

congregational libraries *today*

*Information and ideas for the
best faith-based libraries and
resource centers worldwide*



cslainfo.org

Going *Green* in your Library

In our efforts to help sustain our universe, it makes good sense to use the materials we have at hand to keep the Earth in good shape for future generations.

Green is becoming a favorite color. You have probably noticed that many people are interested in looking *back* for ways to save. We even have a new word for this method: “repurpose.” Look around in your library: what do you have that could be put to new uses? You may be surprised at the treasures you find that can be repurposed, used, or placed in a new way. For example, less crowding of materials is much more welcoming to the people who come into your library. Let us look at a few suggestions that can help the image of your library by putting existing items to new uses.

Do you have furniture that was designed for one media format and now is not useful because it is outdated? The size may be wrong; for example, in the case of a cassettes cabinet—you now have jewel cases for CDs and DVDs. You may need to give up the old cabinet and repurpose an open book shelf for the jewel cases. Keep them near the front edge of the shelf by placing an expandable round curtain rod across the shelf just behind the cases. The cases will look neat and can easily be seen.

Do you have a large table, six or eight feet long, but what you *really* need are some computer study carrels? Have dividers made for the top of the table, thirty-six inches by about two feet high, to create individual work stations.

Do you have a section of study materials for groups that now could be checked out (and are appropriate) for individual or family study? Catalog these and let families know that these materials are now available to them.

Do you have shelves filled with yesterday’s topics or interests, with little room for new additions? Do some serious weeding; commit to clearing at least two shelves. (See below for some ideas on how to recycle or repurpose the old materials.) Use the space to highlight new items. If patrons know you introduce new items on a regular basis, they will be more likely to come to the library!

Do you have audiovisual equipment that is taking up space and no longer used? Plan to keep at least one recorder or other device that could be useful for showing some of your recorded congregational history. But, there may be many other pieces that need to find new homes. The local trash is NOT the answer. There are recycling companies that will pay you by the pound to recycle the precious metals out of all kinds of electronic equipment, including cell phones, computers, laptops, televisions, and recorders of all types. Check your phone directory for a company to recycle these items. (Be sure to completely erase the hard drives of any computers you recycle—especially if patron information was recorded on them.) Check



From The President's Desk...

Dear CSLA Friends,

It is time to make arrangements to attend CSLA's 45th Annual Conference in Springfield, Illinois, from July 29 to July 31, 2012!

Have you ever wondered why people go to conventions or conferences? I have thought of it often and have realized that such get-togethers meet various needs we all have that are worth the time and money we spend in attendance. The Annual CSLA Conference is a perfect example of why such events take place.

When you are first starting to organize a congregational library, it helps to attend a specific workshop that focuses on a topic of concern and to have face-to-face conversations with others who can answer your questions. Even for those who have been attendees for years, there are always workshops that get you thinking about what can be done to improve and energize the library. Sharing ideas is stimulating and offers an opportunity to be creative in your thinking. Naturally, we all need guidance with the advances in technology, for example.

Publisher and software exhibits are fascinating. In addition, there are the most recent CSLA guides that are exceptionally helpful. Outstanding speakers and entertainers often leave lasting memories and thoughts you can share with others. Tours bring alive the history of the community you are visiting—and we all love seeing other congregational libraries.

One of my favorite events is the awards banquet. Of course, I am a bit partial to this program because more than a decade ago I chaired the Awards Committee. What struck me when reading nominations was the caliber of the accomplishments our congregational librarians achieve. There are so many heartwarming stories of CSLA librarians and committees who go the extra mile so their congregants and communities can have the reading materials and resources that enhance their commitments to their faith and to humanity. Often our members labor under difficult circumstances, yet they find “just the right” books for the clergy, the children, and the adults. Within this past week there was a teenager who came to our library and said, “I love this library.” When words to that effect are heard at a conference, it is not unusual for all of us to feel our struggles have been worth it. The awards banquet leaves attendees with a sense of wonder and passion for what we do. Nowadays, CSLA also honors the Rodda Book Award recipient, an added pleasure to the evening's festivities.

But most of all, it is the interaction with other congregational librarians during meals, breaks, tours, and quiet times that makes conferences so worthwhile. Several years ago, I remember one of our past



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presidents saying that when we come together it is like seeing family—and that is what we are: a family of men and women with varied backgrounds and faiths from diverse geographical locations who meet for a few days each year to learn, participate, talk, discuss, laugh, and solidify the bond we have as congregational librarians. It is an exhilarating and refreshing experience.

All of this excitement awaits you in Springfield. Details are elsewhere in this issue. So won't you join "the family" as we celebrate the 45th Annual CSLA Conference? Plan on arriving early for wonderful "Lincoln-land" tours on Friday, July 27 and Saturday July 28. Bring your immediate family and expect to have a grand time. See you in Springfield!

—Evelyn Pockrass



Iced tea weather is coming!

The Women's Bean Project has great teas to choose from for a lovely afternoon's leisurely pick-up. We all need that extra boost that the British do so well at about four in the afternoon. And now that warmer weather is on the way, you should lay in a goodly supply of delicious teas from the Project.



Looking to entertain more now that winter is in retreat?

Those of us who tried the dips offered on the WBP website were mightily pleased with the taste. Check out the dip choices for your next party.

The Women's Bean Project was created in 1989 in Denver, Colorado, to help women overcome the challenges of poverty and chronic unemployment. The enterprise has expanded in several directions and has many products to offer: gourmet bean soup mixes, dip mixes, cookie mixes, organic coffee, instant teas, tea bags, sweets, and handmade jewelry.

This is a wonderful organization that has grown over the years with its mission of providing skills for self-improvement, building confidence to create better lives for the women and their families, and giving hope for the future.

It's not too late to have a great soup— Try it cold!

WBP has packages of assorted beans ready for the making. If you love warm, delicious soups for cold, winter days, see how great some of the Project's soups are cold. Many of us ordered from them during the previous partnership with the project and we found the bean soups amazing. We wonder what the spice packet contains, but no matter the ingredients, the result is just great.



Visit the website: www.womensbeanproject.com. If you decide to make a purchase, include CSLA's designated code in the PROMOTION CODE box at checkout: CSLA12. CSLA will receive a percentage of the proceeds of the sale.

Please note the change in the promotion code for this year.

with your local Goodwill office. Also, you might offer items to the community, with pickup dates and times. Bring people into the library!

Do you have access to paper recycling? This, too, may be set up with a bin and available to the community. Some companies pay *you* to come pick up your bin and bring an empty one. Newspapers are recycled into many new paper products, like egg cartons, and into insulation. There are other ways to repurpose paper: use the clean (reverse) side of paper from printed pages you no longer need for miscellaneous notices that do not require neatness, for children as coloring pages, and for users of your printers who just need a quick download/print-out. Use small pieces of cut-up paper as scratch paper, for patrons to write a call number or a note. Present these papers in a small card box along with some pencils.



Do you use large plastic signs on your congregation's property for events? Use a commercial sign maker for one plastic-coated outdoor sign that can be repurposed as needed. Reuse the sign, for example, for annual events, just by just changing the day of the month. Your costs will be saved and your sign will last for several years of use.

Do you offer a toy library? They are especially helpful for families with young children who grow out of some games and puzzles quickly. Ask for donations and place them in oversized plastic bags, label them, and indicate the number of pieces in the bag. If you need to put the items in

a box instead, choose a simple box, reinforce the corners on the inside with painter's tape, and spray the cover with an enamel which will strengthen the paper. Be sure to clean these toys before you circulate them and between each circulation.

Do you have a jigsaw puzzle swap? Most people only assemble a puzzle one time. Ask people to donate the puzzles they have completed, and you can loan them out. Do you have room in your library to set up a jigsaw puzzle table? If your location encourages patrons to come in and wait, setting up a puzzle table provides interest and encourages conversation while they wait.

Buy carefully. Do you look for recycled craft paper for displays and projects? Or copy paper that is made of recycled materials? Reuse gift papers, color print ads, and magazine pictures, which can be torn or cut into interesting shapes and letters for your display board.

Do you need to find new homes for media that you have weeded? There are many places that will welcome materials, depending on the subjects; for example, easy-reading books will be welcomed by people learning English as a second language, either on their own or in classes. Children's books (that have been "lightly loved") can be part of "Take A Book" or "My Own Book" promotions. Prepare the books for "departure" by marking through the library name with a permanent marker and putting a relevant note in the pocket, such as: "This book is part of the My Own Book Program."



Home-schoolers or a group home may be interested in a variety of topics; senior centers will enjoy magazines, books on travel, biography, stories, and history; prison ministries will take general information, almanacs, yearbooks, stories, boating, sports books, and biography; resale shops will usually take what you need to unload if they are in good shape.



Do you have pictures that you need to update, such as classroom teaching tools? Some of the old ones are still useful; trim the edges or create a collage. Clean out the picture file and recycle what is possible. Who can make use of these pictures in teaching—daycare centers, possibly? Those you can use place in frames, and change the pictures with the season or the topic being studied.

There are other ways to go green besides re-purposing. Do you look for safe cleaning supplies for use in the library? Read the labels—avoid adding toxic materials to the air. Strong odors are not helpful around so much paper, which often acts like a sponge. We also need to beware of allergens in the air, which can be irritating to some patrons. Look for and use one of the organic cleaners. What is the humidity level in the library? How is the airflow? Both affect the life of books and other materials. Ask to have a professional review your space. The airflow needs to cycle on through vents occasionally, even when the room is not in use. Windows need to be tight,

ceiling tiles need to fitted well, and carpets need to be clean. If you are experiencing an odor problem, it may be some of the older books; if you determine that this is the case, *the only way to get rid of the problem is to remove the books.* No amount of spray, candles, or other means will work. There are inexpensive testers you can place in your library to check for moisture. The results may help to convince the powers that be that you need moisture control.



What else can you repurpose? Did you get some ideas for some things that you could do? Most of the time, being green saves money—many times it costs nothing—but the satisfaction rate is high. Green is one of the best ideas for your library in 2012.

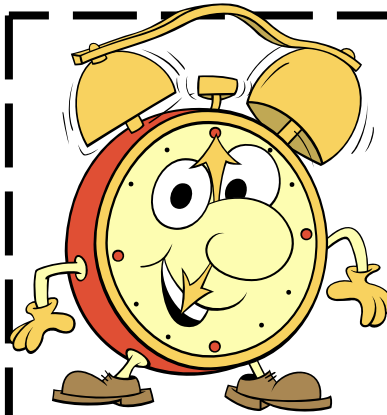
—Maryann Dotts Barth



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.csainfo.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 1-800-LIB-CSLA.



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Chapter Chatter



San Jose Bay Area Good news! The chapter has twenty-three chapter members for 2012, representing twelve different congregations. Their dues are only \$5.00. In January the meeting was at Willow Glen United Methodist Church in San Jose for a brown bag lunch. Hostesses were Joyce Osborn, Dianne Oswald, and Alice Singh. Due to a survey taken by one of the members who had to justify (sound familiar?) her library space, a lively discussion ensued about the various ways our libraries are now—and may in the future—be used for a multitude of non-library events. The annual Biblical lunch was March 12.



Delaware Valley Spring meeting was held in Quakertown at Swamp Mennonite Church of Quakertown, Pennsylvania. One workshop provided an opportunity to learn about the world of “E”—to help members feel empowered to become part of this new electronic trend. Librarians were encouraged to discover if the world of e-books is right for their libraries. Gary Phillips, freelance illustrator, shared his journey in the world of art. His book *New Old Shoes* (authored by Charlotte Blessing) was an important part of the program. The keynote speaker was Gayle Roper, award-winning author of more than forty books.

At the registration table shoes were collected for Soles4Souls. Every day nearly 1.2 billion people around the world go without shoes. Shoes help prevent the spread of parasitic diseases that plague over 1.4 billion people worldwide. These people in desperate need are victims of disasters, people living in abject poverty, and people in need of a fresh start. In 2004 following the Asian tsunami, Wayne Elsey founded the Soles4Souls organization. They collect any new or gently worn shoe, any sex or size (www.soles4souls.org).



Northeastern Ohio This chapter has area meetings, which seems an excellent idea in these economic times of high-cost gas. Their spring event for all members will be at Mentor United Methodist Church in Mentor. Interesting workshop titles for the gathering include: *Helping People Use Their Talents: Ministering To And Through Your Library's Volunteers*, *Taking The Mystery Out Of Book Reviews And Book Talks*, *Health Resources in the Congregational Library*, and *Get It Done* (tips and, perhaps, finding the motivation to get more done). This is one busy and active chapter. Other area meetings that were on their schedule:

Greater Akron Area Meeting, March 27: bring a book (that is good for a congregational library) to discuss

Eastern Shore Meeting, March 10: summer resource for Vacation Bible School, bulletin boards, and booklists

Youngstown/Warren Area Meeting, March 19: features a talk about book-jacket design (prior to computer age) and a discussion on e-books in the Church library

Don't you wish you could go to some of these?



