From the Director

Dear Reader,

How will this pandemic go? I am not a prophet, nor a prophet’s son. There is no oracle in Delphi to consult. So, like everyone else, I keep breathing and taking one step at a time. But I need more. Time and again things like influenza, polio, tuberculosis, and many others have confronted humans. How should we respond? Here are some thoughts.

Aristotle says that “wisdom leads to happiness.” “Happiness” is not joy and laughter, but the Greek word is eudaimonia and it means something like a moral, fulfilled soul. We must always be cultivating our own soul. Ingredients for a cultivated soul are virtues like wisdom, courage, temperance, justice, and love. And others.

One virtue that Aristotle teaches is phronesis, or Prudence. What does it mean to be prudent in a pandemic? Essentially, prudence is practical wisdom. Prudence means essentially that a person of virtue will in any circumstance choose the correct action, perform it well, and for the right reason. Prudence is the action of a strong soul. To be prudent is to flourish.

A key part of prudence is knowledge. The only way through a pandemic, if we study our history, is by working together, caring for each other, and finding a solution. In obedience to our souls, we live to flourish. We are more than mere flesh and blood.

There are many things that bring us knowledge and enable us to flourish. One of them is books. Books are both vehicles to knowledge and witnesses to flourishing. But Aristotle goes further. Such a life is only realized in friendship—our relationships with others. We must live with and love one another. This is happiness: moral, fulfilled souls living together.

In other words, we get through this pandemic like we get through anything else: together.

Marc Jolley
18 May 2020
The Music of The Statler Brothers: An Anthology

An Anthology
Don Reid

foreword by Bill and Gloria Gaither

“...an amazing piece of work covering in detail the amazing songs and recordings of an equally amazing group.” —Bill Anderson

The Music of The Statler Brothers: An Anthology is an in-depth look at the musical career of The Statler Brothers’s forty-year reign as country music’s premier group. Lead singer, Don Reid, writes about each song ever recorded by the Grammy Award-winning foursome and gives backstage insight to the writings and the selections of each composition.

A songwriter with two-hundred-fifty recordings of music by his own hand and a member of both the Country Music and Gospel Music Halls of Fame, Reid gives meaningful and often humorous insight into the day-to-day workings and trials of the music industry.

There has been no other book by someone in the recording business that compares with this song-by-song chronicle. Unique in its content and style, this anthology offers anyone with an interest in the entertainment business more than a glimpse behind the curtain.

Covering forty-five albums of original music, this is a must-read for all Statler Brothers fans and lovers of country and gospel music alike.
Enjoying retirement after forty years in college athletics both on campus and in a conference office setting, John Iamarino most recently served as commissioner of the Southern Conference from 2006 to 2019. A graduate of St. Bonaventure University, Iamarino resides in South Carolina.

In the winter of 1921, fifteen prominent colleges and universities met in Atlanta, Georgia, to form a new organization to promote intercollegiate athletics competition. That organization, soon to become known as the Southern Conference, remains a strong and viable member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) 100 years later.

Southern Conference roots may be found throughout college athletics from the Mid-Atlantic region to the deep South. All but three of the current Southeastern Conference (SEC) members once belonged to the Southern Conference. Likewise, a majority of present Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) institutions formerly were SoCon members.

A Proud Athletic History: 100 Years of the Southern Conference tells the story of the notable athletes, coaches, and athletic programs that have built such a rich tradition over so many decades. Legendary sports figures such as Jerry West, Arnold Palmer, Bear Bryant, Sam Huff, and Steph Curry are all part of the Southern Conference’s past.

This is the first definitive history of the SoCon, utilizing many rarely-before-seen photos, researched via official league records and minutes, and filled with features and highlights in an easy-to-read format. There’s also a detailed look at the present conference membership, which is a remarkably diverse combination of state and private institutions, as well as two military colleges.

It’s all chronicled here. From football bowl games to the formation of the SEC and ACC to the first three-point basket in NCAA history. With a proud past, the Southern Conference continues its mission of preparing student-athletes for life’s challenges.
The late 1980s were a boom time for college basketball, and the Vanderbilt Commodores were right in the middle of it. Led by Hall of Fame Coach C.M. Newton, All-America center Will Perdue, and a group of three-point shooters known as “The Bomb Squad,” the Commodores made their mark in the Southeastern Conference and challenged for the conference title in 1988 and 1989. Along the way, they played—and, often, beat—many of the game’s national powers, including Kentucky, North Carolina, Louisville, Duke, Notre Dame, Indiana, Michigan, and Kansas.

