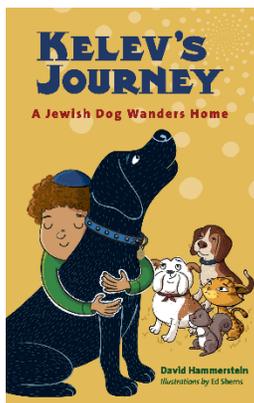


Wydebirk Books
Contact: David Hammerstein
(412) 953-8482 ♦ david@davidhammersteinauthor.com
www.DavidHammersteinAuthor.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



KELEV'S JOURNEY: A Jewish Dog Wanders Home

David Hammerstein
Illustrations by Ed Shems

Kelev Digs Up His Jewish Roots

Kelev, a lively black Labrador retriever, lives in Pittsburgh with his guardians, Mr. and Mrs. Metzger, and their seven children. When Kelev learns about his Jewish heritage from his beagle buddy Schmalzie, he embarks on a spiritual journey as G-d's *mitzvah macher* (the ambassador for good deeds). Nosing through a thicket of thorny questions about Judaism to achieve *tikkun olam* (the quest to repair the world through social justice), Kelev becomes a leader among local animals, resolving disputes and helping neighborhood cats and dogs discover their own Jewish faith. Then he performs the ultimate *mitzvah* (good deed), and finds his purpose. Kelev offers a role model for humans, both big and small, to curtail their capacity for cruelty by observing the innocence and kindness of one dog.

Spiced with Yiddish humor and gentle satire, *Kelev's Journey* is a fable for adults to enjoy themselves and to read to children. Illustrations by Ed Shems bring the stories to life, with such scenes as the Metzgers' children cuddling Kelev, evoking tears and joy, and in a picture of Kelev sprawled in sleep on the floor, the reader can nearly hear his snores. The bossy bulldog Borscht gulps five bowls of water to flaunt his drinking capacity, and during a "dog debate" among humans, three dogs cower nervously under the table.

After a 37-year career as an investment advisor to endowments, foundations and pension funds, **David Hammerstein** began writing about spiritual challenges facing contemporary Jewish families. His parents fled Nazi Germany in 1939 and settled in Washington, D.C., where he was born and raised. Their experiences as refugees shaped his belief in the importance of tolerance. Hammerstein lives in Pittsburgh with his two children and three grandchildren. *Kelev's Journey* is his debut book.

KELEV'S JOURNEY: A JEWISH DOG WANDERS HOME

David Hammerstein

Illustrations by Ed Shems

Wydebirk Books

May 2016 // Ages 10-14

\$8.99-Paperback // ISBN 978-0-9973416-0-7