Indiana The spring workshop/meeting was scheduled at Christ Church Cathedral in downtown Indianapolis April 14. A morning workshop, presented by Matthew Stevenson, is designed to assist in “Bringing Your Library Into the 21st Century.” This interactive presentation will focus on simple, free tools congregational libraries can use to manage and market their collections, create an online presence, connect with their communities and other congregational libraries digitally, and otherwise add value to the services they already provide. There will be hands-on opportunities to explore some great internet resources. Members are asked to bring a wi-fi enabled laptop or may use a computer at the location. Would love to go to this one!



Western New York State A fall meeting was held on October 12, 2011, at University Presbyterian in Rochester. Bob Giannetti, a local poet, presented the talk, “The Decline of the Universal.” He said that modern culture makes it harder to connect on a personal level.

The spring workshop is planned for May 5, 2012, at Asbury United Methodist Church in Rochester. Some helpful websites for bulletin board ideas were recommended:

- <http://www.boardsgalore.com>
- <http://www.creativedisplaysnow.com>
- <http://www.csspub.com/exerpts/0788023594.pdf>

This last site offers a book—available for free as a PDF—that provides the nuts-and-bolts framework for bulletin board creation: *Creative Church Bulletin Boards* by Rosalind M. Townley.



Florida Suncoast This chapter met in February at St. Andrews Presbyterian in Sun City and presented another interesting program it would have been great to attend! For “The Role of Magazines in the Library,” members showed magazines they recommend. “Record Keeping for the New Year”

sounded most helpful when writing a year-end report. It was suggested to do more than write the numbers: discuss the persons who come to the library as well as detail what kinds of questions they have and whether the library has the materials requested. Are some of these visitors the people you are trying to reach? Some examples: home-school teachers, non-members, young mothers—or perhaps youth desiring to understand their faith, the church, or events in our world today. Are some looking for materials just to enjoy reading as an inexpensive activity? The next meeting was planned for March 29 at Grace Lutheran in St. Petersburg.

Interesting thoughts this chapter is considering at their spring meeting: how advancements in technology enable us to deliver information, share data bases, and access sources. There may be a need to have more sharing of “Common Catalogs.” Are we making the best use of the internet services in our congregations? We should try to identify the people that we can help—the jobless, new retirees, families that want to read together, or perhaps the older readers and persons with special needs.



Metro-Atlanta These folks met February 20 for lunch and a field trip to the Passages Exhibit in northeast Atlanta. This is a celebratory exhibit of the 400th anniversary


of the King James Bible. “This exhibit tells the story of the Bible’s translation into English and provides viewing of 450 biblical texts and artifacts spanning pre-Christian times to the present day. You will witness the events that took place behind the scenes of this precious book that has altered history, shaped cultures, inspired minds, and changed lives” [from the exhibit brochure]. If you get to Atlanta, this looks to be the place to visit. The address is 1201 Hammond Drive NE, Atlanta, GA 30346, across from Perimeter Mall. Exhibits are in place until May 16, 2012 (www.explorepassages.com/atlanta).

Our members have been very busy so far this year! We hope you have enjoyed visiting with them and have gained some ideas for your meetings as well.



The CLT staff needs someone to write this column! All you need do is 1) receive the chapter’s newsletters (which Judy Janzen will be glad to email to you), 2) glean material you think of interest, and 3) assemble the interesting material into a document. Then, email to Jeri Zulli and to Dottie Lewis. Easy-peasey, as we said when I was a child.


—Dottie Lewis, deglewis@gmail.com



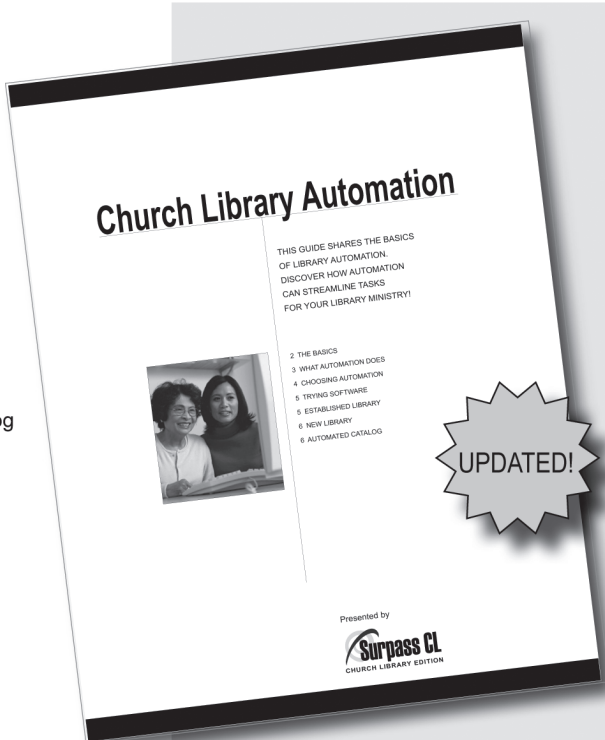
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Automation questions?

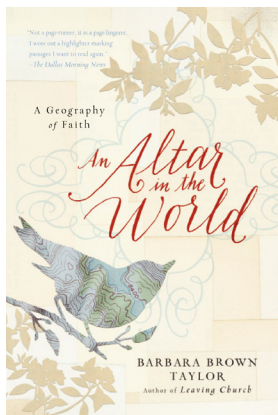
This FREE guide explains the basics of church library automation, a software tool to help you manage your congregational library.

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.

Free guide! GO: www.SurpassSoftware.com/Surpass_CL.htm
CLICK: FREE *Church Library Automation* guide

An Altar in the World Wins Rodda Book Award for 2011



And the winner of the 2012 Rodda Book Award is...

...*An Altar in the World* by **Barbara Brown Taylor**, published by HarperOne in 2009, chosen for its excellence in writing and spiritual value.

Taylor, author of eleven other books, was for fifteen years an Episcopalian priest. This book is ideal to give to those friends who describe themselves as “spiritual but not religious.” A different kind of memoir, it is written to help the reader grow closer to God through a dozen spiritual practices one can do aside from church or synagogue.

When Taylor was a parish minister, she was named one of the twelve most effective preachers in the English language by Baylor University. She is professor of religion at Piedmont College and teaches spirituality at Columbia Theological Seminary; she lists earlier paid jobs as babysitter, Avon lady, cashier, cheese packer, horseback-riding

instructor, cocktail waitress, secretary, newspaper reporter, fundraiser, and special events coordinator—all of which helped lead her to write a book that teaches us that the sacred can be found, as God can be found, in very secular places indeed. Her desire was to help people find altars in the world as well as in the congregation. She has certainly done that.



Barbara Brown Taylor



Runners-up for the Rodda Book Award for 2012 are: *Tattoos on the Heart* by Gregory Boyle (Free Press, 2011), about the author’s work with teenagers in the gang-infested streets of Los Angeles; and *The Monastery of the Heart* by Joan Chittister (BlueBridge, 2011), a beautifully written, poetic prose book on practicing the Rule of St. Benedict.

—Martha Huntley, mwhuntley@aol.com



Call for Nominations 2012 Rodda Award

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



Criteria for nomination:

- Young Adult book
- Strong spiritual content*
- Excellence in writing
- Appropriate for congregational library
- Copyright date of **2010, 2011, or 2012**
- YA/Teen books must be designated as such by the publisher

Please, submit nominations with:

- ✧ book title and author’s full name
- ✧ publisher, publication date, ISBN
- ✧ brief explanation for your choice
- ✧ your name, address, phone number
- ✧ your e-mail address

All genres of young adult literature—fiction, non-fiction, and poetry—are eligible

*For the purposes of this award, “spiritual” is defined as having a relationship with God/Creator

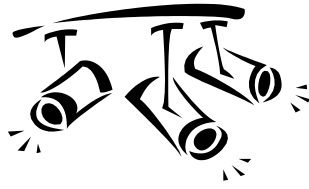
Send submissions to: Rodda Committee, c/o Judy Janzen, 10157 SW Barbour Blvd, #102C, Portland OR 97219

or

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

All submissions must be received by December 31, 2012—and the sooner the better!

Library Limelight: Keep Yours in the Center



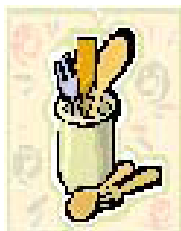
Let's talk about background items in displays and on bulletin boards. Years ago I was searching for ideas for a bulletin board. For some reason I came across a box of old toys that someone could not part with. It must have been Spring because my eye lit on an old baseball mitt and a souvenir baseball bat—and sports books became an idea to be promoted! Every since that light-bulb idea, I have saved cast off and unused "found" objects.

❖ Scraps of materials, scarves, and garden-type flags make great background for media. Of course, you can cover a whole bulletin board with colored paper, but material has texture and depth, even if you only use a little piece. An entire background of material may overpower the media, which you want to be the focus, so use sparingly.

❖ Our library has a lot of storybook characters that have been collected over the years, but many are leftover, well-cared-for toys from children in our congregation. Pooh was bought at Disney World years ago—it washes beautifully! We use our Alice for any little girl we need her to be. Ramona is an easily obtainable doll. We have many stuffed wild animals that do for fiction as well as non-fiction. Put them on top of shelves with corresponding books or display in empty spaces on shelves.

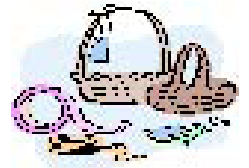


❖ Spare kitchen utensils make great accessories for cookbooks or picnic displays. Keep a checkered table cloth for these occasions. Wooden spoons, ice cream scoops, salt and pepper shakers, and the like



add dimension as well as quick assessment of the display intent.

❖ Baskets used to be prized possessions, but now they are everywhere in every shape. For bulletin boards, those flat backed/letter baskets are great for flowers for spring, or small books, or small animals—the possibilities are endless. Baskets are great for carrying books to classrooms or displaying in the narthex. Any nook will look better with a basket of books and CDs.



❖ Cast-aside Christmas ornaments, old Valentines, Easter eggs of all sizes, and old decorations are perfect for your library. Never throw decorations away! There will be a time to put them to use. We even iron out wrinkles if need be. Garlands of all seasons—Christmas, St. Patrick's, St. Valentine's—spark things up.



❖ In leafing through a clothing catalog you can find promotion ideas. One catalog featured a set of toy tops with shirts that said "These are the tops!" Now we know that books are really tops so....there is an idea! Another page used bingo as a come-on. Old bingo cards and a few chips... and another background for your media display. Check out your catalogs, magazines, and newspapers to see how they advertise their wares. These people know how to sell! Copy them!



Anytime you are ready to share your promotions, I am ready and waiting!

—Dottie Lewis, deglewis@gmail.com

Join your CSLA colleagues in the Land of Lincoln

Springfield, Illinois, is the place to be in July for the 45th annual national conference of the Church and Synagogue Library Association!

Your conference committee has prepared a program full of valuable sessions and amazing special guests.

Christian fiction writer **Maureen Lang**, author of *The Great War* series as well as *Pieces of Silver* and *The Oak Leaves*, will be on hand to speak and autograph her books.

We will be privileged to have Rodda Award Winner **Barbara Brown Taylor** at this year's conference. Her book *An Altar in the World: a Geography of Faith* is a stunning revelation on meeting God in the everyday world; for more information on Taylor and her work see the article on page 8 of this issue of *CLT*.

Children's non-fiction author **Judith Bloom Fradin** who, along with her husband Dennis Brindell Fradin, has written to date fifty-two books in the Sea to Shining Sea series, will also be at the conference. The couple is currently writing the Witness to Disaster series for National Geographic Children's Books.

Renowned church historian and author **Dr. Martin E. Marty** is not to be missed. A delightful speaker, Dr. Marty is an exceptional treat for CSLA.

Executive Director of the Illinois State Historical Society, **William Furry**, will be on hand to talk about early twentieth-century Prairie Poet and Springfield native son, Vachel Lindsay. While no longer a standard for poetry reading lists, Lindsay was renowned for his chanting or "singing" approach to performing poetry—he was referred to as the Prairie Troubadour.

There is no better way to recharge your batteries for congregational library ministry than to attend a CSLA annual conference. You will meet and hear from authors, network with conference attendees who share your interests, and focus on specific topics in workshops. Exhibits and the Silent Auction familiarize you with what you may want or need for your library, often at bargain prices.

The registration forms and all necessary information are located in pages 11-14 of this issue of *Congregational Libraries Today*.

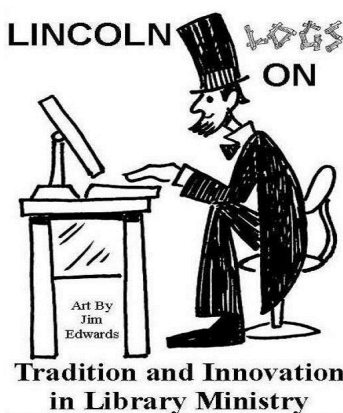
If you are a beginner, consider signing up for the **Saturday morning library school** led by popular teachers Alrene Hall and Jane Hope—all who have attended have raved about this pre-conference event.

