



***Jewish Literature for Children  
Western Regional Conference  
Sunday, April 18, 2010***



Sponsored by Sinai Temple Blumenthal Library, Association of Jewish Libraries,  
Association of Jewish Libraries of Southern California,  
American Jewish University Jewish Community Library

**PROGRAM**

- 9:00 – 3:00 Manuscript Consultations
- 9:00 – 9:20 Registration and coffee at Skirball Cultural Center
- 9:20 – 9:30 Greetings and Introduction
- 9:30 – 10:00 Overview of the exhibit, "*Monsters and Miracles: A Journey Through Jewish Picture Books*," by exhibit curator, **Tal Gozani**

**TAL GOZANI** is Associate Curator at the Skirball Cultural Center and Museum in Los Angeles. She has curated several exhibitions on modern art and Jewish history, including the current exhibition *Monsters and Miracles: A Journey through Jewish Children's Picture Books* and most recently: *R.B. Kitaj: Passion and Memory - Jewish Works from His Personal Collection*; *Driven Into Paradise: L.A.'s European Jewish Émigrés of the 1930s and 1940s*; and *Israeli Women: A Portrait in Photographs*. Ms. Gozani has published several articles on the development of modern Jewish art and history and is currently completing her doctoral dissertation, entitled *Building a Visual Culture: The Emergence of Modern Jewish Art in France*, which explores the complex relationship between art and acculturation in late nineteenth-century France and traces the modern aestheticization of Judaism and Jewish life.

- 10:00 – 11:45 Skirball Museum visit to *Monsters and Miracles* exhibit
- 12:00 – 1:15 Lunch and Silent Auction at American Jewish University, 15600 Mulholland Dr.  
(across the freeway from the Skirball)
- 1:15 – 2:30 Panel Presentation by KarBen editor **Joni Sussman**, Sydney Taylor Award winning author **Richard Michelson**, and illustrator **Eugene Yelchin**.

**JONI SUSSMAN** is the Publisher of Kar-Ben Publishing, a division of Minneapolis-based Lerner Publishing Group. With 12-15 new titles each year, Kar-Ben is among the largest and best-known Jewish content children's book publishers in the world. Kar-Ben's titles include many Sydney Taylor and other award-winners as well the popular "Sammy Spider" series. With a long career in print and publishing, Joni was most recently the marketing director for children's and parenting publisher Meadowbrook Press, and publisher of Minnesota Parent Magazine. She is a past-president of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas where she continues to serve as Holocaust Education Chair.

**RICHARD MICHELSON** is a poet and children's book author. His first book, *Tap Dancing for the Relatives*, was praised by Nobel Laureate Elie Weisel as "deeply moving." *Battles & Lullabies* was selected by *ForeWord* as one of the 12 best books of 2006. *The Jerusalem Post* called the book "a touching masterpiece, accessible, honest, funny, moving and one of the best poetry books in many years." Two of Michelson's books for children have been finalists for the National Jewish Book Award. Other recognition includes a Publishers Weekly Best Book Award, a New Yorker Best Book Award, and a Children's Book Committee Book of the Year. In January 2009, *As Good As Anybody: Martin Luther King and Abraham Joshua Heschel's Amazing March Toward Freedom*, was awarded the Sydney Taylor Award Gold Medal from the Association of Jewish Libraries, and *A is for Abraham*, was awarded the Silver Medal. This was the first time in the award's 41-year history that one author has been honored with their top two awards. Most recently, Amazon.com cited *As Good As Anybody* as one of the 12 Best Children's Books of the Decade.

**EUGENE YELCHIN** is a Russian-born author and illustrator. HarperCollins, Simon and Schuster, Henry Holt, Harcourt, Clarion Books, and Roaring Brook press have published the picture books he has illustrated. Clarion will publish his illustrations for the Jewish picture book, *The Rooster Prince of Breslov* by Ann Stampler this spring. His first YA novel, *Breaking Stalin's Nose*, is out next year from Henry Holt. He is a member of the Jewish Artists Initiative of Southern California.

2:30 – 2:45                      Autographing and Silent Auction

2:45 – 3:00                      Results of Silent Auction and Optional Tour of American Jewish University  
Community Library

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