Musleah, Rachel. Apples and Pomegranates: A Family Seder for Rosh Hashanah. Illustrated by Judy Jarrett. Kar-Ben/Lerner, 2004. Holiday recipes, folk tales relating to each of the eight foods eaten, songs and abbreviated prayers are all complimented by delightful artwork. Customs followed by Jews from around the world, many of them Sephardic, are folded into this engaging family service. Grade 3-up.

Naliboff, Jane. *The Only One Club*. Illustrated by Jeff Hopkins. Flashlight Press, 2004. *As the sole Jewish child in her class, Jennifer establishes "The Only One Club." When others want to join, she discovers that every other child in the class is, like her, unique in some way. This picture book takes a refreshingly positive look at being different. Grades 1-3.*

Oswald, Nancy. *Nothing Here But Stones*. Henry Holt, 2004. The Cotopaxi Jewish Colony was established in Colorado in 1882. Intended to be an agricultural community, it barely survived the first year and dissolved in 1884. A spirited child named Emma tells the story, centering it on her own family but also including other colonists, to convey a sense of the life of the struggling community and its attempt to create an authentically Jewish life in the wilderness. Grades 5-7.

Portnoy, Mindy Avra. Where Do People Go When They Die? Illustrated by Shelly O. Haas. Kar-Ben/Lerner, 2004. In this well-done book on a difficult subject, children receive comforting, age-appropriate answers when they ask various adults questions about death. Included are Rabbi Portnoy's sensitive suggestions for helping young children deal with grief, such as using pictures and words to create a memory book. Few books for this age range address Jewish beliefs about death so well. Kindergarten-grade 4.

Roth, Susan L. *Hanukkah*, *Oh Hanukkah*. Dial, 2004. The words to the familiar Hanukkah song are illustrated with creative fabric and paper collages showing a mouse family celebrating the holiday. A charming and imaginative treat for preschoolers.

Rouss, Sylvia. *Reach for the Stars: A Little Torah's Journey*. Illustrated by Rosalie Ofer. Pitspopany, 2004. *Here is the poignant story of the miniature Torah scroll that Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon took with him into space. The scroll was studied by Tel Aviv University professor, Joachim Joseph, to prepare for his Bar Mitzvah, which he celebrated as a boy in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. Despite the tragedy of the Space Shuttle disaster, the story is one of hope and courage.* Grades 3-5.

Rouss, Sylvia. *Sammy Spider's First Sukkot*. Illustrated by Katherine Janus Kahn. Kar-Ben/Lerner, 2004. *Our curious young spider is back, this time to learn about directions as the Shapiro family celebrates Sukkot. Vibrantly colored collages illustrate the story*. Preschool.

Weil, Sylvie. *My Guardian Angel*. Translated from the French by Gillian Rosner. Scholastic, 2004. *The granddaughter of the great sage Rashi is the heroine of this enchanting story set in* 11th *century Troyes, France. Rashi's kindly wisdom and Elvina's bright spirit are counterpoints to the threat posed by Crusaders passing through*. Grades 5-8.

Weisbarth, Bracha. To Live and Fight Another Day. Mazo, 2004. This Holocaust story has pathos, Yiddishkeit, ingenuity, adventure, tragedy, tenderness and a young male hero with whom readers will identify. Written in the first person, it is a finely honed portrayal of Jewish survival and partisan activity based on the author's family and their experiences. Grades 7-10.

WEBSITES

www.embassyofisrael.org/kids. Srulik, Israel's popular cartoon character, travels across time and space on a plane trip to Israel. He navigates through the sites, from Jerusalem to Eilat; Tel Aviv to the Dead Sea, explaining to young children the symbols and events that make up the story of the Jewish state.

www.ajljewishvalues.org. The Jewish Valuesfinder, a guide to Jewish values found in books for children and teens, now has over 700 titles in its database.

www.jewishlibraries.org. Visit the Association of Jewish Libraries' website and find a link with ideas for celebrating the 100th birthday of the late Sydney Taylor, author of the beloved All of a Kind Family series.

VIDEOS

Chanukah on Planet Matzah Ball. Sisu, 2003, 23 minutes, color. The Seder on Planet Matzah Ball. Sisu, 2004, 36 minutes, color. Puppets, music, animation plus zany stories add up to laugh-out-loud fun.

The Queen of Persia. Shazak Productions, 2004, 95 minutes, color animation. Book and CD-ROM available. An entertaining, engaging and faithful version of the Purim story.

Our Wonderful World: A Musical Journey Through the Six Days of Creation. Sisu, 2003, 49 minutes, Hebrew with English subtitles. Puppets and children join together in story and song to journey through the six days of creation.

Kotel: Jewish Teens on Gender and Tradition. 2003, 28 minutes, color. Jewish-American teenagers visit the Western Wall in Jerusalem, exploring issues of gender, tradition and various forms of modern Judaism.

