

# congregational libraries *today*

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## *Children Have a Special Place in the Library*

*Two of our members share the story of their  
library's ministry with pre-schoolers*

Here they come! Fifteen toddlers, their little cheeks puffed out in “quiet bubbles,” each holding on to the rings on their walking rope. They are coming to the church library for story time. They settle down with sweet, expectant faces on the animals of their choice on the Noah’s Ark rug. On library visits we schedule each class time with a total of about 120 children coming to the library.

This story time is one of the ways the Clear Lake United Methodist Church Library in Houston, Texas, serves our weekday pre-school ministry. The library is a colorful change of scenery for the little children. It is a time for reading to them but also a time to teach mini-lessons on taking care of books.



Children listen intently to one of the weekday pre-school teachers. The basket on the table is the “Beginner’s Basket.”

The storytellers have chosen books from our extensive children’s collection that will enrich the materials of the week’s curriculum theme. The school uses a Christian-based curriculum with a varied subject focus each week: an alphabet letter, science, Spanish, nature, a Bible story, the solar system, holidays, and more. As we consider new purchases for the library we always have in mind the needs of the school, along with the interests and the curious minds of our congregation’s children. As a result we have a broad spectrum of materials. Favorites for our Mother’s Day Out are the “Big Books” and board books. Our collection of DVDs works for those rainy days or restless afternoons when a well-selected video comes in handy for teachers and provides a quiet time for our littlest patrons.

We also encourage parents and grandparents to visit the library after school to check out items to take home. The library encourages parents to read, read, read to the children to foster language awareness and school readiness as the children grow up in the program. We maintain a basket of beginner books that includes lists of books and parent helps. Teachers are always looking for those extras for lesson planning, bulletin boards, and seasonal displays for their classrooms.

## From The President's Desk...

Dear CSLA Friends,

Although I thought the president's article in the last issue of *Congregational Libraries Today* was my final one, I should have realized that the best-laid plans of mice and men "gang aft a-gley" (a favorite paraphrase of a couplet from Robert Burns's 1785 poem, "To A Mouse"). Therefore, here is an adaptation of my speech at the CSLA conference in Springfield, Illinois.

An ancient sage once said, "It is not your responsibility to finish the work [of repairing (sic) the world] but you are not free to desist from it either" (Rabbi Tarfon, in *Ethics of the Fathers*). I thought of that when asked to continue as president of the Church and Synagogue Library Association for one more year. It will take more than one year to help CSLA through the current cycle, but like our members, we will do our best during the coming year for an association we all love.

So this is both an end and a beginning. We started last year with high hopes. Some of our goals were accomplished and some were not, but we now have the unexpected opportunity to continue working on them.

What did we do in 2011-2012? Perhaps the best way to tell you is in terms of people to whom we all owe a debt of gratitude.

Let us start with David Reid, second vice president of membership. David proposed extending congregational membership to anyone who is a member of the library committee who wants to be a member of CSLA. In addition, a student membership at a reduced fee was started. David also has been in touch with many CSLA members, and we know he has spent a great deal of time in this endeavor. In addition, with help from Marjorie Smink, David has initiated a fundraising project—the Women's Bean Project. David is also going to be targeting new areas for CSLA membership, particularly near the site of our 2013 conference at Lake Junaluska.

Our intrepid treasurer these past two years, Dick Burghduff, has kept careful records, with his wife Betty close at hand. Dick will be leaving the board, but we hope he will stay in touch and continue to send us those beautiful NASA photos from space. Dick has worked closely with Tom Fountain, the longtime CSLA financial assistant, and Pat Shufeldt, finance chair.

Marjorie Smink, our immediate past president, has labored hard in several areas. Marjorie spent an incredible amount of time in contact with the Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center, where we will be meeting next year. Despite a busy personal schedule, she spent endless hours on the phone working on a nominating slate for 2012-2013, and we commend her for her perseverance. She has chaired our task force and did a great deal of preliminary work contacting content management system vendors to see what could be done for our website.

Marianne Stowers and her husband Larry took on the challenging role of chairing this year's conference in Springfield, where there is no chapter, at a time of economic difficulties. They have had personal sadness during the year but have shown great devotion, and we appreciate all they have done to make your stay enjoyable and worthwhile.



congregational libraries  
*today*



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Mary Lou Henneman, awards chair, and Martha Huntley, Rodda book award chair, have both done a wonderful job keeping our awards programs going. Both are retiring this year and we wish them well. Glenda Strombom, longtime enthusiastic president of the San Jose Bay Area chapter, will be the new awards chair. Phyllis Wendorf, the capable president of the NE Ohio chapter, will be in charge of the Rodda book award committee. Please watch the CSLA emails and website for announcements about both of these great programs.

Alrene Hall is retiring from the board after close to twenty years of service. Alrene will be continuing with the correspondence course students and is working hard to finish a rewriting of Betty McMichael's book, newly titled *The Church Library in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. We look forward to reading Alrene's book but we will miss her on the Board.

Cheryl Cutchin, our talented outgoing chapters coordinator and incoming first vice president/president elect, had an idea for a virtual chapter about a year ago. It was planned primarily for those who live in areas where there is no chapter. The idea is still in its infancy and will be nurtured further by Marcia Trauernicht, the incoming chapters coordinator. Marcia is from the Western New York chapter and is a librarian at the Rochester Institute of Technology. In addition, Cheryl has volunteered to be our interim website coordinator.

Pat Shufeldt, Finance Chair, continues to amaze all of us with her research skills and her colorful Excel spreadsheets containing all sorts of comparisons of CSLA income and expenses during current and past years.

Dottie Lewis, outgoing publications chair has managed to keep the quarterly journal going and oversaw the production of two outstanding guides during a year marked by personal sadness. She worked with a talented editor, Jeri Zulli, and our own Monica Tenney who is the Media Review Editor *par excellence*. Dottie also has taken care of the CSLA Archives.

And, of course, where would CSLA be without Judy Janzen, our devoted administrator, who spends endless hours working on your behalf? She is the friendly voice on the phone and the "JJ" who signs those neat emails. She even has a new office from which to greet you.

In addition, we have had many members participate on committees, and we ask everyone to join a committee if at all possible. Some of our members are participating as part of the website team. This is a new venture for the association. You may be aware that it is not unusual for small businesses and non-profit organizations, such as religious congregations, to have a website where one or more of the employees or volunteers post their own entries. This is considered a content management system

and after extensive research it was decided to seek a web designer to set up such a structure for CSLA. We settled on a teenager, a high-school junior, who has his own web design business. In the course of the past year there have been many challenges with developing the new site and some basic postings on the old site. The new site was finally launched on June 21. Now, we are aware that some have had problems logging on. If you have a problem, please, contact Judy or me and we will do whatever we can to help. The system is based on your email and for a variety of reasons it may be that the email address you are now using is not the same as what is in our directory. For both the website and for email notices, it is important that we have everyone's correct email address. We do have a website team who will be trained shortly in the posting of entries. Judy Janzen will take care of the membership directory, Marjorie Smink will do the awards and conference pages, Marcia Trauernicht will post chapter-related items, Cheryl Cutchin will post advertisements, Ralph Harstock is in charge of the Facebook page, and Pat Shufeldt is eager to send you a tweet. All of this will take time, but we are prepared to get started and build up the new site. We have the basics. We are ready to embrace the concept that "all the world's a stage." Now we have to be the actors in it and make the most of it.

As you can see, there is a great deal to do, and it will take a concerted effort by everyone working together to accomplish our goal of keeping CSLA in the forefront of congregational librarianship. So I ask you to join with me and the outgoing and incoming board members in strengthening your commitment to CSLA. We all have something to give; we all have something to share. The road ahead is not a smooth one—I wish it were. But we can make our dreams come true by cooperating and offering our services and support in a meaningful way.

Thank you all for the honor of serving as your president during this past year and for the opportunity to serve again. As I do so, these words from a section on Connections in a book entitled *Day By Day*, edited by Rabbi Chaim Stern, come to mind:

"Renew my vision, O God; give meaning to my life and substance to my hopes; help me understand those about me and fill me with the desire to serve them. Let me remember that I depend on them as they depend on me; quicken my heart and hand to reach for them, and teach me to make my words of prayer fruitful by deeds of loving-kindness."

Thank you and God Bless CSLA.

May the peace and joy of the holiday season be with you, your family, and your friends.

—Evelyn Pockrass, [epockrass@iquest.net](mailto:epockrass@iquest.net)



Each day during the last twenty minutes of class the children are taken to our Wesley Center contemporary worship building for Chapel Time. They sing Bible songs and have a story time with the pastors and staff on a rotating schedule. We serve in the rotation, and we are pictured here telling the Creation story with the flannel board on Earth Day.

The Clear Lake United Methodist Church Library has been in ministry for forty-one years, and has a current collection of over sixteen thousand items. It is housed in a four-room suite, with one room designated just for the children. It is a constant delight and privilege to welcome our young patrons in the library and offer them resources for spiritual, educational, and fun experiences.

A farmer went out to sow his seed.... Some seed fell on good soil, where it came up and yielded a good crop of one hundred fold. We as librarians should always be reminded of our calling to share our faith to the coming generations.  
—In God's Love, Betty and Dick Burghduff



Betty and Dick Burghduff share the Creation story.



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## Church Library Automation

THIS GUIDE SHARES THE BASICS OF LIBRARY AUTOMATION. DISCOVER HOW AUTOMATION CAN STREAMLINE TASKS FOR YOUR LIBRARY MINISTRY!



- 1 THE BASICS
- 2 WHAT AUTOMATION DOES
- 3 CHOOSING AUTOMATION
- 4 TRYING SOFTWARE
- 5 ESTABLISHED LIBRARY
- 6 NEW LIBRARY
- 7 AUTOMATED CATALOG

Presented by  
**Surpass CL**  
CHURCH LIBRARY EDITION

UPDATED!

## Automation questions?

This FREE guide explains the basics of church library automation, a software tool to help you manage your congregational library.

*Church Library Automation* will especially benefit staff and volunteers new to automation. It's a friendly, easy-to-read introduction we hope you'll enjoy!

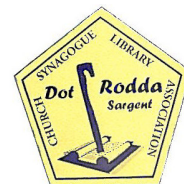
*Church Library Automation* is an on-line resource for all congregational libraries: visit [www.SurpassSoftware.com](http://www.SurpassSoftware.com).

**Free guide!**

GO: [www.SurpassSoftware.com/Surpass\\_CL.htm](http://www.SurpassSoftware.com/Surpass_CL.htm)  
CLICK: FREE *Church Library Automation* guide



# Meet Your New Rodda Award Chair



My name is Phyllis Wendorf. I am fairly new to CSLA having been a member for about eighteen months. I have been the librarian at my church, Mentor United Methodist Church in Mentor, Ohio, for the last six years and was on the committee for many years prior to taking over.

I am also the president of the Northeast Ohio Chapter of CSLA, having been elected just a few months after joining CSLA! Besides reading, I love making my own greeting cards. I have been married to my high school sweetheart for forty-three years and have three grown children and three grandchildren.

I am looking forward to hearing from many of you with your nominations for the teen/young adult Rodda Award.



## Call for Nominations 2013 Rodda Award



**It is time to submit your nominations for best YOUNG ADULT literature!**

**WHAT:** Award nominations of books for Teens/YA with original copyright dates of 2010, 2011 or 2012.

**WHO:** YOU! Any CSLA member may nominate up to 3 titles.

**WHEN:** NOW or as soon as possible. All nominations **MUST BE IN** by November 30, 2012 to be considered for the award.

**CRITERIA:** Strong spiritual value  
Excellence in writing  
Appropriate for the congregational library  
May be fiction, non-fiction or poetry

**WHERE:** Send to:  
The Rodda Award Committee  
c/o Judy Janzen, CSLA Administrator  
10157 SW Barbur Blvd. #102C  
Portland, Oregon 97219

**OR** email:

[csla@worldaccessnet.com](mailto:csla@worldaccessnet.com)  
(subject line: Rodda Award)

**QUESTIONS:** Email: Phyllis Wendorf, 2013 Rodda Award Committee chair, [plw.rodde@gmail.com](mailto:plw.rodde@gmail.com)

**Please include the following information with your nominations:**

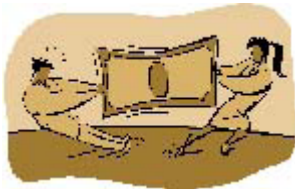
Book title  
Author  
Copyright date  
Reason for nominating this book  
(in a few sentences)  
Your name  
Your address (street, city, state, zip code)  
Your email address



# CSLA Publications Guides & Necessary Tools



*Organizing a Library or Resource Center.* Carol Campbell, Glenda Strombom, and Dianne Oswald. 2010. 32 p. \$14.00; members \$12.00. This guide represents a comprehensive and updated edition of three previously separate publications, all published by CSLA: *Setting up a Library: How to Begin or Begin Again*, *Standards for Church and Synagogue Libraries*, and *A Policy and Procedure Manual for Church and Synagogue Libraries: a Do-It-Yourself Guide*. An entirely new format was created for this guide, featuring quick searching and clear procedures, thus providing one volume that allows users to develop working manuals for their congregational libraries.



