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Last's "The Christmas Virtues: A Treasury of Conservative Tales for the Holidays" (Book Review)

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**The Christmas Virtues:
A Treasury of Conservative Tales for the Holidays,**
edited by Jonathan V. Last. West Conshohocken, PA: Templeton Press, 2015.
203 pp. \$24.95. ISBN 9781599475059

Reviewed by Carrie Beth Lowe, Library Director, Johnson University, Knoxville, TN

Weekly Standard senior writer Jonathan V. Last has compiled a collection of original Christmas essays written by fellow political commentators. Authors of the essays in this compilation include Rob Long, P.J. O'Rourke, Joe Queenan, Stephen F. Hayes, Jonah Goldberg, Mollie Hemingway, Christopher Buckley, and others. In addition to the *Weekly Standard*, the essayists are affiliated with news organizations such as *National Review* and Fox News.

The essays offer both secular and religious perspectives on Christmas, with most focusing on American cultural customs and family traditions. The general tone is both humorous and nostalgic. Atheist, Catholic, Jewish, and evangelical viewpoints are all represented in the collection. Librarians at religiously affiliated institutions considering this book for selection should be aware that several of the essays contain language that may be offensive to some readers.

The collection as a whole is suited more for public library collections than for academic library collections. Libraries supporting programs or courses in journalism may want to add this as an example of commentary on popular culture from a conservative perspective. Kirsten Powers' essay describing her conversion to Christianity earned this book a place in Johnson University library's collection.

The Comfort of Little Things: An Educator's Guide to Second Chances,
by Holly Elissa Bruno. St. Paul, MN: Redleaf Press, 2015.
174 pp. \$24.95. ISBN 9781605544090

*Reviewed by Lisa Cutforth-Anderson, Learning Resource Coordinator and
Old Testament professor, Alberta Bible College, Calgary, AB, Canada*

Holly Elissa Bruno is an encourager. She has combed inspirational literature from disparate sources to empower educators through the written word. The inspirational quotations throughout the book urge educators to give learners, but more importantly, themselves, second chances to do better, and be better. Although written for a secular audience, Bruno claims a personal spirituality, and briefly