

Who are the Book Meshuggenahs?



We are **award-winning Jewish children's book writers** from America and Israel who have joined together to support each other and educators, parents and children in our mission to share diverse, fun and inspiring stories for Jewish children. "The Book Meshuggenahs" have won numerous awards, including the [National Jewish Book Award](#), with many of their books named to "Best of" lists by Tablet and other magazines, or being selected for [PJ Library](#). Their titles focus on Jewish topics and themes.

Are you looking for books for Hanukkah or Purim baskets, special gifts for those who find the Afikomen, books that will delight all year round? Ask individual authors about in-person or Skype visits, or how to have autographed books shipped to your group.

Here are the members, in alphabetical order, with their most recent or upcoming books. With the holidays coming up, check out their websites for more information about each Meshuggenah, and more of their outstanding picture books, related fun and educational activities, events for families, and more!

The Book Meshuggenahs

Rachelle Burk www.rachelleburk.com

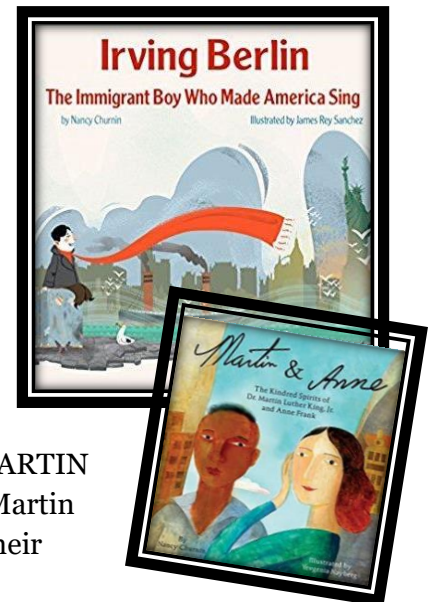
THE BEST FOUR QUESTIONS (Kar-Ben Publishing): This Passover, Marcy is old enough to ask the Four Questions at the Seder. She asks questions all the time, so asking a few on Passover should be easy-peasy! Marcy plans to ask the best Four Questions ever. And she does – only they don't come from the Haggadah. Fortunately, even her wildest questions are taken seriously and answered before Marcy and her family move on to the Four Questions in the Haggadah. A PJ Library selection and winner of the PJ Library Author Incentive Award. Rachelle is also the author of the inspiring biography picture book, **PAINTING IN THE DARK: ESREF ARMAGAN, BLIND ARTIST** (Tumblehome, Inc) and other books for kids.

rachelleburk@gmail.com



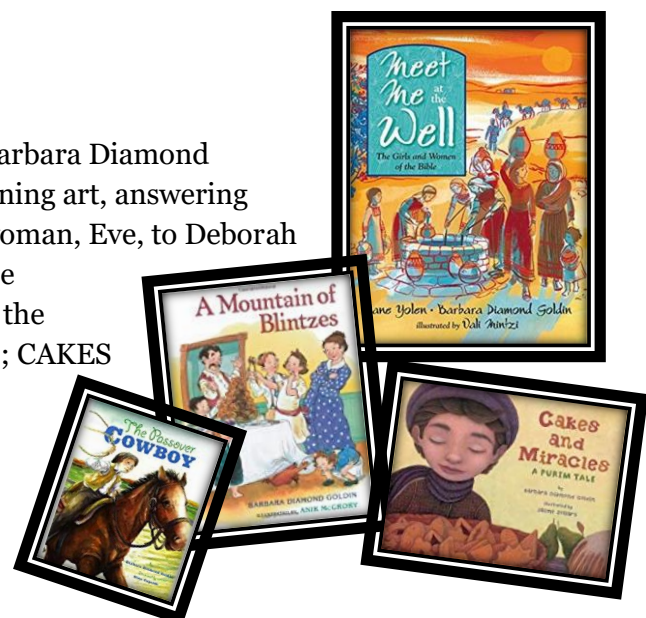
Nancy Churnin nancychurnin.com

IRVING BERLIN, THE IMMIGRANT BOY WHO MADE AMERICA SING (Creston Books): Irving Berlin came to the United States as a refugee from Tsarist Russia, escaping a pogrom that destroyed his village. Growing up on the streets of the lower East Side, the rhythms of jazz and blues inspired his own song-writing career. With “God Bless America,” he sang his thanks and found a special way of giving back to the children of the country that had given him and so many immigrants their home sweet home. Comes with a free Teacher Guide and a project, **MAKE AMERICA SING**, where kids are encouraged to share their favorite gift that immigrants have brought to America. **MARTIN & ANNE, THE KINDRED SPIRITS OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. AND ANNE FRANK** (Creston Books) Anne Frank and Martin Luther King, Jr. were born the same year a world apart. This is the story of their parallel journeys to find hope in darkness and to follow their dreams.



