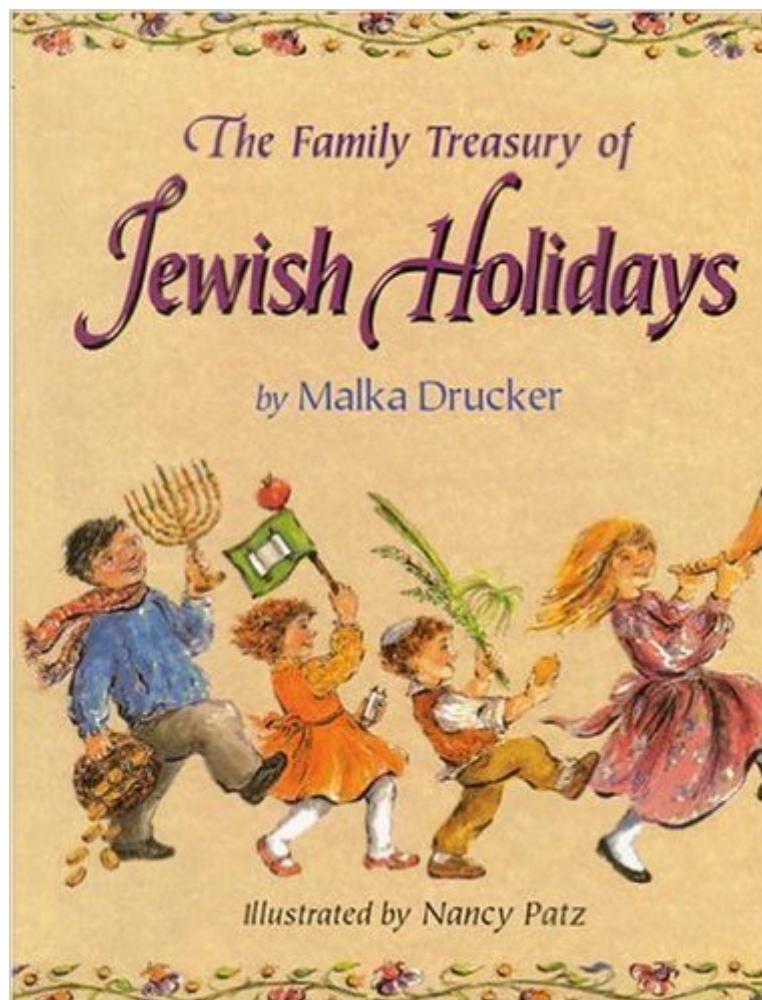


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# The Family Treasury Of Jewish Holidays



## **Synopsis**

Celebrate the Jewish holidays with this rich compendium of facts, activities, and stories from around the world. Intended for the entire family, each of the ten holiday chapters introduces the reader to the wealth of history and ritual surrounding the holidays, a read-aloud section by such favorite authors as Isaac Bashevis Singer and Barbara Cohen, and a related song, recipe, or craft. With this unique anthology, families will enjoy acting out the story of Esther for Purim, baking hallah for Shabbat, building a sukkah, and much, much more. Lavishly illustrated with scenes depicting holiday celebrations throughout history and the world, this comprehensive and handsome volume is the one holiday treasury no home should be without.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This wonderful book is divided into 11 sections for 11 holidays, each section with several delicious entries. The book begins at the beginning, with 12 entries on Rosh Hashanah (the birthday of the world) and Yom Kippur. Like all the sections, this one opens with a description of the holidays and their spiritual significance. Next comes a biblical story of Moshe's mistake, whose epigraph explains that there is no Hebrew word for sin. "Het" (pronounced with a guttural "ch") actually means "to miss the mark." One of these is the tale of Zuzya, adapted from the Yiddish genius, I.L. Peretz. When Zuzya missed prayers, the villagers claimed he was speaking to God. A stranger laughed. The next day, he followed Zuzya as he dressed as a peasant, walked to the woods, gave an old widow wood and lit her hearth comforting her with the assurance that God would provide her funds to pay him later. The section also gives recipes for honey cake and challah, explains the Shofar blasts, and

recounts the Torah portion from Yom Kippur afternoon--the story of Jonah and the great fish. The Sukkot section explains significance of the harvest festival, the booth (open to the sky) that must be built to mark it and the 4 plant species that help to celebrate the feast. Readers are treated to a story for Sukkot from Chelm, the realm of fools; one on invisible guests and the importance of hospitality; and a short David Adler tale of a city family whose landlord objects to their hut on the apartment building roof. Two entries on Simchat Torah follow a recipe for stuffed pumpkin. For Chanukah, readers will find the music and words to Maoz Tzur (Rock of Ages), a recipe for potato pancakes (latkes), the rules for a game of dreidel--and a delightful Isaac Bashevis Singer tale, Zlateh the Goat. The remaining sections are each as rich as the first three. The Tu B'Sh'vat (birthday of trees) section includes a Midrashic tale, Honi and the Carob Tree and a story by Janice May Udry. Purim features a play and a story from Sadie Rose Weilerstein on K'tonton, the Jewish Tom Thumb. Pesach (Passover) includes stories about Moses, the Jewish flight from slavery in Egypt and its significance for every Jew today, and Barbara Cohen's modern-day classic, The Carp in the Bathtub. Yom HaShoah, or Holocaust remembrance day, features the most famous entry from Anne Frank's diary and the famous Hannah Senesh poem, Eili, Eili. It is followed by a moving section on Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel Independence Day, including Brothers, a story on Jewish flight from the Nazis by Shalom Hetkin. The book closes with a delightful section on most important Jewish holiday of all, Shabbat. Here we find several prayers and traditions, along with Mrs. Markowitz and the Sabbath Candlesticks by Amy Schwartz. This book is a treasure chest. Alyssa A. Lappen

Yes, also for Christians, this book is very informative. There's not mere theory but a marvelous mix of a holiday's meaning in life, biblical and other stories about it, bakery etc. I find Christian and Jewish holidays are not too far away different in what really they want to express.

This is probably not the best family holidays book if you have little kids. It's old fashioned looking, the pictures are not colorful or engaging and it's text-dense. Overall, the information is good, good stories, suggestions etc but I wouldn't recommend unless your kids are 7+.

I was fortunate to find a used copy of this book. I absolutely love it! It's so detailed. The words for the Kiddish are in there, as well as great ideas for Tu B'Shevat. I love that it includes explanations of the holidays, stories, prayers, songs, and craft ideas. My daughter is 23 months old and I try to think of ways to engage her each holiday and every Shabbat. This book has been a great resource for me and I know it will continue to be so at least until she's in her teens.

Sometimes I forget the significance of certain Holidays. The book is a wonderful way to remind me. There is an explanation as to why it is a holiday and the historical and religious significance of these Holly Days. There is a story and activity and easy to follow reciepes for holiday foods such as potatoe latkes for Channuka. It keeps me sharp and ready to celebrate the holidays as they come up in the year.

I will be ordering a copy for each of my sons to take with them when they leave the house and start their own journeys...and own families. Wonderfully written, compiled, and illustrated.

If you need to learn about Jewish holidays with your children this book is great. Clear, concise, interesting, love the color illustrations.

nice, real, calm pictures, great stories that are diverse, all around excellent resource for studying Jewish year of worship and tradition.

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