*Fundamentals of Financing Your Congregational Library.* Craig Kubic (orig. by Claudia Hannaford). 2008. 32 p. \$12.00; members \$10.00. This guide will assist you in developing a realistic plan for the acquisition and careful management of financial resources that the library needs to be a vital part of the congregation. Includes thoughtful ideas on presenting a budget.

*Developing an Effective Library: Ways to Promote Your Congregational Library.* Lois H. Ward. 2004. 48 p. \$11.00; members \$9.00. CSLA Past president Lois Ward was an expert in promoting libraries in congregations and beyond. Planning, budgeting, getting members in the door, and promoting the library outside the doors are all here for you. So many smart ideas are here that you could not use them all in your lifetime.



*Promotion Planning, All Year 'Round.* Claudia Hannaford and Ruth S. Smith. 3rd Rev. ed. 1996. 64 p. \$11.00; members \$8.00. This 64-page publication provides suggestions on what to publicize for your library, including periodic and special items, to encourage participation in the use of the library. Includes a 12-month calendar outlining significant events. Often used with Ward's *Developing an Effective Library*—a sure way to make your library visible and irresistible.



*Beyond the Book: Enhancing Your Congregational Library with Audio-Visual Resources.* Rusty Tryon (orig. by Joyce Burner). 2008. 21 p. \$12.00, members \$10.00. This publication is designed to assist congregational librarians in making audio-visual resources an integral—rather than an incidental—part of their library collections.

*Cataloging and Classification.* Susan E. Snyder. 2004. 53 p. \$12.00, members \$10.00. This publication covers physical processing, encouraging the use of the catalog and creating bibliographic records, classification, and classification schedules. It will take you through all the steps in cataloging.

*Subject Headings in the Library Catalog.* Dorothy G. Lewis. 2007. 32 p. \$12.00, members \$10.00. This guide will help the beginning or experienced librarian identify the subject of a book and choose the most useful subject heading. It offers considerations for additional headings you might include to improve the effectiveness of your card catalog. Suggested Dewey classification numbers after each heading refer to appropriate areas of the Dewey schedule discussed in detail in CSLA's publication, *Cataloging and Classification*.



*Planning a Congregational Archives Center.* Curtis Howard. 2011. \$14.00; members \$12.00. Often, part of the congregational librarian's job is maintaining archives for the congregation. CSLA offers the perfect guide to assist you with your archives! This new guide is just the tool you need to get you started or to help you improve your existing archives center. Some of the questions Dr. Howard asks you to consider: What are your items of enduring value? When is the appropriate time to establish a records program? Who will authorize and manage the center? Answers to these questions and more are here.

Ordering information is available at [www.cslainfo.org](http://www.cslainfo.org)  
or by calling CSLA at 800-542-2752

# Library Limelight



keep the spotlight on your library

Except for Yom Kippur, Rosh Hashanah, Christmas, Easter, and Hanukkah, it is perhaps best to use seasons and holidays as background filler only. We have such a variety of topics to choose from in our vast media world, it seems a waste to dwell on seasons.

One exception, if you have a good many children, would be Halloween. According to the grapevine, this is the most beloved of children's holidays, after Christmas. As there are such great stories in all media on this event, it



is practically impossible to ignore it. One can always dwell on the harvest, pumpkins, scarecrows, and apples if your congregation objects to too much fanfare about the celebration. There are just as many great stories about that side as well. *Halloween Day* by Ann Rockwell is a great story

to focus a display or bulletin board around. It is the story of ten kindergarten children who create their own costumes for the school party—how they choose what to make and how they make them. Another favorite is *The Bumpy Little Pumpkin* by Margery Cuyler, about a little girl who chooses her pumpkin over much criticism from her sisters. This issue of *CLT* will not get to you in time for this year, but keep these books in mind for other years.



Let us think about the coming new year and what we can emphasize. The election will finally be over and we can dwell on other thoughts. **Read out the Old and Read in the New** has possibilities. You can display older but still good books/media interspersed with your latest acquisitions.

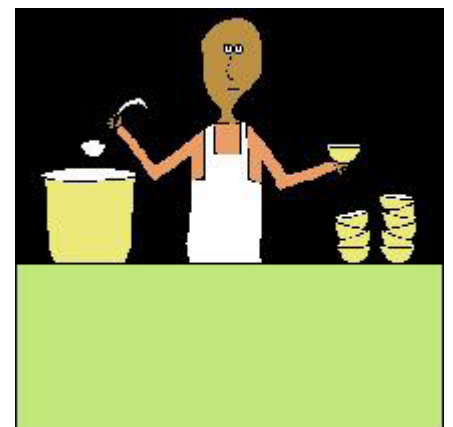
St. Valentine's and St. Patrick's days coming up might be good times to emphasize love and tolerance for the world community. Much of our

misunderstanding in the world comes from ignorance of other customs and beliefs. Books and other media on different world cultures and religions, especially Islam, would be in order. Karen Armstrong's *Islam: A Short History* and Charles



Kimball's *Striving Together: A Way Forward* are among many books that explain Islam for people of other faiths with little exposure to this religion. Many of us know little about Mormonism so that would be another element to explore. All these topics have symbols that can be used for background material for your displays. Now that the internet provides us with pictures of just about anything, decorating has become easier and easier.

Many of our congregations have outreach programs that libraries need to support. Besides feeding the birds in winter, we need to **Feed the Hungry**. This should be easy to do with loaves of bread, baskets of food, Meals-on-Wheels, and media on missions and caring for others. I always think of that Angelina book about the little mouse and the retired postman who lives alone—*Angelina's Christmas* by Katharine Holabird is about Christmas but is good for other times of the year for the lessons it teaches.



—Dottie Lewis, [degewis@gmail.com](mailto:degewis@gmail.com)

Still waiting to hear about your promotional ideas. I just know you have some good ones.



# What's New in the CSLA World?

## The CSLA Virtual Chapter!

Don't have a chapter near you?

Need someone to talk to?

Have a great idea for congregational libraries?

Need a problem solved?

Just want to vent?

Need to brainstorm?

No boundaries!

Meet anytime!

Get online with coordinator Dawn Domans:

[butterfliesr2free@verizon.net](mailto:butterfliesr2free@verizon.net)



## CSLANotes is on Twitter!

CSLA is now posting messages—tweets—on Twitter. Twitter's limit of no more than 140 characters per tweet makes this forum particularly useful for brief com-

ments and headlines that link to articles on other internet sites. Examples of tweets include publishing industry news, booklists, ebook developments, award winners, and quotes about library marketing.

My goal is to post several tweets each week, pulled from my professional reading and from messages I receive from other people and organizations I follow on Twitter. The CSLA website contains two links to the CSLANotes Twitter feed—on



**CSLA** @CSLANotes

Highsmith merges with Demco, 12/17/2012; joint library supply & furniture catalog for 2013. [bit.ly/R240uF](http://bit.ly/R240uF)

11 Oct

Expand



**David W. Reid** @FaithLibraries

A strong argument for reading, reading, reading.

[fb.me/1UxZM1hni](http://fb.me/1UxZM1hni)

8 Oct

Retweeted by CSLA

Expand

the top right and the lower left corners of each web page—or you can go directly to [www.twitter.com/CSLANotes](http://www.twitter.com/CSLANotes). Look for **our** CSLA logo; there are other organiza-

tions also known as CSLA.

Better still, join the conversation by creating your own Twitter account and start “following” CSLANotes. Twitter basics are available at [support.twitter.com](http://support.twitter.com) with an easy-to-follow guide. Select a few other people or organizations to follow, and you will soon have an easy way to keep up with professional news and share with your own followers.

—Pat Shufeldt

# Women's Bean Project (WBP)



Have you been looking for gifts for the coming holiday season? Do you need stocking stuffers or Hanukkah gifts? Look no longer!

The WBP just gets better and better!

If you have not visited lately, you are going to be very pleasantly surprised and ever so grateful!

Now there are gift baskets overflowing with beans, cornbread mix, tea, cookie mix, dip mixes, and about anything you could wish to give to the special people in your life.



Have you seen the handmade jewelry? All of it is quite lovely and each one is unique. If you shop carefully there are great bargains to be had as there are always specials.

The soups mixes are not only delicious but a great bargain as well. Bags of beans are great for stocking stuffing. The magic seasoning packet is not to be missed.



CSLA is partners with WBP, so when you order from them, please, use the promo code: **CSLA12**. We will receive a percentage of the sales.

[www.womensbeanproject.com](http://www.womensbeanproject.com)





# Chapter Chatter

## Hearing and Learning from our Friends is like a balm in Gilead

**Western New York** chapter met in May for an interesting review of books from local bookstore Alpha & Omega. The meeting was held at University Presbyterian Church in Buffalo, pictured here. *Heaven* by Randy Alcorn and *Redeeming Love* by Francine Rivers were among the recommendations. Names were drawn for lucky recipients of books. There was a tour of the Asbury First United Methodist Church.



An interesting note: a new model of chapter dues was approved. The registration fee is now \$4.00 each meeting, and those attending the meetings will automatically become chapter members. People attending a meeting for the first time will have the registration fee waived for that meeting.

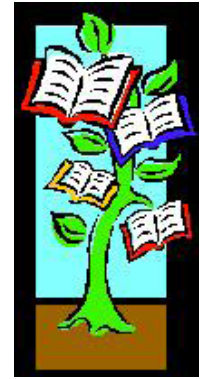
**San Jose Bay Area** chapter met in September. The meeting was devoted to ideas and methods of dealing with unwanted materials – mostly books. It was a lively meeting with much discussion by those who were there as well as letters from people who could not attend. Space does not allow for posting all of the ideas but here are a few: one member suggested checking with the “Friends of the (public) Library”; others took books to used-book stores for credit; some congregations hold used-book sales to raise money, have a give-away table, or have Sunday morning sales; some books just need to be recycled (it was noted that some recycling places do not take hard covers, so one can remove the covers, recycle the “innards” and throw away the covers); one church sent a letter saying they choose books appropriate to be shipped to the Sudan.



The chapter also came up with an innovative, money-saving way to order CSLA guides: chapter

members placed orders for guides prior to the meeting; sixteen were sold. The chapter paid for the postage. So, everyone enjoyed getting their copies at a 20% discount and with free postage, and the chapter wrote one check for all the guides and sent it in to CSLA.

**Indiana** chapter will have met in October by the time this *CLT* is published. They are planning a program called “READecorating Your Library.” [What a clever and attention-getting title!] “**Weeding**” will be the theme of the first workshop planned, with a presentation by Christine Sterle, Head Librarian and Adult Services Head at Thorntown Public Library. Weeding is that unpleasant chore that needs to be done to have a more efficient and productive library. “**Feeding**” is another aspect of library growth and renewal. Those who attended the CSLA national conference will share highlights to help librarians spruce up and fix up.



One of the chapter’s own received a top honor in the state; the following appeared in the Indiana Chapter newsletter, Volume XXXII, Number 3 (September 2012):

### Carolyn and Rich Riley Receive the Golden Hoosier Award

Perhaps you’ve noticed Carolyn Riley at an Indiana Chapter CSLA workshop, listening intently with knitting needles flying, which she says helps her concentrate better! Carolyn has knit more than 1,700 hats for cancer patients—Chemo Caps—and has also donated her hair to an organization that makes wigs for cancer patients. Carolyn’s spirit of volunteerism has also been visible over the years as an active

>> article continues on next page



# Meet Your New Chapters Coordinator



I have been involved with congregational libraries for nearly twenty years and was a librarian for Messiah Lutheran Church in Rochester, New York, from 1992-2009. Throughout this period, I have become well acquainted with the joys and concerns of a small congregational library. I am a member of the Western New York CSLA Chapter where I currently serve as treasurer and immediate past-president.