Here is the inside story of those Commodore teams as told by Barry Goheen, the Vanderbilt guard and “Bomb Squad” member who became nationally known for his numerous clutch shots and “buzzer beaters” that lifted the ‘Dores to victory. Goheen and his Commodore teammates encountered many of the greatest players and coaches of the era—Bob Knight, Dean Smith, Mike Krzyzewski, Chris Jackson, Digger Phelps, Denny Crum, Steve Alford, Rex Chapman, Glen Rice, and many more. They captured thrilling wins, endured painful losses, and achieved several firsts for the Vanderbilt basketball program.

This is a story centered in Nashville, Tennessee, particularly Vanderbilt’s venerable Memorial Gym, with stops in Hawaii and Taipei; Chapel Hill and Durham, North Carolina; Bloomington and South Bend, Indiana; and Lincoln, Nebraska. Even the casual basketball fan will enjoy Buzzer Beaters and Memorial Magic.

Barry Goheen is a “Double ‘Dore,” having graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1989 and the Vanderbilt School of Law in 1994. Goheen practices law in Atlanta, Georgia, and serves as chairman of the Atlanta Tip-Off Club.
When Arthur Benjamin steps from a Greyhound bus in Savannah, Georgia, he is immediately robbed by an affable street magician named Hamby Cahill. It is Hamby’s first act of thievery and the remorse of it so overwhelms him that he finds lodging for Arthur in The Castle, a warehouse supposedly owned by Melinda McFadden, an eccentric and fragile grande dame of imagined aristocracy who is known as Lady to the strange assembly of street people she has arbitrarily selected to be her Guests. There, Arthur finds his family—an ex-con shoplifter, a disgruntled seamstress, a young artist suspected of being a hooker, and a former boxer known as Lightning.

For Arthur, it is the company that will change his life, as he, in turn, will change the lives of everyone he encounters. Yet, he does not know he will become entangled with political arrogance over a minor traffic mishap, or be targeted for brutality. He does not know he will encounter Wally Whitmire, proponent of the Destiny of the Dominoes, or that he will become an unqualified mayoral candidate put forth to serve as an irritant to the incumbent Harry Geiger. And he does not know he will be looked upon by the people of Savannah—fortunate and unfortunate, alike—as an icon, a beloved figure who wears a cape of invented royalty and distributes paper flowers made of cocktail napkins as gifts of comfort. Arthur knows only that he has found his place and his purpose.

A story of unexpected friendships and finding home

The King Who Made Paper Flowers
A Novel
Terry Kay

New in paperback
Also available in e-book format
Middy Sweet Young, a wealthy widow, returns to her hometown in Northeast Georgia in search of her youth, lured by a dreamy wish shared with Luke Mercer, her high school boyfriend: “One day we’ll be together…”

The Forever Wish of Middy Sweet is the story of that prophecy—the former beauty queen and the retired history teacher reuniting fifty years after her vow.

It is a prophecy that will haunt Luke. A widower, he has settled comfortably in Creel as a father and grandfather, as a friend to such people as the barber Roy Kennedy, as a surprising and unlikely football legend, as the local historian, as a dedicated volunteer for the library. In a small town where core values have remained relatively unchanged, Luke is the model citizen—quiet, reflective, patient, caring—but Middy’s sudden and unexpected appearance in his life brings with it uncertainty and confusion.

He does not know her life has been that of an oppressed trophy wife to a controlling lawyer, or that she has chosen him to be her guide to relive hallowed memories of youth. He does not know she would share with him unsettling experiences—from her mother’s alcoholism to her husband’s cruelty. He does not know that hidden in the exuberance of her return to Creel is the destiny of a fragile reality.

And he does not know he will be drawn back into his own memories—boyhood, college, his life spent with is late wife, Hannah. For Luke, Middy’s search becomes his discovery, leaving him to wonder if she had been right: What might have been is a haunting of the imagination.

