



## Shavuot

at the Beth Sholom Library

May 2009

### FOR ADULTS:

#### From Holiday Books:

Aaron, Rabbi David. *Inviting God In: Celebrating the Soul-Meaning of the Jewish Holy Days*. (Trumpeter, 2006; ISBN: 978-1-59030-337-5). See pp. 23-49.

Cardin, Rabbi Nina Beth. *The Tapestry of Jewish Time*. Behrman House, Inc., 2000; ISBN: 0-87441-645-0). See pp. 166-177.

Domnitch, Larry. *The Jewish Holidays: A Journey Through History*. (Jason Aronson, 2000; ISBN: 0-7657-6109-2). See pp. 59-81.

Fellner, Judith B. *In the Jewish Tradition: A Year of Food and Festivities*. (Jonathan David Publishers, 1995; ISBN: 0-8246-0385-0). See pp. 100-115.

Greenberg, Irving. *The Jewish Way: Living the Holidays*. (Simon & Schuster, 1988; ISBN: 0-671-87303-2). See pp. 66-93.

Kitov, Eliyahu. *The Book of Our Heritage*. (Feldheim, 1978; ISBN: 0-87306-154-3). See pp. 49-189 (Sivan).

Miron, Issachar. *Eighteen Gates of Jewish Holidays and Festivals*. (Jason Aronson, 2000; ISBN: 0-87668-563-7). See pp. 192-201.

Steinberg, Paul. *Celebrating the Jewish Year: The Spring and Summer Holidays*. (JPS, 2009; ISBN: 978-0-8276-0850-4). See pp. 135-184.

Strassfeld, Michael. *The Jewish Holidays: A Guide and Commentary*. (Harper & Row, 1985; ISBN: 0-06-015406-3). See pp. 69-84.

Syme, Daniel B. *The Jewish Home: A Guide for Jewish Living*. (Jason Aronson, 1988; ISBN: 0-87668-825-3). See pp. 43-45.

Waskow, Arthur. *Seasons of Our Joy: A Celebration of Modern Jewish Renewal*. (Beacon Press, 1982; ISBN: 0-8070-3611-0). See pp. 185-206.

#### Aspects of the Holiday:

Agnon, S. Y. *Present at Sinai: The Giving of the Law*. (JPS, 1994; ISBN: 0-8276-0503-X). "Agnon uses the events at Sinai as a prism through which to view Jewish theological tradition. The sampler he offers us encompasses biblical and Talmudic texts and commentaries, the whole sweep of the Midrash, Kabbalah, and Hasidism, as well as homiletic and pietistic writings of various periods down to our own time."

Chittister, Joan D. *The Story of Ruth: Twelve Moments in Every Woman's Life*. Art by John August Swanson. (William B. Eerdmans, 2000; ISBN: 0-8028-4742-0). "A lovely blend of art and text, The Story of Ruth provides inspirational help for women seeking wholeness in a world still struggling with issues of gender and faith, and offers compelling devotional images for eyes and mind alike." N.B.: This book was written by a Catholic nun.

Isaacs, Ronald H. *Every Person's Guide to Shavuot* (Every Person's Guide to... Series). (Jason Aronson, 1998; ISBN: 0-7657-6041-X). This book "will introduce you to the customs, laws, traditions, legends, stories, music, and folklore connected with the festival."

Kates, Judith A., and Reimer, Gail Twersky. *Reading Ruth: Contemporary Women Reclaim a Sacred Story*. (Ballantine Books, 1994; ISBN: 0-345-38033-9). "Thirty contemporary Jewish novelists, essayists, poets, rabbis, psychologists, and scholars explore this biblical work and reclaim it for women on their own terms."

Mikva, Rachel S., editor. *Broken Tablets: Restoring the Ten Commandments and Ourselves*. (Jewish Lights Publishing, 1999; ISBN: 1-58023-066-0). "Twelve outstanding spiritual leaders from across the spectrum of Jewish thought bring us to the life and soul of the Ten Commandments' unusual power."

Zlotowitz, Rabbi Meir. *Megillas Ruth* (Mesorah Publications, 1976). "A new translation with a commentary anthologized from Talmudic, Midrashic and Rabbinic sources."

## **FOR YOUNGER READERS:**

### From Holiday Books:

Adler, David A. *The Kids' Catalog of Jewish Holidays*. (JPS, 1996; ISBN: 0-8276-0581-1). See pp. 234-259.

Berger, Gilda. *Celebrate! Stories of the Jewish Holidays*. Paintings by Peter Catalahotto. (Scholastic Press, 1998; ISBN: 0-590-93503-8). See pp. 99-110.

Cashman, Greer Fay. *Jewish Days and Holidays*. Illustrated by Alona Frankel. (SBS Publishing, 1979; ISBN: 0-89961-000-5). See pp. 50-55.

Cooper, Ilene. *Jewish Holidays All Year Round*. Illustrations by Elivia Savadier. (Harry Abrams, 2002; ISBN: 0-8109-0550-7). See pp. 70-74.

