

2017 – 2012 Nurturing for Community

Selections can be from the 2012-2017 reading lists if not included in previous reports, children and youth titles can be read for credit in all plans of the Reading Program. Brenda Thompson Reading Program Specialist UMW Communications.

2017 Nurturing for Community

Broken and Blessed God Changes the World One Person and One Family at a Time.

Jessica LaGrone. Abingdon Press (2014) 188 pages

In *Broken & Blessed*, the author explores Genesis, a book deeply concerned with the origins of things—of the universe, of relationships and of families. LaGrone describes how change begins when one person decides to believe God’s promises and how that decision profoundly changes a whole family.

2017 Nurturing for Community

Launch Your Encore Finding Adventure and Purpose Later in Life. Hans Finzel and Rick Hicks Baker Books (2015) 203 pages *Launch Your Encore* explores ways to continue making an impact later in life. With real-life examples of people who have made the transition from their main careers to mentoring, volunteering, ministry or even second careers, Finzel and Hicks show you how to enter this stage of life poised for personal satisfaction and ready to make significant contributions to society.

2017 Nurturing for Community

Money on Purpose Finding a Faith-Filled Balance. Shayna Lear

Judson Press (2012) 188 pages

Lear, a minister and financial advisor, offers candid and conversational insight and instruction for anyone seeking to be a faithful steward. Featuring a quiz to help you discover your financial type, the author then offers practical strategies to restore a healthy and faith-filled balance.

2017 Nurturing for Community

Seamless Faith Simple Practices for Daily Family Life. Traci Smith

Chalice Press (2014) 167 pages

The author shares dozens of simple practices to equip all kinds of families with the tools they need for bringing faith home. Filled with easy-to-organize traditions, ceremonies and spiritual practices for many of life’s stressful and faith-filled moments, this is a resource parents will rely on for years to come.

2017 Nurturing for Community

Slowing Time Seeing the Sacred Outside Your Kitchen Door. Barbara Mahany

Abingdon Press (2014) 208 pages

Beginning in winter and tracing the seasons through the year, Mahany celebrates sacredness that is gathered through the art of paying attention, savoring moments and cultivating stillness. By making room for God and finding Godly specks in the mundane, she pinpoints divinity in the nooks and crannies of our everyday world.

2017 Nurturing for Community – Recommended Reading

The Age of Dignity Preparing for the Elder Boom in a Changing America. Ai-Jen Poo
The New Press (2015)

By 2035, 11.5 million Americans will be over the age of eighty-five, more than double today's 5 million, living longer than ever before. To enable all of us to age with dignity and security in the face of this coming Age Wave, our society must learn to value the care of our elders. The process of building a culture that supports care is a key component to restoring the American dream, and, as Ai-Jen Poo convincingly argues, will generate millions of new jobs and breath new life into our national ideals of independence, justice, and dignity. 2017 Nurturing for Community – Recommended Reading

2017 Nurturing for Community

I'll Be Right There. Kyung-Sook Shin
Other Press (2014)

Set in 1980s South Korea amid the tremors of political revolution. When Yoon receives a distressing phone call from her ex-boyfriend after eight years of separation, memories of a tumultuous youth begin to resurface, forcing her to re-live the most intense period of her life. With profound intellectual and emotional insight, she revisits the death of her beloved mother, the strong bond with her now-dying former college professor, the excitement of her first love, and the friendships forged out of a shared sense of isolation and grief.

2017 Nurturing for Community – Youth – counts for all Reading Plans

The Perfect Place. Teresa E. Harris

Clarion Books (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) (2014) 263 pages

Treasure's dad is gone again, trying to find a better home for the family. Her mom is tired of waiting to hear from him, so she sends Treasure and her sister Tiffany to spend the summer in tiny Black Lake, Virginia, with Aunt Grace. But Aunt Grace smokes, can't cook, and worse, doesn't own a television. Although certain she'll be miserable, Treasure knows she will eventually end up in the perfect place. So, it comes as a surprise when Black Lake and Aunt Grace begin to challenge her expectations. It turns out that first impressions can be misleading.

2017 Nurturing for Community – Youth – counts for all Reading Plans

Remember Dippy. Shirley Reva Vernick

Cinco Puntos Press (2013) 226 pages

Johnny's plans fly out the window when he finds out his mother is leaving town for the summer for a breakthrough job in upstate New York. He can live with his Aunt Collette, but only on the condition that he helps out with his autistic older cousin Remember, a gawky, awkward kid with some strange habits. At first, Johnny's feelings of disaster appear to come to cringeworthy fruition, but when the two boys save a bully from drowning, salvage the pizzeria guy's romance, and share girl troubles, Johnny ends up having the summer of his life.

