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## Tradition and Innovation in the Land of Lincoln

Plan to be in Springfield in July for CSLA's 45<sup>th</sup>  
annual national conference: "LINCOLN LOGS ON!  
Tradition and Innovation in Library Ministry."

Each year a CSLA Conference Committee puts together a wonderful adventure of travel and study at this gathering of congregational librarians. Those who come get as much information, networking, and practical advice as can possibly be absorbed in three or four days. It is always a wonderful learning experience, which is why attendees return year after year. This year's committee has already done yeoman service getting this forty-fifth annual conference off and running.

**Lincoln Logs On!** will meet at the Hilton Springfield Hotel; free shuttle is available from Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport and the Amtrak station. Springfield is at the intersection of Interstate Highways 55—the famous old Route 66—and 72. Expect hot, humid weather; flat prairie with extensive corn and soybean fields; and light traffic. Stroll the neighborhood of Abraham Lincoln's home, see the Lincoln pew in the First Presbyterian Church, and drop into the local public library (which Carnegie recommended naming Lincoln Library). Nearly everything is named for Lincoln in this "Land of Lincoln."

Hear renowned church historian, author of over fifty books, long-time columnist in *The Christian Century*, delightful speaker, and professor emeritus at the University of Chicago, **Martin E. Marty**.

Christian fiction author from Tyndale Press **Maureen Lang** is expected. We will also enjoy a presentation by local historian-expert on Prairie Poet Vachel Lindsay, an early twentieth-century native of Springfield. Lindsay's many poems include "Abraham Lincoln Walks at Midnight" and "General Booth Enters Heaven." (William Booth was the founder of the Salvation Army.)

Here is a sampling of the variety of workshop topics planned for you:

Web applications ✕ Social networking ✕ E-books ✕ Translations and versions of Christian and Hebrew scriptures ✕ Pres-

ervation of historical papers and books ✕ Dewey Decimal Classification's recent editions with a focus on the 200s ✕ Using the United Methodist Women's reading list as a selection tool ✕ Introduction to the new CSLA guides ✕ Getting acquainted with religious publishers ✕ Health material in the congregational library.

LINCOLN LOGS ON



Tradition and Innovation  
in Library Ministry

## From The President's Desk...

Dear Friends of the Church and Synagogue Library Association,

Edith Lovejoy Pierce, a British-born, American poet has been quoted as writing:

*We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day.*

Notice there is no reference to resolutions. Making resolutions for a new year has never been my thing. Rather, I enjoy re-grouping periodically to see where I've been and what are realistic goals—and then make the most of the *opportunity* to complete that first page. Thinking of changes, setting new goals, exploring *opportunities* for the New CSLA has been just that type of refreshing exercise for 2011-2012.

In addition to innovative plans for the 2012 CSLA annual conference in Springfield, Illinois, July 29-31, let me tell you about four of our most recent initiatives.

CSLA has started a new membership category: Student Membership. In order to implement this project, we contacted more than fifty American Library Association accredited library schools requesting they notify students of the \$20 annual Student Membership. David Reid, CSLA Second Vice President, wrote an appealing letter, so students will feel welcome in CSLA. We also hope you will spread the word to students you know to become members. Along with a dues check to CSLA, the only information required is a student's name, address, phone number, and email address; the name of school s/he is attending; and expected date of graduation.

A form for Student Membership will be on the new website, and a change in the website structure is our second initiative. Robert Lewis has been our webmaster since 2005 and we appreciate all the time and effort he has put into its creation and maintenance. Recently, the CSLA Board decided to move to another phase with a totally new design and an ability to do our own postings. Early in 2012, the new site should be up, running, and offering members as many services as possible. We appreciate your feedback.

In another area, fundraising, CSLA has partnered with The Women's Bean Project, a Denver, Colorado, based national service that enables impoverished women to become independent. WBP, [www.womensbeanproject.com](http://www.womensbeanproject.com), sells unique gift items that you may consider giving on special occasions and CSLA receives income from each order. Contact the CSLA office at [csla@worldaccessnet.com](mailto:csla@worldaccessnet.com) for the most recent promotional code in order for CSLA to receive credit. What a wonderful way (in addition to our ongoing partnership with Amazon for book and other merchandise sales) to purchase well-made gifts and help CSLA and society at the same time!

Last, but not least, Cheryl Cutchin, CSLA Chapters Coordinator, is facilitating a Virtual Chapter, primarily



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for those CSLA members who do not live close to an existing chapter. The group will be setting its own agenda and networking on issues to discuss. Cheryl can be reached at [cherylcsla1@gmail.com](mailto:cherylcsla1@gmail.com) for further information.

All these projects are just a taste of new and energizing ideas CSLA has developed to become more efficient and to provide all our members with

help and support in their library endeavors. So think to yourself, what is it that you need to do that is new and innovative in your congregation's library? Be creative. Think out-of-the-box. Share your ideas with us. Take advantage of the *opportunity* to write on that *blank page*—and have a great New Year.

Blessing to everyone.

—Evelyn Pockrass

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## Women's Bean Project

### Need a great soup for winter?

The Women's Bean Project has packages of assorted beans ready for the pot! If you love warm, delicious soups for cold, winter days, this site is the place to shop. 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.



### Like to have an afternoon tea?

WBP 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.

### How about a zesty dip for your next party!

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.



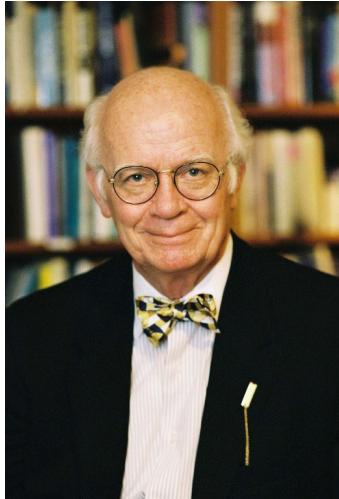
This is a wonderful organization that has grown over the years with its mission of providing skills for self-improvement, building confidence to create better lives for the women and their families, and giving hope for the future.



**women's**  
**BEAN PROJECT**  
[www.womensbeanproject.com](http://www.womensbeanproject.com)

Visit the website: [www.womensbeanproject.com](http://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 the new year.*

On the afternoon of Friday, July 27, you will not want to miss the tours! We will begin with the Dana-Thomas House, which



Renowned author and professor emeritus Martin E. Marty will be speaking at the conference

Frank Lloyd Wright designed in 1902. It features original furniture and the library where Mrs. Dana entertained neighborhood children. Next, we will experience a behind-the-scenes tour of the new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. You may choose to complete the afternoon with Reform worship service at Temple B'rith Sholom, followed by refreshments and a tour of their synagogue and library led by



Frank Lloyd Wright designed the Dana-Thomas House

Rabbi Michael Datz. You have the option of concluding the evening with dinner out with the group.

On Saturday morning many will wish to tour the new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, which has drawn rave reviews. Exhibits include the late Tim Russert's "broadcast" of the 1860 presidential election; a hologram ghost-led tour of the presidential library; and a three-screen, three-minute account of the Civil War, complete with gunfire. Beginning librarians will want to take advantage of the Saturday morning library school with box lunch, once again taught by Alrene Hall and Jane Hope. In the afternoon there is the ever-popular tour of local church libraries, concluding with supper and entertainment at the hundred-year old Gothic-style building of First Christian Church.

Other events include the traditional Sunday morning interfaith worship service and memorial for deceased members [send Judy Janzen in the CSLA office the names of those to be included]. The CSLA and Rodda Awards Banquet is planned, as usual, along with exhibits, opportunities to meet authors, chapter presidents meeting, and the annual business meeting with installation of officers. Evening entertainment of drama and music are on offer for relaxation after busy days.

Choose between two closing tours on Tuesday afternoon: Lincoln's Home or The Old State Capitol and Lincoln's



The conference will be held at the Hilton Springfield Hotel

Tomb in Oak Ridge Cemetery. The Old State Capitol is where Lincoln served in the state legislature, kept office, met constituents following his election as US President, and where he lay in state after his coffin crossed the nation. This is also the site where Barack Obama announced he would be a candidate for the presidency. Those who can stay to go out for



The Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library

supper will return to the Tomb for a "Retreat" ceremonial lowering of the flag by a reactivated Civil War unit of Illinois militia and presentation of that flag to some fortunate guest from out of town.

We know you (and you will want to bring your family, too!) cannot do and see everything in Springfield during our three-day event, so plan to come early and/or stay late so you can take many other tours on your own. For starters, there



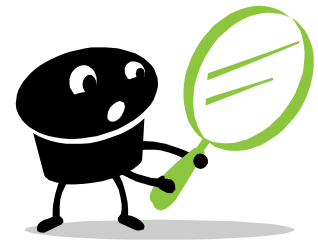
The Old State Capitol in downtown Springfield

are the State Archives, the State Library with its display of Lincoln's patent, the State Museum's display of native plants and animals, the "new" State Capitol, the Governor's Mansion, and Vachel Lindsay's Home. About 20 miles to the northwest lies New Salem State Historic Site, the reconstructed log cabin village where Abraham Lincoln lived as a young man, kept

store, served as postmaster, and worked as a surveyor while educating himself to be a successful attorney. About 100 miles to the west is Hannibal, Missouri, the hometown of Samuel Langhorne Clemens (better known by his pen name, Mark Twain).

Come to Illinois for a slower pace and lower prices than the big city but a full gamut of beginning or continuing library education, inspiration, and fellowship, thanks to CSLA! Registration form with prices, complete list of workshops, and hotel reservation information will be available on the CSLA website early in 2012.

—Marianne Stowers,  
*mariannes8888@hotmail.com*



## INDEX OF PUBLICATIONS ON THE WEB

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

If you don't have access to the internet, try your public library for internet access, or call Judy Janzen at 1-800-LIB-CSLA.



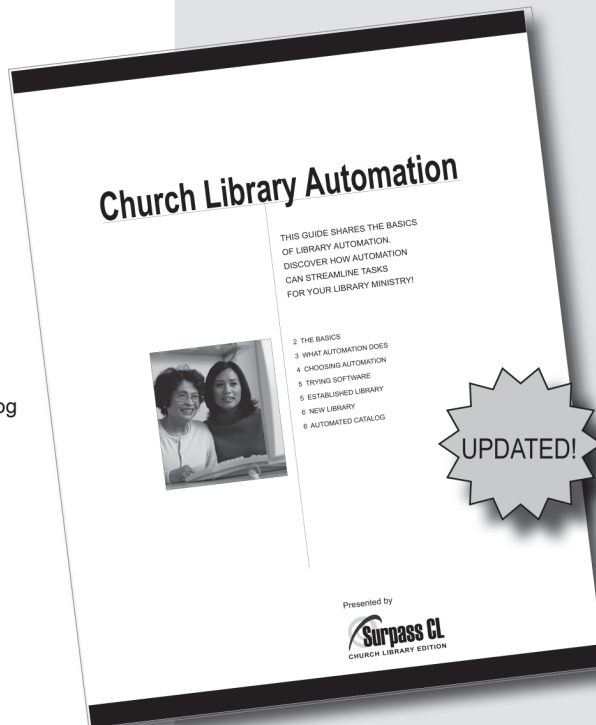
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## Automation questions?

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](http://www.SurpassSoftware.com).

**Free guide!**

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 CLICK: FREE *Church Library Automation* guide

# In The Beginning...

*Another in our series showcasing the humble beginnings of congregational libraries*



First Baptist Church of Martinsville, Virginia

Perhaps a good way to start off the library year is to retrospect: how did we get started, what were our goals, have we lived up to those standards, and have we expanded and improved those aims? We have had several good tales from members of CSLA about how their libraries began. It is time to pick up the thread.

