Inspirational Stories for the New Year

Congregational librarians share the heartwarming histories of their libraries

In the Beginning...

...where was your library? Have you kept a history of how your library got its launch (in most cases, with a humble beginning) and how it moved on? Not only can this be a fascinating search, but also it can provide invaluable information for the future of your library. One fellow librarian pointed out that you can trump that old chestnut, “We’ve never done it like that before!” Pull out your history and say, “Look at this....” However, it is most important to see whence you came to guide you into the future.

CLT solicited several such stories from members. Two—St. Thomas Episcopal and Perkasie Mennonite—already had their histories recorded, and the third, Epworth UMC, set off on an exploration. This has been such fun to do and see what we have been and are becoming that CLT has decided to do other stories on this topic in future issues. If you have a story to tell, please send it to us. We will fit these histories into the journal as space allows. We actually received more than we can use in this online issue, so look for more to come.

St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Sunnyvale, California

In the late 1960s, the family of a girl who was killed in an automobile accident donated many books to our church. The family also donated a box of 3x5 cards containing information on each book. The books were put on a cart and taken to classrooms on Sunday mornings. When my family arrived in 1978, the rector asked me to consider starting a library. He knew I had been working in an elementary school library. I started by gathering all the books—from various rooms, cupboards, and boxes. What a mess of books we had!

One volunteer, Marjory Hanrahan, worked weekly with me for many years. Other volunteers typed our catalog cards. The women’s group graciously donated $250 to our project for needed general library supplies.

Someone told me that we should contact a nearby church that had a nice library. I invited myself to the church and discovered how useful that contact could be. One thing they told me was to join an organization of church librarians: Church and Synagogue Library Association. I contacted the executive secretary, Dot Rodda, who sent a great deal of information, and naturally we joined CSLA.

On June 3, 1979—Pentecost Sunday—we opened a small children’s section, with approximately 250 books. In 1981, Marjory and I attended our first CSLA
From The President’s Desk...

Hear ye! Hear ye! The Church and Synagogue Library Association has much to celebrate! CSLA is moving forward in the digital age, as are many other not-for-profit organizations. The current issue of Congregational Libraries Today, our organization’s journal, is being sent to our members electronically for the first time. Using this method of communication will save the organization the usual publishing and mailing expenses and help channel these funds into operating expenses. If you cannot receive the journal electronically, please ask your church office manager or a friend or family member to help you accomplish this task. If all else fails, you are welcome to contact Judy Janzen in the CSLA office, and she will see that you receive a paper copy.

CSLA has also added e-commerce to its website. Members and friends are now able to order publications and make donations to our organization online by using a credit card. What a welcome change to our way of doing business! We still offer the option of making purchases and donations the traditional way, but for those who want to embrace technology, your business with CSLA may be handled electronically.

Do not forget to order the newest CSLA publication, Organizing a Library or Resource Center: Creating a Policy and Procedure Manual, revised and compiled by Carol Campbell, Dianne Oswald, and Glenda Strombom (first edition 2010; 28 pages; members $12.00, non-members $14.00, plus $3.00 postage and handling). Our compilers brought together three previous CSLA publications, A Policy and Procedure Manual for Church and Synagogue Libraries: A Do-It-Yourself Guide, Standards for Church and Synagogue Libraries: Guidelines for Measuring Effectiveness and Progress, and Setting Up A Library, How to Begin or Begin Again, to create this new publication. It provides a simple method of developing a working manual which is valuable for all aspects of organizing and operating a congregational library.

I spoke of making donations via credit card to CSLA when I described the new e-commerce feature of our website. Holiday time is the perfect time to remember a loved one with a commemorative monetary gift in his/her name to CSLA, either by credit card or check. Your donation will go far in supporting our organization and the continuing education of congregational librarians all across the United States.

(Blessings on you and your families and happy holidays to all!)

Yours in CSLA,
Marjorie Smink, President
from front page

conference, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. We came home with lots of great ideas—one of which was to organize a local chapter. This chapter, the San Jose Bay Area Chapter, recently celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary. Soon, our library outgrew its little space and in 1985 we moved our two thousand volumes to another building.

These last thirty-plus years have seen many changes. Our collection is now over seven thousand items; our catalog is available for viewing at http://66.80.1.30. We have four full-time volunteers. In 2003 the Diocese of El Camino asked if we would consider opening our library collection to other churches in the diocese. We became a resource center; we added another diocese; and clergy and educators from both dioceses use the center. Both dioceses contribute to our annual budget. We received a grant for the resource center from Province VIII in 2009.

This is a condensed version of a running history we have for our library. See Chapter Nine (page twenty-four) of Organizing a Library or Resource Center for helpful information on what should be included in your history.

—Carol Campbell, librarian

Perkasie Mennonite Church, Perkasie, Pennsylvania

From its establishment as a congregation in 1948 until the present, Perkasie Mennonite Church has had a library. The first library, I am told, consisted of a few donated books, such as The Sugar Creek Gang and The Triplets, displayed on glass-enclosed shelves in a secretary desk housed in the basement. Additional books were provided by the efforts of various Sunday school classes. Minutes show a donation of $6.97 in March, 1948, for the purchase of library books.

By the mid-1950s the library collection had grown enough to require the building of a new unit with adjustable shelving and storage space at the bottom. It was handsome with its white paint, but not many people visited the basement.

In 1954 the newly elected, inexperienced, and untrained librarian decided the 375 books now in the collection should be classified and cataloged according to the Dewey Decimal System and a new circulation system put into place. The congregation’s resultant increased interest provided additional materials.

In 1968, lacking space for its approximately five hundred books, the congregation decided to move the library upstairs to a room of its own, just inside the main entrance to the church. The library became a $200.00 line item in the church budget. Things were definitely looking up.

Many promotional activities through the years brought increased patronage and an enlarged collection. The library was bursting at the seams. In 1980 the library committee called for a direction-setting evaluation. One of the recommendations of the evaluating committee—comprised of a local high school librarian, two teachers, and a member of the congregation’s library committee (head librarian excluded)—was that the library should again be enlarged. Fortunately the pastor whose study was adjacent to the library was amenable to having his study moved to a remodeled area in the basement. The wall between the two rooms was removed to provide an enlarged, inviting library.

Today the library collection of books, DVDs, puppets, and periodicals numbers about 4,500 items. The web-based OPALS library automation program allows persons in the congregation to access the library from home. Perkasie Mennonite Church membership remains small (about 100 members), but its commitment to the library and its program has continued steadily through the years.

—Naomi Kauffman, librarian

Epworth United Methodist Church, Indianapolis, Indiana

Epworth UMC was established in 1958. Having no church building, Epworth members worshipped in the local American Legion Hall. By 1960, these intrepid worshippers built a small, modern limestone church with a wonderful wood and window-filled sanctuary. The move was motivated by a desire to further Christian education among the heathens of the burgeoning northeast Indy suburbs. Central to this mission was the plan for the Epworth library.

Symbolic of the importance that Epworth’s founders placed on the role of books and education is the central location chosen for its library. As one leaves the sanctuary, the first room one sees across the entry hall is the lovely little library. Through several remodelings, the only change that has been made to this honored space has been to enlarge it. The wise choice of location has been the most important reason for the library’s success!

Eleanor Reynolds chaired the original organizing committee. She led other volunteers in beginning a collection of donations from church members and pastors. The first book was a child’s book, Love is a Special
In Memoriam

Sara Rohrbach Mack

Sara Rohrbach Mack, 88, died September 8, 2010, in The Reading Hospital and Medical Center, West Reading, Pennsylvania. She was the widow of the Reverend George Mack, who died in 1948. She was a longtime member of CSLA and formerly served as church librarian at Trinity Lutheran Church in Topton, Pennsylvania.

Mack was born Nov. 20, 1921 in Topton. She graduated from Kutztown State Teachers College, now Kutztown University, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Library Science and received a Master of Science degree in Library Science from Columbia University in New York. She did additional course work at Columbia, Temple University, and the University of Pennsylvania. She was a librarian at Mount Penn-Lower Alsace Junior-Senior High School, Mount Penn, before joining the faculty at Kutztown State College, where she taught Library Science courses for twenty-five years, becoming department chairperson before she retired.

In addition to CSLA, her professional affiliations included American Library Association; Pennsylvania Library Association; Pennsylvania School Librarians Association, where she served as president from 1963 to 1965; Kutztown University Alumni Association, where she served as president from 1978 to 1980; and Kutztown University Council of Trustees, from 1983 to 2001.

Mack was active in numerous community organizations, including Friends of the Reading-Berks Public Libraries, where she served as president from 1983 to 1984; additionally, she served on the board of Louisa Gonser Community Library, Kutztown, from 1991 to 2000, where she was instrumental in locating and securing the property where the library stands today. She received many awards and significant recognition for her contributions to librarianship. She was a long-time contributor to Congregational Libraries Today, and she authored the book, “Inspirational Readings for Elementary Grades,” Kutztown Publishing, 1964.

Funeral services were held Sept. 13, 2010, in Kutztown.

SPECIAL FOR CSLA…PICK YOUR PROGRAM…
Then take 50% off the price to help us celebrate our 30th year!

*** CATALOG CARD CREATOR  $115 was $229
(Prints catalog card sets or singles and label sets. Pre-formatted, you select type size, style.) Complete with 100 sheet package of 3 cards on a sheet catalog cards…

*** COMPUTER ACCESS CATALOG  $245 was $489
(Catalog, easiest multi-field searching, prints label sets and lists)

*** The CIRCULATION DESK $300 was $399
(Circulation System, catalog, easiest multi-field searching, overdue management, prints label sets and lists)

*** These programs also available in versions that print catalog card sets or singles and label sets. Pre-formatted, you select type size, style.)

