Fall 2019
KAR-BEN PUBLISHING
A growing Jewish library for children!

Celebrating 45 Years!
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Some Kar-Ben titles have been scored by Accelerated Reader™, progress monitoring software by Renaissance Learning, Inc. To access scores, go to www.karben.com and click on “Accelerated Reader Scores” on left-hand navigation bar.
New Fall Holiday Titles from Kar-Ben!

The Elephant in the Sukkah
Sherri Mandell
illustrated by Ivana Kuman

Henry, once a happy circus elephant, feels lonely and sad at the farm for old elephants, where nobody wants to hear him sing. One evening, he follows the sound of music and singing to the Broner family’s sukkah. At last, a place where he might sing! But, Henry cannot fit inside the sukkah! Ori knows it’s a mitzvah to invite guests, and he gets a big idea about how to include Henry in the Sukkot fun!

Sherri Mandell is the author of several books including the National Jewish Book Award winner, The Blessing of a Broken Heart. She is also the author of Writers of the Holocaust (Facts on File) and has been a contributor to USA Today, The Times of Israel, Hadassah Magazine, and The Jerusalem Post. The Elephant in the Sukkah is her first book for children. She lives in Israel.

Award-winning illustrator Ivana Kuman is a graduate of the Arts Academy in Zagreb. She has written and illustrated many picture books for children and is the author of 35 short animated films for children, and one for young adults. She lives in Zagreb with her husband, two daughters and a cat.

Shanah Tovah, Grover!
Joni Kibort Sussman
illustrated by Tom Leigh

Shanah Tovah, everyboderee! Help Grover get ready to welcome the Jewish New Year.

Joni Kibort Sussman is the publisher at Kar-Ben Publishing. Her books include My First Yiddish Word Book, and four Jewish-themed Sesame Street board books.

Tom Leigh is a children’s book author and longtime illustrator of Sesame Street and Muppet books. He lives on Little Deer Isle off the coast of Maine.

Grover’s Hanukkah Party
Joni Kibort Sussman
illustrated by Tom Leigh

At Hanukkah, 8 is especially great! Use this fun board book to count party guests, candles, latkes, and more!

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**New Hanukkah Titles from Kar-Ben!**

### Barnyard Bubbe's Hanukkah

*Joni Klein-Higger and Barbara Sharf*

*illustrated by Monica Gutierrez*

Neigh! Oink! Bah! Whimsical farm animals leave presents for Bubbe during Hanukkah. What will Bubbe do with these thoughtful gifts?

**BB: 978-1-5415-2215-2 • $5.99**

Ages 1-4 • Grades PreK

12 pages • 6½ x 6½


**Barbara Sharf** is a children’s book author and actor who loves writing fun, quirky picture books. Her love for animals frequently shines through in her work. Just ask her dog, Sophie! Originally from Philadelphia, Barbara now lives in Tampa Bay, Florida. This is her first children’s book.

**Monica Gutierrez** has been drawing since she was little. She loves building bridges with children through her illustrations. She lives in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

### A Dreidel in Time

**Marcia Berneger**

*illustrated by Beatriz Castro*

Devorah and Benjamin are excited to open their Hanukkah present from Bubbe and Zayde but it’s only an ugly old dreidel. It’s a big disappointment—until it transports them out of modern Los Angeles to join the Maccabees! Once they convince a suspicious Judah Maccabee and their new friends that they’ve arrived to help, they use what they know about the Hanukkah story from Hebrew school to aid the Maccabees in their battles against Antiochus.

**HC: 978-1-5415-4672-1 • $17.99**

**PB: 978-1-5415-5265-4 • $8.99**

Ages 8-13 • Grades 3-7

88 pages • 5¼ x 7½

**Marcia Berneger** is a retired teacher who lives with her husband and three crazy dogs. She currently teaches Torah school in addition to her volunteer work in classrooms, libraries and with various fundraisers. She lives in San Diego.

**Beatriz Castro** was always drawing and writing fantasy stories as a little girl in Spain. She studied illustration in her native town of Logroño, where she still lives today.

