

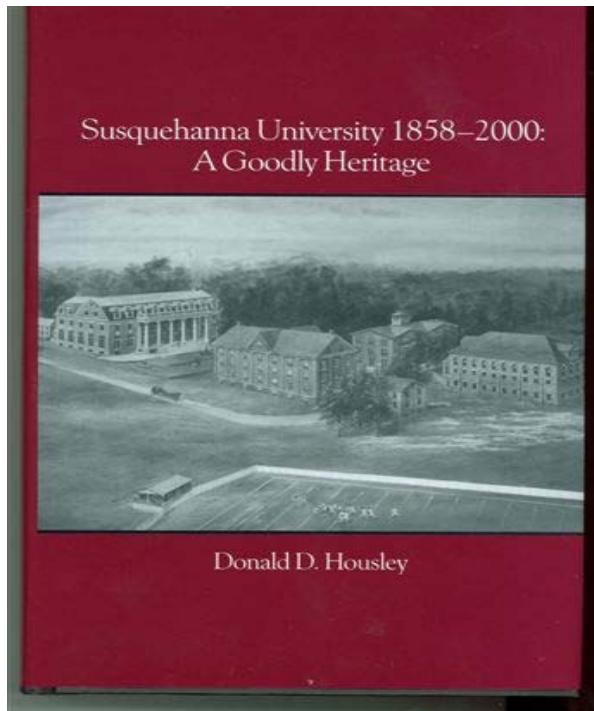
SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY

Blough- Weis Library Newsletter

Vol. 21, No.4

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HOUSLEY PUBLISHES SU HISTORY!



"A Goodly Heritage" indeed! Emeritus Professor of History Don Housley's new book on the history of Susquehanna University 1858-2000 hit the shelves in mid-March.

Arriving in plenty of time to celebrate the University's Sesquicentennial (yes, 150 years, 1858-2008!) is Emeritus Professor of History Donald D. Housley's eagerly anticipated book on the history of Susquehanna University.

Proceeds from the book will be used to support the University Archives, so I unabashedly encourage you to purchase your own personal signed copy now. We are deeply indebted to Dr. Housley for his ongoing generosity of personal time, devotion and financial support to the Archives. Thanks also to Provost Linda McMillin and Vice-President for University Relations Ron Cohen for their important role in advancing publication of this work.

Copies of this highly readable and well-researched account can be obtained from the Alumni Office by contacting Jodi Swartz at 570-372-4115 or by email swartzj@susqu.edu.



Professor Housley identifies members of the first football team (1892) in one of the photos included in his book. Observing are Archives Assistant Mary Sanders and Associate Library Director Rebecca Wilson.

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INTERVIEW: Dr. Housley graciously took time from his busy schedule to respond to a few questions regarding his research for the book.

Q1: *When did you first begin work on the book?*

A: In the summer of 1994. I had just rejoined the faculty after completing an administrative stint as

Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. Research on the book began in earnest at that point. Over the years, students have worked with me doing research. That first summer, Amy Bischof '95 who is now the curator of the Hershey Museum, and I researched court records pertaining to the college, deeds, charters, and legal actions, drew maps of structures (houses, dorms, etc.), noting when they were purchased. The campus occupied 6.6 acres when the land was purchased. It has grown substantially since then. [Director of Facilities] Dave Henry was very helpful in giving us equipment to measure the first boundaries and finding maps for our use.

Q2: What prompted you to do this?

I've always been interested in this field. My original research interests were in 19th Century American social history and my doctoral dissertation was in American religious history.* Also, I had participated in Susquehanna's life at several levels as a faculty member and administrator and had a sense of what should be looked at as topics. And, of course, I've lived some of the history about which I write.

There were also practical considerations in my interest in this topic. For SU faculty, it's hard to do research during the school year; lessons have to be prepared, papers to be graded, committee meetings attended, and so on. The stuff I had to research was here and accessible. SU has always valued student/ faculty collaborative work and there were many students who were very interested in the project and happy to help with the research. The Archive was readily available for their use, though only slowly did it get organized. Grants and donors helped pay for the student workers, and as Degenstein Professor of History I also had some funds at my disposal.

