WELCOME TO KALANIOT BOOKS

We are Kalaniot Books. Our mission is to help young children and their families explore the diverse mosaic of Jewish culture and history. Our exciting picture books entertain, educate, and inspire engagement with this storied tradition. The name of our company, Kalaniot Books, comes from the bright red wild poppies or “kalaniot” that color the springtime hillsides of Israel. Like these brilliant wildflowers, our books will make Judaism a vibrant part of children’s lives.

The stories and illustrations in a Kalaniot book are lovingly crafted by members of the Jewish community from all over the world. The timeless messages in these books are meant to be passed down from generation to generation.

OUT AND ABOUT: A TALE OF GIVING

By Liza Wiemer
Illustrated by Margeaux Lucas

In this inspiring story, we follow Daniel as he tries to find out where his parents are going and what’s inside the mysterious boxes they’re carrying. Daniel’s imagination runs wild—could there be a new baseball and glove inside? A giant birthday cake? A new toy car? As it turns out Daniel learns much more than what’s in those boxes—he learns the true meaning of giving. This universal message is a beautiful way to share Jewish traditions with all readers.

A note explains the concept of tzedakah and addresses what it means to give and how to give in a way to respect those we want to help.

Art by Margeaux Lucas from Out and About: A Tale of Giving by Liza Wiemer
HOW TO WELCOME AN ALIEN

By Rebecca Klempner
Illustrated by Shirley Waisman

When a friendly alien family’s spaceship lands in the Abrahams’ backyard, Dina welcomes them with traditional Jewish hospitality. While this story hints at the biblical origins of the tradition of welcoming a stranger, it’s the silly antics of these out-of-this-world visitors that will have readers laughing out loud. A note at the back pulls it all together and reminds us that a stranger can be anyone from an immigrant to a person who feels alone because they are different and all deserve our hospitality.

SEVEN GOOD YEARS,
A YIDDISH FOLKTALE

By Shoham Smith
Illustrated by Eitan Eloa
Translated by Ilana Kurshan

When a magician offers a poor man and his family seven years of good luck, he is surprised that they have no use for a life of wealth. These refreshing down-to-earth characters are happy with their simple life together. Based on the Yiddish tale by I. L. Peretz, this story will charm readers.

Eitan Eloa’s bright and colorful illustrations pair beautifully with Shoham Smith’s witty retelling. An endnote explains the context of the story and the history of the original Yiddish storyteller.
AN INVITATION TO PASSOVER

By Rabbi Kerry Olitzky and Rabbi Deborah Bodin Cohen
Illustrated by Mariia Kolker

When Hannah’s extended family isn’t able to join her for their traditional Passover seder, she invites her diverse group of friends to experience the holiday with her. From Ha-Joon’s Korean kimchi, to Monique’s hymn lyrics, each friend brings a bit of their own culture to the celebration. And with each guest the themes of freedom, hope, and thanks become more meaningful.

Colorful illustrations will appeal to kids. An endnote tells the Passover story and a glossary defines vocabulary.

Pages: 32
Format: color picture book
Trim: 8.5” x 11”
Price: $19.99
ISBN: 979-8-9863965-0-7
Available now

ELLA KVELLLEPHANT AND THE SEARCH FOR BUBBE’S YIDDISH TREASURE

Written and illustrated by Jen Kostman

This is the delightful story of Ella, a spunky elephant explorer who is on the hunt for her grandmother’s beloved Yiddish language. Join Ella, Bubbe, Zayde and baby Eli for this colorful beach-day adventure! Readers will love learning new Yiddish vocabulary and seeing that they already use some of these fun and expressive words everyday.

Jen Kostman’s lively illustrations are colorful and engaging. Young readers will enjoy exploring the many details in the pictures, while adults will love the multi-generational themes. A note helps readers understand the history of the Yiddish language and a glossary highlights vocabulary.
The Candy Man Mystery
By Rabbi Kerry Olitzky
Illustrations by Jen Kostman
Price: $19.99
HC: 978-1-7350875-2-8
In a synagogue, everyone plays an important role: the rabbi, the cantor, the teachers, and even the congregation. But some synagogues are lucky enough to have a candy man. Everyone loves the Candy Man at Temple Shalom; especially the kids. It’s not just because of the delicious candy that he gives out after Shabbat services, either. Mr. Sharansky is always ready to help, whether it’s reading a book during junior congregation, telling a silly joke, or just sharing a friendly smile. But when the Candy Man goes missing, Josh and Becky get to work to uncover the mystery. In the end, the kids find the Candy Man—and so much more!

The Littlest Candle: A Hanukkah Story
By Rabbi Kerry and Jesse Olitzky
Illustrations by Jen Kostman
Price: $17.99
HC: 978-0-9988527-5-1
Little Flicker is always cheering his friends on with words of encouragement and support. But as the smallest candle in the box, he can’t help but wonder why he was chosen to be the shamash in the Hanukkah menorah. Isn’t the job of lighting all the other candles too big for him?

As it turns out, it’s the size of your heart that matters, and in that department, Little Flicker is huge!

