

# FALL

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UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA PRESS

*A show-stopping collection exploring the way we look at celebrity and how celebrities look at themselves*

## Performance Art

Stories

DAVID KRANES

Performers are raving about *Performance Art!*

“Are some people born with that urge to share themselves in public? To behave privately, emotionally, majestically while strangers watch? To perform? David Kranes in stunningly singular fashion explores this need to expose the gifted self, reinventing the way we look at celebrity. The stories are a raw and intimate journey into the rewards, the risks, and the souls of the stand-ups and fire-eaters, the daredevils and magicians, the people who ‘show off’ for us. And this of course includes Mr. Kranes himself. His prose does backflips; it’s brilliantly manic, beautifully mad, perfectly paced. And very funny.”

—ETHAN PHILLIPS, actor and playwright

“Performers have one foot in this world and one in that of illusion, or maybe better, imagination. It’s the liminal space between the two that David Kranes, in his own sleight-of-hand performance, brilliantly explores. His tough, flintlike prose, unsparing in its search for what is true, reminds us that one person’s sideshow is someone else’s main act, and it gives us new ways to look at the world. Funny, disturbing, and in the end, deeply moving.”

—BILL HARLEY, entertainer and musician

Part of our socialization is the urge to perform. We perform images of ourselves for others. For some, the urge is so great and the talent sufficient that we become performers. *Performance Art* is a series of short stories about performers and performances that are extreme—fire-eaters, knife-throwers, stand-up comedians, escape-artists, weight-loss artists—why we watch them, and why they do what they do. David Kranes dives into the inner lives of these risk-takers, exploring the allures and the costs of “performance.” His characters are unpredictable, quirky, and sometimes bizarre, but Kranes also reveals their humanity and insecurities. The result is a collection that is engagingly unique, sometimes comical, ironic, heart-tugging, and full of unexpected insights and delights.

**David Kranes** is the author of eight novels and three volumes of short stories, including *Abracadabra* (which received a starred review in *Publishers Weekly*), *Keno Runner: A Dark Romance*, and *The Legend’s Daughter*. He lives in Salt Lake City, Utah, and is professor emeritus of English at the University of Utah.

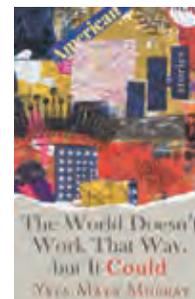
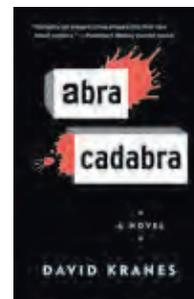


### OCTOBER

192 pages • 5.5 x 8.5  
paper 978-1-64779-014-1  
e-book 978-1-64779-015-8  
\$22.00

### Of related interest

*Abracadabra • The World Doesn't Work That Way, but It Could*



*Louis's authentic and moving novel is a take-no-prisoners tale of life gone bad on the rez*

## The Ghost Dancers

A Novel

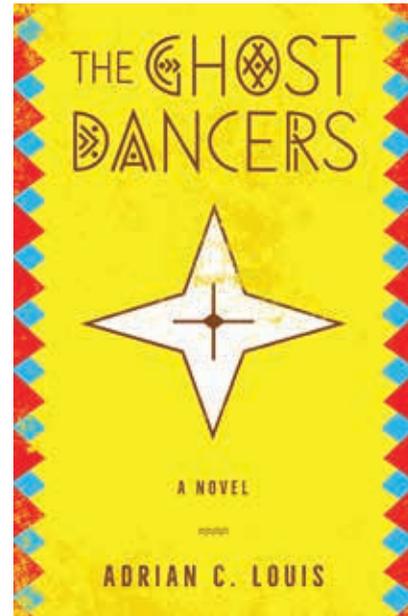
ADRIAN C. LOUIS

Adrian C. Louis's previously unpublished early novel has given us "the unsayable said" of the Native American reservation. A realistic look at reservation life, *The Ghost Dancers* explores—very candidly—many issues, including tribal differences, "urban Indians" versus "rez Indians," relationships among Blacks, Whites, and Indians, police tactics on and off the rez, pipe ceremonies and sweat-lodge ceremonies, alcoholism and violence on the rez, visitations of the supernatural, the aims and responsibilities of journalism, and, most prominently, interracial sexual relationships. Readers familiar with Louis's life and other works will note interesting connections between the protagonist, Bean, and Louis himself, as well as a connection between *The Ghost Dancers* and other Louis writings—especially his sensational novel *Skins*.

It's 1988, and Lyman "Bean" Wilson, a Nevada Indian and middle-aged professor of journalism at Lakota University in South Dakota, is reassessing his life. Although Bean is the great-grandson of Wovoka, the Paiute leader who initiated the Ghost Dance religion, he is not a full-blood Indian and he endures the scorn of the Pine Ridge Sioux, whose definition of Indian identity is much narrower. A man with many flaws, Bean wrestles with his own worst urges, his usually ineffectual efforts to help his family, and his determination to establish his identity as an Indian. The result is a string of family reconnections, sexual adventures, crises at work, pipe and sweat-lodge ceremonies, and—through his membership in the secret Ghost Dancers Society—political activism, culminating in a successful plot to blow the nose off George Washington's face on Mount Rushmore.

