## acknowledgments

IT IS CUSTOMARY HERE TO THANK PEOPLE for helping me along the bumpy way that is any sort of writing project, and to declare that any mistakes, inaccuracies, or unpleasantries within these pages are wholly my own fault and responsibility. How much more necessary both of these tasks become if the subject of the writing elicits the sorts of reactions common when dealing with cockroaches.

In addition to all those who were patient enough to answer my questions during interviews, thanks for kindness and assistance go out to José Manuel Álvarez Flórez, Montse Ayuso, Carlos Bosch, Luisa and Vincenzo d'Arista, Susan and James Edmunds, Diane and Ezra Eichelberger, Celia Filipetto, James and Terilynn Graham Freedman, Donna Glassford, Mike Golden, Jeff Judd, Sue Katz, Silvia Komet, Alan and Andrée LeQuire, Carmen Martínez, Emanuele Nastasi, Joan Salvat, Jay Sapir, Adele, Jean and David Schweid, Dan Stein, and Ornella Zoia. And, thanks to editor Kathryn Belden for her hard work to make the book better.