

Resource Guide

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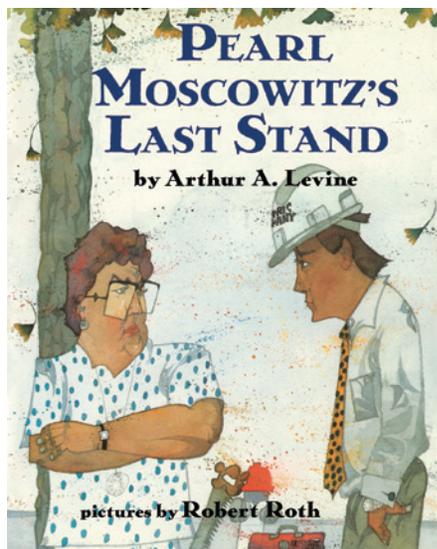
Pearl Moskowitz's Last Stand

PJ Library is excited to share this NEW resource for using PJ Library books and materials in your organization. Inside you'll find ideas for how to use this book to:



- **More deeply engage with families**
- **Explore your community**
- **Enhance your Shabbat experiences**
- **Connect with learners of all ages**





Pearl Moskowitz's Last Stand

Written by: Arthur Levine
 Illustrated by: Robert Roth

Pearl loves her street. She loves the people on her street, and she loves the trees on her street – planted there by her mother years before. So when the city wants to cut them down, it's time for Pearl to take a stand.

Shabbat

Just like Moses and the Israelites tolerated hardship, Pearl puts up with the loss of many beloved gingko trees, until she finally has enough! Instead of a sermon, try reading this story aloud during a Shabbat service on February 7th or 8th, when we traditionally read *parashat Beshalach*. If your congregation has the capability, you could even project the pages on a screen as you read along. Ask service-goers what parallels they may see between the weekly Torah portion, this story, and their own lives.

Holidays

While climate change may be a hot button issue today, the Jewish tradition has long valued caring for our planet. At no time is that more evident than when we celebrate Tu B'Shevat. Integrate this book into your Tu B'shevat celebrations by:

- Reading it before planting trees
- Using it as a catalyst to do a "tree audit" of the area around your synagogue
- Digging into the importance of trees in an urban environment

Family Programing

Similar to Pearl, some of the families in your congregation have been around for a long time, seeing many changes along the way. Invite founding members and others who have witnessed the transitions in your temple to share their stories with your whole community. Consider a *The Moth* style storytelling event, or set up opportunities for children to interview them using resources from *StoryCorps*.

Classrooms

Pearl is deeply committed to her community, not just the trees on her block. As the demographics of her neighborhood change, Pearl benefits from the diversity that surrounds her- sharing food and traditions with her friends and neighbors. Read this book in your religious school classes and then invite families to share their favorite foods, traditional clothing, and stories that represent their heritage.

For more on Tu B'Shevat:
www.pjlibrary.org/tubshevat
www.themoth.org
www.storycorps.org

For more books about Caring for the Earth
www.pjlibrary.org/earthbooks