

2019 Sydney Taylor Book Award Winners Announced

Winners of the annual Sydney Taylor Book Award were announced by the Association of Jewish Libraries today in Seattle, WA at the Youth Media Awards press conference of the American Library Association.

Named in memory of Sydney Taylor, author of the classic *All-of-a-Kind Family* series, the award recognizes books for children and teens that exemplify high literary standards while authentically portraying the Jewish experience.

2019 marks the first time the Sydney Taylor Book Awards have been included in the American Library Association Youth Media Award announcements.



The 2019 Sydney Taylor Book Awards Association of Jewish Libraries

Winner for Younger Readers

All-of-a-Kind-Family Hanukkah by Emily Jenkins, illustrated by Paul Zelinsky, published by Schwartz & Wade, an imprint of Random House Children's Books

Winner for Older Readers

Sweep: The Story of a Girl and Her Monster by Jonathan Auxier, published by Amulet Books, an imprint of Abrams

Winner for Teen Readers

What the Night Sings by Vesper Stamper, illustrated by the author, published by Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Random House Children's Books

AJL Online



Visit the AJL Web site at <http://www.jewishlibraries.org>.

To subscribe to Hasafran, please see instructions at <https://lists.service.ohio-state.edu/mailman/listinfo/hasafran>

AJL is now on [Facebook](#). Become a fan.

The 2019 Sydney Taylor Book Awards Association of Jewish Libraries

Honor Books for Younger Readers

Through the Window: Views of Marc Chagall's Life by Barb Rosenstock, illustrated by Mary GrandPré,
published by Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Random House Children's Books

A Moon for Moe and Moby Jane Breskin Zalben, illustrated by Mehrdokht Amini, published by Charlesbridge

Honor Books for Older Readers

All Three Stooges by Erica S. Perl, published by Alfred A. Knopf,
an imprint of Random House Children's Books

The Length of a String by Elissa Brent Weissman, published by Dial Books for Young Readers,
an imprint of Penguin Young Readers, a division of Penguin Random House

Honor Book for Teen Readers

You'll Miss Me When I'm Gone by Rachel Lynn Solomon, published by Simon Pulse,
an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing

Notable Books for Younger Readers

Irving Berlin: The Immigrant Boy Who Made America Sing by Nancy Churnin,
illustrated by James Rey Sanchez, published by Creston Books

Write On, Irving Berlin! by Leslie Kimmelman, illustrated by David C. Gardner,
published by Sleeping Bear Press

French Toast Sundays by Gloria Spielman, illustrated by Inbal Gigi Bousidan,
published by Apples and Honey Press, an imprint of Behrman House

The Passover Parrot by Evelyn Zusman, illustrated by Kyrsten Brooker,
published by Kar-Ben Publishing, a division of Lerner Publishing Group

Notable Books for Older Readers

Anne Frank's Diary: The Graphic Adaptation adapted by Ari Folman, illustrated by David Polonsky,
published by Pantheon Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House

12 Before 13 by Lisa Greenwald, published by Katherine Tegen Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers

Light the Menorah: A Hanukkah Handbook by Jacqueline Jules, illustrated by Kristina Swarner,
published by Kar-Ben Publishing, a division of Lerner Publishing Group

The Sound of Freedom by Kathy Kacer, published by Annick Press

Notable Book for Teen Readers

Resistance by Jennifer A. Nielsen, published by Scholastic Press, an imprint of Scholastic



Manuscript Award Winner

A Corner of the World by Jessica Littman

GOLD MEDALISTS

All-of-a-Kind-Family Hanukkah by Emily Jenkins, illustrated by Paul Zelinsky, published by Schwartz & Wade, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, won the Sydney Taylor Book Award in the Younger Readers category. In this meticulously researched Hanukkah story based on the classic children's book *All-of-a-Kind Family*, poetic language and exuberant illustrations perfectly capture the emotions of each of the iconic sisters as they prepare latkes and celebrate the holiday in New York's Lower East Side in 1912.

Sweep: The Story of a Girl and Her Monster by Jonathan Auxier, published by Amulet Books, an imprint of Abrams, won the Sydney Taylor Book Award in the Older Readers category. Auxier masterfully weaves Jewish themes and characters into the story of Nan Sparrow, a chimney climbing girl in Victorian London, and her remarkable friendship with Charlie, the soot golem who saves her life.