It might also be said that there was a need for this history in that the only published account of the school's past was the *Story of Susquehanna University* by Clark and Wilson**, and its coverage as a history really went only to 1928. So, the college had virtually no written history after that date.

*Housley, Donald David. *The Independent: a Study in Religious and Social Opinion, 1848-1870*. Dissertation: Ph.D. [State College, PA]: Pennsylvania State University, 1971.

**Clark, William S. and Wilson, Arthur Herman. *The Story of Susquehanna University*. Selinsgrove, PA: Susquehanna University Press, 1958.

Q3: What was the most difficult aspect of gathering the research for the book?

We have *gaps* in our [archival] holdings. Some of the Crusaders are missing [the student newspaper] and faculty minutes are incomplete. Having the Archives reorganized in the middle of my research caused some difficulties as well; things were moved around and I had trouble finding them. Not having enough time to interview people was a problem. I chose to do the research in the Archives with the limited time that I had, but I would have liked to do more interviews.

Putting all the information into a first draft was a challenge. The sections dealing with the period around 1928 began as one very long chapter and were divided into several smaller ones, so new introductions and conclusions had to be written for most of chapters 7 through 20. And unfortunately, I'm not a "first drafter". Thank goodness for computers! I did multiple drafts of these chapters before I was satisfied.

Q4: Were there events you witnessed and perhaps changed your mind about later, by being privy to information in the Archives?

Yes. Several come to mind. A simple example is my discovery that President Weber was extraordinarily gifted in the written word. His correspondence sparkles! A more complicated matter is my view of Jonathan Messerli's work at the college [12th president, 1977-1984]. For a year, I was in his cabinet and found him a challenging person to work for and with. However, getting away from the experience, reading through the detailed primary sources for this period, and putting his work into a context suggested that what he did was necessary and that he had very good ideas.

Relatedly, the college was in a real crisis in the late 1970s. I lived through it, working with faculty and staff trying to solve very significant problems and thought that's the way things were in higher education – it's a tough vineyard in which to labor. Again, putting this era into context suggested how unusual the expenditure of energy by everyone, including the faculty, was in non-academic pursuits during the late 1970s and early 1980s. There were no funds available to bring in consultants; we had to figure things out for ourselves. In retrospect, I have to say that I would not wish these problems and the need to focus so hard on their solution on my faculty friends today – it would preclude the intense research and focus on learning new pedagogy.

Q5: What events about the history of SU impressed you the most, or proved to be of great interest?

A: An overall summary of the school's history reveals what a struggle it was to sustain the University. The odds were stacked against its success. At least one issue, discussed in some detail in Chapter One, was that we were considered Lutheran outcasts. During the mid-1800s, the American Lutheran persuasion was being challenged and it did not last as the dominant perspective among Lutherans.

The part of the book I most enjoyed writing was the World War II period – what our students and alums did who served in the armed services. This was a very interesting time. [Editor's Note: Folks who know Don may also know that his very favorite photo is the one on page 316 of the "Thirty Gallant Men", standing in the snow in February of 1943 waiting at the main entrance to the campus for the bus that would take them to service in the Army during WWII. President Smith and Dean Galt, as well as several faculty and staff, were present to see them off].



"Thirty Gallant Men"

Another "fun" piece to write was the story of Amos Alonzo Stagg Sr. at SU in the late 1940s and 1950s. I knew he was at SU but I didn't really know what a pioneer he had been in the emergence of college sports.

Q6: What puzzles did you encounter while doing this research that might be of special interest to our readers?