2017 Nurturing for Community – Youth – counts for all Reading Plans

#Stolen Is Social Media Stealing Your Identity? Jessica Fralin

Abingdon Press (2015) 177 pages

How many hours do we spend scrolling Facebook and Twitter or posing for the perfect selfie on Instagram, hoping that what we post will get likes and comments? In *#Stolen*, author Jessica Fralin uncovers our deep desire to be affirmed, valued and loved, and then points out that that desire can be fulfilled in Christ. She offers creative callouts containing fun notes, activities, and ideas to discuss with your youth group and friends as she tackles issues and insecurities like popularity, body image and cyberbullying.

2017 Nurturing for Community – Children – counts for all Reading Plans

Animal Beauty. Kristin Roskifte

Eerdmans Books for Young Readers (2015) 42 pages

When an elephant in the city zoo picks up a beauty magazine, she makes a horrifying discovery: her wrinkles make her look ancient! After covering herself with anti-aging cream, she passes the magazine on to the other animals in the zoo. Soon the panda is trying to get rid of the dark circles under his eyes, the lion is getting the latest celebrity hairstyle, and the boa constrictor is dressing in leopard print (snakeskin was so last season). But how will people react to the animals' new looks?

2016 Nurturing for Community

2016 Nurturing for Community

The Church and People with Disabilities: Awareness and Advocacy. Peggy Johnson

United Methodist Women (2014). 111 pages

Mission Study

Unlike other categories of human experience, disability crosses all lines of gender, orientation, ethnicity, socioeconomic position, age, and culture. People with typical bodies can be thought of as temporarily able-bodied because disabilities can happen at any time to anyone. The intent of these mission studies is to promote awareness, inclusion, accessibility and advocacy for people with disabilities — including youth and children.

Supplementary materials, PowerPoint and on UMW e-store.

2016 Nurturing for Community – Youth - counts for all Reading Plans

Crazy. Linda Vigen Phillips

Eerdmans Books for Young Readers (2014). 320 pages

Fifteen-year-old Laura is a typical teenager navigating her way through classes, friendships and even a new romance. But she's carrying around a secret — her mother is suffering from a mental illness. No one in her family will talk about it, and Laura is confused and frightened. She finds solace in art, but when her mother, also an artist, breaks down, Laura fears she will follow in her footsteps.

2016 Nurturing for Community

Dreamers: An Immigrant Generation's Fight for their American Dream. Eileen Truax

Beacon Press (2015). 224 pages. E-book available

In *Dreamers*, Eileen Truax illuminates the stories of the roughly two million undocumented immigrants living in the United States who came here as children. They grew up here, going to elementary, middle, and high school, but are ineligible for financial aid for college and are unable to be legally employed. In recent years, this young generation of dreamers has begun organizing, becoming the newest face of the human rights movement.

2016 Nurturing for Community – Youth – counts for all Reading Plans

Dreaming in Indian: Contemporary Native American Voices. Lisa Charleyboy and Mary Beth Leatherdale

Annick Press (2014). 128 pages

This beautiful, powerful and visually stunning anthology from some of the most groundbreaking Native artists working in North America today is universal in its themes. Dreaming shatters commonly held stereotypes about what it's like to grow up Native American. Over 50 emerging and established contemporary artists contribute to this astounding collection with poignant pieces dealing with everything from painful first loves to the tragic legacy of residential schools.

2016 Nurturing for Community

House of Purple Cedar. Tim Tingle

Cinco Puntos Press (2014). 192 pages. E-book available

"The hour has come to speak of troubled times. It is time we spoke of Skullyville." Thus begins Rose Goode's story of growing up in Indian Territory in pre-statehood Oklahoma. Skullyville, a once-thriving Choctaw community, was destroyed by land-grabbers, culminating in the arson of New Hope Academy for Girls on New Year's Eve, 1896. Twenty Choctaw girls died, but Rose escaped. Soon after the fire, her grandfather Amafo is humiliated in front of the town's people. But, instead of asking the Choctaw community to avenge him, her grandfather decides to follow the path of forgiveness. And so unwinds this tale of mystery, Indian-style magical realism, and deep wisdom.

2016 Nurturing for Community

I Love Growing Older, But I'll Never Grow Old. J. Ellsworth Kalas

Abingdon Press (2013). 160 pages

J. Ellsworth Kalas says, "Older is a journey. Old is a destination". This book is about learning how to "make peace with whatever you are right now." It's about learning from the past and then moving past it. It's about growing and continuing to grow-personally, spiritually and in our relationships with God and with others.

2016 Nurturing for Community – Recommended

In Capable Arms: Living a Life Embraced by Grace. Sarah Kovac.

Abingdon Press (2013). 192 pages.