EASY TO LEARN...
EASY TO USE...
AFFORDABLE!

CONTACT US.......... for a complete, fully functioning, 
DEMO program.... FREE!

Try Before You Buy!

Index of Publications on the Web
Searching for just the right CSLA guide that might be helpful to you in your library ministry? Check www.cslainfo.org for a NEWLY REVISED index using topics common to librarians. Topics range from accessioning, circulation, memorials, and posters to weeding.

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

Time to AUTOMATE your CHURCH LIBRARY!
The time is RIGHT!
The price is RIGHT!
The software is from RIGHT ON PROGRAMS!

Serving the Church and Synagogue Library Community for more than 30 years

Right on Programs
27 Bowdon Road
Huntington NY 11740
631-424-7777 FAX: 424-7207 email:
friends@rightonprograms.com

Library Concepts
your catalog on the Web
$49.95 per YEAR!

- Works with most automation software, not just ours
- Easy searches, useful results
- For details visit:
http://OurLibraryOnline.com

Your source for PC Card Catalog the easy-to-use automation software
http://LibraryConcepts.com

EASY TO LEARN...
EASY TO USE...
AFFORDABLE!

EASY TO LEARN...
EASY TO USE...
AFFORDABLE!

EASY TO LEARN...
EASY TO USE...
AFFORDABLE!

EASY TO LEARN...
EASY TO USE...
AFFORDABLE!

EASY TO LEARN...
EASY TO USE...
AFFORDABLE!
Time is flitting away, and here we are up to some of the major holidays. As I have said before, Christmas and Hanukkah offer so many possibilities that we are spoiled for choice. Just because I like three-dimensional bulletin boards—and because I really like this idea—here is one I came across. Take nine or twelve paper towel or similar rolls and cover with colored paper or foil, tucking paper in at each end. Make a chandelier-shaped flame to tuck into the top of nine rolls. Use one long roll (or two if needed) for the bar below the candles. You may want to make a pedestal-shaped base to go underneath the crossbar. Arrange on a bulletin board and you have a distinctive focal point. The title on the version I saw was HANUKKAH CANDLES SHINING BRIGHTLY. Go from wherever that leads you. You might want to include in your display the Sesame Street DVD Chanukah: The Missing Menorah, reviewed in this issue of CLT.

The New Year offers another distinctive set of ideas for displays. RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH BIBLE STUDY—not a lot of trouble here: some bells and confetti with Bible study aids or devotional literature. Rubbing God’s Ear with His Promises: A Year’s Prayers, reviewed in this issue of CLT, will work well with a New Year display. RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH JOY AND GOOD HEALTH: this theme will help you show off your medical advice books, health books, and cookbooks. This clip art shows spoons and chef hats; you could use these actual items in a display and on a bulletin board using those famous T-pins!

January is NATIONAL EYE CARE MONTH—USE YOUR EYES WISELY. READ! Make a large pair of eyes with glasses or craft a separate pair of frames to spread out the display, along with a selection of books. WINTER TIME IS READING TIME or WINTER IS FOR READING: these themes are good for any selection of books and visual media. Make a winter scene with warm blankets and a doll curled up with a book and a stack of books beside it. Try to find some clear blue cellophane wrap to create an icy effect in the background.

February is a good month to teach tolerance. We can say GOD MADE US ALL DIFFERENT. This should be an easy display to assemble, with a collection of pictures of children and adults from around the world. World religion media and international books would fit, as would children’s books about acceptance, playing fair, and taking a stand against bullying, which is much in the news these days. One good book to include is Toward the Goal: The Kaká Story, which is reviewed in this issue of CLT. Another approach for tolerance could be GOD LOVES US ALL EQUALLY.

I am still seeking your ideas for promoting your library
—Dottie Lewis, deglewis@gmail.com
“Challenge is a dragon with a gift in its mouth... Tame the dragon and the gift is yours.”

Noela Evans

As Craig Kubic so eloquently put it in our April/May/June issue of the CLT, “CSLA is a ‘fairy tale’ organization, helping our members in valiant endeavors.” Now, as then, CSLA needs all of us to give our financial support. Like many others, our organization is facing critical times. Our membership fees have not kept up with the increasing costs of our financial structure. You probably see in your daily lives and in your congregations the cutbacks on expenditures at every level. You see increased prices everywhere—so does CSLA. CSLA expenses for just the CLT have grown so much because of the cost of paper, printing, and postage that dues alone do not cover that expense and those of maintaining the national office. The national office reduced its costs over this year thanks to Judy Janzen’s efficiency and her taking on more and more duties. For very little remuneration Judy has saved us time and money because she loves CSLA and wants it to keep serving congregational libraries.

Did you take up the challenge to be a dragon trainer for CSLA? Will you take it up now? To quote Craig again, “CSLA is the gift in the dragon’s mouth. Our organization has served many members through its well-written guides, mentoring program, and always-insightful information from Congregational Libraries Today.” But the dragon is getting closer to the gate and we need to encourage all congregational libraries to membership and participation in our “fairy tale” organization. We need to be able to continue our mission in the world of libraries.

A significant challenge was issued at the Houston conference in July: A scholarship [not to exceed $1500.00] of room rental and travel fair to the Washington DC conference 2011. This scholarship to be awarded to the person who obtains the most new members for CSLA.

Better start that recruiting and pack those bags!
Carol: A Story for Christmas

Jack O’Malley is a busy grump of a man, irritated at every turn this season by crowds of shoppers, cold and snow, solicitations from charities, and boisterous good cheer.

In this contemporary reworking of Charles Dickens’s A Christmas Carol, Bob Hartman takes readers along with Jack after a seemingly chance encounter with a beautiful stranger. The stranger, named Carol, shows Jack scenes from his past, the present, and the future that awaits if Jack does not change his selfish ways. Familiar figures from the nineteenth-century original are updated to include a young African girl with nothing to eat and a former love interest who just possibly could return to Jack’s life. Through the lessons Carol provides for Jack, Hartman gently pushes for grassroots, person-to-person charity, rather than bureaucratic “top-down” programs.

Alert readers will notice this book’s British spellings and punctuation. Carol is a quick, pleasant read that reminds readers that genuine happiness comes from making a positive difference.

—Monica Tenney

Christmas at Harrington’s

Christmas at Harrington’s is about second chances. Lena Markham spent the last eight of her forty-three years in prison. Now, with nothing but the cheap clothes and a little traveling money given her upon her release, she is riding the bus to the small town in northern Minnesota where she will begin her new life. Readers will quickly sympathize with Lena and wonder whether her incarceration was justified.

Lena, like some of the people she encounters, must work hard and have faith. At the boarding house where she takes a room and at Harrington’s department store where she lands a job, Lena lives quietly with the shame of her past. She is generous to others in difficult straits, sharing what little she has. Lena’s steadfast goodness earns her the respect and affection of new friends. By story’s end, earlier doubts about her guilt prove to be warranted. There is even the hint of a future romance for Lena.

Christmas at Harrington’s is an enjoyable, easy-reading story of redemption. Fans of Carlson’s fiction will be glad to find it on library shelves.

—Monica Tenney

Christmas: A Festival of Incarnation

In Christmas: A Festival of Incarnation, Donald Heinz explores aspects of modern Christmas celebrations, their origins, and their relation to the central meaning of Christmas as God’s incarnation on earth. In dense but rewarding prose, Heinz tells “the amazing story of how an original religious festival celebrating the one-time Incarnation of God . . . laid down vast deposits in the Western tradition.” Beginning with the nativity texts of Matthew and Luke, Heinz traces the emergence of the incarnational drama as played out first within the Christian church and, ultimately, on the broad stage of modern culture, both religious and secular. Heinz examines props and scenery used in the staging of Christmas, including the crèche, Christmas trees, lights, cards, gifts, Santa Claus, art, and music, tracing their history and development into modern elements of the annual celebration.

Christmas: A Festival of Incarnation contains a gallery of color photos, an index, and a generous supply of notes for further reading. Recommended for scholars, clergy, and highly motivated general readers. Online study guides are available through the Fortress website.

Heinz is an ordained Lutheran (ELCA) minister and is Professor of Religious Studies at California State University, Chico.

The True Gift: A Christmas Story

Patricia MacLachlan, winner of the Newbery Medal in 1986 for Sarah, Plain and Tall, offers another gift to readers. Lily and Liam visit their grandparents’ farm for ten days every Christmas. This year, there is only one animal left in the field—a sad-looking white cow. Liam, the younger of the two siblings, sees that White Cow is lonely and quickly decides to somehow find her
### this issue's topics

- **Entertaining Religion** | 17
- **Fiction** | 19
- **For the Holidays** | 8
- **For Older Children, Teens & YAs** | 21
- **For Young Children** | 20
- **Inspiring Lives** | 12
- **Living in Faith** | 11
- **Prayer & Meditation** | 16
- **Religious History** | 14

### this issue's reviews

- 17 Christmases...10
- Basic Christian: The Inside Story of John Stott...12
- Boyfriends, Burritos & an Ocean of Trouble...22
- Carol: A Story for Christmas...8
- Catwalk...22
- Chanukah: The Missing Menorah...10
- Christianity in Action: The International History of the Salvation Army...14
- Christmas...10
- Christmas at Harrington’s...8
- Christmas Kitten, Home at Last...11
- Christmas: Festival of Incarnation...8
- College 101: Campus Life for Christians...22
- Devil in Pew Number Seven: A True Story, The...13
- Doing Jewish Theology: God, Torah & Israel in Modern Judaism...16
- Empowered Judaism: What Independent Minyanim Can Teach Us about Building Vibrant Jewish Communities...12
- Final Touch...22
- Frenemies: What to Do When Friends Turn Mean...21
- Garmann’s Street...20
- Hanukkah Trike, The...10
- InterActive Faith: The Essential Interreligious Community-Building Handbook...11
- It Had to Be You...20
- Judaism and the Gentiles: Jewish Patterns of Universalism (to 135 CE)...14
- Justice Game, The...19
- Katy’s Debate...21
- Let’s Have A Daddy Day...20
- Look What God Is Doing!: True Stories of People around the World Changed by the Gospel...13
- Lord’s Prayer: Insight and Inspiration to Draw You Closer to Him, The...16

---

**Read This Book!**

This is one of those tools that every congregational library and resource center should place on its MUST HAVE list. It is a carefully researched and edited guide that is an essential aid for a beginning library but also one for bringing an existing library into the 21st Century. The manual combines the guide for setting up a library with the policy and procedures manual and adds the previous volume of standards for congregational libraries. Smooth reading and an easily followed step-by-step outline make this an aid no library or resource center should be without.

