



Six new Chanukah kids' books to help enlighten the holiday

By PENNY SCHWARTZ
NEW YORK CITY (JTA)

From a new audio version of **Hanukkah Bear**— a holiday favorite by National Jewish Book Award winner Eric A. Kimmel — to a novel for young teens set during the Festival of Lights, there is a fresh crop of Chanukah books that are sure to delight young readers.

The first Chanukah candle is kindled this year on the evening of Dec. 24. So if you're looking to enliven and enlighten your Chanukah — or simply just send the perfect gift to a loved little one — look no further than these six new books.

Hanukkah Delight

By Leslea Newman, illustrated by Amy Husband

Kar-Ben (\$5.99), ages 1-4

Toddlers and preschoolers will have fun celebrating Chanukah with a family of bunnies, an owl, kitty and even a friendly alligator in this delightful rhyming board book that's perfect for introducing young ones to the rituals and traditions of the holiday. Award-winning writer and poet Leslea Newman (**Heather Has Two Mommies**) and artist Amy Husband capture the warmth of Chanukah's glow with gleaming candles, crispy latkes and "Dreidels spinning through the night, chocolate gelt — come take a bite."

Celebrate Hanukkah with Light, Latkes and Dreidels

By Deborah Heiligman



National Geographic (\$15.99), ages 6-9

The glow of Chanukah radiates in this global tour of the Festival of Lights, with stunning photographs from India, Israel, Uganda, Poland and other places. The straightforward text traces the ancient roots of the holiday, as well as explains the rituals and blessings said while lighting the menorah. Part of National Geographic's "Holidays Around the World" series, **Celebrate Hanukkah** allows readers to discover the meaning behind holiday traditions, as well as the ways different families celebrate around the world. In this updated version of the 2008 edition, Heiligman explores the themes of religious freedom and the power of light in dark times.

Potatoes at Turtle Rock

By Susan Schnur and Anna Schnur-Fishman; illustrated by Alex Steele-Morgan

Kar-Ben (\$17.99), ages 5-9

In this enchanting fictional tale, Annie leads her family — along with their goat and chicken — on a Chanukah adventure. It's a snowy winter night in the woods near their farm, and as they stop at various locations, Annie poses Chanukah-related riddles: How did their great-grandfather keep warm during the long winter in the shtetl? (With hot potatoes.) Why is it so dark? (There is no moon in the sky on the sixth night of Chanukah.) What do they use for a menorah out in the woods? (Potatoes!) Along the way, the family lights

candles, recites the blessings, enjoys some tasty treats and, in the end, shares a prayer of gratitude for the blessings of Chanukah.

This is the second Jewish holiday book set at Turtle Rock by the mother-daughter team who also co wrote **Tashlich at Turtle Rock** — both based on the family's real-life holiday traditions. Aside from being a writer, Susan Schnur is a Reconstructionist rabbi. The book, she told JTA, reflects her conviction as both a parent and rabbi that when children are empowered to create their own rituals, they find meaning in Jewish holidays.

Continued on page 8

Happy Chanukah!

Edleez

Albany, NY

Pipes, Cigars, Lighters
Canes & Walking Sticks
Enjoy our Cigar Lounge!

489-6872
Stuyvesant Plaza

If you have enjoyed Marilyn Shapiro's columns in *The Jewish World*, you may enjoy **There Goes My Heart**, a collection of over forty of her essays. The book is available on Amazon in both paperback and Kindle e-book format.



TOUGH TRAVELER®

**Get Ready
for the Holidays!**

For Great Gifts & For Travel

1012 State Street
Schenectady, NY

www.toughtraveler.com

SHIP COPY & MORE

Marcia and Richard Schaefer

*May the lights of Chanukah shine on you for a joyous
Holiday and on Israel for peace.*

PHONE - (518) 439-0211 · FAX - 439-6036

Six new Chanukah kids' books...

