

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 Weisenthal 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

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Allegorical Books

1. Kushner, Tony. *Brundibar*.

N.Y.: Michael De Capua, 2003.

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.

2. Grimm, Wilhelm. *Dear Mili*.

N.Y.: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1988.

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.

3. Hausfater, Rachel, *The Little Boy Star -- An Allegory of the Holocaust*.

N.Y: Milk and Cookies, 2001.

Story about a Jewish boy living in Nazi Germany who realizes that the star he is forced to wear overshadows him.

4. Klein, Gerda Weissmann. *Promise of a New Spring—The Holocaust and Renewal*. Chappaqua, N.Y.: Rossell Books, 1981.

A first level approach to Holocaust for the young child using images of nature and the renewal of life.

5. Bunting, Eve. *Terrible Things*.

N.Y.: Harper & Row, 1980.

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

Historical Truth

6. Russo, Marisabina. *Always Remember Me*.

N.Y. Atheneum Books. 2005.

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.

7. Lawton, Clive. *Auschwitz – The Story of a Nazi Death Camp*.

Cambridge, MA : Candlewick Press, 2002.

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.

8. Wieviorka, Annette. *Auschwitz Explained to My Child*.

NY: Marlowe & Co., 2002.

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)

9. Adler, David A. *Child of the Warsaw Ghetto*.

N.Y.: Holiday House, 1995.

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*.

Rockville, MD: Kar-Ben Copies, 1983.

Photos from the archives of Yad Vashem illustrate the effects of the Holocaust on the children.

11. Rubin, Susan Goldman. *The Flag with Fifty-Six Stars: A Gift from the Survivors of Mauthausen*. N.Y.: Holiday House, 2005.

Chronicles the true story of the liberation of the inmates of Mauthausen Concentration Camp and the flag that they secretly made for their liberators.

12. Adler, David A. *Hilde and Eli: Children of the Holocaust*.
N.Y.: Holiday House, 1994.
True story of two children from Germany and Czechoslovakia who were victims of the Holocaust.
13. Lehman-Wilzig, Tami. *Keeping the Promise: A Torah's Journey*.
Minneapolis, MN: Kar-Ben, 2004.
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.
14. Smith, Frank Dabba. *My Secret Camera—Life in the Lodz Ghetto*.
San Diego, CA: Harcourt, 2000.
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*.
N.Y.: Union of American Hebrew Congress, 1987.
A grandfather explains the Holocaust and what he experienced to his young granddaughter. (Sydney Taylor Award, 1987)
16. Rouss, Sylvia. *Reach for the Stars: A Little Torah's Journey*.
N.Y.: Pitspopy, 2004.
The story of the miniature Torah that was taken by Israeli astronaut, Ilan Ramon, aboard the ill-fated Columbia Space Shuttle.
17. Finklestein, Norman H. *Remember Not to Forget: A Memory of the Holocaust*.
N.Y.: Franklin Watts, 1985.
Simple introduction to the Holocaust; focuses on the background of anti-Semitism.
18. Taylor, Peter Lane, and Nicola, Christos. *The Secret of Priest's Grotto – a Holocaust Survival Story*. Minneapolis, MN: KarBen, 2007.
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*.
N.Y.: Henry Holt & Co., 1989.
Chronicles the Holocaust through personal accounts from survivors and original photographs.
20. Patz, Nancy. *Who Was the Woman Who Wore the Hat?*
N.Y.: Dutton, 2003.
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.

21. Steele, D. Kelley. *Would You Salute? One Child's Story of the Holocaust*.
Statesville, N.Y.: Hidden Path, 2005.
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

22. Polacco, Patricia. *The Butterfly*.
N.Y.: Philomel, 2000.
During the Nazi occupation of France, a young girl's mother hides a Jewish family in the basement.
23. Feder, Paula Kurzband. *The Feather-Bed Journey*.
Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman & Co., 1995.
As she rescues the insides of a torn feather pillow, Grandma tells of her childhood in Poland and the Nazi persecution of the Jews.
24. Adler, David A. *Hiding from the Nazis*.
N.Y.: Holiday House, 1997.
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.
25. Sim, Dorrieth M. *In My Pocket*.
San Diego, CA: Harcourt Brace, 1996.
In July 1939 a group of Jewish children sail from Holland to the safety of Scotland.
26. Sonderling, Eric. *A Knock at the Door*.
Austin, TX : Raintree Steck-Vaughn, 1997.
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.
27. Oppenheim, Shulamith Levy. *The Lily Cupboard*.
N.Y.: Harper Collins, 1992.
A young Jewish girl hides with strangers during the German occupation of Holland.
28. Kaplan, William. *One More Border—The True Story of One Family's Escape From War-torn Europe*. Vancouver: Greenwood, 1998.
Biography of how a family escaped Russia through Japan and then finally to North America during World War II.
29. Mochizuki, Ken. *Passage to Freedom—The Sugihara Story*.
N.Y.: Lee & Low, 1997.
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.

