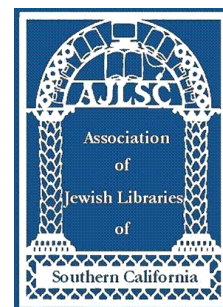


# IN CELEBRATION OF JEWISH BOOK MONTH

## A Selected List of Recent Books For Children and Teens For 2015



A Publication of the  
Association of Jewish Libraries  
of Southern California



## PICTURE BOOKS

Adler, David A. Jill Weber, Illustrator. **The Story of Passover.** 2014. A popular author offers a short, highly engaging retelling of the story behind the Passover holiday.

Ansh, Tamar. **Let My Children Cook!** 2014. No more dull matzah leftovers. The recipes here offer step-by-step instructions for traditional foods and appetizing meals for eight days.

Balsley, Tilda, and Ellen Fischer. Tom Leigh, Illustrator. **Grover and Big Bird's Passover Celebration.** 2013. **I'm Sorry, Grover.** 2013. **It's a Mitzvah, Grover!** 2013. This trio of stories, set in Israel, delivers Jewish holiday and moral values to the young set with bright dialog, familiar illustrations and beloved characters.

Burgan, Michael. **Ellis Island.** 2014. A new 'choose your own adventure' entices young readers to decide the action for immigrants to the US at the turn of the twentieth century.

Edwards, Michelle. Charles Santoso, Illustrator. **Max Makes a Cake.** 2014. Max finds the perfect way to make a unique, hurry-hurry Passover surprise birthday cake for his mother.

Elygren, Jennifer. Fabio Santomauro, Illustrator. **The Whispering Town.** 2014. In Denmark young Annet and her parents courageously hide a Jewish family from Nazi soldiers. They and their neighbors use whispers to guide the family to escape boats during the foggy night.

Fagan, Cary. Gary Clement, Illustrator. **Oy, Feh, So?** 2013. In a satire of those pesky visiting relatives, Fagan finds laughter and moving self-discovery.

Gellman, Ellie. Natascia Ugliano, Illustrator. **Netta and Her Plant.** 2014. When Netta is small, her preschool teacher gives her a plant for TuB'Shevat. As years pass, both grow.

Glaser, Linda. Maryam Tabatabaei, Illustrator. **Stone Soup with Matzoh Balls.** 2014. The latest cheerful twist on the familiar classic about making soup from stones has an old man trick Chelm folk into contributing the necessary ingredients for a Seder feast for all to share.

Heiligman, Deborah. LeUyen Pham, Illustrator. **The Boy Who Loved Math.** 2013. Short text and active art amusingly capture the improbable life of mathematician Paul Erdos.

Hyde, Heidi Smith. Mikela Prevost, Illustrator. **Elan, Son of Two Peoples.** 2014. Just after his Bar Mitzvah in 1898 Elan and his family travel to Albuquerque, New Mexico. Here he meets his mother's family and participates in the Pueblo ceremony of manhood.

Jules, Jacqueline. Durga Bernhard, Illustrator. **Never Say A Mean Word Again: A Tale from Medieval Spain.** 2014. 'Sticks and stones' gets a clever outing in this lush volume. Two boys, a Jew and a Muslim, hurt by mean words, change anger to friendship.

Kimmel, Eric A. Mike Wohnoutka, Illustrator. **Hanukkah Bear.** 2013. Delightful illustrations deliver a delicious revised version of the classic, *The Chanukah Guest*. Old Bear wanders into Bubba Brayna's house and eats the Hanukkah latkes intended for the rabbi.

Kimmelman, Leslie. Stefano Tambellini, Illustrator. **Sam and Charlie (and Sam Too!).** 2013. A boy named Sam, a girl named Sam and a girl named Charlie become friends. Run-ins teach them the true meaning of Leviticus 19:1, "love your neighbor as yourself."

Kimmelman, Leslie. William Owl, Illustrator. **Sam and Charlie (and Sam Too) Return!** 2014. Sam, Sam and Charlie face more escapades in this enjoyable sequel.

Korngold, Jamie S. Jeff Finkelstein, Photographer. **Seder in the Desert**. 2014. A photo essay captures a Passover Seder celebrated in the desert by the Rabbi/author and her congregation.

Korngold, Jamie S. Julie Fortenberry, Illustrator. **Sadie, Ori, and Nuggles Go to Camp**. 2014. Older sister Sadie and her first-time camper brother Ori pack for Jewish sleep-away camp. Nervous, Ori wonders if he should bring his beloved stuffed animal Nuggles.

Korngold, Jamie S. Julie Fortenberry, Illustrator. **Sadie's Lag Ba'Omer Mystery**. 2014. Sadie and brother Ori are mystified by the holiday Lag Ba'Omer. Unable to find out in books they turn to grandpa who explains all, providing tradition and understanding.

Krasner, Barbara. Kelsey Garrity-Riley, Illustrator. **Goldie Takes a Stand**. 2014. Share a charming childhood moment in the life of Israel's first female prime minister. At age nine, she organizes her friends to raise money to buy textbooks for immigrant classmates.

