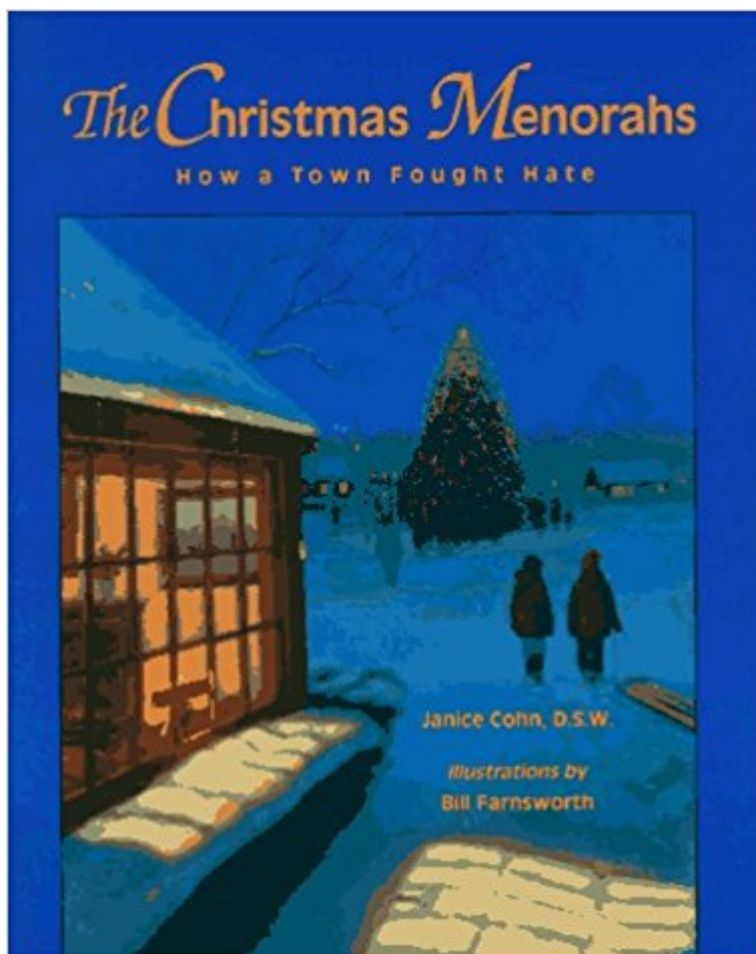


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# The Christmas Menorahs: How A Town Fought Hate



## Synopsis

Cohn's powerful narrative tells how two children, two families--one Jewish, one Christian--and a community resolve to stand together against the shameful actions that have been happening in their home town. Her story is based on real events that happened in Billings, Montana, in 1993.

Farnsworth's beautiful paintings illuminate the message of the power of goodness. Full color.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 510L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Albert Whitman & Company (September 1, 1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0807511528

ISBN-13: 978-0807511527

Product Dimensions: 10.3 x 8.4 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 13 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 20 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #463,645 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #123 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Jewish](#) #424 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Prejudice & Racism](#) #2769 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies](#)

Age Range: 7 and up

Grade Level: 2 and up

## Customer Reviews

Gr. 3<sup>^</sup>-5. Based on a true incident that occurred in Billings, Montana, this story begins when a rock is thrown through a boy's bedroom window in which a menorah is displayed. The boy, Isaac, is frightened and unsure whether he wants to put the menorah back. His parents call the police, and his mother goes on television and to a meeting to talk about hate crimes in the community. Inspired by stories of the Danish people helping their Jewish neighbors during World War II, the people of Billings put menorahs in their windows to take a stand against bigotry. When a schoolmate supports Isaac, he takes his own stand by returning the menorah to its place. Although the plot seems a little stilted at times, Cohn deals with the issues in a way children can readily understand. Throughout the book, realistic, soft-focus oil paintings dramatize the action and personalize the characters. A fine book for parents and teachers who want to discuss prejudice and hate crimes with their children,

with background information provided in the introduction. Carolyn Phelan

"A must-have book for all ages-child and adult. Powerful."American Bookseller"Based on real events that occurred in Billings, Montana, the inspiring story is illustrated with soft oil paintings."The Horn Book Guide --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

The boy in this book, Isaac, is the son of my pediatrician. Our families knew each other and only became closer after this incident. My grandparents sat on the human rights committee which convinced the Billings Gazette to print the page in question, and I still have a copy somewhere. At the time, taking a stand like this was a tough choice to make, and even now, in December of 2016, we see that the same sentiments are still among us. This will not be the last brick.I give this book to someone every holiday season. Often times it's a new friend who has a family which celebrates multiple winter holidays.This season, I think it's more important than ever.This incident, and the involvement of my family has also been instrumental in my choosing a career as a social worker, and a radical one at that. If this book resonates with you, I encourage you to bring that feeling out into the world and use it to spread some love. Whatever your religion, lord knows we need all the love we can get.

This books has a very important message, but it's a bit dry perhaps in an effort to remain true to the actual happenings it lacks imagery. Without the verbal imagery, the fear of the characters is hard to feel. At times the adults and children alike were restless for the story to pick up, and our kids aren't little. However, I really like the message and it was a great book for our first year learning about Hanukkah and enforcing that we should respect other people's beliefs even if they are different from our own. I also like the main character's realization that he doesn't have to be embarrassed or ashamed that he celebrates a different holiday.

I bought this as a gift (I've had my own copy for many years). It is the story of how the faith community in Billings MT rallied in support of Jewish families whose homes were being vandalized. It is suitable for older children and adults, and I have used it several times in worship (I am a retired minister) as an example of what people of faith can do when they work together. The illustrations are lovely, too.

The book is perfect. Thank you for writing it and making the story available to all.

Bought several for Christmas gifts, well received. Recommended.

Good for the heart.

I remember that night in December 1993. As Christians, we displayed the full paged Menorah from the Billings Gazette in our window. It was a message to the skinhead(s) that hatred and bigotry have NO place in Billings, Montana or anywhere else.

Bought it for my class after my old copy disappeared. It's a True story and ties in with anti-hatred and tolerance.

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