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Autumn 2016 Preview

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Our authors include Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Mary Oliver, Thich Nhat Hanh, Cornel West, James Baldwin, Octavia Butler, Roxanne Dunbar Ortiz and Viktor Frankl.

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Defying the Nazis: The Sharps’ War
Artemis Joukowsky

Companion to Ken Burns documentary

History, Biography | US Publication: 6 September 2016

The little-known story of Rev. Waitstill and Martha Sharp, an otherwise ordinary couple whose faith and commitment to social justice inspired them to undertake dangerous rescue and relief missions across war-torn Europe, saving the lives of countless refugees, political dissidents, and Jews during World War II.

In 1939, Rev. Waitstill Sharp, a young Unitarian minister, and his wife, Martha, a social worker, accepted a mission from the American Unitarian Association: they were to leave their home and young children in Wellesley, MA and travel to Prague, Czechoslovakia to assist the mounting refugee crisis. Armed with only $40,000, the Sharps quickly learned the art of spy craft and covertly sheltered political dissidents and Jews and helped them escape the Nazis. After narrowly avoiding the Gestapo themselves, the Sharps returned to Europe in 1940 as representatives of the newly formed Unitarian Service Committee and continued their relief efforts in Vichy France. This compulsively readable true story offers readers a rare glimpse at high stakes international relief efforts during WWII. From escorting high-profile dissidents across mountain ranges, concocting ingenious money-laundering schemes to protect refugees, forging visas to ensure that scores of children were safely relocated, and personally delivering contraband food supplies, Two Who Defied the Nazis is a fascinating portrait of resistance as told through the lens of one courageous couple.

FILM TIE-IN | The companion documentary film, produced by Ken Burns, directed by Artemis Joukowsky, and narrated by Tom Hanks, is scheduled to air nationally on PBS in Autumn 2016. www.twowhodefiedthenazis.com

MANY RECOGNIZABLE CHARACTERS | Over the course of their relief missions, the Sharps rescued notable thinkers including Nobel laureate physicist Otto Meyerhof, writers Franz Werfel and Lion Feuchtwanger. Additionally, they worked closely with Varian Fry.

INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED | For their efforts, the Sharps were awarded the title of ‘Righteous Among the Nations’ by Yad Vashem in 2006. To date, only 3 Americans have received this honor.

Artemis Joukowsky, the grandson of Waitstill and Martha Sharp has spent decades researching his grandparent’s story. He’s also the director and, with Ken Burns, co-producer of the companion documentary film, Righteous Among Us: Two Who Dared. Additionally, he has devoted much of his life’s work to improving the experience of living with multiple disabilities and promoting community services since he was diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy, type III, (‘SMA’), when he was 14 years old.
Life as Jamie Knows It  
Michael Bérubé  
*Memoir, Disability Studies | US Publication: 4 October 2016*

**The story of Jamie Bérubé’s journey to adulthood and a meditation on the implications of disability in American life**

Published in 1996, *Life as We Know It* introduced Jamie Bérubé to the world as a sweet, bright, and gregarious young boy who loves pizza, The Beatles, and making lists. Jamie is also a boy who has Down syndrome, a fact that keeps many adults from seeing him as anything but a “child” who is “disabled.”

Twenty years later, Jamie has grown to adulthood in a world where we “race for the cure” for autism and continue to imagine disability as a kind of disease. In *Life as Jamie Knows It*, Michael Bérubé chronicles Jamie’s journey from the vantage point of disability scholar and father. He follows Jamie as he navigates from family life to school and the workplace while unpacking the social and political landscape in which Jamie lives. Bérubé guides us through the labyrinths of ethical issues surrounding disability and uses Jamie’s life and story as a vehicle for posing larger philosophical questions of how understanding disability is crucial for moving forward towards a just society.

Stirring yet unsentimental, *Life as Jamie Knows It* challenges us to learn how to see our culture—and ourselves—anew.

A LONG-AWAITED SEQUEL to the 1996 acclaimed book, *Life as We Know It*, which was a NYT Notable Book of the Year.

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**Michael Bérubé** is Edwin Erle Sparks Professor of Literature and the former Director of the Institute for the Arts and Humanities at Penn State University. He is the author of nine previous books including, *Life as We Know It: A Father, A Family, and an Exceptional Child* and *The Secret Life of Stories: From Don Quixote to Harry Potter, How the Understanding of Intellectual Disability Transforms the Way We Read* (NYU Press, 2016). In 2012 he served as the President of the Modern Language Association of America.
**The World in Flames: A Boyhood in a Segregationist Doomsday Cult**

**Jerald Walker**

_Memoir, Religion | US Publication: 6 September 2016_

A boyhood memoir of growing up with blind, African American parents in a segregationist doomsday cult.