Sarah Kovac was born with Arthrogryposis Multiplex Congenita (AMC), a rare congenital birth defect that left her with arms that she could barely use. Growing up, she was the only one in her class with a disability, setting her apart as "different" and unpopular. Realizing her unique place in the world, Sarah began adapting, working to her strengths, and eventually learned to use her feet to do such activities as changing her son's diapers, making dinner, putting on makeup, and even typing on the computer--even as she grew in spiritual and emotional maturity and independence in exceptional ways.

2016 Nurturing for Community

Miss Brenda and the Loveladies: A Heartwarming True Story of Grace, God, and Gumption.

Brenda Spahn and Irene Zutell

WaterBrook Press (2015). 240 pages. E-book available

Brenda Spahn was a businesswoman who wouldn't take no for an answer when she discovered that God wouldn't either. When she invited seven hardened parolees into her home, she expected to house them, not love them. But her reluctant decision to serve female prisoners developed into a career, a calling and a ministry that has helped thousands of women leave prison behind for good.

2016 Nurturing for Community

Not Worth Saving: How a Severely Handicapped Boy Transformed Lives

Ann Joyner

Nazarene Publishing House (2014). 160 pages. E-book available

When doctors told Ann Joyner that her unborn child's life was not worth saving, her determination, found through faith, assured that not only did he live, but that he thrived. *Not Worth Saving* shares the story of Matthew Joyner's 21 miraculous and grace-filled years, unwittingly revealing so much more about the number of lives and hearts he changed simply by being alive.

2016 Nurturing for Community – Recommended

This Far By Faith – Twenty Years at Cass Community. Faith Fowler

Davic Crumm Media, LLC (2014). 244 pages.

Faith Fowler serves as one of the city's leading pastors and as a nonprofit entrepreneur. As a co-founder of a wide array of Cass startups, Faith and her Cass community are turning one of the nation's most impoverished urban centers into a gold mine of talent and resources. Now, Faith Fowler shares dozens of inspiring true stories of men and women who found new hope and were able to join in building a healthier community through Cass.

2016 Nurturing for Community

A Waist is a Terrible Thing to Mind: Loving Your Body, Accepting Yourself, and Living without Regret. Karen Scalf Linamen

Gale Cengage Learning (2013). 336 pages. E-book available

Serial dieter Karen Linamen, who is way too familiar with up-and-down weight gain/loss, helps women develop a healthy and positive, yet realistic, relationship with their bodies. Through her own and others' soul-baring stories, she shows women the difference between achieving the perfect body and loving the body they have.

2016 Nurturing for Community – Children – counts for all Reading Plans

Lend a Hand: Poems about Giving. John Frank and London Ladd (Illustrator)

Lee & Low Books (2014). 32 pages

Simple acts of kindness, like sharing a sandwich, volunteering, planting a tree or offering your seat to an elderly person on a bus are the first steps to changing the world. This collection of tender and empowering original poems celebrates the joys of bridging invisible boundaries among people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities.

2016 Nurturing for Community – counts for all Reading Plans

Welcoming Persons With Disabilities into Our Lives. Beth Miller

United Methodist Women. 77 pages.

This curriculum uses the symbol of a jigsaw puzzle as a basis for exploring disabilities. The lessons and activities offered here dispel myths and fear and lead to better understanding and inclusion of all persons. As participants put the pieces of this study together, they will develop a new understanding of persons with disabilities.

before a title signifies Wooster UMW Reading Circle read

2015 Nurturing for Community

The End of Your Life Book Club

Will Schwalbe. Random House (2012). 352 pages

The End of Your Life Book Club is the inspiring true story of a son and mother who start a book club that brings them together as her life comes to a close. Over two years, Will and Mary Anne carry on conversations that are both wide-ranging and deeply personal, prompted by a diverse selection of books and a shared passion for reading. Throughout, they and we are reminded of the power of books to comfort, astonish and teach.

56 print copies; 1 eAudiobook; 11 Audiobook CD; 1 eBook; public library

2015 Nurturing for Community

January First: A Child's Descent Into Madness and Her Father's Struggle to Save Her

Michael Schofield. Random House (2013). 320 pages

At age 6, January Schofield was diagnosed with one of the most severe cases of child-onset schizophrenia on record. Michael Schofield takes us on his journey with his daughter as they face seemingly insurmountable obstacles and daily challenges with her care and his unwavering commitment to save her from the edge of insanity while doing everything he can to keep his family together.

32 print copies; 1 eBook; 4 Audiobook CD public library

2015 Nurturing for Community

The Round House: A Novel

Louise Erdrich. Harper Collins/Harper Perennial (2013). 368 pages

This is the story of Joe, whose life is irrevocably transformed one spring day when his mother is attacked. As she takes to her bed, Joe is increasingly alone and finds himself thrust prematurely into an adult world for which he is ill prepared. May contain provocative language.

