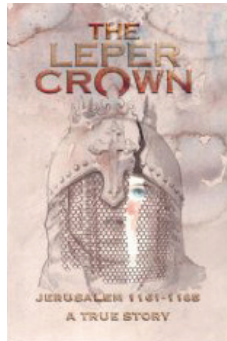


# Alumni Authors

Please let us know when you have (or plan to have) your work published. Please consider donating a copy or two to our school library. Contact Carol Chidley at 802-387-6248 or [cchidley@putneyschool.org](mailto:cchidley@putneyschool.org).

*We wish these and other alumni authors well in their literary and scholarly endeavors.*



## GEORGE S.B. MORGAN '50

*The Leper Crown: Jerusalem 1161-1185*

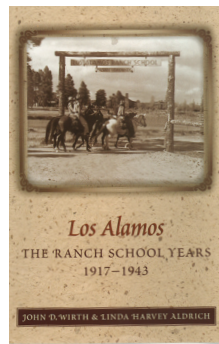
(Xlibris, 2007)

In the middle ages, Leprosy was the equivalent of AIDS. In *The Leper Crown*, a young man named Baldwin, who ascended the throne of the Kingdom of Jerusalem, mysteriously contracted this disease at a young age. There was no cure. He tried to keep his illness a secret from enemies and struggled to maintain his reign against those who wished to usurp his power. As the dreaded

disease consumed his body, it threatened to consume both his mind and spirit as well. But Baldwin was determined to protect his kingdom, even if it meant mortal combat.

The events in the Middle East nine hundred years ago bear striking similarities to those of today. The borders of the Christian Kingdom of Jerusalem were almost those of present-day Israel. It, too, was surrounded by hostile nations sworn to its annihilation. It was also dependent on support from the West, and the inability of its enemies to unite.

Those interested in the history of the Middle East and about the Middle Ages' crusades will find this a fascinating read. Morgan weaves a wonderful story of medieval history brimming with emotions as the hero experiences the pain of betrayal and conflicts yet rises to triumph because of his courage. Proceeds from book sales are being donated to The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem.

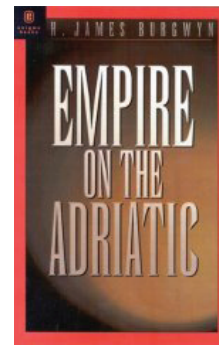


## THE LATE JOHN D. WIRTH '54

*Los Alamos: The Ranch School Years 1917–1943*  
(University of New Mexico Press, 2003)

In the centuries-long human occupation of the Pajarito Plateau in the Jemez Mountains of northern New Mexico, the Ranch School years from 1917–1943 spanned but a generation. But in those short years a vibrant community of a few hundred people flourished on Los Alamos mesa, some thirty-five miles from Santa Fe, some of it via single-track dirt roads replete with arroyos and precarious switchbacks. There, families from the original Spanish-American homesteaders and Indians from nearby San Ildefonso and Santa Clara pueblos joined with Anglo families, the school staff, school masters, and students to create a truly unique place. The Ranch School was a small boarding school for boys twelve to eighteen, by design never numbering more than forty-eight students at a time. But with its college preparatory course and a vigorous outdoor program centering on horses, sports, and community work, Los Alamos Ranch School (LARS) achieved a national reputation. This book explores that history and examines the influence of the school's controversial director, Albert J. Connell, who was roundly disliked by two of the best-known students, Gore Vidal and William S. Burroughs. Many other students reported their time at the school to be a profoundly positive, often life-changing, experience.

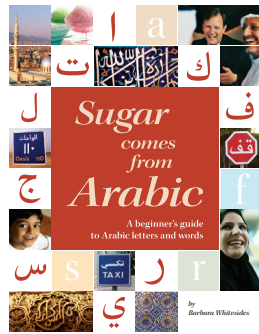
John Wirth's father, Cecil, taught at the school and directed its summer camp. John spent his early childhood at the school along with his brother, Tim Wirth, later a U.S. Senator from Colorado (1987–93) and former teacher at Putney (1962–63).



## H. JAMES BURGWYN '54

*Empire on The Adriatic: Mussolini's Conquest of Yugoslavia 1941–1943*  
(Enigma Books, 2005)

The horrors that the Axis Powers inflicted upon the Yugoslav peoples during World War II are among the least known of Europe's wartime tragedies. In this richly detailed and colorful account, Burgwyn takes us step-by-step through the Italian invasion and occupation of Yugoslavia. He recounts an ugly chapter in Balkan history marked by cutthroat ethnic killing, fierce partisan resistance, and a savage Axis counterinsurgency. In a country awash in insurrection, the Italian 2nd Army unleashed draconian measures that amounted to a declaration of war against the Yugoslav peoples. Burgwyn studies the contradictions and internal wrangling that hampered the Italian occupation; furthermore, he vividly portrays the strains and stresses among the Axis allies—Mussolini, Hitler, and the Croatian puppet Pavelic—that became a way of life among the imperialist predators. Burgwyn's book is a gripping narrative that describes Italy's road toward the illusory future of an Italian "living space" in the Balkans.



