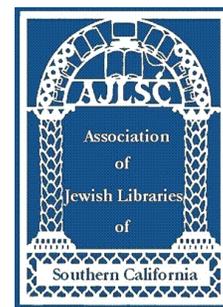


# IN CELEBRATION OF JEWISH BOOK MONTH

## A Selected List of Books for 2017 for Children and Teens



A Publication of the  
Association of Jewish Libraries  
of Southern California



## PICTURE BOOKS

Barash, Chris. **Is It Sukkot Yet?** 2016. When fall arrives a family builds a sukkah to celebrate the joyful harvest holiday of Sukkot. Sweet illustrations and gentle text combine in a charming invitation to children to participate in festivities.

Ben-Gur, Naomi. **The Cricket and the Ant : A Shabbat Story.** 2016. The fun-loving Cricket neglects his Shabbat tasks while the industrious Ant does hers in this rhyming version of Aesop's fable. When Ant runs into trouble at the last minute, Cricket surprises her by coming to the rescue, saving her Shabbat celebration.

Bietz, Barbara. **The Sundown Kid : A Southwestern Shabbat.** 2016. A Jewish immigrant family starts anew in the American Wild West. Parents and son are lonely, especially on Shabbat. When they poll the townsfolk on the appeal of chicken soup they discover how to draw a crowd to Friday night dinner.

Carlson, Claudia. **Avi the Ambulance to the Rescue.** 2016. This is the second story in a new series highlighting the work of Magen David Adom, the Israeli rescue and emergency services. Avi executes the exciting rescue of a stranded cat left behind in a burning building.

Easton-Ruben, Kelly. **A Place for Elijah.** 2016. When Sarah's family celebrates Passover, they set an extra place for Elijah. Their neighbors lose power and stop by to get out of the cold. Now Sarah is worried that there won't be a seat left for the prophet.

Edwards, Michelle. **A Hat for Mrs. Goldman : A Story About Knitting and Love.** 2016. This sweet, warm, appealing story lives up to its title. Tot Sophia knits a special hat for her elderly teacher. Endearing illustrations capture everyone's emotions.

Glaser, Linda. **On One Foot.** 2016. A young man comes to Jerusalem seeking someone to teach him the Torah - while standing on one foot! The holy city is full of rabbis, but none of them can help him until he meets the famous Rabbi Hillel.

Goldin, Barbara. **The Passover Cowboy.** 2017. In a refreshing immigrant story the scene moves to Argentina. A Russian boy from a crowded village wants to remake himself as a gaucho on the wide open plains. He makes a local friend to help him, but will this new friend come to Seder?

Gordon, Meryl. **The Flower Girl Wore Celery.** 2016. Emma is thrilled to be the flower girl when cousin Hannah marries. But nothing is as expected -- from the celery dress not being real vegetables, to the ring bearer not being a bear, to the couple being two brides. Here is a supportive family look at a traditional Jewish wedding with a modern twist.

Gottesfeld, Jeff. **The Tree in the Courtyard : Looking Through Anne Frank's Window.** 2016. Wartime: a horse chestnut tree watches a little girl play, laugh, look fearfully out the window and write a diary until she and her family are taken away. This tree died the summer Anne Frank would have turned 81; its seeds planted worldwide as a peace symbol.

Grubman, Bonnie. **Oy Vey! Life in a Shoe,** 2016. Rollicking rhymes, frolicking illustrations and funny characters retell a classic Jewish folk tale about satisfaction paired with the Old Woman in a Shoe.

Kimmel, Eric. **Gabriel's Horn.** 2016. A mysterious soldier gives Gabriel a horn. It is old, black, tarnished and will not clean. Gabriel's charitable acts make the brass shine. As good deeds multiply, the horn gets brighter. His family prospers. Does the horn bring good luck?

Koffsky, Ann. **Kayla and Kugel's Almost-Perfect Passover.** 2016. Highlights of Passover arrive with humor as Kayla chases her dog, Kugel, at the Seder when he almost spills the grape juice, makes a mess of the matzah, and takes off with the afikoman!

Levy, Debbie. **I Dissent : Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark.** 2016. A vibrant biography rocks the life of a Supreme Court justice. Dissent need not be disagreeable; it can even change the world -- which it did for her and for us. Winner of the 2017 Sydney Taylor Award for Younger Readers and the National Jewish Book Award for Children's Literature.

Marks, Allison and Wayne Marks. **A Gefilte Fishy Tale.** 2016. Hilarity dominates the trials of opening a jar of gefilte fish in time for Shabbat dinner. Rhymes in English and Yiddish help create a slapstick adventure. Family members, friends, neighbors use ice, a vise, and even pickle juice: nothing works, until grandson says 'please.'

Marshall, Linda. **Shh ...Shh...Shabbat..** 2016. It's a noisy world in this board book. Daily, the animals hear a cacophony of sound as the humans around them go about their busy, noisy lives. Ah, then on Shabbat, everything is peaceful and quiet. Shh...it's Shabbat.

