



**Newsletter
C.S. Lewis Society of Central
Massachusetts**

**Exploring Mere Christianity in Science, the
Arts, and Culture**

Winter/Spring 2014 (Volume 5, Issue 2)



Dear Reader,

Happy New Year! We are pleased to share with you the winter/spring 2014 Newsletter of the C.S. Lewis Society of Central Massachusetts. We have a special artistic event scheduled for January 11th and some interesting books and poetry to discuss at the upcoming Book Club meetings (February-April). We also expect to continue our Movie Night activities this summer. We hope you have a chance to connect with us from time-to-time. The Society promotes the exploration of ideas from science, the arts, culture, and everyday life as they intersect with what C.S. Lewis called "mere Christianity." Our objective is to facilitate engaging discussion and reflection of topics of enduring value for both Christians and non-Christians. All are welcome to participate in our activities. To learn more, we invite you to visit our web site at www.lewismass.org. If you have any questions or comments, please email us at infolewisma@gmail.com.

Follow us on 

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I. New Webpage and Email Address

We have a new webpage address and we've updated the webpage, www.lewismass.org. We also have a new email address, infolewisma@gmail.com. At some future date, we plan to schedule a meeting to "brainstorm" ideas for content on the webpage, [Facebook](#), [meetup.com](#), and other possible outlets. We'll keep you posted.

II. Special Artistic Event, Saturday, January 11, 9:00-11:00 AM, Auburn Public Library

The special event will feature artistic works by Linda Bourie, Sarah Dresser, and Joanie Hume, as well as selected poems by Irma Stevens. You will have the opportunity to browse and converse with each artist about her work. Coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and snacks will be provided. We hope you can join us for what will be a fun and enriching event.

III. Book Club to Resume in February

During the winter/spring term, the Book Club will meet at the Auburn Public Library at 369 Southbridge Street.

Saturday, February 1, 9:00-10:30 AM, "Perelandra" by C.S. Lewis (Stan Bohall to facilitate)

Saturday, February 15, 9:00-10:30 AM, "Perelandra" by C.S. Lewis (Stan Bohall to facilitate)

Do you need a copy of "Perelandra"? We have several used copies available at \$5 (our cost). If you might attend the book club in February and you'd like us to mail you a copy of the book, just email your

address to infolewisma@gmail.com. We'll send you the book in the mail and settle up later for the \$5.

Saturday, March 1, 9:00-10:30 AM, "The Abolition of Man" by C.S. Lewis (Steven Barrett to facilitate)

Saturday, March 15, 9:00-10:30 AM, "The Abolition of Man" by C.S. Lewis (Steven Barrett to facilitate)

Saturday, March 29, 9:00-10:30 AM, Poetry Readings by Stephen Boynes, Monica Nelson, and Irma Stevens

Saturday, April 12, 9:00-10:30 AM, "The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming" by Henri Nouwen

Saturday, April 26, 9:00-10:30 AM, "The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming" by Henri Nouwen

(Note: This is an incredible book about Nouwen's encounter with Rembrandt's masterpiece, "The Return of the Prodigal Son." Art historian Kenneth Clark described Rembrandt's painting as "a picture which those who have seen the original in Leningrad may be forgiven for claiming as the greatest picture ever painted.")

IV. News (Narnia, Lewis, Events, etc.)

[Stan Bohall and Peter Kreeft Consulted for WGBH Article on Lewis, Kennedy, and Huxley](#)

[Why C.S. Lewis Never Goes Out of Style \(The Atlantic\)](#)

(Thanks for the link John)

[Calvin College January 3-23 Speakers Series Available Online](#)

(Many interesting topics here; thanks for the link Laurie)

[Douglas Gresham Remembers C.S. Lewis' Death](#)

['Chronicles of Narnia: The Silver Chair' Movie Moves Forward With 'Life of Pi' Screenwriter](#)

(Rumor has it that Narnia character Puddleglum believes that movie production will fall way behind schedule. As a matter of fact, he thinks it is likely that the movie will not come out at all.)