“...a different kind of love story, one ticking with suspense that ends in a poetic universality you will never forget.” —Jeff Fields

A member of the Georgia Writers’ Hall of Fame, Terry Kay is the recipient of the Governor’s Humanities Award, the Townsend Award, and the Lindberg Award, and has been named Georgia Author of the Year four times. Three of his eighteen books have been produced as Hallmark Hall of Fame movies, including the classic, To Dance with the White Dog. Learn more about him at www.terrykay.com.
Kristine F. Anderson earned a PhD in Communicative Arts from Georgia State University. She has worked as a freelance writer for national newspapers and magazines and taught high school English. She has also taught courses at Shorter College and Southern Polytechnic State University, now part of Kennesaw State University. Crooked Truth is her debut novel.

Fifteen-year-old Lucas Webster doesn’t mind working in the fields and chopping cotton on his grandparents’s farm in South Georgia, but he hates getting stuck caring for his Uncle Robert. Born with Down Syndrome, Robert can’t even tie his shoes or print his name. Though he is ten years older than Lucas, he follows Lucas around like a clumsy shadow.

Lucas wants to get out of Crisscross and be rid of his child-like uncle, but after his grandpa dies in the spring of 1948, things change. His grandmother withdraws in her grief and Alvin Earl, Robert’s half-brother, returns to manage the farm with his guns and stash of liquor. Lucas must become more than a reluctant caretaker.

A hard man, Alvin Earl racks up a slew of gambling debts and issues orders day and night. He revels in tormenting Robert and Lucas. Despite Lucas’s objections, he plans to pull him out of school to work on the farm full-time and send Robert to the state asylum.

When a fatal shooting occurs late one hot afternoon, Lucas must decide what to tell the sheriff. As he discovers the ties that can destroy and bind a family, he cannot reveal what really happened to the local authorities or anyone else. He realizes that not all lies are alike. And he twists the truth to protect those he loves.
Whose Woods These Are
A Novel
John Lane

Ideal for book club reading
Also available in e-book format

The disappearance of Old Doc—and a search for the truth in the deep woods of South Carolina

Whose Woods These Are takes place on Thanksgiving Day in a deep river bottom in a mythical Piedmont county, Morgan, South Carolina—a creation carried over from John Lane's first novel, the award-winning Fate Moreland's Widow. The story is told in four perspectives on the possible death and certain disappearance of Old Doc, an 85-year-old land owner/deer hunter and centers on a contested property boundary shared with the resident Mitchell family who have lived on the land since colonial times.

Four intricately layered stories spool out as Thanksgiving Day progresses—that of Jae Mitchell, the young hunter with deep connections to the land; deputy sheriff Caddy Galligher, Jae's former girlfriend and mother of his young child; Daren Pagano, Old Doc's scheming real estate agent step son; and Sheriff Howard, near retirement, a hunting buddy of Old Doc who believes what his deputy Caddy tells him, that Jae Mitchell wouldn't kill anybody.

All have their stakes in what happened in the river bottom and as the day unfolds, nobody can locate the suspect or the victim, so the four stories turn into a search for the truth in the deep woods.

John Lane attended Wofford College, The Breadloaf School of English, and Bennington College. Among his many awards his selected poems, Abandoned Quarry, won the Southeastern Independent Booksellers Alliance Poetry Book Award, his nonfiction book Coyote Settles the South was named a finalist and a Nature Book of Uncommon Merit by the John Burroughs Society, and his novel Fate Moreland's Widow was named Independent Publisher Silver Medalist. One of the founders of the Hub City Writers Project, Lane lives in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

TITLES OF INTEREST

Anthropocene Blues
Poems
John Lane
Paperback | $17.00 | P459
978-0-88146-625-6

Abandoned Quarry
New and Selected Poems
John Lane
Paperback | $20.00 | P428
978-0-88146-241-8

Begin with Rock, End with Water
Essays
John Lane
Paperback | $25.00 | P451
978-0-88146-384-2

Easter Weekend
A Novel
David Bottoms
Paperback | $17.00 | P563
978-0-88146-654-6

Dixie Luck
Stories and the novella Terminal
Andy Plattner
Paperback | $17.00 | P560
978-0-88146-651-5

e-book | $12.00
978-0-88146-661-4

Sweetwater Blues
A Novel
Raymond L. Atkins
Paperback | $18.00 | P495
978-0-88146-507-5

e-book | $12.00
978-0-88146-508-2
Jesse Graves is the author of the poetry collections *Tennessee Landscape with Blighted Pine*, *Basin Ghosts*, and *Specter Mountain*. His work received the James Still Award for Writing about the Appalachian South from the Fellowship of Southern Writers and two Weatherford Awards from Berea College. Graves teaches at East Tennessee State University, where he is poet-in-residence and professor of English. Learn more about him at jessegravespoetry.wordpress.com.

