

# congregational libraries today



Serving Congregational Libraries of all Faiths

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## Return to the Oregon Trail ...

# A WORKSHOP PREVIEW

Returning to the Oregon Trail is developing into a fascinating and educational event.

Although CSLA has met in Portland before, 2014 will be very different from our past trail drives. Computers and library software are much more advanced, and more of us are using these online tools. Now there are resource centers to consider as well as our congregational libraries.

In addition there are so many sights to see that you will need time before and after the conference to do them justice.

Tuesday, July 29, before the official beginning of the conference on Wednesday, July 30, is the preconference school for beginning librarians. This morning class, a must-do for beginners, will be taught by the enthusiastic Jeri Baker.

In the afternoon those students will join the rest of us early birds for the three library/resource center visits.

In the evening we are planning some roundtable discussions. These will be easy, sit-around-the-table events on topics of interest to all. It has been several years since we have offered roundtable discussions at our annual conference, and we are excited about renewing this interesting and informative venue.

The keynote speaker at the

luncheon on Wednesday is Kathi Macias, an award winning author and former journalist. She has over forty books to her credit. [<http://kathimacias.com>]



Making her home in Homeland, CA, she is a very busy speaker, a contributing editor to *Book Fun Magazine* [[www.bookfunmagazine.com](http://www.bookfunmagazine.com)], and an active author. *Book Fun Magazine* calls itself THE magazine for reading groups focusing on safe family reading and movies as well as materials for those who read for fun.

Kathi acquired the nickname "Easy Writer" from her adventures riding with her husband on his Harley. She latched onto that name for one of her columns in the magazine.

One of her two great passions is the Voice of the Martyrs, a non-profit, interdenominational organization with the mission of aiding Christians around the world who are being persecuted for their faith. [[www.persecution.com](http://www.persecution.com)] The other is Open Doors, an international non-profit ministry which has supported and

>> article continues on page 3



**CHERYL CUTCHIN  
PRESIDENT, CSLA**

*Cheryl covers several areas of interest this month, from financial help to attend the Portland conference to updating your library's policy manual. Read on...*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### CONFERENCE FELLOWSHIPS

A generous donation from an anonymous donor makes it possible for seven CSLA members to receive conference fellowships of two hundred dollars toward their annual CSLA conference expenses. Any member who has not received a fellowship in the last five years and is not a member of the CSLA board may apply for a fellowship. The fellowships are awarded on a first come first served basis. Contact Judy Janzen in the CSLA office for an application.

### CONGREGATIONAL LIBRARY VISITS

Visiting other congregational libraries is always informative and the visits always nudge me to reevaluate the collection, arrangement, services, procedures, and even the policies in my own congregational library. The library visits at the summer conference offer the opportunity for gaining ideas and seeing how other libraries effectively use the space allotted them, arrange their collection, select and circulate materials. The idea that there is more than one way to do something is certainly reinforced.

### LIBRARY POLICIES

While congregational libraries don't usually have to abide by state laws beyond safety and handicap access, we do need policies that guide us and our library committees in making informed decisions. If you don't have a library

committee or a selection policy in place, now is the time to consider adding both.

What is a selection policy and why is one needed? The selection policy serves as a guide to the selection of materials, both print and non-print, that support the mission of the library and the congregation it serves. When budgets and space are limited the selection or collection development policy, if followed, will help you avoid the purchase of materials overlapping in content or materials that do not meet the mission of the library. It will define the scope and standards of the collection, providing guidelines for both purchasing and weeding.

In addition to being a guide to wise purchasing, a selection policy also should include the library's position on accepting gifts and what is done with those materials that cannot be used in the library. It is always helpful to have a copy of that information handy when gifts are presented. It can be difficult to graciously tell someone you really don't want their 1970 college textbooks, but if you have included the handling of gifts in your selection policy, it is much easier to explain. For example, if materials are current, in good condition that will hold up during circulation, and support the mission of the church and library, then you gladly accept them if you don't already have a copy.

Include other specifics that are appropriate for your library.

>> *article continues on page 3*



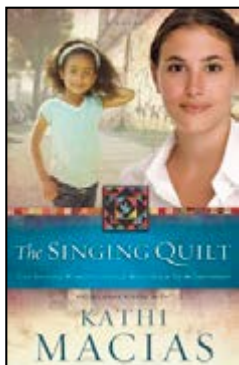
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# Workshops — (continued from page 1)

strengthened persecuted Christians for 53 years. [[www.opendoorsusa.org](http://www.opendoorsusa.org)]

Her topic, “Paying It Forward,” is about the people who inspired and encouraged her to pursue her dream. She now is looking to do the same for others. We certainly look forward to hearing about all that Kathi does.



The Singing Quilt is Kathi's latest book.

Expected guest workshop leaders are Sharon Pearson, editor at Church Publishing, who will come via Skype to help us understand and use social media; and Scott Dutkiewicz

from Clemson University, who

will show us effective ways to use our cataloging software without losing time and stressing over details.

If you are shopping for a library software provider, this annual conference gives you the opportunity to compare three widely-used systems: OPALS/Media Flex, ResourceMate, and Surpass.

OPALS/Media Flex will tell us the advantages of its open source software package. This is a “cloud”



based software that many of our members use. We have enjoyed working with this company at previous conferences.



ResourceMate is an established software provider that also has many loyal CSLA followers. ResourceMate will give us a demonstration via Skype, with opportunities for “live” questions and answers.

Also via the web, Surpass will demonstrate Surpass CL. Surpass CL is library automation software streamlined especially for churches, synagogues, and other places of worship and is intended for libraries that rely heavily upon volunteer staffing.



CSLA has been busy updating our existing guides and bibliographies as well as creating entirely new ones.

Glenda Strombom will teach *Organizing a Congregational Library or Resource Center*, an update of three previous guides. This guide received very good notice on ALA's web site.

Susan Snyder, author of the guide *Cataloging and Classification*, will

lead us through the Dewey Decimal System. Susan also writes CLT's column “Doing Dewey.”

Ellen Bosman is coming to show us how to use her bibliography of up-to-date resources. This bibliography opened up a whole new world for helping patrons and aiding us in our own searches.

Our two new bibliographies are Meghan Harper's *Helping Those Who Hurt*, a selection aid for those in difficult situations, and Mary Lou Henneman's *Media for the Teen and Young Adult*. Both authors will introduce their bibliographies in workshops to help you get the most out of them and upgrade your own library collections.

Other members leading workshops are Ralph Hartsock, who will be in-house but partnering with Tara Carlise via Skype to present “Digital Repositories of Religious History.” This should be an interesting back-and-forth between the two. Monica Tenney will survey and recommend books and other materials on the “Lord's Prayer,” and Carol Campbell and Dottie Lewis will present “Raising Your Own Budget Funds.” Carol and Dottie each have had many years of experience with fund-raising projects.

So for inspiration, information, and great fellowship, return to the Oregon Trail . . . come to Portland this summer!

## President's message — (continued from page 1)

Most importantly, the selection policy contains guidelines to follow if there is a complaint about specific library materials. It is always wise to have a plan in place that indicates who will review the materials and make the decision about keeping or removing the materials. That is a time when you want to be sure to include your library committee in decision making. Once you have formulated a selection policy, be sure to share it with

congregation officials and board for their approval.

If you are attending the summer conference, you are in for a treat when you go on the library tours. If you are developing a selection policy there will be many opportunities for discussion with other CSLA members on the content of their policies, and you will find there is not just one right answer. We all travel the library journey together discovering helpful ideas along the way.



## TOURING PORTLAND **a few more things to see**

### GETTING AROUND:

Portland Aerial Tram – this uncommon form of public transportation climbs 500 feet above the city



Sidewalk Ambassadors – keep an eye out for these green-clad ambassadors traveling on foot or by bicycle in downtown Portland. They are ready to help you with everything from navigating the public transit system to locating maps and brochures.

### MUSEUMS & GALLERIES:

Oregon Historical Society Museum and Research Library, 1200 SW Park Avenue

Oregon Enginehouse and Rail Heritage Center, 2250 SE Water Ave, Portland, OR 97214. 503-680-8895

Wells Fargo History Museum, 1300 SW Fifth Avenue, 503-886-1102

2014 Walking Tour “Gallery Without Walls” presented by the Arts Council of Lake Oswego

Beverly Cleary Sculpture Garden, N.E. 33<sup>rd</sup> Ave. & U.S. Grant Place 503-823-2525

Pittock Mansion, 3229 N.W. Pittock Dr. (\$10.00 self-guided tour)

### GARDENS:

International Rose Test Garden, 400 SW Kingston Ave, Portland (503) 823-3636

Japanese Garden, 611 SW Kingston Ave, Portland, 503- 223-1321

Lan Su Chinese Garden, 239 NW Everett St, Portland, 503- 228-8131

### UNUSUAL SHOPS:

Pendleton Home Store, 210 NW Broadway 503-535-5444

Finnegan’s Toys — classic, contemporary and weird for all ages — 820 SW Washington 503-221- 0306

Hippo Hardware (have to see it to believe all the old and new housed in this store!), 1049 E. Burnside St. 503-231-1444.

### KNIT, SEW, OR CROCHET:

Happy Knits, 1620 SE Hawthorne Blvd 503-238-2106

Dublin Bay, 1227 NW 11th Avenue 503-223-3229

Twisted, 2310 NE Broadway 503-922-1150

Button Emporium, 1016 SW Taylor Street 503-228-6372

Cool Cottons, 2417 SE Hawthorne Blvd 503-232-0417

Fabric Depot – “1.5 Acres of Fabric,” 700 SE 122nd Avenue 503-535-5444

### GUIDES

#### Helping Those Who Hurt

S. Meghan Harper. An annotated bibliography of print, non-print, and online resources divided into elementary and teen age groups. Designed for those working with children in congregational and pastoral care settings. Carefully selected for the potential of facilitating discussion between and among children and adults. \$12/\$14 +postage.



THIS ARTICLE BY LONGTIME CSLA MEMBER BEV ETZELMUELLER REMINDS US OF WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO. WHILE IT IS WRITTEN FROM A CHRISTIAN VIEWPOINT, CONGREGATIONAL LIBRARIANS OF ALL FAITHS ASPIRE TO CONNECT THEIR CONGREGATION'S MEMBERS TO BOOKS THAT WILL FURTHER THEIR FAITH WALK. — SUSAN SPONAAS, PUBLICATIONS CHAIR

# MATCHmaker, MATCHmaker

## FIND ME A BOOK! by Bev Etzelmueller, Librarian, St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Wauwatosa, WI

As the church librarian, I am in a unique position at St. Matthew's. During the week I quietly go about my task of investigating quality Christian books for our library and may order some books from some of my favorite online sources. Of course, there is also the stack of books that I am hoping to read soon.

Yet when family or friends observe my stack of books, I receive quite a few comments with a common refrain such as; "I just don't have time to read," "How do you read so many books?" and "You must be a fast reader."

However, it turns out that without exception all of the observers of my book stack are also readers in their own way. What most people are lamenting when they make this comment is that they do not consider themselves "well-read."

Living a well-read life cannot be measured in the quantity of volumes

read, but by how often you have fallen in love with a book. I do not think it matters if a person reads one book or one hundred books per year. If you can say, "I am reading this wonderful book and I cannot wait to get back to it," you are in book-love.

We use the power of book-love not only to entertain, but to inspire, to change, to heal...to live differently.

Then, there is my Sunday role of being a matchmaker, connecting the right book with the right reader. My prayer each week is to help someone fall in love with a book. If I accomplish that, I will have made something special happen.

I recently helped a church member with some suggestions for a spring men's study. Previously I offered several suggestions and he came into the library to narrow down his choices. He proudly carried some books out of the library to examine the various potential study topics

more closely. The key was to help navigate the member in the right direction to figure out his best choices for the study.

The purpose of a church librarian is to share the message of our Lord with His flock. Books have no meaning if they only sit on the shelf collecting dust. Recently a new member asked about a specific version of the Bible for her morning Bible study class. I did some research and found that that version was out of print. I offered the book to her to keep. The new member was delighted!

I do not admit to being an expert; however my goal is to invite the congregation to enter the library to learn, be inspired and grasp His message. Children, teens and adults are invited to enter the library to experience the wonder of God's love through the medium of books.

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## CSLA helps congregational librarians learn from and teach each other

The annual school for beginning congregational librarians is a participant-friendly and hands-on workshop which covers both administrative and user services. Topics covered include composition of a mission statement, collection development and processing, and marketing. Participants will have the opportunity to share information about their own library and specific challenges will be discussed.

When Wilshire Baptist Church in Houston hired a highly-skilled librarian in 2003, there was only

The 2014 school is scheduled for Tuesday, July 29, 2014 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Lake Oswego, Oregon. Following the morning school, the tour of area congregational libraries will reinforce the presented ideas and suggestions. Jeri Baker, Wilshire Baptist Church's librarian and one of CSLA's most dynamic speakers, will be leading this year's Library School preconference workshop. Please contact the CSLA Office for additional information.

one challenge: the candidate had no technical library experience such as cataloging or processing materials and no theological education. The answer to this dilemma was, of course, to send the librarian to the CSLA Annual

Conference! By networking with other congregational librarians, visiting the exhibits and attending training sessions, the librarian was quickly equipped with the necessary skills to manage and develop a congregational library. —Jeri Baker

# DOING DEWEY:

## DEWEY CLASSIFICATION NUMBERS FOR MATERIALS ON COMPARATIVE RELIGION

BY SUSAN SYNDER

The section of the religion class (200) for materials that deal with more than one major religion changed considerably between the 13th abridged edition of the Dewey Decimal Classification (based on the 21st unabridged edition) and the 14th abridged edition (based on the 22nd unabridged edition). It was moved to the beginning of the 200s, reducing the emphasis on Christianity in the 200s as a whole. The move made the arrangement of the 200s more like that of other subject classes, most of which begin with the subject in general and then move to specific aspects. In the 15th abridged edition (based on the 23rd unabridged edition), comparative religion remained at the beginning of the 200s.

