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# Behind the Book

by **PETER KERASOTIS**, coauthor with  
**FELIPE ALOU** of *Alou: My Baseball Journey*,  
and **ROB TAYLOR**, UNP senior acquisitions editor

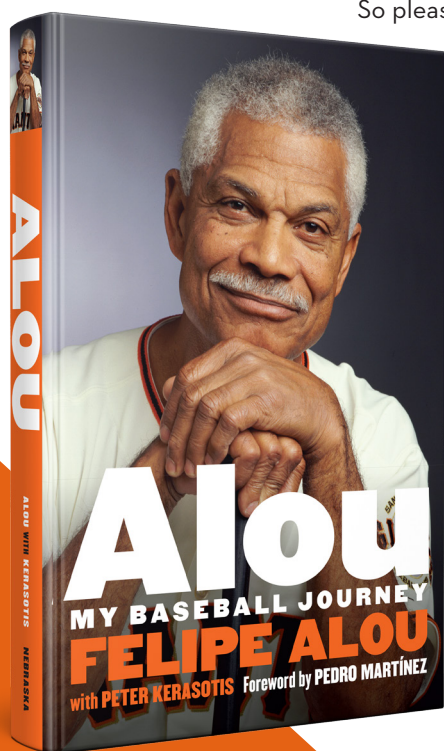
## PETER KERASOTIS:

One of the most common questions I get is: how long does it take you to write a book? I'm still trying to come up with a witty retort for that query, because there is no one-size-fits-all answer. I once wrote a book on the history of Florida Gators football in two months, and I did so while working full-time as a newspaper columnist and also while dodging the relentless lineup of hurricanes that battered Florida in 2004. But did I really write that book in two months? As a University of Florida graduate and a Florida-based sportswriter, I've documented scores of Gators games and interviewed dozens of coaches and athletes through the years. That background and an intimate working knowledge of UF's football program, along with a meticulously kept personal clip file, became invaluable when I wrote that book. Two months? Probably more like two decades.

So please don't ask me how long it took me to co-write my latest tome—

*Alou: My Baseball Journey*—with Felipe Alou. I didn't use a stopwatch, but if I did I first would have clicked it when I was a boy and collected baseball cards of players from the '60s, which included Felipe and his younger brothers Matty and Jesús. I even watched all three of them play—either in Major League games or spring training games—and likely collected an autograph or two from them.

I didn't officially meet Felipe Alou until the spring of 2000. He was the Montreal Expos' manager, and I was a sports columnist. I asked him what he remembered from when he first came to Florida forty-four years earlier as a minor league player. Felipe did what sports columnists love—he filled my notebook. And not just with pabulum jock-talk. Felipe was thoughtful, insightful, memorable. For a few years after that I made it a point to connect with Felipe during spring training,



tapping into him on the baseball topic of the day, always knowing he'd have an astute and perceptive opinion. Was the clock also ticking then? In retrospect, yes.

Fast forward eleven years from that March afternoon in 2000 to August 12, 2011. I'd been laid off the day before and was sitting in the visiting manager's office at Miami's Sun Life Stadium, talking to my friend Bruce Bochy, the San Francisco Giants' manager. Bruce was upset for me and for what our hometown paper had done. I told him it was okay, that I was going to be okay.

"What are you going to do?" he asked.

"I have ideas," I said. "You know, I've always had it in my mind that I'd like to write Felipe Alou's autobiography. He has all the ingredients a writer looks for in a great book."

Bruce stared at me for a few seconds.

"You know he's here," he said.

"Here?"

"Yeah, he's here. Felipe works for the Giants, and he lives in South Florida. He's here at the game. You want me to talk to him?"

"Sure."

As I was sitting in the stands, about fifteen minutes before the game was to start, I got a ping notifying me of a text message. It was Bruce.

*I talked to Felipe. He's interested.*

I'd like to say the book officially began then, but it didn't. Felipe and I discussed the project over the next four years. He'd say he would do it, and then he'd back away. He was nervous, but I could never put my finger on why. The only clue I had was a comment he once made. "If I do this book I'm going to do it the right way,"

he told me. "And if I do that, it's going to hurt some people." From a writer's perspective, that kind of comment gets your mind racing. What did he mean? It took me years to find out. Meanwhile, I'd jot down notes from every correspondence we had. I also read with a yellow highlighter a book Felipe did early in his baseball career. I scoured the internet for feature stories and other articles. The clock continued to tick, tick, tick . . . and years passed. During that time, I wrote two other books.

After the 2015 baseball season ended, I was chatting on the phone with Bochy, and he casually asked me how things were going with Felipe and the book.

"I've given up on that," I said.

"What?" he exclaimed, surprised.

"Bruce, he tells me he'll do it, and then he changes his mind. I've given up."

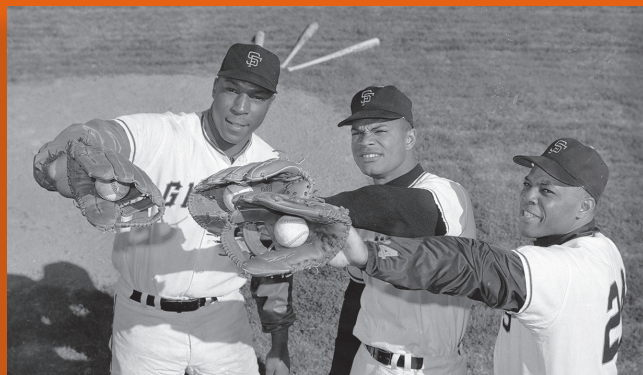
"Let me talk to him," he said. "Don't give up just yet."

A few days later, my phone rang. It was Felipe.

"I'm going to do the book," he said. "I know I've told you that many times before, but I promise you this time I won't change my mind."

I drove to Felipe's home in Boynton Beach, Florida, and we spent the afternoon talking. By now, the clock was really ticking, even though I didn't pull out a recorder or write any notes that day. We just talked for hours, forging a relationship that eventually became a friendship. I knew Felipe was going to need to trust me, and that wasn't going to happen overnight. Pulling out a recorder or a notebook during that first sit-down didn't seem prudent.

While we talked that afternoon, a thought popped into my head. Like any baseball fan, I was aware of



*Felipe Alou standing between his friends and former teammates Willie McCovey and Willie Mays. Courtesy of the San Francisco Giants.*



*Well before Felipe and his brothers made history by playing together in the same outfield for the San Francisco Giants, they did so many times with the Escogido Lions in the Dominican Winter League. Some of those games were managed by Hall of Famer Tommy Lasorda. Courtesy of Teresa "Tity" Rojas*

the three Alou brothers and their outstanding playing careers and how they had historically manned all three outfield positions at the same time for the San Francisco Giants.

"Felipe," I asked, "were there any other brothers besides you three?"

He stared at me for several seconds, quiet. Finally, he spoke.

"This is one of the reasons why I was hesitant to do a book," he said.

He told me the story of the fourth Alou brother—the youngest, Juan—and how his promising baseball career was waylaid. It was then that I finally understood what Felipe meant about stories he didn't want to tell because of the pain they could cause people. That story made it in, as did many others. Put them all together, and the result is more than a baseball book. It's a book that captures a personal journey, yes, but it also captures a family, an island, a culture, and a place and time in history. After you read it, please let me know how long it took you.

Tick, tick, tick . . .

## ROB TAYLOR:

As Peter relays above, the story he tells with Felipe is of not just a baseball life but a pioneering journey from the unlikely beginnings. It was 1956 when Felipe arrived in the minor leagues in Lake Charles, Louisiana, without knowing a single person and unable to speak English. Two years later he became the first man to go from Dominican soil to Major League Baseball. Today, the Dominican Republic



*Rob Taylor, Felipe Alou, and Peter Kerasotis.*

sends more players to Major League Baseball than any other country outside the United States.

Over the next six decades, he also became an All-Star player, the first Dominican manager, the anchor of one of the game's most prominent families, and one of the most respected men in baseball. And remarkably, it began by chance. Growing up poor, Felipe entered the pre-med program at the University of Santo Domingo, hoping to become a doctor. While Felipe was playing in the Pan-Am Games, a Giants scout noticed him and offered him 200 pesos to play professionally—the same amount Felipe's father owed to the local grocer. Against his parents' wishes, Felipe signed, paid his family's debt, and from that improbable beginning he made both his and his family's indelible mark on baseball history. *Alou* is a remarkable story about a player overcoming obstacles and making a name for himself, his family, and ultimately his country.



*Felipe was reunited in San Francisco with his son Moisés. Courtesy of the San Francisco Giants*



*Standing in front of the Giants' Felipe Alou Baseball Academy in the Dominican Republic. Courtesy of the San Francisco Giants.*



# Why I Write?

BY MIMI SCHWARTZ



In my new book, *When History Is Personal*, I write about the day my husband died. It took me six years to finish this essay, and when I did, a member of a hospital ethics board (not the hospital where Stu died) read

it, passed out copies to fellow members, and invited me to talk about the end-of-life issues in “Lessons from a Last Day.” Thirty doctors, social workers, nurses, and hospice care attendants showed up, and such a lively discussion ensued about improving death with dignity that I went home thinking, *Maybe writing our story will make a difference.*

So that is one reason I write creative nonfiction: to make a difference—be it for individual readers or an ethics board. Personal narrative, I’ve found, often stirs empathy and social understanding in ways that journalism and academic nonfiction cannot. Perhaps it is because I am only claiming one small truth—*this is what happened to me*—not a universal truth, which often puts off people with opposing views. They decide,

*I don’t agree with that!* and stop reading, and in these polarized days, we all must keep reading.

I also write to bear witness. As Patricia Hampl warns in her excellent essay “Memory and Imagination”: “If we refuse to do the work of creating this personal version of the past, someone else will do it for us. That is a scary political fact.” That is why I wrote about the three days when I discovered democracy as a juror in a Trenton courtroom (“Close Call”); and the four years when my family lived in Glen Acres, New Jersey’s first planned integrated community (“A Trunk of Surprise”); and the afternoon I spent with an Israeli Jew and Israeli Arab, drinking tea and eating dates as the two men—both seventy, both recently retired—shared their stories of a shared land (“Echo from across the Road”). All are in *When History Is Personal*, which tells twenty-five stories that connect my experiences with the larger story of history and politics that shaped them.

