

JUST PUBLISHED

**ERIC ASIMOV '79**  
*How to Love Wine: A Memoir and Manifesto*  
WILLIAM MORROW, 2012  
The New York Times chief wine critic Asimov examines why the American wine culture produces feelings of anxiety and suggests how readers can overcome their fears and develop a sense of discovery and wonder as they explore the diversity and complexity of the world of wine. Asimov shares his professional knowledge and insights along with personal stories of his lifelong passionate relationship with wine, which began when he was a graduate student on a budget. He discusses favorite vineyards, wine's singular personalities, meaningless wine descriptions that often pass for criticism today, and current wine issues. He offers insights on easy-to-find and rare wonderful vintages from around the globe and shares thoughts on wines that have been particularly meaningful to him.

**ERICA L. BALL '93**  
*To Live an Antislavery Life: Personal Politics and the Antebellum Black Middle Class*  
THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA PRESS, 2012  
In her study of antebellum African American print culture from a transnational perspective, Ball examines the relationship between antislavery discourse and the emergence of the Northern black middle class in the 19th century. She provides innovative readings of slave narratives, sermons, fiction, convention proceedings, and the advice literature printed at the time. She also reveals how African Americans such as Susan Paul, Frederick Douglass, and Martin Delany offered “virtuous political models and exemplary figures” who repeatedly urged readers to internalize their political principles and to interpret all their personal ambitions, private familial roles, and domestic responsibilities in light of the freedom struggle. Ball suggests that antebellum black writers crafted a set of ideals—both respectable and subversive—for their elite and aspiring African American readers to follow in the decades before the Civil War.

**BEVERLY DONOFRIO '78**  
*Astonished: A Story of Evil, Blessings, Grace, and Solace*  
VIKING, 2013  
In her remarkably honest and unsentimental memoir, Donofrio relates how in her mid-fifties she found happiness in a lively Mexican town, only to find her life changed overnight by an incident of rape. The book follows her five-year emotional and spiritual journey toward healing as she visits five different monasteries and shares times of crisis and connection with her

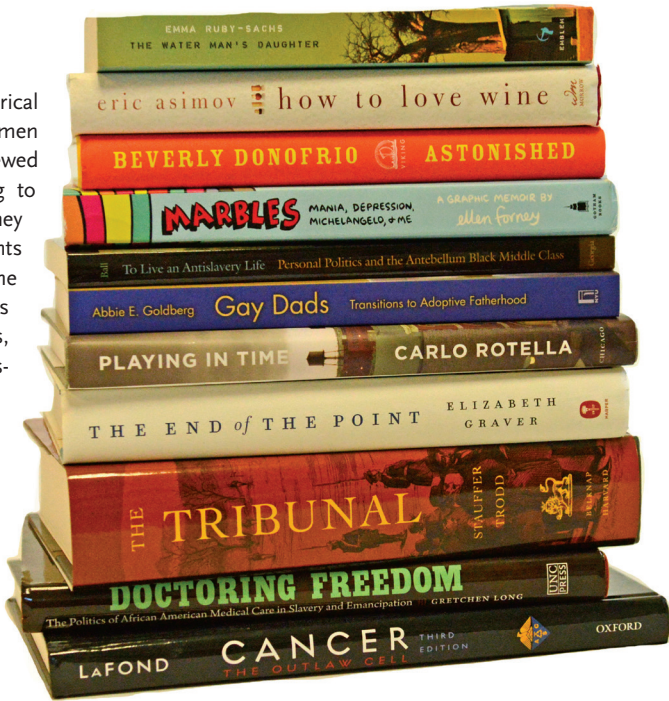
family. Her descriptions of the moments of peace and the revelations she experiences at the monasteries are particularly inspiring, and she also has a gift for capturing the uniqueness of the eccentric and often kind spiritual seekers she encounters. Donofrio has no illusions about the difficulties of keeping the faith, but the reader can't help admiring her persistence in searching for peace in a chaotic world.

**ELLEN FORNEY '89**  
*Marbles: Mania, Depression, Michelangelo, and Me*  
GOTHAM BOOKS, 2012  
Heartbreaking and darkly humorous, this vibrant graphic memoir is the story of cartoonist Forney's struggle with bipolar disorder and details the author's fears that treatment could curtail her creativity and livelihood. Forney explores what it means to be a “crazy artist,” finding inspiration from other writers and artists who experienced mood disorders, such as Vincent van Gogh, Georgia O'Keeffe, and Sylvia Plath. Part of her research involved talking to friends and family to discuss her past behavior. The book skillfully alternates between Forney's bold comic drawings, realistic illustrations, and representations of her sketchpad. In her review for NPR, Myla Goldberg writes: “Is it weird to call a memoir about bipolar disorder entertaining? Well, this one is, thanks to the ease with which Forney translates her vivacious, fearless personality to the page.”