Quintessentially Louis, this raw, angry, at times comical, at times heart-breaking novel provides an unflinching look at reservation life and serves as an unyielding tribute to a generation without many choices.

**Adrian C. Louis** (1946–2018) was a half-breed member of the Lovelock Paiute Tribe. He published over a dozen collections of poetry (including two with the University of Nevada Press), a collection of short stories (*Wild Indians and Other Creatures*, University of Nevada Press), and another novel, *Skins*, which was made into a movie. His work has been translated into French, Hungarian, and other languages. Louis is remembered for his aggressive refusal to romanticize life on or off the reservation.

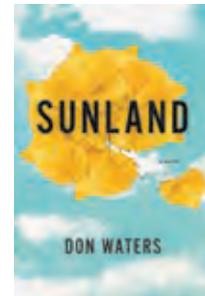


### SEPTEMBER

264 pages • 5.5 x 8.5  
 cloth 978-1-64779-024-0  
 e-book 978-1-64779-025-7  
 \$28.00

### Of related interest

*This Here Is Devil's Work* • Sunland



*The sweeping true story of two courageous women—Russian Jewish refugees who survived World War II in China and Japan and their subsequent life as American immigrants*

## Helmi's Shadow

A Journey of Survival from Russia to East Asia to the American West

DAVID HORGAN

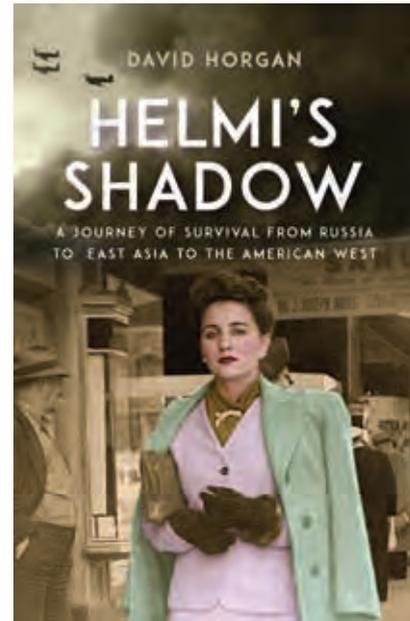
*"Helmi's Shadow accomplishes that near-miracle of the best literature: it makes the world new. This beautifully written, riveting account is a treasure and an illumination."*

—DEIRDRE MCNAMER, author of five novels, including, most recently, *Aviary*

*Helmi's Shadow* tells the true story of two Russian Jewish refugees, a mother (Rachel Koskin) and her daughter (Helmi). With determination and courage, they survived decades of hardship in the hidden corners of war-torn Asia and then journeyed across the Pacific at the end of the Second World War to become United States citizens after seeking safe harbor in the unlikely western desert town of Reno, Nevada. This compelling narrative is also a memoir, told lovingly by Helmi's son, David, of growing up under the wings of these strong women in an unusual American family.

Full of lively detail and the struggles of being stateless in a time of war, *Helmi's Shadow* uncovers a history of refugees living in war-torn China and Japan, a history that to this day remains largely unknown. It is also a story of survival during a long period of upheaval and war—from the Russian Revolution to the Holocaust—and an intimate portrait of an American immigrant family. David reveals both the joys and tragedies he experienced growing up in a multicultural household in post-Second World War America with a Jewish mother, a live-in Russian grandmother, and a devout Irish Catholic American father.

As David develops a clearer awareness of the mysterious past lives of his mother and grandmother—and the impact of these events on his own understanding of the long-term effects of fear, trauma, and loss—he shows us that, even in times of peace and security, we are all shadows of our past, marked by our experiences, whether we choose to reveal them to others or not.



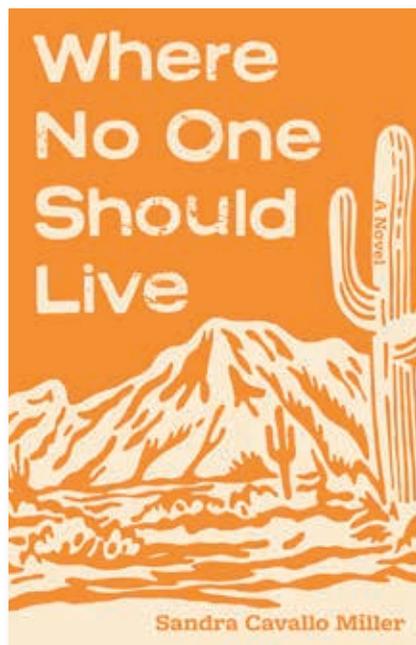
**David Horgan** is a writer and professional musician. His book of short stories titled *The Golden West Trio Plus One* received the Merriam-Frontier Award from the University of Montana. His stories and essays have appeared in a number of publications, including *The New Montana Story*, *The Best of the West*, *Portland Review*, *Quarterly West*, *Northern Lights*, and *The Crescent Review*. Born and raised in Reno, Nevada, he now lives in Missoula, Montana.

