

JUST PUBLISHED

SUZANNE BERNE '82

Missing Lucile: Memories of the Grandmother I Never Knew

(ALGONQUIN BOOKS OF CHAPEL HILL, 2010)

In this moving memoir, award-winning fiction writer Berne strives to uncover the story of her grandmother Lucile, whom her father lost when he was a little boy and whose presence continues to haunt him in his old age. Inspired by vintage photographs and a box of old keepsakes, the author discovers a life that proves alternately fascinating and difficult to pin down. Lucile was the daughter of Bernard Henry Kroger, the archetypal American self-made man who established what is today a \$76-billion grocery enterprise. Berne touches upon her grandmother's turn-of-the-century Cincinnati childhood, her college years at Wellesley, her tenure as treasurer of her father's huge company, her stint as a relief worker in devastated France, her marriage to a professional singer, and her years as the elusive, unhappy, wealthy young matron she became.

JONATHAN BLOOM '99

American Wasteland: How America Throws Away Nearly Half of Its Food

(AND WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT IT) (DACAPO LIFELONG BOOKS, 2010)

In his informative new book, Bloom notes that every day Americans waste enough food to fill the Rose Bowl. He focuses on the history, culture, and sources of food waste, and examines the parallel eco-friendly and sustainable-food movements. Bloom provides practical everyday solutions to waste that can be adopted immediately, including avoidance of buying products that aren't needed, rethinking portion size, embracing leftovers, composting, and shopping for produce last to ensure freshness. The author shares his experiences working at both a local grocery store and a major fast food chain and volunteering with a food recovery group as well as his interviews with food experts—from Brian Wansink to Alice Waters to Nobel Prize-winning economist Amartya Sen P'99.

ROBERT E. HUNTER '62

Building Security in the Persian Gulf

RAND, 2010)

As a former U.S. Ambassador to NATO and principal architect of NATO's post-Cold War restructuring, Hunter is ideally situated to answer a question that becomes more pressing with

each day: After the United States leaves Iraq, what happens? Specifically, can a regional security structure be created that will diminish the risk of Middle East conflict and ensure that the security concerns of the United States and its allies are met—at less cost in terms of blood, treasure, and opportunities foregone? Hunter discusses various models patterned after NATO, the European Union, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and others. Given the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the unpredictable and unstable situation with Iran, devising a regional security structure will surely be difficult, but the payoff could be enormous.

SEBASTIAN JUNGER '84

War

(TWELVE, 2010)

In 2007 and 2008, Junger traveled five times to one of the most hostile areas of Afghanistan, the Korangal Valley, to embed himself with the 30-man Battle Company, part of the U.S. 173rd Airborne Brigade, whose mission was to intercept Taliban fighters who were passing through the small mountain outpost to fight in other sections of the country. He lived under the same rough conditions as many of the young men. In this absorbing account of the soldiers' lives, he attempts to uncover the elements of war that might appeal to those who had volunteered for combat duty. Junger captures the horror and thrill of fighting, the extreme and physically taxing conditions experienced by the soldiers, and

the intense bond that develops among company members who were under attack by local insurgents almost every day.

MARY MCDONAGH MURPHY '81

Scout, Atticus and Boo: A Celebration of 50 Years of To Kill a Mockingbird

(HARPERCOLLINS, 2010)

To coincide with the golden anniversary of the publication of Harper Lee's beloved novel, Murphy reviews the book's history and examines how the work affected the lives and careers of a number of well-known writers, artists, historians, and artists. Based on her own documentary film about the novel, Murphy offers a collection of insightful interviews with Mary Badham (who played Scout in the film version), Rick Bragg, Tom Brokaw, Rosanne Cash, Wally Lamb, Anna Quindlen, Richard Russo, Oprah Winfrey, and others.

AUGUSTUS NAPIER '60

Convergence: Photographs and Poems

(HIGH ROCKS PRESS, 2010)

Napier, who studied with poet Richard Wilbur as a student, has many years later collected his own fine poems and photographs to express his love for places and people, life's details, and the waning world. The book captures subjects and moments from his adopted home in the North Carolina mountains, a life near the sea, the author's origins in southern Georgia, and some of his other journeys. Napier writes: "These pieces are collected from the ruins of time and shared, as best I can: here is what I think it was like."