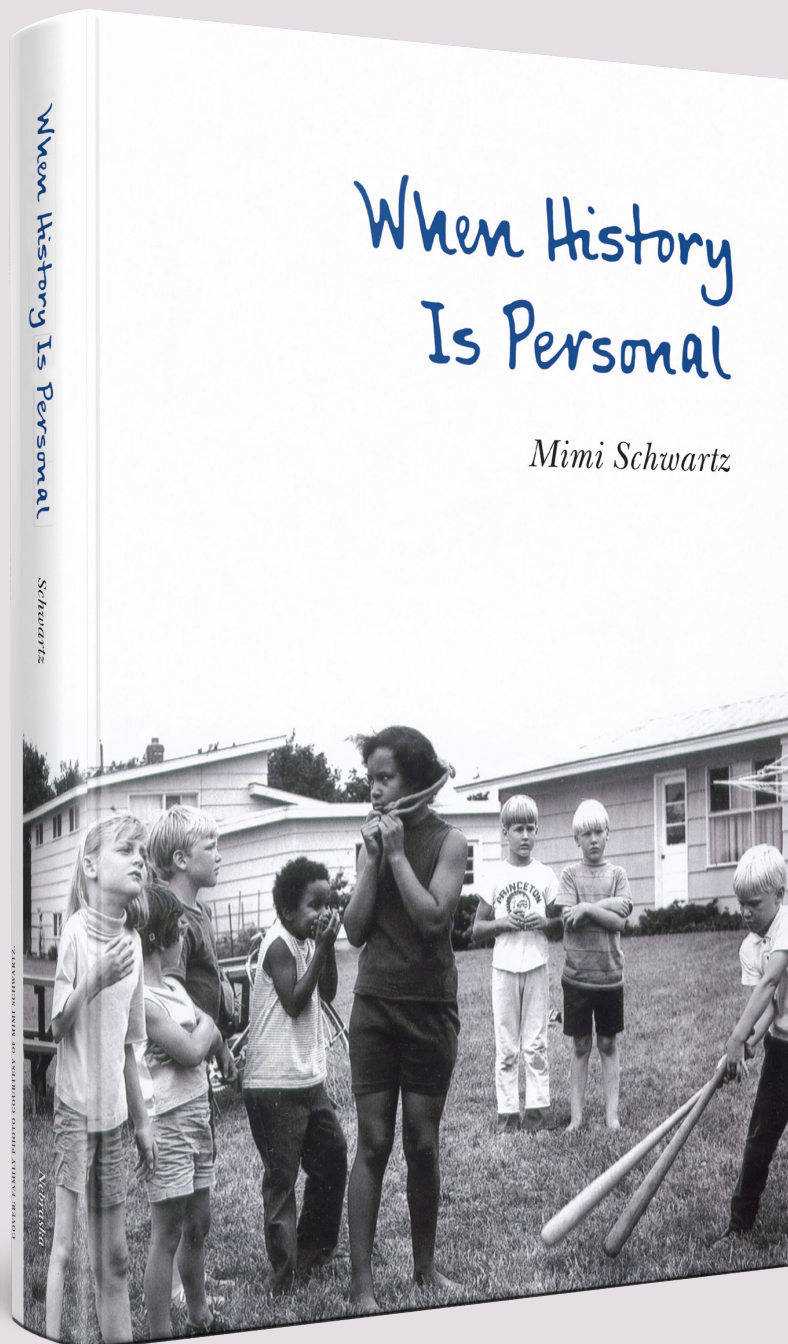
Often I write to solve an anomaly or answer a question. When I reread *Anna Karenina*, I bristled at its opening line: “All happy families are alike”; I thought, *Not my experience—or that of other long-marrieds I know.* The result was *Thoughts from a Queen-Sized Bed*, about the highs and lows, tears and laughter, of sharing a bed with one guy over the long haul. And

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Mimi Schwartz is a professor emerita in the writing program at Stockton University. Her new book is *When History Is Personal*. She is the award-winning author of *Good Neighbors, Bad Times: Echoes of My Father’s German Village* (Nebraska, 2008) and *Thoughts from a Queen-Sized Bed* (Nebraska, 2003) and is the coauthor of *Writing True: The Art and Craft of Creative Nonfiction*. Her essays have been widely anthologized, and nine of them have been listed as Notables in The Best American series.

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when I heard the unexpected story of Christians saving a Jewish Torah on Kristallnacht in my father's village, I needed to find out why they did it. That quest became *Good Neighbors, Bad Times: Echoes of My Father's German Village*, which took twelve years of research and eating lots of *linzertorte* in many kitchens and living rooms of once-good neighbors scattered on three continents, until I understood the pressures on decency in Nazi times—and what that means today for us, as neighbors.

Finally, I write to make sense of my life, trying to capture its confusions and epiphanies—along with the spider, fat and black, that keeps spinning its web outside my window. Its intricate threads span the three-foot glass—and it held up even during yesterday's downpour (which knocked down a branch of my neighbor's tree). Just now a white moth got away, loosening its wings just as the charging spider appeared out of nowhere. Was it the power of fear or some damaged thread I cannot see? I keep on wondering, off and now on the page, what does it mean?

# Bison Books Continue to Delight Readers

BY MARK HEINEKE, UNP MARKETING MANAGER

Bringing together some of the most beloved and iconic stories of the American West along with unexpected classics in world literature, Bison Books hold something for every reader—fiction, poetry, history, memoir, folklore, firsthand accounts, and all the shades of gray in between.

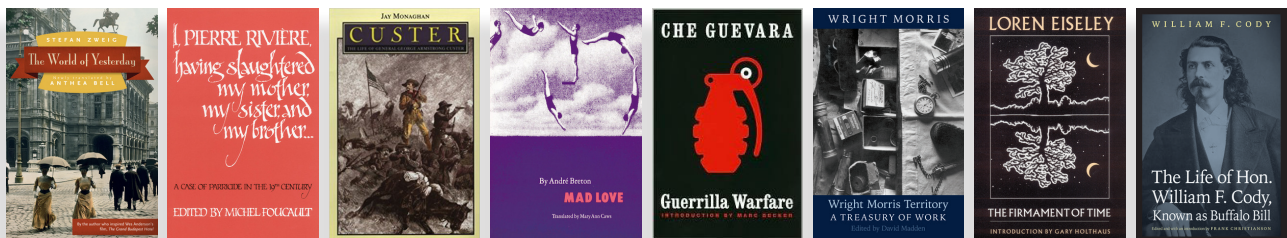
This imprint of the University of Nebraska Press was launched in 1961 by press director Bruce Nicoll and editor Virginia Faulkner. The idea was to make quality works available to readers at an affordable price—to fill those spinner racks of old that you would find in pharmacies, truck stops, and department stores with inexpensive paperbacks. The Bison imprint was an immediate success. And over fifty years later one cannot help but behold this rich treasure trove of good reads in astonishment.

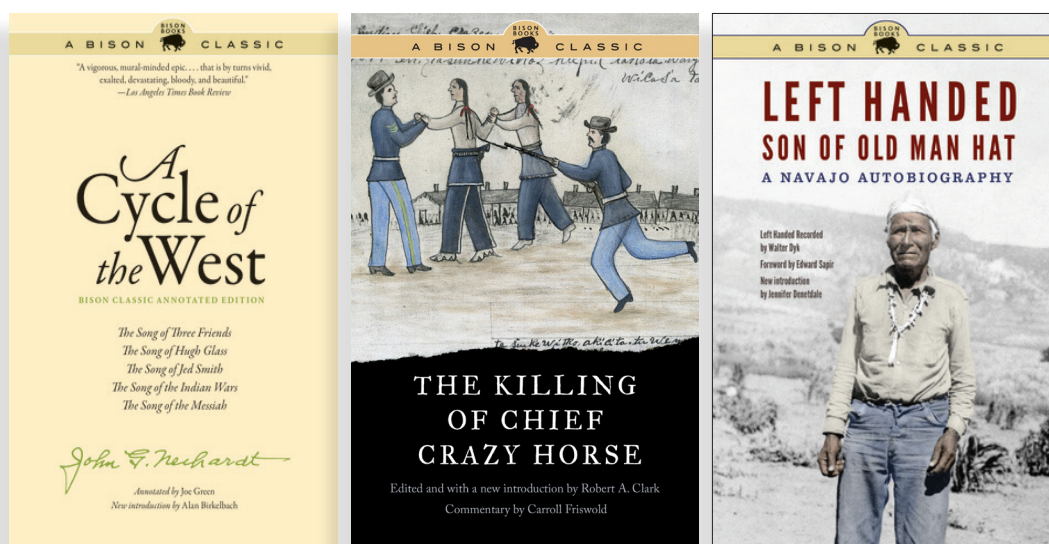
Before coming to the University of Nebraska Press to manage its sales and marketing department, I had known for years of the Bison imprint. But I had long been under the impression that its sole focus was the American West: Billy the Kid and Doc Holliday fare.



Little did I know that the Bison imprint hosts an eclectic array of such notable writers and figures as André Breton, George Armstrong Custer, William F. Cody, Loren Eiseley, Michel Foucault, Che Guevara, Wright Morris, Tillie Olsen, Mari Sandoz, Leo Tolstoy, Stefan Zweig, Ernest Hemingway, Friedrich Nietzsche, J. M. G. Le Clézio, Willa Cather—and more. From Ty Cobb to Ted Kooser, from John G. Neihardt to Jules Verne, the imprint has for decades been the heart and soul of Nebraska's publishing operation and a source of great delight and wonder for book readers across not just the Great Plains but the entire country.

Not long after the imprint's fiftieth anniversary, the Press decided to launch a spinoff of it: Bison Classics. These editions were meant to reintroduce classics in the Bison list to a new generation of booksellers and readers who might not be aware of them. This summer we will proudly publish three such books. *A Cycle of the West* by John G. Neihardt will return in an elegantly designed edition annotated by Joe Green with a new introduction by Alan Birkelbach. The cycle was

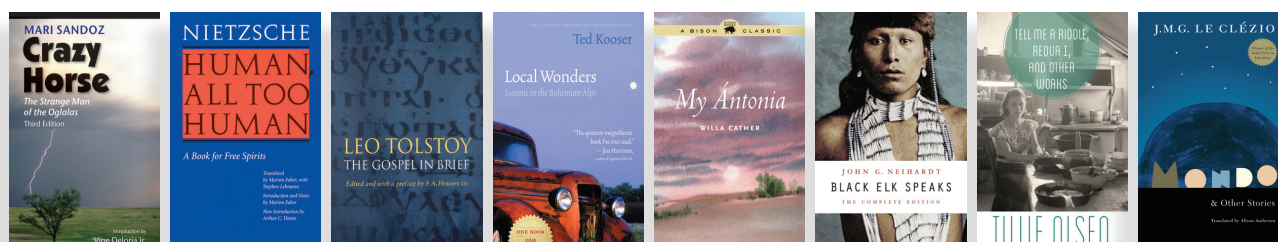




Neihardt's epic poetic ode to the American West—his attempt to do for the region what Homer or Virgil had done for ancient Greece or Rome. The *Los Angeles Times* once dubbed this classic “a powerful succession of songs celebrating the experience of the frontier.” We couldn't agree more. *The Killing of Chief Crazy Horse* will also return in a new edition with a new introduction by Robert A. Clark and commentary by Carroll Friswold. Crazy Horse is remembered most for his victory in the Battle of Little Bighorn, but few recall the mystery surrounding his murder in 1877. This book marshals the perspectives of three of the key witnesses to his death and weaves them together in a work with all the starkness of a Shakespearean tragedy. Lastly the Press will relaunch *Left Handed, Son of Old Man Hat*, an autobiography of a Navajo elder that the *New Republic* hailed as a “combination of *Tobacco Road* with

two parts Studs Lonigan.” It is an extraordinarily vivid account of Indian life and a watershed in its field.

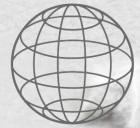
Forging ahead, the Press plans to use the Bison Classics imprint to highlight some of the more distinguished authors who have long been a part of the Bison catalog. A reboot of our Wallace Stegner titles is under consideration, as too is a relaunch of the works of science fiction writer Philip Wylie. The classic works of such Native American writers as Mourning Dove and Zitkala-Ša could benefit from crisp new designs and fresh introductions. The possibilities are endless, and if you're a publisher, thrilling. Those spinner racks that the Press longed to fill with great books may be part of history, but in both its ongoing and classic variations, the Bison imprint remains stronger than ever—a bridge from the Press's exceptional past to its exciting future.





# Potomac Books Inform Current Affairs

An interview with Potomac acquiring  
editor **TOM SWANSON** and UNP marketing  
manager **MARK HEINEKE**



AN IMPRINT OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA PRESS POTOMAC BOOKS

**i.e.:** UNP purchased Potomac Books and made it an imprint of the Press's about four years ago. Can you give us some history of Potomac Books?

**TS and MH:** Potomac Books has a long and distinguished pedigree. Founded in 1983 as the U.S. imprint of Brassey's, a renowned British publishing house established in the nineteenth century, Brassey's-U.S. was acquired by Books International in 1999 and renamed Potomac Books in 2004. The University of Nebraska Press bought Potomac Books in 2013, acquiring its impressive backlist in military history, politics, current events, international affairs, terrorism, intelligence, and national security. As a general-interest imprint of UNP, Potomac continues to build on its strong roots in these fields, keeping readers informed about the critical issues and challenges of today's world.