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Greater Cleveland Chapter

JEWISH BOOK MONTH 2004



A Selected List of Recent Books, Videos and Websites for Children and Teens

BOOKS

Adelson, Leone. *The Mystery Bear: A Purim Story*. Illustrated by Naomi Howland. Houghton Mifflin, 2004. When a hungry bear cub is drawn by the smell of food to the village Purim celebration, only one little boy realizes that he is a real bear and not one of the revelers. Lively illustrations capture the fun of the Purimshpiel and the villagers' surprise when a growl reveals their "guest's" identity. Preschool-grade 2.

Allon, Hagit and Lena Zehavi. *The Mystery of the Dead Sea Scrolls*. Illustrated by Yossi Abolafia. The Jewish Publication Society, 2003. Daniel's school project to study the Dead Sea Scrolls takes him to the Shrine of the Book in Jerusalem, where he learns the history of the people who probably wrote the scrolls and to Qumran, where the scrolls were discovered in caves by a Bedouin boy. Outstanding photographs of Jerusalem and the Judean desert are combined with illustrations portraying a modern Israeli family. Grades 3-5.

Attema, Martha. *Hero*. Illustrated by Stephen McCallum. Orca, 2003. Orca Young Reader Series. *While hiding on a farm in Holland at the end of World War II, Izaak rescues a black stallion named Hero from the Germans. This fast-paced, well-plotted adventure is based on a true story, which happened to the author's great uncle. Grades 3-5.*

Ben-Zvi, Hava. *Eva's Journey: A Young Girl's True Story*. Illustrated by Pearl Tyree. iUniverse, 2004. *Intimacy is the hallmark of this Holocaust memoir, which is based on the author's experiences. Her warm yet tension-filled self-portrait is aimed at teaching a new generation to reject prejudice before it creates another genocide. Family photos, pen and ink drawings and maps add appeal to the sad, yet hopeful, story.* Grades 6-10.

Cohen, Miriam. *Mimmy and Simmy All Around the Town*. Illustrated by Thomas F. Yezerski. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2004. *A short chapter book about two sisters living in Brooklyn during the Great Depression. The charm of the stories lies in the pleasure taken in simple things, such as digging for a treasure in a vacant lot, traveling to Coney Island on a warm summer day, or riding around the block on a skate box. Exuberant illustrations add to the appeal. Grades 2-4.*

Cooper, Ilene. Sam I Am. Scholastic, 2004. When tensions emerge in Sam's family over Mom's Christmas tree, the 12-year-old wonders, "Why are there different religions and why do people of different religions always fight?" "You'll have to ask God about that," his mother advises, and so he does. Children from intermarried families like Sam's will identify with his questions and be satisfied with his conclusions. Grades 5-8.

Coplestone, Lis and Jim. *Noah's Bed.* Frances Lincoln, 2004. *In this winsomely illustrated twist on the Noah's Ark story, Noah and Nora's grandson Eber asks to climb into their bed if he feels afraid when it starts to rain. To their surprise, they find not only Eber, but a menagerie of colorful animals under the covers as well. Preschool-grade 2.*

Dublin, Anne. *Bobbie Rosenfeld: The Olympian Who Could Do Anything.* Second Story Press, 2004. *A remarkably versatile athlete who, indeed, could do virtually everything, Bobbie Rosenfeld won more points for her country than any other competitor, man or woman, at the 1928 Olympics. Throughout the narrative run both a stirring account of her life and a portrait of a witty, generous and courageous woman.* Grades 6-9.

Edwards, Michele. *Papa's Latkes*. Illustrated by Stacey Schuett. Candlewick, 2004. *Trying to celebrate Hanukkah after Mama has died, Papa and his two daughters make latkes*. *Even though his are "…like Papa, a little too heavy maybe around the middle," the three of them share cherished memories of Mama. A touching and sincere picture book for grades 1-4.*

Garfinkle, Adam. *Israel*. Mason Crest, 2004. Modern Middle East Nations and Their Strategic Place in the World Series. *Notable for its accuracy and lack of bias, this is an authoritative account of Israel from its beginning to the modern state. The emphasis is on Israel's place in the world today, with issues of security and conflict at the forefront. The land, people and history are also discussed. A useful book for students doing research. Grades 7-12.*

Gershator, Phillis. *Wise... and Not So Wise: Ten Tales From the Rabbis*. Illustrated by Alexa Ginsburg. Jewish Publication Society, 2004. *These tales adapted from the Talmud and Midrash are told with verve, bringing rabbinical wisdom within the understanding of modern children. An engaging and thought-provoking book for grades 2-5.*

Goldman, David J. *Jewish Sports Stars: Athletic Heroes Past and Present*. Kar-Ben/Lerner, 2004. An apt title for a book consisting of short biographies and statistics about famous Jewish athletes of the 20th and 21st centuries. The chapters cover baseball, basketball, boxing, football, hockey, wrestling, soccer, tennis and the Olympics. Grades 4-7.

