

RECOMMENDED EARLY CHILDHOOD BOOKS FROM 2003

JEWISH CHILDREN'S LITERATURE: WHAT'S HOT AND WHAT'S NOT? THE SYDNEY TAYLOR BOOK AWARDS

Description: The Sydney Taylor Book Awards Committee will review and discuss books that were considered as we sought our 2003 medal winners. This two-part program will present a wide-range of opinions as we dissect the good, the bad, and the ugly among recent titles. Meet Sydney Taylor Book Award winning authors!!

Rachel Kamin, MSI, Director of the Temple Israel Libraries & Media Center, West Bloomfield, Michigan since 1997, currently serves as SSC Vice-President. Rachel is on the Sydney Taylor Book Award, Accreditation, and the Continuing Education and Professional Development Committees.

**Abraham, Michelle Shapiro. *Shabbat Shalom!* Illus. Ann Koffsky. New York: UAHC Press, 2003.
ISBN: 0807408735. \$6.95 (pbk.)**

In simple, rhyming language, *Shabbat Shalom!* tells the story of family celebrating Shabbat including the Shabbat blessings in Hebrew, English, and transliteration.

**Adelman, Nechama Dina. *Bedtime.* Illus. Fayge Devorah Blau. Brooklyn, NY: Hachai Publishing, 2003.
ISBN: 1929628129. \$9.95**

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Before going to sleep, Dovid kisses the mezuzah on his bedroom door, says the Shema, and then listens to his Mom sing him a good night song and comfort him with the thought that Hashem is always with him.

Gold-Vukson, Marji. *The Shapes of My Jewish Year*. Illus. Sally Springer. Minneapolis, MN: Kar-Ben Publishing, 2003. ISBN: 1580130496. \$4.95 (board book)

The shapes of various Jewish holiday objects and foods introduce very young children to circles, ovals, squares, rectangles, and triangles.

Goodman, L.J. *Oh Chanukah!* Illus. Liz Conrad. New York: Price Stern Sloan, 2003. ISBN: 0843105089. \$5.99 (board book)

The miracle of the Chanukah oil, the significance of the latkes, the direction the candles are placed in the menorah and then lit, the definition of the shamash, a description of the dreidel game, the importance of family, and the lyrics to the song "Oh Chanukah!" are all included in this simple, twelve-page board book for toddlers.

Holub, Joan. *Apples and Honey: A Rosh Hashanah Lift-the-Flap Book*. Illus. Cary Pillo. New York: Puffin Books, 2003. ISBN: 0142501360. \$6.99 (pbk.)

Depicts a happy family picking apples, decorating New Year's cards, getting ready for Temple, attending services, hearing the shofar, enjoying a round challah, blessing the wine, and wishing everyone a "L'Shanah Tovah!"

Kropf, Latifa Berry. *It's Sukkah Time!* Photographs Tod Cohen. Minneapolis, MN: Kar-Ben/Lerner, 2003. ISBN: 1580130844. \$10.95

This photo essay, created in a Jewish nursery school, depicts children preparing for and celebrating Sukkot.

Levine, Abby. *This Is the Dreidel*. Illus. Paige Billin-Frye. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman, 2003. ISBN: 0807578843. \$14.95

Loosely following the cumulative rhyme structure, the menorah is polished, the candles are placed, the blessings are recited, hand-made gifts are exchanged, relatives arrive, latkes are fried, the dreidel is spun, the story of Hanukkah is recited, songs are sung, and tzedakah is given.

Lissy, Jessica. *A Blue's Clues Chanukah*. Illus. Dan Kanemoto and Jennifer Oxley. New York: Simon Spotlight, 2003. ISBN: 068985840X. \$3.99 (pbk.)

As Blue, Joe, and their friends help Orange Kitten (who is presumably Jewish) celebrate Chanukah, they learn about the menorah, potato latkes, chocolate gelt, and the dreidel game, as well as two favorite Chanukah songs.

Medoff, Francine. *The Mouse in the Matzah Factory*. Illus. Nicole in den Bosch. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben/Lerner, 2003. ISBN: 1580130488. \$6.95 (pbk.)

Francine Medoff's 1983 edition now has new, color illustrations to tell the story of a mouse who observes wheat being harvested, ground into flour, mixed into dough, and baked into matzah.

Stone, Tanya Lee. *P Is for Passover: A Passover Alphabet Book*. Illus. Margeaux Lucas. New York: Price Stern Sloan, 2003. ISBN: 0843102381. \$4.99 (pbk.)

Each page contains a letter of the alphabet along with rhyming text that corresponds with each letter; describes the symbols of the holidays as well as other concepts, objects, and food important in Judaism.

Zucker, Jonny. *It's Party Time! A Purim Story*. Illus. Jan Barger Cohen. Hauppauge, NY: Barrons Educational Series, 2003. ISBN: 0764122681. \$6.95 (pbk.)

Zucker, Jonny. *Four Special Questions: A Passover Story*. Illus. Jan Barger Cohen. Hauppauge, NY: Barrons Educational Series, 2003. ISBN: 0764122673. \$6.95 (pbk.)

These editions, part of the *Festival Time!* Series, provide simple introductions to the customs of the Jewish holidays for young children who already have some knowledge.