



Social Impact Report

2024

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INTRODUCTION

WHO WE ARE

Founded in 1854, Beacon Press is an independent publisher of serious nonfiction. Our books often change the way readers think about fundamental issues. They promote such values 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, LGBTQIA+ studies, disability studies, education, African American studies, women's studies, child and family issues, and nature and the environment.

(Photo Credit: Marvin Young)



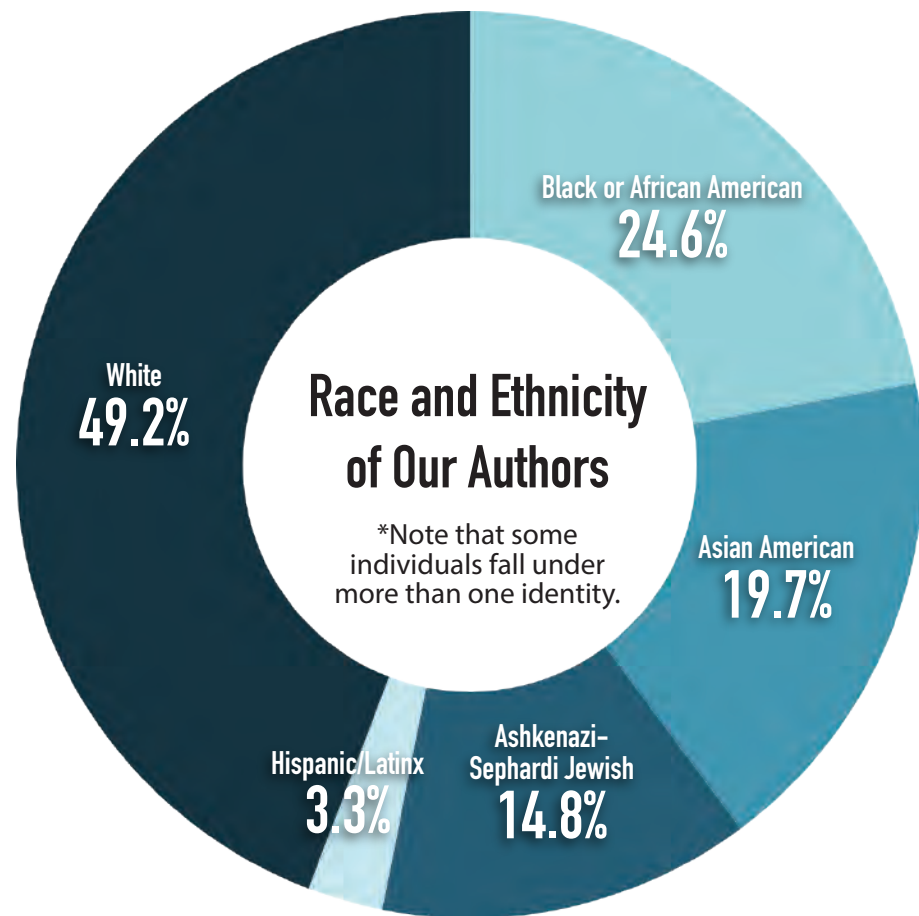
OUR SOCIAL IMPACT

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?

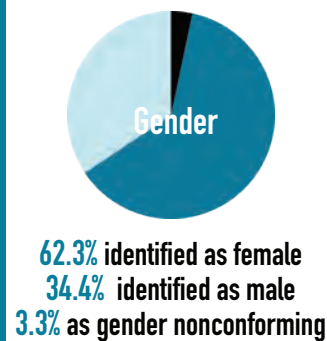
For this we need both stories and new metrics. In our twelfth annual Social Impact Report, we bring to light the reach of Beacon's mission to foster conversations, challenge assumptions, and ignite personal and social change.

OUR DEMOGRAPHICS

Beacon strives to amplify diverse perspectives from underrepresented voices. Of the authors we published in 2024 who chose to self-report their race and ethnicity, 24.6% were Black or African American, 19.7% were Asian American, 3.3% were Hispanic/Latinx, 14.8% were Ashkenazi-Sephardi Jewish, and 49.2% were white.



Of the authors we published this year who disclosed their identities:



FIGHTING BACK AGAINST INCREASED BOOK BANNING

The 2023-2024 school year saw the highest recorded instances of book bans from PEN America yet, with 10,046 bans occurring in public schools across the United States. The Right's current "anti-woke" hysteria has only strengthened Beacon's determination to continue publishing books that confront the complex history of this country and lift up marginalized voices, particularly Black, Indigenous, and LGBTQIA+ authors, who continue to bear the brunt of these attacks.