$12 for members, $14 for non-members, plus $3.00 p&h
Request from CSLA, 2920 SW Dolph Ct, Suite 3A, Portland OR 97219-4055; csla@worldaccessnet.com

Thank you, San Jose Bay Area Chapter, for paying for the printing of this guide!
a companion. Lily, who narrates the story, is sympathetic but also afraid of White Cow, even if it means selling his beloved books to the secondhand bookstore in town so that he can buy a lovely brown calf that is up for sale. Lily contributes her savings and realizes the true gift her brother gives. On Christmas Eve, the children and their grandparents happily discover that Liam’s efforts have touched many other hearts, too.

Brian Foca’s pencil and graphite illustrations are a perfect complement to this tender story that features a loving relationship with grandparents, appreciation of books and the library, and compassionate action.

—Monica Tenney

**Christmas**


Dorothy Goeller’s *Christmas* is ideal for little ones who are just beginning to learn that words represent objects and concepts (and that books can be fun). This six-by-seven-inch hardcover, one of Enslow’s All About Holidays series, offers the sparest of texts, in the form of a letter to Santa, with a simple wish list of tree, stars, candy canes, hats, and fish. Fish?

Brightly colored illustrations opposite the text will help draw young ones forward. The last two-page spread thanks Santa and reveals the authors of the letter to be three charming pen guins. They are gathered at their Christmas tree under a starry sky, looking pleased with their Santa hats, their candy canes, and their Christmas fish.

*Christmas* offers extras of websites, two other Christmas books to read, and, improbably, an index.

—Monica Tenney

**Chanukah: The Missing Menorah** (*DVD*)


Preschool and elementary-aged children will enjoy this second of twelve new titles in SISU’s Shalom Sesame series. Grover, Count von Count, and other Sesame Street notables present an exuberant celebration of Chanukah, mixing lessons with the fun. Singer and actress Anneliese van der Pol, who in all the excitement has lost her menorah, gets help from the Sesame Street gang and from regular kids as they share tales of Judah Maccabee and the original Chanukah, a trip to Israel, games of dreidel, and even a look at how olive oil is made the old-fashioned way.

This good-humored, energetic video deserves a place in all synagogue libraries that serve children.

—Monica Tenney

**The Hanukkah Trike**


Gabi enjoys celebrating Hanukkah with her family. She loves eating potato latkes, spinning a dreidel, learning about the Maccabees and their uprising for religious freedom, and lighting candles for eight nights. This year she receives a special present on the first night: a tricycle that she names Hanukkah. The next day, after an initial unsuccessful attempt, Gabi is able to ride the tricycle smoothly and speedily. Now she feels brave like the Maccabees.

—Monica Tenney
In this simple story, warmly illustrated in acrylics by Kathryn Mitter, Michelle Edwards offers a tale that will appeal to children 3 and 4 years of age. One could easily imagine this book being adapted as a board book. For those who want a little more depth about the holiday and a supplement to the role of the Maccabees, the 1991 standard by Raymond Zwerin and Audrey Marcus, Like A Maccabee (URJ Press), also is appropriate for children in this age group and up to 6 years old.

—Evelyn Pockrass

Christmas Kitten, Home at Last

Santa returns from his Christmas deliveries with a tiny passenger tucked inside his coat. Cookie, a tiny kitten, has charmed Santa. The only trouble is, Santa is allergic to cats. The sneezing begins, and as much as Santa and Mrs. Claus would love to keep the little orange ball of fluff, Santa’s allergy will not allow it. Santa must find a loving child to adopt Cookie, but only where parents have given permission.

Cookie, in the midst of mischief, is the one who discovers a letter revealing that a loving home—with parental permission—awaits. So off they go, with Mrs. Claus driving the sled (she insists—Santa is tired), to get Cookie to young Angela by Christmas morning.

Christmas Kitten, Home at Last is an appealing follow-up to Pulver’s Christmas for a Kitten, published by Whitman in 2003. For ages 5 to 8.

—Monica Tenney

The Seven Questions You’re Asked in Heaven: Reviewing & Renewing Your Life on Earth

If you have ever wondered about the value of your life on earth and the purpose of heaven, Ron Wolfson’s engaging book will help put things into perspective. Wolfson is a professor of education at the American Jewish University in Los Angeles and a cofounder of Synagogue 3000. He has written extensively on Jewish holidays and rituals and presents motivational workshops on congregational life for multi-faith groups. This slim, self-help volume is intended as an aid in re-evaluating one’s life.

Wolfson presents in contemporary terms the questions he envisions being asked in heaven. Were you honest? Did you leave a legacy? Did you set a time to study? Did you have hope in your heart? Did you get your priorities straight? Did you enjoy this world? Were you the best you could be? He quotes frequently from the Hebrew Bible and from rabbinic sources. Wolfson encourages readers to live life to the fullest by making a difference in the world.

There is a worksheet at the end of each chapter, and there are suggestions for further reading at the end of the book. Reading Wolfson’s discourse and discussing the seven questions can promote a sense of renewal.

—Evelyn Pockrass
Shalom Bayis with a Twist of Humor

A Time to Embrace: Same-Gender Relationships in Religion, Law, and Politics

Empowered Judaism: What Independent Minyanim Can Teach Us about Building Vibrant Jewish Communities

Part critique, part prescription, Empowered Judaism describes the emergence of the independent minyanim movement. A minyan is the quorum required for a public Jewish service. Independent minyanim are non-institutional gatherings that have been organized by young Jews over the past decade or more. Their success speaks to a need that is not being met by synagogues. Elie Kaunfer, an early participant and organizer, offers his reflections on the lessons of the movement and how they can strengthen the broader Jewish community. Kaunfer defines empowered Judaism as “a Judaism in which people begin to take responsibility for creating Jewish community, without waiting on the sidelines.” He expresses his confidence that individual Jews, particularly young Jews, can create exciting, engaged communities. He illustrates his point with reports from minyanim across the United States and in Israel. He describes the lessons learned from their efforts at enlivening prayer services, community organizing, developing volunteer leaders, and more. Kaunfer suggests ways these lessons can be integrated into the broader Jewish community, and he speculates on what the future holds.

This is a bold and impassioned book that has much to teach, one worthy of a reading by anyone interested in creating a more vibrant Jewish community. —Rabbi Louis A. Rieser

Basic Christian: The Inside Story of John Stott

Readers of religious works often encounter references to Dr. John Stott and his Basic Christianity, a classic Christian book from 1958. Roger Steer’s Basic Christian is a welcome addition to Christian biography collections.

Born in London in 1921 to a Lutheran mother and an agnostic father, Stott displayed an early affinity for modern languages. His father, a physician, hoped his son would have an illustrious career in the Foreign Service. At seventeen, Stott accepted Christ, and from then on desired only to serve the Church. Many years went by before Stott and his father mended the rift this caused.

Described by longtime friend Billy Graham as the “most
Ostrich Feathers

Miriam Romm was eight years old when she heard a neighbor in Israel remark that the man she knew as her father had adopted her. In her emotional memoir, Romm recounts her efforts over the ensuing years to find out more about her biological father and the family’s roots in Poland. Romm’s father, Moshe (Moniek) Grajower, never returned after being detained by the Nazis before she was born, but Romm fantasizes that he may still be alive and she will meet him. During her search, which takes her to Krakow several times and to other parts of Europe, the Americas, and Australia, Romm meets long-lost friends and relatives who knew her family. (The Graowers owned an ostrich feather business, hence the title of the book.) Romm finds old documents, including verification of her baptism, a ceremony that miraculously seemed to help save her life as an infant. Gradually Romm’s mother accedes to her daughter’s requests to reveal some of the painful history of the 1940s.

Romm’s writing, translated from the Hebrew by Danielle Caine, attempts to be literary but is not always clear in differentiating between reality and longing. Nevertheless, those engaged in genealogical research in Poland should find Romm’s experiences of interest. —Evelyn Pockrass

A Positive Life: Living with HIV as a Pastor, Husband, and Father

When Shane Stanford was sixteen, doctors found that the blood products used to treat his hemophilia had infected him with the virus that causes AIDS. In this remarkable memoir, Stanford tells of growing up challenged by his ailments, strengthened by a close relationship with his grandfather, and charmed by the girl who would become his wife.

Stanford studied at Duke Divinity School in North Carolina and was ordained in the United Methodist Church. At a time when ignorance and fear prevailed regarding HIV, it was unclear how his condition would affect his “appointability” as a pastor. There were early, hurtful questions and rejections. Stanford, with deep faith and the support of his wife and others, persevered and excelled.

Stanford is frank as he relates the troubles he and his wife have overcome in their marriage. Professional obligations, health issues, past abusive relationships, and recent temptations have threatened, but the Stanfords refused to give up. Today they take joy in their three daughters, in one another, and in their enduring faith.