What the Night Sings by Vesper Stamper, illustrated by the author, published by Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, won the Sydney Taylor Book Award in the Teen Readers category. This beautifully illustrated novel tells the story of teen Holocaust survivor Gerta as she struggles to reconcile her identity and desires in the wake of tragedy.

SILVER MEDALISTS

Five Sydney Taylor Honor Books were also recognized. For Younger Readers, the Honor Books are *Moon for Moe and Mo* by Jane Breskin Zalben, illustrated by Mehrdokht Amini, published by Charlesbridge, and *Through the Window: Views of Marc Chagall's Life and Art* by Barb Rosenstock, illustrated by Mary Grandpré, published by Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Random House Children's Books.

For Older Readers, the Honor Books are *All Three Stooges*, by Erica S. Perl, published by Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of an imprint of Random House Children's Books, and *The Length of a String* by Elissa Brent

Weissman, published by Dial Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Penguin Young Readers, a division of Penguin Random House.

For Teen Readers, the Honor Book is *You'll Miss Me When I'm Gone* by Rachel Lynn Solomon, published by Simon Pulse, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.

In addition to the medal winners, the Award Committee designated nine Notable Books of Jewish Content for 2019. More information about the Sydney Taylor Book Award and a complete listing of the award winners and notables can be found at www.sydneytaylorbookawards.org.

Winning authors and illustrators will receive their awards at the Annual Conference of the Association of Jewish Libraries, to be held in Los Angeles, California, from June 17 - 19, 2019. Gold and silver medalists will also participate in a blog tour February 10-14, 2019. For more information about the blog tour please visit www.jewishlibraries.org/blog. An exclusive interview with the Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee Chair Susan Kusel may be heard on The Book of Life podcast at www.bookoflifepodcast.com.

Members of the 2019 Sydney Taylor Book Award committee are: Chair, Susan Kusel, Temple Rodef Shalom Library, Falls Church, Virginia; Rena Citrin, Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School, Chicago, Illinois; Shoshana Flax, The Horn Book, Inc., Boston, Massachusetts; Rebecca Levitan, Baltimore County Public Library, Baltimore, Maryland; Sylvie Shaffer, Capitol Hill Day School, Washington, DC; Marjorie Shuster, Congregation Emanuel, New York, New York; and Rivka Yerushalmi, Jewish Women International Libraries, Silver Spring, Maryland.

The Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL) promotes Jewish literacy through enhancement of libraries and library resources and through leadership for the profession and practitioners of Judaica librarianship. The Association fosters access to information, learning, teaching and research relating to Jews, Judaism, the Jewish experience and Israel. AJL is an affiliate of the American Library Association. More information is available at www.jewishlibraries.org.

2019 SYDNEY TAYLOR MANUSCRIPT AWARD WINNER CHOSEN

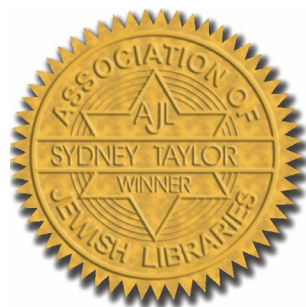
The Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award Competition committee is pleased to announce the recipient of the 2019 award. Jessica Littmann, author of *A Corner of the World*, will receive the award at the annual conference of the Association of Jewish Libraries to be held in Los Angeles, California from June 17-19, 2019. The Award is offered annually to an unpublished manuscript that has broad appeal to readers aged 8-13 and presents Jewish life in a positive light. The committee members felt that *A Corner of the World* had the perfect amount of Jewish content and values combined with complex contemporary themes.

A Corner of the World tells the story of two unlikely friends, Maya and Sam, who team up to make a difference in their community. Maya and Sam are both students at a Jewish day school who, like many middle school students, struggle with personal challenges that make them feel alone. When violence affects a member of their school's staff, Maya and Sam find common cause in a mitzvah project which brings healing and hope to a Chicago neighborhood in the spirit of *tikkun olam*.