Drucker, Malka. *The Family Treasury of Jewish Holidays*. Illustrated by Nancy Patz. (Little, Brown & Company, 1994; ISBN: 0-316-19343-7). See pp. 122-124.

Rouss, Sylvia. *Fun with Jewish Holiday Rhyme*. (UAHC, 1992; ISBN: 0-8074-0463-2). See p. 25 for 2 short poems.

### Aspects of the Holiday:

Cedarbaum, Sophia N. *Shavuot: The Birthday of the Torah*. Pictures by Clare and John Ross. (UAHC, 1976). Debbie and Danny make decorations, learn about the wheat harvest and attend Susan's confirmation in a book that describes customs and activities surrounding Shavuot.

Cone, Molly. *Who Knows Ten?: Children's Tales of the Ten Commandments*. Illustrated by Uri Shulevitz. (UAHC, 1965). This book "gives you a chance to find for yourself the many meanings inside each commandment."

Ganz, Yaffa. *Shavuot with Bina, Benny and Chaggai Hayonah* (The Artscroll Children's Holiday Series). Illustrated by Liat Benyaminy Ariel. (Mesorah Publications, 1992; ISBN: 0-89906-982-7). "Follow Bina, Benny, and Chaggai the Holiday Dove through the holiday of Shavuot and you'll learn about mountains, mitzvos, milk and honey; harvests, First Fruits, and a poor Moabite princess who became the great-grandmother of the family of Jewish kings!"

Klempner, Rebecca. *A Dozen Daisies for Raizy: A Shavuot Story*. Illustrated by Chava. (Hachai, 2008; ISBN: 978-1-929628-41-4). When Bubbe and Raizy shop for flowers for *Shavuot* (it is customary to decorate homes and synagogues with flowers because according to the *Midrash*, Mount Sinai was covered with flowers in honor of the giving of the Torah), Raizy decides to get a bunch of daisies. On her way home, she finds many opportunities to do *mitzvot* including inviting a new girl to help with her family's celebration; inviting an elderly woman to share in a holiday meal, and offering to babysit so a neighbor can go to synagogue. She gives each person two daisies. When her brother criticizes the scant bouquet in the vase, their grandmother explains that it is a bouquet of *mitzvot* that "is half as big as it started out, but twice as beautiful."

Manushkin, Fran. *How Mama Brought the Spring*. Illustrated by Holly Berry. (Dutton Children's Books, 2008; ISBN: 978-0-525-42027-9). "Stunning illustrations evoke charming folk traditions in this delightfully cozy tale" with no overt mention of Shavuot or Judaism. It relates to the holiday because of the cheese blintzes and the warming weather.

Marzollo, Jean. *Ruth and Naomi*. (Little, Brown & Company, 2005; ISBN: 0-316-74139-6). "A retelling of the heartwarming story of kindness, courage, loyalty, and faith" associated with the harvest festival of Shavuot.

Nerlove, Miriam. *The Ten Commandments for Jewish Children*. (Albert Whitman, 1999; ISBN: 0-8075-7770-7). "Describes how Moses received the Ten Commandments, what they contain, and how they should be obeyed."

Podwal, Mark. *The Book of Tens*. (Greenwillow Books, 1994; ISBN: 0-688-12995-1). "Mark Podwal's vivid retellings of some of the tales, legends, and miracles document the importance of the number ten both in story and ritual. They also present a unique and inspiring look at the Bible itself."

Rouss, Sylvia A. *Sammy Spider's First Shavuot*. (Sammy Spider) Illustrated by Katherine Janus Kahn. (Kar-Ben (Lerner), 2008.; ISBN: 978-0-8225-7224-4). Sammy Spider is once again observing the Shapiro family. He sees Mrs. Shapiro make blintzes by following a recipe "step by step." He sees Mr. Shapiro make strawberry topping, and he learns about the holiday of Shavuot which celebrates the giving of the Torah and bringing first fruits to the Temple. When Sammy goes to bed, he reviews his busy day of almost landing in blintzes, strawberries and flowers

Saypol, Judyth Robbins and Wikler, Madeline. *My Very Own Shavuot Book*. (Karben, 1982; ISBN: 0-930494-15-6). "In addition to discussing the traditional themes of harvest and holiday," the book highlights folk customs, including the art of paper cutouts."

Shamir, Moshe. *Why Ziva Cried on the Feast of First Fruits*. (Great Day in... Series). Illustrated by Cyril Satorsky. Translated by Tamara Kahana. (Abelard-Schuman, 1960). "How kind hearted Ziva helped Yossi and yet had a gift for the National Fund on the Feast of First Fruits makes a delightful story for young readers."

Topek, Susan Remick. *Ten Good Rules*. Photographs by Tod Cohen. (Karben Publishing, 2007; ISBN: 978-0-8225-7293-0). A counting book with succinct statements of the Ten Commandments accompanied by cute photographs. This is an update of the 1991 edition, whose pages look like tablets with adorable illustrations by Rosalyn Schanzer.