Association of Jewish Libraries – Greater Cleveland Chapter

Jewish Book Month
November – December 2009

NEW AND NOTABLE BOOKS FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS

BOOKS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

The Animals Came Two By Two by Christopher Wormell. Running Press. Bible story for Preschool – Gr. 3. Stunning woodcuts show the animals marching onto Noah's ark.

Benjamin and the Silver Goblet by Jacqueline Jules, illustrated by Natascia Ugliano. Kar-Ben/Lerner. Bible story for Kdg. – Gr. 3. Joseph's reunion with his brothers from the point of view of the youngest. Vibrant art gives the characters individuality.

Clever Rachel by Debby Waldman, Illustrated by Cindy Revell. Orca. Folktale for Kdg. – Gr. 3. Competition between a smart little boy and an even smarter little girl turns to teamwork when they are challenged to answer some tricky riddles.

Even Higher adapted by Eric Kimmel, Illustrated by Jill Weber. Holiday House. Holiday story for Gr. 1-3. A classic Rosh Hashanah story reappears with peppy dialogue and humorous illustrations.

Faith by Maya Ajmera, Magda Nakasis, and Cynthia Pon. Charlesbridge. World religions for Gr. 2-4. Vibrant color photographs and a short, simple text explore the many ways that faith is expressed around the world.

Fox Walked Alone by Barbara Reid. Whitman. Bible story for Kdg. – Gr. 3. While the other animals board Noah's Ark two by two, fox walks alone. The author is known for her winsome dimensional illustrations made of modeling clay.

Greater than Gold and Silver by Rav Naftali Ehrmann. Adapted and illustrated by Chedvah Rubin. Feldheim. Picture book for Gr. 2-5. A poor couple is rewarded for a mitzvah they perform just before Sukkot. Lavish illustrations invite readers into their world.

The Klezmer Bunch by Amalia Hoffman. Gefen. Picture book for Kdg.-Gr. 4. Whimsical characters and zany pictures combine in a fun story about a shtetl wedding and a klezmer band.

Nachshon, Who was Afraid to Swim by Deborah Bodin Cohen, illustrated by Jago. Kar-Ben/Lerner. Biblical midrash for Kdg.-Gr.3. When Moses leads the Hebrews out of Israel, Nachshon overcomes his fear of water when he is the first to step into the Sea of Reeds.

New Year at the Pier by April Halprin Wayland, illustrated by Stephanie Jorisch. Dial. Holiday Story for Gr. 1 – 3. The Rosh Hashanah ceremony of tashlich – the symbolic casting away of sins – is the centerpiece of this charming story about family, friendship, and repentance.

The Rabbi and the Twenty Nine Witches by Marilyn Hirsch. Marshall Cavendish. Folktale for Kdg. – Gr. 2. How do you chase witches out of town? This re-issued version of a classic shows how it's done.

The Story of Queen Esther by Jenny Koralek, Illustrated by Grizelda Holderness. Eerdmans. Bible Story for Gr. 1-3. Glorious illustrations and strong characters capture the drama and setting of this retelling of the biblical story.

Sukkot Treasure Hunt by Allison Ofanansky, photographs by Eliyahu Alpern. Kar-Ben/Lerner. Holiday nonfiction for Gr. 1-4. Sharp color photographs show an Israeli family's preparations for Sukkot, including their hunt for the four species: palm, willow, myrtle, and etrog.

The Waiting Wall by Leah Braunstein Levy, Illustrated by Avi Katz. Hachai. Picture book for Preschool – Gr. 3. Jerusalem's Western Wall is where the Jewish people pray and wait for the Messiah. Lovely illustrations enrich a short, poetic, and reverent text written from an Orthodox point of view.

BOOKS FOR MIDDLE GRADE READERS

Anne Frank: Her Life in Words and Pictures by Menno Metselaar and Ruud van der Rol. Translated by Arnold J. Pomerans. The Anne Frank House. Holocaust non-fiction for Gr. 4-Adult. Striking photographs and a readable text make this pictorial work about Anne Frank and her world a handsome keepsake.

The Bear Makers by Andrea Cheng. Front Street Books. Fiction for Gr. 4-7. Kata tries to make sense out of her life in Communist Hungary and discovers that the stuffed bears her mother makes are more than just toys but rather, the family's ticket to freedom.

Built By Angels: The Story of the Old New Synagogue by Mark Podwal. Harcourt/Houghton Mifflin. Non-fiction for Gr. 4-7. Legends about Prague's Altneushul , including tales about the Golem, are interwoven with dreamy, full page illustrations that show Europe's oldest surviving synagogue inside and out.

The Champion of Children: The Story of Janusz Korczak by Tomek Bogacki. Frances Foster Books. Illustrated Holocaust biography for Gr. 4-6. After a life spent caring for and educating children, the humanitarian doctor stayed with the orphans in his care when they were sent to Auschwitz.

The Doll Shop Downstairs by Yona Zeldis McDonough, Illustrated by Heather Maione. Viking. Historical fiction for Gr. 3-5. As World War I breaks out, 9 year old Anna thinks of a clever way to save her family's beloved doll repair shop.