This year, we remained committed to providing resources and support to educators, librarians, authors, and readers who are on the front lines in protecting the freedom to read.



FIRST BOOK

In 2024, Beacon continued our partnership with First Book, a nonprofit dedicated to ensuring that all children, regardless of their background or zip code, can access brand-new, high-quality books and resources for their education. We donated a total of 12,196 books to their programs providing students and educators in low-income communities with access to resources for enriching classrooms and breaking down barriers to educational equity.

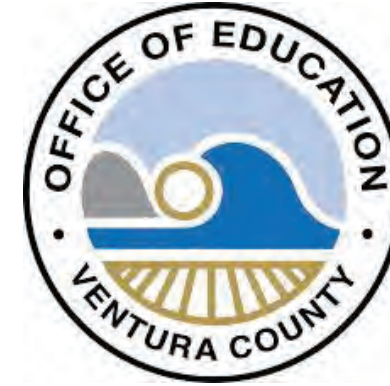


BROWARD COUNTY DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA'S 2024 BANNED BOOK FAIR

Beacon also partnered with the Broward County Democratic Socialists of America (BDSA) to provide books for their 2024 Banned Book Fair. Taking place in Florida, the fair showcased local BIPOC authors from Palm Beach, Dade, and Broward counties, as well as additional titles banned in the state. We donated boxes of the following books to be given away at the fair: *Nice Racism*, *Asian American Histories of the United States*, *Palmares*, *Butter*, *One Drop*, *Living While Black*, *The Stranger Next Door*, *Ten Lives*, *Ten Demands*, *Until I Am Free*, *All Is Not Lost*, *Shout, Sister, Shout!*, and *Let My People Vote*.



(Photo Credit: Broward County DSA)



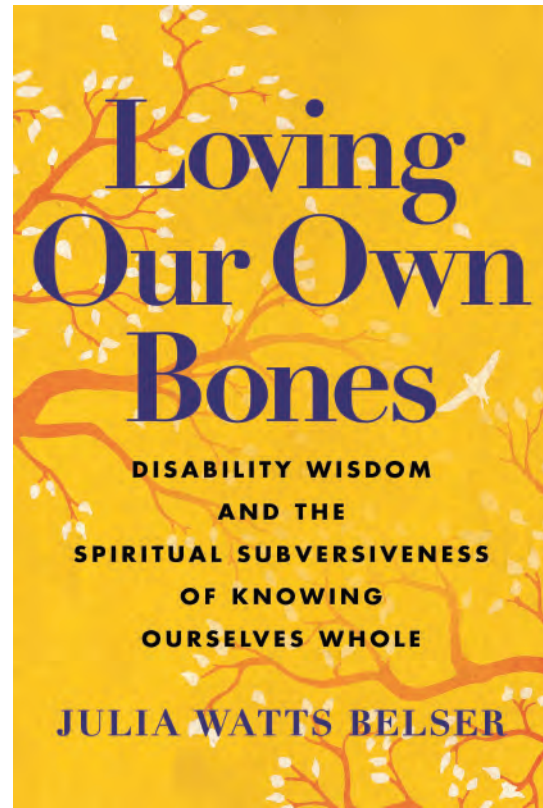
THE 2024 GOLD COAST ETHNIC STUDIES CONFERENCE

This year, we donated books to Oxnard Union High School District (OUHSD)'s August 2024 Ethnic Studies conference. Oxnard Union was the first district in Ventura County to make Ethnic Studies a graduation requirement. They are an ethnically and socioeconomically diverse district located about an hour north of Los Angeles, California, between the Santa Monica Mountains and the Pacific Ocean and the foothills, agricultural fields, cities, and neighborhoods of western Ventura County. Their Title I district serves over 16,000 students and employs over 700 teachers. The OUHSD's Ethnic Studies Curriculum Team, with the support of the district, partnered with the Ventura County Office of Education to present the inaugural Gold Coast Ethnic Studies Conference on August 17, 2024.

Beacon donated books to the educators from primary, secondary, and higher education throughout southern and central California who were in attendance. The titles included were *Blunt Instruments*, *Asian American Histories of the United States*, *An African American and Latinx History of the United States*, *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*, *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States for Young People*, *A Queer History of the United States for Young People*, *A Black Women's History of the United States*, *Until I Am Free*, *The Broken Spears*, *An Afro-Indigenous History of the United States*, and *Notes of a Native Son*.