### AUGUST

288 pages • 5.5 x 8.5 • 33 photos  
paper 978-1-64779-020-2  
e-book 978-1-64779-021-9  
\$28.00

### Of related interest

*Sweet Promised Land • American Commander in Spain*



**Sandra Cavallo Miller** is an author, poet, and retired academic family physician in Arizona who has helped launch hundreds of medical students and residents into their careers. She is the author of four novels, including the Dr. Abby Wilmore series books: *The Color of Rock*, *Where Light Comes and Goes*, and *What the River Said*. She lives in Phoenix, Arizona. For more information, visit her author website at [skepticalword.com](http://skepticalword.com).

#### SEPTEMBER

272 pages • 5.5 x 8.5  
 cloth 978-1-64779-016-5  
 e-book 978-1-64779-017-2  
 \$26.00

#### Of related interest

*The Color of Rock* • *Going Through Ghosts*

*Timely medical mystery featuring the challenges facing public health physicians set during a brutally hot summer in Phoenix, Arizona*

## Where No One Should Live

A Novel

SANDRA CAVALLO MILLER

**“I couldn’t put this down. Dr. Miller makes great use of her expertise in public health, residency training, horses, and Arizona to weave a remarkable tale unique in its Southwestern flavor. An evidence-based mystery with characters that fly off the page. Miller mixes her unique blend of knowledge and humor to keep a reader engrossed.”**

—STEVEN R. BROWN, MD, FAAFP, program director, University of Arizona College of Medicine/Phoenix Family Medicine Residency and president, Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors

Dr. Maya Summer works at Arizona Public Health, overseeing and researching a myriad of public health issues. A passionate advocate for a motorcycle helmet law, she also monitors disease-bearing mosquitoes, rabid bobcats, and the opioid epidemic—along with many other concerns. To maintain her clinical skills, she spends time at the nearby family medicine residency, seeing patients and teaching new physicians. Maya also navigates a complicated personal life: a somewhat troubled romantic relationship with a cardiologist; a retired physician-friend searching for new meaning; an undocumented neighbor raising a young son; and a cherished ailing old horse. A new danger looms when she sparks the anger of local biker gangs who want to stop her helmet campaign. As the intimidating warnings reach an unsettling highpoint, a past trauma that had been fueling her work now starts to haunt her—threatening to derail her carefully choreographed life.

Dr. Alex Reddish, a faculty member at the residency, enjoys Maya’s company every week. A former shy chess champion, Alex has worked to remake himself into a more socially engaged person, though he cannot completely shed his reclusive past. His professional life is complicated by two resident physician advisees: a depressed and poorly performing man, and a seductive woman. And now someone seems determined to harm him.

Maya and Alex turn accomplices when they try to unravel a spate of unusual illnesses afflicting residency staff, and discover disturbing trends. As Maya and Alex become closer, they must also tackle their personal pasts and individual demons, and find the courage to move forward.

*Perceptive study of the life of writer  
and artist Mary Hallock Foote*

## Exile, Nature, and Transformation in the Life of Mary Hallock Foote

MEGAN RILEY MCGILCHRIST

**“This is the kind of book more literary and cultural critics should be writing: a book that offers rich and deep analysis but in a novelistic way, a book that fully demonstrates how reading—whether novels, letters, illustrations—enriches our understanding of our own lives.”**

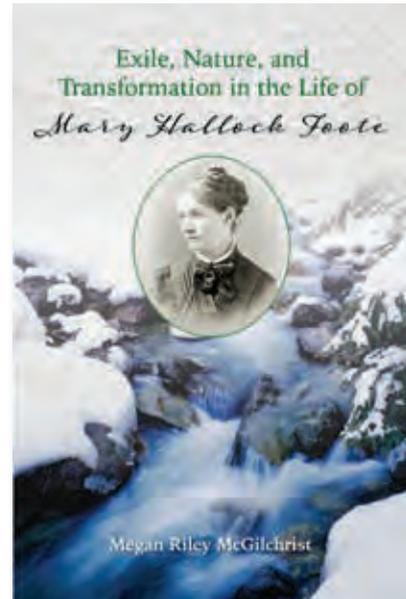
—MELODY GRAULICH, professor of English and American Studies, Utah State University

Combining a breadth of scholarship, insightful critical thinking, and an engaging personal interaction with Mary Hallock Foote’s substantial collection of illustrations and writings, Megan Riley McGilchrist provides a significant contribution to western literature and the lives of western writers.

*Exile, Nature, and Transformation in the Life of Mary Hallock Foote* opens a window into the remarkable, little-known nineteenth-century personal history of accomplished American author and illustrator, Mary Hallock Foote, a woman both of her time, and ahead of it. When Mary gave up a successful career as an illustrator in New York to follow her husband, a mining engineer, to the West, she found herself in a new, unfamiliar, and often challenging world. The thousands of pages of her unpublished letters, which form the foundation of this book, give rare insight into the process of acculturation and eventually the transformation that she experienced. This wide-ranging analysis also examines the role that nature and Mary’s lifelong connection with the natural world played in her adaptation to the western mining towns where she spent much of the rest of her life.

In many ways, Mary’s life mirrored that of author Megan Riley McGilchrist, whose parallel exile began in 1977 when she left America for England. Drawing equivalences with Mary’s life as an exile and her own life as an expatriate American woman, Megan provides a meditation on her own transformation, as much as on Mary’s.

