Introduction

WHO WE ARE

Beacon Press is an independent publisher of serious nonfiction. Our books often change the way readers think about fundamental issues; they promote values such as freedom of speech and thought; diversity, religious pluralism, and anti-racism; and respect for diversity in all areas of life. Our current publishing program emphasizes religion, history, current affairs, political science, queer studies, education, African American studies, women’s studies, child and family issues, and nature and the environment.

OUR SOCIAL IMPACT

The annual Beacon Social Impact Report serves to capture the moments and conversations that Beacon titles have driven over the course of the previous calendar year. Like other publishers, we use metrics of the business world to report on our financial results. But this report also answers these questions: How can we, as a mission-driven nonprofit publishing house, measure the impact and social benefits of our work? In what ways do our books touch lives and bring about change?

For this we need both stories and new metrics. In our tenth annual Beacon Social Impact Report, we bring to light the reach of Beacon’s mission to foster conversations, challenge assumptions, and ignite personal and social change. As 2022 brought threats to education curricula, continued gun violence, anti-Asian hate, and increased book banning, Beacon titles continued to serve as resources across spaces for policy, scholarship, community building, and beyond. Some of our top-selling works included Man’s Search for Meaning, Kindred, White Fragility, and An Indigenous Peoples’ History of

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION ........................................................................................................................................... (3)
OUR DEMOGRAPHICS................................................................................................................................... (5)
INFLUENCING LITERARY SPACES............................................................................................................. (6)
BROADENING UNDERSTANDINGS OF IDENTITY AND EXPERIENCE ...................................................... (8)
CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRANSFORMATIVE CONVERSATIONS .............................................. (11)
ENTERING THE CLASSROOM .................................................................................................................... (14)
COURSE ADOPTIONS IN 2022 .................................................................................................................... (14)
COMBATTING BOOK BANS ......................................................................................................................... (16)
CONNECTING ONLINE ............................................................................................................................... (17)
INFORMING PERSPECTIVES ON SYSTEMIC INEQUITY ........................................................................... (18)
REDUCING OUR ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT ............................................................................................ (24)
FOREIGN RIGHTS ....................................................................................................................................... (25)
ORGANIZATION PARTNERSHIPS IN 2022 ............................................................................................... (26)
Our Demographics

Beacon strives to amplify diverse perspectives from underrepresented voices. Forty-one out of forty-seven authors we published this year chose to self-report their race and ethnicity in 2022. Out of those forty-one authors, 26.8% were Black or African American, 9.8% were Asian American, 7.3% were Hispanic/Latinx, 4.9% were Ashkenazi-Sephardi Jewish, and 51.2% were white.

Race and Ethnicity of Our Authors

51.2% White
26.6% Black or African American
9.8% Asian American
7.3% Hispanic/Latinx
4.9% Ashkenazi-Sephardi Jewish
55% were female and 45% were male
7 authors self-identified as LGBTQ+

Out of the 42 total authors we published this year who disclosed their gender identity:
Influencing Literary Spaces

VINEGAR HILL
COLM TÓIBÍN

In 2022, we published Vinegar Hill, New York Times best-selling author Colm Tóibín’s first collection of poetry. Vinegar Hill explores the liminal space between private experiences and public events as Tóibín examines a wide range of subjects—politics, queer love, reflections on literary and artistic greats, living through COVID, and facing mortality.

The New York Times Book Review featured the collection in its April poetry issue, calling Vinegar Hill “a lesson for fiction and nonfiction readers alike on the quality of introspection only poetry can offer.” Excerpts from the collection were published in the New Yorker and The Atlantic, and during National Poetry Month, Tóibín was interviewed by NPR’s Weekend Edition Saturday, WNYC’s All of It with Alison Stewart, the Academy of American Poets, and the New York Review of Books. A video of Tóibín reading from the collection was featured by Oprah Daily for their National Poetry Month series, and Tóibín’s interview with Weekend Edition Saturday was featured on NPR’s Book of the Day. The collection was also included in roundups from The Guardian and the Sunday Times.