In an article written after the change\*, Esther Bierbaum recommended that most congregational libraries reclassify existing materials on comparative religion. Switching to a newer edition of the Dewey Decimal Classification has the advantage that newly assigned classification numbers found in CIP or the Library of Congress web site <http://catalog.loc.gov> will not need to be changed back to classification numbers from the earlier edition.

However, congregational libraries with a limited budget may wish to avoid the expense of purchasing a new edition of the abridged Dewey Decimal Classification. Also, some church librarians may find that the earlier edition's emphasis on Christianity is appropriate to their collections.

The important thing is to use the same edition of the Dewey Decimal Classification for all of your library's comparative religion materials.

The chart at right can help you easily compare the changes.

\*Bierbaum, Esther: "Redoing Dewey: Should You or Shouldn't You?" *Congregational Libraries Today* v. 40 no. 5-6 (Sept.-Dec. 2007): p. 25.

DESCRIPTION	13 <sup>th</sup> Abridged Edition	14 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup> Abridged Editions
Comprehensive works on non-Christian religions	290	200
Comparative religion	291	200
Systems, value, scientific principles, and psychological principles of religion	200.1	200.1 (no change)
Dictionaries and encyclopedias of more than one religion	200.3	200.3 (no change)
Historical and geographical treatment of religion and religious thought	200.9	200.9 (no change)
Mythology and mythological foundations, social theology, interreligious relations and attitudes of more than one religious thought	291.1	201
Doctrines of more than one religion, including objects of worship and veneration, humankind, eschatology, and creation	291.2	202
Public worship and other practices of more than one religion, including sacred places, sacred times, liturgy, fasts and feasts, public prayer, pilgrimages, etc.	291.3	203
Religious experience, worship, and religious life and practice in more than one religion	291.4	204
Moral theology of more than one religion, including conscience, sins, vices, virtues, and specific moral issues	291.5	205
Leaders and organization of more than one religion. These topics include organizations and management, congregations, monasteries, and role, function, and duties of leaders, such as priests, pastors, prophets, and founders of religions.	291.6	206
Missions and religious education in more than one religion	291.7	207
Religious sources of more than one religion, including sacred books, traditions, and religious laws	291.8	208
Sects and reform movements, including cults, of more than one religion	291.9	209



# TECH TALK

## CONVERTING YOUR CATALOG FROM EXCEL TO MARC

by Susan Sponaas



Many CSLA members are not ALA certified librarians, and those who are may have never attempted to create a full-fledged catalog record since leaving library school. But most of us do come with a working knowledge of Excel and/or Access, and have defaulted to using one of those databases as our church library catalog.

So, you have an Excel or Access catalog but hope eventually to convert it to one of those lovely, professional-looking catalogs you see on other libraries' websites. You have heard rumors about something called Z39.50 importing, a way to actually download a full catalog record from Library of Congress and other libraries with Z39.50 servers without having to type in each author, title, subject heading, book description, etc.

There is a wheel out there that you do not have to reinvent! You've attended a CSLA conference and checked out library software vendors, and now you want to get your Excel database into shape for an easy, error-free conversion to MARC, the database used by Library of Congress and professional libraries throughout most of the world.

For easy conversion, try as much as possible to make your Excel fields match MARC fields. Here are some pointers, courtesy of Julie Stephens of Surpass ([www.surpasssoftware.com](http://www.surpasssoftware.com)), for creating or modifying your Excel/Access database to make that conversion easier. (Please note that, for the remainder of this article, any mention of Excel applies equally to an Access database.)

### MUST-HAVE FIELDS IN YOUR DATABASE:

- a. **ISBN number**—Enter this with NO hyphens or spaces. However, do include the X that sometimes appears at the end of an ISBN. Be sure the ISBN is the one that matches the item you have in hand. CIP\* may have the ISBN of the hardback book originally cataloged, but it might not be the same as the paperback edition that your library owns.
- b. **Author** (if there is one)—Last name, comma, first name, middle name or initial, all in one field. Don't put the first name in a separate field!
- c. **Title**—Go ahead and put in initial articles (A, An, The) since the software accounts for this in the conversion.
- d. **Place of publication**—(city, state abbreviation)
- e. **Publisher**
- g. **Date of publication, or copyright date**  
Note that the place of publication, publisher, and date should all be separate fields!
- g. **Format**—This tells whether the item is a book, DVD, CD, etc. Your future software provider will use this information to create some control fields. You MUST keep this information standard throughout your database. Don't use the term 'DVD' one

>> *article continues on page 8*

1. World War, 1939-1945 – Jews – Biography
2. Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)

### EXCEL TO MARC EXAMPLE

	I	J	K	L	M	N
1	Subject A-1	Subject A-2	Subject A-3	Subject B-1	Subject B-2	Subject B-3
2	World War, 1939-1945	Jews	Biography	Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)		

This is an example from a book on Holocaust survivors. The upper box shows the way the two subject heads would normally appear on a CIP page. The lower box shows how you would enter the subjects into Excel fields. (Other fields, such as author, title, etc. are not shown here for brevity). Note that while Subject B does not use the B-2 & B-3 subfields, they are still in the Excel spreadsheet because other books in your library's collection probably will need those fields.

# TECH TALK—

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

time and type `videodisc` the next. Come up with a uniform way to distinguish a spoken word recording from a musical recording – for instance, you might use CD-SPK for an audiobook and CD-MUS for a music CD. Again, be consistent.

- h. Subject heading**—Include at least one subject heading for each title. This is usually the first one listed in the CIP\* Make a separate field for subheadings (these are shown in CIP by a hyphen, for instance, `Bible – Handbooks, manuals, etc.`) Be sure each subheading field is labeled some way to keep it with the main field. For instance “Bible”† could be under “Subject A-1” and “Handbooks, manuals, etc.” could be in a field labeled “Subject A-2” Subject heading information that is separated with a comma or given in parentheses is kept in the same field.

## OTHER DESIRABLE FIELDS.

These are not critical for your conversion but are really nice to have.

- a. Number of pages**
- b. Series title**
- c. Price of item**—Publisher’s list price, actual cost, or an estimated price for a donated item. This information is great to have for insurance purposes if a disaster strikes your library, such as a flood or earthquake.
- d. Additional subject headings**—Again, label your fields so that each subheading is kept with its own subject heading.
- e. Summary**—Keep it short, one or two complete sentences.
- f. Illustrator, when important**—children’s picture books, art books, etc.
- g. Call number field**—If materials are consistently labeled by a shelving location, put this label in a field

According to Julie Stephens, a database that contains only an author and title field is really not worth the price of converting. You are better off simply purchasing an online library software contract and starting fresh by downloading MARC records straight into your catalog.

When you are ready to make the leap to a full MARC record catalog, be sure to check out the vendors who advertise in this journal and those listed on the “Library Software” page of the CSLA website.

\*CIP=Cataloging in Publication. The catalog record often found on the back side of the title page in a book.

†“Bible” is a 630 Uniform Title field rather than the more usual 650 subject field, such as “Theology.” However, since we’re assuming you are a newbie to cataloging, just put it under a field titled “Subject”.

International Standard Book Number			
020			
a	(ISBN—no hyphens)		
Main entry—personal name			
100	1		
a	Personal name (Last, First)		
Title statement (NR)			
245	1		
a	Title		
b	Remainder of title		
c	Statement of responsibility		
Publication, distribution, etc. (Imprint)			
260			
a	Place of publication, distribution, etc.		
b	Name of publisher, distributor, etc.		
c	Date of publication, distribution, etc.		
Physical description			
300			
a	Extent (Pages)		
b	Other physical details		
c	Dimensions		
Summary			
520			
a	Brief summary		
Subject added entry—topical term			
650			
a	Topical term		
x	General subdivision		
Added entry—personal name			
700	1		Illustrator, cast member, etc.
a	Personal name (Last, First)		

An abbreviated MARC record template showing some of the fields mentioned in this article.



# CHAPTER Chatter



## FLORIDA SUNCOAST CHAPTER

Grace Lutheran Church of St. Petersburg, FL, was the site of the Florida Suncoast Chapter's spring meeting held March 27. The members explored ways to expand library services and discussed the various aspects of caregiving and appropriate resources for that topic. Iris Shalit reviewed one of her favorite books, and the meeting concluded with the demonstration of how to make a tissue butterfly decoration for Easter. [Just search for "tissue butterfly craft" on the web and you will find directions and videos on how to make a wide variety of these decorations.]

A coloring page with the ritual

symbols that retell the Exodus story is available for free at <http://www.crayola.com/free-coloring-pages/print/passover-symbols-coloring-page/>

This chapter mourns the loss of longtime member Ruth Scott Brown, who died on September 10, 2013. In addition to serving the chapter in many ways, she was active in the community and was the librarian at her church. She was also the librarian at the Palmetto Elementary School in Clearwater, Florida, for many years.

## NORTHEASTERN OHIO CHAPTER

"New Pathways to Congregational Libraries" was the theme of the Northeastern Ohio Chapter's spring meeting March 29 at Mayfield United Methodist Church in Chesterland, OH. The workshop sessions included:

- "Theory to Practice" by Dr. Meghan Harper,

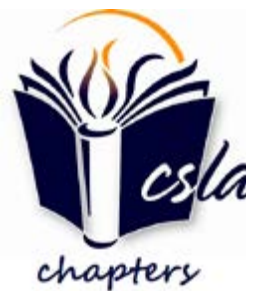
Kent State University. More information on RDA and advice on how to catalog according to this new standard.

- "Pinterest Comes to the Congregational Library" by Connie Attomare. Use this social media tool to gather and post book reviews, bulletin board ideas, etc. (What's Pinterest? Go to <https://www.pinterest.com> and find out—it's free!)

- Book Reviews by Diane Busch
- "Humor in the Church" by Pastor John Witterdink, Mentor United Methodist Church.

Mentioned in this chapter's latest newsletter (vol. 7, no. 1) was an article providing information on the "Little Free Library" movement. What is this? "It's a 'take a book, return a book' gathering place

>> article continues on page 10



## SAN JOSE BAY AREA CHAPTER

San Jose Bay Area Chapter members, pictured in the top photo, toured St. Patrick's Seminary and University in Menlo Park, CA, including the Gellert Library, (<http://www.stpatricksseminary.org/about-the-library.html>) on Jan. 13. The bottom photo is of the grounds of the Seminary. To see more images of this beautiful campus, go to <http://www.stpatricksseminary.org/resources/photos.html>.

This busy chapter's next event was its Annual Spring Luncheon, held March 17. Cynthia Swensen McAlister, author of *Crisscrossing the Globe* (<http://www.amazon.com/Crisscrossing-Globe-Charter-Flight-Attendant/dp/0972753419>), described her many adventures throughout the world during her work as an international charter flight attendant for Trans International/Transamerica Airlines.

# Chapter Chatter >> *article continued from page 9*

where neighbors share their favorite literature and stories. In its most basic form, a Little Free Library is a box full of books where anyone may stop by and pick up a book (or two) and bring back another book to share.”—from the program’s website at <http://littlefreelibrary.org>.

The organization’s mission is:

- To promote literacy and the love of reading by building free book exchanges worldwide.
- To build a sense of community as we share skills, creativity and wisdom across generations.

There are over 10,000 of these little libraries to date—find out more (and see many cute examples of those little libraries) at the website mentioned above.

## WESTERN NEW YORK CHAPTER

The Western New York Chapter is mourning the loss of two of its longtime members:

**Melinda Hutchison:** January 28, 2013. She served two congregations as librarian, and was an active volunteer for a local hospice and a local food pantry. For a number of years she tirelessly campaigned throughout the Buffalo area to promote CSLA. Her passion for literacy and her quick wit will be missed.

**Beth Hodgson:** February 27, 2014. In addition to her work as a university librarian, she devoted countless hours to CSLA (including

serving on the Board), this chapter, and the United Methodist Church. Many have received support from Beth over the years and will miss her warmth and kindness.

## VIRTUAL CHAPTER

The second “live” meeting of the Virtual Chapter occurred on February 7. After a few (well, more than a few) glitches, everyone was on board at the same time and proceeded to discuss several topics. Pat Shufeldt began with an examination of the staffing, functions and services provided by congregational resource centers. Her center, the Foothills Presbytery Resource Center (<http://fprc.scolaid.net>) is conducting long-range planning, and she is interested in what is occurring in similar agencies. Most participants had little experience in this area, but all felt that long-range planning and evaluation of a center’s current status were good steps to take.

A question about the pros and cons of invoicing versus the use of credit cards for ordering resources was posed by Arline Cox. The most common response was to use a credit card for ease in ordering. Variations on that theme: use a congregational credit card or use your own card and be reimbursed. For most vendors, you can set up your account once with your congregation’s tax exempt number and a credit card number for new

orders in the future. (It was noted that South Carolina congregations have to pay sales tax.)

Dottie Lewis provided more reading and library resources for children, focusing on story time. What a wealth of information! Here are a few of the resources mentioned:

- Elementary Library Routines <http://elementarylibraryroutines.wikispaces.com>
- Webbing Into Literacy: A Head Start Program <http://curry.virginia.edu/go/wil>
- Resources for School Librarians <http://www.sldirectory.com/libsf/resf/manage.html>
- Preschool Lesson Plans, worksheets & Themes for Year-Round Learning <http://www.brighthubeducation.com/preschool-lesson-plans>

The group touched base on a previous topic—Sara Mansbach’s work with her library in Haiti. She was interested in any resources that would inform a library board of its duties and how to support its library. One resource that may be helpful was posted after the meeting from Pat Shufeldt and Susan Snyder: “How to Set Up and Manage a Library in Rural Africa” by Hilda and Kirt Bromley. It is a fee publication (as a PDF) and is located at [http://www.forafricalibrary.org/How\\_to\\_Set%20up\\_and\\_Manage\\_a\\_Library\\_in\\_Rural\\_Africa.pdf](http://www.forafricalibrary.org/How_to_Set%20up_and_Manage_a_Library_in_Rural_Africa.pdf).