At this time, I am employed as manager of metadata creation and analysis (formerly cataloging) at Wallace Library, (Rochester Institute of Technology); I have worked there since 1986. Digital library initiatives and administrative duties are part of my responsibilities there. In addition, I am an adjunct in the Department for Library and Information Studies at the State University of New York—Buffalo. Librarianship is a second career for me: my previous training has been in the education field, specifically in the area of music education and piano pedagogy.

I live in Rochester with my husband Dave, who is employed at Eastman Kodak. In our spare time, we enjoy the many cultural activities of the area and wine-tasting in the Finger Lakes region.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to get to know the chapters and their members—and to provide assistance whenever possible!

—Marcia S. Trauernicht , [marciatmail@gmail.com](mailto:marciatmail@gmail.com)

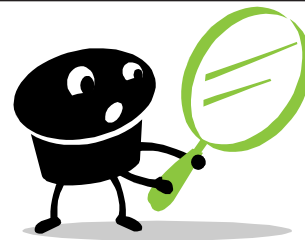
CSLA chapter member. She has helped in various ways including currently serving on the Indiana Chapter Board as “Member at Large” and on past CSLA National Conference committees. Carolyn’s knitting projects and CSLA are only two of her many volunteer activities, and she and her husband, Rich, were recently recognized for their commitment to helping others. ...the Golden Hoosier award [is] considered one of the highest honors given by the state to seniors. Anderson’s newspaper, The Herald Bulletin, featured them in an article on Monday, August 27 which you can read online at:

<http://heraldbulletin.com/peopleandplaces/x252485282/Anderson-couple-receivesstatewidevolunteering-award>

*Congratulations Rich and Carolyn, and Thank You for your Service to CSLA and your Community!*

We add our warmest congratulations to the Rileys. We appreciate the opportunity to bask in the reflected glory. Chapter news of this caliber is greatly appreciated.

Please, keep the new Chapters Coordinator well informed of all your activities this year. She wants to hear from you and the whole of CSLA benefits from shared news and opportunities. Marcia Trauernicht [see above] is new to the board and she may be reached at: [marciatmail@gmail.com](mailto:marciatmail@gmail.com)



## INDEX OF PUBLICATIONS ON THE WEB

*Searching for just the right CSLA guide that might be helpful to you in your library ministry? Check [www.cslainfo.org](http://www.cslainfo.org) for a NEWLY REVISED index using topics common to librarians. Topics range from accessioning, circulation, memorials, and posters to weeding.*

*If you don't have access to the internet, try your public library for internet access, or call Judy Janzen at 800-LIB-CSLA.*



## Meet Your New Awards Chair

Glenda Strombom is a long-time member of CSLA and the librarian at Union Presbyterian Church in Los Altos, California. She is president of the San Jose/Bay Area Chapter and also one of the co-authors of the CSLA guide *Organizing a Library or Resource Center: Creating a Policy & Procedure Manual*. Glenda facilitated a workshop at the 2011 conference, and she was a member of the awards committee in 2004 and 2011.

The other members of the awards committee are Mary Lou Henneman of the Northeast Ohio Chapter, Debbie Scott of the Houston Area Chapter, and Joyce Davison of the Los Angeles Area Chapter.

## Meet Your New CSLA Treasurer

Alice Campbell is a 1976 graduate of Manchester College in North Manchester, Indiana, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Secondary Education and a School Library Media Center endorsement. She received her Master of Library Science degree from Indiana University in 1983. Her career includes a fifteen-year tenure at Thorncreek School's K-8 Media Center. Alice has been the administrative assistant at the Manchester Church of the Brethren in North Manchester since 1996, where she has also served as volunteer church librarian for the past five years. Before serving as the librarian, she spent five years on the library committee. Alice has been on the board of the Manchester Fellowship of Churches for five years and the treasurer of that organization for four years. She and her husband have been married for thirty-seven years; they have two daughters and one granddaughter.



Due to other obligations Dick Burghdoff will be leaving and Alice will assume the duties of CSLA Treasurer on January 1, 2013. Dick will continue in the position until Alice takes over.



## Meet Your New Continuing Education Chair

Hello, I'm Beverley Manning. I am a retired college librarian. I am active in the Williard-Welles-Stanley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and I also work with the AARP. Additionally I am active in Grace Episcopal Church in Newington, Connecticut.

*Ed. note: While Alrene Hall will continue to teach the continuing education classes, Beverley is taking over for her as chair.*

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# DEADLINE

## MARCH 31, 2013

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# Doing Dewey



## OVERVIEW OF THE DEWEY 200 CLASS, CONTINUED

The class of the Dewey Decimal Classification that congregational librarians use most is the religion class (200). In a recent column, I discussed the 210s, 220s, 230s, and 240s, which have remained basically the same between the thirteenth abridged edition (based on the twenty-first unabridged edition), the fourteenth abridged edition (based on the twenty-second unabridged edition), and the most recent fifteenth abridged edition (based on the twenty-third unabridged edition). In this column, I will be discussing the 250s, 260s, 270s, and 280s, which have also changed little.



The 250s are the numbers for the local Christian church and Christian religious orders. Texts of sermons are classed in 252. The number 253 is for the work of Christian clergy,

including 253.5—Pastoral Counseling. The number 254 is for local church administration, including membership, programs, finance, buildings, and public relations. 254.8 is a specific number that may be used for local church finance. The number 255 is for religious orders, and the number 259 is for pastoral care of specific kinds of persons, including families.

The 260s are the numbers for Christian social and ecclesiastical theology. 261 is the number for Christian social theology, in other words Christianity's attitude toward and influence on secular matters and other religions. Specifically, 261.2 is the number for Christianity and other belief systems, 261.7 is the number for Christianity and political affairs, and 261.8 is the number for Christianity and socioeconomic problems. 262 is the number for church government and organization, and 262.5 is the specific number for councils and synods. 263 is the number for days, times, and places of Christian religious observance, and 264 is

the number for public Christian worship (liturgy and ritual). 265 is the number for sacraments. 266 is the number for Christian missions. 267 is the number for associations involved in Christian religious work, such as the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) and Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA). 268 is the number for Christian religious education in Sunday school, vacation church school, and similar education settings. 269 is the number for books about Christian spiritual renewal, including evangelism and retreats.

The 270s are the numbers for church history. The first part of the 270s is divided by historical period, as follows:

- 270.1—Apostolic period to 325 AD
- 270.2—Period of ecumenical councils (325-787 AD)
- 270.3—787-1054 AD, including comprehensive works on the Middle Ages
- 270.4—1054-1200 AD
- 270.5—Late Middle Ages to Renaissance (1200-1517 AD)
- 270.6—Reformation and Counter-Reformation (1517-1648 AD)
- 270.7—Peace of Westphalia to French Revolution (1648-1789 AD)
- 270.8—Church history since 1789 AD, including the modern church.

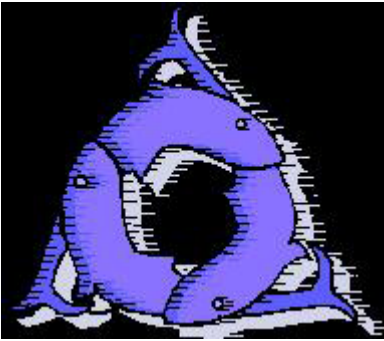
271 is the number for religious orders in church history. 272 is the number for persecutions in church history, and 273 is the number for doctrinal controversy in church history.

The last part of the 270s is divided by place, as follows:

- 274—Europe
- 275—Asia
- 276—Africa
- 277—North America
- 278—South America
- 279—Other parts of the world

The 280s are numbers for individual Christian denominations. They begin with 281—Early church

and Eastern churches, including 281.9—Eastern Orthodox churches. If a more precise number is needed, add to 281.9 the number from Table 2 for the place where the particular Eastern Orthodox church is headquartered. The twenty-third unabridged edition allows those who need a very precise number, such as Eastern Orthodox church libraries, to add, after the place number for the headquarters location,



the number 0 followed by the number from Table 2 for location of the particular local church(es), for example, 281.947073 for the Russian Orthodox Church in the United States.

282 is the number for the Catholic Church, and 283 is the number for Anglican churches. 284.1 is the specific number for

Lutheran churches. 285 is the number for Presbyterian churches, and 285.8 for the United Church of Christ. 286 is the number for Baptist churches. The twenty-first and twenty-second unabridged editions label 286.6 as standing for the Disciples of Christ. The twenty-third unabridged edition labels 286.6 as standing for the Restoration movement, of which the Disciples of Christ is a part. Libraries that want a more specific number for Disciples of Christ may use 286.63. The number for Adventist churches is 286.7. For Methodism, 287 is the number. 289.1 is the number for Unitarianism. 289.3 is the number for the Latter Day Saints (Mormons). 289.5 is the number for Christian Science. 289.6 is the number for the Society of Friends (Quakers). 289.7 is the number for Mennonite churches, and 289.8 is the number for Shakers.

I hope that you find this information helpful.

—Susan E. Snyder

New e-mail address: [ssnyder44147@gmail.com](mailto:ssnyder44147@gmail.com)

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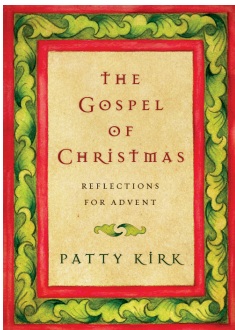
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## Holiday Fare



### The Gospel of Christmas: Reflections for Advent

Patty Kirk. InterVarsity, 2012. 164p. \$15.00, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8308-3785-4. Available as an ebook. www.ivpress.com 242.332 Advent—Meditations.

Patty Kirk grew up Catholic, spent her young adult years as an atheist, and twelve years ago became a Christian. In *The Gospel of Christmas*, she reflects on the season that has always touched her spiritually. Advent, Kirk notes, brings with

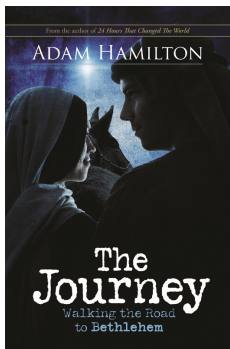
it the lift of anticipation—anticipation felt even by unbelievers.

In this series of extended meditations, Kirk looks at the humble circumstances of Christ's birth, acknowledging the physical realities of being born in a stable. She reflects on the miracle of birth—even ordinary ones. She recalls rustic scenes of cows birthing calves (she and her husband once raised cattle). Kirk sometimes writes with hints of gentle irreverence, musing on the virginal yet pregnant Mary and the temporarily confused Joseph.

Kirk writes knowingly of the low feelings many people experience in the days leading up to Christmas. In her early twenties, Kirk suffered a sexual assault by two young men. The attack occurred in December, and every Advent she faces this "wretched anniversary."

Seasonal music—pop and classic—and the etymology of words associated with Advent are a frequent focus. *The Gospel of Christmas* will perhaps be most appreciated by young women.

—Monica Tenney



### The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem

Adam Hamilton. Abingdon, 2011. 137p. \$17.99, hardcover. ISBN: 978-1-4267-1425-2. Available as an ebook. www.abingdon-press.com 232.92 Jesus Christ—Nativity.

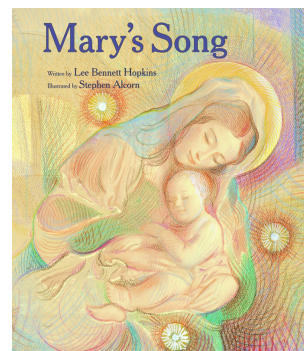
Adam Hamilton, senior pastor at a large United Methodist church near Kansas City, offers fresh perspectives on Christmas journeys, both the Holy Family's and our own. In the five easy-to-read chapters of *The Journey*, Hamilton reflects on the figures and scenes of the Nativity

story. He considers the young Mary and her essential role (and notes the different emphasis on her role by Roman Catholics and Protestants). Regarding angels, he reminds readers that the word simply means "messenger" and that they typically appear as strangers ("no wings, just people") who bring messages from God.

Hamilton looks at the relationship between the teenage Mary and her much older cousin Elizabeth, seeing lessons about the gift of mentoring. He connects Joseph the earthly father of Jesus to Joseph of the Old Testament, noting how dreams figured in both their stories.

Hamilton shares with readers of *The Journey* his experience of the journey to Bethlehem, taking the route most likely traveled by Mary and Joseph. A companion volume of daily meditations, studies for children and youth, a video that follows Hamilton in the Holy Land as he retraces the steps of Mary and Joseph, and a small-group leader's guide are all available from Abingdon.

