

BOOKS ABOUT REPAIRING THE WORLD

Compiled by a number of AJL-SSC Division Librarians and Friends, April 2017

ACTS OF LOVING KINDNESS

Altman, Linda Jacobs. **Legend of Freedom Hill**. Illustrated by Ying-Hwa Hu. ©2003, Lee & Low Books. Ages 5-10. In a California Gold Rush town, Sophie, a Jewish girl, and Rosabel, and African American girl, become close friends because they are unique from everyone else. When a slave catcher captures Rosabel's mother, the two girls use all they know about the town and its surroundings to raise enough money to redeem her and several other slaves. A beautiful example of the mitzvah of Pidyon Shvuyim/Freeing the Captive.

Bang, Molly. **The Paper Crane**. ©1985. William Morrow & Company. Ages 5-8. A hectic, award winning restaurant sat on a busy road, until one day a new highway was built that bypassed the restaurant. No one came anymore, and the restaurant was empty most of the time. One day an old man stopped in for food. The restaurant owner, delighted to see a customer at last, fed him generously, even though the stranger had no money. In payment, the old man folded a paper napkin into the shape of a crane. With this simple gift, the restaurant's future changed.

Cuyler, Margery. **Kindness Is Cooler, Mrs. Ruler**. Illustrated by Sachiko Yoshikawa. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2007. Ages 5-10. "Mrs. Ruler guides her students in discovering ways of being kind to their family members, each other, and their community."

Davis, Aubrey. **Bagels from Benny**. Illustrated by Dušan Petričić. Ages 4-8. Benny's grandpa explains that God should be thanked for the delicious bagels that come from his bakery. But how do we thank God? Benny's efforts teach us all a very important lesson.

Derom, Dirk. **Pigeon and Pigeonette**. Illustrations by Sarah Verroken. ©2009, Enchanted Lion Books. Ages 4-10. Pigeonette's wings are so small he cannot fly. Pigeon is blind and cannot see where he is going. Understanding that each needs help from the other, they become good friends. After many attempts to learn the ups and downs of navigation and flying, they work together to leave the cold winter forest to travel to the place of sun and warm toes.

Hippely, Hilary Horder. **A Song for Lena**. Illustrated by Leslie Baker, ©1996. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. Ages 5-8. Lena's Grandma makes delicious apple strudel. While she makes it, she hums a beautiful song to remind her of her childhood. As Lena helps her make the strudel, Grandma tells her the story of a traveler, of hospitality and of a special unexpected gift.

Lamstein, Sarah Marwil. **I Like Your Buttons!** Illustrated by Nancy Cote. Morton Grove, Illinois: Albert Whitman & Company, 1999. Ages 3-8. Cassandra admires her teacher's button, which starts a chain of complements and good will throughout the day.

McBrier, Page. **Beatrice's Goat**. Illustrated by Lori Lohstoeter. ©2001, Atheneum Books for Young Readers. Ages 4-10. Beatrice lives in a small village in Uganda where she must help her mother take care of the smaller children, plant the fields, feed the chickens and grind cassava

into flour. What Beatrice really wants to do is go to school and learn to read and write. There is no money for books or a uniform, however. When the news comes that they are going to receive a goat, the lives of Beatrice and her family take an amazing turn for the better.

Sandman, Rochel. **As Big As an Egg: A Story About Giving**. Illustrated by Chana Zakashansky. Ages 4-8. When Chaim stops putting his little chunk of bread (as big as an egg) into Bubbe Hinda's mitzvah sack, strange things begin to happen.

Sasso, Sandy Eisenberg. **God Said Amen**. Illustrated by Avi Katz. Ages 5-9. A simple act of kindness between two kingdoms teaches them that they only need to reach out to each other to find God's answer to their prayers.

Tolstoy, Aleksei. **The Gigantic Turnip**. Illustrated by Niamh Sharkey. Ages 4-8. A repetitive text and quirky drawings bring life to this classic Russian folktale about the need for cooperation.

Wallace, Nancy Elizabeth. **The Kindness Quilt**. Marshall Cavendish, 2006. Ages 4-8. After Minna and her class hear the Aesop fable of "The Lion and the Mouse," they think of ways to be kind and draw pictures of their activities, which eventually become a big quilt wall hanging.

