WILLIAM KENNEDY
Conversations and Interpretations
DONALD W. FAULKNER, EDITOR

Multiple perspectives on the author who has made Albany, New York an unavoidable stop on the route-map of the American literary landscape.

Mixing critical insight with humor and wit, this volume offers multiple perspectives on the life and work of William Kennedy. Through both his novels and his work as the founder of the New York State Writers Institute, Kennedy has made Albany a crossroads of literary culture and an unavoidable stop on the route-map of the American literary landscape. Included here is an extensive interview with Kennedy himself, along with reminiscences and appreciations by such fellow writers as Frank McCourt, E. L. Doctorow, and Douglas Brinkley, and scholarly essays on the novels in the Albany Cycle. Always present as well are the brilliant characters of Kennedy’s work: the haunted Francis Phelan, the larger-than-life Legs Diamond, the enigmatic Katrina Daugherty, the magnificently corrupt iconic politicians of Albany’s Democratic machine, and Roscoe Conway, a man who knows too much about political gamesmanship.

“What James Joyce did for Dublin and Saul Bellow did for Chicago, William Kennedy has done for Albany … His cycle of Albany novels is one of the great resurrections of place in our literature.” — James Atlas, Vogue

“William Kennedy is a writer with something to say, about matters that touch us all, and he says it with uncommon artistry.” — Michael M. Thomas, Washington Post

From William Kennedy: Conversations and Interpretations

“Kennedy’s one of those lucky writers whose physical home is the home of his imagination, and certainly what he has done for this place has never been done before and has indeed been a great contribution, and I salute him for it.” — E. L. Doctorow

“What I have loved about Kennedy’s work is his passionate interest in lives outside his own, his fidelity to place, latitude and longitude. What I admire and love about his life is his determination to create the institutions and cultures that would honor this state’s literature and its makers, his coworkers, in all their differences from himself, of genre, language, idea, and stubbornness.” — Grace Paley

Donald W. Faulkner is Director of the New York State Writers Institute at the University at Albany, State University of New York. He has edited several books of writings by the eminent literary critic Malcolm Cowley, including The Portable Malcolm Cowley; Exile’s Return: A Literary Odyssey of the 1920s; and New England Writers and Writing.

William Kennedy is Executive Director and Founder of the New York State Writers Institute at the University at Albany, State University of New York. Born and raised in Albany, Kennedy is best known for the novels in his “Albany Cycle,” which include Legs, Billy Phelan’s Greatest Game, the Pulitzer Prize–winning Ironweed, and Roscoe. He also wrote the screenplay for Ironweed and cowrote the screenplay for The Cotton Club with Francis Ford Coppola, as well as two books of nonfiction, O Albany! and Riding the Yellow Trolley Car, and the play Grand View.
New York’s Historic Armories
An Illustrated History
NANCY L. TODD
FOREWORDS BY
GOVERNOR GEORGE E. PATAKI,
COMMISSIONER BERNADETTE CASTRO, AND
MAJOR GENERAL JOSEPH J. TALUTO

Chronicles the evolution of the armory as a specific building type in American architectural and military history, and the role these buildings played in the history of America’s volunteer militia.

New York’s Army National Guard armories are among the most imposing monuments to the role of the citizen soldier in American military history. In New York’s Historic Armories, Nancy L. Todd draws on archival research as well as historic and contemporary photographs and drawings to trace the evolution of the armory as a specific building type in American architectural and military history. The result of a ten-year collaboration between the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs, this illustrated history presents information on all known armories in the state as well as the units associated with them, and will serve as a valuable reference for readers interested in general, military, and architectural history.

Advance Praise for New York’s Historic Armories

“This attractive and engaging book highlights New York’s large and distinguished group of historic armories—national treasures associated with a revered history of security and peacekeeping … I am confident that this book will further our understanding and appreciation of the state’s historic armories and their contribution to safeguarding our communities and citizens.” — Governor George E. Pataki

“Begun in the late eighteenth century, New York’s extensive armory building program had a significant impact on the development of communities across the state … Today, many of the historic armories are underused or have become obsolete. Safeguarding this remarkable collection presents both challenges and exciting possibilities.” — Bernadette Castro, Commissioner, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
DAVID DINKINS AND
NEW YORK CITY POLITICS
Race, Images, and the Media
WILBUR C. RICH

Studies the role of the media in shaping public perceptions of David Dinkins’ mayoral leadership.