## Call for Contributors

CLT is searching for contributors for the columns Tech Talk and Library Limelight. Tech Talk introduces, explains, and offers suggestions for applying current technology to congregational libraries. Library Limelight presents ideas for promoting the library. While a long-term volunteer (at least one year or four issues) is desirable, CLT also welcomes one-time contributions to either column. Please contact the Publications Chair, Susan Sponaas, at 864-517-0557 (phone or text) or email the CSLA office, [csla@worldaccessnet.com](mailto:csla@worldaccessnet.com).

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## GUARANTOR \$5,000 +

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### Resources Manual for Congregational Libraries

Annotated  
 bibliography by Ellen

Bosman. A new approach to resources  
 for congregational libraries. Divided  
 into two major sections, one tools for  
 librarians and enrichment resources for  
 library patrons. 50pp \$14/\$16 +postage.



GUIDES

### Organizing a Library or Resource Center: Creating a Policy and Procedure Manual

Revised and compiled from three CSLA  
 publications. A Policy and Procedure  
 Manual for Church and Synagogue  
 Libraries; Standards for Church and  
 Synagogue Libraries; and Setting Up A  
 Library. This new publication provides a  
 simple method of developing a working  
 manual for organizing and operating a  
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GUIDES

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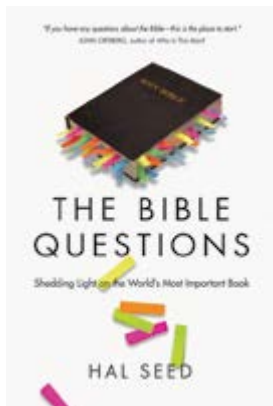
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## SACRED TEXTS



### The Bible Questions: Shedding Light on the World's Most Important Book

Hal Seed. InterVarsity Press, 2012. 201p. \$15.00, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8308-5612-1. Available as an ebook. [www.ivpress.com](http://www.ivpress.com) 220.6'1 Bible—Introductions. Bible—Miscellanea.

According to Hal Seed, “Will you come home?” is the Bible’s central question to us. What questions, Seed asks, do we bring to the Bible? *The Bible Questions* provides a four-week study suitable

for seasoned readers of scripture and for searchers new to the Bible. Seed paints with broad strokes but also supplies intriguing detail.

In chapters addressing twenty questions about the Bible, Seed’s pattern is to begin with a quotation and follow with thoroughly researched and well-organized content. In the chapter “How Accurate Is the Bible?” readers encounter the Codex Sinaiticus, one of the two oldest Bibles in the world, and the Dead Sea Scrolls. “Why Is There Only One Way to Heaven?” notes the graciousness of God in providing *any* way to heaven, and Seed postulates that “*all* major religions claim exclusivity.” Supporting data from his study of ten major religions describes differing views of the afterlife and how it is achieved.

Written from an evangelical perspective, Seed applies scriptural knowledge and practical tools that guide readers in obedience.

A small group study guide with five sessions and appendixes of “Bible Study Process” and “The Bible in One Verse” enhance the book. Recommended for church libraries and particularly for small group study. —*Carolyn Egolf*

### Creating Space between Peshat and Derash: A Collection of Studies on Tanakh

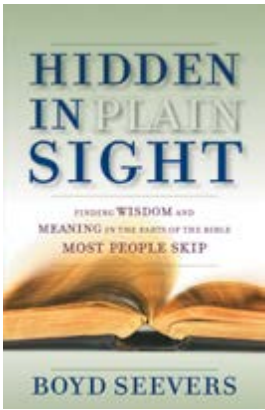
Hayyim J. Angel. KTAV in association with Sephardic Publication Foundation, 2011. 229. \$25.00, hardcover. ISBN: 978-1-60280-176-9. [www.ktav.com](http://www.ktav.com) 221.6 Bible. O.T.—Criticism, interpretation, etc.

The brief essays in *Creating Space between Peshat and Derash* present a clear and engaging literary analysis of various biblical passages. The focus is primarily on texts from the Prophets and Writings, the later books of the Bible, and these studies deal with distinct verses in contrast to broad understandings of whole books or episodes. Rabbi Hayyim Angel’s methodical approach helps the reader follow his logic and appreciate his insights.

The contrast between the *peshat*, the straightforward meaning of the text, and the *derash*, the metaphorical reading that informs much of rabbinic teaching about the Bible, is the theme that permeates this book. Angel’s careful reading helps readers see new dimensions in both the literal meaning and the metaphoric possibilities of the text.

I particularly appreciate that Angel focuses on passages that are too often neglected. In what ways might Ezekiel be like Moses? How are we to understand the book of Joel, a mere four chapters long? How many ways might we encounter *hesed*—acts of loving-kindness—in the book of Ruth? Angel’s essays help readers see more than meets the eye.

This is a rewarding book that will deepen one’s appreciation for the genius of the Bible. —*Rabbi Louis A. Rieser*



### Hidden in Plain Sight: Finding Wisdom and Meaning in the Parts of the Bible Most People Skip

Boyd SeEVERS. Bethany House (an imprint of Baker), 2012. 191p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-7642-0872-0. www.bethanyhouse.com 221.6 Bible. O.T.—Criticism, interpretation, etc.

Honesty requires words such as “boring” and “puzzling” when even discerning readers encounter certain scriptures. With knowledge and gentle candor,

Boyd SeEVERS addresses, among other topics, genealogies, Old Testament laws, and prophecies (both Old Testament and apocalyptic).

The first nine chapters of *Hidden in Plain Sight* follow a pattern: problem, point, goal, and benefit, followed by study questions. Basic knowledge of scripture is a

prerequisite to understanding terms such as sovereign, covenantal, and apocalyptic. The author’s teaching experience, openness, and his eight-year residence in Israel bring fresh insights to his book.

Setting scripture in the time and culture of its writing aids in determining its purpose and value in ancient times as well as its application in our own day. Chapters of particular interest are those on genealogies, Ecclesiastes, and apocalyptic prophecy, since these speak to themes of interest in today’s wider culture.

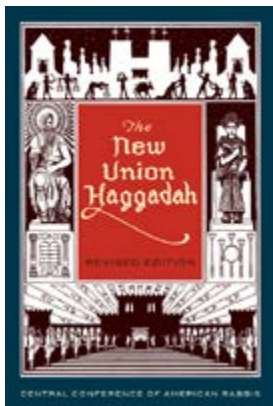
The book’s conclusion in the tenth chapter provides an excellent review, and readers will enjoy the lighthearted appendix, “Things I Love About Each of the Books Most People Skip.” (Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Hosea are among the books that make SeEVERS’ list.)

Recommended as a reference for pastors, teachers, group leaders, and for personal or group study.

—Carolyn Egolf

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### The New Union Haggadah. Rev. ed.

Howard Berman and Benjamin Zeidman, eds. Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), 2014. 109p. \$18.00, hardcover. ISBN: 978-0-88123-218-9. Available in large print reinforced paperback. [www.ccarnet.org](http://www.ccarnet.org) 296.4'5371046 Haggadot—Texts. Seder—Liturgy—Texts. Judaism—Liturgy—Texts. Passover—Customs and practices.

Generations of American Reform Jews grew up with *The Union Haggadah: Home Service for the Passover*, first published in

1923. It expressed a universalist vision in flowing language that became the hallmark of the holiday. Although newer Reform haggadot supplanted it, *The Union Haggadah* retained a loyal following that will welcome this updated version.

The original introduction states, “In the course of the evening, a complete Jewish philosophy is revealed.” It is that voice which distinguishes this haggadah from all others. This version is largely in English; Hebrew passages are both translated and transliterated. It reflects the broad, rationalist, and universalist vision of the early Reformers but has been amended to include more modern traditions such as Miriam’s Cup and the inclusion of an orange on the seder plate. Other elements missing from the original, in particular the recitation of the Ten Plagues and the opening of the door for Elijah, have been added.

Closing essays offer scholarly research on the holiday and haggadah. Rooting the haggadah in liturgical and cultural history deepens the seder experience.

*The New Union Haggadah* claims a proud place on the shelf of available haggadot, reflecting a myriad of understandings of this classic holiday. Highly recommended.  
—Rabbi Louis A. Rieser

### The Book of Common Prayer: A Spiritual Treasure Chest—Selections Annotated & Explained

C. K. Robertson. Skylight Paths, 2013. 170p. \$16.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-59473-524-0. Also available as an ebook or large print paperback. [www.skylightpaths.com](http://www.skylightpaths.com) 264'03 Anglican Communion—Liturgy—Texts. Anglican Communion—Prayers and devotions. Church of England—Book of Common Prayer. Prayer books. Series: Skylight Illuminations.

Canon C. K. Robertson believes that the Book of Common Prayer serves not only as an essential liturgical tool for Anglicans and Episcopalians but also as a rich storehouse of spiritual help for others. Along with selections from the prayer book, Robertson provides annotations that give biblical and historical context as well as commentary on uses in public worship and private devotional practice. The format is the same as with other books in the Skylight Illumination series—text on the right-hand page, annotations on the left, and all in print that is easy on the eye.

Robertson begins by introducing the Book of Common Prayer, telling of its composition by Archbishop of Can-

terbury Thomas Cranmer in 1549, alterations through the years, the publication of revisions in various countries, culminating for American Episcopalians with their 1979 version.

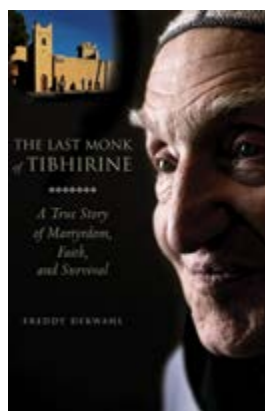
In structuring his book, Robertson follows the prayer book’s organization, including selections on prayer life, relationships, blessings for rites of the church and other occasions of joy and sadness, praise and petition. Combined with the passages quoted, Robertson’s commentary evokes a strong sense of the timelessness of this text and the rhythms of the church year. This book will be welcomed not only by Episcopal readers but also by those of other stripes who appreciate this time-honored text. —Monica Tenney

## INSPIRING PEOPLE

### The Quotable Eleanor Roosevelt

Michele Wehrein Albion, ed. University Press of Florida, 2013. 250p. \$24.95, hardcover. ISBN: 978-0-8130-4494-1. Available as an ebook. [www.upf.com](http://www.upf.com) 973.917092 Roosevelt, Eleanor, 1884-1962—Quotations. Presidents’ spouses—United States—Quotations.

Although *The Quotable Eleanor Roosevelt* is not a biography, its readers will receive good insight into what this admired lady was like. Michele Wehrein Albion has divided her book into eighteen chapters encompassing topics such as politics, religion, economics, and emotional issues. Albion prefaces each chapter with a concise and revealing summary of Eleanor Roosevelt’s activities and attitudes related to the topic at hand. Next, Albion provides quotations from Roosevelt and her professional writings, speeches, personal letters, and reports of conversations. Three fascinating chapters contain what Roosevelt said about herself, what she said about others, and what people ranging from world leaders to family members said about her. Roosevelt, a woman ahead of her time, was indeed quotable. —Beverly M. Bixler



### The Last Monk of Tibhirine: A True Story of Martyrdom, Faith, and Survival

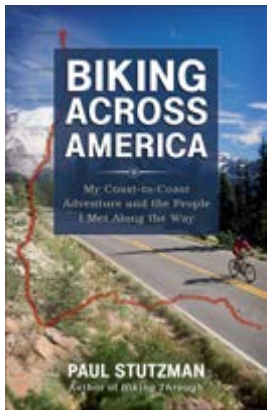
Freddy Derwahl. Paraclete, 2013. 206p. \$21.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-61261-374-1. Available as an ebook. [www.paracletepress.com](http://www.paracletepress.com) 272'909653 Schumacher, Jean-Pierre. Trappists—Algeria—Tibhirine—Biography. Christian martyrs—Algeria—Tibhirine—Biography. Victims of terrorism—Algeria—Biography. Notre Dame de l’Atlas (Monastery: Tibhirine, Algeria).

In 2011, Belgian journalist Freddy Derwahl visited the Monastery of Our Lady of Atlas, located in Midelt, Morocco. His purpose was to get a firsthand account from Brother Jean-Pierre Schumacher of a night fifteen years earlier at the Monastery of Tibhirine in Algeria. During Algeria’s civil war, danger from terrorists escalated daily. Although

the monastery had already been attacked once, the monks remained; they did not want to sever their good relationship with the Muslim people of the community. On the evening of March 26, 1996, terrorists entered the monastery. Having been instructed to capture “the seven,” the intruders were unaware that there were actually nine brothers in the monastery. That is how Brother Jean-Pierre and another man escaped capture. After being held for nearly two months, the seven monks were murdered.

As a young man, Derwahl had been a postulant at Tibhirine and had known the victims. When he visited the monastery in Morocco in 2011 and renewed his friendship with Schumacher, the latter was eighty-seven years old and the only living survivor of the 1996 attack.

Derwahl’s account combines past and present events and can seem disjointed at times, but this is an inspiring story. *The Last Monk of Tibhirine* includes beautiful photographs by Bruno Zansoterra. —*Beverly M. Bixler*



**Biking Across America: My Coast-to-Coast Adventure and the People I Met Along the Way**

Paul Stutzman. Revell (an imprint of Baker), 2013. 222p. \$12.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8007-2178-7. Available as an ebook. [www.revellbooks.com](http://www.revellbooks.com) Biography Biking—United States.

