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## From the Book and New Media Review Editor's Desk

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## *Book and New Media Reviews*

### **From the Book and New Media Review Editor's Desk**

***Jessica Shumake, Editor***

University of Notre Dame

**M**y dissertation advisor and mentor, Ken S. McAllister, taught the students he worked with that scholarly writing is an act of generosity and that the call to write necessitates faith that readers will respect the shared humanity of the writers with whom they engage. When writers imagine ethical and genuinely open encounters with readers, those same writers can also grow to appreciate the chanciness and inherent risk that their words could be interpreted uncharitably. If writers refuse to risk misunderstanding or encounters with disingenuous interlocuters, we foreclose potential communal gathering spaces to share and debate ideas. When readers and writers gather together, these gathering spaces are inherently risky and good faith effort is required to emerge on the other side of the reader-writer encounter with a deeper, changed, or more nuanced understanding.

My role as a witness to good faith encounters between writers and readers is what keeps me serving in an editorial capacity for the *Community Literacy Journal*. The principle of rigorous generosity, which is the journal's "guiding editorial philosophy" renews my faith in the possibility of good relations between writers and their readers (Feigenbaum and House 4). In this issue, I extend sincere thanks to reviewers Walker Smith, Heidi Willers, Lily Deen, Noha Labani, Lauren Piette, Vanessa Sullivan, and Heidi M. Williams and for their perceptive reviews. I hope this section remains consistent in encouraging *CLJ* readers to hear new voices and explore recent books in community writing with a spirit of openness and generosity.

#### *Works Cited*

Feigenbaum, Paul, and Veronica House. "The Promising and Challenging Present of Community Literacy." *Community Literacy Journal*, 12.2, 2018, pp. 1–4.