89 print copies; 14 Audiobook CD; 19 large print; public library

2015 Nurturing for Community

Whatever Happened to Dinner? Recipes and Reflections for Family Mealtime

Melodie M. Davis. Herald Press (2010). 242 pages

Whatever Happened to Dinner? invites families to eat together, even as we live in a culture that often pulls us apart. Author Melodie M. Davis examines the role food and mealtime play in the family and reminds us of why God gave us the good gift of food.

2 print copies public library

2015 Nurturing for Community

When Pastors Prey: Overcoming Clergy Sexual Abuse of Women

Valli Boobal Batchelor (editor). World Council of Churches Publications (2013). 220 pages

While clergy abuse of children has received worldwide attention, little has been written about the more widespread and devastating phenomenon of clergy abuse of adult women. This project addresses a problem that undermines the very foundations of institutional Christianity. When Pastors Prey not only brings forward the stories of many women whose trust has been abused, it also offers a helpful framework in which to understand and address the problem.

2015 Nurturing for Community – Large Print

Across Many Mountains: A Tibetan Family's Epic Journey From Oppression to Freedom

Yangzom Brauenl. Thorndike Press /Gale Cengage Learning (2012). 481 pages

In this memoir, Yangzom Brauen tells the story of her now 90-yearold grandmother Kunsang (a nun) and grandfather's (a monk) daring decision to flee from Chinesecontrolled

Tibet to India with her mother, then 6 years old. With little money and no idea of what they would meet along the way, they began their journey to cross the Himalayas on foot.

21 print copies; 5 large print; public library

2015 Nurturing for Community –Recommended Reading

Have you seen Marie?

Sandra Cisneros (author) and. Ester Hernandez (illustrator). Random House (2012)

Best-selling Cisneros (Caramelo, 2002, etc.) chronicles a search for a runaway cat that turns into a way to work through grief and discover community. Neither groundbreaking nor especially penetrating, this warmhearted tale offers comfort to anyone coping with the loss of a loved one.

11 print copies; 1 eBook; 3 Audiobook CD; public library

2015 Nurturing for Community – Recommended Reading

Journey Out of Silence: An Autobiography

William Rush. LuLu Publishing (2008)

Bill Rush's exceptional journey continues to encourage and inspire all who aspire to live fully and contribute to society. Bill lived with a significant disability of quadriplegic cerebral palsy. He did not have use of his arms, hands or voice. Society's prejudices proved to be a greater obstacle than his disability in attaining his first life's goal of completing college. William (Bill) L. Rush chronicled his extraordinary life from childhood until graduation from the University of Nebraska –Lincoln.

2015 Nurturing for Community – Youth – counts for all Reading Plans

Bully.com: A Novel

Joe Lawlor. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers. (2013). 246 pages

Jun Li is a brilliant student, more comfortable around computers than people. But his world is turned upside down when the school principal accuses him of cyberbullying and gives him seven days to prove his innocence. Jun Li discovers along the way that everyone's story is more complicated than it seems and that people might have more in common than they think.

13 print copies public library

2015 Nurturing for Community – Youth – counts for all Reading Plans

Vicious: True Stories by Teens About Bullying

Hope Vanderberg (editor). Free Spirit Publishing (2012). 167 pages In Vicious, teen writers tell about their experiences with bullying of all kinds: physical, verbal, relational and cyber. The cruelty and hurt they experience are unmistakably real, as are their struggles to protect themselves and their friends. Whether they were bullied, bullied others or witnessed bullying, these stories are at times painful, but admirable and compelling for the resilience they reveal.

2015 Nurturing for Community – Youth – counts for all Reading Plans

The Power to Prevent Suicide: A Guide for Teens Helping Teens

Richard E. Nelson and. Judith C. Galas. Free Spirit Publishing (2006). 115 pages

When teens were asked, “Who would you tell about wanting to commit suicide?” 90 percent said they would tell a friend first. *The Power to Prevent Suicide* shows how young people can be friends who care and know what to do and say.

14 print copies public library

2015 Nurturing for Community – Children – counts for all Reading Plans

Because Amelia Smiled

David Ezra Stein (author, illustrator). Candlewick Press (2012). 40 pages

What a difference a smile makes. See how Amelia changes the day for people all over the world just by smiling. It’s contagious!

2015 Nurturing for Community – Children – counts for all Reading Plans

The Chickens Build a Wall

Jean-François Dumont (author,illustrator). Eerdmans Books for Young Readers. (2013)

33 pages

When a friendly hedgehog visits the farm, the chickens build an enormous wall to keep out other “prickly invaders.”

