

BOOKS

YOUNG CHILDREN

Baum, Maxie. *I Have a Little Dreidel*. Illus. by Julie Paschkis. Scholastic/Cartwheel, 2006. The words of a favorite Hanukkah song are decorated with bright, bold illustrations showing a multigenerational family celebrating Hanukkah. Following the illustrated song are a recipe for potato latkes, directions for playing dreidel, and the musical score. Ages 3-7.

Chwast, Seymour. *The Miracle of Hanukkah*. Blue Apple/Chronicle, 2006. A factual account of the holiday, designed with a clever, step-page format. Stylized pastel illustrations follow the text in showing what Jewish tradition says about Hanukkah. Ages 3-7.

Fishman, Cathy Goldberg. *On Sukkot and Simchat Torah*. Illus. by Melanie Hall. Kar-Ben/Lerner, 2006. Told as a story by a little girl, this is informative, accurate and engaging as it takes readers into a Jewish home to show how the two holidays are observed. Ages 5-8.

Gadot, A.S. *The First Gift*. Illus. by Marie LaFrance. Kar-Ben/Lerner, 2006. A story about names, the first gift a person is given. Jewish naming customs are briefly discussed. Ages 5-7.

Kosofsky, Chaim. *Much, Much Better*. Illus. by Jessica Schifffman. Hachai, 2006. Hospitality, gratitude, and the blessing of children are shown in a tale adapted from a traditional Elijah story. It takes place in Baghdad, where a mysterious traveler repays a childless couple's kindness by predicting a surprising future for them. Ages 5-7.

Kropf, Latifa Berry. *It's Shofar Time!* Illus. by Tod Cohen. Kar-Ben/Lerner, 2006. Colorful photographs capture a multi-ethnic Jewish preschool class blowing the shofar, dipping apples in honey, and making New Year's cards. This addition to Kropf's excellent series of holiday books includes a shofar craft and a brief explanation of Rosh Hashanah. Ages 3 - 5.

Rosenbaum, Andria Warmflash. *A Grandpa Like Yours / A Grandpa Like Yours*. Illus. by Barb Bjornson. Kar-Ben/Lerner, 2006. Written in bouncy rhyme and illustrated with animal characters, this celebrates all the wonderful things that bubbes and zaydes, savtas and sabas, grandmas and grandpas do with and for their grandchildren. Ages 2- 5.

Schotter, Roni. *The Boy Who Loved Words*. Illus. by Giselle Potter. Schwartz & Wade/Random House, 2006. As a joyful celebration of words, this offbeat story will attract a wide, *exultant* readership of children who will delight in its *savory* vocabulary and *affirmation* of language! Ages 5-9.

Stampler, Ann Redisch. *Shlemazel and the Remarkable Spoon of Pohost*. Illus. by Jacqueline M. Cohen. Clarion, 2006. An idler becomes a mensch in this delightful story by the author and illustrator of *Something for Nothing*. Sparkling dialogue and folkloric illustrations portray Shlemazel as he earns respect and a trade, and finds love. Ages 5-8.

Sugarman, Brynn Olenberg. *Rebecca's Journey Home*. Illus. by Michelle Shapiro. Kar-Ben/Lerner, 2006. An appealing combination of text and charming full-color illustrations tells the story of the Stein family's adoption of a baby girl from Vietnam, showing how she becomes Jewish in name and traditions, as well as American and Vietnamese. Ages 4-8.

Waldman, Debby. *A Sack Full of Feathers*. Illus. by Cindy Revell. Orca, 2006. The traditional tale about gossip and lashon hora is given a fresh new treatment in this vibrant picture book about a little boy who hears and spreads bits of gossip without regard for the truth or for the people in the shtetl whom they might hurt, until the Rabbi gently teaches him a lesson. Ages 5-9.

Landmann, Bimba. *I am Marc Chagall*. Eerdmans, 2006. Striking mixed-media collage illustrations interpret Chagall's imagination and his fantastic artistic vision in this outstanding picture-biography. Ages 8 - 12.

Littlesugar, Amy. *Willy and Max: a Holocaust Story*. Illus. by William Low. Philomel, 2006. In a moving and handsomely illustrated story, the recovery of a stolen painting recalls a friendship between two boys and its interruption by the invading Nazis. Ages 8-11.

McDonough, Yona. *Hammerin' Hank: The Life of Hank Greenberg*. Illus. by Malcah Zeldis. Walker, 2006. The first illustrated biography of Hank Greenberg for younger children portrays his passion for baseball, his commitment to Judaism, and his support of Jackie Robinson, who, like Hank, experienced bigotry on the baseball field. Ages 7-9.

Rubin, Susan Goldman and Ela Weissberger. *The Cat with the Yellow Star: Coming of Age in Terezin*. Holiday House, 2006. Holocaust survivor Ela Weissberger was imprisoned at Terezin. Her story of playing the part of the cat in the children's opera "Brundibar" reveals how art, dedicated teachers, and human bonds helped her to sustain hope. Ages 9- 12.

Schwabach, Karen. *A Pickpocket's Tale*. Random House, 2006. The life and values of the small Jewish colony of New York in the mid-1700's are reflected in this exciting tale of Molly, a Jewish orphan and pickpocket who is transported to the colonies from London's Old Bailey prison to be the indentured servant of a Jewish family. Ages 11-13.