First Baptist Church of Martinsville, Virginia, was begun in 1884. It was started in a family home by a group that felt the growing town really needed a Baptist church. The town was a sort of boom town in those days. At first there was a circuit rider preacher; then, one of those men settled down and became the local preacher. He still had some other churches to visit but he was mostly in Martinsville. One of the early ministers, who arrived in 1906, had a large library of his own, which he kept in his office at the church. He was an unusual man for his time, was James Pleasants McCabe, as he had a ThD from the University of Chicago. He was a gentle, unassuming man and a great leader. He came to town as a bachelor, but he managed to choose the best of the best for his wife. Sue Martin became Mrs. McCabe, and she was as much a rock foundation to the church as her husband. “Miss Sue” was gentle but firm and it was said, if she would instruct to jump, everyone would answer, “How high?”

Miss Sue thought that her husband’s library should be of service to all so she began lending out his books. The office had a twenty-foot ceiling in a room just off the sanctuary. The bookcases were almost as tall and had many volumes. It was a funny kind of office and Dr. McCabe’s desk was dwarfed by the height. It was a favorite gathering spot. It

is a wonder the reverend ever got any work done there. Some of us remember spending many hours in that office, browsing and listening to Dr. McCabe and all those who stopped by. It had a good deal of traffic as the church was right in the middle of downtown.

Miss Sue died of cancer right after World War II, and Mrs. Lola T. Kesler took over as librarian. Her training was in religious education so she took to library work with great enthusiasm and natural ability. She took all the courses that were offered by the library department of the Southern Baptist Convention. Mrs. Kesler had the appearance of the stereotypical starchy librarian who wished to stand between the patron and the book. She was, however, progressive in her practices and ideas. She took life as it was and was not afraid of books that presented real life. She loved children and they loved her. She started the great children’s collection that is still a large part of the library and of the life of the church.



Lola T. Kesler Young People's Room

She is the one who started the library as a separate entity from the church office. It was moved to a classroom in the basement—sound familiar? Despite what should have been a “disappearing hole,” the library thrived under Mrs. Kesler. She was librarian there for thirty-plus years. It was during her time that the collection became known as the Sue Martin McCabe Library.

All during her tenure Mrs. Kesler maintained the library with the help of volunteers. She was appreciative of new

ideas and kept current on library practices. She had a genius for selecting helpers who could learn to repair books, process books for circulation, and promote books and later all media. Mrs. Kesler was from that school of folks who would never acknowledge their age—as a result, she worked for pennies far longer than necessary. It took the associate pastor one whole morning to talk her into admitting her age so the church could raise her salary. She walked four miles to work every day until she was in her eighties. We could sometimes talk her into taking a cab home in the afternoon. It was a dream of hers to have good space for the library. In the new church building, the available space was a Sunday school classroom. Space was finally allocated but she never got to enjoy it—she had a fall at home, broke her hip, and was never really able to return to work. She was acerbic and strong-willed and the library is what it is today because of her.

After Mrs. Kesler the library moved along with Dorothy Lewis as librarian and has continued in the Kesler way. Mrs. Lewis was a school librarian for thirty years and has served on the congregation's library committee now for forty years.



Hewitt Tech Cove

The church had a weekday school before the advent of public school kindergarten. Now there is a day care called the WEE Ministry. With the excellent children's collection as a foundation the library has continued to serve these children of pre-school age. When the "new, true library" space finally came about, the library committee thought to honor Mrs. Kesler. The space was divided into children's room—the old library/Sunday school room—and a larger adult library room. While the library maintains the McCabe Library name, the children's section was named the Lola T. Kesler Young People's Room.

Within the last two years the library has undergone another major change. The family of a retired elementary



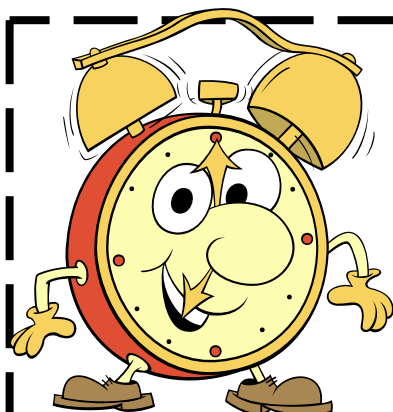
Our committee meets in the McCable Library

school teacher wished to make a grant to the church in her memory. The children's library was chosen as the lucky recipient of that gift. The request was made that the children's library be brought into the twenty-first century. The library committee loved that idea. Some structural changes had to be made, but with the amount of money given, there was as smooth a sailing as one gets with a construction project. The junior fiction was moved to the McCabe side of the facility. Hall closets were enclosed to house the old wooden bookshelves and create storage for mending supplies, display items, and processing supplies. We are so neat now we have to have lists on closet doors to tell us where we hid everything.

In the space cleared by this reorganization, we created a computer lab for the WEE Ministry children. We purchased four PCs and a laser printer and have been given a Mac laptop. We began lab classes in October 2011 with the four-year-old group. Early in 2012 we plan to begin work with Nook™ Colors. The library has been online for several years, but we had to get a computer guru to rewire our system to connect the new PCs.

For educational games we connect to the Newton Free Public Library ([www.newtonfreelibrary.net](http://www.newtonfreelibrary.net)). They have a virtual children's game room that has more valuable materials than the average librarian would have time to evaluate. Nook™ Color and Nook™ For Kids have a wonderful selection of games and books for young children. Barnes & Noble has done an excellent job on this device with children in mind. We have been most impressed with the ease of use and the value of the material.

We are most excited about the success of the newly created Frances Hewitt Tech Cove. We had a wonderful dedication and open house in March of 2011. We are still working on the Cove and look forward to new adventures in time and space. —*Sue Martin McCabe Library committee of First Baptist Church of Martinsville VA*



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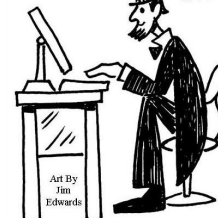
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## **CSLA 45TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

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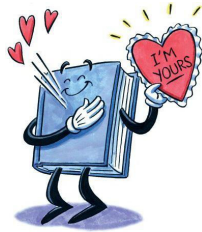
\*Some browsers may require you to type in the name of a book before taking you to Amazon. Do not click on *Get Widget*. If you have problems, contact Judy Janzen at the CSLA office.



# Library Limelight: Keep Yours in the Center



As we gear up for the coming spring, we can find many ideas to publicize our library and our media. We have many holidays and celebrations to inspire us: Presidents' Day, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, first day of spring, Lent, Passover, and Easter, to name a few.



It has been said by me several times before that holidays are background only. We do not want to keep harping away at the same themes year after year. Of course, Lent, Easter, Passover, Yom Kippur, Rosh Hashanah, Hanukkah, and Christmas are important, as are any special days of your congregation—just be fresh each time an annual event rolls around. Adapt a crossover idea: smart cookies idea from last issue would do for a children's Christmas display for example.



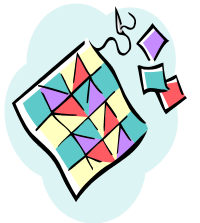
**What's Up in the Library** can be used in the Spring with a hot air balloon theme. I have seen a balloon wind sock that would make a great 3-D display. Pictures of these balloons abound on the Internet and in magazines. This is a good way to show off videos, CDs, DVDs, magazines, as well as books. We want to promote that we are up-to-date with different media.

Some libraries have labels that distinguish genre books such as mysteries, fantasy, and science fiction. Others categorize even further, giving different genre books their own individual sections. You can make up cards that draw attention to those sections, or, if you do not shelve by specific genre, you could make your whole library a sort of display, with stiff cards that stick between books but also stick out, away from the shelf. I have seen cards that say **What's Wrong With Me?** sticking out to highlight a particular book. You can make one that says **I'm a Mystery!**—consider including a book

from the Patrick Bowers Files crime fiction series; two of them, *The Bishop* and *The Queen*, are reviewed in this issue of *CLT*. or **I'm Really Far Out!** for sci-fi or fantasy. It helps to be lighthearted and informative. These books are often sought after but overlooked. Use cardboard or very stiff cardstock to make these signs, as things that stick from the shelves can take abuse.



I am a quilt fancier. **Piece Together a Reading List** as a theme has many possibilities. Borrow a quilt for background on a bulletin board or in a display. Any books will go with this idea: a list for Lenten reading, a book club, a study group, or for a Sunday School lesson—there is endless potential. You could make a quilt of books covers, making them zigzag the way quilt patterns often do. Quilts are apparently fascinating for children as well as adults; there are so many books with quilts as part of the story. You could just have those with **Quilters, Quilting, Quilts** as the title. Some suggestions for children's stories: *The Keeping Quilt* by Patricia Polacco, *Log Cabin Quilt* by Ellen Howard, *Reuben and the Quilt* by Merle Goode with illustrations by P. Buckley Moss, *Selina and the Bear Paw Quilt* by Barbara Smucker, and *Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt* by Deborah Hopkinson, to name just a few.



Spring and summer offer opportunities for various ideas: **Plant Ideas, Grow Your Mind and Spirit, Media to Grow With**, again, all with endless potential. Max Lucado's new *Inspirational Reader*, reviewed in this issue, would work well with this theme. Think of your library as the best bargain store there is and promote to sell.

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

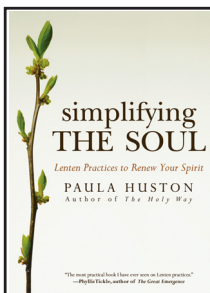
—Dottie Lewis, [degewis@gmail.com](mailto:degewis@gmail.com)

# fresh citations

new media for your library



## Spring Holy Days



### Simplifying the Soul: Lenten Practices to Renew Your Spirit

Paula Huston. Ave Maria, 2011. 170p. \$14.95, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-59471-269-2. www.avemariapress.com 242.34 Lent. Simplicity—Religious aspects. Spiritual life—Catholic Church.

Paula Huston has learned that regular retreats at a monastery, where the emphasis is on simplicity and humility, help her to spiritually “recalibrate.” In *Simplifying the*

*Soul*, Huston offers readers an individual Lenten retreat with daily readings, meditations, and practices to aid in their own spiritual recalibration.

In chapters for each week of Lent, Huston focuses on aspects of life: space, the use of money, care of the body, the mind, the schedule, relationships, and—for Holy Week—prayer. For each Lenten weekday, Huston suggests an activity: clean out a junk drawer, give something away, avoid looking at advertisements, wear your oldest clothes, turn off your cell phone, welcome an interruption, or pray for strangers you encounter. Each activity, along with the accompanying meditation and readings, promotes spiritual renewal through simplicity.

Huston grew up Lutheran and then spent twenty years “calling myself an atheist.” Now a Catholic, she relies heavily on the writings of the Desert Fathers, Thomas Merton, Mary Margaret Funk, and other Catholic authors. Christian readers of any denomination, however, will find *Simplifying the Soul* to be worthwhile reading for Lent or any time of the year.

With endnotes and a bibliography. —Monica Tenney

### Shaped by the Cross: Meditations on the Sufferings of Jesus

Ken Gire. InterVarsity, 2011. 119p. \$15.00, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8308-3808-0. www.ivpress.com 232.96'3 Jesus Christ—Crucifixion—Meditations. Michelangelo Buonarroti, 1475-1564. Pietà. Suffering—Religious aspects—Christianity—Meditations.