Nearly all learn something and are inspired by the **tour of congregational libraries**, this year including the one-hundred-year-old building of the First Christian Church in Springfield.

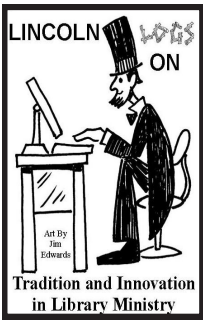
Plan on comfortable accommodations and good meals at the Springfield Hilton with **all conference events in a compact area on one floor**.

There are many other tourist sites besides the ones scheduled for conference, so pack up the family and make the "Land of Lincoln" a family vacation destination this summer. We will see you there!

—Conference Chair Marianne Stowers,
mariannes8888@hotmail.com,
217-787-2016



Support CSLA! Please renew your membership using the form in this issue on page 29.



45th ANNUAL CSLA CONFERENCE

HILTON SPRINGFIELD

700 East Adams Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701-1601

JULY 29-31, 2012

Housing, Travel, Schedule, Workshop and Tour Information



HOTEL RESERVATIONS



The special room rate of \$96 + 12% tax per night is applicable from July 25 to August 3, is only guaranteed until July 4th and may not be available after that date. **See the box at the upper right on this page for registration procedures.** Tell the hotel if you are allergic to feathers. The hotel is in downtown Springfield in the center of the city.

PARKING

Parking is available in the garage that connects to the hotel. One complimentary parking place comes with each room. Other parking rates are \$8 per day for those staying in the hotel or \$15 per day for commuters. In and out privileges are included.

TRAVEL

Springfield is served by Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport located about 5 miles from the conference hotel. Daily flights are available from Chicago O'Hare (United Express) from Dallas/Fort Worth (American Eagle) and there may be limited direct flights from Ft. Myers, Florida.

Springfield is also on the AMTRAK rail line between St. Louis and Chicago. The hotel offers free shuttle service from Capital Airport & the AMTRAK station. St. Louis airport is about 107 miles away by interstate and Central Illinois Regional airport at Bloomington, IL is about 71 miles north of Springfield via I55. Ground shuttle transportation to Springfield may be arranged from Bloomington or St. Louis, or rental cars are available at airports.

Those traveling by car may reach Springfield at the intersection of I72 that runs east and west with I55 that runs north and south.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS must be made directly with the conference hotel, Hilton Springfield in Springfield, Illinois, referencing the CSLA Conference.

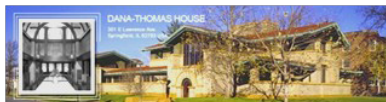
Phone 217-789-1530 or go online at the special Hilton CSLA reservation site
http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/S/SPFSHHF-CSL-20120725/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

Welcome to the 45th Annual Church and Synagogue Library Association Conference in Springfield, Illinois—the Land of Lincoln and of flat, prairie landscapes of corn and soybean fields. Ours is a small city of about 117,000 that attracts a large number of tourists each year due to its association with Abraham Lincoln. You will certainly enjoy and benefit from a great program, and you will learn much to take home for the benefit of your own congregational libraries. All the traditional activities of the conference--meals, workshops, speakers, worship, exhibits, silent auction, etc.--will take place on the mezzanine level of the Hilton Springfield hotel. We offer great hospitality, modest prices and easy access to the many features of the city.

We are especially pleased by the lineup of mealtime speakers who are authors, historians or both; headed by Dr. Martin E. Marty, Professor Emeritus of the U. of Chicago Divinity School, and one of the nation's outstanding Christian scholars, historians and authors.

Besides the conference proper, we have planned a full schedule of pre- and post-conference tours and events. Tour travel will be by bus, but in many cases the distances will be only a few blocks. The following descriptions will help you plan which of these optional, special events to include as part of your registration process.

The Dana-Thomas House, designed in 1902 by Frank Lloyd Wright, is the best preserved and most complete of Wright's early "Prairie" houses and contains the largest site-specific collection of original Wright art glass and furniture.



Museum Tour on Saturday

The Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum has the world's largest holding of the papers and possessions of Lincoln and his family. The library has public areas for research, but our visit will include behind-the-scenes areas.



Library visit on Friday



Tour 4 congregational libraries ending at the 100 year old building of First Christian Church for supper and a special musical program by Thistle 'n Thyme.

Your choice of 2 tours is available on Tuesday afternoon.



Lincoln's Home is a national historic site, the only home Lincoln ever owned, where he raised his family and lived until leaving for his inauguration as president in 1861.

The Old State Capitol is a reconstruction of Illinois' 5th statehouse used from 1839-1876. It served as the Sangamon County Courthouse until the 1960s when it was completely dismantled and rebuilt to its original appearance using the original stones. Lincoln's tomb is the final resting place of the Great Emancipator along with his wife and 3 of his 4 sons.



Each historic site tour can only handle one 50 passenger bus load for the time scheduled so tours are "first come"; consequently you'll want to register early! If your registration form is too late to fit in the CSLA tour, there are open, individual tours at times not scheduled for group tours, so you may be able to see sites on your own at other times.

PRE-CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Thursday, July 26, 2012

CSLA Board Meeting 7:00 pm

Friday, July 27, 2012

CSLA Board Meeting 8:00 am
 Registration open 2:00-6:00 pm
 Tour of Frank Lloyd Wright's
 Dana-Thomas House 12:40-2:30 pm
 Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Visit 2:45-4:15 pm
 Synagogue Worship and Tour 5:15-7:00 pm

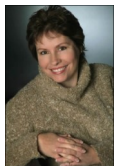
Saturday, July 28, 2012

Registration open 8:00 am to 6:00 pm
 Pre-conference School for Beginning
 Librarians 8:45-11:50 am
 Tour of Abraham Lincoln Presidential
 Museum 8:45 am-12:00 pm
 Congregational Library Tour
 with Supper and Evening Entertainment 1:45-8:00 pm
 Exhibit Setup 6:00-8:00 pm

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Sunday, July 29, 2012

Registration, Silent Auction and Exhibits
 Open (except during meals and worship) 8:00 am-6:00 pm
 Interfaith Worship and Memorial Service
 Led by Rev. Darryl Parr 10:00 am



Opening Lunch with Christian fiction
 author Maureen Lang noon

Workshop Session 1 2:15-3:30 pm
 Meet the Authors 3:45-4:45 pm
 Chapter Presidents/Advisory Board Meeting 3:45-5:45 pm



Awards Banquet with Barbara
 Brown Taylor, author of Rodda
 winner An Altar in the World: A
 Geography of Faith 6:00 pm

Entertainment—Dramatic Presentation by
 Don and Linda Schneider 8:00 pm

Monday, July 30, 2012

Registration, Silent Auction and Exhibits
 Open (except during meals) 8:00 am-6:00 pm
 Workshop Session 2 9:00-10:15 am
 Workshop Session 3 10:30-11:45 am



Lunch with Judith Bloom Fradin,
 children's non-fiction author 12:00-1:45 pm

Workshop Session 4 2:15-3:30 pm
 Meet the Authors 3:45-4:45 pm

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE (Cont'd)



Dinner with Speaker
 Dr. Martin E. Marty,
 church historian and author 6:00-8:00 pm

Entertainment by Jane Hartman Irwin,
 Jazz Pianist 8:00-8:45 pm
 Pick Up Silent Auction Items 8:45-9:30 pm

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Registration Open 8:00-11:00 am
 Plated Breakfast 7:45-8:30 am
 CSLA Business Meeting & Installation
 of Officers 8:45-10:00 am
 Workshop Session 5 10:15-11:30 am



Lunch with William Furry,
 Director of the Illinois State
 Historical Society—speaking
 on Poet Vachel Lindsay 11:45-1:30 pm

POST-CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

CSLA Board Meeting 2:00-4:00 pm

Choice of Tours

Lincoln Home
 Leave hotel 1:40 pm
 Arrive visitor center 1:50 pm
 Home tour begins 2:10 pm
 Gift shop in visitor center &
 board bus back to hotel 3:20 pm

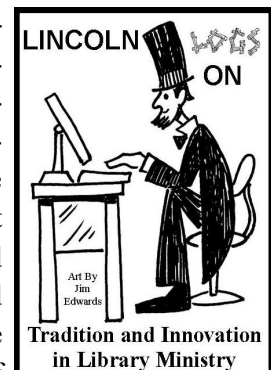
OR

The Old State Capitol & Lincoln Tomb
 Board bus at hotel 2:00 pm
 Arrive Old State Capitol 2:20 pm
 After tour, proceed directly to Lincoln
 Tomb for tour of the tomb at 3:50 pm

Retreat Ceremony At Lincoln Tomb

Board transportation at hotel 6:30 pm
 Retreat (flag lowering) Ceremony 7:00 pm
 Arrive back at hotel 7:30 pm

Springfield and Central Illinois offer many other opportunities for cultural and recreational activities, some related to Lincoln and some not, for anyone who might wish to come early or extend a stay beyond the scheduled CSLA events. Some sites are within walking distance of the conference hotel and others are scattered through Springfield and the surrounding area.



WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS

SUNDAY, 2:15-3:30 P.M.

WORKSHOP SESSION 1

- A. NEW CSLA guide: Selecting Cataloging Database Software / William Doole, Library Board, National Presbyterian Church, Washington, D.C.
- B. Disposing of Unneeded Donations and Older Library Materials / from the standpoint of John R. Paul, Prairie Archives, antiquarian and used book store, Old Capitol Square (Adams St.), Springfield, Illinois
- C. Using the United Methodist Women's Reading List as a Bibliographic Selection Tool: Getting Acquainted with the Genres and This Year's List / Mary Zavarella Walker, Librarian, First United Methodist Church, Normal, Illinois; Judy Poultney; Elaine Knight
- D. ResourceMate Library Automation Software: Product demonstration and users group / Tanja Ducharme, Guelph, Ontario, Canada

MONDAY, 9:00-10:15 A.M.

WORKSHOP SESSION 2

- A. CSLA guide: Planning a Congregational Archives Center / Curtis D. Howard, Ph.D., D. C. area
- B. Dewey Decimal Classification: 3 most recent editions with focus on 200s / Susan Snyder, Ohio

C. Providing Library Service to Older Congregants, especially those raising grandchildren/ Jeri Baker, Dallas, Texas

D. OPALS/MediaFlex/ Library Automation Software Dealer: product demo and users group meeting/ Harry & Andrea Chan, New York

MONDAY, 10:30-11:45 A.M.

WORKSHOP SESSION 3

- A. The Web in Congregational Libraries / Cheryl Cutchin, GA and Marjorie Smink, PA & FL
- B. Health Materials in the Church Library/ Connie Altomare, Ohio
- C. Conservation of Older, Historic Library Materials / Bonnie Parr, Conservator, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, Illinois
- D. CONCOURSE/Book Systems / Library Automation Software Dealer, Alabama. Product demo and users group meeting / Alrene Hall & Jane Hope, TX

MONDAY, 2:15 –3:30 P.M.

WORKSHOP SESSION 4

- A. NEW CSLA guide: Resources for Congregational Librarians and Libraries / Ellen Bosman, New Mexico State University Library (this new guide replaces 2 older ones: Church & Synagogue Library Resources by Dorothy Rodda Sargent and A Basic Book List by Bernie Dietrick)

B. Consider the Sources : a Guide to Religious Publishers / Monica Tenney, CSLA Review Editor, Ohio

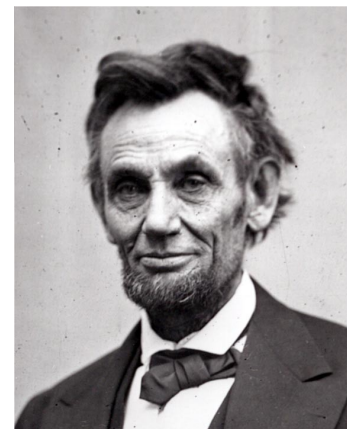
C. Vision or Mission Statements: What's the Difference and Why Is It Important?/ Roberta Ash, Indiana

D. Christian and Jewish "Bible" translations and versions / Marcia Monier, Springfield, Illinois

TUESDAY, 10:30-11:45 A.M.

WORKSHOP SESSION 5

- A. Getting Acquainted with e-Books Readers and Can I Use Them in My Library?/ Julie Wullner, Springfield's public library
- B. Meeting the Needs of Young Adult Readers / Mary Lou Henneman, Ohio
- C. Starting a (Knitting and Crocheting) Prayer Shawl Ministry in Your Congregation / Joyce Davison, California, and Springfield women
- D. See a Book Repair DVD which you can rent from CSLA



2012 CSLA Conference Registration

This form may be duplicated. Use a separate form for each person registering. **Contact the CSLA office (1-800-542-2752) for pricing of selected meals or events.**

Mail this form to:

Church and Synagogue Library Association
10157 SW Barbur Blvd. #102C
Portland, OR 97219-5957

ATTENDEE INFORMATION *(Please print clearly)*

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Cell or Work Phone _____

E-mail _____

Congregation _____

Cong. Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Is this your first CSLA Conference? **YES NO** (Circle one)

If YES, would you like a Conference Friend? **YES NO** (Circle one)

Special Diet Requirement and/or Food Allergies (Nuts, etc.)