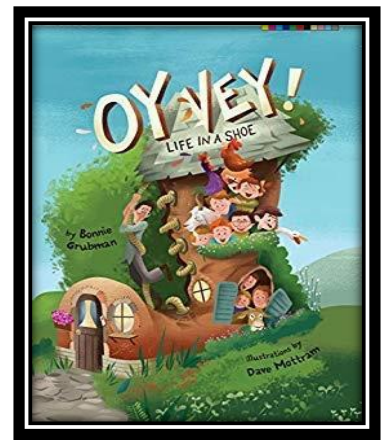
Barbara Diamond Goldin barbaradiamondgoldin.com

MEET ME AT THE WELL (Charlesbridge): Jane Yolen and Barbara Diamond Goldin's masterful retellings pairs eloquent profiles with stunning art, answering one question: What makes these women heroes? From first woman, Eve, to Deborah the judge, to Queen Esther, savior of her people, females in the Hebrew bible are resourceful and courageous. Barbara is also the author of **THE PASSOVER COWBOY** (Apples & Honey Press); **CAKES AND MIRACLES** (Marshall Cavendish); **THE BEST HANUKKAH EVER** (Marshall Cavendish); **THE WORLD'S BIRTHDAY** (Two Lions/Harcourt) and **MOUNTAIN OF BLINTZES** (Two Lions/Harcourt)



Bonnie Grubman www.bonniegrubmanbooks.com

OY VEY! LIFE IN A SHOE (Apples and Honey Press) A rollicking mash-up of the Old Woman Who Lived In A Shoe with the traditional Jewish folktale about a family getting unexpected wisdom from the Rabbi. A laugh-out-loud tale that serves as a fun reminder that sometimes things have to go from bad to worse, before you realize they were wonderful all along. A PJ Library selection. Bonnie is the author of other picture books for children.



