Cookbooks


FOR ADULTS:


Bobker, Joe. *And You Thought There Were Only Four: 400 Questions to Make Your Seder Enlightening, Educational and Enjoyable*. (Gefen Publishing House, 2006; ISBN: 978-9652293664). Joe Bobker addresses amusing and fascinating questions you never thought about or perhaps always wanted to ask, but never did! Have fun this Pesach, entertain and enlighten your guests around the Seder table.


Greenberg, Sidney and Pamela Roth, editors. *In Every Generation: A Treasury of Inspiration for Passover and the Seder*. (Jason Aronson, 1998; ISBN: 0-7657-6031-2). “A rich and uplifting anthology that brings together many highly creative and prominent contemporary writers including Ismar Schorsch, Elie Wiesel, and Joan Nathan, whose contributions serve to enhance the Seder experience.”

Hoffman, Lawrence A., Editor. *My People’s Passover Haggadah: Traditional Texts, Modern Commentaries, Volume 1* (My People’s Series) (Jewish Lights, 2008; ISBN: 978-1580233545). This diverse and exciting Passover resource features the traditional Haggadah Hebrew text with a new translation designed to let you know exactly what the Haggadah says. Introductory essays help you understand the historical roots of Passover, the development of the Haggadah, and how to make sense out of texts and customs that evolved from ancient times.

Hoffman, Lawrence A., Editor. *My People’s Passover Haggadah: Traditional Texts, Modern Commentaries, Volume 2* (My People’s Series) (Jewish Lights, 2008; ISBN: 978-1580233460). This diverse and exciting Passover resource features the traditional Haggadah Hebrew text with a new translation designed to let you know exactly what the Haggadah says. Introductory essays help you understand the historical roots of Passover, the development of the Haggadah, and how to make sense out of texts and customs that evolved from ancient times. Framed with beautifully designed Talmud-style pages, *My People’s Passover Haggadah* features commentaries by scholars from all denominations of Judaism. You are treated to insights by experts in such fields as the Haggadah’s history; its biblical roots; its confrontation with modernity; and its relationship to rabbinic midrash and Jewish law, feminism, Chasidism, theology, and kabbalah.


Shapiro, Laurie. *The Matzo Ball Heiress*. (Red Dress Ink, 2004; ISBN: 978-0373250530). From *Publishers Weekly*: Heather Greenblotz is the most down-to-earth heiress you're ever likely to meet. She's got a chilly, self-centered and travel-obsessed mother and a warm, self-centered and gay father; her cousin Jake, a real trooper, runs the family business, Greenblotz Matzo; her
cousins Marcy and Rebecca are covetous and litigious. Shapiro, author of ALA Notable Book The Unexpected Salami, deftly manages to keep her heroine above the fray: while Heather may be angry at her relatives, she is never bitter. But what's an heiress-albeit a very nice and hardworking one-to do when she discovers that the family business is in financial trouble and only she can save the day? Why, she throws together a last-minute Passover seder to be broadcast by the Food Channel. The only problem is that the cantankerous Greenblotz clan doesn't celebrate Passover. In a highly improbable sequence of events, Heather and her kosher heartthrob, cameraman Jared Silver, attempt to pull off the seder of the year, attended by, among others, a stoned intern, Heather's father's gay lover, the official spokesman for the Egyptian consulate and a young woman with the unfortunate surname of Hitler. There is plenty of humor in this novel, and while some of it flirts with slapstick, Shapiro rescues her characters' dignity, sometimes hauling them out of the abyss at the last moment. Heather's likable personality and work as an award-winning documentarian also help her to "keep it real," even as she trips along toward the inevitable happy ending of this amusing, irreverent novel.


