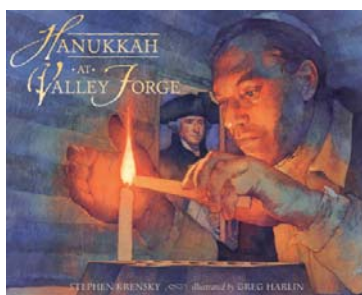




THE ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LIBRARIES NOTABLE BOOKS OF JEWISH CONTENT FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS 2007

These outstanding books were selected from among the over one hundred and fifty titles evaluated by the Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee of the Association of Jewish Libraries during 2006. The Committee recommends them for library, classroom, and home use. Visit www.SydneyTaylorBookAward.org for more information about the Sydney Taylor Book Awards.

THE SYDNEY TAYLOR BOOK AWARD WINNER FOR YOUNGER READERS:



Krensky, Stephen. *Hanukkah at Valley Forge*. Illustrated by Greg Harlin. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 2006. 32 p. \$17.99. ISBN: 0-525-47738-1.

During the grim winter at Valley Forge, a Polish-born soldier tells General Washington about Hanukkah, who draws a parallel between the Macabbee's war against their foes with the American war against the British oppressors. Beautiful watercolor illustrations add immeasurably to a delightful and inspirational account of this legendary encounter. (Grades 1-5)

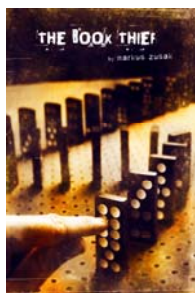
THE SYDNEY TAYLOR BOOK AWARD WINNER FOR OLDER READERS:



Ferber, Brenda A. *Julia's Kitchen*. New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2006. 151 p. \$16.00. ISBN 0-374-39932-8.

When Cara Segal loses her mother and younger sister in a house fire, she questions her belief in God, struggles with her relationship with her father, and tries to find ways to hold onto the memories of her family in this deeply moving novel that will touch the hearts of all readers. (Grades 4-8)

THE ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LIBRARIES TEEN BOOK AWARD WINNER:



Zusak, Markus. *The Book Thief*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006. 552 p. \$16.95. ISBN: 0-375-83100-2.

Death narrates the story of Leisl Meminger, a Lutheran girl in Nazi Germany who sustains herself and those close to her with her love of books and reading. An engaging story that resonates with the full spectrum of human emotions and experiences. (Grades 9-12)

THE SYDNEY TAYLOR HONOR AWARD WINNERS FOR YOUNGER READERS:



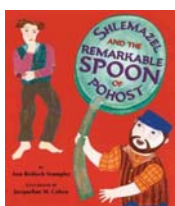
Gerstein, Mordicai. *The White Ram: A Story of Abraham and Isaac*. New York: Holiday House, 2006. 32 p. \$16.95. ISBN: 0-8234-1897-9.

This beautifully illustrated book adds another dimension to the biblical account of when God commanded Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. Although "the Evil One" seeks to deter him from his mission, the ram is able to complete it, and his sacrifice provides a rich inheritance for the Jewish people, including the foundations of Jerusalem, and the strings of David's harp. (Grades 1-5)



Landmann, Bimba. *I Am Marc Chagall*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2006. 34 p. ISBN 0-8028-5305-6.

With text loosely based on Marc Chagall's autobiography, this picture book features detailed, intricate three-dimensional mixed media illustrations that are a collage of fabrics, metals, woods, papers, clay, photographs, and objects from nature. (Kindergarten-Grade 4)



Stampler, Ann Redisch. *Shlemazel and the Remarkable Spoon of Pohost*. Illustrated by Jacqueline M. Cohen. New York: Clarion Books, 2006. 40 p. \$16.00. ISBN 0-618-36959-7.