—Monica Tenney



### Mary's Song

Lee Bennett Hopkins. Illustrated by Stephen Alcorn. Eerdmans, 2012. 32p. \$17.00, hardcover. ISBN: 978-0-8028-5397-4. www.eerdmans.com [E] Mary, Blessed Virgin, Saint—Juvenile fiction. Jesus Christ—Nativity—Juvenile fiction.

With simple text and spellbinding artwork, *Mary's Song* gives young readers a look at the Nativity from the perspective of the young woman who has given

birth to the baby Jesus. Mary recalls the visit from the angel Gabriel, the long journey to Bethlehem, and the moments of peace just after her son's birth. Soon the shepherds arrive from nearby fields, and the animals cannot contain their gladness: sheep bleat, donkeys bray, crickets chirp, and other species sound off. Amidst the happy commotion, Mary longs to be alone with her newborn child. At last, the stable grows quiet, and Mary hums her mother-song to her sweet baby boy.

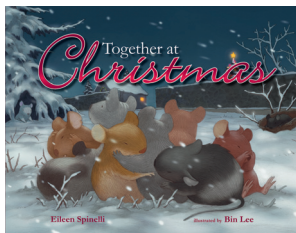
Stephen Alcorn's mixed media illustrations fill each two-page spread with sweeping images in tender pastels. Readers young and old will find quiet celebration in pictures and text. Young ones will especially enjoy the animals making their joyful noises.

*Mary's Song* is aimed at readers 4-9, but Christians of all ages will appreciate the peace and reverence of this book.

—Monica Tenney



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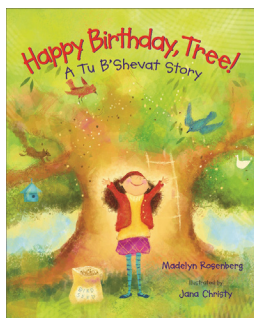


**Together at Christmas**

Eileen Spinelli. Illustrated by Bin Lee. Albert Whitman, 2012. 24p. \$15.99, hardcover. ISBN: 978-0-8075-8010-3. www.albertwhitman.com [E] Christmas—Juvenile fiction. Mice—Juvenile fiction. Cold—Juvenile fiction. Counting. Stories in rhyme.

Ten little mice shiver together in the snow on Christmas Eve. One by one, they leave the huddle for a warm refuge: a clump of moss; a milkweed pod; an acorn shell. Though each mouse finds a snug spot, it does not seem right to be without friends—not on *this* night. Back they come together, “Singing carols in the snow. / Giggling under mistletoe.” They even find a cozy hollow log with room for everyone!

Bin Lee’s illustrations (with an off-the-chart cuteness factor) enhance Eileen Spinelli’s countdown text. *Together at Christmas* is a holiday treat for children in the preschool to early elementary years. —Monica Tenney



**Happy Birthday, Tree! A Tu B'Shevat Story**

Madelyn Rosenberg. Illustrated by Jana Christy. Albert Whitman, 2012. 24p. \$15.99, hardcover. ISBN: 978-0-8075-3151-8. www.albertwhitman.com [E] Tu B'Shevat—Juvenile fiction. Trees—Juvenile fiction. Jews—Juvenile fiction.

Tu B'Shevat, the Jewish “New Year of the Trees,” falls on the fifteenth of the Hebrew month of Shevat, in January or February of the Gregorian calendar. It is a time when thoughts about the environment, particularly trees, abound. Often contributions are made for planting new trees.

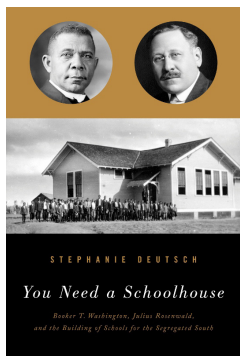
In Madelyn Rosenberg’s child-friendly story, Joni runs to the tall tree in her backyard to wish it a happy birthday. She and her friend Nate try to decide what would be a good present for the tree. Water, sunshine, cupcakes, and a souvenir swan come to mind. Joni wants the tree to have a party, and, in addition to birthday hats she has made from newspapers, she has a special idea. The tree needs a friend, so Joni, her mom, and Nate purchase a new tree and plant it nearby. Then Joni promises to take care of the new tree. She looks at both trees and they seem happy. Their leaves rustle in the wind as though they are clapping.

Jana Christy’s lighthearted and fanciful paintings add the

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right touch. A note about the holiday precedes the story, and the inside front and back covers offer examples of ways to help the earth. Recommended for ages 4-7 as a worthwhile addition to the holiday collection. —*Evelyn Pockrass*

## History & Heritage



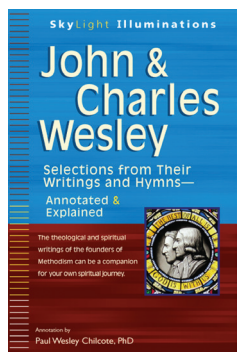
### You Need A Schoolhouse: Booker T. Washington, Julius Rosenwald, and the Building of Schools for the Segregated South

Stephanie Deutsch. Northwestern University Press, 2011. 218p. \$24.95, hardcover. ISBN: 978-0-8101-2790-6. www.nupress.edu 379.260975965 African Americans—Education—Southern States—History—20<sup>th</sup> century. School buildings—Southern States—History—19<sup>th</sup> century. Washington, Booker T., 1856-1915. Rosenwald, Julius, 1862-1932.

When Booker T. Washington, founder of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, met in 1911 with Julius Rosenwald, president of Sears, Roebuck and Co., they agreed to a plan that would change the face of America. By the end of school segregation in the 1960s, nearly five thousand “Rosenwald schools” would be built, providing new educational opportunities for African-American students across the South. These schools laid the foundation for much that followed in the civil rights movement.

Stephanie Deutsch carefully describes the background to the historic meeting of Washington and Rosenwald. She details Washington’s rise from slavery to international acclaim and that of Rosenwald, the son of a Jewish immigrant peddler, who became one of America’s wealthiest men. They met on common ground, seeking to expand opportunity for all citizens of America. Washington understood that education held the key to equality for African Americans, while Rosenwald felt that an educated populace would create a more stable community, a contrast to the Jewish experience in Europe. Deutsch’s depiction is moving; you feel for these characters.

This is a powerful story of two men driven by their ideals, a history lesson with enduring impact. Washington served his people to his last breath. Rosenwald, who gave away most of his fortune, believed his wealth conveyed a responsibility to improve American society. This engaging book deserves a wide audience. —*Rabbi Louis A. Rieser*



### John & Charles Wesley: Selections from Their Writings and Hymns—Annotated & Explained

Paul Wesley Chilcote. Skylight Paths Publishing, 2011. 263p. \$16.99, paperback. ISBN 978-1-59473-309-3. Also available as an ebook. www.skylightpaths.com 230.7 Wesley, John, 1703-1791. Wesley, Charles, 1707-1788. Methodist Church—Doctrines.

John Wesley, founder of Methodism, authored four hundred books and pamphlets. His brother Charles wrote the poetry for nine thousand hymns.

Their combined vision was ancient, biblical, practical, and timely. Paul Wesley Chilcote, a professor at Ashland Theological

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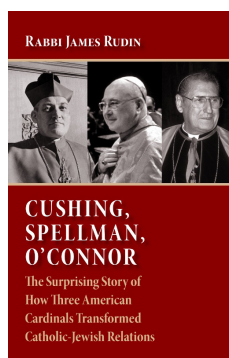
\*Some browsers may require you to type in the name of a book before taking you to Amazon. Do not click on *Get Widget*. If you have problems, contact Judy Janzen at the CSLA office.

Seminary in Ohio, describes various influences on the Wesleys, including their parents’ Puritanism, continental Moravian Pietism, and Eastern Orthodoxy.

Chilcote’s introduction is a concise and readable biography of the Wesleys. In the main portion of the text Chilcote has compiled a wide variety of Wesleyan excerpts, with John Wesley’s journals, letters, and sermons providing much of the material annotated here. Most of the writings by Charles Wesley are from the hymns.

In the page opposite each selection, Chilcote comments on background and influences. He reveals sources (for instance, Bible verses) not named in the excerpts.

Chilcote’s book is an essential title for Methodist libraries. Because John and Charles Wesley had such an impact on the larger realm of Christianity, it is also a good resource for libraries of other denominations. —*Ralph Hartsock*



### Cushing, Spellman, O'Connor: The Surprising Story of How Three American Cardinals Transformed Catholic-Jewish Relations

James Rudin. Eerdmans, 2012. 147p. \$18.00, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8028-6567-0. Available as an ebook. www.eerdmans.com 261.2'60973 Judaism—Relations—Catholic Church. Catholic Church—Relations—Judaism. Cushing, Richard, 1895-1970. Spellman, Francis, 1889-1967. O'Connor, John J. (John Joseph), 1920-2000. Judaism—United States—History—20<sup>th</sup> century. Catholic Church—United States—History—20<sup>th</sup> century. Christianity and anti-Semitism—History—United States—Ethnic relations. Vatican Council (2<sup>nd</sup>: 1962-1965).

United States—History—20<sup>th</sup> century. Christianity and anti-Semitism—History—United States—Ethnic relations. Vatican Council (2<sup>nd</sup>: 1962-1965).

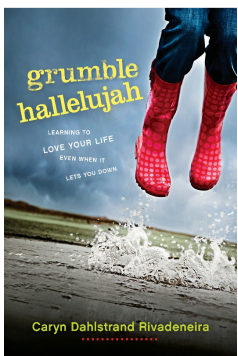
*Nostra Aetate* (In Our Age), a declaration approved by the Second Vatican Council in 1965, transformed Catholic-Jewish relations. Three American cardinals, Richard Cushing of Boston and Francis Spellman and John J. O'Connor of New York, played decisive roles in getting the declaration approved and seeing that its potential was achieved. Rabbi James Rudin, the senior interreligious advisor for the American Jewish Committee, presents the story as a historical adventure.

Rudin offers a frank review of the difficult history of Catholic-Jewish relations. It was that narrative that these three young Catholics learned growing up in pre-World War II America. Rudin details the upbringing of each and the spiritual journeys that led them to powerfully advocate, each in his own way, the adoption and implementation of *Nostra Aetate*. It is an insightful presentation that highlights the courage, vision, and commitment of the three cardinals.

Memories fade over fifty years, so this book serves as a valuable reminder of the way things were. In the final chapter of *Cushing, Spellman, O'Connor*, a call to action closes with the words of Cardinal Cushing: "I pray the final form [of *Nostra Aetate*] will . . . hasten the unity and harmony of all men in our modern world which is too large for enmity, too small for isolationism." This brief history merits the attention of all people of faith.

—Rabbi Louis A. Rieser

## Living in Faith



### Grumble Hallelujah: Learning to Love Your Life Even When It Lets You Down

Caryn Dahlstrand Rivadeneira. 📖 Tyndale House, 2011. 256p. \$14.99, paperback. 📄 ISBN: 978-1-4143-3801-9. 📖 Available as an ebook. 🌐 www.tyndale.com 📄 248.8'43 Christian women—Religious life. Attitude (Psychology)—Religious aspects—Christianity. Optimism.

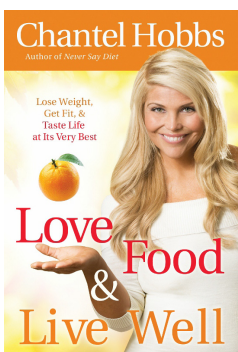
Readers of *Grumble Hallelujah* will feel they are having a good chat with Caryn Dahlstrand Rivadeneira. The author writes about those times when every-

thing seems to go wrong and life is falling apart. She urges readers going through such times to stop and remember that God created their lives just for them.

Rivadeneira does not claim that everything will always work out and things will be great in the end. Life is hard, she acknowledges, and learning to love one's own life is sometimes hard work. She assures readers, however, that they can learn to love their lives by letting go of some things and by nourishing their souls with God's love.

Rivadeneira divides her book into five sections, all centered around her high-spirited hallelujah theme. Each chapter ends with a prayer that begins "Okay, God" and ends with "Anyhow, God, Hallelujah, Amen." A final section, "Getting to Hallelujah," provides questions for reflection and discussion.

—Phyllis Wendorf



### Love Food & Live Well: Lose Weight, Get Fit, & Taste Life at Its Very Best

Chantel Hobbs. 📖 Waterbrook (an imprint of Multnomah), 2010. 222p. \$19.99, hardcover. 📄 ISBN: 978-0-307-45784-4. [\$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-307-45785-1.] 📖 Available as an ebook. 🌐 www.waterbrookmultnomah.com 📄 613.7 Weight loss. Physical fitness. Food habits.