As the first African American elected mayor of New York City, David Dinkins underwent intense scrutiny—first from the black community, then from white liberal supporters, the media, and the city’s electorate. Wilbur C. Rich focuses on the critical role played by the New York City media in the perception of mayoral leadership. Using interviews and words of journalists, Rich examines media coverage as both the architect and challenger of Dinkins’ image. The making and unmaking of David Dinkins not only exposes much about the agency of African American politicians, but also reveals the fragility of electoral coalitions.

Advance Praise for David Dinkins and New York City Politics

“Wilbur Rich is the nation’s preeminent political scientist on mayors and mayoral leadership. What is unique about this book is that Rich examines Dinkins’ mayoralty through the lens of the New York City media. Rich shows how the influential New York City media deconstructed Dinkins’ ‘preferred self-image’ (a competent, sensitive, skillful public servant) into a ‘prevailing self-image’ of an incompetent politician incapable of leading the world’s most important city.” — Marion Orr, author of Black Social Capital: The Politics of School Reform in Baltimore, 1986–1998

“Wilbur Rich has done it again—gone where few scholars have gone before. In this book about David Dinkins as mayor of New York, Rich takes on the complex matter of how race, images, and the media are intertwined. He shows us how powerful stereotypes affect both journalists and their audiences. Once more, readers of the work of Wilbur Rich will find themselves thinking in new ways about a big topic.” — Clarence Stone, The George Washington University

Wilbur C. Rich is Professor of Political Science at Wellesley College. He has written many books including Coleman Young and Detroit Politics: From Social Activist to Power Broker and the edited volume (with James Bowers), Governing Middle-Sized Cities: Studies in Mayoral Leadership.
SAVING STERLING FOREST
The Epic Struggle to Preserve New York’s Highlands
ANN BOTSHON

The story of the twenty-five-year quest to preserve twenty thousand acres of forest in southeastern New York.

This is the inspiring story of the twenty-five-year-long effort to preserve Sterling Forest, a tract of rugged, upland terrain encompassing twenty thousand acres within the New York–New Jersey Highlands. Barely forty miles northwest of New York City, Sterling Forest seemed destined to suffer the same fate that had befallen thousands of acres of land in this rapidly suburbanizing corridor. The fight to save Sterling Forest brought together one of the largest coalitions of environmental groups and government entities ever assembled. Despite the loose, sometimes fractious nature of the alliance, the coalition managed to extract support from Congress, New York State, New Jersey, and private donors, while at the same time negotiating a contract to purchase the land from the Sterling Forest Corporation, a company that vigorously protected its financial interests at every turn. Deemed by some to be one of the more remarkable environmental victories of the 1990s, the successful outcome of the Sterling Forest struggle—a large state park within easy access of millions of people and a protected supply of water to New Jersey residents—embodied virtually every facet of land-use conflict. It provides a model for saving other areas where critical wild lands are threatened by development.

“Ann Botshon’s work is an important documentation of one of the most significant open space victories in the nation. It is imperative that the lessons learned in the struggle to save Sterling Forest be imparted to a new generation of advocates who are likely to face even more difficult challenges in protecting our access to and relationship with the natural world.” — U.S. Representative Maurice D. Hinchey, 22nd Congressional District of New York

Ann Botshon (1942–2004) was Coordinator of the Wallkill River Task Force and Editor of the Sierra Atlantic, the quarterly magazine published by the Atlantic (New York) Chapter of the Sierra Club.
STOPPING THE PLANT
The St. Lawrence Cement Controversy and the Battle for Quality of Life in the Hudson Valley

MIRIAM D. SILVERMAN

Detailed account of the controversy surrounding the building of a coal-fired cement factory in the Hudson Valley.

