

# Celebrate and Remember

Great Books for Summer Reading 2004  
from the Ratner Media and Technology Center of the  
Jewish Education Center of Cleveland

## CELEBRATE the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jewish life in America

Bierman, Carol. **Journey to Ellis Island.** Hyperion/Madison, 1998.

A brave woman and her two children flee war-torn Europe only to be refused entry at Ellis Island because of the little boy's injured arm. How Yehuda proved to the doctors that he really was fit to be an American is the core of this engaging story based on the experiences of the author's father. Grades 3-5.

Blanc, Esther Silverstein. **Berchick.** Illus. by Tennessee Dixon. Volcano Press, 1989.

A moving story about a Jewish pioneer woman's rescue of an orphan colt. Besides being a wonderful story, it offers a look at Jewish life in a rural setting. Winner of a 1989 Sydney Taylor Book Award. For grades 3 - 5.

Blanc, Esther Silverstein and Godeane Eagle. **Long Johns for a Small Chicken.** Illus. by Tennessee Dixon. Volcano Press, 2003.

When a fierce Nebraska hail storm batters a chick, Mama makes him his own pair of long johns to keep him warm. This warm hearted story about kindness to animals portrays a Jewish farming family around the turn of the twentieth century. An AJL Notable Children's Book of 2003. Grades 2 - 5.

Cohen, Miriam. **Mimmy and Sophie All Around the Town.** Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2004.

A sequel to *Mimmy and Sophie*, this is a collection of short, childlike stories about two sisters growing up in Brooklyn in the 1930's. Grades 1-3.

Ducharme, Dede Fox. **The Treasure in the Tiny Blue Box.** Austin, TX: Texas Christian University Press, 1998.

In the early 1900's in Texas, a Jewish immigrant boy embarks on an adventure-filled search for his missing father. His companion is the local bully, who hates Jews! History and values of tolerance and diversity are interwoven into this engrossing historical novel for grades 5 - 8.

Greene, Jacqueline Dembar. **Out of Many Waters.** New York: Walker, 1988.

Two Jewish sisters kidnapped by the Portuguese Inquisition and sent as slaves to Brazil escape, joining the group of twenty three Jews who settled in the new land of America. The sequel is *One Foot Ashore*. For grades 6 - 9.

Krantz, Hazel. ***Look to the Hills***. Jewish Publication Society, 1995.

Local color fills this novel set in Denver in the late 1800's. A thriving Reform Jewish community is depicted and the teenage heroine interacts with both fictional characters and real people. For grades 6- 8.

Levine, Gail Carson. ***Dave at Night***. HarperCollins, 1999.

An orphan boy sneaks out at night to escape the harsh conditions of the Hebrew Home for Boys. He meets an array of colorful characters and discovers the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920's. For grades 6 - 9.

Matas, Carol. ***Rosie in New York: Gotcha!*** Aladdin Paperbacks, 2003

Matas, Carol. ***Rosie in Chicago: Play Ball!*** Aladdin Paperbacks, 2003

Matas, Carol. ***Rosie in Los Angeles: Action!*** Aladdin Paperbacks, 2004.

A paperback series featuring a lively Jewish heroine who moves with her immigrant family across the United States. Each story presents a picture of Jewish life in a different setting as well as a moral dilemma for the heroine. For grades 4 - 6.

Matas, Carol. ***The War Within: A Novel of the Civil War***. Simon and Schuster, 2001.

When General Grant expells Jews from the Southern territory under his control, Hannah Green's family must flee their home. Based on a real incident. For grades 6 - 8.

Roseman, Kenneth. ***The Melting Pot: An Adventure in New York***. UAHC Press, 1984. Grades 5 - 8.

An interactive "Do-It-Yourself Adventure" story set on New York's Lower East Side at the turn of the twentieth century.

Rosen, Sybil. ***Speed of Light***. Atheneum, 1999.

An eventful and very thought-provoking novel about Southern Jews taking a stand on behalf of Civil Rights and the repercussions of that stand on families and community. Winner of a Sydney Taylor Book Award in 1999. For grades 6 - 8.