In *Love Food & Live Well*, Chantel Hobbs writes in an engaging manner about

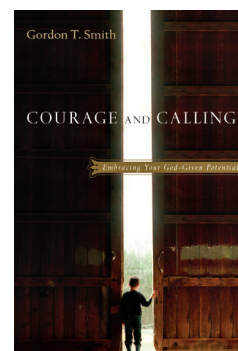
her own fight with weight. Hobbs at one time weighed over three hundred pounds; she has lost two hundred pounds and kept them off. She writes about her problems with trying to lose weight and dieting, so readers know that Hobbs has "been there, done that."

Hobbs's focus is on letting God take hold of our lives. She writes that we cannot do it alone but must acknowledge and let go of whatever prevents us from achieving our goals. That means letting God be in control.

Hobbs also explains calories in food and what we should eat. She gives examples and a few recommended recipes. Hobbs reminds us that we cannot lose weight unless we also get moving. She provides a section on exercise. *Love Food & Live Well* ends with Hobbs's thoughts on "Living Well for the Rest of Your Life."

—Phyllis Wendorf

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### Courage & Calling: Embracing Your God-Given Potential. Rev. ed.

Gordon T. Smith. 📖 InterVarsity, 2011. 269p. \$17.00, paperback. 📄 ISBN: 978-0-8308-3554-6. 📖 Available as an ebook. 🌐 www.ivpress.com 📄 248 Vocation—Christianity.

An excellent book when first published can be expected to be even better when revised, and the new edition of *Courage & Calling* does not disappoint. Gordon T. Smith introduces his theme of "call" with Frederick Buechner's definition:

"the place where your deep gladness

and the world's deep hunger meet." In twelve content-laden chapters Smith addresses numerous topics, including vocation (as opposed to career), excellence, fear, continuous learning, and courage. Smith writes from experience as pastor, professor, and administrator. His pleasant tone conveys conviction and a willingness to challenge conventional thinking.

Broad resources from which quotations are drawn include scripture and the writings of such authors as Ralph Waldo Emerson, Parker Palmer, and Buechner. A chapter of interest to readers ranging in age from the teens to the senior years is "Chapters in our Lives," where Smith connects adult life stages with their respective strengths and challenges.

There are noteworthy discussions of continuous learning, the reality of suffering and suggested positive responses, knowing when to resign, the need for solitude, and community as anchor.

*Courage & Calling*, first published in 1999, deserves serious study and is recommended for persons in sacred or secular environments. Though written from the Christian perspective, there is rich content for persons of all faiths. —Carolyn Egolf



## Hot Buttons: Dating Edition

Nicole O'Dell. Kregel, 2012. 160p. \$9.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8254-4240-7. Available as an ebook. www.kregel.com 248.8'45 Parenting—Religious aspects—Christianity. Child rearing—Religious aspects—Christianity. Dating (Social customs)—Religious aspects—Christianity. Christian teenagers—Conduct of life. Series: Hot Buttons.



## Hot Buttons: Internet Edition

Nicole O'Dell. Kregel, 2012. 168p. \$9.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8254-4239-1. Available as an ebook. www.kregel.com 248.8'45 Parenting—Religious aspects—Christianity. Child rearing—Religious aspects—Christianity. Internet—Religious aspects—Christianity. Christian teenagers—Conduct of life. Series: Hot Buttons.



Parenting is not easy, but with the advice of Nicole O'Dell, the founder of Choose NOW

ministries, there is hope for those who are guiding tweens and teens. In *Hot Buttons: Dating Edition*, O'Dell covers such topics as boy-girl relationships, when (and if) teens should date, how far to go with physical contact, and what to do about an abusive relationship. *Hot Buttons: Internet Edition* discusses how not to fall victim to social media traps and how much supervision parents should have over teens' activity on the internet. Challenges such as knowing the true identity of friends they meet online, the danger of easy online access to pornography, and avoiding predators who are out to steal information or harm youth are also discussed.

The two books follow a similar pattern and are easy to use. They first set the tone for helping Christian parents prepare to dialogue with their teens, learn to listen to what they are really saying, and be proactive in their discussions. Next they address the hot button topics, providing current information on each issue. Finally they present scenarios with choices teens could possibly make, opening up opportunities for important non-threatening dialogue. Scripture verses supplement each section.

Look for other volumes in the series. The *Hot Button* books provide Christian parents needed advice for guiding teens. They are also must-reads for anyone working with teen and YA church programs. —Mary Lou Henneman

## Help for Hard Times



## Goodbye, Friend: Healing Wisdom for Anyone Who Has Ever Lost a Pet. Rev. ed.

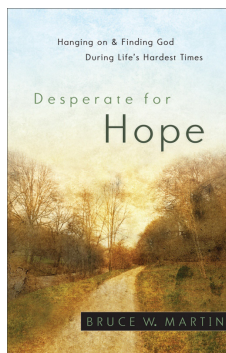
Gary Kowalski. New World Library, 2012. 176p. \$14.00, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-60868-086-3. Available as an ebook. www.newworldlibrary.com 636.088'7 Pet owners—Psychology. Pets—Death—Psychological aspects. Bereavement—Psychological aspects.

Anyone who has lost a pet, whether a dog, cat, bird, guinea pig, horse, rabbit, or other creature, knows how difficult the passing of an animal companion can

be. Gary Kowalski, a Unitarian Universalist minister who also authored *The Souls of Animals* (New World Library, 2007), wrote

*Goodbye, Friend* to help humans deal with this loss. He acknowledges that we go through the grieving process when we lose animal friends. Honoring a pet's memory helps us recover from our grief, in the same way that honoring our lost family members is part of healing from loss. Kowalski sensitively explains death in a way that allows both children and adults to grasp its meaning. This small but powerful book is filled with photos, stories, poetry, and prayers. The added section of quotes by well-known people is especially moving. This is an important congregational library resource book for pet lovers.

—Mary Lou Henneman



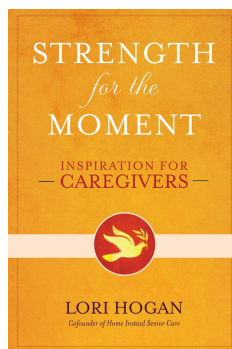
## Desperate for Hope: Hanging On and Finding God during Life's Hardest Times

Bruce W. Martin. Revell (an imprint of Baker), 2012. 221p. \$13.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8007-2054-4. Available as an ebook. www.revellbooks.com 248.8'6 Suffering—Religious aspects—Christianity. Hope—Religious aspects—Christianity.

Bruce W. Martin, pastor, counselor, and inspirational speaker, authored *Desperate for Hope* using the Book of Job as its framework. Although few people suffer

to the extent that Job did, there are people who seem to have more than their share of misfortunes. Such situations give rise to questions of why terrible things happen to good people. Martin's thesis, repeated throughout the book, is "God is more intent on perfecting us through trouble than on protecting us from trouble." As support for that idea, Martin writes that "just as Jesus learned through suffering, so must we."

Martin is candid in recounting the experiences in his own life that show without doubt that he knows whereof he speaks. He feels that "suffering is . . . part of following Christ" and the point of it is to know God. Martin's colloquial, conversational style makes *Desperate for Hope* easy to read. Most of his ideas are comforting, but some are not, providing much substance for profound reflection. —Beverly M. Bixler



## Strength for the Moment: Inspiration for Caregivers

Lori Hogan. Image (an imprint of Random House), 2012. 278p. \$18.00, hardcover. ISBN: 978-0-307-88700-9. Available as an ebook. www.imagecatholicbooks.com 242.4 Caregiving—Meditations.

A trio of adjectives—heart-wrenching, heartwarming, and inspirational—best describe the stories told in *Strength for the Moment: Inspiration for Caregivers*.

The book should be required reading for all caregivers, including professionals, friends, and family members who may become caregivers (often an unexpected situation). Author Lori Hogan and her husband are co-founders of Home Instead Senior Care, an international caregiving service.

*Strength for the Moment* consists of fifty-two short first-person accounts of the experiences of caregivers. Hogan's brief introductions, based on various aspects of her own life, and an appropriate passage of scripture preface each selection; a short prayer closes each.

Readers will find in capsule form a list of ailments afflicting the elderly (cancer and dementia among the most common),



## Classics Corner

### When Bad Things Happen to Good People

Harold S. Kushner. 📖 Anchor (an imprint of Random House), 2004. 164p. \$12.95, paperback. 📖 ISBN: 978-1-4000-3472-7. 📖 Available as an ebook and audiobook. 🌐 www.randomhouse.com 214 Suffering. Theodicy. Pastoral counseling (Judaism).

When tragedy strikes, it is tempting to ask how God could let it happen. Some who are suffering say God has a reason or that God never gives us greater burdens than we can bear. Some feel angry at God. These and other common reactions assume that God causes terrible things to happen and determines who the victims will be. Rabbi Harold S. Kushner wrote *When Bad Things Happen to Good People* (first published in 1981 by Schocken Books) after his own family's tragedy, the death of his fourteen-year-old son from progeria, or "rapid aging."

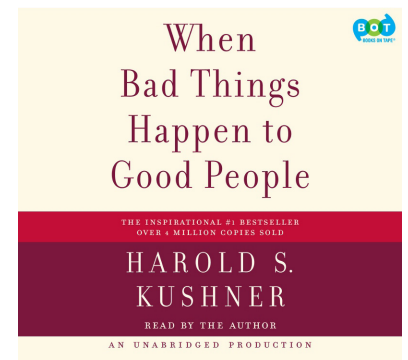
Kushner asks readers to consider that terrible events are often simply random occurrences or the workings of nature. (He reminds readers that God does not suspend the law of gravity so that a favored person will not fall and be injured.)

Kushner revisits the biblical story of Job, a classic example of a good man facing inexplicable suffering. He discusses the role prayer can play in times of tragedy.

Kushner proposes that ultimately we can rise beyond asking why something bad has happened and instead focus on how we will respond. "The God I believe in does not send us the problem; He gives us the strength to cope with the problem."

Kushner has authored eight other books. The Jewish Book Council gave him its 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award.

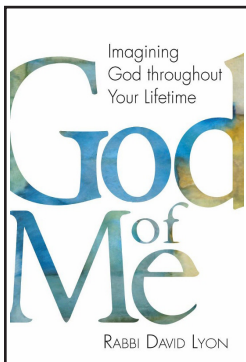
—Monica Tenney



characteristics of aging, and lessons learned from experiences with the common problems of caregivers and others close to patients. Hogan's book should be in all congregational libraries.

—Beverly M. Bixler

## Judaica



### God of Me: Imagining God throughout Your Lifetime

David Lyon. 📖 Jewish Lights, 2011. 157p. \$16.99, paperback. 📖 ISBN: 978-1-58023-452-8. 📖 Available as an ebook. 🌐 www.jewishlights.com 📖 296.3'1172 God (Judaism).

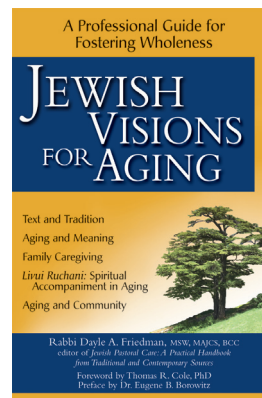
David Lyon, senior rabbi at Congregation Beth Israel in Houston, has written a friendly guide for people who are seeking God in their lives. In ten chapters, he leads readers through the cycles of life, introducing each section by quoting from the Torah and from

rabbinic texts. For example, in the first chapter, "God is Everywhere," he cites Exodus 8:2, where the angel of God appears to Moses in a burning bush. Words from Exodus Rabbah 2:5 follow, explaining that God reveals himself in a lowly thorn bush because God's presence is everywhere. Lyon uses the collective "we" as he takes readers through a lifetime of challenges and life-cycle changes from birth to old age.

On choosing the right path in life, Lyon quotes Elie Wiesel: "Being Jewish is not the pursuit of happiness; it is the pursuit of meaning." Lyon believes that it is never too late to seek communication with God and that we need to overcome self-made stumbling blocks and let God enter into our lives. God will meet us halfway or wherever we are.

There are notes, suggestions for further reading, and for each chapter a discussion guide. Recommended for adult education groups.