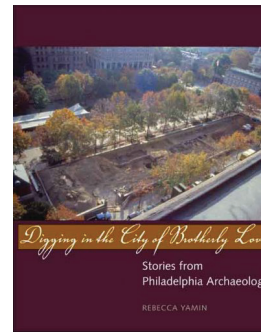
## BARBARA BREASTED WHITESIDES '59

### *Sugar Comes from Arabic: A Beginner's Guide to Arabic Letters and Words*

(Interlink, 2009)

No other Arabic alphabet book demystifies the letters in such a comfortable way, by introducing them in English alphabetical order of the Roman alphabet and using the spelling of English names and words as a way to learn the Arabic. Look up matching letters, follow the directions, and soon you'll be writing your own name in Arabic! Simple cartoons show you how to draw and remember each letter. Illustrations of words reveal important and too-often-unrecognized connections between our cultures.

"This book makes the Arabic alphabet much more approachable for the complete beginner, and can generate enthusiasm for expanded study of the language." *Paul Beran, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University*



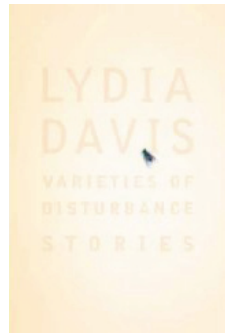
## REBECCA YAMIN '60

### *Digging in the City of Brotherly Love*

(Yale University Press, 2008)

Beneath the modern city of Philadelphia lie countless clues to its history and the lives of residents long forgotten. This intriguing book explores eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Philadelphia through the findings of archaeological excavations, sharing with readers the excitement of digging into the past and reconstructing the lives of earlier inhabitants of the city.

Urban archaeologist Rebecca Yamin describes the major excavations that have been undertaken since 1992 as part of the redevelopment of Independence Mall and surrounding areas, explaining how archaeologists gather and use raw data to learn more about the ordinary people whose lives were never recorded in history books. Focusing primarily on these unknown citizens—an accountant in the first Treasury Department, a coachmaker whose clients were politicians doing business at the State House, an African American founder of St. Thomas's African Episcopal Church, and others—Yamin presents a colorful portrait of old Philadelphia. She also discusses political aspects of archaeology today—who supports particular projects and why, and what has been lost to bulldozers and heedlessness. *Digging in the City of Brotherly Love* tells the exhilarating story of doing archaeology in the real world and using its findings to understand the past.



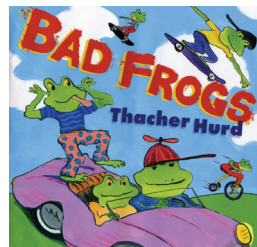
## LYDIA DAVIS '65

### *Varieties of Disturbance: Stories*

(Farrar Straus and Giroux, 2007)

In *Varieties of Disturbance*, her fourth collection, Davis extends her reach as never before in stories that take every form from sociological studies to concise poems. Her subjects include the five senses, fourth-graders, good taste, and tropical storms. She offers a reinterpretation of insomnia and re-creates the ordeals of Kafka in the kitchen. She questions the lengths to which one should go to save the life of a caterpillar, proposes a clear account of the sexual act, rides the bus, probes the limits of marital fidelity, and unlocks the secret to a long and happy life.

No two of these fictions are alike. And yet in each, Davis rearranges our view of the world by looking beyond our preconceptions to a bizarre truth, a source of delight and surprise.

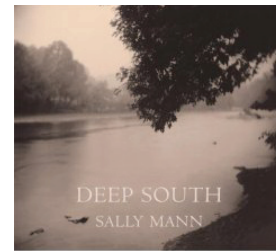


## THACHER HURD '67

### *Bad Frogs*

(Candlewick, Spring 2009)

Hey, frog fans! Follow Thacher Hurd's crew of 170 funky, funky BAD frogs as they slurp, burp, skateboard, somersault, parachute, and play their way through the bright action-packed pages of this rollicking book. BAD FROGS FOREVER!