Comprising elements of biography, literary analysis, history, and personal history, and containing many unpublished excerpts from Mary’s voluminous correspondence, striking original analysis offers insight into the ways Mary perceived the world around her. It also provides insight into the experiences of exiles of any time—people who have left a familiar environment to embark on a new life in a new and not necessarily comfortable setting.



**Megan Riley McGilchrist** is a native Californian who has lived permanently in England since 1983. She is an English teacher at the American School in London and the author of *The Western Landscape in Cormac McCarthy and Wallace Stegner*.

### NOVEMBER

224 pages • 6 x 9 • 14 photos  
paper 978-1-64779-018-9  
e-book 978-1-64779-019-6  
\$40.00s

### Of related interest

*Savage West* • *Becoming Willa Cather*

*A dazzling panoramic experience of night*

## To Know a Starry Night

**PAUL BOGARD with photography by BEAU ROGERS**

**“Paul Bogard is the unofficial poet laureate of dark skies.  
This is a terrific work.”**

—CHRISTOPHER COKINOS, author of *Hope Is the Thing with Feathers* and *The Fallen Sky*

**“Paul Bogard brings attention to what we have lost, how  
our night skies are fading and growing dimmer over time,  
and how we can strive to protect our starry nights.”**

—ROBERTA MOORE, co-editor of *Wild Nevada*

**“As an astronomer, I think I know the night sky. But Paul and Beau’s book  
reminds me I mostly know it in small pieces on camera monitors and telescope  
displays. Through their prose and photographs I am reminded that in reality  
the night is a multisensory experience, one that includes mind as well as  
emotion, feeling as well as seeing. Their book is a beautiful testament to  
how much of ourselves we lose as our city lights obscure the stars.”**

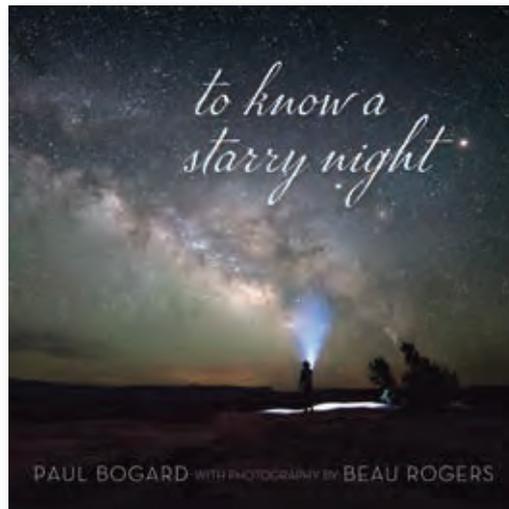
—DR. TYLER NORDGREN, astronomer and artist

No matter where we live, what language we speak, or what culture shapes our worldview, there is always the night. The darkness is a reminder of the ebb and flow, of an opportunity to recharge, of the movement of time. But how many of us have taken the time to truly know a starry night? To really know it.

Combining the lyrical writing of Paul Bogard with the stunning night-sky photography of Beau Rogers, *To Know a Starry Night* explores the powerful experience of being outside under a natural starry sky—how important it is to human life, and how so many people don’t know this experience. As the night sky increasingly becomes flooded with artificial-light pollution, this poignant work helps us reconnect with the natural darkness of night, an experience that now, in our time, is fading from our lives.

**Paul Bogard** is the author of several books, including *The End of Night* and *The Ground Beneath Us*. He is also the author/editor of *Let There Be Night*. A native Minnesotan, Bogard is now an associate professor of English at Hamline University in Saint Paul, Minnesota, where he teaches writing and environmental literature. For more information, visit [paul-bogard.com](http://paul-bogard.com).

**Beau Rogers** leads photography workshops across the American West and teaches English at Mohave Community College’s Bullhead City, Arizona, campus. For more information, visit [GoWest.photography.com](http://GoWest.photography.com).



### OCTOBER

144 pages • 9.5 x 9.5 • 58 photos  
cloth 978-1-64779-012-7  
e-book 978-1-64779-013-4  
\$35.00

### Of related interest

*Let There Be Night* • *The Sagebrush Ocean*



*The extraordinary story of the survival  
of one of the world's rarest fish*

## Devils Hole Pupfish

The Unexpected Survival of an Endangered  
Species in the Modern American West

KEVIN C. BROWN

"This crystalline gem of a book considers the improbable survival of a small, obscure, and critically endangered aquatic animal, the Devils Hole pupfish, that has the most restricted habitat of any known vertebrate species. Deeply researched, engagingly presented, and convincingly argued, this is a remarkable story, one that is important and exceptionally well told."

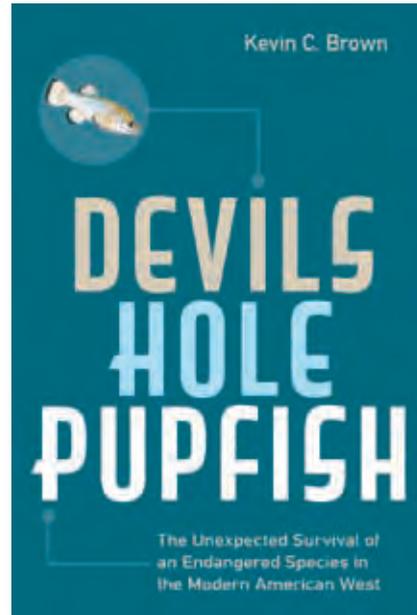
—MARK V. BARROW JR., professor of history, Virginia Tech, and author of *Nature's Ghost: Confronting Extinction from the Age of Jefferson to the Age of Ecology*

***Cyprinodon diabolis*, or Devils Hole pupfish: a one-inch-long, iridescent blue fish whose only natural habitat is a ten-by-sixty-foot pool near Death Valley, on the Nevada–California border. The rarest fish in the world.**

As concern for the future of biodiversity mounts, *Devils Hole Pupfish* asks how a tiny blue fish—confined to a single, narrow aquifer on the edge of Death Valley National Park in Nevada's Amargosa Desert—has managed to survive despite numerous grave threats.