Mayer, Pamela. **Chicken Soup, Chicken Soup.** 2016.. Two bubbies make chicken soup, one with kreplach and one with wonton. Sophie loves both their recipes; mixed together they make yummy soup. But the grandmothers insist they are separate and not the same.

Michelson, Richard. **Fascinating : The Life of Leonard Nimoy.** 2016. A famous actor enhances a pop culture character with memories from his childhood as the son of immigrants then considered aliens. This new biography scoops the star of Star Trek.

Molchadsky, Yael. **The Chameleon That Saved Noah's Ark.** 2016. Striking illustrations deliver Noah working hard to keep all the animals well-fed. But two picky chameleons will eat nothing . When the ark's food supply is threatened, the two do eat and save the day.

Newman, Tracy. **Shabbat Hiccups.** 2016. Three generations offer ideas to cure the recurring hiccups of Jacob at Shabbat dinner and during Havdalah. No one is sure which one works as amusing ideas interweave with explanations of holiday symbols.

Ofanansky, Allison. **How It's Made : Torah Scroll.** 2016. Over 100 photographs and interviews bring the creation of a Torah alive. Scribes use ancient parchment and tree sap ink to write; a computer program checks for mistakes. A hands-on feature invites kids to try too.

Packer, Rachel. **Sky-High Sukkah..** 2016. Leah and Ari live in a high rise in the city. They yearn for a sukkah. When Ari wins one in a poster contest at Hebrew School the neighbors pitch in to make it possible for all the families. Holiday and community mesh with a smile.

Rouss, Sylvia with Asher Naim. **Yosef's Dream.** 2016. Richly illustrated historical fiction recalls 1991's Operation Solomon which airlifted Ethiopia's Jews to Israel. The story follows the family and their dreams in both countries to a happy ending.

Rouss, Sylvia. **Sammy Spider's First Bar Mitzvah.** 2016. Josh and Sammy Spider return because Josh's cousin Ben is having his bar mitzvah. Sammy comes along. All is well until one tradition gets this silly little spider into more trouble than usual.

Stein, Joel. **A Hanukkah with Mazel.** 2016. A poor, lonely artist adopts a stray cat whose presence stirs him to celebrate Hanukkah, but he cannot afford menorah or candles. He paints his holiday needs. The peddler searching for his lost cat will sell them. He asks the painter to keep his cat while he is away: a warm story with a three hanky ending.

Steinberg, Jessica. **Not This Turkey!** 2016. A funny story introduces Jewish immigrants to the American tradition of Thanksgiving dinner. Papa wins a turkey at work; proud mama invites all the relatives, but this turkey requires other ideas.

Tarcov, Susan. **Maya Prays for Rain.** 2016. A story about a holiday rarely in children's books creates a quandary. Maya learns that on Shemini Atzeret the Jewish community prays for rain, but on this sunny day all of Maya's neighbors are busy outside. Will they be sad?

Ungar, Richard. **Yitzi and the Giant Menorah.** 2016. The people of Chelm want to thank the neighboring mayor for his gift of a huge menorah, but how? As the nights of Hanukkah slip away they think and worry until finally on the eighth night they do it right.

## **MIDDLE GRADE BOOKS**

Arato, Rona. **The Ship to Nowhere.** Rachel is nine when she is crammed on board the *Exodus*, a dilapidated vessel smuggling 4500 Holocaust refugees to Palestine (Israel). The *Exodus* is surrounded by war ships and passengers returned to DP camps, but finally they reach their homeland. A true story, this is the first book for children about the famous ship.

Ben Izzy, Joel. **Dreidels on the Brain.** 2016. A captivating middle school antihero confides in readers about his desire to be normal in an empathetic, funny, heartwarming story. Its Yiddish inflected voice delivers serious consideration about being Jewish in a non-Jewish world and poor in a well-to-do one. What a delicious romp through Jewish identity.

Campbell, Isaiah. **AbrakaPOW.** 2016. The adventures of a young girl, a budding magician in a Jewish military family, bring little known information about German POW's imprisoned in the US during World War II. This historical novel abounds in action, danger and humor.

Farrell, Mary. **Irena's Children.** 2016. Farrell adapts Tilar Mazzeo's dramatic biography of Polish Righteous Gentile Irena Sendler for children. Sendler's bravery and kindness save 2500 lives; her careful records allow for families to reunite.

Freedman, Russell. **We Will Not Be Silent: The White Rose Student Resistance Movement That Defied Adolf Hitler.** This new nonfiction sadly retells the story of the Scholl family, righteous gentiles from very early in the war. Their children, Sophie and Hans, helped found the resistance group called the White Rose. They die for their good deeds.

Gidwitz, Adam. **The Inquisitor's Tale.** 2016. Three magical children, one Jewish, and a holy dog are chased across medieval France as they seek sanctuary in a distant monastery and race against time to save Talmuds slated to be burned. This best seller is the 2017 Sydney Taylor Award Winner for Older Readers.

McDonough, Zeldis. **The Bicycle Thief.** 2016. This suspenseful and moving Holocaust novel stars a French boy protecting a new Jewish classmate. The son of resistance workers, he takes daring rides to hide and help the family to escape Vichy.

