



# COFFEE HOUSE PRESS ANNUAL REPORT



**FISCAL YEAR 2010**

JULY 1, 2009–JUNE 30, 2010

## MISSION

The mission of Coffee House Press is to publish exciting, vital, and enduring authors of our time; to delight and inspire readers; to contribute to the cultural life of our community; and to enrich our literary heritage. By building on the best traditions of publishing and the book arts, we produce books that celebrate imagination, innovation in the craft of writing, and the many authentic voices of the American experience.

## VISION

**Literature.** We will promote literature as a vital art form, helping to redefine its role in contemporary life. We will publish authors whose groundbreaking work helps shape the direction of 21st-century literature.

**Writers.** We will foster the careers of our writers by making long-term commitments to their work, allowing them to take risks in form and content.

**Readers.** Readers of books we publish will experience new perspectives and an expanding intellectual landscape.

**Publishing.** We will be leaders in developing a sustainable 21st-century model of independent literary publishing, pushing the boundaries of content, form, editing, audience development, and book technologies.

## VALUES

- Innovation and excellence in all activities
- Diversity of people, ideas, and products
- Advancing literary knowledge
- Community through embracing many cultures
- Ethical and highly professional management and governance practices



## NOTE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

COFFEE HOUSE PRESS has much to celebrate as we consider our achievements during fiscal year 2010, as well as our accumulated achievements, having also completed our twenty-fifth anniversary year. Of course like any literary press, our greatest pride is in our publishing program, and one very gratifying recent development has been our international outreach. Exhibiting annually at the Frankfurt International Book Fair has helped us introduce our authors to audiences we never dreamed we could reach when the press first opened its doors. Following is a list of the twenty-three countries outside of the United States where some of our titles have appeared in English or in translation:

Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Spain (in Spanish and Catalan), Taiwan, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

Although the economy has recently hurt many worthy arts organizations, Coffee House thrived financially last year, in part because we sold more books for classroom use than previous years. FY10 represented our second consecutive year with an operating budget over one million dollars, and our third consecutive year with earned income over five hundred thousand dollars. According to our audited records, our authors have received 1.4 million dollars in royalties and rights payments since 1984.

We're proud of our past, but we're more excited about the future. We're redesigning our website, we're about to start making some of our titles available in e-book format, and of course we have plans for many wonderful books in the coming years.

The achievements of the past and our plans for the future have been made possible by an ongoing collaboration between our staff, our board, our authors, our readers, our funders, and our many partners in the world of books, including agents, reviewers, booksellers, librarians, distributors, sales reps, subrights agents, and many others. We thank our many partners, and welcome you all to this annual report of our activities during our last fiscal year.

The image shows two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The signature on the left is 'Allan Kornblum' and the signature on the right is 'Stu Wilson'.

—Allan Kornblum, Publisher and Stu Wilson, Board President

## ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

### Transition

**C**hris Fischbach, who has been with Coffee House Press since 1994, will become Publisher in July 2011. Allan Kornblum's job title will change to Founder/Senior Editor, and in this new role, he will return to his first loves: acquiring and editing new manuscripts, writing about the history of books and publishing, and serving as an advisor to Chris Fischbach. Fischbach has already begun assuming supervisory responsibilities over staff, while Kornblum currently continues to manage the press's financial affairs.



### Expansion

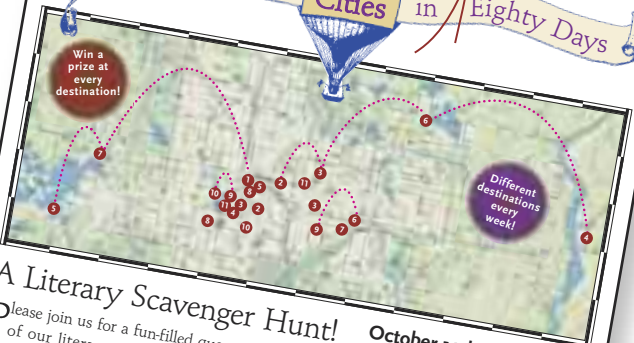
Coffee House Press has invested in our infrastructure:

1. We have upgraded our administrative assistant position to bookkeeper and hired a part-time accountant.
2. We hired a new editor, allowing for an increase in editorial and production capacity.
3. We have hired a development manager who is working with board and staff to build our fundraising capacity.