When the St. Lawrence Cement Company proposed building a massive coal-powered cement plant near the banks of the Hudson River in the town of Greenport, New York, in 1999, it ignited a controversy that dominated the discussion of community development in the entire Hudson Valley region. Stopping the Plant is a fascinating and detailed chronicle of how the proposal fired the passions of many local citizens, spawned the creation of numerous activist groups, and over the next several years spread to become a raging dispute throughout the Northeast. Miriam D. Silverman provides a thorough and balanced exploration of the positions of both sides of this highly polarized dispute, while at the same time places the controversy within a greater historical and regional context. For anyone interested in community organizing, the potentials and difficulties of modern grassroots environmentalism, and, ultimately, the future of the environmental movement, Silverman emphasizes the significance of the decision by St. Lawrence Cement to withdraw its application in 2005.

“A vivid portrayal of citizens and environmental organizations joining together to win the first great fight for the Hudson in the twenty-first century, with important lessons for the coming struggle to save the ‘landscape that defined America.’” — Frederic C. Rich, Chair, Board of Directors, Scenic Hudson

“This is a well-written account on an environmental conflict which, against long odds, citizens won. Stopping the Plant deserves wide readership, not least because the federal government is in retreat, which means that environmental protection will be done at the local and state levels or not at all. Miriam Silverman has pulled off the very difficult task of being evenhanded without losing her own voice. It is hard to fairly present views with which one disagrees, but she does this admirably. The result is a compelling and convincing analysis of how a powerful corporation, promising jobs and prosperity to hard-pressed communities, lost to a broad coalition that put forward a very different vision of what sort of future they wanted.” — Jan E. Dizard, author of Going Wild: Hunting, Animal Rights, and the Contested Meaning of Nature

Miriam D. Silverman is an independent scholar born and raised in New York City.
JAZZ AFTER DINNER
Selected Poems
LEONARD A. SLADE JR.

Poems of celebration and endurance.

In these poems of celebration and endurance, Leonard A. Slade Jr. addresses the human need to be connected not only to the physical “now,” but also to the other lives and other music we pass through during our lives. Slade’s unique voice exposes the sweetness, the sorrow, and the humor of life’s celebrations and struggles, but above all is the importance of love and the reliance on God and in faith for transcendence. These are poems to help us to endure, to grow, and to triumph.

“I have read [Slade’s] poetry, and I am the better for it, the wiser for it, and the happier for it.” — Dr. Maya Angelou, Reynolds Professor of American Studies at Wake Forest University

“Jazz After Dinner is a significant volume of poetry. Slade’s poems reek of life, jazz, and the bebop rhythms of a Langston Hughes—celebration and endurance, yes, but with a little toe-dancing as well. What more do we ask of our poets? Slade is a bit of a British Romantic, but the American kind, one who also says, ‘Yassir. Look at me and be healed.’” — Ginny MacKenzie, author of Skipstone

“Purity of sound, sense, and emotion are the hallmarks of Jazz After Dinner, distillations of Slade’s decades in the lonely groves of poetry. And in the same collection of melodious love poems come powerful poems of social protest calling on us to remember captives on slave ships, slave mothers, Montgomery and Memphis, and the dream of Dr. King. In the tradition of Thoreau, the exuberant Slade recreates his world as surely as if he were living at Walden Pond.” — George Hendrick, coauthor of Why Not Every Man? African Americans and Civil Disobedience in the Quest for the Dream

Leonard A. Slade Jr. is Professor and Chair of the Department of Africana Studies, Director of the Doctor of Arts in Humanistic Studies Program, and Director of the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Program at the University at Albany, State University of New York. He has published in many journals and magazines and is the author of fifteen books, including eleven books of poetry: Another Black Voice: A Different Drummer, The Beauty of Blackness, I Fly Like a Bird, The Whipping Song, Vintage, Fire Burning, Pure Light, Neglecting the Flowers, Lilacs in Spring, Elisabeth and Other Poems, and For the Love of Freedom.

From “I Am a Black Man”

I am a Black man
my history written with blood
some sweet songs of sorrow
are composed for my soul
and I
can be seen plowing in the fields
Can be heard humming in the night
LANDMARK YIDDISH PLAYS
A Critical Anthology
EDITED, TRANSLATED, AND WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
JOEL BERKOWITZ AND JEREMY DAUBER

Introduces readers to comic and tragic masterpieces spanning 150 years of Yiddish drama.

