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The Waning of Emancipation
Jewish History, Memory, and the Rise of Fascism in Germany, France, and Hungary
Guy Miron

“An ambitious and impressive work of historical scholarship. It is theoretically sophisticated and demonstrates Miron’s mastery of an incredible range of primary and secondary literature in five languages.”

—Alexandra Garbarini, associate professor of history and chair of the Jewish Studies Program at Williams College

With the rise of Fascism in Europe, and particularly the ascent of Germany’s Nazi Party, Jews in Germany and eastern and western Europe were forced to cope with an eroding civil and social status, increasing daily limitations, and a dark future on the horizon. This reality looked very different from the recent past of emancipation, in which Jewish citizens had enjoyed civic equality and the advance of social integration. In The Waning of Emancipation: Jewish History, Memory, and the Rise of Fascism in Germany, France, and Hungary, author Guy Miron examines how Jewish spokespersons from three European communities—Germany, France, and Hungary—confronted these challenges, and whether they coped by holding onto historical perceptions that materialized during the emancipation era or by adopting new views.

Miron demonstrates that pre-Holocaust Germany, France, and Hungary make interesting case studies because of the divergence of the starting points for emancipation in each country, their unique and complex political cultures both during the golden age of emancipation and after its decline, and the distinct relationship each held between church and state. In three sections, Miron considers the three countries in turn, with two chapters devoted to how each community came to terms with the crisis in relation to its internal diversity and political divisions. To analyze the evolving Jewish public discourse in each country, Miron consults numerous primary sources, including articles and essays that appeared in Jewish journals and periodicals as well as literature, mostly popular, published by Jewish publishing houses. Along the way, Miron addresses wider questions of Jewish identity and self-consciousness and the cultural memory of Jewish emancipation during the rise of Fascism. Miron’s examination of the range of Jewish responses to the waning of emancipation will contribute to the discourse on politics of representation of the past in each of the three countries and also draw attention to the internal diversity and political divisions within each. Scholars of Jewish and European history will benefit from the careful research in this volume.

2011 / 6 x 9 / 352 pp / ISBN 978-0-8143-3470-6, $49.95s cloth

Bread to Eat and Clothes to Wear
Letters from Jewish Migrants in the Early Twentieth Century
Gur Alroey

“Alroey unpacks the great Eastern European Jewish migration to America (and lesser in number, to Palestine) through what scholars are always complaining is missing: the voices of the ‘ordinary’ women and men who went through the process.”

—Hasia R. Diner, Paul S. and Sylvia Steinberg Professor of American Jewish History and professor of Hebrew and Judaic studies at NYU

Between 1875 and 1924, more than 2.7 million Jews from Eastern Europe left their home countries in the hopes of escaping economic subjugation and religious persecution and creating better lives overseas. Although many studies have addressed how these millions of men, women, and children were absorbed into their destination countries, very little has been written on the process of deciding to migrate. In Bread to Eat and Clothes to Wear: Letters from Jewish Migrants in the Early Twentieth Century, author Gur Alroey fills this gap by considering letters written by Eastern European Jews embarking on their migration.

Alroey begins with a comprehensive introduction that describes the extent and unique characteristics of Jewish migration during this period, discusses the establishment of immigrant information bureaus, and analyzes some of the specific aspects of migration that are reflected in the letters. In the second part of the book, Alroey translates and annotates 66 letters from Eastern European Jews considering migration. From the letters, readers learn firsthand of the migrants’ fear of making a decision; their desire for advice and information before they took the fateful step; the gnawing anxiety of women whose husbands had already sailed for America and who were waiting impatiently for a ticket to join them; women whose husbands had disappeared in America and had broken off contact with their families; pogroms (documented in real time); and the obstacles and hardships on the way to the port of exit, as described by people who had already set out. Through the letters in Bread to Eat and Clothes to Wear, readers will follow the dilemmas and predicaments of the ordinary Jewish migrant, the difficulties of migration, and the changes that it brought about within the Jewish family.

In Her Hands
The Education of Jewish Girls in Tsarist Russia
Eliyana R. Adler

“Adler’s research is broad and deep. She has scoured archives in both Russia and at YIVO to present a detailed record of Jewish girls schools, a little known subject of historical study.”
—Carole B. Balin, professor of Jewish history at Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion

Though over one hundred private schools for Jewish girls thrived in the areas of Jewish settlement in the Russian empire between 1831 and 1881, their story has been largely overlooked in the scholarship of Jewish educational history. In Her Hands: The Education of Jewish Girls in Tsarist Russia restores these schools to their rightful place of prominence in training thousands of Jewish girls in secular and Judaic subjects and also paving the way for the modern schools that followed them. Through extensive archival research, author Eliyana R. Adler examines the schools’ curriculum, teachers, financing, students, and educational innovation and demonstrates how each of these aspects evolved over time.