### Kugel for Hanukkah?

*Gretchen M. Everin*

*illustrated by Rebecca Ashdown*

What are these unusual Hanukkah gifts for? As each of Hanukkah’s eight nights brings a new present to a little girl, the mystery deepens. While the gifts grandma receives from the family add up to an unusual and delicious Hanukkah treat, her granddaughter’s gifts don’t make any sense. Until on the eighth night, when they finally do!

**HC: 978-1-5415-3464-3 • $17.99**

**PB: 978-1-5415-3471-1 • $7.99**

Ages 4-9 • Grades PreK-3

32 pages • 9¾ x 9¾

**Gretchen M. Everin** wrote her first story when her oldest child was a baby and published her first book eight years later when her youngest was a baby. When not writing, she volunteers in an elementary school library. She lives in Rhode Island.

**Rebecca Ashdown** is an award-winning and internationally published author and illustrator. She grew up on the south coast of England, where she spent most of her childhood running wild, drawing and writing or lost in the pages of a book. She lives with her family in Stroud, UK.
**The Key from Spain**  
**Flory Jagoda and Her Music**

*Debbie Levy  
illustrated by Sonja Wimmer*

When Flory’s ancestors are forced to leave Spain during the time of the Spanish Inquisition, they take with them their two most precious possessions—the key to their old house and the Ladino language. When Flory flees Europe during World War II to begin a new life in the United States, she carries Ladino with her as her ancestors did, along with her other precious possessions—her harmoniku and her music. But what of the key? The story of Ladino singer, Flory Jagoda.

A former attorney, *Debbie Levy* has written several books for young readers, including, *I Dissent, Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark*. Debbie lives in Potomac, Maryland.

*Sonja Wimmer* loves painting pictures and telling stories. After studying and working some years as a designer in Munich and Brussels, she decided to pack her suitcase and move to Barcelona. She is a freelance illustrator for publishing houses and other clients around the world.

**Francesco Tirelli’s Ice Cream Shop**

*Tamar Meir  
illustrated by Yael Albert*

Francesco Tirelli loved to eat gelato from his uncle’s cart. So when he moves from Italy to Hungary, Francesco decides to open his own ice cream store. There young Peter learns to love ice cream as much as Francesco did. But when the war comes and Francesco closes his shop for the winter, he uses the shop for a special purpose—to hide his Jewish friends and neighbors from danger. The winter is long and dark in the ice cream shop, and young Peter longs to celebrate Hanukkah. Will he find a way?

*Tamar Meir* holds degrees in Talmud and Jewish philosophy, and a PhD in literature from Bar-Ilan University. She is head of the Literature Department at the Givat Washington College of Education and teaches at Efrata College and at Bar-Ilan University. This is her first children’s book. It has won both the Yad Vashem Prize and the Devorah Omer Prize for Children’s Literature. Tamar lives in Israel.

*Yael Albert* is an illustrator based in Tel-Aviv. She was born and raised in Israel, where she graduated with honors from the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design.
In the Jerusalem Forest

Devora Busheri
illustrated by Noa Kelner

A child and her mother take a walk in the forest near Jerusalem, gazing at their reflections in a rippling pond and appreciating their time together. Inspired by the poem “The Pond” by Hayim Nahman Bialik.

Devora Busheri is a children’s book writer, editor and translator. She has authored six books and edited many others for various publication houses in Israel. Devora lives in Jerusalem with her husband and their four children.

Noa Kelner graduated from the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design. She works with book publishers, newspapers, and magazines, and loves to give stories color and form. She lives in Jerusalem with her husband and two children.

Mr. Tempkin Climb a Tree

Cary Fagan
illustrated by Carles Arbat

School’s out, and Marky looks forward to summer, including helping his friend and neighbor, Mr. Tempkin, with his garden. But when Mr. Tempkin’s plan to thwart the squirrels that have been raiding his birdfeeder goes awry, Marky learns how special a friendship can be.