Offering snapshots of a pivotal era in which the Jews of Europe made the transition from a traditional to a more modern world, the Yiddish plays translated and collected here wrestle with issues that continue to concern us today: changing gender roles, generational conflict, class divisions, and religious persecution. In their introduction to the volume, Joel Berkowitz and Jeremy Dauber place the plays in the context of the development of modern drama and Yiddish drama and examine their treatment of social, political, and religious issues. The many ways in which the plays address these issues make them transcend their own time, exciting a new generation of readers and theatergoers.

“This is one of the freshest, liveliest works I have seen in contemporary Yiddish studies. The plays are important, yet little known, adding immeasurably to Jewish literature in translation. The introduction would be valuable as an independent work—it is the finest essay on the Yiddish theater currently available in English.” — Ruth R. Wisse, author of The Modern Jewish Canon: A Journey through Language and Culture

“This book presents these plays to English-speaking audiences for the first time. Such a translation is well overdue. The translators place the development of Yiddish theater within the context of the Enlightenment from which it emerged and demonstrate the relationship between the changing mores of Jewish society and the theater that reflected these changes.” — Jeffrey Veidlinger, author of The Moscow State Yiddish Theater: Jewish Culture on the Soviet Stage

Joel Berkowitz is Associate Professor of Modern Jewish Studies at the University at Albany, State University of New York. He is the author of Shakespeare on the American Yiddish Stage and the editor of Yiddish Theatre: New Approaches. Jeremy Dauber is Atran Assistant Professor of Yiddish at Columbia University. He is the author of Antonio’s Devils: Writers of the Jewish Enlightenment and the Birth of Modern Hebrew and Yiddish Literature.
THE FAMILY FLAMBOYANT
Race Politics, Queer Families, Jewish Lives
MARLA BRETTSCHEIDER

Interrogates the normative heterosexual family from feminist, Jewish, and queer perspectives.

The Family Flamboyant is a graceful and lucid account of the many routes to family formation. Weaving together personal experience and political analysis in an examination of how race, gender, sexuality, class, and other hierarchies function in family politics, Marla Brettschneider draws on her own experience in a Jewish, multiracial, adoptive, queer family in order to theorize about the layered realities that characterize families in the United States today. Brettschneider uses critical race politics, feminist insight, class-based analysis, and queer theory to offer a distinct and distinctly Jewish contribution to both the family debates and the larger project of justice politics.

“The Family Flamboyant is a spirited testimony to the richness and multiplicity of family life, and a model of how reflections on one’s own experience and scholarship can illuminate one another to mutual advantage. This book is a welcome addition to the bookshelf for anyone interested in the complex ways in which people enter into and sustain family relationships.” — Mary Lyndon Shanley, author of Making Babies, Making Families: What Matters Most in an Age of Reproductive Technologies, Surrogacy, Adoption, and Same-Sex and Unwed Parents

“The strength of this book is the passionate voice of Brettschneider and her ability to harness it for a fresh discussion of the place of Jewishness in American multicultural thought. The writing is truly impressive.” — Matti Bunzl, author of Symptoms of Modernity: Jews and Queers in Late-Twentieth-Century Vienna

At the University of New Hampshire, Marla Brettschneider is Associate Professor of Political Philosophy, holds a joint appointment in Political Science and Women’s Studies, and is Coordinator of Queer Studies. She is the author of several books, including Democratic Theorizing from the Margins.
GIRLS IN POWER
Gender, Body, and Menstruation in Adolescence
LAURA FINGERSON

*A consideration of menstruation in the lives of teenage girls—and in the lives of teenage boys.*

*Girls in Power* offers a fascinating and unique look at the social aspects of menstruation in the lives of adolescent girls—and also in the lives of adolescent boys. Although there has been much research on other aspects of gender and the body, this is one of the few books to examine menstruation and the first to explore how it plays a part in power interactions between boys and girls. Talking openly in single- and mixed-gender settings, individuals and groups of high school–age girls and boys share their interpretations and experiences of menstruation. Author Laura Fingerson reveals that while teens have negative feelings about menstruation, teen girls use their experiences of menstruation as a source of embodied power in their interactions with other girls and with boys. She also explores how boys deal with their own reduced power. The book extends our theoretical and analytical understanding of youth, gender, power, and embodiment by providing a more balanced view of adolescent social life.