Stanford is the senior pastor at Gulf Breeze United Methodist Church in Florida. He is the author of The Seven Next Words of Christ (Abingdon, 2006) and three other books. —Monica Tenney

The Devil in Pew Number Seven: A True Story

The Devil in Pew Number Seven is a gripping tale—if only it were fiction. Rebecca Nichols Alonzo traces her parents’ story from their meeting in a small Louisiana church, where her mother was organist and her father a visiting evangelist. They fell in love, married, and eventually moved to North Carolina, where Robert Nichols pastored the Free Welcome Holiness Church in Sellersville. There, a disturbed and controlling man, who habitually occupied a back pew in the tiny church, resented the popular young pastor. This “devil,” who lived across the street from the parsonage, launched a campaign of harassment that continued for five years and escalated from menacing phone calls and unsigned letters to shootings and explosions of dynamite, all meant to drive Robert Nichols away. Robert and Ramona Nichols refused to leave the congregation they had grown to love. They believed in—and practiced—forgiveness.

Alonzo recounts the horrors her peace-loving family endured, the losses, the kindness of friends and family, and her parents’ unyielding faith. For events of which Alonzo has no personal recollection, she consulted news accounts, court transcripts, her parents’ journals, and surviving witnesses and participants. —Monica Tenney

Look What God Is Doing!: True Stories of People around the World Changed by the Gospel

“Truth is stranger than fiction,” is evident in Look What God Is Doing. Author Dick Eastman is the international president of Every Home for Christ, a ministry begun in Canada in 1946. Its purpose is to fulfill Christ’s Great Commission. The ministry has conducted campaigns in 198 countries; 2.6 billion Gospel booklets have been distributed, and 112 Christ Groups (groups where no
churc hes exist) have been established. Bible courses have been requested and completed as a result of the contacts made through this ministry.

Because Eastman has accompanied teams of full-time and volunteer workers on many missions, a good portion of the incredible stories he tells are supported by his personal witness. Look What God Is Doing! includes accounts of evangelism in Nepal, with Pygmy tribes deep in the African equatorial rainforest, a place and people seldom seen by outsiders, as well as in China, Russia, and Latin America. A revised and abridged version of the 1997 original Beyond Imagination, this text provides interesting, encouraging reading for those who may feel discouraged by declining church attendance in their own locations.

—Beverly M. Bixler

Religious History

Christianity in Action: The International History of the Salvation Army

Henry Gariepy. Eerdmans, 2009. 286p. $25.00, hardcover. ISBN: 978-0-8288-4841-3. www.eerdmans.com 287.9’6 Salvation Army—History. Many of us, when we hear a mention of the Salvation Army, conjure images of people ringing bells around a red kettle at Christmas time. This international charitable organization does much more, working in more than 118 countries worldwide. Founded by William Booth in England in the 1800s, the Salvation Army aims to give hope to the poor by showing them Christ’s love and giving them the tools to improve their lives.

Colonel Henry Gariepy, a retired Salvation Army officer and instructor, has succeeded in chronicling the organization’s story from its beginning to the present day. Gariepy’s research is sound, and the personal stories of how those in the “Army of the Lord” have succeeded in their mission are fascinating.

End matter includes the “Doctrines of the Salvation Army” and “Articles of War: A Soldier’s Covenant.” This is an excellent book for anyone who is curious about the Salvation Army’s history and the lives and teachings of the saints. —Carolyn Egolf

Judaism and the Gentiles: Jewish Patterns of Universalism (to 135 CE)


There exists a perception that ancient Judaism was a closed and particularistic tradition while Christianity created a universal religion. In Judaism and the Gentiles, Terence Donaldson provides significant evidence demonstrating that there were multiple patterns of universalism already present within early Judaism. He cites and provides commentary for an amazing number of texts from the Apocrypha, Josephus, Philo, Qumran, early Christian sources, and more. These texts illustrate the openness that existed within Judaism from the days of the Bible through the Bar Kochba rebellion in 132, a period of roughly five centuries.

Donaldson presents four different patterns of universalism within early Judaism: sympathy (adopting some Jewish practices without opting for conversion), conversion, ethical monotheism, and participation in eschatological salvation. His evidence convincingly presents the breadth of options open to non-Jews during the days of Second Temple Judaism. Since the texts are included in translation and with commentary, it is easy for readers to judge the evidence for themselves.

This is an intriguing and challenging book. It will be a valuable resource to scholars and others interested in understanding the dynamic world of Second Temple Judaism.

—Rabbi Louis A. Rieser

Saint Augustine of Hippo: Selections from Confessions and Other Essential Writings—Annotated & Explained


Augustine expressed in his Confessions the desire to serve “with heart and voice and pen.” Little did he know how deep and enduring would be the impact of that desire. Readers are indebted to scholars who research the ancient writings and bring material to new life in anthology form. Joseph Kelley has selected from Augustine’s many works and enhanced their modern application.

Augustine lived from 354 to 430 CE. For thirty-five of those years, he was the Bishop of Hippo in North Africa. With Rome’s political power as context, Augustine writes of his personal struggle from waywardness through conversion to deep faith. Augustine’s themes of God’s grace, original sin, community, pilgrimage, and evil have influenced Christian doctrine through the centuries. Among perennial issues addressed by Augustine are politics, justice, war, peace, and death. The familiar quotations throughout the text are a testament to Augustine’s impact on modern language and thought.

This book merits lingering study rather than a quick read-through. Recommended for readers interested in religious history and the lives and teachings of the saints. —Carolyn Egolf

The Sisters of Sinai: How Two Lady Adventurers Discovered the Hidden Gospels


Agnes and Margaret Smith were identical twins, Scottish by birth and resolutely Presbyterian. By the time they were twenty-three, they had lost both parents. They were without family but had plenty of money. They decided to travel.

The twins eagerly learned languages of the lands they would visit and quickly developed a fascination with the Middle East.
The Awards of the Church and Synagogue Library Association

Outstanding Congregational Library
Outstanding Congregational Librarian
Outstanding Contribution to Congregational Libraries
Helen Keating Ott Award for Outstanding Contribution to Children’s Literature
Pat Tabler Memorial Scholarship Award

“It’s hard to be humble when you’re perfect in every way,” as Texas songwriter Mac Davis says. However, most people are a little humble! So, consider telling the story of a library or a librarian you know that is “perfect in every way”—or encourage someone familiar with your library to sing your praises!

Do the Texas two-step:

Step 1. Download the CSLA Awards Nomination form from the CSLA web site (cslainfo.org).

Step 2. Talk to the number one supporter of the congregational library, such as a minister or rabbi, the chair of the library committee, that preschool mom who really depends upon the picture book collection—anybody who loves the library—and tell them about the CSLA awards. Chances are, that person will be thrilled to have the opportunity to recognize the hard work of the librarian!

Note: A librarian can nominate herself or himself for the Pat Tabler Memorial Scholarship Award!

Fill out the form and submit by March 31, 2011 to

Jeri Baker, CSLA Awards Committee Chair
Wilshire Baptist Church
4316 Abrams Road, Dallas, Texas 75214
jbaker@wilshirebc.org

“Starting at just $195
Make your ResourceMate® library searchable on the web for only $99.

“Our church library is in the best shape it has ever been thanks to ResourceMate®.

- Linda McCants, Westwood Baptist Church

Toll Free 800-815-8370
Fax 519-837-8656
www.resourcemate.com

Developed by Jaywil Software Development Inc.
and sacred texts. In the library of St. Catherine's Monastery at Mount Sinai in Egypt, they found one of the earliest known copies of the Gospels, a translation from Greek into Syriac, closely related to the Aramaic spoken by Jesus.

Both Agnes and Margaret married in mid-life but were quickly widowed. They returned to their adventures, which included working with a rabbinic scholar to rescue what would prove to be “the richest archive of medieval Jewish materials in existence.”

Readers are swept along by this skillful telling of the twins’ adventures—one can almost hear the hissing of the camels as the ladies cross the desert. Their eccentricities delight—they raised eyebrows with their daily exercise regimen on parallel bars in their back garden, and each autumn their church friends noted “moth-ball Sunday,” the “odiferous Sabbath on which the twins—

Theological Journey,” illustrates this approach.

views ritual, liturgy, and theology as related to myth, “a set of metaphors systematized and extended into a coherent structure of meaning.” Regardless, Gillman presents his viewpoint in accessible ways.

The best chapter, in my estimation, is titled “Teaching the Akedah” (the binding of Isaac in Genesis 22). In it Gillman describes his own movement toward teaching theology from the personal point of view. It is a theme echoed in other essays, producing some particularly powerful insights. Gillman’s introduction, “My Theological Journey,” illustrates this approach.

The issues addressed will both challenge and engage the reader. Not everyone will agree with Gillman’s approach, which views ritual, liturgy, and theology as related to myth, “a set of metaphors systematized and extended into a coherent structure of meaning.” Regardless, Gillman presents his viewpoint in accessible ways.

Doing Jewish Theology offers provocative reading that will engage the individual and stir conversation in a group setting. —Rabbi Louis A. Rieser

The subject is theological and the treatment scholarly, the text remains conversational in tone. The theologian-author puts himself on the level of his lay reader by frequently admitting to faults and weaknesses to which all readers can relate.

Kendall examines the Lord’s Prayer line by line. Chapters discuss such topics as the purpose of the prayer, the fatherhood of God, God’s characteristics, and names we use to address God. Kendall explains at length that the petition, “Give us today our daily bread,” refers not just to food but also to all our needs. One chapter demonstrates that the verses requesting forgiveness are of utmost importance to Kendall. Entitled “Jesus’ P. S. to the Lord’s Prayer,” the chapter treats Matthew 6:14-15, which immediately follows the Lord’s Prayer and in which Jesus continues to speak about forgiveness. Kendall’s book deserves repeated readings.—Beverly M. Bixler

Rubbing God’s Ear with His Promises: A Year’s Prayers

Believers who are uncertain about how to pray or who feel their prayer life has hit a dry spell will find help in Rubbing God’s Ear with His Promises: A Year’s Prayers. The book is a product of John Groh’s long experience as pastor, professor, and author. The intriguing title is a phrase attributed to Martin Luther.

