

Sharenow, Robert. **The Girl in the Torch.** 2015. A vivid picture of the myriad dangers of immigrant life in New York arrives through a brave, dynamic, young Jewish girl who hides from authorities in the Statue of Liberty's torch until saved by a Chinese giant. Appealing characters, excellent dialogue and a rapid fire plot combine in grand historical fiction.

### TEEN BOOKS

Clark, Kathy. **The Choice.** 2015. Jakob's family hides their true identity, living as Catholics in Hungary in the Holocaust. Jakob tells his best friend Ivan he is Jewish, putting his whole family in danger and into a concentration camp. Jakob keeps alive by revenge only to learn at war's end Ivan's difficult choice, changing everything Jakob thought to be true.

Crowder, Melanie. **Audacity.** 2015. Historical fiction jumps off the page in the sweeping story of an immigrant fleeing pogroms turned union organizer on the picket lines of New York. Based on the life of Clara Lemlich, the novel is always honest, sometimes dangerous.

Goldblatt, Mark. **Finding the Worm.** 2015. Trouble stalks 13 year old Julian Twerski. As his Bar Mitzvah approaches the stakes have never been higher for his faith and his pals. Don't miss this unforgettable coming of age story about life, loss and friendship.

Hoose, Phillip. **The Boys Who Challenged Hitler.** 2015. Danish resistance to their hated Nazi occupiers starts with a young boy and his schoolmates who strike then ride away on bicycles. This edge-of-your seat non-fiction about the "Churchill Club" includes photos.

Lehmann, Devra. **Spinoza : The Outcast Thinker.** 2014. Grasp the once-shocking philosophy of now-revered Benedict Spinoza in this serious, sad, informative biography of the Dutch thinker excommunicated in a staged synagogue ceremony with black candles, tolling bells and curses. 2014 National Jewish Book Award for Children's and YA Literature.

Mendelsohn, Martha. **Bromley Girls.** 2015. Oh to be fourteen and Jewish in 1955 at an elite girls' schools in New York! This paradise is threatened by anti-Semitism which heroine Emily Winter handles well, turning hate into friendship as mid-century America rolls by.

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. 2015 Sydney Taylor Award Winner for Teens.

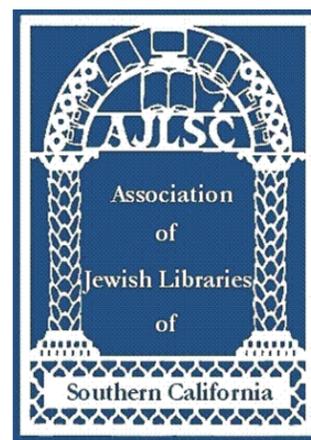
Rabb, Margo. **Kissing in America.** 2015. Here is everything a teenage girl craves for a great read: adolescent angst, best friend, conflict with mother, cross-country trip, crush, and genuine sadness, twinned with a strong message of hope, feminism and personal empowerment. Balancing a full plot, this book is witty, wise, well written, and pro-poetry.

Ryan, Pam Muñoz. **Echo.** 2015. Lost, Otto meets three mysterious sisters who trap him in a strange quest involving a harmonica. Three different children find this harmonica and all face daunting challenges. Pulled by destiny, their solo stories converge.

Schlitz, Laura Amy. **The Hired Girl.** 2015. This captivating historical novel follows 14-year-old Joan, a poor farm girl, who pours her heart out into her diary as she seeks a new and better life for herself working for a wealthy Jewish family as a hired girl in 1911.

### ONLINE LIBRARY CATALOGS

Ostrow and Sperber Libraries at the American Jewish University  
ajula.worldcat.org  
Sinai Temple Blumenthal Library  
library.sinaitemple.org  
Valley Beth Shalom Sheila Sporn Library  
vbs.org/library  
Simon Wiesenthal Center Library and Archives  
wiesenthal.com/library  
Hebrew Union College Frances Henry Library  
huc.edu/research/libraries/los-angeles



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Stephen S. Wise Temple Diener and Kadner Families Library  
Temple Beth Am Pressman Academy Lainer Library  
Temple Isaiah Eugene B. Levine Memorial Library  
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Compiled by  
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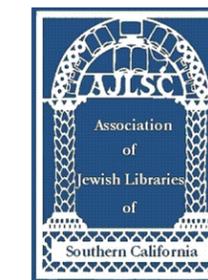
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## IN CELEBRATION OF JEWISH BOOK MONTH

### A Selected List of Recent Books For Children and Teens For 2016



A Publication of the  
Association of Jewish Libraries  
of Southern California



## PICTURE BOOKS

Agnon, Shmuel Yosef and Shay Charka. From **Foe to Friend & Other Stories by S.Y. Agnon.** 2014. Fans of graphic novels will want to snap up this translated volume of three famous Agnon stories, the title, “Fable of the Goat,” and “The Architect and the Emperor.”