Cary Fagan is the award-winning author of many popular novels and picture books for kids. He is also the author of several novels and story collections for adults. Cary lives in Toronto.

Carles Arbat’s greatest treasure as a child was his box of colored pencils. One day, he even colored the walls of his parents’ dining room, which got him into a bit of trouble. He is a graduate of Olot’s Art School in Graphic Design and the author of nine children’s books. He lives in Barcelona.
Welcome to Hebrew with Sesame Street®
J.P. Press

Learn how to make friends in Hebrew with Big Bird, Cookie Monster, and their friends. Favorite Sesame Street characters introduce readers to Hebrew. With simple words and phrases.

HC: 978-1-5415-5001-3 • $27.99
PB: 978-1-5415-7495-3 • $7.99
Ages 2-6 • Grades PreK-1
32 pages • 9¼ x 9¼

Baby’s Blessings
Lesléa Newman
illustrated by Hiroe Nakata

Blessings in our house abound,
Newest is the wondrous sound,
Of baby whom we hold so dear,
Crying out with joy, "I’m here!"

A Jewish family celebrates the arrival of a baby!

HC: 978-1-5415-2211-4 • $17.99
PB: 978-1-5415-3835-1 • $7.99
Ages 2-6 • Grades PreK-1
24 pages • 9¾ x 9¾

Kol Hakavod
Way to Go!
Jamie Kiffel-Alcheh
illustrated by Sarah-Jayne Mercer

What is "Kavod"? It's "Gee!" It's "Wow."
It's honor, respect. It's "Whoa, Holy Cow!"

Even the littlest acts of kindness and the smallest good deeds can be hugely important in the world.

Jamie Kiffel-Alcheh regularly writes for National Geographic KIDS. Her books include Can You Hear a Coo, Coo? and Listen! Israel’s All Around. She is also a lyricist for pop songs, advertisements and motion pictures. She lives in Burbank, California.

Sarah-Jayne Mercer is a freelance-illustrator who works from her home in the riverside town of Upton-upon-Severn in Worcestershire, UK. She completed her Illustration degree at Lincoln University and an M.A. in Authorial Illustration at University College Falmouth.

Baby’s Blessings is the author of more than sixty books. Her awards include an American Library Association Honor and a Sydney Taylor Honor. She lives in Holyoke, Massachusetts.

Hiroe Nakata grew up in Japan, encouraged in her drawing by her grandfather, a painter. She is a graduate of the Parsons School of Design and a resident of New York City.

Lesléa Newman is the author of more than sixty books. Her awards include an American Library Association Honor and a Sydney Taylor Honor. She lives in Holyoke, Massachusetts.

J.P. Press is a writer and editor based in Minnesota.

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Whale of a Tale
Eric A. Kimmel
illustrated by Ivica Stevanovic

Scarlett and Sam are back in a twist on the biblical adventure tale of Jonah and the whale. When the twins take Grandma Mina’s special carpet to be repaired, they encounter a strange person who steps on the rug and disappears! Scarlett and Sam follow him back through time to ancient Israel, where they find themselves on a ship. Why have they been sent back in time to this ship on a stormy sea? The man is Jonah and they’re in the story of Jonah and the whale. They know that they must do what the ship’s captain cannot—get Jonah overboard—even if that means that they must go overboard, too!

Eric A. Kimmel has been writing for children for over 40 years. His more than 100 titles include such award-winners and classics as Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins and The Chanukkah Guest. He lives in Portland, Oregon.

Ivica Stevanovic has illustrated many picture books, book covers, and graphic novels. He lives in Veternik, in northern Serbia, with his wife, also a children’s illustrator, and their daughter.

Chelm for the Holidays
Valerie Estelle Frankel

Celebrating Jewish holidays has never been sillier than in Chelm, the proverbial Village of Fools! While the Chelmites try to solve problems—like outsmarting bees to get Rosh Hashanah honey, keeping menorah candles lit without enough oil, and finding a secret ingredient for making matzah—their foolishness causes even more chaos. Enjoy these tall tales, old and new, one for each of ten holidays throughout the Jewish year.

