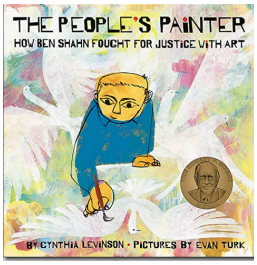
Jewish American Heritage Month

Resources for Dobbs Ferry Teachers, Staff, and Families

May is, among other things, Jewish American Heritage Month. It is a time to celebrate the many forms that Jewishness can take, especially in the United States, and the intersectional identities of many Jewish Americans (and sometimes their counterparts abroad). Check out some of the new and classic titles featuring Jewish characters and history at the Springhurst, Dobbs Ferry Middle & High School, and Dobbs Ferry Public Libraries to celebrate Jewish American Heritage Month this May!

This resource list was compiled as part of a partnership between Springhurst Library Media Specialist Beth Cornell, Middle/High School Library Media Specialist Ellen Elsen, K-8 Literacy Coordinator Michelle Yang-Kaczmarek, and the Dobbs Ferry Public Library Children's Librarian Gina Elbert and Young Adult Librarian Alex Yeranossian).

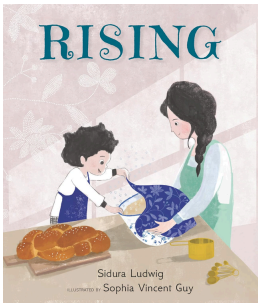
Elementary School



***The People's Painter: How Ben Shahn Fought For Justice With Art* by Cynthia Levinson**

Forced by the Czar to leave their homeland, Ben and his family become refugees and face discrimination for their Jewish faith. Ben rejects his teacher's demands for him to create art that is generic and standard. Instead he reflects the social struggles and challenges of Depression-era America. Through his art, Ben's goal is to heighten awareness and encourage activism.

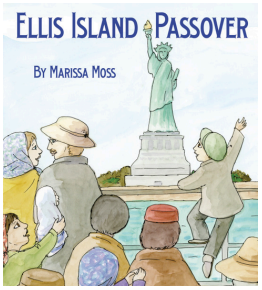
Available at the Springhurst Library and through the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.



***Rising* by Sidura Ludwig**

A child and mother wake early every Friday morning to mix and measure, knead and shape dough that will become challah bread. Sidura Ludwig's debut picture book is a lyrical tribute to the ritual of making challah and preparing for Shabbat. Stunning illustrations by Sophia Vincent Guy.

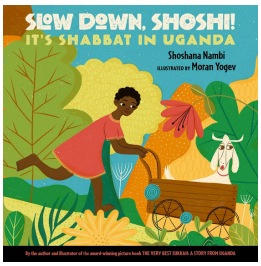
Available at the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.



***Ellis Island Passover* by Marissa Moss**

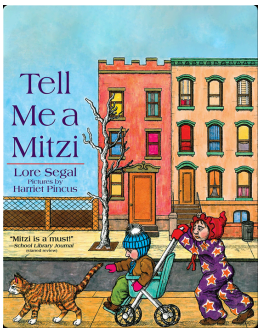
A young girl isn't excited for Passover, even though it's her favorite holiday. Great Uncle Ezra arrives and tells his story of coming to America and making the best of a new and scary situation by using tradition and ceremony to create a sense of comfort. His story renews his niece's appreciation for customs and traditions that are bigger and more important than a "bad day."

Available at the Springhurst Library and through the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.



***Slow Down, Shoshi!: It's Shabbat in Uganda* by Shoshana Nambi**
Discover a Jewish community outside of the US! Shoshi and her grandfather bring their coffee crop to the local market in Uganda. But will they get everything they need in time for Shabbat? A joyful celebration of the Abayudaya Jewish community and their traditions.

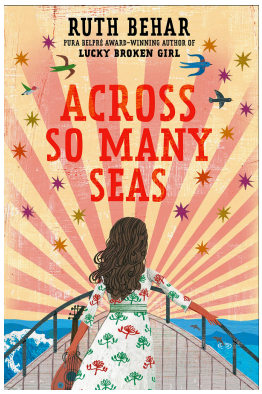
Available at the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.



***Tell Me a Mitzi* by Lore Groszmann Segal**
This awesome picture book provides an entertaining and fantastical lens on a day(s) in the life of a small child. Three stories mix fantasy and daily life in a natural and endearing way. The writer and artist capture curiosity, wonder, and a chance to notice new things with every read.

