

## 2017 – 2012 Social Action

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.

Bonus Books - Bonus Books count as two books. They are only used in the Social Action and Education for Mission categories. They count either as two books in the same category or as one book in each of the two categories.

### 2017 Social Action – **Bonus Book**

***America and Its Guns A Theological Exposé*** (BONUS BOOK) James E. Atwood  
Wipf and Stock Publishers (2012) 228 pages

The Rev. Atwood, an avid hunter, contends that one cannot understand the 30,000 American gun deaths per year apart from our national myth and he cautions that an absolute trust in guns and violence morphs easily into idolatry. Having spent 36 years fighting against easy access to firearms, he uses his experience and theological understanding to document how Americans have been deceived into believing that the tools of violence, whether in war or in the bedside stand, will provide security.

### 2017 Social Action

***Building a Movement to End the New Jim Crow An Organizing Guide.*** Daniel Hunter  
Hyrax Publishing (2014) 71 pages

Expanding on the call to action in Michelle Alexander's acclaimed best-seller, *The New Jim Crow*, this accessible organizing guide puts tools in your hands to help you and your group understand how to make meaningful, effective change. Learn about your role in building movements and how to pick and build campaigns that contribute towards a bigger mass movement against the largest penal system in the world. This important new resource inspires, challenges, motivates and offers time-tested organizing techniques.

### 2017 Social Action

***Class Lives Stories From Across Our Economic Divide.*** Chuck Collins, Jennifer Ladd, Maynard Seider and Felice Yeskel (editors)  
ILR Press (2014) 228 pages

We are living in a period of extraordinary economic insecurity and inequality—an inequality that crushes the poor, drains the working class, eliminates the middle class, simultaneously glorifies and dehumanizes the rich, and guts democracy. The stories in this anthology span the class spectrum, providing insight into issues of social class and how we are all affected.

### 2017 Social Action

***Pre-Post-Racial America Spiritual Stories from the Front Lines.*** Sandhya Rani Jha  
Chalice Press (2015) 153 pages

Pre-Post-Racial America uses the powerful tool of storytelling to speak prophetic truth in a most disarming way. Rani Jha shares stories that help us look at issues of race in America through other lenses—stories of real people today and stories of scripture. These stories can help us reexamine our own narratives, taking power away from those who seek to divide us and giving that power back to God.

2017 Social Action

***Snake Oil How Fracking's False Promise of Plenty Imperils Our Future.*** Richard Heinberg  
Post Carbon Institute (2013) 146 pages

On the Sunday morning after the acquittal of Trayvon Martin's killer, black preachers across America addressed the questions his death raised for their communities: "Where is the justice of God? What are we to hope for?" The Rev. Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas examines the myths and narratives underlying a "stand-your-ground" culture, taking seriously the social and theological questions raised by this and similar events in Ferguson, Missouri and Staten Island, New York.

2017 Social Action

***Wage Theft Comics*** Crime and Justice #1. Jeffrey Odell Korgen  
Interfaith Worker Justice (2013) 18 pages

Wage theft affects millions of workers in every industry. Employers steal billions of dollars when they pay less than minimum wage, refuse overtime pay, force workers to work off the clock, hold back final paychecks, misclassify employees as independent contractors, steal tips, and fail to pay workers at all. Wage theft cheats workers, steals from the public when companies fail to pay employment taxes, and puts ethical businesses at an unfair disadvantage.

2017 Social Action - **Bonus Book**

***What We're Fighting for Now is Each Other Dispatches from the Front Lines of Climate Justice.***

(BONUS BOOK) Wen Stephenson

Beacon Press (2015) 239 pages

The science is clear—catastrophic climate change, by any human definition, is upon us. This fiercely urgent and profoundly spiritual journey into the climate-justice movement searches for what climate justice, at this late hour, might mean. Stephenson tells his own story and offers an up-close, on-the-ground look at some of the remarkable and courageous people who have laid everything on the line to build and inspire this quickly growing movement.

2017 Social Action – Recommended Reading

***Understanding and Dismantling Racism The 21st Century Challenge to White America.***

Joseph Brandt

Fortress Press (2007) 304 pages

With great clarity Brandt traces the history of racism, especially in white America, revealing its various personal, institutional, and cultural forms. Without demonizing anyone or any race, he offers specific, positive ways in which people in all walks, including churches, can work to bring racism to an end. He includes the newest data on continuing conditions of People of Color, including their progress relative to the minimal standards of equality in housing, income and wealth, education, and health. He discusses current dimensions of race as they appear in controversies over 9/11, New Orleans, and undocumented workers. Includes analytical charts, definitions, bibliography, and exercises for readers.

