power tools, and other equipment, perky instructor Geeta demonstrates three easy do-it-yourself home projects. After selecting, measuring, and cutting wood boards in her garage, the capable instructor quickly assembles and hangs a rustic kitchen shelf. Next, Geeta measures fabric and trim, pieces the materials together, and sews an attractive window valance. Then it's back to the garage, where she builds and decorates an entryway bench. Each project is demonstrated in a step-by-step manner; onscreen captions list precise dimensions. Geeta also discusses the proper use of power tools, dispenses money-saving tips, and tells how to individualize the projects. Novice do-it-yourselfers will appreciate the clear instructions and careful camera work. —*Candace Smith*

The Letter. Hamzeh. 2003; rel. 2004. 75min. $44.49. DVD, $34.49. 860-434-0309.

Picture a town divided, its citizens angry and afraid. The town is Lewiston, Maine, and the divisive issue concerns the arrival of 1,100 Somali immigrants to the economically depressed city. The town's conservative mayor fuels the controversy with an open letter that expresses concern about dwindling finances and discourages additional Somali immigration. Directed by award-winning filmmaker Ziad Hamzeh, this well-edited film chronicles the plight of the town's Somali refugees. Fast-paced, on-the-street interviews and film clips documenting the civil war in Somalia juxtapose with modern footage showing anger and resentment radiating from members of both cultures. A tense situation becomes more precarious with the arrival of white supremacist outsiders, voicing racist epithets. The film builds to a crescendo as both sides plan for rallies on the same day. The day ends peacefully, and the program concludes on a positive note. Recommended as a viable discussion starter. —*Carol Holzberg*

Too Far to Go. Monterey. 2004. 98min. DVD, $14.95 (pp) (1-56994-638-8). 800-424-2593.

Adapted from a series of John Updike short stories, this made-for-television movie originally aired in the late 1970s. Beginning at the end of a failing marriage, the intelligently acted, poignant drama moves back and forth in time to follow the relationship of Richard Maple and his wife, Joan. Actor Michael Moriarty embodies the role of the loving but conflicted husband, while Blythe Danner perfectly captures the brittle strength of a suburban wife who tries but is not desperate to preserve her gradually dissolving marriage. Not surprisingly, infidelity—suspected and real—plays a key role. Uncommonly sophisticated in its approach to portraying a modern middle-class marriage, this compelling drama presents well-observed insights. DVD extras include information about the author, film, and cast. —*Jeff Dick*

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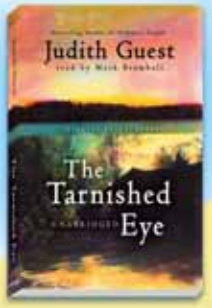

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