FOR YOUNGER READERS:

Board Books


More Passover Books

Balsley, Tilda. *Let My People Go!* Illustrated by Ilene Richard. (Kar-Ben (Lerner), 2008; ISBN: 978-0-8225-7241-1). The ten plagues are recounted in rhyme, with a narrator, Moses, Pharaoh, Egyptians and a chorus taking part. While the narrator describes the plagues, the others offer comments or short dialog. The illustrations are wonderful: colorful, expressive, and humorous. For young readers who don’t know about boils or locust, the pictures give context.

Chwast, Seymour. *Had Gadya: A Passover Song*. (Roaring Brook Press, 2005; ISBN: 1-59643-033-8). The charming illustrations actually tell two stories: one is the cycle of Had Gadya, with the characters appearing in the main pictures, and then lining up across the top of the remaining pages. The other is the preparation for the Seder, with the fire burning the stick in an oven to bake the matza, and the butcher killing the ox in his shop while a customer awaits her Passover order.

Feder, Harriet K. *Not Yet, Elijah!* Illustrated by Joan Halpern. (Kar-Ben, 1989; ISBN: 0-930494-94-6). “The prophet Elijah, traditional guest at the Passover Seder, impatiently waits outside the door until it is his turn to come inside and join the celebration.”

Fishman, Cathy Goldberg. *On Passover*. Illustrated by Melanie W. Hall. (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 1997; ISBN: 0-689-80528-4). “As her family prepares for Passover, a little girl learns about the many traditions which are part of the celebration of this holiday.”


Geras, Adele. *Rebecca’s Passover*. Illustrated by Sheila Moxley. (Frances Lincoln, 2004; ISBN: 978-1845071554). Rebecca is helping Granny Sarah make the food needed for the special meal called the Seder. As Rebecca and her brother work, Granny Sarah tells them the story of Passover: how God sent the ten plagues to the Egyptians and how Moses led the freed Israelite slaves through the Red Sea and across the desert.


Howland, Naomi. *The Matzah Man: A Passover Story.* (Clarion Books, 2002; ISBN: 978-0618117505). From *School Library Journal:* In this Passover version of the "Gingerbread Man," a baker makes his last bit of matzah dough into a tiny figure that proceeds to run away. He encounters a variety of people and animals who enter into the cumulative chase, and each time he escapes, until young Mendel Fox convinces him to hide under the matzah cover, where he is broken and eaten by his pursuers.


Kropf, Latifa Berry. *It’s Seder Time.* Photographs by Tod Cohen (Kar-Ben, 2004; ISBN: 978-1580130929). Kropf follows a preschool class through the preparation of a traditional meal to a reenactment of the story of Passover to the songs that conclude the classroom festivities.

Lehman-Wilzig, Tami. *Passover Around the World.* Illustrated by Elizabeth Wolf. (Kar-Ben/Lerner, 2007; ISBN: 1-58013-213-8.) The customs and observances of Passover from many exotic places, as well as America and Israel, are described in this colorful book that also includes recipes, the history of the Jewish population in each country included, brief descriptions of a few more traditions, and a succinct glossary.


Marcus, Audrey Friedman and Raymond A. Zwerin. *But This Night Is Different: A Seder Experience.* Illustrated by Judith Gwyn Brown. (UAHC, 1980; ISBN: 0-8074-0032-7). Explanations of how activities that are done on other days are done differently on Passover. The last page summarizes all the differences, which make up the Seder.


come and make her fabulous matzo ball soup. This year the recipe turns out so well that no one can enter the kitchen without sneaking a matzo ball from the pan?and there are so many trips to the kitchen that Bubbe falls short one matzo ball when it's time for the seder.

O’Connell, Rebecca. Penina Levine Is A Hard-Boiled Egg. Illustrated by Majella Lue Sue. New Milford, Connecticut: (Roaring Brook Press (A Deborah Brodie Book), 2007; ISBN-13: 978-1-59643-140-9). Penina Levine is a hard-boiled egg because, as her grandmother says, “when the heat is on, we (Jews) don’t turn to mush. We get tougher.” Penina has refused to do the assignment of writing a letter as the Easter Bunny to a child in a younger grade. Taking this stand gets her a penciled zero in the grade book until it is done. When her parents find out the situation, they call the principal, a former colleague, who decides the teacher must address diversity. The class gets a visit from a student’s grandmother, who survived the Holocaust by being hidden in a Catholic school, and the drama is resolved when the teacher apologizes and Penina, at the suggestion of her annoying little sister, invites Ms. Anderson for a Shabbat dinner.