**ABBIE E. GOLDBERG '99**  
*Gay Dads: Transitions to Adoptive Fatherhood*  
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2012  
Goldberg collects stories and empirical data from interviews with 70 gay men (35 adoptive couples), first interviewed when they were actively seeking to adopt and then again when they became parents, to provide insights into how their lives changed. The author discusses the challenges posed by adoption agencies, couples' decisions to openly present themselves as gay, the social implications of parenthood, and changes in career commitment. Goldberg addresses how gay dads deal with contradictory societal ideals of fatherhood and masculinity, as they become pioneers in new ways of fathering and accommodate to heteronormative

“parenthood culture.” She notes: “The creativity and resourcefulness that the men exhibit reveal the exciting potential of the ‘new families’—both those of today and those of the future.”

**ELIZABETH GRAVER '86**  
*The End of the Point*  
HARPERCOLLINS, 2013  
Graver's latest novel skillfully charts the dramatic changes in the lives of three generations of the remarkable Porter family and the summer place that both shelters and isolates them. The book is set on Ashaunt Point, a fictional beach community on Massachusetts Bay, from 1943 to 1999. The narrative moves across time through the lives of various members of the family household, including Bea, a Scottish nanny; Helen, one of the Porter daughters who is revealed through her post-World War II diary and letters home; and Helen's troubled son Charlie, who falls prey to drugs during a time of rebellious youth in the 1970s. Family members deal with the highs and lows of time's passage as well as their undying connection to Ashaunt, which serves as a refuge from pain and illness. In her New York Times review, Alida Becker writes: “Graver's engaging, expansive storytelling allows us to take up residence inside the minds of a host of different characters, watching as they create their own pictures of the world around them, as they invest certain places and people with mythic significance.”



**RICHARD LAFOND, MA '69, EDITOR**  
*Cancer: The Outlaw Cell, 3rd Edition*  
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2012  
LaFond edited this collection of 24 focused chapters written by leading researchers at the forefront of cancer research. Substantial developments in science and medicine, powered by developing technologies such as genetic sequencing, proteomics, and nanobiology, have driven cancer research forward, and a review of where we are now is necessary. Authors present the current state of knowledge in chapters on such topics as the role of heredity, cancer and telomeres, tumor resistance, cancer and aging, vaccines, the role of inflammation, loss of genomic stability, AIDS and cancer, microRNAs in the pathogenesis of cancer, and more. The book also considers areas of future research and advancement.

**GRETCHEN LONG '89**  
*Doctoring Freedom: The Politics of African American Medical Care in Slavery and Emancipation*  
THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA PRESS, 2012  
Long shares the stories of African Americans who fought for access to both medical care and medical education, as she reveals the important relationship between medical practice and political identity. Even before emancipation, African Americans recognized that control of their bodies was an essential battleground in their struggle for autonomy, and they devised strategies to retain some of that control. During her research, Long closely studied antebellum medical journals, planters' diaries, agricultural publications, letters from wounded African American soldiers, WPA narratives, and military and Freedmen's Bureau reports. Within these documents, she was able to trace African Americans' political acts to secure medical care: their organizing of mutual-aid societies, their petitions to the federal government, and, as a last resort, the founding of their own medical schools, hospitals, and professional organizations. She also writes about the efforts of the earliest black physicians who worked in times of slavery and freedom.

**CARLO ROTELLA '86**  
*Playing in Time: Essays, Profiles, and Other True Stories*  
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS, 2012  
Acclaimed journalist Rotella explores a variety of characters and settings in this nonfiction collection. His writing has been praised for digging beneath the surface of the story as he sympathetically dwells in the lives of the people and places he encounters. The two dozen essays in this volume deal with subjects and obsessions that have characterized his previous writing: boxing, music, writers, and cities. “Playing in time” refers to how people make beauty and

meaning while working within the constraints and limits forced on them by life. Besides his compelling writing on boxing, Rotella shares his engaging and insightful reportage on crime and science fiction writers, movie production, a megachurch, urban spaces, and more. Some of the essays appear in print for the first time.