There are many ways to grieve the loss of a loved one. Paul Stutzman, a Christian, felt God’s calling to honor his late wife by cycling across the United States and exchanging faith stories

along the way. After quitting his job as a restaurant manager, Stutzman began his bicycle trip in Neah Bay, Washington, and ended in Key West, Florida. Stutzman had traveled over five thousand miles on his bike. The trip was a thrill for Stutzman, but what made it truly special was his deepening relationship with God. This aspect of his journey is also what makes Stutzman’s memoir, *Biking Across America*, so enjoyable. It will pull readers into Stutzman’s account, whether of rough terrain and torrential rainstorms or of meeting the various people who touched him along the way. Readers will soon realize the opportunities God provides to heal from loss and grow in faith. This is an incredible book that will appeal to Christians, whether they are bicycle enthusiasts or simply interested in travel and its spiritual benefits.

Stutzman’s previous book, *Hiking Through: One Man’s Journey to Peace and Freedom on the Appalachian Trail*, is available in a 2012 reprint from Revell. —*Mary Lou Henneman*

**Prepared for a Purpose: The Inspiring True Story of How One Woman Saved an Atlanta School Under Siege**

Antoinette Tuff with Alex Tresniowski. Bethany House (an imprint of Baker), 2014. 232p. \$24.99, hardcover. ISBN: 978-0-7642-1263-5. Available as an ebook or audiobook; paperback due in September. [www.bethanyhouse.com](http://www.bethanyhouse.com) 371.7’82 School crisis management—Case studies. School violence—Prevention—Case studies. Women heroes—United States—Biography. African Americans—United States—Biography. Atlanta (Ga.)—Biography.

On August 20, 2013, a young man with an AK-47 assault rifle slung over his shoulder entered the Ronald E. McNair Discovery Academy in Atlanta. He was yelling, “This is not a joke! This is real! We are all going to die today!” Antoinette Tuff, the school’s bookkeeper, was filling in at the front desk while the receptionist was at lunch.

In *Prepared for a Purpose*, Tuff intertwines the story of her life and its many unfortunate circumstances with the terrifying situation facing her and potentially all the students and teachers that August afternoon. Tuff tells her story because she believes that God used those earlier painful situations to enable her to keep cool when confronted by this unexpected danger. Tuff’s courage does not mean she was not frightened—quite the contrary. But she talked with the intruder until he was willing to give up without shooting anyone.

One of the final paragraphs in this thrilling and inspirational account contains this reiteration of Tuff’s purpose in writing it: “I pray God’s message of preparation and purpose shines through the words in this book. And I pray we allow God to use us as His vessels, so that we may put our faith to work and show it through good deeds.” —*Beverly M. Bixler*



**400 Miles to Freedom (DVD)**

Seventh Art, 2012. 60 minutes. \$100.00 (public library and high school); \$350 (college and university), DVD. Number 7850. [www.7thart.com](http://www.7thart.com) 304.80963 Jews, Ethiopian. Jews—Ethiopia—Emigration and immigration. Israel—Emigration and immigration.

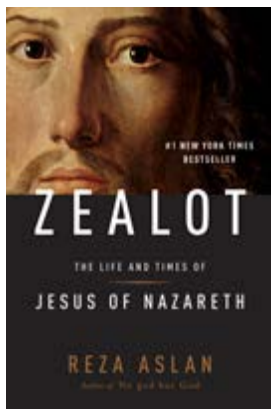
Avishai Mekonen, the co-director of *400 Miles to Freedom*, was ten years old when he, his family, and other people of the Beta Israel escaped from Ethiopia in 1984. This multi-layered story relates the struggle these Jewish communities endured on their journey to Jerusalem. It also describes the difficulties the Beta Israel encountered in Ethiopia and broader questions of Jewish identity.

The story of the exodus from Ethiopia has been told before, but it is good to be reminded of the courage it took to make that journey. Mekonen reveals the terrifying story of his kidnapping as a child. It is a reminder of the many risks these families faced, including being sold into slavery. This is a story of human rights as much as it is one of triumphant return to a homeland.

When Mekonen's mother arrived in Israel, she asked, "Is everyone here white?" It is a theme that runs through the movie. There are fascinating interviews with a number of other ethnic Jews—African, Asian, and Latino. Their histories differ but their stories sharpen the focus on the questions of identity, culture and continuity.

*400 Miles to Freedom* will prompt discussions and reflections. It has won accolades at a number of film festivals.  
—Rabbi Louis A. Rieser

## VIEWS OF JESUS



### **Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth**

Reza Aslan. Random House, 2013. 296p. \$27.00, hardcover. ISBN: 978-1-4000-6922-4. Available as an ebook or audiobook; paperback due in November. [www.atrandom.com](http://www.atrandom.com) 232 Jesus Christ—Historicity.

Reza Aslan, born in Iran and raised in California, became an enthusiastic Christian in his teens. As he matured, however, he became increasingly aware of the discrepancy between the Jesus of Christian tradition and

the Jesus of history. Aslan's research as a scholar of religions has borne out the discrepancy. Aslan notes that he nevertheless remains a committed disciple of Jesus.

In *Zealot*, Aslan examines the political and cultural milieu into which Jesus was born. He offers what can be guessed about the life of the Nazarene peasant and the people who became his followers. He outlines the region's tumultuous history, the harsh treatment of challengers of authority, and the impact of events during that crucial first century—including the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 CE—and the emergence of Christianity.

This is not a book for readers who reject the notion that the Gospel writers often wrote to suit theological purposes rather than for historical accuracy. There is a map of first-century Palestine, a drawing of the Temple in Jerusalem, an extensive index and bibliography; the author's notes provide generous detail that directs readers to a wealth of sources. —Monica Tenney

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## *Classics Corner*

### **Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time: The Historical Jesus and the Heart of Contemporary Faith**

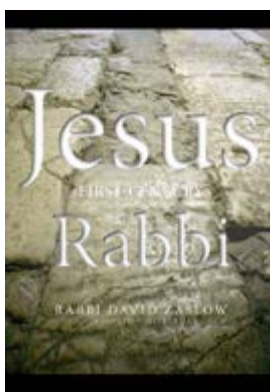
Marcus J. Borg. HarperOne (an imprint of HarperCollins), 1995. 150p. \$14.99, paperback. Available as an ebook. ISBN: 978-0-06-060917-7. [www.harpercollins.com](http://www.harpercollins.com). 232.9'08 Jesus Christ—Historicity. Jesus Christ—Person and offices.

With the publication of *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time* in 1995, Jesus scholar Marcus J. Borg introduced Jesus in what was, for many readers, a new light. Borg proposed that Christians move beyond the image of Jesus they acquired in childhood or from popular Western culture and consider the Jesus of a mature and deep spirituality.

Borg begins by telling of his own youthful understanding of Jesus, the questions that emerged as he grew to adulthood, and the revelations yielded by seminary and further studies. He discusses what can be surmised about the historical person of Jesus, and then examines aspects of Jesus' teachings and actions—compassion, challenging the political and religious status-quo, teaching contrary to conventional wisdom and practices, and his intimate relationship with God—that became essential parts of the Jesus Christians know as Christ. Borg writes of "layers" of writing and tradition about Jesus, noting what was early and what came later. He distinguishes between Jesus, the Nazarene preacher whose history cannot be fully known, and the Jesus we know from scripture (or, in Borg's terminology, the pre-Easter and post-Easter Jesus).

Borg concludes that being a follower of Christ is not about believing in certain doctrines—an obstacle for many—but living with compassion and being in relationship with the *spirit* of Christ.

There is an index, and chapters end with extensive notes. —Monica Tenney



### **Jesus: First Century Rabbi**

David Zaslow. Paraclete, 2014. 225p. \$23.99, hardcover. ISBN: 978-1-61261-296-6. Available as an ebook. [www.paracletepress.com](http://www.paracletepress.com) 232.908 Jesus Christ—Historicity. Jesus Christ—Jewishness. Judaism—Relations—Christianity. Christianity and other religions—Judaism. Judaism (Christian theology). Christianity—Origin.

Jews and Christians share a common history but disagree on its import. We share a common scripture but dispute its meanings. Jesus lived and died a

Jew, but his message inspired a new tradition. *Jesus: First Century Rabbi* gracefully examines the life and times of Jesus through a Jewish lens and helps us appreciate the points of meeting.

Rabbi David Zaslow goes back to basics: what the text

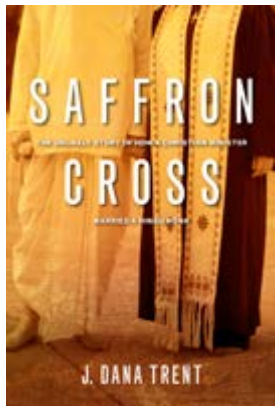


says, what key words mean, and conditions in first-century Judea. He analyzes concepts such as faith and works, the Trinity, and more to suggest ways in which common ideas found divergent expressions in the two traditions, noting the distinctive expressions of each tradition.

I was particularly impressed by Zaslow's final section, in which he addresses anti-Semitism and replacement theology. He asks Christian readers to consider how certain statements might be heard by Jewish listeners and notes that many Christian leaders have stepped away from a confrontational stance. Zaslow reminds us that the story of Jesus has its roots within the Jewish world.

Zaslow calls on both Jews and Christians to hear anew the story of the other. He asserts that by acknowledging the other, we can both be stronger. It is this optimistic message that characterizes this useful and interesting book. —*Rabbi Louis A. Rieser*

## FAITH CULTURES

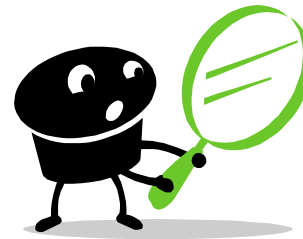


### **Saffron Cross: The Unlikely Story of How a Christian Minister Married a Hindu Monk**

J. Dana Trent. Fresh Air Books (an imprint of Upper Room), 2013. 143p. \$16.00, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-935205-16-6. Available as an ebook. [www.upperroom.org](http://www.upperroom.org) 286.092 Baptists—Clergy—Biography. Interfaith marriage. Christianity and other religions—Hinduism. Hinduism—Relations—Christianity. Marriage—Religious aspects—Christianity. Chaitanya (Sect).

The dating service eHarmony saw something that neither J. Dana Trent nor Fred Eaker could at first imagine. The online matchmakers paired Trent, a Southern Baptist minister, with the former Hindu monk. In *Saffron Cross*, Trent tells their beautiful story. She chronicles both her own personal background and Eaker's, and she recounts how the two met and fell in love. She tells of their individual faith journeys, describing what each believes and how they practice their respective religions.

After Trent and Eaker married, their relationship continued to grow. They struggled, however, to understand one another's religions and how the two faiths could coexist under the same roof. *Saffron Cross* is an excellent book, one that will interest readers who want to know more about Christianity, the Baptist denomination, Hinduism, or how people who subscribe to different theologies can respect, learn from, and love one another. —*Mary Lou Henneman*



## **INDEX OF PUBLICATIONS ON THE WEB**

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

### **The Uncovered Head: Jewish Culture: New Perspectives**

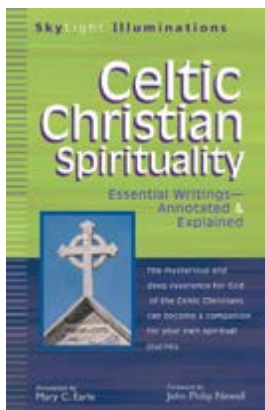
Yedidya Itzhaki. Translated by Nahum Steigman. University of Delaware Press and Rowman & Littlefield, 2011. 257p. \$80.00, hardcover. ISBN: 978-1-61149-036-7. Available as an ebook. [www.rlpbooks.com](http://www.rlpbooks.com) 296 Jews—Identity.

Yedidya Itzhaki examines Jewish identity through the lens of secular culture in order to propose a broader definition of Jewish life. It is a thesis that could be promoted only by an Israeli, one who lives where secular Jewish life is as evident and vibrant as religious life.

Itzhaki argues that Jewish identity has rested on a tripartite base of *halakhah* (Jewish law), religious observance, and a common bond as a people, and that these three elements worked together until the Modern age, when they began to unravel. Now there are secularists who emphasize Jewish "peoplehood"; nationalists, primarily Zionists, who focus on the land of Israel or some other Jewish settlement; and those who focus primarily on religion. As a consequence there have been hard-fought debates over "who is a Jew." Itzhaki details this history—both the long-held consensus and the modern fracturing of the Jewish community.

Itzhaki recognizes the difficulties that come with this new reality, but he does not despair. Rather, he calls for a broadening of communal boundaries. He never rejects any part of our shared patrimony—not religious texts, nor secular poetry and literature, nor any other expression of Jewish identity.

This is a fascinating book, worthy of serious attention. —*Rabbi Louis A. Rieser*



### **Celtic Christian Spirituality: Essential Writings—Annotated and Explained**

Mary C. Earle. Skylight Paths, 2011. 144p. \$16.99, paperback. Available as an ebook. ISBN: 978-1-59473-302-4. Available as an ebook. [www.skylightpaths.com](http://www.skylightpaths.com) 248.3'20923916 Spirituality—Celtic Church. Celtic Church—Doctrines. Series: Skylight Illuminations.

Mary C. Earle's *Celtic Christian Spirituality* follows the pattern of other books in the Skylight Illuminations series, with the text

under examination on the right-hand side and annotations on the left. Earle looks at the writings of the ancient Christian faith tradition of Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. Her introduction provides an excellent overview of themes and personages, including Saint Patrick, Pelagius, and George McLeod (founder of the Iona Community).