**i.e.:** How do you keep Potomac relevant?

**TS and MH:** We try to keep Potomac relevant by carefully selecting manuscripts from new and repeat authors. We are fortunate to have strong relationships with agents and authors, particularly authors who have worked in federal agencies like the State or Defense Departments or were career military.

**i.e.:** Have you changed the editorial direction since Potomac joined UNP?

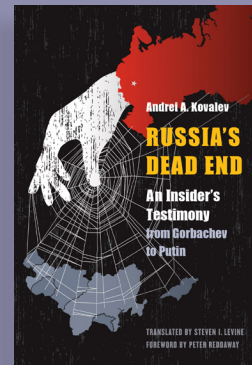
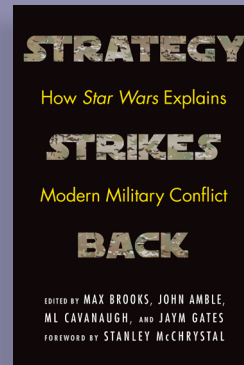
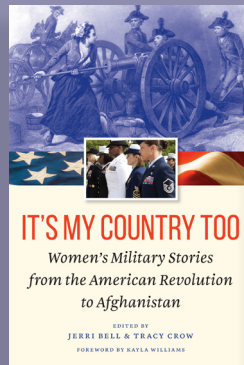
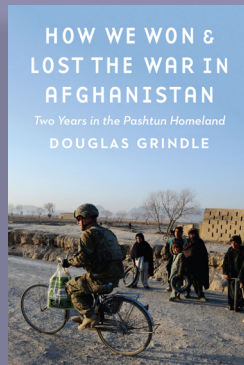
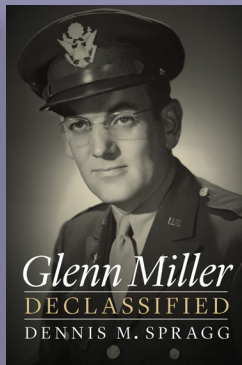
**TS and MH:** We have narrowed the list to focus on more current material. We no longer publish history prior to the twentieth century, except for Civil War titles, a perennial favorite. Our readers hunger for relevant current information.

**i.e.:** What do you look for when acquiring books for Potomac?

**TS and MH:** We are always on the hunt for manuscripts about topics that matter. We like to see something that is well written and adds to the conversation. We try to envision why a reader would want to pick up this book; if we think there is merit in the subject and the point the project is making is valid, then we will move the book forward.

**i.e.:** Who are the readers for Potomac books? How do you reach them?

**TS and MH:** Our readers are people all over the country and world who want to keep up with critical and current affairs. The ways in which we promote and get the good word out about our Potomac books are not dissimilar to the ways in which we market our other books. Our head of publicity calls on review editors in New York and Washington DC to ensure sufficient book review coverage. The books are advertised in apposite media and exhibited at trade shows and academic conferences



where readers (and authors) of Potomac books are likely to congregate. Our sales reps in the field pitch Potomac titles to indie book stores nationwide from Politics and Prose to Powell's—and our head of marketing sells the list to the national accounts and wholesalers such as Barnes & Noble and Baker & Taylor. Prospective readers and libraries are targeted with vigorous direct mail campaigns. And a suite of social media where Potomac readers gather is used to update them about the imprint's most recent offerings.

**i.e.:** What have been some of the more noteworthy Potomac books UNP has published since acquiring the imprint?

**TS and MH:** There have been many. Of recent vintage are such books as *Glenn Miller Declassified*, which explores the musical legend's military years and at long last lays to rest the mystery surrounding his disappearance and death. *Russia's Dead End* by an ex-Kremlin insider was recently reviewed in the *Economist* and offers a penetrating firsthand analysis of post-Soviet politics and the rise of Vladimir Putin. *It's My Country Too* is an inspiring anthology that is the first to convey the rich experiences and contributions of women in the American military in their own words—from the Revolutionary War to the present wars in the Middle East. *How We Won and Lost the War in Afghanistan* is a well-crafted

exposé and a must-read for anyone who wants a better understanding of the many obstacles to our military's success in that conflict.

**i.e.:** Anything exciting coming up?

**TS and MH:** We think readers of both civilian and military stripes are going to be thrilled with *Strategy Strikes Back: How Star Wars Explains Modern Military Conflict*. Coedited by *World War Z* author Max Brooks and with contributions by leading military experts and policy advisors, the book uses events from the *Star Wars* films as an accessible and outside-the-box means of clarifying the complexities of warfare. How does the counterinsurgency waged by Darth Vader against the Rebellion shed light on our recent military incursions in Iraq? What does the destruction of the planet Alderaan tell us about the political implications of targeting civilians? How did Yoda and the Jedi Council fail to differentiate strategic leadership in theory and in practice? It's the type of book that will be adopted and taught in our nation's military academies for years to come, while at the same time appealing to general readers. Like all good Potomac titles it's a book that fires the imagination while blazing new trails for understanding the increasingly complicated world in which we now live. We couldn't be more proud of it.

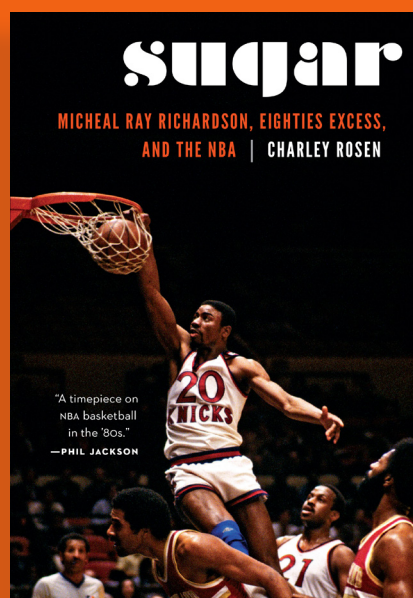
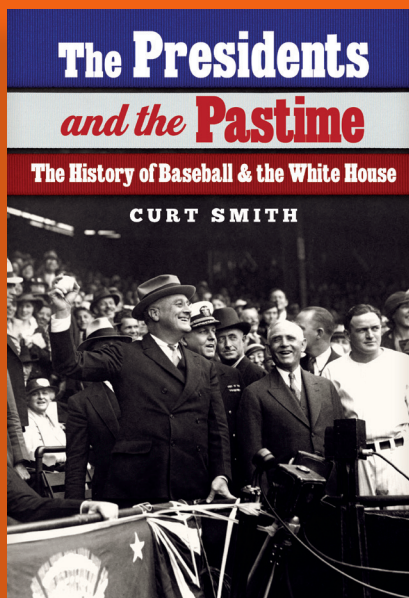
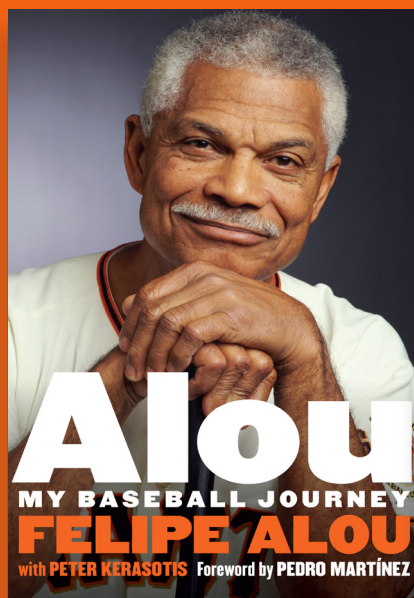
# Director's View

BY DONNA A. SHEAR, UNP DIRECTOR



**T**he book publishing industry has two seasons, spring and fall. I sometimes wonder if this is our way of ignoring the heat and humidity of the summer months or the cold and wind of the winter months. I write this in January (although you'll read it in May) in what we'd consider the end of the fall publishing season. Not to worry, though—UNP's spring/summer catalog has been out for weeks now, proudly announcing our new lineup of books and journals. And what does spring mean to most Americans? Baseball!

We've got quite an amazing baseball book this spring: the autobiography of baseball great Felipe Alou, who recounts how he overcame racism in the United States and political turmoil in the Dominican Republic to pave the way for his own career and the careers of many others. Another exciting baseball book is one by Curt Smith, who chronicles the history of baseball and the White House in *The Presidents and the Pastime*. Check out our catalog and our website for more new baseball books and for our classics in this genre. (I do need to also mention another fabulous sports book for spring: a biography by Charley Rosen of Micheal Ray Richardson, who was known as Sugar—the first and only player to be permanently disqualified from the NBA for repeat drug use. His career and life are perhaps a most fitting portrayal of the excesses of the '80s.)





Ah, if all we had to do was play or watch baseball! But alas there are other things going on besides sports. Our catalog also reflects scholarship and reportage about important issues facing us today. Here's a sampling:

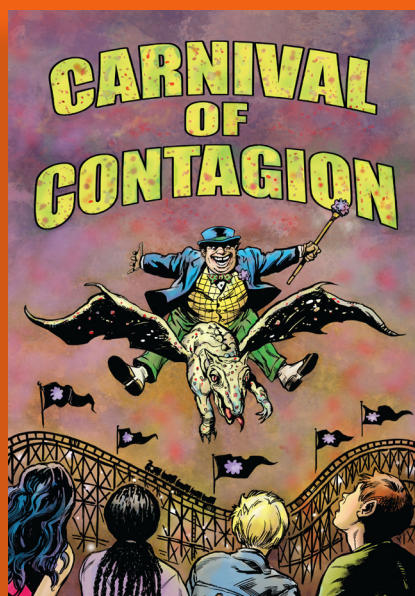
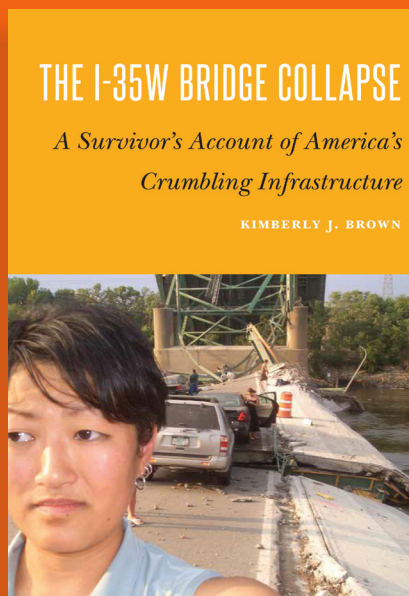
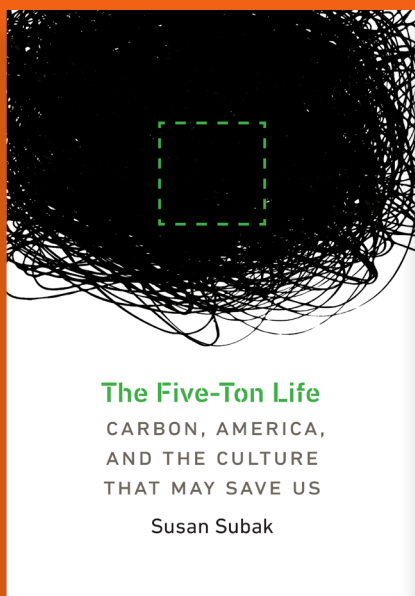
Our decaying infrastructure continues to be a significant concern, and Kimberly J. Brown's *The I-35W Bridge Collapse: A Survivor's Account of America's Crumbling Infrastructure* brings it home in real life and real time.

As we are in the midst of the worst flu season in years, I highly recommend the graphic novel by Bob Hall (with John West and Judy Diamond) called *Carnival of Contagion*. It's about measles—a highly contagious and very serious disease. In today's world, where we hear all the time about the potential for global epidemics, this is a valuable book to read.

In *The Five-Ton Life*, author Susan Subak approaches climate change in a very different way: she looks at the places that have successfully reduced their carbon footprint. Her groundbreaking research provides many pathways forward.