44 print copies public library

2014 Nurturing for Community

100 Simple Things You Can Do to Prevent Alzheimer’s and Age Related Memory Loss. Jean Carper.

2012. 336p. Little, Brown and Company. 36 copies available public library

If trying something new can delay or offset the effects of Alzheimer's, as former CNN medical correspondent and syndicated "EatSmart" columnist Carper (The Food Pharmacy) contends, then readers would do well to try many of the ideas she offers in this empowering compendium. Genetically disposed to Alzheimer's, Carper, now in her 70s, has compressed the latest research on this and other types of dementia into short sections, each with a bottom-line action plan. While some are basic to all-around good health (e.g., taking a multivitamin, not smoking, limiting alcohol), others might surprise: consuming apple juice and vinegar, meditating, and surfing the Internet. Although Carper admits she has not tried all of them, she recommends that readers experiment with those best suited to their situations. Even a few nutritional (a Mediterranean diet) and lifestyle (exercise, stress relief, sleep) changes, she states, can gain as much as a decade disease-free, and by supplementing with anti-Alzheimer's powerhouses like niacin, choline, folic acid, and alpha lipoic acid, readers can push mental decline even further into the future. Whether in their 20s or well into retirement, readers will likely feel motivated to do the impossible: beat the approaching epidemic of a disease commonly viewed as hopeless. (Sept.) Publisher’s Weekly

2014 Nurturing for Community

Please Look After Mom: A Novel. Kyung-sook Shin. 2012. 272p. Vintage. 1 copy available public library

This novel from widely acclaimed Korean author Shin focuses on motherhood and family guilt. Park So-nyo, mother of four now-adult children, has gone missing in a Seoul train station on the way to visit them. The novel is told in four parts, from the perspectives of, first, her daughter, and then, her firstborn son, her husband, and finally, So-nyo herself. So-nyo's children continually battle with their own guilt for not taking better care of her while reminiscing about the times when they were young, growing up in incredible poverty in the countryside. The children come to terms with their mother's absence in their own ways, and their father repents for a lifetime of neglect. When So-nyo's voice enters the narrative, the portrait of a troubled but loving family is complete. Secrets are revealed, and the heart of a mother is beautifully exposed. This Korean million-plus-copy best-seller is an impressive exploration of family love, poverty, and triumphing over hardship. Booklist review

2014 Nurturing for Community

The Power of Serving Others. Gary Morsh and Dean Nelson. 2006. 130p. Berrett-Koehler. 5 copies available public library

In his book (co-authored by Dean Nelson) *The Power of Serving Others*, Dr. Gary Morsch (founder of Heart to Heart International) attempts to convince the reader that serving others is possible no matter the situation or resources available. The stories are powerful, emotional, encouraging and have a profound effect on the reader. The author does not shy away from drawing from the ideals of various faith traditions such as Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, etc. This approach highlights a fundamental fact that serving others is an act that transcends all religions, cultures, and economic/sociological standing.

2014 Nurturing for Community

Simply Salsa: Dancing Without Fear at God's Fiesta. Janet Perez Eckles. 2011. 160p. Judson Press. 1 copy available public library

Janet Perez Eckles, at the age of 31, became completely blind as the result of a retinal disease. At that time she was married and had three young children. She vividly and lightheartedly takes us through several decades of coping with blindness, her times of tragedy and betrayal and how God opened her spiritual eyes and rescued her from the emotional torment and emptiness that surrounded her. Janet reflects on the lives of many biblical women and their courage in times of trials. She also reflects on the lives of other women she has known, so that we can learn from their challenges. - Bronze magazine

2014 Nurturing for Community

Small Things With Great Love: Adventures in Loving Your Neighbor. Margot Starbuck. 2011. 240p. InterVarsity Press.

In the book there are over 300 examples of people across genders, ages, incomes, and living environments who kept their eyes open and found opportunities to small things. The best part about these examples is that not a single one has to do with "bringing people to Christ". Instead, each and every example is simply a story about someone who found a way to walk in the way of Jesus and serve their fellow man. - This is a great book for learning to see where opportunities that "have your name on them" may exist.

2014 Nurturing for Community

Up: A Mother and Daughter's Peakbagging Adventure. Patricia Ellis Herr. 2012. 256p. Broadway Books. 4 copies available public library

Up recounts the exhilarating and harrowing adventures of a mother and daughter's climbs up all 48 of New Hampshire's highest mountains. It's an emotionally honest account of a mother's determination to foster independence and fearlessness in her daughter and to teach her "that small doesn't necessarily mean weak; that girls can be strong; and that big, bold things are possible.*"

2014 Nurturing for Community

Bury Me Standing. The Gypsies and Their Journey. Isabel Fonseca. 1996. Vintage. 14 copies available public library

In numerous visits to east central Europe, London-based journalist Fonseca has produced an intriguing and affecting portrait of the continent's largest minority. Her first-person narrative meanders, but not inappropriately: the Gypsies are homeless, and they lie zestfully, challenging the author, who remains skeptical despite her sympathy for her subjects. After recounting a summer in the Gypsy quarter of Tirana, Albania, she explores Gypsy history, then profiles women in the deracinated Bulgarian Gypsy culture. The book acquires urgency when Fonseca shows how antipathy toward, and violence against, Gypsies has escalated since the revolutions of 1989; the raw hatred she records is chilling.