The first section of this volume follows the emergence and development of the new private schools for Jewish girls in the mid-1800s, beginning with the historical circumstances that enabled their creation, and detailing the staffing, financing, and academics in the schools. Adler dispels the myth that all education in Russia was reserved for boys by showing that a dedicated group of educators and administrators worked to provide new opportunities for a diverse group of Jewish girls. In the second section, Adler looks at the interactions between these new educational institutions and their communities, including how the schools responded to changes taking place around them and how they in turn influenced their environment. Adler consults several major archives, including those of the former Russian Ministry of Education, along with contemporary periodicals, educational materials, and personal memoirs to provide a remarkably complete picture of education for Jewish girls in Russia in the mid- to late nineteenth century.

2011 / 6 x 9 / 216 pp / 11 illus / ISBN 978-0-8143-3492-8, $44.95s cloth

Challenges of Equality
Judaism, State, and Education in Nineteenth-Century France
Jeffrey Haus

In this solidly researched monograph, Haus is not only attentive to the nitty-gritty details of budget and finance, but he utilizes this data to elucidate broader issues facing modern French Jews. This book advances our understanding of Jewish policy making, of the changing boundaries between Jewish and civic space, and of the evolving relationship of Jews and the state.”
—American Historical Review

Through the lens of Jewish primary and rabbinical education, author Jeffrey Haus shows that even integrated French Jews sought to set limits on assimilation and struggled to preserve a sense of Jewish distinctiveness in France. Challenges of Equality argues that Jewish leaders couched their views in terms that the government could understand and accept, portraying a Judaism consistent with the goal of cultural and political unification of the French nation. At the same time, their educational activities asserted the existence of a distinctively Jewish cultural space. Utilizing a variety of sources—including school curricula, rabbinical ordination examinations, government documents and correspondence, state jurisprudential decisions, and the French Jewish press—Challenges of Equality paints a picture of a resilient and persistent French Judaism that adapted, integrated, but nevertheless survived.

2009 / 6 x 9 / 240 pp ISBN 978-0-8143-3380-8, $49.95s cloth

Journey to a Nineteenth-Century Shtetl
The Memoirs of Yekhezkel Kotik
Edited with an Introduction and Notes by David Assaf

“Assaf has added immeasurably to the historical value of this memoir. A fine scholar, he places the memoir in its larger context and explains elements in the text that would otherwise baffle today’s reader.”
—Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, New York University

Originally published in Warsaw in 1913, this memoir offers a description of the author’s experiences growing up in Kamieniec Litewski, a Polish shtetl connected with many important events in the history of nineteenth-century Eastern European Jewry. Although the way of life portrayed in this memoir has disappeared, the historical, cultural, and folkloric material it contains will be of major interest to historians and general readers alike.

Kotik’s story is the saga of a wealthy and influential family through four generations. Masterfully interwoven in this tale are colorful vignettes featuring Kotik’s family and neighbors, including rabbis and zaddikim, merchants and the poor, hasidim and mitnaggedim, scholars and illiterates, believers and heretics, matchmakers and informers, and teachers and musicians. The English edition includes a complete translation of the first volume of memoirs and contains notes elucidating terms, names, and customs, as well as bibliographical references to the research literature. The book not only acquaints new readers with the talent of a unique storyteller but also presents an important document of Jewish life during a fascinating era.

2008 / 6 x 9 / 544 pp / 12 illus ISBN 978-0-8143-3421-8, $29.95s paper

Raphael Patai Series in Jewish Folklore and Anthropology

Now Available in Paperback!
Jewish Education and Society in the High Middle Ages
Ephraim Kanarfogel

The Jews of northern France, Germany, and England, known collectively as Ashkenazic Jewry, have commanded the attention of scholars since the beginnings of modern Jewish historiography. Over the past century, historians have produced significant studies about Jewish society in medieval Ashkenaz that have revealed them as a well-organized, creative, and steadfast community. Indeed, the Franco-Russian Jewry withstood a variety of physical, political, and religious attacks in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries to produce an impressive corpus of Talmudic and halakhic compositions, known collectively as Tosafot, that revolutionized the study of rabbinic literature.