I haven't even scratched the surface of the more than eighty new books announced in this catalog. I haven't talked of nurturing your soul with our fine books of poetry or short stories; of learning from the past with the many history books we are publishing; of opening your mind to the effects of big data on our world today—so many amazing titles!

I hesitate (even cringe) to end on a poor metaphor, but since I began with our baseball titles, let me say that our spring catalog of books covers all the bases and hits it out of the ballpark. Readers everywhere, *play ball!*



# Learning from the Professionals at UNP

BY JAMIE MUSIL, UNP STUDENT INTERN

I am fortunate to have been selected for the university's undergraduate UCARE program, which allowed me to spend a few hours each week during the 2017-18 academic year on a research project. Throughout my project, "Book Cover Design in Scholarly Publishing," I had the opportunity to work with several members of UNP's Editorial, Design, and Production team. Some of the main questions I sought answers for were: what techniques are used to create an aesthetically pleasing book cover; what are the main factors to consider when designing book interiors; and what must a designer know in order to be able to defend his or her work? In exploring these questions, my aim for the project was to learn the ins and outs of the growing scholarly publishing industry and anticipate my own possible career within this field.

My time with UNP was extremely worthwhile. I gained a better understanding of book design and of the scholarly publishing industry as a whole. Specifically, I learned that designing an appealing book cover and interior extends beyond one's own creative vision and that it involves a lot of collaboration along the way. Even though designers might have their own ideas for covers and interior layouts, the process involves working with editors and authors to create the best possible product. I also realized that the job of a book designer consists of a lot of learning as you go. Part of this relates to software programs like Adobe InDesign and Photoshop (which I'm not sure I'll ever fully understand), and the other relates to understanding what is marketable and practical for most audiences. In this sense, I've become more attentive when I read, always finding covers and interior layouts that I can use to spur ideas for my own work. Moreover, it was inspiring to learn from experienced designers who have been publicly recognized for the astounding work that they do.

As my research project came to an end, I continued learning from those around me while I prepared for the UNL Spring Research Fair. At the fair, students and faculty shared their work with each other, and I presented the findings of my research. A central focus was my portfolio, which featured some of the covers and interiors that I worked on during my time at UNP as well as an overview of my experience there. After the fair, my findings went into an archive where future students can use my work as an example. Although this event felt like a grand finale, I do not believe that my research will end. My UNP experience has reassured me of my goal to be a part of this industry, which means that a lot of learning still lies ahead.

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**UCARE is a competitive award that supports UNL undergraduates to work one-on-one with faculty advisors in research or creative activities. UNP student intern Jamie Musil is a UNL English major who will graduate in December 2018.**

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*Jamie Musil and one of the covers she designed during her UCARE project at UNP*



# In Memoriam

**JOAN GIESECKE • 1951–2017**

UNP was saddened to hear of the death of Joan Giesecke, who served as interim director of the Press in 2009 and continued to be a champion for the Press until her retirement. Giesecke joined the University Libraries in 1987 as an associate dean, advancing to the dean position in 1996. In 2010 she was named interim associate vice chancellor for extended education and outreach. From 2012 until her retirement in 2014, Giesecke served as special assistant to the chancellor and coordinated campus-wide accreditation efforts. Upon retirement Giesecke was recognized as dean and professor emeritus.



# New Partnerships Expand UNP's Impact in Journalism and Mass Communications

A publication agreement between the University of Nebraska Press and the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication will expand the reach of two journals while providing benefits to both organizations.

Through the agreement, UNP will begin to publish the *Journal of Magazine Media*, the official publication of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication's magazine division. The contract also makes the Press's *Journal of Sports Media* the official journal of the association's sports communications interest group.

The *Journal of Magazine Media* is currently a digital-only publication. The journal will benefit from UNP's connections with major scholarly publications, its print-on-demand capabilities, and its range of editorial, production, marketing, and fulfillment services. The journal is edited by Kevin Lerner, an assistant professor of communication and journalism at Marist College.

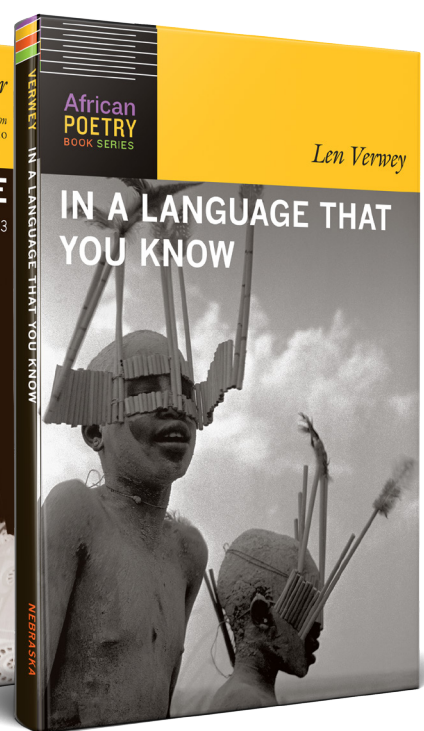
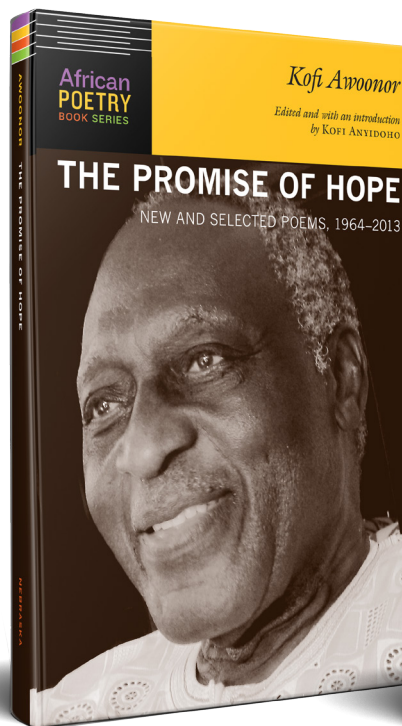
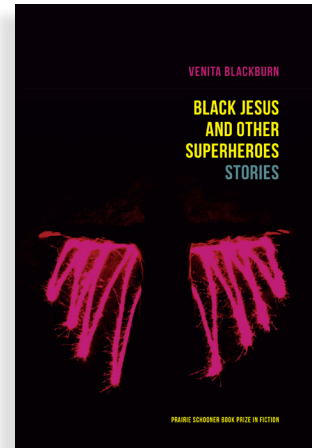
The *Journal of Sports Media* has been published by the University of Nebraska Press since its 2006 launch. A related book series—Sports, Media, and Society—is also part of the UNP publication stable. Members of the association's sports communications interest group will receive access to the electronic version of the *Journal of Sports Media*. The journal editor is Mary Lou Sheffer, associate professor of mass communication and journalism at the University of Southern Mississippi.

UNP will start publishing the *Journal of Magazine Media* beginning with volume 19. The *Journal of Sports Media* is available to the association's members in 2018.

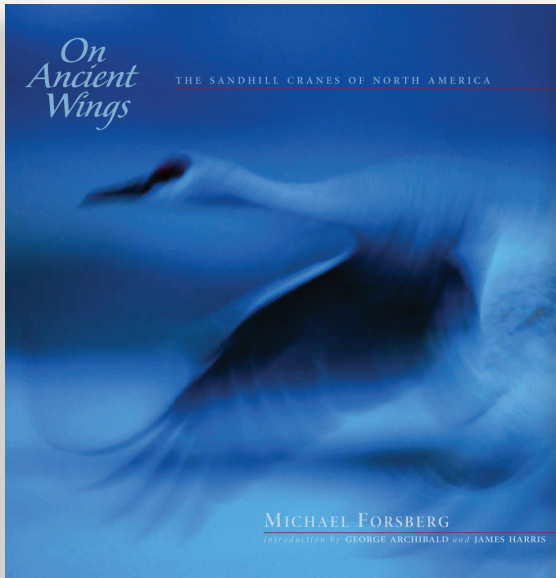


# Kwame Dawes Named Academy of American Poets Chancellor

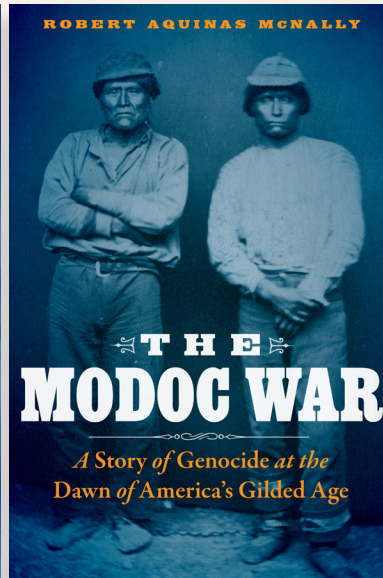
**K**wame Dawes, editor of *Prairie Schooner* and of three UNP series (African Poetry Book Series, Prairie Schooner Book Prize in Fiction, and Prairie Schooner Book Prize in Poetry) has been made a member of the Board of Chancellors by the Academy of American Poets, added alongside Marilyn Chin and Marie Howe. Many of America's most distinguished poets have served as chancellors, including John Ashbery, W. H. Auden, Elizabeth Bishop, Lucille Clifton, Yusef Komunyakaa, Adrienne Rich, and Mark Strand. Dawes joins an esteemed group of poets, including Elizabeth Alexander, Ellen Bass, Forrest Gander, Linda Gregerson, Terrance Hayes, Brenda Hillman, Khaled Mattawa, Marilyn Nelson, Alicia Ostriker, Claudia Rankine, Alberto Ríos, and David St. John. Chancellors serve a six-year term, consulting with the organization on matters of artistic programming, serving as judges for the organization's largest prizes, and acting as ambassadors of poetry in the world at large. Congratulations, Kwame!



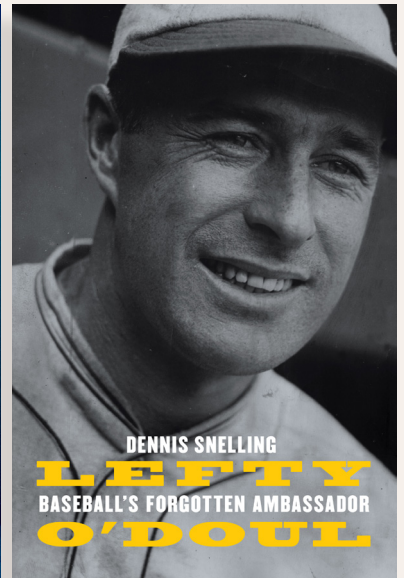
# AWARDS



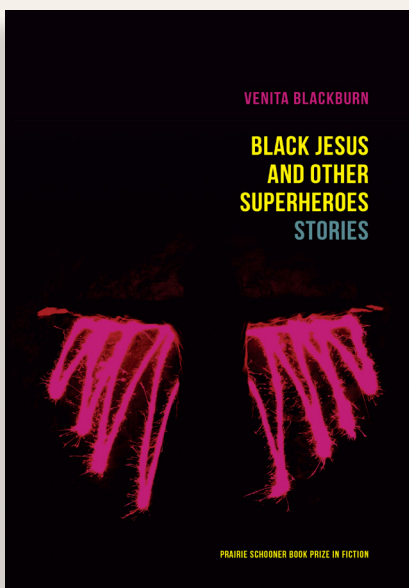
Michael Forsberg, a wildlife and conservation photographer, received the Ansel Adams Award from the Sierra Club at a ceremony September 15 in Washington DC. Forsberg is the author of **On Ancient Wings: The Sandhill Cranes of North America** and the photographer for **Have You Seen Mary?** and **Can You Dance Like John?**, both by Jeff Kurrus.



**The Modoc War: A Story of Genocide at the Dawn of America's Gilded Age** by Robert Aquinas McNally was a finalist for the 2017 Northern California Book Awards in the nonfiction category.

