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People of the Books



And the winners are...

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**THE 2010 SYDNEY TAYLOR BOOK AWARDS
ANNOUNCED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LIBRARIES**

The Sydney Taylor Book Award Winner for Younger Readers:

New Year at the Pier: A Rosh Hashanah Story by April Halprin Wayland with illustrations by Stephane Jorish
(Dial Books for Young Readers, a division of Penguin Young Readers Group)

The Sydney Taylor Book Award Winner for Older Readers:

The Importance of Wings by Robin Friedman
(Charlesbridge Publishing)

The Sydney Taylor Book Award Winner for Teen Readers:

Tropical Secrets: Holocaust Refugees in Cuba by Margarita Engle
(Henry Holt Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group)

Sydney Taylor Honor Books for Younger Readers:

Nachshon, Who Was Afraid to Swim: A Passover Story
by Deborah Bodin Cohen with illustrations by Jago
(Kar-Ben, imprint of Lerner)
Benjamin and the Silver Goblet by Jacqueline Jules with illustrations by Natascia Ugliano
(Kar-Ben, an imprint of Lerner)
Yankee at the Seder by Elka Weber with illustrations by Adam Gustavson
(Tricycle Press)
You Never Heard of Sandy Koufax? by Jonah Winter with illustrations by Andre Carrilho
(Schwartz & Wade Books, an imprint of Random House)

Sydney Taylor Honor Books for Older Readers:

Anne Frank: Her Life in Words and Pictures from the Archives of the Anne Frank House
by Menno Metselaar and Ruud van der Rol, translated by Arnold J. Pomerans
(Roaring Brook Press/Flash Point, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group)
A Faraway Island by Annika Thor, translated by Linda Schenck
(Delacorte Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Random House)

Sydney Taylor Honor Books for Teen Readers:

Lost by Jacqueline Davies
(Marshall Cavendish)
Naomi's Song by Selma Kritzer Silverberg
(Jewish Publication Society)

Notable Books for Younger Readers:

Where Is Grandpa Dennis? by Michelle Shapiro Abraham with illustrations by Janice Fried
(URJ Press)
Around the Shabbos Table by Seryl Berman with illustrations by Ari Binus

(Hachai)

The Secret Shofar of Barcelona by Jacqueline Dembar Greene with illustrations by Douglas Chyka
(Kar-Ben, an imprint of Lerner)

Menorah Under the Sea by Esther Susan Heller
(Kar-Ben, an imprint of Lerner)

Today Is the Birthday of the World by Linda Heller with illustrations by Allison Jay
(Dutton Children's Books, an imprint of Penguin)

The Waiting Wall by Leah Braunstein Levy with illustrations by Avi Katz
(Hachai Publishers)

Sukkot Treasure Hunt by Allison Ofanansky with photographs by Eliyahu Alpern
(Kar-Ben, an imprint of Lerner)

Fox Walked Alone by Barbara Reid
(Albert Whitman & Company)

Notable Books for Older Readers:

The Champion of Children: The Story of Janusz Korczak written and illustrated by Tomek Bogacki
(Farrar Straus Giroux Books for Young Readers/Frances Foster Books, an imprint of Macmillan Children's
Publishing Group)

Guardian Angel House (A Holocaust Remembrance Book for Young Readers) by Kathy Clark
(Second Story Press)

Rebecca Series (American Girl Collection)
by Jacqueline Dembar Greene with illustrations by Robert Hunt
(American Girl)

Strawberry Hill by Mary Ann Hoberman with illustrations by Wendy Anderson Halperin
(Little Brown and Company)

The Mysteries of Beethoven's Hair by Russell Martin and Lydia Nibley
(Charlesbridge Publishing)

The Man Who Flies with Birds by Carol Garbuny Vogel and Yossi Leshem
(Kar-Ben, an imprint of Lerner)

Clay Man: The Golem of Prague by Irene N. Watts with illustrations by Kathryn E. Shoemaker
(Tundra Books)

Elvina's Mirror by Sylvie Weil
(Jewish Publication Society)

Notable Books for Teens:

The Disappearing Dowry: an Ezra Melamed Mystery by Libi Astaire
(Zahav Press, an imprint of Targum)

A Family Secret/The Search by Eric Heuvel
(Farrar Straus Giroux Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group)
So Punk Rock (and Other Ways to Disappoint Your Mother) by Micol Ostrow with art by David Ostrow
(Flux)

Cursing Columbus by Eve Goldberg Tal
(Cinco Puntos Press)

Puppet by Eva Wiseman
(Tundra)

The Other Half of Life: Based on the True Story of the MS St. Louis
By Kim Ablon Whitney

(Knopf Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Random House)

NOTABLE BOOK FOR READERS OF ALL AGES:

JPS Illustrated Children's Bible by Ellen Frankel with illustrations by Avi Katz
(Jewish Publication Society)

2010 Sydney Taylor Book Award Winners Announced

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MEDIA RELEASE

2010 SYDNEY TAYLOR BOOK AWARDS

ANNOUNCED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LIBRARIES

(New York—January 11, 2010) April Halprin Wayland and Stephane Jorisch, author and illustrator of *New Year at the Pier: A Rosh Hashanah Story*, Robin Friedman, author of *The Importance of Wings*, and Margarita Engle, author of *Tropical Secrets: Holocaust Refugees in Cuba*, are the 2010 winners of the prestigious Sydney Taylor Book Award.