Although the literary creativity of the Tosafists has been documented and analyzed, and the scope and policies of communal government in Ashkenaz have been fixed and compared, no sustained attempt has been made to integrate these crucial dimensions. Jewish Education and Society in the High Middle Ages considers these relationships by examining the degree of communal involvement in the educational process, as well as the economic theories and communal structures that affected the process from the most elementary level to the production of the Tosafist corpus. By drawing parallels and highlighting differences to pre-Crusade Ashkenaz, the period following the Black Death, Spanish and Provençal Jewish society, and general medieval society, Ephraim Kanarfogel creates an insightful and compelling portrait of Ashkenazic society.

2007 / 6 x 9 / 214 pp
ISBN 978-0-8143-3368-6, $25.95s paper

The Transformation of German Jewry, 1780–1840
David Sorkin

“A well-written, thoroughly researched monograph on the period of emancipation that explores an important theme in German-Jewish history: how this minority, gradually absorbing elements of the majority culture, transformed itself into a unique, dynamic, but ultimately threatened subculture.”
—Choice

This study analyzes the transformation of German Jewry in the period from 1780 to 1840 in order to explain why the nature of the most visible Jewry in modern Europe remained essentially invisible to its own members and to subsequent generations. German Jewry was the most visible of the modern European Jewries because in its history all of the hallmarks of modernity seemed to have converged in their fullest and most volatile forms. The Transformation of German Jewry, 1780–1840 thoroughly explores this period of time when large numbers of Jews were integrated into a non-Jewish society. Sorkin examines the revolution of German Jewry through the study of journals, sermons, novels, and theological popularizations that constituted this new German-Jewish “public sphere.” This study may also be applied beyond the confines of Jewish history, for it is a study of the afterlife of the German Enlightenment, the Aufklärung, in the culture of liberalism.

1999 / 6 x 9 / 272 pp
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Reclaiming Heimat
Trauma and Mourning in Memoirs by Jewish Austrian Réémigrés
Jacqueline Vansant

“Jacqueline Vansant shows the complicated search for homeland and identity by a small group of expelled Austrian Jewish réémigrés in an anti-Semitic society. Reclaiming Heimat is a fascinating and important contribution to Austria’s post war history.”
—Helga Embacher, Institut für Geschichte, Universität Salzburg

In Reclaiming Heimat, Jacqueline Vansant focuses on nine memoirs by seven Austrian réémigrés—Ernest Lothar, Stella Klein-Low, Hans Thalberg, Minna Lachs, Franziska Tausig, Hilde Spiel, and Elisabeth Freundlich—who provide moving accounts of the profound loss of Heimat (home/homeland) and the desire to recover the loss in part by returning home.

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The Political History of a Minority, 1848–1933
Peter Pulzer

“These essays, expanded and revised for this volume, produce a fresh and illuminating historical analysis of the political identity of the Jews in Germany from the early nineteenth century to Hitler's coming to power.”
—American Historical Review

Unlike many historians who see the period between 1848 and 1933 primarily as one of growing anti-Semitism that culminated in the Nazi Party's rise to power, Peter Pulzer in Jews and the German State emphasizes the evolution of the ethnic identity, social roles, and political activities of German Jews.

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“This book, which has been carefully and thoughtfully organized, is fine-grained and nuanced, in contrast with the spate of general works on the subject of Jewish life in Eastern Europe. Rather than painting with a broad brush, Abramowicz draws with a fine pen. His vignettes have all the freshness of a sketch taken from life. People in this volume have names and faces. Some are famous and familiar. Others are not. But all of them come into sharp focus.”

—Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, New York University

1999 / 6 x 9 / 392 pp / 20 illus
ISBN 978-0-8143-2784-5, $44.95 cloth
Published soon thereafter, they have enjoyed remark-able popularity in Germany and now appear together for the first time. The response of the Jewish intellectual leadership was so strong that the book made the question of identity his central concern.

The Origins of the Modern Jew
Jewish Identity and European Culture in Germany, 1749–1824
Michael A. Meyer

“Professor Meyer has made a significant contribution to modern Jewish history by making the question of identity his central concern.”

—Journal of Ecumenical Studies

“The most comprehensive volume in English on this most crucial of Jewish epochs.”

—Lothar Kahn, Jewish Social Studies

Until the eighteenth century Jews lived in Christian Europe, spiritually and often physically removed from the stream of European culture. During the Enlightenment, the Jew began to feel European, and his traditional identity became a problem for the first time. The response of the Jewish intellectual leadership in Germany to this crisis is the subject of this volume.