Valerie Estelle Frankel is the author of over fifty books. She has taught children of all ages and is a former San Jose State University professor. She enjoys dancing, acting and creating costumes. She lives in California.
Room for One More
Monique Polak

For fifteen-year-old Rosetta Wolff, the war in Europe seems very far off. Then Mr. Schwartzberg comes to tea and asks Rosetta’s parents if they will take in a young war refugee. Isaac joins the family and becomes a ready-made brother to Rosetta and her two sisters.

Isaac’s arrival brings change. Her best friend’s handsome brother doesn’t seem as attractive after he reveals himself as anti-Semitic, and Rosetta begins to suspect her friend may agree with him. As Rosetta and Isaac become friends and he shares his story with her, she helps him learn the fate of other family members and helps him shape a promising future in his new country.

Room for One More
HC: 978-1-5415-4043-9 • $15.99
PB: 978-1-5415-4043-9 • $8.99
Ages 8-12 • Grade 3–7
232 pages • 5¼ x 7½

Walk Till You Disappear
Jacqueline Dembar Greene

Miguel Abrano’s family owns a horse ranch in Arizona that has been passed down from the times of the conquistadors in 1535. Raised a Catholic, when 12-year-old Miguel learns that his ancestors were Jewish, his world seems to turn upside down. Rushing from the house, he becomes lost in the desert. Captured by a band of Apaches, after a daring escape, he meets Rushing Cloud, a Tohono O’odham youth who is running away from a mission school. As the boys travel toward home, Miguel learns to survive in the desert, but more importantly, he begins to see his heritage in a new light.

Walk Till You Disappear
HC: 978-1-5415-5722-2 • $15.99
PB: 978-1-5415-5723-9 • $8.99
Ages 8–12 • Grades 3–7
208 pages • 5¼ x 7½

Anne Frank: Out of the Shadows
Anna Leigh

While her family hid during the Holocaust, Anne Frank recorded her personal reflections, as well as the harrowing circumstances she faced, in her diary. Read about her life before and after the start of World War II.

Anne Frank: Out of the Shadows
HC: 978-1-5415-3917-4 • $31.99
PB: 978-1-5415-7430-4 • $9.99
Ages 9–14 • Grades 4–8
32 pages • 6½ x 9

Monique Polak is the author of more than 20 novels for children and young adults. A two-time winner of the Quebec Writers’ Federation Prize for Children’s and Young Adult Literature, Monique also teaches English and Humanities at Marianopolis College in Montreal and is a regular contributor to the Montreal Gazette.

Jacqueline Dembar Greene is the award-winning author of more than 30 books for young readers. Her books include the Rebecca Rubin series for American Girl, The Secret Shofar of Barcelona, and Butchers and Bakers, Rabbits and Kings, was a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award. She lives in Wayland, MA.

Anna Leigh is a writer and editor who currently lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She loves to take in great stories, black coffee, and every opportunity to learn.
Pavel and the Tree Army
Heidi Smith Hyde
illustrated by Elisa Vavouri

Pavel is a new American, excited about his new country. When his rabbi tells him that the Civilian Conservation Corps is hiring young people, Pavel is thrilled. As a member of the Corps, he learns to plant trees, build dams, and take care of the land. But not everyone in the Corps thinks Pavel belongs in America. It’s not until he and his immigrant friends learn to sing the country’s new national anthem, “The Star-Spangled Banner” in time for Independence Day celebrations, that they’re welcomed as true Americans.

Heidi Smith Hyde is the director of education of Temple Sinai in Brookline, Massachusetts. Her books include Feivel’s Flying Horses, a National Jewish Book Award Finalist, and Mendel’s Accordion, winner of the Sugarman Award.

Elisa Vavouri was born in Athens, Greece. She studied art, graphic design, and painting at the Vakalo Art and Design College in Athens. She lives in Germany.

