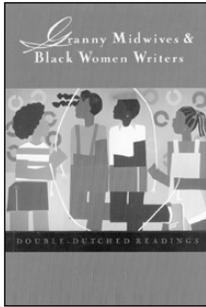


Grab bag



Granny Midwives and Black Women Writers: Double-Dutched Readings.
By Valerie Lee (MA '73). Routledge, 1996. 202 pages.
Reviewed by Meredith Jones Gray, professor of English.

Valerie Lee's critically savvy *Granny Midwives and Black Women Writers: Double Dutched Readings* takes an interdisciplinary approach in examining the interplay between the autobiographies of black lay midwives in the United States and the literary characters of "midwives, root workers and traditional women healers" who dominate the works of a number of African-American women writers such as Toni Morrison, Alice Walker, and Gloria Naylor.

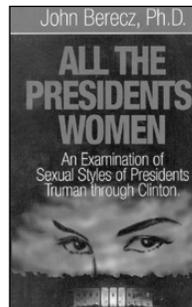
A combination of history, literary analysis, and its own storytelling, the book first traces the history of the "granny midwife" and how she was edged out of existence by a white, male, middle-class system.

Then Lee, a professor of English and women's studies at The Ohio State University, demonstrates how black women writers have reclaimed the granny and her important status of healer and spiritual leader

in their creation of strong female characters in such works as Morrison's *Song of Solomon* and Naylor's *Mama Day*.

Lee's audience is primarily academics

interested in women's studies, black studies and folklore, but the general reader who can get past the language of literary criticism and analysis will be rewarded with fascinating stories from Lee's own research and a sense of an American heroine whose story had, until recently, been largely unsung.



All the Presidents' Women. By John Berez (faculty). Humanics, 1999. 359 pages.
Reviewed by John Young, professor of political science.

For those who can overlook the many typos and the too-small print (both to be corrected in a forthcoming edition) this book offers a fascinating (if somewhat anecdotal) study of presidential personality. Berez, a professor of psychology at Andrews, profiles the ten

most recent occupants of the Oval office, focusing on their relationships with women: mothers, teachers, friends, wives, lovers—and White House interns. "Ten more dissimilar people would be hard to find," he observes, noting that Truman, Eisenhower, and Bush probably had the most balanced personalities and Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, and Clinton the most disordered.

While some readers may question his ably defended classification of Clinton as a psychopath, few will quarrel with Berez's most important conclusion: that character and upbringing often have direct bearing on a president's ability to govern, and that consequently voters should avoid electing as chief executive a person whose past behavior betrays a lack of integrity and a dysfunctional personality.

Keys to Interfaith Parenting was written for those contemplating setting up home with someone of a different faith or who find themselves already in such a home and who are looking



Keys to Interfaith Parenting.
By Iris M. Yob (MA '84) Barrons Education Series, 1998. 182 pages.
Reviewed by Susan Murray, assistant professor of family studies.

for ways to deal with their faith differences, especially in rearing their children.

The book could also be helpful for parents who, although of the same faith or religion, find themselves differing in their spiritual journeys and expectations for practice of their faith or religion.

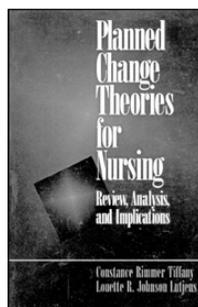
Keys to Interfaith Parenting is not about how to instill religion in a child, but about the strengths and potential problems typical among interfaith families. In a concise way, Yob shares suggestions on issues such as finding common ground in the elements of each individual's faith and the shared teachings and sense of the sacred, as well as cautions about aspects of faiths that will not mix. She considers alternatives a couple might consider in deciding the religious upbringing of a child and how to meet the complicated challenges of daily living in a multifaith home. Yob does not advocate interfaith or multifaith homes, but

BOOK SHELF

she realistically presents issues many families deal with today.

One chapter presents brief views of some of the religious traditions practiced in this country. That, along with the glossary and references at the end of the book, could be helpful resources for anyone, even a parent desiring to pass on to a child clear information about religious terms and practices of other families in the broader community.

Yob's book is a definite read for anyone desiring to grapple with effective ways of rearing their own children in relation to their own faith and for others seeking to better understand interfaith families.



Planned Change Theories for Nursing
By Constance Rimmer Tiffany (former faculty) and Louette R. Johnson Lutjens. Sage Publications, 1998. 408 pages.
Reviewed by Rilla Taylor, professor of nursing.

Tiffany and Lutjens, in their text *Planned Change Theories for Nursing* have tackled a challenging task—that of making academic theory accessible to nurses. Nurses, by the very nature of their selected life work, tend to be more comfortable with the

pragmatic aspects of patient-care management.

The authors have produced a very readable book. Their vocabulary is direct and clear; headings are well planned and serve as useful organizers; chapter summaries are relevant and concise. The reader's mind engages with the content comfortably.

The text is comprised of two major sections. The first introduces four major change theories and examines the views of each in terms of the basic steps of problem-solving (diagnosing, planning, implementing and evaluating). Thus, the reader fosters a natural link between theories which are unfamiliar to many nurses and a process which is integral to nursing thought.

Tiffany and Lutjens develop a concept of theory-sharing (in contrast with theory-borrowing or theory-application) which allows the professional to integrate ideas drawn from two theories. However, while the theories may come from separate disciplines, the theories to be shared should be based on compatible world views.

In the second section the authors revisit each of the four selected change theories, analyzing each in relation to one selected nursing theory—that of Sr. Callista Roy. Each

continued on page 29

ANREWS IS READING . . .



Prophets and Kings: A Biblical Quest
by David M. Rohl

Michelle Zirkle
Seminary student

Rohl takes the reader on a journey into the land of ancient Egypt. Skillfully he shows how Egypt's history and biblical chronology are interrelated. Vivid photographs help to make

the historical narrative come alive. I found the book fascinating because it makes history into something we can see and touch.



Writing Toward Home: Tales and Lessons to Find Your Way
by Georgia Heard

Ray Ostrander
Associate Professor of Teacher Education

"Home is a blueprint of memory," states Heard at the beginning of her book about the writing process. She emphasizes that writing is not an academic exercise; rather, it is a personal experience which takes place at home. In order to find home, we must learn to reflect on who we are and what we've done. Neither a textbook nor a novel, this book provides a series of narratives which explore the process of writing.



Wake Up, I'm Fat!
by Camryn Manheim

Phyllis Scott-Zimmerman
Lamson Health Club manager

Wake Up, I'm Fat! is the story of woman's journey to self-acceptance. The author recounts the obstacles she faced throughout her life; first as an overweight child, and later as an award-winning actress. This book provides reassurance for the many women who struggle to accept the bodies God has given them.