Title of presentation as announced in Program Book: “Teaching the Holocaust through Picture Books,” by Lisa Silverman.

Lisa Silverman is the director of the Sinai Temple Blumenthal Library at Sinai Temple, the largest conservative synagogue in Los Angeles. She leads classes and book groups, along with organizing community programs on literature. She is the children’s editor of Jewish Book World magazine and also a reviewer of children’s literature for various other publications. She serves as a judge for the children’s division of the National Jewish Book Award and also for the “Once Upon a World” Book Award given annually by the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

Description:
Followers of children’s literature have recently witnessed an unusual amount of illustrated books about the Holocaust being published. Along with the many narratives and memoirs for older readers, there is a large subgroup of supposedly simple books that are being offered to a younger crowd. After taking a look at almost everything about the Holocaust published in picture book format, one could come to the conclusion that children these days are seemingly prepared to absorb much of the horrors of the 20th century history at a tender age. Clearly this subject cannot be hidden from children who hear references to it often, but perhaps the bibliography I have prepared will be of some assistance to teachers, librarians and booksellers who are at a loss as to which of these picture books are most appropriate for various age groups.

Bibliography of Illustrated Books on the Holocaust
prepared by
Lisa Silverman, Library Director
Sinai Temple Library, 10400 Wilshire Blvd. Los Angeles, CA. 90024
(lsilverman@sinaitemple.org)

Allegorical Books

   Story based on a Czech opera which was performed 55 times by the children of Terezin about two children that go into town to get milk for their sick mother.

   A young girl is sent by her mother into the forest to escape a war that lasts for 30 years. Illustrations by Maurice Sendak depict hidden images of the Holocaust.

   Story about a Jewish boy living in Nazi Germany who realizes that the star he is forced to wear overshadows him.
A first level approach to Holocaust for the young child using images of nature and the renewal of life.

In this allegory, the animals of the forest are carried away, one type after another, by the *Terrible Things.*

**Historical Truth**

A girl’s grandmother shares two photo albums with her: one about her life before the World War II, and one about her life in America after the war.

A description, through narrative and photographs, of what happened at Auschwitz, a concentration camp in Poland used during World War II by the Nazis to gather and murder many people, mostly Jews.

A French historian whose grandparents died in the Holocaust answers her 13 year old daughter’s questions about that historic event, including Hitler’s rise to power, the establishment of ghettos and concentration camps, and the genocide of the Jews. (not illustrated)

Story of the Warsaw ghetto told through the eyes of a young boy who survived the ghetto and the concentration camps.

10. Abells, Chana Byers. *The Children We Remember.*  
Photos from the archives of Yad Vashem illustrate the effects of the Holocaust on the children.

Chronicles the true story of the liberation of the inmates of Mauthausen Concentration Camp and the flag that they secretly made for their liberators.
   True story of two children from Germany and Czechoslovakia who were victims of the Holocaust.

   Dedicated to the memory of Ilan Ramon, it is the story of how a miniature Torah survived Bergen-Belsen and was eventually taken into space by the Israeli astronaut.

   Photographs and text depict the suffering, struggles and fight for survival in the Lodz ghetto.

15. Adler, David A. *The Number on my Grandfather’s Arm.*
   A grandfather explains the Holocaust and what he experienced to his young granddaughter. (Sydney Taylor Award, 1987)

   The story of the miniature Torah that was taken by Israeli astronaut, Ilan Ramon, aboard the ill-fated Columbia Space Shuttle.

   Simple introduction to the Holocaust; focuses on the background of anti-Semitism.

   True story of how several families survived the Holocaust by hiding in caves in the western Ukraine for over one year.

19. Adler, David A. *We Remember the Holocaust.*
   Chronicles the Holocaust through personal accounts from survivors and original photographs.

   After seeing a ladies hat in a museum, a person imagines that it belonged to a woman who lived in the Netherlands during the Holocaust.
True story of a young girl who grew up in Germany and whose life was like anyone else's until Hitler came into power.

**Righteous Gentiles and Sympathetic Rescuers**

During the Nazi occupation of France, a young girl’s mother hides a Jewish family in the basement.

As she rescues the insides of a torn feather pillow, Grandma tells of her childhood in Poland and the Nazi persecution of the Jews.

The story of Lore Baer, who as a four-year-old child was placed with a Christian family in the Dutch farm country to avoid persecution by the Nazis.

In July 1939 a group of Jewish children sail from Holland to the safety of Scotland.

A farmer and his wife take in a secretive, starving young woman and allow her to hide from the Nazis. Written by a 6th grade student.

A young Jewish girl hides with strangers during the German occupation of Holland.

Biography of how a family escaped Russia through Japan and then finally to North America during World War II.

Description of the Japanese diplomat in Lithuania, who saved as many as 10,000 Jews during the Holocaust, based on the words of his eldest son Hiroki Sugihara.
Story of a little German girl and her perception of and involvement in the situation around her during World War II.

Story about a non-Jewish family living in Southern France who helps shelter Jews during the Holocaust.

Relates the legend of how the King of Denmark wore a yellow star on his clothing to identify with his Jewish subjects during the Holocaust.

**Holocaust as Sub-text**

33. Polacco, Patricia. *Chicken Sunday.*
Children sell decorated Easter eggs with the help of a Holocaust survivor who owns a hat shop.

34. Lakin, Patricia. *Don’t Forget.*
Set in a post-war Jewish neighborhood, Sarah gets to know some of the storekeepers who are Holocaust survivors.