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION



Disabled rabbi Julia Watts Belser's call to abolish ableism in religious spaces and beyond continues to reshape discussions around the relationship between disability and spirituality, receiving high praise from Jewish and general readers alike. It won numerous awards this year, including the 2024 National Jewish Book Award and the 2024 Borsch Rast Prize. In December, it was announced as the recipient of the 2025 Grawemeyer Award in Religion.



Instead of grounding her work in the standard question of what the Jewish and Christian traditions say about disability, Belser asks how disability experience can serve as a 'generative force,' a 'source of embodied knowledge' about our spiritual lives. *Loving Our Own Bones* and Rabbi Belser are worthy additions to our revered list of Grawemeyer winners.

— Tyler Mayfield, Grawemeyer Religion Award Director and Interim Dean of the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary



Judy Heumann's memoir *Being Heumann: An Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist* was selected for the 2024 Malden Reads program, a year-long community reading program in Malden, MA. Throughout the year, Malden Reads hosted book discussions, film screenings, and other special events for the Malden community to explore the book's themes of disability justice, civil and human rights, and the power of one person working in collaboration with a team to create change.

Jessica Lander's *Making Americans: Stories of Historic Struggles, New Ideas, and Inspiration in Immigrant Education* won the 2024 NCTE George Orwell Award.

Pushkin's Wild and Precious: A Celebration of Mary Oliver won the 2024 Audie Award for Short Stories/Collections. Beacon collaborated with Pushkin Industries to feature a number of Mary Oliver poems from our collections in their audio commemoration of the beloved poet, which was narrated by actress and activist Sophia Bush and others reflecting on Oliver's enduring legacy.

Dr. Judith Plaskow, author of *The Coming of Lilith*, was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY



(Photo Credit: Marvin Young)

The National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Visits Beacon Press

This year, Beacon and NCTE came together to discuss how we can support one another as like-minded, mission-driven organizations.

A group of NCTE staff came to the Beacon office in May to meet Beacon staff and discuss ways Beacon can help support English teachers. Then later in July, members of the organization's board visited as part of their annual retreat. The event included a welcome from Beacon director Gayatri Patnaik and a tour of the office, followed by a presentation, Q&A, and meet & greet with Beacon author Omo Moses. The day closed with an open conversation between Beacon and the NCTE board about how we might work together, particularly as the Right's attack on education and academic freedom continues to impact classrooms across the country.



In September, Beacon partnered with the Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission of Massachusetts (AAPIC) to host a community event at Beacon's offices with Yashica Dutt, author of *Coming Out as Dalit: A Memoir of Surviving India's Caste System*. In a conversation with the AAPI community and allies, Dutt spoke about her powerful memoir and delved into the challenges and discrimination faced by those holding a Dalit identity.



Beacon donated copies of Yashica Dutt's *Coming Out as Dalit* to Sakhi for South Asian Survivors for their 2024 gala. The organization's mission is to represent the South Asian diaspora in a survivor-led movement for gender justice and to honor the collective and inherent power of all survivors of violence.

At the annual conference for the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) this November, Beacon coordinated with NCSS to host an off-site clinic for educators at our offices, "Dispelling Myths & Affirming Truths: Teaching Indigenous Peoples' History." Beacon authors Dina Gilio-Whitaker, Natalie Martinez, Jean Mendoza, and Debbie Reese provided social studies teachers in attendance with practical knowledge and skills for teaching Indigenous history and examining narratives that often get left out of the classroom.



Beacon partnered with the Sacred Fire Unitarian Universalist ministry to donate books for their Minister Book Exchange. This initiative seeks to increase the reach of the Sacred Fire UU community's social and racial justice work by providing divinity schools with books to encourage community learning on these topics.



Fostering Crucial Conversations Through Author Events

In 2024, the Beacon Press publicity team coordinated hundreds of author events nationwide. From bookstores and libraries to historical societies and museums, Beacon authors and their books drew crowds and created opportunities for informative dialogue. Michael Patrick MacDonald celebrated the 25th anniversary of *All Souls: A Family Story from Southie* with a sold-out appearance at Boston's City Hall Civic Pavilion.

Serene Khader toured just after the presidential election for *Faux Feminism: Why We Fall for White Feminism and How We Can Stop*. She kicked off her event schedule at Greenlight Books in Brooklyn, speaking to a packed house ready to reflect and prepare for what comes next.

Leah Garces, author of *Transformation: The Movement to Free Us from Factory Farming*, did a national book tour last fall. She spoke at the Boston Veg Food Fest, the Charlotte Vegfest, the Dallas Reducetarian Summit, and even went to the Animal & Vegan Advocacy International (AVA) Summit in Brazil.