MARY ROACH '81

Packing for Mars: The Curious Science of Life in the Void

(NORTON, 2010)

Roach tackles perhaps her most challenging subject yet, the fascinating world of space travel. For her latest *New York Times* best seller, she experienced weightlessness firsthand on a zero-gravity parabolic flight, accompanied researchers on a simulated moon mission on Devon Island in Canada's High Arctic, witnessed a crash test performed on a cadaver, and traveled to Japan, Russia, and around the United States to observe research facilities and simulated space stations. Roach also looks back at early space travel successes and failures, including the flights of chimpanzees. With her usual sense of humor and inspiring curiosity, she considers how humans deal with such basics in space as bathing, eating, sex, sleep, toilet use without gravity, motion sickness, and the psychological stress of isolation and confinement.

NINA SHENGOLD '77, AUTHOR, AND JENNIFER MAY, PHOTOGRAPHER

River of Words: Portraits of Hudson Valley Writers

(SUNY PRESS, 2010)

Shengold and May have gathered together intimate portraits in words and photographs of 76 writers who reside in the Hudson Valley region of New York, many of whom gain artistic inspiration from this distinctive American landscape. The authors covered in this marvelous collection include emerging and established novelists, memoirists, poets, journalists, screenwriters, and émigrés, including Chinua Achebe, John Ashbery, Laura Shaine Cunningham, Da Chen, James Lasdun, the late Frank McCourt, Susan Orlean, Julie Powell, Pete Seeger, John Sayles, John Patrick Shanley, and Nancy Willard. The book provides a multitude of perspectives on the literary life as the writers offer their candid views on the craft of writing.

AYELET WALDMAN '86

Red Hook Road

(DOUBLEDAY, 2010)

Waldman's compelling novel set in Red Hook, Maine, begins on the wedding day of Becca Copaken and John Tetherly, whose joy is short-lived when they are killed in a car crash shortly after the marriage ceremony. The novel explores what happens to the Copaken and Tetherly families over four summers as they are joined together by this overwhelming event. Waldman writes skillfully about their grief and loss as

disagreements continue between the bereaved mothers of Becca and John, a romance develops between Becca's sister Ruthie and John's brother Matt, and a young relative develops a talent for playing the violin. The two families are finally forced to overcome their differences when a storm threatens to bring tragedy into their lives once again.

RICHARD GROSSMAN, PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS

Unsettled Account: The Evolution of Banking in the Industrialized World Since 1800

(PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2010)

This insightful book provides a comparative history of banking in western Europe, the United States, Canada, Japan, and Australia, focusing on four types of events that have been central to the life cycle of banking systems: crises, bailouts, mergers, and regulatory reform. Grossman explores where banking crises come from and why certain banking systems are more resistant to crises than others, how governments and financial systems respond to crises, why merger movements suddenly take off, and what motivates governments to regulate banks. He reveals that important historical elements are also at play in modern bailouts, merger movements, and regulatory reforms.

JAMES MCGUIRE, PROFESSOR OF GOVERNMENT

Wealth, Health and Democracy in East Asia and Latin America

(CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2010)

McGuire's new study finds that the public provision of basic health care and other inexpensive social services has reduced mortality rapidly even in tough economic circumstances, and that political democracy has contributed to the provision and utilization of such social services in a wider range of ways than is sometimes recognized. McGuire argues that mortality decline should be given more prominence as a criterion of national development. The book considers case studies of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Indonesia, South Korea, Taiwan, and Thailand. — David Low

For additional book reviews and news, please see: wesleyan.edu/newsletter/. If you are a wesleyan graduate, faculty member, or parent with a new publication, please let us know by contacting David Low at dlow@wesleyan.edu or at Wesleyan magazine, office of university communications, Wesleyan University, South College, Middletown, CT 06459.

FICTION

David Carnoy '87, *Knife Music* (Overlook Press, 2010)

John M. Cusick '07, *Girl Parts* (Candlewick Press, 2010)

Young-Ha Kim, author, and Chi-Young Kim '03, translator, *Your Republic is Calling You* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2010)

Jeanne M. Peterson '85, *Falling to Heaven* (Thomas Dunne Books/St. Martin's Press, 2010)

Elizabeth Hun Schmidt '89, editor, *The Poets Laureate Anthology* (Norton, 2010)

Randy Siegel '83 and DyAnne DiSalvo, illustrator, *Grandma's Smile* (Roaring Brook Press, 2010)

Lemony Snicket (aka Daniel Handler '92) and Maira Kalman, illustrator, *13 Words* (Harper, 2010)

NONFICTION

Nicholas Birns '87, *Theory After Theory: An Intellectual History of Literary Theory from 1950 to the Early 21st Century* (Broadview Press, 2010)

