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Chicago Review Press acquires Council Oak Books, effective January 2, 2019

CHICAGO, January 14, 2019—Chicago Review Press Incorporated, the parent company of Chicago Review Press (CRP, www.chicagoreviewpress.com) and national distributor Independent Publishers Group (IPG, www.ipgbook.com), has acquired Council Oak Books (www.counciloakbooks.com). The acquisition went into effect on January 2, 2019.

Council Oak Books was founded in 1987 in Tulsa, Oklahoma by Paulette Millichap and Sally Dennison, two women determined to represent groundbreaking, independent authors, including Indigenous voices, early women's issues advocates and significant body, mind and spirit pioneers. Over the years, Council Oak has published many well-known bestsellers such as *Beyond Fear: A Toltec Guide to Freedom & Joy*, the *Cherokee Feast of Days* multi-volume series and groundbreaking historical titles including *Native New Yorkers* by Evan Pritchard. In the early 2000s, Council Oak acquired Wildcat Canyon Press, publisher of the *New York Times* bestselling title, *Girlfriends*, with over two million copies in print. Council Oak has been a longtime client publisher of Independent Publishers Group.

Council Oak Books will continue to represent independent and trailblazing authors as an imprint of Chicago Review Press where its books will be kept in print and under which new titles will be published. COB's imprint, Wildcat Canyon Press, will become a series under the Council Oak Books imprint. IPG will continue to distribute all new and backlist COB titles under CRP. "I am really looking forward to this new collaboration between two established independent presses with many shared interests," says Cynthia Sherry, publisher of Chicago Review Press, who will oversee the

acquisition. “Council Oak Books has a wonderful trove of backlist titles that I plan to update and keep in print. As a new imprint, I plan to continue their tradition of publishing Indigenous voices, women’s issues, along with personal enlightenment and regional titles. Chicago Review Press is a fast-growing independent publisher and it feels great to unite with another indie press to provide a supportive home for their books and authors.”

James Connolly, the current Council Oak publisher, happily declared, “I’m thrilled that Council Oak will join forces with Chicago Review Press, and I can’t think of a more proper and good home. It is a tremendous fit for two venerable independent publishers. Indeed, in these harrowing times, it is more important than ever that the voices of independent authors be heard, well-represented and widely available. I have complete faith that Chicago Review Press will carry forth the ongoing mission that Council Oak began those many years ago. Chicago Review Press and Council Oak will provide present and future readers with many sorely needed perspectives on the issues of the day, the ongoing development of personal enrichment, and the crucial, and often untold, stories and truths that our history so fundamentally and evocatively provides.”

Founded in Chicago in 1973, Chicago Review Press has grown into a dynamic independent publisher with more than 1200 titles in print. CRP publishes a wide range of subjects including history, biography, memoir, music, film, and travel, among others, as well as an award-winning line of children's nonfiction and young adult biographies. The press currently publishes about 65 new titles annually under several imprints, including Lawrence Hill Books, Academy Chicago Publishers and Parenting Press. All Chicago Review Press titles are distributed to the book trade by Independent Publishers Group.

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