—Evelyn Pockrass



### Jewish Visions for Aging: A Professional Guide for Fostering Wholeness

Dayle A. Friedman. 📖 Jewish Lights, 2008. 236p. \$24.99, hardcover. 📖 ISBN: 978-1-58023-348-4. 📖 Available as an ebook. 🌐 www.jewishlights.com 📖 296.084'6 Aging—Religious aspects—Judaism. Older Jews—Care. Older Jews—Religious life. Respect for persons. Dementia—Patients—Care. Aging parents—Care—Religious aspects—Judaism. Jewish ethics.

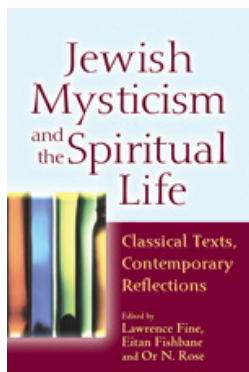
Synagogues, like all of our institutions, are aging. What does

this mean in a time when ninety-year-olds and even one-hundred-year-olds are increasingly common? This masterful book presents a creative re-thinking of the ways the Jewish community can respond to and serve our elders.

The third stage of life, after retirement, poses a challenge for many people and for the institutions that serve retirees. *Jewish Visions for Aging* builds on a foundation clearly set in the classic values of our tradition. It suggests a model based on the performance of *mitzvot*, or religious obligations, to help individuals find meaning regardless of their ages or situations. It faces the hard concerns of caregivers, including the ethical challenges born of competing family obligations. It proposes ways in which families, synagogues, and other institutions can better serve the intergenerational community. Throughout the book there are examples that illustrate the possibility of continued spiritual growth and community engagement.

Written for professionals, this book will inform teachers, caregivers, and seniors themselves. Addressed to the Jewish community, its message is universal. I hope this book is read widely and becomes a standard part of preparation for anyone working with persons who are entering the third stage of life.

—Rabbi Louis A. Rieser



## Jewish Mysticism and the Spiritual Life: Classical Texts, Contemporary Reflections

Lawrence Fine, Eitan Fishbane, and Or N. Rose, eds. Jewish Lights, 2011. 223p. \$24.99, hardcover. ISBN: 978-1-58023434-4. Available as an ebook. www.jewishlights.com 296.7'12 Mysticism—Judaism. Spiritual life—Judaism.

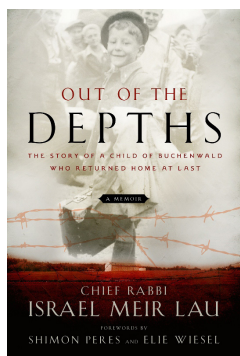
Hasidism, a mystical approach to Jewish life, attracts many religious seekers because Hasidic masters read classic texts in a way that fills daily life with spiritual significance. *Jewish Mysticism and the Spiritual Life* provides lucid commentary that reaches beyond the selected passages of text to consider the importance these teachings can have for a contemporary reader.

Hasidic writings are a complex mix of biblical verses understood through Talmudic and mystical lenses. Without the benefit of teacher or commentary, they are often opaque. The teachers in this volume understand that the reader needs a patient guide in order to plumb the depths of these beautiful teachings. The reader is not disappointed. The essays unravel a theological, historical, and textual maze to reveal insights into our contemporary world.

The twenty-seven essays are divided into six sections, some theological and some more practical. Some look inward, while others consider one's place in the greater world. Many of the passages are not otherwise available in English.

This book is for readers who seek contemporary wisdom derived from classic sources, for those looking for an uncommon approach to Jewish life, and for anyone who appreciates thoughtful explorations of religious thought.

—Rabbi Louis A. Rieser



## Out of the Depths: The Story of a Child of Buchenwald Who Returned Home at Last

Israel Meir Lau. Sterling, 2011. 380p. \$24.95, hardcover. ISBN: 978-1-4027-8631-0. www.sterlingpublishing.com 940.53 Holocaust—Jewish (1939-1945)—Personal narratives.

Israel Meir Lau emerged from the death camps of Nazi Europe at age eight with no education, no parents, and no direction. His devoted brother, Naftali, took seriously their parents' wish

to go to Eretz Israel and to help the boy follow in the path of his rabbinic father. In this sensitive memoir Lau tells the story of his life through the Holocaust and after, when he rises to become Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Israel.

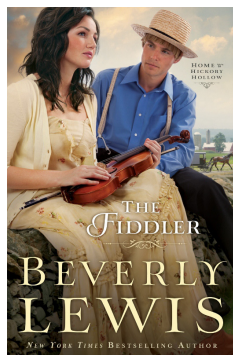
Lau describes himself as a bridge between generations. His story of survival, including the trauma of the murders of his family and the horrors of the death camps, is deeply moving and, at times, miraculous. He learns from his experiences the need to nurture Jewish life wherever it is found. He also carries his experience into meetings with powerful leaders within Israel and around the world. His encounters with the Pope and with Fidel Castro are fascinating.

It is worth noting that his memoir is filled with biblical and rabbinic references; Lau sees his life as a mission embedded in the life of Torah.

This frank chronicle is told with surprising gentleness. *Out of the Depths* introduces the reader to a remarkable and courageous man.

—Rabbi Louis A. Rieser

## Fiction



### The Fiddler

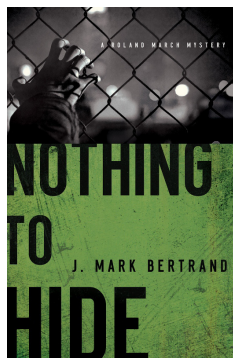
Beverly Lewis. Bethany House, 2012. 326p. \$15.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-7642-0977-2. Available as an ebook. www.bethanyhouse.com Fiction Women violinists—Fiction. Amish—Fiction. Amish Country (Pa.)—Fiction. Domestic fiction. Series: Home to Hickory Hollow.

Readers of Beverly Lewis's novels know that her strong, credible characters provide good insight into the positive and negative aspects of the Amish way of life.

Frequently, an attraction between an Amish character and an Englisher forms the basis of the main plot. Usually the Amish protagonist is female and the Englisher male. *The Fiddler*, however, presents the situation in reverse.

When she loses her way in Pennsylvania's Amish country, Amelia Devries has no other option than to accept the hospitality of Michael Hostetler, a young Amishman. Michael persuades Amelia to spend the weekend with an Amish family who are friends of his. Amelia is a concert violinist who also loves to play the fiddle at country music programs. Her music and her playing fascinate Michael but are not approved of by the Old Order Amish.

An attraction develops between Amelia and Michael as they both struggle with making decisions that will affect their futures. Michael is wrestling with whether to become an Englisher, and Amelia feels trapped by pressures to continue her classical concert career when she would like to do something else with her music. After months of struggle, both characters find satisfactory solutions to their problems. —Beverly M. Bixler



### Nothing to Hide

J. Mark Bertrand. Bethany House (an imprint of Baker), 2012. 330p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-7642-0639-9. Available as an ebook. www.bethanyhouse.com Fiction March, Roland (Fictitious character)—Fiction. Murder—Investigation—Fiction. United States. Federal Bureau of Investigation—Fiction. Houston (Tex.)—Fiction. Series: Roland March.

In this gritty novel of suspense, Houston homicide detective Roland March is assigned the case of a murdered Houston gun dealer who has ties both to federal law enforcement agencies and to a Mexican cartel. Suffering from a leg injury and frustrated by a lack of cooperation from the FBI, March is left to pursue the case alone when his partner is killed and he is suspended from the homicide squad for insubordination. Long known as a rogue cop who ignores police regulations and legal niceties, March continues to search for the killers aided by a revenge-seeking CIA assassin.

March is not a cuddly character. He admits to seeing himself as an "avenging angel" seeking justice for the innocent. *Noth-*

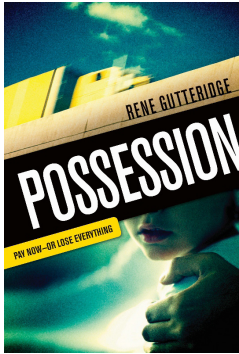


*ing to Hide* ends in an unbelievable shoot-out in northern Mexico.

The hero is not a religious person, but his wife is a Christian. He is troubled by the violence around him but refuses to visit a counselor to deal with his obsessions.

This is the third book in the series, and it appears more are to come. A look back at the first, *Back on Murder* (2010), shows it contains more discussion of living a Christian life.

For *Nothing to Hide*, mature audiences only. —*Forrest Rice*



## Possession

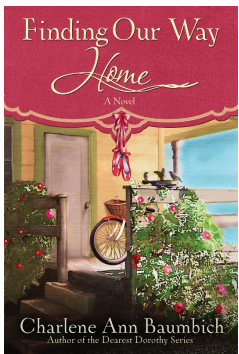
Rene Gutteridge. 📖 Tyndale House, 2010. 381p. \$12.99, paperback. 📖 ISBN: 978-1-4143-2434-0. 📖 Available as an ebook. 🌐 www.tyndale.com 📖 Fiction Ex-police officers—Fiction. Marital conflict—Fiction. California—Fiction.

Rene Gutteridge knows how to keep readers of Christian suspense thrillers on the edge of their seats. In *Possession*, Vance Graegan is a former detective in Washington, D.C. Vance's recurring nightmares after working the D.C. sniper case prompted him to take an early

retirement. He tries not to admit he still has a problem with severe headaches caused by post-traumatic stress disorder. In addition, there are secrets involving his female ex-partner that Vance never revealed to his wife. He tries to begin life anew by moving with his wife and eight-year-old son to California. The family runs into trouble as soon as they arrive. Because of a loophole in the contract, the truck driver carrying their belongings refuses to unload their possessions and hits them with an extra eight-thousand-dollar charge that keeps threatening to go up. What secrets did the driver find in one sealed box?

Vance's wife tries to hold her marriage together as she wonders why her husband has lied to her. It takes the simple outlook of Conner, their son, whose faith and prayers help give them strength to conquer even the worst demons, to see them through. The suspense never lets up in *Possession*, making it a perfect book for readers who enjoy this genre.

—*Mary Lou Henneman*



## Finding Our Way Home: A Novel

Charlene Ann Baumbich. 📖 Waterbrook Multnomah (an imprint of Random House), 2012. 321p. \$13.99, paperback. 📖 ISBN: 978-0-307-44473-8. 📖 Available as an ebook. 🌐 www.waterbrookmultnomah.com 📖 Fiction Female friendship—Fiction.

Sasha Davis is a thirty-eight-year-old former prima ballerina whose career ended when she was badly hurt in an on-stage fall. Sasha has regretfully left her dancing-partner husband and retreated to her hometown of Wanon-

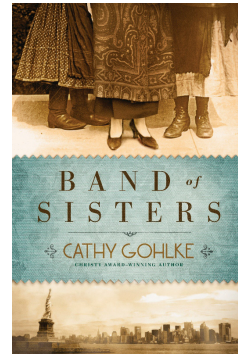
ishaw, Wisconsin. There she grieves the passing of her mother as well as the loss of her mobility, her career, and engagement with other people. Sasha hires a nineteen-year-old local, Evelyn Burt, as a live-in aide.

Sasha and Evelyn seem as different as two people can be: Sasha is cultured while Evelyn is unworldly; Sasha is private and withdrawn, Evelyn open and gregarious; Sasha is small and graceful, Evelyn big-boned and clumsy. Both women face tough questions about the future. For Evelyn, the question is

whether to forego college and marry—against the wishes of her schoolteacher parents—the young heartthrob who sends chills down her spine. Sasha, who at first resists and then embraces the hard work she must do to recover from her injuries, must decide whether to repair the bond she broke with her husband.

References to faith are few and subtle. *Finding Our Way Home* will appeal to fans of fiction about women, their family and romantic relationships, and their friendships with one another.

—*Monica Tenney*



## Band of Sisters

Cathy Gohlke. 📖 Tyndale House, 2012. 422p. \$13.99, paperback. 📖 ISBN: 978-1-4143-5308-1. 📖 Available as an ebook. 🌐 www.tyndale-house.com 📖 Fiction Sisters—Fiction. Irish—New York (State)—New York—Fiction. New York (N.Y.)—History—1898-1951—Fiction. Ireland—Emigration and immigration—Fiction.

The terms “white slavery” and “human trafficking” refer to situations that are not unique to contemporary society. In *Band of Sisters*, Cathy Gohlke has crafted a gripping novel dealing with social

problems of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. They include human trafficking, poverty, and immigration. Immigrants were often young women who entered the United States alone and with no financial support.

Maureen O'Reilly and her sister journey from Ireland to New York early in the last century, expecting to benefit from a promise made to their father years before. Disappointed when that does not occur and fearing deportation, Maureen soon obtains a job in a well-known department store in Manhattan. Before long, rumors and the mysterious periodic disappearance of one of the store's young clerks make Maureen suspicious and afraid.