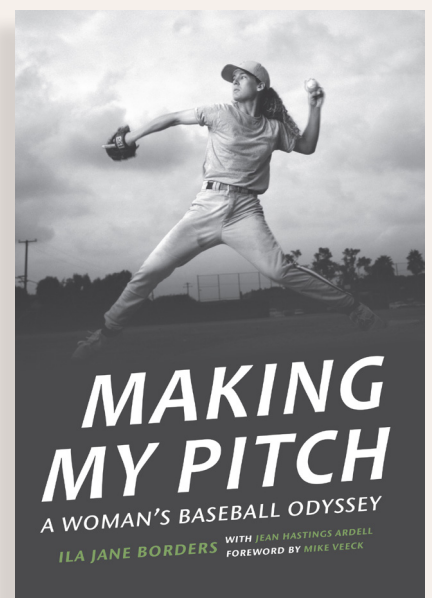


*Spitball: The Literary Baseball Magazine* named **Lefty O'Doul: Baseball's Forgotten Ambassador** by Dennis Snelling as runner-up for its 2017 CASEY Award for Best Baseball Book of the Year.

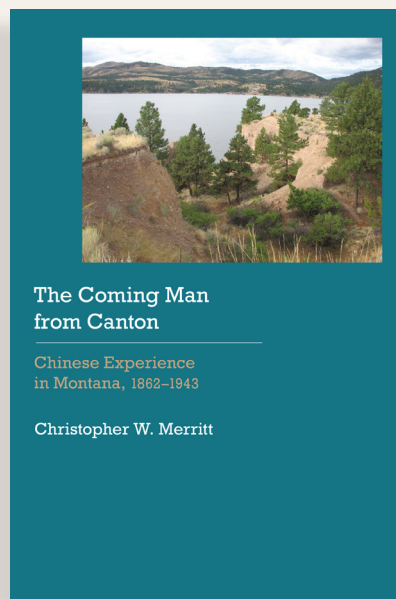
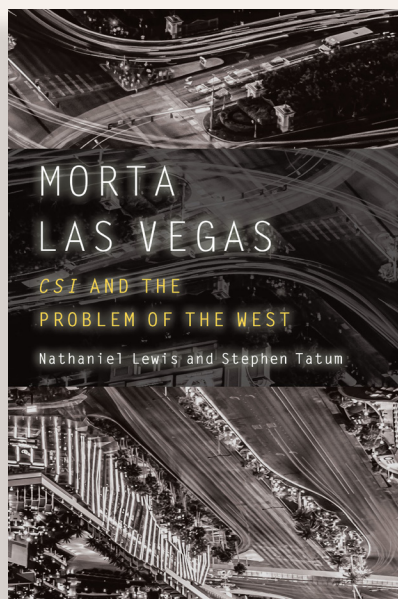
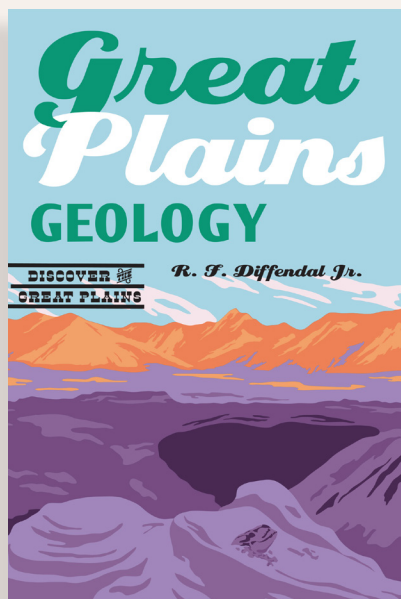


**Black Jesus and Other Superheroes: Stories** by Venita Blackburn was a finalist for the 2018 PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize for Debut Fiction.

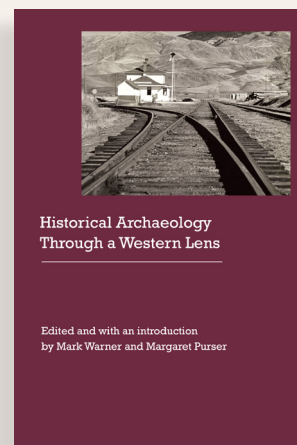
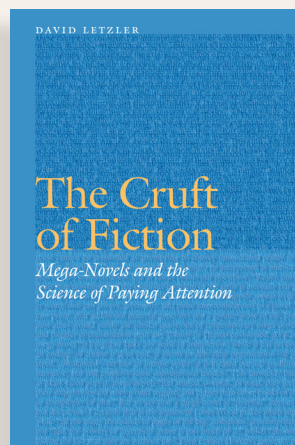
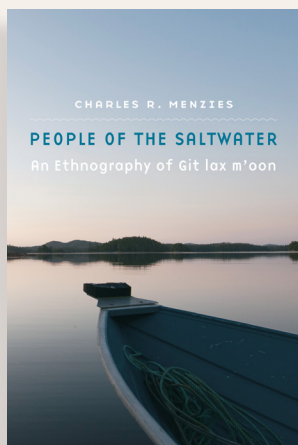
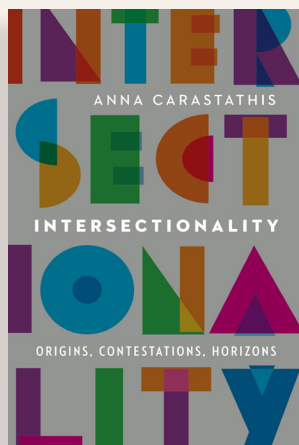
Ila Jane Borders, author with Jean Hastings Ardell of **Making My Pitch: A Woman's Baseball Odyssey**, is a nominee for SABR's inaugural 2018 Dorothy Seymour Mills Lifetime Achievement Award.





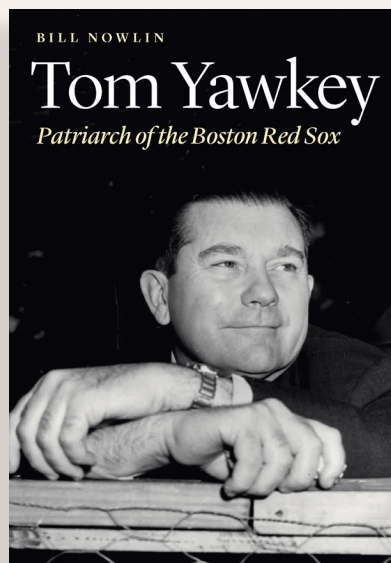


In its feature “Best of the West 2018,” *True West* named the University of Nebraska Press and Texas Tech University Press co-winners of the Readers’ Choice Award for Best Western History University Press. Several UNP books were also recognized in the competition. **The Modoc War: A Story of Genocide at the Dawn of America’s Gilded Age** by Robert Aquinas McNally was honored in the category of Indian History, and **Great Plains Geology** by R. F. Diffendal Jr. stood out in the category of Travel History. **The Coming Man from Canton: Chinese Experience in Montana, 1862-1943** by Christopher W. Merritt made the list for Women and Race in the West, and **Morta Las Vegas: CSI and the Problem of the West** by Nathaniel Lewis and Stephen Tatum garnered recognition for 20th- to 21st-Century Western Nonfiction.



Four UNP books were named CHOICE Outstanding Academic Titles for 2017 by the American Library Association: **Intersectionality: Origins, Contestations, Horizons** by Anna Carastathis; **People of the Saltwater: An Ethnography of Git lax m'oon** by Charles R. Menzies; **The Craft of Fiction: Mega-Novels and the Science of Paying Attention** by David Letzler; and **Historical Archaeology Through a Western Lens** edited and with an introduction by Mark Warner and Margaret Purser. These CHOICE citations award outstanding works for their excellence in presentation and scholarship, the significance of their contribution to the field, their originality and value as an essential treatment of their subject, and their significance in building undergraduate collections.

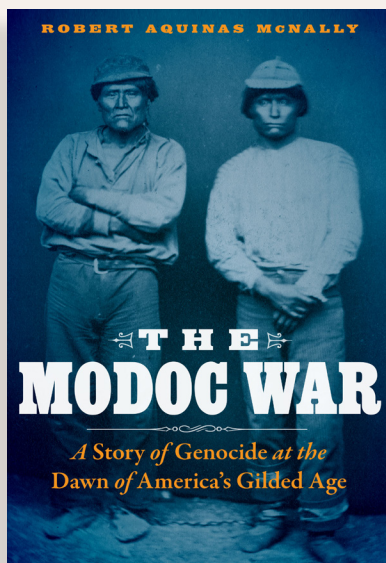
# SELECT REVIEWS



**Tom Yawkey: Patriarch of the Boston Red Sox** by Bill Nowlin

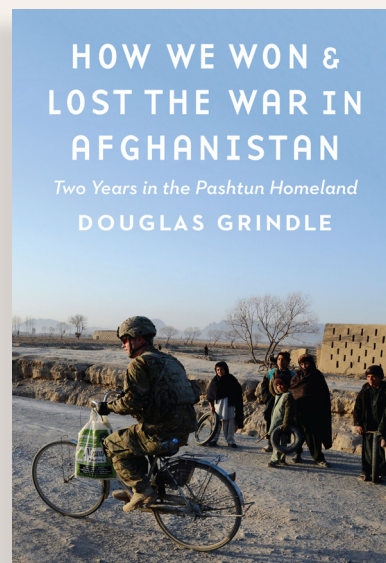
"Immaculately researched, well-written."—*Wall Street Journal*

"This is the most in-depth book written about Yawkey; Red Sox and baseball history fans will appreciate it."—Gus Palas, *Library Journal*



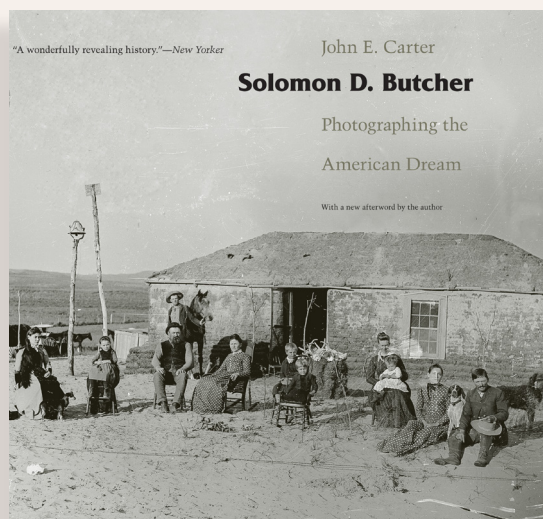
**The Modoc War: A Story of Genocide at the Dawn of America's Gilded Age** by Robert Aquinas McNally

"McNally provides a brutally frank and damningly well-documented account of the war's sordid background."—Bradley A. Scott, *Foreword Reviews*



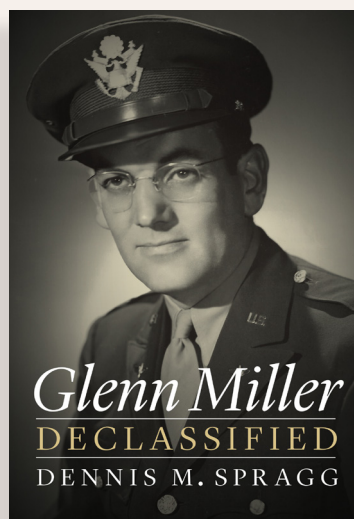
**How We Won and Lost the War in Afghanistan: Two Years in the Pashtun Homeland** by Douglas Grindle

"A well-told story and a must-read for those who want to understand the obstacles to success in Afghanistan."—*Publishers Weekly*



**Solomon D. Butcher: Photographing the American Dream** by John E. Carter

"Readers and viewers seeking a rich and detailed visual record of the individual and collective process of settlement in central Nebraska will want to study, remember, and return to Butcher's photographs, so effectively displayed in this book."—Audrey Goodman, *Western American Literature*