THE BIRDCATCHER
GAYL JONES

After two decades out of the public eye, Gayl Jones returned in September 2021 with the epic novel Palmares, which was named a Pulitzer Prize finalist in May 2022. Jones returned in September 2022 with The Birdcatcher. In November, twelve Beacon staffers were thrilled to travel to New York for the National Book Award gala to celebrate The Birdcatcher’s nomination as one of five finalists in the fiction category—the second such nomination for Jones.

The novel met with critical acclaim upon its publication, including two starred trade write-ups, reviews in the Boston Globe, the Wall Street Journal, the New Yorker’s “Briefly Noted” section, The Guardian, and on Oprah Daily. The book also made “best of” round-ups in the Philadelphia Inquirer, the St. Louis Post, Oprah Daily, the Seattle Times, the Minneapolis Star Tribune, LitHub, Vox, Vulture, the New Yorker, and Ms. When The Birdcatcher received the NBA nod, the Associated Press used Gayl Jones’s name in the headline of their coverage, which was picked up nationwide.
As part of Beacon’s Queer Ideas series, a unique series addressing pivotal issues within the LGBTQ+ movement, we published Reclaiming Two-Spirits: Sexuality, Spiritual Renewal & Sovereignty in Native America by Gregory Smithers. A sweeping history of Indigenous traditions of gender, sexuality, and resistance, Reclaiming Two-Spirits reveals how, despite centuries of colonialism, Two-Spirit people are reclaiming their place in Native nations. Original pieces by Smithers were published by the Washington Post, Ms., the New Republic, History News Network, and the Wilson Center’s blog, and excerpts ran in LitHub and YES! Magazine.

Reclaiming Two-Spirits was reviewed by the Gay and Lesbian Review, which called the book an “LGBT-affirmative history of gender fluid Native Americans,” as well as by Foreword Reviews and the Bay Area Reporter. Smithers was interviewed by Richmond Magazine, Virginia Public Media, and podcasts including The American Scholar’s Smarty Pants podcast, Skylight Books Podcast Series, History Hack, Unsung History, and Armchair Historians. The book was also mentioned and quoted in Oprah Daily during Pride Month. He did a number of events at bookstores across the country, including Politics & Prose, Greenlight Bookstore, City Lights, and the Elliott Bay Book Company. He also did an internal event for staff and scholars at the Wilson Center. Smithers is continuing to do events in 2023, with events at Town Hall Seattle and the Virginia Festival of the Book, planned for this spring.


The book received considerable coverage in Asian American outlets like the Center for Asian American Media, the Asia Society, and Nichi Bei Weekly. Trade publications adored her book, including Kirkus Reviews, which called it “an impressive new work about how major moments in Asian American history continue to influence the modern world.” Choy gave voice to the topics of her book on the Factly and Unsung History podcasts, with NPR programs on the East and West coasts, and on her local ABC station in the Bay Area.
ON REPENTANCE AND REPAIR
DANYA RUTTENBERG

Winner of a National Jewish Book Award in Contemporary Jewish Life and Practice, On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World brings the lens of medieval Jewish scholar Maimonides to modern times. Author Danya Ruttenberg reveals how forgiveness is far less important than doing the work of repair, and apologizing without that effort opens the door for the cycle of injury to continue.

Bringing this to the culture at large, Ruttenberg appeared on Good Morning America’s Faith Friday, and the book was mentioned in The New Yorker in a piece by Jill Lepore.

National Jewish Book Award Winner in Contemporary Jewish Life & Practice
Myra H. Kraft Memorial Award
While I’ve been immensely grateful for and deeply enjoyed the opportunities to share Two Billion Caliphs: A Vision of a Muslim Future at coffee shops, houses of worship, and decidedly prestigious venues—including the Nobel Center in Oslo, Norway, in 2022—those aren’t the moments I’ve found most meaningful, challenging, or transformative. In the year since the book’s publication, I’ve been astonished by how many communities, families, and, especially, parents, caretakers, and educators have invited me into their homes, eager to spark conversations—especially with young Muslims—about what their religion could, should, or might be. These folks have all keenly felt the same anxiety: that we are not spending enough time empowering young Muslims to take ownership of their faith, to imagine the huge questions coming generations will have to face, and to build forward-facing, flexible, human-centered institutions. Those were all things I dared hope would come out of Two Billion Caliphs—but to see them genuinely emerging at the grassroots is beautiful.

