Naomi Pascal’s high school classmates voted her “most likely to become a Supreme Court Justice.” Instead she turned her considerable talents to publishing. In her 53 years as an editor at UW Press, including nearly 30 years as editor-in-chief, Pascal helped turn the press into a leading publisher of books by and about people whose communities have too often been marginalized.

When Pascal retired in 2002, the press established the Naomi B. Pascal Editor’s Endowment to provide ongoing support for such work. Contributors to the endowment include Pascal’s colleagues at the press — some of whom have made regular gifts through payroll deductions for years — along with authors, series editors, UW faculty, UW Press Advisory Board members and other community members and friends.

The endowment supports books in fields Pascal was passionate about, including Native American and Asian American studies and anthropology. The list of works runs from Claude Lévi-Strauss’ “Saudades do Brasil,” a photographic memoir of the famed anthropologist’s ethnographic work among that country’s Indigenous communities, to Margaret Willson’s “Seawomen of Iceland,” a finalist for the 2017 Washington State Book Award. It features memoirs by Native American leaders and scholars, including Lawney Reyes (Colville), Harriette Shelton Dover (Tulalip) and Virginia Beavert (Yakama). It also includes the stories of Chinese immigrants detained at San Francisco’s Angel Island Immigration Station, gathered together in “Island”; Marie Rose Wong’s look at Portland’s Chinatowns in “Sweet Cakes, Long Journey”; and a collection by renowned playwright Philip Kan Gotanda, “No More Cherry Blossoms.”

Thanks to the Pascal Endowment, inspired by Naomi Pascal and built by her authors, friends and colleagues, the press will continue to provide a forum for voices and stories such as these.

ENDOWMENT GIFTS AT WORK

THE EDITOR WHO INSPIRED AN ENDOWMENT

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A BOOK IN COMMON

“Tulalip, From My Heart: An Autobiographical Account of a Reservation Community” by Harriette Shelton Dover, was chosen recently as Western Washington University’s 2017-18 common book. The Western Reads Committee noted that the selection “honors the Coast Salish traditions that defined, and continue to define, this region.” Several thousand Western students, faculty and staff are reading and discussing this volume by a Tulalip elder, published with support from the Pascal Endowment.
A LEGACY FOR AMERICAN ART

UW Press has published half a dozen books about Jacob Lawrence’s work, ranging from “Jacob Lawrence: American Painter,” published in collaboration with the Seattle Art Museum for a 1986 retrospective, to an edition of “Aesop’s Fables” illustrated with his original prints. The most significant and ambitious of these projects is “The Complete Jacob Lawrence,” a two-volume set that includes “Over the Line: The Art and Life of Jacob Lawrence” and “Jacob Lawrence: Paintings, Drawings, and Murals (1935–1999),” the first catalogue raisonné of the work of an African American artist.

Yet Lawrence’s legacy at the press goes far beyond his own remarkable work. By establishing an endowment to support studies of American art, Lawrence and his wife, artist Gwendolyn Knight, have enabled the press to publish a whole series of books about other groundbreaking artists.

“Storm Watch: The Art of Barbara Earl Thomas,” the first book published with the endowment’s support, showcases the work of the Seattle-based artist and writer. Reviews of the book praised the vivid colors and luminous images in Thomas’ work, as well as the artist’s ability to transform a wide range of sources into “mystical meditations on the transitions in life.”


On the centenary of Lawrence’s birth, UW Press honors the rich legacy he left not only through his own work, but also through his endowment’s perpetual support of work about other American artists.

A selection of titles supported by the Jacob Lawrence Endowment.