

OFF THE SHELF



Mission Statement: To energize church library ministry through education, resource sharing, spiritual encouragement and fellowship.

Summer 2023

SPRING MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Inside This Issue	
Treasurer's Report, Update on Janet Howard, Free Card Catalog Case	2
What Churches Are Reading	3-4
Recommended Graphic Novels	5-6
More from the Spring Meeting	7-8
Fall Meeting Preview	9

Seventy-nine TCACLA members and their guests gathered at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in St. Paul on April 29.



Interim Associate Pastor Jen Hackbarth led us in devotions.



There was time during the morning to tour the church, visit the library, and check out the vast array on the book swap tables.



See more on p. 7.

General Information

The **Twin Cities Area Church Library Association (TCACLA)** is a non-profit support organization serving church librarians. Membership is open to individuals and churches of all denominations that desire to network with others on church library development and enrichment.



TCACLA OFFICERS

Janet Howard, President
651-276-5918
Janethoward797@gmail.com

Emily Hoch, Vice President
612-508-4934
ejhoch@gmail.com

Wayne Albertson, Secretary
612-214-4521
wfalbertson@gmail.com

Roberta Shaw, Treasurer
651-206-6334
roberta.shaw@yahoo.com

ADVISORY BOARD

Laura Dirks, *Off the Shelf* Editor
612-378-3026
otseditor@gmail.com

Jeanne Schleh, Past President
612-729-6041
jerebob@aol.com

WEBSITE

www.tcaccla.com



Members: 22 Churches

01/01/2023	\$1,944.95	Beginning Balance
	\$379.00	Membership Renewals
	\$924.00	Spring Meeting Registration
	-\$151.60	<i>Off the Shelf</i> Printing & Postage
	-\$588.13	Spring Meeting Expenses
	-\$288.00	All Nations Church
	-\$60.90	Archives Shipment to ELCA
	-\$20.17	Website Fee

06/30/2023 \$2,139.15 **Ending Balance**

President Janet Howard's surgery earlier this summer went well. She's now recuperating at home and looking forward to seeing many of you at the fall meeting.

FREE CARD CATALOG CABINET

During the COVID shut down, the library team at Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church had time to finally transfer all the older books in its collection from a paper card catalog to the electronic catalog that was started in 2009. If you would like this 12- drawer cabinet or know of anyone who wants it, please contact library@haumc.org.

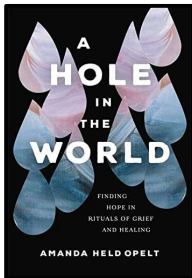


WHAT CHURCHES ARE READING

Everyone is encouraged to contribute to this section. Please send book titles and authors to otseditor@gmail.com.

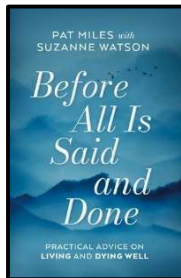
“Reading is the sole means by which we slip, involuntarily, often helplessly, into another’s skin, another’s voice, another’s soul.” – Joyce Carol Oates

A HOLE IN THE WORLD; Finding Hope in Rituals of Grief and Healing by Amanda Held Opelt, Worthy Publishing, 2022.



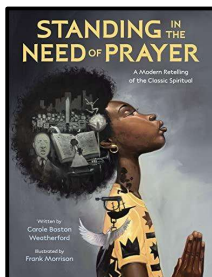
When Opelt suffered 3 miscarriages and the unexpected death of her sister, she struggled to process her grief and accept the reality of pain in the world. Why didn't her faith prepare her for this? What was she supposed to do now? Her search for answers led her to research bereavement customs, such as keening and sitting shiva, that have helped others in the process of grieving and healing. While she was doing this, God met her in the midst of her doubt and grieved with her. Selected by ***Publishers Weekly*** as one of the best books of the year.

BEFORE ALL IS SAID AND DONE; Practical Advice on Living and Dying Well by Pat Miles, Pat Miles Publishing, 2023.