2014 Nurturing for Community

I Speak For Myself: American Women on Being Muslim. Maria M. Ebrahimi and Zahra T. Suratwala (Eds.). 2011. White Cloud Press. 13 copies available public library

Between the ages of 20 and 40, the authors share their range and diversity of experiences. The diversity of experiences (from single moms to interns striking out on their own for the first time), ethnicity (from African-American to Arab immigrant), and variety of careers and higher education (from an doctor of Afghan-descent, second-guessing herself over the details of an emergency surgery, to a media enthusiast determined to become a television reporter despite her wearing of hijab) – are striking for their range. Many women speak of their fathers, who both push their daughters to achieve but also implicitly reinforce a level of patriarchy. Their frustration over the lack of voice in American politics is a recurring theme.

2014 Nurturing for Community – adult list – recommended reading

Red Sky in the Morning. Elizabeth Laird. 2012. Haymarket Books.

Twelve-year-old Anna is looking forward to the birth of her baby brother. Ben arrives, but is disabled and will never be like other children. Anna loves him with her whole heart but she finds herself unable to admit the truth of Ben's condition to her school friends. Eventually the truth gets out and leads not to the ridicule Anna expected, but sympathy and understanding.

This book was Highly Commended for the Carnegie Medal and shortlisted for the Children's Book Award,

2014 Nurturing for Community – Youth - include with all Reading Plans

Wonder. R. J. Palacio. 2012. 320p. Knopf. Grades 5-8

Kids' books about befriending somebody "different" could fill a library. But this debut novel rises to the top through its subtle shifting of focus to those who are "normal," thereby throwing into doubt presumptions readers may have about any of the characters. Nominally, the story is about 10-year-old August, a homeschooled boy who is about to take the plunge into a private middle school. Even 27 operations later, Auggie's face has what doctors call "anomalies"; Auggie himself calls it "my tiny, munched-up face." He is gentle and smart, but his mere physical presence sends the lives of a dozen people into a tailspin: his sister, his old friends, the new kids he meets, their parents, the school administrators—the list goes on and on.

2014 Nurturing for Community – Children – counts for all Reading Plans

Unplugged: Ella Gets Her Family Back. Laura Pederson. 2012. 32p. Tilbury House Publishers.

Ella worries her family has forgotten how to be together. Instead of playing games and making waffles, everyone is talking on cell phones, playing video games and using the computer. What's a girl to do? When Ella makes her move, it gets everyone's attention. This book speaks to the issue of managing technology so that it can be more family-friendly.*

2014 Nurturing for Community – Children – counts for all Reading Plans

Silent Star: The Story of Deaf Major Leaguer. William Hoy. Bill Wise. 2012 40 p. Lee & Low. Grades 2-5.

In a dramatic opening scene, this picture-book biography recounts a brilliant play by outfielder William Hoy and the subsequent crowd reaction—cheers followed by confetti and the waving of arms and hats, visually expressing their appreciation to Hoy, who was deaf. Describing his struggles with illness-induced deafness and his remarkable nineteenth-century baseball career, this also gives a sensitive explanation for his nickname “Dummy.” Succinctly told, the biography provides both a vivid sense of the time and the obstacles confronting Hoy. Realistic, period illustrations, rendered in oil on paper, exhibit as much research as the text. Additional information appears in the afterword. Along with attracting baseball fans, this perceptive portrait of an athlete overcoming a physical disability will also enrich curricula. Booklist review

2013 Nurturing for Community

A Country for All: An Immigrant Manifesto. Jorge Ramos. Random House, Inc. 2010. 153p

3 copies public library interlibrary loan

For decades, fixing the United States' broken immigration system has been a challenge. With anti-immigrant sentiment rising around the country, it is now more important than ever to remember the role immigrants play in enriching our economy and culture. This timely book makes the case for a practical and politically achievable solution to this emotional issue.

