

Program: PJ Library®

“WHEN YOU RECEIVE A GIFT,
YOU FEEL SPECIAL.
AND WHEN YOU FEEL SPECIAL,
YOU FEEL **CONNECTED.**”

Melanie, Pearl & PJ Library®

It wasn't until Melanie Olds was married with a child that she discovered the thing that would thread together her social, family and Jewish life. And it all started with a book.

“Every month my two year old daughter Pearl receives a special package in the mail from our Jewish community. You wouldn't believe the excitement on Pearl's face when she sees that the big white envelope has arrived. We rip it open with great anticipation, excited to see what book or cd the PJ Library program has sent us.” Not only are the treats a source of joy and anticipation for the whole family, but also, according to Melanie, they've set up her toddler daughter Pearl, with the right conditions to become an active member of the Jewish community.

“PJ Library has brought some wonderful new aspects of Judaism into our home,” shared Melanie. As a full-time working mom, she truly cherishes the time she gets to spend with Pearl reading together. *Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel*, *The Shabbat Box* and *Bim! Sings the Baby* are among her favorites, creating endless hours of connection between Melanie and her daughter.

“The PJ Library program has helped me to convey our rich traditions to my small child. Each book is filled with Jewish values, culture holidays and history.” In addition to the story itself, mailings include additional information for parents about the books content so you can have meaningful discussions with your children about what you are reading. Melanie especially loves the stories about Passover and Shabbat which allow her to reconnect with

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For more information, visit jconnect.org/PJlibrary

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her Judaism and deepen her understanding of these special holidays.

But the PJ Library program isn't just a monthly book club providing books free of charge to more than 4,000 families in MD, DC and VA. It is a connection into a community that Melanie and her husband Josh have come to care for and appreciate immensely. With PJ Library Melanie's first contact may be through the bookshelf but it continues out in the community through a host of program offerings geared toward children, families and even moms. Each event is high quality, welcoming and fun.

"This year we have shared PJ Shabbats with families and I even got to share a girl's night out with other moms, something I rarely get to do." Melanie eagerly awaits the arrival each month of her PJ Library newsletter so she can mark her calendar with fun things to do with Pearl.

"When you receive a gift you feel special and when you feel special you feel connected" says Melanie. Through PJ Library I have now found my place in the community where I can meet others, become involved and share the joy of storytelling with my child."

FUN WITH PJ Library®