### Collaboration

Minneapolis is regularly cited as one of the most (and even as the most) literary cities in the country, but rarely do we hear what makes us so. Coffee House Press believes that collaborations among the literary nonprofits help to raise the profile of the great work that is produced and enjoyed in our community. Around the Literary Twin Cities, a literary scavenger hunt, kicked off on October 10, 2009, at the Twin Cities Book Festival and was an appropriate example of our commitment to collaboration with other literary nonprofits. Born from a desire to mark the anniversaries of Coffee House Press, Graywolf Press, the Loft Literary Center, and Milkweed Editions, we devised a celebration that would be fun for the whole literary community. By partnering with readers, booksellers, museums, and book arts centers, we drew attention to our literary culture—a place rich in bookstores and nonprofit organizations crafting the written word, nurturing writers, and bolstering literary culture nationwide.

# Around the Literary Twin Cities in <sup>Almost</sup> Eighty Days



## A Literary Scavenger Hunt!

Please join us for a fun-filled quest in celebration of our literary culture and the significant anniversaries of Coffee House Press, Graywolf Press, Milkweed Editions, and The Loft Literary Center.

**October 10 kick-off at the Twin Cities Book Festival**  
 SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 10 A.M. - 5 P.M.  
 Minneapolis Community and Technical College  
 1501 Hennepin Ave. S., Mpls.

### TEST YOUR LITERARY PROWESS

New Minnesota-themed literary trivia questions every week!  
 Visit old favorites and find new ones—26 terrific destinations in all!

### DISCOVER BOOKISH HAUNTS UNIQUE TO OUR AREA

At each week's destination you will receive a passport stamp and a unique prize for questions answered correctly. Once the scavenger hunt is over, turn in your completed passport for a chance to win even more prizes! Three passports will be drawn at random for special prizes, and the participant with the most stamps will be entered in a drawing for a chance to win a grand prize worth over \$1,000.  
 • Every book published by Coffee House Press, Graywolf Press, Milkweed Editions in 2009 (over 50 books!).  
 • Minnesota Public Radio and the Star Tribune, in collaboration with The Loft Literary Center.  
 • A membership to The Loft Literary Center

### WIN FABULOUS PRIZES

Pick up your passport **HERE** and join the hunt!



**Celebrate Minnesota Literature!**  
 TWINCITIESLIT.WORDPRESS.COM  
 BANDING TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE THE LITERARY ARTS

### WEEK 1: OCT 11 - 17

- Coffee House Press, Mpls.
- Graywolf Press, Mpls.
- Milkweed Editions, Mpls.
- The Loft Literary Center, Mpls.

### WEEK 2: OCT 18 - 24

- Uncle Hugh's Uncle Edgar's, Mpls.
- University of Minnesota Bookstore, Coffman Memorial Union, Mpls.

### WEEK 3: OCT 25 - 31

- Barnes & Noble, Roseville (Franklin Mall)
- Minneapolis Institute of Arts
- Midway Books, St. Paul

### WEEK 4: NOV 1 - 7

- Back to Books, Hudson, WI
- Once Upon a Crime, Mpls.

### WEEK 5: NOV 8 - 14

- Big Brain Comics, Mpls.
- Excelsior Bay Books, Excelsior

### WEEK 6: NOV 15 - 21

- MFA History Center Store, St. Paul
- Lake County Booksellers, White Bear Lake

### WEEK 7: NOV 22 - 28

- The Bookcase, Wayzata, St. Paul
- Common Good Books, St. Paul

### WEEK 8: NOV 29 - DEC 5

- Minnesota Center for Book Arts, Mpls.
- Wild Runners, Mpls.

### WEEK 9: DEC 6 - 12

- Red Balloon Bookshop, St. Paul
- Walker Art Center Shop, Mpls.

### WEEK 10: DEC 13 - 19

- Birchbark Books, Mpls.
- True Colors/Amesque Co-op, Mpls.

