

congregational libraries *today*



SERVING CONGREGATIONAL LIBRARIES OF ALL FAITHS SINCE 1967

CSLAINFO.ORG | SECOND ISSUE 2015

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2015 CONFERENCE

Sharing ideas as BIG as Texas!

That's the official theme of the 2015 CSLA national conference at the University of North Texas (UNT) in Denton, Texas, July 29-31. We have BIG plans to give you an informative and fun conference at a very reasonable price.

In addition to the speakers we identified in the previous issue of *Congregational Libraries Today*, we have several workshops for all levels of librarians, three plenary sessions, four local authors and the preconference school for librarians who are beginning a congregational library or would like a refresher on the essentials.

Four of our workshops reveal the latest updates to our CSLA guides. These are *Basic Books* by Ellen Bosman, *Fundamentals of Financing Your Congregational Library* by Craig Kubic, *Religious Books for Children* presented by Jeri Baker and Evelyn Pockrass, and *Disaster Management*

in the Church and Synagogue Library presented by UNT Music Special Collections Librarian Maristella Feustle.

Two workshops will focus on the nuts and bolts of cataloging and classification. Scott Dutkiewicz will provide a refresher on the 3 R's of RDA (Resource Description and Access, the cataloging standard that replaces AACR2), with an emphasis on audiovisual material. Susan Snyder will demystify the use of the Dewey Decimal System tables.

Ralph Hartsock, conference co-chair and senior music cataloger at UNT, will provide insight into cataloging sheet music, and Mechelle Sweeting of the Indiana Chapter will bring her passion for Pinterest to the national membership.

The plenary sessions are a bonus this year. CSLA President Cheryl Cutchin will take us behind the scenes of the

>> *article continues on page 3*

2015 CSLA CONFERENCE

Early Bird Special!
Register before **July 1**
and save \$50.

Go to csalinfo.org
to download
the registration form.



MARISTELLA FEUSTLE, the Music Special Collections Librarian at the University of North Texas, will present a workshop on disaster management. A native of Toledo, Ohio, she holds master's degrees in jazz guitar and library science from UNT and remains active as a guitarist in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. She is the chair of the Music Library Association Preservation Committee, and her research interests include American popular song, jazz history, music theory, archives and preservation, reception history and digital humanities.



CHERYL CUTCHIN
PRESIDENT, CSLA

Consider those unwanted donations in a positive light. It means the congregation is aware of the library, they understand the importance of adding to the collection, and acknowledge that you know what is needed.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are in for a terrific (and warm) conference in Texas

Spring is here and is certainly a welcome sight. It is a mystery how jonquils can bloom in February, be covered with inches of snow and still look beautiful when the snow melts. Obviously their beauty is not the result of my gardening talent.

However, we can look forward to warm weather at CSLA's 48th Annual Conference at the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas, in July. The conference committee has been working diligently to provide stimulating speakers and thought-provoking workshops. Add the excitement surrounding the announcement of the Rodda Award winner and the library awards and we are in for a terrific conference. The congregational library visits are a wonderful way to get new ideas for your library and are one of my favorite conference activities. The conference registration form is available on the conference page at the CSLA website, cslainfo.org. If you need assistance don't hesitate to contact the CSLA office.

In addition to the budding of colorful flowers, spring is a time when our libraries often are the recipients of unsolicited book donations. For many of us who are volunteer congregational librarians, deciding what to do with such donations may seem like one of the overwhelming time-consuming library tasks, but it can be rewarding, too. For example, when I entered the library this week to do story time with the week-day preschool children, I nearly tripped over

three large boxes of donations that had mysteriously appeared. A cursory glance indicated a note from the donor and a lot of sorting to be done. Another empty box was needed to discard the dated, yellow, smelly, and inappropriate items. I imagine most of you have encountered the same scenario at least once in your library.

Rather than be disgruntled, I am rather philosophical towards donations. Yes, there always will be the donations that are unwanted and make you wonder why the donor waited so long to get rid of the items. However, among all the undesirables there usually are a few prizes that are exciting to find and that also give us a short trip down memory lane. With dwindling budgets, it is worth my volunteer time to sort through donations and send the donor a thank you note. Yes, my time is valuable, but so is the good will of the congregation toward the library.

Graciously accepting boxes of items of unknown quality lets the congregation know I appreciate their support even though the library may not be able to use all of the items. So consider some of those unwanted donations in a positive light. It means the congregation is aware of the library, they understand the importance of adding to the collection, and acknowledge that you know what is needed. With plenty of hand sanitizer it is worth my time to go through even the most dubious donations.

Looking forward to seeing you in Texas.



volume *xlvi*, number 2

Congregational Libraries Today is published quarterly as the official publication of the Church and Synagogue Library Association, 10157 SW Barbur Blvd, #102C, Portland, OR 97219 (Telephone 503-244-6919, 1-800-LIB-CSLA(1-800-542-2752), E-mail csla@worldaccessnet.com). US ISSN: 1934-2292. Copyright © 2015 by the Church and Synagogue Library Association, Inc. No part of this periodical any be reproduced without permission. Editor: Sue Poss of Image Plus Communications, E-mail cslaeditor@gmail.com. Media Review Editor: Monica Tenney (399 Blenheim Road, Columbus, OH 43214-3219, Telephone 614-262-4625, E-mail motenney@aol.com. Circulation and Advertising: Judy Janzen (CALA, 10157 SW Barbur Blvd, #102C, Portland, OR 97219, Telephone 503-244-6919, Email csla@worldaccessnet.com). Advertising rates available on request. Annual Subscription Rates: Nonmembers: United States, \$55; Canada, \$60usd; elsewhere, \$70usd. Subscription included with membership in CSLA. Additional annual subscription for members: United States, \$10; elsewhere, \$20usd. Visa and MasterCard accepted. 2015 Calendar-Year Membership Rates: Individuals: United States, \$50; elsewhere, \$55usd. Students: United States, \$20, elsewhere \$55usd. Congregations: United Sates, \$70; elsewhere, \$75usd. Affiliate membership: \$100usd. Institutional membership: \$200usd. Tax Status: The Church and Synagogue Library Association is registered as a non-profit, tax-exempt organization by both the federal and Oregon Governments and is eligible to receive tax-deductible gifts and bequests.



PRACTICAL LIBRARIANSHIP

—the Preconference School

BY JERI BAKER

The pastoral residency program at Wilshire Baptist Church, first established in 2002, has become a nationally recognized model for excellence in clergy preparation. Underwritten by the Lily Foundation and Wilshire's Pathways to Ministry Endowment, the two-year residency program offers recent seminary graduates the opportunity to learn the ropes of local church ministry in a safe and healthy practicum. The rigorous training afforded in seminaries and divinity schools focuses primarily on essential academic and biblical knowledge. What's missing is practical teaching about the work of the church or synagogue.

A familiar refrain heard among my professional colleagues when we first landed entry level positions was that "they didn't teach us that in library school!" As with other professional schools, what was lacking was practical hands-on skills. This is exactly the purpose of the CSLA Preconference School for beginning church and synagogue librarians. The interactive workshop guides the participant through the steps of composing a mission statement, selecting and processing materials, and marketing the resources to the congregation. While it is three hours in

length, not two years, the workshop provides a starting point from which the leadership for new or re-established congregational libraries may begin to develop an essential set of proficiencies and competencies.

The 2015 preconference school will be offered in Denton, Texas, on July 28. Contact Judy Janzen (csla@worldaccessnet.com) for registration information about the school. Can't make it to Denton? Please ask the CSLA office about the CSLA's correspondence school.

The alumni of the Wilshire Pastoral Residency, now numbering a total of 22 men and women, gather annually for a reunion. It is a very special time for both the former residents and the congregants. Prior to the 2015 reunion, alumnus Austin Almaguer, pastor of Vienna Baptist Church, Vienna, Virginia, wrote in the church newsletter, "As resident alumni return this week to laugh at old stories and share new ones, we remind ourselves that church isn't just a building you come to or depart from. It's the people and the relationships God has called together for a special purpose."

Congregational libraries are like that too. It is what makes library service to our congregants so special.

Conference update— << article continued from page 1

organization by describing the roles of the various officers and committees. This will be followed by a "speed dating" session during which you will get to learn more about three key components of CSLA: our Virtual Chapter, the Technology Committee and the Awards Committee.



The second plenary is a rare treat. Rabbi Geoffrey Dennis is Adjunct Professor of Rabbinic Literature in the Jewish Studies' program at UNT, teaching courses in Bible, Rabbinic texts and Kabbalah. He will speak to us on the Dead Sea Scrolls. (By the way, he was formerly the assistant rabbi of CSLA Past President Evelyn Pockrass' congregation in Indianapolis.)

And last but not least, our own Pat Shufeldt will bring us the latest word on CongreGate, a union catalog of faith-based libraries.

Information about lodging and other logistics can be found on the registration form, which is linked on the home page and conference page of our website (cslainfo.org).



J. CRAIG KUBIC is Dean of Libraries for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. In addition to his long association with CSLA, he is also a member of the American Theological Library Association and current chairman of its Collection Development Interest Group. Craig serves as book review editor for the Association of Christian Librarians' publication, *The Christian Librarian*. Craig will lead a workshop based on his guide, *Fundamentals of Financing Your Congregational Library*.



BY MEGHAN HARPER,
CONTRIBUTING AUTHOR



IN REFERENCE TO... **Inspiration**

Spring has sprung! After a brutal Midwestern winter of snow, ice and frigid temperatures, the first day venturing outside without boots, winter coat and associated outerwear is reason to celebrate! Spiritually, spring is a time of rebirth, renewal and reflection. We are reminded of this with the signs of new life in our natural environment. New shoots of green grass, blooming and budding trees, and the cheery sounds of birds building their nests in anticipation of young ones instill a sense of joy.

For many individuals, spring is a time of change, adventure and beginning of new pursuits. Graduation from high school or college formally acknowledges the transition from childhood to adulthood. For many young people, this involves navigating uncharted waters, exploring new opportunities and pursuing new endeavors. For others, there are no public events that mark inner transitions, but these life-changing experiences are no less real. Congregational librarians strive to provide the resources that will inspire all. The following new releases are sure to be great gifts for the graduate and well-loved additions to library collections.



Author Jim Kraus has written another animal story to add to his collection of much-loved animal titles published by Abingdon Press. In *Conversations with Saint Bernard*, a widower embarks on a trip across America to complete his bucket list. Conversations with a rescued Saint Bernard who becomes his travel companion force him to confront a painful secret and accept truth. See Kraus's other titles, *The Cat That God Sent* (2013) and *The Dog that Talked to God* (2012) for

additional heart-warming stories.

A recent release from author John Ortberg is *All the Places to Go . . . How Will You Know?* This book encourages the reader to "step out in faith and embrace all of the extraordinary opportunities that await." Curriculum based upon this book is also available as a DVD and participant's guide. Ortberg, a pastor, author and speaker, has written several other books that address spiritual formation. His other titles include: *The Life You've Always Wanted* (2002), *Faith and Doubt* (2008), *Who is This Man?* (2014) and *Soul Keeping* (2014).

For some individuals, embarking on a new journey or embracing a life change stimulates reflection on things of true importance. An upcoming April release by author Brenda Knight reminds readers that it is more important to be a positive influence in the world than to strive for material wealth. Knight has tackled the idea of "doing good" and making a difference in the world. Her book, *Be a Good in the World: 365 Days of Good Deeds, Inspired Ideas and Acts of Kindness*, is filled with ideas on how to make a difference in the world with simple acts of kindness. Knight previously inspired readers to practice thankfulness with *The Grateful Table* (2013) and happiness with *Happiness Habits: 52 Ways to Live with Passion and Purpose* (2012).

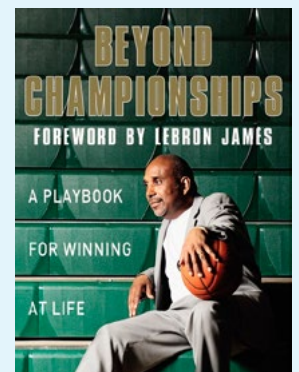


Readers who are looking for additional ideas on being kind to others may appreciate the gift book *One Good Deed a Day* (2012) available from Chronicle Books. This title encourages readers to initiate

simple acts of kindness and includes space

If you are purchasing a graduation gift or looking for a motivational title for the sports enthusiast in your life, you may want to check out a recent March release from Zondervan.