Michelangelo's *Pietà* is surely one of the most admired works of art in all of Christendom. In *Shaped by the Cross*, Ken Gire invites readers to examine the masterpiece, the sorrow it reflects, and the hope it inspires.

Gire opens with the sculpture's creation from a block of Carrara marble, relating the freeing of the figures from the stone to God's chiseling away to free the image of Christ in us. In the remaining six chapters, Gire considers the image of Christ, his

wounds, his body, Mary, and insights the sculpture prompts about God and the resurrection of Christ. Chapters begin with quotations and black and white photos, each showing the *Pietà* from a different vantage point and a few focusing on a detail, such as Mary's face or the pierced hand of Christ. Chapters end with a prayer and questions for reflection and conversation.

Reading *Shaped by the Cross* is not only a deeply spiritual experience but also one that gives a rewarding introduction to a classic work of art. It will make a worthy addition to church libraries and an excellent study for Lent.

Gire is the author of over twenty books, including titles in the Moments with the Savior series (various publishers).

—Monica Tenney

### Be Happy, It's Purim! (DVD)

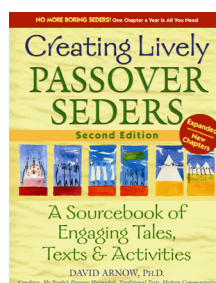
Sesame Workshop. SISU Home Entertainment, 2010. 34 minutes. \$14.95, DVD. ISBN: 978-1-56086-706-7. www.sisuent.com Juvenile fiction Purim—Juvenile films. Israel—Social life and customs—Juvenile drama. Series: Shalom Sesame.

The sixth installment in the recently revised Shalom Sesame series focuses on the holiday of Purim. Children enjoy this holiday because they dress in costumes, make noise, and eat special cookies called *hamantaschen*.

There is going to be a talent show at the Purim *Shpiel* (play), and Anneliese van der Pol is the host. Children parade in costumes—some as biblical characters, others as contemporary figures, and some as animals. Avigail tells the story of Purim, in which Queen Esther saves the Jewish people from destruction. When Haman's name is mentioned, children make noise with their *groggers*. The party atmosphere is evident with dancing and singing.

Purim celebrations include the giving of gifts to friends and to people who need help. Other customs featured in the video include the baking of *hamantaschen* (the recipe demonstrated uses milk in the dough), the Count counting to three (Haman's hat had three corners), and the Hebrew letter *pey*. The episode concludes with “A Postcard from Grover” as he makes a short visit to the Israeli seaside resort of Eilat.

Recommended for children ages 3 to 8. —Evelyn Pockrass



### Creating Lively Passover Seders: A Sourcebook of Engaging Tales, Texts & Activities. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.

David Arnow. Jewish Lights, 2011. 415p. \$24.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-58023-444-3. www.jewishlights.com 296.4'5371 Seder. Haggadah. Passover—Customs and practices.

Even though the Passover story has

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been told annually for the past three thousand years, it does not need to become rote and boring. There are many ways to make this ancient story engaging for all who gather around the seder table. David Arnow offers a wealth of options for anyone who wishes to add new dimensions to the Passover observance.

*Creating Lively Passover Seders* is not a book for general reading but is instead a resource to help prepare for the seder. Who is gathering around your table and what would engage them the most? Those preparing the seder need to look to this book a month or more beforehand to find the discussions, activities, or art projects that fit their situation. Choices range from "kid fun" to sophisticated discussions of contemporary issues. David Arnow has prepared hundreds of options that can easily be used to enliven the seder.

This book provides an important link between the ancient ritual and our contemporary life. The activities outlined here will transform your seder. Highly recommended. —*Rabbi Louis A. Rieser*

### It's Passover, Grover! (DVD)

Sesame Workshop. © SISU Home Entertainment, 2010. 26 minutes. \$14.95. DVD. ISBN: 978-1-56086-707-4. www.sisuent.com Juvenile fiction. Grover (Fictitious character. Henson)—Juvenile films. Passover—Juvenile films. Israel—Social life and customs—Juvenile drama.

The Shalom Sesame crowd celebrates Passover with Grover and friends in the seventh volume of the series.

Preparing for the seder (the holiday's home service), the group places items on the seder plate. Unfortunately, Shoshana cannot find the *maror*, bitter herbs commonly represented by horseradish. Anneliese, Grover, and Avigail are able to convince Moishe, the grouch, to come to the seder and bring the horseradish. Between these scenes, the Count selects four as the number of the day, the Hebrew letters *hey* and *mem* are highlighted, and a cadre of children from previous episodes tell what they like about Passover. There is an Ethiopian Jewish family depicted with the little girl finding the *afikomen*, the matzah that was hidden for dessert (searching for the afikomen is a popular seder activity for children). Elijah's Cup, another Passover symbol, is on the table, and the father reads the haggadah (the Passover service) in Amharic, his native language. An Israeli family from Morocco is also shown celebrating the end of the holiday.

The DVD includes a clever take-off on "Master of the House" from *Les Miserables*: "Matzah in the House"

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performed by *Les Matzarables!* Grover pays a quick trip to Kinneret, the site of a large lake in Israel, to conclude the program. Recommended for families with young children.

—Evelyn Pockrass

### Countdown to Shavuot (DVD)

Sesame Workshop. © SISU Home Entertainment, 2010. 29 minutes. \$14.95, DVD. ISBN: 978-1-56086-709-8. www.sisuent.com Juvenile fiction Shavuot—Juvenile films. Judaism—Customs and practices—Juvenile films. Series: Shalom Sesame

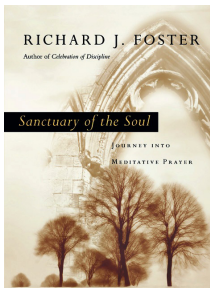
Sesame Street friends learn about Shavuot, the holiday that comes seven weeks after Passover, in this ninth DVD of the twelve-part series Shalom Sesame.

Shavuot commemorates the giving of the Torah, the first five books of the Hebrew Bible. Dan is moving to a new apartment, and he shows his friends a *mezuzah* (a special case containing words from the Torah), affixing it to the doorpost. A visit is made to a *sofer*, who writes the holy words on the parchment that is rolled up in the *mezuzah*.

Shavuot, which occurs in the Hebrew month of Sivan, is a happy event, celebrated with decorated houses and the eating of dairy foods. Young viewers of *Countdown to Shavuot* will hear the song “Who Are the People in Your Neighborhood?” see the letter carrier wearing a cheese costume, meet the Hebrew letters *tav* and *gimmel*, see an animated recounting of Moses smashing the tablets on Mount Sinai, and count with the Count to five for the five books of Moses.

While a little more “choppy” than some other holiday programs in this series, this DVD introduces a major festival not as popularly known as other celebrations. —Evelyn Pockrass

## Prayer & Inspiration



### Sanctuary of the Soul: Journey into Meditative Prayer

Richard J. Foster. InterVarsity, 2011. 164p. \$16.00, hardcover. ISBN: 978-0-8308-3555-3. www.ivpress.com 248.3'4 Prayer—Christianity. Meditation—Christianity. Contemplation.

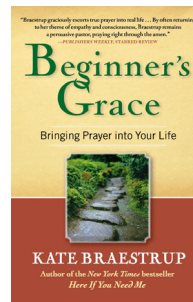
Anyone interested in meditative prayer, and especially Christians just beginning this practice, will find a good resource in Richard J. Foster's *Sanctuary of the Soul*. In

this small, easy-to-read book, Foster discusses what meditative prayer is, how to approach it, and what is involved in its practice. He also includes much about his personal experience with meditative prayer.

Perhaps of most interest to general readers is the last of the book's three parts, “Dealing with Everyday Difficulties,” especially two of its chapters: “Wandering Minds” and “A Potpourri of Questions.” Such questions as how to discern God's voice and what to do if one falls asleep while praying receive practical answers.

*Sanctuary of the Soul* is well annotated and includes a brief bibliography of resources for further reading on meditative prayer.

—Beverly M. Bixler



### Beginner's Grace: Bringing Prayer into Your Life

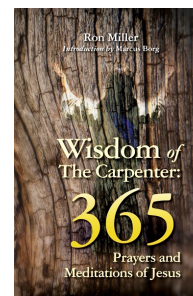
Kate Braestrup. Free Press (an imprint of Simon & Schuster), 2011. 259p. \$15.00, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-4391-8427-1. www.simonandschuster.com 248.3'2 Prayer—Unitarian Universalist Association.

*Beginner's Grace* is not just for beginners. Kate Braestrup, a Unitarian Universalist minister who works as a chaplain for the Maine Warden Service, offers prayers, personal stories and musings, and practical suggestions for persons of any faith who wish to start (or jump-start) their prayer life. Her book is organized around occasions and circumstances: darkness and loss, quiet, fear, service, needing help, romance, “pausing on the threshold,” and others. There are topics not always considered in books about prayer: praying in mixed company, praying with enemies, praying in song or with one's body, language to avoid, and prayer for atheists and agnostics (that is, prayer to the spirit of love).

Throughout, Braestrup offers prayers from a variety of faith traditions as well as her own original prayers. Her tone is easy-going and down-to-earth. She is frank about her own failings, wise, and often funny.

Recommended for congregational libraries where there is interest in prayers and practices from a broad spectrum of traditions.

—Monica Tenney



### Wisdom of the Carpenter: 365 Prayers and Meditations of Jesus

Ron Miller. Ron Miller's World, 2011. 367p. \$16.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-9835421-2-4. www.ronmillersworld.org 242.2 Jesus Christ. Devotional calendars. Meditations.

The late Ron Miller was a professor at Lake Forest College in Illinois and one of the founders of Common Ground, a center for study of world religions and interfaith dialogue. He had a strong

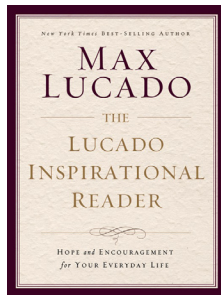
background in interreligious studies and theology and authored many books and articles. In *Wisdom of the Carpenter*, a reprint of the book originally published in 2002, he gave readers a daily devotional based on his own new translations of the teachings of Jesus Christ. Miller based his translations on the earliest texts of the Gospels. Miller's versions are easy to understand and relate to modern life. He also included the words of Christ found in the Gospel Q (edited by Marcus Borg, who wrote the preface to this volume) and The Gospel of Thomas (edited by J. K. Eliot).

This daily devotional is profound in its simplicity. Each entry

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appears on a single page and contains a short saying of Jesus, a reflection, and a brief prayer. The power of the reflections and the dynamics of the prayers will inspire Christian readers to a deeper understanding of how Jesus touches their lives. *Wisdom of the Carpenter* will allow Christian readers to have a spiritual “a-ha!” moment each day. It is a perfect book for personal devotions.

—Mary Lou Henneman



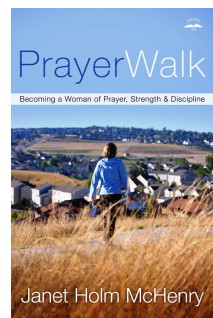
### The Lucado Inspirational Reader: Hope and Encouragement for Your Everyday Life

Max Lucado. Thomas Nelson, 2011. 452p. \$19.99, hardcover. ISBN: 978-0-8499-4830-5. www.thomasnelson.com 248.4 Christian life—Miscellanea.