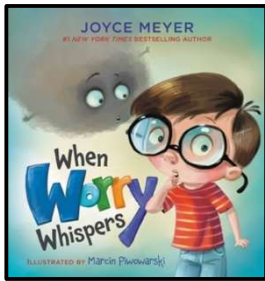
After the former TV news anchor's husband's death from a short illness, she found herself with a plate full of unexpected problems that she didn't always handle wisely. The shock and grief that erupt from the loss of someone dearly beloved do not create a state of mind fit for navigating the numerous challenges that follow an unexpected death. In her book, Miles uses her own experience but also includes accounts and advice through the lens of other widows and widowers, attorneys, doctors, financial advisors, and many other experts.

STANDING IN THE NEED OF PRAYER; A Modern Retelling of the Classic Spiritual by Carole Boston Weatherford, Crown Books for Young Readers, 2022.



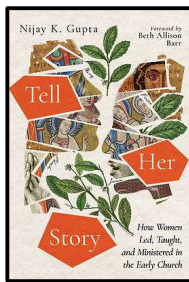
An inspirational picture book based on the popular spiritual that encapsulates African American history and invites conversations at all levels. Stretching more than 400 years, it features pivotal moments in history, such as the arrival of enslaved people in Jamestown in 1619; Nat Turner's rebellion; the integration of the US military; the Selma to Montgomery marches; and peaceful present-day protests. It also celebrates the feats of African American musicians and athletes, such as Duke Ellington and Florence Griffith Joyner. “An evocative use of prayer as old-school protest with a history lesson that is as lilting as a ballad.” — *School Library Journal*. Ages 6-9.

WHEN WORRY WHISPERS by Joyce Meyer,
WorthyKids, 2023.



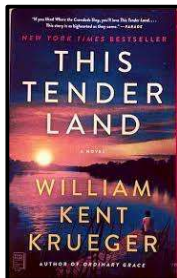
When worry keeps asking you "What if?" and tells you about bad things that might happen, it can make you scared and afraid. In this beautifully illustrated picture book, Meyer tells children to remember God's promises when this happens. Biblical assurances of God's constant presence, love, and care will comfort little ones and remind them that God is in control—no matter what. Ages 4-7.

TELL HER STORY; How Women Led, Taught, and Ministered in the Early Church by Nijay K. Gupta, IVP Academic, 2023.



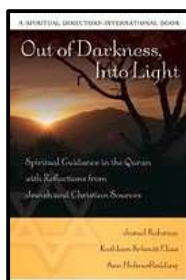
Women were there! They were active participants in growth of the early Christian churches but their contributions have often been ignored. Gupta sets the context by exploring the lives of first-century women, then focuses on the women leaders as revealed in Paul's writings. The women profiled include Phoebe, Paul's trusted coworker; Prisca, strategic leader and expert teacher; Junia, courageous apostle; and Nympha, representative of countless lesser-known figures.

THIS TENDER LAND; a Novel by William Kent Krueger, Atria Books, 2019.



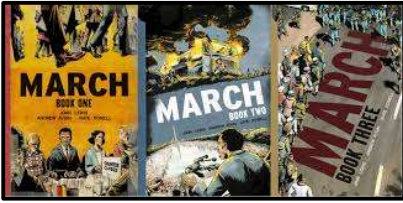
In the summer of 1932, on the banks of Minnesota's Gilead River, Odie O'Banion is an orphan confined to the Lincoln Indian Training School where his lively nature earns him the superintendent's wrath. Forced to flee after committing a terrible crime, he and his brother, Albert, their best friend, Mose, and a broken-hearted little girl named Emmy steal away in a canoe, heading for the mighty Mississippi and a place to call their own. An enthralling, big-hearted epic that shows how the magnificent American landscape connects us all, haunts our dreams, and makes us whole.

OUT OF DARKNESS, INTO LIGHT: Spiritual Guidance in the Quran with Reflections from Jewish and Christian Sources by Jamal Rahman, Morehouse Publishing, 2009.