Alison Owings and the subject of her book on the fight against homelessness, Del Seymour, spoke at San Francisco's acclaimed Tenderloin Museum. Russell Cobb launched his book *Ghosts of Crook County: An Oil Fortune, a Phantom Child, and the Fight for Indigenous Land* at the Tulsa Historical Society, highlighting how the past informs the current struggle for Indigenous sovereignty. And in community events across Chicago, Pamela Toler illuminated the story of Sigrid Schultz, the first journalist to report on the rise of Nazism.



NO READER LEFT BEHIND

A Format for Every Audience

As those on the right seek to restrict our ability to learn about the histories of marginalized peoples in the United States, Beacon has bolstered our commitment to providing new formats of our books that allow readers across age groups and experience to deepen their understandings of the truth of American history.

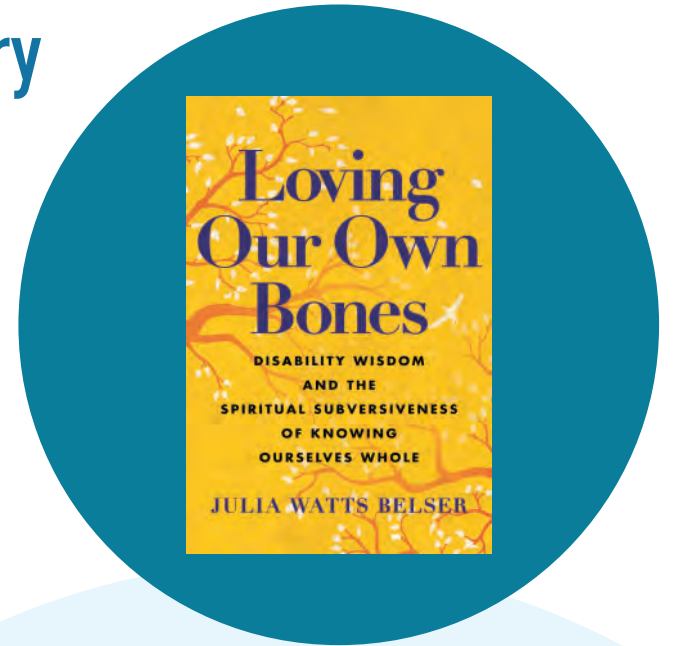
Since *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States* was first published over a decade ago, Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz's American Book Award-winning title about Native American struggle and resistance has radically reframed readers' understanding of our nation's brutal legacy of settler-colonialism. We've sought to guarantee all levels of readers can engage with this important history by providing multi-

ple formats of Dunbar-Ortiz's work: the original, geared toward adult and historian audiences; the young adult edition, for younger and general readers; and ebook and audiobook editions, to ensure accessibility for those who use nonprint formats.

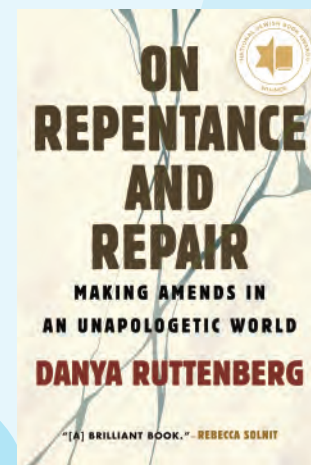
This October, we introduced this watershed work to yet another audience of readers through the publication of *Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz's Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States: A Graphic Interpretation*. The deeply talented Paul Peart-Smith brought Dunbar-Ortiz's historical material to vividly to life through vibrant, full-color artwork, providing a high-interest, low-readability entry point for readers old and young to learn about the often-silenced truths of our country's founding.



Partnering with the JBI Library



This year, Beacon also furthered our commitment to inclusion by partnering with the JBI Library, a nonprofit institution affiliated with the National Library Service for the Blind that enables people of all ages and backgrounds who are blind, have low vision, or are print disabled to engage fully in Jewish cultural, literary, educational, religious, and communal life. Beacon worked with JBI to make the audiobooks for Julia Watts Belser's *Loving Our Own Bones* and Danya Ruttenberg's *On Repentance and Repair* available for free through JBI's online library. In addition to the audiobook editions, we also coordinated with JBI to create Braille formats of each of these titles for their library as well, to help ensure all their patrons can engage with these texts.



NO READER LEFT BEHIND

Expanding Access for Incarcerated People

Intrinsic to calls for accessibility is making sure individuals within the prison system can also obtain the books and stories they need. This year, Beacon partnered with a number of organizations to send free copies of our books to prisoners nationwide.