### WEEK 11: DEC 20 - 26

- Magens & Quinn Booksellers, Mpls.
- Minter's Books, St. Paul



## ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

In its twenty-fifth year of publishing, Coffee House Press presented a monumental list of innovative, boundary-pushing books. Following the success of *Firmin*, Sam Savage's *The Cry of the Sloth* received enormous praise for its portrayal of the literary life, with starred reviews in *Publishers Weekly*, *Kirkus*, and *Library Journal*, and was honored as one of the Best Books of the Year by *Publishers Weekly*. Selected by Powell's, the largest independent bookstore in the world, for its Indiespensable box program, *The Cry of the Sloth* was made into a handsome limited special edition with a soft velour cover, silver foil stamping, and specially designed endsheets. The collectors' set also included a 3.25" square-scored and die-cut box featuring Brian Evenson's story "Invisible Box" from *Fugue State*, signed by the author, with art by Zak Sally, as well as a letterpress broadside, designed and printed by Allan Kornblum, featuring an excerpt from Edward Sanders' poem "Whispering Books" (from *Let's Not Keep Fighting the Trojan War: New and Selected Poems 1986–2009*). This box of Coffee House literary and bookish delights went out to 800 subscribers.



Karen Yamashita's major new novel, *I Hotel*, includes thirty-one illustrations by two different artists; sections written as the script for a documentary film; a graphic novel section; and a section with typography intended to reflect the movement of a dance. All these innovations are in support of a book about the spirit of an era beginning in 1968 and ending ten years later.

Karen celebrated the book launch and read *I Hotel* to a packed store at East Wind Books, a community bookstore situated close to the *I Hotel* location and whose owner was one of the principal activist fighters in the day. In Karen's words, the event was "a dream come true on so many levels. . . . During the reading . . . we got all out laughter and guffaws and at the end, audible weeping and sobbing in the audience. I couldn't finally look up because I thought I would cry and be unable to finish."



## RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

### **I Hotel**

by Karen Yamashita  
Finalist, National Book Award



### **The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir**

by Kao Kalia Yang  
Finalist, PEN USA Literary Award



### **Beats at Naropa**

An anthology edited by Anne Waldman  
and Laura Wright  
Finalist, Colorado Book Award –  
anthology category

### **Fugue State**

by Brian Evenson  
Finalist, Shirley Jackson Award –  
short story collection category

### **Blood Dazzler**

by Patricia Smith  
Finalist, Poet's Prize

### **The Cosmopolitan**

by Donna Stonecipher  
Semifinalist, Poetry Center Book Award

### **Portrait and Dream: New and Selected Poems**

by Bill Berkson  
Winner, Balcones Poetry Prize of 2009  
Finalist, Northern California Independent  
Booksellers Association poetry book of the year

### **Extraordinary Renditions Book Trailer**

by Andrew Ervin  
Finalist, First Annual Moby Awards

### **Ray of the Star**

by Laird Hunt  
Finalist, PEN USA Literary Award



## EDUCATION

### Books in Classrooms

**C**OFFEE HOUSE PRESS continues to serve teachers by providing books that represent the full diversity of American cultures and literary techniques. Each year our books find their way into more classrooms, where they introduce students to new ideas and cultures. We are now averaging sales of approximately 15,000 books each year to teachers, schools, and college bookstores, and that number continues to grow. In a world still torn by racial and religious strife, our books have the potential to inspire students to create a more tolerant society.

### Internship Program

**C**OFFEE HOUSE PRESS continues to actively serve as a valuable education and training resource for future careers in the publishing industry. Former employees and interns currently hold positions at major houses such as Houghton Mifflin and Harcourt, and at top small presses such as Graywolf, Copper Canyon, and Milkweed Editions. We have incorporated new aspects into our intern program, including use of an online post-internship evaluation survey in order to continuously improve the program; standard orientation and exit processes; and a learning objectives contract written in consultation with the intern supervisor. The contract helps interns clarify their goals for the program, and helps ensure that every intern is getting as much as possible from the experience, including responsibilities in editing and marketing and learning about all aspects of publishing. We are proud to make this contribution to local and national literary communities.





## LOOKING AHEAD

Coffee House Press is investing in and implementing major infrastructure improvements: a dynamic, interactive website launches in November; a comprehensive database redesign will support fundraising, marketing, and administrative purposes; and its first five e-books—*The Latehomecomer* by Kao Kalia Yang, *Firmin* and *The Cry of the Sloth* by Sam Savage, and *Ray of the Star* and *The Exquisite* by Laird Hunt—will be released this fall. All of these efforts will contribute to one of the most major milestones for the Press—the leadership transition from founder Allan Kornblum to Chris Fischbach next spring—and our vision of redefining the role of literature in contemporary life and pushing the boundaries of book technologies and audience development.