(Specify) _____

Travel Plans **AIR TRAIN CAR** (Circle One)

WORKSHOP CHOICES (Circle one 1st choice and one 2nd choice for each session.)

1st Choice 2nd Choice

1. Sunday afternoon A B C D A B C D

2. Monday morning A B C D A B C D

3. Monday morning A B C D A B C D

4. Monday afternoon A B C D A B C D

5. Tuesday morning A B C D A B C D

Questions? Contact Judy, 1-800-542-2752

MY CONFERENCE REGISTRATION CHOICES

FULL CONFERENCE (July 29-31, 2012)

BEST VALUE: Registration, Meals, Speakers, Programs. Includes Sunday lunch and dinner, Monday lunch and dinner, Tuesday breakfast and lunch. **NOTE: Meal tickets are required to attend events and speakers following meals.**

AMOUNT

REGISTER BY JULY 4, 2012 **\$380.00** _____

JULY 5th or after, 2012 **\$430.00** _____

EXTRA TOURS AND EVENTS (At costs shown)

Friday Afternoon: You may attend 1, 2 or all 3 tours. Bus will return to hotel between events.

Dana-Thomas House \$15.00 _____

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library (Behind the scenes visit) \$15.00 _____

Synagogue Worship & Tour \$15.00 _____

Note: Friday evening dinner will be on-your-own.

Saturday Morning

Pre-conference School for Beginning Librarians \$40.00 _____

OR

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum \$20.00 _____

Box Lunch May Be Ordered for The Noon Meal \$10.00 _____

Chicken Turkey Vegetarian (Circle One)

Saturday Afternoon and Evening

Library Tour of 4 Churches (Includes evening meal and entertainment) \$25.00 _____

Tuesday Afternoon

Lincoln Home \$20.00 _____

OR

Old State Capitol and Lincoln Tomb \$20.00 _____

Tuesday Evening

Retreat at Lincoln's Tomb by reactivated Illinois Civil War Regiment No charge but reservations are required for transportation.)

GRAND TOTAL _____

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Check payable to CSLA (enclose with registration form.)

Credit Card

Mastercard or Visa (Circle one)

Number _____

Expiration Date _____



Doing Dewey



OVERVIEW OF THE FIRST PART OF THE DEWEY 200 CLASS

The class of the Dewey Decimal Classification that congregational librarians use most is the religion class (200). Parts of the religion class have undergone major changes between the thirteenth abridged edition (based on the twenty-first unabridged edition) and the fourteenth abridged edition (based on the twenty-second unabridged edition). The recently published twenty-third unabridged edition is mostly similar to the twenty-second unabridged edition. Parts of the 200s have remained basically the same, and some of these are what I will be discussing in this column.

The 210s are the numbers for philosophy and theory of religion. They cover religious beliefs that come from evidence in nature or reason. They include 211—Concepts of God, 213—Creation, 214—Suffering, 215—Religion and Science, and 218—Nature and Place of Humankind in the Universe.

The 220s are the numbers for Bibles and books about the Bible. Numbers whose first three digits are 220 refer to complete Christian Bibles or books about the Christian Bible as a whole, for example, 220.1—Origins of the Bible. 221 is the number for the complete scriptures of Judaism, known to Christians as the Old Testament. The numbers immediately following are for parts of this: 222—Historical books of the Old Testament, 223—Poetic books of the Old Testament, and 224—Prophetic books of the Old Testament. 225 is the number for the complete New Testament, and the numbers immediately following are for parts of the New Testament: 226—Gospels and Acts, 227—Epistles, and 228—Revelation. 229 is the number for the Apocrypha.

The 230s are the numbers for Christian theology. They include 231—God and 232—Jesus Christ. 232.9 is the number for Jesus Christ and His family and life, and 232.91 is the specific number for Mary, mother of Jesus. (The disciples are classed in 225.92 in the twenty-third unabridged edition.) 234 is the number for salvation, and 238 is the number for creeds and catechisms.

The 240s are the numbers for Christian moral and devotional theology. 241 is the number for Christian ethics or moral theology, and 241.5 is the specific number for codes of conduct, including the Ten Commandments, the Sermon on the Mount, and the Golden Rule. 242 is the number for devotional literature, that is, texts of meditations and prayers for individuals and families. Subdivisions of this number include 242.3—Devotions for Specific Times of the Church Year; 242.4—Devotions for Times of Bereavement, Illness, or Trouble; 242.5—Devotions Based on Bible Passages; 242.7—Specific Prayers, such as the Lord’s Prayer and the Rosary; and 242.8—Collections of Prayers for Personal Devotions. 243 is the number for evangelistic literature, designed to encourage the reader to convert or repent. 246 is the number for the use of art in Christianity. Subdivisions of this number include 246.1—Byzantine Art; 246.5—Icons and Symbols, such as crosses; 246.7—Christian Drama, Music, and Dance; and 246.9—Church Architecture. 247 is the number for church furnishings.

An important part of the 240s includes the numbers beginning with 248—Christian Experience and Practice. 248.2 is the number for religious experience. A subdivision of this, 248.24, is the number for conversion, including both the “born again” experience and conversion from one belief system to another. 248.3—Worship is the number for books *about* prayer and contemplation. Prayers themselves are classed in numbers beginning with 242. 248.5 is the number for witness bearing, and 248.6 is the number for stewardship. 248.8 is the number for guides to Christian life for specific categories of persons. 249 is the number for Christian observances in family life, including family prayer and family religious ceremonies.

I hope that you find this information helpful.
—Susan E. Snyder, ssnyder@cuyahogalibrary.org

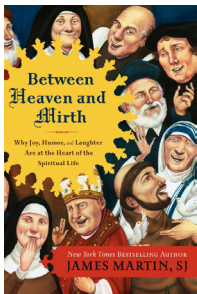


fresh citations

new media for your library



Living in Faith



Between Heaven and Mirth: Why Joy, Humor, and Laughter are at the Heart of the Spiritual Life

James Martin. 📖 HarperOne (an imprint of HarperCollins), 2011. 263p. \$25.99, hardcover. 📖 ISBN: 978-0-06-202426-8. 🌐 www.harpercollins.com 📖 248.40207 Wit and humor—Religious aspects—Christianity. Wit and humor in the Bible.

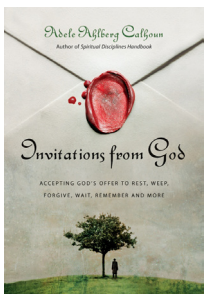
James Martin is in favor of high spirits. While recognizing that there are times when sadness is appropriate, Martin thinks that

humor and laughter are important to healthy spirituality. Faith, he thinks, can lead to joy.

Martin structures his book around the three closely related subjects of joy, humor, and laughter. He examines how spiritual masters of various traditions have employed humor, how joy can be the happy result of living out one's faith in service and love, how laughter can be present in the personal lives of believers and in religious institutions, and how joy can be a part of private prayer. Along the way, Martin scatters stories and jokes that make this light-hearted book even more enjoyable.

Martin, a Jesuit priest, previously authored *My Life with the Saints* (Loyola, 2006) and other books. He occasionally appears on television's *The Colbert Report* and *The O'Reilly Factor*. While his perspective is Christian and many of his stories and examples come from Catholic settings, *Between Heaven and Mirth* encompasses Christianity of all denominations as well as non-Christian faiths.

Publishers Weekly named *Between Heaven and Mirth* one of the best books in religion for 2011. Recommended for all congregational libraries.
—Monica Tenney



Invitations from God: Accepting God's Offer to Rest, Weep, Forgive, Wait, Remember and More

Adele Ahlberg Calhoun. 📖 InterVarsity, 2011. 206p. \$15.00, paperback. 📖 ISBN: 978-0-8308-3553-9. 🌐 www.ivpress.com 📖 248.4 Christian life.

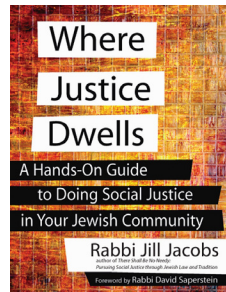
The word "invitation" may stir thoughts of some pleasant event we would like to attend. There are other sorts of invitations that we hope not to receive—to undergo risky surgery, for one. According to Adele

Ahlberg Calhoun, pastor and author of *Invitations from God*,

God issues invitations, too. They come in many forms: scripture, the words of friends (or enemies), happy events, and disappointments. We may easily recognize an invitation to serve as a Sunday school teacher, for instance. Other situations, such as the need for an admission of guilt—or the need to rest when we are already behind in our work—we may not view as the invitations they are.

As invitations from others often require an RSVP, those from God surely do. Our responses determine "who we know, where we go, what we do and who we become. Invitations can challenge and remake us." Calhoun has written a thought-provoking book that will help the reader listen to God's directions for living.

—Beverly M. Bixler



Where Justice Dwells: A Hands-On Guide to Doing Social Justice in Your Jewish Community

Jill Jacobs. 📖 Jewish Lights, 2011. 264p. \$24.99, paperback. 📖 ISBN: 978-1-58023-453-5. 🌐 www.jewishlights.com 📖 296.3'8 Social justice—Religious aspects—Judaism. Social service—Religious aspects—Judaism. Jewish ethics.

There is a difference between taking on an occasional social action project and making social justice a part of one's

spiritual practice. The distinction lies at the heart of this useful guide. Rabbi Jill Jacobs skillfully illustrates the ways in which classic Jewish values find practical expression in contemporary service.

The three sections of the book are designed to lead the reader through a process of discovery, from articulating a mission to engaging in community action. Key to Jacobs's presentation is the notion that social action ought to be integrated into one's Jewish spiritual life. The goal is to set deep roots that allow for a broad vision of how an individual or community can act to repair our broken world.

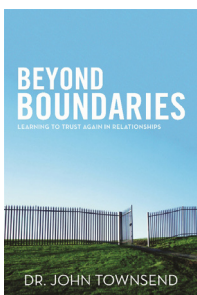
Jacobs demonstrates understanding of the journey her vision represents. It is not easy to make social justice a steady practice. Jacobs shares stories, offers principles, and describes practices. Her passion shines through her writing.

This book deserves a wide audience. It challenges readers to consider the ways in which their traditional values impact their daily life and can revitalize their approach to *tikkun olam*—working to better our world. Highly recommended.

—Rabbi Louis A. Rieser

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Beyond Boundaries: Learning to Trust Again in Relationships

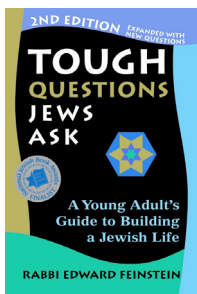
John Townsend. 📖 Zondervan, 2011. 271p. \$24.99, hardcover. 📖 ISBN: 978-0-310-33049-3. 🌐 www.zondervan.com 📖 158.2 Intimacy (Psychology)—Religious aspects—Christianity. Loss (Psychology)—Religious aspects—Christianity. Risk-taking (Psychology)—Religious aspects—Christianity.

Breaking up is hard to do. So is staying together. When problems occur in

a personal relationship, it is often difficult to know what to do. Ignore the problems and hope they go away? Try to solve them? Call it quits?

In *Beyond Boundaries*, psychologist John Townsend offers clear advice on how to handle relationship problems with a common sense approach and reliance on God. The book's four main sections discuss understanding the problem, knowing when you are ready to begin the healing, knowing when the other person is ready, and how to risk moving into a more meaningful relationship. Townsend provides effective examples to help the reader move forward with a relationship, whether with a spouse, sibling, parent, friend, employer, or coworker. Townsend writes, "Christians can be full of joy and peace and also be vulnerable and authentic at the same time."

Breaking Boundaries will be an excellent resource for clergy, good reading for individuals, and a stimulating subject for group discussions. —*Mary Lou Henneman*



Tough Questions Jews Ask: A Young Adult's Guide to Building a Jewish Life. 2nd ed.

Edward Feinstein. 📖 Jewish Lights, 2012. 140p. \$15.99, paperback. 📖 ISBN: 978-1-58023-454-2. 🌐 www.jewishlights.com 📖 296.70835 Jewish way of life—Juvenile literature. Judaism—Customs and practices—Juvenile literature.

Questions lie at the heart of Jewish tradition. How wonderful, then, to

have a rabbi invite the hardest questions from the most skeptical audience—teenagers—and present his answers in thoughtful, straightforward terms.