Aylesworth, Jim and Barbara McClintock. **My Grandfather’s Coat.** 2014. A tailor’s old overcoat is recycled numerous times over the years into a variety of garments and other items for many generations of a large family. 2015 Sydney Taylor Award Winner for Picture Books.

Barash, Chris and Alessandra Psacharopulo. **Is It Passover Yet?** 2015. Spring flowers bloom, warm sun melts old snow, matzoh and charoset grace the table. Whatever the act, the volume encourages the refrain: ‘Passover is on its way,’ in a poetic capture of the holiday.

Blau, Sarah and V & V Romanenko. **If I Went to the Moon.** 2015. Delightful fun brings faith and love to youngsters as a little boy ponders life on the moon, overwhelmed with all he must pack to do daily mitzvot. Earth wins out in the end in this sweet, fresh tale.

Cohen, Deborah Bodin and Shahar Kober. **Engineer Ari and the Passover Rush.** 2015. Popular Engineer Ari returns in a rush to get his train to Jerusalem and back before Passover. He still needs many things for his Seder plate and luckily, many friends help.

Cohen-Janca, Irène and Maurizo Quarello. **Mister Doctor : Janusz Korczak & the Orphans of the Warsaw Ghetto.** 2015. This book for older readers with charcoal drawings and sensitively written history delivers a profound retelling of the courage of the Holocaust martyr, the gentle author/pediatrician who saved orphans in Warsaw’s ghetto, not himself.

Feuerman, Ruchama, Polona Kosec & Marcela Calderon. **The Mountain Jews and the Mirror.** 2015. From an exotic Moroccan setting comes a tale that succeeds by surprising the uninitiated. Jewish newlyweds have never seen a mirror; they think they have been replaced.

Fields, Terri and Deborah Melman. **One Good Deed. 2015.** One kindness leads to another in a multicultural neighborhood including a Jewish family. Each good deed changes the life of the community for the better in a sunny, happy ending.

Fisman, Karen and Martha Avil. **Nonna’s Hanukkah Surprise.** 2015. Rachel visits her Italian grandmother during the winter holiday. She is excited to share candle lighting with her cousins. When she leaves her new Hanukkiah on the plane, Nonna saves the day.

Friedman, Maya and Steve Mack. **3 Falafels in My Pita.** 2015. In a fun and useful board book, a child counts to ten using typical Israeli sights.

Gehl, Laura, et al. **Hare and Tortoise Race Across Israel.** 2015. Good friends, Hare and Tortoise, race from Tel Aviv to the Dead Sea, enjoying the unique culture and geography of Israel along the way in this clever retelling of the famous Aesop fable.

Hyde, Heidi Smith and Jing Jing Tsong. **Shanghai Sukkah.** 2015. Sad refugee conditions underpin a warm historical fiction highlighting observance and friendship. When Marcus escapes Nazi Germany to live in China he makes new friends, especially Liang who helps Marcus with his Sukkah and the riddle in a lanterns used in the Chinese Harvest festival.

Kimmelman, Leslie and Talitha Shipman. **Everybody Says Shalom.** 2015. Beautiful pictures and lively text introduce the many uses of the word Shalom as a way to describe Israel, a land of exciting contrasts and opposites.

Kimmelman, Leslie and William Owl. **Sam and Charlie (and Sam Too) at Camp.** 2015. In a winning addition to the series, camping and Jewish learning create a good time. The older children go to sleep-away camp which readers follow yom by yom; little Sam has camp bayit.

Korngold, Jamie and Jeff Finkelstein. **Mazel Tov! It’s a Boy/It’s a Girl.** 2015. Two stories starting at each end meet joyfully in the middle. A young Jewish girl and her family welcome a new baby boy with a bris, while another welcomes a new baby girl with a brit bat.

Lakritz, Deborah and Mike Byrne. **Joey and the Giant Box.** 2015. With the help of his friends and one large discarded box, Joey turns his love of collecting into an act of tzedakah for the local food pantry.

Levine, Anna and Ksenia Topaz. **Jodie’s Shabbat Surprise.** 2015. During their Shabbat walk in their Israeli neighborhood, Jodie and her dog Digger find an ancient wine press which gives Jodie an idea for the perfect birthday present for her archaeologist father.

Newman, Lesléa and Amy Bates. **Ketzel the Cat Who Composed.** 2015. In a delightful book with a surprise ending, based on a true story, a composer adopts a cat. The two make award winning music together. The fresh theme arrives with peppy text and marvelous art.

Newman, Tracy and Sernur Isik. **Uncle Eli’s Wedding.** 2015. This appealing picture book delivers a life cycle event from the boys’ point of view. Uncle Eli’s wedding robs Daniel of a soccer partner; nuptial plans make him feel left out. At ceremony’s end Daniel unexpectedly assists breaking the glass; the happy ending includes the promise of future teamwork.