This engaging and motivational title for teens and adults, *Beyond Championships: A Playbook for Winning at Life*, authored by Dru Joyce II and Chris Morrow, is more than a book about coaching and having a winning team and is not just for the sports enthusiast. It describes steps for readers to have a winning attitude on and off the court. Coach Dru Joyce, high school coach of renowned basketball legend LeBron James, shares his thoughts on making good choices and pursuing a winning course in life. The book could also be used for teen discussion groups and book clubs.

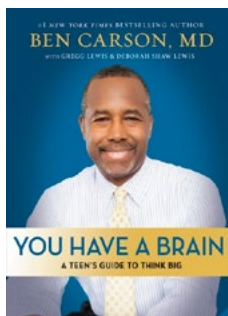


>> article continues on page 5

Inspiration—

<< *article continued from page 4*

for journaling. The book could also be used to spark discussion and offer ideas to teens and children.

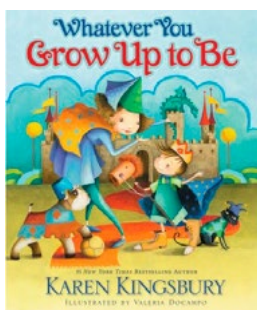


A recent title geared for teens is *You have a Brain: A Teen's Guide to Think Big*. The author, Dr. Benjamin Carson, shares his story of overcoming

obstacles and refusing to let negative circumstances control his future.

Carson's eight principles to "Think Big" are based on talent, honesty, integrity, niceness, knowledge, books, in-depth learning and God.

Discussion questions are included.



For the youngest readers contemplating their future dreams and possibilities, consider adding *Whatever You*

Grow Up to Be by well-known author Karen Kingsbury and illustrator Valeria DoCampo. This February 2015 release from Zonderkidz celebrates the special bond of a mother and son as the young boy learns about the unlimited opportunities for his life. The book uses rhyming and scripture to engage the reader.

Each of these titles is sure to encourage you and your congregation to meet the world with hope and enthusiasm, welcoming growth, demonstrating kindness and expressing joy to those around us.

Books referenced in this article

You Have a Brain: A Teen's Guide to Think Big

By Ben Carson, MD
Publisher: Zondervan

Beyond Championships: A Playbook for Winning at Life

By Dru Joyce II
Publisher: Zondervan

Whatever You Grow Up to Be

By Karen Kingsbury, illustrated by Valeria DoCampo
Publisher: Zonderkidz

Be a Good in the World: 365 Days of Good Deeds, Inspired Ideas and Acts of Kindness

By Brenda Knight
Publisher: Viva Editions

Additional titles by this author include: *The Grateful Table* (2013), and *Happiness Habits: 52 Ways to Live with Passion and Purpose* (2012).

Conversations with Saint Bernard

By Jim Kraus
Publisher: Abingdon Press

Additional titles by this author include: *The Cat that God Sent* (2013) and *The Dog that Talked to God* (2012).

All the Places to Go ... How Will You Know?

(book, DVD, and participant's guide available)

By John Ortberg
Publisher: Tyndale House

Additional titles by this author include: *Faith and Doubt* (2008), *The Life You've Always Wanted* (2002), *Soul Keeping* (2014), and *Who is This Man?* (2014).

Remember to use the cslainfo.org to enter the Amazon website when ordering these and other books.

Church and Synagogue Library Association Annual Conference Fellowship

CSLA has been the recipient for several years of a very generous anonymous donation that provides \$200 fellowships for several members to attend the CSLA national conference. There are six fellowships available for the 2015 conference. All requests will be evaluated on a first come, first served basis.

In an era of limited personal and library budgets, these fellowship funds can enable more CSLA members to participate in what promises to be an outstanding conference at the University of North Texas this summer. Informative workshops are planned and the conversations with fellow CSLA members provide wonderful learning experiences.

Guidelines to be a fellowship recipient:

- be a current CSLA member
- have not received a conference fellowship in the past five years

Please send your name, address, email address, telephone number and congregation name no later than June 1 to the CSLA office:

Judy Janzen, CSLA Administrator
10157 SW Barbur Boulevard #102C | Portland Oregon 97219
Phone: (503) 244-6919 or (800) 542-2752 (LIB-CSLA) | Fax: (503) 977-3734
E-mail: csla@worldaccessnet.com

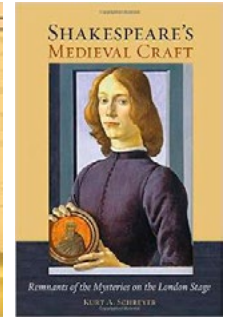
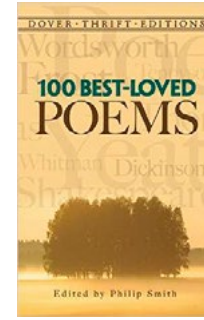
**Due by
June 1**



BY SUSAN SYNDER
 snyder44147@gmail.com

DOING DEWEY

CLASSIFICATION NUMBERS FOR LITERARY MATERIALS



Most congregational libraries have some literary materials, such as poetry and plays. These materials are usually classified in the 800's, unless they are intended for devotional or liturgical use and classified in the 200's, or are folk literature and classified in 398. An example of this exception that is found in many congregational libraries is C. S. Lewis's *Screwtape Letters*, which could be considered a novella but which is normally classified in 248.4, Christian life and practice.

Techniques of public speaking (rhetoric) and storytelling are classified in 808.5.

Literary collections written in or translated from more than two languages not from the same language family are classified in 808.8. A second digit following the decimal point designates more specific types of collections. (See table.)

History, description, and critical appraisal of literature written in or translated from more than two languages not from the same language family are classified in 809. Materials about the Bible as literature are also classified in 809.

When Melvil Dewey created his classification method, he considered the language in which a work of literature was originally written to be its most important element. Therefore, individual literary works, literary collections, and works about literature originally written in only one language are classified by first considering the language in which they, or the literary works being discussed, were originally written. Dewey's American

CLASSIFICATION OF MULTILINGUAL LITERATURE COLLECTIONS

808.8	Literary collections written in, or translated from two or more languages not in the same language family
808.81	Poetry collections
808.82	Play collections
808.84	Essay collections
808.87	Humor collections, including both poetry and prose
808.88	Collections of anecdotes, epigrams, graffiti, jokes, quotations, riddles, etc.

slant can be seen by his assigning an entire division (810 – 819) to U.S. and Canadian literature and another division (820 – 829) to English literature written in other countries such as Great Britain and Australia. According to the instructions provided under 810, however, collections of and works about both American literature in English and English literature together are classified in the 820's with English literature.

Among other languages, Spanish literature is classified in the numbers beginning with 86, Russian literature is classified in the numbers beginning with 891.7, and Hebrew literature is classified in the numbers beginning with 892.4.

Unless there are other instructions given, classify collections originally written in two languages with the language whose number comes first in the main schedules.

After you have determined the language in which the literary work was originally written, look in the main schedules to see if there is an indication that you may use Table 3, which appears before the main

schedules. If you may use it, add the subdivision for the literary form. For example, when classifying American poetry in English, you would start with 81 for American literature in English, then add 1 for poetry, resulting in a classification number of 811. Table 3 also provides for adding 2 for drama, 3 for fiction, 4 for essays, 5 for speeches, 6 for letters, 7 for collected humorous poetry and prose, and 8 for anecdotes, epigrams, graffiti, jokes, quotations and riddles.

In most small libraries, the number 3 from Table 3 is used only for materials about fiction. Fiction itself is usually classified F, FIC, or FICTION and arranged alphabetically by author in a separate section of the library. This is for the convenience of the average library user, who normally does not care whether a novel is written by an Australian, an American, or is perhaps (like Eco's *The Name of the Rose*) an English translation of a novel originally written in another language.

Collections of short stories are usually either included in fiction or are classified SC.

CHAPTER Chatter

Marcia Trauernicht,
Chapters Coordinator



My READING Log

SAN JOSE BAY AREA

The San Jose Bay Area Chapter held its March meeting at the Union Presbyterian Church in Los Altos on March 16, 2015. Roundtable discussion topics included favorite St. Patrick's Day books, new Easter books and ideas for summer reading programs. A link to free printable "Then & Now" Bible maps from Rose Publishing was provided by Dianne Oswald in the chapter's March newsletter. <http://tinyurl.com/>



RosePublishingBibleMaps You must register with Rose Publishing to receive these resources and e-newsletters.

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

Mentioned in a previous column was the Workshop Day hosted by the North Texas Chapter on March 7. The theme was "Going the Distance," with presentations on Queen Esther, creating web pages, reviews of new books and media, display principles for libraries, and library volunteers. In addition, a preview of the 2015 CSLA National Conference was given.

VIRTUAL CHAPTER

The topics of ideas for summer reading programs and keeping the library in shape when the room is used by other groups resulted in good discussions at the March 6 Virtual Chapter meeting.

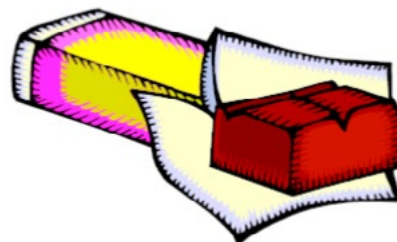
Carol Campbell provided examples from her past summer programs, with themes of popcorn, gumballs,

coins, and the Great Chocolate Challenge (based on Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*). The idea is to encourage reading in general, so books are not limited to those in the congregational library and the themes are more secular—though biblical references are integrated whenever possible. Each reader places a slip for each book read on a bulletin board—at the end of the program, a drawing is held for gift certificates. Fun quizzes and games based on the theme are held throughout the program. Susan Sponaas suggested associating a program with the summer's Vacation Bible School theme. This would allow for sharing of artwork and other materials.

Suggestions on sharing library space with other groups:

- Engage the groups by encouraging them to think of the library as their space and take pride in keeping it in good shape
- Label areas that should be left alone (for example, don't set up the coffee next to the computer)
- Just enjoy the fact that the space is used and be prepared to do a little cleanup.

Specially created candy wrappers used as entry slips for chocolate-themed Summer Reading Program.



Cataloging & Classification

Susan E. Snyder. This guide will take you through all the steps in cataloging. It covers physical processing, encouraging the use of the catalog, and creating bibliographic records, classification, and classification schedule. \$10/\$12 + S&H

CSLA GUIDE

Resources Manual for Congregational Libraries

Annotated bibliography by Ellen Bosman. A new approach to resources for congregational libraries. Divided into two major sections: "Tools for librarians" and "Enrichment resources for library patrons." 50 pages \$14/\$16 + S&H

