

OPENING WORLDS OF WORDS: STORIES AND STORYTELLING IN YOUR LIBRARY

Peninnah Schram and Cherie Karo Schwartz

Description: Join Cherie and Peninnah for a storytelling journey interweaving worldwide timeless tales of Jewish wishes, wit, and wisdom.

Peninnah Schram, storyteller, teacher, author, and recording artist, is associate professor of speech and drama at Stern College of Yeshiva University. She is the author of seven books of Jewish folktales, including *Jewish Stories One Generation Tells Another* and her most recent *Stories Within Stories: From the Jewish Oral Tradition*. She has recorded a CD, *The Minstrel and the Storyteller: Stories and Songs of the Jewish People*, with singer/guitarist Gerard Edery. As a storyteller, she is a recipient of the distinguished Covenant Award. Email: peninnah1@aol.com

Cherie Karo Schwartz, storyteller, author, and educator, has shared spirit-filled worldwide stories with audiences across the USA and abroad for three decades for synagogues, conferences, organizations, schools, and museums. Cherie appears in *Who's Who in America, the West, Women, and Entertainment*. She is author of *My Lucky Dreidel*, *The Kids' Catalog of Passover*, tapes, articles, and stories in numerous anthologies. Her newest book is *Circle Spinning, Jewish Turning and Returning Tales*, an adult collection of recreated folktales, midrashim, original stories, and poetry. Email: schwartzstory@earthlink.net; Web: www.hamsapubs.com

The Jewish People are indeed the People of the Book and also a People of the Word. From antiquity into the present, the Jews have had a dynamic interaction between text and the oral tradition. Our sacred and secular books are filled with wondrous stories that are read orally, many on a regular basis (such as, the Megillah). Richard M. Dorson, the folklorist observed in his foreword to Dov Noy's *Folktales of Israel*: "Among the Jewish people the telling of stories and the learning of the faith are interwoven in a manner

unparalleled in other countries of Western civilization" (p.v).

In this participatory workshop, we embarked on a journey to explore the place of story within Judaism, the primacy of sourcing, and the endless possibilities of integrating stories and story programs into Jewish libraries. Libraries, filled with worlds of words, are ideal places for exploring and hearing stories from the Oral Tradition.

This was a two-part workshop. In Part One, Peninnah Schram and Cherie Karo Schwartz began with stories to illustrate interwoven classic and personal Jewish tales. As a group, participants identified elements of a Jewish story, ending with providing the definition evolved by Dr. Dov Noy (creator of the Israel Folktale Archives). We examined various sources of Jewish stories, emphasizing the importance of honoring sources. The group also discussed more recently published collections of Jewish folktales that are helping to continually inspire the storytelling revival.

In Part Two, we introduced storytelling techniques and topics, 'story-ing' library programs, lifting the story off the page, approaches to gathering and presenting family folklore projects; and bringing Jewish history, rituals, holidays, and traditions alive through stories.

JEWISH STORYTELLING BIBLIOGRAPHY: go to <http://www.caje.org/>; click: Storytelling Network

SAMPLE HANDOUTS FROM AJL STORYTELLING WORKSHOP:

1. Four Master Folklorists And Their Major Contributions by Peninnah Schram ©2000

In the 20th century, four master folklorists/scholars can be credited with seminal work in collecting and publishing Jewish folktales. The four are Louis Ginzberg, Moses Gaster, Micha Joseph Bin Gorion, and Dov Noy.

Ginzberg's 7-volume *The Legends of the Jews* (1909-38) is a suggested place to begin the search for themes, topics, stories and sources connected with the biblical narrative. This compendium is invaluable for investigating the rabbinic and folkloristic sources on the Bible.

In addition, Moses Gaster is responsible for the compiling of two major works: *Ma'aseh Book (Book of Jewish Tales and Legends)*, 2 volumes (1934, 1981), and *The Exempla of the Rabbis*, (1924, 1968). *Ma'aseh Book*, reprinted in 1981 in one volume, is based on an early manuscript which was the first Yiddish collection of popular tales. The 254 stories from various post-biblical sources cover a wide range. *The Exempla*, reprinted in 1968, is a volume of more than 300 tales in summary form and is subtitled: "Being a Collection of Exempla, Apologues and Tales culled from Hebrew Manuscripts and Rare Hebrew Books."

The third scholar is Micha Joseph Bin Gorion whose monumental collection of 1,082 stories is titled *Mimekor Yisrael: Classical Jewish Folktales* (1976). The four main divisions in the three volumes are: "National Tales," including biblical heroes, events and places, tales that take place during the Second Temple, etc; "Religious Tales," including Talmudic, kabbalistic and Hasidic stories; "Folktales," including stories of love and faithfulness, Elijah stories, and moralistic short stories; and "Oriental Tales," including fairytales and tales of wisdom, fables and parables, and popular Jewish reworkings of Indian, Persian and Arabic stories. In 1990 Indiana University Press published an abridged and annotated one-volume edition. Folklorist Dan Ben-Amos added extensive scholarly headnotes to each tale and updated introductory commentary.

Dov Noy is the fourth major figure in the renaissance of preserving and perpetuating the Jewish oral tradition. While he has published many books and important essays (including the entry "Folklore" in *The Encyclopedia Judaica*), his two main contributions are: 1) he applied an international classification system to Jewish traditional narrative; and 2) he established the Israel Folktale Archives. In the first case, Dov Noy (under the name Neuman) wrote his doctoral dissertation in folklore at Indiana University and created a "Motif-Index of Talmudic-Midrashic Literature." When folklorist/scholar Stith Thompson republished his *Motif-Index of Folk-Literature* (1955-58), "he in turn incorporated Noy's motifs, thus placing the Jewish traditions in a world-wide context" (Richard Dorson in Noy's *Folktales of Israel*, 1963, p. xii). In 1954, Noy established the Israel Folktale Archives and Ethnological Museum at Haifa University. Presently, this archive contains over 23,000 folktales, classified according to tale types and motifs, country of origin, informant, etc. These folktales have been collected from all the various ethnic communities who live in Israel.

Bin Gorion, M. J. (1976) *Mimekor Yisrael: Classical Jewish Folktales*. (I. M. Lask, Trans.). 3 Vols. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.