Ellis Island: Coming to the Land of Liberty by Raymond Bial. Houghton Mifflin. Non-fiction for Gr. 4-6. Sharp photographs and clear writing capture the realities of the place where many immigrants first stepped onto American soil.

Elvina's Mirror by Sylvie Weil. Jewish Publication Society. Historical fiction for Gr. 5-8. In a sequel to *My Guardian Angel*, Elvina and her grandfather, the great Jewish sage Rashi, find a way to help a disturbed boy whose memories of the Crusaders' cruelty have driven him mad.

JPS Illustrated Children's Bible by Ellen Frankel, illustrated by Avi Katz. Jewish Publication Society. Bible stories for Gr. 2 – 6. An outstanding new collection of Bible stories retold for children and a must for every Jewish home.

Meet Rebecca by Jacqueline Dembar Greene. American Girl Collection. Pleasant Company. Historical fiction for Gr. 3 – 6. This book and five others about Rebecca, daughter of Russian immigrants, are the latest in the popular American Girl series. A Rebecca doll is also available.

The Secret Shofar of Barcelona by Jacqueline Dembar Greene, Illustrated by Doug Chayka. Kar-Ben/Lerner. Historical fiction/Rosh Hashanah for Gr. 3-5. Secret Jews living in Spain during the Inquisition find a way to sound the shofar.

Strawberry Hill by Mary Ann Hoberman, illustrated by Wendy Anderson Halperin. Little Brown. Historical fiction for Gr. 4-6. During the Great Depression, Allie copes with attending a new school and making new friends. Illustrations and text together paint a charming picture of a simpler time.

Yankee at the Seder by Elka Weber, illustrated by Adam Gustavson. Tricycle Press. Historical fiction for Gr. 3-6. When a Jewish soldier in the victorious Union army is invited to a Confederate family's Seder, Jewish peoplehood and traditions overcome political differences. Warmly illustrated.

You Never Heard of Sandy Koufax? by Jonah Winter, iilustrated by Andre Carrilho. Schwartz and Wade. Biography for Gr. 3-6. A baseball insider reveals how Koufax became a Jewish American hero. Big, splashy illustrations and baseball statistics will captivate sports fans.

BOOKS FOR TEENS

Cursing Columbus by Eve Tal. Cinco Puntos. Historical fiction for Gr. 7-9. Old world traditions and new world choices conflict in this sequel to *Double Crossing.*

Dynamic Women Dancers by Anne Dublin. Second Story Press. Collective biography for Gr. 6-9. Profiles of a diverse group of ten dancers from ballet to classical Indian dance. Several are Jewish.

Gravity by Leanne Lieberman. Orca Books. Fiction for Gr. 9-12. An Orthodox teen is religiously observant while also being a lesbian. A controversial topic is explored with humanity and compassion.

The Jewish Teen's Survival Guide: Honest Answers for Today's Teens by Rabbi Dovid Hochberg. Feldheim. Self-help for Gr. 9-12. How to deal with many issues facing today's teenagers, written from an Orthodox perspective.

Lost by Jacqueline Davies. Marshall Cavendish. Historical fiction for Gr. 8-10. An unsentimental portrayal of immigrant life around the time of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire.

Naomi's Song by Selma Kritzer Silverberg. Jewish Publication Society. Bible story for Gr. 8-12. Life for women was precarious in ancient Judea. Cleveland author, the late Selma Kritzer Silverberg, imagines what it was like for Naomi and her family.

The Other Half of Life by Kim Ablon Whitney. Knopf. Holocaust fiction for Gr. 6-9. A novel based on the MS St. Louis, a ship carrying Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany that was turned away at every port.

Tropical Secrets: Holocaust Refugees in Cuba by Margarita Engle. Henry Holt. Holocaust fiction for Gr. 7-9. A German-Jewish refugee boy and a Cuban girl become friends and allies in Cuba during World War II. Written lyrically in free verse.

Websites for Children and Teens

Akhlah – Jewish Children's Learning Network. Akhlah, the Jewish children's learning network, offers pages with easy-to-understand information about Jewish holidays and traditions. A useful resource for parents to access for their children who are above preschool age.

Babaganewz. Avi Chai/Jewish Family and Life! http://www.babaganewz.com/ The online magazine features a holiday section, an Israel section, a video clip of the weekly Torah portion and other Jewish topics.

Behrman House. http://www.behrmanhouse.com/family/ The "Family" section features fun and interactive games with comical graphics for learning Hebrew and prayers.

G-Dcast. http://www.g-dcast.com/ Video clips of cartoons based on the weekly *Torah* portion. Each clip is four minutes.

JVibe. http://www.jvibe.com/ An online magazine for Jewish teens that contains pop culture and Israeli current event articles.

Navigating the Bible II. Online Bar/Bat Mitzvah Tutor. http://bible.ort.org/ - Click "English." Information about Torah portions, biblical history, biblical figures and the haftorot melodies plus a calendar for Torah portions, an audio section for learning Torah trope, and a genealogy section of biblical figures.

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