When _The World in Flames_ begins in 1970, Jerald Walker is six years old. His consciousness revolves around being a member of a church whose beliefs he finds not only confusing, but terrifying. Composed of a hodgepodge of religious beliefs, the underpinning tenet of Herbert W. Armstrong’s Worldwide Church of God was that members were God’s chosen race and all other would perish in just a few years time.

The membership was ruled by fear, intimidation, and threats. Anyone who dared leave the church would endure hardship for the remainder of this life, and eternal suffering in the next. The next life, according to Armstrong, would arrive in 1975, three years after the start of the Great Tribulation. Walker would be eleven years old.

Walker’s parents were particularly vulnerable to the promise of relief from this world’s hardships. They were living in a two-room apartment in a dangerous Chicago housing project with four children. His father had been an alcoholic, and, most significantly, both of his parents were blind, having lost their sight to childhood accidents. They took comfort in the belief that they had been chosen for a better afterlife and dutifully sent tithes to Armstrong, whose church boasted over 100,000 members and over $80 billion in revenues at its height.

When the prophecy of the 1972 Great Tribulation does not materialize, Walker is considerably less disappointed than relieved. When the End-Time 1975 prophecy also fails, he finally begins to question his faith and to see a potential future.

_Jerald Walker_ is an Associate Professor of Creative Writing and former chair in the Department of Writing, Literature and Publishing at Emerson College. He holds an M.F.A. from the Iowa Writers’ Workshop, where he was a Teaching/Writing Fellow and James A. Michener Fellow. Walker’s first book, _Street Shadows: A Memoir of Race, Rebellion, and Redemption_ (Bantam, 2010), was the recipient of the 2011 PEN New England/L.L. Winship Award for Nonfiction, and named a “Best Memoir of the Year” by Kirkus Reviews. His creative nonfiction has appeared in numerous magazines and has been widely anthologized, including being selected four times for inclusion _The Best American Essays_.

Same Family, Different Colors: Confronting Colorism in America’s Diverse Families
Lori L. Tharps

Weaving together personal stories, history, and analysis, Same Family, Different Colors explores the myriad ways skin color politics affect family dynamics in the United States.

Colorism and color bias—the preference for or presumed superiority of a person based on the lighter color of their skin—is a pervasive but rarely openly discussed phenomenon, one that is centuries old and continues today. In Same Family, Different Colors, journalist Lori Tharps, the mother of three Mixed Race children with three distinct skin colors, uses her own family as a starting point to explore how skin color difference is dealt with in African-American, Latino, Asian American and Mixed Race families and communities. Along with intimate and revealing stories and anecdotes from dozens of diverse people from across the US, Tharps adds a historical overview as well as a contemporary cultural critique. Same Family, Different Colors is a solution-seeking journey to the heart of identity politics so this more subtle ‘cousin to racism,’ in the author’s words, will be acknowledged, understood and debated.

Drawing from a rich and diverse collection of interviews with ten women and twenty girl activists, *Powered by Girl* is both a journalistic account of how girls are embracing activism and a prescriptive guide for adults who want to work with girls and support their organizing. Here we meet girls like 13-year-old Julia Blum who succeeded in getting *Seventeen* to go Photoshop free; 12-year-old Madison Kimrey, who founded NC Youth Rocks to protest voting restriction laws targeting young people and minorities; and teenagers Andrea Gonzales and Sophie Houser, who invented Tampon Run, a video game designed to break taboos around menstruation.

A recent explosion of feminism, largely defined by technology, is leading many scholars and activists to believe we’ve reached the fourth wave. But, behind every #LikeAGirl campaign you’ll likely find an organization like that is training and supporting girls and their activist work. What Lyn Mikel Brown has found from leading development workshops, lecturing, and speaking to activists across the country is that adults are hungry for tools and training for understanding girls within different social and cultural contexts and addressing the complex relational truths that surface between girls and adults when they join together. As Brown points out, adults shouldn’t encourage girls to simply “lean in” to the movement; rather girls should be supported in creating their own movement, disrupting the narrative, developing their own ideas, on their own terms.