EVERYONE IS SPECIAL

Child, Lauren. **I Will Never NOT EVER Eat a Tomato**. ©2000, Candlewick Press. Ages 4-8. When I was a child, you could not get me to eat broccoli if my life depended on it. Lola feels the same way about peas, carrots, potatoes, mushrooms and many other kinds of foods, until her older brother Charlie figures out a creative way of looking at the food we eat.

Common. **The Mirror and Me**. Illustrated by Lorraine West. Ages 8-12. Chicago: HipHop Schoolhouse, 2004. A boy from South Africa learns to appreciate his unique qualities.

De la Pena, Matt. **Last Stop on Market Street**. Illustrated by Christian Robinson. Ages 4-8. Winner of the Newbery Award and a Caldecott Honor Award. A young boy traveling by bus to the local soup kitchen, learns about appreciating the specialness of the world around him.

Dooley, Norah. **Everybody Bakes Bread**. Illustrated by Peter J. Thornton. Ages 4-8. A young girl visits her neighbors and tastes bread from all over the world.

Dooley, Norah. **Everybody Serves Soup**. Illustrated by Peter J. Thornton. Ages 4-8. As Carrie searches for ways to earn money to buy a Christmas present for her mother, she finds everyone in her neighborhood making soup.

Doros, Alex and Dorros, Arthur. **Numero Uno**. Illustrated by Susan Guevara. New York: Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2007. Ages 4-8. In a classic battle of brains versus brawn, Hercules and Socrates constantly argue, until the town sends them away for three days to see

who they will miss the most. Through cooperation and the use of everyone's talents, a bridge is built.

Fox, Mem. **Whoever You Are**. Illustrated by Leslie Staub. Ages 4-8. A book that celebrates the bonds that unite us all.

Gainer, Cindy. **I'm Like You, You're Like Me: A Child's Book About Understanding and Celebrating Each Other**. Ages 4-8. A gentle introduction to diversity for the very young.

Hoffman, Mary. **Amazing Grace**. Illustrated by Caroline Binch. ©1991, Dial Books for Young Readers. Ages 4-8. "You can be anything you want, if you put your mind to it," Says Grace's Nana. Well, Grace wants to be Peter Pan in her school's play. . Natalie says she can't because she is black. Grace will show them how she can, and will, and does!

Howe, James. **I Wish I Were a Butterfly**. Illustrated by Ed Young. Ages 4-8. A little cricket wishes he were a butterfly until he learns that his special gifts make him beautiful also.

McKee, David. **Elmer**. Ages 4-8. Elmer wants to be like everyone else but is happiest when he can be himself.

Mitchell, Lori. **Different Just Like Me**. Ages 4-8. People come in all sorts of shapes, sizes and colors – but are we really as different as we seem?

Naliboff, Jane. **The Only One Club**. Illustrated by Jeff Hopkins. Brooklyn, New York: Flashlight Press, 2004. Ages 4-8. The premise of the book – that everyone has something special about them and we should acknowledge and respect that, is a good lesson for children. Jennifer Jacobs is the only Jewish person in her class. While the other students make Christmas decorations, she makes dreidels and six-pointed stars for Hanukkah. When she goes home after school, she makes herself a glittery badge that says "The Only One Club." Her fellow students want to join the club, but she is hesitant. After thinking it over, she comes to school the next day with a badge for all her classmates, who all have something unique – red hair, the last name "Raven," etc.

Reitano, John. **What if the Zebras Lost Their Stripes?** Illustrated by William Haines. Ages 4-8. Vibrant pictures and provocative questions in a lively book to discuss differences with the very young.

Rosenthal, Amy Krouse. **Cookies: Bite-Size Life Lessons**. Illustrated by Jane Dyer. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2006. Ages 5-10. Words are defined through the baking and sharing of cookies.

Rosenthal, Amy Krouse. **Duck! Rabbit!** Illustrated by Tom Lichtenheld. ©2009, Chronicle Books. Ages 3-8. What do you see when you look at this figure? What does your child see? With very

few words, and a very simple illustration, an entire lesson in perspective, listening and understanding can be generated. We all really do not see the world in the same way.

Rotner, Shelley and Sheila M. Kelly. **Shades of People**. Photographs by Shelley Rotner. Ages 4-8. "People come in many different shades, not colors exactly, but shades." How perfect. Beautiful pictures and simple text describe the many shades of people, friends and families in the world around us.