— Haroon Moghul

was in conversation with outlets including State of Belief, WHYY’s Radio Times, and The Stream from Al Jazeera English, and he had opinion pieces and essays placed with media including Religion Dispatches, CNN, and NBC News’ THINK. Reaching beyond traditional mainstream platforms, Moghul also had numerous conversations with podcasts, Substacks, and other content creators from across the Muslim community. He appeared at events hosted by major universities such as Amherst and Dartmouth Colleges, as well as speakers’ series at the Boston Public Library, the Free Library of Philadelphia, and bookstores throughout the Midwest.

However, it was in the nearly countless community conversations he attended where Moghul felt he made the greatest impact. He visited numerous Muslim community groups, mosques, and other spaces for Islamic learning, virtually and in-person. These were powerful experiences that allowed so many people to engage in a deeply personal but globally important conversation about the future of Islam. The author had much to say about his experience witnessing the impact his book has had in sparking these valuable discussions across communities.
Entering the Classroom

Entering the High School Curriculum: We had 40,985 views of our teachers’ guides for Beacon books such as Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, Debbie Reese, and Jean Mendoza’s An Indigenous Peoples’ History of the United States for Young People, Octavia E. Butler’s Kindred, Thoreau’s Walden, Viktor Frankl’s Man’s Search for Meaning, Michael Patrick MacDonald’s All Souls, and Michael Bronski and Richie Chevat’s A Queer History of the United States for Young People.

Connecting with Libraries: Beacon gave presentations to over 3,500 librarians in the last year about our new titles, and hundreds of librarians have visited our virtual booths for library conferences and have requested galleys. Our new library newsletter has almost 9,000 subscriptions.

Course Adoptions in 2022

Beacon Press strives to ensure that teachers and students alike find their way to Beacon resources that can inform discussions and cultivate an appetite for change. In 2022, Beacon titles were adopted into 330 courses, totaling 17,992 books. Our most-adopted title was Octavia Butler’s Kindred, with other top adoptions being Michel-Rolph Trouillot’s Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History; Keisha N. Blain’s Until I Am Free: Fannie Lou Hamer’s Enduring Message to America; Daina Ramey Berry and Kali Nicole Gross’s A Black Women’s History of the United States, and Paul Ortiz’s An African American and Latinx History of the United States, many of which feature curated reading guides, available through the Beacon Press website.

Our books reach thousands of students in all areas of study, but this year, we saw our titles most frequently adopted in the fields of history and English, as well as interdisciplinary studies, education, religion, and sociology. Our titles also span a wide geographic scope, ranging from twenty-eight adoptions in California to twenty-five in Texas and fifteen in Pennsylvania, to name a few. This spread of interest in academic readership illustrates the universality of the stories and histories that Beacon Press titles addressed in 2022.

Most Adopted College Titles in 2022

- Kindred
- Silencing the Past
- Until I Am Free
- A Black Women’s History of the United States
- A Queer History of the United States for Young People
- White Fragility
- An Indigenous Peoples’ History of the United States for Young People
- An African American and Latinx History of the United States
- How Does It Feel to Be Unwanted?

Most Adopted K-12 Titles in 2022

- White Fragility
- An Indigenous Peoples’ History of the United States for Young People
- An African American and Latinx History of the United States
- A Queer History of the United States for Young People
- How Does It Feel to Be Unwanted?
This past year, we have seen the endemic resurgence of book censorship by state and local governments across the United States. Many of these affect vital books that would otherwise introduce young readers to new ideas and provide them solace in reading narratives that reflect their own. Beacon Press is committed to publishing books that promote a more pluralistic society and speak to an ever-expanding set of experiences and perspectives.

In response to these increased censorship attempts, Beacon announced a K-12 Banned Book Giveaway, in which we offered up to five copies each of titles including *An Indigenous Peoples’ History of the United States for Young People*, *White Fragility*, *How to Be Less Stupid About Race*, *A Queer History of the United States for Young People*, and *An African American and Latinx History of the United States* to schools across the country.