1972 (1967) / 5.5 x 8.5 / 252 pp
ISBN 978-0-8143-1470-8, $20.95s paper

In Aby Warburg and Anti-Semitism, Charlotte Schoell-Glass provides an unprecedented look at the life and writings of cultural critic Aby Warburg through the prism of Warburg’s little-known political views. Schoell-Glass argues provocatively based on archival research that Warburg’s work and teachings developed as a reaction to the growing anti-Semitism in Germany, which he saw as a threat to classical education and university scholarship. Translated into English for the first time, Aby Warburg and Anti-Semitism sheds much needed light on Warburg’s views on Judaism and the politics of his time.

In this study, Schoell-Glass examines Warburg’s most influential essays on Dürer, Rembrandt, and the Sassetti Chapel and his most innovative concepts—the accessories of motion, the pathos formula, and the afterlife of antiquity—to illustrate how Warburg persistently showed a deep concern over a disappointing and unstable outside world within his own work. Schoell-Glass shows how Warburg attempts to make a response to anti-Semitism the only way he knew how, despite his awareness of the diminishing societal relevance of that response.

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Kritik: German Literary Theory and Cultural Studies Series

Words from Abroad
Trauma and Displacement in Postwar German Jewish Writers
Katja Garloff

“Presents a well-honed and documented, theoretically grounded study of how diasporic consciousness is represented in the writing of German Jewish writers, such as Peter Weiss, Nelly Sachs, Paul Celan, and T. W. Adorno. . . . The meticulous research and archival work that went into the writing of the book makes it stand out.”

—Karen L. Remmler, Mount Holyoke College

Along with the works of Paul Celan, Words from Abroad examines selected German Jewish writers such as Peter Weiss and Nelly Sachs. The study of these authors is framed by theoretical reflections on the play of distance and proximity in German Jewish intellectuals after the Holocaust, including Theodor W. Adorno, Jean Améry, and Gunther Anders. Words from Abroad is an important tool in investigating the works of these German Jewish writers and thinkers, but it is also a contribution to the interdisciplinary scholarship on trauma and displacement itself.

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Profiles of a Lost World
Memoirs of East European Jewish Life before World War II
Hirsz Abramowicz
Translated by Eva Zeitlin Dobkin
Edited by Dina Abramowicz and Jeffrey Shandler
Introductions by David E. Fishman and Dina Abramowicz

“Hirsz Abramowicz was able to assemble a selection of memoirs of East European Jewish life before World War II, a portion of which had previously been thought lost. In the process, he has opened important new avenues for understanding Jewish self-awareness in Eastern Europe before the war.”

—Jewish Book Council of America

Winner of the Frank and Ethel Cohen Award for a Book on Jewish Thought given by the Jewish Book Council of America

1997 / 6 x 9 / 152 pp
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The Jews in European History
Seven Lectures
Saul Friedlander et al.

These lectures by internationally renowned historians from Germany, Israel, and the United States were originally presented to large audiences at the Ludwig-Maximilian University in Munich. Published soon thereafter, they have enjoyed remarkable popularity in Germany and now appear together for the first time in English.

1997 / 6 x 9 / 152 pp
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Kritik: German Literary Theory and Cultural Studies Series

The Jews in European History given by the Jewish Book Council of America

JEWISH STUDIES
Max Lilienthal
The Making of the American Rabbinate
Bruce L. Ruben

“Ruben has done a yeoman’s job of collecting, reviewing, and synthesizing both primary and secondary materials. The result is a highly readable, well-informed landmark study of Lilienthal, long in need of a first-class biographer.”

When Congregation Bene Israel hired him to come to Cincinnati in 1854, Rabbi Max Lilienthal (1814–82) seized the opportunity to work with his friend Isaac M. Wise. Together, Lilienthal and Wise forged the institutional foundations for the American Reform movement: the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and Hebrew Union College. In Max Lilienthal: The Making of the American Rabbinate, author Bruce L. Ruben investigates the central role Lilienthal played in creating new institutions and leadership models to bring his immigrant community into the mainstream of American society. Ruben’s biography shines a light on this prominent rabbi and educator who is treated by most American Jewish historians as, at best, Wise’s collaborator.