Spier, Peter. **People**. Ages 6-10. The characteristics of people: their races, cultures and religions around the world.

Symes, Ruth. **Harriet Dancing**. Illustrated by Caroline Jayne Church. New York: Chicken House (Scholastic), 2008. Ages 4-8. Harriet is dismayed when the butterflies will not dance with her, but soon her other friends join her and prove that anyone and everyone can dance.

Vision, David and Mutiya. **What Makes Me Beautiful?** Illustrated by Ignacio Alcantara. New York: Soul Vision Works Publishing, 2004. Ages 5-10. A child recount the different qualities that make him beautiful.

MANNERS

Aliki. **Manners**. ©1997, Greenwillow Books. Ages 4-8. This timeless classic uses role playing and descriptive illustrations to illustrate the Do's and Don'ts of proper behavior. There is certain to be some giggling while watching bad table behavior, and some knowing smiles regarding sharing and tantrums. In the end, however, everyone should come away with a clear understanding of the proper way to behave in a variety of situations.

Cooper, Ilene. **The Golden Rule**. Illustrated by Gabi Swiatkowska. © 2007, Abrams Books for Young Readers. Ages 4-8. In this very beautiful, very simple, extraordinary book, a grandfather explains the Golden Rule to his grandson. "Do Unto Others As You Would Have Them Do Unto You." Found in all the world's religions and cultures, it is an easy statement, but apparently very difficult to live by. As Grandfather says, "'You can't make everyone in the world practice the Golden Rule. There's only one person you can ask to do that.' 'Me?'" Says his grandson. "'You. It begins with you.'"

Eberly, Sheryl. **365 Manners Kids Should Know: Games, Activities, and Other Fun Ways to Help Children and Teens Learn Etiquette**. With Caroline Eberly. ©2011, Three Rivers Press. Ages 9-Adult. For every day of the year, for every behavioral topic, this mother-daughter team has created a brief, but extremely helpful piece of information often accompanied by an activity or a tip to get you started applying the message immediately. From "Opening Doors" to "Internet Safety," from "getting Along With Other Kids" to "Being Green," I was unable to find a topic that was not covered by these two where manners was concerned. Whether you have your

child read this to work on some projects or read this as a family and work on things together, there is a wealth of superb information inside these covers.

Keller, Laurie. **Do Unto Otters: A Book About Manners.** ©2007, Henry Holt and Company. Ages 5-9. A family of otters has moved in next door to Mr. Rabbit. Since he does not know anything about otters, he is very nervous that they will be mean, like his previous neighbor, Mrs. Grrrrrrr. As he tells Mr. Owl what he would expect from his new neighbors, it becomes clear that he will have nothing to worry about...as long as he will just “Doo-Dee-Doo unto otters as [he]would have otters Doo-Dee-Doo unto [him].” The delightful illustrations enhance the lessons here.

Sierra, Judy. **Mind Your Manners, B. B. Wolf.** Illustrated by Jotto Seibold. ©2007, Alfred A. Knopf. Ages 5-9. When the Big Bad Wolf is invited to a tea party at the library, he is not sure what to do. After his best friend, the crocodile, gets out the Big Wide Book of Etiquette and explains the rules of “taking tea,” B.B. decides he will attend. All the major storybook characters are there, and quite frightened when he shows up. But he is on his best behavior, at least as long as he can be. Hilarity abounds for everyone when B. B. Wolf comes to the party.

WELCOMING THE STRANGER

Almond, David. **Skellig.** © 1998, Laurel Leaf Books. Ages 9-12. When Michael moves into a new house in a new neighborhood he hopes that life for him and his family will change for the better, his ailing baby sister will get well and he will do better in school. Nothing like that happens, until he finds a strange person/creature/thing in his dilapidated garage.

Beckwith, Kathy. **Playing War.** Illustrated by Lea Lyon. ©2005, Tilbury House Publishers. Ages 5-10. On a day too hot to play basketball, Luke and his friends decide to play War. Sameer, who is new to the neighborhood, declines to play and reveals that he has lived in a war zone. Sharing his story teaches his new friends that “playing war” may not be such a good idea after all.

Cohn, Janice. **The Christmas Menorahs: How a Town Fought Hate.** Illustrated by Bill Farnsworth. Ages 6-12. A story of how two children and their families stood together against hate. This true story took place in Billings, Montana in 1993.