Gaster, M. (1981). *Ma'aseh Book*. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society of America. (Original work published in 1934)

Gaster, M. (1968). *The Exempla*. New York: Ktav. (Original work published in 1934)

Ginzberg, L. (1909-38). *The Legends of the Jews*. 7 Vols. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society of America.

Noy, D. (1963). *Folktales of Israel*. (G. Baharav, Trans.) Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

2. Sourcing Issues And Responsibilities In The Storytelling World

list of questions compiled by Cherie Karo Schwartz ©1996

1. Can we hear or read a version of a story and then memorize and tell it?
2. Can we find a story and indiscriminately make changes in it?
3. Can we take a folktale, create our own 'spin' on it, and then call it original?
4. Can we record or publish folktales without giving sources?
5. Can we give another author's version of a folktale as a real source?
6. Can we tell literary stories (someone else's creation) without source or royalty?
7. Can we create our own version of folktales without knowing something of the culture, traditions, language, and meanings of names?
8. Can we have any leeway in adding our own elements to the stories we tell?
9. Can we tell stories from a culture (or subculture) other than our own?
10. How far back in the sourcing need we go for an 'authentic' version of a story?
11. Should we see the same tale recorded in many sources before creating our versions?
12. Where can we find the most reliable sources of stories?
13. What are some indicators of a well-sourced book?
14. What should we do if we find a great story in an unsourced book?
15. How much sourcing information do we need to give before telling a story?
16. How sensitive do we need to be to the possible repercussions from elements or issues bought out in stories we tell? How true to the original need we be?

17. What responsibility do we have to tell other tellers the sources of their stories?
18. What are some of the key sourcing elements (eg: place, time, community, parallel versions) we should have in our tellings?
19. Can we be true to the story, true to the sources, and still tell the good story?

3. **Recalling Our Life Stories** by Peninnah Schram ©1999

(Appeared in the February issue of National Storyteller Network's Yarnspinner, 1-2, 1990)

Stored memories are the key to life-review stories. We all have plenty of story-producing memories, once we retrieve them, activate them, and then keep them active by telling our stories. This series of questions and exercises will help you find and focus on the small stories of your past. Use all five senses to recall places, moments, people, and feelings.

Places

Storyteller Donald Davis, who has worked a great deal with family stories, believes that the memory of a place brings with it memories of events. To retrieve the stories that happened in a particular location, we must mentally move back to that place and time. The setting acts as a hook that pulls the story from its hidden spaces. "Happenings become hedges around which stories turn" Davis writes in *My Lucky Day: Tales From a Southern Appalachian Storyteller* (Johnson Publishing Company, 1983). Stories are wound around the core of a place, and standing in the center allows you to look at the layer upon time-bound layer of events that occurred there. The following imaginative exercise will help put you back into the places of your past so that you can retrieve the stories living within them.

In your mind, recreate your first bedroom. Fill in every detail, including the closet, the colors of the room, pictures on the wall, furniture, linens, toys, and so on. Recreate other special places in your life: a garden, a hiding place, the kitchen, the attic, the cellar, a porch, the beach, a yard, or a candy shop.

People

Making characters come to life will bring success to your stories. Choose people in your life and describe them, bringing them alive by including such details as mannerisms, clothing, topics of conversation, posture, hobbies, place at the table, facial expressions, and favorite phrases, jokes, songs, and quotes. When you describe people, use nouns as well as adjectives to convey the essence of the characters. What roles did they play? Who was the black sheep of the family? Who was the family storyteller? To flesh out your descriptions, interview other people about these individuals.

Objects

You can help uncover stories by remembering any object(s) that you especially treasure, such as a piece of jewelry (earrings, gold watch, etc.), a photograph, a religious item (e.g., a rosary, candlesticks, Bible), or clothing. How did you obtain the object? Was it a gift? If so, from whom, and what was the occasion? Was it handed down from someone in the family? What was its significance for that person? Who are the people in the photographs? What are they wearing? Other objects people may recall with accompanying stories include radios and televisions, automobiles, ice boxes, and, more recently, computers.

Smells

Marcel Proust took advantage of the fact that the sense of smell often serves as a powerful springboard to memory. Some studies have concluded that smell is the most effective trigger of the most vivid memories. Think of smells that bring back memories: the aroma of baking bread, pine trees in the woods or the Christmas tree in the home, a certain cologne or perfume, or mothballs.

Experiences

What was the happiest time you can remember? The funniest episode at a family gathering? The most poignant moment? The best gift you ever gave or received? The scariest, silliest or most humiliating event? A major decision? Special visit? These questions may trigger recall of some high points – but they might also remind you of those tinier moments that are just as important in shaping lives and relationships.

Diaries and letters

Love letters, diaries, and other forms of correspondence can supply you with situations, characters, and background for many wonderful stories about family and personal experience. From these bits of paper you can learn much about your parents and grandparents as you come to appreciate their struggles and loves, problems and joys. Their stories tell you who they were, their values, their dreams, plans, and hopes. In turn, their stories can help you understand yourself better.

Ethical wills and legacies

The Jewish custom of bequeathing a spiritual legacy stems from the time of the Bible. Later generations left ethical wills in writing in the form of personal letters or legal documents. In writing an ethical will, a person confronts himself or herself in a reflective and philosophical way. Jack Riemer, the co-author of *Ethical Wills: A Modern Jewish Treasury* (Schocken Books, 1983), writes, “One must look inward to see... the essential truths one has learned in a lifetime, face up to one’s failures, and consider what are the things that really count.”

Riemer continues with key questions that we should ask ourselves when writing an ethical will: “If you had time to write just one letter, to whom would it be addressed? What would it say?”

What would you leave out? Would you chastise and rebuke? Would you thank, forgive, or seek to instruct?”

The legacies we inherited from our parents may come through only as we review their actions, way of life, or stories. In *A Celebration of American Family Folklore* (Pantheon Books, 1982) Wayne Dionne expresses the wish many of us have about listening and remembering the exchanged stories at family gatherings: “I remember my relatives talking and talking and talking, and yet as a kid, I didn’t listen. I’d love to go back now and listen.”

In your ongoing search for personal stories, ask the older adults in your family to keep a journal of dreams, insights, and favorite sayings, stories, anecdotes, and incidents. This doesn’t have to be a daily journal, but it should be an active one in which they enter thoughts, names, and descriptions. Keep your own journal as well. Interview older adults in the family. Listen to their stories.

