

the fine print

BY RICHARD HUNT

THE YEAR



IN REVIEW

Looking back isn't nearly as exciting as looking forward. Perhaps it's the numbers — with that nearly-incomprehensible avalanche of 50,000 new books published every year, which translates to 138 new ones *every day* — it would be arrogant, indefensible and plain old ludicrous to think that any one person could pick out which ones were the best.

What's most crucial within this whole crazy mix is this: For whatever precious time you're able to spend with a book, you want that book to sing to you. Many, many books can do that — and provide whatever you might need at that moment (distraction or illumination; resonance or raciness; humor or humbleness). All in all, you want a book to make you better, in some real way.

One way to go is with *A Year of Reading: A Month-by-Month Guide to Classics and Crowd-Pleasers for You or Your Book Group*. This book is like going to the same restaurant once a month, opening the menu and finding 10 new dishes to choose from: five fiction, five non-fiction. The months/chapters are sub-divided into "Crowd-pleaser's," "Challenges," "Memoirs," "Classics" and "Potluck." You quickly begin to trust the authors' choices if — after reading one of their picks — you find you like it for many of the same reasons they did. After that, there's no looking back, and all of 2003 will be your literary Yellow Brick Road.

Meditations from the Mat: Daily Reflections on the Path of Yoga almost sounds too New Year's resolution-like, and we all know how long those self-made promises last. *Meditations* is different. It's not a book on doing yoga. Instead, the days are presented as bits of insight. Whether you mull the varying points over while stretching or sitting is irrelevant. The viewpoints have

flowed out of Rolf Gates' years of practice as a yoga instructor, but the material draws from quoting Rock lyrics, inspirational figures, historical references and much more. It's really a roll-up of moments of contemporary clarity that the reader can share.

Trieste and the Meaning of Nowhere by Jan Morris is the final work by one of the most interesting, engaging and well-traveled writers in the last half century. Although virtually all of Morris' writing is wonderful, *Trieste* seems more important because it's the last of her career. As one reads about a region that not too long ago was one of the world's primary seaports, it's the metaphor that this exploration has in terms of the

author's life that is most profound. With Morris as your tour guide, the reader is in exceptionally good hands, and heart, and mind. I guarantee there is no way to finish this book without being measurably better for the journey.

Ready for a little fun? A little enlightenment? Maybe Grandma's holiday feast is rendering any heavy reading just too much to stomach. You might want to try *karma101* for some lighter fare that will leave you better

off than when you began, which is more than you can say about that cheesecake. Karma, like Jerry Lewis, is often bandied-about, so misunderstood. For instance, I learned that the whole reincarnation-karma thing is not that if you're bad in this life you're doomed to come back as some President's dog (see, there is a lower-than-low). Instead some of us will pass along the natural mineral-life chain so that parts of you and me and even the folks in Bora-Bora will rise again. It's inevitable. It's karma. Don't let the small size of this book fool you — believe it or not, there's plenty to not just snack on, but feed and nourish yourself within these

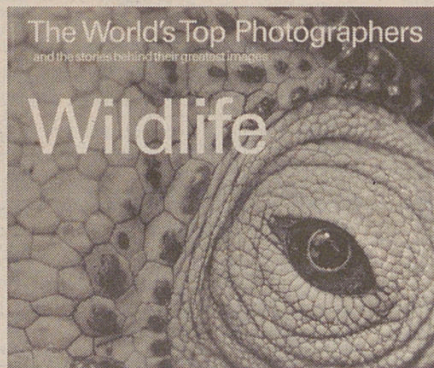
words.

Ah, there is one best of 2002 that should be pointed out, only because it might not be the first title on the Gift List, but deserves to be. *The World's Top Photographers: Wildlife* is a breathtaking,

stunning, literally amazing collection of photos that bring the entire spectrum of life on this planet into your home. An international all-star team of photographers possess the knowledge to frame and expose the shot, having the patience of Job to wait days and nights for the right moment to present itself. Readers will come

away with a whole new reverence for animals in their habitats and how people are just one part of the spectrum, and perhaps not even the most adorable, nor wily, nor resourceful. It's just we've got the guns — which we hide behind when facing these remarkable examples of courage and action and grace in the wild.