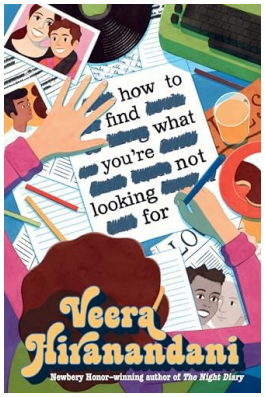
Available at the Springhurst Library and through the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.

Middle School



***Across So Many Seas* by Ruth Behar**
In 1492, during the Spanish Inquisition, Benvenida and her family are banished from Spain for being Jewish. They journey by foot and by sea, eventually settling in Istanbul. Over four centuries later, in 1923, shortly after the Turkish war of independence, Reina's father disowns her for a small act of disobedience. He ships her away to live with an aunt in Cuba. In 1961, Reina's daughter, Alegra, is proud to be a brigadista, teaching literacy in the countryside. But soon Fidel Castro's crackdowns force her to flee to Miami, leaving her parents behind. In 2003, Alegra's daughter, Paloma, is fascinated by all the journeys that had to happen before she could be born. A keeper of memories, she's thrilled to learn more about her heritage on a trip to Spain, where she makes a momentous discovery. Check out this teacher's guide from the publisher.

Available at the DF MS/HS Library and through the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.



***How to Find What You're Not Looking For* by Veera Hiranandani**
Twelve-year-old Ariel Goldberg's life feels like the moment after the final guest leaves the party. Her family's Jewish bakery runs into financial trouble, and her older sister has eloped with a young man from India following the Supreme Court decision that strikes down laws banning interracial marriage. As change becomes Ariel's only constant, she's left to hone something that will be with her always–her own voice. Listen to the first chapter here.

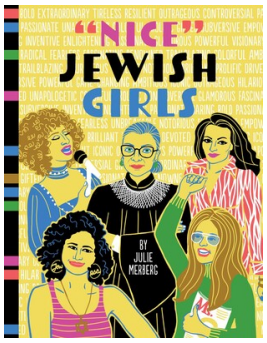
Available at the the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.



***A World Worth Saving* by Kyle Lukoff**

Covid lockdown is over, but A's world feels smaller than ever. Coming out as trans didn't exactly go well, and most days, he barely leaves his bedroom, let alone the house. At the Save Our Sons and Daughters (SOSAD) meeting his family make him attend, A and his friends Sal and Yarrow sit by while their parents deadname them and wring their hands over a nonexistent "transgender craze." When Yarrow vanishes after a particularly confrontational meeting, A discovers that SOSAD doesn't just feel soul-sucking…it's run by an actual demon who feeds off the pain and misery of kids like him. And it's not just SOSAD—the entire world is beset by demons dining on what seems like an endless buffet of pain and bigotry. Find the teacher's guide here.

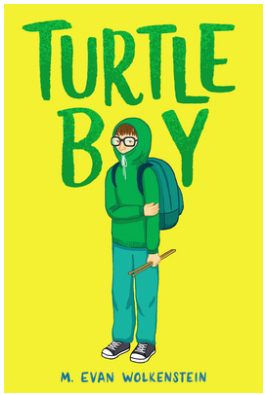
Available at the DF MS/HS Library and the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.



***"Nice" Jewish Girls* by Julie Merberg**

While probing the lives of historic icons like Anne Frank and Emma Goldman to contemporary heroines such as Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Janet Yellen, the book also provides an overview of modern Jewish history. Subjects ranging from Anna Freud, the founder of psychoanalytic child psychology, to fashion mogul Diane von Furstenberg to comedian Sarah Silverman offer a fascinating window into the ways Jewish women have approached their fields and embraced their identities.

Available at the DF MS/HS Library and through the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.



***Turtle Boy* by M. Evan Wolkenstein**

Seventh-grader Will's Bar Mitzvah community service project, visiting an incurably ill older boy in the hospital, leads to a friendship that is life-changing for both them and those around them. Listen to the author speak about the book here.