Northwestern Prison Education Program

Beacon donated copies of Thich Nhat Hanh's *The Miracle of Mindfulness* to the Northwestern Prison Education Program (NPEP) for a Buddhist Psychology course taught by Professor Marcia Grabowecy. NPEP is the only bachelor's degree-granting program for incarcerated students offered by a top 10 university in the US. Students are not charged for tuition or any course-related expenses. The program's mission is:



"to transform lives, create a brighter future, and open new doors through higher education."

Books Through Bars



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. Beacon donated advanced reader copies in May and September of the following titles: *Borderline*, *To Be a Problem*, *Treating Violence*, *Migration Letters*, *On Gold Hill*, *Swole*, *The Black Practice of Disbelief*, *Don't Wait*, *What Can We Learn from the Great Depression?*, and *The Dragon from Chicago*.

The Prison Book Program



The Prison Book Program is a nonprofit that supports people in prison by sending them free books and print resources that meet their special needs and interests. In May and September, Beacon sent advanced reader copies to their branch in Quincy, Massachusetts, of the following titles: *A Black Girl in the Middle*, *Borderline*, *To Be a Problem*, *Migration Letters*, *Swole*, *The Black Practice of Disbelief*, *Drive*, *When Freedom Is the Question*, *Abolition Is the*

Answer, *Embracing Hope*, *From White Folks Who Teach in the Hood*, *What Can We Learn from the Great Depression?*, *Transformation*, *The Dragon From Chicago*, *Mayor of the Tenderloin*, and *Field Guide for Accidents*.

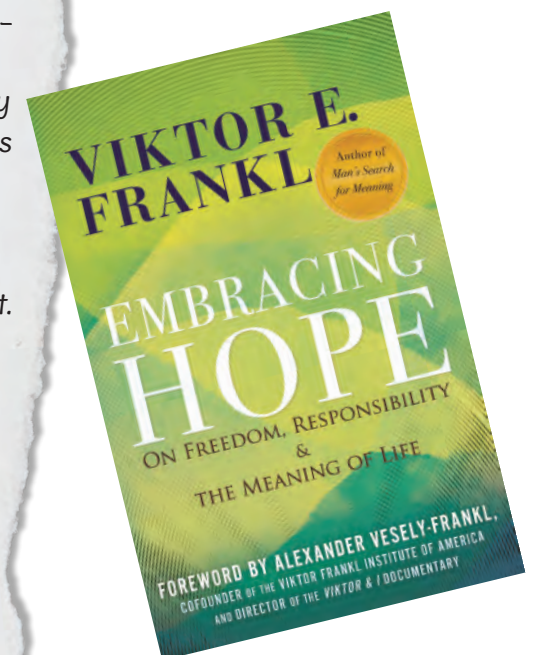
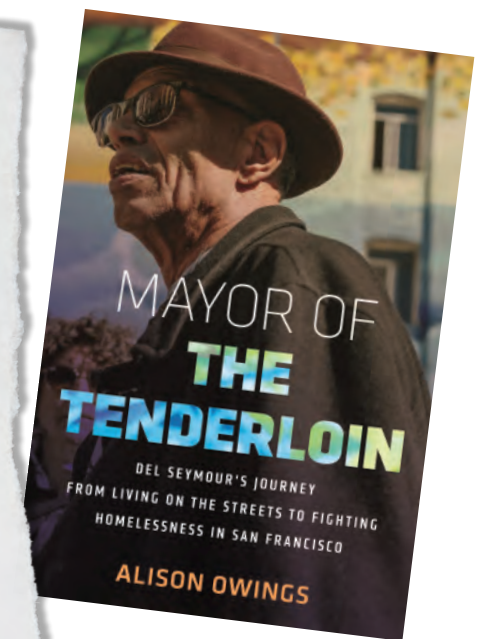
Two titles we sent that ended up having a particularly profound impact were Viktor Frankl's *Embracing Hope* and Alison Owings's *Mayor of the Tenderloin*. Volunteers of the Quincy branch shared that many readers connected deeply with Frankl's message of finding meaning and solace in life in spite of suffering. Another reader drew deep inspiration from reading about Del Seymour's journey from living on the streets to fighting homelessness in San Francisco. She wrote:

"I just finished the last pages of *Mayor of The Tenderloin* by Alison Owings. My, oh my, thank you for this book. I never saw the tears coming that would stream down my cheeks reading the last chapter, titled 'Top Ramen.' How this author writes took me on an informative adventure into the Tenderloin, one that opened my eyes on everything from homelessness to trauma and abuse, to the connectivity that all humans have. Some things I related to, some made me cringe, and some inspired hope for a better world, reminding me that I have agency in all this. From tents to Twitter, there is a linear heartbeat that is shared by all. And the possibilities are endless. She connected that with her words, from my head to my heart.