2013 Nurturing for Community

Alone and Invisible no More: How Grassroots Community Action and 21st Century Technologies Can Empower Elders to Stay in Their Homes and Lead Healthier, Happier Lives. Allan S. Teel, MD. Chelsea Green Publishing. 2011. 196p

Alone and Invisible No More describes how to overhaul our eldercare system, based on physician Allan S. Teel's own efforts to create humane, affordable alternatives in Maine. Dr. Teel's program harnesses both staff and volunteers to help people remain in their homes and communities. The program offers assistance with everyday challenges and uses technology to keep older people connected with one another and their families and to stay safe.

2013 Nurturing for Community

Every Day is a Good Day: Reflections by Contemporary Indigenous Women. Wilma Mankiller.

Fulcurm Publishing. 2011. 214p

2 copies public library interlibrary loan

Wilma Mankiller, the first female chief of the Cherokee Nation, engaged Native women in conversation about spirituality, traditions and culture, tribal governance, female role modes, love and community. It is a rare and intimate glimpse of the resilience and perseverance of Native women who see the richness in their lives, facing each day positively.

Nurturing for Community 2013

Love in a Headscarf. Shelina Zahra Janmohamed. Beacon Press. 2010. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 2010. 257p

3 copies public library interlibrary loan

When Shelina Zahra Janmohamed opted for the traditional arranged route to finding a marriage partner, she never suspected it would be a journey of her life. During 10 long years of matchmaking aunties, countless mismatches and outrageous dating disasters. Ms. Janmohamed discovers more about herself and her faith – including the fact that sometimes being true to her religion means challenging tradition.

2013 Nurturing for Community

Mind on the Run: A Bipolar Chronicle. Dottie Pacharis. Idyll Arbor. 2011. 177p. 1 copy public library

Mind on the Run recounts the life and death of Scott C. Baker. It's the story of a family's efforts to help Mr. Baker through five major bipolar manic episodes – a story of love and loss and of a family's futile attempts to save their loved one. It takes readers inside the bipolar mind, a mind tormented by psychotic and delusional thoughts and a body ravaged by irreversible damage from untreated bipolar disorder.

2013 Nurturing for Community

Radical Welcome: Embracing God, the Other, and the Spirit of Transformation. Stephanie Spellers. Church Publishing. 2006. 180p. 1 copy public library

Radical Welcome is a practical theological guide for congregations that want to move beyond mere inclusivity toward becoming a place where welcoming “the other” is taken seriously and where engaging God's mission becomes more than just a catch-phrase.

2013 Nurturing for Community

Plain Wisdom. An Invitation into an Amish Home and the Hearts of Two Women. Cindy Woodsmall and Miriam Flaud. Gale Cengage Learning. 2001. 343p

29 copies public library interlibrary loan

Best-selling novelist Cindy Woodsmall might seem to have little in common with Miriam Flaud, but they both have found the secrets to facing life with strength and grace, and welcome you into their friendship. *Plain Wisdom* is a heartwarming celebration of God, womanhood and the search for beauty that unites us all.

2013 Nurturing for Community – Youth – counts for all Reading Plans

Fatty Legs A True Story. Christy Jordan-Fenton and Margaret Pokiak-Fenton. Annick Press. 2010. 112p

8 copies public library interlibrary loan

When Margaret, a young Inuit girl, traveled from her home in the High Arctic to Aklavik, she was mesmerized by this “outsider's” world, and she knew the key to the greatest of the outsiders' mysteries – reading – could be found there. She begged her father to let her go to the outsiders' school and there encountered a disapproving nun bent on tormenting her.

2013 Nurturing for Community – Youth – counts for all Reading Plans

Thin and beautiful.com. Liane Shaw. Second Story Press. 2009. 216p

2 copies public library interlibrary loan

While 17-year-old Maddie has always felt a hole in her life, she now thinks she has found a way to fill it with her quest to mold her body into her ideal, thinnest shape. When she comes across the world of “thinspiration” websites, where young people encourage each other in their mission to lose weight, she quickly becomes addicted. Finally she has found a place where she is understood and where she can belong. Or has she?

2013 Nurturing for Community – Children – counts for all Reading Plans

The Smell of Old Lady Perfume. Claudia Guadalupe Martinez. Cinco Puntos Press. 2008. 249p

8 copies public library interlibrary loan

Sixth grader Chela is a soccer-playing nerd excited about starting school. After her best friend turns on her and acts like she doesn't exist, she buries herself in schoolwork and in the warm comfort of her family. This small world is turned upside down when her father is rushed to the hospital and her grandmother arrives to help the family.

2013 Nurturing for Community – Children – counts for all Reading Plans

Violet. Tania Duprey Stehlik. Second Story Press 2009. 32p

3 copies public library interlibrary loan

Violet goes to school with children who are all different colors – some are red, some are yellow and some are blue. But she is the only one who is purple. When one of her friends at school asks about her skin color she wonders – Why am I Violet?