We received almost 1,600 individual requests for books from educators, librarians, and educational administrators and sent out approximately 25,000 books.
In 2022, we published the twentieth-anniversary edition of *Freedom Dreams*, historian Robin D. G. Kelley’s influential history of twentieth-century Black radicalism, with new reflections on current movements and their impact on the author, as well a foreword by poet Aja Monet.

Dr. Kelley was interviewed for *The Nation*, *Essence*, *Democracy Now*, *The Takeaway* with Melissa Harris Perry on WNYC, *The Mehdi Hasan Show* on Peacock TV, *The Progressive*, *Current Affairs*, *Open Source* with Christopher Lydon, *Pod Save the People*, and *YES! Magazine*. The book was featured in the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Boston Globe*, and *The Independent*. The *Boston Review* ran the new epilogue, and LitHub ran the new foreword. Dr. Kelley did a number of events at venues including the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, the Resist Foundation for their “Justice Is Essential” speaker series, and the Well-Read Black Girl Festival.

**Dirt Road Revival**

**Chloe Maxmin and Canyon Woodward**

Capitalizing on the run-up to the 2022 mid-term elections, the campaign for Chloe Maxmin and Canyon Woodward’s *Dirt Road Revival: How to Rebuild Rural Politics and Why Our Future Depends on It* kicked off with the authors’ full-page *New York Times* Sunday Review opinion piece, entitled “What Democrats Don’t Understand About Rural America.”

Other major media included interviews on the *New Yorker’s Political Scene* podcast, *Real Time with Bill Maher* (HBO TV), *Yahoo News*, and *America’s Newsroom* (FOX TV)—a first for Beacon! The book was excerpted in *The Nation* and LitHub, and received column coverage in the *Washington Post* and *Boston Globe*. The authors also did a range of podcast and regional NPR interviews and were covered in outlets from *Roll Call* and *The Intercept* to the *Daily Yonder* and the *Portland Press Herald*. Chloe and Canyon also traveled on a five-city tour, with in-person events and/or interviews in Portland (ME); Boston; Washington, DC; Los Angeles; and San Francisco.
In *Breaking Bread: Essays from New England on Food, Hunger, and Family*, friends and co-editors Deborah Joy Corey and Debra Spark teamed up to give voice to the impact of food—as well as the lack of it—on daily life. Corey started the nonprofit food organization, Blue Angel, in 2019 to combat the hunger Maine residents face. As an extension of that project, proceeds from *Breaking Bread* have supported the nonprofit.

The essay collection contains writing from established writers across Maine and elsewhere in New England to tell their personal stories of food and hunger. Some of these stories were shared in *Yankee Magazine*, the *Boston Globe*, *edible Maine*, *Lilith*, and *Maine Magazine*. *Breaking Bread* is also a 2023 winner of the Readable Feast Award in the Food Writing/Memoir/Novel category.

*Racial Innocence: Unmasking Latino Anti-Black Bias and the Struggle for Equality* was selected as one of the Best Books of 2022 by Smithsonian magazine, which noted, “This is a revelatory book for those surprised by Latino leaders of white supremacist groups, racist comments from Latino Los Angeles City Council members or the colorism of *In the Heights*.” It was also named one of ten must-read 2022 books by Latino authors by NBC Latino.

In addition to receiving praise and coverage from outlets including the *Boston Globe*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *EsSENce.com*, *Al Día*, and *TIME*, author Tanya Katerí Hernández was a go-to resource following the Nury Martinez resignation and LA City Council scandal in October 2022. She also appeared on CNN’s *Smerconish* with Michael Smerconish and MSNBC’s *American Voices* with Alicia Menendez, bringing her expertise to the conversation, and provided comment to the Associated Press, which also mentioned the book.
In Chokepoint Capitalism, ARC Future Fellow and professor at Melbourne Law School Rebecca Giblin and best-selling science fiction writer and well-known activist Cory Doctorow came together to do something profound: they identified and named a major negative force in our current global economy and then gave readers some of the tools they would need to dismantle it. It was no small task. But the book launched into a media cycle that was ready for it, as key players such as Amazon, Ticketmaster, and Big 5 publishing houses were all making news for their “chokepoint” practices.