All of our stories – personal and family stories, traditional tales, folk sayings – have enriched the lives of all people and created in us a need to continue the tradition of “planting” stories in the minds and hearts of our next generation. Taking a storytelling approach to life review makes your heritage and history vital because it gives it context a rich pudding of plot and character that illustrates the times. When a generation can feel its ancestors’ feelings, share their ideas and sorrows, the lessons of their lives will live on. The Torah associates wisdom with the heart, not with the mind. So we must direct our stories to the heart, where truth and wisdom can be found by those who care to listen. There is always a time for telling stories, and there is always a story to fit the time. Storytelling not only reflects but perpetuates life.

4. FAMILIES AND FOLKLORE: MULTI-ARTS FAMILY EDUCATION CELEBRATIONS by Cherie Karo Schwartz ©1999

Family education programs can be greatly enhanced by participation and involvement through the arts. And, the most accessible of the arts is story. Stories preserve the rich heritage of our Jewish history, holidays, customs, and traditions. It is through the stories that we share with our own families and other families that we connect with the family of Jewish people everywhere and throughout time. The stories bring us close, they give us hope, they inspire us, they remind us of who we are. Collecting and presenting our stories, through multi-arts events, will enrich family education programs. They can give new life to lifecycle celebrations: birth, Brit/Naming, consecration, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, confirmation, graduation, wedding, anniversary, birthday, retirement, and funeral. The arts celebrations help acknowledge beginnings and passage, interweave generations, and plan and plant for the future.

SOME IDEAS FOR FAMILY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Storytelling

-A storyteller in your community can present a program of stories about families, holidays, or on a specific theme (like food, memories, sharing) and then follow with a discussion with the whole group

OR find the tellers from among your own group:

WHO ARE THE TELLERS?

-parents, grandparents, teachers, teens, youngsters, ‘celebrities’

WHAT SHOULD THEY TELL?

-known stories: folklore, fairy tales, Biblical stories, fiction, legends, historical tales

-personal stories of: growing-up stories, foods, connections to Judaism, immigration

ORGANIZATION: plan on and rehearse stories with a few people; have their stories ‘spark’ stories and discussion from the whole group

Community Sukkat Shalom

The entire group, of all ages, physically creates a ‘sukkat shalom’ (a tabernacle of peace) for their community. The sukkah is created from a large covering (like a fishnet) suspended from four poles or held up by the entire group. The decorations are created by each participant, and are made to represent their wishes for peace in their families, in their congregation, in their community, and in their world. They can include drawings and writing. You can ask participants to bring with them a copy of a favorite photograph, a special piece of material, or a small object of importance to them.

With appropriate music as a background, give time for the participants to create their ribbon with message. Then, have them attach the ribbons to the fishnet with safety pins. After all decorations are attached to the sukkah, the group raises it high above them. They gather under its shelter to share stories and prayers, and sing songs like “Ufros Aleynu” and “Oseh Shalom”. (based on wedding project developed by Karen Golden)

Recreating The Ruach (spirit)

Our Jewish holidays have been created over thousands of years, and many (such as Yom Ha’Atzma’ut) are very young. This project involves the creation of new ways to celebrate an existing holiday, or the creation of a new Jewish holiday. It is a project created by small groups of people and then brought together for its first celebration. The group first identifies the elements of a Jewish holiday (story, ritual, music, food, prayer, symbols), and then the group is divided into smaller task groups to each create one part of the celebration. Finally, the group comes together and shares their ideas in the new celebration. The idea is to work with the themes, ideas, and lessons of the holiday, and to find creative new approaches to enrich the experience.

Family Foods Festival

This is a celebration of special foods which are made by families in your community. Depending upon the dietary and kashrut considerations, this project can work in several ways. The idea is for families to share the foods, recipes, and stories behind special foods made in their families. They can be foods from the countries represented in their families, or special foods, which for a variety of reasons, have become traditional in their families. If possible, having at least some of the foods available for tasting is a delicious idea. Writing up the recipes, writing the stories behind the foods, and creating a cookbook can all be good related projects. Encourage each family to create a book of their own family recipes and the stories behind them, which can include family memories, photographs, and other related memorabilia.

Family Treasure-Trove Telling

Each family comes to the program with an object of special memories and importance to them, and the objects are the center of a program of sharing their stories. The objects can be ritual, personal, generations old or new. Participants take turns presenting their object and its story: What is the object? Where did it come from? Who did it first belong to? How and when was it used? How did your family obtain it? What will happen to it in the next generation? What makes it Jewish? What makes it a treasure?

You can create a ‘living museum’ with the objects, gathered by use or types or holidays/life cycle events. There can be a person to briefly explain each object. Or, there can be an interpreter for each group of objects. You can also create a complete program around many of the treasures. First, give attendees the chance to see the exhibit. Then, bring it to life in the arts event. Have people telling stories, which can be in first person, or even in the voices of objects themselves. Add music or song, a dance, or a storyteller telling a folktale, literary tale, or biblical tale that complements the themes.

Stories To Play

Families join other families for a program in which scenes, stories, and skits are improvised by the groups, and perhaps are shared with the group as a whole. The chance for families to play together in fun and partnership, beginning with easy ‘theater games’ (ice-breakers) and moving into the acting out of stories (folklore, fiction, or personal stories), can be great for family-and community-building. You can have costume pieces, props, and arts materials available for the groups to use in creating and presenting their skits.

Family Folklore

Our family folklore is an important part of our story as Jews. Getting a group to talk about their families and memories provides communication of the heart. Through a variety of ‘story starters’ (see below), small family and inter-family groups begin to share easy memories informally with each other and other families. Then, each group chooses one story to tell or improvise for the whole group. The telling of stories can be done with story, drama, song, and movement. Perhaps

some of the stories can be told to a larger group, such as classes or organizations. The stories can also be written and illustrated in booklet form, preserving them for future generations of families.