30. Innocenti, Robert. *Rose Blanche*.
Mankato, MN: Creative Education, 1985.
Story of a little German girl and her perception of and involvement in the situation around her during World War II.
31. Colker, Connie. *Shoes for Amelie*.
San Diego, CA: Lobster, 2001.
Story about a non-Jewish family living in Southern France who helps shelter Jews during the Holocaust.
32. Deedy, Carmen Agra. *The Yellow Star—the Legend of King Christian X of Denmark*. Atlanta, GA: Peachtree, 2000.
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*.
N.Y. Philomel, 1992.
Children sell decorated Easter eggs with the help of a Holocaust survivor who owns a hat shop.
34. Lakin, Patricia. *Don't Forget*.
N.Y.: Tambourine Books, 1994.
Set in a post-war Jewish neighborhood, Sarah gets to know some of the storekeepers who are Holocaust survivors.
35. Nivola, Claire A. *Elisabeth*.
N.Y. : Farrar Straus Giroux, 1997.
A young girl and her favorite doll are separated because of the Holocaust only to be reunited in the United States many years later.
36. Pomeranc, Marion Hess. *The Hand-Me-Down Horse*.
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*.
N.Y.: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2008
As he spends hours studying his father's world map, a young boy escapes the hunger and misery of refugee life.
38. Waldman, Neil. *The Never-Ending Greenness*.
N. Y.: Morrow, 1997.
When his family comes to live in Israel after World War II, a young boy starts planting trees, a practice that spreads throughout Israel.

39. Adler, David A. *One Yellow Daffodil—A Hanukkah Story*.
San Diego, CA: Gulliver Books, 1995.
During Hanukkah, two children help a Holocaust survivor identify once again with his Jewish traditions.
40. Hest, Amy. *The Ring and the Window Seat*.
N.Y.: Scholastic Inc., 1990.
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*.
Boston, MA: Tradewind, 2004.
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*.
N.Y.: William Morrow, 1995.
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*.
N.Y.: Henry Holt, 1997.
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*.
NY: Franklin Watts, 1997.
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*.
N.Y.: Alfred A. Knopf. 2005.
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*.
N.Y.: Holiday House, 2006.
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*.
Chicago, IL.: Children's Press, 1987.
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.

48. Smith, Frank Dabba. *Elsie's War: A Story of Courage in Nazi Germany*.
London, England: Frances Lincoln, 2003.
Biography of a German woman who risked her life to save Jews during the Holocaust.
49. Rubin, Susan Goldman. *Fireflies in the Dark—The Story of Friedl Dicker-Brandeis and the Children of Terezin*. N.Y.: Holiday House, 2000.
Covers the years during which Friedl Dicker, a Jewish woman from Czechoslovakia, taught art to the children of Terezin.
50. Rubin, Susan Goldman. *The Anne Frank case -- Simon Wiesenthal's Search for the Truth*. N.Y.: Holiday House, 2009.
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*.
N.Y.: Putnam, 2000.
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*. N.Y.: Holiday House, 2002.
Biography of the Polish pediatrician and educator who devoted and gave his life for abandoned and orphaned children during the Holocaust.
53. Millman, Isaac. *Hidden Child*.
N.Y.: Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 2005.
The author details his experiences growing up in France during the Holocaust.
54. Spielman, Gloria, *Janusz Korczak's Children*.
Minneapolis, MN.: Kar-Ben, 2007.
Biography of Janusz Korczak, the noted author and physician who ran a home for Jewish orphans in 1930's Warsaw.
55. McCann, Michelle R. *Luba: The Angel of Bergen-Belsen*.
Berkeley: Tricycle Press, 2003.
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.
56. Krinitz, Esther Nisenthal. *Memories of Survival*.
N.Y.: Hyperion. 2005.
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*.

N.Y.: Holiday House, 1993.

Traces the life of the young Jewish girl whose diary chronicles the years she and her family hid from the Nazis.

58. Lewis, Brenda Ralph. *The Story of Anne Frank*.

N.Y.: Dorling Kindersley, 2001.

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

59. Reuter, Elisabeth. *Best Friends*.

N.Y.: Yellow Brick Road Press, 1993.

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.

60. Hesse, Karen. *The Cats in Krasinski Square*.

N.Y.: Scholastic Press, 2004.

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.

61. Vander Zee, Ruth, Sneider, Marian. *Eli Remembers*.

Grand Rapids, MI.: Eerdmans, 2007.

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.

62. Zee, Ruth Vander, *Erika's Story*.

New York: Creative Editions, 2003.

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*.

N.Y.: Margaret McEldery Books, 1996.

Set in Nazi-occupied Warsaw, a young Jewish girl struggles to survive and maintain hope by painting colorful flowers on her dingy apartment walls.

64. Johnston, Tony. *The Harmonica*.

Watertown, MA.: Charlesbridge, 2004.

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.*

N.Y.: Orchard, 1991.

A child, who remembers life before living in a concentration camp, helps make toys for other children.

66. Stillerman, Marci. *Nine Spoons—a Chanukah Story.*

N.Y.: Hachai, 1998.

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.

67. Bunting, Eve. *One Candle.*

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.

68. Rappaport, Doreen. *The Secret Seder.*

N.Y.: Hyperion, 2005.

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.*

N.Y.: Walker & Co., 1995.

Nine-year-old Helen is confused by the disappearance of her Jewish friend during the German occupation of Paris. Translated from the French.

70. Ginsburg, Marvell. *The Tattooed Torah.*

N.Y.: Union of American Hebrew Congress, 1983.

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.*

Rockville, MD: Kar-Ben Copies, 1985.

Jews in a Nazi work camp in Poland smuggle in the Torah piece by piece, despite great personal danger.