**Merciful Days**

Poems by Jesse Graves

Poems celebrating generational connection, nature, joy, love, and remembrance

*Merciful Days is the fourth collection of poems by East Tennessee poet Jesse Graves, recipient of the James Still Award for Writing about the Appalachia from the Fellowship of Southern Writers.*

In a language that is both plainspoken and lyrical, Graves examines the connections that hold people together across generations and against the breaches of time and distance. The landscapes of his native region possess a mythic beauty and Graves writes of the animating force it can become in a poet’s imagination. He closely observes animals and plants, the circling of hawks, and the curling of wild ginger leaves, as well as less palpable phenomena such as how wind stirs the surface of still water.

*Merciful Days* is a book of elegies and celebrations. Graves’s poems are haunted by the lost futures of lives cut short, and by speculative narrations of omens and portents, witches and spirits seen only in reflection. For all the darkness visible in the world, Graves elevates the great joy of feeding birds, walking in the woods, and sharing a life, sometimes only in memory, with the people we love. Those who have passed on are remembered here and their stories become a source of light.

The new work in *Merciful Days* will remind readers why Ron Rash has said, “These poems have the music, wisdom, and singular voice of a talent fully realized, and make abundantly clear that Jesse Graves is one of America’s finest young poets.”
“Alsobrook tells his story with the understated voice of an archivist: fair, respectful, and meticulous.” —Frye Gaillard

LIKE MANY OTHER ASPIRING YOUNG HISTORIANS IN THE 1970S, David Alsobrook fell victim to the “PhD glut” and the shrinking number of vacancies in traditional academic jobs. His completion of the Auburn University Archival Training Program in 1975 provided him with an alternative career pathway as a historian beyond teaching and research.

A sizable portion of this memoir focuses on Alsobrook’s archival career at the Alabama Department of Archives and History and three Presidential libraries. Based almost exclusively on his contemporaneous personal journals, correspondence, and notes, Presidential Archivist includes details about academic and practical training, typical duties, and the revolutionary impact of computerization upon the archival profession over the past four decades.

During his National Archives career, Alsobrook had the unique opportunity to know several recent American Presidents and First Ladies—Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter, George H. W. and Barbara Bush, George W. and Laura Bush, and Bill and Hillary Clinton.

Not surprisingly, as an archivist he compiled copious records of his interactions with these Presidents and First Ladies. These records form the basis for his personal observations about each of these remarkable “national treasures” and their contributions to our nation.

Alsobrook reveals that public perceptions of Presidents and First Ladies often are quite different from the actual occupants of the White House, most notably, when they are removed from the merciless lens of television cameras.

Jaclyn Weldon White is a former police officer and court administrator. The author of eleven books, including true crime, novels, and biographies, she is a two-time Georgia Author of the Year winner. In addition to writing, White also designs and crafts silver jewelry. She lives in Hoschton, Georgia. Learn more about her at www.jaclynweldonwhite.com.

Rebecca and Ronald Akins and their three daughters appeared to be a typical suburban family in 1970 Macon, Georgia, but the attractive facade hid a family in crisis. The girls suffered physical and emotional abuse at the hands of their mother. Although he worked two, sometimes three, jobs, Ronnie was never able to provide Becky with the money and lifestyle she wanted.

After their 1974 divorce, Becky took the children to South Florida where she pursued a life of gambling and partying while her daughters were left to fend for themselves. But she wasn't content just living the high life in the tropical sun. Fueled by popular books and films, she wanted to live in what she believed was the exciting world of organized crime. So eager was she to do so that she changed her name and her daughters’ to Machetti—a name she believed to be appropriate for the Mafia.