The campaign started with a Kickstarter that set out to fund an unlocked, DRM-free version of the audiobook and ended up crushing its fundraising goals, earning more than $110,000 in support of the book. Publishers Weekly featured a story on the project, after also giving the book a starred review and featuring it as a “Big Indie Book for Fall.” The authors traveled the globe speaking about Chokepoint Capitalism. In the US, Giblin and Doctorow partnered with indie bookstores, universities, and libraries in New York, San Francisco, Boston, Miami, and Los Angeles, and they toured Canada, making stops at major conferences, universities, and indie bookstores. They continue their speaking engagements into 2023, with events upcoming at SXSW, a keynote address at the American Booksellers Association’s Winter Institute, and more.

Media coverage of the book has been outstanding, showing how deeply engaged readers are with the work and how accessible the authors were able to make such a complex and multifaceted topic. A sampling of this coverage includes excerpts in Wired and LitHub, reviews at The Progressive, The Atlantic, Boing Boing, The Guardian, The Conversation, and the New Statesman. Cory and his work were featured in a sweeping Q&A in the New Yorker, and countless conversations and original ideas from the authors were featured on online outlets, radio shows, and podcasts, including Time, Financial Times, The Literary Life, Majority Report with Sam Seder, This Machine Kills, Marketplace Tech, The Lever, The Jacobin, The Verge, Pivot, and more.

“[Giblin and Doctorow] deliver a lucid and damning exposé of how big business captured the culture markets.”

—Publishers Weekly, Starred Review
Reducing Our Ecological Footprint

At Beacon, our book materials are either FSC or SFI certified and acid-free whenever possible. Our primary printer has been at the forefront of the industry in using sustainable materials and developing sustainable practices—including using or recycling 95 percent of the materials that come into the plant, operating a closed-loop plate process that limits the use of raw materials and waste, and running a system that utilizes unique inks and blanket wash that are nearly solvent-free. Beacon also favors digital and offset printers who reduce our carbon footprint by being geographically close to our warehouse on the East Coast.

Foreign Rights

In 2022, Beacon titles were internationally acquired for fifty-three new editions in 26 different languages:

- Albanian
- Bulgarian
- Complex Chinese
- Croatian
- Czech
- Danish
- Dutch
- French
- German
- Greek
- Gujarati
- Hebrew
- Hungarian
- Italian
- Japanese
- Korean
- Lithuanian
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Simplified Chinese
- Slovak
- Spanish
- Thai
- Turkish
- Uyghur

Some of the most-translated titles included both the adult and young adult versions of Frankl’s *Man’s Search for Meaning*, as well as Mary Oliver’s *New and Selected Poems: Volume One* and Gayl Jones’s *Eva’s Man*. 
Organization Partnerships in 2022

The Prison Book Program is a nonprofit that supports people in prison by sending them free books and print resources that meet their specific needs and interests. Beacon sent two to three galleys monthly to their branch in Quincy, Massachusetts.

Books Through Bars has been sending free books to incarcerated people in six mid-Atlantic states (Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia) for over thirty years. Every month this year, Beacon sent the organization two to three copies each of the following titles: Ricky Tucker’s And The Category Is…. Inside New York’s Vogue, House, and Ballroom Community; Masha Rumer’s Parenting with an Accent: How Immigrants Honor Their Heritage, Navigate Setbacks, and Chart New Paths for Their Children; Thomas Hitoshi Pruiksma’s The Kural: Tiruvalluvar’s Tirukkural; Solomon Jones’s Ten Lives, Ten Demands: Life-and-Death Stories, and a Black Activist’s Blueprint for Racial Justice; and Maureen H. O’Connell’s Undoing the Knots: Five Generations of American Catholic Anti-Blackness.

The cosmetics company Lush has launched a new campaign, Teach Truth, to promote a more truthful history curriculum. Through a special bathbomb sale, the campaign raised enough money to buy over thirteen thousand copies of Jeanne Theoharis and Brandy Colbert’s The Rebellious Life of Mrs. Rosa Parks: Adapted for Young People, which they distributed to teachers in schools across the US through the Zinn Education Project.