The nineteen broad questions Edward Feinstein addresses in this enjoyable book relate to belief in God and the Bible, intermarriage, ethics, and life after death. This second edition adds new questions about Islam, texting, and tattoos. Feinstein's answers are uncomplicated by for-

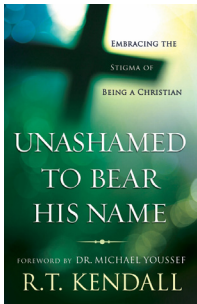
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mal theological language or sophisticated evasions. The reader feels as if the rabbi is present, talking directly to him or her in ways that are responsive to heartfelt concerns.

This superb book offers relevant responses to current issues in a format that will spur discussion—whether between parent and child or in a classroom setting. It will also interest adults who may not have had a safe place to ask these basic questions.

The first edition of *Tough Questions Jews Ask*, published in 2003, was recognized as one of the top ten religion books for young readers by the American Library Association and was a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award. This new edition is a perfect book for libraries. Recommended for all readers.

—Rabbi Louis A. Rieser



Unashamed to Bear His Name: Embracing the Stigma of Being a Christian

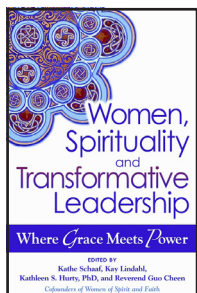
R. T. Kendall. Chosen (an imprint of Baker), 2012. 201p. \$13.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8007-9516-0. www.chosenbooks.com 248.4 Identification (Religion). Christianity. Christian life.

Do most Christians publicly profess their faith, or are they worried about offending other people and being criticized? R.T.

Kendall argues in *Unashamed to Bear His Name* that Christians should be proud to wear the stigma of their belief in Christ in the secular world. Kendall uses his own personal experiences both as a youth in the Nazarene church and as a Southern Baptist preacher of the gospel.

Kendall maintains that the only way to salvation is through belief in Christ. Basing his premises in scripture, he demonstrates how evangelism and charismatic experiences have changed his life and touched the lives of those to whom he ministers from the pulpit and in the revival tent. At the end of his book Kendall writes, "I pray you will never be the same again." Whether readers agree with his theology or not, they can be inspired by Kendall to examine their own Christian beliefs and practices.

—Mary Lou Henneman



Women, Spirituality and Transformative Leadership: Where Grace Meets Power

Kathie Schaaf, Kay Lindahl, Kathleen S. Hurty, and Guo Cheen, eds. Skylight Paths, 2012. 269p. \$24.99, hardcover. ISBN: 978-1-59473-313-0. www.skylightpaths.com 204.082 Women—Religious life. Leadership—Religious aspects. Religion and social problems. Leadership in women.

If you are willing to think ecumenically, be open-minded about women's roles,

and enlarge your understanding of empowerment, you will find *Women, Spirituality and Transformative Leadership* to be a valuable resource. The editors are founders of Women of Spirit and Faith, an organization that promotes spirit-led leadership by women. They are a Lutheran seminary professor (Kathleen S. Hurty), a Buddhist nun (Guo Cheen), an "interfaith Christian" (Kay Lindahl), and one who follows the "sacred feminine" (Kathie Schaaf). Their text features brief essays by over thirty women. Though it is tempting to read entries quickly, one after the other, each essay deserves deliberate focus.

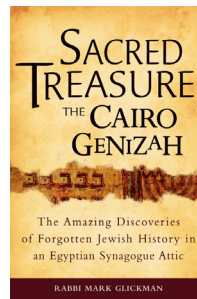
Spirituality, transformation, leadership, grace, power, diversity, nature, faith, and sacred circles are among the themes. Four

explorations frame the text: expressing spirit and faith as an empowered woman, spiritual living amidst diversity, standing together, and catalyzing women's collective power for change. Questions and circle practices are provided, as are significant quotes, poetry, and prayers. End matter includes resources and networks, notes, and a bibliography.

An exemplar of the publisher's tagline "Walking Together, Finding the Way," this volume is recommended for libraries in congregations where women are open to new ideas and searching for feminist leadership in creative ways.

—Carolyn Egolf

History & Heritage



Sacred Treasure—The Cairo Genizah: The Amazing Discoveries of Forgotten Jewish History in an Egyptian Synagogue Attic

Mark Glickman. Jewish Lights, 2011. 255p. \$24.99, hardcover. ISBN: 978-1-58023-431-3. www.jewishlights.com 296.09'02. Judaism—History—Medieval and early modern period, 425-1789—Sources. Cairo Genizah—History.

Was it treasure or trash? Three hundred thousand documents stashed away in the attic of Cairo's Ben Ezra Synagogue came to light during the last decade of the nineteenth century. They turned out to be a treasure of sacred documents and fragments giving significant insights into Jewish and secular life from medieval times onward.

Rabbi Mark Glickman exhibits storytelling and research skills as he unfolds the story of the *genizah*; the early rabbis and scholars who became aware of it; the adventurous Smith sisters from Scotland; and their friend, Rabbi Solomon Schechter, a Romanian-born scholar then at Cambridge University. Schechter's *genizah* experience started with climbing a ladder, peering into the attic, and seeing a "battleground of books." Later, Hebrew and Arabic scholars attempted to organize and codify all the materials.

One interesting aspect of Schechter's research involved looking at palimpsests, documents that had been scraped over and written upon more than once. *Sacred Treasure* is exciting reading for both professionals and laypersons. It includes chapter notes, photographs, and an index.

Another recent investigation into this fascinating history is *Sacred Trash*, by Adina Hoffman and Peter Cole (Schocken, 2011), reviewed by Rabbi Louis Rieser in *CLT* Volume XLV, Number 4 (2011).

—Evelyn Pockrass

Hidden Letters

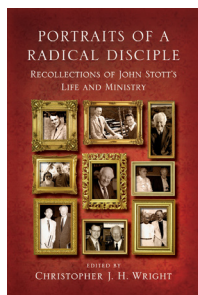
Annotated by Deborah Slier and Ian Shine. Translated by Marion van Binsbergen-Pritchard. Star Bright, 2008. 193p. \$35.00, hardcover. ISBN: 978-1-887734-88-2. www.starbrightbooks.org 940.53 Slier, Philip, 1923-1943—Correspondence. Molengoot Labor Camp. World War, 1939-1945—Personal narratives, Dutch. World War, 1939-1945—Jews—Netherlands. Netherlands—History—German occupation, 1940-1945. Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)—Netherlands. Jews—Netherlands—Correspondence.

In *Hidden Letters*, readers are privy to one side of an intimate correspondence. As an eighteen-year-old caught in the web of the Nazi occupation of Holland, Philip "Flip" Slier was sent to the Molengoot forced labor camp in April 1942. Between April and

September, when he escaped, Flip wrote eighty-six letters home. He was arrested in March 1943 and never heard from again.

Flip's letters, full of strength, despair, and love, were discovered in 1997 and found their way to Deborah Slier, a cousin from South Africa. She published them, with extensive commentary, introducing Flip's family and friends as he mentions them in the letters. She provides historical context in sidebars, so readers learn of the changes in Amsterdam and in the camp as they are reflected in Flip's letters. The letters and Deborah's commentary are beautifully illustrated and bring readers into the intimacy of the family and the horror of their experience.

Deborah Slier writes that she "felt the need to uncover Flip's world . . . to peel off the layers to reveal the details, even the painful details." In doing so, she provides a moving portrait of one man and one family caught in the incomprehensible nightmare of the Holocaust. —*Rabbi Louis A. Rieser*



Portraits of a Radical Disciple: Recollections of John Stott's Life and Ministry

Christopher J. H. Wright, ed. InterVarsity, 2011. 241p. \$16.00, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8308-3810-3. www.ivpress.com 283.092 Stott, John R. W.—1921-2011. Church of England—Clergy—Biography. Anglican Communion—England—Biography. Evangelicalism—Church of England—Biography.

The idea for *Portraits of a Radical Disciple*, edited by John Stott's longtime friend and

colleague, Christopher J. H. Wright, came from Stott himself. It was his wish that the work be published posthumously so that contributors would feel free to be candid in their remarks. Stott later agreed to the publisher's proposed alternative—that it be published at the time of Stott's ninetieth birthday, if he reached that milestone. Stott died in July 2011, three months after turning ninety.

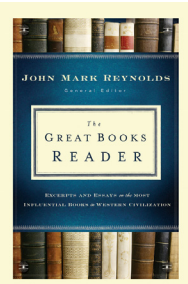
Two words that appear repeatedly in these recollections are "humility" and "clarity." The former characterized Stott's life, the latter his preaching and writing. The renowned evangelical theologian had a gift for making and keeping friends and a remarkable talent for remembering people's names and their situations, even when he had not seen them for many years.

Anyone familiar with Stott and his work will truly enjoy the recollections of many Christian leaders in *Portraits of a Radical Disciple*. They provide insights into the life of a man who, in addition to being an outstanding scholar and theologian, loved children and was a devoted birdwatcher. —*Beverly M. Bixler*

hints at the turbulent history that led to the birth of the King James Version in 1611.

Derek Wilson presents a sweeping but succinct account of early translations of the Bible and the persons responsible for them. He details the controversies and division, not only in England but also in the church, occasioned by the desire for a Bible that could be understood by everyone and by its eventual publication. Controversy did not end there, nor does Wilson's history. He discusses the praise for and the complaints against the KJV in the years after its publication and its influence in many areas of life over the centuries. Wilson's last two chapters chronicle the pros and cons of subsequent translations of the Bible.

The People's Bible should be in all congregational libraries. —*Beverly M. Bixler*



The Great Books Reader: Excerpts and Essays on the Most Influential Books in Western Civilization

John Mark Reynolds, ed. Bethany House, 2011. 656p. \$34.99, hardcover. ISBN: 978-0-7642-0852-2. www.bethanyhouse.com 011'.73 Best books. Literature—Collections. Christian—Books and reading.

Editor John Mark Reynolds believes that we serve God with our intellect and that knowledge of the great thinkers through

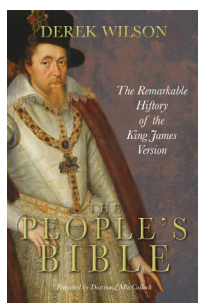
history better equips us to come to the Word of God. *The Great Books Reader* offers twenty-nine excerpts, each set between an introduction and an informative essay by a scholar with expertise on the writer or writing in focus. The editor's hope is that the excerpts will draw us to read the full texts. Acknowledging today's time constraints, Reynolds invites us to bring to the excerpts our open-minded questions and intent to mentally "converse" with the writers.

Reynolds begins with Homer (850 B.C.) and advances chronologically through G. K. Chesterton (1874-1936). Among featured authors along the way are Saint Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, John Calvin, William Shakespeare, John Milton, Isaac Newton, John Wesley, Karl Marx, Charles Darwin, and Friedrich Nietzsche.

Reynolds includes various genres; there are excerpts from Shakespeare's *Much Ado about Nothing*, lines from Charles Wesley's hymns, poetry by Milton, and prayers by Aquinas.

The book is written primarily from the Christian perspective; however, since these works have affected the broader culture and lasted long, this volume is recommended for both church and synagogue libraries. It will make a fitting donation to honor or memorialize a congregation member. —*Carolyn Ego*

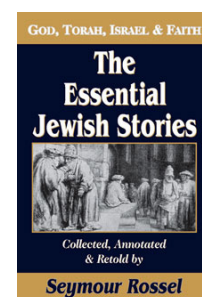
Inspired Voices



The People's Bible: The Remarkable History of the King James Version

Derek Wilson. Lion Hudson, 2010. Distributed in the United States by Kregel. 222p. \$24.95, hardcover. ISBN: 978-0-7459-5550-6. www.kregel.com 220.1 Bible.

For most of Christianity's first twelve hundred years in England, there was no complete English-language Bible. The fact that for so many centuries it was a crime to translate even a part of the Bible into the vernacular



The Essential Jewish Stories: Collected, Annotated, & Retold by Seymour Rossel

Seymour Rossel. KTAV, 2011. 431p. \$26.95, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-60280-167-7. www.ktav.com 296.1'9 Jewish legends. Jewish way of life—Anecdotes. Judaism—Anecdotes.

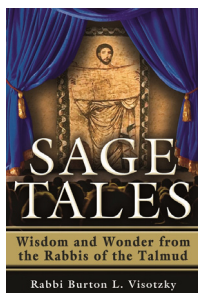
Stories tell the truth. Sometimes the truth is evident for all to see; sometimes you need to hold stories up as a mirror in order to see the truth. In *The Essential Jewish Stories*, Seymour Rossel shares his collection of favorite tales. They will make you laugh, move you to tears, and—most importantly—make you think about the human experience. They teach a great deal about the Jewish outlook on the world.

They will make you laugh, move you to tears, and—most importantly—make you think about the human experience. They teach a great deal about the Jewish outlook on the world.