A: There are two things that happened in the 1930s that remain puzzling to me. The first involves Luther Grossman '16 and why he was fired. An SU grad, he first became the athletic director while still a student. After graduation, he was invited back to be the athletic director from 1920-26 and 1928-35. He revolutionized campus athletics. He established a

reputation for democratizing sports on campus, started a "lending library of golf clubs" and created the modern alumni association in 1930. In 1934 when the gym burned down, Grossman organized a sophisticated fund-raising program to bring funds in for a new gym. In the middle of all this, he was called in and told his services would not be needed anymore. When he approached the Executive Committee to discuss the matter, he was told to leave the campus, immediately.

Why did the Executive Committee fire Grossman at this inopportune moment?

[On pp. 209-212, Don speculates on reasons for Grossman's untimely dismissal. Too lengthy to reproduce here, I invite our readers to peruse this intriguing section of the book].

The second puzzle is that of the Motet Choir. This began modestly enough in 1933 when Frederick Stevens, a teacher in the conservatory, started a small, a *capella* choir with eight singers. By 1936, there were forty singers and the choir had an ambitious schedule. It performed nationally and on radio, garnered honor for Susquehanna, and received high praise from music critics. As noted on p. 215, at a time when the small school in Selinsgrove rarely garnered any publicity, the Motet Choir literally put the college in the news and "on the map". Then, quite suddenly and inexplicably a few years later, subsidies for the Choir were severely cut and by 1940, due to a number of reasons, it was felt best to discontinue the Motet Choir as such. ... The fate of the Motet Choir is puzzling. Accomplishments in choral music are generally considered a staple of Lutheran college life, but this successful group could not be sustained. Its fate is as mysterious as is that of Luther Grossman.



"The Motet Choir" 1940

Q7: In the Prologue to your book, you refer to the 1958 history saying that “Clark’s narrative tells the institution’s story from its gestation as an idea in the minds of American Lutherans in the mid-1850s through the administration of Charles Aikens, its ninth president” (p.10).

You go on to quote the “heroic history” wherein Clark states: “it is my considered belief, in spite of all the documents and letters I have read, that it was ‘a miracle of God’ that the college continued to exist in those early years of Kurtz, Ziegler and Born.

Rational human beings, relying on their own capacities and understanding would have discontinued the enterprise in a number of places.... I am sure that the only thing that saved our college in the early years was the absolute reliance of these men on God and the firm belief that He would take care of everything that they could not take care of”.

With this caveat, how, then, would you account for our survival and our position as a strong liberal arts University? What strengths, in your opinion, have contributed to our success?

A: I discuss this in the *Conclusion: The Propriety and Duty of Continuing*, where I proffer some thoughts on how we got to where we are. For the historian, the interpretive framework presents a problem that can be offered in the form of a question: if the history of Susquehanna University is significantly that of individuals and groups responding to larger “translocal” educational forces, to the market, to individuals and to organizations with which the school wants to and in fact has had transactions, then what are its unique, idiosyncratic features, the peculiarities of its history that make this institution different from others and somewhat immune to the vagaries of external threats?

Factors of the beauty of place and a tradition of practical applications for classroom studies, complemented by a paucity of resources meant that change, adjustment of mission to market, occurred through arduous work and humility of outlook among those on the campus: board members, administrators, faculty, students and alumni. Hard work, commitment, and humility, earmarks of German Lutheran piety present throughout the school’s history, have given life at Susquehanna a type of transparency and peace. So, in a sense, the story circles back to its beginning and heritage is sustained....A unique feature of this story is a

particularly unique and intangible spirit lodged firmly in place from its beginning. This is a goodly heritage.

[For a complete, lucid and beautifully written reckoning of our survival, please see pp. 533-539]

Q8: What are you engaged in now – what new projects in the works?

A: I’m working on a book about the history of the Geisinger Health System, which will be finished, hopefully, sometime in 2009.