## FINANCIAL REPORT

Coffee House Press completed its fiscal year 2010 in the black due to income from translation rights, strong sales of our books, and increased donated income. Following is a summary of the numbers from our audit.

<b>Statement of Activities</b>	<b>FY10</b>	<b>FY09</b>
Earned Income	591,242	429,139
Donated Income	673,386	960,919
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,264,628</b>	<b>1,390,058</b>
Program Costs	898,722	1,029,881
Management & Fundraising	188,904	209,270
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,087,626</b>	<b>1,239,151</b>
Change in Net Assets	177,002	150,907
Beginning Balance	136,337	(14,570)
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>313,339</b>	<b>136,337</b>
Balance Sheet	FY10	FY09
Current Assets	561,389	766,502
Property & Equipment	45,607	29,659
Other Assets	92,800	2,800
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>699,796</b>	<b>798,961</b>
Current Liabilities	310,118	554,558
Long-Term Liabilities	76,339	108,066
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>386,457</b>	<b>662,624</b>
Unrestricted Net Assets	85,839	31,337
Temporarily Restricted	227,500	105,000
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>313,339</b>	<b>798,961</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>699,796</b>	<b>798,961</b>

## FY10

# CORPORATIONS, FOUNDATIONS, AND GOVERNMENT DONORS

### \$50,000 AND ABOVE

Bush Foundation  
McKnight Foundation  
Minnesota State Arts Board  
National Endowment for the Arts  
Target

### \$10,000–\$49,999

Patrick and Aimee Butler Family Foundation  
Jerome Foundation

### \$1,000–\$9,999

Buuck Family Foundation  
Fredrickson & Byron  
Institute Cultural Romania  
Lenfestey Family Foundation  
National Poetry Series  
Archie D. and Bertha H. Walker Foundation  
Woessner Freeman Family Foundation (in honor of founder Allan Kornblum)  
Z Press

### \$100–\$999

Dorsey & Whitney  
Rehael Fund – Roger Hall and Nor Hale of The Minneapolis Foundation  
Rehael Fund – Roger Hall and Nor Hale of The Minneapolis Foundation  
E. Thomas Binger and Rebecca Rand Fund of The Minneapolis Foundation  
Woman's Club of Minneapolis

### BENEFIT SPONSORS

2 Anonymous Sponsors  
Around Town Literary Guides  
Blue Ray Media  
Consortium Book Sales and Distribution  
Dorsey & Whitney  
Fredrickson & Byron  
Schwegman, Lundberg, Woessner & Kluth  
Jeffrey Sugerman  
Thank you to our many silent auction donors

### IN-KIND DONATIONS

Chowgirls  
The Foundation  
Millennium Printing  
Sally French



## FY10 INDIVIDUAL DONORS

### Baristas (\$5,000 and above)

Isabel and Stephen Keating  
Richard and Amber Sakai  
Jeffrey Sugerman  
Anonymous

### Roasters (\$1,000–\$4,999)

Artspace Projects, Inc.  
Melissa Barker  
Bill Berkson  
Sally French  
Jennifer Ann Haugh  
Kenneth Koch  
Lenfestey Family Foundation  
Mary and Malcolm McDermid  
Sjur Midness and Briar Andresen  
Schwegman, Lundberg, Woessner & Kluth  
David Smith  
Mary Strand and Thomas Fraser  
Stewart Wilson  
Woessner Freeman

### Brewers (\$500–\$999)

Chris Fischbach  
Anselm Hollo  
Jeff Hom  
John Sjoberg  
Chuck Steffey  
Betty Jo Zander



### Percolators (\$100–\$499)

Emil and Marion Angelica  
Allan Appel  
Patricia Beithon  
Madeline Betsch  
Thomas and Elizabeth Boyd  
Patrick Coleman  
John and Page Cowles