“This work is part of a growing field that gives more attention to children and adolescents in creating their own unique social networks within the broader world constructed by adults. Fingerson’s interviews with girls as well as boys concerning attitudes about menstruation are new and refreshing. How we are taught to socially manage this bodily process deserves more attention, and Fingerson has helped to carve a path that other researchers may follow.”
— Sharra Vostral, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Laura Fingerson is Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee.
TWO IN A BED
The Social System of Couple Bed Sharing
PAUL C. ROSENBLATT

A fascinating look at the social experience of sharing a bed with another person.

Millions of adults sleep with another adult, but what does it mean to share a bed with someone else, and how does it affect a couple’s relationship? What happens when one partner snores? Steals the sheets? Prefers to sleep in the nude? To address these and other questions, Paul C. Rosenblatt asked couples to describe the struggles, challenges, and achievements of their bed-sharing experiences. Two in a Bed includes interviews with more than forty bed-sharing couples as they candidly discuss winding down and waking up, cold feet and tucked sheets, who sleeps near the door and who gets pushed to the edge, snoring, spooning, sleep talking, sleep walking, and the myriad other behaviors we negotiate in falling asleep, staying asleep, and waking up each morning beside a partner. In addition to exploring the routines and realities of sharing a bed with another person, these interviews reveal important information about sleep, relationships, and American society. Stressing the intricacy and importance of a previously unremarked activity, Rosenblatt’s Two in a Bed shows that sleep should no longer be viewed solely as an individual phenomenon.

“This is the most fascinating and engaging book in the family arena that I have read in many years. It fills a significant and important gap in the social science literature. Every interview is informative and some are even hilarious.” — David M. Klein, coeditor of Sourcebook of Family Theory and Research

Paul C. Rosenblatt is Morse-Alumni Distinguished Teaching Professor of Family Social Science at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. He is the author of many books, including (with Beverly R. Wallace) African American Grief; Help Your Marriage Survive the Death of a Child; Parent Grief: Narratives of Loss and Relationship; (with Terri A. Karis and Richard D. Powell) Multiracial Couples: Black & White Voices; and Metaphors of Family Systems Theory: Toward New Constructions.
MODELING LIFE
Art Models Speak about Nudity, Sexuality, and the Creative Process
SARAH R. PHILLIPS

A fascinating consideration of the work of life models and the models’ own perspectives on their craft.

This is a book about life modeling. Unlike the painter whose name appears beside his finished portrait, the life model, posing nude, perhaps for months, goes unacknowledged. Standing at a unique juncture—between nude and naked, between high and low culture, between art and pornography—the life model is admired in a finished sculpture, but scorned for her or his posing. Making use of extensive interviews with both male and female models and quoting them frequently, Sarah R. Phillips gives a voice to life models. She explores the meaning that life models give to themselves and to their work and seeks to understand the lived experience of life models as they practice their profession. Throughout history, people have romanticized life models in an aura of bohemian eroticism, or condemned them as strippers or sex workers. Modeling Life reveals how life models get into the business, managing sexuality in the studio, what it means to be a “muse,” and why their work is important.

Sarah R. Phillips is Associate Professor of Sociology at Pacific University.
ON BUDDHISM
KEIJI NISHITANI
TRANSLATED BY SEISAKU YAMAMOTO AND ROBERT E. CARTER
INTRODUCTION BY ROBERT E. CARTER
FOREWORD BY JAN VAN BRAGT

Six lectures by eminent Buddhist thinker Keiji Nishitani reflecting on Buddhism for the modern world.

On Buddhism presents the first English-language translation of a series of lectures by Keiji Nishitani (1900–1990), a major Buddhist thinker and a key figure in the Kyoto School of Japanese philosophy. Originally delivered in the early 1970s, these lectures focus on the transformation of culture in the modern age and the subsequent decline in the importance of the family and religion. Nishitani’s concern is that modernity, with its individualism, materialism, and contractual ethics, is an insufficient basis for human relationships. With deep insight into both Buddhism and Christianity, he explores such issues as the nature of genuine human existence, the major role of conscience in our advance to authenticity, and the needed transformation of religion. Nishitani criticizes contemporary Buddhism for being too esoteric and asks that it “come down from Mt. Hiei” to reestablish itself as a vital source of worthy ideals and to point toward a way of remaining human even in a modern and postmodern world.

