IN CELEBRATION OF
JEWISH BOOK MONTH

A Selected List of Recent Books For Children and Teens For 2013

A Publication of the
Association of Jewish Libraries
Of Southern California

PICTURE BOOKS

Balsley, Tilda. Jago, Illustrator. **Oh No, Jonah!** 2012. Humor and charm propel this rhyming retelling of the classic Bible story.

Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. Holly Meade, Illustrator. **Naamah and the Ark at Night**. 2011. Noah's wife sings to the animals on the ark in this standout Bible tale using the poetic form, the ghazal. A 2012 Sydney Taylor Honor Book.

Buchin, Joshua, Adapted. Miller Woody, Illustrator. **Tefilat Haderech**. 2012. The text and illustrations introduce young readers to the traveler's prayer.

Davis, Aubrey. Marie LaFrance, Illustrator. **A Hen for Izzy Pippik.** 2012. This lively folktale, based on a story from the Talmud, concerns a town that has enormous success after a man loses a chicken there and a little girl keeps it safe until he returns.

Glaser, Linda. Adam Gustavson, Illustrator. **Hannah's Way**. 2012. In rural Minnesota in 1932, Hannah, a young Orthodox girl, deals with being the new girl in class.

Greene, Jacqueline Dember. Deborah Melmon, Illustrator. **Speak Up, Tommy!** 2012. Tommy, recently immigrated to the United States from Israel, hates being teased because he doesn't speak English. When an officer and a police dog that only understands Hebrew visit, he becomes very popular.

Heald, Robin. Erin Taylor, Illustrator. **Pat, Roll, Pull - A Challah Braiding Story.** 2012. A young girl and her class braid challah for Shabbat for the first time.

Korngold, Jamie S. Julie Fortenberry, Illustrator. **Sadie and the Big Mountain**. 2012. When her synagogue nursery school plans a hike to celebrate Shavuot, Sadie is not sure she will be able to climb a huge mountain.

Lenhard, Elizabeth. Jason Wolff, Illustrator. **The Ball of Clay that Rolled Away**. 2012. During pottery day at camp a ball of clay manages to escape, the campers plan to make it into a menorah, a mezuzah, a dreidel, or a kiddish cup before it rolls into the lake.

Levine, Anna. Ksenia Topaz, Illustrator. **Jodie's Passover Adventure**. 2012. Jodie’s cousin visits for Passover. She invites him on an adventure exploring Hezekiah's tunnel in Jerusalem.

Lewis, Anne Margaret. Toms Mills, Illustrator. **What am I? Passover**. 2012. A very simple question and answer book describes items associated with Passover.

Marshall, Linda Elovitz. Ag Jatkowska, Illustrator. **Grandma Rose's Magic**. 2012. Every day Grandma Rose sews for her friends and neighbors to save enough money for a set of Shabbat dishes like her grandmother had but when she arrives at the store they are gone!

Mermelstein, Yael. Carrie Hartman, Illustrator. **Izzy the Whiz and Passover McClean**. 2012. This funny story in rhyme introduces a boy who invents a machine that cleans all the hametz from the house before Passover.

Miller, Kay. **Jews of the Wild West**. 2012. Follow the lives of two immigrant Jewish families who moved to New Mexico in the 1850's.

Newman, Leslea. David Slonim, Illustrator. **A Sweet Passover**. 2012. Appealing art and warm characters present a young girl who eats so much matzah that by the end of Passover she doesn't want to taste her grandfather's matzah brei.

Oberman Sheldon. Neil Waldman, Illustrator. **The Wind that Wanted to Rest**. 2012. This folktale delivers an old, tired winter wind that searches the world for a place to rest.

Rauchwerger, Diane Levin. Jason Wolff, Illustrator. **Dinosaur Goes to Israel**. 2012. This light-hearted tale in rhyme recalls an enthusiastic dinosaur's trip to Israel.

Rosenberg, Madelyn. Janna Christy, Illustrator. **Happy Birthday, Tree. 2012.** In this winsome book an imaginative young girl figures out a way to celebrate Tu Bishvat and care for nature.

Russo, Marisabina. **I Will Come Back For You**. 2011. A grandmother tells her granddaughter the bracelet she wears represents her childhood experience struggling to survive the Holocaust.

Rubin, Susan Goldman. Jeff Himmelman, Illustrator. **Jean Laffite: the Pirate Who Saved America**. 2012. Revel in the wild adventures of a Sephardic pirate who aided American troops during the Battle of New Orleans and helped us win the War of 1812.