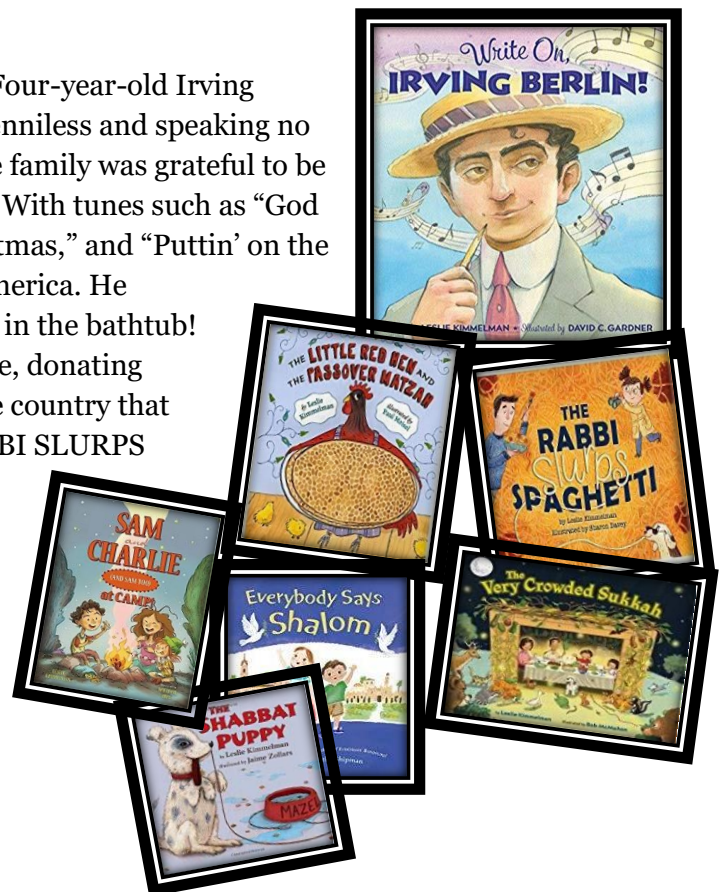
Amalia Hoffman amaliahoffman.com

DREIDEL DAY (Kar-Ben Publishing): This playful Hanukkah board book encourages readers to count from 1 to 8 as they follow a silly cat who interacts with her dreidels — spinning, bouncing, tumbling, hopping, hiding, balancing, resting, and finally, lighting the menorah. Colorful charming paper-cut illustrations contain other “hidden” elements for little ones to count. The mischievous cat makes this a purr-fect Hanukkah read. A PJ Library selection and winner, the PJ Library Author Incentive Award. Amalia is also the author of THE KLEZMER BUNCH (Gefen), about a group of Klezmer musicians, and PURIM GOODIES (Gefen), which includes a delicious recipe (both are notable stories for children chosen by the Association of Jewish Libraries.)

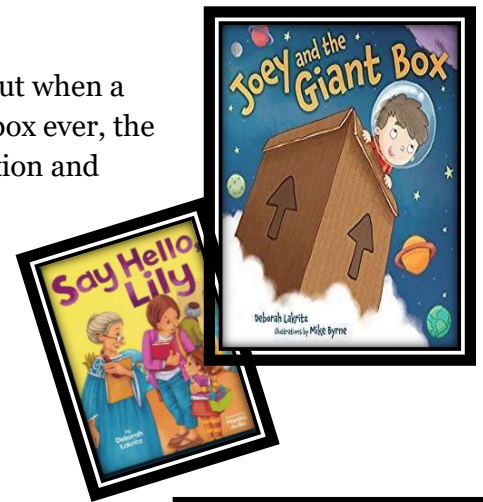


Leslie Kimmelman www.lesliekimmelman.net

WRITE ON, IRVING BERLIN! (Sleeping Bear Press): Four-year-old Irving Berlin arrived at Ellis Island with his family in 1893, penniless and speaking no English. Still, having escaped the Russian pogroms, the family was grateful to be in a country that promised freedom and opportunities. With tunes such as “God Bless America” (100 years old this year!), “White Christmas,” and “Puttin’ on the Ritz,” Berlin created the soundtrack of 20th century America. He couldn’t stop writing—on his shirtsleeves, in taxis, even in the bathtub! And he never stopped feeling thankful for his new home, donating much of the money he made from his music back to the country that had adopted him. Leslie is also the author of THE RABBI SLURPS SPAGHETTI (Apples & Honey Press); EVERYBODY SAYS SHALOM (Random House); THE SHABBAT PUPPY (Marshall Cavendish); THE VERY CROWDED SUKKAH (Marshall Cavendish); and the SAM AND CHARLIE Series (Albert Whitman).

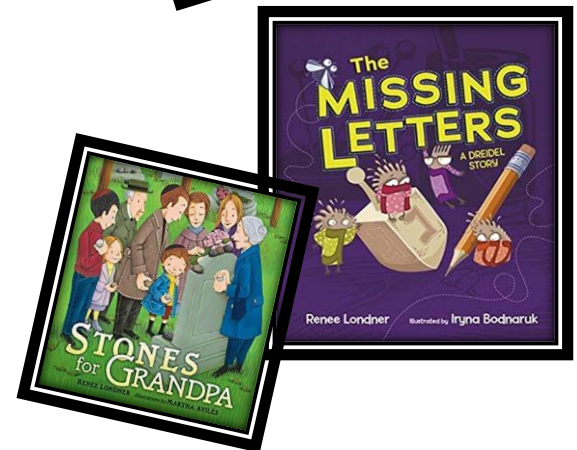


JOEY AND THE GIANT BOX (Kar-Ben): Joey loves to collect things. But when a new dishwasher is delivered to the house, he wants to keep the biggest box ever, the dishwasher box. Joey has a ball playing with this box using his imagination and traveling to all sorts of faraway places. But the box proves to be too big in his bedroom and Joey must get rid of it. Instead, Joey comes up with a great idea. He is inspired to use his box to help others, too. With the help of his classmates, Joey and his friends collect food items for the local food bank. This is a wonderful story about the importance of tikkun olam (repairing the world) and tzedekah (charity). Deborah is also the author of **HELLO, LILY (Kar-Ben)**.