For decades, the pupfish has been the subject of heated debate between environmentalists intent on protecting it from extinction and ranchers and developers in the region who need the aquifer's water to support their livelihoods. In *Devils Hole Pupfish*, Kevin C. Brown shows how the seemingly isolated pupfish has persisted through its relationships with some of the West's most important institutions, and offers lessons for anyone looking to better understand the politics of water in southern Nevada, the operation of the Endangered Species Act, or the science surrounding desert ecosystems. But the story of the pupfish should be considered for more than its peculiarity. It also explores the pupfish's journey through modern American history and offers lessons for anyone looking to better understand the politics of water in southern Nevada, the operation of the Endangered Species Act, or the science surrounding desert ecosystems.

**Kevin C. Brown** works with his head and his hands on the east side of California's Sierra Nevada Mountains. He is a research associate in the University of California, Santa Barbara's, Environmental Studies Program, and has also worked as a journalist and as a researcher for the National Park Service and the American Society for Environmental History.



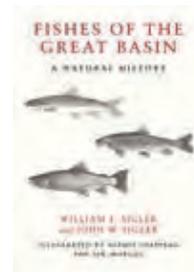
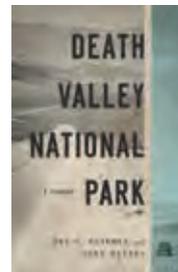
### SEPTEMBER

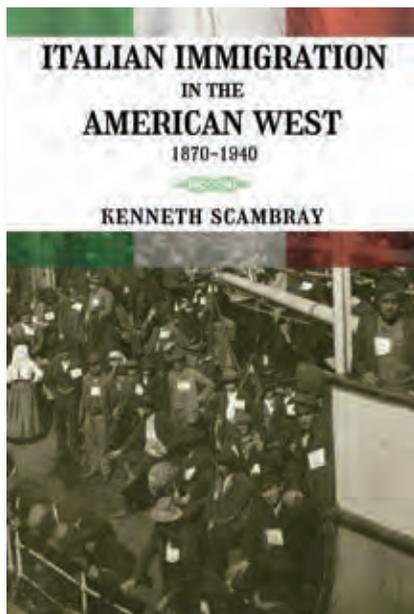
272 pages • 6 x 9 • 19 photos  
paper 978-1-64779-010-3  
e-book 978-1-64779-011-0  
\$30.00

America's National Parks Series

### Of related interest

*Death Valley National Park • Fishes of the Great Basin*





**Kenneth Scambray** is the author of *A Varied Harvest: The Life and Works of Henry Blake Fuller*, *The North American Italian Renaissance: Italian Writing in America and Canada*, *Surface Roots: Short Stories*, and *Queen Calafia's Paradise: California and the Italian American Novel*. Since 1978 he has served as the book and film critic for *L'Italo-Americano*. He is professor emeritus of English at the University of La Verne in California.

#### DECEMBER

386 pages • 6 x 9

10 photos

paper 978-1-64779-002-8

e-book 978-1-64779-003-5

\$45.00

#### Of related interest

*Charcoal and Blood • Salud!*

*A comprehensive study of Italian immigration in thirteen western states*

## Italian Immigration in the American West

1870–1940

KENNETH SCAMBRAY

**“With its breadth of coverage and exhaustive reference to the most current literature, *Italian Immigration in the American West* is likely to become the standard work on Italian immigration to the West. It promises to become the reference work that no one who is interested in how Italians populated the West—or in Italian immigration in general—can afford to be without.”**

—LAWRENCE DISTASI, author of *Branded: How Italian Immigrants Became ‘Enemies’ During World War II*

In this carefully researched and engaging book, Kenneth Scambray surveys the lives and contributions of Italian immigrants in thirteen western states. He covers a variety of topics, including the role of the Roman Catholic Church in attracting and facilitating Italian settlement; the economic, political, and cultural contributions made by Italians; and the efforts to preserve Italian culture and to restore connections to their ancestral identity.

The lives of immigrants in the West differed greatly from those of their counterparts on the East Coast in many ways. The development of the West—with its cheap land and mining, forestry, and agriculture industries—created a demand for labor that enabled newcomers to achieve stability and success. Moreover, female immigrants had many more opportunities to contribute materially to their family’s well-being, either by overseeing new revenue streams for their farms and small businesses, or as paid workers outside the home.

Despite this success, Italian immigrants in the West could not escape the era’s xenophobia. Scambray also discusses the ways that Italians, perceived by many as non-White, interacted with other Euro-Americans, other immigrant groups, and with Native Americans and African Americans.