Groh’s book comprises almost four hundred prayers on fifty-eight subjects. Written in the first person in down-to-earth language, the prayers are personal, heartfelt, and conversational. They provide excellent models of what prayer is: a conversation with God. Three excerpts illustrate these traits: “Gracious God, keep me from thinking that my relationship with you is based on entitlement, or that I belong near the front of the line for any reason.” “Thank you for another day, almighty Lord. This is the tomorrow I worried about yesterday, but this morning the sun rose, birds sang and breathing was free of charge.” “Listening Lord God, sometimes you lead me through unmarked areas that I would not choose for myself, but still you make a path where there is none.” Rubbing God’s Ear with His Promises will be a valuable resource on prayer for congregational libraries. —Beverly M. Bixler

The Poetry of Prayer: Tehillim in Tefilah
Avi Baumol. Gefen, 2009. 292p. $26.95, hardcover. ISBN: 978-965-229-452-4. www.gefenpublishing.com 223.207 Judaism—Liturgy. Bible. O.T. Psalms—Commentaries. The Poetry of Prayer opens a new window into the practice and understanding of Jewish prayer with the book of Psalms. It sets out to teach liturgy through the lens of the psalms, but simultaneously provides an unusual and helpful approach to understanding their beauty and relevance. This book follows the daily order of synagogue prayer. Some parts of the service are composed almost entirely of psalms, making it easy to show how they fit the mood of that stage of prayer. In other sections the prayers only hint at psalms or cite a verse or two. Here Avi Baumol goes behind the scenes to link what is evident with that which is only implied.
Baumol walks the reader through selected psalms, presenting the Hebrew text alongside his own translation. His commentary, based on classical and modern sources, goes beyond the structure of the poetry to reveal the emotional and spiritual depth of the psalms. His insights help the reader connect the ancient words with his or her personal call to God.

I found this an engaging text. Baumol’s approach opens new avenues to understanding the traditional service. It will be a useful tool for anyone wishing to better understand the inner power of Jewish prayer. —Rabbi Louis A. Rieser

Meeting God in Quiet Places (DVD)

Many of us lead hard lives made hectic by work, family expectations, and other demands on our time. It is delightful to find a video that helps us slow down, enjoy the beauty of God’s creation, and put our lives in perspective.

F. LaGard Smith spends half of most years in the English countryside. In this series of seven meditations, viewers follow him as he walks through beautiful scenery and shares the message of Christ.

How do we see Christ in the world around us? Smith reveals depths of meaning in such simple sights as a walking stick, gravestones, gates, a flock of sheep, and new fallen snow. His wonderful insights combine with striking videography and a soothing musical score. Whether viewers watch just one segment at a time or play all of them back-to-back, they will find inspiration as they look at scripture in a way that is sure to calm frazzled nerves and lift spirits. —Mary Lou Henneman

Named by God: Discovering the Power of God’s Names for You

Mary Foxwell Loeks, who previously authored Names of God: Meditations (Thomas Nelson, 2008), now offers Named by God: Discovering the Power of God’s Names for You. A sampling of names from the fifty meditations includes salt, Martha, holy, merciful, clay, shepherds, outsiders, light, and Lazarus. The author’s long service as a minister of education has provided her with the wisdom and background to write brief, delightfully down-to-earth devotions. While the reader may wonder how a given name will apply, most readers will be able to relate to each of the names in some way.

Loeks prefaxes each chapter with one or more short passages of scripture applicable to the name to be discussed. Each meditation closes with a section entitled “Claim the Name,” which includes scripture, verses from hymns, or a suggestion for prayer or other activity. For example, for the name “God’s co-workers,” she asks that the reader prayerfully make the day’s work an offering to God and recognize that “as God’s co-worker, you are not alone.”

Named by God is thought-provoking and worth repeated readings. —Beverly M. Bixler

Sacred Terror: Religion and Horror on the Silver Screen

Cowan, with an extensive academic background in the social and cultural aspects of religion, begins by focusing on the audience. He explains that faith is, by definition, concerned with the inexplicable and unknowable, and our deepest fears derive from similarly intangible sources, evolving into phobias around evil, the supernatural, death (and the “undead”), eternal damnation, and hyper-religious fanaticism. Cowan holds that horror films with religious themes play upon fears by bending to the breaking point viewers’ assumptions of reality and their faith in a higher power, leading them to the conclusion—at least for the moment—that religion is powerless to protect against evil. Cowan cites examples from popular movies to demonstrate that religion-based horror films are a higher form of art than basic blood-and-gore movies, many of which feature the seemingly requisite masked mass-murderer leaping suddenly from a
DEWEY CLASSIFICATION NUMBERS FOR MATERIALS ON SOCIAL PROBLEMS, SOCIAL SERVICES, AND ORGANIZATIONS

In many congregational libraries, there will be books related to the library’s mission that are not about religion in the strictest sense. Many of these books will be about social problems and services, and there probably will also be books about organizations. These subjects, if treated from a social science viewpoint, will be classed in the 360s. These numbers have changed little between the thirteenth abridged edition of the Dewey Decimal classification (based on the twenty-first unabridged edition) and the fourteenth abridged edition (based on the twenty-second unabridged edition). In this column, I will discuss the 360s (social problems, social services, and organizations).

360 is the general number for social problems, services, and organizations. 361 is the number for comprehensive works on social problems and social welfare work. 361.2 stands for social action, including protest and dissent, policy planning, and programs. 361.3 stands for public and private social work. 361.6 stands for governmental action, including intergovernmental assistance and planning. 361.7 stands for private action by philanthropists, religious organizations, nonprofit organizations, etc. 361.8 stands for community action, such as United Funds.

The numbers beginning with 362 and 363 stand for specific social problems, including causes, relief, and social effects. 362.1 stands for physical illness as a social problem. Materials on hospitals, clinics, and nursing homes are classified here. (However, materials on medical science are classified in 610 and the numbers immediately following it.) 362.18 is the number for emergency medical services. 362.2 stands for mental and emotional illness as a social problem. Specifically, 362.28 stands for suicide, and 362.29 stands for substance abuse. 362.3 stands for mental retardation. 362.4 stands for problems of and services to people with physical disabilities. 362.5 stands for problems of and services to the poor, including homeless people. 362.6 stands for problems of and services to persons in late adulthood. 362.7 stands for problems of and services to young people, including foster homes, adoption, day care, abused children, etc. 362.8 stands for problems of and services to other groups, including victims of political oppression, victims of crimes of violence, family violence, unmarried mothers, minority groups, etc.

Other social services are classified in 363. Specifically, 363.1 stands for public safety programs, including control of hazardous materials, industrial hazards, adulteration and contamination control, and accident prevention. 363.2 stands for police services. 363.3 stands for other aspects of public safety, including fire prevention and control, gun control, civil defense, and other disaster and emergency planning. 363.5 stands for housing as a social service, including public housing, discrimination in housing, and urban homesteading. 363.7 stands for control of environmental problems, including pollution control. 364 stands for criminology. Specifically, 364.1 stands for criminal offenses, 364.3 stands for offenders, and 364.36 stands for juvenile delinquents. 364.4 stands for prevention of crime and delinquency. 364.6 stands for correction of crime and delinquency, including amnesty, fines, parole, and probation. 365 stands for penal institutions.

366 stands for fraternal or mutual assistance associations. 367 stands for clubs, including social clubs and study clubs.

368 is the general number for insurance, and 368.4 is the number for Social Security and Medicare.

369.4 is the number for young people’s societies, and 369.5 is the number for service clubs.

I hope that you find this information helpful. I also hope to discuss other parts of the Dewey Decimal Classification in future columns.

—Susan Snyder, ssnyder@cuyahogalibrary.org
place of concealment to behead a cheerleader with a landscaping instrument.

Cowan has included a filmography listing several hundred films.

—Robert Lewis

Fiction

Rashevski’s Tango (DVD)

The story may be familiar. The death of a matriarch prompts family members to examine their identity. Rashevski’s Tango opens with Dolfo, an apparently secular Jew, asking his brother, a Hasidic rabbi, to return to France to see his dying ex-wife, Rosa. The brother refuses, but their interaction underscores the range of belief in one family. Soon after Dolfo returns, Rosa—the woman who believed that the tango makes all troubles disappear—dies. The survivors struggle to understand their place in the family and the meaning of their Judaism. This is a compelling tale that grows out of the Holocaust. We learn that Rosa, Dolfo, and the Hasidic brother all survived the camps and that members of the once religious family have now gone in different directions. We meet the members of the second and third generations as they seek to understand their Jewishness following Rosa’s death. Their spiritual introspection leads them to different, sometimes complicated conclusions. This is a movie about choices: circumcision or none, in-marriage or intermarriage, burial or cremation, Jewish ritual or none. Just what is it that makes one Jewish? This movie gently and lovingly explores these questions. It is enjoyable, thought-provoking, and worth your time. Contains mild nudity.

—Rabbi Louis Rieser

The Telling

In every chapter, Lewis skillfully lets her readers know what is occurring in all her characters’ lives without distracting from the narrative. We follow Lettie’s efforts in Ohio to search for a missing piece of her early life. Grace follows her mother’s trail but returns home to Pennsylvania disappointed. Lettie faces telling family and church a secret. Ultimately and surprisingly, she finds resolution closer than she could have imagined. As in all her novels, Lewis weaves an interesting tapestry of Amish culture inhabited by true-to-life characters who are shaped by the situations they face. Her treatment of their faults, repentance, love, and forgiveness—human and divine—make for enjoyable, wholesome reading.