["The Great Divorce" Comes to the Stage](#)

[C.S. Lewis Foundation Tries Again to Establish Northfield, MA Residence](#)

[New York Times Article on C.S. Lewis](#)

(Thanks for the article Miles)

[C.S. Lewis 50 Years On](#)

[C.S. Lewis: A Life: On the 50th anniversary of his death, this new C.S. Lewis biography succeeds in deepening the appeal of his works](#)

V. Books of Interest

Here we summarize a variety of books at the intersection of mere Christianity and science (S), arts (A), culture (C), and everyday life (L). We also include recent books on the life and work of C.S. Lewis (designated "Lewis"). Unless otherwise indicated, summaries are from amazon.com or the publisher's web site. Please note that some of the books delve into controversial issues. While the books in the Newsletter are not officially endorsed by the Society, they can be good starting points for further discussion and reflection.

Wisdom and Wonder: Common Grace in Science and Art (S,A,C)

Abraham Kuyper, Translated from Dutch by Nelson D. Loosterman, Christian's Library Press, 2011
The appearance of this treatise in English translation is for me the beginning of a large dream come true. Kuyper's writings on common grace are much needed 'for such a time as this' and Wisdom & Wonder is a marvelous foretaste of more that is to come! -- Richard J. Mouw, President and Professor of Christian Philosophy of Fuller Theological Seminary

The Outer Limits of Reason: What Science, Mathematics, and Logic Cannot Tell Us (S)

Noson S. Yanofsky, MIT Press, 2013

Many books explain what is known about the universe. This book investigates what cannot be known. Rather than exploring the amazing facts that science, mathematics, and reason have revealed to us, this work studies what science, mathematics, and reason tell us cannot be revealed. In *The Outer Limits of Reason*, Yanofsky considers what cannot be predicted, described, or known, and what will never be understood. He discusses the limitations of computers, physics, logic, and our own thought processes. Yanofsky describes simple tasks that would take computers trillions of centuries to complete and other problems that computers can never solve; perfectly formed English sentences that make no sense; different levels of infinity; the bizarre world of the quantum; the relevance of relativity theory; the causes of chaos theory; math problems that cannot be solved by normal means; and statements that are true but cannot be proven. He explains the limitations of our intuitions about the world - our ideas about space, time, and motion, and the complex relationship between the knower and the known. Moving from the concrete to the abstract, from problems of everyday language to straightforward philosophical questions to the formalities of physics and mathematics, Yanofsky demonstrates a myriad of unsolvable problems and paradoxes. Exploring the various limitations of our knowledge, he shows that many of these limitations have a similar pattern and that by investigating these patterns, we can better understand the structure and limitations of reason itself. Yanofsky even attempts to look beyond the borders of reason to see what, if anything, is out there.

Comets! Visitors from Deep Space (S)

David J. Eicher, Cambridge University Press, 2013

Join David J. Eicher in this fast-paced and entertaining journey through the history, present, and future of these important yet mysterious cosmic bodies. From ancient times, humans have been fascinated by "broom stars" and "blazing scimitars" lighting up the sky and moving against the fixed background of stars. The Great Comets of our time still receive in-depth attention - ISON, Hale-Bopp, Hyakutake, West, and others - while recent spacecraft encounters offer amazing insight into the earliest days of the solar system. In this guide you will discover the cutting-edge science of what comets are, how they behave, where they reside, how groups of comets are related, and much more.

Love & Math: The Heart of Hidden Reality (S,A)

Edward Frenkel, Basic Books, 2013

In *Love and Math*, renowned mathematician Edward Frenkel reveals a side of math we've never seen, suffused with all the beauty and elegance of a work of art. In this heartfelt and passionate book, Frenkel shows that mathematics, far from occupying a specialist niche, goes to the heart of all matter, uniting us across cultures, time, and space. *Love and Math* tells two intertwined stories: of the wonders of mathematics and of one young man's journey learning and living it. Having braved a discriminatory educational system to become one of the 21st century's leading mathematicians, Frenkel now works on one of the biggest ideas to come out of math in the last 50 years: the Langlands Program. Considered by many to be a Grand Unified Theory of mathematics, the Langlands Program enables researchers to translate findings from one field to another so that they can solve problems, such as Fermat's last theorem, that had seemed intractable before. At its core, *Love and Math* is a story about accessing a new

way of thinking, which can enrich our lives and empower us to better understand the world and our place in it. It is an invitation to discover the magic hidden [in the] universe of mathematics.