Portnoy, Minda Avra. Matzah Ball: A Passover Story. Illustrated by Katherine Janus Kahn. (Kar-Ben, 1994; ISBN: 0-929371-69-0). "Aaron can’t pass up a chance to attend an Orioles game at Camden Yards, even though it’s during Passover and he’ll have to bring special food.


Rauchwerger, Diane Levin. Dinosaur on Passover. Illustrated by Jason Wolff. (Kar-Ben Publishing, 2006; ISBN 1-58013-156-5.) A helpful, yet clumsy dinosaur arrives as the family is preparing for Passover and proceeds to assist in all the preparations for and rituals of the holiday including grating horseradish, asking the Four Questions and searching for the Afikomen. The illustrations take the simple rhymes over the top as the dinosaur uses his tail to sweep as well as clean up some spilled wine.


Rouss, Sylvia A. Sammy Spider’s First Haggadah. Illustrated by Katherine Janus Kahn. (Kar-Ben/Lerner, 2007; ISBN: 1-58013-230-8). Sammy Spider’s Haggadah includes the story of Moses; the ten plagues and the exodus from Egypt; a check list for the Seder table; the Four Questions; the blessings recited over the candles, wine, matzah and bitter herbs as well as after the meal; and songs to sing as the house is cleaned of hametz, as the Seder plate is arranged, as you search for the afikomen and then eat it, and when filling Elijah’s cup.

Schilder, Rosalind. *Dayenu! Or How Uncle Murray Saved the Seder*. Illustrated by Katherine Janus Kahn. (Kar-Ben, 1988; ISBN: 0-930494-76-8). “Deciding that a Passover Seder is too much work, Uncle Murray and Aunt Helene decide to skip some of the things they do every year. However, one thing leads to another and soon a joyous celebration is underway.”


Zalben, Jane Breskin. *Pearl's Passover*. (Simon & Schuster, 2002; ISBN: 978-0689814877). Linda Silver says: “A large family, neighbors, and a rabbi (all portrayed in loving domestic detail as sheep) play a role in the stories, recipes, crafts, and songs featured here. Zalben individualizes her characters through humorous touches that make the rather large cast easy to distinguish. The colored-pencil and watercolor illustrations of the vignettes are charming, and those that accompany the clear directions given for crafts and cooking are both helpful and inviting. Children will enjoy reading about Pearl and Avi and their twin cousins, Sophie and Harry ("the two terrors from Teaneck"); adults will appreciate the way that essential information about
the history, meaning, and customs of Passover is interwoven throughout the stories and activities.”


**Passover Related**

Fireside, Bryna J. *Private Joel and the Sewell Mountain Seder*. Illustrations by Shawn Costello. (Kar-Ben (Lerner), 2008; ISBN: 978—0-8225-7240-4). Civil War soldiers far from home plan a Passover Seder. They get permission from their regiment leaders, and begin to gather all the items they will need. Three Negro soldiers asked to participate, asserting that they can relate to the story of the slaves leaving Egypt. They cook the food, making substitutions when necessary. The soldiers conducted their Seder, with liberal drinking of the cider substituting for wine. The regiment leader tries matzoh ball soup, and the soldiers sing the songs they remember into the night.

Kessler, Brad. *Moses in Egypt*. Illustrated by Phil Huling. (Rabbit Ears Productions, Inc., 1997; ISBN: 0-689-80226-9). “Tells how Moses grew up in the Egyptian pharaoh’s court, was chosen by God to be the leader of the enslaved Israelites, and called down plagues to convince the pharaoh to let the Israelites go free.”