In only a few months, she found not one, but two, men who joined her in her murderous fantasy which culminated in two deaths. The resulting legal proceedings went on for more than a decade and the Akins’s three daughters were right in the middle of it—torn between fear of their mother and the desire to tell the truth.

This is the story of Rebecca Machetti, a cold-blooded woman whose prosecutor described as “pure evil” and her three daughters who lived through years of abuse before finally finding peace and normal lives.

**A true-story account of one family’s history of violence, child abuse, and murder in Middle Georgia during the 1970s**

**Whisper to the Black Candle**
Voodoo, Murder, and the Case of Anjette Lyles
Jaclyn Weldon White
Paperback | $16.00 | 978-0-88146-046-9

**Sidetracked**
Two Women, Two Cameras, and Lunches on Sherman’s Trail
Milam McGraw Propst and Jaclyn Weldon White
Paperback | $17.00 | 978-0-88146-575-4

**Six Inches Deeper**
The Disappearance of Hellen Hanks
William Rawlings
Paperback | $18.00 | 978-0-88146-733-8

**The Tragedy and the Triumph of Phenix City, Alabama**
Margaret Anne Barnes
Paperback | $20.00 | 978-0-88146-418-4
On February 13, 1930, amidst the turmoil of the Great Depression, Isaac “Nick” Bullington—circus advance man, advertising guru, and entrepreneur wanderlust from Indiana—opened a tiny, shotgun-style, hamburger, hot dog, and chili joint in Roanoke, Virginia. He called it the Texas Tavern. He hung quirky sayings on its walls and made the outside look like something more suited for a boardwalk on the beach. He sold his food on the cheap and declared it “The Millionaires Club,” a place for saints and sinners alike; all status must be checked at the door.

Ninety years later, the Texas Tavern is still the Millionaires Club, and more. With Nick’s original recipes and the addition of the Cheesy Western, the Texas Tavern has become a national food-lovers’ landmark. It’s a beloved institution throughout Roanoke’s valley, and a stabilizing force for society at large. Most impressive yet, the Texas Tavern is still owned and operated by the same Bullington family.

What makes a place more than a place? How does a ten-stool restaurant become a local icon and cultural mooring for our time? Furthermore, how does this place, serving standard American fare, become a Southern food treasure?

Texas Tavern: Four Generations of the Millionaires Club explores these questions as it tells the story of one family and their faithful stewardship of place: their restaurant and their community. It celebrates the Tavern’s famous food—and it reveals the Tavern’s true heartbeat through the love stories of its customers.

Shari L. Dragovich is a farm-raised Midwesterner and educator, transplanted in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. She has been writing articles about her community for ten years, with a growing focus on foodways and thriving local places. Dragovich is the dining writer for her hometown magazine, The Roanoker.
In more than forty years of teaching and writing Southern history, William Harris Bragg has many times been awarded for distinguished contributions to his field. In American military history his Joe Brown’s Army has been recognized as an important study of a “unique” small unit. Bragg retired from Georgia College as head of the Center for Georgia Studies in 2009, but continues to write history.

TITLES OF INTEREST

“The Showy Town of Savannah”
The Story of the Architect William Jay
John D. Duncan and Sandra L. Underwood
Hardback | $40.00t | 978-0-88146-689-8

Cherokee in Controversy
The Life of Jesse Bushyhead
Dan B. Wimberly
Hardback | $29.00t | 978-0-88146-607-2

The Triumph of the Ecunnau-Nuxulgee
Land Speculators, George M. Troup, State Rights, and the Removal of the Creek Indians from Georgia and Alabama, 1825–38
William W. Winn
Hardback | $39.00t | 978-0-88146-522-8

The Tifts of Georgia
Connecticut Yankees in King Cotton’s Court
John D. Fair
Hardback | $35.00t | 978-0-88146-218-0

Primary research from previously-unpublished sources tells the fascinating story of this Virginia gentleman turned soldier

From battling Seminoles in Florida’s swamps to storming through Old Mexico’s fortified towns, Lewis Stevenson Craig served as an exemplar of the U.S. Army’s burgeoning professional officer corps. An early officer to make the army a career, Craig was to die with his boots on, commandng the military escort of John Russell Bartlett’s U.S.-Mexican Boundary Commission.