Mendel’s Hanukkah Mess Up
By Chana and Larry Stiefel
Illustrations by Daphna Awadish
Price: $19.99
HC: 978-1-7350875-7-3
Mendel is always messing up. So, no one is more surprised than he when the rabbi asks him to drive the Mitzvah Mobile through the streets of New York and invite everyone to the Hanukkah bash. What if he messes up again? As Mendel begins to spread the joy of the holiday, he learns that mistakes can happen and sometimes the results can be miraculous.

My Israel and Me
By Alice Blumenthal McCinty
Illustrations by Rotem Teplow
Price: $19.99
HC: 978-1-7350875-3-5
Join us on a journey to meet the people of Israel. Throughout history, many have felt a deep connection with this tiny desert land. Everyone leaves a unique mark on Israel and Israel leaves its mark on them. The result is a country with an incredible diversity of cultures and traditions, where Israel means something special to each person. This connection leads everyone, in their own way, to think of Israel as “my Israel.”

HANUKKAH MIRTH
A HANUKKAH FAVORITE

The Rabbi and the Painter
By Shoshana Weiss
Illustrations by Jennifer Kirkham
Price: $19.99
HC: 978-0-9988527-8-2
Based on stories handed down from the past, The Rabbi and the Painter tells of the unique relationship between the 16th Century Rabbi Judah Aryeh di Modena and the Venetian painter Tintoretto. Modena’s interests extended far beyond the typical confines of the ghetto’s synagogue life to the secular world around him, while Tintoretto breaks all the artistic rules of the Renaissance with his maverick painting style. In The Rabbi and the Painter we are transported to a place where cultures mixed to create a breathtaking masterpiece.

Not So Fast, Max: A Rosh Hashanah Visit with Grandma
By Annette Schottenfeld
Illustrations by Rashin Kheiriyeh
Price: $19.99
HC: 978-1-7350875-2-8
Ezra and Roza are helping to prepare for their Passover celebration. Ezra is proud to be in charge of bringing his family’s flour to the synagogue to be baked into matzah in a traditional wood-burning oven. But when Ezra makes a mistake and the matzah is ruined, what will he and his sister Roza do? Join the siblings as they experience the sights, smells, sounds, and unique traditions of a seder in Iran of the 1950s.

Sarah’s Solo
By Tracy Brown
Illustrations by Paula Wegman
Price: $19.99
HC: 978-1-7350875-0-4
Sarah is disappointed when she must miss dancing her solo at the upcoming ballet recital to go to her cousin’s wedding. But as she explores some of the Jewish customs at the wedding, she begins to realize how much her own culture’s traditions have to offer. Although not the delicate melodies of classical music and elegant movements of ballet, the hypnotic rhythms of the klezmer band and the energetic steps of the hora still transport her—and the reader—to another world.

CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR

A Snake, a Flood, a Hidden Baby
By Meir Shalev
Illustrations by Emanuele Luzzati
Translated by Ilana Kurshan
Price: $19.99
HC: 978-0-9988527-9-9
A Snake, a Flood, a Hidden Baby features six popular stories from the Hebrew Bible retold with whimsy by one of Israel’s most celebrated authors. With irresistible humor, Meir Shalev introduces a lively cast of characters. Whether it’s a sneaky snake or a bunch of babbling builders, parents and their children are sure to enjoy these tales anew. Emanuele Luzzati’s playful collage illustrations pair beautifully with this witty retelling, while Ilana Kurshan’s translation creates a light and friendly tone that children will love.
Every Shabbat, Jacob and Soosie the horse set out to deliver Ezra and Esther’s delicious challahs to their Jerusalem neighbors. But what happens when Jacob is sick? Will everyone get their challah in time for Shabbat?

Sukkot is Shoshi’s favorite Jewish holiday. She and her brothers love to decorate their sukkah, the hut where her family will celebrate. But who will win the Ugandan Abayudaya community’s annual sukkah contest? While only one sukkah can be the best, everybody wins when neighbors work together.

KALANIOT BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE RETAIL ONLINE AND THROUGH YOUR FAVORITE BRICK AND MORTAR STORE.

KALANIOT BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE WHOLESALE THROUGH NATIONAL BOOK NETWORK AT (800) 462-6420 OR AT THE WHOLESALER OF YOUR CHOICE.

COMING FROM KALANIOT

The Blue Butterfly of Cochin
By Ariana Mizrahi with the Indian Jewish Heritage Center
Illustrated by Siona Benjamin
Leah tells the story of her Indian community’s move from their home in Cochin to an Israel moshav. She is torn between the two places until she realizes that her heart is big enough to hold many things.

A Bright Light in Buenos Aires
By Santi Nader
Illustrated by Paula Wegman
Dani is just a regular kid living in Buenos Aires—except for the giant light that follows him everywhere. He wishes he could be like the other kids, but he learns that sometimes you just have let your own light shine through.

Home for Sigd
Written and illustrated by Hirut Yosef
Little Hirut leaves everything familiar in Ethiopia and emigrates to Israel. She learns that home is not necessarily a place on a map, but a place in your heart.

A Turkish New Year
By Etan Basseri
Join Rafael as he teams up with his cousins to prepare for their Rosh Hashanah celebration in Istanbul.

Art by Shirley Waisman from How to Welcome an Alien by Rebecca Klempner