The Sydney Taylor Book Award honors new books for children and teens that exemplify the highest literary standards while authentically portraying the Jewish experience. The award memorializes Sydney Taylor, author of the classic *All-of-a-Kind Family* series. The winners will receive their awards at the Association of Jewish Libraries convention in Seattle this July.

Wayland and Jorisch will receive the 2010 gold medal in the Sydney Taylor Book Award's Younger Readers Category for *New Year at the Pier: A Rosh Hashanah Story*, published by Dial Books for Young Readers, a division of Penguin Young Readers Group. The Jewish New Year is a special time of year, with a change in seasons, symbolic foods and other traditions. It is also the time for introspection and the ritual of Tashlich, when sins are symbolically cast into a body of flowing water. Izzy thinks about things for which he is sorry. He "compares Tashlich to cleaning out his toy closet, an example of the wonderful way this story conveys to children, at their own level, a contemporary version of the healthy Jewish way we start fresh at the beginning of each new year," commented Susan Berson, a member of the Award Committee. Incoming Committee Chair Barbara Bietz noted that the "whimsical watercolor illustrations are a perfect pairing for the delightful prose."

Friedman will receive the 2010 gold medal in the Sydney Taylor Book Award's Older Readers Category for *The Importance of Wings*, published by Charlesbridge. Ah, the drama of being in eighth grade! There's the boy you have a crush on who likes someone else. There's getting dressed in gym class and being picked last for teams. There's your parents, who are so unlike Mike and Carol Brady and not even like Ma and Pa Ingalls. And there's your hair, that won't go in the popular feathered back style that everyone else is wearing. When an Israeli girl moves next door, Liat "not only shows Roxanne how to give her hair 'wings,' but she helps her 'wing' her way toward maturity and self-esteem," asserted Debbie Colodny, a member of the Award Committee. Another Award Committee member, Kathy Bloomfield, affirmed this praise: "With appealing and affecting writing, Ms. Friedman grabs the reader immediately and takes her on a journey of self-discovery, confidence building and empowerment that will leave her hoping for a sequel." Friedman's book about male bulimia, *Nothing*, was named an AJL Notable Book for Teen Readers last year.

Engle will receive the 2010 gold medal in the Sydney Taylor Book Award's Teen Readers Category for *Tropical Secrets: Holocaust Refugees in Cuba*, published by Henry Holt, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group. After Kristallnacht, many Jews tried to leave Germany, but other countries refused the refugees. Cuba agreed to take in some of these people, but at a price. The tension of this era is seen through the eyes of several of the people affected: Daniel, a thirteen-year-old German boy whose parents put him on a boat to "the Americas," hoping to save his life; Paloma, the daughter of a Cuban official who prefers a dovecote to her home; David, who escaped the pogroms of Russia, sells ice creams, and helps the new refugees; and Gordo, Paloma's father, who is profiting by charging exorbitant fees for visas to stay in Cuba. "The verse and the different perspectives make the history of Cuba during the Nazi era accessible while illustrating the complicated situations and the twists and turns of political interactions," noted Kathe Pinchuck, Committee Chair. Ms. Engle is known to readers for her Newbery-Honor book *The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom*, for which she also won the Pura Belpre Award.

Eight Sydney Taylor Honor Books were named for 2010. For Younger Readers, Honor Books are: *Nachshon*

Who Was Afraid to Swim by Deborah Bodin Cohen with illustrations by Jago (Kar-Ben), Benjamin and the Silver Goblet by Jacqueline Jules with illustrations by Natascia Ugliano (Kar-Ben), Yankee at the Seder by Elka Weber with illustrations by Adam Gustavson (Tricycle Press) and You Never Heard of Sandy Koufax? by Jonah Winter with illustrations and an amazing lenticular cover by Andre Carrilho (Schwartz & Wade Books, an imprint of Random House). Two works in translation were named Honor Books for Older Readers: Anne Frank: Her Life in Worlds and Pictures by Menno Metselaar and Ruud van der Rol (translated by Arnold J. Pomerans) (Roaring Brook Press/Flash Point, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group) and A Faraway Island by Annika Thor (translated by Linda Schenck) (Delacorte Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Random House). Lost, a historical novel by Jacqueline Davies (Marshall Cavendish) and Naomi's Song, a biblical fiction by Selma Kritzer Silverberg (JPS) were named Honor Books in the Teen Reader Category.

The JPS Illustrated Children's Bible by Ellen Frankel with illustrations by Avi Katz (JPS) was named a Notable Book for All Ages. The Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee was very impressed Ms. Frankel's retelling of biblical stories. "She succeeds in creating an age-appropriate interpretation of the most intriguing and familiar stories that allow families to glean the essence of Jewish teachings, ethics, and history," commented Rita Soltan, Award Committee member. "Readability, faithfulness to 'idiomatic nuances of biblical Hebrew,' and softly rendered color illustrations are the main features of this compilation," noted Susan Berson, Award Committee member.

We will be promoting an author and illustrator blog tour as a way to spread the word and generate interest in these books. The tour will take place February 1st – February 5th, and the schedule will be posted at here on the People of the Books blog at jewishlibraries.org/blog.

In addition to the medal-winners, the Award Committee designated twenty-two Notable Books of Jewish Content for 2010: eight in the Younger Readers Category, eight in the Older Readers Category, and six for Teens. Notable titles, and more information about the Sydney Taylor Book Award, may be found online at www.SydneyTaylorBookAward.org. A blog about the awards can be found at www.sydneytaylorbookaward.blogspot.com.

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