

The Jewish Publication Society is to be commended for listening to the pleas of innumerable librarians and reissuing Eve Bunting's picture-book allegory of the Holocaust, *The Terrible Things*.

It gives me great pleasure to note that Fran Weissenberg, recipient of a Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award in 1988 [see *Judaica Librarianship* vol. 4 no. 2 (Spring 1988-Winter 1989) pp. 174-175] has had that manuscript published as *The Streets are Paved with Gold*. Furthermore, the book has received good notices.

Lastly, the Sydney Taylor Award Committee and AJL are overjoyed to announce that Ralph Taylor has made his sponsorship of and relationship to the Sydney Taylor Award official, and is completing plans to endow the award in his wife's memory so that in the future there will be a steady and systematic source of administrative and award money. *Todah rabah* to Ralph Taylor.

[*The endowment of the Sydney Taylor Awards became official on May 20, 1992. - Ed.*]

Aileen Grossberg is the librarian at Congregation Shomrei Emunah in Montclair, New Jersey. Formerly a children's librarian in a public library, she now serves as a school librarian in Bloomfield, New Jersey. Ms. Grossberg chaired the AJL Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee for Children's Literature from 1988 to 1990.

No award was given for the AJL Manuscript Competition in 1990 - Lillian Schwartz, Chair, Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award Committee.

## Jewish Children's Books Too Good To Miss:

### Selected List of 1989 Titles

#### Association of Jewish Libraries, Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee

##### I. Picture Books and Young Readers (K-3)

Adler, David A. *Malke's Secret Recipe: a Chanukah story from Chelm*. Kar-Ben.

In the town of Chelm, Berel, the shoemaker, tries to duplicate Malke's recipe for *latkes*, but his wife's interference makes the plan go awry in a typically Chelmlike way, in a tale illustrated with sprightly black-and-white drawings.

\*\*Blanc, Esther Silverstein. *Berchick*. Volcano Press.

Homesteading in Wyoming in the early 1900s, a Jewish mother develops an unusual relationship with an orphaned colt, which she adopts and names Berchick. Finely detailed illustrations by Tennessee Dixon add a note of nostalgia to this story.

Ehrlich, Amy. *The Story of Hanukkah*. Dial. Noteworthy because of the magnificent illustrations by Ori Sherman, this story of Hanukkah is suitable for all ages. Also stunningly designed and illustrated by Sherman is *Four Questions*, by Lynne Sharon Schwartz.

Feder, Harriet. *Not Yet Elijah*. Kar-Ben. Mirroring the impatience of a child to get to his part in the Passover Seder, an increasingly agitated Elijah waits at the door until it is time for him to enter.

\*Karkowsky, Nancy. *Grandma's Soup*. Kar-Ben.

In a warm and touching story, a young girl confronts her grandmother's growing confusion due to Alzheimer's disease, shown by her use of inappropriate spices in the Sabbath soup.

\*Kimmel, Eric. *Herschel and the Hanukkah Goblins*. Holiday House.

Trina Schart Hyman's riveting illustrations of goblins enhance an original folklike story for Hanukkah, in which Herschel of Ostropol outwits the wicked goblins and saves Hanukkah for the villagers.

Mayers, Florence. *ABC: The Alef-Bet Book: The Israel Museum, Jerusalem*. Abrams.

This unique alef-bet book features breathtaking photographs of artifacts for

each letter of the Hebrew alphabet. For all ages.

Portnoy, Mindy. *Mommy Never Went to Hebrew School*. Kar-Ben.

While looking at some old photographs, David, aged 8, discovers that his mother was not born a Jew, and in this sensitive book learns the story of his mother's childhood, his parents' courtship, and her conversion.

\*Rosenblum, Richard. *The Old Synagogue*. Jewish Publication Society.

The story of a neighborhood and its changes, which come full circle as seen through the life of the local synagogue. The author's detailed black-and-white drawings bring life to the simple text.

Singer, Marilyn. *Minnie's Yom Kippur Birthday*. Harper & Row.