2016 Social Action – Youth – all plans

***Blue Gold: A Novel.*** Elizabeth Stewart

Annick Press (2014). 296 pages

Three teen girls on three continents are linked by the rare mineral coltan, also known as blue gold, used in the manufacture of technology. Sylvie lives in the Congo, where she has fled the conflict over the mineral; Laiping lives in China and works in a factory building components; and Fiona lives in Canada ; but they are all connected by one thing — cell phones.

2016 Social Action – Youth – Recommended – all plans

***Every Last Drop – Bringing Clean Water Home.*** Michelle Mulder.

Orca Book Publishers (2014). 48 pages

Every Last Drop looks at why the world's water resources are at risk and how communities around the world are finding innovative ways to quench their thirst and water their crops. Maybe you're not ready to drink fog, as they do in Chile, or use water made from treated sewage, but you can get a low-flush toilet, plant a tree, protect a wetland or just take shorter showers. Every last drop counts!

2016 Social Action

***In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto***

Michael Pollan

Gale Cengage Learning (2009). 329 pages. E-book available

Eat Food. Not too much. Mostly plants. Humans used to know how to eat well, Pollan argues. But the balanced dietary lessons that were once passed down through generations have been confused, complicated and distorted by food marketers, nutritionists and journalists who all have something to gain. Pollan's manifesto shows us how to recover a more balanced and pleasurable approach to food. Public library ebook

2016 Social Action

***# Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*** — Bonus Book in Social Action

Bryan Stevenson

Spiegel & Grau (2015).. 368 pages. E-book available

A powerful, true story about the potential for mercy to redeem us and a call to fix our broken system of justice, from one of the most brilliant and influential lawyers of our time. Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system.

Public library ebook

2016 Social Action

***Rewilding Our Hearts: Building Pathways of Compassion and Coexistence***

Marc Bekoff

New World Library (2014). 216 pages. E-book available

Marc Bekoff, one of the world's leading animal experts and activist, applies the principle of rewilding (restoring habitats and creating corridors between preserved lands to allow declining populations to rebound) to human attitudes. Rewilding Our Hearts invites readers to do the essential work of becoming re-enchanted with the world, acting from the inside out, and dissolving false boundaries to truly connect with both nature and ourselves.

2016 Social Action – Bonus Book for Social Action

***We Shall Not be Moved: Methodists Debate Race, Gender and Homosexuality.*** Jane Ellen Nickell

Pickwick Publications (2014). 218 pages. E-book available

As Protestant denominations fracture over whether to ordain gays and lesbians, this work looks at The United Methodist Church's conversations around the issue to see what can be learned from these earlier periods of change. In light of Methodism's historic contests over the leadership of African Americans and women, and using the uniform context of the Methodist General Conference, where denominational policy is set, this book analyzes transcripts of floor debates in key years of these struggles, letting those who argued for and against the changes speak for themselves.

2016 Social Action

# ***The White Umbrella – Walking with Survivors of Sex Trafficking.*** Mary Frances Bowley Moody Publishers (2012). 208 pages.

Every year, thousands of young women are forced into sexual exploitation. Most are under the age of 18. The damage this causes to their emotions and souls is immeasurable, but they are not without hope. *The White Umbrella* tells stories of survivors as well as those who came alongside to help them to recovery. It describes the pain and the strength of these young women and those who held the white umbrella? of protection and purity over them on the road to restoration.

2016 Social Action – **Children** – plans 3, 4

***The Soda Bottle School.*** Laura Kutner, Suzanne Slade and Aileen Darragh (Illustrator) Tilbury House Publishers (2014). 32 pages. E-book available

In a tiny village in Guatemala, the people faced two huge problems: they had too much trash, and their school was too small. The villagers had tried building a bigger school but ran out of money for materials. Then one person got a wonderful, crazy idea, and an amazing thing happened.