The stories are arranged in four large categories, each subdivided into discrete sections. The stories come from multiple sources, largely rabbinic and Hasidic literature. Other stories are of Rossel's own creation. He helps by noting the source for the original tale, allowing us to decide if we agree with his version or wish to retell it in our own voice. Rossel's occasional brief annotations comment on sources or the similarity to other tales or traditions.

Rossel includes three helpful indexes: festivals and holy days, notable characters, and concepts and values. For anyone planning a program or researching a theme, these indexes will prove indispensable.

For teachers and preachers, and for readers who just like stories, this book will be a treat. —*Rabbi Louis A. Rieser*



Sage Tales: Wisdom and Wonder from the Rabbis of the Talmud

Burton L. Visotzky. 📖 Jewish Lights, 2011. 239p. \$24.99, hardcover. 📄 ISBN: 978-1-58023-456-6. 🌐 www.jewishlights.com 📑 296.1'27607 Rabbis—Legends. Jewish legends. Talmud—Legends. Talmud—Criticism, interpretation, etc.

The stories that Rabbi Burton Visotzky examines in *Sage Tales* trace the emergence of rabbinic Judaism in the generations following the Roman destruction of the

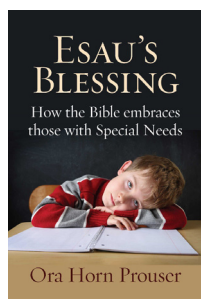
Temple in 70 CE. Visotzky leads the reader through the stories with ease and humor. The tales reveal bits of history, and there are occasional references to similar New Testament stories, but the focus is didactic. The reader learns about the morality and worldview of the early sages.

Visotzky approaches these narratives as if they were theater, complete with scenes, stock characters, and well-known plots. This method is an effective tool to help the reader appreciate the variations in similar tales. He engages the reader in a lively recreation of the scenes, allowing the full depth of stories to emerge.

Sage Tales begins before the destruction of the Temple, so readers see the struggle to re-establish Jewish life and practice from the outset. A wide variety of issues finds expression: identity, wealth and charity, miracles, and tragedy. We meet wonder-workers, scoundrels, and holy men.

If you are a newcomer to rabbinic tales, this book is a must. If you are accustomed to such tales, you will find new insights in Visotzky's retelling. Highly recommended.

—*Rabbi Louis A. Rieser*



Esau's Blessing: How The Bible Embraces Those with Special Needs

Ora Horn Prouser. 📖 Ben Yehuda, 2011. 131p. \$17.50, paperback. 📄 ISBN: 978-1-934730-35-5. 🌐 www.benyehudapress.com 📑 221.8'3624 People with disabilities in the Bible. Bible. O.T.—Criticism, interpretation, etc.

Reading the Bible from new perspectives yields rich fruit, and that is evident in *Esau's Blessing: How the Bible Embraces Those with Special Needs*. Ora Horn Prouser melds the

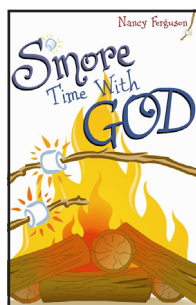
narratives of the Bible with the insights gained from educational professionals who deal with special-needs children. Her compassionate reading of the text teaches important lessons about being human. Chief among Prouser's conclusions: a reminder that every person is created in the divine image, and a careful reading of the Torah demonstrates the ways God attends to the needs of each individual.

There are many people in the Bible who might today be classified as "special needs." Prouser demonstrates that Esau could have had attention deficit disorder and Isaac showed signs of mental retardation. Jacob was gifted, but Samson exhibited conduct disorders. Prouser's sensitive reading highlights details in the text that are often elided but which reveal important elements of character. Her analysis deepens our understanding of these tales.

Prouser's interpretation moves us to see these biblical characters in a new light. One hopes it will also move educators, rabbis, parents, and counselors to see our children's needs more clearly. Prouser does us all a favor by viewing the Bible through this new lens of "special needs." Highly recommended.

—*Rabbi Louis A. Rieser*

Devotional Time



S'more Time with God

Nancy Ferguson. 📖 Judson, 2011. 115p. \$12.99, paperback. 📄 ISBN: 978-0-8170-1663-0. 🌐 www.judsonpress.com 📑 249 Camping—Prayers and devotions. Families—Prayers and devotions. Bible—Devotional literature. Nature—Biblical teaching—Prayer and devotions.

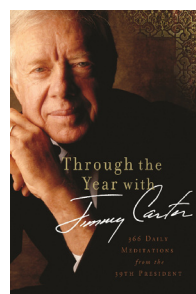
Is there any better way to spend family time with young children than camping? According to former church worker Nancy Ferguson, time away from the distractions

of everyday living can give parents time to reconnect with their children and create a setting in which to deepen their faith. In this handy devotional guide, Ferguson divides the camping excursion into five basic themes or weeks: the seven days of Genesis, Old Testament promises and the wilderness, Israel's poetry of the Psalms, stories of Jesus, and the Parables of Jesus. Each weekly theme is divided into seven lessons. There are stories, songs, inspiring questions to start discussions, Bible verses, directions for interactive activities (including lists of supplies needed and craft instructions, where applicable), and prayers.

Whether camping in the wilderness for weeks or setting up a tent for a night or two in the back yard, families can use these lessons individually or in sequence. Ferguson even includes such recipes as trail mix, camp dough, "creepy-crawly rice and beans," and the ever-popular s'mores.

Christian parents will appreciate the new tools *S'more Time with God* provides for enhancing the spiritual aspects of family camping.

—*Mary Lou Henneman*



Through the Year with Jimmy Carter: 366 Daily Meditations from the 39th President

Jimmy Carter with Steve Halliday. 📖 Zondervan, 2011. 366p. \$24.99, hardcover. 📄 ISBN: 978-0-310-33048-6. 🌐 www.zondervan.com 📑 242'2 Devotional calendars—Baptists. Baptists—Prayers and devotions.

It is well known that former president Jimmy Carter has taught Sunday school for years. His role as teacher and his other life experiences have provided the material for *Through the Years with Jimmy Carter*. He has arranged his 366 one-page medita-

Classics Corner

In this issue, *Congregational Libraries Today* introduces **Classics Corner**, where we will highlight enduring works that are essential for most congregational libraries. These are “golden oldies” that are part of a faith-based library’s core collection. Without these foundational works, a congregational library may be incomplete. If you tend a congregational library, check your shelves for the titles featured in Classics Corner. If these gems are not there, consider adding them.

We invite readers to suggest titles for future “Classic Corner” reviews by emailing CLT’s media review editor, Monica Tenney, at motenny@aol.com.

Your God Is Too Small

J. B. Phillips. Touchstone (an imprint of Simon & Schuster), 2004. 129p. \$12.00, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-7432-5509-7. www.simonandschuster.com 231 God.

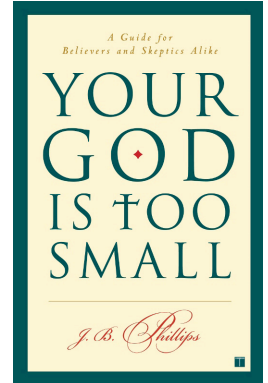
Sixty years have passed since the publication of *Your God Is Too Small*. Its author, J. B. Phillips, was a canon of the Anglican Church known for *The New Testament in Modern English*, an edition of the New Testament paraphrased for students.

In *Your God Is Too Small*, Phillips maintains that believers can be mistaken in their perception of God. Their God, Phillips argues, is the God of their childhoods and does not measure up to the God of reality.

In the first part of this slender book, labeled “Destructive,” Phillips presents a series of faulty conceptions of God. There is God as “resident policeman,” whose role is limited to curbing bad behavior; God as a stern parent who inspires fear and guilt; God as the over-sentimentalized “meek and mild” image of Jesus Christ; and God as an escape from life’s difficulties. The thirteen chapters of this first half can be eye opening and faith changing.

In the second half Phillips waxes “Constructive” about a limitless God, one whose character is clear in the person of Jesus Christ. As most writers of his time did, Phillips assigns the male gender to God. A few examples seem dated, and in one instance his assertion that the God of the Old Testament is insufficient will rankle some readers. Overall, though, Phillips’s direct and spirited text holds up well for present-day readers.

Your God Is Too Small continues to inspire maturing Christians and should be in every church library. —Monica Tenney



tions into three sections bearing the titles “Launching,” “Growing,” and “Serving.”

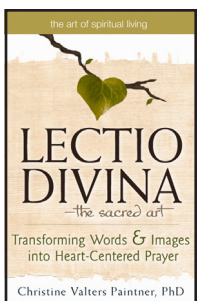
This is not a book of devotions for Baptists only; it is meant for all Christians. One of the meditations is entitled “Every Believer a Priest,” expressing Carter’s long-held belief in the priesthood of all believers. There is something for everyone in the content of Carter’s book, and his style of elegant simplicity will appeal to all readers. Each devotional exercise opens with scripture and closes with a short prayer. The prayers are sincere, heartfelt expressions that will serve as excellent models for any Christian.

—Beverly M. Bixler

what to do with it. Words chosen will be different for each reader.

Instructions alone are not completely satisfying; it might have been helpful if Paintner had illustrated with examples from her own experience. In an appendix at the end of the book, she explains the practice of *lectio divina* in small groups. In another, she outlines its use in retreats. A bibliography of resources on contemplative prayer concludes the book. —Beverly M. Bixler

Fiction



Lectio Divina—The Sacred Art: Transforming Words & Images into Heart-Centered Prayer

Christine Valters Paintner. Skylight Paths, 2011. 206p. \$16.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-59473-300-0. www.skylightpaths.com 248.3 Spirituality—Christianity. Prayer—Christianity. Bible—Devotional use. Sacred books—Devotional use. Christianity and other religions. Series: The Art of Spiritual Living.

In the first part of *Lectio Divina—The Sacred Art*, Benedictine oblate Christine Valters

Paintner introduces the reader to the practice of *lectio divina* and its development. The book’s second part discusses the four movements of this type of contemplative prayer: reading, meditation, responding, and contemplation—a surrendering of oneself to God. Each chapter includes suggested passages of scripture and other writings that may be used. The third part of Paintner’s book discusses the use of art, music, and nature as the basis for one’s prayers.

Paintner emphasizes the importance of choosing a word or phrase from the reading that “speaks” to one, then discusses



House of Secrets

Tracie Peterson. Bethany House (an imprint of Baker), 2011. 309p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-7642-0618-4. www.bethanyhouse.com Fiction—Fiction. Family secrets—Fiction.

The truth may set you free, but it is not always easy to accept. In *House of Secrets*, Bailee Cooper learns the truth about her mother’s illness and death. The upheaval this creates is only the beginning.

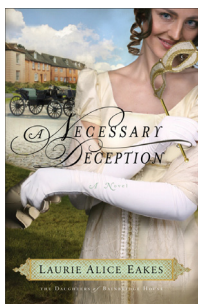
During her mother’s illness, Bailee became a mother to her two younger sisters. It is a role she does not want to give up. She reluctantly does so, but it is not easy. To complicate matters, Bailee’s boss comes on the scene. He is her only friend, and he becomes a love interest.

Bailee starts out angry with God for the damage she thinks God allowed to occur in her family’s past. Bailee wants to trust God completely, but fear keeps getting in the way. By the end of the book, God’s truth has been revealed, and Bailee and her

family are on the path of healing and happiness.

This is a good story about moving from secrets and fear to trust and love. Recommended for any church library.

—Annella Grayce



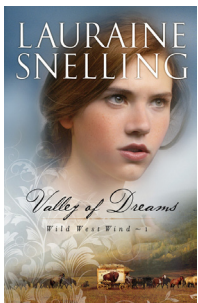
A Necessary Deception

Laurie Alice Eakes. Revell (an imprint of Baker), 2011. 346p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8007-3466-4. www.revellbooks.com Fiction England—Social life and customs—19th century—Fiction Widows—Fiction. Man-woman relationships—Fiction. Series: The Daughters of Bainbridge House, Book 1

Political intrigue and London's high society provide the framework for Laurie Alice Eakes's *A Necessary Deception*. Set in 1812,

when England is at war with France, the novel opens with Lady Lydia Gale obtaining freedom for Christien Arnaud de Meuse, a French prisoner. The young widow, the eldest daughter of a member of Parliament, soon faces attempts at blackmail and threats against her life.

