HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS TITLES FOR FALL 2022

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

YEAR ROUND

**Apples, Apples, All Year Round: A Celebration of Jewish Holidays**
by Barbara Bietz and June Sobel, illustrated by Ruth Waters, Apples & Honey Press, Ages 3-6, ISBN 9781681155951
Spare rhyming text and bold illustrations celebrate Jewish holidays throughout the year. From Rosh Hashanah to Shavuot, each holiday is represented with an apple-based food. Toddlers and preschoolers will delight in the bright colors, delicious foods and appealing animals.

SHABBAT

**A Synagogue Just Like Home**
by Alice Blumenthal McGinty, illustrated by Laurel Molk, Candlewick Press, Ages 4-8, ISBN 9781536210866
A rabbi's attempts to repair his ramshackle synagogue lead to a minor flood, but his diverse congregation joins forces to fix the damage in time for Shabbat, in this heartfelt celebration of Jewish community.

**Shoshi’s Shabbat**
by Caryn Yacowitz, illustrated by Kevin Hawkes,
Candlewick Press, Ages 4-8, ISBN 9781536216547
When Yohanan buys Shoshi the ox from a Jewish farmer in ancient Jerusalem, he does not understand why she won't work on every seventh day. Eventually he comes to realize that she is choosing to rest on Shabbat, and follows her lead, improving his quality of life. A subtly powerful story based on a midrash.
ROSH HASHANAH

Miriam and the Sasquatch by Eric A. Kimmel, illustrated by Tamara Anegon, Apples & Honey Press, Ages 4-8, ISBN 9781681155814
Miriam practices blowing the shofar in the apple orchard, where she discovers a Sasquatch eating apples in a tree. She tries to chase him away but when he helps her escape a swarm of bees, they become friends. This entertaining story celebrates the traditions of the holiday, such as blowing the shofar and eating apples and honey, and reinforces the values of hospitality and friendship.

Rhyming text invites readers to reflect on events of the past year. Warm illustrations depict a diverse Jewish community and contribute Jewish seasonal specificity to the text. As the characters’ social circles become more inclusive, the book honors the opportunities of both the High Holidays and new friendships.

SUKKOT

Rich, atmospheric illustrations depict a mother and son who decide to spend the night in their backyard sukkah. The quiet cadence renders this book equally effective as a calming bedtime story and a celebration of connecting to nature and religious tradition in the sukkah.

The Very Best Sukkah: A Story from Uganda by Shoshana Nambi, illustrated by Moran Yogev, Kalaniot Books, Ages 4-8, ISBN 9781735087580
Shoshi and her brothers decorate their sukkah in hopes of winning the annual village contest. This engaging story and accompanying backmatter impart information about the holiday and the author’s Abayudaya community, while bright linocut illustrations enhance the book’s strong sense of place.

HANUKKAH

Hanukkah in Little Havana by Julie Anna Blank, illustrated by Carlos Vélez Aguilera, Kar-Ben Publishing, Ages 4-8, ISBN 9781728442846
A Sephardic Jewish family roadtrips from Maryland to Florida to spend Hanukkah with Nonna and Nonno. In Miami’s Cuban neighborhood, they pick citrus, dance the salsa, visit the beach, and make latkes and buñuelos. Ladino-tinged text and tropically-hued illustrations highlight the book’s atypical contrast to cold weather, Ashkenazi-centered Hanukkah stories.
Eight Nights of Flirting by Hannah Reynolds, Razorbill, Ages 12-18, ISBN 9780593349755
This fizzy YA romance interweaves Hanukkah traditions, teen hijinks, and even some Nantucket maritime history. Jewish Shira, a member of the sprawling Barbanel clan on the island for generations, enlists former crush Tyler to help her practice flirting with the new object of her affection. But as Hanukkah burns on, she ends up more interested in a shipwrecked family mystery (and Tyler) than the new boy.

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

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