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Contact:
Heidi Rabinowitz & Susan Kusel
Co-Chairs, AJL Holiday Highlights Committee
holidayhighlights@jewishlibraries.org

AJL ANNOUNCES HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS TITLES FOR FALL 2024

For immediate release, July 30, 2024 — The Association of Jewish Libraries is pleased to announce that eight titles have been selected for its seasonal AJL Holiday Highlights list, celebrating Shabbat, Rosh Hashanah, Sukkot, and Hanukkah. These titles are AJL’s picks for the best Jewish holiday children’s books of Fall 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 Spring 2025 list. Please email holidayhighlights@jewishlibraries.org to send digital review copies or to request instructions for sending print review copies.

An annotated list of the Fall 2024 AJL Holiday Highlights can be found HERE.

The committee has selected two books about the holiday of Shabbat, which begins every Friday evening and ends every Saturday evening:

- **Challah for Shabbat Tonight** by Sara Holly Ackerman, illustrated by Alona Millgram, published by Algonquin Young Readers (a picture book for ages 4-8)
- **Ping-Pong Shabbat: The True Story of Champion Estee Ackerman** by Ann Diament Koffsky, illustrated by Abigail Rajunov, published by Little Bee Books (a picture book for ages 4-8)

The committee has selected two books about the holiday of Rosh Hashanah, which begins on the evening of October 2 and ends on the evening of October 4, 2024:
● **A Turkish Rosh Hashanah** by Etan Basseri, illustrated by Zeynep Özatalay, published by Kalaniot Books (a picture book for ages 5-9)

● **Lucky Penny** by Aimee Lucido, illustrated by Jon Davis, published by Apples & Honey Press (a chapter book for ages 7-9)

One book was selected for the holiday of Sukkot, which begins on the evening of October 16 and ends on the evening of October 23, 2024:

● **Mixed-Up Mooncakes** by Christina Matula & Erica Lyon, illustrated by Tracy Subisak, published by Quill Tree Books (a picture book for ages 4-8)

Three books were selected for the holiday of Hanukkah, which begins on the evening of December 25, 2024 and ends on the evening of January 2, 2025:

● **Rachel Friedman and the Eight Not-Perfect Nights of Hanukkah** by Sarah Kapit, illustrated by Genevieve Kote, Henry Holt & Co. (a chapter book for ages 5-9)

● **Hanukkah Hippity-Hop** by Barbara Kimmel, illustrated by Ana Zurita, published by Kar-Ben Publishing (a board book for ages 1-4)

● **Eight Sweet Nights, a Festival of Lights** by Charlotte Offsay, illustrated by Menahem Halberstadt, published by Doubleday Books for Young Readers (a picture book for ages 3-7)

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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