Rocklin, Joanne and Monika Filipina. **I Say Shehechyanu.** 2015. There are many times in the Jewish year when we can say ‘Shehechyanu,’ a blessing for beginnings, first times, and happy arrivals. Lovely art portraying sweet occasions delivers this concept with heart.

Rosenbaum, Andria and Christopher Lyles. **Meg Goldberg on Parade.** 2015. When timid, small Meg Goldberg attends the ‘Salute to Israel Parade’ in New York City, she imagines herself in the actual celebration, maybe she can even be the Grand Marshal.

Rostoker-Gruber, Karen; Ron Isaacs and CB Decker. **Farmer Kobi’s Hanukkah Match.** 2015. A silly, joyous holiday tale revolves around the escapades of the famer’s animal friends who scare off the wrong girl for the right girl just in time to light the Hanukkiah and eat.

Roy, Jennifer and Meg Owenson. **Jars of Hope.** 2016. Realistic art and clear chronological text deliver the heroic Holocaust rescue work of Righteous Gentile Irena Sendler.

Sabbag, Galia and Erin Taylor. **Shira at the Temple.** 2015. Young Shira goes to the synagogue on our holiest day. She learns to give her own unique Yom Kippur prayer.

Sasso, Sandy Eisenberg and Erika Steiskal. **Anne Frank and the Remembering Tree.** 2015. In her diary Anne Frank wrote about the tree behind the Secret Annex. We repeat her history through the ‘eyes’ of the tree: prewar Amsterdam, Nazi arrival, hiding and capture. The tree relates its own end with its saplings planted all over the world as a symbol of hope.

Silverman, Elisa. **Understanding Israel Today.** 2015. Photos aid an incredible wealth of information in the book’s easily readable style and organization. This new, short volume provides a concise account of Israel from its biblical roots to the present.

Snyder, Elaine and Harry Bliss. **Anna & Solomon.** 2014. Solomon marries the beautiful Anna. Immigrating to the US, he works, saving money to send Anna a ticket for her voyage. But when Solomon meets Anna’s ship, a surprise is waiting for him, not once, but four times.

Stuchner, Joan and David Whamond. **Bagels Come Home!** 2015. In a funny story Josh and Becky find the dog they choose at the animal shelter is more than they can handle. After it leaps to the top of the refrigerator to eat the bag of bagels, dad threatens to return the pet.

Wilensky, Dawn and Tirtsa Peleg. **No Ordinary Yarmulke.** 2015. Holden seeks the perfect yarmulke for his Bar Mitzvah; he tries on each one in the Judaica shop. As he does, each transports him back to a different time. He learns history and gains confidence in himself.

## MIDDLE GRADE BOOKS

Cerrito, Angela. **The Safest Lie.** 2015. Suspenseful and moving, this new Holocaust novel stars a rescued child, smuggled into a hiding situation which threatens her identity and Jewish heritage as well as her life.

Dauvillier, Loic and Greg Salsedo. **Hidden : A Child’s Story of the Holocaust.** 2014. Illus. by Marc Lizano. A grandmother tells her granddaughter a story she never told her son: how neighbors hid her from the Nazis in Paris so she could survive the war. This touching graphic novel has an appealing heroine. 2015 Sydney Taylor Award Winner for Older Readers.

Demuth, Patricia and David Groff. **What was Ellis Island?** 2014. The popular series presents the history of Ellis Island, from its 1892 origin as the gateway into America for immigrants through decay to revival as a museum in 1990 and tourist draw today.

Dublin, Anne. **44 Hours or Strike!** 2015. Strong writing, a tight plot and grand black and white photos deliver the Toronto Dressmakers’ Strike during the 1930’s Great Depression when immigrants, especially Jews, were targets of hatred for taking jobs away from natives.

Gephart, Donna. **Death by Toilet Paper.** 2014. Hope and imagination, optimism and family merge in a warm, funny, moving story about a boy who bolsters his mom’s failing finances by entering slogan contests after his dad dies. Fun facts about the eponymous title object start every chapter. 2015 Sydney Taylor Honor Book for Older Readers.

Halberstam, Tovia. **The Blind Angel.** 2015. The folkloric qualities and religious sensitivity of the traditional Chassidic tale come alive in these new versions of 37 old tales born of the vital role storytelling holds in our culture.

Kimmel, Eric A. and Ivica Stevanovic. **Scarlett and Sam.** 2015. Grandma Mina’s Persian carpet sends twins Scarlett and Sam to Egypt in the time of Moses where they understand every Jew was part of the first Passover and what makes it different from all other nights.

Matas, Carol. **Tucson Jo.** 2014. Exciting action and moral quandaries mix in this dramatic recreation of late 19th century life in the Wild West for Jo and her father, who runs for mayor against an opponent’s anti-Semitic campaign, as Jo struggles with her own Jewish identity.