In writing *A Corner of the World*, Ms. Littmann was inspired by a news story she had read about two teenagers who raised money to build a playground for disadvantaged children in Chicago. She said further that she "tried to provide a snapshot of the issues that contemporary Jewish kids face in the classroom and in their lives as part of the great community."

Having grown up reading and loving Sydney Taylor's All-of-a-Kind Family books, Ms. Littmann is thrilled to have been selected for this award and feels "as if she's traveling in her own personal rainbow." Ms. Littmann, who lives in Evanston, Illinois, is a teacher by training. She is currently working as a freelance writer and serves as a member of the board of Beth Hillel B'nai Emunah Academy. *A Corner of the World* is her first novel.

Members of the 2019 Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award Committee are: Chair, Aileen Grossberg, Lampert Library, Congregation Shomrei Emunah, Montclair, New Jersey and Jacobs Library, Oheb Shalom Congregation, South Orange, New Jersey; Toby Harris, Seattle Public Library and Temple Beth Am, Seattle, Washington; Heidi Rabinowitz, Feldman Children's Library and Howard Computer Lab, Congregation B'nai Israel, Boca Raton, Florida; Jill Ratzan, Temple B'nai Abraham, Bordentown, New Jersey; Rachel Simon, Perkins School for the Blind, Watertown, Massachusetts; and Debbie Steinberg, Learning Commons, Ida Crown Jewish Academy, Chicago, Illinois. Auxier, published by Amulet Books, an imprint of Abrams.



For more information about the Sydney Taylor Book Awards contact:
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AJL International Conference 2019

Los Angeles (Woodland Hills,) California

Monday, June 17, to Wednesday, June 19, 2019

Warner Center Marriott
21850 Oxnard St.
Woodland Hills, CA 91367

Join AJL in June for our 54th annual conference at the [Warner Center Marriott](#) located in the popular suburbs of the San Fernando Valley, in the city of Los Angeles. It is ideally situated near public transportation and shopping, with a multitude of dining options nearby. More importantly, Woodland Hills has a vibrant Jewish community waiting to meet with Judaica librarians from around the world.

Most of our conference will be held within the beautiful conference center inside the hotel, but we do have special optional tours planned offsite. The conference will begin with a noon luncheon on Monday, followed by a variety of interesting afternoon sessions, and then you are on your own for dinner.

Our Tuesday keynote luncheon speaker will be Russian-born author and artist [Eugene Yelchin](#), 2018 National Book Award finalist, and winner of the National Jewish Book Award, Newbery Honor Award and Golden Kite Award among many other notable honors.

Featured among the many Tuesday sessions will be presentations on research skills for high schools, some well-known literary stars of the Los Angeles Persian Jewish community (including author [Gina Nahai](#)), and the best new Jewish fiction for adults.

Tuesday evening will continue with our Literary Awards Banquet, honoring the winners of the Sydney Taylor Book Award and the Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award, the Judaica Reference and Bibliography Award, as well as our newest award: the AJL Fiction Award for best adult fiction book with a Jewish theme.

After morning sessions on Wednesday, we will board busses to travel to American Jewish University in Bel Air to tour the library and grounds and enjoy our final lunch together. Optional tours will be available to visit either the [Getty Museum](#) or the [Skirball Cultural Center](#), both within one mile of the university.

For those needing to catch a flight home from LAX on Thursday morning, the Hilton LAX hotel has been reserved at a special rate for our members and the airport shuttle ride is included in the price. (Check the website during March 2019 for the link to this hotel rate.)

The registration link for the conference and the Marriott hotel is now available at our website: <https://jewishlibraries.org/meetinginfo.php?id=20&ts=1548037786> . Register today to get the Early Bird full conference rate of \$400 until April 15th!

We look forward to seeing you in June!