Tuula Fai '93, *Seek the Lover Within: Lessons from 50 Spiritual Leaders* (Wise Media Group, 2010)

Laura Fraser '82, *All Over the Map* (Harmony Books, 2010)

Bradley Galer '83, *Defeat Chronic Pain Now! Groundbreaking Strategies for Eliminating the Pain of Arthritis, Back and Neck Conditions, Migraines, Diabetic Neuropathy, and Chronic Illness* (Fair Winds Press, 2010)

David Goldberg '88 and Trevor Griffey '97, editors, *Black Power at Work: Community Control, Affirmative Action, and the Construction Industry* (Cornell University Press, 2010)

Alan M. Grosman '56 and Cary B. Cheifetz, *New Jersey Family Law* (LexisNexis, 2010)

Sarah Hammerschlag '96, *The Figural Jew: Politics and Identity in Postwar French Thought* (University of Chicago, 2010)

Tyche Hendricks '86, *The Wind Doesn't Need a Passport: Stories from the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands* (University of California Press, 2010)

Douglas M. Knight Jr. '70, *Balasaraswati: Her Art and Life* (Wesleyan University Press, 2010)

Joshua D. Sparrow '77 and Barry M. Lester, editors, *Nurturing Children and Families: Building on the Legacy of T. Berry Brazelton* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2010)

Daniel P. Strouthes '81, *Settlement, Nesting Territories and Conflicting Legal Systems in a Micmac Community* (Yale Peabody Museum, 2010)

Bob Pepperman Taylor '80, *Horace Mann's Troubling Legacy: The Education of Democratic Citizens* (University Press of Kansas, 2010)

David Trask '51, *The Civil War on the River Lines of Virginia, 1862-1864: Decision on the Rappahannock and the Rapidan Rivers* (University Press of America, 2009)

Domenic Vitiello '95 with George E. Thomas, *The Philadelphia Stock Exchange and the City It Made* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2010)

Christopher Willard '01, *Child's Mind: Mindfulness Practices to Help Our Children Be More Focused, Calm, and Relaxed* (Parallax Press, 2010)

BETWEEN THE LINES

WOMEN ON THE OPEN ROAD

Nona Willis Aronowitz '06 talks about her book *Girldrive: Criss-Crossing America, Redefining Feminism* (Seal Press, 2009) and how she and co-author Emma Bee Bernstein interviewed women across America about their thoughts and feelings on issues that mattered to them.

The story of *Girldrive* begins with eggs and Bloody Marys in the East Village. Emma and I had been friends since we were 11 years old. We met at lefty summer camp and both came from the same bubble: the liberal, Jewish, intellectual one that inhabits New York's Upper West Side and Greenwich Village. We had one of those friendships where we wouldn't talk for months, and then it would feel like no time had passed when we'd finally make a point to get together—which in our later years usually included meeting up at random dive bars for whiskey sours or our occasional brunch dates on hungover mornings.

This particular Sunday wasn't a typical catch-up sesh. In a sudden acceleration of gradually creeping lung cancer, my mom, Ellen Willis, a well-known feminist writer, had just died. I told Emma about the outpouring of feminist love I had received—from my mom's friends, students, and anonymous admirers. Emma, meanwhile, was fresh from the Feminist Future Symposium at MoMA, where she'd recently been sucked into a whirlpool of several generations of

feminists for three days straight. We'd both been confronted with the legacy of feminism head-on, and there was no denying that this word, this history, this *feeling* meant something to us.

To us, being feminists meant being conscious of and angry about gender injustice—from unequal pay and domestic violence to slut-shaming and the lack of paid maternity leave. It meant believing in the right to freedom, safety, and pleasure. It meant understanding how gender intertwined with race, class, and politics. It meant educating ourselves about the many incarnations of feminism, and building on each one's progress.