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cantly improve the physical appearance of Over-the-Rhine. Eco-garden program teaches kids entrepreneurship /marketing skills. 1718 Pleasant St., Over-the-Rhine, 513-241-8934.

THE LITERACY NETWORK OF GREATER CINCINNATI — The Literacy Network helps combat illiteracy. Volunteers needed for the Children's Basic Reading Program, 2:30-5:00, Monday-Thursday during the school year. Volunteers also needed for one-on-one tutoring for adults. 635 W. Seventh St., 19 Broadcast Plaza, Suite 103, Downtown. 513-621-7323.

MERCY CONNECTIONS — The center works to provide the needs of the underserved in the Walnut Hills community. Programs include computer job training program, computer-based GED programs, computer literacy classes, grandmothers (raising their grandchildren) support groups, emergency assistance, community wellness programs for women and a computer skills classes for children ages 5-14. 1602 Madison Road, East Walnut Hills. 513-221-7331.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS — OA is a non-profit 12-step program open to everyone who wants to stop eating compulsively. The group is not affiliated with any other organization, ideology or religious doctrine and holds weekly meetings throughout the Tri-state area. 513-921-1922.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF CINCINNATI REGION — Has provided women with a wide range of affordable services since 1929, from birth control and gynecological exams to counseling for safer sex and mid-life services. Everything is confidential. 2314 Auburn Ave., Mount Auburn. 513-721-7635.

PRO SENIORS — A non-profit legal advocacy program for Ohio residents over the age of 60. Dedicated to helping older adults maintain their independence by giving them free legal advice, by protecting interests and by helping them access resources. Also houses an ombudsman program, which advocates for nursing home residents. Suite 1150, 7162 Reading Road, Roselawn. 513-345-4160.

REV. ASHLEY BEAGLE MINISTRIES — This non-profit organization helps those with no church affiliation with weddings and funerals. Serves the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky area. 513-589-0148 or www.groups.msn.com/RevAshleyBeagleMinistries

SALVATION ARMY CENTER HILL ADULT DAY SERVICES — Provides protective day services for the elderly and mentally ill in Hamilton County, includes dementia. Call for information and referral. 6381 Center Hill Ave., College Hill. 513-482-7262.

YOUNG ADULTS COPING WITH ARTHRITIS — Support group for young adults over 18 suffering from rheumatic disease. Meets every first Saturday of the month. Sabin Education Center, Children's Hospital, 3333 Burnet Ave., Avondale. 513-351-5510.

YWCA PROTECTION FROM ABUSE PROGRAMS — Alice Paul House and House of Peace provide housing, advocacy and support to battered women and their children. 513-872-9259.

SUPPORT

ADD SUPPORT GROUP — All parents of children who have been diagnosed with ADD are invited to join an online community, newsletter and resource center for help in dealing with issues and treatments of ADD. Online meeting and chat: 9-10 p.m. Tuesdays. www.addhelpline.org/chatroom.htm.

AIDS VOLUNTEERS OF CINCINNATI — An estimated one million Americans are infected with HIV. AVOC offers support groups for persons living with HIV, as well as their families, friends and loved ones. All services are free and confidential. 220 Findlay, West End. 513-421-2437.

AIDS VOLUNTEERS OF NORTHERN KENTUCKY — Together for Healing, a support group for persons living with HIV/AIDS, meets 6:30-8 p.m. Sundays. St. Elizabeth North, 401 E. 20th St., Covington. ... Together for Caring, a support group for caregivers and bereaved individuals, meets 5-6:15 p.m. Sundays. St. Elizabeth North. ... Together for Spirituality, a support group for persons living with HIV/AIDS, caregivers, family, friends and partners, meets every Tuesday (except the fourth Tuesday) every month from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at St. Elizabeth North. ... Monthly

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THREE DOLLAR INVESTMENT CLUB — This gay investment club offers the chance to learn about the stock market and investing with a gay perspective. Meets monthly on the second Tuesday of every month. 513-541-6036. www.3dollar-investing.com

YOUNG GAY PROFESSIONALS IN CINCINNATI — A group now forming for gay generation X professionals to promote networking and fraternity. clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/cincinnati-gayprofessionals.