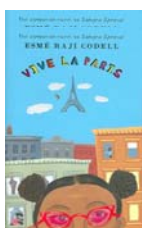
Bright, colorful, animated illustrations enhance this delightfully entertaining story of Shlemazel who is so convinced that he is the most unlucky person in the world that he is afraid to get off his front porch. But when he believes that he has the amazing, remarkable spoon of Pohost, Shlemazel learns the pleasure of a good day's work, finds a wife, and discovers that he doesn't need luck to be happy. (Kindergarten-Grade 4)



Sugarman, Brynn Olenberg. *Rebecca's Journey Home*. Illustrated by Michelle Shapiro. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben Publishing, Inc., 2006. 21p. \$17.95. ISBN: 1-58013-157-3.

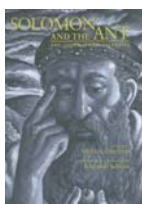
The story of a Jewish-American family who adopts a child from Vietnam is recounted with warmth and sensitivity from the adoption procedure and the trip to Asia to the baby's first Shabbat with her new family and her conversion and naming ceremony. (Kindergarten-Grade 3)

THE SYDNEY TAYLOR HONOR AWARD WINNERS FOR OLDER READERS:



Codell, Esme Raji. *Vive La Paris*. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 2006. 214 p. \$15.99. ISBN: 0-7868-5124-4.

Fifth-grader Paris McCray reveals what she has discovered about life in the process of taking piano lessons from Mrs. Rosen, a Holocaust survivor with a sense of humor. (Grades 5-8)



Oberman, Sheldon. *Solomon and the Ant and Other Jewish Folktales*. Introduction and Commentary by Peninnah Schram. Honesdale, Pennsylvania: Boyds Mills Press, 2006. 165 p. \$19.95. ISBN 1-59078-307-7.

From simple stories, to valuable lessons, to an idea of what life was like in Rambam's time or how a holiday was celebrated in Russia, these folktales are brilliant in their simplicity. They can be read straight through, compared and contrasted, embellished upon, or edited for educational purposes. (Grades 3-8)



Roy, Jennifer. *Yellow Star*. Tarrytown, New York: Marshall Cavendish, 2006. 234 p. \$16.95. ISBN 0-7614-5277-X.

Told in verse, this is the story of Sylvia Perlmutter, one of twelve surviving children, who hid in the Lodz Ghetto with her family. (Grades 6-9)

THE SYDNEY TAYLOR HONOR AWARD WINNERS FOR OLDER READERS: (continued)



Wulf, Linda Press. *The Night of the Burning: Devorah's Story*. New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2006. 224 p. \$16.00. ISBN: 0-374-36419-2.

This first-person narrative is an insightful exploration of the effects of traumatic experiences, and an ultimately hopeful portrait of a young Jewish girl who survives a brutal pogrom in Russia, and journeys to an orphanage and a new life in South Africa. (Grades 4-6)

THE ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LIBRARIES HONOR AWARD WINNERS FOR TEENS:



Hoffman, Alice. *Incantation*. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2006. 166p. \$16.99. ISBN 0-316-01019-7.

Amidst book burnings, trials, and murders, sixteen-year-old Estrella DeMadrugal, living in Spain in 1500, learns that her family is part of a secret community of Jews who converted to Catholicism to avoid persecution. (Grades 8-12)



Reinhardt, Dana. *A Brief Chapter in My Impossible Life*. New York: Wendy Lamb Books, 2006. 228 p. \$15.95. ISBN: 0-385-74698-9.

In this poignant story, Simone Turner meets Rivka, her biological mother, and learns about the circumstances of her adoption – how Rivka, a Hasidic Jew, became pregnant at sixteen and was shunned by her family, became a photographer and moved to Cape Cod, and now suffers from terminal cancer. (Grades 9-12)

NOTABLE BOOKS FOR YOUNGER READERS:

Baum, Maxie. *I Have a Little Dreidel*. Illustrated by Julie Paschkis. New York: Scholastic, 2006. 22 p. \$9.99. ISBN: 0-439-64997-8.

The familiar dreidel song is embellished with new verses detailing a contemporary family's celebration of Hanukkah. Besides playing dreidel, the family makes potato latkes, lights the menorah, and enjoys a delicious dinner together. (Pre-School)

Celenza, Anna Harwell. *Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue*. Illustrated by JoAnn E. Kitchel. Watertown, Massachusetts: Charlesbridge, 2006. 28 p. ISBN 1-57091-556-3.