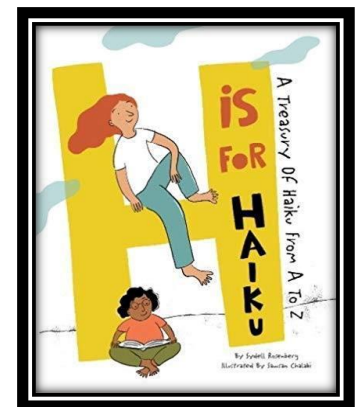
Renee Londner

THE MISSING LETTERS: A DREIDEL STORY (Kar-Ben) It's almost Hanukkah. But the Heys, the Nuns, and the Shins are jealous of the Gimels. They decide to hide the Gimels so that the dreidel-maker can't use them. But then the other letters learn that the Hanukkah story won't be complete. What should they do? Renee is also the author of **STONES FOR GRANDPA (Kar-Ben)**.



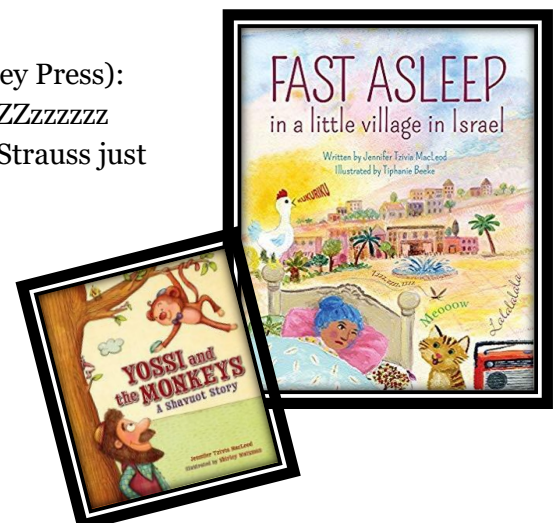
Amy Losak pennycandybooks.com/blog-1/losak

H IS FOR HAIKU: A TREASURY OF HAIKU FROM A TO Z (Penny Candy Books): Losak's mother, New York teacher and writer, Sydel Rosenberg, uses the shortest but expansive form of poetry called haiku to celebrate the fun and joy in everyday moments we might otherwise overlook. Nominated for a Cybil's Poetry Award and selected by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) as a 2019 Notable Poetry Book.



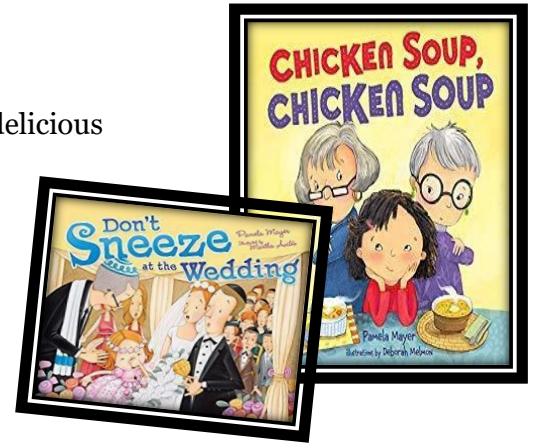
Jennifer Tzivia Macleod www.tzivia.com

FAST ASLEEP IN A LITTLE VILLAGE IN ISRAEL (Apples & Honey Press): Kukurikuuu! squawks the rooster. Meowwww! yowls the cat. ZZZZZZZZZ buzzes the mosquito. It is the end of a hot, dry summer, and Mrs. Strauss just can't fall asleep. "SHEKET! QUIET!" But when at last she falls asleep, something wakes her up again...something her little village in Israel has been waiting for all summer long. 'A lovely peek into life in Israel' -Kirkus Reviews.' . Jennifer is also the author of **YOSSI AND THE MONKEYS: A SHAVUOT STORY**