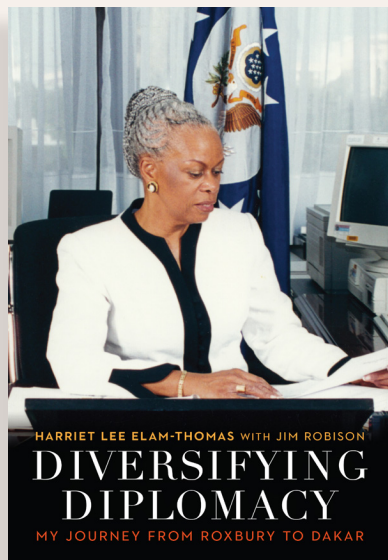


**Glenn Miller Declassified** by Dennis M. Spragg

"Spragg has crafted a book that will appeal to and benefit an eclectic group of readers, including those with interests in World War II, big band and swing music, unsolved mysteries, and of course, Glenn Miller himself."—*Military Review*

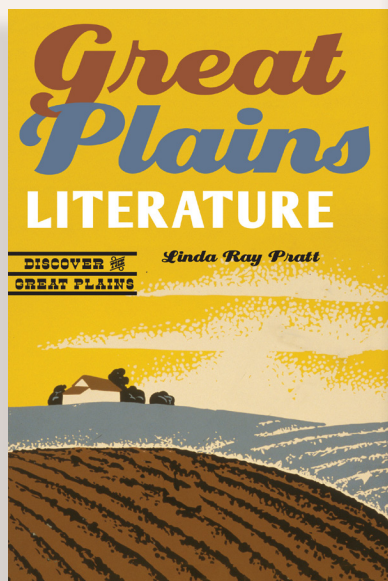
"Readers who enjoy true-crime and mystery media—whether Netflix's *Making a Murderer*, public radio's *Serial* or history-mysteries of any kind—will find plenty to keep the pages turning."—Clay Evans, *Daily Camera*





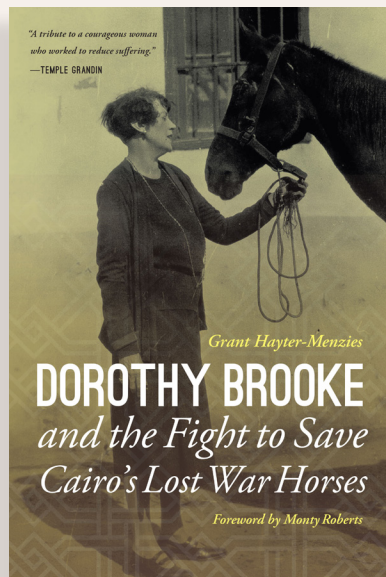
**Diversifying Diplomacy: My Journey from Roxbury to Dakar**  
by Harriet Lee Elam-Thomas  
with Jim Robison

"An informative, behind-the-scenes look at one black woman's rise through the ranks of the Foreign Service when few others like her were serving as diplomats."—Kirkus



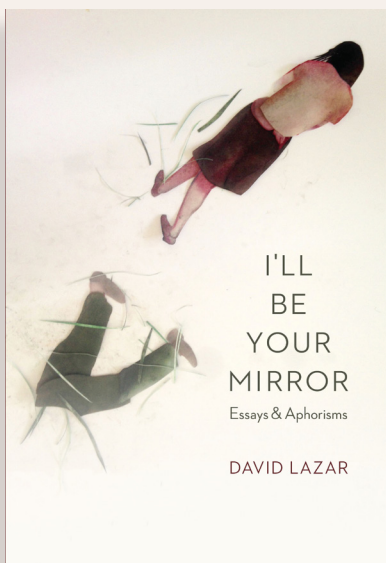
**Great Plains Literature**  
by Linda Ray Pratt

"A worthwhile introduction to a body of literature perhaps not as well-known as it should be."  
—*Publishers Weekly*



**Dorothy Brooke and the Fight to Save Cairo's Lost War Horses**  
by Grant Hayter-Menzies

"An eye opener not only for horse and animal lovers, but for all history enthusiasts."—Dorian de Wind, *Huffington Post*



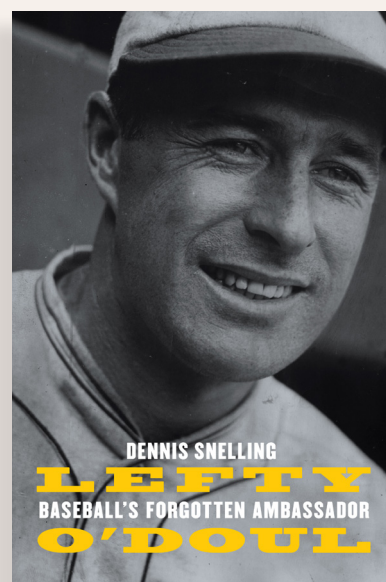
**I'll Be Your Mirror: Essays and Aphorisms**  
by David Lazar,  
illustrated by Heather Frise

"This book is a remarkable look at the transformative and thrilling sounds the essay can make when given the chance to play as many different instruments as possible."—Christopher John Stephens, *Pop Matters*



**Seen and Heard in Mexico: Children and Revolutionary Cultural Nationalism**  
by Elena Jackson Albarrán

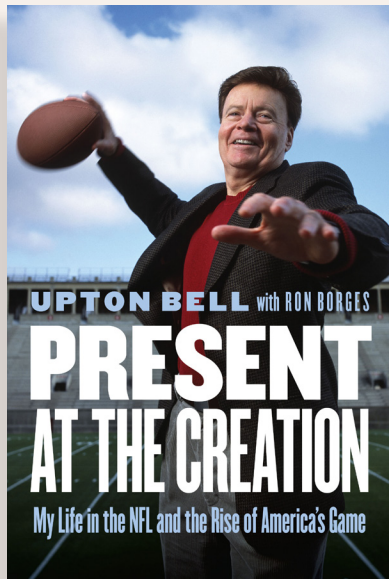
"This excellent book will inform many future studies related to Mexican history and identity, education, immigration, and international relations."  
—Susan V. Meyers, *Hispanic American Historical Review*



**Lefty O'Doul: Baseball's Forgotten Ambassador**  
by Dennis Snelling

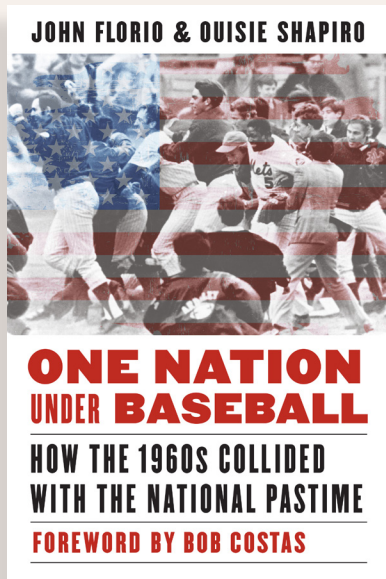
"Engrossing, scrupulously-researched."  
—Paul Hagen, *MLB.com*  
"One of the best baseball books of the year."  
—Allen Barra, *San Francisco Chronicle*





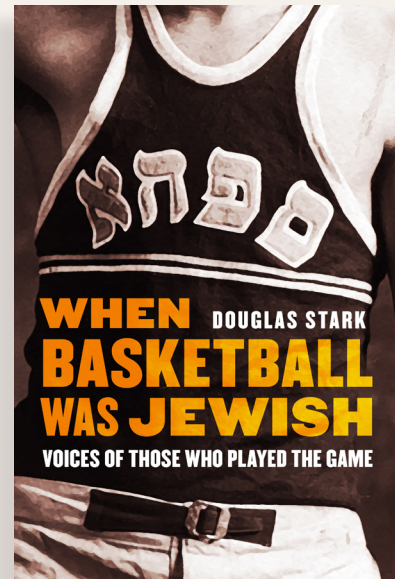
**Present at the Creation: My Life in the NFL and the Rise of America's Game** by Upton Bell with Ron Borges

"A highly enjoyable book that should be on every football fan's reading list."—John Maxymuk, *Library Journal*, starred review



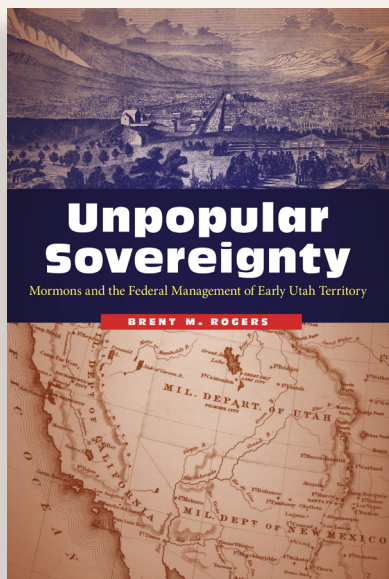
**One Nation Under Baseball: How the 1960s Collided with the National Pastime** by John Florio and Ouisie Shapiro

"A riveting account."—Allen Barra, *Dallas News*  
 "Careful, pointed writing shows us that professional sports should not be viewed in isolation from the society in which they function."  
 —*Kirkus*



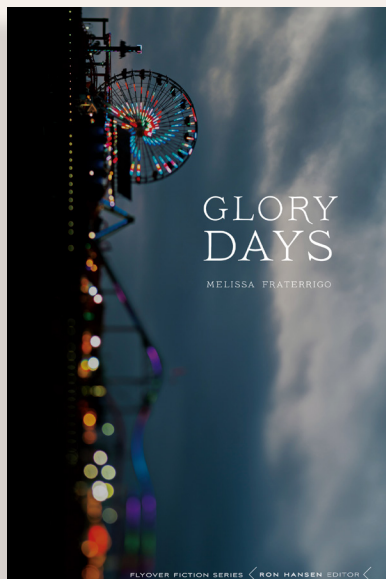
**When Basketball Was Jewish: Voices of Those Who Played the Game** by Douglas Stark

"*When Basketball Was Jewish* is more than a sports record. . . . Both Jewish history and basketball enthusiasts will enjoy this fascinating record of American Jewish life and its impact on American sport."—Jonathan Fass, *Jewish Book Council*



**Unpopular Sovereignty: Mormons and the Federal Management of Early Utah Territory** by Brent M. Rogers

"An essential part of the library of anyone interested in the American West or Utah and the Mormons."  
 —*Western Historical Quarterly*



**Glory Days** by Melissa Fraterrigo

"A brutally beautiful tale."—Patrick T. Reardon, *Chicago Tribune*

"Astonishing writing about a world that deserves greater attention in contemporary literature."—*Library Journal*, starred review

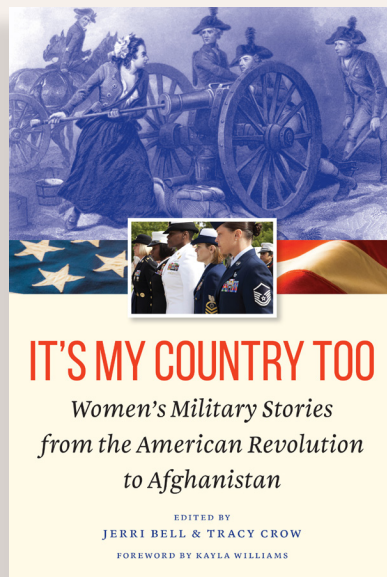
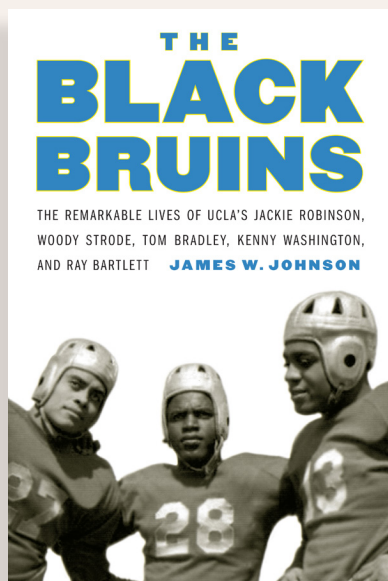
"A stunning tour de force centered in a small cattle ranching town."—Paige Van de Winkle, *Foreword Reviews*, starred review