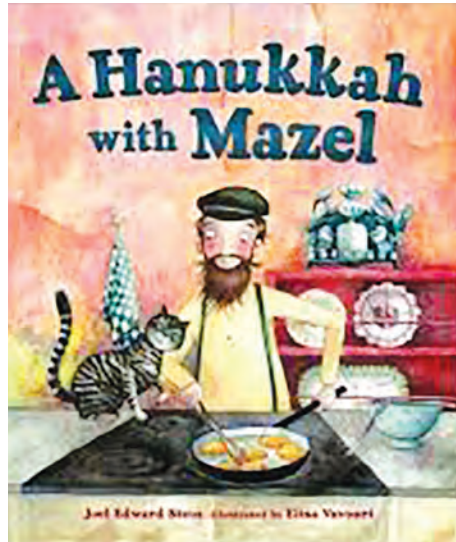
Continued from Page 7

A Hanukkah with Mazel

By Joel Edward Stein, illustrated by Elisa Vavouri

Kar-Ben (\$17.99), ages 3-8

In this heartwarming tale set in the outskirts of an Old World shtetl, a kindhearted but poor artist named Misha adopts a cat who turns up in his barn one cold, snowy night during Chanukah. Misha names his new black-and-gray-striped feline friend Mazel — “luck” in Yiddish. Misha has no Chanukah candles, but he finds a creative way to celebrate using his paints and brushes. However, when a peddler arrives at Misha's home on the holiday's last day, he recognizes Mazel as his lost cat, Goldie. In the uplifting ending, the two find hope for the future, with the peddler offering to sell Misha's paintings and Misha taking care of Mazel while the peddler travels. Kids will enjoy following the playful Mazel, who turns up in every scene in artist Elisa Vavouri's large, vivid illustrations.



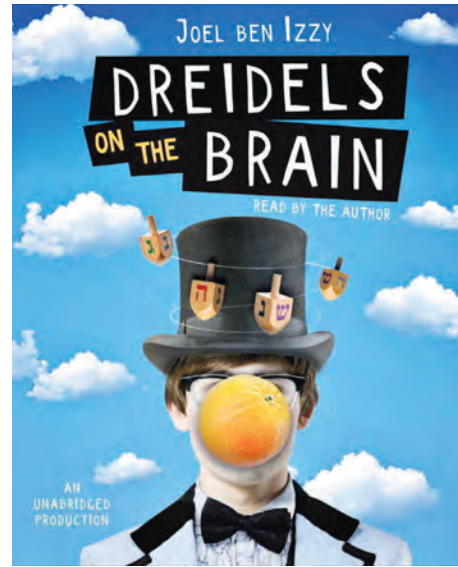
where he lives with his family. In the opening pages, Joel tries to strike up a conversation with God, looking for some sign of better things to come — his life, so far, has had its share of disappointments and hard times. Author Ben Izzy brings his award-winning storytelling style to this tale that unfolds during eight days of Chanukah in 1971, as Joel navigates home, friends and school, where he is the only Jewish kid. His Chanukah takes a downward spin when Joel's family is invited to light a menorah in front of the whole school — he is worried about

Dreidels on the Brain

By Joel Ben Izzy

Dial Books (\$17.99), ages 10 and up

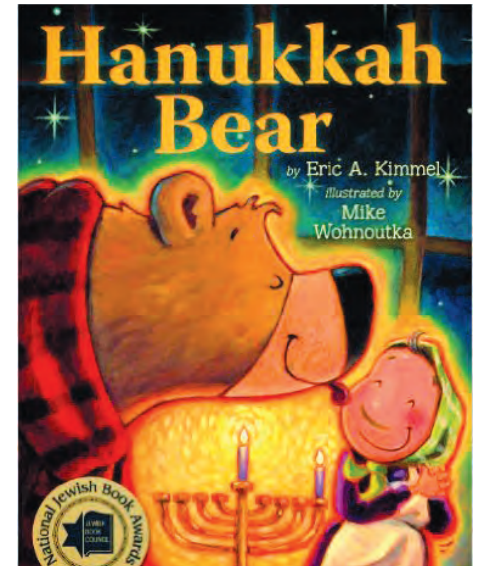
Meet Joel, an awkward yet endearing 12-year-old boy who is looking for Chanukah miracles in Temple City, Calif.,



being embarrassed, but bigger worries follow when Joel's father is hospitalized. Joel eventually discovers that magic and miracles may come in unexpected ways. Readers will have fun with the dozens of inventive spellings of Chananukah, including “Chanyukah” and “Kchkanukkah.” The novel is loosely based on the author's childhood — Ben Izzy described himself in an e-mail to JTA as a “nerdy 12-year-old magician” who was the only Jewish kid in his school.

