



WITH THIS ISSUE: **NETCONNECT**

Social Catalog

LIBRARY JOURNAL

July 2007 | Volume 132 No. 12 | ISSN 0363-0277

Reed Business Information

The Library in Your Toolbar
An RA Big Think

IN THE BOOK REVIEW
Mystery, Spiritual Living,
Graphic Novels, World
War II, plus *LJ Talks*
to Lawson R. Wulsin

LJ'S PATRONSPEAK SERIES

What Boomers Want

Narrative voices are "battleweary" and "strained," while the world is "frostsealed." Modern poetry readers have reasons to be grateful for Fairley's superb interpretation. Recommended for public and academic libraries.—Miriam Tuliao, NYPL

Dunmore, Helen. *Glad of These Times*. Dufour. Jul. 2007. 55p. ISBN 978-1-85224-758-4. pap. \$21.95. POETRY

"In crack-haunted alleys, overhangs, / plots of sour earth that pass for gardens, / in the space between wall and wheelie bin // in all these places the city lilacs are pushing / their cones of blossom into the spring." With a keen eye for detail and an ear for the sweet, subtle music of the world around her, Dunmore proves herself to be as adept at unwinding wry, curious, and fascinating stories in her poetry as she is in her acclaimed fiction (e.g., *A Spell of Winter*). These new poems, her first collection since *Out of the Blue: Poems 1975–2001*, continue her lyrical investigation into the corners of life—quiet, joyous, or dark. Honest and generous, this work can also be haunting: "a bunch of violets / laid on a grave, and a woman walking, / and black rain falling on the headstone / of 'the handsomest man I've ever seen.'" This tender yet intense new collection is recommended, particularly for contemporary British poetry collections.—Louis McKee, Painted Bride Arts Ctr., Philadelphia

Merwin, W.S. *The Book of Fables*. Copper Canyon. Jul. 2007. ISBN 978-1-55659-256-0. pap. \$20. POETRY

Since his earliest writing, Pulitzer Prize winner Merwin's poems have been built upon imagery, often a pileup of what Lorca called the *duende* and Robert Bly defined as the deep image. Given the leaps from line to line in these poems, the transition to brief prose pieces seemed a natural and welcome diversion. This volume includes everything from two o.p. collections—*The Miner's Pale Children* (1969) and *House and Travelers* (1977)—as well as new pieces, ranging from a paragraph to 13 pages. "The true present is the place where only one can stand, who is standing there for the first time," he says in one of the later pieces here. And this sense of self and other, with the speaker either part of a primitive collective mythology or a detached observer, pervades. Despite an underlying current of fear and doom, the surreal landscape is accepted without struggle. The two volumes published here appeared before the recent prose poem and flash fiction movements became fashionable in American literature, but Merwin's writing adds another dimension to both genres.—Rochelle Ratner, formerly with *Soho Weekly News*, New York

RELIGION

Brother Andrew & Al Janssen. *Secret Believers: What Happens When Muslims Believe in Christ*. Revell. Jul. 2007. c.272p. bibliog. ISBN 978-0-8007-1874-9. \$19.99. REL

As riveting and fast-paced as any well-written novel, this account by Andrew (founder, Open Doors International; *God's Smuggler*) and Janssen (coauthor, *The Marriage Masterpiece*) of several Muslims in the Middle East who have come to Christ is an inspiring call for the Western Church to engage in a "good Jihad" to help the Middle Eastern Church's struggle for survival. The authors refer to this converted population as Muslim Background Believers, and they have changed their names and locations for protection. Implicit in the story is an underlying global problem both Muslims and Christians share: many don't really "walk the talk" their respective scriptures preach. Instead, apathy or violence runs rampant. Throughout the narrative, the authors preach love and forgiveness, two attributes sadly missing in 21st-century society. They enjoin Christians of all denominations to cooperate in this "mission" and lead by the example of their own lives. Recommended for all libraries.—Gary P. Gillum, Brigham Young Univ., Provo, UT

Dugan, Ellen. *Natural Witchery: Intuitive, Personal & Practical Magick*. Llewellyn. 2007. c.288p. bibliog. index. ISBN 978-0-7387-0922-2. pap. \$16.95. REL

According to a 2001 American Religious Identification survey, an estimated 134,000 Americans see themselves as Wiccans. It may be assumed that the number of neopagan adherents is even higher, as many fear that disclosure will bring misunderstanding and suspicion and are thus hesitant to identify themselves as such. Still others may simply practice pagan syncretism, i.e., the incorporation of specific elements of various spiritualities into a distinctive path. With the goal of fostering spiritual development within a personal pagan practice, Dugan (*Garden Witchery: Magick from the Ground Up*) emphasizes "natural magicks" and draws from innate intuitive talents. Her primer for "green" witchcraft—i.e., witchcraft in tune with seasonal elements—is a gold mine of concepts and resources for the novice to intermediate practitioner. The seasoned adept, too, will find the handy correspondence lists and exercises immensely useful. Also included are spells, rituals, and blank space for a personal *grimoire* to jot down ideas and insights. Chock-full of relevant wisdom and lively humor, this is a valuable addition to any avid pagan's personal reference library. Appropriate for

all libraries with alternative spirituality collections.—Dina Komuves, Collingswood, NJ

★ **The Inner Journey: Views from the Islamic Tradition. Morning Light. (Parabola Anthology). 2007. 318p. ed. by William C. Chittick. illus. ISBN 978-1-59675-017-3. pap. \$22.95. REL**

Parabola, a journal about myth, tradition, and the search for meaning, has for 30 years been publishing essays from ancient and modern students of the mystical religious traditions. In 2005, Morning Light Press debuted its series compiling the journal's best essays on each tradition; volumes on Buddhism, Christianity, and Hinduism have already appeared, and a volume on Judaism also appeared this year. This volume's editor is one of the foremost Western authorities on Islamic thought and Sufism. He brings together interviews with Iranian Muslim philosopher Seyyed Hossein Nasr delineating the profound mystical and symbolic meanings of the Islamic spiritual experience; essays by French philosopher and theologian Henry Corbin, sympathetic academics, and prominent Western converts to Islam; and translations of the works of Rumi, Attar, and other great mystics of the Muslim world. Because of its comfortable and positive presentation of the inner core of Islamic teaching—removed from the modern politicization of the Muslim community—and its concomitant overemphasis on Islam as a legal system, this collection may serve as a partial antidote to the Western public's prejudices against Islam. Highly recommended for public, religious, and university libraries.—William P. Collins, Library of Congress

Levitt, Peggy. *God Needs No Passport: Immigrants and the Changing American Religious Landscape*. New Pr, dist. by Norton. 2007. c.288p. index. ISBN 978-1-59558-169-3. \$26.95. REL

Levitt (sociology, Wellesley Coll.; *The Transnational Villagers*) opens with the experiences of U.S. immigrants from a small city in interior Brazil and similar places in India, Pakistan, and Ireland, drawing from extensive surveys and interviews with 247 first-generation immigrants. Her charts and statistics give an excellent overall view of the results of her thorough on-site research; the illustrations show how immigration is affecting American values because of, e.g., migratory experiences, family ties, educational attainments, political participation, and social inclinations. Levitt describes specifically the way religion is being challenged and changed; "that it is alive and well"; and that it operates across cultures, much like today's global corporations. Finally, she suggests that robust pluralism may be an answer to the threats of