A Scarf for Keiko
Ann Malaspina
illustrated by Merrilee Liddiard

It’s 1942. Sam’s class is knitting socks for soldiers and Sam is a terrible knitter. Keiko is a good knitter, but some kids at school don’t want anything to do with her because the Japanese have bombed Pearl Harbor and her family is Japanese American. When Keiko’s family is forced to move to a camp for Japanese Americans, can Sam find a way to demonstrate his friendship?

Ann Malaspina has written many books for children, including Touch the Sky: Alice Coachman, Olympic High Jumper and Finding Lincoln. She lives in New Jersey with her husband and two sons.

Merrilee Liddiard grew up in a home filled with delightful artistic chaos and ample creativity. She is known for her love of kids’ art design, toys and DIY crafts. Merrilee loves to travel, wander museums, sew, thrift, read and nap.

Raisins and Almonds
A Yiddish Lullaby
Susan Tarcov
illustrated by Sonia Sánchez


Susan Tarcov grew up next to the Bronx Zoo, a great inspiration for writing children’s books. She is married, has three children, and lives in Chicago.

Award-winning illustrator Sonia Sánchez paints with both traditional and digital brushes using layers of texture in her work to evoke emotion and movement. Sonia lives in Spain.
**The Best Four Questions**

*Rachelle Burk*

*illustrated by Mélanie Florian*

Marcy is finally old enough to ask The Four Questions at her family’s Passover seder. She’s sure when it’s her time to shine, her questions will be the best ever. Though her four (funny) questions are not the ones in the Haggadah, her family gently humors her with the answers before she and her brother go on to read the real Four Questions. The book includes The Four Questions in English and back matter includes the answers.

-HC: 978-1-5415-2166-7 • $17.99
-PB: 978-1-5415-2167-4 • $7.99
-Ages 3-8 • Grade PreK–2
-32 pages • 9⅝ x 9⅜

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**Matzah Belowstairs**

*Susan Lynn Meyer*

*illustrated by Mette Engell*

Miriam Mouse’s family always celebrates Passover Belowstairs, while the human Winklers celebrate Abovestairs. But this year Miriam is finding it hard to get a piece of matzah to use for the Mouse family afikomen, as the human family has decided to store their matzah in a tin. All seems lost for the Mouse family seder, until young Eli Winkler shares his afikomen with her.

-HC: 978-1-5415-2168-1 • $17.99
-PB: 978-1-5415-2169-8 • $7.99
-Ages 4-8 • Grade K–3
-24 pages • 10⅞ x 8⅞

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**A Seder for Grover**

*Joni Kibort Sussman*

*illustrated by Tom Leigh*

Big Bird, Moishe Oofnik, and Avigail join their friend Grover to celebrate the spring holiday of Passover. Together they eat matzah, read from the Haggadah, and find the afikomen.

-Joni Kibort Sussman* is the publisher at Kar-Ben Publishing. Her books include *My First Yiddish Word Book*, and four Jewish-themed Sesame Street board books.

-Tom Leigh* is a children’s book author and longtime illustrator of Sesame Street and Muppet books. He lives on Little Deer Isle off the coast of Maine.

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-Tom Leigh* is a children’s book author and longtime illustrator of Sesame Street and Muppet books. He lives on Little Deer Isle off the coast of Maine.
**A Hoopoe Says Oop!**

**Animals of Israel**

*Jamie Kiffel-Alcheh*
illustrated by *Ivana Kuman*

A rhyming introduction to some of Israel's unique animals like the hoopoe (the national bird of Israel), hyrax, and sand cats.

*Jamie Kiffel-Alcheh* regularly writes for National Geographic KIDS. Her books include *Can You Hear a Coo, Coo?* and *Listen! Israel's All Around*. She is also a lyricist for pop songs, advertisements and motion pictures. She lives in Burbank, California.

Award-winning illustrator *Ivana Kuman* is a graduate of the Arts Academy in Zagreb. She has written and illustrated many picture books for children. She lives in Zagreb with her husband, two daughters and a cat.

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**Listen! Israel's All Around**

*Jamie Kiffel-Alcheh*
illustrated by *Steve Mack*

Tour Israel's most fun places—kibbutz, beach, market, and more—and discover each spot's special sound in this rhyming tribute to the sounds of Israel.