Ruben examines Lilienthal’s early career, including how his fervent Haskalah ideology was shaped by tensions within early nineteenth-century German Jewish society and how he tried to implement that ideology in his attempt to modernize Russian Jewish education. After he immigrated to America to serve three traditional New York German synagogues, he clashed with lay leadership. Ruben examines this lay-clergy power struggle and how Lilienthal resolved it over his long career. Max Lilienthal: The Making of the American Rabbinate also details the rabbi’s many accomplishments, including his creation of a nationally recognized private Jewish school and the founding of the precursor to the Central Conference of American Rabbis. He also was the first rabbi to preach in a Christian church. Even more significantly, Ruben argues that Lilienthal created an unprecedented new American model for the rabbinate, in which the rabbi played a prominent role in civic life. More than a biography, this volume is a case study of the impact of America on Judaism and its leadership, as Ruben shows how Lilienthal embraced an increasingly radical Reform ideology influenced by a mixture of American and European ideas. Students of German Haskalah and historians of American Judaism and the Reform movement will appreciate this biography that fills an important gap in the history of American Jewry.

December 2011 / 6 x 9 / 384 pp / 13 illus / ISBN 978-0-8143-3516-1, $49.95s cloth

The Independent Orders of B’nai B’rith and True Sisters
Pioneers of a New Jewish Identity, 1843–1914
Cornelia Wilhelm

“This is an extraordinarily well-researched volume on the most important Jewish fraternal organization in American Jewish history. Nobody before Wilhelm has made use of B’nai B’rith’s archives, and nobody has been able to handle the German-language materials that are vital to researching B’nai B’rith.”
—Jonathan D. Sarna, Joseph H. and Belle R. Braun Professor of American Jewish History at Brandeis University

Founded in New York City in 1843 by immigrants from German or German-speaking territories in Central Europe, the Independent Order of B’nai B’rith sought to integrate Jewish identity with the public and civil sphere in America. In The Independent Orders of B’nai B’rith and True Sisters: Pioneers of a New Jewish Identity, 1843–1914, author Cornelia Wilhelm examines B’nai B’rith, and the closely linked Independent Order of True Sisters, to find their larger German Jewish social and intellectual context and explore their ambitions of building a “civil Judaism” outside the synagogue in America.

Wilhelm details the founding, growth, and evolution of both organizations as fraternal orders and examines how they served as a civil platform for Jews to reinvent, stage, and voice themselves as American citizens. Wilhelm discusses many of the challenges the B’nai B’rith faced, including the growth of competing organizations, the need for a democratic ethnic representation, the difficulties of keeping its core values and solidarity alive in a growing and increasingly incoherent mass organization, and the iconization of the Order as an exclusionary “German Jewish elite.” Wilhelm’s study offers new insights into B’nai B’rith’s important community work, including its contribution to organizing and financing a nationwide hospital and orphanage system, its life insurance, relationships with new immigrants, and its efforts to reach out locally with branches on the Lower East Side. Based on extensive archival research, Wilhelm’s study demonstrates the central place of B’nai B’rith in the formation and propagation of a uniquely American Jewish identity.

2011 / 6 x 9 / 376 pp / 17 illus / ISBN 978-0-8143-3403-4, $44.95s cloth
Our Exodus
Leon Uris and the Americanization of Israel’s Founding Story

M. M. Silver

“Silver’s critical essay strikes a healthy balance between theory, analysis, and story-telling. . . . He provides a comprehensive reading experience, offering insight into the life of Leon Uris, the history of Exodus 1947, and most engagingly, the rippling, layered effect of Uris’s impressive novel on worldwide Jewry. M. M. Silver delivers a clarity and intimacy rarely found in a work of literary criticism.”
—Jewish Book World

Despite the dramatic circumstances of its founding, Israel did not inspire sustained, impassioned public discussion among Jews and non-Jews in the United States until Leon Uris’s popular novel Exodus was released in 1958. Uris’s novel popularized the complicated story of Israel’s founding and, in the process, boosted the morale of post-Holocaust Jewry and disseminated in popular culture positive images of Jewish heroism. Our Exodus: Leon Uris and the Americanization of Israel’s Founding Story examines the phenomenon of Exodus and its largely unrecognized influence on post–World War II understandings of Israel’s beginnings in America and around the world. Author M. M. Silver’s extensive archival research helps clarify the relevance of Uris’s own biography in the creation of Exodus. He situates the novel’s enormous popularity in the context of postwar America, and particularly Jewish American culture of the 1950s and early 1960s. In telling the story of the making of and the response to Exodus, first as a book and then as a film, Silver shows how the representation of historical events in Exodus reflected needs, expectations, and aspirations of Jewish identity and culture in the post-Holocaust world. He argues that while Uris’s novel simplified some facts and distorted others, it provided an astonishingly ample amount of information about Jewish history and popularized a persuasive and cogent (though debatable) Zionist interpretation of modern Jewish history.