A fictionalized account of the creation of George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" details how the composer was inspired by the rhythm of a train ride, the klezmer band at his brother's Bar Mitzvah, and the harmonies of nightclub dance music, ragtime, and the blues. (Grades 1-4)

Cleary, Brian P. *Eight Wild Nights: A Family Hanukkah Tale*. Illustrated by David Udovic. Rockville, Maryland: Kar-Ben Publishing, 2006. 24 p. \$7.95. ISBN 1-58013-152-2.

This rhyming story depicts a family celebration that includes: cleaning the house, inviting friends and neighbors, spills, a new method of winning *gelt*, the miracle of toilet paper, a broken VCR, a scary side dish, presents that were not on the wish list, donuts, singing, and finally quiet and calm. (Kindergarten-Grade 3)

Fishman, Cathy Goldberg. *On Sukkot and Simchat Torah*. Illustrations by Melanie Hall. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben Publishing, Inc., 2006. 28p. \$17.95. ISBN: 1-58013-165-4.

A young girl narrates her family's celebration of Sukkot and Simchat Torah: building and decorating the sukkah, inviting the *ushpizin*, eating and sitting in the sukkah, blessing the *lulav* and *etrog*, going to the synagogue for Shemini Atzeret, marching and dancing on Simchat Torah, and listening to her mother chant from the Torah. (Grades 1-3)

Gordon, Rabbi Julie K., editor. *With All Your Heart: A Shabbat and Festival Companion*. Minneapolis: Minneapolis Jewish Day School, 2006. 96 p. \$15.95. ISBN: 1-58013-263-4.

With adorable color illustrations by students and Hebrew, English and transliterations for all of the prayers and readings, this is a great resource for families and schools and will encourage all levels of participation in the Jewish holidays and Shabbat. (All ages)

NOTABLE BOOKS FOR YOUNGER READERS: (continued)

Heiligman, Deborah. *Celebrate Hanukkah with Light, Latkes and Dreidels.* (Holidays Around the World Series) Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Society, 2006. 32 p. ISBN 0-7922-5924-6.

Full-color photographs from Israel, India, Peru, Uganda, Poland, Los Angeles, Ghana, and Rome combine with an interesting, informative text to create a stunning introduction to Hanukkah focusing on light, Jewish identity, freedom, and the celebration of miracles. (Grades 1-4)

Kosofsky, Chaim. *Much, Much Better.* Illustrated by Jessica Schiffman. Brooklyn, New York: Hachai Publishing, 2006. 30p. \$14.95. ISBN: 1-929628-22-6.

Each week Shlomo and Miriam tidy up their house and prepare for Shabbat. When a strange guest visits, he is so appreciative of their hospitality that he offers them a blessing. It is not until Shlomo and Miriam welcome the birth of their baby boy that they fully understand the visitor's blessing and his true identity as Elijah the Prophet. (Pre-School – Grade 2)

Kropf, Latifa Berry. *It's Shofar Time!* Photographs by Tod Cohen. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben Publishing, Inc., 2006. 22p. \$12.95. ISBN: 1-58013-158-1.

In this installment of the photo essay series by Kropf and Cohen, children blow the shofar, create New Year's cards, bake round challah, dip apples in honey, see the Torah dressed in white, and perform *tashlich*. Instructions for making a shofar craft project are included along with a brief note about Rosh Hashanah. (Pre-School)

Littlesugar, Amy. *Willy & Max: A Holocaust Story.* Illustrated by William Low. New York: Philomel Books, 2006. 40 p. \$15.99. ISBN: 0-399-23483-7.

This heartwarming tale of kindness, truth, honesty, and friendship during the Holocaust also introduces readers to the widespread theft and looting by the Nazis of artwork belonging to European Jews. (Grades 2-5)

McDonough, Yona Zeldis. *Hammerin' Hank: The Life of Hank Greenberg.* Illustrated by Malcah Zeldis. New York: Walker & Company, 2006. 30p. \$16.95. ISBN: 0-8027-8997-8.