Ironically, Craig was meant for a Virginia planter’s life supported by a generous legacy from his father, but Craig’s older brothers and a faithless guardian robbed him of his inheritance and plunged him into years-long court battles. For Craig, family love and concern had died with his short-lived older sister, Jane Craig Stanard, now famous as Edgar Allan Poe’s “Helen.”

Early in the Florida War, as a Dragoons lieutenant by appointment, Craig soon distinguished himself. At war’s end, now an officer of the Third Infantry Regiment, he met the love of his life, Elizabeth Church. Soon she became Craig’s wife and bore their only child at Fort Jesup on the western frontier.

By the end of the Mexican War, where his regiment became known as “The Old Guard,” Craig’s fearlessness and valor had brought him promotion to Brevet Lieutenant Colonel. Soon, with the help of his military patron, General Winfield Scott, Craig embarked into the land of the Apaches on his last adventure.

As presented in this book, Craig’s story is told, unspoiled by present-mindedness, through deep research into the original sources which include Virginia family papers and court files, U.S. military records, and Craig’s own letters and journals, most from a heretofore untouched family archive.

AN OFFICER OF THE OLD GUARD
Lewis Stevenson Craig, 1807–1852
William Harris Bragg

November 2020 | Biography/Military History
6 x 9 | 356 pp. | Hardback, $35.00t | 978-0-88146-764-2 | Bibliography | Index | Maps | Illustrations
Into Tennessee and Failure
John Bell Hood
Stephen Davis

An in-depth account of Confederate General John Bell Hood and his final months as leader of the Army of Tennessee

**Into Tennessee and Failure is the second volume of Stephen Davis’s study of John Bell Hood’s generalship in 1864.** Volume One, *Texas Brigadier to the Fall of Atlanta* traces Hood’s rise from lieutenant of cavalry in Virginia to commanding general of the Army of Tennessee. In his first test as Confederate general, July-September 1864, Hood failed to prevent Sherman’s capture of Atlanta.


With few options left, Hood approached Nashville and had his troops dig in. Though his army was half the size of Thomas’s 50,000, Hood hoped to win a defensive victory when Thomas attacked him. Instead, in the battle of Nashville, December 15-16, the Army of Tennessee was routed from the field. By the time it ended its retreat in North Mississippi, Confederate authorities were ready to relieve Hood from command. Seeing it coming, the general offered his resignation in January 1865.

Davis’s theme in Volume One was the ambition that drove Hood to seek higher and higher rank. Here, while recognizing Hood’s loyalty to the Confederate cause, he discerns Hood’s unflattering traits: questioning the courage of his men, bickering with other generals, and concealing from his superiors the extent of his disaster in Tennessee.

Stephen Davis is a nationally-known author and recognized expert on the Atlanta Campaign of 1864. This is his seventh book on the subject. He has also written hundreds of articles for both scholarly and popular publications. Davis is a graduate of Emory University, where he studied under the renowned Bell Wiley and from which he earned his PhD. Now retired, he resides in Cumming, Georgia.
An award-winning writer and freelance editor, Elaine Fowler Palencia grew up in Kentucky and Tennessee. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Vanderbilt University, she has authored six books of fiction; four poetry chapbooks; and a monograph, The Literary Heritage of Hindman Settlement School. She is the book review editor of Pegasus, the journal of the Kentucky State Poetry Society. Learn more about her at www.elainepalencia.com.

On Rising Ground
The Life and Civil War Letters of John M. Douthit, Fifty-Second Georgia Volunteer Infantry Regiment
Elaine Fowler Palencia

“...a richly-researched account of a Confederate foot soldier from the mountains of North Georgia.” — W. Clifford Roberts, Jr.

When John M. Douthit of Appalachian Georgia enlisted as a private in Fannin County’s Fifty-Second Volunteer Infantry Regiment on March 4, 1862 and marched with neighbors to train at Camp McDonald, he left behind a pregnant wife, an eighteen-month-old daughter, and a small farm.