Among subjects included in the eight units are creation, pilgrimage, and social justice, the latter a particular focus of Saint Patrick. Earle's annotations add clarity, and the text is pleasantly light, rather than intense. Phrases such as "be thou my vision," "kindly light," and "Christ in the stranger's guise" will ring familiar. The section on "Soul Friends" reminds us that "befriending that intentionally honors and nurtures the life of the soul" is not a new idea, but one emphasized centuries ago by Pelagius and later Saint Brigid.

*Celtic Christian Spirituality* is encouraging in its practicality and in its reminders that the way of faith may present challenges, but foundational truths stand firm. Recommended for church libraries. —Carolyn Egolf

### **The Amish: How They Survive (DVD)**

Buller Films, 2005. Distributed by Vision Video. 49 minutes. \$19.99, DVD. Catalog #: 501056D. Also available in MP4 digital download. [www.visionvideo.com](http://www.visionvideo.com) 289.7771 Amish. Amish—Ohio—Social life and customs. Amish—Religious life.

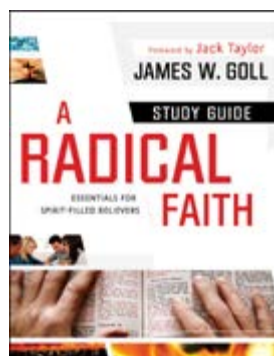
The Amish choose to live outside the mainstream of modern culture, but they continue to thrive. Within their communities, they decide what technologies should be adopted. Their religious beliefs guide their clothing customs and their decisions regarding transportation, energy, and vocation.

This documentary invites viewers in for an intimate view of the life and culture of an Amish community in Holmes County, Ohio. It shows how the community deals with the rapid growth and economic pressures around them. The video will be of most interest to people living in or near Ohio and those with nearby Amish populations.

The focus is predominantly on men and boys in the Amish community. Some content regarding technology is dated, but the DVD is informative and useful as an introduction to Amish history, customs, and beliefs.

*Vision Video* also offers similar documentaries on the

Amish in other locales. —Virginia Webb



### **A Radical Faith: Essentials for Spirit-filled Believers**

James W. Goll. Chosen (an imprint of Baker), 2011. 203p. \$13.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8007-9508-5. Available as an ebook. [www.chosenbooks.com](http://www.chosenbooks.com) 230.94 Theology—Doctrinal—Popular works. Pentecostal churches—Doctrines.

In *A Radical Faith*, James W. Goll offers an introduction for some, a review for others, and an excellent summary of essentials

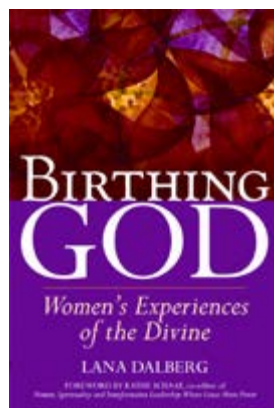
for building and maintaining a strong foundation of unshakeable faith. Among themes he develops in twelve chapters are the Word, the Trinity, faith, repentance, and grace. Each chapter is saturated with scripture, contains pertinent quotes about faith, and concludes with stanzas of an appropriate hymn.

Later chapters evince Goll's Pentecostal and charismatic stance on water baptism, baptism in the Holy Spirit, and judgment. While these sections may be controversial, the reader should not neglect them; they are well written with supportive scriptures and remind us of ideas many sincere believers espouse.

Goll's writing style is commendable; he defines terms, presents ideas in numbered points and orderly lists, and anticipates readers' questions. Of particular interest is the section "With These Hands" on the significance of touch, with examples from scripture and current practice showing the intent and meaning of "laying on of hands" for healing, strength, or validation of leadership. "Resurrection of the Dead" enlarges the concept of resurrection beyond the Easter morning understanding.

Recommended for church libraries in the "Spirit-filled" tradition, as well as for readers desiring a deeper understanding of faith traditions beyond their own.

—Carolyn Egolf



### **Birthing God: Women's Experiences of the Divine**

Lana Dalberg. Skylight Paths, 2013. 290p. \$18.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-59473-480-9. Available as an ebook. [www.skylightpaths.com](http://www.skylightpaths.com) 204.092'52 Experience (Religion) in women. Women—Religious life.

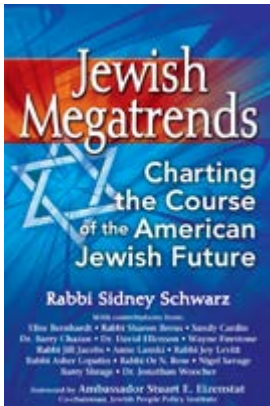
Feminine spirituality entails opening one's mind to the range of women's experiences in their relationship to the Divine—sometimes called, in Lana Dalberg's *Birthing God*, "Her." Dal-

berg considers the impact of that relationship on women and on the wider world. She weaves themes of birthing, community, personal strength, feminine images, Spirit, and the Divine throughout her book.

In three parts, "Divine Love and Love of Self," "Divine Connection," and "Divine Change," Dalberg tells the stories of various women she has interviewed. She often includes advice for younger women. Concluding each story are questions for personal or group study, and suggestions for practical activities, such as deep breathing, walking, or reading.

Dalberg also provides guided meditations and visualizations, notes, suggested blogs and other resources, and a list of the interview subjects' retreat centers, congregations, and ministries.

Readers can expect to be stretched by the variety and intensity of women's experiences from around the world, by ways women connect with the Divine, and by the strength found in acceptance and unity. Because the many faith perspectives and practices described may challenge some readers, this book is recommended specifically for readers interested in feminine spirituality, rather than for general readership in congregations. —*Carolyn Egolf*



### Jewish Megatrends: Charting the Course of the American Jewish Future

Sidney Schwarz. Jewish Lights, 2013. 256p. \$24.99, hardcover. ISBN: 978-1-58023-667-6. Available as an ebook. www.jewishlights.com 296.0973'090501 Judaism—United States—History—21st century. Jews—United States—Identity. Young adults—United States—Attitudes.

The backbone of this book is a provocative essay by Rabbi Sidney Schwartz in which he envisions a way forward for the

American Jewish community. Schwartz adopts a philosophical stance and suggests that the contemporary Jewish community consists of two types of people: tribal Jews who are "highly particularistic and focused on Jewish group survival" and covenantal Jews who are "more universalistic, seeing Judaism as a legacy of values that could be applied in many settings beyond the Jewish community." He proposes that both groups might find common ground in programs designed for seekers of wisdom (*chochma*), seekers of justice (*tzedek*), seekers of community (*kehillah*), and seekers of lives of sacred purpose (*kedushah*).

A distinguished selection of Jewish scholars and activists, representing a broad range of Jewish approaches, responds to Schwartz's essay. Some responses look to the past for guidance; the best ones look forward. They provide many examples of programs and strategies that work in their particular realms. They remind us, particularly in the wake of recent demographic reports, that there are many engaging initiatives available that are promoting a vibrant Jewish life. There is reason for concern, but much to be hopeful about as well.

Recommended with the hope that it will prompt communal discussion and more innovation. —*Rabbi Louis A. Rieser*

### Blessed: A History of the American Prosperity Gospel

Kate Bowler. Oxford University Press, 2013. 337p. \$34.95, hardcover. ISBN: 978-0-19-982769-5. Available as an ebook. www.oup.com 277.3'083 Faith movement (Hagin)—United States. United States—Church history—19th century. United States—Church history—20th century. United States—Church history—21st century.

Does the presence of money, good health, and good fortune in a person's life indicate divine favor? Kate Bowler, a professor at Duke Divinity School, writes in *Blessed* that millions of American Christians believe so. Bowler writes that prosperity gospel emphasizes rugged self-reliance, an individual's responsibility for his or her own fate, and the inevitable triumph of character over the socialist state and big government.

Bowler's analysis of the movement, part of the evangelical and Pentecostal wings of Protestantism, goes beyond the controversial figures of Oral Roberts, Creflo Dollar, and Joel Osteen to ask why so many Americans, black and white, subscribe to a movement that others characterize as exploitive and hypocritical.

Bowler begins with the origins of the prosperity gospel in the nineteenth century, an era that produced many offshoots of traditional Christianity, and continues with her examination of the media-savvy Christian Conservative movement after World War II.

Chapters on the nineteenth century seem crammed with characters and movements deserving a larger treatment. Bowler's look at the congregation at a contemporary mid-sized North Carolina church is sympathetic and enlightening.

This book is not easy to read and is not for everyone, but it is worthy of consideration. Illustrated with photographs, *Blessed* includes notes and a lengthy bibliography. —*Forrest Rice*

## FAMILY LIFE

### How to Care for Aging Parents. 3rd ed.

Virginia Morris. Workman, 2014. 671p. \$18.95, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-7611-6676-4. Available as an ebook. www.workman.com 306.874084'6 Aging parents—Family relationships—Handbooks, manuals, etc. Aging parents—Care—Handbooks, manuals, etc.

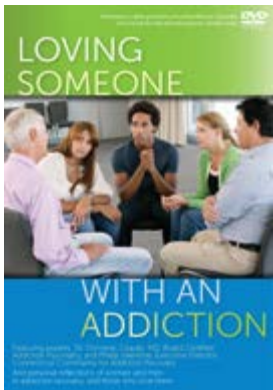
The new edition of *How to Care for Aging Parents* is an invaluable resource for anyone facing the challenge of caring for an elderly loved one. This well-organized compendium, first published in 1996 and now thoroughly updated, addresses the many tasks, concerns, and rewards that come with eldercare.

Morris's book is comprehensive and easy to navigate, with clearly identified subject headings, easy-to-follow tabular information, and helpful boxed extras. Morris provides thorough coverage of such topics as parent-child role reversal, working with (or without) siblings,

spiritual dimensions of aging and caregiving, safely “aging in place,” community services and hired help, medical matters, finances, paperwork, senior housing and care facilities, fraud and abuse of the elderly, the aging brain and dementia, the approach of death, and end-of-life decisions. Final chapters address grief, the surviving parent, and how middle-aged caregivers can plan wisely for their own old age.

End matter includes, in addition to an index, “Useful Organizations,” with web addresses, telephone numbers, and brief descriptive statements about each entry, and a “Caregiver’s Organizer,” with templates for checklists, logs, and other helpful records.

This volume provides generous amounts of practical information and needed encouragement for people who want the best for their aging parents. A superb resource for congregations. —*Monica Tenney*



### Loving Someone with an Addiction (DVD)

Paraclete, 2013. 55 minutes. \$59.95, DVD. ISBN: 978-1-61261-420-5. www.paracletepress.com 613.8 Addictions.

This DVD from Paraclete offers compassionate guidance to anyone with a loved one who is addicted to alcohol or drugs. *Loving Someone with an Addiction* imparts a clear understanding

that addiction is a chronic disease affecting brain function. The disease is so powerful that it makes people do things they would not otherwise do; lying, stealing, and other deceptive behaviors are hallmarks of the disease.

The video introduces concepts associated with addiction: denial, shame, enabling, detaching, grief, fear, and hopelessness. Addiction experts provide information and advice, and family members of addicts reflect on their experiences. Christian novelist Terri Blackstone and her husband speak eloquently about the lessons learned from their daughter’s addiction. Viewers hear from other families, too, as well as addicts in recovery.

The DVD identifies resources and emphasizes the need

for support. Families are assured that they cannot break their loved one’s addiction; only the addict can. They are reminded of the need to continue praying for the addicted family member. Families will find reassurance that they are not alone—that many others face similar circumstances, and that God is with them, too.

Highly recommended for congregational libraries. —*Monica Tenney*

### Talking about Intimacy & Sexuality: A Guide for Orthodox Jewish Parents

Yocheved Debow. Orthodox Union, 2012. Distributed by KTAV. 342p. \$26.95, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-60280-220-9. www.ktav.com 296.7’4 Sex—Religious aspects—Judaism. Sex instruction—Religious aspects—Judaism. Orthodox Judaism.

Sexuality, the sense of self as a sexual being, is basic to everyone. The ways in which people express their sexuality is shaped by the culture in which they live. When people find themselves between two cultures, these issues, which are always complicated, become even more complex. This book, addressing the particular needs of the Orthodox Jewish community, does a masterful job of examining the needs of young people and their parents’ obligation to guide them in accordance with the teachings of their culture.

Yocheved Debow brings an amazing amount of material together in a way that makes it accessible. She considers each topic in turn, beginning with early childhood. In each instance she surveys the attitudes and standards in the general culture and presents the views of Orthodox Judaism as a counterculture. She defines terms that may be unfamiliar to some parents and provides model conversations to help parents start dialogues. Debow counsels parents to first be clear and honest about their own feelings. She does not shy away from difficult issues such as homosexuality.