Stained Glass: Radiant Art (A,C)

Virginia Chieffo Raguin, J. Paul Getty Museum, 2013

Stained glass is a monumental art, a corporate enterprise dependent on a patron with whom artists blend their voices. Combining the fields now labeled decorative arts, architecture, and painting, the window transforms our experience of space. Windows of colored glass were essential features of medieval and Renaissance buildings. They provided not only light to illuminate the interior but also specific and permanent imagery that proclaimed the importance of place. Commissioned by monks, nuns, bishops, and kings, as well as by merchants, prosperous farmers, and a host of anonymous patrons, these windows vividly reflect the social, religious, civic, and aesthetic values of their eras.

The Ancestors of Christ Windows at Canterbury Cathedral (A,C)

Jeffrey Weaver and Madeline H. Caviness, J. Paul Getty Museum, 2013

Made of colored glass, ... the ancestors of Christ windows illuminated the liturgical areas during all but the earliest services in the depths of winter, glowing pale blue at dawn and yellow and red at noon. Dating from the twelfth century, the surviving windows from this series are among the oldest panels of stained glass in England, and they are significant examples of what was at the time a relatively new art - monumental stained glass. They are also considered to be among the most famous works of English medieval painting. This luminously illustrated book discusses the original context, iconographic program, and stylistic development of these windows. It also explores how the windows were perceived by various medieval viewing constituencies, including royals, peasants, princes of the church, the local Jewish community, and monks resident at Canterbury.

Handbook of Women Biblical Interpreters: A Historical and Biographical Guide (C)

Marion Ann Taylor and Agnes Choi (eds.), Baker Academic, 2012

The history of women interpreters of the Bible is a neglected area of study. Marion Taylor presents a one-volume reference tool that introduces readers to a wide array of women interpreters of the Bible from the entire history of Christianity. Her research has implications for understanding biblical interpretation - especially the history of interpretation - and influencing contemporary study of women and the Bible. Contributions by 130 top scholars introduce foremothers of the faith who address issues of interpretation that continue to be relevant to faith communities today, such as women's roles in the church and synagogue and the idea of religious feminism. Women's interpretations also raise awareness about differences in the ways women and men may read the Scriptures in light of differences in their life experiences. This handbook will prove useful to ministers as well as to students of the Bible, who will be inspired, provoked, and challenged by the women introduced here.

Salt, Light, and a City: Introducing Missional Ecclesiology (C,L)

Graham Hill, Wipf & Stock, 2012

Enormous challenges and opportunities face the Christian church in our globalized, rapidly changing world. It is becoming increasingly clear that the church and its leaders need a missional self-understanding. In this volume, Graham Hill asks: "What does it mean for the church to be truly missional?" This book outlines the thought of twelve leading thinkers, and puts their thinking into conversation with a missional understanding of the church. Most of the missional literature of the past twenty years is practical, telling us how to be a missional church, rather than why certain theological themes compel the church toward a missional self-understanding and existence. This book takes a different approach. It outlines a basic missional understanding of the church by engaging theology and Scripture. It examines some of the key theological themes that are foundational for a missional church, and does this in conversation with twelve leading thinkers.

From Times Square to Timbuktu: The Post-Christian West Meets the Non-Western Church (C,L)

Wesley Granberg-Michaelson, Eerdmans, 2013

In the last century, ... world Christianity's center of gravity has effectively moved from Europe to a point near Timbuktu in Africa. Never in the history of Christianity has there been such a rapid and dramatic shift in where Christians are located in the world. Wesley Granberg-Michaelson explores the consequences of this shift for congregations in North America, specifically for the efforts to build Christian unity in the face of new and challenging divisions. Centers of religious power, money, and theological capital remain entrenched in the global, secularized North while the Christian majority thrives and rapidly grows in the global South. World Christianity's most decisive twenty-first-century challenge, Granberg-Michaelson argues, is to build meaningful bridges between faithful churches in the global North and the spiritually exuberant churches of the global South.