Wendy and Douglas Dayton  
John W. Dayton  
Dorsey & Whitney Foundation  
Paul Von Drasek  
Jordan Ellenberg  
Elaine Equi  
Roger and Janis Fischbach  
Doug France  
Rachel Fulkerson  
Pam Gagnon  
Hans Gallas  
Frieda Gardner and Susan Oppenheim  
Dobby and Kathy Gibson  
Julie Haight  
Howard and Nicole Haugh  
Allison Hedge Coke  
Al Heinen  
Stuart R. Hemphill  
Allan Kornblum  
Rena Kornblum  
Seymour Kornblum  
Jack Marshall  
Harry Mathews  
Fiona McCrae  
Jean B. McDermid  
Stephen McDermid  
Amanda Nadelberg  
Naomi Nadelberg  
Peter Nelson  
Robert Olds  
Ron Padgett  
Deborah Reynolds  
Tom Rosen  
Joyce Rude  
Sam Savage  
Julie Schaper  
Sarah Schultz  
Gail See  
Matthew Semanoff  
Motoyuki Shibata  
Daniel and Maureen Smith



Matthew and Elizabeth Spohn  
Marla Stack  
Emily Anne Staples  
Joanne Von Blon  
Robert and Susan Warde  
Ann and Michael Wilczynski  
Woman's Club of Minneapolis  
Margaret Wurtele

### Tasters (\$99 and under)

Sam Abrams  
Elizabeth Altmann  
Ameriprise Financial  
Nicole Andonov  
Jack Aylward  
Beth Brody  
Emilie Buchwald  
Polly Carden  
Gary Carlson  
Kobi Conaway  
Alicia Conroy  
Patricia A. Davis  
Jessica Deutsch  
Mary Doty  
Ruth Dukelow  
Karen Erickson  
Elliot Figman  
Don and Arvonne Fraser  
Dorothy Hansen  
Margaret S. Harder  
Philip M. Harder  
Annamary Herther  
Rebecca Heyns  
Bob Holman  
Margaret Hornbacher  
Houghton Mifflin  
David Hoyt  
Andrea Johnson  
Mary P. Kasimor  
Kennedy-Logan Family  
Judith Kitchen  
Peggy Korsmo-Kennon



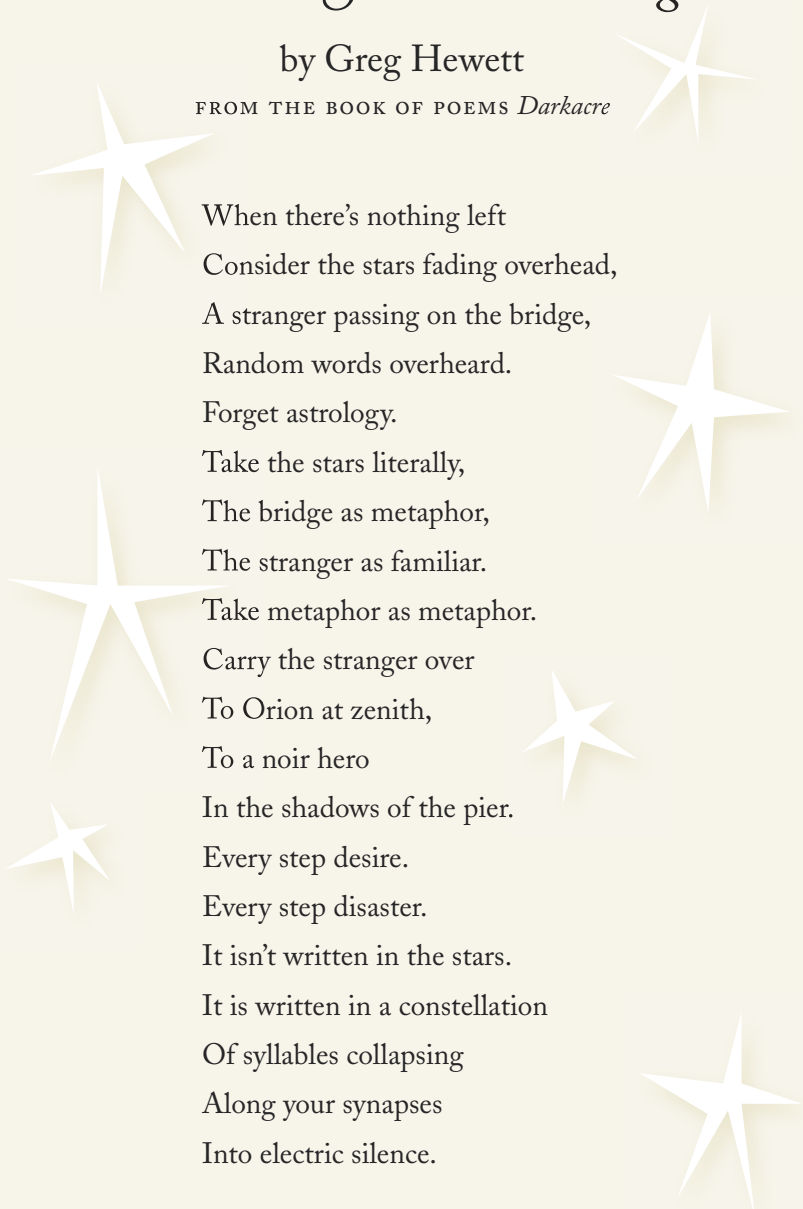
Linda Koutsky  
Joel Levine  
Calvin Logue  
Takao Makihara  
Chris Martin  
Diane Matza  
Patrick McAvey  
Raymond McDaniel  
Stephen Minot  
Jacquie Moody-Fuller  
Paulette Myers-Rich  
Judith Nelson  
Lon Otto  
Alexs Pate  
G. E. Patterson  
Esther Porter  
Robert and Joan Rohlf  
Martha Ronk  
Christine Rosholt  
Carol Roth  
Andrea and Joseph Satter  
Pat Schaffer  
Jeffrey Scherer  
Julia Seko  
Kim Severson  
Steve and Nancy Shapiro  
Leslie Simon  
Erik and Robin Skarstad  
Joseph Snyder  
Donald Socha  
A. B. Spellman  
David and Delores Steinlicht  
Helen Faith Sullivan  
Kristin Thiel  
Xuesi C. Thor  
David Unowsky  
Sherri West and John MacDonald  
Susan Wheeler  
Daniel and Carol Wilson