HUMAN RIGHTS

AMERICAN INDIAN MOVEMENT OF SOUTHERN OHIO/NORTHERN KENTUCKY — This group fights for local Native American issues such as grave desecration, the environment, Leonard Peltier and mascot names. Meets at 7 p.m. the first Saturday of the month. P.O. Box 17872 Covington, Ky. 41011-0872. 859-586-7210. Aimsupport@earthlink.com

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL — The international human rights group meets once a month. 513-221-7659.

COALITION FOR A HUMANE ECONOMY (CHE) — Formed to organize protests against the TransAtlantic Business Dialogue (TABD) conference here in November 2000, the group is remaining together in the hope of becoming a nexus for anti-globalization education in Cincinnati. 1606 Elm St., Cincinnati, OH 45210 513-588-8883 or www.che-2000.org.

GREATER CINCINNATI COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS — This group seeks help with the production and implementation of *Streetvibes* newspaper, advocating for Cincinnati's homeless population and coordinating services among the different homeless shelters in Greater Cincinnati. 513-421-7803.

INTERCOMMUNITY JUSTICE AND PEACE CENTER — Helps promote social, political, economic and environmental justice issues by working against capital punishment and globalization, plus network with other socially conscious organizations. 215 E. 14th St., Over-the-Rhine. 513-579-8547.

NAACP — The nation's largest civil rights organization works to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of minority group citizens and to eliminate race prejudice. 4439 Reading Road, Suite 202. 513-281-1900 or e-mail Naacp@fuse.net.

NATIONAL ABORTION AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS ACTION LEAGUE OF OHIO — Pro-choice volunteers needed. 800-GO-NARAL.

RIGHT TO LIFE OF GREATER CINCINNATI — Advocates options to abortion. 1802 W. Galbraith Road, North College Hill. 513-728-7870.

WORLD CULTURAL EXCHANGE, INC. — Is currently conducting research on racism, discrimination and xenophobia. If you or your business have been discriminated against, please write to: P.O. Box 3214, Cincinnati, OH 45201. 513-203-2448. All information will be kept confidential if you are interested in volunteering you may send your resume to this address also.

POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

ALLIANCE FOR DEMOCRACY — Through nonviolent direct actions, the group advocates public funding of elections and universal health care, among other issues, and fights for individual rights over the spreading power of corporations. www.thealliancefordemocracy.org.

CENTRAL AMERICAN TASK FORCE (CINCINNATI CHAPTER) — Study up on what's happening in Central America and how the United States impacts the small countries there through political maneuvering, militarism and corporate actions. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. 735 Derby Ave., Winton Place. 513-244-9001 or www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Senate/9126/index.html.

CHARTER COMMITTEE — Cincinnati's official third party, still playing a role in city politics and public issues 78 years after helping to reform City Hall. 707 Race St., Suite 800, Downtown. 513-241-0303.

CINCINNATI WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS — Work with this multi-partisan, grassroots group to identify, recruit, train and support feminist women and men for elected and appointed office. Meets third Wednesday of each month. 513-522-5222 or www.nwpc.org.

CITIZENS FOR CIVIC RENEWAL — This citizen-based, non-partisan group seeks transportation reform, an alternative way to fund Ohio's public schools and to affect regional planning through environmental, social and land-use planning. Rockwood Tower, Suite 549, 3805 Edwards Road, Cincinnati, OH 45209. 513-458-6736.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAMILTON COUNTY — 615 Main St., Downtown. 513-421-0495. ... Young Democrats: 513-421-0495.