By placing the Italian immigrant experience within the context of other immigrant narratives, *Italian Immigration in the American West* provides rich insights into the lives and contributions of individuals and families who sought to build new lives in the West. This unique study reveals the impact of Italian immigration and the immense diversity of the immigrant experience outside the East’s urban centers.

*A dynamic study of Nevada's government and politics  
from the state's inception to the present day*

## The Sagebrush State, Sixth Edition

Nevada's History, Government, and Politics

MICHAEL W. BOWERS

"This is a volume that would be a worthwhile addition to the bookshelf of anyone looking for a reliable reference work on Nevada government and politics."

—*Western Historical Quarterly*

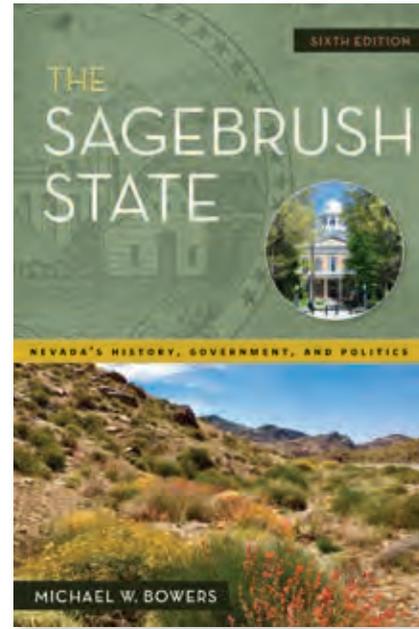
"This concise work explains how Nevada government actually works and how the area's history has shaped its political culture."

—*Journal of the West*

Nevada's politics are in large measure the result of the state's turbulent history and harsh environment. Michael W. Bowers's concise volume explains the dynamics of the state's political formation process, which is strikingly unique among the fifty states. Even today, Nevada is unlike the other states in its politics and culture: economically right, yet libertarian and home to widespread gaming and a 24/7 industry. It has a high percentage of federally owned lands and one of the highest rates of urbanism in the United States, yet is often dominated by rural legislators.

This comprehensive and insightful volume discusses how Nevada's history has shaped its political culture and how its government operates today. *The Sagebrush State* serves as a highly readable and accessible text for the study of Nevada's political history and constitution, which is a graduation requirement at the state's colleges and universities. The sixth edition is updated through 2020 and includes the latest changes in the selection process of municipal court judges in the state, the resurgence of the Democrats after their losses in 2016, and the full text of the state constitution with extensive annotations of all amendments to the original 1864 document. It also examines the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting economic downturn on the state's budget.

**Michael W. Bowers** is professor of political science and public law, and former senior vice provost for academic affairs and executive vice president and provost, at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He is the author of *The Nevada Constitution: A Reference Guide* and numerous academic articles on politics and law.



### JULY

336 pages • 6 x 9 • 7 photos • 18 figures

paper 978-1-64779-026-4

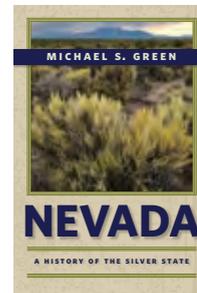
e-book 978-1-64779-027-1

\$35.95x

Wilbur S. Shepperson Series in Nevada History

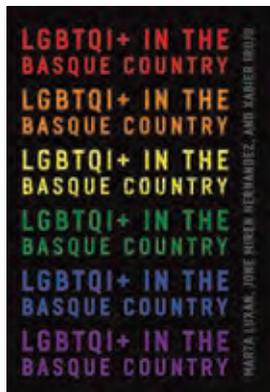
### Of related interest

*Nevada • Latinos in Nevada*



## PUBLISHING PARTNER: NEW FROM CENTER FOR BASQUE STUDIES PRESS

Celebrating the Basque people in their European homeland and  
in the Basque diaspora, especially in the American West

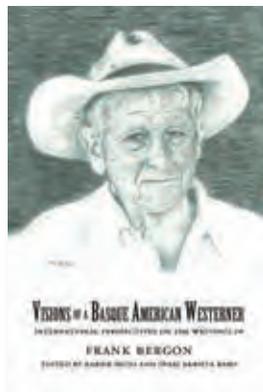


### LGBTQI+ in the Basque Country

MARTA LUXAN, JONE MIREN  
HERNANDEX, and XABIER IRUJO

This collaboration between the Center for Basque Studies at the University of Nevada, Reno, and the Master in Feminist and Gender Studies of the University of the Basque Country is the first English monograph on LGBTQI+ issues in relation to the Basque case.

paper 978-1-949805-25-3  
\$25.00



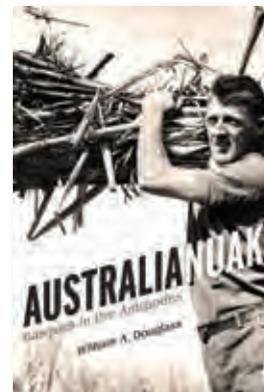
### Visions of a Basque Westerner

International Perspectives on  
the Writings of Frank Bergon

FRANK BERGON

This collection of renowned author, Frank Bergon's, writings gathers the essays of nine scholars and writers from the United States and Europe, who presented papers on the novels, essays, and critical works of Frank Bergon at a two-day conference, sponsored by the Center for Basque Studies and the Jon Bilbao Basque Library at the University of Nevada, Reno, in March 2019.