# - Wooster UMW Reading Circle read

2015 Social Action

***Americanah: A Novel***

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. Random House (2014). 608 pages

Ifemelu reluctantly left Nigeria on a college scholarship and seems to have everything a Nigerian immigrant in America could desire. But culture shock, hardships and racism have left her feeling like she has “cement in her soul.” Astonished at the labyrinth of racial structures that confront her, Ifemelu launches an audacious and instantly popular blog that explores what she calls Racial Disorder Syndrome. May contain provocative language and content. Public library ebook

2015 Social Action

# ***Behind the Kitchen Door***

**BONUS BOOK** [two books in Social Action]

Saru Jayaraman. Cornell University Press (2014). 208 pages

As you enjoy your restaurant meal, have you ever wondered what’s behind the kitchen door? Blending personal narrative and investigative journalism, Saru Jayaraman shows us that the quality of food that arrives at the table not only depends on the ingredients’ sources but on the attention and skill of the people (restaurant workers are subject to poor working conditions and live on some of the lowest wages in America) who prepare and serve. 7 print copies public library

2015 Social Action

***A New Dawn in Beloved Community: Stories With the Power to Transform Us***

Linda Lee (general editor) and Safiyah Fosua (consulting editor). Abingdon Press (2012). 142 pages  
These are stories of people, in their own words. Their goal is to provide a tool that will help the church build beloved communities in ways that can transform the world. They speak their truths and experiences, provide suggestions for action and offer visions of hope. They will awaken stories in you that will transform both heart and soul.

2015 Social Action

***EcoLiterate: How Educators Are Cultivating Emotional, Social and Ecological Intelligence***

Daniel Goleman, Lisa Bennett and Zenobia Barlow. John Wiley (2012). 192 pages

**BONUS BOOK** [two books in Social Action]

Hopeful and bold, *Ecoliterate* tells stories of educators, activists and students who embody an integration of emotional, social and ecological intelligence. Through stories from the Arctic to Appalachia, New Mexico to New Orleans, the authors reveal how education that engages in some of the most pressing ecological issues of the day advances academic achievement, fosters resilience and helps communities play a vital role in protecting the natural world.

2015 Social Action

***Kind of Kin: A Novel***

Rilla Askew. Harper Collins/Ecco (2014). 432 pages

A new Oklahoma state law makes harboring an undocumented immigrant a felony. Rilla Askew's brilliant, hilarious and heartfelt novel follows a handful of complicated lawmakers and lawbreakers as workers are exiled, friends turn informers and families are torn apart in a statewide exodus of Hispanics. In the end, *Kind of Kin* reveals how an ad hoc family and an entire town unite to do anything necessary to protect its own.

20 print; 3 large print copies public library

2015 Social Action

***Not Just a Pretty Face: The Ugly Side of the Beauty Industry***

Stacy Malkan. New Society Publishers (2007). 192 pages

The beauty myth is peeled away and the industry's toxic secrets emerge in *Not Just a Pretty Face*. This book chronicles the quest that led a group of breast cancer activists and environmentalists to the offices of the world's largest cosmetic companies asking some tough questions about the safety of the cosmetics they market as safe.

3 print copies public library

2015 Social Action – Large Print

***That Used to be Us: How America Fell Behind in the World It Invented and How We Can Come Back***

Thomas Friedman and Michael Mandelbaum. Thorndike Press / Gale Cengage Learning. (2012). 696 pages . **BONUS BOOK** [two books in Social Action]

In *That Used to Be Us*, Thomas Friedman and Michael Mandelbaum analyze the four major challenges on which America's future depends — globalization, the information technology revolution, chronic deficits and our pattern of energy consumption — and spell out what we need to do now to rediscover America and rise to this moment.

27 Audiobook CD; 63 print copies; 1 eAudiobook public library

2015 Social Action – Recommended Reading

***Against a Tide of Evil: How One Man Became the Whistleblower to the First Mass Murder of the Twenty-first Century.*** Mukesh Kapila and Damien Lewis. Pegasus Books (2013)

Against a Tide of Evil is a strident and passionate cri de coeur. It is the deeply personal account of one man driven to extreme action by the unwillingness of those in power to stop mass murder. It explores what empowers a man like Mukesh Kapila to stand up and be counted, and to act alone in the face of global indifference and venality. Kapila's story reads like a knife-edge international thriller as he risks all to use the powers at his disposal to bring to justice those responsible for the first mass murder of the twenty-first century: the Darfur genocide.