*The Lucado Inspirational Reader* is a valuable source for gleaning the popular author's thoughts on various subjects. Structured around twenty-seven

topics (such as comfort, worship, evangelism, family, peace, and second chances), chapters contain selections from Max Lucado's works that deal with the topic at hand. All the entries are brief, with some a page or two and some only a sentence. Under “God's Love,” for instance, there is “He loves each one of us like there was only one of us to love,” from Lucado's *When God Whispers Your Name*. Another example is from the chapter on forgiveness: “One way to deal with a person's peculiarities is to try to understand why they are peculiar,” from his *And the Angels Were Silent*.

An unusual characteristic of Lucado's writing—especially for such a prolific author—is that he does not reuse the anecdotes he employs as illustrations. Thus, the volume of material here is impressive. *The Lucado Inspirational Reader* should be in every church library. Readers familiar with Lucado's works will be happy to see it, and for readers who are new to his writings, this book will be a fine introduction. —Beverly M. Bixler



### PrayerWalk: Becoming a Woman of Prayer, Strength and Discipline

Jane Holm McHenry. Waterbrook (an imprint of Random House), 2011. 228p. \$13.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-57856-376-0. www.waterbrookmultnomah.com 248.3 Christian women—Religious life. Prayer—Christianity. Walking—Religious aspects—Christianity.

In *Prayer Walk*, Jane Holm McHenry inspires Christian women to strengthen their physical wellbeing while they deepen their bonds with Christ. First published in

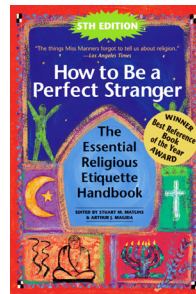
2001, its 2011 reprinting celebrates the fitting combination of physical and spiritual exercise. McHenry clearly explains how to combine the two, guiding readers on such matters as choosing the right shoes and apparel, planning a safe path for walking, and choosing the right prayer-walking partner.

McHenry shares helpful advice based on her own personal experiences, which have included suffering from depression and other health problems. She tells how her prayers have been answered—according to God's will.

This is a powerful book for Christian women who want to improve their prayer lives and also keep physically fit. It will inspire readers to get up, get moving, and get praying.

—Mary Lou Henneman

# Religious Differences



### How to Be a Perfect Stranger: The Essential Religious Etiquette Handbook, 5<sup>th</sup> ed.

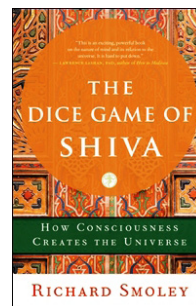
Stuart M. Matlins and Arthur J. Magida, eds. Skylight Paths, 2011. 402p. \$19.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-59473-294-2. www.skylight-paths.com 203'.8 Religious etiquette. Church etiquette.

The first edition of *How to Be A Perfect Stranger* appeared in 1997. Since then, it has become a frequent reference for persons attending services or events in diverse religious settings. The guide explains appropriate etiquette for twenty-nine faiths and denominations. Articles cover five areas: history and beliefs, the basic service, holy days and festivals, life cycle events, and home celebrations (where applicable).

Articles answer questions about where events take place, who officiates, what occurs, what to wear, whether photos may be taken, what gifts to bring, how long the celebration lasts, and so forth. Occasionally the text becomes repetitive within a section, but there is a generous array of information, often providing the opportunity to compare practices and ceremonies among the many faiths represented.

The text focuses on North American customs and provides membership numbers for denominations in the United States and Canada. There is guidance on the proper way to address leaders of different faiths, a chart of religious symbols, a calendar of holidays, and a checklist for persons attending a service. Recommended as an easy-to-use resource for learning about various faiths.

—Evelyn Pockrass



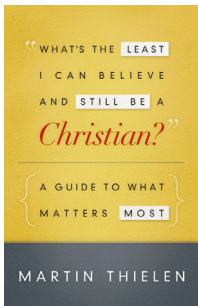
### The Dice Game of Shiva: How Consciousness Creates the Universe

Richard Smoley. New World Library, 2009. 213p. \$14.95, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-57731-644-2. www.newworldlibrary.com 210 Religion—Philosophy. Consciousness. Experience.

Three things call forth appreciation as one explores *The Dice Game of Shiva*: the discipline of philosophy—its scope, detail, and intricate thought; the power of words and their differences in impact from culture to culture; and the varied religions and their attempts to explain questions universal in time and scope.

Among themes developed in eight chapters are causation, reality, dualism, suffering, chains of association, astrology, incarnation, and faith, with consciousness and experiences as foundational ideas. Smoley's broad knowledge of world religions enables him to incorporate ideas from Kabbalah, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, and other Eastern religions, as well as Christianity. He draws quotations and ideas not only from scripture but also from the writings of Aristotle, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Immanuel Kant, David Hume, Søren Kierkegaard, Sigmund Freud, Carl Jung, and John Shelby Spong, among others.

Extensive notes and a bibliography plus a detailed index are helpful. Due to the level of difficulty and specialized area of interest, this book is recommended for college and seminary libraries and for readers interested in philosophy. —Carolyn Egolf



### What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian?: A Guide to What Matters Most

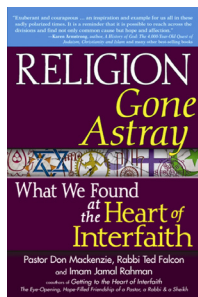
Martin Thielen. Westminster John Knox, 2011. 157p. \$15.00, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-664-23683-0. www.wjkbooks.com 232'.8 Christianity—Essence, genius, nature. Jesus Christ—Person and offices.

An agnostic friend once told Martin Thielen, now a United Methodist pastor, that it was not Christianity he rejected but “the way intolerant Christians *package* Christianity.” The friend then posed the question Thielen uses as the title for this guide to what he considers to be essential—and non-essential—beliefs for Christians.

Thielen, a former Southern Baptist, identifies in the first half of his book “ten tenets . . . that Christians can and should discard.” Among these are the belief that God causes illnesses and catastrophes, that Christians never doubt, that everything in the Bible should be taken literally, that God does not love gay people, and that “Bad People Will Be ‘Left Behind’ and Then Fry in Hell.” In the book’s second half are the ten beliefs Thielen considers essential, including that Jesus is at the center of Christianity, that relationships with God and others matter most, that God works primarily through people, and that God, through grace, loves his children unconditionally in spite of their human flaws.

Recommended for individual study by thoughtful readers or for group or congregational study. It is sure to prompt lively discussion. A leader’s guide is available on the publisher’s website.

—Monica Tenney



### Religion Gone Astray: What We Found at the Heart of Interfaith

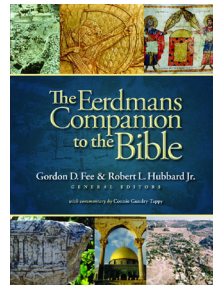
Don Mackenzie, Ted Falcon, and Jamal Rahman. Skylight Paths, 2011. 170p. \$16.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-59473-317-8. www.skylightpaths.com 201.5 Religion—Relations. Abrahamic religions.

The “Interfaith Amigos”—Pastor Don Mackenzie, Rabbi Ted Falcon, and Imam Jamal Rahman—have written another inspirational book that examines and promotes

dialogue among persons of different faiths. They begin with a description of their own background and beliefs, and then tackle four divisive issues facing believers today: exclusivity, violence, gender inequality, and homophobia. The authors apply to each of these topics the basic tenets of their Abrahamic faiths. They include references to their respective holy texts and use current examples to clarify their main points. Their candid tone allows readers to consider their own beliefs and gain a

greater understanding of the beliefs of persons of other faiths. *Religion Gone Astray* is an excellent book for congregational libraries. It will facilitate dialogue among Jews, Christians, and Muslims, and it will inspire readers to greater knowledge of their own faith and increased understanding of the other Abrahamic religions. —Mary Lou Henneman

## The Bible



### The Eerdmans Companion to the Bible

Gordon D. Fee and Robert L. Hubbard Jr., eds. Eerdmans, 2011. 834p. \$40.00, hardcover. ISBN: 978-0-8028-3823-0. www.eerdmans.com 220.6'1 Bible—Introductions.

A companion can help us understand, and *The Eerdmans Companion to the Bible* does just that. This hefty reference work begins with chapters on various aspects

of the Bible: geography, divinity, structure, languages, plants, and animals. Additional essays provide useful information on weights, measures, money, and time. Each chapter concludes with suggestions for further reading. The book has several useful maps, although these are all in black and white.

This volume’s brief descriptions and commentaries for each book of the Bible prove useful for the short view, but they are no match for the detail given in a good multi-volume reference work. Several appendixes conclude *The Eerdmans Companion*, each linking terms to various parts of the Bible. A glossary presents succinct definitions for about forty concepts and objects; other appendixes include “Who’s Who in the Bible,” “Nations and Peoples,” and a “Gazetteer of Places.” A subject index gives general events and concepts. An “Index of Scripture and Other Ancient Sources” pinpoints exact verses discussed throughout the book. This volume is recommended for all congregations. Readers wishing to go deeper into Judaic history and festivals should also consult *The Eerdmans Dictionary of Early Judaism* (Eerdmans, 2010). —Ralph Harstock

### The Bible Book by Book: A Journey through Its People, Places and Themes

Cris Rogers. Monarch (an imprint of Lion Hudson), 2011. Distributed in the United States by Kregel. 204p. \$19.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-85721-016-6. www.mkgregel.com 220.6 Bible study.

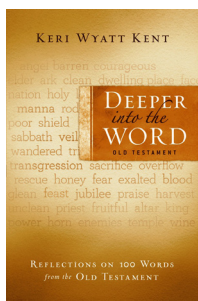
Some readers find the Bible tedious and difficult to understand. Cris Rogers, author of *The Bible Book by Book*, asks, “What if this old book could capture people’s imaginations, revealing a

## This issue’s reviewers

Beverly M. Bixler *First Presbyterian Church, Ashland, Ohio* ✧ Carolyn Egolf *Lincolnshire Church of the Brethren, Fort Wayne, Indiana* ✧ Annella Grayce *Eastbrook Church, Milwaukee, Wisconsin* ✧ Ralph Harstock *Trietsch Memorial United Methodist Church, Flower Mound, Texas* ✧ Mary Lou Henneman *Boardman United Methodist Church, Boardman, Ohio* ✧ Evelyn Pockrass *Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, Indianapolis, Indiana* ✧ Rabbi Louis A. Rieser *Boynton Beach, Florida* ✧ Myka Kennedy Stephens *New Hope United Methodist Church, Chicago, Illinois* ✧ Monica Tenney, *Media Review Editor* *Maple Grove United Methodist Church, Columbus, Ohio* ✧ Phyllis Wendorf *Mentor United Methodist Church, Mentor, Ohio*

new world that is possible right here in the midst of this present one?" Rogers, an Anglican vicar in England, has accomplished this task in an easy-to-read guide for Christian educators, teens, young adults, and adults. From Genesis to Revelation, he relates for each book what is known of the author, the date it was written, the genre (history, letters, prophecy, narrative), a list of key characters, and a brief statement of the major theme. Each of the short entries explains the writing style, offers background information, explains the "GPS" or setting, and points out fascinating details about traditions of the time. Readers will glimpse life in both the Old and New Testaments and the people's relationship to God. The photos and other illustrations on glossy paper help the scriptures come alive for modern readers. This is an excellent reference book for church libraries and is especially recommended for educators and students.

—Mary Lou Henneman



### Deeper Into the Word: Old Testament: Reflections on 100 Words from the Old Testament

Keri Wyatt Kent. Bethany House (an imprint of Baker), 2011. 250p. \$13.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-7642-0843-0. www.bethanyhouse.com 221.7 Bible. O.T.—Terminology. Bible. O.T.—Meditations.

