic Studies at the University of Cincinnati. She is the author of numerous works on Judaism and popular culture, including publications in Bulletin for the Study of Religion, Journal of Modern Jewish Studies, Shofar, and the Journal of Jewish Identities.

March 2023
6x9, 188 pages
ISBN 978-0-8143-4730-0, $94.99 Hardcover
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OF RELATED INTEREST

COMIC VENUS
Women and Comedy in American Silent Film
Kristen Anderson Wagner
$29.99 Paperback

LAUGHTER AFTER
Humor and the Holocaust
Edited by David Slucki, Gabriel N. Finder, and Avinoam Patt
$34.99 Paperback
* PANDEMIC PUBS SALE eligible *
See page 31 of this catalog for details
MEMORY SPACES
Visualizing Identity in Jewish Women's Graphic Narratives

Victoria Aarons

Jewish identity, memory, and place deftly revealed through the lens of Jewish women’s graphic narratives.

An exploration of the work of Jewish women graphic novelists and the intricate ways Jewish identity is complicated by gender, memory, generation, and place—that is, the emotional, geographical, and psychological spaces that women inhabit. Victoria Aarons argues that Jewish women graphic novelists are preoccupied with embodied memory: the way the body materializes memory. This monograph investigates how memory manifests in the drawn shape of the body as an expression of the weight of personal and collective histories. Aarons explores Jewish identity, diaspora, mourning, memory, and witness in the works of Sarah Lightman, Liana Finck, Anya Ulinich, Leela Corman, and more.

Memory Spaces begins by framing this research within contemporary discourse and reflects upon the choice to explore Jewish women graphic novelists specifically. In the chapters that follow, Aarons relates the nuanced issues of memory, transmission of trauma, Jewish cultural identity, and the gendered self to a series of meaningful and noteworthy graphic novels. Aarons's insight, close readings, and integration of contemporary scholarship are conveyed clearly and concisely, creating a work that both captivates readers and contributes to scholarly discourse in Jewish studies, women's literature, memory studies, and identity.

Victoria Aarons is a distinguished professor of literature at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. She is the author or editor of twelve books, including Holocaust Graphic Narratives: Generation, Trauma, and Memory and Third-Generation Holocaust Narratives: Memory in Memoir and Fiction.

May 2023
6x9, 288 pages, 30 black-and-white images
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OF RELATED INTEREST

JEWISH WOMEN’S HISTORY FROM ANTIQUITY TO THE PRESENT
Edited by Federica Francesconi and Rebecca Lynn Winer
$49.99 Paperback
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See page 31 of this catalog for details

JEWISH WOMEN WRITERS IN BRITAIN
Edited by Nadia Valman
$31.99 Paperback
BRIDGING WORLDS
Poetry and Philosophy in the Works of Immanuel of Rome

Dana W. Fishkin

A radical revisitation of Immanuel of Rome’s biblical exegesis, Mahberet Ha-Tofet Ve-ha-‘Eden.

Mahberet Immanuel is a collection of twenty-eight chapters in Hebrew of rhymed prose and poetry written by the poet and amateur philosopher Immanuel of Rome during an era of rapid political change in late medieval Italy. The final chapter, Mahberet Ha-Tofet Ve-ha-‘Eden (A Tale of Heaven and Hell), like Dante’s Commedia, depicts Immanuel’s visits to hell and heaven. Bridging Worlds focuses on the interrelation of Immanuel’s belletristic work and biblical exegesis to advance a comprehensive and original reading of this final chapter. By reading Immanuel’s philosophical commentaries and literary works together, Dana Fishkin demonstrates that Immanuel’s narrative made complex philosophical ideas about the soul’s quest for immortality accessible to an educated populace. Throughout this work, she explains the many ways Mahberet Ha-Tofet Ve-ha-‘Eden serves as a site of cultural negotiation and translation.

Bridging Worlds broadens our understanding of the tensions inherent in the world of late medieval Jewish people who were deeply enmeshed in Italian culture and literature, negotiating two cultures whose values may have overlapped but also sometimes clashed. Fishkin puts forth a valuable and refreshing perspective alongside previously unknown sources to breathe new life into this extremely rich and culturally valuable medieval work.

Dana Fishkin is an associate professor of history at Touro University in New York. She has published articles in Prooftexts and the Jewish Quarterly Review. She is a contributor for Jewish Romance in the Middle Ages and the Encyclopedia of Skepticism.

May 2023
6x9, 336 pages
ISBN 978-0-8143-5036-2, $94.99 Hardcover
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OF RELATED INTEREST

SEPHER YOSIPPON
A Tenth-Century History of Ancient Israel
Introduced and Translated by Steven B. Bowman

TALES IN CONTEXT
Sefer ha-ma’asim in Medieval Northern France
Rella Kushelevsky
With a historical epilogue by Elisheva Baumgarten
HOUSE AND HOME

Sheri Flowers Anderson

A collection of poems that intensely explore the beauty and wisdom to be found in what we commonly call “everyday” encounters, relationships, occurrences, and spaces.

Broadside Lotus Press 2022 Naomi Long Madgett Poetry Award Winner

House and Home by Sheri Flowers Anderson is an intense mining of the beauty and wisdom to be found in what we commonly call “everyday” encounters, relationships, occurrences, and spaces. Through metaphors derived from scenes from home, neighborhood, and the intimacies of family life, the poems offer spiritual and philosophical insights that might otherwise go unnoticed. These poems are infused with love of kin, nature, and the daily efforts required to manage domestic life. The poet’s style is direct and uncomplicated, with a heavy reliance on images that pull us into the dramas she unrolls. This is poetry that grounds us, brings us home, so to speak, while initiating us into the magic that brightens and coheres our intimate lives.

Sheri Flowers Anderson earned a bachelor’s degree in business management with a minor in creative writing at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock. For many years she developed her writing skills while working full time as a human resources specialist. She has won numerous awards for memoir and short story writing as well as for poetry. Her poems have been published widely over the last several decades, including in Voices International Magazine, and in Voices Along the River, The Dream Catcher, and Inkwell Echoes anthologies.

February 2023
5.5x8.5, 70 pages
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