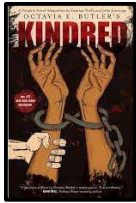


An introduction to the major themes and passages of the holy book of Islam. It guides the reader through the tapestry of the Quran, weaving through a number of themes, including the mystery of God, surrender to the divine will, and provisions for the spiritual journey. Quranic verses are supplemented by sayings of the Prophet Muhammad, the words of Rumi and other Sufi poets, and relevant quotations and insights from Jewish and Christian sources. The book also offers suggestions for expanding and strengthening one's spiritual sinews.

GRAPHIC NOVEL RECOMMENDATIONS FROM EMILY HOCH



March trilogy written by John Lewis. Penguin Random House. Age Group: Adults/Teens. Theme: Civil Rights. Awards: Coretta Scott King honor book, Robert F. Kennedy Book Award, American Library Association Notable Book, Eisner, Harvey.



Kindred; a Graphic Novel Adaptation by Octavia Butler & Damian Duffy. Abrams ComicArts. Age Group: Adults/Teens. Theme: Slavery. Awards: Eisner.



Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic by Alison Bechdel. HarperCollins. Age Group: Adults. Theme: LGBTQ+, Family Dynamics. Awards: Stonewall Book Award.



The Complete Persepolis: Volumes 1 and 2 by Marjane Satrapi. Knopf Doubleday. Age Group: Adults/Teens. Theme: History, Iranian Revolution, Coming of Age Story, Islam.



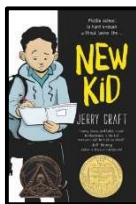
Marbles: Mania, Depression, Michelangelo, and Me by Ellen Forney. Penguin Publishing. Age Group: Adults. Theme: Mental Health, Bipolar Disorder.



Blankets by Craig Thompson. Drawn & Quarterly. Age Group: Adults/Teens. Theme: First Love, Coming of Age Story, Christianity. Awards: Eisner, Harvey.



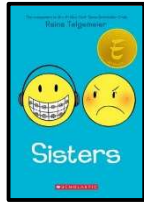
American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang. First Second. Age Group: Junior/Teens. Theme: Cultural Identity, Immigrants. Awards: Printz Award, National Book Award Finalist.



New Kid by Jerry Craft. HarperCollins. Age Group: Junior/Teens. Theme: Being the New Kid at School. Awards: Newbery Medal, Coretta Scott King Award, Kirkus Prize for Young Readers Lit (*and well loved by Hennepin Ave UMC kids along with the next 2 books in the series – editor's note*).

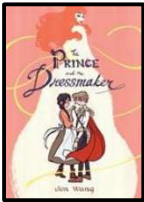


Smile by Raina Telgemeier. Graphix. Age Group: Junior. Theme: Middle School, Braces. Awards: Eisner.

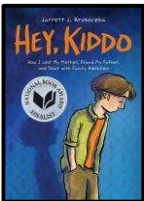


Sisters by Raina Telgemeier. Scholastic, Inc. Age Group: Junior. Theme: Middle School, Not Getting Along with Siblings. Awards: Eisner.

Telgemeier is very popular with kids. She does an amazing job capturing what it's like to be 12 or 13. Books are autobiographical.



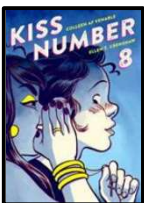
The Prince and the Dressmaker by Jen Wang. First Second. Age Group: Junior. Theme: LGBTQ+, Embracing Who You Are. Awards: Eisner, Harvey.



Hey, Kiddo by Jarrett J. Krosoczka. Scholastic, Inc. Age Group: Junior/Teens. Theme: Addiction, Parents with Addiction. Awards: National Book Award Finalist.



This One Summer by Mariko Tamaki. First Second. Age Group: Teens. Theme: Coming of Age Story. Awards: Eisner Award, Caldecott Honor Book, Printz Honor Book.