CSLA BIBLIOGRAPHY

2014 CSLA Contribution List

Amromin, Elaine	Sierra Madre CA	Guertin, Marie	Philadelphia PA	Shufeldt, Pat (2)	Greenville SC
Anderson, Jim	Washington DC	Henderson, Mary Emma	Ocilla GA	Smink, Marjorie (2)	
Ash, Roberta	Indianapolis IN	Henneman, Mary Lou (2)	Boardman OH		Newtown Square PA
Barth, Alice	Pittsburgh PA	Hubbard, Rebah	Derby KS	Snyder, Susan (2)	Broadview Hts OH
Basile, Anne	Williamsburg VA	Huddleston, Joann	Brookline MA	Sponaas, Susan	Greenville, SC
Berger, Kim (3)	Chagrin Falls OH	Hunter, Deborah	Lynnwood WA	St. Matthew Evan. Luth. Ch	York NY
Berrian, Janice (2)	Philadelphia PA	Indiana Chapter of CSLA (2)		Strombom, Glenda	Mountain View CA
Bethany UMC	Ellicott City MD		Indianapolis IN	SW PA Chapter of CSLA	Wexford PA
Bishop, J. Catherine	Baltimore MD	Ivey, Cathy	Macon GA	Swarthout, Arthur (2)	Asheville NC
Bosse, Barbara (2)	Houston TX	Janzen, Judy	Portland OR	Tenney, Monica (2)	Columbus OH
Brandt, Marilyn	Raleigh NC	Kauffman, Naomi	Perkasie PA	Trauernicht, Marcia	Rochester NY
Bretsch, Mary Lu	Belleville IL	Knight, Jennifer	Eugene OR	Turney, Austin & Ruth	Lawrence KS
Bridges, Betty	Virginia Beach VA	Kohn, Janet	Columbus OH	Walker, Anne	El Paso TX
Burghduff, Dick & Betty	Houston TX	Landis, Nancy (3)	Kokomo IN	Warner, Janet	Lancaster PA
Campbell, Alice	N. Manchester IN	Lantz, Audrey	Pottsville PA	White, Ruth (2)	Sewickley PA
Campbell, Carol (4)	Sunnyvale CA	Longacre, Cindy	Telford PA		
Charnholm, Betty (3)	Salem OR	Luxa, Sue	Littleton CO		
Conger, Mary Jane	Greensboro NC	Maguire, Bea (2)	Bedford NY		
Crocker, Judy	Los Alamos NM	Manning, Beverley (2)	Newington CT		
Crowell, Kathryn (2)	Matawan NJ	McDonald, Beverly (2)	Columbus OH		
Cutchin, Cheryl	Jefferson GA	Meisinger, Carol	Wexford PA		
Demeter, Marilyn	Willoughby OH	Meredith, Katheryn	Indianapolis IN		
Dickerson, Nancy	Chesterland OH	Moore, Alice	Pittsburgh PA		
Domans, Dawn (8)	Basking Ridge NJ	Morris, Jane	Dallas TX		
Draper, Mary Ellen	Chapin SC	Northeastern OH Chapter of CSLA (2)			
Dysart, Brigitte	Bend OR		Youngstown OH		
Eddy, Celia	Topeka KS	Oswald, Dianne (2)	San Jose CA		
Edmiston, Phyllis	Statesville NC	Pegues, Janetta	Madison WI		
Egolf, Carolyn (2)	Ft. Wayne IN	Pockrass, Evelyn (2)	Indianapolis IN		
Eix, Phyllis	Allen TX	Reid, David	Ft. Collins CO		
Evans, Elizabeth	Independence MO	Rice, Forrest	Warrenville IL		
Foothills Presbytery	Simpsonville SC	Ridgway, Ruth	Winona Lake IN		
Foster, Julia	Delaware OH	Rivers Jr, William (2)	Philadelphia PA		
French, Beth	Parma OH	Roggie, Bertha	Lititz PA		
Full, Susan	Greenview IL	Ross, Karen (2)	Indiana PA		
Garcia, Maria Isabel	Richardson TX	Sargent, Dorothy Rodda			
Graham Shaw Library	Greenwood SC		N. Bethesda MD		
Grove, Jean	East Peoria IL	Shaffer, Carolyn	York PA		
Groff, Nicole	Lansdale PA	Shearer, Helen (2)	Springville NY		

The number after the name indicates the number of donations to CSLA during the year.

2014 HONOR/MEMORIAL GIFTS

Monthly Pledges:

Dawn Domans

In Honor of:

Betty Burghduff
Cheryl Cutchin
Maria Isabel Garcia
Indiana Chapter
Janzen Family

In Memory of:

Beth French
Marie Guertin
David Matlock
Rebecca Shelly
Philip Williams



Fundamentals of Financing Your Congregational Library

by Craig Kubic. Guide will assist the congregational librarian in developing a realistic plan for the careful acquisition and management of the financial resources that libraries need to become a vital part of a congregation. \$12/ \$14 + S&H.

CSLA GUIDE

information search contact internet computer
 communicate **community**
connection

The CSLA Virtual Chapter!

Don't have a chapter near you? Need someone to talk to? Have a great idea for congregational libraries? Need a problem solved? Just want to vent? Need to brainstorm? No boundaries! Meet anytime! Interested in learning more?

CONTACT MARCIA TRAUERNICHT AT MARCIATMAIL@GMAIL.COM



Will you join us?

Your membership renewal and donations help us provide the latest information to assist you in your library ministry. *Congregational Libraries Today* is the best quarterly journal to help YOU as a congregational librarian with informative articles, media reviews, information about publishers, software, our excellent guides and bibliographies, as well as our annual conference. We have several of our guides and bibliographies in process of revision to make sure that you will have the latest and best information available.

CHURCH AND SYNAGOGUE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

501(c) (3) Tax Deductible Organization

Membership Renewal Form for January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015

Please send CSLA mail to: ___ Home ___ Congregation ___ Resource Center

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

Congregation/Resource Ctr. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

Phone: _____

Home

Congregation/Resource Ctr

Fax _____

E-mail _____

Students: Name of School _____

Graduation Date _____

Credit Card # _____ CSV# _____ Expiration date _____

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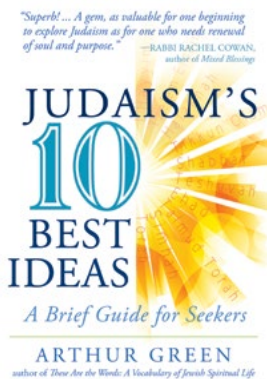
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OUR FAITH HERITAGE



Judaism's 10 Best Ideas: A Brief Guide for Seekers

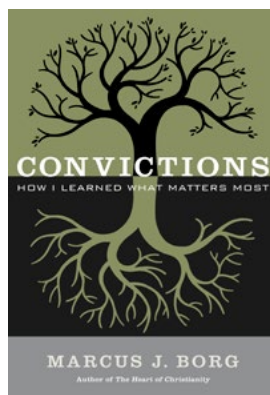
Arthur Green. Jewish Lights, 2014. 100p. \$9.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-58023-803-8. Available as an ebook. www.jewishlights.com 296.3 Judaism. Jewish way of life.

Rabbi Arthur Green, the founding dean and now rector of the Rabbinical School of Hebrew College in Massachusetts, is known for his insightful,

philosophical books on Judaism. *Judaism's 10 Best Ideas* represents a departure from Green's familiar writings, which usually are presented on an academic level. This brief introduction to Judaism is accessible to the layperson as well as to the professional. Green has selected ten concepts vital to Judaism that have helped him maintain his faith.

Green starts with joy and happiness as part of the religious way. He proceeds to creation in God's image, walking in God's path (as a community of doers), repairing the world, Shabbat, returning (having faith in human change), education, accepting death/affirming life, and belief in one God. In each short chapter he provides the reason for the idea and relates stories, often from the Hasidic tradition, to explain his thoughts. In the chapter "The People and the Book," Green discusses the Torah and the concept of interpretation as a way of understanding what was written more than two thousand years ago and bringing it to life today.

Green has embarked on a lifelong journey of seeking God and understanding the deeper concepts of Judaism. This brief synthesis conveys his enthusiasm and may be helpful to other seekers as well. —*Evelyn Pockrass*



Convictions: How I Learned What Matters Most

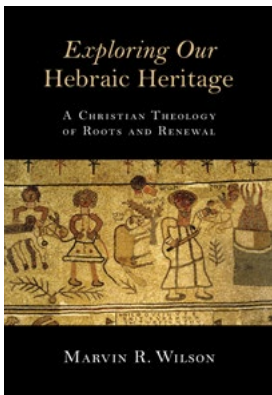
Marcus J. Borg. HarperOne (an imprint of HarperCollins), 2014. 241p. \$25.99, hardcover. ISBN: 978-0-06-226997-3. Available as an ebook or audiobook. www.harpercollins.com 230 Theology, doctrinal. Christianity. Christianity and culture—United States.

The approach of his seventieth birthday prompted Marcus J. Borg to write *Convictions: How*

I Learned What Matters Most. In this volume, published months before Borg's death at the age of 72, the noted Jesus scholar and teacher focuses on memories, major changes of heart and mind, and the resulting convictions, or "the way I see things now."

Throughout this book, Borg applies the triad of memories, conversions and convictions both to the maturing of his own faith and to the growth of Christianity. He visits themes of God, salvation, justice and the poor, peace and nonviolence, emphasis (or lack of emphasis) on an afterlife, and differing thoughts on biblical inerrancy. Borg discusses the meaning of Jesus' death on the cross, the political relevancy of the Bible, and his belief that Jesus (and not, in all instances, the Bible) should be the standard Christians look to as their guide.

Notes on sources and a scripture index appear at the end of the book. Much of what Borg presents in *Convictions* will be familiar to readers of his earlier books; for readers new to Borg or those who wish to revisit his gentle and reasoned approach, this book will be a welcome find in the church library. —*Monica Tenney*



Exploring Our Hebraic Heritage: A Christian Theology of Roots and Renewal

Marvin R. Wilson. Eerdmans, 2014. 304p. \$22.00, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8028-7145-9. Available as an ebook. www.eerdmans.com 261.2'6 Church history—Primitive and early church, ca. 30-600. Judaism (Christian theology)—History.

Exploring Our Hebraic Heritage is packed with information in a reader-friendly format. People who are reluctant to tackle

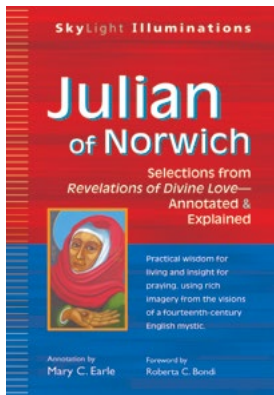
books on theology will be pleasantly surprised by this one from Marvin R. Wilson, a professor at Gordon College in Massachusetts. One reason Wilson gives for writing this volume is to explore “theological, spiritual, and ethical themes [of Jewish scholarship] that more directly affect Christian understanding and experience

rather than to explore specific, narrowly focused, highly theoretical, or abstract legal issues.” In other words, here is an opportunity to explore the rich heritage of the Bible that Jesus read and where Christian faith finds its roots.

Chapters appear under broad headings of “Theological Sources and Methods,” “People of God: An Abrahamic Family,” “God and His Ways,” “On Approaching God,” and “Moving into the Future.” The book includes a pronunciation key for transliterated Hebrew words, as well as indexes by scripture, rabbinic literature, author and subject. *Exploring Our Hebraic Heritage* is appropriate for clergy and will be an excellent addition to Christian history collections in congregational and academic libraries. Because each of the 14 chapters ends with questions, it is also an excellent choice for small group study. —Sharon T. Hinton

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Julian of Norwich: Selections from *Revelations of Divine Love*—Annotated & Explained

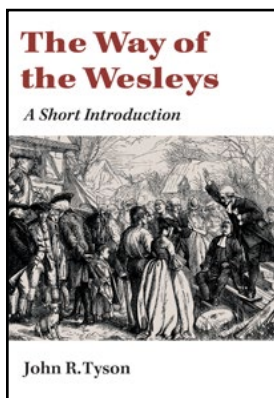
Mary C. Earle, ed. Skylight Paths, 2013. 196p. \$16.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-59473-513-4. Available as an ebook. www.skylightpaths.com 242 Julian, of Norwich, 1343—Revelations of divine love. Mysticism—Catholic Church. Mysticism—England—History—Middle Ages 600-1500. Julian, of Norwich, 1343—Revelations of divine love. Selections. English. Series: Skylight Illuminations

Writing in 14th-century England, when Black Death and theologies of God's wrath were all around, Julian of Norwich uplifts today's readers with her portrayal of a God of mercy, grace, love, care and—ultimately—bliss. As with other volumes in this series, selections from the source text are on right-hand pages. Mary C. Earle's annotations on facing pages aid understanding of Julian's writings.

Julian received 16 "showings," or revelations, while suffering a near-fatal illness. In the 20 years following her recovery, she reflected on these revelations, writing a short text and later a longer version, *Revelations of Divine Love*. Themes include "Christ's Passion," "The Question of Sin," and "The Motherhood of God." Julian thinks in threes, with emphasis on the Trinity. Her sentences are characteristically long, so attention is required.

"All shall be well" is the statement for which Julian is best known. Her focus was love, and bliss was her hope and expectation. Little is known of Julian's personal life, though it was apparently a long life and one that may have included a time in seclusion.

Recommended for readers interested in the writings of mystics. —*Carolyn Egolf*



The Way of the Wesleys: A Short Introduction

John R. Tyson. Eerdmans, 2014. 202p. \$18.00, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8028-6954-8. Available as an ebook. www.eerdmans.com 230.7 Theology, Doctrinal. Wesley, John, 1703-1791. Wesley, Charles, 1707-1788. Methodist Church—Doctrines.

In *The Way of the Wesleys*, historian John R. Tyson examines Wesleyan theology as revealed in sermons, hymns and other

writings. Tyson illustrates his subjects' confidence in the accuracy of the Bible and how they were sometimes at odds with the Enlightenment thinkers of their time. He explains Wesleyan views on justification, sanctification and Christian salvation. He relates how the Wesleys, who held the Arminian view that salvation is available to all, disagreed with some other early Methodists who subscribed to absolute predestination—a controversy

that "sharpened and honed the Wesleys' theology of 'free grace' and 'everlasting love.'"

Tyson explains Wesleyan concepts: prevenient grace; spiritual disciplines ordained in scripture; and the view of Jesus Christ as fully human and fully divine.