Taylor, Sydney. ***All of a Kind Family***. GRM Associates, 2000.

The first in a classic series of stories first published in the 1950's about an immigrant family growing up on the Lower East Side of New York. Grades 4 - 7.

Wells, Rosemary. *Streets of Gold*. Illus. by Dan Andreasen. Dial, 1999.

An illustrated abridgement of Mary Antin's classic memoir, *The Promised Land*.

For grades 4 - 7.



## **CELEBRATE the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Isaac Bashevis Singer, 1904 - 2004**

### **Books about I. B. Singer**

*Isaac Bashevis Singer: The Story of a Storyteller* by Paul Kresh. Jewish Biography Series. Dutton, 1984. For grades 6 - 8.

*Isaac Bashevis Singer: The Life of a Storyteller* by Lila Perl. A JPS Young Biography. Jewish Publication Society, 1994. For grades 5 - 8.

### **Books Written by I. B. Singer**

*Mazel and Shlimazel or the Milk of the Lioness*. Translated by Elizabeth Shub and Isaac Bashevis Singer, Illus. by Margot Zemach. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1967.

When Mazel, the spirit of good luck, meets Shlimazel, the spirit of bad luck, the fate of a young peasant lad hangs in the balance. Available in paperback. For grades 2 - 4.

*Zlateh the Goat and Other Stories*. Translated by Elizabeth Shub and Isaac Bashevis Singer, illus. by Maurice Sendak. Harper & Row, 1966.

A collection of seven stories that includes some funny Chelm tales and stories with demons, devils, and talking animals. Meet the first schlemiel, who - naturally - lives in Chelm. Available in paperback. For grades 3 - 6.

*Elijah the Slave: A Hebrew Legend Retold*. Translated by Elizabeth Shub and Isaac Bashevis Singer, illus. by Antonio Frasconi. Farrar, Straus, & Giroux, 1970.

Tobias, a scribe and a holy man, strongly believes that G-d will help those who are in need. When he meets the prophet Elijah, his belief is confirmed. Available in paperback. For grades 2 - 4.

**Why Noah Chose the Dove.** Translated by Elizabeth Shub, illus. by Eric Carle. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1974.

Beautifully illustrated by Eric Carle, this is the story of the modest dove which Noah chooses over all the boastful animals on the ark to bring back the message that the flood is over. Available in paperback. For Kdg. - Gr. 3.

**Naftali the Storyteller and His Horse, Sus, and Other Stories.**

Translated by Joseph Singer, Isaac Bashevis Singer, and others, illus. by Margot Zemach. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1976.

Eight sparkling stories from Jewish lore and legend, many about animals and some silly ones from the town of Chelm. Available in paperback. For grades 4 - 6.



### **REMEMBER Theodore Herzl, 1860 - 1904**

Altman, Linda Jacobs. **The Creation of Israel.** Lucent, 1998. A factual book that discusses Herzl and the Zionist ideal. For grades 6 - 9.

Gurko, Miriam. **Theodor Herzl: The Road to Israel.** A JPS Young Biography. Jewish Publication Society, 1988.

Theodore Herzl founded modern Zionism. His vision and determination eventually led to the rebirth of the Jewish state, Israel. His life and times are revealed in this fine biography. For grades 6-8.

Omer, Devorah. **Mesaparet al Herzl.** Zmora-Bitan, 1998.

An illustrated biography of Herzl, written in Hebrew.

Segal, Sheila. **Joshua's Dream.** UAHC Press, 1985.

A story that shows how the Zionist dream was fulfilled by Jews from all over the world, young and old. As Joshua learns about his

great-aunt Rivka and the Zionist movement's greening of Israel, he eagerly awaits the chance to participate by planting a tree there himself. For grades 1-3.

Silverman, Maida. ***The Founding of a Modern Nation.*** Dial, 1998.

An outstanding non-fiction book about the people and events that led to the creation of the modern state of Israel, after 2,000 years of Jewish exile. For grades 6 - 9.



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