A precious cache of family letters traces him to eastern Tennessee, where he served south of Cumberland Gap; through the failed Confederate invasion of Kentucky; on the march to join Bragg’s forces near Murfreesboro, Tennessee; and finally, to the defense of Vicksburg, where John and his fellow North Georgians arrived during the Battle of Chickasaw Bayou. At Vicksburg, where John’s younger brother Warren Davis Douthit joined him, five North Georgia regiments solidified into what became known as the Barton-Stovall Brigade. The Brigade manned the water batteries at Warrenton, Mississippi, fought in the Battle of Champion Hill, and afterward was bottled up in the siege of Vicksburg.

This book searches out the fate of the two men, never known by their immediate family, and also examines the effect of the war on the home front. In this well-researched and reasoned narrative, the common soldier is elevated to tragic hero. The author, John’s great-great granddaughter and a descendant of the daughter who was born while he was away and whom he never saw, includes family stories and her own mother’s memories of John’s wife Martha.
Cecilia Lawton’s life was changed forever when the bloodiest war in American history began in 1861. The daughter of a wealthy Georgia plantation owner, she was married at the age of sixteen and went to live at her husband’s plantation in South Carolina, but a few months later, she found herself fleeing from the army of General William T. Sherman as it ravaged the state. She observed the aftermath of this brutal campaign in Georgia and South Carolina, writing of what she saw in vivid, horrific detail.

Following the war, Cecilia and her husband Wallace Lawton struggled to survive on his ruined plantation, but after enduring many hardships and dangers, they moved away and began a new life together on a beautiful sea island near Charleston, South Carolina, where Wallace had been born and raised. There, he and other planters tried to resume the cultivation of fine sea island cotton, only to suffer a devastating loss when the scourge of the cotton caterpillar wiped out their crops.

Raised in luxury and privilege, Cecilia had few of the skills expected of a farmer’s wife, but despite her youth and inexperience, as well as the devastating poverty and turmoil of postwar South Carolina, she persevered and finally found success as a businesswoman in Charleston, having discovered along the way many strengths and abilities she never knew she possessed.

Told in her own words, this is the true story of Cecilia Lawton, a young woman who faced incredible challenges with determination and courage.

Karen Stokes, an archivist at the South Carolina Historical Society in Charleston, is the author of several non-fiction books on South Carolina Confederate history. She has also authored works of historical fiction and has edited four collections of wartime letters, including An Everlasting Circle: Letters of the Haskell Family of Abbeville, South Carolina, 1861–1865.
Peter C. Brown taught philosophy and Great Books for over four decades at Mercer University. With a PhD from Emory University, his research interests are in ethics, religion and literature, and community building. Brown received the King Distinguished Professor Award in 1998 from Mercer, and in 2002 he was honored by Georgia State University with the Jimmy Carter Award for Campus-Community Collaboration. He now resides in Tallahassee, Florida.

AUTHOR PHOTOGRAPH

LISTENING FOR GOD
Malamud, O’Connor, Updike, & Morrison
Peter C. Brown

An interdisciplinary study of four authors through the lens of philosophy, religion, cultural criticism, and literature

WE LIVE IN A SECULAR AGE, WHERE THE WORLD AND ITS WAYS SEEM TO indicate the absence of God. The testimony of ancient and latter-day prophets requires more faith (or credulity) than most of us can manage. Can we still find spiritual truths that will restore a sense of a higher meaning to our lives?

For millennia, people have looked to literature, to scriptures, epics, poems, plays, novels, and films for insights into the human condition. In our increasingly rationalized world, some of these contemporary storytellers—like a Bernard Malamud, Flannery O’Connor, John Updike, or Toni Morrison—stretch their art to find new words for the sacred. The God for whom they listen is elusive, a mystery. Their stories and novels are not make-believe accounts of a supernatural Being. They are stories that dig beneath all the ordinary ways we try to justify our lives to uncover in them the traces of a transcending judgment that both exalts and humbles us. Their engrossing stories are not just the moral parables or cunning plots they appear on the surface to be.