paper 978-1-949805-19-2  
\$25.00



### Australianuak

Basques in the Antipodes

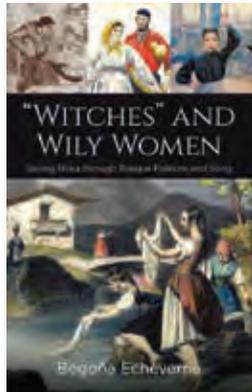
WILLIAM A. DOUGLASS

An important contribution to immigration studies in general and to our understanding of the Basque diaspora in particular, Douglass has documented the history of Basques in Australia from the late eighteenth century until the present. Based on archival and field research, *Australianuak* primarily focuses on the formal recruitment of Basques as manual sugar canecutters in the late 1950s and the early 1960s in tropical Queensland's Far North. From 1970, the mechanization of harvesting forced canecutters to develop new life strategies. As this volume shows, Basques in Australia maintained their ethnic identity, as well as contacts with their European homeland.

paper 978-1-949805-18-5  
\$30.00

The Center for Basque Studies Press is the largest publisher of English language books about Basques. The Press brings to life fiction, poetry, memoir, essays, and academic monographs that, each in their own way, illuminate a culturally proud people who have endured persecution and exile and faced the challenges of emigration to distant lands in search of adventure, livelihood, and new identities.

For more information, visit [unpress.nevada.edu/publishing-partners](http://unpress.nevada.edu/publishing-partners)



## “Witches” and Wily Women

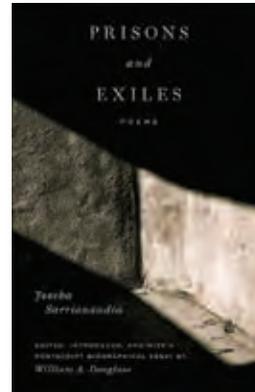
Saving Noka through Basque Folklore and Song