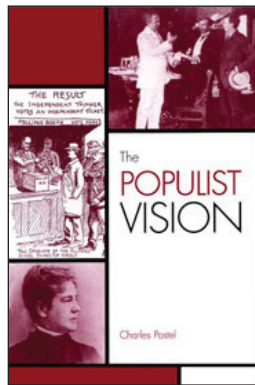


## SALLY MANN '69

### *Deep South*

(Bullfinch Press, 2005)

To produce the *Deep South* series, Sally Mann traveled alone from her home in Virginia to the neighboring states of Mississippi and Louisiana. Bordering on the Mississippi River, each state is rich with its own history and mythology, extending from the legacy of slavery to the Confederacy to the more recent Civil Rights era. While the photographs of the Virginia landscape in "Mother Land" were charged by Mann's love and romantic eye for her native landscape, the *Deep South* images are no less intimate, despite the fact that this was the artist's first trip to Mississippi. With activist parents and a brother who was arrested during the Civil Rights demonstrations, Mann's images are informed by what is most absent in the images: people. This stunning collection of tri-tone photographs reinvents the art of landscape photography that evokes the vintage images of the American South in works that utilize methods favored by nineteenth-century masters of the photographic art to capture visions of Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia, and Virginia.



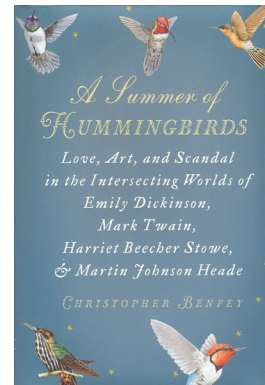
## CHARLES POSTEL '72

### *The Populist Vision*

(Oxford University Press, 2007)

“*The Populist Vision* is at once a fine synthesis of recent scholarship on the Populists and an impressive example of historical research. It is a compelling, convincing and quite original reinterpretation of antimonopoly reform in the late nineteenth century. He makes the Populists modern vital contestants for an American future and sees in their embrace of an alternative version of capitalism a vital, if buried, American version of modernity. Ranging widely across politics, economics, culture, religion and more, this is an ambitious and important book.”

This review by the Organization of American Historians was included in a press release on March 28, 2008 announcing their decision to award Charlie Postel the *Frederick Jackson Turner Award*, which is given annually for an author’s first book dealing with some significant phase of American history.



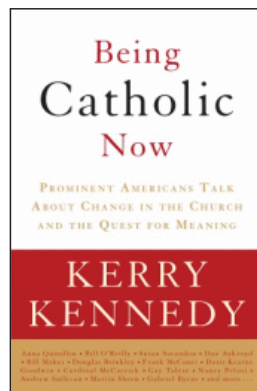
## CHRISTOPHER BENFEY '73

### *A Summer of Hummingbirds*

(Penguin Press, 2008)

At the close of the Civil War, the United States took a deep breath to lick wounds and consider the damage done. *A Summer of Hummingbirds* reveals how, at that tender moment, the lives of some of our most noted writers, poets, and artists—including Emily Dickinson, Mark Twain, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Martin Johnson Heade—intersected to make sense of it all. Renowned critic Christopher Benfey maps the intricate web of friendship, family, and romance that connects these larger-than-life personalities to one another, and in doing so discovers a unique moment in the development of American character.

In this meticulously researched and creatively imagined work, Benfey takes the seemingly arbitrary image of the hummingbird and traces its “route of evanescence” as it travels in circles to and from the creative wellsprings of the age: from the naturalist writings of abolitionist Thomas Wentworth Higginson to the poems of his wayward pupil Emily Dickinson; into the mind of Henry Ward Beecher and within the writings and paintings of his famous sister, Harriet Beecher Stowe. *A Summer of Hummingbirds* unveils how, through the art of these great thinkers, the hummingbird became the symbol of an era, an image through which they could explore their controversial (and often contradictory) ideas of nature, religion, sexuality, family, time, exoticism, and beauty.

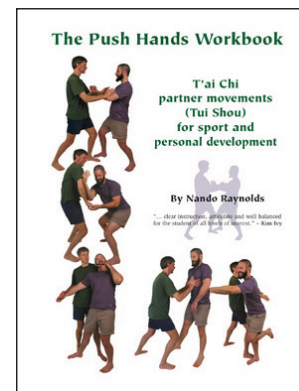


### KERRY KENNEDY '77

*Being Catholic Now*

(Random House, September 2008)

For Kerry Kennedy, who grew up in a devoutly Catholic household coping with great loss, her family's faith was a constant source of strength and solace. As an adult, she came to question some of the attitudes and teachings of the Catholic Church while remaining an impassioned believer in its role as a defender of the poor and oppressed. "Generations ago," says Kennedy, "the search for spirituality came predefined and prepackaged. [The Church] not only gave us all the answers, it even gave us the questions to ask." Now many of the old certainties are being reexamined. In an attempt to convey this sea change, Kennedy asked thirty-seven American Catholics to speak candidly about their own faith—whether lost, recovered, or deepened—and about their feelings regarding the way the Church hierarchy is moving forward. The voices included here range from respectful to reproachful and from appreciative to angry. Speaking their minds are businesspeople, actors and entertainers, educators, journalists, politicians, union leaders, nuns, priests—even a cardinal. Some love the Church; some feel intensely that the Church wronged them. All have an illuminating insight or perspective.