Schwartz, Ellen. *Stealing Home*. Tundra Books, 2006. Nine-year-old Joey is a racially mixed orphan who is not accepted by his African-American peers or by some of the people in the Jewish community in Brooklyn where he goes to live in 1947. The stoic struggle against racism of his hero, Jackie Robinson, mirrors Joey's in some ways. Ages 9-12.

Spergen, Devra Newberger. *Albert Einstein: The Jewish Man behind the Theory*. Jewish Publication Society, 2006. The focus of this new biography differs from others because it is on Einstein's role as a great Jewish thinker who championed the cause of the new Jewish state of Israel. Ages 10-13.

Waldman, Neil. *Say-Hey and the Babe: Two Mostly True Baseball Stories*. Holiday House, 2006. Two interrelated stories about baseball and stickball are combined with lots of fascinating lore about the games. The first one centers on Babe Ruth, a Jewish family, and the 1927 New York Yankees; the second on Willy Mays, the 1951 New York Giants and a stickball team from the Bronx. For ages 8-11.

TEENS

Abrams, Judith Z. *The Secret World of Kabbalah*. Kar-Ben/Lerner, 2006 A rabbi shows young people how kabbalah is "something that is hiding in plain sight," and gives examples of how it can be found in the Torah, in gematria, and in synagogue services. Ages 12 -17.

Boyne, John. *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*. Random House, 2006. This very discussable book is written for readers with some knowledge of the Holocaust, as they learn, with shock, of what happens to innocent nine-year-old Bruno, whose father is commandant of a place Bruno thinks is called "Out With."

Elkeles, Simone. *How to Ruin a Summer Vacation*. Flux/Llewellyn, 2006. An unhappy American teen is transformed from kvetch to mensch when she spends a summer on a moshav in Northern Israel, meeting her Israeli grandmother and other relatives for the first time. A realistic and positive picture of Israel is presented along with teenage relationships and romance. Ages 13-17.

Levithan, David. *Wide Awake*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2006. Set in the near future, this thought-provoking novel encourages teens to become socially and politically engaged by portraying a group of high school friends, some of them gay, in their support of the first gay, Jewish president, whose electoral victory is being challenged. Ages 15-adult.

Ruby, Lois. *Shanghai Shadows*. Holiday House, 2006. A suspenseful plot and vivid characters are set in the turmoil of Japanese-occupied Shanghai during World War II. A family of Viennese Jews are stateless refugees there and their struggle to endure throughout the war will command readers' attention. Ages 12-17.

Sandell, Lisa Ann. *The Weight of the Sky*. Viking, 2006. Sixteen-year-old Sarah narrates this novel in a free verse form that reads like prose, as she tells the story of the summer she spends on an Israeli kibbutz. Her experiences capture the essence of what it is like for many American teens during their first stay in Israel. Ages 12-17.

ALL AGES

Oberman, Sheldon. *Solomon and the Ant and Other Jewish Folktales*. Boyds Mills Press, 2006. This outstanding collection of forty-three Jewish tales from the Bible, rabbinic sources, and all over the world where Jews have lived, is perfect for family sharing.

Stern, Joel. *Jewish Holiday Origami*. Dover, 2006. 24 origami models based on Jewish holidays are arranged in order of difficulty and cross-indexed by holiday, diagrammed and photographed with clear directions. Fun for families and in the Jewish classroom.

VIDEOS AND DVD'S

When Push Comes to Shove, It's No Longer Love. Jewish Women International, 2005. VHS, 13 minutes. A guide for teaching Jewish teens and parents about healthy and unhealthy relationships. Ages 14 and up.

Mechina: A Preparation. Maital Guttman, 2005. DVD, 60 minutes. Eighteen-year-old filmmaker, Maital, lives in Israel with her cousins and his friends as they prepare for army service while serving a year in the social service sector. The film deals with the complexity of being young and idealistic in a time of war. Ages 16 and up.

WEBSITES & BLOGS

www.ajljewishvalues.org The Jewish Valuesfinder, sponsored by the Association of Jewish Libraries, is a continuously updated guide to over 1,000 books of Jewish content for children and teens.

www.classicjewishchildrensbooks.blogspot.com A blog for book lovers, posted by the Greater Cleveland Chapter of the Association of Jewish Libraries.

www.jewishbooks.blogspot.com The Book of Life is a podcast about "Jewish people and the books we read." It is posted monthly and includes, among many interesting features, interviews with authors, illustrators, publishers, and storytellers.

IN CELEBRATION OF JEWISH BOOK MONTH 2006

COMPILED BY:

Andrea Davidson, *The Temple-Tifereth Israel*
Aimee Lurie, *The Agnon School*

Bonnie Shapiro, *Jewish Education Center of Cleveland*
Linda R. Silver



A SELECTED LIST OF RECENT BOOKS, VIDEOS/DVDS, AND WEBSITES FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS

A Publication of the



Association of Jewish Libraries
Greater Cleveland Chapter



Printing courtesy of Libraries and Media Services,
Kent State University