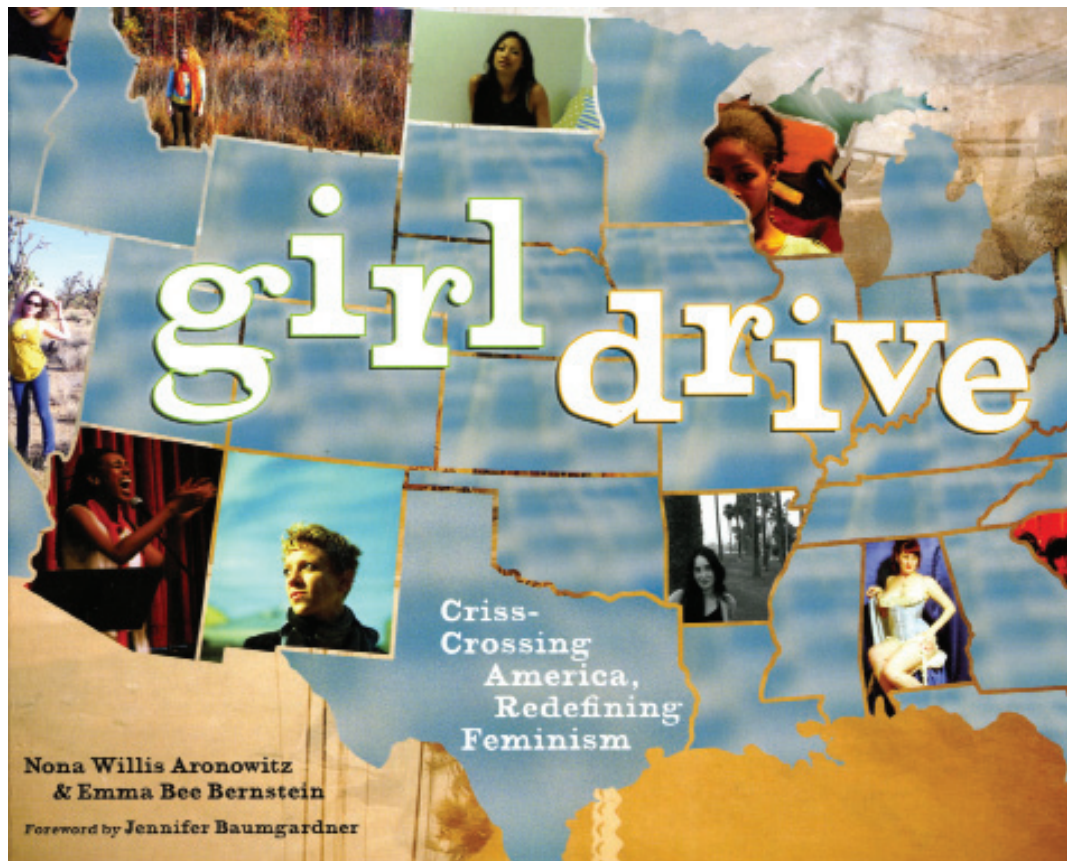
This was our reality, but we had no idea what other women around the country were thinking, women who didn't post on blogs

or put themselves on the media's radar. We were dying to know: what do other 20-something women care about? What are their hopes, worries, and ambitions?

We were on our third Bloody when Emma blurted out, "Let's go on a road trip! You're a writer. I'm a photographer. Let's write a book, let's do a project. Let's do something!"

We started saving and scheming, sending e-mails to hundreds of people, eventually hearing from women three or four degrees of separation away. When our e-mail blasts didn't reach certain demographics, we sought them out ourselves.

By August 2007, we had compiled a list of more than 200 women to talk to. For several months, through dozens of cities, we drove across the United States in a Chevy Cavalier,



photographing young women and asking them what was important to them.

A few days into our trip, it became apparent that using "feminism" to start a conversation didn't work for everyone. Some women's faces would go blank when we brought up the word, but would later light up when we'd ask, "What pisses you off about being a woman?" or, "What keeps you up nights?" Others couldn't get past the term's loaded meaning, dwelling on its fraught history rather than relating it to their own experience.

It also became clear that there wasn't a feminist "movement" anymore—and that's not a bad thing. Whether it comes from a progressive nonprofit in Austin, Texas, a tiny grassroots group in Lake Andes, South Dakota, or a working mother in Madison, Wis., today's feminism works better less as a movement and more as a pervading cultural force. Our generation isn't interested in labels, laying down rules, following the lead of a few faces of feminism—that kind of thing has always made many women feel marginalized. But we do care deeply about gender issues, and most of us are doing something about it in our communities.

Before we left, we had planned *Girldrive* as an autobiographical story. But by the time we got back—after we had heard stories and worries and tales of triumph about going to Bible college, or Hurricane Katrina, or heartbreaking love affairs, or rape, or single motherhood—we realized these women needed to speak for themselves. More than anything, *Girldrive* allows gutsy young women across the American landscape to be seen and heard. It's about the promise of the open road. It's about how young women grapple with the concepts of freedom, equality, joy, ambition, sex, and love—whether they call it "feminism" or not. **UPFRONT**

Nona Willis Aronowitz '06 lives in New York City, where she is a contributing producer for National Public Radio. She runs a blog at Girl-drive.com.

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