Some Family Folklore ‘Starters’

- a special food, recipe, or food story
- a memorable holiday event
- a treasured Jewish object in your family
- a special ‘simcha’ (celebration)
- a time when you felt most Jewish
- tales of emigration and immigration
- a real ‘character’ in your family
- a famous person in your family
- family hero stories; a fortune lost or won

Each story presented will lead to more memories opening for the entire group. Family members grow closer in memory, and the community is enriched with the new ways of knowing each other. And so the stories are passed on l’dor v’dor, from generation to generation.

5. GATHERING JEWISH STORIES: STORY PROMPTERS by Cherie Karo Schwartz | 1999

Memories Can Be Prompted By Many Reminders. Ask People About:

Smells and foods

Jewish objects: mezuzah, seder plate, candlesticks, tallit, tefillin, kippah, kiddush cup...

Family treasures: Names, and favorite relatives and friends

Holidays: each holiday celebration, effect on home, neighbors, school, memory, guests, trips, moments, Passover (Elijah)

Synagogue memories

Birth: brit milah (Circumcision), Baby Naming, customs and superstitions

Jewish schooling, convocation, confirmation

Bar/Bat Mitzvah: training, ‘twinning’, tzedakah projects, giving, best gifts

Wedding: ceremony, chuppah, ‘something old’, food, dances, ketubah, guests

Ethical Wills

Photographs of family

Elders and eldering

Immigrations

Extended family

Holocaust

Jewish places visited

Israel: connections, objects from, visited, relatives

Tikkun olam: saving the world

Social action: volunteering, Jewish National Fund, tzedakah (giving), gemilut chasadim (deeds of loving kindness)

Simchat: good times

JCC experiences, BBYO, AZA, NIFTY, camps, other clubs

Jewish organizations and groups

Feeling Jewish (both sides): pride, kvelling, embarrassment, anti-Semitism...

Times when being Jewish brought pleasure, good memory, good times

SELECTED AND ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF CURRENT JEWISH STORY COLLECTIONS 2002

Compiled by Peninnah Schram 8/2002

Storyteller, Author, Teacher, and Recording Artist; Associate Professor at Stern College of Yeshiva Univ.; Founding Director: Jewish Storytelling Center, 92nd Street YM-YWHA, NYC

Each of these books is an excellent source for Jewish folktales, fairytales, legends, midrashim, and parables. Many of them include valuable and extensive introductions and/or endnotes which add to the reader's knowledge and put the stories into a context. The direction now is to acknowledge story sources, even in children's books, so as to honor those sources. It also helps people to understand that these tales Jews have been telling and retelling come from before us, even when they have been adapted and/or given a different setting or time frame.

Ausubel, Nathan, ed. **A Treasury of Jewish Folklore: The Stories, Traditions, Legends, Humor, and Wisdom of the Jewish People.** NY: Crown Publishers, 1990.

A comprehensive treasury containing 750 stories organized according to themes and characters with introductions which synthesize wide-ranging knowledge and scholarship of Jewish folklore and traditions. The book also includes humor, sayings, and 75 songs. This "classic" popular anthology was originally published in 1948.

Bin Gorion, Micha Joseph. **Mimekor Yisrael: Classical Jewish Folktales.** Bloomington: Indiana Univ. Press, 1 volume in abridged and annotated edition, 1990.

This 512 page anthology "from the source of Israel" offers National, Religious Folktales, and Oriental stories culled by Dan Ben-Amos from the original monumental 3 volumes and with extensive headnotes to each tale and other annotations. There is also a 1-volume edition containing 113 of the most popular tales but without commentary.

Carlebach, Rabbi Shlomo and Susan Yael Mesinai. **Shlomo's Stories: Selected Tales.** Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson Inc., 1994.

Stories from Reb Shlomo's vast repertoire of inspiring tales told in his inimitable style and rhythm. Hasidic wisdom and humor are intertwined with the voice of this minstrel-rabbi/storyteller. There are no given sources for the stories.

Citron, Sterna. **Why the Baal Shem Tov Laughed: Fifty-two Stories about Our Great Chasidic Rabbis.** Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson Inc., 1994.

52 retold tales based on the legends of the great Chasidic masters. Arranged in chronological order from the Baal Shem Tov, the founder of Chasidism, up to modern times with stories of the Lubavitcher rebbe, Menachem Mendel Schneerson.

Cone, Molly. **Who Knows Ten? Children's Tales of the Ten Commandments.** Illustrated by Robin Brickman. NY: UAHC Press, 1998

These 10 stories are gems. Based on folktales and talmudic stories, and with added originality, each tale deals with the theme of one of the Ten Commandments.

Frankel, Ellen. **The Classic Tales: 4000 Years of Jewish Lore.** Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson Inc., 1989

A representative collection containing 300 Jewish tales which span 4,000 years of Jewish literature, from biblical to modern times. In addition to the introduction there are appendixes of sources, bibliography, glossary, and indexes.

Gaster, Moses. **Ma'aseh Book: Book of Jewish Tales and Legends.** (Translated from the Judeo-German) Philadelphia: JPS, 1981

A classic volume collection of 254 post-biblical popular tales, from an original Yiddish manuscript. The tales come from a variety of sources, including rabbinic literature and medieval books.

Gellman, Marc. **Does God Have a Big Toe? Stories About Stories in the Bible.** Illustrated by Oscar de Mejo. NY: Harper & Row, 1989

20 original midrashim, based on Bible stories, created with humor and a modern perspective.

Gellman, Marc. **God's Mailbox: More Stories about Stories in the Bible.** Illustrated by Debbie Tilley. NY: Morrow Junior, 1996

Gold, Sharlya and Mishael Maswari Caspi. **The Answered Prayer and Other Yemenite Folktales.** Illustrated by Marjory Wunsch. Philadelphia: JPS, 1990.

Retold traditional tales brought by Jews arriving in Israel from Yemen via Operation Magic Carpet. Adapted for children, some of the tales are variants of Eastern European tales, while others deal specifically with Yemenite life. There is a glossary and a pronunciation guide.

Goldin, Barbara Diamond. **A Child's Book of Midrash: 52 Jewish Stories from the Sages.** Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson Inc., 1990.

52 brief stories collected from the Talmud and other sources of midrashim, especially for children, that illuminate Jewish ethical and moral values. Included are an introduction to midrash, a glossary, and story sources.