As a historian, Don is prepared to see what transpires over time for Susquehanna University, and ultimately, others will make that assessment. In his final conclusion on p. 568, he states:

Over time, the college has survived because it has adjusted its mission to fit its market as the latter has been shaped by powerful currents in American society whose first signal is often subtle. Wisdom, not information, is the key to decision making in this contest. The future will determine whether board members, administrators, faculty and staff are appropriately responding to the educational needs to which the school has aptly if slowly responded in the past. Many hopes do and will rest on the efficaciousness of such decisions. A measure of their success (or perchance failure) will be the conclusion of future historians as to whether Susquehanna University has had a goodly heritage.

Thank you so very much, Don, for this major contribution on the University’s history and for taking time from your busy schedule to tell us about it.

Congratulations on a very important achievement!

Complete citation:

Housley, Donald D. **Susquehanna University, 1858-2000: a Goodly Heritage**. Selinsgrove: Susquehanna University Press, 2007.

And as mentioned on p. 1 of the Newsletter, copies of Don’s book can be obtained from the Alumni Office by contacting Jodi Swartz at 570-372-4115 or by email swartzj@susqu.edu. All proceeds from the sale of the book will benefit the University Archives, where Don conducted much of the research for his book.

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT PROJECT UNDERWAY

As faculty are already aware, the Blough-Weis Library has begun to assess pre-1970 monographs that have not circulated since 1991, the year we implemented an automated circulation system. We want to evaluate the continued usefulness of these books in supporting the curriculum.

During the 2006-2007 academic year, we are reviewing the collections in philosophy, political science and mathematics. We extend our thanks to faculty in those departments who have already reviewed the lists of un-circulated older books and made recommendations on which to keep and which to remove.

Because there are interdisciplinary uses of books and because we would like to give *all faculty* an opportunity to review the initial screening, we have posted on one of the Library's servers the spreadsheets of books in these three departments that the faculty have recommended for removal from the collection. There were no recommendations from those departments to retain the books posted on the spreadsheets.

The spreadsheets are located at:

Mathematics: [\\melville\review\\$\Math.xls](\\melville\review$\Math.xls)

Political Science: [\\melville\review\\$\Poli Sc.xls](\\melville\review$\Poli Sc.xls)

Philosophy: [\\melville\review\\$\Philosophy.xls](\\melville\review$\Philosophy.xls)

We encourage any interested faculty members to review the lists by **Friday, April 27**. If any faculty member wants a book to be kept, he/she should mark the **Keep** column on the spreadsheet next to that item. Library staff will not remove from the collection any book that has been marked **Keep**.

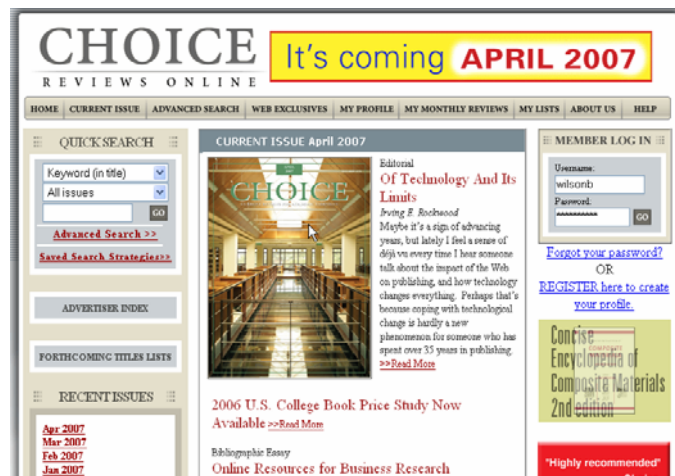
Beginning April 30, those books remaining on the list will be removed from the collection. We will make the withdrawn books available to members of the university community after reviewing the withdrawals for possible resale through a book dealer.

If you have any questions or concerns about this process, please contact me at x4320 or at gunning@susqu.edu.