2010 / 6 x 9 / 280 pp / 13 illus / ISBN 978-0-8143-3443-0, $29.95 cloth

The Color of Law
Ernie Goodman, Detroit, and the Struggle for Labor and Civil Rights

Steve Babson, Dave Riddle, and David Elsila

“It is rare for historians of the left to give readers such an intimate sense of activism—not only for big battles but also the long, hard slogs; not only the triumphs of an engaged life but also its strains and sacrifices. Babson, Riddle, and Elsila have an extraordinary—and extraordinarily important—story to tell.”
—Kevin Boyle, Humanities Distinguished Professor at the Ohio State University

In a working life that spanned half a century, Ernie Goodman was one of the nation’s preeminent defense attorneys for workers and the militant poor. His remarkable career put him at the center of the struggle for social justice in the twentieth century, from thesit-down strikes of the 1930s to the Red Scare of the 1950s to the freedom struggles, anti-war demonstrations, and ghetto rebellions of the 1960s and 1970s. The Color of Law: Ernie Goodman, Detroit, and the Struggle for Labor and Civil Rights traces Goodman’s journey through these tumultuous events and highlights the many moments when changing perceptions of social justice clashed with legal precedent.

Authors Steve Babson, Dave Riddle, and David Elsila tell Goodman’s life story, beginning with his formative years as the son of immigrant parents in Detroit’s Jewish ghetto, to his early ambitions as a corporate lawyer, and his conversion to socialism and labor law during the Great Depression. From Detroit to Mississippi, Goodman saw police and other officials giving the “color of law” to actions that stiffled freedom of speech and nullified the rights of workers and minorities. The authors highlight Goodman’s landmark cases in defense of labor and civil rights and examine the complex relationships he developed along the way with individuals like Supreme Court Justice and former Michigan governor Frank Murphy, UAW president Walter Reuther, Detroit mayor Coleman Young, and congressman George Crockett. Drawing from a rich collection of letters, oral histories, court records, and press accounts, the authors re-create the compelling story of Goodman’s life. The Color of Law demonstrates that the abuse of power is non-partisan and that individuals who oppose injustice can change the course of events.

2010 / 6 x 9 / 592 pp / 31 illus / ISBN 978-0-8143-3496-6, $24.95 cloth

Great Lakes Books Series
Frankfurt on the Hudson
The German Jewish Community of Washington Heights, 1933–82, Its Structure and Culture
Steven M. Lowenstein

The 20,000 German Jews who fled Hitler’s Germany and settled in Washington Heights were unusual in many ways. They preserved their Jewish identity while fostering a culture that was still heavily German—a difficult combination in light of their origins.

In his study of this immigrant group, Steven Lowenstein strives for more than a chronicle of their institutions and leaders. Using organizational bulletins, surveys, interviews, and personal observations and anecdotes, Lowenstein paints a picture of the unique lifestyle of German Jewish immigrants in New York City.

1989 / 6 x 9 / 348 pp
Published under the aegis of the Leo Baeck Institute

Judaism Faces the Twentieth Century
A Biography of Mordecai M. Kaplan
Mel Scult

“Every once in a while a biography comes along whose gauge is so broad that it goes beyond recreating a life to illuminating the time during which it was lived. [This biography] is one such... For each process or event touched by Kaplan’s illuminating the time during which it was lived. [This biography] shaped and were shaped by him—thereby helping us to appreciate anew how much American Jews and American Judaism today still wrestle with Kaplan’s immense legacy.”

—Arnold M. Eisen, Stanford University

Judaism Faces the Twentieth Century is the first critical examination of the early life of Mordecai Kaplan—the sources of his inspiration, the evolution of his thought as a religious ideologue, and his inner struggles.

1993 / 6 x 9 / 440 pp / 43 illus
American Jewish Civilization Series

The Jew in the American World
A Source Book
Edited by Jacob Rader Marcus

“The only extant one-volume comprehensive collection of original documents pertaining to Jewish life in the U.S. from colonial times to the present.”

—Publishers Weekly

A compilation of previously published archival sources chronicling the evolving domestic, religious, and political experiences of the Jews, this important volume provides the first complete single-volume reference source for American Jewish history.

1996 / 6 x 9 / 664 pp

Communings of the Spirit
The Journals of Mordecai M. Kaplan, Volume 1: 1913–1934
Edited by Mel Scult

“Reading Kaplan’s diaries is like standing over the shoulder of a brilliant and troubled man as he struggles to define his emerging philosophy of Judaism, while at the same time attempting to conceal from disapproving eyes the heterodox views he was formulating. This is an emotional experience for anyone who is himself or herself grappling with religious and philosophical dilemmas.”