Kiss Number 8 by Colleen AF Venable. First Second. Age Group: Teens. Theme: LGBTQ+, Friendship, Mother-Daughter Relationships. Awards: NY Public Library Best Books for Kids.



Spinning by Tilly Walden. First Second. Age Group: Teens. Theme: LGBTQ+, Coming of Age Story, Sports. Awards: Eisner Award, Common Core.



They Called Us Enemy by George Takei. IDW Publishing. Age Group: Adults. Theme: Japanese Americans, History, Memoir. Awards: Eisner Award, Asian/Pacific American Award.

MORE ON THE SPRING MEETING

Selecting New Materials for Your Library

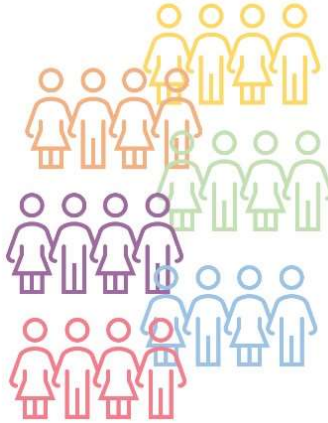
Emily Hoch
TGACLA Spring Conference 2023



EMILY HOCH, PRESENTER

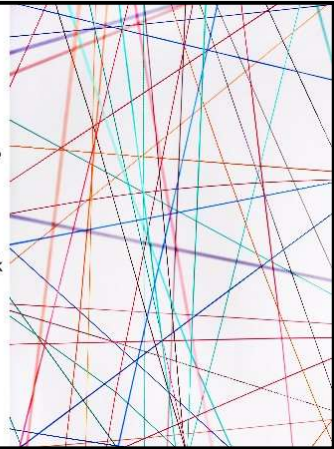
Know Your Audience

- A library must understand its patronage
- Who makes up your library's audience or patronage?
- What are some ways to learn more about your audience?
 - Observe who visits and which books circulate the most
 - Ask church leaders
 - Ask about church programming for the year



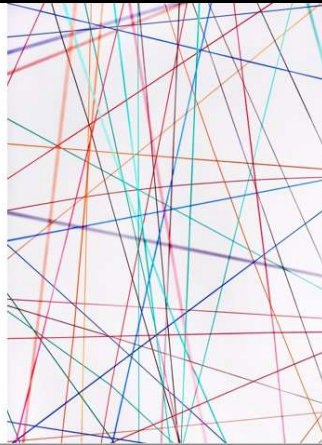
Diversify Your Collection

- Start by looking at what you have
 - Which authors or kinds of books do you have the most of?
 - What is the identity of most authors?
 - How many books were recently published (last 5 years) and how many older books do you have (more than 10 years old)?
- Bring in books by different voices, e.g., female, black and brown, queer, or disabled voices
- Introduce books that reflect current events and the Christian response, e.g., Social justice books or environmental justice and climate change



Diversify Your Collection

- **Yolanda Pierce** (Womanism, Black)
- **James H. Cone** (Black theology, Black)
- **Rachel Held Evans** (Evangelical)
- **Nadina Bolz-Weber** (Lutheran pastor)
- **Robyn Henderson-Espinoza** (Trans/gender non-conforming, Latinx, Baptist minister)
- **Shannon Kearns** (Trans, Catholic priest)



Finding New Books and Magazines

- Read through catalogs and new book lists on publishers' websites
- Read the book reviews published in magazine such as Christianity Today
- Peruse curated book reviews and book lists on websites
- Browse the Christian Library Association's Periodical Index libguide for new magazines
- Ask your leadership team for recommendations
- What else?



Finding New Books and Magazines

- [Christianity Today Book Reviews](#)
Christian book reviews, lists, and awards
- [Christian Feminism Today](#)
Christian and secular books reviewed from a Christian and feminist perspective
- [Redeemed Reader](#)
Christian book review focused on kids, parents, and educators
- [Christian Library Association's Periodical Index Libguide](#)
List of Christian periodicals and some full-text titles



Where to Shop for Books

- Open an account with a local book retailer like Magers and Quinn or Moon Palace Books
Opening an account often allows you to receive a discount and/or register as a tax-free organization and supports local, independent bookstores in our communities
- Use Bookshop.org as an alternative to Amazon
Supports small, independent bookstores around the country
- Half-Price Books, online or in store.