--Kathleen Gunning

CHOICE BOOK REVIEWS ONLINE

In order to provide campus-wide access to *Choice Reviews Online*, we have switched our subscription to a public version which will require your SU login to gain access to the database. This should greatly facilitate the book-ordering process as faculty will no longer need to fill out and return Choice order cards to Ann Marie Rompolski in Acquisitions. You can make your selections online and forward them to her via email at rompolsk@susqu.edu

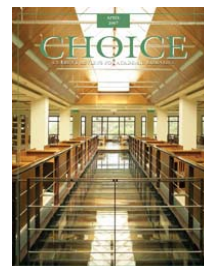


The database can still be accessed from the Library's webpage or directly at <http://www.cro2.org/>

One caveat: with the first email you try to send, you may need to enable the email function (just once) by clicking on the **“Options”** link in the upper right hand corner of the toolbar above the database logo, and then selecting the **“Allow popups for <http://www.cro2.org>”** option. You will then be given another window asking for an email address. Your selections can be emailed to Ann Marie at rompolsk@susqu.edu.

NOTE: The cards will still be available for faculty who prefer to use them.

Please feel free to BOOKMARK this page!




NEW YORK TIMES - TimesSelect - FREE!

Here is some good news for readers of the *New York Times*, and an opportunity for those who are not current readers to get to know the world's premier newspaper. Beginning on March 13, access to the *Times* premium online content service, *TimesSelect*, became available **free** to all registered college students and faculty with .edu e-mail addresses at colleges who subscribe to one or more databases that include some *NYT* content (e.g., Lexis-Nexis).

For those of you not familiar with *TimesSelect*, NYTimes.com first introduced a fee-based online service in September 2005. *TimesSelect* provides access to op-ed and news columnists such as Thomas Friedman and Maureen Dowd. It also includes enhanced multimedia, file organization and a preview of selections from the Sunday edition. Most significant may be access to the *Time's* archive, which dates back to 1851. Each user is allowed to download 100 articles per month (PDF format). The cost of *TimesSelect* to paying subscribers is \$7.95 per month.

This *new* service requires a brief registration and confirmation of a .edu email address. The URL to register is <http://www.nytimes.com/university>. If you are already a paid subscriber, the NYTimes.com will give you a prorated refund on your subscription.

When you go to the main *Times* website (<http://www.nytimes.com>) and look through the online edition of the *Times*, you'll often notice the following icon next to many of the columns and articles:  This indicates that access to the item is restricted to *TimesSelect* subscribers.

Select Features

Wall Street Wired: An Irreverent Look at Business and Technology

Andy Kessler, a former hedge fund manager, explains in his new blog why maximizing profits is not evil.

The Opinionator

How China's subsidizing of its paper industry benefits other nations. Also: life, liberty and the pursuit of baseball?

Out of Bounds: In the Paint and Off the Court

In his assessment of last night's N.C.A.A. championship game, Will Leitch explores why he finds sports more fun than politics.



The Graduates: College Seniors Face the Future

Travis Mitchell, a senior at Texas A&M, writes about a classmate who learned lessons on international communication outside the classroom.

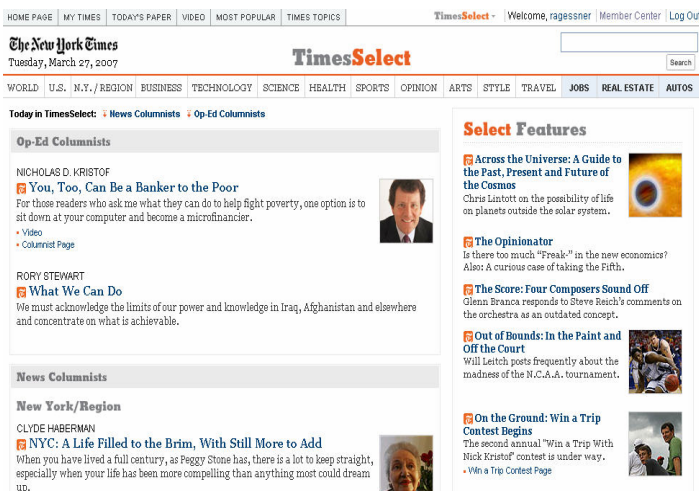
On the Ground: Helping Shakira – Or Volunteering in Pakistan

There are a number of ways to help Shakira Parveen, the subject of Mr. Kristof's Tuesday column, and Pakistani women like her.

