HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS TITLES FOR SPRING 2022

These titles are the Association of Jewish Libraries’ picks for the best Jewish holiday children’s books of Spring 2022.

SHABBAT & HAVDALAH

Shabbat Shalom & A New Week by Vicki Weber, illustrated by Shirley Ng-Benitez, Apples and Honey Press (5/3/22)
This pair of board books introduces the weekend rituals associated with welcoming Shabbat on Friday night and saying goodbye to Shabbat on Saturday night. Spare yet charming illustrations feature toddlers of varying skin tones, complemented by rhyming couplets.

PASSOVER

A Persian Passover by Etan Basseri, illustrated by Rashin Kheiriyeh, Kalaniot (3/18/22)
Sibling hijinks threaten Passover until a friendly neighbor comes to the rescue. Bright collage illustrations capture mid-century Iran and highlight the details of Sephardic Passover preparation unique to the setting.
Alone Together on Dan Street by Erica Cohen Lyons, illustrated by Jen Jamieson, Apples & Honey Press (3/1/22)
This lovely Passover tale captures the spirit of the holiday, and the concept of community, all couched in the isolation of Covid. As Mira’s family prepares for Passover in Jerusalem during the lock-down, she finds a way to bring everyone together. She creates invitations, and the first night of Passover her entire street heads to their balconies to sing the prayers together from afar.

Raquela’s Seder by Joel Edward Stein, illustrated by Sara Ugolotti, Kar-Ben Publishing (2/1/22)
Set during the Spanish Inquisition, a young girl and her parents take to their fishing boat to celebrate a Passover seder in secret. Patterned textiles infuse the moonlit illustrations while the parallels between the Exodus and the Inquisition invoke resonances across Jewish history.

AJL’s 2022 Holiday Highlights judges are Robbin Friedman, children’s librarian at the Chappaqua Library in Chappaqua, NY; Amy Lilien-Harper, professional children’s librarian; and Sylvie Shaffer, PreK-8 librarian at the Capitol Hill Day School in Washington, DC.

To learn more about the Association of Jewish Libraries, please visit [www.jewishlibraries.org](http://www.jewishlibraries.org).

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