2015 Social Action – Recommended Reading

***The Enough Moment: Fighting to End Africa's Worst Human Rights Crimes***

John Prendergast and Don Cheadle. Random House (2010)

Human rights activist John Prendergast and Oscar-nominated actor Don Cheadle reveal the steps being taken by engaged citizens – “Upstanders” – famous and unknown, here and abroad, to combat genocide, rape, and child soldierhood in Africa, and show how you can be a part of the movement. John and Don present ways for you to form alliances, contact Congress, alert the media, enlist corporations, and use social media to become part of the solution.

8 print copies public library

2015 Social Action – Recommended Reading

***Hunting Season: Immigration and Murder in an All-American Town***

Mirta Ojito. Beacon Press (2013)

A disturbing account of how attacks on Latino immigrants became a teenage sport in one suburban town, whose bigotry is seen here as typical of much of America. An influx of Ecuadorians to Patchogue, N.Y., aroused hatred to the point of mayhem and manslaughter.

12 print copies public library

2015 Social Action – Youth – all plans

***Refuse to Do Nothing: Finding Your Power to Abolish Modern-day Slavery***

Shayne Moore and Kimberly McOwen Yim. InterVarsity Press (2013). 192 pages

Slavery never ended. It just went underground, and people continue to exploit powerless men, women and children in horrific ways throughout the world. Refuse to Do Nothing will share insights to illuminate the shadows where the trafficked and traffickers hide and will compel, motivate and mobilize friends and strangers to refuse to do nothing.

2015 Social Action – Youth – all plans

***Return to Sender: A Novel***

Julia Alvarez. Random House Children's Books. (2009). 352 pages

Mari's family needs work but must hide in fear of deportation to Mexico. Tyler's family is struggling after an accident brings their farm to the brink of foreclosure. Their meeting is a stroke of luck for both families, but there are questions: Is Mari's family undocumented?

Did Tyler's family break the law by hiring them? In a novel full of hope but no easy answers, Alvarez shows how friendship can reach across borders. Public library ebook

2015 Social Action – Children – counts for all reading plans

**The Eye of the Whale: A Rescue Story**

Jennifer O’Connell (author, illustrator). Tilbury House (2013). 32 pages

A team of volunteers is called to rescue a humpback whale tangled in yards of crab-trap lines, struggling to stay at the surface to breathe. What follows is a rare and remarkable demonstration of the unique connections we can have with animals — even whales.

Children

5 print copies public library

2015 Social Action – Children – counts for all reading plans

**The Promise**

Nicola Davies (author). Laura Carlin (illustrator). Candlewick Press / Walker Books (2013). 40 pages

On a mean street in a mean city, a young thief tries to snatch an old woman’s bag. But the old woman won’t let it go until the girl promises something in return. That promise is the beginning of a journey that will change her life — and a chance to change the world for good.

13 print copies public library

2014 Social Action

**Break the Cycle: Healing From an Abusive Relationship.** Tracy S. Deitz. 2012. 216p. CreateSpace.

Author Tracy S. Deitz, a trained advocate for victims of domestic violence, tells the story of Lydia, a survivor of an abusive marriage who offers a lifeline to anyone who feels trapped in a destructive home. Break the Cycle: Healing from an Abusive Relationship is Lydia's profoundly honest and hopeful guide to gaining the strength, insight, and resources necessary to inspire anyone who wants to forge a new and positive path in life.

2014 Social Action

# **Dear White America: A Letter to a New Minority.** Tim Wise. 2012. 190p. City Lights Books.

There are times when it is difficult to talk about the sometimes explosive topic of race, as this volume does. Author Tim Wise acknowledges this and hopes that his words may allow you to discuss subjects on race more confidently during those difficult times. This amazing “letter” includes history, facts and insight into the disturbing phenomenon of institutional racism.\* Public library ebook

2014 Social Action

**Finding Higher Ground Adaptation in the Age of Warming** [Bonus Book]. Amy Seidl. 2012. 216p. Beacon Press.

Unlike many ecologists who fear that global warming will lead to a planetary catastrophe, Seidl sees it as a spur to positive adaptation. Taking her lead from Jean-Baptiste Lamarck and Charles Darwin, she writes that both men were correct: "Now in an era of warming, where organisms experience suddenly changing environments, we see —how seminal adaptation is to the evolution of life." Seidl cites coral reefs, & the poster child for extinction in oceanic environments," as a case in point—marine ecologists have discovered resilient reefs off the coast of Africa which appear to be successfully recovering. Exploring the effects of climate change already apparent in the behavior of birds, fish, insects and plant life, the author looks for analogous proactive transformations in human society and finds hope in the resilience of nature and in human ingenuity when it is spurred by challenge. One of the areas of cutting-edge research today is the study of the interplay between built-in genetic plasticity, which allows a species to acclimatize to novel conditions, and actual genetic mutations