“These lectures ... develop some themes not usually discussed in Buddhism, while also presenting other themes and ideas that are discussed in Nishitani’s books but which are much more accessible here.” — John C. Maraldo, coeditor of Rude Awakenings: Zen, the Kyoto School, and the Question of Nationalism

“Nishitani is one of Buddhism’s wisest modern exponents, and so it’s wonderful to have more of his work available in English, and especially an important yet accessible text like this one.” — Graham Parkes, cotranslator of Keiji Nishitani’s The Self-Overcoming of Nihilism

Seisaku Yamamoto is Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at Kyoto University, Japan. Robert E. Carter is Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at Trent University, Canada. They are cotranslators of Watsuji Tetsurō’s Rinrigaku: Ethics in Japan, and Carter is the author of Encounter with Enlightenment: A Study of Japanese Ethics, both also published by SUNY Press.
BUDDHA IN SRI LANKA
Remembered Yesterdays
SWARNA WICKREMERATNE
FOREWORD BY GEORGE D. BOND

Combining memoir, history, and present-day narrative, this book describes how Buddhism is lived in Sri Lanka.

This book provides both an erudite and intimate look at how Buddhism is lived in Sri Lanka. While India is known as the birthplace of Buddhism, Sri Lanka is its other home, extending back over twenty-five hundred years on the island and remaining at the center of its spiritual traditions and culture.

Throughout the book, author Swarna Wickremeratne incorporates a personal view, sharing stories of herself, her family, friends, and acquaintances as they “lived Buddhism” both during her Sri Lankan girlhood and during more recent times. This personal view makes the traditions come alive as Wickremeratne details Buddhist beliefs, customs, rituals and ceremonies, and folklore. She also provides a fascinating discussion of the Sangha, the institutional monkhood, in Sri Lanka, including its history, codes of conduct, and evolution and resilience over time. Wickremeratne explores the recent attempts by many monks to reinvent themselves in a society characterized by secularization, globalization, and a tide of aggressive Christian evangelization.

“This book offers a lively portrait of Buddhism as it emerges in daily life in Sri Lanka. Accessible and engaging, it gives readers a great sense of what lived, popular Buddhism is really like.” — Tracy Pintchman, author of Guests at God’s Wedding: Celebrating Kartic among the Women of Benares

Swarna Wickremeratne is a librarian at Oakton Community College and an independent scholar.
THE EVOLUTION OF DEATH
Why We Are Living Longer
STANLEY SHOSTAK

Argues that death is not unchanging, but rather has evolved over time.

In The Evolution of Death, the follow-up to Becoming Immortal: Combining Cloning and Stem-Cell Therapy, also published by SUNY Press, Stanley Shostak argues that death, like life, can evolve. Observing that literature, philosophy, religion, genetics, physics, and gerontology still struggle to explain why we die, Shostak explores the mystery of death from a biological perspective.

Death, Shostak claims, is not the end of a linear journey, static and indifferent to change. Instead, he suggests, the current efforts to live longer have profoundly affected our ecological niche, and we are evolving into a long-lived species. Pointing to the artificial means currently used to prolong life, he argues that as we become increasingly juvenilized in our adult life, death will become significantly and evolutionarily delayed. As bodies evolve, the embryos of succeeding generations may be accumulating the stem cells that preserve and restore, providing the resources necessary to live longer and longer. If trends like this continue, Shostak contends, future human beings may join the ranks of other animals with indefinite life spans.

“Who isn’t fascinated by the topic of death, and who wouldn’t want to know what scientists can tell us about it? I see Shostak’s book as laying the foundation for an intriguing discussion of the relationship between death and morality, social justice and longevity, and aging and the good life.” — Robert M. Johnson, author of A Logic Book: Fundamentals of Reasoning, Fifth Edition

Stanley Shostak is Associate Professor Emeritus of Biological Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh and is the author of several books, including Evolution of Sameness and Difference: Perspectives on the Human Genome Project.