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**Interfaith Leadership: A Primer**  
Eboo Patel  
*Religion, Education | US Publication date: 30 August 2016*

In this primer, renowned interfaith leader Eboo Patel offers a clear, detailed, and practical guide to interfaith leadership, illustrated with compelling examples. Patel explains what interfaith leadership is and explores the core competencies and skills of interfaith leadership, before turning to the challenges interfaith leaders face and how they can prepare to solve them. Interfaith leaders are people who seek points of connection and commonality—in their neighborhoods, schools, college campuses, companies, organizations, hospitals, and other spaces where people of different faiths interact with one another. While it can be challenging to navigate the differences and disagreements that can arise from these interactions, skilled interfaith leaders are vital if we are to have a strong, religiously diverse democracy. This primer presents readers with the philosophical underpinnings of interfaith theory as well as the skills necessary to practice interfaith leadership today.

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**Price for Their Pound of Flesh: Black Bodies for Sale in the Building of America**  
Daina Berry  
*Social Science, History | US Publication: 24 January 2017*

*Price for Their Pound of Flesh* is the first book to explore the economic value of enslaved men, women, and children in the American domestic slave trade. Spanning their full ‘lifecycle’ (including preconception, infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood, the senior years, and postmortem), historian Daina Berry shows the lengths to which slaveholders would go to maximize profits. Drawing from over 10 years of research, Berry explores how enslaved peoples’ reacted to being appraised, bartered, and sold. By illuminating their lives Berry ensures that the individuals she studies are regarded as people, not merely commodities. Analyzing the depth of this monetization of human property will change the way we think about slavery, reparations, capitalism, and 19th century medical education.
“All the Real Indians Died Off”: And 20 Other Myths About Native Americans
Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz and Dina Gilio-Whitaker

Social Science, Indigenous Studies | US Publication: 4 October 2016

“All the Real Indians Died Off” and 20 Other Myths about Native Americans critically deconstructs persistent myths about American Indians that have taken hold in the United States. Authors Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz and Dina Gilio-Whitaker tackle a wide range of myths about Native American culture (‘Indians Are Naturally Predisposed to Alcoholism’) and history (‘Columbus Discovered America and there Weren’t Many Natives There’) and trace how they developed. They deftly show how these myths are rooted in the fears and prejudice of European settlers and the larger political agendas of the settler state aimed at acquiring Indigenous land, and can be traced to narratives of erasure and disappearance.

Refinery Town: Big Oil, Big Money, and the Remaking of an American City
Steve Early

Political Science, Social Science | US Publication: 17 January 2017

When veteran labor reporter Steve Early moved from his New England home of thirty years to Richmond, California—a largely non-white and working class city of 100,000 people— he was surprised to discover a new kind of labor movement brewing. Home of one of the largest oil refineries in the state, Richmond was once a typical company town run by officials bankrolled by Chevron, a city experiencing the bi-products of decades worth of de-industrialization, poverty, and sub-standard housing and public education. It had one of the highest homicide rates, per capita, in the country and a jobless rate that was often twice the national average.

But, what’s happened in Richmond in the last ten years is surprising. By harnessing the power of local politics and community organizing, Richmond citizens have raised the minimum wage, defeated a casino development project, created a municipal ID to aid undocumented workers, sued oil giant Chevron, substantially reduced crime through ‘community policing,’ and have blocked home foreclosures. A powerful role model for how local governance can address the most pressing issues of our time, the story of Richmond and its citizens is as engaging at it is a roadmap for a much needed shift in power.

Water Tossing Boulders: How a Family of Chinese Immigrants Led the First Fight to Desegregate Schools in the Jim Crow South
Adrienne Berard

Social Science, History | US Publication: 8 November 2016

On September 15, 1924, Martha Lum and her older sister Berda were barred from attending middle school in Rosedale, Mississippi. The girls were Chinese and therefore colored; the Rosedale Consolidated High School was for whites. This event would lead to the first United States Supreme Court case to challenge racial division within Southern public schools, thirty years before the landmark decision Brown v. Board of Education brought down walls of segregation in the South. In the first case to confront the “separate but equal” doctrine in public schools, the Lum family along with an eccentric Mississippi lawyer fought for the right to educate Chinese Americans in the white schools of the Jim Crow South. In sweeping narrative that is both epic and intimate, When Yellow Was Black evokes a time and place previously defined by black and white, a time and place that, until now, has never been viewed through the eyes of a forgotten third race. In vivid prose, the Mississippi Delta, an empire of cotton and bastion of racial hierarchy, is reimagined to reveal the experiences of a lost immigrant community. Through extensive research in historical documents and family correspondence, Berard illuminates a vital, hidden chapter of America’s past and uncovers the powerful journey of an oppressed people in their struggle for equality.