Lydia is in London for the marriage of her younger sister and to facilitate her youngest sister's entry into society in hopes of finding a husband. The arrival of Christien at her home further complicates Lydia's life. Intrigue and deception continue until at last the mysteries are solved. —Beverly M. Bixler



Valley of Dreams

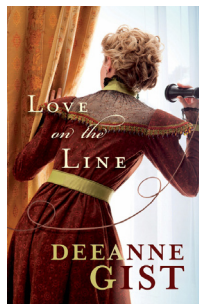
Lauraine Snelling. Bethany House, 2011. 342p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-7642-0415-9. www.bethanyhouse.com Fiction Single women—Fiction. Frontier and pioneer life—South Dakota—Fiction. Black Hills (S.D. and Wyo.)—Fiction. Series: Wild West Wind, Book 1

Cassie Lockwood lived an unusual but sheltered life. Her parents were the owners of a traveling Wild West show, and Cassie was a young sharpshooter and trick rider

in the style of Annie Oakley. After Cassie's parents die and the show closes due to hard times and mismanagement of funds by a shady uncle, she must fend for herself. When she dis-

covers her father had a dream to move to a special valley somewhere in the Black Hills of South Dakota, Cassie sets off with an unlikely group of friends—a Native American, a shy young boy, her horse, and her dog—all from the show. How will they make it to this dream valley when only Chief, her father's friend, knows the approximate location? What does the family's struggle to keep their ranch in South Dakota have to do with Cassie and her friends?

Valley of Dreams is an enjoyable book for teens and adults who like historical fiction combined with a coming-of-age story. Do not expect the story to end with the conclusion of this book, which sets up the next installment in Lauraine Snelling's Wild West Wind series. —Mary Lou Henneman



Love on the Line

Deeanne Gist. Bethany House, 2011. 365p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-7642-0409-8. www.bethanyhouse.com Fiction Texas Rangers—Fiction. Bird watchers—Fiction. Texas—Fiction.

Get ready to travel back to the Old West in this historical romance from Deeanne Gist. Young Georgie Gail, the local telephone operator in a small rural town, is showing her independence in a world dominated by men. There has been a spate of robberies

by the bandit Frank Comer. The Texas Rangers are on the hunt for Comer and his gang, and they send Lucious Landrom undercover as Luke Palmer to work as a "troubleman" for the phone company, much to the consternation of Miss Georgie.

Sparks fly when Miss Georgie thinks her territory is being threatened, but romance soon blossoms. Added to the mix is Georgie's passion for saving birds from indiscriminate killing to be used as adornments on women's hats. With its lively characters and plot, *Love on the Line* will be a fun read for fans of Christian romance. —Mary Lou Henneman



The Blessed

Ann H. Gabhart. Revell (an imprint of Baker), 2011. 404p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8007-3454-1. www.revellbooks.com Fiction Shakers—Fiction.

In her novel *The Blessed*, Ann H. Gabhart gives readers an interesting picture of a segment of American religious history that is not well known. By the mid-1800s, more than a dozen Shaker communities existed from New England to Indiana. Known for

their celibacy and communal living, they acquired the name "Shakers" from their response to being visited by the Spirit.

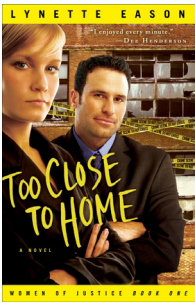
Depressed by the death of his wife and contemplating suicide, Isaac Kingston is rescued by Brother Asa, who takes him to nearby Harmony Hill, a Shaker village.

Gossip "forces" Lacey Bishop to marry Elwood Palmer, a Baptist preacher and recent widower for whom she kept house. Lacey is Elwood's wife in name only, but she cares for the orphan girl who had been left on the preacher's doorstep. Elwood moves them to Harmony Hill.

Neither Lacey nor Isaac can embrace the Shaker life, and a few months of living in the community brings all their individual problems to a climax. True love, compassion, and forgiveness are achieved as Lacey and Isaac search for God's will for their lives. —Beverly M. Bixler

This issue's reviewers

Beverly M. Bixler *First Presbyterian Church, Ashland, Ohio* ✕ Carolyn Egolf *Lincolnshire Church of the Brethren, Fort Wayne, Indiana* ✕ Nanette Goings *Faith Community Lutheran Church, Longmont, Colorado* ✕ Annella Grayce *Eastbrook Church, Milwaukee, Wisconsin* ✕ Mary Lou Henneman *Boardman United Methodist Church, Boardman, Ohio* ✕ Evelyn Pockrass *Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, Indianapolis, Indiana* ✕ 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*



Too Close to Home

Lynette Eason. Revell, 2010. 332p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8007-3369-8. www.revellbooks.com Fiction United States. Federal Bureau of Investigation—Fiction. Criminal investigation—Technical innovations—Fiction. Series: Women of Justice, Book 1

Don't Look Back

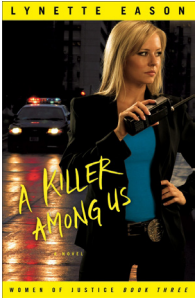
Lynette Eason. Revell, 2010. 327p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8007-3370-4. www.revellbooks.com

Fiction United States. Federal Bureau of Investigation—Fiction. Criminal investigation—Technical innovations—Fiction. Series: Women of Justice, Book 2



A Killer Among Us

Lynette Eason. Revell, 2011. 345p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8007-3371-1. www.revellbooks.com Fiction Murder—Investigation—Fiction. Series: Women of Justice, Book 3



Lynette Eason has created a triple winner for fans of Christian romantic suspense in her Women of Justice series. Combining strong characters thrust into dangerous situations resembling those of current television detective dramas, the storyline will keep readers on the edge of their seats. In *Too Close to Home*, several teenage girls from a small southern town are missing. Their bodies are now being discovered. It is up to detective Connor Wolfe and FBI Special Agent Samantha Cash, a computer expert, to solve the crimes. The two work well together not only at the crime scene;

a personal relationship also develops.

Don't Look Back focuses on Jamie, Samantha's sister, a forensic anthropologist. Past horrors are coming back to haunt her. Twelve years earlier she was kidnapped and tortured but managed to escape. The nightmare is happening again as the bodies of other girls are being discovered. Jamie knows the killer must be the same person who abducted her and that he wants to finish the job by killing her.

In *A Killer Among Us*, Kit Kenyon, Samantha and Jamie's sister whom their mother gave up at birth for adoption, comes back into their lives. She is a hostage negotiator who is called to use her skills alongside Noah Lambert to solve a series of gruesome murders.

Eason masterfully manages the action and suspense in all three novels and skillfully portrays the characters in their jobs and in their Christian faith. Women of Justice is an excellent series for readers of romance and suspense novels that incorporate strong Christian principles. Although each book can be enjoyed on its own, reading the series in sequence provides maximum impact. —Mary Lou Henneman

The Maid of Fairbourne Hall

Julie Klassen. Bethany House, 2011. 414p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-7642-0709-9. www.bethanyhouse.com Fiction England—Social life and customs—19th century England—Fiction. Heiresses—Fiction. Disguise—Fiction. Women household employees—Fiction. Social classes—Fiction.



In the hands of a gifted storyteller, the improbable becomes credible. *The Maid of Fairbourne Hall* bears that out. On her fast-approaching twenty-fifth birthday,

The dragon is still outside the Gate!



Did you know that in Chinese and Japanese mythology, the dragon seeks the moon ball for its most prized possession? CSLA is the moon ball the dragon wishes to capture. So far we have managed to keep the moon ball safe. However, we need to encourage all congregational libraries to be members of CSLA.

We need as well:

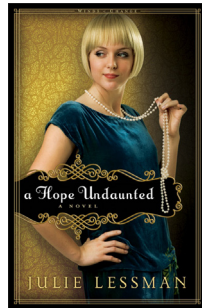
- 📅 help with the **2012 conference** in Springfield IL
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And...Donations, Donations, Donations! Our Pioneers Endowment helps us keep the dragon at bay. Please, consider a gift to CSLA.

Margaret Macy will receive a substantial inheritance. However, to avoid the unsuitable marriage demanded by her stepfather (who hopes to benefit from the money the marriage would bring), she flees her London home. Disguised as a housemaid, Margaret obtains a position as a servant at Fairbourne Hall. Not until after she is hired does she discover that it is the home of the Upchurch brothers, both of whom have been romantically linked to her in the past. Never having worked a day in her life, Margaret struggles to maintain her disguise. Uncertainty over whether the brothers and their sister suspect her true identity complicates Margaret's life. Finally, after many twists and turns of the plot, the maxim "All's well that ends well" can be applied to *The Maid of Fairbourne Hall*. —Beverly M. Bixler

A Hope Undaunted

Julie Lessman. 📖 Revell, 2010. 505p. \$14.99, paperback. 📖 ISBN: 978-0-8007-3415-2. 🌐 www.revell-books.com 📖 Fiction Nineteen twenties—Fiction. Series: Winds of Change, Book 1



A Heart Revealed

Julie Lessman. 📖 Revell, 2011. 505p. \$14.99, paperback. 📖 ISBN: 978-0-8007-3416-9. 🌐 www.revellbooks.com 📖 Fiction Nineteen thirties—Fiction. Series: Winds of Change, Book 2



A Hope Undaunted is the first book in the Winds of Change series. It takes place in Boston during the 1920s. The main character is Katie O'Connor, a feisty young lady who has her future all mapped out. She plans to marry

a rich, good-looking man with a well-connected family, and she wants to become a lawyer and fight for women's rights.

When Katie comes in late after a date with her fiancé, her father forces her, as punishment for not listening, to volunteer at the Boston Children's Aid Society for the summer. As if that is not bad enough, she will be working for Luke McGee, with whom she had conflicts in her childhood.

I loved Katie and the whole O'Connor family, as well as all the other characters in this book. I also loved how Lessman weaves scripture into the story and reminds us that God's love is unconditional.

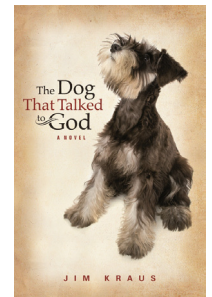
Even though *A Heart Revealed* picks up where *A Hope Undaunted* ends, it can stand alone for readers who have not read the earlier volume. *A Heart Revealed* takes place in the early 1930s in Boston. The main character is Emma Malloy, a close friend of Charity O'Connor Dennehy and the rest of the O'Connor clan. Emma had a hard life back in Ireland and ran away from a cruel and abusive husband. She falls in love with Charity's brother, Sean, and he with her. Unfortunately, because she is already married, their love cannot be.

Intermixed with Emma and Sean's story are the stories of Charity, her sisters, and their families. Readers will appreciate how Lessman's characters seem like real people with real problems and how, with God's love, they can find their true destiny.

—Phyllis Wendorf

The Dog that Talked to God

Jim Kraus. 📖 Abingdon, 2012. 332p. \$14.99, paperback. 📖 ISBN: 978-1-4267-4256-9. 🌐 www.abingdonpress.com 📖 Fiction Animals—Fiction. Dogs—Fiction. Widows—Fiction.



Anyone who has loved a pet knows the sense of connection, of deep familiarity and acceptance, and even of a possible spiritual awareness. In *The Dog that Talked to God*,

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- Sheillah Kennedy, St. Anne School

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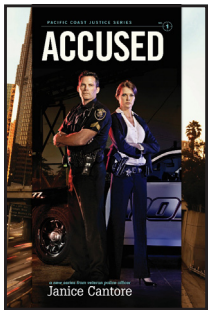
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Jim Kraus offers a hard-to-put-down story of Rufus, a miniature schnauzer who makes a giant difference. Rufus's human is Mary Fassler, who lives near Chicago and makes her living writing novels about the Amish. Mary is three years out from the sudden deaths of her husband and young son in a car crash. In her loneliness, Mary adopts Rufus as a puppy. To her amazement, she finds that sometimes—when he feels like it—on their nightly walks, Rufus speaks to her. He has spoken with God, too. Mary, in consultation with Rufus, navigates the difficult road of rebuilding her life.

Rufus is a comical fellow who is alternately wise, impatient, baffled by human behavior (try to explain dating to a dog), and always ready for something good to eat. Kraus, author of the best-selling *Bloopers, Blunders, Jokes, Quips, and Quotes* (Tyndale House, 2005) has created an enjoyable and often hilarious read. Highly recommended. —Monica Tenney



Accused

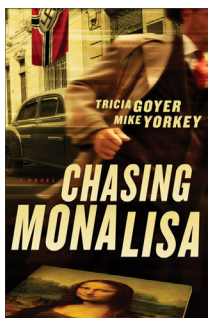
Janice Cantore. 📖 Tyndale House, 2012. 399p. \$12.99, paperback. 📖 ISBN: 978-1-4143-5847-5. 🌐 www.tyndale.com 📖 Fiction Women detectives—Fiction. Murder—Investigation—Fiction. Series: Pacific Coast Justice, Book 1

Janice Cantore, a former Long Beach police officer, combines fast-paced crime drama with Christian concerns in the compelling crime drama *Accused*. In this first book in Cantore's Pacific Coast Justice series, detective Carly Edwards finds herself stuck at a desk job after being involved in a shooting six months earlier while working homicide. Apart from her professional life, Carly struggles with personal issues: the death of her father and the infidelity of her husband, Nick, who is also a police officer.