Peter Brown offers a highly interdisciplinary examination of these four authors who represent four different faith traditions within Judeo-Christianity: Jewish, Catholic, Protestant, and syncretistic (blending Africanist creole beliefs with Catholicism). All subversive writers, they work in extraordinary ways to undermine their own stories and open us, their readers, to something more, something that transcends time and fate. The close reading this requires from us is part of the trick—and the pleasure. Brown invites us to reread them to listen for this elusive transcendence, a sacred mystery that rebukes both the atheist’s weak humanism and the believer’s naïve supernaturalism.
Isaac Watts is universally recognized as one of the greatest English-language hymn writers of the eighteenth century, the “Golden Age of English Hymnody.” Watts almost singlehandedly broke the monopoly of metrical psalm singing and practically invented the hymn form as it is known today. Some of his texts are among the most familiar hymns in Christendom, including “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” and “Joy to the World.”

This book begins with an introduction describing Watts’s work and its importance, followed by chapters on each of his twenty-five most widely sung texts. Each hymn is presented in its full original form, with reflections and commentaries that are partly historical, partly analytical, and partly devotional. Particular attention is given to the meanings of the words as they were used by Watts, the scriptural backgrounds of the texts, and their relationship to other writings by the English author.
Baptist theologians Amy L. Chilton and Steven R. Harmon maintain that the congregational freedom cherished by Baptists makes it possible for their local churches to engage in a practice of theology informed by a full range of voices speaking from the whole church beyond the local church, past and present. In their coedited book *Sources of Light: Resources for Baptist Churches Practicing Theology*, a diverse group of twenty-three Baptist theologians engage in a collaborative attempt to imagine how Baptist communities might draw on the resources of the whole church more intentionally in their congregational practice of theology.

These resources include theologies that attend to the social locations of followers of Jesus Christ—not only in terms of ethnic and gender identity, sexual orientation, citizenship status, and physical ability, but also in relation to the wider interreligious and ecological contexts of the contemporary church. They also include the church’s efforts to bring its life together under the rule of Christ in its practices of confessing and teaching the faith, navigating moral disagreement, identifying saintly examples for living the Christian life, ordering its life as a worshiping community, and seeking more visible forms of Christian unity across the divisions of the church.

This book commends listening deeply to these voices as an ecclesial practice through which the Spirit of God enlightens the church of Christ, whose rule draws the church into deeper participation in the life of the Triune God, forming the church for practices that offer the gift of Trinitarian communion to a fractured world.

“...a splendid gift of love from Baptists to all those who care about the church, regardless of confessional leanings” —Nancy E. Bedford

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This book is designed to help students of all denominations learn how to do theology for themselves! It’s not your usual textbook which only represents the theology of the author. Drawing on his rich ecumenical, international experience, his years of working with the Black church, and dialoguing with Evangelicals, Mark Ellingsen introduces readers to all the major theological options for explaining the Church’s doctrine which have appeared in the history of Christianity. He offers empathetic description and critical evaluation of each option (strengths and weaknesses) in such a way that unless you have read his other books you’ll never figure out where he stands. Whether you’re mainline Protestant, Catholic, Evangelical, or Eastern Orthodox, this is a book to help you determine which options make the most sense for you and your church, and then helps you decide what you believe.

A feature unique to this publication are the charts in the back of the book—handy tools to orient you to all of the major theological options which will help you locate where you stand on each doctrine and what great theologians of the past are your allies. Along with the simplicity and convenience of the charts, reading the chapters will reflect the kind of scholarship and nuance one expects from a textbook, the careful work the academy has come to expect from Ellingsen, and ample Biblical authorization for most of the positions considered.
Jamie Lorentzen is a senior research fellow at the Hong Kierkegaard Library and author of several books and articles on Kierkegaard, Melville, and Bob Dylan.

Gordon Marino is professor of Philosophy and curator of the Hong Kierkegaard Library at St. Olaf College. Among other books, Marino is the author of The Existentialist’s Survival Guide. An award-winning journalist, he is a frequent contributor to the New York Times and Wall Street Journal.

Select papers from the June 2018 International Kierkegaard Conference held at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota

Taking Kierkegaard Personally: First Person Responses is a one-of-a-kind volume in which scholars from the world over address personal, existential lessons that Kierkegaard has taught them. Papers were selected from the June 2018 International Kierkegaard Conference, sponsored by the Howard V. and Edna H. Hong Kierkegaard Library at St. Olaf College.

The Conference’s prompt—The Wisdom of Kierkegaard: What Existential Lessons Have You Learned from Him?—compelled scholars to drop their guards and write primarily in first person narrative instead of standard third person scholarly/professorial narrative.

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