Goldin, Barbara Diamond. **While the Candles Burn: Eight Stories for Hanukkah.** Illustrated by Elaine Greenstein. NY: Viking, 1996

8 stories which include original and traditional tellings on Hanukkah themes. Tales range over many countries and centuries. An introduction to each story presents the source, themes, and customs of the holiday.

Goldin, Barbara Diamond. **Journeys with Elijah: Eight Tales of the Prophet.** Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. NY: Gulliver/Harcourt, Brace, 1999

8 tales featuring Elijah in his many disguises, bringing hope and performing miracles as he travels to many countries. Bibliography.

Goldin, Barbara Diamond. **Ten Holiday Jewish Children's Stories.** Illustrated by Jeffrey Allon. NY: Pitspopy Press, 2000

Each of the ten stories highlights various meanings of the holidays.

Goldreich, Gloria. **Ten Traditional Jewish Children's Stories**. Illustrated by Jeffrey Allon. Jerusalem and NY: Pitspopany Press, 1996.

10 well-known stories from 19th and 20th century Europe, including 2 Chelm stories, a trickster tale, and a Golem tale. There are "thought questions" at the end of each story.

Jaffe, Nina. **The Uninvited Guest and Other Jewish Holiday Tales**. Illustrated by Elivia Savadier. NY: Scholastic, Inc., 1993

Traditional folktales, a literary tale, and midrashim adapted for 7 major Jewish holidays, and Shabbat, some in new settings, for younger readers. In addition, there is an introduction about the Jewish calendar, a glossary, and a bibliography.

Jaffe, Nina. **The Mysterious Visitor: Stories of the Prophet Elijah**. Illustrated by Elivia Savadier. NY: Scholastic Press, 1997.

8 wonder tales of Elijah the Prophet who appears in many disguises as he travels to different places, but always bringing with him a message of peace. Includes glossary, endnotes and a bibliography.

Jaffe, Nina. **Tales for the Seventh Day: A Collection of Sabbath Stories**. Illustrated by Kelly Stribling Sutherland. NY: Scholastic Press, 2000.

7 stories focusing on Shabbat theme. The tales include legends, folktales, Talmudic stories, and from Ashkenazic and Sephardic traditions. Includes source notes, glossary, and bibliography.

Jaffe, Nina and Steven Zeitlin. **While Standing on One Foot: Puzzle Stories and Wisdom Tales from the Jewish Tradition**. Illustrated by John Segal. NY: Henry Holt, 1993

17 stories that challenge the young reader to solve a puzzle or dilemma or to answer a riddle. The traditional folklore endings are also given. Sources of each tale and a bibliography are included.

Jaffe, Nina and Steven Zeitlin. **The Cow of No Color: Riddle Stories and Justice Tales from Around the World**. Illustrated by Whitney Sherman. NY: Henry Holt, 1998

8 Jewish dilemma stories focusing on questions of justice. Each story includes a question the reader must try to solve. Sources/bibliography.

Kimmel, Eric A. **Days of Awe: Stories for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur**. Illustrated by Erika Weihs. NY: Viking, 1993

3 stories adapted from traditional sources with the High Holiday themes of repentance, prayer, and charity. Sources are described.

Kimmel, Eric A. **The Spotted Pony: A Collection of Hanukkah Stories**. Illustrated by Leonard Everett Fisher. NY: Holiday House, 1992

8 adapted tales for families featuring fools of Chelm, rabbis, King Solomon, and that clever trickster, Herschel of Ostropol. Sources are given.

Kimmel, Eric A., ed. **A Hanukkah Treasury**. Illustrated by Emily Lisker. NY: Henry Holt, 1998.

13 original and traditional folktales plus poems/songs for Hanukkah, with stories by Howard Schwartz, Peninnah Schram, and others.

Lipkin, Lisa. **Bringing the Story Home: The Complete Guide to Storytelling for Parents.** NY: W.W. Norton, 2000

Contains about 20 stories, some from other storytellers, to illustrate the theme of the chapters, such as family folklore and bringing Bible stories to life. Includes many creative approaches to integrating storytelling into the family.

Nagarajan, Nadia Grosser. **Jewish Tales from Eastern Europe.** Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson Inc., 1999

60 legends and folktales specifically from Czech, Slovak, Polish, and Hungarian written and oral sources from several centuries. Included are many Golem stories, some humorous. Extensive annotations and sources. Patai, Raphael, ed. **Gates to the Old City.** Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson Inc., 1988 This reissued anthology is divided into 7 major genres: Bible, Apocrypha, Talmud, Midrash, Kabbala, Folktales, and Hasidic tales. There are introductions to each section and an excellent annotated bibliography and index.

Rush, Barbara. **The Book of Jewish Women's Tales.** Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson, Inc., 1994
74 women's tales spanning the life cycle, nature cycle, and aspects of strong Jewish women. A foreword by folklorist Dov Noy, introductory commentary to each story, and a bibliography and sources index add other dimensions to the stories.

Rush, Barbara. **The Jewish Year: Celebrating the Holidays.** NY: Stewart, Tabori & Chang, 2001

This book offers more than 35 literary excerpts, ranging from folktales to modern writing, for 17 Jewish holidays, plus folk customs, religious laws, and color art reproductions. Many storytellers are represented in this collection.

Rush, Barbara and Cherie Karo Schwartz. **The Kids' Catalog of Passover: A Worldwide Celebration.** Philadelphia: JPS, 2000

This book is a treasure-trove of Passover: a companion to observing and celebrating the entire holiday. In the four sections, there are abundant stories, history, crafts, songs, seder ideas and questions, and family/community projects to enhance Passover. The book includes Passover traditions from Sephardic, Ashkenazic and Eastern communities.

Sadeh, Pinhas. **Jewish Folktales.** (Translated from Hebrew by Hillel Halkin) NY: Doubleday, 1989

This comprehensive anthology of over 250 diverse stories draws heavily on the Israel Folktale Archives and Eastern European literary sources. The foreword and afterword essays are enlightening along with the source credits. In some cases, there needs to be more specific attributions.

Sanfield, Steve. **The Feather Merchants & Other Tales of the Fools of Chelm.** Illustrated by Mikhail Margaril. NY: Orchard Books, 1991

13 brief and humorous stories collected on the author's travels to Poland. There is an afterword, a glossary, and a bibliography.