In 2012, Goucher College founded the Goucher Prison Education Partnership (GPEP), which enrolls around 130 incarcerated people in college classes taught by faculty from Goucher and other local universities. The partnership operates in two Maryland state prisons, the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women and the Maryland Correctional Institution–Jessup, and it provides students with academic advising, workshops, tutoring, and all needed books and materials. Beacon donated copies of Kindred to the program.

Readtopia is an online special education curriculum that teaches phonics and early reading to elementary, middle, and high school students with complex learning barriers. As the publisher states, “The Readtopia curriculum provides age-respectful stories for older students (grades 4 through high school) whose literacy skills range from a beginning, emergent level through 3rd grade…. Students have a successful independent reading experience and read with meaning because the words and sentence types are familiar.” Readtopia adapted Judith Heumann and Kristen Joiner’s Rolling Warrior: The Incredible, Sometimes Awkward, True Story of a Rebel Girl On Wheels Who Helped Spark a Revolution into several different reading levels to increase its accessibility to the readers using the program.

Benetech is a nonprofit organization that focuses on developing software for social good. It has proven to be an innovator in the field of accessible educational materials aiming to ensure that accessible instructional materials are available to children with disabilities in a timely manner and that the use of these materials is supported across various age groups, formats, and learning environments. Beacon works closely with Benetech’s Bookshare initiative to provide our books in a variety of formats to ensure more equitable access for readers of different abilities and varied backgrounds.
More Than Words is a nonprofit that empowers youth to take charge of their lives by taking charge of a business. In 2022, Beacon donated twenty-two boxes of books to their Boston store location in January and again in the summer.

One Book One Region is a collaboration among the libraries of Eastern Connecticut, which seek to bring community members together to broaden an appreciation of reading, to discuss ideas, and to break down barriers between people. It chose *Being Heumann* as the SECT One Book One Region Read for 2022 in collaboration with Connecticut College. Mystic Books managed the sale, and they shipped over 840 copies of Judy Heumann’s book to the college for staff and the incoming class.

The Brady Campaign seeks to end the epidemic of gun violence in the United States. In light of the devastating mass shootings in Buffalo, NY, and Uvalde, TX, in 2022, Beacon made several of our titles on gun policy free as eBooks on our website, as well as donating books to the Brady Campaign that offer resources and speak truth to those with the power to influence gun legislation for the safety of all communities.

Located on Kumeyaay land, the Native Resource Center at San Diego State University (SDSU) supports the academic and personal success of Native American and Indigenous identified students through a variety of community-building, advocacy, and other programming initiatives. The Native Resource Center is partnering with SDSU’s Black Resource Center to discuss Kyle Mays’s *An Afro-Indigenous History of the United States* with SDSU students. Beacon donated twenty-four copies of the book to support their initiative.

Imagine Black hosted author Robin D. G. Kelley this year. Imagine Black is a Portland (OR)-based organization that unites people of African descent to advance equity through community organizing, political participation, and leadership development. As their mission states, “Imagine Black helps our Black community imagine the alternatives we deserve and build our political participation and leadership to achieve those alternatives.” They purchased four hundred copies of the twentieth-anniversary edition of *Freedom Dreams* to distribute at the event.

Gedakina is an organization that seeks to enhance the cultural knowledge and identity of Native American women and their families from across New England. This group works to conserve traditional, Indigenous homelands and places of spiritual, ecological, and historical significance and to educate others about their importance. Gedakina purchased copies of *An Indigenous Peoples’ History of the United States*, and Beacon donated half of their order.

The Queens Museum showcases high-quality art and provides educational programming to the residents of Queens and greater New York City. They purchased copies of *An Indigenous Peoples’ History of the United States* in bulk for their major art exhibit Crisis Makes a Book Club, an exhibition by Xaviera Simmons that looks at how whiteness, labor politics, and institutional failures intentionally shape the arts industry and the US empire. Beacon donated part of their order.

Skinner House Books is an imprint of the Unitarian Universalist Association that brings insightful writing to readers of all ages. Beacon is continuing to work with Skinner House Books on the Goodreads group, co-started by both publishing houses. This partnership allows Beacon to collaborate with Skinner House in providing books for Unitarian Universalist communities.