Tyson traces the development of the small groups, or "class meetings," of the Methodist movement. He notes the Wesleys' tolerance of differing opinion and their ready acceptance of women as the spiritual equals of men.

The Way of the Wesleys quotes extensively from John's writings and Charles's hymn texts. There are questions for reflection and suggestions for further reading, a bibliography, and three indexes (name and subject, hymn titles and first lines, and sermons).

Recommended for libraries in United Methodist churches and others in the Wesleyan tradition. —*Monica Tenney*

Hasidic Spirituality for a New Age: The Religious Writings of Hillel Zeitlin

Arthur Green, ed. Paulist, 2012. 252p. \$26.95, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8091-4771-7. Available in hardcover. www.paulistpress.com 296.7 Zeitlin, Hillel, 1871-1942—Teachings. Hasidism. Series: Classics of Western Spirituality.

Perhaps the best way to categorize this engaging book on Hillel Zeitlin is to consider it an introduction to a most interesting man. Raised as a Hasidic Jew, Zeitlin broke with his past and explored European philosophy and more. Later in life he returned to his Hasidic roots, this time as an outsider who had gained a worldly perspective. Believing the Hasidic world to be in decline, Zeitlin composed a manifesto calling for its renewal. Tragically, he was murdered by the Nazis during World War II.

Hasidic Spirituality for a New Age offers a sampling of Zeitlin's essays, translated with a commentary by Arthur Green. Readers encounter the call for a renewed Hasidism. The description of "The Fundamentals of Hasidism" is fascinating and useful; the discussion of esoteric matters is accessible. In the section on "Judaism and Universal Religion," Zeitlin's description of religious experience focuses on beauty and wonder. Finally, there is a separate section, introduced and translated by poet Joel Rosenberg, of Zeitlin's poems and prayers. The poems allow a glimpse of the experience he writes about in his essays.

Zeitlin's writings are lyrical, provocative and inspirational. —*Rabbi Louis A. Rieser*

BODY & SOUL

Faith & Fitness: Diet and Exercise for a Better World. Rev. ed.

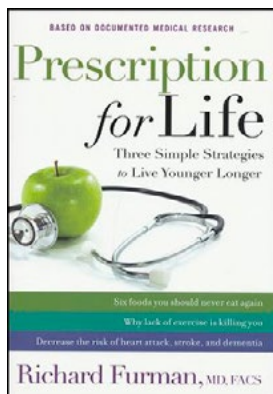
Tom Hafer. Wellplanet, 2014. Distributed by Huff Publishing. 192p. \$12.95, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-615-69364-4. www.huffpublishing.com 613 Self-care, Health. Hygiene.

Pastor Tom Hafer's *Faith & Fitness*, first published in 2007 by Augsburg Fortress, appears here in an updated edition. A refrain for Hafer, who started as a physical therapist but later entered seminary, is "We care for ourselves to better care for others." He rues the fact that affluent Americans spend millions on fad diets and exercise gadgets while much of the world's population is hungry. He hopes his readers will progress from a "need-to-lose-weight" to a "need-to-feed-others" mentality.

Hafer encourages readers to buy only what is good for the environment and their health; he advocates a vegetable and grain-based diet. He regularly invokes the Golden Rule, noting how its practice, reflected in all religions, is the basis for caring for one another and all creation as well as ourselves.

Hafer highlights the benefits of exercise, emphasizing that our bodies function better with regular use. He encourages respect for all faiths, recognizing the important role of spiritual health in wellness.

Faith & Fitness would have benefited from more careful editing. Even though textual errors sometimes distract, Hafer convincingly conveys his message. End matter includes notes on sources and a "Faith & Fitness Challenge," with forms for recording food intake, exercise, and "aha" moments. —*Monica Tenney*



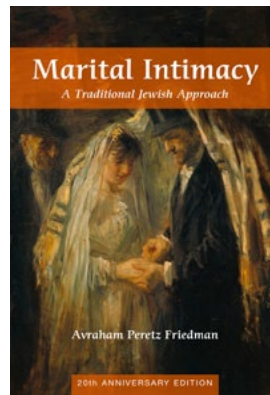
Prescription for Life: Three Simple Strategies to Live Younger Longer

Richard Furman. Revell (an imprint of Baker), 2014. 338p. \$19.99, hardcover. ISBN: 978-0-8007-2371-2. Available in paperback and as an ebook. www.revellbooks.com. 613 Longevity. Self-care, Health.

Dr. Richard Furman is a vascular surgeon and cofounder of World Medical Mission, a Samaritan's Purse ministry that places

doctors and other medical professionals in mission hospitals in Africa, Asia and elsewhere. He brings his own personal experience as well as experience working with patients for over thirty years into an easy-to-read book about living a healthier life to prevent disease and premature aging. Chapters cover the aging process, eating, weight loss, exercise, dementia, cancer, and erectile dysfunction, among other topics. While Furman's suggestions are medically sound and all of us would surely benefit from better health if we adopted them, some are stricter than many people are likely to follow.

Furman includes an extensive list of medical references and an index. *Prescription for Life* is appropriate for libraries with health and fitness sections. —*Sharon T. Hinton*



Marital Intimacy: A Traditional Jewish Approach. 3rd ed.

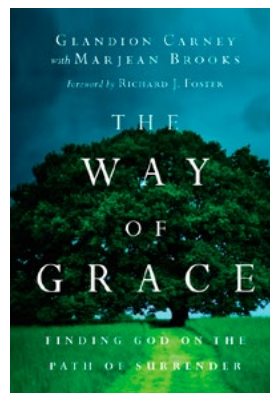
Abraham Peretz Friedman. Compass, 2015. Distributed by Israel Bookshop Publications. 128p. \$17.95, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-9761966-4-8. Available as an ebook. www.israelbookshoppublishations.com 306.7 Sex—Religious aspects—Judaism.

The Jewish approach to sexuality and marital life is distinct from that of general culture; in certain

ways it is more liberal, in other ways more conservative. It would be wonderful if its ethos were well known, but it is not, even within the Jewish community. Rabbi Abraham Peretz Friedman fills this information gap on the traditional Jewish approach to intimacy in marriage.

Marital Intimacy serves as an introduction to the subject, focusing on foundational beliefs rather than details. Friedman describes the positive Jewish attitude about pleasure, including sexual pleasure. The discussion of procreation waits until the end of the book; it is more important to speak to the obligations the husband bears toward his wife—love, attention, gentleness and pleasure. Friedman makes clear that the Torah understands sex as holy within the context of married life and with the inclusion of the Divine in the relationship. He describes how the physical and the spiritual merge, with God at the center.

Throughout the book Friedman cites his sources—Talmudic and later texts—to underscore and strengthen his points. His portrait of these traditions is well grounded. He succeeds at dispelling myths and presenting a clear picture of the distinct Jewish point of view. Highly recommended. —*Rabbi Louis A. Rieser*



The Way of Grace: Finding God on the Path of Surrender

Glandion Carney with Marjean Brooks. InterVarsity, 2014. 153p. \$15.00, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8308-3594-2. Available as an ebook. www.ivpress.com 248.86 Suffering. Parkinson's disease. Terminally ill—Religious aspects. Carney, Glandion. Grace (Theology).

When one receives a devastating diagnosis or suffers some other calamity, periods of denial and depression may result. The author of *The Way of Grace: Finding God on the Path of Surrender* discovered this truth from personal experience. Glandion Carney, a vigorous pastor and church planter, went to his doctor in 2009 after returning from a trip to Africa. Carney's life turned upside down when his physician told him he had Parkinson's disease.

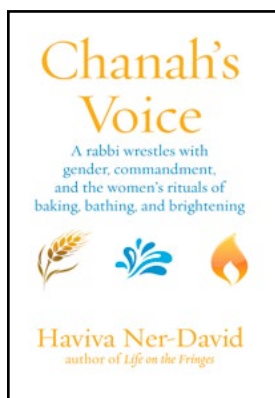
Carney chronicles how God's grace has led him on this torturous journey. The first and most difficult step was that of acceptance. About the second step, submission, Carney writes, "I believe that God gives us just enough grace to help us through everything that comes our way."

Carney also discusses compassion, simplicity, community and trust. He closes chapters with reflections on practicing the graces and includes brief prayers. The book concludes with the four verses of "Amazing Grace."

Richard J. Foster, who contributes the foreword, defines grace as "God's favor, God's gift, God's wonder-filled care for us." Although *The Way of Grace* will be especially meaningful for those with Parkinson's disease, it will be helpful to anyone trying to adjust to a serious problem.

—Beverly M. Bixler

PRACTICING FAITH



Chanah's Voice: A Rabbi Wrestles with Gender, Commandment, and the Women's Rituals of Baking, Bathing, and Brightening

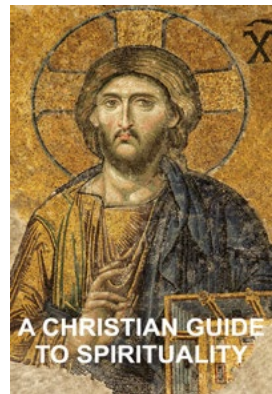
Haviva Ner-David. Ben Yehuda, 2014. 192p. \$16.95, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-934730-44-7. Available as an ebook. www.benyehudapress.com 296.082 Jewish women—Religious life. Hallah. Purity, Ritual—Judaism. Candles and lights (Judaism).

In this highly personal work, Haviva Ner-David focuses on three traditional Jewish commandments for women. The Hebrew words for these commandments provide an acronym for the name *Chanah* (Hannah, biblical mother of Samuel) and refer to baking, purity and lighting observances.

Ner-David is a Modern Orthodox feminist who received ordination as a rabbi—a rare occurrence. She expresses her inner thoughts and rationalizations while seeking a

spiritual and meaningful life despite physical and other challenges. The ritual of baking *challah* (bread) takes on great significance for her, and she rhapsodizes about the process along with her women's spirituality group. Traditional Jewish rules about bathing are another important part of her life, and she delves into the process with great zeal. She brings her daughters into this ritual as well. At her congregation she provides the only ritual bath in Israel that is open to all, regardless of gender. Lighting candles becomes a vital part of her life, and the spiritual meaning of fire and light surround her. Ner-David, her husband and seven children live on a kibbutz in Israel.

Cathartic in its presentation, *Chanah's Voice* reveals the psychological and physical depth of the struggles Ner-David encounters within herself in order to achieve equality in traditional religious practice. —Evelyn Pockrass



A Christian Guide to Spirituality: Foundations for Disciples

Stephen W. Hiemstra. T2Pneuma, 2014. 206p. \$12.95, paperback. ISBN: 978-061597135-3. Available as an ebook. www.t2pneuma.com 242.2 Apostles Creed—Meditations. Lord's Prayer—Meditations. Ten Commandments—Meditations.

Fifty days of devotions based on the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments make this text a wonderful resource for Christians who wish to develop a deeper understanding of the basic beliefs of Christian faith. Author Stephen Hiemstra begins each devotional exercise with scripture, follows with reflections and questions, and ends with prayer. He states that his goal is to encourage readers to better understand their Christian spirituality and take time each day with the Lord.

The text of *A Christian Guide to Spirituality* is double-

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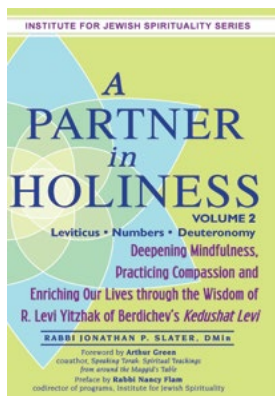
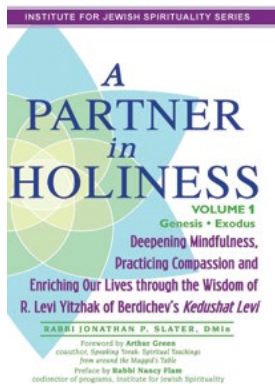
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spaced for ease of reading. This book is appropriate for clergy and congregational libraries as part of their collections of devotional books. It could also be used in a group setting to study the historical “rule of faith,” as the three above-noted sources were considered in the early church. —*Sharon T. Hinton*



A Partner in Holiness: Deepening Mindfulness, Practicing Compassion and Enriching Our Lives through the Wisdom of R. Levi Yitzhak of Berdichev's *Kedushat Levi*

Jonathan P. Slater. Jewish Lights, 2014. Volumes 1 (Genesis-Exodus) and 2 (Leviticus-Numbers-Deuteronomy). 278/263p. \$35.00/\$35.00, hardcover. ISBN: 978-1-58023-794-9 (vol. 1) & 978-1-58023-795-6 (vol. 2). Available as ebooks. www.jewishlights.com 296.7 Spiritual life—Judaism. Bible. Pentateuch—Commentaries. Hasidism. Levi Isaac ben Meir, of Berdichev, 1740-1809—Teachings. Levi Isaac ben Meir, of Berdichev, 1740-1809. *Kedushat Levi* (Avot). Series: Institute for Jewish Spirituality

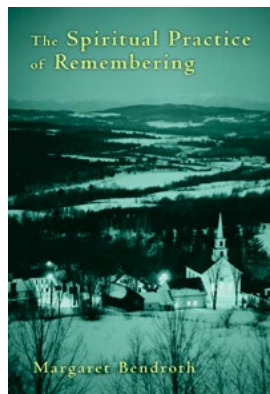
These ambitious books present the teachings of a seminal Hasidic master in the context of the contemporary practice of mindfulness. It is a powerful blend. R. Levi Yitzhak of Berdichev was an early adopter of Hasidism. His reputation for compassion makes him a perfect choice for this pairing.