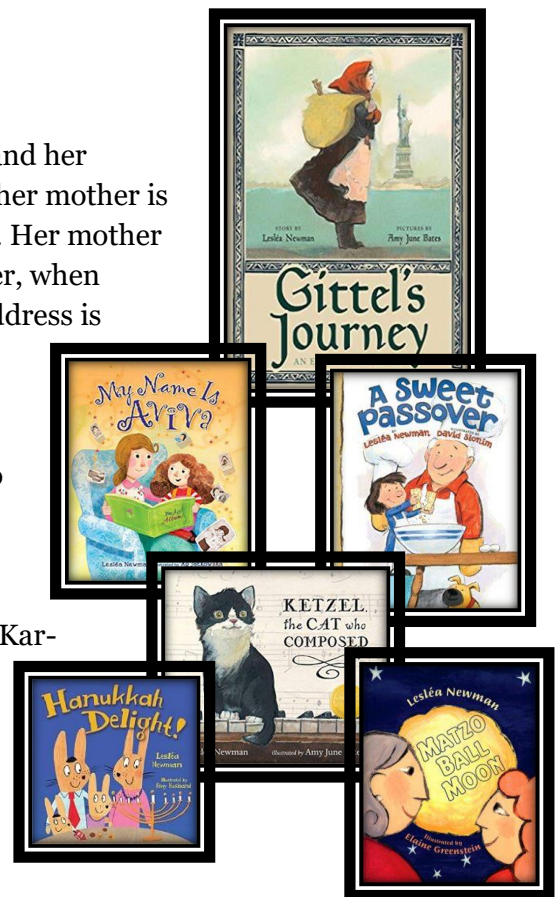
Pamela Mayer pamelamayer.com

CHICKEN SOUP, CHICKEN SOUP (Kar-Ben): Two grandmas. Two delicious recipes. And one granddaughter caught in the middle! Sophie loves Bubbe's Jewish chicken soup, made with kreplach. She also loves Nai Nai's Chinese chicken soup, with wonton. But don't tell Bubbe and Nai Nai that their soups are the same! Can Sophie bring her whole family together for a warm and tasty surprise? A PJ Library selection and a Notable Book on the 2017 Sydney Taylor Awards. Pamela is also the author of DON'T SNEEZE AT THE WEDDING (Kar-Ben), and other books for children.



Lesléa Newman lesleakids.com

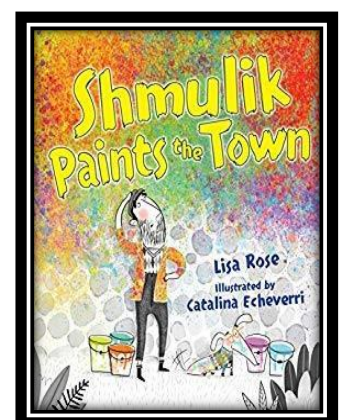
GITTEL'S JOURNEY: AN ELLIS ISLAND STORY (Abrams): Gittel and her mother were supposed to immigrate to America together, but when her mother is stopped by the health inspector, Gittel must make the journey alone. Her mother writes her cousin's address in New York on a piece of paper. However, when Gittel arrives at Ellis Island, she discovers the ink has run and the address is illegible! How will she find her family? Both a heart-wrenching and heartwarming story, GITTEL'S JOURNEY offers a fresh perspective on the immigration journey to Ellis Island. The book includes an author's note explaining how Gittel's story is based on the journey to America taken by Lesléa Newman's grandmother and family friend. Recipient of a starred review from Publishers Weekly. Lesléa is also the author of KETZEL AND THE CAT WHO COMPOSED (Candlewick); REMEMBER THAT (Clarion); MY NAME IS AVIVA (Kar-Ben); WELCOMING ELIJAH: A PASSOVER TALE WITH A TAIL (Charlesbridge); BABY'S BLESSINGS (Kar-Ben); RUNAWAY DREIDEL (Holt); A KISS ON THE KEPPIE (Marshall Cavendish); HERE IS THE WORLD: A YEAR OF JEWISH HOLIDAYS (Abrams); HANUKKAH DELIGHT (Kar-Ben); THE EIGHT NIGHTS OF CHANUKKAH (Abrams); A SWEET PASSOVER (Abrams); MATZO BALL MOON (Clarion)