**EMMA RUBY-SACHS '04**  
*The Water Man's Daughter*  
EMBLEM EDITIONS, 2012  
In her accomplished debut novel, Ruby-Sachs blends a riveting police procedural with the stories of three women who are struggling with decisions that will change the course of their lives. The violent death of a Canadian water company executive in a black township of Johannesburg brings together Nomsulwa, a South African anti-privatization activist in her 20s, and the water executive's daughter, Claire, who arrives from Canada hoping to understand her father's death. The murder investigation is led by a woman named Zembe, a Soweto police supervisor, whose loyalties become increasingly unclear and who asks Nomsulwa to become Claire's host. The novel offers insights into the South African police system and the social issues that result in a crime. Jim Bartley in The Globe and Mail review wrote: “Ruby-Sachs brings her setting and its cast vibrantly to life: the parching heat, night-time chills, the dirt tracks and clinging Soweto dust, the families living in near-poverty yet touchingly house-proud, while their civic officials boast charmless mansions and giant plasma TVs.”

**JOHN STAUFFER, MALS '91, AND ZOE TRODD, EDITORS**  
*The Tribunal: Responses to John Brown and the Harpers Ferry Raid*  
THE BELNAP PRESS OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2012

Co-editors Stauffer and Trodd have assembled a collection of responses to John Brown's 1859 attack on a federal arsenal in Virginia. The ill-fated raid by Brown and 21 other men—five free black and 16 white men—was intended to provoke an uprising of African Americans against the “scourge of slavery.” Townspeople and U.S. Marines captured or killed most of Brown's forces, whose reinforcements never arrived, and Brown was put on trial for murder, treason, and conspiracy to incite a slave insurrection. The book brings together John Brown's own words with Northern, Southern, and international responses to the raid in the forms of speeches, letters, newspaper articles, journals, poems, and songs. By offering views of the raid from multiple vantage points, the book becomes a comparative history of one event. Brown's actions cast him as a contentious symbol of American culture: a martyr and a madman,

FICTION AND POETRY
Amy Beth Bloom '75, Noah Z. Jones (illustrator), <i>Little Sweet Potato</i> (Katherine Tegen Books, 2012)
Daniel Handler '92 (as Lemony Snicket), <i>Who Could That Be at This Hour?</i> (Little Brown, 2012)
David Lee Garrison '67, <i>Playing Bach in the D.C. Metro</i> (Browser Books Publishing, 2012)
Jack McDevitt, MALS '72, and Mike Resnick, <i>The Cassandra Project</i> (Ace Books, 2012)
Mark Saba '81, <i>Painting a Disappearing Canvas</i> (Grayson Books, 2012)
NONFICTION
Howard Curzer '74, MA '76, <i>Aristotle and the Virtues</i> (Oxford University Press, 2012)
Russell F. Doolittle '52, <i>The Evolution of Vertebrate Blood Clotting</i> (University Science Books, 2012)
Mark James Estren '68, <i>A History of Underground Comics, 20th Anniversary Edition</i> (Ronin Publishing, 2012)
Rev. Debra W. Haffner '76, <i>Meditations on the Good News: Reading the Bible for Today</i> (Religious Institute, 2013)
Matthew Rahaim '00, <i>Musicking Bodies: Gesture and Voice in Hindustani Music</i> (Wesleyan University Press, 2012)
Daniel Rauch '87, P'15, and Jeffrey Gershel, editors, <i>Caring for the Hospitalized Child: A Handbook of Inpatient Pediatrics</i> (American Academy of Pediatrics, 2013)
Annie and Dan Shannon '01, <i>Betty Goes Vegan: 500 Classic Recipes for the Modern Family</i> (Grand Central Publishing, 2013)
Ray Silverman, MAT '67, <i>The Core of Johnny Appleseed: The Unknown Story of a Spiritual Trailblazer</i> (Swedenborg Foundation Press, 2012)

a freedom fighter, and a domestic terrorist. From their collected documents, Stauffer and Trodd theorize that Harpers Ferry changed the landscape of American politics, set the course for the Civil War, and subsequently influenced emancipation on a global scale.

—BOOK REVIEWS BY DAVID LOW '76

If you are a member of the Wesleyan community with a new book, please let us know by contacting David Low at dlow@wesleyan.edu. Please send a review copy of your book to David Low, c/o Office of University Communications, South College, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT 06459.

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