With the publication of *Deeper Into the Word: Old Testament*, Keri Wyatt Kent has provided another excellent resource for all

readers of the Bible. She has followed the format of her earlier *Deeper Into the Word: New Testament*. Her approach is unique; she combines an examination of a hundred words found frequently in the Old Testament with meditations based on each.

For each word from the list, which begins with "alien" and ends with "wisdom," Kent discusses definitions, cognates, and related words in the Greek and Hebrew languages. Kent cites the passages of scripture where the words occur, giving insightful commentaries regarding history and geography. Her approach will help readers better understand the use of the words.

*Deeper Into the Word: Old Testament* should be in all congregational libraries. [See the companion volume by Kent, *Deeper into the Word: Reflections on 100 Words from the New Testament*, also from Bethany House, 2011.] —Beverly M. Bixler

### Route 66: A Crash Course in Navigating Life with the Bible

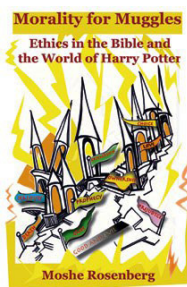
Krish Kandiah. Monarch (an imprint of Lion Hudson), 2011. Distributed in the United States by Kregel. 192p. \$13.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-85721-018-0. www.kregel.com 220.6 Bible study.

Reading the Bible from cover to cover is a noble goal but also a daunting one because of the book's many difficult passages. *Route 66* can help with the journey. (The title refers not only to the famous highway but also to the number of books in most of our Bibles.) Krish Kandiah has arranged chapters by genre: narrative literature, law, psalms, wisdom literature, prophets, gospels, and apocalyptic literature. For each of the genres, Kandiah provides an introduction and five daily portions for study. There are questions for reflection and discussion as well as a "travel journal" for recording insights. The emphasis is on applying the Bible's ancient teachings to modern life. For example, in the section on Psalms, readers learn the power of the songs both then and now, why they were written, and their connection to other verses in both the Old and New Testaments.

This is a good study for younger or older adults as they either

explore scripture for the first time or revisit to gain a new perspective. Some of the British phrases the author uses may be new to American readers, but these are not unduly distracting. Individuals or groups will enjoy traveling *Route 66* for an eight-week tour.

—Mary Lou Henneman



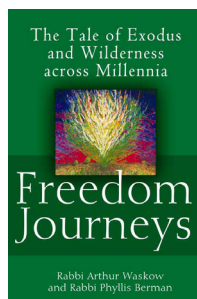
### Morality for Muggles: Ethics in the Bible and the World of Harry Potter

Moshe Rosenberg. KTAV, 2011. 117p. \$12.95, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-60280-183-7. www.ktav.com 823'.914 Rowling, J. K.—Criticism and interpretation. Potter, Harry (Fictitious character). Ethics in literature—Juvenile literature. Bible and literature—Juvenile literature. Jewish ethics—Juvenile literature.

Many readers are passionate about the Harry Potter books, and Moshe Rosenberg

is no exception. Known as "the Harry Potter Rabbi," Rosenberg views the wildly popular stories by J. K. Rowling as reflections of many basic lessons related to Jewish ethics, which he teaches at Congregation Etz Chaim of Kew Gardens Hills and at SAR Academy, both in New York. As he writes in the introduction, "I hope that you will share some aha! moments, when it becomes clear that what felt so right when it came out of Dumbledore's mouth was also a teaching in *Ethics of the Fathers*, or a *Midrash*, or a Hasidic story. There will be times that an insight from the wizarding world will illuminate a biblical theme or vice versa." Addressing all seven of the Potter books, he capably relates Bible stories of Moses, Aaron, and King David as he touches on themes of breaking the rules, jealousy, grief, repentance, friendship, death, and much more. This small book contains many big ideas and is perfect for Harry Potter fans who would like to experience the tales from a fresh perspective. Rosenberg has carefully documented this enjoyable book that will appeal to both teenagers and adults. —Mary Lou Henneman

## Judaica



### Freedom Journeys: The Tale of Exodus and Wilderness Across Millennia

Arthur O. Waskow and Phyllis O. Berman. Jewish Lights, 2011. 247p. \$24.99, hardcover. ISBN: 978-1-58023-445-0. www.jewishlights.com 222'.1206 Bible. O.T. Exodus—Criticism, interpretation, etc.

This extended meditation by two noted Torah scholars opens up the Exodus tale to new and challenging understandings. Phyllis Berman and Arthur Waskow (who coined the term "Godwrestling") have been reading biblical texts in exciting and creative ways for decades. This volume, with its sharp focus on nuances of the Exodus text, richly rewards the reader.

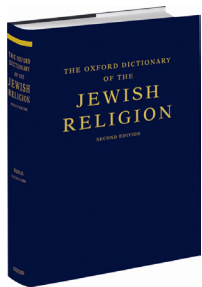
*Freedom Journeys* follows the progress of the Exodus from the entry of the Jews into Egypt until their crossing into the Land of Israel. This close examination, which mixes classical rabbinic commentary with the experience of the authors and a variety of contemporary thinkers, invites the reader to consider themes that are often overlooked. The result is a journey that challenges us to consider the multitude of ways the Exodus story

continues to shape our spiritual and political lives.

The final section of the book shifts focus to the influence of this story within different religious communities. The Exodus remains a central theme in the classic rabbinic worldview. It also shapes the Islamic and Christian understanding of the world. The Exodus served as an ideal to those who launched the Civil Rights movement in the United States.

This ancient tale of liberation remains ever contemporary. Highly recommended.

—Rabbi Louis A. Rieser



### The Oxford Dictionary of the Jewish Religion. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.

Adele Berlin, ed. Oxford University Press, 2011. 934p. \$150.00, hardcover. ISBN: 978-0-19-973004-9. www.oup.com 296.0) Judaism—Dictionaries.

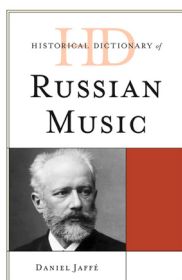
When the first edition of this volume appeared in 1997, the editors noted that the scholarly yet accessible work was meant to be a dictionary, not an encyclopedia,

and that it was a dictionary of the Jewish religion, not secular aspects of Judaism. The second edition continues this focus as many of the original articles have been updated (some by the same authors) and the emphasis is on religion and religious figures.

The approximately 2,400 articles comprise a useful, authoritative, and contemporary resource. The entries are intended to give a balanced approach to the many positions taken by the branches of Judaism. Since 1997 there have been changes in the names of some religious institutions, and, interestingly, the editorial board for the new edition decided to keep the articles under the former names (although they are cross-referenced).

Abbreviations, a transliteration table, an index of more than a hundred pages, and bibliographical information after each article complement the text. For most congregational libraries, the cost of this volume will require a donation or a special fund, but this new edition of *The Oxford Dictionary of the Jewish Religion* is recommended because of its educational value. An electronic edition is available from the Oxford Digital Reference Shelf ([www.oxford-digitalreference.com](http://www.oxford-digitalreference.com)).

—Evelyn Pockrass



### Solo Vocal Works on Jewish Themes: A Bibliography of Jewish Composers

Kenneth Jaffe. Scarecrow (an imprint of Rowman & Littlefield), 2010. 436p. \$85.00, hardcover. ISBN: 978-0-8108-6135-0. www.scarecrowpress.com 016.7820089 Music by Jewish composers—Bibliography. Vocal music—Bibliography.

Cantor Kenneth Jaffe worked for eleven years on this annotated bibliography of Jewish-themed vocal works by Jewish composers.

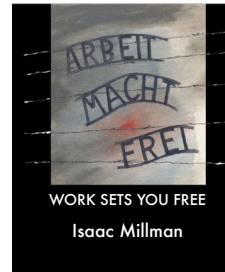
It started as a list of tenor solos but grew into a detailed compilation of works for male and female voices. Although Jaffe hopes to add a supplement with more original music from Israel, this volume appears to be a good start that cantors and music directors will find a practical and helpful resource.

The four main sections are an alphabetical listing of composers and their works, works by themes, works arranged by voice type, and an alphabetical listing of the works cited. Some composers, such as Leonard Bernstein, Ernest Bloch, Darius Milhaud, and Richard Rodgers, are well known to the general

public. Others are more obscure. There are more than a hundred works cited in each category—cantatas, operas, oratorios, sacred services, and stage works, as well as twenty symphonies. The diversity of Yiddish composers Jaffe selected as worthy of inclusion is impressive. A bibliography and a listing of libraries and publishing houses of Jewish music are also provided.

A unique and recommended reference for music-loving houses of worship, this volume is a good choice for special donations to a congregational library or for music staff.

—Evelyn Pockrass



### Arbeit Macht Frei: Work Sets You Free

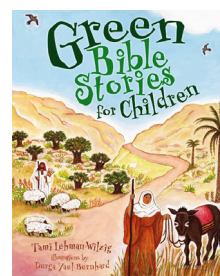
Isaac Millman. CreateSpace, 2011. 60p. \$15.00, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-4563-3352-2. wwwcreatespace.com 940.53 Holocaust—Jewish (1939-1945)—Juvenile literature. Concentration camps—Juvenile literature. Grandfathers—Juvenile literature. Auschwitz Concentration Camp—Juvenile literature.

A brief but poignant companion to Isaac Millman's autobiographical *Hidden Child* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005), *Arbeit Macht Frei* is Millman's illustrated story of a visit to Auschwitz, where his parents perished during World War II. The author and his sons made this trip a few years ago, but since the book is intended for children aged nine and up, Millman tells the story through the eyes of one of his grandchildren.

In sparse text, twelve-year-old Milo relates how he, his brother, and their grandfather travel by train from Paris to Poland (a journey his great-grandparents were forced to make more than sixty years ago). At Auschwitz, where the sign "Work Makes You Free" is a cynical symbol of the horrors people suffered, they see what initially looks like a peaceful university campus. But there are the freight cars, the cells, the sentry tower, the execution area, and the crematorium. Millman and his grandsons locate records of Millman's parents in the museum archives. They go to a road nearby where they dig a hole, place in it a photo of the author's parents, and say a prayer for the dead. Milo feels the family will remember his grandfather's life for generations to come.

Millman's soft watercolors are a gentle contrast to his darker drawings depicting Auschwitz in the 1940s. *Arbeit Macht Frei* is not as detailed as *Hidden Child*, but it can stimulate serious discussion about the Holocaust. Recommended for middle school students. —Evelyn Pockrass

## God's Green Earth



### Green Bible Stories for Children

Tami Lehman-Wilzig. Illustrated by Durga Yael Bernhard. Kar-Ben, 2011. 48p. \$17.95, hardcover library binding. ISBN: 978-0-7613-5135-1. www.karben.com 220.8'3337 Nature—Religious aspects—Judaism—Juvenile literature. Human ecology—Religious aspects—Judaism—Juvenile literature. Bible stories, English—O.T.

In *Green Bible Stories for Children*, Tami Lehman-Wilzig collects Bible stories that



teach children to care for God's world. Aimed at readers aged 8-11 and grade levels 3-5, these often-humorous retellings include Noah and his Ark, sustainable herding by Abraham, desalination by Moses of salty desert water, the original Israelite recyclers, God's command for a *Shmita* year (a Sabbath for the land every seven years), Joshua's use of "surround sound" at Jericho and solar power at Gibeon, urban planning, and other lessons.

Accompanying the Bible stories are suggestions of natural phenomena for children to observe in their own homes and backyards or at the local zoo or aquarium as well as simple craft and science projects, such as (changing salt water to fresh water or making a toy road system or a dollhouse out of recycled material).

