

## **Multicultural Books by Oregon Authors**

### **One Night in America: Robert Kennedy, Cesar Chavez, and the Dream of Dignity**

**Bender, Steven**

*Paradigm Publishers (January 30, 2008) (p. 256)*

Robert Kennedy and Cesar Chavez came from opposite sides of the tracks of race and class that still divide Americans. Both optimists, Kennedy and Chavez shared a common vision of equality. They united in the 1960s to crusade for the rights of migrant farm workers. Farm workers faded from public consciousness following Kennedy's assassination and Chavez's early passing. Yet the work of Kennedy and Chavez continues to reverberate in America today. Bender chronicles their warm friendship and embraces their bold political vision for making the American dream a reality for all. While many books discuss Kennedy or Chavez individually, this is the first book to capture their multifaceted relationship and its relevance to mainstream U.S. politics and Latino/a politics today. Bender examines their shared legacy and its continuing influence on political issues including immigration, education, war, poverty, and religion. Mapping a new political path for Mexican Americans and the poor of all backgrounds, this book argues that there is still time to prove Kennedy and Chavez right.

**AWARDS:** Frances Fuller Victor Award for General Nonfiction at the 2008 Oregon Book Awards.

### **Counter Culture: Immigrant Stories From Portland Café Counters**

**Catalani, Polo**

*Colored Pencils Publications (2008) (p. 108)*

Essays in the traditional talking-story style of ASIAN REPORTER weekly columnist, Pacific Northwest civil rights lawyer and Southeast Asia political asylum attorney, Ronault LS (Polo) Catalani. Stories start at cafe counters of well-known Portland spots then spiral off into a world of differences. It's about Portland as a confluence of two grand river systems, our big Pacific blue, and all this rain. A place intensified by a lot of ethno-cultural rub and unabashed optimism.

### **Sacred Shadow, Sacred Ground: A Vietnam War Widow's Journey**

**Carter, Glenda M.**

*Two Rainbows Pub.; 1 edition (November 30, 2004) (P. 188)*

After losing her husband, Bruce, Sept. 11, 1968, who was killed in Vietnam, author Glenda M. Carter spent a large portion of her life with unresolved grief. At the beginning of the new millennium, Glenda began a journey that few have faced with such courage and resolve. Sacred Shadow, Sacred Ground is a chronicle of her journey. Glenda invites you to walk with her and perhaps find resolution to your own unresolved grief or conflict.

### **The Jump-Off Creek**

**Gloss, Molly**

*Mariner Books; 1st Mariner Books Ed edition (February 15, 1999) (p. 186)*

This universally acclaimed novel trumpeted the arrival of a uniquely original voice in American fiction. The Jump-Off Creek unfurls a full-length portrait, with landscape, of an unforgettable pioneer woman who confronts and conquers the demands of homesteading alone in northeast Oregon's Blue Mountains in the 1890s. Lydia Sanderson carves a self-reliant life out of an unforgiving wilderness, arriving at Jump-Off Creek with two mules, two goats, and only those possessions that the mules can carry. In alternating entries from Lydia's journal and narrative chapters of shifting perspective those of Lydia herself, cowboy-cook Tim Whiteaker, part-Indian Blue Odell, wolfer Danny Turnbow and Harley Osgood Molly Gloss chronicles Lydia's first nine months on her dearly purchased high-mountain homestead and her tree-felling, calf-branding, bear-tracking, fence-building relationships with the laconic Whiteaker, his partner Blue, and the other widely dispersed denizens of the hardscrabble mountains.

**Torina's World: A Child's Life in Madagascar**

**Kabana, Joni**

*Arnica Pub Inc; 2nd ed. edition (October 3, 2007) (p.52)*

"Torina's World is a magical book that helps readers, young and old, visualize what it would be like to live in a developing country where securing each day's meal takes extraordinary energy and community participation. It is remarkable to see such an important message of appreciation and concern for others elicited in such a simple, yet effective manner." --Thomas Bruner, CEO, American Red Cross, Oregon Trail Chapter

**Stubborn Twig: Three Generations in the Life of a Japanese American Family**

**Kessler, Lauren**

*Plume (November 1, 1994) (P. 368)*

Lauren Kessler's award-winning book is the moving story of the Yasui family, their struggles as Japanese immigrants trying to find acceptance in Hood River, and their perseverance through the Internment during World War II. It is a living work of social history that rings with the power of truth and the drama of fiction—a moving saga about the challenges of becoming an American.