Hanukkah Bear, audio version

By Eric A. Kimmel, author; narrated by Laural Merlington



LLC Dreamscape Media (\$14.99), ages 4-8

On the first night of Chanukah, one huge, hungry bear smells Bubbe Brayna frying her legendary latkes. The bear shows up at her door — at the same moment, it happens, that she is expecting the village rabbi. Thanks to her poor eyesight, a fun-filled case of mistaken identity ensues as Bubbe Brayna thinks the bear is the rabbi; she feeds him latkes and insists he play a game of dreidel and light the menorah. This book won a National Jewish Book Award in 2013 and now young children can snuggle up to this newly recorded audio version.

New Chanukah stamp available for your holiday mail

The U.S. Postal Service's new *Hanukkah Forever stamp* — available nationwide — features an illustration of a holiday menorah in the window

of a home. The eight nights and days of the holiday begin on the 25th of Kislev this year, at sundown Dec. 24.

The first-day-of-issue stamp dedica-

tion ceremony was at Temple Beth El of Boca Raton. “The Chanukah stamp we're dedicating today honors a religious observance that is more than 2,000 years old — and how appropriate that the word itself — Chanukah — means ‘dedication’ in Hebrew,” said U.S. Postal Service chief operating officer and executive vice president David Williams. “Low, of Huntington, NY, worked under art director Ethel Kessler of Bethesda, Md., who designed the stamp.

Joining Williams in dedicating the stamp were the temple's rabbis Jessica Brockman, Dan Levin and Greg Weisman. “We are deeply honored to host the Postal Service in unveiling this year's Chanukah stamp,” said Levin. “All of us

in the Jewish community are proud to see our heritage woven into the philatelic tradition of America.”

Forever stamps are always equal in value to the current First-Class Mail 1-ounce price.

Low is the principal in Cobalt Illustration Studios, which produces illustrations for corporate use, children's books, advertisements,

gallery paintings, and fine art quality prints. In 2011, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority installed two stained glass murals in the elevated Parkchester Station in the Bronx. The panels, “A Day In Parkchester,” were designed by Low and fabricated by Erskin Mitchell Stained Glass. Low is a professor at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York in the undergraduate program. He has also taught at the School of Visual Arts in New York, and has conducted lectures and seminars at many schools. Low is also a children's author and illustrator. His stamps for the U.S. Postal Service include Poinsettia (2013, reissue 2014), Winter Flowers (2014), Hanukkah (2016), and Holiday Windows (2016).

Ronald Scheiman, director of The Quest for Annual Hanukkah Stamp, reports that only 15 million were printed as the postal service claims there is a “lack of demand.” He requests that individuals seeking the stamps at a local post office and not finding them to send him the city, state, and zip code and the reason given for why they are not available at hanukkah@att.net

Custom Framing for your Holiday Gifts

CLEMENT

FRAME SHOP & ART GALLERY

"A 60 year Tradition of Quality"

CONTEMPORARY ART • ANTIQUE PRINTS & MAPS
CUSTOM PICTURE FRAMING

201 Broadway at 2nd, Troy, NY 12180
518-272-6811 www.clementart.com
"Where Picture Framing is an Art"

Serving Breakfast & Lunch Daily

**Holiday Cookies,
Home-Baked Pies,
Unique Gifts,
Catering
Available**

Open 7 days a week: 7:30 am - 5pm

Open Until Dec. 24th

518-399-8359

336 Schaubert Road
Ballston Lake, NY 12019

www.lakesidefarmscidermill.com

Shapiro family creates 'Star Wars' Chanukah tradition

By MARILYN SHAPIRO

During the eight days of Chanukah, in between candle lighting and latkes, Larry, my husband and I, will celebrate a Shapiro tradition: We will go to see the newest "Star Wars" film. We have been fans since Adam caught the "Star Wars" bug from a future storm trooper.

How It Began

In September 1979, I began substitute teaching two to three days a week at our local high school. We left Adam in the care of a wonderful baby sitter, Sandy Harris, who lived just down the street.

Adam was 17 months old and just beginning to talk. His vocabulary consisted of a few words—*mamma, dadda, apple dus.*

Less than a month later, however, Adam shocked us by announcing at the dinner table, "I know Star Wars."

"You know Star Wars?" Larry asked, astonished.

"Yes," said Adam. "Luke Skywalker. Han Solo. Princess Leia. Chewbacca..."

