RECOMMENDED RECENT JEWISH CHILDREN’S BOOKS

Rebecca Levitan, Heidi Rabinowitz and Talya Sokoll

Description: Past Sydney Taylor Book Award committee members and chairs will share recent and forthcoming Jewish children’s and YA titles recommended for Judaic collections. This is a good way to learn about worthy titles beyond those recognized by the Sydney Taylor Book Awards.

Rebecca Levitan is a librarian at the Baltimore County Public Library Pikesville Branch. She is the Children’s Engagement Coordinator for her branch. Rebecca is also the SSCPL president, AJL News & Reviews Children's and YA co-editor, AJL seals manager, and the president of the AJL Capital Area chapter, as well as a past Sydney Taylor committee member and chair. As a mother of three young children, Rebecca has a passion for quality Jewish children’s literature. If she's not knitting in her free time, she’s most likely reading a romance novel.

Heidi Rabinowitz is the Library Director at Feldman Children's Library of Congregation B'nai Israel in Boca Raton, FL, past president of AJL and currently serves as AJL's Member Relations chair. She engages in numerous projects that promote Jewish children’s literature, hosting The Book of Life: A Podcast about Jewish Kidlit (Mostly) at bookoflifepodcast.com, founding the popular Jewish Kidlit Mavens group on Facebook and helping to run The Sydney Taylor Shmooze, a mock award blog at sydneytaylorshmooze.com. Heidi is a past chair of the Sydney Taylor Book Award committee and has served on the book selection committee for PJ Library.

Talya Sokoll (They/Them) is a middle and high school librarian, history teacher and the gender and sexuality specialist at the Noble and Greenough School in Dedham, MA. Talya has been on a number of committees prior to their wonderful experience this year on the Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee. Talya is an RK, raised at the Greater Boston JCC and Jewish summer camp and taught Hebrew School at Prozdor for many years. Talya has written various articles on the representations of transgender youth in young adult literature. Talya holds a BS and an MA from NYU in English education and an MLS from Simmons College.