Rabbi Jonathan P. Slater has arranged evocative passages from *Kedushat Levi*, Yitzhak's major text, according to the weekly cycle of Torah readings. Slater preserves in his translation the rhythm and pace of the original as he guides the reader through the intricacies of meaning in his commentary. Slater then adds two sections that provide tools for understanding Yitzhak's teachings through the lens of mindfulness.

The highly recommended introduction serves multiple purposes. It introduces the practice of mindfulness to readers who are new to the idea. It also describes how Slater came to blend Hasidic teachings with a mindfulness practice. Further, it provides useful background into the Hasidic movement and the person of Yitzhak, and it provides guidance in reading Hasidic teachings.

This highly recommended two-volume set will prove useful to practitioners of meditation who seek Jewish sources with which to deepen their practice. Students of Hasidism who are looking for ways to apply their learn-

ing to their spiritual journey will also benefit. —*Rabbi Louis A. Rieser*



The Spiritual Practice of Remembering

Margaret Bendroth. Eerdmans, 2013. 132p. \$16.00, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8028-6897-8. www.eerdmans.com 248.4'6 Memory—Religious aspects—Christianity.

“Remember” is a biblical word. “Remember the Lord” (Neh. 4:14), “Remember now Thy Creator” (Eccles. 12:1), and “Do this in remembrance” (Luke 22:19).

Margaret Bendroth, church historian and director of the Congregational Library in Boston, urges readers to honor the past in *The Spiritual Practice of Remembering*. She examines the tension between tradition, in which history is valued, and the cultural assumption that moving on is always better. How time is viewed—as a commodity, as leisure, or as source of wisdom—is an underlying theme and frames our views of tradition's value and how readily we disregard or destroy its reminders.

Both attention and intention are required for the six excellent but challenging chapters in this book. A chapter of particular interest is “The Communion of Saints,” which presents the impact of the Reformation, history of views and rituals regarding death, and the assertion that “our present-day lives are constantly echoing those of others.” Bendroth reminds us of our responsibilities to past and future generations: “We live within a web of holy obligation.” The last chapter calls us to remember God and follow with action, to travel lightly, and to notice, as in living with “unhurried awareness.”

Recommended for readers with interest in history and its impact on faith. —*Carolyn Egolf*



Finding Spiritual Whitespace: Awakening Your Soul to Rest

Bonnie Gray. Revell (an imprint of Baker), 2014. 268p. \$13.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8007-2179-4. Available as an ebook. www.revellbooks.com 248.4 Rest—Religious aspects—Christianity. Spiritual life—Christianity. Spirituality—Christianity. Post-traumatic stress disorder.

White space on a page gives order to design and rest for the eyes. “Spiritual whitespace” provides order, balance and rest for

the soul. In *Finding Spiritual Whitespace* readers discover meaning in spiritual whitespace as well as biblical stories.

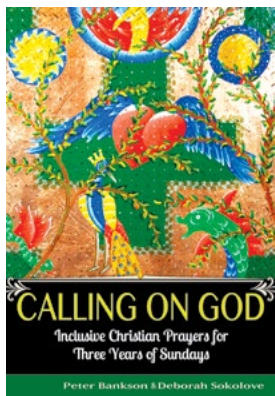
Readers will quickly realize that this book is also a memoir of Bonnie Gray's healing from post-traumatic stress disorder. She writes of childhood experiences with an

honesty and realism that will hold the reader to the text.

Twenty-six chapters are grouped into six sections. Chapters begin with a quotation and conclude with “Pull up a Chair—Share” questions, “A Whitespace Prompt—Try This,” and “A Soul Conversation—Confide in Him.” Gray offers practical applications in “Ten Prompts to Awaken Your Soul to Rest,” along with “Whitespace Killers and Triggers.”

Gray moves quickly from personal experience and biblical application to a new experience, verse or suggestion. Some thoughts are expanded; others come in short phrases. This style adds interest but requires focus.

Women with painful pasts may find parts of the book challenging, while others will find the comfort, encouragement and freedom intended by the author. Recommended for church libraries, individual or group study, and as a resource for counselors. —Carolyn Egolf



Calling on God: Inclusive Christian Prayers for Three Years of Sundays

Peter Bankson and Deborah Sokolove. Skylight Paths, 2014. 385p. \$18.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-59473-568-4. Available as an ebook. www.skylightpaths.com 264'.13 Prayers. Church year—Prayers and devotions.

Introductory material in *Calling on God* establishes the background for prayers composed by

Peter Bankson, Deborah Sokolove and others for use in worship at Seekers Church in Washington, D. C. The book follows the liturgical seasons, with scriptures based on the three-year cycle of the Revised Common Lectionary. Each entry is dated (within a range), and prayers follow scriptures suggested for opening, thanksgiving and praise, and petition and intercession.

Users of this resource will find the prayers refreshing yet realistic. They will encounter many ways to address God: “Holy Wellspring,” “Cascade of Compassion” and “Mother



Developing an Effective Library: Ways to Promote Your Congregational Library.

Lois H. Ward. 2004. 48p. All aspects of promoting the congregational library and publicity ideas for inside and outside your congregation. Planning and budgeting,

creating ownership, programs that will get your members in the door, and how to use all the publicity tools available to you. \$9/\$11 + S&H.

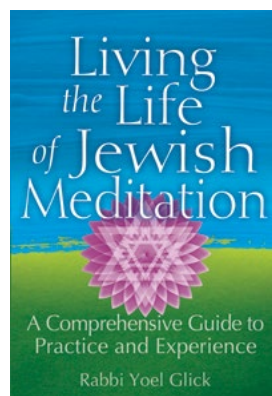
CSLA GUIDE

of Forgiveness” are examples. Recurrent themes include nature, praise, sorrow, God’s mercy and Bible stories.

Language is inclusive, modern and varied in ways that may refresh and enlarge one’s vision of prayer. The realism that speaks of homelessness and war and brokenness, emphasizing blessings in dark times, will appeal to many readers.

This collection bridges the broad liturgical heritage valued by many and satisfies longings for fresh, honest and creative ways to pray and praise.

Highly recommended for church libraries and for pastors, other worship leaders and anyone seeking a richer prayer life. —Carolyn Egolf



Living the Life of Jewish Meditation: A Comprehensive Guide to Practice and Experience

Yoel Glick. Jewish Lights, 2014. 233p. \$18.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-58023-802-1. Available as an ebook. www.jewishlights.com 296.7'2 Meditation—Judaism. Spiritual life—Judaism.

Among the books that discuss Jewish meditation, this book stands out. As other authors do,

Rabbi Yoel Glick provides background information to help distinguish the Jewish approach to meditation from other systems. Glick goes further than most, however, in guiding the novice into a well-grounded practice. Moreover, he provides plenty of material to help more advanced students progress in their meditation.

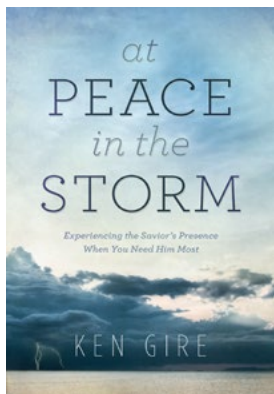
Living the Life of Jewish Meditation begins with the basics: preparation for sitting, stilling the mind, and surrendering into the moment. Glick progresses through more demanding practices, such as visualization, the use of mantras, and deep contemplation. At each step he provides sample meditations and helps the reader define appropriate expectations.

Glick draws on the teachings of early masters to explain what makes this style of meditation Jewish. He includes teachings from Eastern masters and others to clarify, but there never is any doubt that his focus is on Jewish practice.

This book will deepen the practice of any meditation practitioner. Glick keeps his focus clearly on the ways meditation can help an individual or group not only be present but be in the Presence. Highly recommended. —Rabbi Louis A. Rieser

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CHALLENGES



At Peace in the Storm: Experiencing the Savior's Presence when You Need Him Most

Ken Gire. Bethany House (an imprint of Baker), 2014. 168p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-7642-0884-3. Available as an ebook. www.bethanyhouse.com 248.8'6 Peace of mind—Religious aspects—Christianity. Consolation.

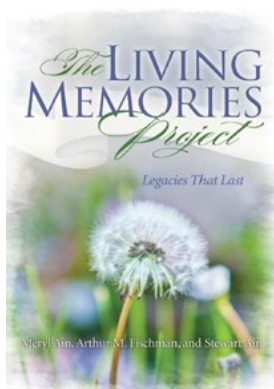
Peace seems elusive to many, particularly in tough times. Ken

Gire writes of the desired miracle of peace, suggesting it may come when we calm the storm or calm the soul within the storm. In the 13 chapters of *At Peace in the Storm* readers will find Gire's writing personal, soothing and practical. Each chapter focuses on a source of peace; among them are prayer, friends, strangers, music and service. Peace comes also from God's Word, a balanced brain, books and music.

Each chapter opens with a quotation, references scripture, and concludes with a verse or a prayer. The text is well organized and indicates Gire's wide scope of knowledge—this is his 25th book. Sincerity rings through; these read like the words of a friend. The variety and tone keep one reading, and while solace is found, Gire does not offer gloss or fluff but stays grounded in reality.

In "Peace From a Balanced Brain," Gire presents candid information about brain health, offering hope and practical tips. There is encouragement to rest and enjoy recreation in chapters that explore Sabbath and refreshment.

Highly recommended for church libraries, small groups, or personal study. —Carolyn Egolf



The Living Memories Project: Legacies That Last

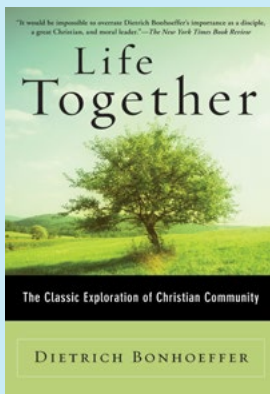
Meryl Ain, Arthur M. Fischman and Stewart Ain. Little Miami, 2014. 194p. \$18.95, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-988255-37-1. www.littlemiamibooks.com 204.42 Memorialization.

After the deaths of their parents, Meryl Ain and her brother, Arthur Fischman, looked for ways to make their memories last. With her husband, Stewart

Ain, they gathered from a wide range of people stories about how they carried forward the memories of their loved ones. *The Living Memories Project* is a moving and informative collection of these tales.

The range of stories holds the reader's attention.

Classics Corner



Life Together

Dietrich Bonhoeffer. HarperOne (an imprint of HarperCollins), 2009. 128p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-06-060852-1. Available as an ebook. www.harpercollins.com 248.4 Christian communities. Christian life. Bible. Psalms—Criticism, interpretation, etc.

The writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer continue to help Christians define what it means to live in Christ. Bonhoeffer, the

Lutheran pastor and theologian who was executed by the Nazis in 1945, wrote *Gemeinsames Leben* in 1938 after leading a community of pastors-in-training. The English translation, *Life Together*, appeared in 1954.

In this treatise on the workings of Christian community, Bonhoeffer explains the importance of being physically present with other Christians; it is, he maintains, a joy, a source of strength, and a spiritual necessity. As Christians worship, pray and serve together, they are bound together as the body of Christ.

Life Together discusses aspects of Christian community, including the order of the day, reliance on scripture, prayer (free or formal), table fellowship, and work. Bonhoeffer explains the role of solitude and meditation. He identifies acts and attributes that serve as ministry within community: holding one's tongue, meekness, listening, helpfulness, bearing one another's burdens, proclaiming God's Word, and true authority. Finally, he discusses confession and the Lord's Supper.