Lanton, Sandy. Claire Keay, Illustrator. **The Littlest Levine**. 2014. How frustrating to be the youngest; no one gives you a job to help. Grandpa provides the solution, teaching Hannah the special duty only she can perform at the Passover Seder.

Lehman-Wilzig, Tami. Anna Shuttlewood, Illustrator. **Stork's Landing**. 2014. In a story inspired by a true event, Maya and her father save an injured migrating stork, who cannot fly, but who wants to raise the babies in the nest high up in the tree.

Long, Ilana. Rasa Joni, Illustrator. **Ziggy's Big Idea**. 2014. Ziggy is a little boy with big ideas that have not turned out well. When Moishe the baker asks him to find a way to make boiled buns that are not undercooked in the center, Ziggy is up for the challenge.

McGinty, Alice B. Jennifer Black Reinhardt, Illustrator. **Rabbi Benjamin's Buttons**. 2014. Rabbi Benjamin's congregation presents him with a special holiday vest, then cooks him so much food its buttons pop off. This yummy tale notes Jewish holidays' special foods.

Ofanansky, Allison. Elsa Oriol, Illustrator. **The Patchwork Torah**. 2014. David's grandfather taught him to be a sofer; he gave him Torah scrolls to care for. When he is a grandfather himself, David assembles a complete scroll from pieces of Torahs damaged in the war.

Pinson, Isabel. Valeria Cis, Illustrator. **Bubbe's Belated Bat Mitzvah**. 2014. With encouragement and Torah lessons from her great-granddaughter, Bubbe has a bat mitzvah.

Polacco, Patricia. **The Blessing Cup**. 2013. A china cup, from a tea set left behind when Jews were forced to flee Russia, helps hold a family together through generations of living in America. 2014 Sydney Taylor Award Winner for Older Readers.

Rouss, Sylvia A. Katherine Janus Kahn, Illustrator. **Sammy Spider's First Yom Kippur**. 2013. Sammy Spider learns about Yom Kippur and its concepts of apology and forgiveness.

Snyder, Laurel. Catia Chien, Illustrator. **The Longest Night**. 2013. The 2014 Sydney Taylor Award Picture Book Winner recounts the Passover saga from the point of view of a young girl. She details her pain from slavery, fear of the plagues and the crossing to joyous freedom.

Soffer, Allison. Bob McMahon, Illustrator. **Apple Days**. 2014. Katy worries the new baby will inhibit her family's Rosh Hashanah tradition of making applesauce from scratch.

Steiner, N. Wendy Edelson, Illustrator. **On This Night**. 2013. Happy, natural rhymes and adorable illustrations introduce preschoolers to the order of the Passover Seder.

Stern, Arella. Patti Argoff, Illustrator. **Purim**. 2013. The rhymes in this lift-the-flap book about Purim entertain tots as they teach the holiday.

Stuchner, Joan Betty. Dave Whamond, Illustrator. **Bagels Come Home**. 2014. Bagels, the puppy, is expelled from obedience school. Josh and his little sister, Becky, worry he will not shape up and their parents will send him back to the animal shelter.

Tal, Rachel Shifra. Carrie Truitt, Illustrator. **If You Give a Frog a Piece of Matzah**. 2013. Laugh and learn in this hilarious introduction to Passover's ten plagues as explained to a frog.

Wohl, Lauren L. Laura Hughes, Illustrator. **The Eighth Menorah**. 2013. Can you blame Sam? He doesn't want to make a menorah in school because his family already owns seven! After a conversation with his grandmother he makes the perfect gift.

Yacowitz, Caryn. David Slonim, Illustrator. **I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Dreidel**. 2014. Hanukkah is interrupted when grandmother swallows a dreidel. Satirical riffs on famous art masterpieces deliver giggles in this fresh version of the funny classic folk song

### **MIDDLE GRADE BOOKS**

Ehrlich, Esther. **Nest**. 2014. On Cape Cod in 1972, 11-year-old Naomi, AKA Chirp for her love of birds, gets help from neighbor Joey when her real 'cozy nest home' radically changes. She and her family struggle coping with her dancer mother's multiple sclerosis.

Finkelstein, Norman H. **Schools of Hope**. 2014. Tzedakah jumps to life in this focused book about wealthy businessman Julius Rosenwald's financial support building over 5300 schools in 20 years in rural African-American communities that desperately needed them.

Fitzgerald, Laura Marx. **Under the Egg**. 2014. Her grandfather's dying words lead 13-year-old Theodora Tenpenny to a valuable, hidden painting she fears may be stolen. Searching for answers in her Greenwich Village neighborhood she discovers a real treasure.

Gelfand, Shoshana Boyd. Amanda Hall, Illustrator. **The Barefoot Book of Jewish Tales**. 2013. Lovely illustrations and elegant format deliver this charming collection of eight classic Jewish folktales which includes two CD's of Debra Messing reading them aloud.