2014 Social Action

***A Place at the Table: 40 Days of Solidarity With the Poor.*** Chris Seay. 2012. 240p. Baker Books.

*A Place at the Table* reminds us graciously yet powerfully, that our Western industrialized lifestyle of rampant consumerism is completely out of step with biblical values. Most of us need to re-examine with urgency our relationship with the rest of creation.

Chris Seay provides the framework for us to do that with 40 days of reflections, grounded in the experience of the Exodus. Recognizing that everyone in the West is addicted to something, Seay suggests that our study and prayer should be accompanied by fasting. The content of that he leaves to us, for only we know what it is that consumes us, negating our humanity and driving us far from God.

2014 Social Action

***Year of Plenty: One Suburban Family, Four Rules, and 365 Days of Homegrown Adventure in Pursuit of Christian Living.*** Craig Goodwin. 2011. 224 p. Sparkhouse.

The basic structure of the book follows the Goodwin family's year following a Rule – Local, Used, Homegrown, and Homemade. Part of what makes this particular adventure so delightful is that it was follows a plan hatched in three days, in the discontent after the annual Christmas season of Consumption, and tracks the literal transformation of the family's mind over the course of the next year. And many of the small, rather mundane practices that the Goodwin family takes on are familiar to many of us: digging out a lawn for an intensive produce garden, fashioning a piñata by hand (theirs is a grotesque, melting flamingo), or giving up the convenience of a vehicle for walking and biking.

2014 Social Action

***# An Invisible Thread.*** Laura Schroff and Alex Tresniowaski. 2012. 335p. Gale Cengage Learning.

According to an old Chinese proverb, there's an invisible thread that connects two people who are destined to meet and influence each other's lives. With Tresniowski (*The Vendetta*), Schroff tells how, as a busy advertising sales executive in New York, she easily passed panhandlers every day. One day, 11-year-old Maurice's plea for spare change caused Schroff to turn around and offer to buy him lunch. Thereafter, Schroff and Maurice met for dinner each week and slowly shared their life stories.

Maurice's tales about his crack addict mother, absent father, and array of drug-dealing uncles were only part of his desperate longing for a life in a safe neighborhood in an apartment with more than one room. As they grow to depend on each other, Maurice asks Schroff to attend his school's parents' night, where his teacher asks Schroff not to abandon the boy. In some weeks, the meals they share become some of the few he has, because any money his mother might "earn" goes to her habit.

2014 Social Action

***Our God is Undocumented: Biblical Faith and Immigrant Justice.*** Ched Myers and Matthew Colwell. 2012. Orbis Books

The authors acknowledge that the reflections in their book are “unapologetically theological and ecclesial.” This is a book about God and the church. They are more concerned with conveying “a faith-rooted ethic regarding the sojourner in our midst than with the current debates over U.S. immigration and naturalization policies.” Acceptance of their thesis does have implications for our attitude toward those policies. The authors hope we will approach them with a revised sense of loyalty, and therefore with a renewed set of priorities.



2014 Social Action – Youth [include will all Reading Plans]

***Which Side Are You On? The Story of a Song.*** George Ella Lyon. 2011. 40 p. Cinco Puntos.

Written from the point of view of a striking miner's child, this picture book tells how the song "Which Side Are You On?" came to be written. When the coal company bosses send "gun thugs" to terrorize union organizers in eastern Kentucky in 1931, seven children huddle under a bed as bullets crash through their windows. Meanwhile, their mother writes the words to a song. As the kids ask questions, she explains how things work in their company town and what the union wants to change. "This is how the night goes: bullets through the walls, talk under the bed, words on the page." When morning comes, the union has a new song.