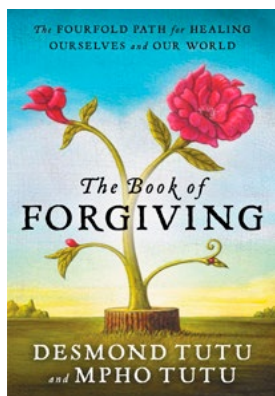
Bonhoeffer often cites scripture to support his challenging but inspiring text. Present-day readers will note the male-centered language that was the convention of the author's time.

Life Together, along with Bonhoeffer's *The Cost of Discipleship* (Touchstone, 1995), is an essential volume for church libraries. —Monica Tenney

Some people have created foundations as tributes to their loved ones, and in doing so have brought about international impact. Others simply share tales of the way their own lives were personally shaped by beloved relatives or friends. A few of the stories come from people whose names everyone will recognize, but most are ordinary people. Most stories are about family members: parents, siblings and children. Other stories honor mentors, friends and others who created an impact. The accounts are brief, the impact more lasting.

There are inspirational stories in this collection. There is a wealth of material that will guide others who have

experienced loss and now seek a way to keep memories alive. *The Living Memories Project* is a sweet and worthwhile addition to your library. —*Rabbi Louis A. Rieser*



The Book of Forgiving: The Fourfold Path for Healing Ourselves and Our World

Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu. HarperOne (an imprint of HarperCollins), 2014. 229p. \$25.99, hardcover. ISBN: 978-0-06-220356-4. Available in paperback and as an ebook or audiobook. www.harpercollins.com 179.9 Forgiveness.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu and his daughter, Mpho Tutu, an Anglican priest, offer in

The Book of Forgiving a guide for people who need forgiveness or who need to forgive—a guide, in other words, for everyone. Following an opening section that defines forgiveness and introduces their “Fourfold Path,” the Tutus explain the path in detail: “Telling the Story,” “Naming the Hurt,” “Granting Forgiveness,” and “Renewing or Releasing the Relationship.” They draw on stories of forgiveness from their own experience, including from the years of apartheid in South Africa and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The murder of Mpho’s friend and employee in Mpho’s home provides multiple lessons in forgiving.

THIS ISSUE’S REVIEWERS

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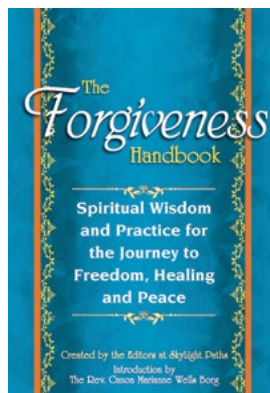
EVELYN POCKRASS
Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation
Indianapolis, Indiana

RABBI LOUIS A. RIESER
Boynton Beach, Florida

MONICA TENNEY, MEDIA REVIEW EDITOR
Maple Grove United Methodist Church
Columbus, Ohio

A final section, “All Can Be Forgiven,” addresses guilt and shame, forgiving oneself, and helping to heal the wider world with restorative justice. Throughout the book, bullet-point summaries, meditations, journal exercises and rituals fortify understanding. The Tutus encourage people who have been wronged to accept the humanity of perpetrators and recognize that every person carries sorrow and struggle.

The authors provide endnotes and direct readers to further resources. *The Book of Forgiving* is recommended both for group study and for congregational libraries. —*Monica Tenney*



The Forgiveness Handbook: Spiritual Wisdom and Practice for the Journey to Freedom, Healing and Peace

Skylight Paths, 2015. 242p. \$18.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-59473-577-6. Available as an ebook. www.skylightpaths.com 179.9 Forgiveness.

In *The Forgiveness Handbook*, the editors at Skylight Paths collect excerpts from its publications and those of its sister imprint, Jewish Lights. More than 50 authors contribute, drawing on wisdom from Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu and other traditions. The entries, most no longer than



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Selecting a New Library Cataloging and Circulation Computer System. Bill Doole, edited by Jeri Zulli. Guides you through the process step-by-step to determine the best system tailored to your patrons’ needs. 20 p. \$12/\$14

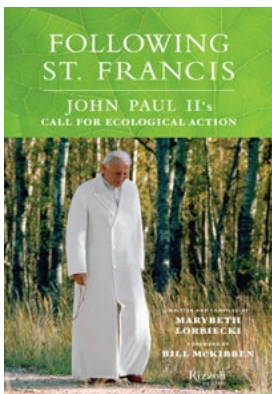


CSLA GUIDE

two or three pages, are grouped under broad headings: "Understanding Forgiveness," "Letting Go," "Reconciliation and Forgiveness in Relationships," "Forgiveness and the Divine," "Accepting Forgiveness," "Love Your Enemies," "Forgiveness, Justice, and Peace," and "Cultivating a Forgiving Heart."

This volume provides a rich store of information and comfort. Highlights include Jan Phillips's story of forgiveness and reconciliation after she had lived for years locked in pain and anger over her dismissal from a religious community. Marty Richards writes of forgiveness in caregiving situations; Rabbi Ely Kaplan Spitz addresses forgiveness after a suicide. Also memorable are insights from the Rev. Joan Brown Campbell on the parable of the prodigal son, John Philip Newell's delightful account of the Procession of the Creatures at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine on St. Francis's Sunday, and the recollection by the "Interfaith Amigos" (pastor, rabbi and imam) of serving communion together.

Original source material is credited at the book's close; there are also notes on other sources. Highly recommended for all congregational libraries. —*Monica Tunney*



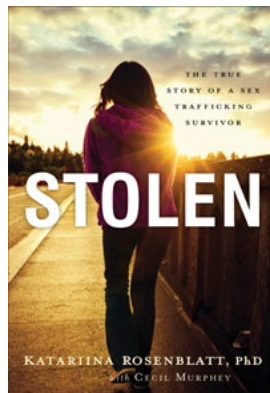
Following St. Francis: John Paul II's Call for Ecological Action

Marybeth Lorbiecki. Rizzoli Ex Libris, 2014. 383p. \$25.95, hardcover. ISBN: 978-0-8478-4271-1. Available as an ebook. www.rizzoliusa.com 261.88 Environmentalism—Catholic Church.

The late Pope John Paul II felt that responsible caring for the earth was part of the covenant between human beings and the

Creator. *Following St. Francis* presents John Paul's concerns on environmental issues such as water pollution, climate change, the greenhouse effect and nuclear energy. Building on the legacy of Saint Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology, John Paul expressed through encyclicals and in sermons and other addresses his feeling that following Christ includes being good stewards of the earth and all living things. The book includes a homily on the care of creation by the current Pope Francis.

Marybeth Lorbiecki skillfully addresses issues including poverty, oppression of women, parenthood, chemical and industrial pollution, environmental racism, and war. Her book is carefully constructed to guide readers through the recently canonized John Paul's statements and writings on each topic. Lorbiecki provides lists of online resources and articles for future study. The forward by Bill McKibben, environmental activist and a Methodist, illustrates why people of all faiths need to address these important topics. Highly recommended for interfaith discussion groups. —*Mary Lou Henneman*



Stolen: The True Story of a Sex Trafficking Survivor

Katarina Rosenblatt with Cecil Murphey. Revell (an imprint of Baker), 2014. 233p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8007-2345-3. Available as an ebook and audiobook. www.revellbooks.com 306.74092 Human trafficking—United States. Prostitution. Child prostitution. Church work with prostitutes. Church work with abused women.

Stolen: The True Story of a Sex Trafficking Survivor tells the story

of Katarina Rosenblatt, a victim of sex trafficking. In this heart-wrenching account, Rosenblatt demonstrates how her faith in Christ enabled her not only to survive but also to find hope for herself and for other victims.

This is a difficult book to read; many of us would prefer to think sex trafficking exists only in third-world countries and not in our own backyard. The book handles subjects of prostitution, drug use, sexual abuse and other abusive behaviors sensitively, without diminishing the devastation of young victims caught in the web of human trafficking.

Stolen can serve as an introduction in churches where members wish to help girls and women change their lives, as the author of this book did. Rosenblatt progressed from receiving her GED to earning a PhD, specializing in conflict analysis and resolution. She now works with law enforcement agencies to eliminate human slavery.

Rosenblatt founded the non-profit There is Hope for Me, Inc., (Healing, Opportunity, Purpose, Empowerment), www.thereishopeforme.org. —*Mary Lou Henneman*



In Plain Sight: Stories of Hope and Freedom (DVD)

Awaken Media, 2014. Distributed by Word Entertainment. 68 minutes. \$14.95, DVD. WD9-11235. www.inplainsightfilm.com 306.74092 Human trafficking—United States.

In Plain Sight will shock and disturb viewers. Survivors of human trafficking tell of being sold as young children by their

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 congregational library. \$13/\$14 + S&H.

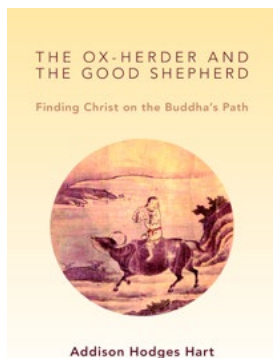


mothers; one was given away in exchange for a pickup truck. The single trait shared by most of the victims, viewers learn, is vulnerability. Victims come from homes where neglect, sexual abuse and violence are the norm. Typically, when young people run away to escape such homes, they are approached within 48 hours by predators who manipulate and coerce them, often beating and raping their victims.

On-camera interviews with experts from law enforcement and aid organizations inform viewers that human trafficking is now widespread throughout the United States. Lending hope and inspiration are interviews with citizens who, having discovered the problem, are dedicated to rescuing victims of trafficking and providing them with a safe place for healing, receiving vocational training, and experiencing genuine love. Viewers see “aftercare” programs in Baltimore, Nashville, Little Rock, Sacramento, Houston, and Dallas.

Many of the interviewees speak of comfort and guidance received from God. Even though its stories are heartbreaking, *In Plain Sight* will educate, inspire, and perhaps move viewers to help end the suffering. —*Monica Tenney*

FAITH & ART



The Ox-Herder and the Good Shepherd: Finding Christ on the Buddha's Path

Addison Hodges Hart. Eerdmans, 2013. 118p. \$15.00, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8028-6758-2. Available as an ebook. www.eerdmans.com 294.3'35 Jesus Christ—Buddhist interpretations. Kuo'an, 12th cent. Shi niu tu song. Christianity and other religions—Zen Buddhism. Zen Buddhism—Relations—Christianity.

Addison Hodges Hart believes that Christianity frees us to explore and glean truths from other sources. In *The Ox-Herder and the Good Shepherd*, he connects Christ's teachings and Zen Buddhism via history, commentary, and the Ten Ox-Herding Pictures, a series of ancient poems and pictures that represent a seeker's progress toward enlightenment.

Introductory chapters explore the teachings and lead to the pictures, accompanied by poetry and observations by Kakuan Shien, creator of the original drawings. The set used here is by Japanese artist Shubun. Hart's commentary guides readers through the drawings of the ox, the boy and the man. Each is a step toward the goal of spiritual awakening (in Buddhism, enlightenment; for Christians, “the Kingdom of God”). An excellent summary of needs shared by Zen Buddhists and Christians includes becoming who we are, knowing God, mingling, relating to nature in wholesome ways, and becoming community.

For some, this may be a quick read, but most readers of *The Ox-Herder and the Good Shepherd* will require time and intentionality. Recommended for readers interested in Eastern religions. —*Carolyn Egolf*



Through Your Eyes: Dialogues on the Paintings of Bruce Herman

G. Walter Hansen. Illustrated by Bruce Herman. Eerdmans, 2013. 121p. \$50.00, hardcover. ISBN: 978-0-8028-7117-6. www.eerdmans.com 750 Painting. Art and religion. Christianity and art. Herman, Bruce, 1953-.

We bring to art preferences, education, interests, life experiences, and perhaps faith; what the artist presents flows from the same. *Through Your Eyes* makes real the many layers of meaning, seen through the artist's intentions and observers' interpretations, in the paintings of Christian artist Bruce Herman. Among the dialogues of the subtitle are Herman's descriptions of his paintings and commentary by theologian G. Walter Hansen, a friend of the artist.

Among themes in the 13 chapters are Rome, sacred imagery, and the Magnificat, with several series of paintings and altarpieces presented in full color. A section of particular interest is titled “Qu4tets.” These paintings are the most realistic and relate to the four seasons in nature and life, centering on the passage of time. This section and a previous one rest heavily on T. S. Eliot's, “Four Quartets,” with several portions of that work quoted.