Navigating Collection Development with a Limited Budget

- Rely on general donations and select to keep books based on your library's criteria
- Curate a donations wish list and make it available to those interested in supporting the library
- Select a few key books and advocate for their purchase by aligning their purchase to the church's programming or mission



Conclusion

- When collecting new materials for your library consider:
 - Your audience and for whom you are buying
 - The diversity of your collection and whether that new acquisition will contribute a diverse perspective
- A limited budget doesn't have to put a stop on collection development
 - You can request specific donations from a wish list
 - Buy used or discounted books
 - Petition church leadership to buy books that support the church's programming or mission

There was a brief business meeting. Roberta Shaw presented the Treasurer's Report. Wayne Albertson was elected Secretary. The following changes to the by-laws were approved:

1. Add to Article IV, Section 9: "In the event of an unfilled position, the board shall have the authority to make an interim appointment, subject to confirmation at the next membership meeting."
2. Add the following language to Article II, Section 2 to conform to current practice: "The amount required for annual dues and membership renewal dates shall be determined by the board."



Past President Jeanne Schleh brought some historical material from our archives and talked about the review she's done of the items that have been saved since our current organization was created as a chapter of the National Church Library Association (previously Lutheran Church Library Association). The board has approved her recommendation that the materials from the time prior to the formation of the Twin Cities Area Church Library Association be transferred to the archives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America headquarters.

William Kent Krueger charmed fans, old and new, with his presentation on the transformative power of stories. He recently announced on Facebook that he is among a group of mystery authors who have written short stories based on hit tunes by Michael Jackson. His contribution to the *Thriller* anthology is "**Beat It.**"



- To the meeting attendees who donated \$262 in the goodwill offering. TCACLA donated an additional \$288 (in lieu of an honorarium to Kent). A \$550 check has been delivered to All Nations Church per his request.
- To Emily Hoch, Leslie Kallas, and all the volunteers from Gloria Dei Lutheran Church who were so instrumental in making the meeting such a success.





FALL MEETING PREVIEW

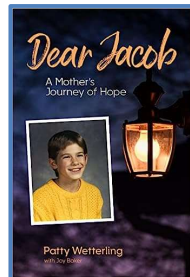
WHEN: October 21

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Patty Wetterling



Patty Wetterling is a national advocate, visionary, and educator on the prevention of child abduction and exploitation. She served on the board of directors for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children from 1991 to 2021 and was its chair from 2012 to 2015. She also co-founded Team HOPE, a national support group for families of missing children. She is now a national consultant, presenting at child abuse conferences and law enforcement trainings. Patty has received many awards, including being named one of the 100 Most Influential Minnesotans of the Century by the Minneapolis *Star Tribune* in 1999.

In her powerful memoir, ***DEAR JACOB; a Mother's Journey of Hope***, to be released on October 17, she tells the riveting story of the 27-year search for her abducted son. Along with co-author Joy Baker, Patty details the investigation as it unfolds, discusses her family's struggles, and shows how she maintained her energy and optimism. For her own survival, Patty chose to focus on hope.



WHERE: Glen Cary Lutheran Church, Ham Lake



Glen Cary is a Scottish name, meaning "beautiful valley." The church has been a part of the Ham Lake community for 150 years. In the early years, pastors from Minneapolis served the congregation once a month. This meant someone had to drive a team into the city to "fetch the preacher." Three men were elected to lead the congregation in singing to increase the odds of at least one of them showing up. Members were predominantly Swedish and Norwegian.

The current structure was completed in 2002. The sanctuary can accommodate 400+ people. The church strives to make our community more beautiful by reflecting the love of Jesus Christ and extending God's grace to all who are in need.