- Video: D.I.Y. Foreign Aid
- Win a Trip With Nick Kristof Contest

Take advantage of this valuable resource and generous offer to students and faculty and register now—for free!

--Robert Gessner



The screenshot shows the NYTimes.com TimesSelect website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for HOME PAGE, MY TIMES, TODAY'S PAPER, VIDEO, MOST POPULAR, and TIMES TOPICS. Below this is the TimesSelect logo and a search bar. The main content area is divided into several sections: Op-Ed Columnists (featuring Nicholas D. Kristof's article 'You, Too, Can Be a Banker to the Poor'), News Columnists (featuring Rory Stewart's article 'What We Can Do'), and a 'Select Features' section. The 'Select Features' section includes articles like 'Across the Universe: A Guide to the Past, Present and Future of the Cosmos', 'The Opinionator', 'The Score: Four Composers Sound Off', 'Out of Bounds: In the Paint and Off the Court', and 'On the Ground: Win a Trip Contest Begins'. Each article has a small thumbnail image and a brief description.

COURSE RESERVES REMINDER

Faculty with course reserves will be receiving an email from Stephanie Thomas containing a list of their current course reserves. Faculty with items on Course Reserve are reminded that removal of items should be coordinated through Stephanie Thomas (x4022) before May 18th. At the end of the academic year, all reserve materials are removed from "Active Reserves".

--Cindy Whitmoyer

HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES INDEX RETROSPECTIVE 1907-84

The Library is pleased to announce the addition of an important database recently made available online: *The Humanities & Social Sciences Index Retrospective: 1907-1984*.

The *H.W. Wilson Company*, publisher of many of the standard printed indices utilized by libraries from the early 1900s, has been gradually moving citations from the print to the electronic format.

This database joins two other online versions of printed indices to which the Library currently has electronic access: *Art Retrospective Index* and the *Readers' Guide Retrospective Index*.

All three retrospective databases can be accessed from the Library's home page.

Citations for articles from **1984-to-date** can be found by going to the *FirstSearch* suite of databases, choosing "DATABASES", and selecting from the list, as appropriate: ArtAbstracts, HumanitiesAbs, SocialSciAbs, or ReadersGuideAbs. Citations for articles can thereby be searched in all disciplines from the inception of the indices to the present time.

The database was purchased for a one-time fee with a modest annual access fee. The *Humanities and Social Sciences Retrospective Index* goes back to **1907** and includes all citations from **46 printed volumes**, thereby providing historical coverage of the early journal literature, and up to **1984**.

The H.W.Wilson website has full information on the features of the database, some of it extracted below.

http://www.hwwilson.com/Databases/ssi_hum_retro.htm

The database offers the ability to search a wide range of important journals in the humanities and social sciences as far back as 1907—in convenient electronic format.

- High-quality Wilson indexing of nearly **1,200 periodicals**, as far back as 1907!
- Citations to more than **1,300,000 articles**, including **over 240,000 book reviews**, many peer-reviewed.
- The Journal Directory has a searchable list of the journals covered.
- Comprises the most important scholarly journals published throughout the 20th century in North America and Europe.
- In addition to coverage of the entire range of the humanities and social sciences for nearly a century,

- the database covers many important **scientific journals** through the 1950's.
- Saves time, effort: search the equivalent of 46 print volumes in one electronic query.
- **Updated, uniform subject headings** allow you to search using familiar, contemporary terms – over 850,000 subject terms have been updated.
- Original subject headings are also shown, reflecting the way the issues of the day were framed.
- **Reconciliation** of variant forms for nearly **500,000 personal and corporate names** insures that users will find all information on a particular individual or institution.



Although these comprehensive databases provide citations only, the user will be lead to any full-text article owned by the Library by using the **SFX link** provided within the citation.