Adam continued to prattle on, clearly stating the names of characters from the "Star Wars" movies.

It didn't take us long to figure out where Adam had picked up his expanded vocabulary. Sandy's 12-year-old son Timmy had been enthralled with George Lucas' blockbuster since the first "Star Wars" was released in 1977. Kenner Toys had the license to make the related toys, and Timmy had collected them all. He set the little action figures and their spaceships on shelves in his room, recreating



Adam plays with collectable toys at an early age.

scenes from the first movie and its sequel, "The Empire Strikes Back." When he came home from school, Timmy would entertain his mother's charge by allowing him to play with his collection. Adam was hooked.

Tale, Toys Capture Imagination

That Chanukah, Larry and I purchased several action figures and a Millennium Falcon for Adam. He got more for his second birthday and more the following Chanukah. Although he had yet to see the movie, his interest and ability to recreate scenes using his collection and other toys as props—blocks, Legos, even a blanket on top of other toys—improved.

In April 1981, Larry and I planned a

surprise for Adam for his third birthday. While I stayed home with his one-month-old sister, Larry took Adam to see a re-release of the original "Star Wars" film. This was Adam's first movie, and he had no idea why he and his father were sharing a box of popcorn in a huge room filled with chairs. The minute the music started and the opening credits rolled, however, Adam knew what was happening. Our three-year-old boy was transfixed for the

entire length of the film.

"Your Eyes Can Deceive You, Don't Trust Them"

Over the next few years, Adam watched and re-watched the first two movies and, in 1983, "The Return of the Jedi." As the franchise expanded, Adam's collection expanded—sometimes with his help.

When he was around four years old, Adam asked us if he could get a new Luke Skywalker as the light saber was missing. We refused, saying he could use a toothpick or a prop from one of the other characters. A few days later, Adam brought us a headless Luke.

"It fell off," he explained. "Can I get a new one?"

So we replaced Luke, only to have Adam bring us a headless storm trooper, one of the white armored minions of the evil empire, a few days later. When the head of bounty hunter Boba Fett also went missing, we realized that Adam was biting the heads off to get us to purchase a complete toy. His gig was up.

Adam's passion for Star Wars continued until he was nine, when his interest in science fiction expanded to "Star Trek" and Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings Trilogy*. The action figures and a couple of space

Continued on page 10



10,000++ BOUGHT & SOLD
Used Books & Records!!
 KW JOYCE LTD
 Esperance NY (518) 423-2029 • Hours: Wed-Sat 10-5; Sun 12-5



Evoke STYLE
Happy Holidays!
 (518) 512-5240 evokestyle.com Stuyvesant Plaza 1475 Western Ave Albany NY

Annual Toy Drive
December 16th 2016

To benefit
The Mechanicville Area Community Center and the Lansingburgh Boys and Girls Club

Drop Off Toys here at Jack Byrne Ford

In order to get all the toys to the children in time for Christmas, the last day to donate is December 16th, 2016

Free Loaner Cars by Appointment
Your Only Ford Dealer in Halfmoon

JACK BYRNE 518-664-9841
 RTS. 4 & 32, MECHANICVILLE

www.jackbyrne.com

Shapiro family creates tradition...

Continued from Page 9

ships were relegated to a box in the closet. By the time the series was revived in 1999, Adam was in college. On his visits home, he would occasionally open up the box, reminisce, and put them back on the shelf.

“Once you start down the dark path...”

In January 2015, Larry and I came back from a trip to Florida to sub-zero temperatures, 12 inches of snow on the front yard, and a broken mailbox, the victim of the town snowplow. A day after a call into town hall, a Clifton Park truck was parked at the end of the driveway. I opened the door, to be greeted by no other than Timmy Harris, whom I had not seen in at least 20 years.

“I’m here to fix your mailbox, Mrs. Shapiro,” Timmy said. “But first I have to ask you a question. My mother has told me for years that because of me, Adam’s first

words were the names of “Star Wars” action figures. Is that true?”

I assured him that it was and recounted the story of that night over 35 years ago when Adam’s vocabulary increased exponentially.

“Are you still a *Star Wars* fan?” I asked Timmy.

“Absolutely!” Timmy responded. “I have a two-bedroom house, with one room devoted to 40 years of “*Star Wars*” collectibles. My favorite pieces are still the Kenner toys from the late ’70s.”