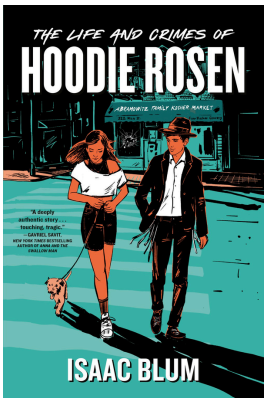
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High School



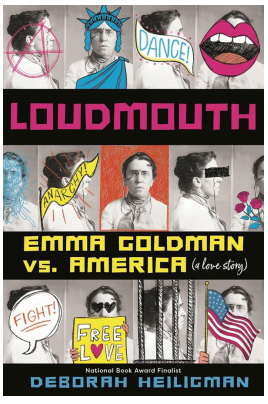
***Leaving the Station* by Jake Maia Arlow**
When Zoe left Seattle to go to college in New York, she was determined to start fresh, to figure out what being a lesbian meant to her, to experiment with clothes and presentation away from home for the first time. Instead, she lost touch with her freshman orientation friend group, skipped classes, and failed completely at being the studious premed student her parents wanted her to be. So, Zoe decides a second fresh start is in order: She's going to take a cross-country train from New York to Seattle for fall break. There, no one will know who she is, and she can outrun her mistakes. Or so she thinks until she meets Oakley, who's the opposite of Zoe in so many ways: effortlessly cool and hot, smart, self-assured. But as Zoe and Oakley make their way across the country, Zoe realizes that Oakley's life has also gone off the rails--and that they might just be able to help each other along before that train finally leaves the station.

Available at DF MS/HS Library and the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.



***The Life and Crimes of Hoodie Rosen* by Isaac Blum**
Hoodie Rosen's life isn't that bad. Sure, his entire Orthodox Jewish community has just picked up and moved to the quiet, mostly non-Jewish town of Tregaron, but Hoodie's world hasn't changed that much. He's got basketball to play, studies to avoid, and a supermarket full of delicious kosher snacks to eat. The people of Tregaron aren't happy that so many Orthodox Jews are moving in at once, but that's not Hoodie's problem. That is, until he meets and falls for Anna-Marie Diaz-O'Leary--who happens to be the daughter of the headstrong mayor trying to keep Hoodie's community out of the town. And things only get more complicated when Tregaron is struck by a series of antisemitic crimes that quickly escalate to deadly violence. As his community turns on him for siding with the enemy, Hoodie finds himself caught between his first love and the only world he's ever known. Listen to the author introduce the book.

Available at the DF MS/HS Library and through the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.



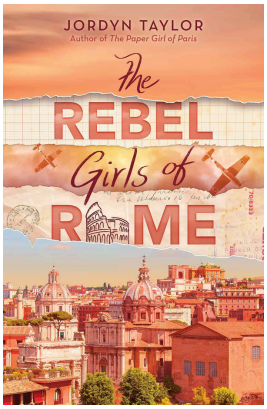
***Loudmouth: Emma Goldman vs. America (A Love Story)* by Deborah Heiligman**
Both a love letter to America and a stirring rallying cry for the country to live up to the ideals on which it was founded, this propulsive biography from National Book Award Finalist and "nonfiction maestro" Deborah Heiligman chronicles the extraordinary life and work of groundbreaking political activist Emma Goldman. A National Jewish Book Awards Finalist!

Available at the DF MS/HS Library and the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.



***When the Angels Left the Old Country* by Sacha Lamb**
Uriel the angel and Little Ash (short for Ashmedai) are the only two supernatural creatures in their Shtetl (which is so tiny, it doesn't have a name other than Shtetl). The angel and the demon have been studying together for centuries, but pogroms and the search for a new life have drawn all the young people from their village to America. When one of those young emigrants goes missing, Uriel and Little Ash set off to find her. But there are obstacles ahead of them as difficult as what they've left behind.

Available at DF MS/HS Library and the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.



***The Rebel Girls of Rome* by Jordyn Taylor**
Now: Grieving her mother's death, student Lilah is hoping to reconnect with a grandfather who refuses to talk about his past as a Holocaust survivor. She receives a letter from a fellow student that claims he's found a lost family heirloom. Then: It's 1943, and Bruna and her family are doing their best to survive in Rome's Jewish quarter under Nazi occupation. Bruna is separated from the rest of her family. Overcome with guilt at escaping her family's fate in the camps, she joins the underground rebellion and her missions bring her back to her childhood crush, Elsa.

Available at the DF MS/HS Library and the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.