

MBR Bookwatch: February 2023  
James A. Cox, Editor-in-Chief  
Midwest Book Review  
278 Orchard Drive, Oregon, WI 53575

[http://www.midwestbookreview.com/mbw/feb\\_23.htm#marycowper](http://www.midwestbookreview.com/mbw/feb_23.htm#marycowper)

Mary Cowper's Bookshelf

### **Cafe Society: Time Suspended, the Cafes & Bistros of Paris**

Joanie Osburn  
Goff Books  
c/o ORO Editions  
www.oroeditions.com  
9781954081772, \$49.95, HC, 240pp

<https://www.amazon.com/Caf%C3%A9-Society-Suspended-Caf%C3%A9s-Bistros/dp/1954081774>

Synopsis: With the publication of "Café Society: Time Suspended, The Cafés, and Bistros of Paris", author Joanie Osburn offers the reader a beautifully presented view of the origins, progression, and current state of the centuries-long tradition of the Parisian café, bistro, and brasserie.

Neither a history book nor a cookbook, "Café Society" is an extraordinary and nontraditional travel guide and coffee table style (8.75 x 1 x 11.25 inches, 3.28 pounds) volume showcasing a treasured life style.

The introductory text and timelines provide a concise narrative of the history and evolution of coffee, coffee-houses, cafés, bistros, and brasseries in Paris and across the globe and form a backdrop for the text and photos in the body of the book that highlights contemporary café life.

The list of establishments at the back of "Cafe Society" will guide the traveler, who will benefit from Osburn's unique perspective, honed over many decades as an American in Paris exploring and capturing café society, captivates and amuses with anecdotes and insider recommendations.

Critique: Impressively timely, "Café Society: Time Suspended, The Cafés, and Bistros of Paris" is of special interest and value now as the world begins to reopen from the years of Covid-19 shutdowns as and eager travelers return to France. A magnificent compendium of full color photography and informative captioning, "Cafe Society" is an ideal and recommended addition to personal, community, and academic library Contemporary Photography collections in general, and Parisian History & Culture reading lists in particular.

Editorial Note: Joanie Osburn (<https://www.janieosborne.com>) is an interior designer, artist, and photographer based in San Francisco, CA. She holds a BA in Humanities from the University of California at Berkeley, a degree in Interior Design and Color from the Rudolph Schaeffer School of Design, San Francisco, and studied painting, photography, and sculpture in Paris and Cal Arts Los Angeles. Her art is exhibited in galleries and museums across the US, and interior design projects featured in magazines, newspapers, and books, including the *Los Angeles Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Washington Post*, *House Beautiful*, *Traditional Home*, *Sunset Books*, and *Architectural Digest*.

Mary Cowper  
Reviewer