The Collaboration: Hollywood's Pact with Hitler (C,L)

Ben Urwand, Belknap Press, 2013

To continue doing business in Germany after Hitler's ascent to power, Hollywood studios agreed not to make films that attacked the Nazis or condemned Germany's persecution of Jews. Urwand reveals this bargain for the first time – a “collaboration” that drew in ... characters ranging from notorious German political leaders such as Goebbels to Hollywood icons such as Louis B. Mayer. At the center of Urwand's story is Hitler himself, who was obsessed with movies and recognized their power to shape public opinion. In December 1930, his Party rioted against the Berlin screening of *All Quiet on the Western Front*, which led to a chain of unfortunate events and decisions. Fearful of losing access to the German market, all of the Hollywood studios started making concessions to the German government, and when Hitler came to power in January 1933, the studios...began dealing with his representatives directly. Urwand shows that the arrangement remained in place through the 1930s, as Hollywood studios met regularly with the German consul in Los Angeles and changed or canceled movies according to his wishes. Paramount and Fox invested profits made from the German market in German newsreels, while MGM financed the production of German armaments. Painstakingly marshalling previously unexamined archival evidence, [Urwand] raises the curtain on a hidden episode in Hollywood - and American - history.

Books related to technology and culture continue to proliferate. Here is a sample (some have been featured in a previous Newsletter):

iGods: How Technology Shapes Our Spiritual and Social Lives

Craig Detweiler, Brazos Press, 2013

iPod, Youtube, Wii Play: Theological Engagements with Entertainment

D. Brent Laytham, Cascade Books, 2012

The App Generation: How Today's Youth Navigate Identity, Intimacy, and Imagination in a Digital World

Howard Gardner and Katie Davis, Yale University Press, 2013

To Save Everything, Click Here: The Folly of Technological Solutionism

Evgeny Morozov, PublicAffairs, 2013

Hacking the Future: Privacy, Identity, and Anonymity on the Web

Cole Stryker, Overlook, 2012

From Gutenberg to Zuckerberg: Disruptive Innovation in the Age of the Internet

Eric Siegel, Wiley, 2014

Big Data: A Revolution That Will Transform How We Live, Work, and Think

Viktor Mayer-Schonberger and Kenneth Cukier, Eamon Dolan/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2013

Privacy and Big Data

Terence Craig and Mary E. Ludloff, O'Reilly Media, 2011

Status Update: Celebrity, Publicity, and Branding in the Social Media Age

Alice E. Marwick, Yale University Press, 2013

Many books about C.S. Lewis appeared around the 50th anniversary of his death. Here is a sample (some have been featured in a previous Newsletter):

Image and Imagination: Essays and Reviews

C.S. Lewis, edited by Walter Hooper, Cambridge University Press, 2013

C.S. Lewis – A Life: Eccentric Genius, Reluctant Prophet

Alister McGrath, Tyndale, 2013

The Intellectual World of C.S. Lewis

Alister McGrath, Wiley-Blackwell, 2013

The C.S. Lewis Phenomenon: Christianity and the Public Sphere

Samuel Joeckel, Mercer University Press, 2013

A Life Observed: A Spiritual Biography of C.S. Lewis

Devin Brown, Brazos Press, 2013

C.S. Lewis: A Biography of Friendship

Colin Duriez, Lion Hudson, 2013

Surprised By the Feminine: A Rereading of C.S. Lewis and Gender

Monika B. Hilder, Peter Lang International Academic Publishers, 2013

C.S. Lewis and the Inklings: Discovering Hidden Truth

Salwa Khoddam and Mark R. Hall (eds.), Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2012

Plain to the Inward Eye: Selected Essays on C.S. Lewis

Don W. King, Abilene Christian University Press, 2013

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