**AWARDS:** Book Award

**Crossing the Line: Tragedy on the Mexican Border**

**Lloyd, Doloris Huerta**

*BookSurge Publishing (2008) (p. 298)*

**Physicians of the Soul: The psychologies of the world's great spiritual teachers**

**May, Robert M.**

*Element Books (November 1991) (p. 231)*

An experiential study of the relationship between the spiritual teachings of Lao-Tzu, Moses, Jesus, Siddhartha Gotama, Krishna, and Muhammad.

**Running the Seven Continents: Tales of travel and the marathon**

**Morrison, Clint**

*Inkwater Press; 1st edition (December 1, 2006) (p. 235)*

Seven beautifully written journeys, marathons run at the ends of history, culture and the planet. YUKON - Yukon River Trail: JAPAN - Lake Kawaguchi: AUSTRALIA - State Championship of Victoria: ANTARCTICA - Antarctic 'Last' Marathon: SOUTH AFRICA - Two Oceans Ultramarathon: ATHENS - From the Plain of Marathon to Athens: BRAZIL - Florianopolis, Santa Catarina: EPILOGUE - Tashkent, Uzbekistan on the day of the Andijan massacre.

**Our Oregon**

**Ostertag, George**

*Voyageur Press; 1st edition (May 15, 2007) (p. 128)*

Open these pages and encounter the charm and character of one of our nation's most beautiful states. Celebrated photographer George Ostertag explores Oregon's riches from sea level to mountain high, discovering the idyllic and the austere, the homespun and the cosmopolitan in the ever-changing canvas that is Oregon—from the snowy peaks of the Cascade Range to the cliffs and dunes along the coast, from the stark High Desert to the lush Willamette Valley, and from Pendleton's Wild West rodeos to Portland's urban core.

**Fugitives and Refugees: A Walk in Portland, Oregon**

**Palahniuk, Chuck**

*Crown; 1 edition (July 8, 2003) (P. 176)*

The book alternates between autobiographical chapters, and lists of the author's favorite activities in his home city of Portland, Oregon, in the Pacific Northwest of the United States.

Palahniuk guides the reader to eviction court for evocative storytelling, a massive Goodwill charity sale for purchasing clothes by the pound, and to clubs and sexual fetish organizations.

**Livability: Stories**

**Raymond, Jon**

*Bloomsbury USA (December 23, 2008) (p. 272)*

In Jon Raymond's deft, nuanced stories, these and other characters contend with the frustrations, longings, and mood swings we face every day. Artfully conveying the feeling of lived experience, these stories brim with gratifying sensory detail: the sound of a tree root snapping underfoot, the smell of a roast, the stillness of the air after music has stopped. And, with careful observations and a humane spirit, *Livability* gives us a portrait of America, full of characters finding ways to survive their own choices.

**Night of a Thousand Stars & Other Portraits of Iraq**

**Smith, Joel Preston**

*Tucson, AZ: Nazraeli Press. (2006) (p. 125)*

Night of a Thousand Stars documents – in text and photographs – life in Iraq before and after the U.S. invasion in 2003. Joel Preston Smith traveled in central and northern Iraq as an independent journalist, living with Iraqis and Kurds, and patrolling with U.S. soldiers. His book is the first comprehensive portrait of Iraqi society in a time of war, as seen from the perspective of both Iraqis and U.S. soldiers. But this is not a book of military and political analysis; Night of a Thousand Stars is a humanistic portrait, focusing heavily on Iraqi home, work and social life during the occupation.

**AWARDS:** Finalist, Sarah Winnemucca Award for Creative Nonfiction (2007 Oregon Book Awards)

**Been Brown So Long It Looked Like Green to Me: the Politics of Nature**

**St. Clair, Jeffrey**

*Common Courage Press (October 1, 2003) (p. 350)*

From the co-founder of CounterPunch, "America's best political newsletter" (Out of Bounds Magazine), comes a comprehensive seven-part reader on environmental politics. Covering everything from toxics to electric power plays, St. Clair gives you a shocking view of how money and power determine the state of our environment.

St. Clair names the culprits and exposes the deeds. The book opens with Oregon as a metaphor for the nation. Now becoming "Californicated," Oregon's mythological beauty is transforming into just that: more myth every day.

**AWARDS:** Oregon Book Award finalist.

**Seeing Color: Indigenous Peoples and Racialized Ethnic Minorities in Oregon**

**Xing, Jun**

*Publisher: University Press of America (July 2007) (p. 266)*

This rich volume presents 13 chapters on various aspects of the experience of people of color in the state of Oregon. Some chapters are devoted to larger issues, such as demographics and the prison system, and others describe the experiences of specific places and groups, including the Japanese community in Ontario (Oregon), the history of discrimination against African-Americans, the experience of Mexican migrant workers, and the Chinese immigrant community in John Day. An appendix contains a useful annotated bibliography of sources arranged by ethnic minority.