

# SYDNEY TAYLOR BODY-OF-WORK AWARD

The Association of Jewish Libraries' Sydney Taylor Book Award committee has chosen a Body-of-Work Award winner every few years to recognize an author or entity who has made a substantial contribution over time to the genre of Jewish children's literature. The first Body-of-Work Award was conferred on Isaac Bashevis Singer in 1971. As of 2018, the award became biennial rather than periodic. For more information about the Sydney Taylor Book Award and Body-of-Work Award, visit [JewishLibraries.org](http://JewishLibraries.org).

## 2022

**Jane Yolen** has published over 400 books for readers of all ages in a wide variety of genres. Dubbed "The Hans Christian Anderson of Children's Literature" by Newsweek, her books have received much acclaim, including Sydney Taylor Honors for *Naming Liberty* in 2009 and *Miriam at the River* in 2021, and two Sydney Taylor Notables. Her middle grade novel, *The Devil's Arithmetic*, won both the National Jewish Book Award and the 1988 Sydney Taylor Book Award.

## 2020

**Lesléa Newman** is the author of 70 books for all ages. She has helped broaden the scope of Jewish children's books over her prolific career. She has received the 2016 Sydney Taylor Award for *Ketzel, the Cat Who Composed*, a 2020 Sydney Taylor Honor for *Gittel's Journey: An Ellis Island Story*, and four Sydney Taylor Notables.

## 2018

**Harold Grinspoon and PJ Library**, a project of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, is a family engagement program that sends free books celebrating Jewish values and culture to families with children 6 months through 8 years old. This program has revolutionized the field of Jewish children's literature by providing dramatically improved access to Jewish books for families. It has also significantly increased the publication of children's books with Jewish content.

## 2004

**Eric Kimmel**, author of over fifty children's books, has written more than twenty books of Jewish interest during his illustrious career, including *Wonders and Miracles: A Passover Companion*, winner of the National Jewish Book Award and a 2004 Sydney Taylor Honor Book. He won the Sydney Taylor Book Award in 2000 for *Gershon's Monster* and in 1990 for *The Chanukah Guest*.

## 2002

**Judye Groner and Madeline Wikler**, founders of Kar-Ben Copies, publishers of 8 Sydney Taylor Award and Honor Winners: *Sammy Spider's First Trip to Israel*, *Baby's Bris*, *The Magic of Kol Nidre*, *Shalom, Haver*, *Jeremy's Dreidel*, *Daddy's Chair*, *Judah Who Always Said "No"* and *Grandma's Soup*, as well as numerous other quality children's books with positive Jewish content. For more information on Kar-Ben Copies, now a division of the Lerner Publishing Group, go to [www.kar-ben.com](http://www.kar-ben.com).

## 1997

**Barbara Diamond Goldin**, author of 3 Sydney Taylor Award and Honor Winners: *Journeys with Elijah*, *Cakes and Miracles*, and *The World's Birthday*, as well as numerous other children's books with Jewish content like *Just Enough Is Plenty: A Hanukkah Tale* (1988), *The Magician's Visit* (1993), *Bat Mitzvah: A Jewish Girl's Coming of Age* (1995), *While the Candles Burn: Eight Stories for Hanukkah* (1996), *A*

*Mountain of Blintzes* (2001), *One-Hundred-and-One Jewish Read-Aloud Stories: Ten-Minute Readings from the World's Best-Loved Jewish Literature* (2001), and *Night Lights: A Sukkot Story* (2002).

### **1989**

**Yaffa Ganz** is the author of forty Jewish children's books depicting the lives of modern-Orthodox American children including the "Savta Simcha" series and the "Mimmy & Simmy" books.

### **1984**

**Miriam Chaikin** was a long-time editor-in-chief of children's books in major New York houses. She has published over 30 books for children of all ages including *A Nightmare in History the Holocaust 1933-1945* (1987), *Menorahs, Mezuzas and Other Jewish Symbols* (1990), *Clouds of Glory: Legends and Stories About Bible Times* (1997), *Angels Sweep the Desert Floor: Bible Legends About Moses in the Wilderness* (2002), and *Alexandra's Scroll* (2002).

### **1981**

**Barbara Cohen**, author of the Sydney Taylor award winning book *Yussel's Prayer*, has also written over 20 children's books including *Thank You, Jackie Robinson* (1974), *Molly's Pilgrim* (1983), *The Secret Grove* (1985), *The Christmas Revolution* (1987), *Make a Wish, Molly* (1994), and *Here Come the Purim Players!* (1998).

### **1980**

**Sadie Rose Weilerstein** is best known for her series of books about the adventures of a thumb-sized boy named K'tonton, published between 1935 and 1993.

### **1979**

**Marilyn Hirsh**, author of the Sydney Taylor award winning book *Joseph Who Loved the Sabbath*, also adapted and illustrated many traditional Jewish folktales: *Could Anything Be Worse?* (1974) *Captain Jiri and Rabbi Jacob* (1976), *The Rabbi and the Twenty-Nine Witches* (1977), and *Deborah the Dybbuk* (1978).

### **1978**

**Sydney Taylor's** *All-of-a-Kind Family*, published by Follett in 1951, became the first commercially published, widely distributed children's book with a Jewish subject. She continued the adventures of the five Jewish sisters living in a 4 room apartment with their parents on New York's lower East Side in *All-of-a-Kind Family Downtown*, *More All-of-a-Kind Family*, *All-of-a-Kind Family Uptown*, and *Ella of All-of-a-Kind Family*. Sydney Taylor also wrote *A Papa Like Everyone Else* and *Danny Loves a Holiday*.

### **1972**

**Molly Cone** is the author of numerous books for children of all ages published between 1963 and 1999 including picture books, biographies, and young adult fiction.

### **1971**

**Isaac Bashevis Singer**, Polish-born American journalist, novelist, short-story writer, essayist, and recipient of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1978, also wrote several books for children including *Why Noah Chose the Dove* (1973, illustrated by Eric Carle), *The Power of Light: Eight Stories for Hanukkah* (1980), *The Golem* (1982, illustrated by Uri Shulevitz), and several short story collections.