—Rabbi Ira Eisenstein, Founder and First President, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

2002 (2001) / 6 x 9 / 560 pp / 21 illus
ISBN 978-0-8143-2575-9, $39.95s cloth
American Jewish Civilization Series
Co-Published with Reconstructionist Press

Backlist Title

Isaac Leeser and the Making of American Judaism
Remnant Stones
The Jewish Cemeteries and Synagogues of Suriname: Essays
Aviva Ben-Ur with Rachel Frankel

In the 1660s, Jews of Iberian ancestry, many of them fleeing Inquisitorial persecution, established an agrarian settlement in the midst of the Surinamese rainforest. The heart of this community—Jodensavanne, or Jews’ Savannah—became an autonomous village with its own Jewish institutions. Situated along the Suriname River, Jodensavanne was by the mid-eighteenth century surrounded by dozens of Jewish plantations.

This volume examines three Sephardi cemeteries, whose monuments date from 1666 to 1904; one Ashkenazi cemetery, whose monuments date from the 1680s to the late nineteenth century; and the remains of the seventeenth-century synagogue in Jodensavanne, dating to the late nineteenth century at the latest, and the remnants of the seventeenth-century synagogue in Jodensavanne. This second volume compliments the first, which presented transcriptions, English translations, and photographs and annotations of more than 1,600 gravestones, accompanied by scaled plans of the cemeteries.

February 2012 / 6 x 9 / 152 pp / 17 illus
ISBN 978-0-87820-251-5, $35.00s cloth
Published by Hebrew Union College Press and distributed by Wayne State University Press

Response to Modernity
A History of the Reform Movement in Judaism
Michael A. Meyer

“A sweeping narrative of the development of religious reform within Judaism and its institutionalization in the course of the last two centuries...a thorough mastery of the complex intellectual and social currents that have shaped the contours of Judaism...will become a standard work in the field.”

—Journal of the American Academy of Religion

Bringing to life the ideas, issues, and personalities that have helped to shape modern Jewry, Response to Modernity offers a comprehensive and balanced history of the Reform Movement, tracing its changing configuration and self-understanding from the beginnings of modernization in late 18th century Jewish thought and practice through Reform’s American renewal in the 1970s.

1995 / 7 x 9 / 494 pp
ISBN 978-0-8143-2555-1, $27.95s paper

The Jews of Hungary
History, Culture, Psychology
Raphael Patai

“In The Jews of Hungary, Patai creates a pioneering, panoramic view of the multidimensional history of his subject from Roman times to the present. His frank yet compassionate narrative will be greatly appreciated by scholars for whom this carefully prepared vast work will become an indispensable source of information as well as a valuable psychological perspective on Hungarian Jewry.”

—Andrew Handler, University of Miami

Noted historian and anthropologist Raphael Patai, himself a native of Hungary, tells in this pioneering study the fascinating story of the struggles, achievements, and setbacks that marked the flow of history for the Hungarian Jews.

1996 / 6 x 9 / 736 pp / 9 illus
ISBN 978-0-8143-2561-2, $54.95s cloth

Meditating Modernity
Challenges and Trends in the Jewish Encounter with the Modern World
Essays in Honor of Michael A. Meyer
Edited by Lauren B. Strauss and Michael Brenner

“The sweep of the essays in this volume serves as a fitting testament to the prodigious impact of Michael Meyer’s scholarship not only on his immediate field of inquiry—modern German Jewish history—but on Jewish history more generally, across time and space.”

—John M. Efron, Koret Professor of Jewish History at the University of California—Berkeley

In Mediating Modernity, contemporary Jewish scholars pay tribute to Michael A. Meyer, scholar of German-Jewish history and the history of Reform Judaism, with a collection of essays that highlight growing diversity within the discipline of Jewish studies. The occasion of Meyer’s seventieth birthday has served as motivation for his colleagues Lauren B. Strauss and Michael Brenner to compile this volume, with essays by twenty-four leading academics, representing institutions in five countries.

2008 / 6 x 9 / 392 pp
ISBN 978-0-8143-3395-2, $39.95s cloth

A Global Community
The Jews from Aleppo, Syria
Walter P. Zinner

“In this outstanding work, Professor Zinner has combined professional skills in the fields of anthropology, history and sociology with keen powers of observation and empathy for his subjects as evidenced through numerous interviews and discussion with members of this far-flung community in the United States, Israel, the Middle East, Europe and Central and Latin America.”

