AJL ANNOUNCES HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS TITLES FOR FALL 2023

For immediate release, August 10, 2023 — The Association of Jewish Libraries is pleased to announce that nine titles have been selected for its seasonal AJL Holiday Highlights list, celebrating Shabbat, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, and Hanukkah. One book celebrates the entire year of Jewish holidays. These titles are AJL’s picks for the best Jewish holiday children’s books of Fall 2023.

Titles that are selected as Holiday Highlights exemplify the highest standards of authentic Jewish representation and holiday spirit in both writing and illustration. A committee of expert judges recommends these books for use by families, in schools, and in libraries. AJL hopes that the publishing world will look to the quality of these examples when creating new children’s books about Jewish holidays.

Holiday Highlights titles are named twice a year, for the spring and fall publishing seasons. Submissions are being accepted now for the Spring 2024 list. Please email holidayhighlights@jewishlibraries.org to send digital review copies or to request instructions for sending print review copies.

The committee has selected two books about the holiday of Shabbat, which begins every Friday evening and ends every Saturday evening:

- **This Is My Shabbat** by Chris Barash, illustrated by Aviel Basil, published by Green Bean Books (a picture book for ages 3-11)
- **Counting on Shabbat** by Nancy Churnin, illustrated by Petronela Dostalova, published by Kar-Ben Publishing (a board book for ages 0-3)

The committee has selected two books about the holiday of Rosh Hashanah, which begins on the evening of September 15 and ends on the evening of September 17, 2023:

- **Two New Years** by Richard Ho, illustrated by Lynn Scurfield, published by Chronicle (a picture book for ages 4-8)
- **Tzimmes for Tzipporah** by Megan Hoyt, illustrated by Christine Battuz, published by Apples & Honey Press (a picture book for ages 4-8)
One book was selected for the holiday of Yom Kippur, which begins on the evening of September 24 and ends on the evening of September 25, 2023:

- **Big Bad Wolf’s Yom Kippur** by David Sherrin, illustrated by Martín Morón, published by Apples & Honey Press (a picture book for ages 6-8)

One book was selected for the holiday of Sukkot, which begins on the evening of September 29 and ends on the evening of October 6, 2023:

- **The Moving Box Sukkah** by Leah Rachel Berkowitz, illustrated by Sharon Vargo, published by Apples & Honey Press (a picture book for ages 4-8)

The committee has selected two books about the holiday of Hanukkah, which begins on the evening of December 7 and ends on the evening of December 15, 2023:

- **Latke’s First Hanukkah** written and illustrated by Alan Silberberg, published by Viking Books for Young Readers (a board book for ages 0-3)
- **Hanukkah Upside Down** by Elissa Brent Weissman, illustrated by Omer Hoffmann, published by Abrams Books for Young Readers (a picture book for ages 4-8)

The committee also selected one book about Jewish holidays all year round:

- **Beni’s Tiny Tales: Around the Year in Jewish Holidays** written and illustrated by Jane Breskin Zalben, Christy Ottaviano Books (a collection of stories, crafts, and recipes for ages 4-8)

An annotated list of the Fall 2023 AJL Holiday Highlights can be found [HERE](#).

AJL’s 2023 Holiday Highlights judges are Rebecca Levitan, Librarian at the Baltimore County Public Library - Pikesville branch in Baltimore, MD; Jennifer Rothschild, Collection Engagement Librarian at Arlington Public Library in Arlington, VA; and Danielle Winter, Reference Librarian at the Brooklyn Public Library in Brooklyn, NY.

The Association of Jewish Libraries, the leading authority on Judaic librarianship, is an international professional organization that fosters access to information and research in all forms of media relating to all things Jewish. The Association promotes Jewish literacy and scholarship and provides a community for peer support and professional development. For more information, visit [jewishlibraries.org](http://jewishlibraries.org).

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