"If Willa Cather and Cormac McCarthy had a love child, she would be a writer such as Fraterrigo."—Carol Haggas, *Booklist*



**Saga of Chief Joseph, Bison Classic Edition** by Helen Addison Howard

“From Joseph’s years as a spiritual leader to the 1877 battle of the Bearpaw Mountains and surrender of the Nez Perce, Howard renders Joseph’s life and times in fine detail. Her storytelling reflects a sharp journalistic eye and a knack for the grand sweep of history.”  
—*Publishers Weekly*



**It's My Country Too: Women's Military Stories from the American Revolution to Afghanistan** edited by Jerri Bell and Tracy Crow

“Bell and Crow have done a service by amplifying the important voices in this collection.”—*Publishers Weekly*

“This rich anthology of women’s military stories is ripe with the history of female contributions to U.S. conflicts. . . . Enthusiastically recommended for all collections.”—Mattie Cook, *Library Journal*, starred review

“From every major U.S. war, the stories both awe and inspire.”  
—Captain Bill Bray, *Proceedings*

**The Black Bruins: The Remarkable Lives of UCLA's Jackie Robinson, Woody Strode, Tom Bradley, Kenny Washington, and Ray Bartlett** by James W. Johnson

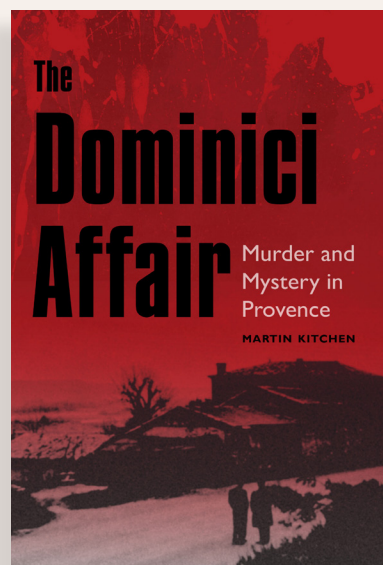
“A short, elegant, important book. . . . Johnson engagingly captures the lives, struggles, and triumphs of five men whose greatness transcended American sports.”  
—*Kirkus*, starred review



**Haters: Harassment, Abuse, and Violence Online** by Bailey Poland

“Those interested in topics of social justice in online communities will find Poland’s work immensely motivating.”—Marian Mays, *Library Journal*

“Invaluable information and perspective. . . . Plenty to think about and discuss.”  
—*Booklist Online*

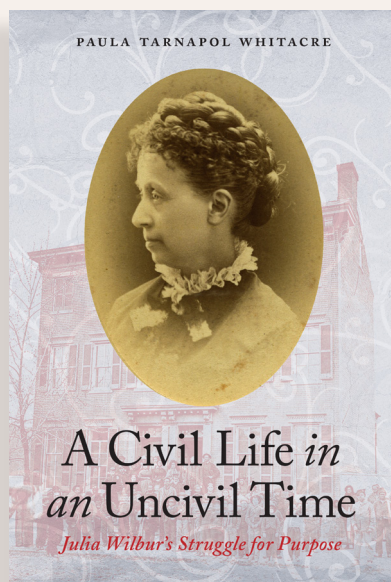


**The Dominici Affair: Murder and Mystery in Provence** by Martin Kitchen

“Kitchen’s *The Dominici Affair* is a true deep dive into this case and what happened in 1960 and after.”—*True Crime Reader*



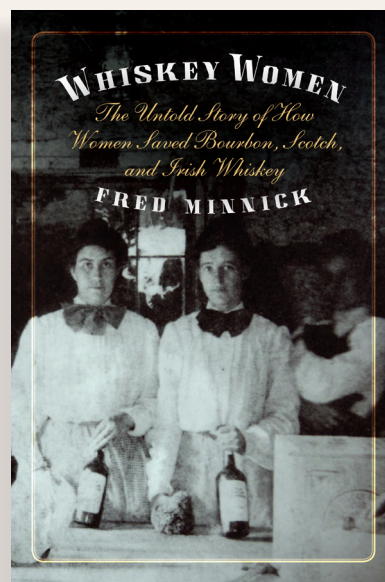
# SELECT MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



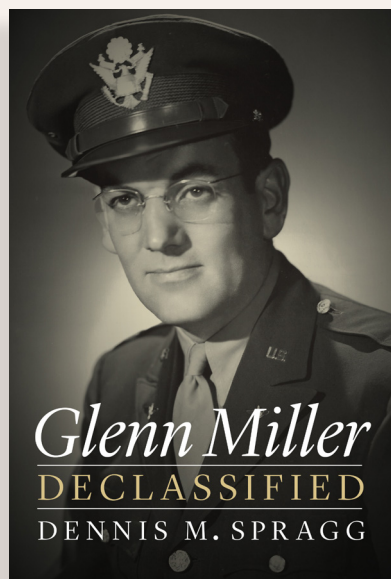
A discussion of social worker Julia Wilbur, the subject of **A Civil Life in an Uncivil Time: Julia Wilbur's Struggle for Purpose** by Paula Tarnapol Whitacre, appeared in the October 4, 2017, edition of the *Washington Post*.



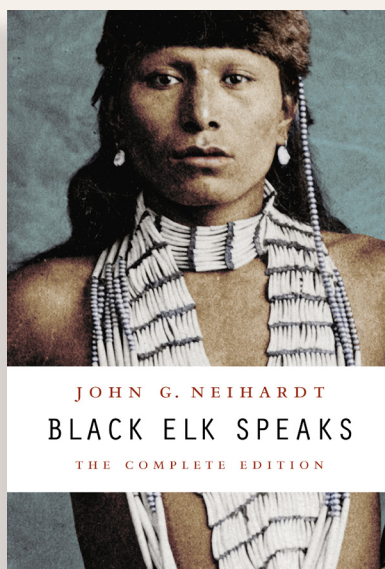
The December 5, 2017, edition of the *Chicago Review of Books* named **Glory Days** by Melissa Fraterri to its list of "The Best Fiction Books of 2017."



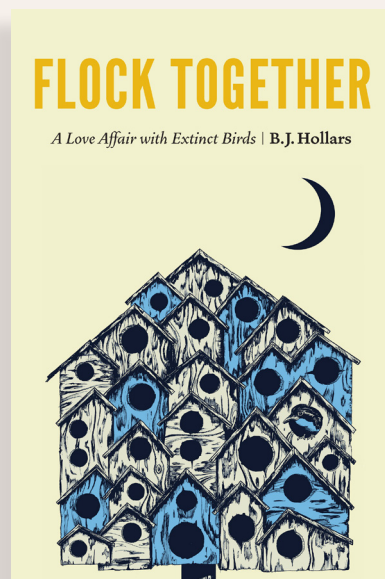
The December 14, 2017, edition of *Daily Beast* named **Whiskey Women: The Untold Story of How Women Saved Bourbon, Scotch, and Irish Whiskey** by Fred Minnick one of its "10 Favorite Gift Books for Whiskey Lovers."



On December 15, 2017, *BBC News* featured a segment on **Glenn Miller Declassified** by Dennis M. Spragg.



Nicholas Black Elk is being considered for Catholic sainthood. The December 26, 2017, edition of the *New Yorker* included a piece by Ian Frazier that discussed Black Elk and prominently mentioned his book **Black Elk Speaks**.

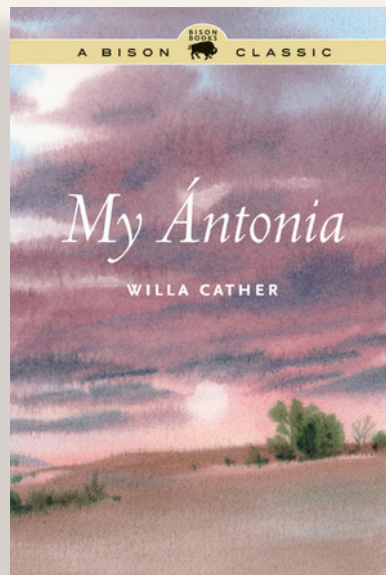


On December 26, 2017, *Forbes* named **Flock Together: A Love Affair with Extinct Birds** by B.J. Hollars one of the "12 Best Books about Birds and Birding of 2017."

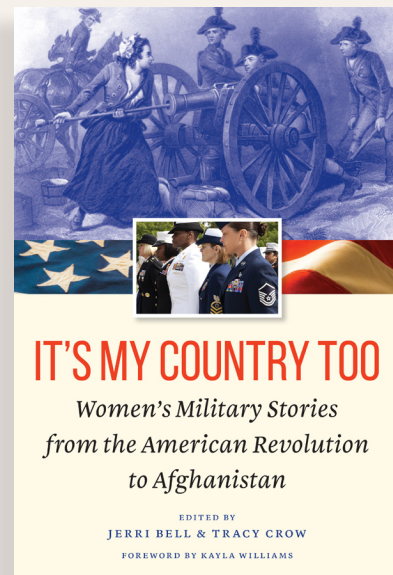




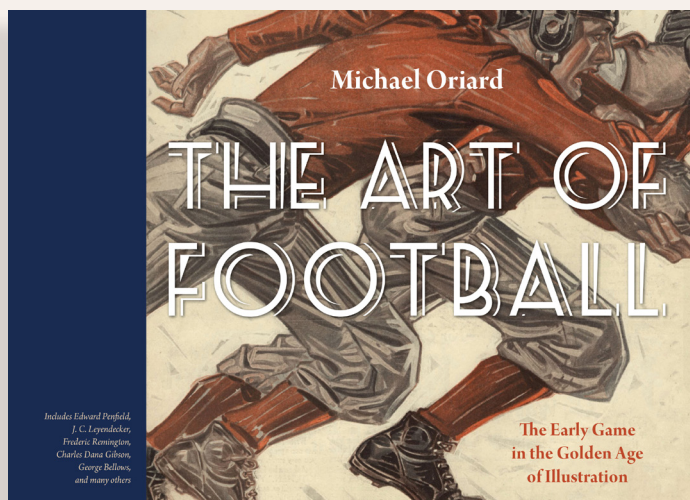
On October 6, 2017, *Signature* named **Cannibal** by Safiya Sinclair one of “12 Essential Books Celebrating Women Writers of the African Diaspora.” PEN America interviewed Sinclair in its weekly interview series “The PEN Ten” on October 3, 2017.



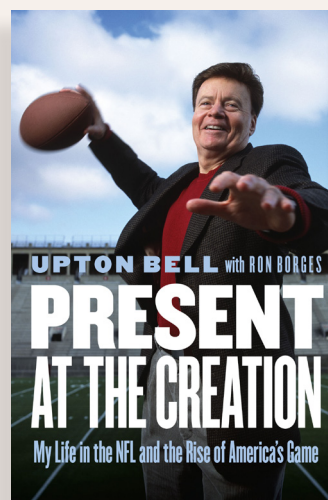
A long piece titled “A Walk in Willa Cather’s Prairie: How Nebraska’s Landscape Inspired the Great American Novelist” by Alex Ross appeared in the October 2, 2017, issue of the *New Yorker*. UNP is the publisher of more than fifty books by or about Willa Cather.



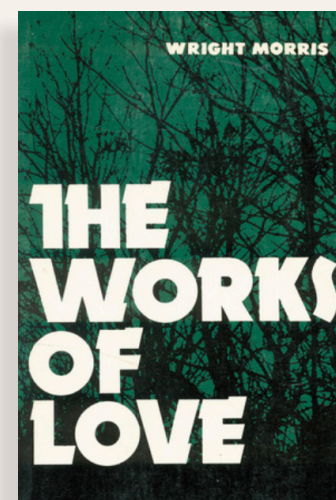
On December 12, 2017, *Military Times* listed **It's My Country Too: Women's Military Stories from the American Revolution to Afghanistan** edited by Jerri Bell and Tracy Crow as one of its “Best Books of 2017: A Dozen Can’t-Miss Military Reads.”