Sasso, Sandy Eisenberg. Joani Keller Rothenberg, Illustrator. **The Shema in the Mezuzah**. 2012. Grandma tells Annie a story about a wise rabbi who settles an argument between two groups of townspeople who could not agree on how to hang a mezuzah.

Schram, Peninnah. Rachayl Eckstein Davis. Wendy W. Lee, Illustrator. **The Apple Tree's Discovery**. 2012. A little apple tree in the forest longs to have stars in its branches like the other trees, but God has special plans for this tree.

Smith Hyde, Heidi. Jamel Akib, Illustrator. **Emanuel and the Hanukkah Rescue**. 2012. Emanuel stows away on a whaling ship during Hanukkah as a storm rages on the seas. The ship finds its way home thanks to another miracle of lights.

Silverman, Erica. Steven D'Amico, Illustrator. **The Hanukkah Hop!** 2011. A popular, award winning children's author writes a story in rhyme about a Hanukkah party.

Simpson, Lesley. Tatjana Mai-Wyss, Illustrator. **A Song for My Sister**. 2012. A family names their new baby daughter.

Spinelli, Eileen. Giuliano Ferri, Illustrator. **Jonah's Whale**. 2012. This new version of the classic Bible story comes from the point of view of the whale.

Stampler, Ann Redisch. Carol Liddiment, Illustrator. **The Wooden Sword**. 2012. The Shah tests the faith of a happy, but poor man through a series of trials.

Strauss, Linda Leopold. Alexi Natchev, Illustrator. **The Elijah Door**. 2012. Clever help from the rabbi on Passover ends a feud between the Lippas and Galinskys.

Suneby, Liz, Diane Heiman. Laurel Molk, Illustrator. **It's a… It's a… It's a Mitzvah**. 2012. Fun animals introduce the concept of a mitzvah and how children perform them.

Terwilliger, Kelly. Barbara Johansen, Illustrator. **Barnyard Purim.** 2012. Farmer Max's animals decide to put on a Purim play.

Weber, Elka. Elisa Kleven, Illustrator. **One Little Chicken**. 2011. A Talmudic story shows a family caring for a lost chicken and turning its eggs into a profit which they give to its owner.

MIDDLE GRADE BOOKS

Abramson, Susan. Standley, Laura, Illustrator. **Rabbi Rocketpower in a Tooty-Fruity Tale for Tu Bishvat**. 2011. Rabbi Rocketpower returns to solve a mystery surrounding Tu Bishvat in the popular series.

Deutsch, Barry. **Hereville: How Mirka Met a Meteorite**. 2012. Award winner Mirka is back as the only sword-brandishing, monster-fighting Orthodox Jewish girl in town in this graphic novel sequel to the 2011 Sydney Taylor Award winner.

Greene, Jacqueline Dembar. **The Crystal Ball: A Rebecca Mystery**. 2012. Follow the life of a Jewish immigrant girl growing up in New York in the early 1900's.

Groner, Judye and Madeline Wikler. Ursula Roma, Illustrator. 2012. **Maccabee Meals-Food and Fun for Hanukkah.** Create fun times, crafts and games; sample new celebratory family food traditions and learn holiday candle lighting blessings.

Korczak, Janusz. **Kaytek the Wizard.** 2012. A mischievous schoolboy is surprised to discover that he is able to perform magic spells and change reality in this translation of the famed Polish children's author's 1933 novel.

Meyerhoff, Jenny. Mingus, Cathi, Illustrator. **Sami's Sleepaway Summer.** 2011. Samantha Broom goes to sleep away camp for the first time.

Nobleman, Marc Tyler. Ty Templeton, Illustrator. **Bill, the Boy Wonder**. 2012. Surprise! Batman was invented by a Jewish man. This new biography of Bill Finger explains how he co-created the famous comic book figure with Bob Kane.

Robbins, Trina. Anne Timmons and Mo Oh, Illustrators. **Lily Renee, Escape Artist: From Holocaust Survivor to Comic Book Pioneer**. 2011. The biography's graphic format perfectly fits its brave, creative star. A 2012 Sydney Taylor Honor Book.

Rosenthal, Betsy T. **Looking For Me**. 2012. Written in verse, the story set in Baltimore in 1936 follows an 11-year-old Jewish girl, one of twelve siblings, as she finds her place in her overcrowded family.

Rubin, Susan Goldman. **Music Was It : Young Leonard Bernstein**. 2011. A remarkable biography traces the life and career of the famous American-born composer, conductor and teacher. The 2012 Sydney Taylor Winner for Older Readers.