Grossman, David. *Duel*. Translated from the Hebrew by Betsy Rosenberg. Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2004. *Loyalty, love and honor are the themes of this multi-layered mystery and coming of age story. The friend-ship between 12-year-old David, a clever and introspective Israeli boy, and some German-Jewish residents of a nursing home is the catalyst for a story that weaves between the past and the present. Grades 3-6.*

Hesse, Karen. *The Cats in Krasinski Square*. Illustrated by Wendy Watson. Scholastic, 2004. *A little Jewish girl in hiding outside of the Warsaw Ghetto finds a way to distract the Gestapo's dogs from discovering food that is being smuggled into the Ghetto. A spare writing style and muted illustrations present the Holocaust setting suspensefully but with restraint. For adults to read and discuss with children in grades 3-5.*

Kaplan, Kathy Walden. *The Dog of Knots*. Eerdmans, 2004. *Nine-year-old Mayim befriends an old, stray dog who is familiar to everyone in her Haifa neighborhood*. During Israel's Yom Kippur War, she feeds and protects him, despite the danger. In a story that captures the effervescence and humor of everyday Israelis, the distinct message is that whatever the challenges, Israel and her people will endure. Grades 4-7.

Kass, Pninna Moed. *Real Time*. Clarion, 2004. *A minute-by-minute, real time account in fictional form of a terrorist bombing in Jerusalem, told from the perspectives of victims, terrorists, doctors and nurses, reporters and security forces.* Unforgettable! Grades 7-10.

Kimmel, Eric A. Wonders and Miracles: A Passover Companion. Scholastic Press, 2004. Each symbol and section of the Passover Seder is described and explained through stories, poetry, songs and commentary. Striking color photos of artwork, including illuminated Haggadot, velvet matzoh covers and paintings by Israeli artists, enhance the text of a Passover companion for the whole family. Winner of a 2004 National Jewish Book Award. Grade 3-adult.

Koons, Jon. *A Confused Hanukkah*. Illustrated by S.D. Schindler. Dutton, 2004. The foolish folks of Chelm have forgotten how to celebrate Hanukkah! Confusion reigns when they follow clueless Yossel's mistaken advice. Delightful illustrations show with sparkling humor what the foolish Chelmites simply don't get. Grades 1-3.

Koralek, Jenny. *The Coat of Many Colors*. Illustrated by Pauline Baynes. Eerdmans, 2004. *The spare text of this illustrated Bible story brings out the beauty of the tale of Joseph, while condensing it to its essential details. The illustrations are both grand and intimate, with clean white backgrounds and expressive colors that keep the focus on the action. Quotes from Genesis at the beginning of the book provide the source and the context for the story. Kindergarten-grade 3.*

Kropf, Latifa Berry. *It's Hanukkah Time!* Photos by Tod Cohen. Kar-Ben/Lerner, 2004. *Preschoolers and their proud grandparents share a classroom Hanukkah party. Expressive photos show the children helping to make sufganiyot (recipe included), playing the dreidel game and enjoying Hanukkah activities with their grandparents. This and the book below are both part of a holiday series set in a Jewish preschool. Preschool-grade 2.*

Kropf, Latifa Berry. *It's Seder Time!* Photos by Tod Cohen. Kar-Ben/Lerner, 2004. *Color photographs capture the fun of preparing for and celebrating a Passover Seder at a Jewish preschool. Directions for making the clever Torah masks that the children wear while acting out the story of the Exodus are included along with the holiday blessings. Preschool-grade 2.*

Lasky, Kathryn. *Blood Secret*. HarperCollins, 2004. *Jerry is a mute, orphaned teen who is sent to live with her great-great aunt in rural New Mexico*. There, she finds an old trunk and travels back to the time of the Spanish Inquisition. *Jerry discovers her roots and recovers her voice in this riveting historical fantasy for grades* 7-10.

Marzollo, Jean. *David and Goliath*. Little, Brown and Co., 2004. *Little lambs comment throughout this delightful retelling of the Bible story, featuring the shepherd David, the* 23rd *Psalm for children to read as poetry or to sing, and a non-scary giant*. *The author-illustrator's inviting whimsical watercolors are perfect for the lively text*. Preschool-grade 3.

McKay, Sharon E. *Esther*. Penguin Canada, 2004. *Esther Brandeau, the first Jew to enter New France in 1738, is the subject of this fast-paced historical novel*. From the little that is known about Esther, the author has fashioned a stirring yarn about a remarkable girl and the period in which she lived. Grade 8-adult.

Morris, Gerald. *The Princess, the Crone, and the Dung Cart Knight*. Houghton Mifflin, 2004. With the help of a magic sword and a cast of colorful characters, feisty 13-year-old Sarah learns about the consequences of revenge as she seeks the knight who caused the deaths of her mother and Jewish guardian. Based on tales of King Arthur and his knights, this rousing fantasy combines non-stop action with romantic legends and strong female characters. Grades 5-9.