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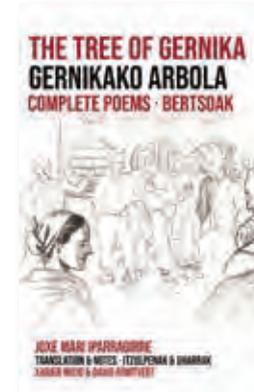
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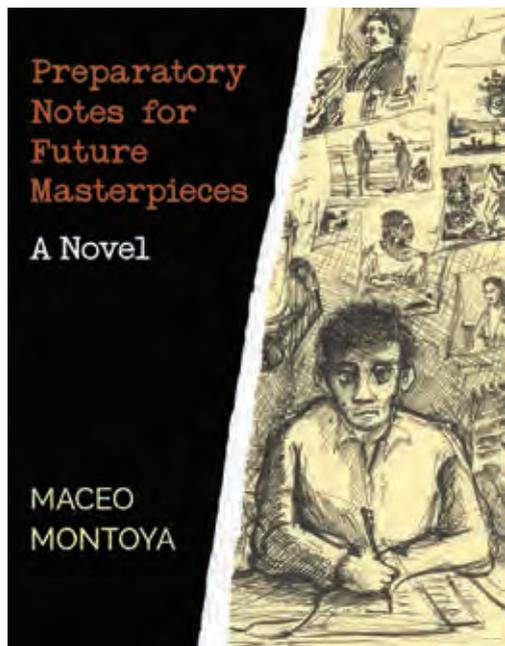
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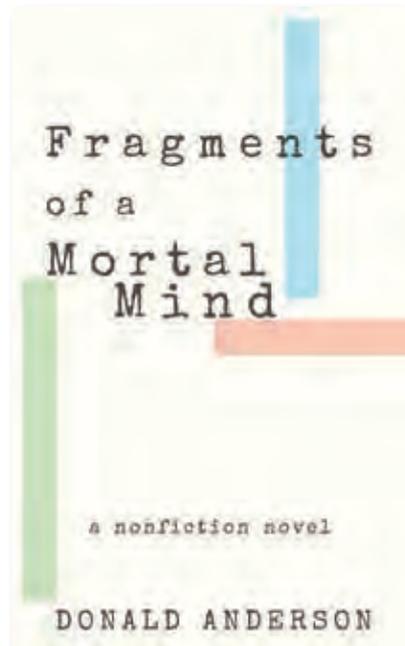
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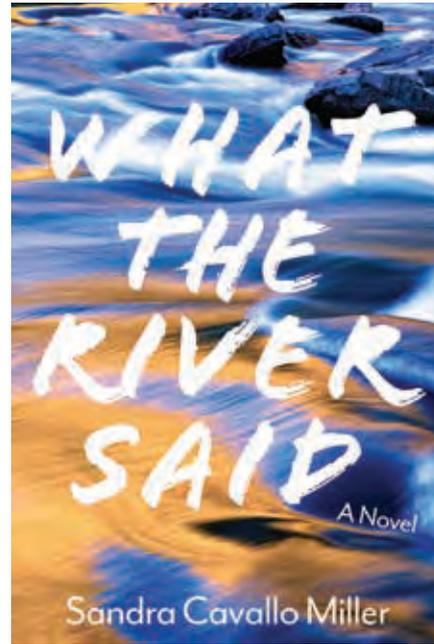
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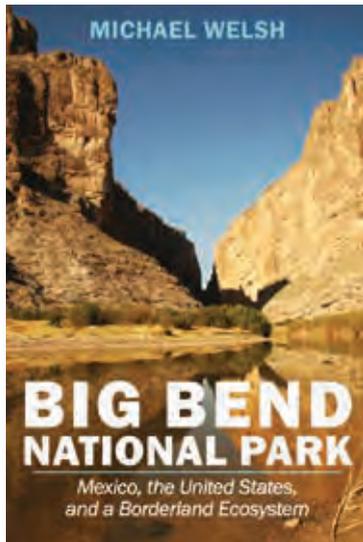
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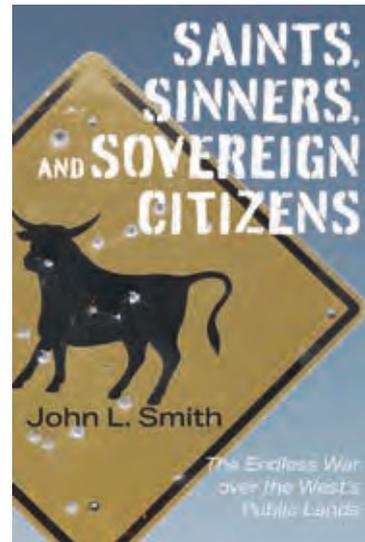
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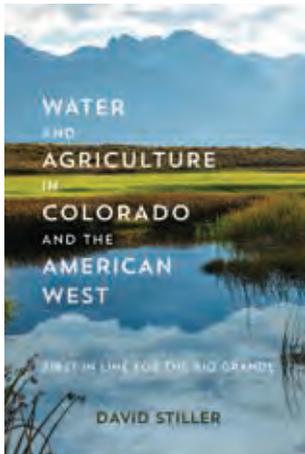
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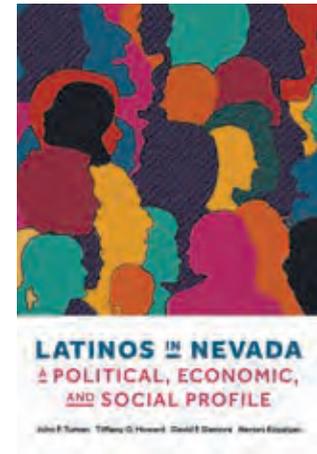
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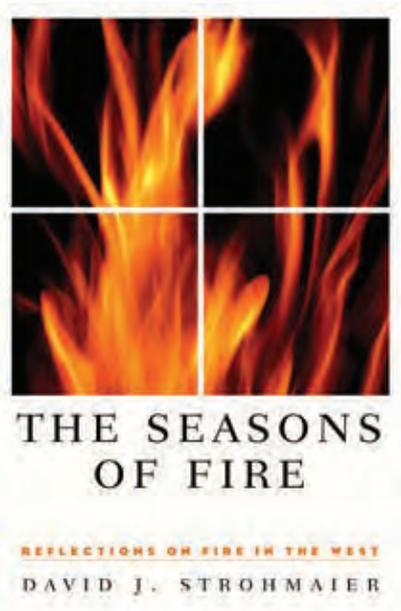
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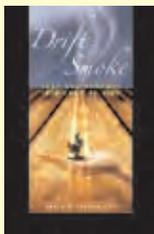
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**David J. Strohmaier** serves as a county commissioner in Missoula County, Montana, and formerly worked as a city councilman, public historian, and wildland firefighter with the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

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Twenty years have elapsed since the original publication of *The Seasons of Fire*, and our love-hate relationship with fire remains as acute today as it was then. When the book was released in the fall of 2001, fire was raining down upon America in a coordinated terrorist attack. In response to the spiraling smoke from New York, Washington, DC, and a field in Pennsylvania, fire just as swiftly rained down in the Middle East. Yet fire has a richer and more ancient history than modern warfare. It is entwined with human evolutionary history, rich with symbology and meaning, and essential to the ecological health of fire-adapted landscapes. Conversely, it is feared, anthropomorphized, and misunderstood by many. It’s both an agent of renewal and a force of change. It is something we embrace and encircle, and something that we shun and repel.

Now more than ever it is important to reconsider the language we use to interact with and engage fire—something I advocate for in *Seasons of Fire*. Development and land-use patterns have limited the annual ebb and flow of naturally occurring fire and indigenous peoples’ use of fire has largely been extinguished. In addition, we remain entranced by heroic and melodramatic portrayals of firefighting as a quasi-military enterprise to vanquish what is tantamount to the hot breath of the devil. Until we retool the language we use to describe fire and transition from war and battle metaphors to something more nuanced, we’ll continue to see fire as something to vanquish from the face of the earth.

This is made all the more challenging by our propensity to shun death of any kind—whether our own mortality or a freshly blackened forest, even though death is a part of life and loss is inevitable. In a world that has always burned, continues to burn, and always will burn, we must understand the natural realities of fire if we are ever to shape our lives and our communities in a way that coexists with fire.

—DAVID J. STROHMAIER