—Beverly M. Bixler

The Justice Game

Minutes after investigative reporter Rachel Crawford concludes a news story exposing a local businessman’s nefarious dealings, the subject of her report storms the studio and shoots her dead before being cut down by police gunfire. In the months that follow, the reporter’s aggrieved husband files a lawsuit against the manufacturer of the firearm used to slay his pregnant wife, setting the stage for a legal battle that will gain national attention. Jason Noble and Kelly Starling, the litigants’ attorneys, are brilliant and charismatic rising stars in the legal world, but with dark pasts that make them targets for blackmail. Influenced by the threat of exposure, the attorneys allow a jury of questionable impartiality to be seated and conduct the trial in a manner that pits their ethical obligations to their clients against their own interests. Randy Singer expertly ties together the loose ends in this story and delivers a satisfying conclusion. Equally satisfying is the sense of redemption the trial’s effect has on the main characters as the story progresses. Kelly, the daughter of a minister, grows in her walk of faith as she faces her own demons. Jason, at first cynical toward religion, learns a valuable lesson about forgiveness. A riveting novel, The Justice Game will fit well into the collection of any congregational library.

—Robert Lewis

Swinging on a Star: A Novel
Janice Thompson. Revell (an imprint of Baker), 2010. 331p. $14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8007-3343-8. www.revellbooks.com Fiction Single women—Fiction. Weddings—Planning—Fiction. Janice Thompson raises the stakes in Swinging on a Star, the second in her Weddings by Bella series. She takes Bella Rossi to the next level in her career as a wedding planner, arranging a Renaissance fairy-tale wedding with castle, moat, horse-drawn carriages, and the entire wedding party in costume. But nothing can happen without a little adventure. The paparazzi try to track down a Hollywood star (also the best man, trying to go incognito). Rosa, the matriarch, is courted by a Food Network crew hoping to film their potential new star. And the big, shy Bubba blows everyone away singing the lead in The Marriage of Figaro. Add in sisters Twila, Jolene, and Bonnie Sue, the Full Gospel Church ladies who become the singing sensation of their cruise ship, and a bachelor fishing trip that coincides with a major storm, and you have just a few of the problems Bella must contend with to pull off the perfect wedding for her clients. (Did I mention that Bella lands in the slammer?) Readers of the first in the
series (reviewed in the 2010 Second Issue of CLT) will be glad to hear that Guido the parrot is back.
Readers will enjoy this Christian romance with non-stop laughs and thrills.
—Mary Lou Henneman

It Had To Be You
Fans of the Weddings by Bella series will be thrilled by the turn of events in the third installment. Uncle Lazarro and Aunt Rosa have finally decided to wed with a forties-style theme wedding, but do not expect all to go smoothly. Bella has her hands full keeping Sal, the mobster from Atlantic City (readers will remember Uncle Laz has been taking care of Sal’s eccentric parrot and converted it to Christianity) from splitting up our lovebirds. Add to the mix the arrival of various relatives from Italy, the charming antics of the Full Gospel church sisters, and Bella’s ever-increasing clientele. If that is not enough, she is also planning her own wedding to her handsome cowboy. There is never a dull moment as the families rely on faith and humor to get them through. With more action than a Texas rodeo, readers will find it hard to put down this fast-paced romance.
—Mary Lou Henneman

Rabbi Harvey vs. The Wisdom Kid: A Graphic Novel of Dueling Jewish Folktales in the Wild West
Rabbi Harvey, in his third appearance, does not disappoint. In another graphic novel Steve Sheinkin transforms classic folk tales and the wisdom of the Jewish sages into a whimsical tale about a quirky Western rabbi. In the town of Elk Spring, Colorado, Rabbi Harvey represents wisdom, order, and law.
In this outing Rabbi Harvey is challenged by the appearance of a new rabbi who is a schemer and a fraud and the son of “Bad Bubbe.” The two rabbis duel with wit and wisdom. Their weapons are folk tales and anecdotes from a variety of classic texts, from the Talmud forward. Sheinkin points readers toward his sources in endnotes.
Wisdom wrapped in humor is a rare commodity, yet it is one found with Rabbi Harvey. I can imagine a young reader laughing and enjoying this book, only to learn later that it is filled with serious Jewish learning. It is a good book for teaching. In whatever way you choose to read it, enjoy!
—Rabbi Louis A. Rieser

Love these reviews?
Support CSLA!
Renew your membership using the form on page 30.

For Young Children

Let’s Have A Daddy Day
Wow, what a great book for celebrating dads! This rhyming text has a young boy and girl happily spending time with their dad, building a fort, catching tadpoles, and playing baseball. Dan Andreasen’s illustrations are sweet and expressive. Let’s Have a Daddy Day celebrates fathers spending time with their children. The text on the last page sums it up: “So when you’re all grown up and look back upon this day, you’ll know how much I loved you ‘cause we took the time to play.” This is a must-have book for any congregational or home library. It would make a great giveaway at your congregation’s next father-son event. Recommended for ages 4-7.
—Nanette Goings

This Tree Counts!
Oak Lane School branches out into a “green” tale about the importance of trees. Youngsters aged 4 to 7 (or grade levels preschool through second) will learn about how trees benefit people and the many useful things trees can become.
As children leaf through the pages, they will enjoy the fine detail and bright color of Sarah Snow’s collage-like illustrations. Rooted in the theme of taking care of God’s creation, this book will be a nice addition to any congregational library.
—Nanette Goings

Garmann’s Street
“Life is never completely safe,” says Garmann’s Daddy. Garmann finds the world a scary place. When the bully Roy forces Garmann to play with matches, a fire starts in the yard of the Stamp Man, a creepy elderly neighbor. Garmann bravely stays after the fire is put out and befriends the misunderstood Stamp Man. The author’s haunting illustrations eerily convey the mood of the story. Certainly this is a book to discuss together with an adult, especially the ending. The publisher’s recommended age level is 6-10, but the illustrations may be scary for some six-year-olds.
—Nanette Goings
For Older Children, Teens, & YAs

Katy’s Debate

Katy, a young Mennonite girl, is now a sophomore at the public high school in this second book of the Katy Lambright series from Kim Vogel Sawyer. Being Mennonite does not insulate Katy from the pains and joys of growing up. She worries about her father’s desire to remarry in order to provide a mother for her. She struggles with relationships on the debate team, and she feels drawn to two boys, one an Englisher and the other a hard-working Amish boy. Katy tries to balance a life in two worlds—her family’s community and the secular world—since she wants to continue with her public education and attend college.

Sawyer has written a sensitive story filled with drama and humor that will appeal to tweens and young teens.

—Mary Lou Henneman

Frenemies: What to Do When Friends Turn Mean
Hayley DiMarco. Revell (an imprint of Baker), 2010. 136p. $12.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8007-3304-9. www.revellbooks.com 248.83 Christian life—Juvenile literature. Teenage girls—Juvenile literature. Female friendship—Juvenile literature. Hayley DiMarco, author of Mean Girls and Technical Virgin, has another hit. In Frenemies she gives straightforward advice on how to deal with girls who pose as friends but have ulterior motives. DiMarco helps readers identify frenemies but encourages them to show Christ’s love to everyone, even those whose words and actions are hurtful. Doing so, DiMarco explains, allows girls to gain a sense of empowerment and live a Christian life, even if it means having broken friendships. There is also helpful information on how to cope if you are unable to avoid the frenemy.

The look of this book is intriguing, with text on lined notebook-like pages and highlighting, underlining, and clever pen drawings to emphasize main points. This is an excellent book for Christian girls to read alone or share and discuss with others. They will know there is someone who understands and offers sensible advice.

—Mary Lou Henneman

Toward the Goal: The Kaká Story

Children who love soccer will enjoy reading about Kaká, a young boy from Brazil who in 2007 fulfilled his dream of becoming FIFA World Player of the Year. Toward the Goal tells of his remarkable journey to becoming a star player for AC Milan in their championship season. It also tells how Kaká’s Christian faith is an important part of his life. The simple text is supported with great photos and sidebars describing the differences between the various titles, the backgrounds of many star players, a list of the pairings for the 2010 World Cup matches, and much more. This is a book that will definitely appeal to Christian children from the third grade up.

—Mary Lou Henneman

Toby Belfer Learns about Heroes and Martyrs

Toby Belfer is growing up. The heroine of Gloria Teles Pushker’s illustrated series for Jewish elementary school children is now in fifth grade. On a highly unlikely class trip to Israel, Toby and her friend Donna learn during a tour of the Yad Vashem museum about Righteous Gentiles, who saved Jews during the Holocaust. Returning to Louisiana with notes on these heroes and martyrs, Toby shares information at a school assembly. Later, her family visits the school in Whitwell, Tennessee, where schoolchildren memorialized Holocaust victims with a paper clip project.

The focus of the book, though, is the brief biographies of more than twenty heroes and martyrs. Some names are well-known: Carrie ten Boom, Miep Gies, Oskar Schindler, and Raoul Wallenberg. Others are less famous but still fascinating: Princess Andrew of Greece (mother of Britain’s Prince Philip), who saved many Greek Jews and became a nun in later life, and Irena Sendler, who smuggled children out of the Warsaw Ghetto and whose exploits were described in the play Life in a Jar.

A glossary and source page are provided. Emile Henriquez’s fine pen-and-ink portraits of each person profiled add to the biographical sketches. Recommended for ages 9-12.

—Evelyn Pockrass

The Prophecy

Teens who enjoy fantasy and suspense will find this introduction to the Watchers Chronicles an excellent beginning. Five children—Sam, brother Jonah, Jenna, Carly and J—were mysteriously separated at a young age, but now they are young adults. An unknown force is compelling them to reunite to save the world. The narrative shifts back and forth in time to fill in the background of the five, who realize they are “watchers,” with the ability to see both good and evil angels around them.

