

## Women's League for Conservative Judaism

### Mishpachah: The Modern Jewish Family

#### ORPAH'S KIDS

*The Purim Superhero*, by Elizabeth Kushner is the story of young Nate who has two fathers. The child-centered story tackles weighty themes of courage and self identity.

*Rebecca's Journey Home*, by Brynn Olenberg Sugarman, tells the story of a Jewish family who adopts a child from Vietnam. As international adoptions become increasingly commonplace in the Jewish community, this book will be a useful resource for helping to explain diversity.



#### Suggestions for using the Orpah's Kids selections

Both *The Purim Superhero* and *Rebecca's Journey Home* treat sensitive topics for modern Jewish families, adoption and same-sex parents. You can use the short study guides with discussion questions and complementary activities in a variety of venues.

Since the age span for both books is somewhat broad, we have included questions appropriate for both younger and older children. Read over all of the questions before you read the book to your child/children and decide which ones are the most appropriate for their age. The recommended activities underscore the importance of family, a recognition and appreciation of diversity, and provide opportunities for creatively celebrating both family and special home situations.

**One on One:** Add the book to your child's library and sit and read the book together, perhaps using some of the suggested discussion questions.

**Orpah's Book Groups:** Despite the fact that *The Purim Superhero* and *Rebecca's Journey Home* are for children, the themes resonate with adults as well. The story books will encourage spirited discussion about self identity, courage and acceptance. Your adult discussion could prepare mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and friends to share the book with young children in their families.

**Synagogue Story Hour:** Arrange for your synagogue, Hebrew school or preschool to sponsor a story hour; invite several sisterhood members to read the story and then sponsor a snack time afterwards. Invite children's family members to attend. Give each child a sheet of activities to take home, so that they can make this a family project.