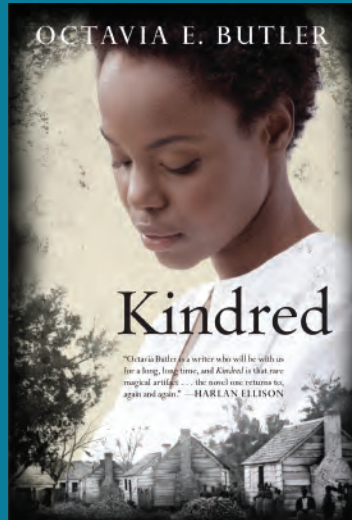
Del Seymour, the Mayor himself, made me appreciate individuality even more than I already did. He made me marvel at his authenticity, and laugh at his raw-but-real reasoning. By the time I got to the end of this book, he felt like a friend. His words solidified this notion, as he spoke part of my own truth. 'Get you a passion if you don't have one. Stay with it. Be generous with it.' he says, as quoted. He knows what it is to live your truth, your calling, and sleep well with it at night.

This is a book well worth reading, even if it isn't something one is initially attracted to. It is a window into parts of our world that have been disconnected from the general understanding, and hence remain untouched, and misunderstood."

-- Shebri D., an inmate in Virginia



ENTERING THE CLASSROOM



This year, Beacon titles were adopted into **209** courses, totaling **9069** books distributed to students.

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. This year, Beacon titles were adopted into 209 courses, totaling 9069 books distributed to students. Our most-adopted title was Octavia Butler's *Kindred*, with other top adoptions being Daina Ramey Berry and Kali Nicole Gross's *A Black Women's History of the United States*, Michel-Rolph Trouillot's *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History*, Marcus Rediker's *Villains of All Nations: Atlantic Pirates in the Golden Age*, and Viktor Frankl's *Man's Search for Meaning*, 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, English, interdisciplinary studies, philosophy, and education.

Our titles also span a wide geographic scope across **39 states in the US. States** with the most adoptions include California, New York, Texas, and Pennsylvania.

Most-Adopted College Titles in 2024

We had 16,556 views of our Teacher's 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*, Viktor Frankl's *Man's Search for Meaning*, Thoreau's *Walden*, Michael Patrick MacDonald's *All Souls*, and Geoffrey Canada's *Fist Stick Knife Gun*.





Healing Up After the Election with Beacon Comfort Reads

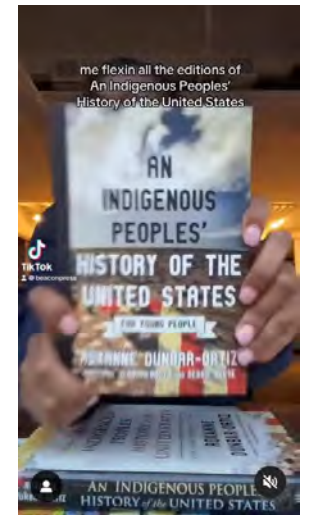
November 20, 2024

By Christian Coleman



Image credit: FreePunArt

It's going to be another four years of accelerated survival mode. The results of the election



Like by karnedyt and others
lupita.reads I first heard of @iamsdazher when I met @duwendotinst and they showered praise all over Daisy Hernandez's first memoir, A CUP OF WATER... more

What's the Connection Between US Strongman Culture and Ethno-Nationalism?

July 25, 2024

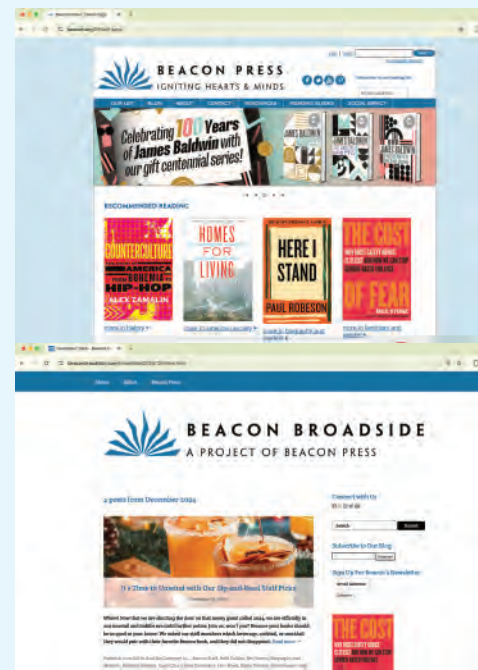
By Michael Andor Brodeur



Hulk Hogan makes his entrance at SummerSlam in 2005. Photo credit: Kristin Fitzsimmons

396,292 WEBSITE VISITS

Visits to Broadside: 120,293



26,604 FACEBOOK FANS



517,722 YOUTUBE VIEWS



7,984 INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS



36,067 TIKTOK VIEWS



The most viewed videos were "Martin Luther King, Jr., 'What Is Your Life's Blueprint?'" and "Mary Oliver Reads 'The Summer Day' (aka 'The Grasshopper.')" We have 39,360 subscribers.