2014 Social Action – Children – counts for all reading plans

***Puffling Patrol.*** Ted Lewin. 2012. 56p. Lee & Low Books.

Erna, Dani and their father drive through their Iceland town at night every August looking for baby puffins, called pufflings, that have glided from their nests on the rocky cliffs to the streets instead of the sea. Will they be able to rescue all the pufflings before they encounter danger? Will the baby birds make it to the sea?\*

2014 Social Action – Children – counts for all reading plans

***Shelia Says We're Weird.*** Ruth Ann Smalley. 2011. 32p. Tilbury House Publishers.

Sheila thinks her neighbors are weird. They hang their laundry outside to dry and ride bikes to the library instead of driving. They even use a push lawn mower rather than a gas one. But their homemade soup tastes great, and she loves picking tomatoes from their garden. What gives? Are they really weird, or do they have some good ideas?\*

2013 Social Action

***A Hopeful Earth: Faith, Science, and the Message of Jesus.*** Sally Dyck and Sarah Ehrman. Abingdon Press. 2010. 141p. [leader guide available]

*Hopeful Earth* bridges the gap between Jesus and the environment and guides readers in their understanding that living a good stewards of God's creation is a significant component of what it means to follow Jesus. Readers will discover how the church can reach out to younger generations by joining them in the race to save the planet.

2013 Social Action

***Get Up, Stand Up: Uniting Populists, Energizing the Defeated, and Battling the Corporate Elite.***

Bruce E. Levine. Chelsea Green Publishing. 2011. 245p

1 copy public library interlibrary loan

"Are Americans a Broken People?" Levine, a practicing clinical psychologist and frequent writer on political matters, asked in a 2009 web article, meditating on the problem of American political passivity in the face of attacks on their liberties and their economic well-being. In this work, he expands on that article, exploring the cultural and psychological reasons many Americans feel politically demoralized and considering the means of regaining the individual self-respect and collective self-confidence that are prerequisites for building mass democratic politics (based on a populism transcending right/left divisions) that can overcome the current control of the American political system by elites.

2013 Social Action

***In Our Backyard: A Christian Perspective on Human Trafficking in the United States.*** Nita Belles. Free River Press. 2011. 177p

*In Our Backyard* invites readers into the lives of human trafficking victims, survivors and the traffickers themselves with true stories. These stories not only inform, but also continue our study of modern day slavery, this time focusing on the United States. This book contains mature subject matter.

Social Action 2013

***Make Poverty Personal: Taking the Poor as Seriously as the Bible Does.*** Ash Barker. Baker Publishing Group. 2009. 206p

1 copy public library interlibrary loan

Poverty is one of the great challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, but not a new one. And neither is God's deep concern for the poor – it is a theme deeply woven throughout the Bible. This urgent, provocative book offers both challenge and hope. Pulling out and reflecting on significant passages from both testaments, the book reveals what the Bible says about both the nature of poverty and about how God calls people to respond. Public library ebook

2013 Social Action

***The Power of Half: One Family's Decision to Stop Taking and Start Giving Back.*** Kevin Salwen and Hannah Salwen. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 2010. 246p

31 copies public library interlibrary loan

When 14-year-old Hannah Salwen was stopped in her tracks by glaring disparity, her parents knew they had to act on her urge to do something. What began as an outlandish scheme became a remarkable journey that transported them across the globe and well out of their comfort zone. In the end they learned that they had the power to change a little corner of the world and found themselves changing too.

2013 Social Action

# ***Why Africa Matters.*** Cedric Mayson. Orbis Books. 2010. 215p BONUS BOOK

1 copy public library interlibrary loan

So many books give the data on the geography, the population and the problems of Africa, but this astonishing book reveals the richness of Africa's peoples, traditions and cultures and why this is good news for the world. The book explores the heart and soul of a great continent and allows us to appreciate the beauty while not ignoring the reality.

2013 Social Action

# ***One Simple Act: Discovering the Power of Generosity.*** Debbie Macomber. Gale Cengage Learning. 2009. 317p

1 copy public library/Wooster 53 copies public library interlibrary loan

In a world that seems to often stingy and grudging Debbie Macomber has witnessed how a simple act of generosity can yield unforeseen miracles. This blend of true stories and motivating message will delight and surprise as the reader discovers how giving the gifts of time, encouragement, hope, laughter, prayer, service and forgiveness can have lasting, life changing impact on the giver and recipient.