Schram, Peninnah. **Jewish Stories One Generation Tells Another**. Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson Inc., 1987

64 wide-ranging stories and folktales culled from various Jewish oral and written traditions with source-filled introductions to each story and an index. The tales capture the oral style of this storyteller. Several stories incorporate music, such as a nigun or a lullaby. The foreword is by Elie Wiesel.

Schram, Peninnah and Steven M. Rosman. **Eight Tales for Eight Nights: Stories for Chanukah**. Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson Inc., 1990

8 stories, in addition to the ancient legend, which reflect the holiday themes and traditions of Ashkenazi and Sephardi Jews. There are appendixes of Chanukah music, notes on the story, and a chapter on retrieving family stories. Two family stories told by the authors are also included.

Schram, Peninnah. **Tales of Elijah the Prophet**. Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson Inc., 1991

36 stories of Elijah the Prophet, the master of miracles, gathered from various sources and centuries - with a major introduction and endnotes and written in an oral style. The foreword is by folklorist Dov Noy.

Schram, Peninnah, ed. **Chosen Tales: Stories Told by Jewish Storytellers**. Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson Inc., 1995

A great variety of 68 favorite and meaningful stories chosen by Jewish storytellers and presented as if the book was a "literary storytelling festival". The tales are written to be heard and retold. Introductions accompany each story plus photographs and bios of the teller. Lists of books and recordings by contributors.

Schram, Peninnah. **Ten Classic Jewish Children's Stories**. Illustrated by Jeffrey Allon. NY: Pitspopy Press, 1998

Ten stories, all but one from Talmudic sources, including the debate of the sun and the moon, how Miriam's wisdom saved the Jewish people, and a love story of Akiva and Rachel.

Schram, Peninnah. **Stories Within Stories: From the Jewish Oral Tradition**. Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson, 2000

The fifty stories in this book, drawn from Talmudic and midrashic sources, medieval sources, and especially the Israel Folktale Archives, are frame narratives. Stories are embedded within stories. The intriguing stories range from witty tall tales to Hasidic tales. The foreword is by Howard Schwartz.

Schram, Peninnah. **The Chanukah Blessing**. Illustrated by Jeffrey Allon. NY: UAHC Press, 2000

This Elijah the Prophet story includes many folktale motifs with an original plot. Elijah visits a certain poor family because of their special menorah and brings the family blessings. Bibliography.

Schwartz, Cherie Karo. **Circle Spinning: Jewish Turning and Returning Tales.** Illustrated by Lisa Rauchwerger. Denver, CO: Hamsa Publications, 2002

Divided into four sections, each section of the book represents the Four Worlds of Kabbalistic intent: spirit; intellect; emotion; and action. The creative midrashim, poems, and visual midrashim reflect these elements. Commentary at the end of stories presents biblical, Talmudic, or folklore sources as well as original adaptations of the author. There is also a Glossary and Index.

The following 4 anthologies by Howard Schwartz cover the 4 main genres of stories: fairytales, folktales, supernatural tales, and mystical tales. In each of these volumes, Schwartz has collected tales from talmudic and medieval sources, other collections of stories published throughout the centuries, as well as from the Israel Folktale Archives, and reworked these tales. The tales come from many countries. Always careful about documenting his tales, he includes extensive notes and bibliographies at the end of each volume in addition to a major introduction.

Schwartz, Howard. **Elijah's Violin & Other Jewish Fairy Tales.** Illustrated by Linda Heller. NY: Oxford University Press, 1994

36 Jewish fairy tales.

Schwartz, Howard. **Miriam's Tambourine: Jewish Folktales from Around the World.** Illustrated by Lloyd Bloom. NY: Oxford University Press, 1988

50 Jewish folktales from around the world. Foreword is by folklorist Dov Noy.

Schwartz, Howard. **Lilith's Cave: Jewish Tales of the Supernatural.** Illustrated by Uri Shulevitz. NY: Oxford University Press, 1991.

50 mostly brief but dread-filled supernatural tales full of fantasy and folklore.

Schwartz, Howard. **Gabriel's Palace: Jewish Mystical Tales.** NY: Oxford University Press, 1993

150 spellbinding tales recounting mystical experiences from sacred and secular sources.

Schwartz, Howard, ed. **Gates to the New City.** Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson Inc., 1991

A reissued anthology which contains more than 180 tales in 7 divisions: Biblical themes, Aggadic themes, themes of Merkavah Mysticism, Kabbalistic themes, themes of Folklore, and Hasidic themes. The book includes a 105-page introduction with extensive notes on the stories, authors, and an index of stories, in addition to an invaluable 25-page selected bibliography.

Schwartz, Howard. **Next Year in Jerusalem: 3000 Years of Jewish Stories.** Illustrated by Neil Waldman. NY: Viking, 1996

11 stories ranging from midrash to Sephardic tales, folk and fairy tales - all about Jerusalem. Sidebars illuminate the stories with historical background of the stories, plus an introduction, glossary and source notes.

Schwartz, Howard, **The Day the Rabbi Disappeared: Jewish Holiday Tales of Magic.** Illustrated by Monique Passicot. NY: Viking, 2000

For each of the 12 holidays, there is a story featuring a magical feat by a wise rabbi for the benefit of the Jewish people. Sources given.

Schwartz, Howard, **A Journey to Paradise and Other Jewish Tales**. Illustrated by Giora Carmi. NY: Pitspopy Press, 2000

8 legendary Jewish tales of magic teaching us lessons. Sources given.

Schwartz, Howard and Barbara Rush. **The Diamond Tree: Jewish Tales from Around the World**. Illustrated by Uri Shulevitz. NY: HarperCollins, 1991

A children's book of 15 folktales drawn from the Midrash, medieval Jewish folklore, and from the Israel Folktale Archives, including East European and Middle Eastern tales. Notes on the stories are included.

Schwartz, Howard and Barbara Rush. **The Wonder Child & Other Jewish Fairy Tales**. Illustrated by Steven Fieser. NY: HarperCollins, 1996

A children's book of 8 retold Jewish fairy tales from Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Sources and notes on the stories are given.

Schwartz, Howard and Barbara Rush. **A Coat for the Moon and Other Jewish Tales**. Illustrated by Michael Iofin. Philadelphia, PA: Jewish Publication Society, 1999

15 classic Jewish folktales from all over the world with each tale focusing on a Jewish value. Included are sources and notes.