*Jamie Kiffel-Alcheh* regularly writes for National Geographic KIDS. Her books include *Can You Hear a Coo, Coo?* and *Listen! Israel's All Around*. She is also a lyricist for pop songs, advertisements and motion pictures. She lives in Burbank, California.

*Steve Mack* is a children's book and greeting card illustrator. He lives in Lumsden, Saskatchewan, Canada, with his wife and two children.

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**Grover Goes to Israel**

*Joni Kibort Sussman*
illustrated by *Tom Leigh*

Shalom! Hop aboard a plane with Grover to visit Israel in this board book featuring characters from Sesame Street. Join Grover as he tours the sights of Israel, munching on pita at Machane Yehuda and swimming in Eilat.

*Joni Kibort Sussman* is the publisher at Kar-Ben Publishing. Her books include *My First Yiddish Word Book*, and four Jewish-themed Sesame Street board books.

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**Sammy Spider's First Wedding**

*Sylvia A. Rouss*

*illustrated by Katherine Janus Kahn*

Uh oh! Curious Sammy Spider slips from his web and accidentally accompanies the Shapiro family to a wedding. As Sammy Spider watches the Jewish wedding ceremony, he sees the bride and groom stand under the beautiful chuppah, hears the seven wedding blessings, and—phew!—narrowly escapes as the groom's foot breaks the wedding glass. What an adventure!

**The Golden Bell**

*Tamar Sachs*

*illustrated by Yossi Abolafia*

In biblical times, Itamar, the tailor’s son, carefully carries the High Priest’s robe—with its little golden bells sewn onto the hem—home for his father to mend. But, one of the bells is missing! When nobody turns in the lost bell at the Claiming Stone, Itamar wonders if the tiny bell will ever be found.

**Mitzyah Pizza**

*Sara Lee Scheerger*

*illustrated by Deborah Melmon*

Missy loves Saturdays with her dad. Every week they do something special together. Usually, Dad brings the funds and Missy brings the fun, but this week, it’s Missy's turn to treat with her own allowance—until she and her dad stop for pizza, and Missy discovers a special way to do a mitzvah.

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*Sylvia A. Rouss* is an award-winning author and early childhood educator, and the creator of the popular Sammy Spider series, celebrating its 25th anniversary with over half a million Sammy Spider books sold. She lives in California.

*Katherine Janus Kahn* studied Fine Arts at the Bezalel School in Jerusalem and at the University of Iowa. She has illustrated many children’s books including Kar-Ben’s popular Sammy Spider series. She lives in Wheaton, Maryland.

*Tamar Sachs* is a content writer and kindergarten teacher with the Israeli Ministry of Education. She holds a graduate degree in teaching Talmudic stories. This is her first picture book.

*Yossi Abolafia* has written and illustrated several books for children, including *Fox Tale* and *A Fish for Mrs. Gardenia*. He lives near Jerusalem.

*Sarah Lynn Scheerger* works as a clinical social worker with at-risk youth. She loves reading, watching movies, and spending time with her family and friends. She lives in southern California with her husband and children.

*Deborah Melmon* has been a freelance illustrator in the San Francisco Bay area for over 30 years. Among her many picture books are *Picnic at Camp Shalom, Speak Up, Tommy, One Good Deed,* and *Chicken Soup, Chicken, Soup*. Deborah lives with a comical Airedale Terrier named Mack.
Seymour, the Formerly Fearful
Eve B. Feldman

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Anna Leigh is a writer and editor who currently lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She loves to take in great stories, black coffee, and every opportunity to learn.

Eve Feldman grew up on Long Island, and attended Sarah Lawrence College and the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She has taught elementary school, remedial reading and English as a foreign language in the United States and abroad. When not busy writing, reading and laughing, Eve enjoys visiting schools and sharing her contagious enthusiasm for reading and writing.

Nancy Churnin is the theater critic for the Dallas Morning News by day, children’s book writer by night.

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