Vaughan, Marcia. Ron Mazellan, Illustrator. **Irena's Jars of Secrets**. 2011. A biography reveals the recently discovered Polish social worker who helped almost 400 children escape from the Warsaw Ghetto, saving their papers for surviving families to identify their own. A 2012 Sydney Taylor Honor Book.

TEEN BOOKS

Bard, Mitchell, G. **Israel Matters**. 2012. Learn the history of Israel from antiquity until today in this easy to understand volume.

Bliss, John. **Jewish Migration**. 2012. True stories trace the migration of Jewish children from Eastern Europe.

Borden, Louise. **His Name Was Raoul Wallenberg**. 2012. This biography delivers the career of the Swedish diplomat who saved thousands of Hungarian Jews from the Nazis until the Soviets captured him and he seemingly disappeared.

Bornstein, Ruth Lercher. **The Summer Everything Changed**. 2012. Share the angst of a teen age girl, part of the only Jewish family in her Midwestern town, during World War II.

Feinstein, Edward. **Tough Questions Jews Ask: A Young Adults Guide to Building a Jewish Life**. 2012. A local rabbi answers questions on Jewish life and practice in this updated second edition.

Gleitzman, Morris. **Then**. 2011. An immediate story recounts the breathtaking adventures of two children, 10-year-old Felix and 6-year-old Zelda, who escape from a Nazi cattle car and survive by hiding. This is a sequel to **Once**, A 2012 Sydney Taylor Honor Book.

Kacer, Kathy. **We Are Their Voice: Young People Respond to the Holocaust.** 2012. Sample this new collection of letters, essays, poems and art that middle school students provided in answer to questions about the Holocaust.

Marin, Albert. **Flesh and Blood So Cheap**. 2011. A new text describes the 1911 fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory and the conditions surrounding the disaster.

Rappaport, Doreen. **Beyond Courage**. 2012. The book chronicles heretofore untold stories of Jewish resistance during the Holocaust.

Salkin, Jeffrey K. **Text Messages**. 2012. A popular author provides modern commentary for the contemporary teen on the weekly Torah portion.

Sharenow, Robert. **The Berlin Boxing Club**. 2011. In 1936 a Jewish teen with a non-religious upbringing learns to box from the legendary Max Schmeling while struggling with the realities of the Holocaust. The 2012 Sydney Taylor Winner for Teen Readers.

Thompson, Holly. McFerrin, Grady, Illustrator. **Orchards**. 2011. A novel in verse follows an eighth grader, half Jewish, half Japanese, sent to live in Japan after a classmate commits suicide.

Vernick, Shirley Reva. **The Blood Lie**. 2011. Based on a true story in Massena, NY, this thriller investigates the accusation that a Jewish teen in love with his Christian neighbor kills her little sister for a blood sacrifice. A 2012 Sydney Taylor Honor Book.

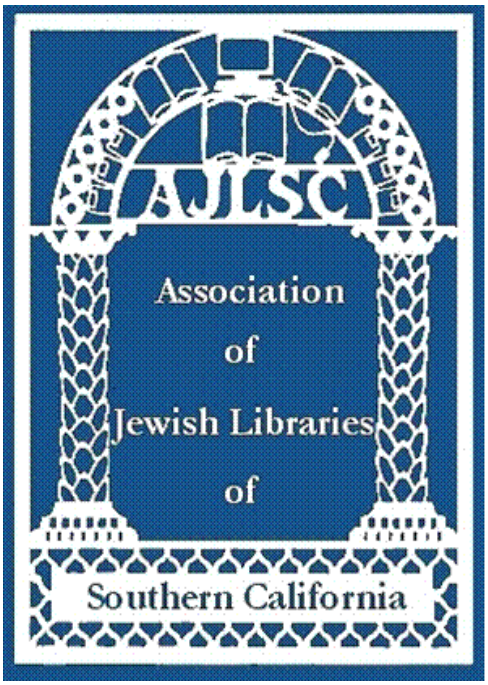
ONLINE LIBRARY CATALOGS

Jewish Community Library of Los Angeles
(Ostrow Library at the American Jewish University)
http://innopac.ajula.edu/

Sinai Temple Blumenthal Library
library.sinaitemple.org

Valley Beth Shalom Sheila Sporn Library
www.vbs.org/library

Simon Wiesenthal Center Library and Archives
www.wiesenthal.com/library



Compiled by
Blumenthal Library Staff, Sinai Temple
and
Ellen G. Cole, Levine Library, Temple Isaiah

For further information, see our website:
www.ajlsc.org