This picture book biography details Hank Greenberg's childhood and his college basketball and professional baseball career, as well as the anti-Semitism that he faced from fans and players and his encounter with Jackie Robinson. (Grades 1-4)

Michelson, Richard. *Across the Alley.* Illustrated by E.B. Lewis. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2006. 32 p. \$16.99. ISBN: 0-399-23970-7.

Willie, an African-American, and Abe, a Jew, become friends as they look out their bedroom windows in post World War II Brooklyn, New York. They form a unique bond and bash stereotypes as Abe plays baseball and Willie gives a violin concert in the synagogue. (Grades 1-4)

Rosenbaum, Andria Warmflash. *A Grandma Like Yours/A Grandpa Like Yours.* Illustrated by Barb Bjornson. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben Publishing, Inc., 2006. 14 p./14 p. ISBN 978-1-58013-167-4. \$15.95.

In this two-in-one "flip book" animal grandmothers and grandfathers have great fun with their grandchildren baking challah, delivering Purim treats, planting trees for Tu B'Shevat, and making matzah. (Pre-School)

Souhami, Jessica. *The Little, Little House.* London: Frances Lincoln Limited, 2006. 24 p. \$15.95. ISBN 1-84507-108-5.

Joseph can no longer tolerate being "jammed and crammed, so squashed and squeezed," so he goes to Aunty Bella, who suggests he brings the chickens, rooster, cow and goat into the house. When she finally tells him to put the animals back in the yard, Joseph and his family enjoy the quiet and spaciousness of their house at a Shabbat meal. (Pre-School – Grade 2)

NOTABLE BOOKS FOR OLDER READERS:

Abrams, Judith Z. *The Secret World of Kabbalah*. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben Publishing, Inc., 80p. \$9.95. ISBN: 1-58013-22403.

Short chapters, text boxes, illustrations, and diagrams dissect the complicated subject matter of kabbalah, mysticism, kabbalistic texts, and more in this highly readable, succinct, and fascinating introduction. (Grades 7-12)

Fleischman, Sid. *Escape! The Story of the Great Houdini*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 2006. 210 p. \$18.99. ISBN: 0-06-085094-9.

Full of colorful language, this biography of Houdini is infused with the showman's Jewish side, recalling his birth as Ehrich Weiss to an impoverished but scholarly rabbi in a Budapest ghetto, his self-invention and brashness as an immigrant, the effects of anti-Semitism, and his lifelong love of learning. (Grades 5-8)

Friedman, D. Dina. *Escaping into the Night*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2006. 199 p. \$15.95. ISBN: 1-4169-0258-9.

When her mother and others do not come back from work, Halina is forced to deal with her absence and escape from the ghetto to save her own life. She joins the partisans in the woods, and survives World War II by using her wits and inner strength. (Grades 6-9)

Glatshetyn, Yankev. *Emil and Karl*. Translated by Jeffrey Shandler. New Milford, Connecticut: Roaring Brook Press, 2006. 194 p. \$17.95 ISBN 1-69643-119-9.

This story of two boys left alone in Vienna after their parents have been arrested by the Nazis, is particularly significant because it was the first book written for children about the Holocaust. It was published in the United States in Yiddish in 1940 before the full horrors of World War II had unfolded. Shandler's seamless translation now makes the story accessible to contemporary readers. (Grades 5-8)

Kacer, Kathy. *Hiding Edith: A True Story*. Holocaust Remembrance Book. Toronto: Second Story Press, 2006. 151 p. \$10.95. ISBN: 1-897187-06-8.

Through the story of Edith Schwalb Gelbard, who survived the Holocaust by continually moving and hiding, the reader can relate to the situation in Europe before World War II, the plight of the Jews, the virtue of righteous Gentiles who helped them, and the courage and strength it took to survive. (Grades 4-6)

Pinsker, Marlee. *In the Days of Sand and Stars*. Illustrated by Francois Thisdale. Toronto: Tundra Books, 2006. 87p. \$22.95. ISBN 0-88776-724-9.