Durga Yael Bernhard's charming illustrations grace nearly every page and reflect the tender caring for God's earth, plants, and creatures that Lehman-Wilzig's text encourages. Recommended for congregational libraries of all faiths.

—Monica Tenney

## Green Like God: Unlocking the Divine Plan for our Planet

Jonathan Merritt. Faith Words (an imprint of Hachette), 2010. 190p. \$16.99, hardcover. ISBN 978-0-446-55725-2. www.hachettebookgroup.com 261.88 Nature—Religious aspects—Christianity. Human ecology—Religious aspects—Christianity.

Jonathan Merritt, a biologist-turned-pastor who was recently featured in *Audubon Magazine*, approaches environmentalism not from a human perspective but from God's truth. He does not suggest activities that are merely trendy; he promotes measures that are practical and emphasizes a moral foundation for "creation care."

Merritt succinctly explains how the Bible relates to stewardship of the environment and illustrates God's covenantal relationship with creation. Merritt effectively counters the skeptics as he references several previous writers—C. S. Lewis, N. T. Wright, Alister McGrath, Charles Colson, and Bill Moyers. Merritt demonstrates that God and nature are not equivalent, and he exhibits the differences between "creation care" environmentalism and the varieties associated with the New Age and pantheistic movements.

Appendixes include "Guidelines for a Greener Life," and several resources, including websites, books, and organizations that promote environmental awareness. *Green Like God*, with provocative and profound statements, deserves a spot in congregational libraries and can be a fine shelf companion to *The Green Bible* (HarperOne reprint, 2010).

—Ralph Hartsock



## Serve God, Save the Planet: A Christian Call to Action

J. Matthew Sleeth. Zondervan, 2007. 255p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-310-27534-3. www.zondervan.com 261.8'8 Human ecology—Religious aspects—Christianity. Environmental ethics.

In *Serve God, Save the Planet*, J. Matthew Sleeth offers a compelling case, based on the Christian principle of stewardship, for taking better care of the environment. As

a former emergency room doctor, Sleeth has seen firsthand the devastating effects of chemicals and pollution on human health. He shares poignant stories of people he has encountered whose lives were tragically altered by the state of our

environment. Surely, he writes, this is not what God intended for creation.

This book will be best used as a topic for group study; it includes a wealth of resources for discussion. There is a workbook section for each chapter, as well as an appendix offering a do-it-yourself energy audit, practical tips on environmental stewardship, quotes from theologians on caring for creation, and an excerpt of the Evangelical Climate Initiative, the 2006 statement by evangelical leaders aimed at easing global warming.

Resources for group study are confined to the back matter of the book, so a lone reader will be able to engage the content with ease. *Serve God, Save the Planet* is highly recommended for congregations wishing to address the topic of environmentalism from a faith perspective.

—Myka Kennedy Stephens



## Go Green, Save Green: A Simple Guide to Saving Time, Money, and God's Green Earth.

Nancy Sleeth. Tyndale House, 2009. 410p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-4143-2698-6. www.tyndale.com 640 Sustainable living. Simplicity—Religious aspects—Christianity. Human ecology—Religious aspects—Christianity.

Nancy Sleeth, wife of J. Matthew Sleeth (author of the volume reviewed above) offers this practical guide for sustainable

living. Readers will quickly realize that this is a book to live with day-by-day, rather than read from cover-to-cover. It is a go-to guide designed to be skimmed, scanned, and consulted in a variety of circumstances. The structure of the book makes it easily accessible for on-the-go parents and professionals. A reader can easily learn at least one technique for greener living in just a few minutes.

*Go Green, Save Green* consists of eleven chapters, each focusing on a different aspect of living. Chapters begin with a personal vignette relating to the ecological issue at hand. Sleeth then offers practical tips and tools for making changes in related activities. The book's pages are peppered with green boxes providing facts about ecology. There are also green-printed sections interspersed throughout the chapter; These contain additional stories and reflections on the topic and often include a verse of scripture and prayer. Each chapter concludes with a brief summary, an outline for putting faith into ecological action, and a checklist for recording success. *Go Green, Save Green* is a practical companion to *Serve God, Save the Planet*.

—Myka Kennedy Stephens



## It's Easy Being Green: One Student's Guide to Serving God and Saving the Planet

Emma Sleeth. Zondervan, 2008. 186p. \$12.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-310-27925-9. www.zondervan.com 261.8'8 Human ecology—Religious aspects—Christianity. Christian teenagers—Conduct of life.





Beginning with an altered version of a statement made famous by Kermit the Frog, Emma Sleeth aims to inspire Christian teenagers to take notice of perils to the environment and take steps to protect it. The daughter of authors J. Matthew Sleeth and Nancy Sleeth, the author of *It's Easy Being Green* brings the same message of faithful stewardship and lifestyle changes to the younger generation.

Emma Sleeth employs references that will resonate with teens and pre-teens. With chapters on topics such as transportation, fashion, technology, and food, she seeks to alert young people to dangers and point out where they can effect change. Tapping into the force that is teenage idealism, she hopes to lead the Christian environmental revolution of her generation.

Sleeth's writing style is conversational, making this book approachable for her young audience. She shares stories of her own experiences and failings, making her very human in readers' eyes. The appendixes include resources such as scriptures for prayerful meditation and inspiration, books and movies to explore, and environmental organizations to contact. Overall, it is a good conversation starter for teenagers and families seeking to live their lives in communion with God's creation.

[A revised and expanded edition is due from Zondervan in March 2012.]  
—Myka Kennedy Stephens

## Eco-faith: Creating and Sustaining Green Congregations

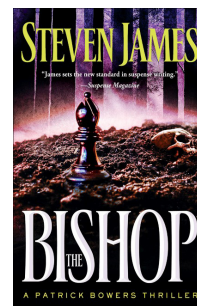
Charlene Hosenfeld.  Pilgrim, 2009. 215p. \$20.00, paperback.  ISBN: 978-0-8298-1818-5.  www.thepilgrimpress.com  261.8'8 Human ecology—Religious aspects—Christianity. Stewardship, Christian. Environmental ethics.

Congregations looking for a guide to a "greener" life can do no better than this book. The strengths of Charlene Hosenfeld's approach is that the first (and largest) part of the book reads like a strategic plan that can be easily adapted, shaped, and molded to fit any congregation. In seven chapters she covers areas of church operation, from the physical building to activities of the congregation, laying out model action plans that include facts, actions, and resources. While Hosenfeld does not specifically reference using a strategic planning process for bringing about environmental change in the church community, her book will work well for those engaged in or preparing for such a task.





A psychologist by training, Hosenfeld deploys her professional expertise in the second part of the book and the appendix. She conducted interviews with members of congregations who have successfully brought change to their communities and offers their stories as inspiration. An appendix contains the basis for her arguments and her point of view; it is the theological, psychological, and ecological grounding of the book. While it is perhaps disconcerting to find the grounding of the book at its very end, the first part remains uncluttered with these details and is user-friendly for readers looking for guidance in "greening" their congregations. —Myka Kennedy Stephens

The physical condition of Rose's mother, who was disabled in an accident years earlier, deteriorates. Her, Rose's older sister who is married to an "Englischer," has moved back home with their little girl. Now blind because of an auto accident, Her's estranged husband has moved in with her so she can take care of him. Rose's love life remains uncertain.

The Mercy is an appropriate title for this novel. Little by little, its characters begin to manifest unexpected mercy and forgiveness in their attitudes and behavior toward each other, reflecting God's mercy in their lives. Problems diminish or are resolved. As in all her novels, Lewis has created strong, credible characters and interesting pictures of life in an Amish community.  
—Beverly M. Bixler

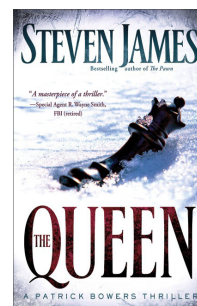


## The Bishop





Steven James.  Revell (an imprint of Baker), 2010. 523p. \$14.99, paperback.  ISBN: 978-0-8007-3302-5.  www.revellbooks.com  Fiction Bowers, Patrick (Fictitious character)—Fiction. Criminologists—Fiction. Children—Crimes against—Fiction. Legislators—United States—Fiction. Washington (D.C.)—Fiction. Series: The Patrick Bowers Files.

FBI Special Agent Patrick Bowers, an expert in "geospatial intelligence," is again called to the scene of a gruesome killing. This time, the victim is a senator's daughter. The fourth in the Patrick Bowers Files series, *The Bishop* is a thrilling suspense novel, one with moral and ethical discussions woven into the plot. Bowers deciphers clues left at each murder scene in this extended cat-and-mouse game with a serial killer.

Such topics as "transhumanism," neuroscience, in-vitro fertilization, abortion legislation, and nanotechnology arise as readers find themselves swept up in an action-packed adventure that will keep them guessing until the last few pages. *The Bishop* follows *The Pawn* (2007), *The Rook* (2008), and *The Knight* (2009), all from Revell. With its examination of ethical and moral questions, complex relationships, and suspense, it is a good addition to church libraries that offer fiction.  
—Mary Lou Henneman



## The Queen

Steven James.  Revell (an imprint of Baker), 2011. 517p. \$14.99, paperback.  ISBN: 978-0-8007-3303-2.  www.revellbooks.com  Fiction Bowers, Patrick (Fictitious character)—Fiction. Criminologists—Fiction. Series: The Patrick Bowers Files.

Next up from Steven James is *The Queen*, fifth in the Patrick Bowers Files series. In the midst of a severe snowstorm in Wisconsin, a mother and her daughter have been murdered. How does this double homicide relate to the Cold War, tension in the Middle East, an eco-terrorist group's threat, and instances of cybercrime? Amid these and other questions, Special Agent Bowers struggles with his own stepfamily relationships and a troubling incident from long ago that caused estrangement between him and his brother.



A mysterious code connects it all to the biblical Book of Revelation. Each move in this riveting thriller is laid out like a well-played game of chess. Even though this is the fifth book in a series, it, like its predecessors, can stand alone.

There are a few references to Christianity and faith, but emphasis is on the secular.  
—Mary Lou Henneman

# Fiction



## The Mercy

Beverly Lewis.  Bethany House, 2011. 306p. \$14.99, paperback.  ISBN: 978-0-7642-0601-6.  www.bethanyhouse.com  Fiction Amish—Fiction. Pennsylvania Dutch Country (Pa.)—Fiction. Series: The Rose Trilogy.

*The Mercy* is the final book in The Rose Trilogy by Beverly Lewis. The first two novels, *The Thorn* and *The Judgment*, showed that Amish families are not immune to dysfunctional lives. Problems continue in *The Mercy*.



### Pattern of Wounds

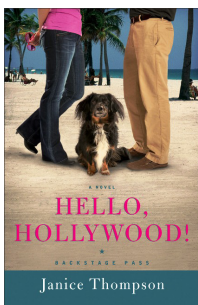
J. Mark Bertrand. Bethany House (an imprint of Baker), 2011. 367p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-7642-0638-2. www.bethanyhouse.com Fiction Detective and mystery stories. Murder—Fiction. Series: Roland March

Detective Roland March is back in action as he attempts to solve the murder of a young woman in an upscale neighborhood. He is disturbed to see that all the evidence is similar to evidence found in a series of other

unsolved homicides of young women—and he was the detective on the first case many years ago. Is this the work of the same killer, or is it a copycat crime? How many other murders will occur before he solves the case?

J. Mark Bertrand has skillfully developed his plot and characters to make this a great thriller. He adds interesting glimpses of March's personal life as it becomes entangled in his work.