When Minnie's fifth birthday falls on Yom Kippur, she wonders what the special events of the day will be as the ritual of the holiday unfolds.

Williams, Marcia. *Jonah and the Whale*. Random House.

Whimsically detailed watercolors enliven a refreshing retelling of the story of Jonah.

##### II. Books for Middle Readers (grades 3-6)

Adler, David A. *We Remember the Holocaust*. Henry Holt.

Firsthand interviews with Holocaust survivors and numerous photographs help history come alive in this powerful account of Hitler's campaign against the Jews.

Chaikin, Miriam. *Feathers in the Wind*. Harper & Row.

This latest story about Yossi, a young Yeshiva student, teaches that what is learned from the Torah is applicable to our lives today, in this reworking of an old rabbinic tale.

Fisher, Leonard Everett. *The Wailing Wall*. Macmillan.

This simplified account of the successive cultures that occupied Palestine is marked by Fisher's dramatic gray-and-white pictures of the Western Wall.

Gellman, Marc. *Does God Have a Big Toe?* Harper Junior Books.

Both lively and reverent, this collection of modern midrashim about familiar Bible stories demonstrates the warm relationship between God and man.

\*\*Lowry, Lois. *Number the Stars*. Houghton Mifflin.

In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, 10-year-old Annemarie learns how to be courageous when she helps her best friend Ellen, who is Jewish, escape from the Nazis.

\*Wolf, Ferida. *Pink Slippers, Bat Mitzvah Blues*. Jewish Publication Society.

Thirteen-year-old Alyssa is torn between her love for Judaism and her passion for ballet, in this story in which her best friend's illness and a finely-drawn rabbi help her to resolve her conflict.

Zalben, Jane Breskin. *Earth to Andrew O. Blechman*. Farrar, Straus, Giroux.

When fourth-grader Andrew agrees to tutor ex-vaudevillian Mr. Pearlstein in Hebrew, the stage is set for many jokes in this story of a well-depicted, close-knit family.

### III. Books for Young Adults (grades 7-12)

Bernheim, Mark. *Father of the Orphans: The Story of Janusz Korczak*. Dutton/Lodestar.

A moving biography of the assimilated Polish-Jewish doctor and promoter of children's rights, who chose death in Treblinka with his orphans over the freedom offered him.

Finkelstein, Norman. *The Other 1492: A New World for Jews in Exile*. Scribners.

This competently researched book, illustrated with numerous reproductions of original documents, focuses on the expulsion in 1492 of the Jews from Spain.

Hoffman, Yair. *The World of the Bible for Young Readers*. Viking Kestrel.

This colorful and approachable history of the Bible, both Jewish and Christian, is told from a Jewish historical perspective and is highlighted by more than 300 reproductions of documents, manuscripts, and artifacts.

\*Levitin, Sonia. *Silver Days*. Atheneum.

This autobiographical novel, a sequel to *Journey to America*, follows the lives of the Platt family after they have left Germany and settled in America.

\*Matas, Carol. *Lisa's War*. Scribner's/Macmillan.

During the Nazi occupation of Denmark, Lisa and other teenaged Jews become involved in an underground resistance movement and eventually must flee for their lives.

Melnikoff, Pamela. *Plots and Players*. Bedrick/Blackie.

Robin, Philip, and Frances, young Jews in 16th-century England, fight against the poison of prejudice while trying to save the life of Queen Elizabeth's Jewish doctor.

Sacks, Margaret. *Beyond Safe Boundaries*. Dutton/Lodestar.

Jewish values abound in this novel of South Africa in the 1950s and 1960s, in which Elizabeth becomes increasingly aware of the injustice in her society.

Sevela, Ephraim. *We Were Not Like Other People*. Harper.

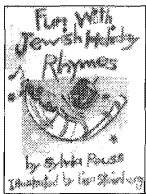
Spanning six years and terrain from Siberia to Germany, this is the story of a 12-year-old Jewish boy, separated from his Red Army parents by World War II, and his survival against all odds.

\*\*Sydney Taylor Award Book

\*Sydney Taylor Honor Book

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