Schriebman, Joyce. *Oy, Santa!: Or There's a Latke to Learn About Hanukkah*. Illustrated by Gila von Meissner. Seattle, Intergalactic Afikoman, 2024. 32 pp. $19.99 (9781951365226) HC. Preschool-Gr. 3.

Despite the mention of Santa in the title, this is a book that should not concern Jewish families or school librarians, although young children who have not been exposed to the whole Santa Claus story will probably not find it as fun as those who do. The author provides a funny and unique take on the "December Dilemma" in which the celebration of *Hanukkah* comes out on top. With a subtitle of "Or There's a Latke to Learn About *Hanukkah*," the book turns out to actually be a primer on the Jewish holiday written through various emails back and forth to a clueless Santa, who keeps making amusing errors comparing it to Christmas traditions. Young Oliver starts off the story with an email to Santa, explaining that he is Jewish and informing Santa that "you don't have to come down my chimney on Christmas Eve." Santa, being an inclusive sort of guy, reassures Oliver that he knows that already, and wishes him a 'Happy Chrismukkah." This begins the email exchange where Oliver schools the bumbling busy fellow from the North Pole in proper holiday observance. For Jewish families, the amusing refrain of "Oy, Santa" in Oliver's email replies reinforces the pride in *Hanukkah* celebrations, with no inkling that he is experiencing any "dilemma" regarding the season. Santa writes "Enjoy your *matzah*" and that he likes "*latkes* with ketchup" and Oliver replies with childlike incredulousness until he goes a bit too far. Santa forgives him readily for having a bit of an attitude, and the last page showcases a delightful illustration of a multi-cultural family *Hanukkah* dinner table with platters of *latkes*, sour cream, applesauce, *dreidels* and a *menorah*. Various *Hanukkah* facts and instructions on how to play *dreidel* are included, with an author's note explaining the inspiration for the story. All in all, it is fun and silly and would make a particularly good read-aloud for a secular classroom.

Lisa Silverman,
Retired Director, Sperber Jewish Community Library, Los Angeles, CA