Not only is Timmy still a fan, but also he is part of the 501st Legion, “Vader’s Fist,” an international costuming group that “troops” as the bad guy characters from “*Star Wars*.” Along with other members, Timmy dresses up as both as a Storm Trooper, and as Boba Fett.

The 501st’s main function is as a charity organization. In 2015 alone \$587,000 was donated on its behalf to various children’s charities including Make-A-Wish Founda-



Tim Harris poses in a “Star Wars” storm trooper costume.

tion, Ronald McDonald houses, and local pediatric hospitals. The “bad guys doing good” are also found at science fiction and comic book conventions and new “*Star Wars*.” film openings.

““*Star Wars*” costuming is gratifying on a few levels,” Timmy later shared with me. He added, “I get to contribute to something worthwhile. And as a 49-year-old man who dresses up as a plastic spaceman, I get to be a 9 year-old again. That’s worth all of the time, sweat and armor pinches that we go through.”

When Larry and I moved to Florida in June 2015, Adam requested we send him very little from the house—two Adirondack photographs and a Monet print, his yearbooks, and the “*Star Wars*” action figures. And like his parents, he too will be watching “*Star Wars: Rogue One*” over his holiday break.

Happy Chanukah, and may the force be with you!

Marilyn Shapiro, formerly of Clifton Park, is now a resident of Kissimmee, Fla.

Get the skinny on avoiding holiday weight gain

STATEPOINT – Even with a year of healthy habits under your belt, it’s easy to let the holiday season tip the scales. But don’t let those parties, extra trays of cookies floating around, and massive holidays feasts get the best of you.

Here are smart ways to stay trim all season long and avoid regaining an entire year’s worth of dieting.

Schedule Your Workouts

Sure, the season is super busy. There is more shopping to do, errands to complete, and social engagements to keep. But through it all, be diligent in finding opportunities to burn more calories. Use the stairs instead of taking the elevator. Park farther away from an entrance than you normally would. Do calf raises as you wait in line. Curl weights or perform squats as you talk on the telephone. And if you belong to a health club, prioritize your trips to the gym as you would any other appoint-



ment on your calendar.

Cut the Fat

Fat has more calories per milligram than any other nutrient, and most people underestimate the amount of fat they consume. Unfortunately, the holidays can be a particularly frustrating time of year to avoid it—for instance, pumpkin pie can have 20 grams of fat in just one slice and a cookie may have 7 grams or more of fat. And latkes-- Oy!

Rather than avoid your favorite foods



and treats altogether, consider weight loss solutions that don’t require specific

meal planning or a massively restrictive diet. Some such solution is I-REMOVE from bmiSmart, a plant-based supplement taken after each meal with a glass of water. The tablets contain Litramine, a weight loss ingredient that binds to dietary fat and reduces the amount of fat calories absorbed by the body.

Use Moderation

Even with a workout program in place and weight loss tools to aid your dieting efforts, it’s important to not let the season be a caloric blank check. Use the same sensible tricks that work for you all year long.

For example, if you’re eyeing the party buffet, prioritize your favorite treats so you don’t end up getting stuffed on items you don’t enjoy. Fill your first plate with fruits, veggies and other healthy options before diving into the richer fare. Of course, make sure you drink plenty of water between those servings of wine and champagne.

To give your 2017 resolutions a jumpstart, mind your health during the holiday season.

We wrote the book on One-Stop Shopping



The Open Door
Bookstore & Gift Gallery
A Locally-Owned Independent Bookstore Since 1971

128 JAY ST. • SCHENECTADY
(518) 346-2719

Mon-Thurs 9am-8pm
Fri & Sat 9am-9pm
Sunday-Closed

Boscias
Liquor Discount House

Discover the **ONLY TRUE DISCOUNT WAREHOUSE** that discounts **EVERY BRAND EVERY DAY!**

We’re known by the **money you keep!**

TOP BRANDS AT FABULOUS PRICES!
IN-HOUSE SPECIALS, TOO!

www.bosciasliquor.com
2710 Broadway • Rotterdam, NY • (518) 346-5706

To all a Bright Chanukah!

Chanukah Greetings to all our friends!



☆☆☆☆☆☆

Open 24 Hours a day: **EVERYDAY**
785-3793 • Loudon Rd. (Rte. 9) • Latham