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THE SYDNEY TAYLOR BOOK AWARD WINNERS

Chana Stiefel, Susan Gal, Mari Lowe and Sacha Lamb

Description: Chana Stiefel and Susan Gal will discuss their picture book winner, *The Tower of Life*, Yaffe Eliach’s true story of how she recreated her beloved shtetl. Mari Lowe will take us to a close-knit Orthodox community with a supposedly haunted mikvah in middle grade winner *Aviva vs. the Dybbuk*. Sacha Lamb will tell us about the journeys of an angel, a demon and a nice Jewish girl to America in the young adult winner, *When the Angels Left the Old Country*.

Chana Stiefel is the award-winning author of more than 30 books for children. Her picture book, *The Tower of Life: How Yaffa Eliach Rebuilt Her Town in Stories and Photographs* (Scholastic), won the 2023 Sydney Taylor Book Award and a Robert F. Sibert Honor. It was listed as a Best Book of the Year by *School Library Journal*, *Booklist*, the New York Public Library, Chicago Public Library, *Tablet Magazine* and others. Chana’s other nonfiction titles include *Let Liberty Rise: How America’s Schoolchildren Helped Save the Statue of Liberty* and the upcoming *Let’s Fly* (Dial, 2024) co-written with Barrington Irving, who broke the record as the youngest person and first Black man to fly solo around the world. Learn more at chanastiefel.com.

Susan Gal began her illustration career as a poster and calendar artist in Los Angeles. Her love of drawing lively characters earned her an internship with Walt Disney Feature Animation and she became a member of the original animation team at the Disney MGM Studios in Orlando, FL. Although she loved the Disney years in Florida, Susan returned to her native California to follow her true passion of writing and illustrating children’s picture books. In recent years, Susan’s work has been recognized with the Sydney Taylor Award, a National Jewish Book Award, a Robert Sibert Honor, the Russell Freedman Non-Fiction Award for a Better World, and several library and editors' choice lists. See more of Susan’s work at galgirlstudio.com.

Mari Lowe has too little free time and spends it all on writing and escape rooms. As the daughter of a rabbi and a middle school teacher at an Orthodox Jewish school, she looks forward to sharing little glimpses into her community with her books. She lives in New York with her family, menagerie of pets and robotic vacuum. She can be found on Twitter at @marilwrites and at https://marilowe.com/.

Sacha Lamb is a 2018 Lambda Literary Fellow in young adult fiction, and graduate in library and information science and history from Simmons University. Since publishing their debut short piece, *Avi Cantor Has Six Months to Live* (2017), Sacha has regularly contributed book reviews to the Jewish Book Council and appeared in the Foreshadow YA anthology online with “Epistolary” (2019). Their debut novel, *When the Angels Left the Old Country*, is a Sydney Taylor and Stonewall Award winner, a Printz Honor book, and a National Jewish Book Award finalist. Sacha lives in New England with a miniature dachshund mix named Anzu Bean. Find her online at sachalamb.wordpress.com