# *What the Stars Will Bring*

by Greg Hewett

FROM THE BOOK OF POEMS *Darkacre*



When there's nothing left  
Consider the stars fading overhead,  
A stranger passing on the bridge,  
Random words overheard.  
Forget astrology.  
Take the stars literally,  
The bridge as metaphor,  
The stranger as familiar.  
Take metaphor as metaphor.  
Carry the stranger over  
To Orion at zenith,  
To a noir hero  
In the shadows of the pier.  
Every step desire.  
Every step disaster.  
It isn't written in the stars.  
It is written in a constellation  
Of syllables collapsing  
Along your synapses  
Into electric silence.

## COFFEE HOUSE PRESS

### Staff

Allan Kornblum, Publisher  
Chris Fischbach, Associate Publisher  
Anitra Budd, Managing Editor  
Linda Koutsky, Design and Production Manager  
Jessica Deutsch, Marketing and Sales Director  
Tricia O'Reilly, Publicist  
Andrea M. Satter, Development Manager  
Teri Hageman, Office Manager / Bookkeeper

### Board Members

Stu Wilson, President  
Marla Stack, Vice President  
Sjur Midness, Treasurer  
Mary McDermid, Secretary  
Patricia Beithon  
Patrick Coleman  
Doug France  
Sally French  
Jeffrey Hom  
Carl Horsch  
Stephen Keating  
Peter Nelson  
Jim Nichols  
Jeffrey Sugerman  
Patricia Tilton

### Board Members Emeritus

Warren Woessner  
Isabel Keating



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*Good books are brewing at [www.coffeehousepress.org](http://www.coffeehousepress.org)*



*The Cry of the Sloth*  
by Sam Savage



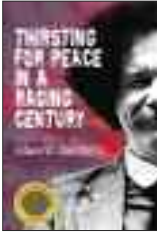
*Ray of the Star*  
by Laird Hunt



*The Abyss of Human Illusion*  
by Gilbert Sorrentino



*Entrepôt*  
by Mark McMorris



*Thirsting for Peace in a Raging Century*  
by Edward Sanders



*Let's Not Keep Fighting the Trojan War*  
by Edward Sanders



*Catch Light*  
by Sarah O'Brien



*I Hotel*  
by Karen Tei Yamashita



*Drowning Tucson*  
by Aaron Michael Morales



*Off We Go into the Wild Blue Yonder*  
by Travis Nichols



*Shoulder Season*  
by Ange Mlinko



*Find the Girl*  
by Lightsey Darst



*Darkacre*  
by Greg Hewett

*Thank you for helping us to  
keep good books brewing  
at Coffee House Press*