Sperber, Daniel and Chana. **Ten Best Jewish Children's Stories**. Illustrated by Jeffrey Allon. Jerusalem, Israel: Pitspopy Press, 1995

10 classic Jewish stories from talmudic and midrashic and folk sources that highlight 10 key Jewish values, such as love of learning and Shabbat, respect for parents, performing mitzvot. Several probing questions are at the end of each story. Sources are given. Introduction by Peninnah Schram.

Staiman, Mordechai. **Niggun: Stories Behind the Chasidic Songs that Inspire Jews**. Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson Inc., 1994

Each of the 38 stories describes a particular niggun, or melody, and the power it had in the lives of those who sang or heard it. Only one melody is transcribed in the book, but there is an extensive discography of Chasidic music and endnotes.

Weinreich, Beatrice S. **Yiddish Folktales**. (Translated by Leonard Wolf) NY: Pantheon, 1988

These wisdom-filled 178 brief Yiddish tales from the archives of the YIVO Institute are divided into 7 sections: allegorical tales, children's tales, wonder tales, pious tales, humorous tales, legends and supernatural tales. Excellent endnotes are supplied.

Zeitlin, Steve. **Because God Loves: An Anthology of Jewish Storytelling**. NY: Touchstone Books, 1997.

A treasury of Jewish stories and storytellers, from ancient tales and classics re-imagined to contemporary family stories, parables, and humor. There are also framed commentaries and stories by other storytellers that connect to the specific story as a form of dialogue.

STORY COLLECTIONS THAT INCLUDE SEVERAL JEWISH STORIES

Best-Loved Stories Told at the National Storytelling Festival. Jonesborough, TN: National Storytelling Press, 1991.
(Stories by Doug Lipman, Syd Lieberman, Steve Sanfield, and Peninnah Schram)

More Best-Loved Stories Told at the National Storytelling Festival. Jonesborough, TN: National Storytelling Press, 1992.
(Stories by Syd Lieberman and Peninnah Schram)

Forest, Heather. **Wisdom Tales from Around the World** (1996) and **Wonder Tales from Around the World** (1995). Little Rock, AR: August House, 1996
(Several Jewish tales retold by Heather Forest. There is also an overview of Jewish oral tradition and notes about the stories.)

Ready-to-Tell Tales: Surefire Stories from America's Favorite Storytellers. David Holt and Bill Mooney, eds. Little Rock, AR: August House, 1994
(Stories by Judith Black, Steve Sanfield, and Peninnah Schram)

Spinning Tales, Weaving Hope: Stories of Peace, Justice & the Environment, Ed Brody, et al, eds. Philadelphia, PA: New Society Publisher, 2002
(Stories by Hanna Bandes, Heather Forest, Marcia Lane, Nancy Schimmel and Peninnah Schram)

The Storyteller's Companion to the Bible: Old Testament Women. Volume 4 edited by Michael E. Williams. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1993
(Stories contributed by Betty Lehrman)

The Storyteller's Companion to the Bible: Old Testament Wisdom. Volume 5 edited by Michael E. Williams. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1994
(Stories contributed by Peninnah Schram)

Yolen, Jane, ed. **Favorite Folktales from Around the World.** NY: Pantheon Books, 1986
(The 6 Jewish stories include "A Dispute in Sign Language,@ "Chelm Justice,@ and "It Could Always Be Worse.")

RESOURCE BOOKS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Birch, Carol L. and Melissa A. Heckler, eds. **Who Says? Essays on Pivotal Issues in Contemporary Storytelling.** Little Rock, AR: August House, 1996
10 essays which explore the aesthetics of storytelling in various cultures written by folklorists and storytellers. Included is Peninnah Schram's essay, "Jewish Models: Adapting Folktales for Telling Aloud."

Schwartz, Howard. **Reimagining the Bible: The Storytelling of the Rabbis.** NY: Oxford University Press, 1998

12 essays which explore the Oral Tradition and the Jewish literary imagination throughout the centuries from rabbinic midrash to Kafka and contemporary midrashic writing.

Yassif, Eli. **The Hebrew Folktale: History, Genre, Meaning.** Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1999. Foreword by Dan Ben-Amos.

A definitive book on the history of the Hebrew folk narrative. Scholarly notes and index. National Book Award/Reference Book

JEWISH STORYTELLING CASSETTES and CDs

Adelman, Penina.

This Is the Story: Original Songs and Midrashim about Jewish Women.

A Song a Month. (with Suri Levow-Krieger)

Penina Adelman, 243 Upland Road, Newtonville, MA 02460

ben Izzy, Joel.

Stories From Far Away.

The Beggar King and Other Tales from Around the World.

Buried Treasures - A Storyteller's Journey

Old City Press, 1715 La Loma St., Berkeley, CA 94709 or call 510 883-0883

Black, Judith.

Waiting for Elijah.

Glad To Be Who I Am

Banned in the Western Suburbs

The Home Front

Adult Children of ...Parents

Judith Black, 33 Prospect.St., Marblehead, MA 01945 or call 781 631-4417

Bresnick-Perry, Roslyn.

Holiday Memories of a Shtetl Childhood: Gut Yon Tov, Gut Yor.

A Real American Girl: Stories of Immigration and Assimilation

Thriving and Surviving In a Village Called New York

Roslyn Bresnick-Perry, 350 West 24 Street, 18E, New York, NY 10011 or call 212 604-0620

Danoff, Susan.

Enchantments.

The Invisible Way: Stories of Wisdom.

Women of Vision.

Susan Danoff, P.O. Box 7311, Princeton, NJ 08543-7311

deBeer, Sarah.

Women of Wisdom, Women of Faith: Jewish Stories that Celebrate Women.

Sarah deBeer, 1378 Boulevard, West Hartford, CT 06119 or call 203 561-5905

Fierst, Gerald.

Jewish Tales of Magic and Mysticism.

Tikkun Olam: Stories to Heal the World. (with Jonathan Feig on violin)

Gerald Fierst, 222 Valley Road, Montclair, NJ 07042 or call 973 746-4608

Figiel, Caroline and Danny Jones.

Bible Times: Stories for Kids. (3 cassettes)

www.bibletimes-stories.net

Forest, Heather.