35. Nivola, Claire A. *Elisabeth.*
A young girl and her favorite doll are separated because of the Holocaust only to be reunited in the United States many years later.

    Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman, 1996.
Before she leaves for America after surviving the Holocaust, an aunt gives her nephew a box full of English words to learn; then one day an old rocking horse appears at his door.

37. Shulevitz, Uri. *How I Learned Geography.*
As he spends hours studying his father's world map, a young boy escapes the hunger and misery of refugee life.

When his family comes to live in Israel after World War II, a young boy starts planting trees, a practice that spreads throughout Israel.
During Hanukkah, two children help a Holocaust survivor identify once again with his
Jewish traditions.

An older woman recalls a childhood experience when she gives her savings to a carpenter
trying to rescue his Jewish children from a war-torn country.

41. Watts, Irene. *A Telling Time.*
A rabbi tells the story of Purim to a group of Children in Nazi occupied Vienna.

42. Schnur, Steven. *The Tie Man’s Miracle—a Chanukah Tale.*
After hearing how an old man lost his family in the Holocaust, a young boy makes a wish
on the last night of Hanukkah that is carried to God as the candles burn down.

**Biography**

43. McDonough, Yona Zeldis. *Anne Frank.*
Color illustrations and text trace the life of the young Jewish girl who kept a diary while
she and her family hid from the Nazis.

44. Epstein, Rachel. *Anne Frank.*
Traces the life of a young girl who kept a diary for two years while hiding from the Nazis
during the Holocaust.

45. Poole, Josephine. *Anne Frank.*
Describes the life of a young girl who goes into hiding with her family to avoid capture
by the Nazis.

46. Rubin, Susan Goldman. *The Cat With the Yellow Star: Coming of Age in Terezin.*
Biography of a survivor of Terezin who was chosen to play the role of the cat in the
children's opera Brundibar.

47. Greene, Carol. *Elie Weisel: Messenger from the Holocaust.*
Biography of the Holocaust survivor who became the 1986 Nobel Peace Prize winner and
has dedicated his life to making sure the tragedy of the Holocaust is not forgotten.
Includes timeline.
   Biography of a German woman who risked her life to save Jews during the Holocaust.

   Covers the years during which Friedl Dicker, a Jewish woman from Czechoslovakia, taught art to the children of Terezin.

    Describes the process that Simon Wiesenthal went through to find the Gestapo officer who found and arrested Anne Frank and her family.

51. Talbot, Hudson. *Forging Freedom: A True Story of Heroism During the Holocaust.*
    Chronicles the exploits of Jaap Penraat, a Dutchman, who risked his life during the Holocaust to save the lives of over 400 Jews.

52. Adler, David A. *A Hero and the Holocaust – the Story of Janusz Korczak and his Children.*
    Biography of the Polish pediatrician and educator who devoted and gave his life for abandoned and orphaned children during the Holocaust.

    The author details his experiences growing up in France during the Holocaust.

    Biography of Janusz Korczak, the noted author and physician who ran a home for Jewish orphans in 1930's Warsaw.

    A biography of the Jewish heroine, Luba Tryszynska, who saved the lives of more than 50 Jewish children in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp during the winter of 1944/45.

    Describes how the author survived the Holocaust by relating her childhood experiences through quilt panels that she created herself.
57. Adler, David A. *A Picture Book of Anne Frank.*
Traces the life of the young Jewish girl whose diary chronicles the years she and her family hid from the Nazis.

Describes the life of a young girl who goes into hiding with her family to avoid capture by the Nazis.

**Fictional Narratives Based on Historical Truth**

A young girl tells what it was like to be friends with a Jewish girl in Germany as the Nazi influence spread. Translated from the German.

Two Jewish sisters, escapees of the infamous Warsaw ghetto, devise a plan to thwart an attempt by the Gestapo to intercept food bound for starving people behind the dark Wall.

After many years of watching the solemn lighting of seven candles at Rosh Hashanah, Eli finally learns how those candles represent his family's connection to the Holocaust in Lithuania.

A woman recalls how she survived the Holocaust after she was thrown from a train headed for a death camp in 1944.

63. Nerlove, Miriam. *Flowers on the Wall.*
Set in Nazi-occupied Warsaw, a young Jewish girl struggles to survive and maintain hope by painting colorful flowers on her dingy apartment walls.

Torn from his home and parents in Poland during World War II, a young Jewish boy starving in a concentration camp finds hope in playing Schubert on his harmonica, even when the commandant orders him to play.
65. Wild, Margaret. *Let the Celebrations Begin.*
A child, who remembers life before living in a concentration camp, helps make toys for other children.

A Holocaust survivor tells the story of how when she was in a concentration camp she and the other prisoners collected nine spoons to make a menorah.

   NY: Joanna Cotler, 2002.
Every year a family celebrates Hanukkah by retelling the story of how Grandma and her sister managed to mark the day while in a concentration camp.

During the Nazi occupation of France, a boy and his father slip out of their village and into the mountains, where they join a group of fellow Jews at a humble seder table.

69. Hoestlandt, Jo. *Star of Fear, Star of Hope.*
Nine-year-old Helen is confused by the disappearance of her Jewish friend during the German occupation of Paris. Translated from the French.

Based on the true discovery of the Brno Torah, this story describes the rebirth of Judaism after World War II as American children adopt a Holocaust torah.

71. Herman, Erwin. *The Yanov Torah.*
Jews in a Nazi work camp in Poland smuggle in the Torah piece by piece, despite great personal danger.