Greene, Jacqueline Dumbar. **A Growing Suspicion**. 2014. Sprightly dialog, red herrings and careful clues keep the pages turning in this latest Rebecca Mystery. Jewish cousins suspected of vandalism while volunteering at the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens must find the real culprit.

Joffo, Joseph / Adapted by Kris. Vincent Bailly, illustrator. **A Bag of Marbles**. 2013. In a striking graphic novel, Kris introduces a new generation to the exciting escape of two spirited, courageous, young, French Jewish brothers racing from the Nazis to free territory.

Karwoski, Gail. **When Hurricane Katrina Hit Home**. 2013. The famous mega storm blows together two very different New Orleans children who bond in courage to survive the chaos.

Leyson, Leon. **The Boy on the Wooden Box: How the Impossible Became Possible on Schindler's List: a Memoir**. 2013. In a gripping memoir, a boy under ten, fighting to survive the Nazis, has the luck to land on Oskar Schindler's famous list of necessary workers.

Moss, Marissa. **Mira's Diary: Home Sweet Rome**. 2013. Mira returns in another grand time-travel adventure. She finds a 16<sup>th</sup> century thinker, endangered by his shocking discovery.

Perl, Erica S. **Aces Wild**. 2013. What to do with a wild dog and a wild grandfather? 11-year-old Zelly's parents ground her until she teaches her mischievous puppy to behave, so hard to do with Grandpa complicating things.

Reef, Catherine. **Leonard Bernstein and American Music**. 2013. An award winning author delivers an informative new biography of the glamorous American composer-conductor.

Stavans, Ilan. **Golemito**. 2013. Two Mexican Jewish boys create an Aztec version of the Golem to confront the bullies tormenting them.

Tarshis, Lauren. Scott Dawson, Illustrator. **I Survived the Nazi Invasion, 1944**. 2014. In exciting action, Max and Zena Rosen escape from their Polish ghetto and the Nazis in 1944. They join the Jewish resistance fighters.

Watts, Irene. **Touched by Fire**. 2013. A harrowing, heartbreaking historical fiction rekindles shtetl fires in Russia, the infamous 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Fire, and Nazi book burnings.

## TEEN BOOKS

Bascomb, Neal. **The Nazi Hunters**. 2013. A breathless historical thriller recounts the hunt for and capture of Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann in a remote area of Argentina. A teenage girl and her blind father join professional secret agents who spirit Eichmann to Israel for trial for his crimes during the Holocaust. 2014 Sydney Taylor Award Winner for Teens.

Bavati, Robyn. **Dancing in the Dark**. 2013. Passionate about ballet, Ditty Cohen signs up for dance class despite being forbidden to by her Orthodox Jewish parents. She must face the consequences when the two worlds suddenly collide after five and a half years of study.

Blankman, Ann. **Prisoner of Night and Fog**. 2014. Gretchen thinks her father died for her Uncle Dolf, actually, Adolf Hitler, until a Jewish reporter tells her the truth. This page turner grabs readers through a unique fiction about Hitler and his Nazi policies in 1931, at his start.

Freedman, Paula J. **My Basmati Bat Mitzvah**. 2013. Spunky Tara Feinstein, proud of both her East Indian and Jewish heritage, questions the meaning of a bat mitzvah as she deals with her own doubts about her faith. Good humor and a romance balance tension with charm.

Kacer, Kathy. **Shanghai Escape**. 2013. A young girl and her family flee Europe in 1938 to escape the Nazis. They settle in Shanghai, China only to face new, daunting obstacles.

Kerr, Philip. **The Winter Horses**. 2014. Kalinka, an orphaned, Ukrainian Jewish girl on the run from the Nazis, finds unlikely help from two rare, wild Przewalski horses.

Meszler, Joseph B., et al. **The J Guy's Guide**. 2013. This frank how-to describes challenges Jewish teenage boys face today and offers strategies to follow to fit in while holding onto Jewish identity.

Napoli, Donna Jo. **Storm**. 2014. All alone, her family lost in a massive flood, 16-year-old Sebah finds her way onto a gigantic ark, where she conceals herself from Noah and his family until it is safe for her and another stowaway to slip away in this thrilling survival tale.

Sanders, Shelly. **Rachel's Promise**. 2013. In the sequel to *Rachel's Secret* Rachel and her family leave Russia in late 1903. They move to Shanghai where more dangerous adventures ensue.

## **ONLINE LIBRARY CATALOGS**

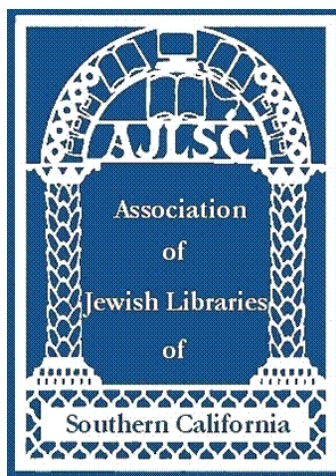
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