

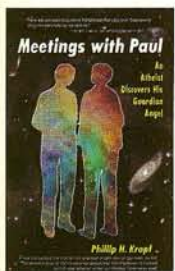
McGerr is a veritable angel veteran—her books have sold more than 800,000 copies worldwide.

Llewellyn will publish its own angel reference guide in January. *Encyclopedia of Angels* by Richard Webster “compiles over 500 angels hailing from traditions and belief systems the world over,” says publisher Bill Krause. “With a snapshot of each angel’s traits,” Krause continues, “you will always know which heavenly helper to invite into your life.”

A recently published title from Origin Press in San Rafael, Calif., *Meetings with Paul: An Atheist Discovers His Guardian Angel* by Phillip H. Krapf describes the union of a 72-year-old retired veteran of the *L.A. Times* editorial staff and Paul, his guardian angel. According to the publisher, “The atheist author contends uncomfortably with the question of God while he struggles with his angel.”

With half the country taking cues from these heavenly beings, it’s fair to assume books about them will continue to fly off shelves.

—J.M.



enal success of *The Secret* and Tolle’s *A New Earth* has led to... a more mainstream audience expressing interest in classic gems.”

Many New Age titles are so popular that they have moved beyond the mainstream—now these philosophies are being taught in prisons. Coming this month from Pariyatti Press in Onalaska, Wash., is *Letters from the Dhamma Brothers* by Jenny Phillips. Pariyatti editor Julie Schaeffer explains that the title “chronicles, in their own words, the profound changes experienced by inmates in the four years after completing a 10-day Vipassana meditation course taught in the Donaldson Correctional Facility in Alabama.” Through interviews and letters to her from 15 of the student-prisoners, Phillips offers an overview of the course and how these men used the teachings to help them come to terms with the consequences of their crimes. The course has now become a regular treatment program at two Alabama prisons.

Fortunately for publishers, the genre has also found its way onto the Internet, spawning what North Atlantic Books sales and marketing manager Allegra Harris calls a New Age “golden era.” Online communities have grown with Web sites like *realitysandwich.com*, which, Harris says, “caters to multiple subcategories in a community-based

way.... Up until recently, New Age has been a little behind in the Internet race.” Because of online publicity and marketing, Harris says the demand for books in this genre is greater than ever. North Atlantic’s *Starseed Dialogues: Soul Searching the Universe* by Patricia Cori (Apr.) is a reflection of this trend. This title is a compilation of questions posed to Cori by her readers. According to Harris, the book claims that “the dark hours are already upon us” and describes what awaits as “a brilliant new age of truth, light and beauty.”

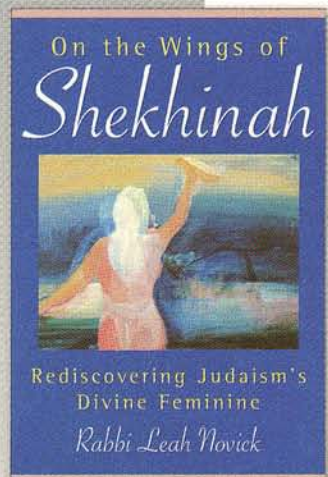
Not everybody agrees that traditional New Age titles have taken a backseat to the new hybrids. In fact, Weiser Books publisher Jan Johnson credits the “shaky economy... unpopular war... and the global economic crises” as the impetus for more readers turning to “books that admit the possibilities of extraterrestrials and other entities.” *Cosmic Connection: Messages for a Better World* by Carole Lynne (Apr., 2009) looks to outer space to answer Earth’s difficult questions. According to Johnson, “Lynne shares information from her off-planet guidance about what we can do to survive the coming changes.” Johnson promises more books from Weiser on topics similar to *Cosmic Connection*—“We’re seeing much more openness to what used to be consid-

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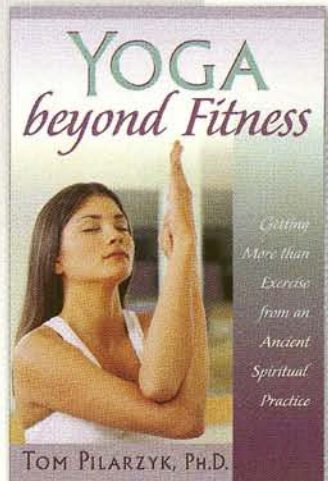
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