Jackie BenEfraim, Local Conference Chairperson
Lisa Silverman, National Conference Chairperson



“Love Your Neighbor” Series: A Call to Action

BY HEIDI RABINOWITZ

When the anti-Semitic domestic terrorism took place at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, PA in October 2018, we were all shocked and heart-broken, but we did what librarians do. We turned to literature, not for explanations, but for solutions. Starting with a Facebook conversation and continuing in a flurry of 100+ emails, I led a posse of snarky Jewish kidlit nerds, including AJL stalwarts Barbara Bietz, Kathy Bloomfield, Elissa Gershowitz, Rachel Kamin, Susan Kusel, Chava Pinchuck, and Lisa Silverman, and our friend at Tablet, Marjorie Ingall, as we hammered out a cream-of-the-crop list of “window” books for youth. Not satisfied with just one bibliography, our over-active brains populated four separate booklists. We ended up with the [Love Your Neighbor](#) series, which we hope will build empathy and understanding in the hearts of non-Jewish readers.

The themes of the four lists in the [Love Your Neighbor](#) series are:

#1 [Standing Up for Each Other](#)

#2 [Synagogues, Clergy & Jewish Ritual](#)

#3 [The American Jewish Experience](#)

#4 [Let’s Be Friends](#)

Each list includes picture books and chapter books intended to provide children and their families with a greater understanding of the Jewish religion and its people. The lists can be found on the AJL website at <https://jewishlibraries.org/blog/catId/15>, and each title is linked to IndieBound to make it easy to buy a copy from an independent bookseller (of course, they can also be borrowed from libraries). Each online list also includes a link to a printable PDF version.

It is our hope that we can get these recommendations into the hands of non-Jewish readers far and wide. You can help! You can share the lists, but even better, you can use this easy fill-in-the-blanks [template](#) to send a note to your local public libraries, neighboring churches or mosques, and nearby interfaith organizations to ask them to share it too.

There’s no knowing whether books like these would have made a difference if read during the childhood of the Pittsburgh shooter, and we can’t guarantee that reading them to today’s kids will prevent future tragedy. But as the *Pirkei Avot* (Ethics of the Fathers), tell us, we are not obligated to complete the work of combating anti-Semitism, but neither are we free to desist from it. We’ve got to do what we can. As librarians, we know that the right book can make a difference, especially when read during the formative years of childhood. Join us in helping to get these books and other like them into the hands of children.

Chapter Chatter

AJL SOUTH CALIFORNIA (AJLSC)

SUBMITTED BY LISA SILVERMAN

Members of AJLSC visited the J. Paul Getty Museum on January 13 for an enlightening afternoon. Kathleen Solomon, Chief Librarian of the Getty Research Institute, lead us in a behind-the-scenes tour of the library, including special collections from the vault, before we viewed the fabulous exhibit, “Art of Three Faiths: A Torah, a Bible and the Qur’an”, featuring the newly acquired illuminated 13th century Rothschild Pentateuch.

The manuscript, dating from 1296 is, "Teeming with hybrid figures, animal and humanoid, as well as spectacular displays of calligraphic virtuosity (known as micrography), the Rothschild Pentateuch's vibrant colors and gleaming gold distinguish it from the greater part of medieval Hebrew book production, which followed a largely textual tradition. Featuring hundreds of illuminated folios in its over 1000 pages, the Rothschild Pentateuch is one of the most elaborate illuminated Hebrew Bibles to survive from the Middle Ages. The opening of each of the five books is celebrated with monumental Hebrew initials intertwined with lively marginal images of animals and plants, and in one case, a full-page image of a glowing Menorah. In a rare deviation from the rest of the manuscript's aniconic tradition, there is one illumination featuring human figures, added later. In the second half of the fifteenth century, by which time the manuscript had travelled to Italy, a folio was replaced with a new insertion. This folio can be identified as the work of one of the most celebrated Jewish scribe/artists known from the period: Joel ben Simeon."

Scholarship Committee Report

SUBMITTED BY SARAH BARNARD, SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBER

The Scholarship Fund needs help. We gratefully accept donations which can be in memory or in honor of someone. We will send a tribute card (or several). Please include the following information with your donation: your name and address, the name(s) and addresses of the recipient(s) of the tribute card, the reason for the tribute and your email address in case there are questions. Send check donations to:

Sarah M. Barnard (sarmarbar68@gmail.com)

5646 Hunters Lake

Cincinnati, OH 45249

AJL Scholarship Donation Form

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All links to online resources were checked for accuracy on February 6, 2019.

We cannot be responsible for broken links to those resources in the future.

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