The interweaving of faith and art prompt Hansen and Herman in the postscript to invite us to participate, suggesting “the reality that art is more than what the artist conceives and creates—can be experienced only by a participant, not by a passive consumer.”



Helping Those Who Hurt.

S. Meghan Harper. An annotated bibliography of print, non-print, and online re-

sources 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 + S&H.

CSLA BIBLIOGRAPHY

Recommended for school, college, and public libraries for persons with specific interest in art and its impact on culture. —Carolyn Egolf

FOR LIBRARIANS

Successful Library Fundraising: Best Practices

M. Sandra Wood, ed. Rowman & Littlefield, 2014. 198p. \$45.00, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-4422-3169-6. Available as in hardcover and as an ebook. www.rowman.com 025.11 Library fund raising—United States. Library fund raising—Case studies. Series: Best Practices in Library Services.

M. Sandra Wood has gathered an excellent collection of articles to inspire academic and public librarians in the quest to raise funds for their libraries at a time when many sources of income are shrinking. The 12 selections cover such topics as endowments, grants, working with volunteers and “Friends of the Library” groups, funding from corporations, and holding special events.

Some of the libraries represented include the Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation, Duke University Libraries, the Tippecanoe County Public Library in Indiana, the Joyner Library, Music Library and Laupus Health Sciences Library of East Carolina University, Seattle Public Library Foundation, Health Science Center Library at the University of Florida, the Smithsonian Libraries, and several other academic, public and special libraries.

This book is primarily intended for professional librarians who work in academic and public library settings and is an excellent source of creative ideas for that audience. —Mary Lou Henneman

FICTION



A Promise to Protect: A Novel

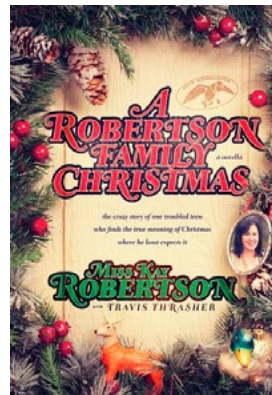
Patricia Bradley. Revell (an imprint of Baker), 2014. 331p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8007-2281-4. Available in large print library binding and as an ebook. www.revellbooks.com Fiction Brothers and sisters—Fiction. Women physicians—Fiction. Series: Logan Point.

Dr. Leigh Somerall has come back to Logan Point, her hometown, to begin her medical practice and pay off her student loans. Unfortunately, her life is turned upside down when the local sheriff, Ben Logan, tells Leigh of the brutal murder of her brother Tony.

Now Ben, with whom Leigh had severed a relationship 10 years earlier, has been instructed to protect Leigh and T. J., her young son. Why was Tony killed, and what is on the flash drive the killers still want? Why did Leigh sud-

denly break off her relationship with Ben a decade ago, and who is T. J.'s father?

It takes perseverance and their strong Christian faith for the two main characters to work through the variety of subplots that involve everything from car bombs and arson to snake bites and dog fights. *A Promise to Protect*, the second novel in the Logan Point series, expertly blends romance and mystery. The connection with the first book—*Shadows of the Past*—is the location, but the characters and plot are new. Recommended for Christian romance and suspense fans. —Mary Lou Henneman



A Robertson Family Christmas

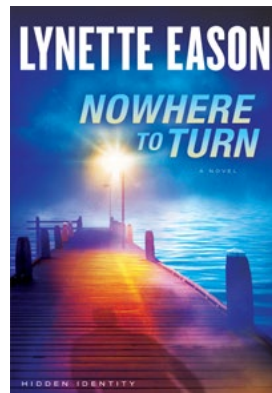
Kay Robertson with Travis Thrasher. Tyndale House, 2014. 298p. \$19.99, hardcover. ISBN: 978-1-4143-9820-4. Available as an ebook. www.tyndale.com Fiction Christmas stories. Duck Dynasty—Television program—Fiction.

This Christmas will not be a happy one for 17-year-old Hunter Clarke. When his parents divorced, he stayed with his mother, and his brother went to live with their dad. In an attempt

to cheer him, Hunter's mother has entered him in a contest. Hunter wins the contest and reluctantly submits to the prize—spending the holidays with the Robertson clan of television's *Duck Dynasty* fame.

Hunter finds that life is totally different in West Monroe, Louisiana, with this large and boisterous clan. Life centers on hunting, family and especially their Christian faith. John Luke Robertson and Hunter, who are about the same age and share similar interests, soon become friends. Eventually, the Robertsons help Hunter regain the Christmas spirit.

Chapter titles are take-offs on familiar Christmas carols; they include “Some Redneck Joy to the World” and “What Crazy Child is This.” Fans of the television reality show will recognize the characters and enjoy Christmas with the Robertsons. —Mary Lou Henneman



Nowhere to Turn: A Novel

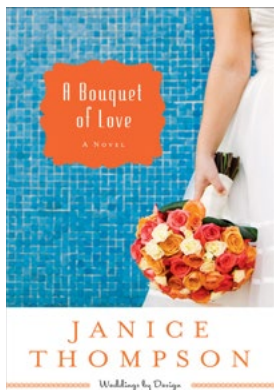
Lynette Eason. Revell (an imprint of Baker), 2014. 315p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8007-2209-8. Available in large print hardcover and as an ebook. www.revellbooks.com Fiction Single mothers—Fiction. Abused women—Fiction. Series: Hidden Identity.

Danielle Harding is being physically abused by her husband, an FBI agent. Kurt Harding has threatened to kill their 11-year-old son if she tries to leave him.

The day she decides she has had enough and plans their escape, Kurt is killed while working on a case. But she

is still in danger. Someone breaks into her house, looking for something Kurt had taken, and the intruder may be willing to kill for it. In addition, Dani's brother-in-law is stalking her. It is clear that she needs protection. Will Dani find safety by hiring Adam Buchanan of Operation Refuge? How can she protect her son from these dangers?

Lynette Eason keeps readers of *Nowhere to Turn* on the edge of their chairs, with no letup in the action until the final pages. The main characters depend on their faith to keep them strong. Fans of Christian suspense will also like *No One to Trust*, the first novel in the Hidden Identity series, and will look forward to the third, *No Place to Hide*, due out this year. —Mary Lou Henneman



A Bouquet of Love: A Novel

Janice Thompson. Revell (an imprint of Baker), 2014. 347p. \$13.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8007-2155-8. Available in large print library binding and as an ebook. www.revellbooks.com Fiction Florists—Fiction. Weddings—Fiction. Love stories. Humorous stories. Series: Weddings by Design.

Fans of the Weddings By Design series will not be disappointed in Janice Thompson's latest offering, the fourth in the series.

Cassia Pappas has reluctantly moved to Galveston Island with her passionate Greek family. Cassia's *Babbas* (Papa) wants to open a Greek restaurant called Super-Gyros. The location is directly across the street from a popular pizza place—Parma Johns—owned by the Rossi family. There is a battle brewing between the two patriarchs as they vie for customers and recognition for the best food in town.

Cassia loves flowers, and her interest and talents leads her to a job with a local florist shop, where a handsome colleague and complications await. *A Bouquet of Love* presents a humorous version of restaurant wars, Italian-and-Greek-style, that will keep readers laughing. Recommended for Christian romance and wedding fans. —Mary Lou Henneman



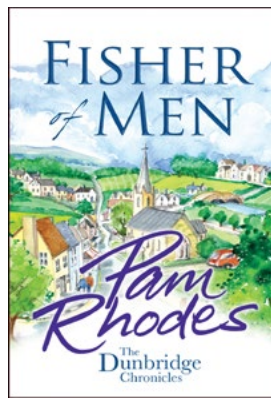
Emissary

Thomas Locke. Revell (an imprint of Baker), 2015. 393p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8007-2385-9. Available in hardcover and as an ebook. www.revellbooks.com Fiction Magic—Fiction. Allegories. Fantasy—Fiction. Series: Legends of the Realm.

Hyam has just finished his apprenticeship of five years and should be assured of his future. On his 21st birthday he is still

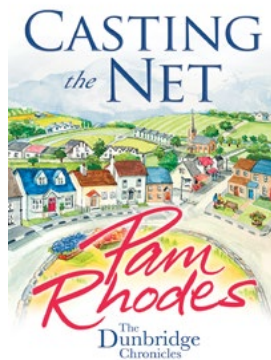
uncertain about his life's direction. He has more questions than answers about his keen ability to understand ancient languages, his connection with the forbidden magic arts, and his own birthright. Through a number of circumstances, Hyam discovers he is the one chosen to save the world from evil forces threatening to ban magic.

Davis Bunn, using the pseudonym Thomas Locke, skillfully sets the groundwork for this Christian allegory reminiscent of J. R. R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. He immerses readers in a fantasy world with well-developed characters on a quest. This first novel in the Legends of the Realm series establishes a firm foundation of strong characters, solid magical elements, and a powerful storyline. Recommended for Christian fantasy fans. —Mary Lou Henneman



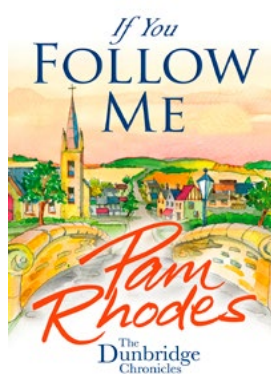
Fisher of Men

Pam Rhodes. Lion Hudson, 2013. Distributed by Kregel. 251p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-78264-000-4. Available as an ebook. www.lionhudson.com Fiction Clergy—England—Fiction. Series: The Dunbridge Chronicles.



Casting the Net

Pam Rhodes. Lion Hudson, 2014. Distributed by Kregel. 254p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-78264-062-2. www.lionhudson.com Fiction Clergy—England—Fiction. Series: The Dunbridge Chronicles.



If You Follow Me

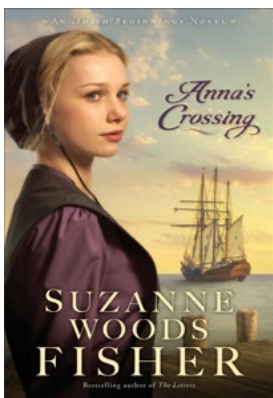
Pam Rhodes. Lion Hudson, 2014. Distributed by Kregel. 255p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-78264-079-0. www.lionhudson.com Fiction Clergy—England—Fiction. Series: The Dunbridge Chronicles.

Neil Fisher has just been assigned to his three-year residency at St. Stephen's Church in the idyllic town of Dunbridge, England, but the setting's tranquility is disturbed when he first tours the church. Under the tutelage of the Rev. Margaret Prowse, Neil is soon introduced to what must be the most delightful and diverse group of townspeople ever

to inhabit a single parish. Neil is young and single, and an element of romance quickly emerges. The plot of the three installments in the Dunbridge Chronicles series has more intriguing twists and turns than the rural country roads of their setting. Each book offers a glimpse of a village priest's life as he handles everyday events, from births and burials to taking care of parishioners in sickness and through a variety of crises.

Before the end of the first book, *Fisher of Men*, readers will find themselves immersed in the personalities of the various characters as their hidden qualities are revealed. This is a perfect series for Christian readers who want a glimpse, rendered by Pam Rhodes with sensitivity and humor, of clerical life in an English village. Readers will appreciate their own clergy more, as many of the scenes reflect situations they have likely seen in their own parishes. The Dunbridge Chronicles will keep readers riveted.

Fisher of Men, *Casting the Net*, and *If You Follow Me* are "potato chip" books—you can't stop until you've finished the last one. —Mary Lou Henneman



Anna's Crossing

Suzanne Woods Fisher. Revell (an imprint of Baker), 2015. 328. \$15.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8007-2319-4. Available in large print hardcover and as an ebook. www.revellbooks.com Fiction Amish—History—18th century—Fiction. Mennonites—History—18th century—Fiction. United States—Emigration and immigration—History—18th century—Fiction. Series: Amish Beginnings.

Suzanne Woods Fisher, one of the authors of the increasingly popular novels dealing with life

among the Amish, brings something new to the genre. In *Anna's Crossing* she fictionalizes the arrival in the new land of the first Amish and Mennonites from Europe. They crossed the Atlantic on the *Charming Nancy* in 1737. Fisher bases her story on fact, but historical documents and personal accounts of the era are inconsistent. As Fisher's interesting note at the end of this novel indicates, this presents authors and readers with more questions than answers.