2013 Social Action

***The Whistleblower: Sex Trafficking, Military Contractors, and One Woman's Fight for Justice.***

Kathryn Bolkovac. Palgrave MacMillian. 2011. 256p

23 copies public library interlibrary loan

Bolkovac, a former Nebraska police officer with a specialty in forensic science, was hoping to affect change in war-devastated Bosnia when she signed on as an international police monitor at the peak of the Balkan conflict. While in Sarajevo, the divorced mother of three collected evidence, victim statements concerning the horrific situations, brutal rapes, and murders of innocent women and children she encountered. But as an employee for DynCorp, a leading military contractor in world security, she seldom saw justice done. After being promoted by the U.N. to oversee cases of domestic abuses, sexual assault, and human trafficking, Bolkovac uncovers a vast network of women and underage girls sold to brothels near military bases, with a client list of soldiers, police, and officials.

2013 Social Action – Youth – counts for all Reading Plans

***Free? Stories About Human Rights.*** David Almond, et al. Candlewick Press. 2010. 224p

4 copies public library interlibrary loan

This collection of short fiction by 14 prominent writers from around the world dramatizes the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights with contemporary personal stories about young people who are victims, perpetrators and activists.

2013 Social Action – Children – counts for all Reading Plans

***Only the Mountains Do Not Move: A Maasai Story of Culture and Conservation.*** Jan Reynolds. Lee & Low Books. 2011. 40p

6 copies public library interlibrary loan

For hundreds of years the Maasai have moved with their herds of cattle and goats, across thousands of miles in Kenya and Tanzania. Today their traditional way of life is threatened and they are meeting these obstacles head-on by adapting their lives and agricultural practices while keeping their vibrant, close-knit culture alive.

2013 Social Action – Children – counts for all Reading Plans

***The Mangrove Tree: Planting Trees to Feed Families.*** Susan L. Roth and Cindy Trumbore. Lee & Low Books. 2011. 40p BONUS BOOK

17 copies public library interlibrary loan

For a long time the people of Harigigo, a village in the tiny country of Eritrea, were living without enough food for themselves and their animals. Then along came a scientist, Gordon Sato, who helped change their lives for the better, and it all started with some special trees.

2012 Social Action

***Color-blind: The Rise of Post-racial Politics and the Retreat From Racial Equity.*** Tim Wise. City Lights Books. 2010. 216p. e-reader version available.

Following the Civil Rights Movement, race relations in the United States entered a new era. Since then, many voices have called for an end to affirmative action and other color-conscious policies and programs and even a retreat from public discussion of racism itself. *Color-blind* presents a timely and provocative look at contemporary racism and offers fresh ideas on what can be done to achieve true social justice and economic equality.

2012 Social Action

***The Death of Josseline: Immigration Stories From the Arizona Borderlands.*** Margaret Regan. Beacon Press. 2010. 226p. e-reader version available.

Fourteen-year-old Josseline, a young girl from El Salvador left to die alone on the migrant trail, was just one of thousands to perish in its deserts and mountains. This book tells the stories of the people caught up in this international tragedy and explores a host of urgent issues: the border militarization that threatens the rights of U.S. citizens, the environmental damage wrought by the border wall, the desperation that compels migrants to come north and the human tragedy of the unidentified dead in Arizona's morgues.

2012 Social Action

***Moral Ground: Ethical Action for a Planet in Peril.*** Kathleen Dean Moore and Michael P. Nelson, editors. Trinity University Press. 2011. 479p. e-reader version available.

In the face of environmental degradation, species extinction and the climate change, scientific knowledge, political processes of economic incentives do not tell us what we ought to do. The missing premise of the argument and the much-needed centerpiece in the debate to date has been the need for ethical values, moral guidance and principled reasons for doing the right thing for the future of our planet, its animals, its plants and its people.

2012 Social Action

***The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness.*** Michelle Alexander. The New Press. 2010. 320p. e-reader version available.

As the United States celebrates the nation's "triumph over race" with the election of Barack Obama, the majority of young black men in major American cities are locked behind bars or labeled felons for life. Jim Crow laws were wiped off the books decades ago, but today an astounding percentage of the African-American community is warehoused in prisons or trapped in permanent, second-class status, much like their grandparents before them. *The New Jim Crow* challenges the civil rights community and all of us to place mass incarceration at the forefront of a new movement for racial justice in America. Public library ebook

2012 Social Action

***# Rediscovering Values: On Wall Street Main Street and Your Street.*** Jim Wallis. Simon & Schuster. 2010. 274p. e-reader version available.