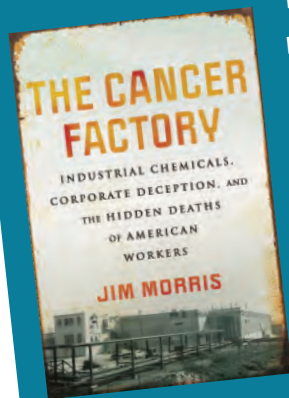
TURNING STORIES INTO ACTION

Beacon titles do not only change the way readers think about fundamental issues. They also continue to spur political action for people of all ages.

OiYan Poon, author of *Asian American is Not a Color*, facilitated a lively discussion with members of the Asian Community Fund on the importance of cross-cultural solidarity and mutual aid in a divided world.



Sonali Kohli, author of *Don't Wait: Three Girls Who Fought for Change and Won*, partnered with the Boston Public Library to hold a youth activism workshop for middle and high school students. The well-attended workshop focused on the intersections of art and activism, and how students could build their activism toolbox.



The publication of *The Cancer Factory* in January prompted new investigative reporting by Beacon author Jim Morris into further malfeasance occurring at the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company chemical plant in Niagara Falls. While in his book, Morris revealed how for years, Goodyear knowingly exposed its workers to toxic chemicals, his new reporting found emissions of the same carcinogen pose a threat to neighbors in proximity to the plant as well. Determined reporting from both Morris and Emyle Watkins with WBFO, the NPR affiliate in Buffalo, resulted in the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation stepping in to require that Goodyear sign a consent order to immediately install interim pollution controls and put permanent controls in place by October 2026.



Catherine Choy's *Asian American Histories of the United States* was instrumental to the framing of a Minnesota Westminster Presbyterian Church's chorale concert, "A Grain of Sand Revisited." Performed by Minnesota Chorale and A Thousand Tongues, the concert featured Asian American activism and self-determination.

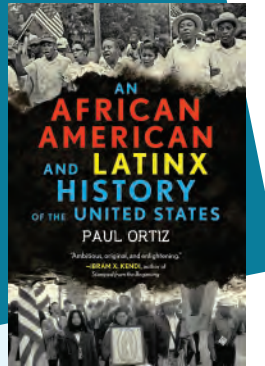


This March, Beacon author Laura Pappano visited the US Capitol building to meet with House Democrats. Copies of her book *School Moms: Parent Activism, Partisan Politics, and the Battle for Public Education* were distributed to members in attendance as they discussed the Far-Right's continued attack on education and the current state of the parent activist battle.

Beacon donated copies of Martin Luther King Jr.'s *Why We Can't Wait* to UMass students who participated in an annual civil rights pilgrimage to Alabama. They read aloud from the books in the Birmingham jail where King's immortal letter was written, as well as joined the anniversary commemoration at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma.



Representative Andy Vargas (MA) invited Beacon author Paul Ortiz to the Black and Latino Legislative Caucus's annual retreat at the Harvard Kennedy School on December 2nd. Rep. Vargas provided copies of *An African American and Latinx History of the United States* to members, and they discussed current challenges facing Haitian, Puerto Rican, Indigenous, Black, and other constituencies throughout the state especially after Trump's election.



Beacon donated books to Free Society People's Library at the Clinton Street Theater in Portland, Oregon, for an event to promote their campaign to Free the Mississippi Five.

Bill Hing, author of *Humanizing Immigration*, provided his expertise at a congressional briefing about a bicameral Chance to Come Home resolution, which sheds light on the irreparable injustices and harms that deportation imposes on families, children, and U.S. communities.



REDUCING OUR ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT

At Beacon, our primary printer has been at the forefront of the industry in using sustainable materials and developing sustainable practices—including

using or recycling **95%** 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.

