study of a memorable man. Coleman's legacy endures—the first Broadway revival of On the Twentieth Century opened to great acclaim in March 2015.—Katie Lawrence, Chicago

PHILOSOPHY
Fraenkel (philosophy, McGill Univ., Canada; Philosophical Religions from Plato to Spinoza) champions philosophy as relevant outside the ivory tower. He advocates “falliblism,” which is the recognition that our values might be wrong, and calls for a global culture of debate—a shared search for objective truths via constructive dialog. Philosophy discussion groups are not new—the Socrates Café has existed for years—but Fraenkel builds on this method to lead discussions with Hasidic Jews, Mekhaw Indians, Palestinian and Indonesian students, and Brazilian schoolchildren. In the latter half of the book, the author critiques multiculturalism in favor of self-critical ethnocentrism. Unfortunately, he never challenges dominant cultures to evaluate themselves.

Fraenkel sits down not with white, secular Westerners but rather with members of marginalized groups, and he asks them to review their own responses to cultural and neocolonial environments largely inflicted upon them. When the author at one point comments that indigenous peoples might have had no qualms about colonizing Europe, a Mohawk woman retorts, “Don’t get carried away, fact is that it was the other way around,” plugging philosophy back into lived reality. VERDICT While optimists will enjoy Fraenkel’s brisk, highly readable defense of philosophy’s real-world relevance, critical readers may find his conversations selective and his conclusions glib.—Michael Rodriguez, Hodges Univ. Lib., Naples, Fl.

Neiman (director, Einstein Forum, Germany; Moral Clarity) seeks to address our apprehension and fear of growing up. She explains that philosophy can help us not only get over this fear, but also assist with determining how to live a fulfilling adult life. She uses the writings of Immanuel Kant and Jean-Jacques Rousseau to show that becoming an adult involves reflecting on our experiences along with learning to think for ourselves. With philosophy as a tool, we can get past the uncertainty of our youth and become provoked into analyzing life and asking difficult questions to form our own judgments and ideas. As Neiman puts it, “being grown up is itself an ideal,” and one that should be viewed with joy rather than disdain.

VERDICT Neiman’s view on using philosophy to guide ourselves into adulthood is a wonderful example of how the writings of past philosophers can be applied to our current lives. Her writing is accessible for those without a background in philosophy, and her book is a pleasurable introduction to those unfamiliar with Kant and Rousseau. [See Prepub Alert, 11/24/14]—Scott Deimstra, Capital Area Dist. Lib., Lansing, MI

POETRY
Martin, Jynne Dilling. We Mammals in Hospitable Times. Carnegie Mellon Univ. 2015. 56p. ISBN 9780887485961. pap. $15.95. POET
Gifted with fascinating material—Martin was the National Science Foundation’s Writer in Residence in Antarctica last year—this poet has rooted her first book before the craze for hand-dyed yarn became a huge business, there was Koigu, the Ontario-based company founded by the Landra family. Hand-painted in gorgeous, saturated colors, Koigu yarns were especially coveted during the early years of the current knitting renaissance, and one of the early knitalongs—before the days of Ravelry—was Maie Landra’s Charotte’s Web shawl which appears in this book. The shawls vary in size and complexity, from simple shawlettes to extravagantly detailed showpieces, and each design showcases the stunning colors that define the Koigu brand. The coauthors also celebrate their Estonian roots, incorporating elements of traditional Estonian lace into some of the shawls.

VERDICT Many knitters enjoy hand-painted yarns, but they can be difficult to work with because the riot of color can take away from the knitting. This collection showcases the beauty of both hand-painted yarn and knitted lace.

Japanese sewing books are increasingly popular with American audiences, particularly with sewists who gravitate toward simple shapes with delicate details. In this collection, London-based sewist Nakamura, who studied fashion in Japan, combines Eastern and Western design to great effect. Fans of Japanese sewing books will recognize the boxy, simplistic silhouettes, even when they’re rendered in traditionally English Liberty-style prints. The garments range from simple play clothes, including shorts and tops, to party dresses suitable for dressy occasions. Step-by-step instructions with line drawings are provided for each garment, and an overview of specialized techniques, such as binding an armhole and making box pleats, is included.

VERDICT These aren’t necessarily the sort of clothes that children will gravitate to, but sewists interested in trying Japanese-style sewing on a smaller scale will appreciate these trendy looks for kids.

Stanley, Suzannah Hamlin. DIY Wardrobe Makeovers: Alter, Refresh & Refresh Your