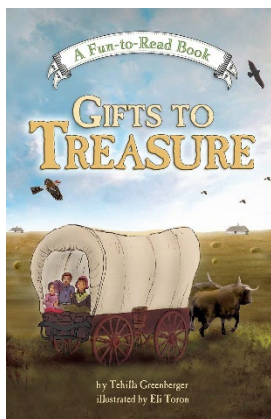
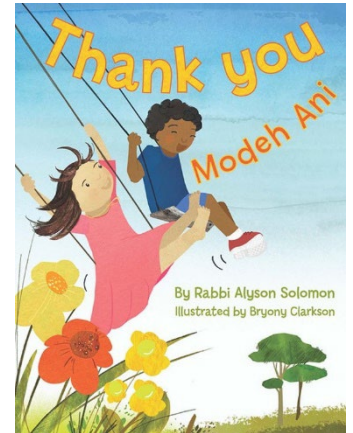


HAKARAT HATOV TITLES

HaKarat HaTov, or “gratitude,” is an important Jewish value, and well-represented in the picture book collection of the Rabbi Richard B. Safran library. Although less plentiful in other areas of the library, we do have titles for all ages. Check out the full collection of related titles [here](#).

Picture Books for Younger Readers

Thank You, Modeh Ani, by Rabbi Alyson Solomon, is the perfect story to start with in our picture book collection. Based on two traditional morning prayers, it’s a wonderful celebration of life for younger readers. *Thank you, God*, by Holly Bea, and Joanne Rocklin’s *I Say Shehechyanu*, point out all the things we can be thankful for. And Sandy Sasso’s *Adam and Eve’s First Sunset: God’s New Day*, demonstrates the concept evident in the story from Genesis. *The Little, Little House*, by Jessica Souhami, and Margot Zemach’s *It Could Always Be Worse: A Yiddish Folk Tale*, are both retellings of a classic tale used to illustrate gratitude. Along a similar vein, *The Tale of Meshka the Kvetch*, by Carol Chapman, tells the story of a complainer that learns how much she really has to be thankful for. *The Cholent Brigade*, by Michael Herman, and *A Hat for Mrs. Goldman: A Story about Knitting and Love*, by Michelle Edwards, are both excellent stories about expressing gratitude by helping out those who have been of assistance.



Chapter Books for Older Children and Teens

Gifts to Treasure is a chapter book for early readers by Tehilla Greenberger. Set in 1897 on the North Dakota prairie, it follows a family of Eastern European immigrants who have taken advantage of the Homestead Act. Each child has a special gift from their grandparents, but they also have a new country to learn to appreciate as well. A few anthologies in our juvenile collection contain folktales that illustrate gratitude particularly well. The title story in Sharlya Gold’s *The Answered Prayer*, a collection of Yemenite folktales in our juvenile non-fiction collection, features a particularly feisty donkey owner named Salim. “If It Pleases God,” a story in Barbara Diamond Goldin’s *One Hundred and One Jewish Read Aloud Stories*, follows Reb Moshe and a beggar. “The Giant Og and the Ark,” told in *The Diamond Tree*, by Howard Schwartz, adds a grateful giant to the story of Noah. “The Reminder,” in Molly Cone’s anthology, *Who Knows Ten?* tells the story of a slave who became king. *Turtle Boy*,

by Evan Wolkenstein, is an award-winning novel that addresses many Jewish values and has been recommended in other lists.

For Adults

Life’s Daily Blessings: Inspiring Reflections on Gratitude and Joy for Every Day, Based on Jewish Wisdom, by Rabbi Kerry M. Olitzky, is a new title in our adult collection. A quote and reflection is provided for each day of the year, from a full variety of sources, from ancient to contemporary. Two guides to the spiritual path of *mussar* also address gratitude among several character traits. *The Mussar Torah Commentary: A Spiritual Path to Living a Meaningful and Ethical Life*, by Barry H. Block, was a National Jewish Book Award Finalist in 2020. *Everyday Holiness: The Jewish Spiritual Path of Mussar*, by Alan Morinis, is another excellent adult resource. For those interested in folktales, we have several anthologies available that include gratitude-related stories. “Solomon’s Gift,” told in Peninnah Schram’s *Jewish Stories One Generation Tells Another*, relates a tale of the King of the Hoopoe birds. “The Apprentice Baker’s Blessing,” told in *Jewish Folktales*, by Pinhas Sadeh, is a Tunisian story of an apprentice and a grateful rabbi.