Meyer, Susan. **Skating with the Statue of Liberty.** 2016. Escaping Nazis for safe New York, an immigrant boy learns the pitfalls of being an outsider. He sees that the freedoms of his new country do not apply to everyone. This beautifully written story balances the desire to fit in while retaining the courage to stand up for one's ideals.

Patterson, José. **My Aunt Manya.** 2016. Sarah eagerly leaves Russia, its pogroms and her nagging step-mother. She will live in America with her aunt. Neighbors smuggle her past border guards. During the transatlantic crossing she learns English. The story ends with an unexpected twist. Sarah approaches life's challenges as *besbert* : fate.

Pinkney, Andrea. **A Poem for Peter.** 2016. Photographs pinned to the wall of the son of struggling Jewish immigrants morph into a groundbreaking picture book. Ezra Jack Keats determined to be an artist, although poor. Years of schooling and working for others pass before he can do his own book. Those photos inspire him to create famous *The Snowy Day*.

Robinson, Sharon. **The Hero Two Doors Down.** 2016. Friendship between a Jewish boy and his neighbor, baseball legend Jackie Robinson, develops the year Robinson integrates baseball. The ups and downs of hero worship propel the fiction based on real events.

Spradlin, Michael. **The Enemy Above.** 2016. A young boy, the age of readers, is the hero of this gripping historical novel about hiding during the Holocaust. The non-stop action is based on true events around and in the Russian caves known as the Priest's Grotto.

## **TEEN BOOKS**

Boyne, John. **The Boy at the Top of the Mountain.** 2016. Aunt Beatrix claims six year old orphaned Pierrot and whisks him off to Berghof, Hitler's retreat. Renamed Peter, he absorbs Nazi ideas; blocks a plot to kill Hitler; lands in a DP camp, finally returns to France.

Grant, Michael. **Front Lines.** 2016. Alternative history that flinches not from the violence of battle imagines women fighting during World War II. This story of four very different young women, one Jewish, who enlist in the US Army mixes front line fighting with discrimination and anti-Semitism.

Mann, Rachel. **On Blackberry Hill.** 2016. Jewish sleepaway camp becomes the setting for mystery, secrets and life changing events for two women – 20 years apart. Winner of the National Jewish Book Awards for Young Adult Literature.

Nardo, Don. **Massacre in Munich: How Terrorists Changed the Olympics and the World.** 2016. Teens will learn the historical and political background of the horrific attack on Israeli athletes at the Olympic games in Munich in 1972. They will follow tracking down the killers. Ripples from the botched affair can still be felt today.

Savit, Gavriel. **Anna and the Swallow Man.** 2016. Seven year old Anna is left alone when the Gestapo nabs her father. A mysterious Swallow man helps her hide from the Nazis in the Polish forests until the war ends. The man has no name. This unusual book mixes horror and naiveté into a haunting, dream-like fairytale. A standout, it is the 2017 Sydney Taylor Award Winner for Teen Readers and the National Jewish Book Award for Debut Fiction.

Simon, Andrea. **Esfir Is Alive.** 2016. This novel, written as if a memoir, reconstructs the lost world of pre-war Jewish Poland and the experiences of real-life survivor Esfir Manevich. Polish Esfir lives with her Aunt Perl in Soviet Brest. The Nazis arrive and force them first to a ghetto, then an execution site where Esfir miraculously survives and lives to tell her tale.

Wiseman, Eva. **Another Me.** 2016. Meshing historical, medieval fiction and a love story creates a page turner. Natan hears ruffians planning to poison the town well and blame the Jews. They discover Natan and murder him. Enter an ibbur, the Kabbalistic concept that a righteous person's soul may reside in another's body to complete a task to benefit the Jews.

## **ONLINE LIBRARY CATALOGS**

Ostrow and Sperber Libraries at the American Jewish University

**[ajula.worldcat.org](http://ajula.worldcat.org)**

Sinai Temple Blumenthal Library

**[library.sinaitemple.org](http://library.sinaitemple.org)**

Valley Beth Shalom Sheila Sporn Library

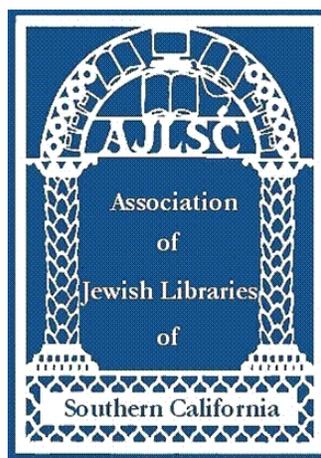
**[vbs.org/library](http://vbs.org/library)**

Simon Wiesenthal Center Library and Archives

**[wiesenthal.com/library](http://wiesenthal.com/library)**

Hebrew Union College Frances Henry Library

**[huc.edu/research/libraries/los-angeles](http://huc.edu/research/libraries/los-angeles)**



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**American Jewish University Bel and Jack M. Ostrow Library**

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**Temple Beth Am Pressman Academy Lainer Library**

**Temple Isaiah Eugene B. Levine Memorial Library**

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For further information, see our website:

**[www.ajlsc.org](http://www.ajlsc.org)**