Broad subject coverage includes:

Social Sciences

Addiction Studies
Area Communications
Communications & Mass Media
Corrections
Criminal Justice
Economics
Environmental Studies
Ethics
Family Studies
Geography
Gerontology
International Relations
Law
Minority Studies
Policy Studies
Political Science
Psychiatry
Psychology
Public Welfare
Social Work
Sociology
Community Health & Medical Care
Planning & Public Administration
Urban Studies

Humanities

Archaeology
Area Studies
Art
Classical Studies
Communications
Dance
Film
Folklore
Gender Studies
History
Journalism
Linguistics
Literary Criticism
Social Criticism
Literature
Music
Performing Arts
Philosophy
Religion & Theology

Please take a few moments to view the current displays in the Library, prepared by our very capable Archives Student Assistant **Carrie Olini**. One display is about *Humor* and the other is *Graduation*.

NEW MOVIES IN MEDIA CENTER

DVDs

Alfred Hitchcock's Psycho
B.B. Wolf: An Apologia
Bunraku
Cathedral
Collateral
Cross-Cultural Communication: How Culture Affects Communication
Destination Nicaragua
Harold Clurman: A Life of Theatre
Henrik Ibsen
I'm Not Scared OR Io Non Ho Paura
Illusionist
Immortal Ibsen
Jesus Camp
Lorenzo's Oil
Matter of Life and Death: Magic Moments and Dark Hours in The History Of Medicine
Missing Women: Female-Selective Abortion and Infanticide
Not For Sale
Open Range
Our Daily Bread
Polyester
Rape of Nanking: Japanese Atrocities in Asia
Rumrunners, Moonshiners and Bootleggers
Seeds of Plenty, Seeds of Sorrow
Short Cuts
Spike & Mike's Cutting Edge Classics
Spirit of Lorca
System in Crisis: Finding a Solution For Health Care In America.
Tank Man
Theater Games: Workshopping Body Language in Shakespeare
Viva Pedro: The Almodóvar Collection
What's Race Got To Do With It?
Who Killed The Electric Car?
William Shakespeare
Women In Classical Greek Drama:
World-Class Healthcare: Why Isn't the U.S. the Best?

VHS

Coverup: Behind the Iran Contra Affair
Living Under the Cloud: Chernobyl

--Pat Fishbein

ReadingGroupGuides.com

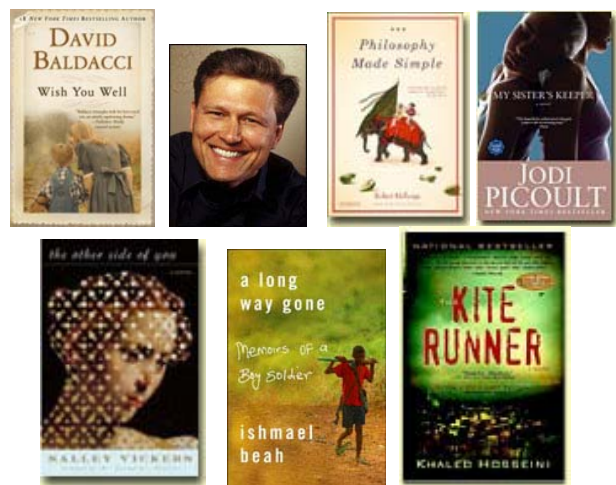
This site was recommended in a Newsletter that I receive. Perhaps you might find it useful.



Today's feature was recommended by a subscriber, a book lover, who states, "This is a great site - lots of book reviews and recommended reading lists. I've found it useful for personal browsing or for those involved in book discussion groups."

The books can be browsed by title, by author, by interest area and other criteria. ReadingGroupGuides.com is definitely a place for anyone who needs information on the literary scene, whether it be an depth analysis, ideas for presenting a controversial book review or just a recommendation for a fun read! Visit the site at: www.readinggroupguides.com

--Kathleen Gunning



Rebecca A. Wilson, Editor
Robert Gessner, Photo Editing & Production