As the plot time-shifts back and forth, readers learn that the
group has the power to help good overcome evil. This first installment in the Watchers Chronicles sets up what could be a powerful second book.

Fans of the television show “Heroes” will find this novel compelling.

—Mary Lou Henneman

Motorcycles, Sushi & One Strange Book
A Request from Your Rodda Award Committee

Have you recently reviewed or purchased a children’s book that took your breath away—that presented a spiritual truth in a more powerful or enlightening way than you had seen before? Please nominate that book for this year’s Rodda Award! The selection committee needs you to share your nominations no later than December 31, 2010.

To be eligible for the 2011 Rodda Award, books require a copyright date of 2008, 2009, or 2010. Books will be judged by the following criteria:

Primary qualifications
(1) Excellent literary quality
(2) Providing a significant contribution to the spiritual growth of the intended audience, which is children up to age eleven.

Secondary qualifications
3) Suitability for a congregational library
4) Appeal to children in the target age group

Please note that if the book contains illustrations, they must demonstrate artistic excellence and must effectively support and complement the text.

Any CSLA member may make a nomination. The nominating form can be found at the CSLA website (www.cslainfo.org)—just click on the Rodda Book Award link on the menu on the left. Mail or e-mail your completed form to:
Rodda Award Committee
c/o Judy Janzen; CSLA
2929 SW Dolph Ct., Suite 3A;
Portland, OR 97219-4055
csla@worldaccessnet.com

To date the committee has received five nominations:
Faith by Maya Ajmera, Magda Nakassis, and Cynthia Pon
14 Cows for America by Carmen Agra Deedy
My Brother Charlie by Holly Robinson Peete and Ryan Elizabeth Peete
Summer Birds: The Butterflies of Maria Merian by Margarita Engle
Sunday Is for God by Michael McGowan

Any of these would make an excellent addition to a congregational library for children, but are there still others that should be considered? Time is getting short, so send in your nominations right away!
—Helen Zappia

College 101
For Christian college students, this book presents nine chapters of advice from Christian students across the country. They share their experiences and tips on how to make the most of campus life.
CSLA Publications for New & Experienced Librarians

Guides

Organizing a Library or Resource Center. Carol Campbell, Glenda Strombom, and Dianne Oswald. 2010. 32 p. $14.00; members $12.00. This guide represents a comprehensive and updated edition of three previously separate publications, all published by CSLA: Setting up a Library: How to Begin or Begin Again, 2nd revised edition; Standards for Church and Synagogue Libraries, 2nd edition; and A Policy and Procedure Manual for Church and Synagogue Libraries: a Do-It-Yourself Guide, 3rd revised edition (Carol Campbell and Dianne Oswald were contributing members of the committee that produced this guide). An entirely new format has been created for this guide, featuring quick searching and clear procedures. Our goal in revising and merging three previously separate guides has been to provide one volume with sufficient instructions and illustrations for users to develop working manuals for their church or synagogue libraries.

Developing an Effective Library: Ways to Promote Your Congregational Library. Lois H. Ward. 2004. 48 p. $11.00; members $9.00. CSLA Past-president Lois Ward is an expert in promoting the library in your congregation and beyond—from planning and budgeting as well as programs to get members in the door to promoting your library outside the doors of your congregation. So many smart ideas are here that you could not use them all in your lifetime.

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

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

Bibliographies

Basic Book List for Church Libraries. Bernard Deitrick. 6th Rev. ed. 2002. 20 p. $10.00; members $8.00. This text features a selection of annotated books to help you determine a right mix for your collection. A few of the topics are library resources, Bible versions, Christian education, Christian ethics, religious psychology, holidays, and children’s books. A great place to begin if you are stocking a new library. Author and title index.

Church and Synagogue Library Resources. Dorothy Rodda Sargent. 6th Rev. ed. 2003. $10.00; members $8.00. An invaluable guide to selecting a variety of book and non-book resources for the congregational library such as manuals, periodicals, equipment and supplies, and technical aids, among others. Includes directory of publishers.

Classic Religious Books for Children. Carol Campbell. 2001. 48 p. $11.00; members $9.00. This bibliography provides a graded (infant-sixth grade) and annotated subject listing of books about religion or containing religious themes, with suggested Dewey Classification.

Helping Children Through Books: A Selected Book List. Patricia Pearl Dole. 4th Rev. ed. 2001. 32 p. $10.00; members $8.00. This text features a graded (pre-school through junior high) and annotated subject listing of children’s books deemed useful in facing problems and establishing values, with suggested Dewey Classification.

Ordering information is available on www.cslainfo.org or by calling CSLA at 800-542-2752
**DVD rentals from CSLA**

**Brodart’s Guide to Book Repair & Protection.** [1 hr] Become an expert at your own pace. A great training tool for library staff and volunteers. Learn by watching everyday book repairs. Shows techniques for hardcover, paperback, magazines, and pamphlets. $8.00 + postage for one month

**Demco Collection Care Guide: Your Step-by-Step Instructions for Book & Magazine Protection & Repair.** [1 hr.] Similar to Brodart’s Guide above, this program ends with a section called “Care & Repair of Optic Discs.” Small illustrated booklet included. $8.00 + postage for one month

**Preservation Orientation for Library Staff.** [74 min] UC-San Diego. A series of lectures on the care and preservation of media for the university’s library. There is valuable information here, even for small collections. You may wish to show it in segments, such as when you are training new library workers. Two-month rental with Handling Books in General Collections (below). $10.00 + postage for two months

**Handling Books in General Collections.** [11 min] UC-San Diego. A succinct review of the “care and feeding” of the general collection. This short DVD has an abundance of tips, such as keep your shelves just tight enough but not too tight; never carry more books than you can easily handle—use a book truck. These are great lessons for beginning librarians or as review. Included with Preservation Orientation above.

Request from CSLA, 2920 SW Dolph Ct, Suite 3A, Portland OR 97219-4055; csla@worldaccessnet.com

---

**Church Library Automation**

Customized exclusively for congregational libraries

- Cataloging (with Quick Catalog Internet downloading)
- Patron management
- Circulation
- Barcoding
- Inventory
- Reports
- Patron self-check

More about catalog software and additional services at www.SurpassSoftware.com

Toll-free (877) 625-2657
www.SurpassSoftware.com
Try Surpass CL free!

**Automation questions?**

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

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

**Church Library Automation** is an on-line resource for all congregational libraries: visit www.SurpassSoftware.com.
From reading the chapter newsletters from around the country, it is obvious the economic downturn is affecting congregations and their libraries. We have all fallen on hard times and many chapters and affiliates are finding creative ways to help their members. Some have lowered their dues, and others have gone to brown bag lunches. We all need to be thinking about ways to help members to be able to come to meetings and stay “aboard.”

Another common problem seems to be officers. We all have gifts and talents; we must help keep our chapters and affiliates viable with those attributes. Please, consider helping out in your situation. All tasks can be shared—no one has to shoulder the burden alone. It always seems easier to get people to work if they know they can have a partner. If you can do a job, but not all the time, choose your own partner(s) and the two—or three—of you can share!

San Jose - Bay Area last met in May, had a meeting scheduled for 27 September, and has another on tap for 6 December. At the May meeting they brought books to show what they were reading. Among them were two that caught the eye. America’s White Table (Margot Theis Raven, 978-1585362165) is about a custom begun after the Vietnam War of setting a table with a white cloth, a black napkin, a white candle, and a plate containing a mound of salt and a slice of lemon, with a chair leaning against the table. Many had not heard of this custom and if you have not, go to www.alpha2-7cav.com/TableTradition.html and check it out. It is a lovely, if sad, custom.

The other book that I found interesting was Junkyard Kids (Patricia Polacco, 973-399250781). This an autobiographical account of Polacco and her “junkyard” classmates, who were fortunate enough to have a teacher who understood their dyslexic problems and how to compensate for them. Sounds like a really good book for everyone.

This chapter posts in its newsletters a list of calendar dates of note and of use to congregational libraries. It looks as if many come from wikipedia.org sites, where you add the name of the occasion you are interested in—for example: www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Our Lady of Guadalupe, or /Hijra, or /saint lucy’s day.

Western New York had a meeting scheduled for 2 October with a Christian bookstore manager coming to discuss and show new books and other media for congregational libraries. Another session was scheduled on creating great posters. We could all use some help here, as promotion, promotion, promotion is what we all should do.

In their newsletter they offer some great promotion for the 44th CSLA conference (to be held in Washington DC), and I quote, “If you have ever thought of going to National Conference of CSLA—this is the one you will not want to miss.” Thanks, Beth, for that, and for the other plug for the CSLA forum. The forum is designed for people to get answers to questions about congregational libraries: http://forum.cslainfo.org/.

NE Ohio has several branches and all have meetings and programs planned in their areas. All members are invited to come to any and all meetings. This is a great open invitation. Youngstown/Warren branch had a program on “Health Materials in the Church Library” on 26 October. Eastern Shore branch has chosen Recommendations for the 2011 Rodda Award as its fall topic. They are asked to give serious consideration to children’s books that make one think of spiritual things. It is a really grand idea to have this pooling of ideas before making nominations. The Rodda Committee greatly appreciates all your efforts. A possible update on the Houston conference is expected. The Greater Cleveland branch had a meeting scheduled for 12 October. Marilyn Demeter, who has been a member of this branch for many years, has retired from her position as chapter historian.

This newsletter has a running column each issue on cataloging with Dewey. Written by—guess who?—Susan Snyder. The CLT also has the benefit of her expertise every quarter. We truly appreciate her careful explanations.
Florida Suncoast is busy and active as usual in sun land; there was a meeting scheduled for 14 October with a very interesting program. A presentation of “Volunteers: where to find them and how to keep them” is first on the agenda, then a discussion of what the members as congregational librarians can contribute to “going green.” Interesting, also, is a report on a 15 July meeting called Summer Fun 2010, where participants reported on what they were reading. They read a lot! They met at a place called The Thirsty Marlin—hmmm....