FAIR ELECTION COALITION — This informal network includes more than 20 civic organizations dedicated to renewing the democratic process in Cincinnati. Volunteers needed. 513-221-2100 or 513-381-4994. members.aol.com/Uptuyunow/index.htm.

GRASSROOTS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY — This group trains community and emerging leaders to take control of their neighborhoods and empower them to make choices on civic, social and economic issues that impact their way of life. 3330 Reading Road, Avondale. 513-872-0100.

GREEN PARTY OF SOUTHWEST OHIO — The Greens are looking for people to help build a strong, ongoing third party presence. 513-761-6978 www.swohgp.org.

INDEPENDENT VOTERS ALLIANCE — Be an active petition circulator and voter. A little effort, a lot of democracy. Learn how to transform politics. 6:30 p.m. Guest & discussion, 7:30 p.m. Third Thursday of every month. 513-251-3155, uptuyunow@aol.com or www.geocities.com/dist1oh/uptuyunow.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST ORGANIZATION — The Cincinnati Branch of the ISO, an organization of an international tendency dedicated to working for a socialist future. 6:30 p.m. Sundays. University of Cincinnati, Room 635, Dyer Hall, Clifton. 859-251-3843 or www.international-socialist.org.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS — Regular meetings are held on topics from regional development to children at risk to campaign finance reform. 103 Wm. Howard Taft Road, Mount Auburn. 513-281-8683 or www.lwcincinnati.org.

REPUBLICAN PARTY OF HAMILTON COUNTY — 700 Walnut St., Downtown. 513-381-5454.

SOCIAL SERVICES

ADOPT-A-SPOT — Join your neighbors, community groups, churches and schools in cleaning up Cincinnati through the Adopt-A-Block program. 513-352-4380.

THE ARC — The nation's oldest membership organization, which promotes equal opportunities for people with mental retardation, is recruiting new members for both its Hamilton and Clermont/Brown county offices. ... Hamilton, 1821 Summit Road, Roselawn, Suite 030. 513-821-2113. ... Clermont/Brown, 1075 Ohio Pike, Withamsville. 513-752-4330 or fax 513-752-4339.

BEECH ACRES — Are you a single parent raising a child alone? Beech Acres, Cincinnati's premiere parenting resource sponsors an on going support group for single and first time parents throughout the area. They help through services such as the ParentSource Info Line, single parent groups, For the Love of Kids, groups for adults going through a divorce and their children and therapeutic foster care as well as training groups and support groups. 513-231-6630.

BETHESDA OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES — Bethesda Hospital offers occupational health services, including follow-ups to work-related injuries, return-to-work physicals, drug screening and alcohol testing. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Bethesda Care Queensgate. 336 Gest St., Queensgate. 513-241-4135.

BRIGHTON CENTER — Helping children, youth, job seekers, families and communities through day-care programs, skills training, counseling and more. Seventh and Park streets, Newport. 859-491-8303.

CENTER HILL ADULT DAY SERVICES — Provides protective day services for the elderly and mentally ill in Hamilton County. Seeks senior citizen group members. The Salvation Army, 6381 Center Hill Ave., College Hill. 513-482-7262.

CHABAD HOUSE OF CINCINNATI — The non-profit emergency shelter for families is the largest family shelter in Greater Cincinnati. Volunteers are needed. 1636 Summit Road, Roselawn. 513-821-5100.

GOODWILL — Cooperative helps veterans find employment. 35 E. Seventh St., Suite 610, Downtown. 513-421-4501.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY — Seeks people to provide any of the following: development/fund-raising leadership, a late-model pick-up truck, house construction experience or skilled construction experience. 201 W. Eighth St., Downtown. 513-621-4147.

HEALING MEDITATION — Is offered by Doris Beierle. 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays. 3209 Madonna Drive, Edgewood. 859-341-7447.

IMPACT OVER-THE-RHINE — Employs and trains inter-city adults and at risk youths who are in school to signifi-