Carly interviews young Londy Akins, a troubled youth who is a member of Carly's mother's church. Londy and another boy are accused of stealing Mayor Teresa Burke's car, killing her, and hiding her body in the trunk. When she is shut out of the investigation of the mayor's death, Carly realizes there is a cover-up by her superiors. The only way to solve the mystery is to go out on her own. Fortunately, Carly has the backup of a few good officers, including Nick, as well as the prayers and unconditional love of her mother.

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Cantore weaves a great suspense story to satisfy both mystery buffs and readers of romance. —Mary Lou Henneman



Chasing Mona Lisa

Tricia Goyer and Mike Yorkey. 📖 Revell, 2012. 325p. \$14.99, paperback. 📖 ISBN: 978-0-8007-2046-9. 🌐 www.revellbooks.com 📖 Fiction Art thefts—Investigation—Fiction. France—History—German occupation, 1940-1945—Confiscations and contributions—France—Fiction.

Tricia Goyer and Mike Yorkey have created another masterful story of intrigue, following up on 2009's *The Swiss Courier*, reviewed in *CLT* Volume XLIII, Number 3 (2010).

In *Chasing Mona Lisa* the setting is Paris in 1944, near the end of World War II, when officers of the Third Reich are stealing many of the treasures from the Louvre. Da Vinci's *Mona Lisa*, one of the museum's most famous paintings, is sought after by Reichsmarschall Hermann Göring, and it will again take the clever team of Gabi Mueller and Eric Hofstadler to aid the

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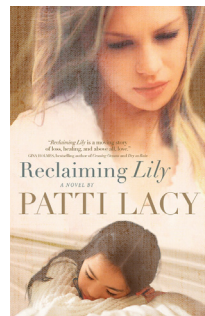
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members of the French Resistance in returning the masterpiece to its rightful home.

Action-filled subplots center on which French citizens are helping the Nazis, whether it is justifiable to sacrifice lives in the effort to protect the treasures of the Louvre, and how love can triumph in the midst of war. *Chasing Mona Lisa* takes Gabi and Eric's personal and spiritual relationships to new levels, making for good historical fiction for Christian readers.

—Mary Lou Henneman



Reclaiming Lily

Patti Lacy. 📖 Bethany House, 2011. 380p. \$14.99, paperback. 📖 ISBN: 978-0-7642-0941-3. 🌐 www.bethanyhouse.com 📖 Fiction Sisters—Fiction. Genetic disorders—Fiction. Intercountry adoption—China—Fiction. Intercountry adoption—United States—Fiction.

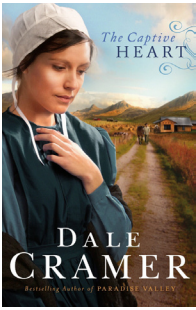
Dr. Kai Chang's purpose in life is to spare her biological sister, Joy, the torture of a genetically transmitted disease that claimed their birth mother. Joy was adopted by a couple from the United States and

renamed Lily. Lily is now a seventeen-year-old trying to find her way in life and reconcile the differences between Kai and Gloria, Lily's adoptive mother. The story of *Reclaiming Lily* moves these characters from adversaries to friends to family.

Culture and faith differences are thoroughly researched and beautifully described, and characters are well developed. The struggles with faith and fear are believable and gripping. Lily's explanation of her faith to Kai is realistic.

In *Reclaiming Lily*, Patti Lacy has written a wonderful story, one to be savored. It deserves a place in every church library.

—Annella Grayce



The Captive Heart

Dale Cramer. Bethany House, 2012. 348p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-7642-0839-3. www.bethanyhouse.com Fiction Amish—Fiction. Frontier and pioneer life—Fiction. Mexico—Fiction. Series: The Daughters of Caleb Bender, Book 2.

The Captive Heart is the second volume in Dale Cramer's *The Daughters of Caleb Bender* series. The novel's locale, northern Mexico, makes it an unusual story of Amish life, but it is based on actual events. In the 1920s a small

group of Amish people went to live in that part of Mexico.

Life and death, love and hate, religious faith, and the lack of it challenge the Bender family and their neighbors. Emboldened by the death of the revolutionary Pancho Villa, groups of marauding *bandidos* make life perilous. As if physical danger were not enough to contend with, an unacceptable situation with regard to their Amish beliefs arises for the Benders. Their nineteen-year-old daughter Miriam has fallen in love with Domingo, a young Mexican who helps her father. The reader will be left guessing the outcome until almost the last page of the novel. —Beverly M. Bixler

throughout the book are easy-to-learn French words and their definitions. For ages 3-6. —Nanette Goings



F Is for Fireflies: God's Summertime Alphabet

Kathy-jo Wargin. Illustrated by Linda Bronson. Zonderkidz (an imprint of Zondervan), 2011. 32p. \$15.99, hardcover. ISBN: 978-0-310-71663-1. www.zondervan.com

[E] Summer—Juvenile fiction. God—Juvenile fiction. Alphabet. Stories in rhyme.

Follow the alphabet, A through Z, to discover summer with all its God-given blessings. *F Is for Fireflies* is a sweet reminder that God is always with us, calming the boats on the sea, creating the fireflies we see at night, and making the inchworms to remind us of God's love, which cannot be measured. "From Anchors to Beaches and summery things, may you find the blessings that God's summer brings."

Linda Bronson's joyful illustrations will surely make you smile. Also available in this series are *K Is for Kite*, *P is for Pumpkin*, and *S Is for Snowman*. Make sure you purchase the set for your congregational library! For ages 4-7. —Nanette Goings

For Children



Now It Is Summer

Eileen Spinelli. Illustrated by Mary Newell DePalma. Eerdmans, 2011. 32p. \$16.00, hardcover. ISBN: 978-0-8028-5340-0. www.eerdmans.com [E] Mice—Juvenile fiction. Summer—Juvenile fiction. Autumn—Juvenile fiction.

Smack-dab in the middle of summer, Little Mouse is already wishing it were autumn with cozy fires and toasted marshmallows. Throughout his continual dissatisfaction with

summer, his mother reminds him to be content with the now: enjoy the day, and don't miss out on what each day has to offer.

Now It Is Summer, a sweet book about contentment and happiness, is brimming with entertaining illustrations to pore over, allowing readers to discover something new each time the book is read. This book is a follow-up to Spinelli's *Now It Is Winter* (Eerdmans, 2004). For ages 4-8. —Nanette Goings



Peter Is Just a Baby

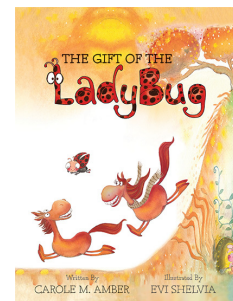
Marisabina Russo. Eerdmans, 2012. 32p. \$16.00, hardcover. ISBN: 978-0-8028-5384-4. www.eerdmans.com [E] Brothers and sisters—Juvenile fiction. Babies—Juvenile fiction.

"Peter is just a baby." According to the big sister who narrates, Peter makes too much noise. He cries too much. He

puts everything in his mouth. He can't even walk yet. "He crawls like a little turtle." Peter cannot run, leap, or skip like his big sister (who can do *pirouettes* like a ballerina around the living room).

Sensing a little sibling jealousy here? *Quel dommage!* But wait. Peter's first birthday party is today. Maybe, "he won't act like such a baby anymore." Maybe there is hope for him yet. Peter *could* just turn out to be a useful brother after all.

Marisabina Russo provides her own bold-colored illustrations for this look at adjusting to a younger sibling. Interspersed



The Gift of the Ladybug

Carole M. Amber. Illustrated by Evi Shelvia. Ladybug Publishing, 2012. 32p. \$10.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-615-58094-4. www.giftoftheladybug.com [E] Bereavement—Juvenile fiction. Children and death—Juvenile fiction.

A loving couple—they happen to be horses—long for a colt, and soon they are blessed to have a baby boy. They adore their little son and at first do not realize he is a different species altogether.

His small size, his lovely dots, and his tendency to un-horse-like behavior are clues they miss until the doctor tells them their son is not a horse at all. He is a ladybug.

The horses learn everything they can about ladybugs and their needs. The hardest thing they learn is that ladybugs have short lives. They cry about all the things their son will miss but realize he will never be a horse—he is a wonderful, happy ladybug. They understand that he was a special gift to them, and they cherish their ladybug for all the days he lives. Ever afterwards, they rejoice in their memories of him.

Evi Shelvia illustrates *The Gift of the Ladybug* in tender pastels. Carole Amber wrote the story for her son TJ, who died at fourteen months from Leigh syndrome, a rare condition that strikes infants.

Recommended for all congregational libraries that serve children and their families. —Monica Tenney



Silent Sally

Eric Walls. Horizon Light Media, 2012. 32p. \$14.99, hardcover. ISBN: 978-0-9846833-0-7. www.silentsally.com [E] Helpfulness—Juvenile fiction.

Sally McFirl is a pint-sized example of a "doer of the word." She is a quiet girl who never draws attention to herself. While the kids around her talk and have a good, loud time, Sally is quietly on the lookout

for ways she can help. When she sees a need, she moves into action, helping her neighbor lady, caring for plants and animals, helping a classmate pick up dropped books, putting toys away,

and even rescuing a teacher who has had a mishap. Sally's schoolmates eventually realize that Sally has the right idea. They not only celebrate Sally; they start doing good deeds wherever they can, too. Sally, the quiet little girl, has spoken loudly with her actions and made a big difference in her community.

Eric Walls provides his own color illustrations and includes a note to parents, the passage from James 1:22 that inspired his story ("But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only"), and suggested questions for kids. This appealing book could be the basis for a Sunday school lesson or story time with discussion. For ages 4 and up. —*Monica Tenney*

CSLA is looking for some good prospectors

It is no secret that our organization is eager to find new ways to grow. One of those ways is to uncover the names of libraries and librarians who have not heard about us.

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- ❖ **Identify the decision-makers** at prospective member congregational libraries
- ❖ **Make contact with the decision-makers** at prospective member libraries
- ❖ **Draft standard letters** that can be used to introduce CSLA



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Thank you!



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 is 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.

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• Congregational Libraries
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• Hibbing Church Library Network,
Hibbing, MN

• Pacific Northwest Association of
Church Libraries, Seattle, WA

From the CSLA office

Dear Friends:

We are finally into spring and I do hope you are *springing* into action to attend the conference July 29-31, 2012, in Springfield, Illinois! The conference registration information and form will be in your hands soon. Be sure to get it filled out and sent to the office as soon as you can. The committee is busy getting some exciting things into place for us!



We have six \$200 conference fellowships available for the first six people who call the office and request one: 1-800-542-2752. The only restriction is that you can only have a fellowship once every five years. You prepay for the conference, and then you will receive a check during the annual business meeting.

NEW! If you have a Congregational or Affiliate Membership we now have the following exciting news for you:

Congregational Memberships now allow all members of your library staff to become full members of CSLA just by filling out the membership form and sending it in to the CSLA office. Be sure to fill in the name of the member congregation.

Affiliate Memberships now include all members of your group, and all you have to do is fill out the membership form and include a note indicating you are a member of a particular affiliate group.

These new policies mean that all members of staff may access all the members-only sections of the CSLA website.

I want to thank each one of you that has sent in additional contributions to CSLA. As you are aware, we have cut our expenses every way that we can, but because we have some things that simply cannot be cut, we are in need of your financial help. Some of the things that we have done to cut expenses are: put the *CLT* entirely online, downsized the office, and implemented a policy of printing everything that we can in house. Your contributions allow us to complete revisions of many of our publications and to add new valuable guides for your library ministries. We THANK you in advance for your additional contributions—we simply cannot exist without each and every one of our members!

—Judy

Annual Conference Fellowship Requests

Scholarship Applications Due by June 1, 2012

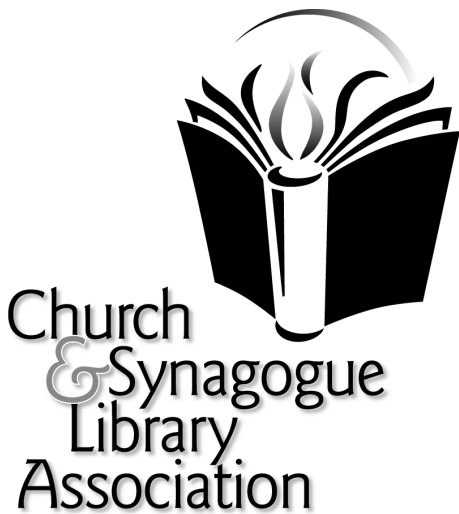


For many years, CSLA has been the recipient of a generous donation that provides \$200 each for members to attend the national conference. In an era of limited personal and library budgets, such funds can enable more CSLA members to participate in what promises to be an outstanding conference in Springfield, Illinois, this summer, from July 29-31.

There are six fellowships available in 2012. Please consider applying for a conference scholarship if you have not received one in the past five years. You will be asked to share your conference experiences with your congregation, your library committee, and/or your chapter members. Based on past experience, you will have a grand time!

Requests should be made to Judy Janzen, 800-542-2752.





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