Fisher weaves fact and fiction together to paint a picture of what such a voyage might have been like. Conditions aboard ships were deplorable; illness, greed, unsavory behavior and prejudices were rampant.

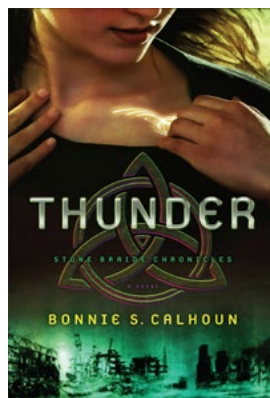
While life's circumstances change people, in a novel this often happens to characters too rapidly to be credible. However, such is not the case in *Anna's Crossing*. The relationship between Anna and Bairn, the ship's carpenter, begins in spite of obstacles and develops slowly, making the outcome plausible in spite of their different backgrounds. *Anna's Crossing* is an interesting addition to the Amish literature. —Beverly M. Bixler

Mistaken: First Impressions Are Never What They Seem

Karen Barnett. Abingdon, 2013. 352p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-4267-7449-2. Available as an ebook. www.abingdonpress.com Fiction Prohibition—Fiction. Washington (State)—History—20th century—Fiction. Washington (State)—Social life and customs—20th century—Fiction.

Each of the main characters in *Mistaken* can appear innocent or guilty; the truth is not always clear. Laurie Burke, an attractive young woman who works as a telephone operator in Port Angeles, Washington, appears to be self-confident, but no one knows about her alcoholic father who spends most of his money on liquor or her brother Johnny who works in the mines and is a rumrunner. When Daniel Shepherd, Johnny's childhood friend, moves back to town to help his father run the local drugstore and soda fountain, Laurie thinks he is just another rumrunner. And when agent Samuel Brown comes to town to enforce the federal prohibition laws, Laurie is conflicted about whether to protect her brother or obey the law. Does she know the true motives behind the actions of each of the characters? Laurie needs to rely on her faith as she examines the situation carefully.

Author Karen Barnett combines solid characters with plenty of action and suspense. This book is a perfect blend of romance and mystery that will keep readers intrigued from the first page to the last. —Mary Lou Henneman



Thunder

Bonnie S. Calhoun. Revell (an imprint of Baker), 2014. 321ARC. \$16.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8007-2376-7. Available in hardcover and as an ebook. www.revellbooks.com Fiction Good and evil—Fiction. Dystopia—Fiction. Series: Stone Braide Chronicles

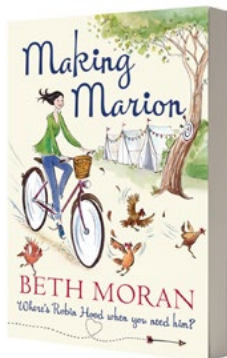
Selah Chavez is about to celebrate her 18th "Birth Remembrance," an important rite of passage in this society 150 years

after the destruction of the world as we know it. Wanting to prove her independent nature to herself and to her brothers, Selah comes across a Lander, a strange creature that sometimes bears a distinctive physical mark. Even though Selah captured the creature, her brothers claim the honor of selling him to those in power in "the Mountain." Why are these Landers worth so much to scientists?

Selah discovers she also bears the special mark of the Landers and suddenly becomes one of the hunted instead of a hunter.

Thunder, the first book in the Stone Braide Chronicles, is a thrilling good-versus-evil adventure set in a dystopian society. It addresses the question of who has the right to "play God." Readers who enjoy science fiction and fantasy

literature will be glad to discover this book on library shelves. They will consider how their own beliefs would come into play in a futuristic society such as the one in *Thunder*. —Mary Lou Henneman



Making Marion: Where's Robin Hood When You Need Him?

Beth Moran. Lion Hudson, 2014. Distributed by Kregel. 316p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-78264-099-8. Available as an ebook. www.lionhudson.com Fiction England—Fiction. Self-esteem—Fiction. Forgiveness—Fiction.

The setting of Sherwood Forest is both an escape and a beacon of hope for Marion Miller. She is running away from a life of conflict with her mother at home

in Northern Ireland and trying to find out more about her late father's mysterious life. Marion, in her mid-20s, finds herself in the middle of the Peace and Pigs trailer park, getting a job and becoming involved in the lives of some of the most diverse set of characters ever to appear together.

Author Beth Moran's tale is more than a simple romance. It is a character study that examines how individuals deal with issues of self-esteem and forgiveness. This is a good story with humor, romance, secrets and kind-

ness from strangers that will intrigue fans of lighthearted British fiction. Although the story mentions church and faith a few times, it cannot truly be classified as Christian fiction. It is still a good selection for church libraries (the main character works briefly in a small town library) where fiction collections include secular works. —Mary Lou Henneman



In Perfect Time: A Novel

Sarah Sundin. Revell (an imprint of Baker), 2014. 410p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8007-2083-4. Available in large print hardcover and as an ebook. www.revellbooks.com Fiction World War (1939-1945)—Fiction. Aviation nursing—Fiction. Air pilots, Military—Fiction. Forgiveness—Fiction. Love stories. Series:

Army Air Force flight nurse Lt. Kay Jobson and C-47 pilot Lt. Roger Cooper seem to have nothing in common but their

work evacuating wounded troops and delivering supplies to the partisans in World War II. Kay is beautiful and flirtatious, and she would rather date many guys than commit to any one relationship. Roger is a skilled pilot who hates military paperwork, loves to play the drums, and is dedicated to his faith. Both Kay and Roger have secrets from their past that seem insurmountable. A tu-



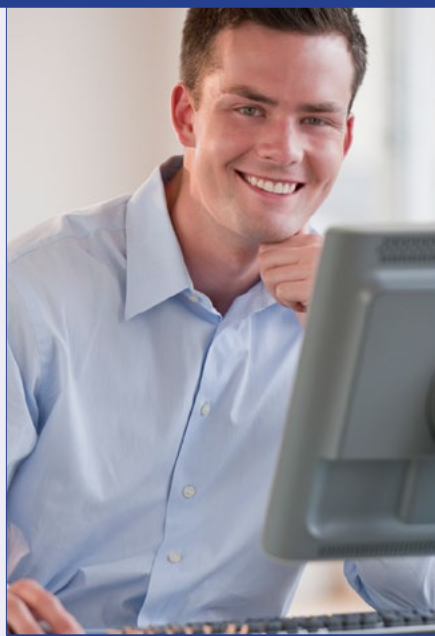
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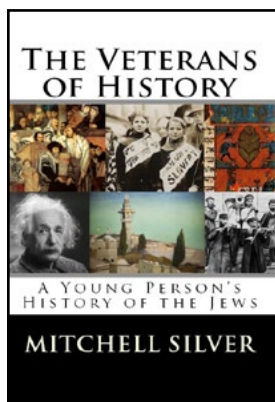
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multuous and emotional relationship begins when Roger gives Kay his Bible.

Will the pair let the humiliations of their past lives ruin their future? Can they finally forgive themselves as Christ does and find new hope?

This third book in the Wings of the Nightingale series will not disappoint Christian romance fans. Sarah Sundin has again masterfully intertwined excellent research with a strong plot to make this a perfect Christian historical romance. —*Mary Lou Henneman*

ESPECIALLY FOR TEENAGERS AND YOUNG ADULTS



The Veterans of History: A Young Person's Guide to the History of the Jews

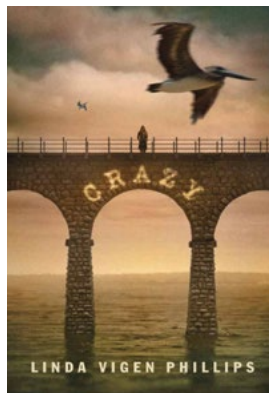
Mitchell Silver. Boston Workmen's Circle Center for Jewish Culture & Social Justice, 2014. 334p. \$19.95, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-615-95734-0. www.circleboston.org 909.04924 Jews—History.

Writing history is always a matter of perspective. Mitchell Silver, acknowledging his bias from the outset, writes from a secu-

lar, progressive and non-Zionist (but not anti-Zionist) point of view. As principal of a private and secular Jewish school, he needed a history book that fit the school's outlook. Using a sixth-grade vocabulary, he wrote the book he needed. His book, *The Veterans of History*, is engaging and clearly presented.

This is a comprehensive history, ranging from the tribal era into the 21st century. Silver's secular outlook allows for a broad view of events in Jewish history. He devotes attention to the issues that make history complex: the social, economic and ideological tensions that are often omitted from introductory surveys. His description of the American Jewish experience, however, stops short of describing the variety of Jewish expressions that might be of the most interest and relevance to his young readers.

I found this to be a useful book, offering new ways of understanding eras of Jewish history that I had often approached through a different set of lenses. For a middle-school aged child this will be an accessible and readable survey of Jewish history. —*Rabbi Louis A. Rieser*



Crazy

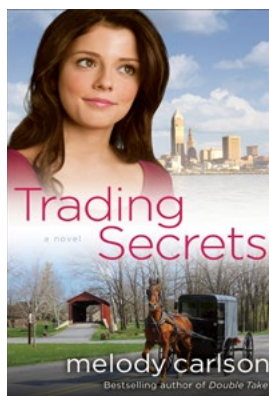
Linda Vigen Phillips. Eerdmans, 2014. 315p. \$9.00, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8028-5437-7. www.eerdmans.com Fiction Novels in verse. Mental illness—Fiction. Mothers and daughters—Fiction. Artists—Fiction.

"How does anybody get to be who they really are, anyway?"

Laura is a 15-year-old girl living in the 1960s. In *Crazy*, what might seem to be a typical coming-of-age story has an added

layer. Laura's mother suffers from mental illness in a time when most of society was uninformed and ill equipped for dealing with such disease. It is through art that Laura finds a way to cope.

It is through this beautiful novel in verse by Linda Vigen Phillips that readers get a glimpse into the very soul of Laura's character. The author's sensitivity to language is evident in the artful poetry that will engulf readers in Laura's emotions and struggles. The role of faith is brought into play, and questions regarding belief in God will inspire discussion. *Crazy* is highly recommended for teenagers and young adults. —*Mary Lou Henneman*



Trading Secrets: A Novel

Melody Carlson. Revell (an imprint of Baker), 2014. 278 p. \$12.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8007-2227-2. Available as an ebook. www.revellbooks.com Fiction Amish—Fiction. Secrets—Fiction.

Micah Knight, a fifth-grade student living with her father in the Cleveland suburbs, was glad to correspond with Zach, an Amish boy, as part of a school assignment. Over the years they shared

many stories and secrets. Now Micah is 17. Zach wants to meet Micah, whom he considers his best friend. He does not know, however, the one big secret Micah has kept from him—that she is a girl.

That Micah is a girl seemed unimportant when they first corresponded. Should she tell him now? Will he hate her? What will his parents think about their son corresponding with an "English" girl all these years? When Micah accepts an invitation to help with the planting on Zach's family's farm during spring break, their relationship takes many twists.

Micah and Zach learn about family and Christian values, honesty and true friendship. Melody Carlson clearly understands her teenaged readers; *Trading Secrets* is highly recommended. —*Mary Lou Henneman*

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

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BY JUDY JANZEN, *Administrator*

I hope you are finally seeing spring in your area. The weather on the West Coast has been very wet but warm compared to the East Coast.

Be sure to reserve the dates for the conference in Denton, Texas, July 29-31, 2015. The program sounds excellent and as always you will have time for meeting and greeting new and old friends. Networking is a great way to learn about new and exciting ideas for your libraries.

Remember when you purchase items from Amazon to go through our website www.cslainfo.org; that way CSLA benefits from the sale.



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Do you know any librarians who have not renewed their memberships or would benefit by becoming members of CSLA? Send me their names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. I will see that they get the information needed to become members. If each of us would encourage just one person to join, our association would grow rapidly. We can help librarians from the novice to the expert with their library ministry.

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MEDIA FOR THE TEEN & YOUNG ADULT READER



Media for the Teen and Young Adult Reader:

selected and annotated by Mary Lou Henneman. This guide is meant more to offer suggestions on a variety of books for congregational libraries than as a definitive bibliography directed toward the interests and needs of teens and young adults. \$12/\$14 + S&H.

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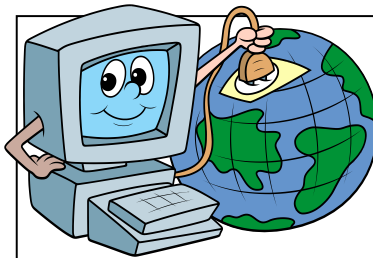
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