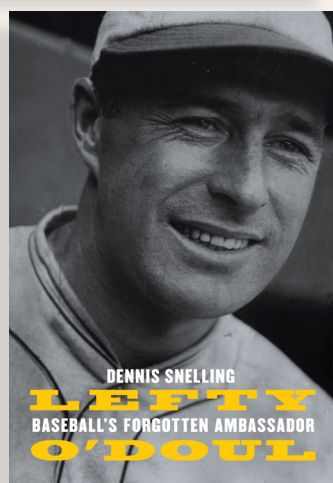
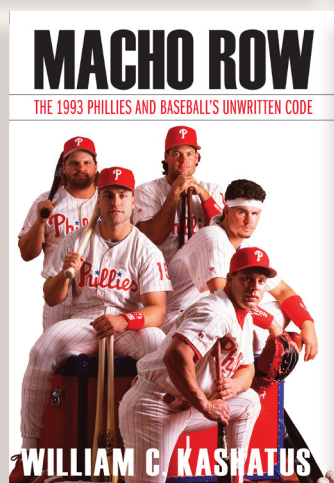
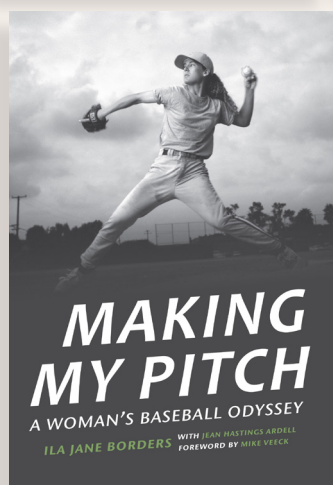
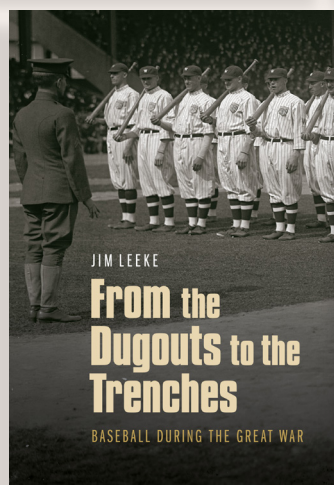
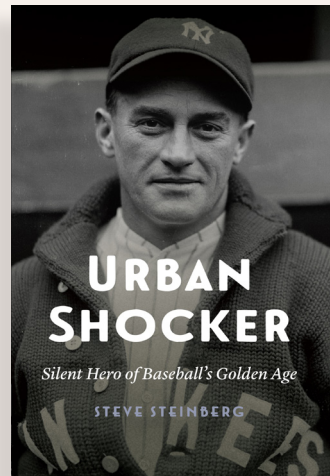
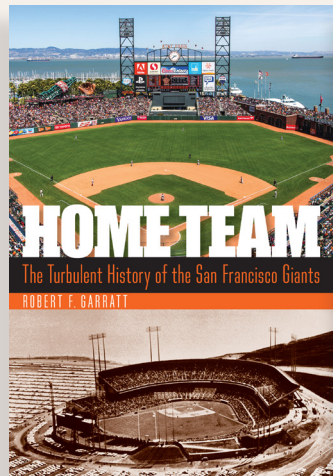
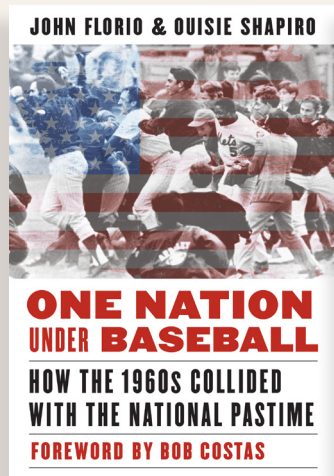
The November 16, 2017, edition of the *Wall Street Journal* included **The Art of Football: The Early Game in the Golden Age of Illustration** by Michael Oriard in its “What to Give: Books on Sports” gift guide.



The January 6, 2018, edition of NPR’s *Only a Game* aired a segment about **Present at the Creation: My Life in the NFL and the Rise of America’s Game** by Upton Bell with Ron Borges.



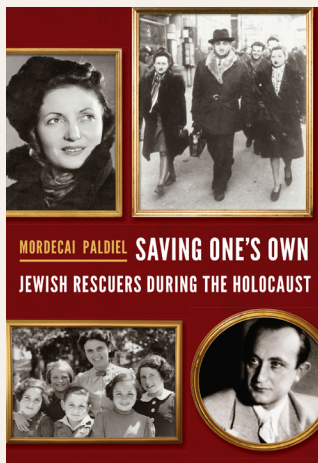
The December 8, 2017, edition of *Publishers Weekly* named **The Works of Love** by Wright Morris as one of “10 Essential Books on the American West.”



*Sports Collector's Digest* named its "50 Best Baseball Books from 2017," and seven of those were published by UNP: **One Nation Under Baseball: How the 1960s Collided with the National Pastime** by John Florio and Ouisie Shapiro, **Home Team: The Turbulent History of the San Francisco Giants** by Robert F. Garratt, **From the Dugouts to the Trenches: Baseball during the Great War** by Jim Leeke, **Making My Pitch: A Woman's Baseball Odyssey** by Ila Jane Borders with Jean Hastings Ardell, **Macho Row: The 1993 Phillies and Baseball's Unwritten Code** by William C. Kashatus, **Lefty O'Doul: Baseball's Forgotten Ambassador** by Dennis Snelling, and **Urban Shocker: Silent Hero of Baseball's Golden Age** by Steve Steinberg.



# SELECT JPS REVIEWS AND MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



**Saving One's Own: Jewish Rescuers during the Holocaust** by Mordecai Paldiel was named a finalist for the 2017 National Jewish Book Award in the Holocaust category.

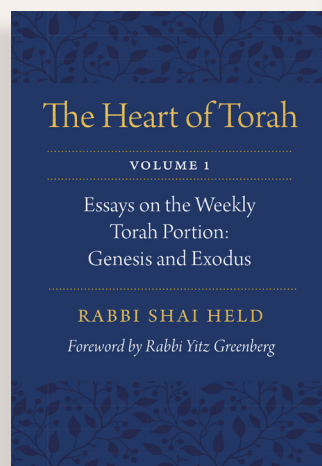


**The JPS B'nai Mitzvah Torah Commentary** by Rabbi Jeffrey K. Salkin

"An excellent resource for students preparing for their b'nai mitzvah or as a text for

classes studying the portion of the week. While aimed at teenagers, Salkin offers insights that many adults will also appreciate. His commentary would make a great addition to every synagogue library."  
—*The Reporter*

"Jeffrey Salkin's *JPS B'nai Mitzvah Torah Commentary* is sure to usher in a new era of Torah study for our young students."—Mark Glickman, *CCAR Journal*

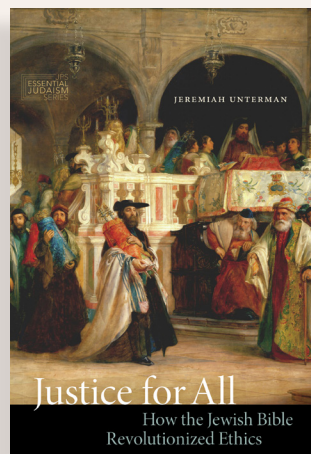


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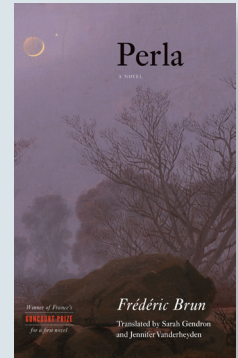
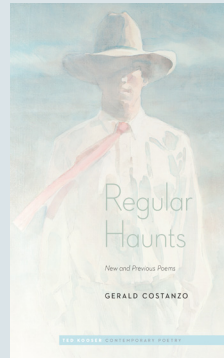
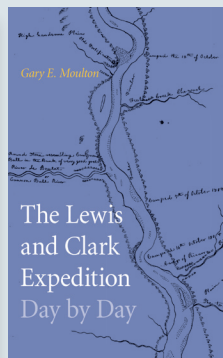
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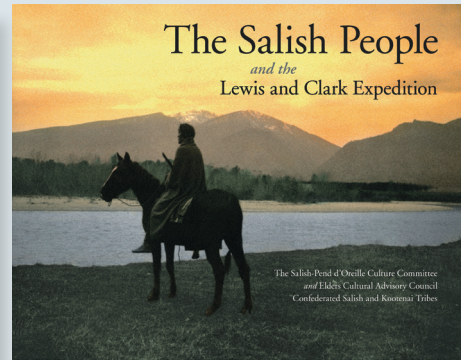
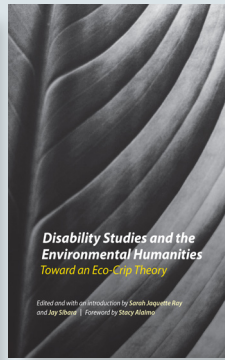
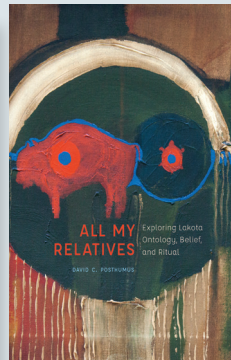
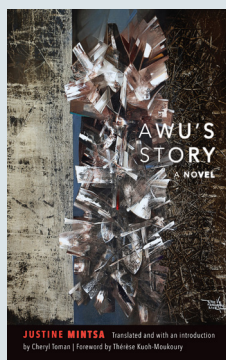
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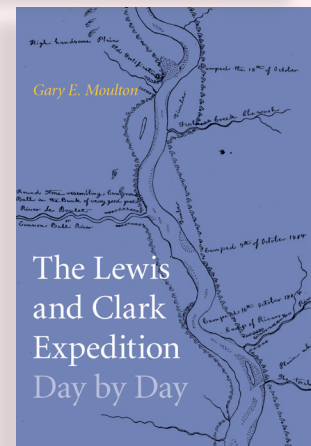
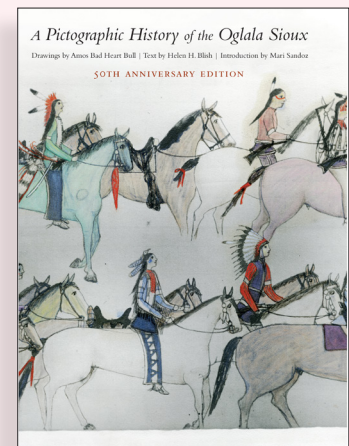
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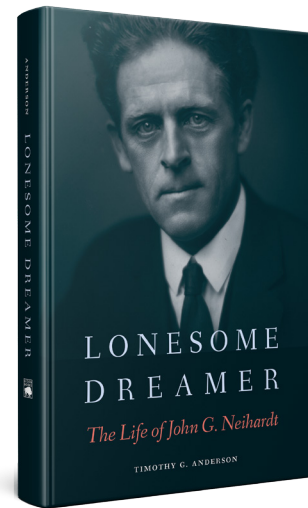
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# UNP Author Receives Coveted Award

The John G. Neihardt Foundation hosted the eighteenth annual Laureate's Feast dinner and auction fundraiser on Sunday, November 12, in the Swanson Conference Center at the Fort Omaha Campus of Metropolitan Community College in Omaha, Nebraska. The event featured the presentation of the Neihardt Foundation's 2017 Word Sender Award to Tim Anderson. The award is given annually to someone dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the life and works of Neihardt, Nebraska's poet laureate. Anderson is the author of *Lonesome Dreamer: The Life of John G. Neihardt*, which UNP published in 2016.



Dr. Timothy Anderson and Dr. Jon Cerny at the 2017 Neihardt Laureate's Feast.  
Credit: Norma Farrens, Neihardt Staff.

etc.