There are a few references to Christianity relating to forgiveness and the pastor who runs a ministry, but the emphasis is on the suspense of the plot. This is an excellent book for readers who enjoy a good suspense novel. —Mary Lou Henneman



### Hello, Hollywood!

Janice Thompson. Revell (an imprint of Baker), 2011. 278p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8007-3346-9. www.revellbooks.com Fiction Women television writers—Fiction. Hollywood (Los Angeles, Calif.)—Fiction. Series: Backstage Pass

Will there be love or conflict in the air as Athena Pappas, head writer for the TV sitcom *Stars Collide*, adds a new member to her team? Naturally, there is plenty of both

as the talented Greek heroine meets charming (and also Greek) Stephen Cosse, a Las Vegas comedian, who has come to help boost the show's slumping ratings. Athena and Stephen work through their creative differences on and off the set as a romance develops. Among the enjoyable highlights of *Hello, Hollywood!* are its many references to the old *Dick Van Dyke Show*. Author Janice Thompson offers plenty of laughs and plot twists in this second installment of the Backstage Pass series. A variety of characters are familiar from the first book, *Stars Collide* (also from Revell, 2011).

My only disappointment was that Thompson did not include recipes for some of the Greek foods served in the Pappas family's restaurant, aptly named "Super Gyro." Like the first book, this one is a good read in the Christian romance genre.

—Mary Lou Henneman

### A Lasting Impression

Tamera Alexander. Bethany House (an imprint of Baker), 2011. 430p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-7642-0622-1. www.bethanyhouse.com Fiction Women artists—Fiction. Upper class—Tennessee—Fiction. Southern States—History—1865-1877—Fiction. Series: Belmont Mansion

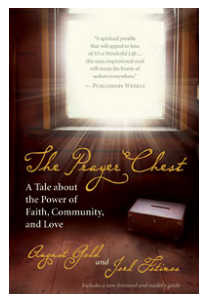
All the main characters in Tamera Alexander's *A Lasting Impression* have experienced tragedy in their lives, some as a result of war. Set in the post-Civil-War era, the novel

shows how people react to adversity.

Claire Laurent is an aspiring young artist. However, her father, who runs an art gallery that deals in forgeries, insists she must use her talents in that area. Unexpectedly forced to leave home,

Claire goes to Nashville. Befriended by Sutton Munroe, a promising young lawyer, Claire secures a job as Adelia Acklen's personal lady-in-waiting. The widow, a Nashville socialite, is a patron of the arts. Sutton also works for Mrs. Acklen, so the misfortunes, secrets, and successes of the three become closely entwined.

Alexander has created strong characters who find the solutions to their problems in truthfulness, faith, forgiveness, and love. —Beverly M. Bixler



### The Prayer Chest: A Tale about the Power of Faith, Community, and Love

August Gold and Joel Fotinos. New World Library, 2011. 189p. \$13.95, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-60868-049-8. www.newworldlibrary.com Fiction Farm life—Fiction. Prayer—Fiction.

Readers of *The Prayer Chest* first meet Joseph Hutchinson as a seventy-three-year-old man looking back on his life. Joe takes us back to the 1880s on Long Island. He is a charming, loving man, but he is afraid to live

because of the curse that seems to hang over his family. After the death of his wife, Joe discovers a prayer chest. Inside is a journal from a long-dead relative. The journal explains three secrets of the prayer chest. The secrets are biblically accurate, but God is never mentioned.

The prayer chest helps to shake Joe and his children out of the grief of losing wife and mother. With the requests placed in the chest, the Hutchinson family starts a new tradition in their town. The rich description of this event can bring tears. This is a sweet story of love, loss, and finding the courage to love again.

*The Prayer Chest* first appeared in 2007. A note on the cover of the 2011 reprint calls the story of *The Prayer Chest* a spiritual parable, and so it is. It reminds readers that people have a part to play in the answers to prayers.

Recommended for church libraries.

—Annella Grayce



### Wonderland Creek

Lynn Austin. Bethany House (an imprint of Baker), 2011. 391p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-7642-0498-2. www.bethanyhouse.com Fiction Single women—Fiction. Librarians—Fiction. Kentucky—Fiction. Depressions—1929—Fiction.

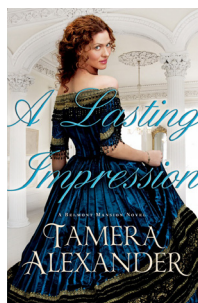
Alice Grace Ripley is a librarian in Blue Island, Illinois, during the Great Depression. Alice loves books and always seems to be reading. She is content with her life until

everything falls apart when her fiancé, Gordon, breaks up with her, saying she lives in a fantasy world. As if the breakup were not enough, Alice loses her job at the library.

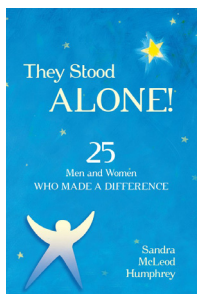
Alice has been collecting books to send to Acorn, Kentucky, a small mining town. Her aunt and uncle are driving to a spa in the Appalachian Mountains, and Alice sees a chance to get away by going with them to deliver the books in person. She plans to stay with the local librarian in Acorn, helping to catalog the books. Alice ends up being one of Kentucky's "Pack Horse Librarians" who carried books to residents in Appalachia's remote regions where there was no access to public libraries.

Nothing turns out as Alice thought it would. She becomes involved in the lives of the people of Acorn and the mysteries surrounding them. Alice learns that real-life adventures, mystery, and romance are better than fictional ones.

An enjoyable read with a good message. —Phyllis Wendorf



# For Older Children and Teenagers



**They Stood Alone!: 25 Men and Women Who Made a Difference**  
Sandra McLeod Humphrey. Prometheus, 2011. 176p. \$14.00, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-61614-485-2. www.prometheusbooks.com 920.008 Biography—Juvenile literature.

*They Stood Alone!* is Sandra McLeod Humphrey's collective biography of twenty-five great men and women from various times and backgrounds. Subjects include Leonardo da Vinci, Galileo, Elizabeth Cady

Stanton, Harriet Tubman, Clara Barton, Elizabeth Blackwell, Booker T. Washington, Mahatma Gandhi, Albert Einstein, Marian Anderson, Rachel Carson, Mother Teresa, Rosa Parks, Jackie Robinson, and eleven others. Each of the chapters is a mere six pages long and contains a picture of the person, a memorable quote, an "imagine this" section describing one of the challenges he or she faced, and a short biography. Humphrey presents the subjects' struggles as well as their successes.

*They Stood Alone!* is well documented and contains a solid bibliography for further reading. This is an excellent book for encouraging young people to pursue their dreams and take "the road less traveled by." Humphrey succeeds admirably in encouraging young people, even if other people consider them different or laugh at them, to be unafraid to believe in and work toward their dreams. —Mary Lou Henneman



**Black, White, Other: In Search of Nina Armstrong**  
Joan Steinau Lester. Zondervan, 2011. 222p. \$15.99, hardcover. ISBN: 978-0-310-72763-7. www.zondervan.com Fiction Race relations—Fiction. Identity—Fiction. Racially mixed people—Fiction. Divorce—Fiction. Family life—California—Fiction. Great-grandmothers—Fiction. Fugitive slaves—Fiction. California—Fiction.

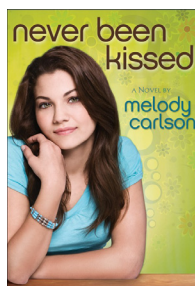
Nina Armstrong is a fifteen-year-old girl who comes from a biracial family. She has

mocha-colored skin with red streaks in her hair. Jimi, Nina's younger brother, is dark-skinned, while Lester, their father, is black, and Maggie, their mother, is white. After the parents divorce, Jimi lives with his father and Nina lives with her mother. Nina finds it difficult to cope with the many changes in her life as she goes between the two households. There are also problems at school. For Nina, being accepted by schoolmates of either race is not a given.

This is a good book for teens who are exploring their identities and trying to build self-esteem. The story is set in the time of the Los Angeles riots of 1992, and Nina sees the situation from both perspectives. What truly elevates *Black, White, Other* is that Nina reads chapters of a book her dad is writing about her great-grandmother, who was a slave and who escaped to freedom. This first person narrative gives students a journey back in time as well as a connection with recent racial tensions. With divorce, identity struggles, and race consciousness

all realities in their lives, teenagers will be glad to find this absorbing book in congregational libraries.

—Mary Lou Henneman



## Never Been Kissed

Melody Carlson. Revell (an imprint of Baker), 2011. 216p. \$9.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8007-3259-2. www.revellbooks.com Fiction Interpersonal relations—Fiction. High schools—Fiction. Schools—Fiction. Moving, household—Fiction. Text messages (Telephone systems)—Fiction. Christian life—Fiction.

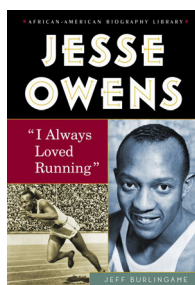
The old adage about not judging a book by its cover is a good one to remember.

Do not judge this book just by its title! The story in *Never Been Kissed* revolves around Elise, a fifteen-year-old girl who moves to a new town and wants to experience her first kiss before she turns sixteen. As a junior in a new high school, she has the chance to make new friends and start a new life. However, author Melody Carlson is not satisfied simply with good plots. She wants—and delivers—something more.

Elise might be fudging the truth about her past as she tries to gain acceptance into the right cliques, but are the other students telling the truth? Relationships become complicated, especially with a boy Elise thinks is "Mr. Right" and his "former" girlfriend. There is also the matter of Elise's relationship with her grandmother. There are many twists and turns that will keep readers turning the pages. When Elise is accused of "sexting," she finds out who her true friends are and how to rely on her Christian faith to help solve her problems.

This excellent book should be available for teens, and there are important lessons here for their parents, too.

—Mary Lou Henneman



## Jesse Owens: "I Always Loved Running"

Jeff Burlingame. Enslow, 2011. 128p. \$31.93 (\$23.95 with school and library discount), hardcover library binding. ISBN: 978-0-7660-3497-6. www.enslow.com Biography Owens, Jesse, 1913-1980—Juvenile literature. Track and field athletes—United States—Biography—Juvenile literature. African American track and field athletes—Biography—Juvenile literature. Series: African-American Biographies

Anyone who loves track and field will recognize the name Jesse Owens. Part of the African-American biography series, this book about the great Olympian will allow middle and high school students to learn about Owens and his family, how he became interested in running, and how he (reportedly) annoyed Hitler by winning four gold medals. Also included is enough material to put Owens's life in perspective by providing a historical backdrop. Special features include photos, a chronological timeline, chapter notes, further reading suggestions, and an index. There are also many interesting facts, such as why he was called Jesse—his real name was James Cleveland. This is a good biography for congregations serving middle schoolers or homeschoolers. —Mary Lou Henneman

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# CELEBRATE THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CSLA MEMBERS



## CSLA 2012 AWARDS NOMINATIONS

We all have seen our fellow CSLA members work miracles in their congregational libraries. They have wonderful promotional ideas; select great books for children, teens, and adults; and inspire all of us with their enthusiasm. The real miracle is that they rely on many volunteers in their congregations to support their efforts and often accomplish their tasks with small budgets and large amounts of enthusiasm. It is now time to nominate a librarian or a library for one of the awards listed below. The process is easy—just log onto the CSLA home page and click on the **AWARDS** link to download the nomination form. **The deadline for entries is March 3, 2012, but do not wait until the last minute. Submit your nominations now.** If you have questions, Mary Lou Henneman, Awards Committee chair, will be more than happy to answer them. Contact her at [englishfestival@yahoo.com](mailto:englishfestival@yahoo.com).

