

4-1-2001

Book Marks

Furman University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine>

Recommended Citation

University, Furman (2001) "Book Marks," *Furman Magazine*: Vol. 44 : Iss. 1 , Article 18.
Available at: <https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine/vol44/iss1/18>

This Regular Feature is made available online by Journals, part of the Furman University Scholar Exchange (FUSE). It has been accepted for inclusion in Furman Magazine by an authorized FUSE administrator. For terms of use, please refer to the [FUSE Institutional Repository Guidelines](#). For more information, please contact scholarexchange@furman.edu.

BOOK MARKS

Each issue of *Furman* magazine includes brief reviews of books written by Furman faculty and alumni, or reviews of books recommended by faculty as "good reads."

Barbara Kingsolver, *Prodigal Summer* (HarperCollins, 2000); Sallie McFague, *Life Abundant: Rethinking Theology and Economy for a Planet in Peril* (Fortress Press, 2000); Barbara Brown Taylor, *The Luminous Web: Essays on Science and Religion* (Cowley Publications, 2000). The binding thread among these books is a compelling ecological sensitivity. The authors have done their homework in the natural sciences and anchored their literary and theological concepts with an expertise that never intrudes or distracts.

Kingsolver's novel — richer, more sensually detailed and slower-paced than some of her other works — situates the narrative ecology of human relationships within an informed natural ecology, allowing each to serve as a metaphor for the other. In *The Luminous Web*, Taylor brings contemporary scientific knowledge about the cosmos into dialogue with religious tradition. Her expressive and personal narrative style renders this nonfiction book highly readable. McFague creates a clear, courageous, contemporary and profoundly Christian "working theology" beginning with the credo that "God is reality" and that we are "to give God glory by loving the world and everything in it." She contrasts the current neo-classical (individualistic) economic perspective of North American Christians with a worldview based on ecological (interdependent) considerations, making clear the practical and theological choices we face.

— Elaine Nocks, *Psychology*

Adam Cohen and Elizabeth Taylor, *American Pharaoh: Mayor Richard J. Daley: His Battle for Chicago and the Nation* (Little and Brown, 2000).

Daley, most famous for his role in the "police riot" against student demonstrators at the 1968 Democratic Convention, served as mayor of Chicago from 1955 to his death in 1976, leaving a mixed legacy of accomplishments and failures. Known as "The Boss," he was a larger-than-life figure, the last of the urban ethnic political bosses that once dominated American politics, and his biography is also a history of American urban development. The authors, journalists with Chicago connections, tell their story well, although their journalistic backgrounds sometimes lead them to build conclusions on less secure evidence than a historian would like. Nevertheless, this book is a must-read for anyone interested in modern American political history.

— Ron Granieri, *History*

FROM FACULTY

Tracy Fessenden, Nicholas F. Radel and Magdalena J. Zaborowska, editors, *The Puritan Origins of American Sex: Religion, Sexuality and National Identity in American Culture* (Routledge, 2001). This collection of essays explores how America's Puritan past has influenced sex, sexuality and gender in the 350 years since the Pilgrims came to North America. In an attempt to understand the relationship between Protestantism and sexuality in American life, the essays examine literary and cultural topics ranging from the 17th-century writers Cotton Mather and Michael Wigglesworth through Nathaniel Hawthorne and Frederick Douglass, and on to the Starr Report, Monica Lewinsky, and Toni Morrison's *Paradise*.

Radel has taught English at Furman since 1986. Zaborowska, a former Furman professor, now teaches English at the University of Aarhus in Denmark, and Fessenden is a religious studies professor at Arizona State University.

William Aarnes, *Predicaments* (Ninety-Six Press, 2001). A press release describes *Predicaments* as "a rare book: one that is utterly convincing both in its portrayals of everyday American life and in its meta-poetic reflections." It is a follow-up to the English professor's previous collection of poetry, *Learning to Dance*, which Ninety-Six Press published in 1991.

Founded in 1991 by English professors Gilbert Allen and William E. Rogers, Ninety-Six Press publishes books of poetry by authors from South Carolina. For other titles, visit the Web site at www.furman.edu/~wrogers/96Press/home.htm.

FROM ALUMNI

George Singleton '81, *These People Are Us* (River City Publishing, 2001). This is the first book of short stories from the author, a writing teacher at the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities in Greenville. Singleton has published stories in *The Georgia Review*, *Playboy*, *Shenandoah*, *New Delta Review*, and *Glimmer Train*. His stories were anthologized in the 1994, 1998 and 1999 editions of *Best Stories of the South*.

David Axe '00, *Anywhere & Nothing* (Trafford Publishing, 2000). A press release describes this novel as "not the average tribute to the joys of travel." A young man named Teller, making his first trip overseas, is mugged two hours after arriving in Paris. The reader follows the penniless Teller's journey through France and Hungary, a trip "punctuated by a dark cloud of abandon and mistrust."

Judson named to Women's Hall of Fame

Mary Camilla Judson, lady principal of the Greenville Baptist Female College from 1874 to 1910 and the woman for whom Judson Hall is named, is one of eight women selected for the inaugural class of the Greenville County Women's Hall of Fame. The shrine, established by the local League of Women Voters, honors women who have made a difference in the life and times of Greenville County.

A native of Connecticut, Judson worked throughout her career for women's rights and equal educational opportunity. As a teacher and administrator at the Female College, which later became Greenville Woman's College and eventually coordinated with Furman, Judson encouraged her students to be active in public affairs, to think independently and to excel academically.

Judson was responsible for introducing calisthenics at the school. She even allowed students to loosen their corsets and remove their stays and bustles. She taught elocution and founded the first women's club in Greenville, the college's Judson Literary Society. Although her efforts were considered radical by some people and on occasion put her at odds with Baptist preachers, she persevered and as a result was greatly admired by her students.

Her brother, Charles Hallette Judson, was a teacher and administrator at Furman for more than 50 years and brought her to the Female College during his tenure as its president.