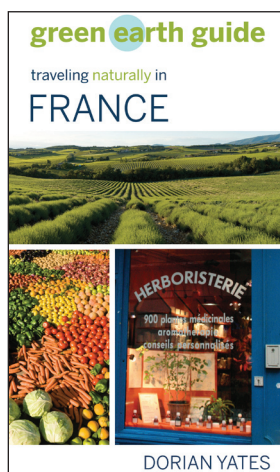


### DAVID RAYNOLDS '78

*The Push Hands Workbook:  
T'ai Chi Partner Movements (Tui Shou)  
for Sport and Personal Development*

(CreateSpace, November 2006)

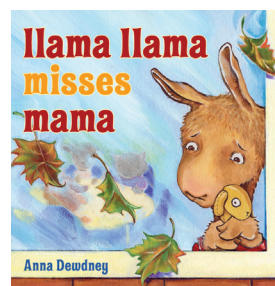
This workbook is a step-by-step guide to push hands (t'ui shou). These T'ai Chi Chuan two-person exercises are the foundation of the self-defense skills of the art. Written for the beginner through advanced practitioner and teachers, this book presents fun exercises and games that train sensitivity and responsiveness. Specific component skills of push hands (e.g. sticking, listening, neutralizing, pushing, rooting etc.) are systematically developed through sequential drills presented in the workbook. Important topics that are often poorly addressed in the English literature are explained in clear language and paired with activities.



## DORIAN YATES '78

*Green Earth Guide: Traveling Naturally in France*  
(North Atlantic Books, May 2009)

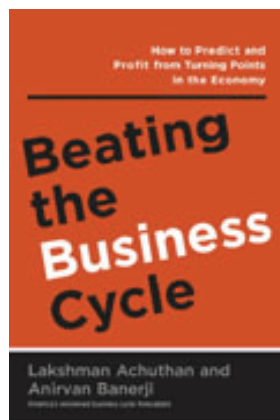
The *Green Earth Guide* series to traveling naturally offers an insider's guide to healthy living on the road so you don't have to sacrifice your healthy habits and lifestyle choices just because you are away from home. The first in the series, the *Green Earth Guide: Traveling Naturally in France* contains listings of local and organic foods, natural health care, ecological businesses, organic vineyards, renewable energy sites, yoga, meditation, national parks, public transport, and green places of interest. Written in a friendly, accessible style with personal anecdotes, how-to travel tips, and practical information, *The Green Earth Guide* helps travelers leave a smaller footprint wherever they venture in France. The book includes a 16-page color insert. Look for the next books in the series—*Traveling Naturally in Spain*, *Traveling Naturally in Britain*, and *Traveling Naturally in Switzerland*.



## ANNA DEWDNEY '83

*Llama Llama Misses Mama*  
(Viking, March 2009)

*Llama Llama Misses Mama* is Anna Dewdney's fifth book in the popular *Llama Llama* series. It's Llama Llama's first day at preschool. It seems fun at first, but then Mama Llama leaves. Could school ever be fun? How will he make it to the end of the day without Mama? Luckily the other kids show Llama Llama that school can be fun, even if he does miss his mama. The second book in the series, *Llama Llama Mad at Mama*, was a *New York Times* Bestseller.



## LAKSHMAN ACHUTHAN '84 (CO-AUTHOR)

*Beating the Business Cycle: How to Predict and Profit from Turning Points in the Economy*  
(Doubleday, 2004)

In *Beating the Business Cycle*, Lakshman Achuthan and Anirvan Banerji, the directors of the renowned Economic Cycle Research Institute (ECRI), show how anyone can predict and profit from the inevitable booms and busts of the economy.

*Beating the Business Cycle* is the first book to reveal how decision makers at all levels—managers, small business owners, and individuals—can see into the economy's future when making key decisions. Should a large company search out new clients and build new factories or stores, or should it consider cost cutting and layoffs? Is it the right time for you to splurge on that luxury vacation or addition to your house, or would it be more prudent to cut back on big expenditures and save money for a rainy day?

Written in a straightforward manner and accessible style, *Beating the Business Cycle* takes the guesswork out of deciding which of the hundreds of economic indicators to trust and which ones to trash. It will give you the tools and confidence you need to make the right decisions at the right times—even when the rest of the investing and business world would persuade you otherwise. Whether you are a corporate manager or the owner of a small business, whether you have your money invested in stocks or in your home, *Beating the Business Cycle* will give you the edge you need to trump the competition and stay ahead of the crowd.