Lisa Rose lisarosewrites.com

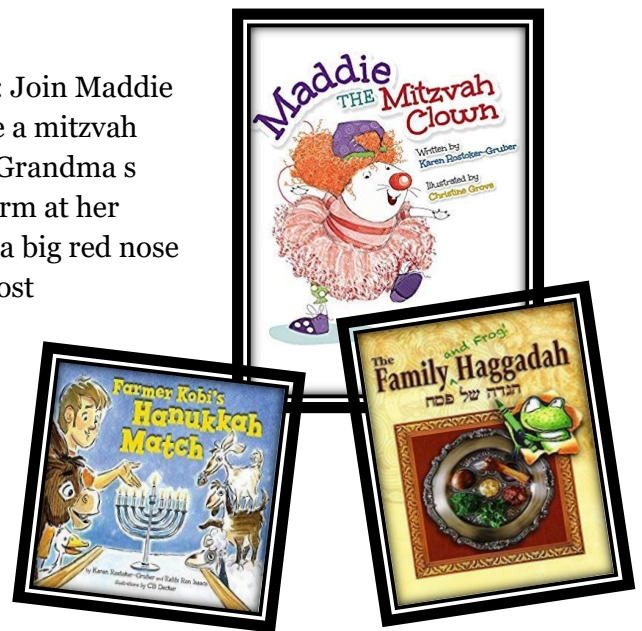
SHMULIK PAINTS THE TOWN (Kar-Ben): Shmulik, the town artist is asked to paint a mural for Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel Independence Day) but can't decide what to paint. Luckily, he gets some help from his dog!

A PJ Library selection.



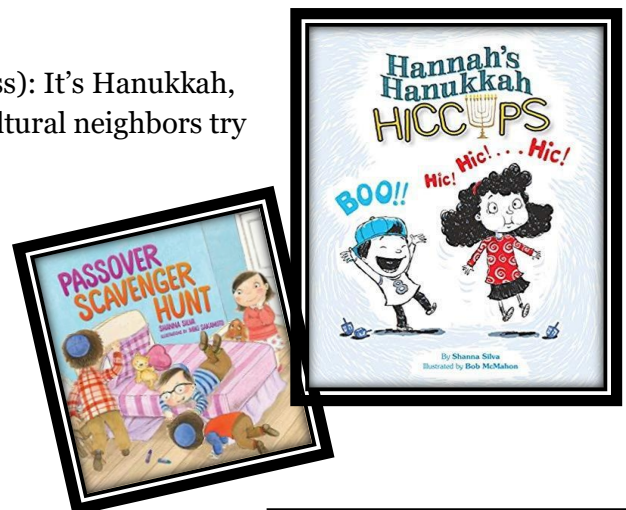
Karen Rostoker-Gruber karenrostoker-gruber.com

MADDIE THE MITZVAH CLOWN (Apples & Honey Press): Join Maddie as she discovers her confidence when she decides to become a mitzvah clown in order to bring smiles to the faces of Grandma and Grandma's friends. When Maddie sees Giggles the mitzvah clown perform at her Grandma's senior home, she decides to join in! She puts on a big red nose and learns how to make balloon animals, sing songs, and most importantly, bring smiles and happiness to Grandma and Grandma's friends. Along the way, Maddie learns how to overcome her shyness, too, and become a more confident and happy mouse. A PJ Library selection. Karen is also the author of **FARMER KOBI'S HANUKKAH MATCH** (Apples & Honey Press); **THE FAMILY AND FROG HAGGADAH** (Behrman House); **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE TREES** (Kar-Ben) and other books for children.



Shanna Silva shannasilva.com

HANNAH'S HANUKKAH HICCUPS (Apples & Honey Press): It's Hanukkah, and Hannah Hartman can't stop hiccupping! Her multi-cultural neighbors try to help by sharing their sometimes silly, always fun, remedies, but nothing works. How will she be able to perform her solo at the Hebrew school play if her hiccups don't go away? Only a creative solution can help her deal with her Hanukkah hiccups. Shanna is also the author of **PASSOVER SCAVENGER HUNT** (Kar-Ben).



Melissa Stoller melissastoller.com

THE ENCHANTED SNOW GLOBE COLLECTION #1: RETURN TO CONEY ISLAND (Clear Fork Publishing): They thought it was an ordinary sleepover...When nine-year-old twins Emma and Simon shake a snow globe from their grandmother's enchanted collection, they're transported back to Coney Island on June 24, 1928. According to family legend, that's the day their great-grandparents meet on the Coney Island trolley. But if events don't work exactly as they're supposed to, the meeting won't take place and the twins might never be born. After a day of adventures – from the Cyclone roller coaster to the boardwalk arcade, and finally to the all-important trolley ride – will the twins help make it happen.

