

(“I love being your wife and the mother of your children,” she recounts telling Martin. “But if that’s all I am to do, I’ll go crazy.”) King was undoubtedly a singular woman, and readers will be struck by just how strongly her exceedingly compelling story resonates today. She was much more than just the woman behind the man, and now, in the most eloquent of language, she proves that truth once and for all to generations of readers who will embrace her all over again. —*Colleen Mondor*

YA/C: *The civil rights movement is a perennial research topic for teens and this accessible memoir should be considered an immediate go-to selection. CM.*

No Wall Too High: One Man’s Daring Escape from Mao’s Darkest Prison.

By Xu Hongci. Tr. by Erling Hoh.

Jan. 2017. 336p. Farrar/Sarah Crichton, \$26 (9780374212629). 951.05.

An intellectually exuberant, politically engaged student in Shanghai in the 1950s, Xu was a Communist but ran afoul of Maoist orthodoxy and was branded a “Rightist” and sentenced to imprisonment and hard labor in the Láodòng Gaizào (“reform through labor”) system. The next 14 years were a blur of prisons and work camps in western China, each bleaker than the last. He mined copper in damp caves, bore heavy loads up steep slopes, worked as a medical orderly giving fake injections, and sat shackled in solitary. His malnourished body deteriorated. Yet Xu remained generally adaptable and optimistic, learning what he could from his surroundings and enjoying brief camaraderie with other prisoners even as the seriousness of his original “crime” seemed to grow over time, and sudden execution remained a possibility. Xu’s account of his escape through the desert into Mongolia is thrilling, yet this is ultimately less an adventure story than an act of historical witness, offering a rare and unflinching first-hand description of the cruelty of the Chinese gulag. —*Brendan Driscoll*

Ojibwa: People of Forests and Prairies.

By Michael G. Johnson.

2016. 160p. illus. Firefly, \$35 (9781770858008). 977.004.

Prehistoric Great Lakes people left evidence of their lives dating back to 5000 BCE. The Ojibwa, a term encompassing many groups, lived throughout that vast region on bountiful land that is now located in both the U.S. and Canada, adapting to diverse habitats, from dense evergreen and leafy forests to grasslands and prairies. They were hunters, farmers, traders, warriors, and artists. Native American expert Johnson (*Arts & Crafts of the Native American Tribes*, 2011) succinctly covers Ojibwa history, then moves on to a spirited survey of the Ojibwa experience as reflected in material culture. In this inviting volume, paintings, images of artifacts, archival photographs, and other illustrations appear on every page in concert with a smoothly flowing, information-rich narrative. Johnson explicates the design, creation, and significance of different types of canoes, wigwams, and clothing. The rich array of styles (beaded, embroidered) and designs (organic, geometric) reflects the diversity of the Ojibwa world. With annotated listings of key individuals and places, Johnson’s overview establishes an illuminating historical context and captures the ongoing vitality of Ojibwa culture and life. —*Donna Seaman*

Pat Patrick: Jazz Musician and Cultural Visionary.

By Bill Banfield.

Jan. 2017. 168p. illus. Rowman & Littlefield, \$45 (9781442229730); e-book, \$44.99 (9781442229747). 788.7.

Jazz saxophonist Laurdine “Pat” Patrick performed and recorded with such diverse artists as Duke Ellington, Thelonious Monk, Quincy Jones, Nat King Cole, and Marvin Gaye. But he is most associated with the Sun Ra Arkestra, in which he spent much of 35 years laying down the bottom with his baritone saxophone, creating a distinctive sound that is instantly identifiable to anyone familiar with the Sun Ra catalog. A little-known jazz fact is that Patrick’s son is Deval Patrick, former governor of Massachusetts. Deval supplied the treasure trove of personal papers, scrapbooks, news clippings, and photographs salvaged from his father’s effects that form the bulk of material compiled by Banfield for this treatment. There are also interviews from surviving

band members, who provide a glimpse into Patrick’s good-natured personality and what it was like to survive in an avant-garde jazz big band while living on a shoestring. A nice companion piece to *A Pure Solar World: Sun Ra and the Birth of Afrofuturism* (2016). —*David Siegfried*

Reel Inequality: Hollywood Actors and Racism.

By Nancy Wang Yuen.

Dec. 2016. 208p. Rutgers, paper, \$22.95 (9780813586298). 791.43089.

Racial bias in the film industry is not only a trending topic but also a real and pervasive problem in the industry. A lack of diversity on either side of the camera results in films and television programs full of stereotypes and a dearth of opportunity for actors and other creative professionals of color. Yuen, an associate professor of sociology in California, investigates the culture of Hollywood, where those in charge are overwhelmingly white and male, and whose decisions and choices in casting, hiring, and programming reflect that fact. Her own interviews with nearly one hundred working actors and the published interviews she cites with such current celebrities as Viola Davis, Chris Rock, Gina Rodriguez, and Lucy Liu provide a personal look at what it is like to succeed in this environment. In addition to a persuasive narrative, there are suggestions for readers who wish to take action and a list of media advocacy organizations. Anyone interested in who is “in the room where it happens” and who is left out will applaud this thoughtful treatise. —*Carolyn Mulac*

Rest in Power: The Enduring Life of Trayvon Martin.

By Sybrina Fulton and Tracy Martin.

Jan. 2017. 352p. Random, \$26 (9780812997231). 363.2.

Fulton and Martin’s beloved 17-year-old son, Trayvon, for whom they had the highest aspirations, was going through a rough patch in early 2012. Though the couple was divorced, Fulton, who worked for the Miami-Dade housing authority, and Martin, a truck driver, remained equally close to their son. Both felt that it would do Trayvon good to get out of Miami for a little vacation with Martin’s girlfriend and her son in their safe, gated community in Sanford, Florida. Instead, Trayvon, walking in the rain, wearing a hoodie, and talking on his cell phone, was shot dead by a neighborhood-watch volunteer. As the fifth anniversary of this tragic crime nears, Fulton and Martin share a remarkably candid and deeply affecting in-the-moment chronicle of the explosive aftermath of the murder. Writing in alternate chapters, they share every detail of their shock, grief, and grueling quest for justice as their private loss became a public cause inspiring prominent figures to speak out and tens of thousands to express their support on the streets and online. Given the unconscionable shooting deaths of young black men, many by police, that followed Trayvon’s, this galvanizing testimony from parents who channeled their sorrow into action offers a deeply humanizing perspective on the crisis propelling a national movement. —*Donna Seaman*

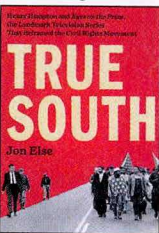
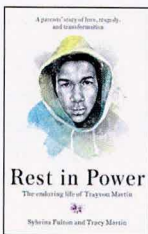
YA: *Teens will be profoundly moved and deeply informed by seeing the Trayvon Martin case through the eyes of the 17-year-old’s grieving parents as they courageously fight for justice. DS.*

True South: Henry Hampton and Eyes on the Prize, the Landmark Television Series That Reframed the Civil Rights Movement.

By Jon Else.

Jan. 2017. 432p. Viking, \$30 (9781101980934). 323.4.

Distinguished documentarian and MacArthur fellow Else has written a hard-driving, avidly detailed, and dramatic history of the making of *Eyes on the Prize*, the pioneering 1987 television documentary series about the civil rights movement. His uniquely knowing account is powered by his adventures as series producer and enriched by his vivid and admiring portrait of Henry Hampton (1940–98), the visionary genius and polio survivor who created the series. Their close working relationship was rooted in their experiences working in the early voter-registration efforts in the South. Else crisply illumi-



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