Songspinner: Folktales and Fables Sung and ToldSing Me a Story.

Tales of Womenfolk.

Tales Around the Hearth.

Cartoon Opera, P.O. Box 354, Huntington, NY 11743 or call 631 271-2511

Frankel, Ellen.

Classic Tales: Traditional Jewish Stories.

Ellen Frankel, 6678 Lincoln Dr., Philadelphia, PA 19119

Golden, Karen.

Tales and Scales: Stories of Jewish Wisdom.

Golden Button Productions, 1165 S. Sierra Bonita Ave, Los Angeles CA or call 323 933-4614

Grayzel, Eva.

Proud To Be Jewish. (with Cantor Buzzy Walters)

Eva Grayzel, 4245 Farmersville Ct., Easton PA 18042 or call 610 258-3763

Greenberg, Bonnie.

From the Hearts of the People, Vol. 1.

The Wonder Child and Other Young Heroes. (includes "The Wonder Child," a Jewish Egyptian folktale and "The Little Heroes of Kfar Tabor," an Israeli legend)

Bonnie Greenberg, 63 Gould Rd., Waban, MA 02468 or call 617 969-1665

Hankin, Vered.

The Day the Rabbi Disappeared: Jewish Holiday Tales of Magic.

Shari Upbin Productions, 300 East 56 Street, New York, NY 10022 or call 212 875-7278

Harrison, Annette.

Lilith's Cave: Jewish Tales of the Supernatural.

Annette Harrison, 6370 Pershing Ave., St. Louis, MO 63130 or call 314 725-7767

Lehrman, Betty.

Jewish Tales From the Heart.

Tales for the Telling.

Tales for the Telling, P.O. Box 2706, Framingham, MA 01703

Lieberman, Syd.

One Righteous Man: The Story of Raoul Wallenberg

The Old Man and Other Stories.

Joseph the Tailor and Other Jewish Tales.

A Winner and Other Stories.

Syd Lieberman, 2522 Ashland, Evanston, IL 60201 or call 847 328-6281

Lipman, Doug.

The Forgotten Story: Tales of Wise Jewish Men.

Folktales of Strong Women.

Milk from the Bull's Horn.

One Little Candle: Participation Stories & Songs for Hanukkah.

Now We Are Free: Passover Participation Stories & Songs.

The Soul of Hope: An Epic Tale of the Baal Shem Tov.

Doug Lipman, P.O. Box 441195, W. Somerville, MA 02144 or call 888 446-4738

Mara.

Storysong.

Mara, P.O. Box 20181, San Jose, CA 95160 or call 408 736-3580

Marshall, Cindy Rivka.

Challah and Latkes: Stories for Shabbat and Hanukkah.

Dancing Tree Productions, PO Box 610143, Newton Highlands, MA 02461 or call 617 244-9953

Rubinstein, Robert.

The Rooster Who Would Be King & Other Healing Tales.

The Day the Rabbi Stopped the Sun and Other Jewish Tales of Mystery/Tales of Terror.

Strange Tales from Biblical Times

Robert Rubinstein, 90 East 49 Ave., Eugene, OR 97405 or call 541 344-8176

Rush, Barbara.

Barbara Rush Tells Stories from The Diamond Tree.

Barbara Rush, 3928 Nottaway Rd., Durham, NC 27707 or call 919 419-1809

Sanfield, Steve.

Could This Be Paradise?

Steve Sanfield Live at the Sierra Storytelling Festival

Backlog Book Services, Box 694, North San Juan, CA 95960

Schram, Peninnah and Gerard Edery.

The Minstrel and the Storyteller: Stories and Songs of the Jewish People.

Sefarad Records, 392 Central Park West, 17Y, New York, NY 10025 or call 212 662-9712; www.sefaradrecords.com

Schwartz, Cherie Karo.

Miriam's Tambourine: Jewish Folktales from Around the World.

Cherie Karo Schwartz, 996 S. Florence St., Denver, CO 80231 or call 303 367-8099

Stavish, Corinne.

Hussies, Harlots, Heroines: Shady Ladies of the Bible. (Co-storyteller: Barbara McBride-Smith)

I'd Rather Be Me!

Corinne Stavish, 26140 West Twelve Mile Rd., #305, Southfield, MI 48034 or call 248 356-8721

Stone, Susan.

The Angel's Wings and Other Stories from the Diamond Tree: Jewish Tales from Around the World.

Susan Stone, 1320 Wesley, Evanston, IL 60201 or call 847 328-8159

Weiss, Jim.

Jewish Holiday Stories.

Greathall Productions, P.O. Box 5061, Charlottesville, VA 22905-5061 or call 800 477-6234

Wolkstein, Diane.

The Story of Joseph.

Diane Wolkstein, 10 Patchin Place, New York, NY 10011

CASSETTE/CD ANTHOLOGIES THAT FEATURE JEWISH STORYTELLERS

Best-Loved Stories Told at the National Storytelling Festival.

Volume I - Steve Sanfield

Volume II - Peninnah Schram

National Storytelling Network, P.O. Box 309, Jonesborough, TN 37659 or call 800 525-4514.

A Storytelling Treasury: Tales Told at the 10th-Anniversary - National Storytelling Festival.

(Set of 5 audio cassettes) Selected and arranged by Carol Birch. Storytellers included in these cassettes: Judith Black, Heather Forest, Syd Lieberman, Doug Lipman, Steve Sanfield, Peninnah Schram, Laura Simms, and Diane Wolkstein.

National Storytelling Association, P.O. Box 309, Jonesborough, TN 37659

Rainbow Tales and Rainbow Tales, Too

(Set of 2 CDs) Stories told by Melissa Barkin, Judith Black, Syd Lieberman, and Doug Lipman.
Rounder Records Corp., One Camp Street, Cambridge, MA 02140

One People, Many Stories: Jewish Stories from Around the World.

(Set of 6 CDs) Hosted by Jerry Stiller. Stories included are by Howard Schwartz, Sheldon Oberman, Barbara Diamond Goldin, Cherie Karo Schwartz, Peninnah Schram and many others.

Jewish Community Library of Los Angeles, 5700 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 2710, Los Angeles, CA 90036 or call toll free: 866-800-266; www.JCLLA.org