CONNECTING ACROSS BORDERS

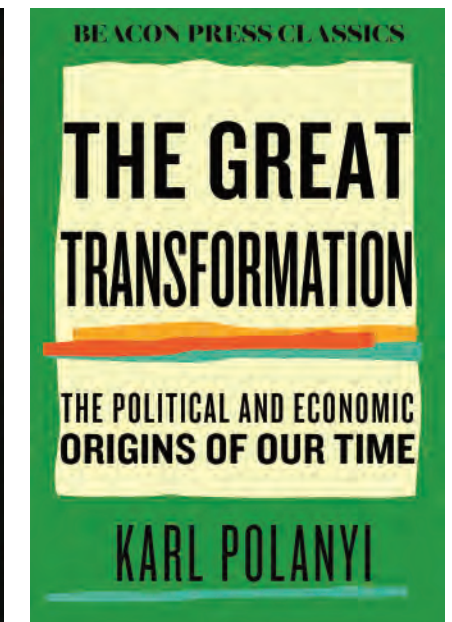
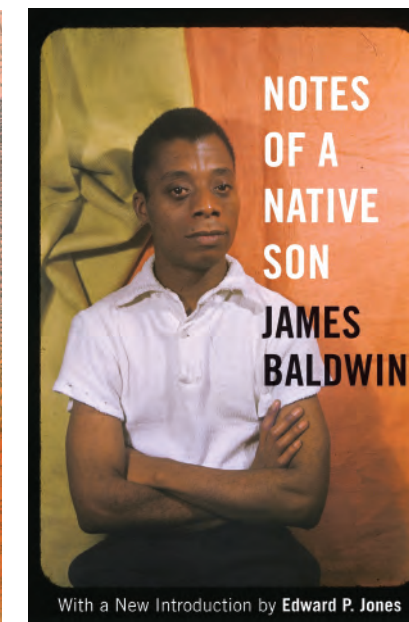
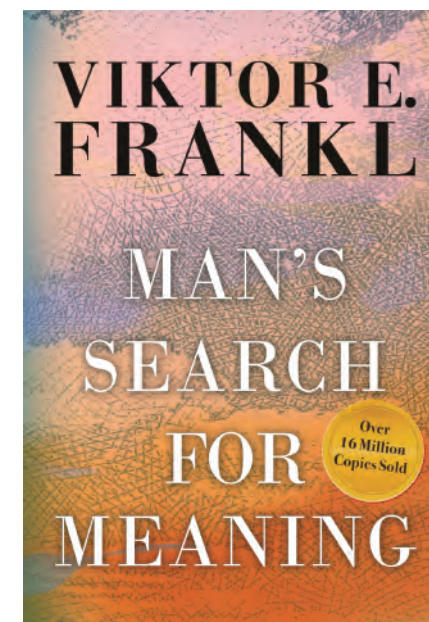
In 2024, Beacon titles were internationally acquired for 44 new editions in

26

different languages:

- Arabic
- Bosnian
- Catalan
- Complex Chinese
- Czech
- Danish
- Dutch
- English
- Estonian
- French
- Galician
- German
- Irish Gaelic
- Japanese
- Kazakh
- Korean
- Macedonian
- Marathi
- Norwegian
- Polish
- Russian
- Simplified Chinese
- Spanish
- Swedish
- Turkish
- Ukrainian

Most Translated Titles in 2024



UYGHUR RIGHTS ADVOCACY PROJECT LAUNCHES UYGHUR TRANSLATION OF MAN'S SEARCH FOR MEANING

This year, we celebrated the publication of the Uyghur translation of *Man's Search for Meaning*. Kayum Masimov, Canadian representative to the World Uyghur Congress, first approached Beacon about making Viktor Frankl's enduring survival story about finding solace in the face of suffering available for free to Uyghur communities in 2022. On December 10th of this year, timed to coincide with Human Rights Day, the new translation officially launched with a wonderful event hosted by the Montreal Holocaust Museum.

For years, Uyghur and other Turkic Muslim minorities in China have been subject to forced labor, mass detention, torture, and forced sterilization. At the event, Masimov spoke with Rabbi Lisa Grushcow, senior rabbi of Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, about the sharp parallels between Frankl's experiences and the violence Uyghur and other communities continue to face in this genocide. Together, they discussed how Frankl's work offers a helpful starting point for initiating conversations about healing from trauma and building bridges between Uyghur and Jewish communities.

The translation is currently available for free as an ebook to anyone seeking to read, share, and raise awareness about supporting Uyghur and other Turkish Muslim communities who are being persecuted.



Montreal Holocaust Museum president Jacques Saada, World Uyghur Congress Canadian representative Kayum Masimov, and Rabbi Lisa Grushcow at the book's launch event at the Montreal Holocaust Museum. (Credit: Joel Ceausu via *The Canadian Jewish News*)