Jungman, Anne. **The Most Magnificent Mosque.** Illustrated by Shelley Fowles. ©2004, Frances Lincoln Children’s Books. Ages 6-10. Three young boys – Rashid, a Muslim, Samuel, a Jew, and Miguel, a Christian – play, and create mischief, together in the beautiful gardens of the Great Mosque in Cordoba, Spain. Until the day they were caught dropping rotten oranges on the Caliph! Their punishment – to work in the gardens for 3 months – creates a lifelong friendship between them and an enduring bond with the mosque. When a Christian king takes over Cordoba and threatens to destroy the Great Mosque, these three come to its rescue.

Moss, Peggy. **Say Something.** Illustrated by Lea Lyon. ©2004, Tilbury House Publishers. Ages 6-11. The narrator in this timely book sees children in her school who are teased and picked on. While she does not participate, neither does she say anything to stop the actions of her peers.

When the day arrives that she is the focus of the teasing and bullying, she realizes that none of her “friends” came to her aid. Her experience frees her from staying away from others for no reason and from staying silent.

Polacco, Patricia. **Mr. Lincoln’s Way**. ©2001, Philomel Books. Ages 6-10. “Mean Gene” is the school bully, calling people terrible names, pushing smaller kids down, and he’s a terrible student as well. Mr. Lincoln, the principal, thinks the young man is “Troubled.” When Mr. Lincoln discovers that Gene is very knowledgeable about birds, a project develops into a friendship that turns a bully into a model citizen. Based on a true story.

Regan, Dian Curtis. **The Snow Blew Inn**. Illustrated by Doug Cushman, ©2011. Holiday House. Ages 3-6. Emma has made plans to have a sleep over with her cousin, Abby. But a snow storm arrives before Abby, bringing with it stranded travelers who need a place to stay for the night. Every space in the tiny inn is taken – even Emma’s bedroom! Will there be room for Abby and her mother if they arrive?

Tan, Shaun. **The Arrival**. © 2006, Arthur A. Levine Books. Ages 11-15. In this graphic novel, a man must leave his wife and young daughter to immigrate to a new country, find a job and start a new life before sending for them.

Thompson, Lauren. **The Forgiveness Garden**. Illustrated by Christy Hale. ©2012, Feiwel and Friends. Ages 5-10. Two villages living across the river from one another have a long history of mutual contempt. When a young boy from one village throws a rock that hits a young girl from the other, anger, fear, and hatred reach a fever pitch. The boy is captured by the girl’s village, and she is asked to throw a rock at him to begin another war. Instead she throws the rock to the ground and begins building a Forgiveness Garden where the two villages can talk about their past and learn about each other.

Van Allsburg, Chris. **The Stranger**. © 1986. Houghton Mifflin Company, Ages 7-10. In late summer, early fall, Farmer Bailey accidentally hits a man with his truck. The man is unable to speak and does not know who he is. He stays with the family for a few weeks until he suddenly remembers who he is.

TIKKUN OLAM

McCloud, Carol. **Have You Filled a Bucket Today?: A Guide to Daily Happiness for Kids**.

Illustrated by David Messing. Northville, Michigan: Ferne Press, 2006. Ages 8-12. “The concept of bucket filling is an effective metaphor for encouraging kind and considerate behavior and for teaching the benefits of positive relationships.

Paratore, Coleen. **26 Big Things Small Hands Do**. Illustrated by Mike Reed. Ages 3-8. A wonderful book using simple language, charming illustrations and the ABCs to convey to young children all the ways they can contribute to the world. It will prompt discussion as teachers and students think of other ways small hands can help.

Pearson, Emily. **Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed**. Illustrations by Fumi Kosaka (Gibbs Smith, 2002. Ages 4-8. "A young girl's good deed is multiplied as it is passed on by those who have been touched by the kindness of others."

Wood, Douglas. **Making the World**. Illustrated by Yoshi & Hibiki Miyazaki. Ages 4-8. How everything and everyone helps to re-create the world each day.

Scanlon, Liz Garton. **All the World**. Illustrated by Marla Frazee. Ages 4-8. Helping each other, helping the earth, generation to generation "All the world is all of us." The message is so simple, so beautiful, so powerful, poetry at its best. The illustrations are handsome, bold, encompassing everyone and everything in warm colors that move through the day and the seasons and the weather patterns.