A compilation of stories, in the tradition of *Midrash*, about the every day lives and personalities of the Biblical women Eve, Naamah, Sarah, Rebecca, Leah, Rachel, Dina and Yocheved. (Grades 3-6)

Rubin, Susan Goldman with Ela Weissberger. *The Cat with the Yellow Star: Coming of Age in Terezin*. New York: Holiday House, 2006. 40 p. \$16.95. ISBN: 0-8234-1831-6.

This impressively researched photographic memoir tells of a young girl from Czechoslovakia who studied with Friedl Dicker-Brandeis and participated in the children's opera Brundibar at the Terezin concentration camp during World War II. (Grades 4-8)

Schwabach, Karen. *A Pickpocket's Tale*. New York: Random House, 2006. 225 p. \$15.95. ISBN: 0-375-83379-X.

In 1730, Molly is a ten-year-old orphan who is convicted of pick-pocketing in London and deported to America. When a Jewish family purchases her to be their indentured servant, Molly learns to follow and respect the Jewish traditions and also learns about the importance of family, forgiveness, and faith. (Grades 4-6)

Schwartz, Ellen. *Stealing Home*. Toronto: Tundra Books, 2006. 217 p. \$8.95. ISBN 0-88776-765-6.

Nine-year-old Joey Sexton, living in the Bronx in 1947, is orphaned after the death of his mother. When his aunt welcomes him into her home, the rest of the family and their neighbors aren't as accepting of Joey's bi-racial heritage. Inspired by Jackie Robinson, Joey learns how to shake off the taunts of the neighborhood bullies, gains an appreciation for his Jewish heritage, and builds a loving and respectful relationship with his grandfather. (Grades 3-6)

THE ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LIBRARIES NOTABLE BOOKS FOR TEENS:

Cohen, Deborah Bodin. *Lilith's Ark: Teenage Tales of Biblical Women*. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 2006. 155 p. \$14.00 ISBN: 0-8276-0833-0.

This collection of stories about Jewish matriarchs and other women associated with the book of Genesis includes Lilith, Eve, Sarah, Hagar, Rebekah, Rachel, Leah, Dinah, Tamar, and Asenath. The discussion guide for each chapter consists of themes, questions, and a mother-daughter dialogue. (Grades 7-12)

Sonnenblick, Jordan. *Notes from the Midnight Driver*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2006. 265 p. \$16.99. ISBN: 0-439-75779-7.

Alex Gregory gets drunk, takes his mother's car, and crashes into a lawn gnome. He must pay his debt to society by doing 100 hours of community service in a nursing home attending to Sol Lewis, a cantankerous resident who suffers from emphysema. (Grades 8-10)

Welsh, T.K. *The Unresolved*. New York: Dutton Books, 2006. 151 p. \$16.99. ISBN: 0-525-47731-4.

The spirit of Mallory Meer, a teenage girl who died on the General Slocum, haunts those involved with the 1904 disaster. While history records that a fire started and spread quickly, this work of fiction explores what might have happened when two love struck teenagers steal a moment together below deck and another vents his jealousy by causing the blaze and blaming his nemesis. (Grades 7-10)

The members of the Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee are: **Rachel Kamin**, Chair, Temple Israel, West Bloomfield, MI; **Nancy Austein**, Temple Emanu-El, Dallas, TX; **Susan Berson**, Reach Out and Read, Denver, CO; **Marci Lavine Bloch**, Adas Israel Congregation, Washington, DC; **Kathy Bloomfield**, Mayyim Hayyim Community Mikveh and Education Center, Newton, MA; **Kathe Pinchuck**, Bloomfield Public Library, Bloomfield, NJ; **Heidi Estrin**, Past Chair, Congregation B'nai Israel, Boca Raton, FL; and **Etta Gold**, Compiler, Temple Beth Am, Miami, FL.



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