Debow holds a doctorate from Bar Ilan University in Israel. While her book is specific to the Orthodox Jewish community, this thorough, straightforward presentation will benefit all parents and educators. It is an excellent book, highly recommended. —*Rabbi Louis A. Rieser*

## THIS ISSUE’S REVIEWERS

**BEVERLY M. BIXLER**

*First Presbyterian Church*  
Ashland, Ohio

**CAROLYN EGOLF**

*Lincolnshire Church of the Brethren*  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

**MARY LOU HENNEMAN**

*Boardman United Methodist Church*  
Boardman, Ohio

**EVELYN POCKRASS**

*Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation*  
Indianapolis, Indiana

**RABBI LOUIS A. REISER**

Boynton Beach, Florida

**FORREST RICE**

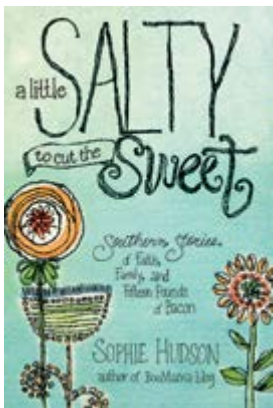
*Community United Methodist Church*  
Naperville, Illinois

**MONICA TENNEY,**  
**MEDIA REVIEW EDITOR**

*Maple Grove United Methodist Church*  
Columbus, Ohio

**VIRGINIA WEBB**

*Church of the Good Samaritan*  
Paoli, Pennsylvania



### A Little Salty to Cut the Sweet: Southern Stories of Faith, Family, and Fifteen Pounds of Bacon

Sophie Hudson. Tyndale House, 2013. 205p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-4143-7566-3. Available as an ebook. www.tyndale.com [B] Families—Mississippi—Anecdotes. Southern states—Biography—Anecdotes. Southern states—Social life and customs—Anecdotes. Christian life—Mississippi—Anecdotes. Mississippi—Social life and customs—Anecdotes. Mississippi—Biography—Anecdotes. Hudson, Sophie—Anecdotes.

Sophie Hudson grew up in a small town in Mississippi. In *A Little Salty to Cut the Sweet*, she collects favorite stories of her endearingly amusing family. The culture is distinctly southern; the appeal is universal.

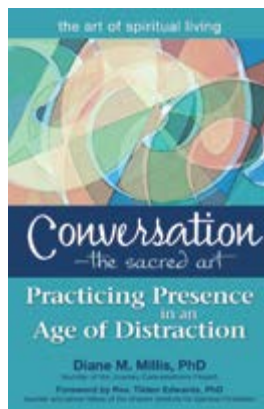
Hudson's family attends the Methodist church, but there are plenty of dealings with Baptists and others. Preparing and serving food is an expression of love, and the love is freely shared around the family dining room table, at a picnic table at a Mississippi fish camp, or at a game-day tailgate. The book ends with recipes.

Readers get to know grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and more. Hudson's Uncle Joe, whose mind (but not heart) is being overtaken by Alzheimer's, provides his family with new occasions for frustration and for grace. Hudson's mother-in-law, Martha, is a proper, set-in-her-ways Southern lady who somehow comes up with the best punch lines.

Hudson's asides are often as good as the scenes she describes. Infused with unshakeable faith, keen awareness of her blessings, and appreciation of the idiosyncrasies of her loved ones, Hudson's book will give readers good laughs and, perhaps, renewed recognition of their own family blessings. Highly recommended.

Hudson now lives in Birmingham, Alabama. Her blog is *BooMama.net*. —Monica Tenney

## LIVING IN FAITH



### Conversation—the Sacred Art: Practicing Presence in an Age of Distraction

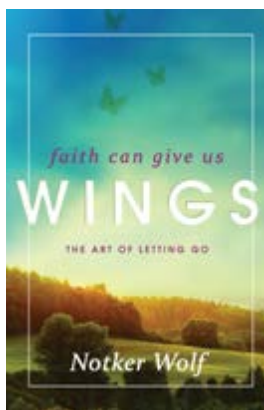
Diane M. Millis. Skylight Paths, 2013. 154p. \$16.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-59473-474-8. Available as an ebook. www.skylightpaths.com 205'672 Conversation—Religious aspects. Communication—Religious aspects. Awareness—Religious aspects. Attention—Religious aspects. Distraction (Psychology)—Religious aspects. Listening—Religious aspects.

Diane M. Millis, founder of the Journey Conversations project

for educators and other leaders, challenges readers in her book's introduction to consider conversation a sacred art. Millis believes that all conversations, from the most ordinary to a carefully prepared dialogue, are potentially sacred.

Millis organizes her book into three parts: "What is the Sacred Art of Conversation?"; "Gateways for Conversation"; and "Practicing the Sacred Art of Conversation." Her premise is that there are three elements necessary for such communication. First, one must encounter the sacred in oneself by repeatedly asking, "What is sacred in my life?" The second necessary element is encountering the sacred in one's participating partner, and the third is identifying the sacred between the participants. Millis emphasizes three aspects of conversation—attention, listening, and silence—throughout the book. In each chapter and the three appendixes, she gives exercises and other helps for cultivating the ability to have sacred conversations.

Millis has her doctorate in family studies and has trained in spiritual direction and interfaith dialogue. —Beverly M. Bixler



### Faith Can Give Us Wings: The Art of Letting Go

Wolf Notker. Translated from the German by Mark S. Burrows and Ute S. Moltor. Paraclete, 2013. 202p. \$15.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-61261-303-1. Available as an ebook. www.paracletepress.com 231.042 Trust in God—Christianity. Christian life—Catholic authors.

Having been asked repeatedly, "Why do you look so happy?," Father Notker Wolf decided to search for the answer. The Benedictine

monk relates his findings in *Faith Can Give Us Wings: The Art of Letting Go*. In his introductory chapter, Wolf wonders if it will surprise readers that even though his life as a monk is bound by a set of strict rules, he "feels free." He continues, "Perhaps you're even more surprised to hear me suggest that many of my

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

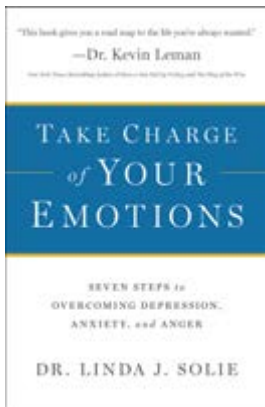
Bill Doole, edited by Jeri Zulli. A carefully thought out process for choosing a library software program for your particular library. Three easy steps for any size library: I. Decide what you want your system to do – just catalog, or have public access to the catalog, and/or track of keep circulation, etc. II. Research the various software packages. III. Create a plan of action. 20 pp. \$12/\$14 +postage.

GUIDES

experiences resemble your own. This is why I want to talk about them."

Wolf divides his presentation into four parts and discusses why we need faith, how it works, our life with God, and how faith gives us wings and sets us free. Wolf writes that faith is not an accomplishment to be recognized; it is what gives our lives beauty and meaning.

The reader of *Faith Can Give Us Wings* need not be a Catholic to appreciate the author's down-to-earth precepts presented in easy-to-read style. —*Beverly M. Bixler*



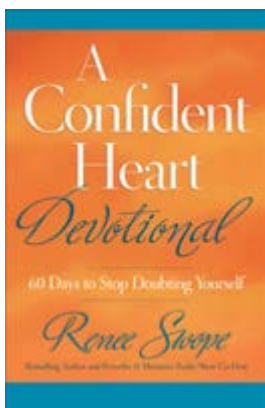
**Take Charge of Your Emotions: Seven Steps to Overcoming Depression, Anxiety, and Anger**

Linda J. Solie. Bethany House (Baker), 2013. 264p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-7642-1113-3. www.bethanyhouse.com 152.4 Emotions—Religious aspects—Christianity. Depression, Mental—Religious aspects—Christianity. Anxiety—Religious aspects—Christianity.

In *Take Charge of Your Emotions*, Linda J. Solie acknowledges that everyone faces emotional

challenges at some time in life. She believes that all people can benefit from learning or improving the management of emotions through the process she describes. She is primarily concerned, however, with individuals who have severe problems with depression, anger, and anxiety. She explains in great detail seven steps to controlling those emotions.

Solie's nearly three decades as a licensed psychologist have shown her that people can achieve control of emotions by focusing on relationships: relationships between thoughts, feelings, and behaviors; their relationship with Christ; and relationships with other people. Solie employs many examples from her experience with clients to illustrate the effectiveness of the seven steps she suggests. Several helpful appendixes related to the steps conclude her well-annotated book. —*Beverly M. Bixler*



**A Confident Heart Devotional: 60 Days to Stop Doubting Yourself**

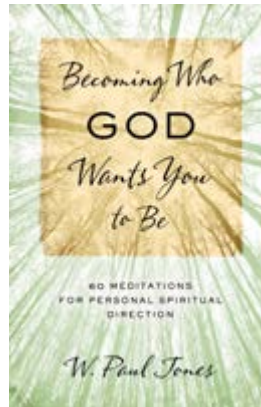
Renee Swope. Revell (an imprint of Baker), 2013. 213p. \$12.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8007-2243-2. Available as an ebook. www.revellbooks.com 242 Confidence—Religious aspects—Christianity—Meditations.

In *A Confident Heart Devotional*, author and Christian radio show co-host Renee Swope has written sixty brief meditations. Her purpose, as noted in the

subtitle, is to give the reader sixty days to become free of self-doubt. Swope describes her own and others'

experiences in each piece. Although the reader may not relate to each and every doubt, insecurity, and fear that have afflicted Swope, the account of her successful battles is interesting. She ends each chapter with a heartfelt prayer.

An appendix titled "When You Say, God Says" lists the conclusions of all sixty chapters in tabular format, presenting what God promises in response to specific doubts and fears. For example, "When I Say: I feel ugly and unwanted," "God Says: "You are My beloved," and gives the powerful promise that "You are precious and honored in my sight, and . . . I love you" (Isaiah 43:4, NIV). —*Beverly M. Bixler*



**Becoming Who God Wants You to Be: 60 Meditations for Personal Spiritual Direction**

W. Paul Jones. Upper Room, 2013. 144p. \$14.00, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8358-1324-2. Available as an ebook. www.upperroom.org 253 Spiritual direction—Christianity. Christian life.

W. Paul Jones, a former United Methodist clergyman, has taught at Yale, Princeton, and the Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City. He is now a Roman Catholic priest and director of

the Hermitage Spiritual Retreat Center in Missouri. With this background providing him with the expertise to serve as a spiritual director, he has written *Becoming Who God Wants You to Be* for people looking for the guidance a spiritual director can provide.

Jones intends his book specifically for individuals who would like spiritual direction but do not have access to a spiritual director and are unsure how to begin such a process. Just a few of the topics Jones covers in his brief meditations are accountability, bragging, envy, faith, forgiveness, humility, prayer, rejection, and ordinariness. The variety of topics, Jones's down-to-earth approach to them, and his searching questions at the end of each meditation make *Becoming Who God Wants You to Be* a valuable devotional resource. —*Beverly M. Bixler*

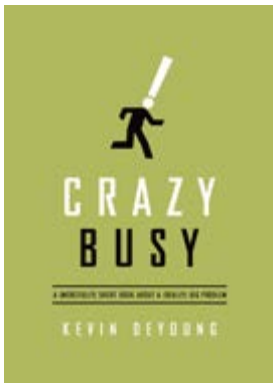
**Planning a Congregational Archives Center**

Curtis D. Howard, PhD. 2011. This is a great

reference book on processing, preserving, and storing your archives and how to exhibit them. It offers tips on what to include in your archives and discusses their importance to your congregation. \$12/ \$14.00 +postage.



GUIDES



### **Crazy Busy: A (Mercifully) Short Book about a (Really) Big Problem**

Kevin DeYoung. Crossway, 2013. 124p. \$11.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-4335-3338-9. Available as an ebook or audiobook. [www.crossway.org](http://www.crossway.org) 650.1'1 Time management—Religious aspects—Christianity.

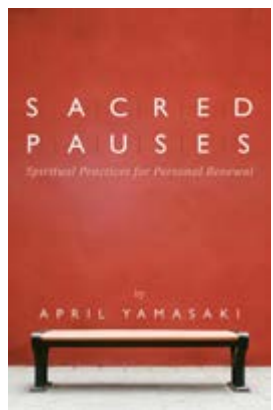
Kevin DeYoung's *Crazy Busy* is not a manual of ten exercises that will magically turn your life into a sea of tranquility.

DeYoung, pastor at University

Reformed Church in East Lansing, Michigan, admits at the outset that his own life is too hectic. He knows how easy it is to let all the busyness overwhelm us—his own mix of activities, obligations, and connections has taught him that. Out of this endless busyness he identifies three dangers to avoid, seven diagnoses, and “The One Thing You Must Do” to get both your personal and spiritual priorities in order.

Young Christians who are just starting in work life as well as more mature adults will be able to relate to his examples. Biblical support and time management techniques are interwoven to help readers find direction and focus in their crazy-busy lives.

DeYoung has authored several books; two have won awards from *Christianity Today* magazine. —Mary Lou Henneman



### **Sacred Pauses: Spiritual Practices for Personal Renewal**

April Yamasaki. Herald, 2013. 189p. \$16.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8361-9685-6. Available as an ebook. [www.heraldpress.com](http://www.heraldpress.com) 248 Spiritual life—Christianity. Christian life.

People of faith need to take time to nurture their own spirituality. Why wait for a weekend or vacation to shed weariness or tensions? April Yamasaki urges readers to take time out every day to be refreshed by God and

live a renewed life. Yamasaki, a Mennonite pastor in British Columbia, offers easy and simple ways to do just this in *Sacred Pauses: Spiritual Practices for Personal Renewal*. Each of the eighteen chapters of *Sacred Pauses* focuses on a different spiritual practice. Readers can select from chapters such as “Becoming Quiet,” “Engaging Scripture,” “Making Music,” and “Slowing Down.” Included are stories, real life examples, personal reflections, and scriptural references.

Recommended for personal use or for group study, *Sacred Pauses* will also be a useful tool for counseling or pastoral care. Yamasaki's blog, *On Faith & Writing*, is at [aprilymasaki.com](http://aprilymasaki.com). —Virginia Webb



### **Pilgrimage: My Journey to a Deeper Faith in the Land Where Jesus Walked**

Lynn Austin. Bethany House (an imprint of Baker), 2013. 238p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-7642-1118-8. Available as an ebook. [www.bethanyhouse.com](http://www.bethanyhouse.com) 263.0425694 Israel. Austin, Lynn N.—Travel—Israel.