It is always fun to see what others are doing and to gather ideas. Keep those newsletters coming!

—Dottie Lewis, deglewis@gmail.com
Members’ Corner

Do you have news to share? Have you started a blog or found a useful website? This corner is for you! This is the place set aside for members to share ideas, triumphs, concerns, questions—anything and everything. Send submissions for Members’ Corner to Jeri Zulli, jerzulli@live.com.

CSLA member Eileen McEwen shares a story of surprising joy for a librarian:

“I’m a 40-some-year librarian that sometimes wished for more book circulation. There was 15-year-old Debbie. She married, moved to Texas, had a son and brought her son back to her old church. She rushed her son in to see if the book that had inspired her many, many years ago was still on the shelf. The book was The Cross and the Switchblade.

“So even years later things can happen to show your work had made a big impression.”

Lois Cone, former columnist for CLT, shares a recommendation for a resource:

Churchmouse Publications is a new leadership resource that churches might find helpful. Check them out at: www.churchmousepublications.com. Librarians should share this website with those in their congregations who would find the resources useful.

“If you click on drama/skits and search for a skit titled ‘Jesus, Did Your Daddy...?’ you will find my name on that skit. I would like to think that is going to make a difference in a whole lot of lives.”

Counting my blessings, Lois Cone, chlibrarylady@hotmail.com

Carol Campbell from the Episcopal Diocese of California shares: “I found this article in a newsletter from the Diocese of CA and thought you might find it interesting as well. They don’t have a tremendous amount for sale but I did find a replacement for a children’s book that had been lost AND the postage was only $3.00. Not bad.”

Online book sale at St. Paul’s, Walnut Creek
St. Paul’s, Walnut Creek, is pleased to announce their online book sale which currently has more than 800 new and used books available. Donated by parish members and from the church bookstore overstock, all proceeds go to outreach programs at St. Paul’s. A wide variety of books are available, from new to old, on various subjects, with a number of historic and current religious
David Reid’s report on the “Books for the Border” workshop from the annual conference in Houston arrived too late for inclusion in our conference issue, but we know you will want to hear about this important project.

The Books for the Border project is providing reading material and a small wooden bookshelf to help meet the literacy needs of Texas children and families who are stuck in poverty. Dr. Lester Meriwether is executive director of Literacy ConneXus, a nonprofit organization that works in cooperation with churches and community groups to provide books and bookshelves. Often, a carpet square also is provided to make reading more comfortable in homes where only a dirt floor exists.

Meriwether emphasized that the program does not insist on providing books with a religious viewpoint; but, he highlighted La Biblia Para Principali
ties, a book of more than ninety Bible stories, as a resource that has worked well for Spanish and English readers. His group organizes family reading fairs to build literacy awareness. He noted that preschool children who have been read to have vocabularies that are a thousand times richer than those who have not. The program’s goal is to empower parents to read to their children.

The two-and-a-half-year-old program partners with many other organizations and has no desire to trademark or otherwise restrict the use of its ideas, he said.

and Christian education titles. The books can be found at stpaulsbooks.alibrisstores.com. Start your search for books, CD’s, and DVD’s in our online bookstore and 7% of your purchases anywhere on alibris.com will go to our outreach programs.

---

**CSLA Library Services**

Ideas, lists, suggestions, and more to help you serve your congregation!

All items are available free via e-mail; just download the order form from the CSLA website: cslainfo.org.

If you are unable to download the order form for e-mail, call 800-LIB-CSLA; there is a charge of .20/page + $1.50 postage.

Note: The number of pages is listed in parentheses, followed by date of presentation or most recent revision.

- Administration/Procedures
  - The Art of Telling Bible Stories (8) ‘99
  - Basic Library Supplies (2) ‘96
  - Book Club “How To’s” (4) ‘04
  - Cataloging Church Music (3) ‘97
  - Choosing Fiction for the Religious Library (2)
  - Creative Writing for CSLA and other Publications (2) ‘97
  - Fun & Fund Raising Activities (5) ‘90
  - Genealogy Sources (6) ‘99
  - Library Memorial Program (9) ‘93
  - Literaries for a Library Dedication (5)
  - Materials Selection Policy (3) ‘96
  - Nine Ingredients for a Successful Library (2)
  - Peddle Your Wares (14) ‘00
  - Promotions, Tailor-Made (11) ‘94
  - Reconsideration-Library Form (2)
  - Resources Beyond the Walls (2)
  - Sample Bylaws (2)
  - Selecting Books-Jewish Library (4) ‘05
  - Shelf Capacity Requirements (3)
  - Steps to Begin a Library (3) ‘88
  - The Library in Vacation Church School (3) ‘87
  - Weeding & Inventory (3) ‘93

- Book Lists
  - African-American Literature (4) ‘98
  - Books Especially for Men (4) ‘98
  - Books on Holocaust (5) ‘98
  - Cultivating Spirituality (3) ‘02
  - Death and Grief (3) ‘99

- Doing Dewey (1) ‘07
- Fiction and Non-Fiction Books for Teens and Young Adults (14) ‘02
- General Judaic and Reference Works (13) ‘95
- Holy Texts (5) ‘00
- Islam/Ramadan Bibliography (7) ‘01
- Web Sites for Congregational Librarians (3) ‘05
- Witt and Humor (5) ‘99

For Teens and Children

- Helping Children Cope Through Books and Media (14) ‘04
- Multicultural (10) ‘01
- Seven Basic Needs of Children (4) ‘02
- Children’s Trade books for the Congregational Library (1) ‘05
Dear Friends!

We are looking forward to a wonderful holiday season!

Have you renewed your membership for 2011 yet? If not, please fill out the form below and send it in. You will not want to miss out on all the new and exciting things we have in store for 2011!

We now have online shopping available for publications and donations! Our webmaster, Robert Lewis, has posted all the instructions for how to proceed from our site over to PayPal and back again, so that you will receive everything that you have ordered promptly.

Our conference next summer will be in Washington DC. Start saving up your money so that you will be able to attend the conference! The committee has a unique and exciting program for us. The program is different from anything that we have done in the past—you will not want to miss it!

Have a joyous holiday season!
—Judy

---

**CHURCH AND SYNAGOGUE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**
501 (c) (3) Tax Deductible Organization

**Membership for Calendar Year January 1, 2011 - December 31, 2011**

Please print neatly in all blank spaces.

Please send CSLA mail to _____Home  or  _____Congregation  (check one)

I am a _____New  or  _____Renewing Member (check one) of ______________ Chapter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name ______________________________</th>
<th>Circle one below:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address ___________________________</td>
<td>Individual  $50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City______________________State_____Zip+4_________</td>
<td>Canadian/International  $55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congregation ___________________________</td>
<td>Congregational  $70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address ___________________________</td>
<td>Canadian/Intl Congregational  $75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City______________________State_____Zip+4_________</td>
<td>Affiliate  $100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of Representative ___________________________</td>
<td>Additional Contribution to CSLA $___</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone (home)____________ Congregation__________________</td>
<td>Total Enclosed $___</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax______________________ E-mail________________________</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note there is a $15 charge for returned checks.
Chapter dues should be paid directly to the chapter itself.
Mail your dues payment to:

CSLA
2920 SW Dolph Ct, Suite 3A
Portland OR 97219-4055

---

congregational libraries today
The LiBRARYSOFT™
Small library discount package
Only $495 !

(Regular price $1078 - includes all items below)

The Full Version of LiBRARYSOFT (regular $595):
• Includes all LiBRARYSOFT Modules: Catalog, Circulation, OPAC (including Kid’s OPAC and Internet Versions), MARC, Acquisitions, Notices & Inventory, Serials, Security, Report Generator and more.
• Language formats include Hebrew, Chinese and Spanish.
• Six months of free Customer support and upgrades
• Training CD Included.

Locked Self-Circulation, OPAC, Catalog (regular $149):
• Prevent users from accidentally or intentional damaging your computers. Unauthorized users cannot delete or access hard drive control even if they reboot the computer.

AutoCataloguing (regular $95):
• Use the barcode scanner along with AutoCataloguing to quickly and easily acquire data by simply scanning in the ISBN number of the item. from any z39.50 site. It can even retroactively scan your database read ISBN numbers that are in the data and fill out the missing fields.

Receipt Printer (regular $130):
• This compact printer quickly prints high quality barcode labels, library card labels, receipts.

ECO Barcode Scanner (regular $99):
• Our most popular scanner. This durable hand held scanner reads barcode labels from up to 3 inches away.

Simply Excellent !

The small library discount package is available for libraries with less than 300 active patrons or libraries with very limited funding.

www.LiBRARYSOFT.com
Tel: 1-800-661-7112
The most Pre- eminent
Church Library Management Software
in the Industry!

Automate Every Library Task
Circulation, cataloging, searching, inventory and more!

Prevent Errors with DoubleCheck™
Anyone can input data, but you have the final approval.

Circulate All Types of Media
Books, records, videos, etc. may be filed, searched, and printed.

“Concourse! What a way to go! It’s great software for the 21st
century. We thought MLS was perfect for the church media
library. Concourse has raised MLS perfection to Perfection plus!
i.e., more fun, more color, more excitement and more
service-oriented features for both large and small libraries…”

Eva Nell Hunter
Director Church Media Library
Central Baptist Church
Decatur, AL

Concourse provides a
variety of functional levels
to meet your needs!

Over 20 Years, 10,000 Customers
Strong and Growing!

www.booksys.com
(800) 219-6571
sales@booksys.com