AJL ANNOUNCES HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS TITLES FOR SPRING 2024

For immediate release, March 11, 2024 — The Association of Jewish Libraries is pleased to announce that seven titles have been selected for its seasonal AJL Holiday Highlights list, celebrating Shabbat, Passover, and Shavuot. These titles are AJL’s picks for the best Jewish holiday children’s books of Spring 2024.

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 Fall 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:

- **On Friday Afternoon** by Michal Babay, illustrated by Menachem Halberstadt, published by Charlesbridge (a picture book for ages 5-8)
- **Rising** by Sidura Ludwig, illustrated by Sophia Vincent Guy, published by Candlewick (a picture book for ages 4-8)

The committee has selected four books about the holiday of Passover, which begins on the evening of April 22 and ends on the evening of April 30, 2024:

- **On All Other Nights: A Passover Celebration in 14 Stories** edited by Chris Baron, Joshua S. Levy & Naomi Milliner, published by Amulet Books (a middle grade anthology for ages 8-12)
• **Workitu’s Passover** by Zahava Workitu Goshen & Maayan Ben Hagai, illustrated by Eden Spivak, published by Green Bean Books (a picture book for ages 4-8)

• **Afikomen, Where’d You Go?: A Passover Hide-and-Seek Adventure** by Rebecca Gardyn Levington, illustrated by Noa Kelner, published by Rocky Pond Books (a picture book for ages 4-8)

• **Where Is Poppy?** by Caroline Kusin Pritchard, illustrated by Dana Wulfekotte, published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers (a picture book for ages 4-8)

One book was selected for the holiday of Shavuot, which begins on the evening of June 11 and ends on the evening of June 13, 2024:

• **First Fruits: A Shavuot Story** written and illustrated by Amalia Hoffman, published by PJ Publishing (a board book for ages 0-3)

An annotated list of the Spring 2024 AJL Holiday Highlights can be found [HERE](#).

AJL’s 2024 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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