CHILDREN'S LIT PUBLISHERS ROUNDTABLE

Michael Leventhal, Lili Rosenstreich, Joni Sussman and Vicki Weber

Description: Take a behind the scenes look into the how and the why books are selected in children’s publishing today with representatives from Green Bean Books, Kalaniot Books, Kar-Ben Publishing and Apples & Honey Press.

Michael Leventhal is a writer and publisher with more than 25 years of experience. He has written feature articles for newspapers including The Times, The Sunday Express, The Jewish Chronicle and Delicious magazine. He edited the Jewish Quarterly journal, was the co-author of Jews in Britain, author of a children's book, The Chocolate King and compiled a fundraising book of Jewish chocolate recipes called Babka, Boulou & Blintzes: Jewish Chocolate Recipes From Around The World. Michael was the founder of the food charity Gefiltefest and still spends too much time thinking about food and eating chocolate.

Lili Rosenstreich is the founder, publisher and creative director at Kalaniot Books. Prior to founding Kalaniot Books, she was the design director of children’s books at Farrar, Straus and Giroux and has designed and art directed books for HarperCollins, Macmillan, Henry Holt, Charlesbridge and Holiday House. She has had the honor of collaborating with such talented illustrators as Eric Rohmann, Peter Sis, David Small, Jon Agee and Ed Young. Lili feels fortunate to be able to bring this trade publishing craft to Kalaniot Books.

Joni Sussman is the Publisher at Kar-Ben Publishing, an imprint of Lerner Publishing Group in Minneapolis. Celebrating its 49th anniversary this year, Kar-Ben publishes Jewish-themed picture books for children, both fiction and non-fiction for preschool through 6th grade, including Jewish holiday books, life-cycle stories, Bible tales, folktales, picture book biographies, stories about American and world Jewish history, Israel, the Holocaust and other Jewish topics. In particular, Kar-Ben seeks stories that reflect the rich cultural diversity of today’s Jewish family.

Vicki Weber is co-owner of Behrman House, an independent, third-generation family-owned publishing company now in its 103rd year, publishing non-fiction books for adults, educational materials for Jewish settings and a variety of children’s books and YA nonfiction with a backlist of over 1,000 titles. Its growing Apples & Honey Press imprint publishes stories for babies through kids aged 12 and up formatted as picture books, board books, early and middle-grade chapter books and graphic novels. Although many Apples & Honey Press stories are overtly Jewish, many others are stories that are located within Jewish families, settings or holidays, but whose universal themes speak to children (and parents) from any background.