Having been abused by the son of her former employer in Ireland, strong-willed Maureen has a keen sense of justice and a strong desire to fight injustice when she sees it. Maureen and Joshua Keeton, a young man from Maureen's home village, become participants in a risky plan that succeeds in exposing the criminal exploitation of women by the store's administrators and others. Although Maureen and Joshua know this will not end the practice in the city, at least it is a beginning.

—*Beverly M. Bixler*



## Almost Amish: A Novel

Kathryn Cushman. 📖 Bethany House, 2012. 332p. \$14.99, paperback. 📖 ISBN: 978-0-7642-0826-3. 📖 Available as an ebook. 🌐 www.bethanyhouse.com 📖 Fiction Self-realization in women—Fiction. Amish—Fiction. Tennessee—Fiction.

Kathryn Cushman's *Almost Amish* is both delightfully humorous and thought-provoking, thanks to the attitudes and behavior of strong characters and unexpected plot twists.

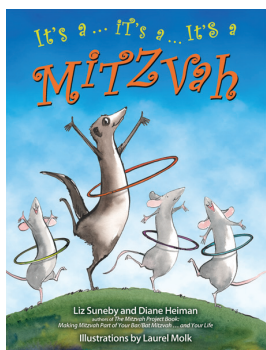
Susan Reynolds, divorced mother of a teenage daughter, works on a television homemaking show. She hopes to enhance her career by participating in a reality series that will feature a family living as the Amish do. Needing more of a family, Susan, a driven perfectionist and all-round type-A personality, enlists her sister-in-law, Julie Charlton, and

Julie's two teenagers to join her in the three-month experience. Julie is not assertive and has never learned to say no. Overwhelmed by trying to fulfill all her obligations, the idea of living a simple life intrigues her.

Both Susan and Julie find, however, that "simple" (as they would define it) does not describe the Amish lifestyle. Hard work, inconvenience, and their children's escapades force them to engage in introspection that, by the end of the summer, results in changes for the better in their lives. Cushman subtly challenges her readers to similar introspection and change.

—Beverly M. Bixler

## For Young Children



### It's a . . . It's a . . . It's a Mitzvah

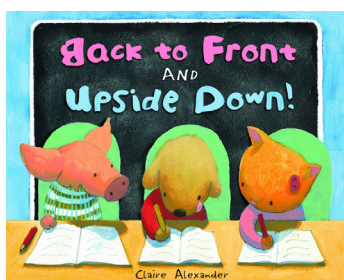
Liz Suneby and Diane Heiman. Illustrated by Laurel Molk. Jewish Lights, 2012. 32p. \$18.99, hardcover. ISBN: 978-1-58023-509-9. www.jewishlights.com J296.1'8 Commandments

Playful animals help Mitzvah Meerkat explain the answer to "What's a mitzvah?" in this large-format picture book. To start, monkeys invite readers to have fun on the monkey bars. On one side of the double-page layout, Mitzvah Meerkat declares it

is a mitzvah to be a friend to a newcomer. The pattern repeats as young readers turn the pages. Children see active animals demonstrating good deeds at various moments in everyday living: sharing food with the hungry, helping an older person, forgiving someone's error, taking care of the earth, returning a lost object, cheering friends, visiting the sick, giving charity, handling a potential conflict by peaceful methods, observing the Sabbath with others, honoring parents, and enjoying the warmth of each mitzvah as a treasured way of life.

Intended for ages 3-6, this book is recommended for early childhood collections.

—Evelyn Pockrass



### Back to Front and Upside Down!

Claire Alexander. Eerdmans, 2012. 26p. \$16.00, hardcover. ISBN: 978-0-8028-5414-8. www.eerdmans.com [E] Dyslexia—Juvenile fiction.

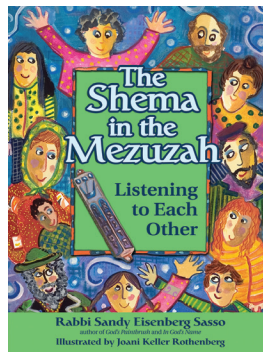
After Mr. Slippers, the principal at Stan's school, bursts into the classroom and invites

everyone to his birthday party, all the students are excited. Their teacher, Miss Catnip, suggests they make birthday cards, and everyone sets to work drawing and writing their birthday wishes. Stan gets frustrated, though, when his letters come out the wrong way. Stan gets more and more stressed—even his name is coming out wrong!

Stan feels as if he is the only one who has this problem. He eventually follows the advice of a sympathetic friend and confides in Miss Catnip. Stan not only gets help from his teacher; he also finds out he is not the only student whose letters want to go in the wrong direction. He learns, too, that sometimes he

may have to work a little longer, and when he gets stuck, he should ask for help.

Claire Alexander, with her sympathetic text and illustrations, offers understanding to children with dyslexia and other learning disabilities. This simple story of Stan and his schoolmates (all adorable) will encourage children facing any difficulty to ask for help and realize they are not alone. Highly recommended for ages 4-7. —Monica Tenney



### The Shema in the Mezuzah: Listening to Each Other

Sandy Eisenberg Sasso. Illustrated by Joani Keller Rothenberg. Jewish Lights, 2012. 32p. \$18.99, hardcover. ISBN: 978-1-58023-506-8. www.jewishlights.com [E] Mezuzah—Fiction. Jews—Fiction. Judaism—Customs and practices—Fiction. Listening—Fiction.

When entering a Jewish home you may wonder about a symbol attached to the doorpost. It is a mezuzah, an encased scroll contain-

ing biblical inscriptions, including the Shema, the prayer that begins, "Hear (listen), O Israel . . ."

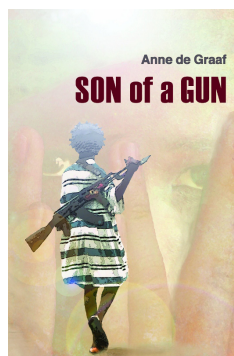
Rabbi Sandy Sasso and Joani Keller Rothenberg, a member of Sasso's congregation, combine their storytelling and creative skills to highlight the meaning of the mezuzah. Annie helps her grandmother unpack on moving day. After affixing the mezuzah, Grandmother tells a story about its placement on the doorpost. Once upon a time some townspeople wanted the mezuzah to be placed standing up; others thought it should be lying down. A bitter argument ensued. The people consulted the rabbi, and he agreed with everyone! He also told them to *listen* to what was written on the scroll. As a result, they compromised, and the mezuzah was placed in a slanted position, both standing up and lying down.

According to Annie's grandmother, the mezuzah helps us remember, when we enter a house, to stop shouting and arguing. Instead we should *listen* to each other.

*The Shema in the Mezuzah*, with its simple message and vibrant paintings, is a good introduction to the mezuzah, the Shema, and resolving conflicts. Recommended for children aged 3-6.

—Evelyn Pockrass

## For Older Children and Teens



### Son of a Gun

Anne de Graaf. Eerdmans, 2012. 125p. \$8.00, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8028-5406-3. Available as an ebook. www.eerdmans.com Fiction. Liberia—History—Civil War, 1989-1996—Juvenile fiction. Child soldiers—Fiction. Brothers and sisters—Fiction.

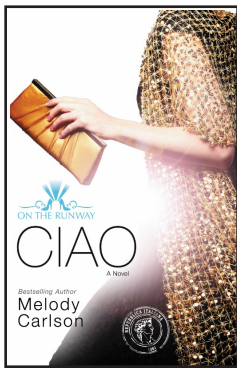
*Son of a Gun* is an extraordinary story about a brother and sister—eight-year-old Lucky and ten-year-old Nopi—who live in the African nation of Liberia. It is a fictional account



based on true incidents involving children during the fourteen-year war in Liberia, when innocents were snatched from their families and forced to serve as child soldiers carrying AK-47 rifles. Anne de Graaf skillfully conveys for young teen readers the reality of war without relying on graphic details. She includes sections at the end of the story explaining daily life in Liberia, its weather and geography, education and history, as well as the meaning of war and the role child soldiers have played. There are discussion questions that allow students and adults to share dialogue about violence and war. This is a powerful book that relates terrible events in a sensitive manner.

*Son of a Gun* is suitable for encouraging young readers to discuss how their faith and beliefs relate to these tough issues. Even though the children featured in the story are only eight and ten, because of the subject matter I recommend this book for young teens and older readers.

—Mary Lou Henneman



### Ciao

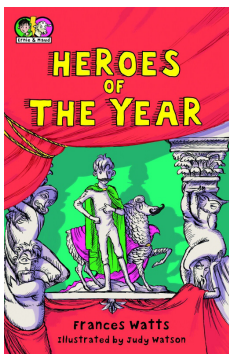
Melody Carlson. 📖 Zondervan, 2011. 198p. \$9.99, paperback. 📖 ISBN: 978-0-310-71791-1. 📖 Available as an ebook. 🌐 www.zondervan.com 📖 Fiction Reality television programs—Fiction. Television—Production and direction—Fiction. Fashion—Fiction. Sisters—Fiction. Interpersonal relations—Fiction. Christian life—Fiction. Series: On the Runway.

Fans of Melody Carlson's *On the Runway* series will enjoy this sixth installment. The drama continues as Erin and her sister Paige are in Milan during

fashion week. Erin tries to help all the important people in her life find happiness. Paige begins to doubt whether her fiancé, designer Dylan Marceau, truly loves her. The girls' mother, also the director of their television series, tries to balance the personal and professional relationships she has with her daughters. Other continuing plot lines involve Fran, who is now undergoing chemotherapy, and Mollie, who as the mother of a newborn has exchanged the glamorous life of the European fashion scene for dirty diapers and postpartum depression. It takes Erin's Christian faith and common sense to keep her sane.

*Ciao* is a perfect book for Christian teens who enjoy reality TV and the latest fashion trends. Read the books in sequence: *Premiere*, *Catwalk*, *Rendezvous*, *Spotlight*, *Glamour*, and *Ciao*. Fans should not worry—there are enough plot lines left to keep this series going.

—Mary Lou Henneman



### Heroes of the Year

Frances Watts. Illustrated by Judy Watson. 📖 Eerdmans, 2012. 84p. \$6.00, paperback. 📖 ISBN: 978-0-8028-5412-4. 📖 Available as an ebook. 🌐 www.eerdmans.com 📖 Fiction Superheroes—Fiction. Sheep—Fiction. Contests—Fiction. Series: Ernie & Maud.

Children want and need heroes to emulate, and who better than the team of Extraordinary Ernest and his trusty sheep companion, Marvelous Maud. The dynamic duo, members of the Superheroes Society, have never won first place

in a contest and are tired of being runners-up. Now, as a crime wave hits town (a despicable villain is painting mustaches on all

the posters!), they have a good chance of being named Heroes of the Year. They must decide which is more important—winning the contest or catching the culprit.

In this action-packed adventure for children in the second grade and higher, readers learn what really makes someone a superhero: self-respect and caring for others. Clever illustrations by Judy Watson support the simple but amazing story by Frances Watts. *Heroes of the Year* is a good book for teaching values. It will be a nice addition to congregational libraries along with the other books in the series: *Extraordinary Ernie and Marvelous Maud*, *The Middle Sheep*, and *The Greatest Sheep in History*, all from Eerdmans.

—Mary Lou Henneman

### To My Sons: Lessons for the Wild Adventure Called Life

Bear Grylls. 📖 David C. Cook, 2012. 127p. \$9.99, hardcover. 📖 ISBN: 978-1-4347-0358-3. 📖 Available as an ebook. 🌐 www.davidccook.com 📖 248.832 Youth—Conduct of life. Men—Conduct of life. Christian life.

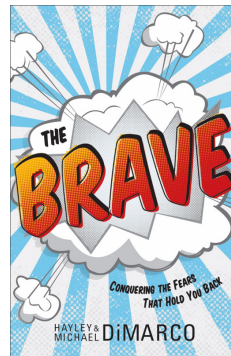
In uncomplicated prose punctuated with simple, clever line drawings, Bear Grylls provides inspirational wisdom for boys in *To My Sons: Lessons for the Wild Adventure Called Life*.

"Remember that how you speak about others speaks loudest about yourself." "Be the most enthusiastic person you know! Love Jesus." Can a father give any better advice to his sons?

This is a great book to put in the hands of young boys; they can read it in one sitting, pick it up and find treasures when they need inspiration, and continue to enjoy it as they grow older. The sayings will always remain pertinent.