2013 Nurturing for Community – Children – counts for all Reading Plans

Rolling Along: The Story of Taylor and his Wheelchair. Jamee Riggio Heelan. Peachtree Publishers. 2000. 32p

15 copies public library interlibrary loan

Taylor and Tyler are twins. Though alike in many ways, Taylor was born with cerebral palsy and Tyler was not. When Taylor learned how to use a wheelchair it changed his life. Now he can keep up with his friends at school and even play basketball. His mobility allows him to be more independent, which he likes. This story can be beneficial for youngsters who are adjusting to a wheelchair so they can develop a sense of pride and accomplishment in their mobility. It's also useful for siblings, friends, relatives, and classmates of a child who uses a wheelchair.

2013 Nurturing for Community – Children – counts for all Reading Plans

Rusty & Mr. Earlie. Pershall Catherine Young. Author House. 2010. 28p

This book is to help children (and others as well) with a message to understand what is happening when they see "unusual or strange" things happening with people who have dementia--when grandma or grandpa come to stay with them because they can't stay home alone any longer, when they go to visit someone in the hospital or when they even see a stranger on the street who doesn't seem normal. Children will be able to see through the eyes of man's best friend, Rusty, that we all can be supportive, understanding, patient and be a wonderful companion or friend to someone with dementia.

2012 Nurturing for Community

Allow God to Wear Your Face: Spiritual Care for Those Who Are Ill. Alice G. Knotts. Front Row Living Press. 2010. 64p. 1 copy public library

As a spiritual caregiver the greatest gift you have to offer is your calm, spiritual non-anxious presence. This book is a simple guide for people who wish to make visits with sick people more meaningful and effective.

2012 Nurturing for Community

Asylum Denied. David Ngaruri Kenney and Phillip G. Schrag. University of California Press. 2008. 352p. e-reader version available. 2 copies public library

Asylum Denied is the gripping story of political refugee David Ngaruri Kenney's harrowing odyssey through the world of immigration processing the United States. Kenney, while living in his native Kenya, led a boycott to protest his government's treatment of his fellow farmers.

He was subsequently arrested and taken into the forest to be executed. This memoir tells of his near-murder, imprisonment and torture in Kenya; his remarkable escape to the United States; and the obstacle course of ordeals and proceedings he faced as U.S. government agencies sought to deport him to Kenya. It is a story of courage, love, perseverance and legal strategy.

2012 Nurturing for Community

Breathe: Finding Freedom to Thrive in Relationships After Childhood Sexual Abuse. Nicole Braddock Bromley. Moody Publishers. 2009. 180p. e-reader version available. 3 copies public library
Childhood sexual abuse is suffocating thousands of victims across our nation. With one in three women and one in six men experiencing some form of sexual abuse or assault, our world is full of survivors longing to be healed. The author, a fellow survivor, guides abuse victims and those who love them muffled existence to exuberant life.

2012 Nurturing for Community

Creative Aging: Rethinking Retirement and Non-retirement in a Changing World. Marjory Zoet Bankson. Skylight Paths Publishing. 2009. 152p. e-reader and large print versions available.

In a practical and useful way, *Creative Aging* explores the spiritual dimensions of retirement and aging. It offers creative ways for you to share your gifts and experience, particularly when retirement leaves you questioning who you are when you are no longer defined by your career.

2012 Nurturing for Community

I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced. Nujood Ali. Three Rivers Press. 2010. 190p. e-reader version available.

Nujood Ali's childhood came to an abrupt end in 2008 when her father arranged for her to be married to a man three times her age. With harrowing directness she tells of her married life and of her daring escape after being sent to the market to buy bread. With help from local advocates and the press, Nujood obtained her freedom, and extraordinary achievement in Yemen, where almost half of all girls are married under the legal age.

2012 Nurturing for Community

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks. Rebecca Skloot. Random House. 2010. 382p.

56 copies public library

Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors, yet her cells-taken without her knowledge-became one of the most important tools in medicine. The first “immortal” human cells grown in culture, they are still alive today, though she has been dead for more than 60 years.

2012 Nurturing for Community - Children – counts for all Reading Plans

Amazing Faces. Lee Bennett Hopkins. Lee & Low Books. 2010. 40 p.

An amazing collection of poems focusing on universal emotions as expressed by poets from diverse backgrounds, including Joseph Bruchac, Nikki Grimes, Lee Bennett Hopkins, Pat Mora, Janet S. Wong and many others.

2012 Nurturing for Community - Children – counts for all Reading Plans

What Will You Be Sara Mee? Kate Aver Avraham. Charlesbridge Publishing. 2010. 32p.

At her *tol*, the first-birthday party, Sara Mee plays the traditional Korean prophecy game *toljabee* while her extended family and friends watch.