Readers of Lynn Austin's novels will enjoy her nonfiction book *Pilgrimage: My Journey to a Deeper Faith in the Land Where Jesus Walked*, an account of her

trip to the Holy Land. Throughout her book, Austin skillfully combines scripture with detailed descriptions of the land and various sites with the emotions and attitudes evoked by what she sees.

At the time Austin traveled to Israel, she was experiencing a period of considerable personal change and disappointment. She candidly shares thoughts about her problems. As a result of her trip, she writes in one of her concluding paragraphs: “Change will be good for me, not something to fear. It will strip away my self-sufficiency and self-reliance and force me to lean on God, to pray more, to trust Him, and to walk in faith with the One who invented change.” Austin ends each chapter with a beautiful and original prayer. —Beverly M. Bixler



### **Green Leaves for Later Years: The Spiritual Path of Wisdom**

Emilie Griffin. Intervarsity, 2012. 180p. \$15.00, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8308-3565-2. Available as an ebook. [www.intervarsity.com](http://www.intervarsity.com) 248.8'5 Aging—Religious aspects—Christianity. Older Christians—Religious life.

How Christian faith forms us, especially in later life, is the theme of *Green Leaves for Later Years*. Emilie Griffin writes from personal experience and a wide scope of knowledge, sharing

wisdom born of pleasures, pain, study, challenge, and change. Each of nine chapters begins with a scripture or other quotation (or both), focuses on an aspect of aging, and concludes with reflections, questions, and a prayer. Griffin's tone is positive yet realistic. Chapters entitled “The Sustaining Grace of Friends,” and “Grief, Loss, Anger” illustrate the balance.

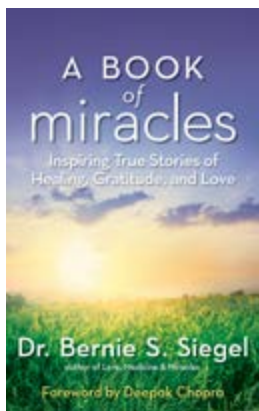
Quotations and poetry enrich the text, and Griffin's knowledge of art, poetry, and history bring wisdom not only from the Bible but also from St. John of the Cross, Peter Drucker, Nelson Mandela, and others.

In the appendix, “Writing Your Spiritual Autobiography,” Griffin shares her own, prompting readers to reflect on their own spiritual journeys. From Saint Benedict comes a potential summary in which he suggests that the later years are a time “to place all we have personally done

before the mercy and tenderness of God.”

The section titled “Books on Later Years” lists resources and offers brief descriptions.

Recommended for church libraries, senior centers, and as a resource for clergy and others who minister to older adults. —Carolyn Egolf



### **A Book of Miracles: Inspiring True Stories of Healing, Gratitude, and Love**

Bernie S. Siegel. New World Library, 2011. 294p. \$19.95, hardcover. ISBN: 978-1-57731-968-9. www.newworldlibrary.com 212 Miracles. Love.

In *A Book of Miracles: Inspiring True Stories of Healing, Gratitude, and Love*, Dr. Bernie S. Siegel offers some of his favorite miracle stories collected over decades of medical practice. Some of the people whose stories he shares

have been his patients or have consulted him for advice. Their stories, along with quotes, anecdotes, and Siegel’s reflections, are amazing.

Siegel divides the stories into fifteen short chapters with such titles as “Animal Inspiration,” “Dreams and Symbols,” “Everyday Miracles,” and “Miracles from Beyond.” It is obvious that the doctor sees miracles in all aspects of life. Some readers may say that simple coincidence explains some of these outcomes, but Siegel believes that there are no coincidences.

The importance of love in our lives and its relationship to miracles is a theme that runs throughout *A Book of Miracles*. Siegel opens and closes each chapter with a brief commentary on the theme and the people involved. —Beverly M. Bixler

## **FICTION & POETRY**



### **Vigilante**

Robin Parrish. Bethany House (an imprint of Baker), 2011. 363p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-7642-0608-5. Available as an ebook. www.bethanyhouse.com Fiction Corruption—Fiction. New York (N.Y.)—Fiction. Adventure stories.

*Vigilante* is set in a future society where corruption is everywhere and innocent people fear for their safety. Nolan Gray, a soldier who has earned an impeccable

reputation for courage and bravery, believes it is his calling to change the situation. By faking his own death and surrounding himself with a few faithful friends, Gray is able to travel around New York City anonymously, doing whatever he can to stop

corruption and restore hope.

Robin Parrish’s novel will remind readers of both comic book superheroes and the action movies of Bruce Willis. Christian suspense fans will appreciate the attention to the details of weapons created by Nolan’s support team. Also intriguing are the mysterious billboards attributed to “The Hand” that keep the focus on the hero’s main purpose.

*Vigilante* is a good choice for readers who enjoy action thrillers. —Mary Lou Henneman



### **Dangerous Passage: A Novel**

Lisa Harris. Revell (an imprint of Baker), 2013. 311p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8007-2190-9. Available as an ebook. www.revellbooks.com Fiction Women detectives—Fiction. Single mothers—Fiction. Murder—Investigation—Fiction. Atlanta (Ga.)—Fiction. Series: Southern Crimes

It seems that law enforcement is in control of Detective Avery North’s life. Her police officer husband was murdered in the line of duty, and now she

is raising her twelve-year-old daughter alone. Avery feels especially guilty about not being able to prevent her brother’s death, also at the hands of criminals. But other murders are occurring in Atlanta. Two Jane Does have been found, both Asian teenagers with a magnolia tattoo on their shoulders. Avery sets to work on the trail of a suspected serial killer. When she combines her skills as a behavioral specialist with those of Jackson Bryant, a medical examiner, their investigation leads them into the dark underworld of human trafficking. It is her faith in God that enables Avery to get her life in perspective and help save other victims of human trafficking.

Author Lisa Harris balances a fast-paced plot with the strong Christian beliefs of her main characters. *Dangerous Passage*, the first book in the Southern Crimes series, will appeal to fans of Christian romance and suspense. —Mary Lou Henneman



### **Love’s Awakening: A Novel**

Laura Frantz. Revell (an imprint of Baker), 2013. 410p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8007-2042-1. Available as an ebook. www.revellbooks.com Fiction Families—Pennsylvania—Fiction. Pittsburgh (Pa.)—History—19th century—Fiction. Abolition movement—Fiction. Series: The Ballantyne Legacy

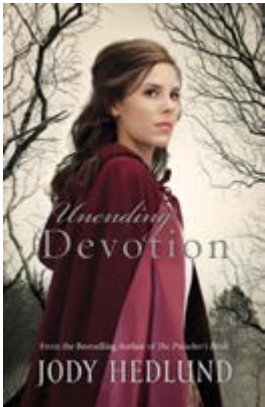
*Love’s Awakening* is the second volume in Laura Frantz’s Ballantyne Legacy series. The action takes place in Pittsburgh in the first quarter of the

nineteenth century. Pro- and anti-slavery forces are in strong opposition in the lives of the Ballantyne and



Turlock families. For years, the Turlocks, magnates of the whiskey business, have been jealous of the powerful Ballantynes. The ruthless Turlocks are slaveholders and suspect that their rivals have abolitionist sympathies. Complicating the situation is a developing romantic relationship between Ellie Ballantyne and Jack Turlock.

Jealousy, anger, and tragedy each have their part in *Love's Awakening*, but so do hope, faith, and love. Laura Frantz has created strength and credibility in her minor characters as well as in the protagonists. —*Beverly M. Bixler*



### Unending Devotion

Jody Hedlund. Bethany House (an imprint of Baker), 2012. 374p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-7642-0834-8. www.bethanyhouse.com Fiction Sisters—Michigan—Fiction. Lumber camps—Fiction. Corruption—Fiction. Michigan—History—19th century—Fiction. Series: Michigan Brides Collection.

Lily Young is a Christian who knows what is right and has the courage to stand up for her beliefs. She sometimes fails to consider, however, the risks that

are involved. It is the 1880s, and there are certain proprieties that God-fearing women must observe. In her quest to find her lost sister, Lily is able use her job as a photographer's assistant to travel through lumberjack camps under the protection of her boss and friend, Oren. The men they meet are concerned with only two things—working hard during the week and visiting the nearby saloons and brothels on the weekend.

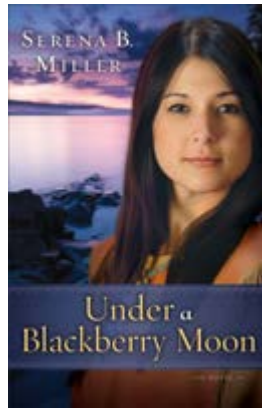
When the pair land in Harrison, Michigan, Lily meets Connell McCormick, whose family's wealth and position at the head of three camps has not turned him into an unsavory character like many others. In *Unending Devotion*, Jody Hedlund weaves a story of romance and intrigue while tackling topics such as corruption in the camps and the ill treatment of women, many of whom were tricked into working in brothels.

Fans of Christian historical romance will enjoy the fast-paced plot. —*Mary Lou Henneman*

## CSLA Promotional Kit

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GUIDES



### Under a Blackberry Moon: A Novel

Serena B. Miller. Revell (an imprint of Baker), 2013. 341p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8007-2118-3. Available as an ebook. www.revellbooks.com Fiction Ojibwa women—Fiction. Wilderness survival—Fiction. Wilderness areas—Michigan—Fiction. Upper Peninsula (Mich.)—History—19th century—Fiction. Love stories.

*Under a Blackberry Moon* is set in the post-Civil War Michigan wilderness, where white lumbermen and Native American tribes

clash. Moon Song, a young Chippewa widow, seeks shelter in a lumber camp with her newborn baby during a fierce winter storm. She is taken in by a woman of questionable morals and must care for her child in the midst of the town residents, who think she is far inferior to them. Moon Song longs to go back to her people.

Isaac Ross, known as Skypilot, is a minister-turned-lumberman. His former congregation rejected him after he preached against slavery. After saving Moon Song from an attack by a local lumberman, he agrees to help her go back to her tribe. It is during their travels that he learns more about his own prejudices. Skypilot learns to see Moon Song as an individual instead of a stereotype. Moon Song at first rejects the affection Skypilot develops for her. Readers will learn whether she eventually can accept Skypilot and his Christian faith.

Other issues raised in Serena Miller's novel are interracial marriage and marital abandonment. She tells an interesting story—one with numerous subplots—of survival in the wilderness. —*Mary Lou Henneman*



### Unbreakable

Nancy Mehl. Bethany House (an imprint of Baker), 2013. 330p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-7642-0928-4. Available as an ebook. www.bethanyhouse.com Fiction Kansas—Fiction. Menonites—Fiction. Violent crimes—Fiction. Nonviolence—Fiction. Ambivalence—Fiction. Series: Road to Kingdom

Life seems to be perfect for Hope Kauffman, a twenty-something Mennonite girl who lives with her father and follows the traditions of their faith. Engaged

to Ebenezer, one of the elders in the church, Hope is happy running her father's quilt store in the small town of Kingdom. She has never had the desire to leave her hometown.

However, a number of attacks against Christians have been reported in the area. Hope becomes a victim when someone in a dented red truck forces her buggy to overturn. Jonathon Wiese, a newcomer to Kingdom, rescues Hope from the attack.

Controversy arises over how the townspeople should protect themselves. The traditional Mennonites, who believe in nonviolence, are at odds with the town's younger residents who feel they should be able to use force to defend themselves and their property. As tensions rise and the violence escalates, Hope is torn between following the traditional ways of her father and listening to Jonathon.

In this second installment of the Road to Kingdom series, Nancy Mehl has written a thrilling story of suspense and romance. Readers will enjoy reading the books in sequence, beginning with *Inescapable* (2012) and following with this title and the third, *Unforeseeable* (2013). —Mary Lou Henneman



### Grace's Pictures

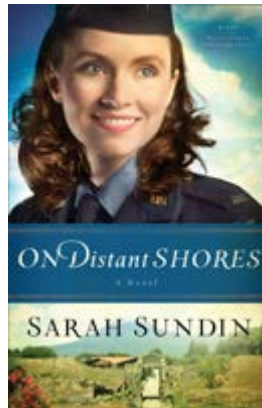
Cindy Thomson. Tyndale House, 2013. 396p. \$12.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-4143-6843-6. Available as an ebook. www.tyndale.com Fiction Young women—New York (State)—New York—Fiction. Irish—New York (State)—New York—Fiction. Nannies—Fiction. Self-realization in women—Fiction. Series: Ellis Island.

With *Grace's Pictures* Cindy Thomson begins her Ellis Island series, which will follow the lives of immigrants who begin a new life in America. In this first installment,

Grace McCaffery arrives in New York from Ireland in December 1900. When Grace disembarks at Ellis Island, a photographer takes her picture. Grace is intimidated but also fascinated. Thomson writes in an author's note that "at the turn of the twentieth century amateur photographers taking pictures on the street was an alarming novelty."

Staying in a charity-run boarding house, Grace secures a job as a nanny with the intent of earning enough money to bring her mother to America. Her fascination with photography leads her to buy a Brownie camera. Taking pictures at random puts her safety at risk.

Owen McNulty, a policeman who is a Christian and who is also Irish, is attracted to Grace and watches out for her. However, Grace's intense dislike of her stepfather, a policeman in Ireland who evicts people from their homes and takes them to the workhouse, prevents her at first from trusting Owen. Eventually, Owen is responsible for eliminating problems Grace's pictures cause. Grace's attitude about many things, including Owen, changes. —Beverly M. Bixler



### On Distant Shores: A Novel

Sarah Sundin. Revell (an imprint of Baker), 2013. 426p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8007-2082-7. www.revellbooks.com Fiction Letter writing—Fiction. Friendship—Fiction. World War, 1939-1945—Fiction. Series: Wings of the Nightingale

Lt. Georgiana Taylor and Sgt. John Hutchinson are probably the two most unlikely people to find romance together during World War II. "Georgie" is a flight nurse who has

difficulties taking the lead role in dangerous situations. "Hutch" is a noncommissioned officer who longs for acknowledgement of his skills as a pharmacist. Both plan to marry someone waiting back home after their tours of duty in Africa and Italy. Neither should be fraternizing with the other because of their differences in rank. What draws the two of them together? They each face personal and professional challenges; can they trust in God that all will be well?