Getting back to "the way things were" is not an option. It is time we take our economic uncertainty and use it to find some moral clarity. Too often we have been ruled by the maxims that greed is good, it's all about me and I want it now. Those can be challenged only with some of our oldest and best values; enough is enough, we are in it together and thinking not just for tomorrow but for future generations. *Rediscovering values* shows that the solution to our problems will be found only as individuals, families, friends, churches, mosques, synagogues and entire communities wrestle with the question of values together.

2012 Social Action

**# The Slave Next Door: Human Trafficking and Slavery in America Today.** Kevin Bales and Ron Soodalter. University of California Press. 2009. 312p. e-reader version available.

In *Slave Next Door* we learn that slaves are all around us, hidden in plain sight- the dishwasher in the neighborhood restaurant, the kids on the corner selling cheap trinkets, the man sweeping the floor of a local department store-and we meet some unexpected slaveholders. Weaving together a wealth of voices this book is also a call to action, telling what we as private citizens can do to finally bring an end to his horrific crime.

2012 Social Action

**Green Church: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rejoice!** Rebekah Simon-Peter. Abingdon Press. 2010. 116p. e-reader version and large print versions available.

Climate change is in the news. But what does it mean for Christians, and how can you help? *Green Church* answers these questions in ways that are both hopeful and engaging. Citing Scripture and science, the book weaves in personal stories of Sabbath, gardening, recycling, camping and the power of faith. She challenges us to consider our role in the care of creation to help save the earth for future generations.

2012 Social Action

**The Bite of the Mango.** Mariatu Kamara. Annick Press. 2008. 216p.

Relaying her experiences as a child in Sierra Leone during the 1990s, Kamara chillingly evokes the devastating effects of war. Mariatu is 11 when her tiny village is decimated by rebel soldiers, many of them children like her. Forced to watch as peaceful villagers are tortured and murdered, Mariatu is finally allowed to go free—but only after boy soldiers cut off her hands: We want you to go to the president, they tell her, and show him what we did to you. You won't be able to vote for him now. Mariatu's long walk to get medical aid marks the first stage of a harrowing journey to build a new life for herself and other wartime victims; she now lives in Canada and is a UNICEF representative. Written with journalist McClelland, her story is deeply personal yet devoid of self-pity. As it aims to correct misperceptions about Sierra Leone and to raise awareness of the needs of child victims of war, this book will unsettle readers—and then inspire them with the evidence of Mariatu's courage.

2012 Youth. Social Action- include in all Reading Plans

**Branded.** Eric Walters. Orca Book Publishers. 2010. 132p.

Ian's school is in an uproar about the new school uniforms, but he wants nothing to do with the issue. He's busy pursuing a newfound passion for social justice. Why should he worry about uniforms when there are kids in the world who would give anything to be able to go to school? But things change when he discovers that the two issues may be related. Public library ebook

2012 Youth. Social Action - include in all Reading Plans

**Going Blue: A Teen Guide to Saving Our Oceans, Lakes, Rivers and Wetlands.** Cathryn Berger Kaye and Phillippe Cousteau. Free Spirit Publishing. 2010. 128p. e-reader version available.

Pollution, oil spills, climate change, overfishing-these are just some of the threats to our planet's water system, resulting in a lack of clean drinking water for millions of people and the devastation of plant and animal life. Teens around the globe are taking action to address these crises. With guide you can join them. Will you?

2012 Social Action - Youth include in all Reading Plans

**Sold.** Patricia McCormick. HarperCollins. 2008. 268p. e-reader version available.

Though desperately poor, 13-year-old Lakshmi's life in a small village in Nepal is full of simple pleasures. But then a monsoon washes away the family's crops, and Lakshmi's stepfather says she must take a job to support her family. Thinking she has a job as a maid in the city, she is glad to help. But then learns the unthinkable truth: she has been sold into prostitution. Public library ebook

2012 Social Action - Children include in all Reading Plans

**Seeds of Change: Planting a Path to Peace.** Jen Cullerton Johnson. Lee & Low Books. 2010. 40p.

A biography of Kenyan Nobel Peace Prize winner and environmentalist Wangari Maathai, a female scientist who made a stand in the face of opposition to women's rights and started her own Green Belt Movement in an effort to restore Kenya's ecosystem by planting millions of trees.