### Outstanding Congregational Library

CSLA honors a church or synagogue library which has responded in creative and innovative ways to the library's mission of reaching and serving members of the congregation and/or wider community. Criteria taken into consideration for this award are: demonstrate frequent use by all ages of church or synagogue membership; be accessible and attractive with some elements of uniqueness; have up-to-date and varied materials; have resources other than books; serve all branches of the sponsoring church or synagogue; evidence growth and development in size and use.

### Outstanding Congregational Librarian

CSLA recognizes a church or synagogue librarian who exhibits distinguished service to his/her congregation and/or community through devotion to the ministry of congregational librarianship.

### Outstanding Contribution to Congregational Libraries

This award is given to a person or institution who has provided inspiration, guidance, leadership, or resources to enrich the field of church or synagogue libraries. Criteria for this award include an unusual extension of library services in the community; development of special services or materials; promotion and development of congregational library workshops, material, or literature; promotion of libraries in a community or area; and promotion of libraries through a denomination or an interdenominational or interfaith group.

### Helen Keating Ott Award for Outstanding Contribution to Children's Literature

Named for Helen Keating Ott, one of CSLA's most active members and three times a national officer, this award honors a person or organization for significant contribution in promoting high moral and ethical values through children's literature. In addition to librarians, educators, or clergy, appropriate nominees for this award are authors, illustrators, editors, or publishers of children's books.

### Pat Tabler Memorial Scholarship Award

Named for Pat Tabler who served CSLA in several capacities on national, regional, and local levels, the award recognizes a librarian who has shown initiative and creativity in starting or renewing a congregational library. **This is the only award that can be self-nominated.**

# TECH TALK



## NEWSLETTER TEMPLATES

Communication is key to getting the word out about the wonderful resources and programming your library provides for your congregation. What better way to share that information than through a library newsletter? It sounds overwhelming when you first think about creating a newsletter, but with the wonderful free newsletter templates available on the web, your newsletter is already close to publication!

**What is a template?** A template provides a structure that includes spaces for text and spaces designated for graphics or clip art. When you are looking for a newsletter template, look for one that is close to the look you want to achieve. Many templates are for specialty areas such as real estate or travel, but templates can be modified to meet your needs. You only need to click in the spaces, delete the existing text and type in your own information. If the template has clip art or pictures that already work with what you want to say, that means less work for you. If the template includes more pages than you need, just delete the extra pages.

Begin by thinking about what you want to include in your newsletter—do this before you make your template selection. Most of us would want a section highlighting new materials, popular seasonal titles, or maybe a book review on a new title. Be sure to include upcoming events such as book club meetings or reading program information. There may be a need for a reminder for overdue materials or a reminder about library hours. It is always helpful to have information about checking out books and how to return them if the library is closed. You may have some regular features, such as New Materials, that will only require replacing the text each time you publish the newsletter.

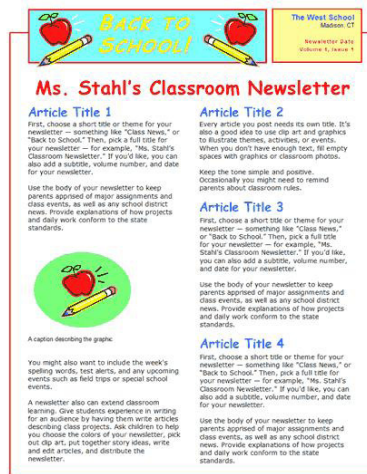
Customizable newsletters are available online from the Georgia Department of Education Media Services web site at

[www.doe.k12.ga.us/sia\\_as\\_library.aspx?PageReq=ITCustomNews](http://www.doe.k12.ga.us/sia_as_library.aspx?PageReq=ITCustomNews)

CSLA does have permission to use these newsletters. Some are designed for high school and others for elementary school; some are available for each month and include seasonal clipart. These are easy to modify and only require a click to open and begin. If you have never produced a newsletter before this will be a great option for you.

Microsoft Office has more than a hundred free newsletter templates available at [office.microsoft.com/en-us/templates/CT010104328.aspx?av=zwd](http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/templates/CT010104328.aspx?av=zwd)

When you are on this website, choose the version of Microsoft Word you have available. In the left column under the heading PRODUCT, click on WORD and you can select the version of Microsoft Word available to you; then, you will see only those templates appropriate for your version of the software. Note that if you have the latest version, Microsoft Word 2010, you can use any of the templates with few problems. Scroll through the templates and click on the template to take a closer look at the layout until you find one you would like to use. One template



that is simple to modify and works with Word 2003 is "School Newsletter," which is easily retrieved by typing the title in the search box at the top of the page. If this is your first time using a template, this is an easy one to modify.

To use the template, you must download it to your computer.

- Once you have the template on the screen for preview, click on the word **DOWNLOAD** on the right. You will receive a prompt asking you to ensure that cookies are enabled in your browser and asking you to accept the "Microsoft Service Agreement."
- Once you click on **ACCEPT**, depending on which version of Word you are using, you may

>> article continues on page 23



# Doing Dewey



## DOING DEWEY: DEWEY CLASSIFICATION NUMBERS FOR GENERAL WORKS, INCLUDING BIBLIOGRAPHIES, GENERAL ENCYCLOPEDIAS, AND MATERIALS ON COMPUTER SCIENCE

Most congregational libraries will have a few general works, such as general encyclopedias and almanacs, and/or books about libraries, reading, news media, or computer science. All of these will be classed in the numbers from 000 to the 090s. These numbers have changed little between the thirteenth abridged edition of the Dewey Decimal classification (based on the twenty-first unabridged edition) and the fourteenth abridged edition (based on the twenty-second unabridged edition). The twenty-third unabridged edition arrived this past summer at the public library where I work on weekdays, and it, too, contains very little change to these numbers.

In many libraries, the earliest number to be used frequently is 004, which stands for computer hardware. Computer programming is classed in 005. Special computer methods, including artificial intelligence, computer pattern recognition, digital audio, computer graphics, multimedia systems, and virtual reality, along with the hardware and



programs associated with them, are classed in 006.

027 stands for general libraries, including public libraries, college libraries, school libraries, and libraries for religious organizations.

028 stands for reading, including lists of recommended books.

030 stands for general encyclopedias and almanacs. Encyclopedias and almanacs of a particular subject are classed with the subject.

If you class your general periodicals, they are classed in 050. Periodicals on a particular subject, if classed, are classed with the subject.

060.4 stands for rules of order (parliamentary procedure).

070 stands for the press and news media.

Books of quotations on general subjects are classed in 080. Books of quotations on specific subjects are classed with the subject.

090 stands for rare books.

I hope that you find this information helpful.

—Susan Snyder, [ssnyder@cuyahogalibrary.org](mailto:ssnyder@cuyahogalibrary.org)

### Learn more about Dewey!

<http://www.monroe.lib.in.us/childrens/ddchow.html>  
<http://www.library.illinois.edu/ugl/about/dewey.html>  
<http://frank.mtsu.edu/~vvesper/dewey2.htm#Dewey>

receive a warning asking you if you want to install “Microsoft Office Template and Media Control.” Click on INSTALL. Your download should begin.

- A SAVE AS window will open and allow you to indicate where you want the template file to be saved. Make note of the location so you may easily retrieve it later. Generally, templates automatically download to the default template folder on your computer.

After downloading is complete the template should open for you to modify. If not, retrieve the template from its saved location and begin making it your own.

After you have modified your template to meet your needs, save it in a newsletter folder so you can use it again each month. You will find publishing a newsletter much easier when you use a template.

—Cheryl Cutchin, [cherylcsla1@gmail.com](mailto:cherylcsla1@gmail.com)



# CSLA Publications for New & Experienced Librarians



## Guides



*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. The goal is to provide one volume for 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.

*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.

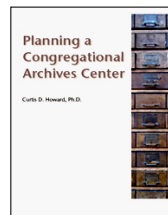


## Necessary Tools

*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! *Planning A Congregational Archives Center*, the new guide authored by Curtis Howard, PhD,—

director of the John O. Peterson Library at the Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia—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? Where is there appropriate space for an archival records program? How does the archival collection fit into the budget? For answers to these questions and more, check out this guide!

*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 for the congregation. Often used with Ward's *Developing an Effective Library*—a sure way to make your library visible and irresistible.



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



# CHURCH AND SYNAGOGUE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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## Call for Nominations 2012 Rodda Award



Church  
& Synagogue  
Library  
Association

**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*

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

or

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

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

## From the CSLA office

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful and blessed holiday season!

We are now into the new CSLA membership year, and if you or someone you know has not renewed, be sure to do so soon. You will not want to miss all the great things that CSLA is planning to do this year. You may renew by sending in your renewal form with a check or Visa or MasterCard information. You are also most welcome to call the office (800-542-2752) and I can take care of your renewal on the phone!



Have you purchased a copy of *Planning A Congregational Archive Center* by Curtis D. Howard, Ph.D.? Curtis has given us a very useful guide for creating or maintaining archives for our congregations. List Price is \$14, Member price is \$12 (plus \$3 for handling and postage).

Many of you have asked how I am getting along in the new downsized office space—even though it is about 150 square feet smaller it is by far more efficient. I am very happy in the new office and, believe it or not, I even have more room for our archives!

—Judy

## The dragon is still outside our Gate!



CSLA is the moon ball the dragon is seeking, and we need to keep the moon glowing and away from the predator. "Our organization has served many members through its well-written guides, mentoring program, and always-insightful information from *Congregational Libraries Today*" (Craig Kubic). So far we have managed to keep the dragon at bay. 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
- ✍ articles and **ideas** for this journal (*CLT*)
- ✍ **writers** for the *Library Limelight* column of *CLT*
- 💰 fundraising—do you know ways **to raise funds?**
- 😊 **membership** recruitment
- 💻 technology/**social media ideas** and techs
- 👤 **readers**/members for the Rodda Committee
- 😊 **mentors** for new librarians
- 💻 a **virtual chapter** for members with no available local chapter



*And...Donations, Donations, Donations! Our Pioneers Endowment helps us keep the dragon at bay. Please, consider a gift to CSLA.*



# Church & Synagogue Library Association

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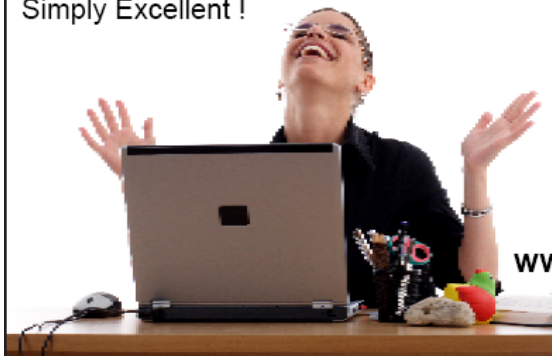
## *Receipt Printer (regular \$130):*

- This compact printer quickly prints high quality barcode labels, library card labels, receipts.

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- Our most popular scanner. This durable hand held scanner reads barcode labels from up to 3 inches away.

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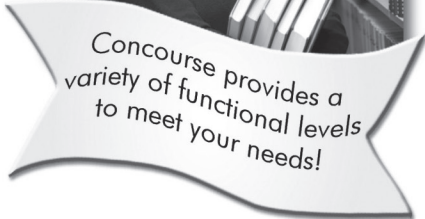
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