Author Sarah Sundin has done her research and made this an exciting historical romance with plenty of action. Readers will be satisfied to see that when Georgie and Hutch focus on helping others, they are living their faith.

This is an excellent selection for Christian book clubs. —Mary Lou Henneman

### Holy Luck

Eugene H. Peterson. Eerdmans, 2013. 84p. \$12.00, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8028-7099-5. Available as an ebook. www.eerdmans.com 811:54 Christian poetry, American.

The verses in *Holy Luck* are rich in vocabulary, in word pictures, and in the wisdom Eugene H. Peterson has gleaned from years of ministry and life experience. In his introduction, Peterson tells of his early and lifelong fascination with words. His sermons preached, classes taught, and books published (including *The Message*) attest to this fascination.

A scan of *Holy Luck* suggests it could be a quick and easy read. No so, as even seasoned readers may find unfamiliar words, and each additional reading of any entry brings new meanings. Grouped into three sections, "Holy Luck," "Rustling Grass," and "Smooth Stones (Occasional Poems)," most of the poems have one-word titles. In the first two sections, each poem opens with a verse of scripture.

The first section focuses on the Beatitudes, substituting "lucky" for the traditional "blessed" or "happy." Peterson addresses assorted themes in the second section, with "Greetings," "Stamps," and "Meditation" focusing on words for the connections, life markers, and memories they prompt. The final section is based on David's five smooth stones. References to places, events, and persons assume more than a passing acquaintance with the scripture.

Recommended for church libraries. —Carolyn Egolf

## Eyes Wide Open

Ted Dekker. Worthy, 2014. 277p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-61795-273-9. Available as an ebook or audiobook. [www.worthypublishing.com](http://www.worthypublishing.com) Fiction Teenage girls—Fiction. Identity (Psychology)—Fiction.

"I'm in my grave, and I know I'm going to die here . . . I saw the coffins. I saw them, and now I'm in one, buried under tons of concrete . . . How did this happen to me?" Christy Snow is only seventeen years old, but her life is far from normal. Who is Austin Hartt? Is he really Christy's friend, and will he be able to save her?

*Eyes Wide Open* collects the first four episodes ("Identity," "Mirrors," "Unseen," and "Seer") in the new Outlaw Chronicles series. The plot makes for an excellent thriller, but Ted Dekker goes further, taking readers deep into the realm of psychological suspense. Readers run with the characters through a maze of reality and illusion, and the journey provides good topics for discussion. This is the perfect book for Christian fiction fans who want to examine ethics and morality from different perspectives. It is difficult not to tell more about this book's plot and characters without spoiling the thrill of this fantastic novel. —*Mary Lou Henneman*

## Pity the Beautiful: Poems


Dana Gioia. Graywolf, 2012. 73p. \$15.00, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-55597-613-2. [www.graywolfpress.org](http://www.graywolfpress.org) 811.54 American poetry.

Dana Gioia is a contemporary American poet, a former businessman, and former chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. One of his poetry collections, *Interrogations at Noon* (Graywolf, 2001), won the National Book Award.

Despite Gioia's worldly success, his poetry often centers on the difficult and complex choices people must make in discerning a career, a love interest, and a choice of community.

In the brief poems in *Pity the Beautiful*, Gioia explores the "what-ifs" involved in every day living. What if, for example, I had attended college in Michigan rather than in Texas? What if I had never stepped onto a balcony at a dull faculty meeting and never met her? Am I the master of my fate or a pawn in a cosmic game of chess?

Though religious themes are present in much of his work, Gioia's poems do not center on Bible stories or theology. This is an excellent book for adult and teenaged lovers of poetry. —*Forrest Rice*

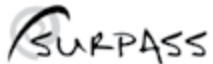


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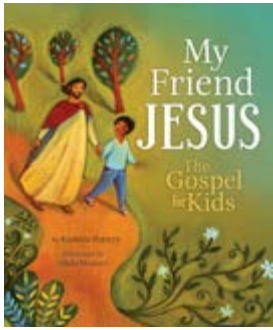
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CLICK: FREE *Church Library Automation* guide



## FOR CHILDREN

### My Friend Jesus: The Gospel for Kids

Kathryn Slattery. Illustrated by Alida Massari. Tommy Nelson (an imprint of Thomas Nelson), 2013. 32p. \$12.99, hardcover. ISBN: 978-1-4003-2267-1. www.thomasnelson.com 232 Jesus Christ—Juvenile literature. Bible stories, English—N.T. Gospels.

In a note to grown-ups, Kathryn Slattery explains that she wrote her book in response to questions her daughter and son asked about God and Jesus. She wanted to tell the good news about Jesus to children in a concise, easy-to-understand way, one that encourages them to see the Savior as their loving friend. Slattery, a contributing editor for *Guideposts* magazine, has accomplished this in *My Friend Jesus*.

Originally published in 1989 as *The Gospel for Kids* (and praised at the time by Madeleine L'Engle and Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, among others), this new version features a freshened text and richly colored illustrations by Alida Massari.

Slattery takes young readers from the Nativity to the Ascension, explaining Jesus as God's son, sent to show us God's love. She shows that Jesus is an all-forgiving friend whom children can talk with whenever they feel sad, happy, lonely, or scared, and who will love them no matter what.

In *My Friend Jesus*, Slattery makes a point to show young ones the special love Jesus has for children. Recommended for elementary-aged readers. —*Monica Tenney*



### Two Little Birds

Mary Newell DePalma. Eerdmans, 2014. 34p. \$16.00, hardcover. ISBN: 978-0-8028-5421-6. www.eerdmans.com [E] Birds—Migration—Juvenile fiction.

Mary Newell DePalma's latest offering presents the marvel of two tiny birds as they hatch from their eggs, discover the world around them, and do "what little birds do." DePalma's illustrations, rendered in mixed media collage, tenderly depict the tiny

creatures as they get their bearings, then join in the long migratory flight with others of their kind.

A note from DePalma explains that she bases her story on the long annual migration of orchard orioles between the northeastern United States and Central America.

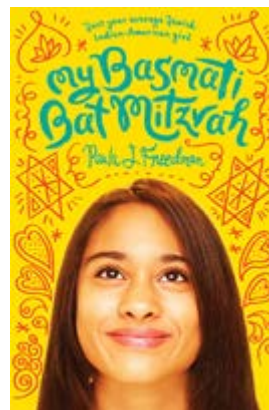
The fortitude of these young birds will amaze young ones and help them appreciate the miracle of the God's creation. For ages 4-8. —*Monica Tenney*

### Angels for Kids

Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle. Paraclete, 2013. 74p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-61261-408-3. Available as an ebook. 235:3 Angels—Catholic Church.

Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle's *Angels for Kids* introduces these spiritual guardians and friends to children of mid-to-upper elementary grade level and above. O'Boyle presents in a friendly, easy-to-read fashion the nature of angels, their hierarchy, and their role in peoples' lives. She gives examples of angels' appearances in the Bible and addresses common questions of young people (and their elders), including what angels look like, why there are fallen angels, what an archangel is, and how each person has his or her own guardian angel. O'Boyle ends her book with a chapter that explains angel feast days and provides a collection of special prayers to angels.

*Angels for Kids* is an excellent primer on Roman Catholic teachings regarding angels. Illustrated with delicate black-and-white drawings. —*Monica Tenney*



### My Basmati Bat Mitzvah

Paula J. Freedman. Amulet (an imprint of Abrams), 2013. 236p. \$16.95, hardcover. ISBN: 978-1-4197-0806-0. Available as an ebook. www.amuletbooks.com Fiction Bat mitzvah—Fiction. Judaism—Fiction. Jews—United States—Fiction. East Indian Americans—Fiction.

In her debut novel, Paula J. Freedman creates a warm and loving heroine, Tara Feinstein, an American girl of Jewish and Indian descent who is preparing for her bat mitzvah. Tara has

visited India and feels close to both of her cultural and ethnic heritages. She loves her Indian and Jewish relatives. Like many young people, Tara struggles with peer pressure, schoolwork, family issues, and identity, as well as with her mixed racial background. Tara is an earnest twelve-year-old who asks meaningful questions and cares about others.

The year leading up to her bat mitzvah is eventful and helps Tara think about what is important in life. She questions the rabbi about God and faith. She wonders whether she really wants to be a bat mitzvah and whether she can combine the disparate aspects of her roots. The dialogue is realistic and the characterizations seem authentic.

References to ethnic foods are plentiful. A glossary defines, in Tara's unique parlance, selected English, Hindi, Hebrew, and Yiddish terms. *Desi-mishpoch*, for example, is a term for a family that is a bit Indian and Jewish. And readers learn that the song "Billie Jean" has been played at every Indian celebration Tara has attended!

Highly recommended for multicultural collections for ages 10-14. —*Evelyn Pockrass*

## Joyce L. White remembered

*CSLA members mourn loss of one of its founders*

Joyce L. White, a founding member of CSLA, died in Denver, Colorado, on May 10, 2013, at the age of 84.

Joyce's work with congregational libraries dates back to the early sixties when she directed a series of annual workshops for church librarians sponsored by Drexel University's library school. Seeing the need for an association focused directly upon these special libraries, Joyce, with eleven other dedicated librarians, met in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, in 1967 to found the Church and Synagogue Library Association. Joyce directed its second annual conference in Washington, DC, and served as its third president from 1969-1970. By her first stint as president, CSLA had grown from the original twelve to three hundred members residing in forty out of the fifty states. While still in Pennsylvania, she also founded the Delaware Valley Chapter.

Over the following years Joyce served in various capacities on the CLSA board, led workshops, published articles and CSLA guides, and wrote the entry for church libraries that appeared in the Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science. She worked tirelessly to improve and promote our organization.



Joyce White, left, with friends following a CSLA conference

Joyce's deep faith and interest in supporting her denomination's religious education led her to obtain a Master of Arts in Religion from the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas, in 1978. While in Texas, Joyce established the Wessendorff Ranch Religious Conference and Retreat Center's library.

Shortly afterward Joyce moved to Salina, Kansas, and a few years after that to Denver, Colorado. She continued to serve as both an academic and a local church librarian and to promote CSLA in both locations. In fact, shortly after moving to Colorado she founded Denver's Mile High Chapter.

Joyce left behind two beloved cats, many wonderful friends, and a vital, growing organization that serves the interests and needs of congregational libraries throughout North America. Joyce will be greatly missed, but her legacy lives on in every aspect of our association.—*Austin Turney*

**CSLA Virtual Chapter** In 2010, the CSLA Virtual Chapter was created to provide an outlet for members who are not located near a chapter—and for anyone who wants to network with others, give and get advice on working in congregational libraries, brainstorm new ideas, learn about new developments in the library world, solve problems and encourage creativity, all in a flexible and accommodating online environment. What could be easier? Contact Marcia Trauenicht ([marciatmail@gmail.com](mailto:marciatmail@gmail.com)) for more information.



## Volunteers needed for board slots; Exciting workshops planned for conference

BY JUDY JANZEN, *Administrator*

Spring has finally arrived and I am sure we all are happy about that! It's been a long cold winter, but because we have been busy in our libraries we have given the people in our congregations lots of good reading to do while staying warm and cozy inside.

Please be certain that your membership and email address are current. If you have additional staff members who would enjoy access to CSLA's *CLT*, be sure to get their information *including a current email address* to the office.

We need your help in finding

members who would like to serve on the National Board for 2014 and 2015. We need people for Treasurer, Finance Chair, Awards Chair, and someone who would like to consider 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President/President Elect.

We know that this takes time from your very busy schedules, but CSLA cannot function fully without your support both time wise and through additional donations.

The 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference will be held in Portland, Oregon, **July 30 – August 1, 2014**. The theme is ***“Return to the Oregon Trail.”***

We have many exciting workshops planned for you as well as three wonderful speakers. The speaker for the opening luncheon on Wednesday July 30<sup>th</sup> is **Kathi Macias**. Kathi is from California and has written over 40 books.

I had lunch with Kathi and her daughter last August and I guarantee you will enjoy listening to her. She has had some very exciting things happen as she researched for her books.

Wednesday evening we will have **Rabbi Zaslow** from Ashland, Oregon. He has written many excellent books, one of which is reviewed in this issue—*Jesus: First Century Rabbi*.

Thursday evening we have the privilege of having **Suzanne Woods Fisher** as our speaker. Suzanne had one of her books reviewed in the first issue of the *CLT* for 2014—*The Letters*.

The committee is also planning some fun tours starting with a trip to Powell's Bookstore in the morning of July 29—we will have the privilege of going into the rare book room as part of that tour, and then you will have some time to just look around the store—quite an experience! Tuesday afternoon we will be touring three congregational libraries—each one very unique. I am sure that you will glean some great ideas for your own libraries.

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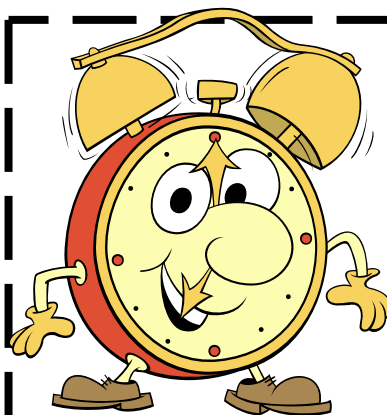
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