Congregational librarians may want to use these inspirational sayings and illustrations for thought-provoking bulletin boards.

—Mary Lou Henneman



### The Brave: Conquering the Fears that Hold You Back

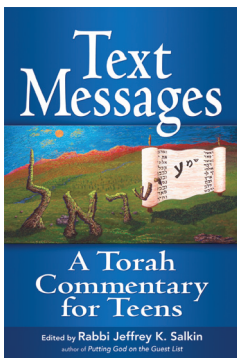
Hayley and Michael DiMarco. 📖 Revell (an imprint of Baker), 2012. 163p. \$12.99, paperback. 📖 ISBN: 978-0-8007-3305-6. 📖 Available as an ebook. 🌐 www.revellbooks.com 📖 241'.4 Fear—Religious aspects—Christianity. Anxiety—Religious aspects—Christianity. Courage—Religious aspects—Christianity. Peace of mind—Religious aspects—Christianity.

Hayley and Michael DiMarco ask teenagers, "What are you afraid of?" Dying in a plane crash, being attacked in the

neighborhood while walking home at night, being laughed at by other students in school—all sorts of possibilities frighten young people. Is feeling fear an indication that you are a wimp and can never be brave? The DiMarcos, husband and wife who have each authored other books for teens and young adults, collaborate in *The Brave* to offer their target audience common-sense advice on what it means to be brave.

Firmly grounding their text in scripture, the DiMarcos distinguish between good fear and bad fear. They explain the difference between having faith and acting foolish in confronting various fears. The scenarios they present help young people understand the likely results of different decisions. The DiMarcos write, "The brave know that it isn't by their own strength or might that they do anything, but it's only through the spirit of God that lives inside of them." This is a good book for Christian teens and YAs and will prompt group discussion.

—Mary Lou Henneman



### Text Messages: A Torah Commentary for Teens

Jeffrey K. Salkin, ed. Jewish Lights, 2012. 276p. \$24.99, hardcover. ISBN: 978-1-58023-507-5. Available as an ebook. www.jewishlights.com 222'.107 Bible. O.T.—Pentateuch—Commentaries. Jewish teenagers—Conduct of life.

Whether they are studying for their bar mitzvah or bat mitzvah or just trying to find relevance in the Torah, teenagers and young adults will find that *Text Messages* clearly connects the scriptures

to their lives. Rabbi Jeffrey K. Salkin has gathered almost a hundred rabbis, scholars, educators, cantors, and students, with backgrounds including Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, and Reconstructionist, to discuss the meaning of the Torah portions and relate them to current issues.

Jewish teens, as they mature in faith, are making the connection between their Jewish identity and their personal ethics, their prayer lives, their ideas about war and peace, participating in repairing the world, and how to respect their parents and still be independent individuals. Entries in this book are only two to three pages long—brief and to the point, as text messages are. The examples contributors use are focused and relevant, bringing dynamic insight and relevance. This book should be included in all synagogue libraries.

—Mary Lou Henneman

## This issue's reviewers

Beverly M. Bixler *First Presbyterian Church, Ashland, Ohio* ✧ Carolyn Egolf *Lincolnshire Church of the Brethren, Fort Wayne, Indiana* ✧ Ralph Harstock *Trietsch Memorial United Methodist Church, Flower Mound, Texas* ✧ Mary Lou Henneman *Boardman United Methodist Church, Boardman, Ohio* ✧ Evelyn Pockrass *Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, Indianapolis, Indiana* ✧ Forrest Rice *Community United Methodist Church, Naperville, Illinois* ✧ Rabbi Louis A. Rieser *Boynton Beach, Florida* ✧ Monica Tenney, *Media Review Editor Maple Grove United Methodist Church, Columbus, Ohio* ✧ Phyllis Wendorf *Mentor United Methodist Church, Mentor, Ohio*

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# New CSLA Guides Hot off the press



### Resources Manual for Congregational Libraries: An Annotated Bibliography

by Ellen Bosman. An entirely new approach to resources for congregational libraries! Bosman has carefully researched and annotated various resources for libraries and has chosen the very best for this guide. The manual is divided into two major sections: one with tools for librarians and the other for enrichment resources for library patrons. Resources are arranged in large topic areas such as: reference materials, cataloging and classification, promotion, world religions, parenting, prayer, gender studies, and recommended authors. 50 p. \$14.00.

### Selecting a New Library Cataloging and Circulation Computer System

by Bill Doole, edited by Jeri Zulli. A carefully thought-out process for choosing a library software program for your particular library. Each step is explained and clearly presented. Three easy steps to adapt to any size library: 1. Decide what you want your system to do—just catalog or have public access to the catalog, also keep track of circulation, or more; 2. Research the various software packages out there; 3. Create a plan of action. Each of these steps is detailed for the guide user. 20 p. \$12.00.



# TECH TALK

## EMAIL IN THE CONGREGATIONAL LIBRARY



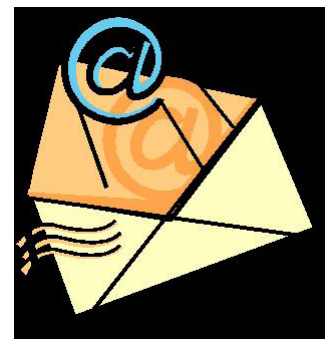
Email can be an effective and inexpensive way to get information out to patrons as well as a way for patrons to communicate with librarians. Sending overdue reminders and notifying patrons when requested titles are available as well as receiving comments or recommendations are just a few ways email can be an effective communication tool.



Congregational libraries may not have a computer nor have access to the church or synagogue network, and many times there are security considerations when churches or synagogues allow persons other than staff members to access their network. Although most librarians have a home computer and internet access, it is inadvisable to use your personal email address to send library business emails. If recipients are not familiar with you or your email address, they will likely delete messages before opening them.

How can we increase the odds that messages from our libraries are actually opened and read? An email address that contains the name of the congregational library will quickly alert patrons to the source of the email and a descriptive subject heading such as “Requested Book Available” or “Overdue Reminder” will also help library users know at a glance that your email is one they should read. People may not be thrilled to receive overdue notices, but at least they will be reminded without even opening the email. Your patrons will know the messages are from the library and that they have overdue materials just from scanning their inboxes. Having a library email account is particularly helpful if you have a preschool or school on site and the students come in to check out materials. Many of the students may not be members of your congregation, so parents may not connect your personal name with the school but would recognize the name of the congregation. Email is an efficient way to send home the price of a lost book rather than hoping a note gets home with a child. How can you get an email address with the name of the library in it? There are many places to get a free email account, such as Gmail (Google) , Hotmail, or Yahoo. Go to the email source of your choice and click on the button that allows you to create a new account. Setting up an email account these days is easy:

- Fill in a minimum amount of personal information, such as your name and date of birth.
- Enter an account name. This is your library name; make sure the name lets recipients know you are the congregational library. There may be a limit on the number of characters you may enter, so you may need to abbreviate; examples: *SynagogueLibrary* or *JonesBaptistLib*. The rest of the address will be *@google.com*, *@hotmail.com*, or *@yahoo.com*.
- Enter a password for the new account that contains letters and numbers. Do not use a password that is the same or similar to your personal email password(s).
- Enter a phone number or alternate email address in case you need to reset your password.

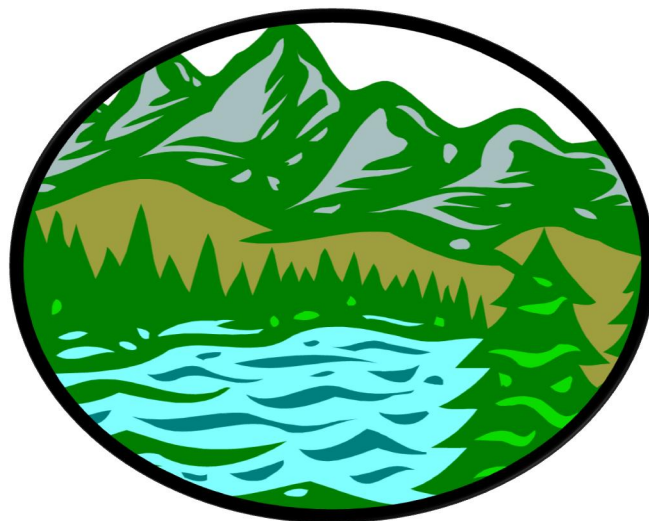


After your account is active, notify patrons through the congregational newsletter and include it on library bulletin boards—or maybe even a bookmark. Creating a congregational email account is simple and will save you time in your communication with patrons.

—Cheryl Cutchin



# ***LIBRARIANS AT THE LAKESIDE***



**Enrichment, Reflection, Renewal**

## **46<sup>th</sup> Annual CSLA Conference**

**July 28 - 30, 2013**

**Lake Junaluska Conference & Retreat Center  
North Carolina**





# Join CSLA in 2013 at Lake Junaluska in North Carolina



The Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center as seen from the lake.

Come join **Librarians at the Lakeside for Enrichment, Reflection, Renewal**—the theme of the forty-sixth annual CSLA conference at Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center in North Carolina from July 28 to 30, 2013. Experience the beauty of the two-hundred-acre lake nestled in a valley of the Great Smoky Mountains just twenty-five miles west of Asheville, North Carolina, and enjoy a spectacular mountain view from wherever you look. The conference center is celebrating its hundredth anniversary in 2013; therefore, CSLA is fortunate to hold its conference at the lake during this celebratory year.

Hospitality is the keyword at Lake Junaluska where the facilities are renowned for hosting conferences, reunions, special celebrations, and family vacations. The CSLA conference will be centered in the lovely three-story Lambuth Inn, listed on the National Register of Historical Sites, where the overnight accommodations, dining rooms, and meeting rooms are all located.

Elevators are available to all rooms and wifi is available throughout the inn. Relax in a front porch rocking chair between meetings, stroll the five-mile walking path around the lake, visit the museums and libraries on site, and enjoy the many recreational activities that the lake offers. Come to enrich your congregational library ministry, refresh your library skills, and renew your spirit with CSLA at Lake Junaluska in 2013.

You are also welcome to bring your family and friends and extend your time at the lake with a vacation. A variety of overnight accommodations is available. Enhance your trip by exploring the local area with exciting day trips to the Biltmore Estate, the Great Smoky Mountain National Park, the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Cherokee Indian Reservation. A conference registration form will be available on the CSLA website ([www.cslainfo.org](http://www.cslainfo.org)) in January 2013. Contact CSLA at [cslainfo@worldaccessnet.org](mailto:cslainfo@worldaccessnet.org) or 503-244-6919 for more information.



Lambuth Inn

# From the CSLA office

Dear CSLA Friends

I do hope that you all had a wonderful summer, and now that the kids and grandkids are back in school, we can get back to our regular routines. I recently mailed out renewals for the year 2013. CSLA has great things planned for everyone, but we need support through renewals, donations, valuable volunteer time in the library, and your volunteering to help CSLA at the local and national levels.

We need total support for our organization to continue to provide excellent service and materials for you—our valued members. CSLA is one of the best-kept secrets out there, so we need help to spread the word about us in your community!

We have some excellent new guides that, if you have not yet purchased, I am sure you will want soon. Hot off the press we have: *Resources Manual for*



*Congregational Libraries and Librarians: An Annotated Bibliography*, by Ellen Bosman and *Selecting a New Library Cataloging and Circulation Computer System*, by Bill Doole. Two other of our newer guides are: *Organizing a Library or Resource Center*, by Carol Campbell, Dianne Oswald, and Glenda Strombom; and *Planning a Congregational Archives Center*, by Curtis D. Howard, PhD. The publications committee has two more guides in the process of revision and hopes to have them completed by our next conference.

Our 2013 conference will be held at a breathtakingly beautiful spot in North Carolina. Now is the time to start making plans to attend the conference and encourage others to join in a time of relaxation, networking, and learning! July 28-30, 2013, at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina!

I also want to wish each of you a joyful and blessed holiday season!  
—Judy

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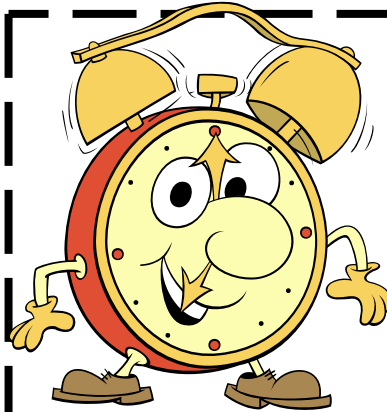
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