—George E. Gruen, Columbia University

A Global Community is a comprehensive scholarly interpretation of the historical experience of this unusual community in Syria and the other places to which Aleppo Jewry have immigrated. Their incorporation into the nation-states in the Middle East, Europe, and the Americas has forced Syrian Jews to change their modes of identification as Jews and reshape their culture while maintaining international familial and communal ties.

2000 / 6 x 9 / 256 pp / 29 illus
ISBN 978-0-8143-2791-3, $44.95s cloth
Published by Hebrew Union College Press and distributed by Wayne State University Press

Raphael Patai Series in Jewish Folklore and Anthropology

10
Judaism Within Modernity
Essays on Jewish History and Religion
Michael A. Meyer

“Judaism Within Modernity is an important collection of essays, consistently erudite, and eminently readable. Professor Meyer, it is safe to say, is the leading historian in the U.S. of the modern Jewish experience in Germany. The essays in this volume reveal impeccable scholarship, nuanced argument, and a deep and abiding personal commitment to his subject.”
—Hillel J. Kieval, Washington University
2001 / 6 x 9 / 416 pp
ISBN 978-0-8143-2874-3, $34.95 cloth

Jewish Thought and Scientific Discovery in Early Modern Europe
David B. Ruderman
Foreword by Moshe Idel

“Ruderman’s book is a bold and fascinating journey into the scientific dimension of Jewish intellectual history in the early modern world, dealing with many key personalities and topics in a novel and masterly way.”
—Jewish Quarterly Review
A comprehensive look at the reception of the new sciences, complicated by reticence toward “alien sciences” found in many Jewish communities in the modern world, dealing with many key personalities and topics in a novel and masterly way.
2001 / 6 x 9 / 432 pp / 13 illus

In the Service of the King
Officialdom in Ancient Israel and Judah
Nili Sacher Fox

In the Service of the King examines the external and internal forces that shaped the use of titles in ancient Jewish society.
2000 / Monograph No. 23 / 6 x 9 / 352 pp
ISBN 978-0-87820-422-9, $49.95 cloth
Published by Hebrew Union College Press and distributed by Wayne State University Press

Karaite Separatism in Nineteenth-Century Russia
Joseph Solomon Lutski’s Iggeret Teshu’a’ot Isra’el"
Philip E. Miller

This study contains two interrelated parts. Part One, Philip E. Miller surveys the history of the Russian Karaites, examines theories about their origins, and discusses their fate from the late-eighteenth century until the present. Joseph Solomon ben Moses Lutski’s Iggeret Teshu’a’ot Isra’el is reprinted in Part Two as an annotated Hebrew text with English translation.
1997 / Monograph No. 16 / 6 x 9 / 252 pp / 1 illus
ISBN 978-0-87820-415-1, $49.95 cloth
Published by Hebrew Union College Press and distributed by Wayne State University Press

Storm in the Community
Yiddish Polemical Pamphlets of Amsterdam Jewry, 1797–1798
Selected, Translated, Edited, and Introduced by Joseph Michman and Marion Aptroot

In the satirical tradition of the English Spectator and similar periodicals, the dialogues in this bilingual edition showcase the weekly dialogues that allowed the breakaway Jewish community (the noyve kille) in late-eighteenth-century Amsterdam to express the inequalities and foibles of the establishment community (alte kille). The established community, heretofore supported by the government, fought back with its own weekly dialogues, using the same format and even the same characters. The resulting thirty-three Diskursen, selections of which are translated and edited here for the first time, constitute a unique phenomenon in Jewish history and Jewish journalism.
2002 / 6 x 9 / 480 pp
ISBN 978-0-87820-220-1, $49.95 cloth
Published by Hebrew Union College Press and distributed by Wayne State University Press

The Jew in the Medieval World
A Source Book, 315–1791
Revised Edition
Jacob Rader Marcus
With a New Introduction and Bibliography by Marc Saperstein

First published in 1938, Jacob Rader Marcus’s classic source book presents 137 documents that deal with individual Jews and the Jewish community during the Middle Ages. For this new edition, Marc Saperstein has updated Marcus’s ninety-six bibliographies, providing references to the most recent scholarly research on each topic.
2000 / 6 x 9 / 512 pp
Published by Hebrew Union College Press and distributed by Wayne State University Press

Ideals Face Reality
Jewish Law and Life in Poland, 1550–1655
Edward Fram

“This informative and well-written book—easily accessible to those unskilled in the intricacies of Talmud study—is an important contribution to the field of Polish Jewish history.”
—The Slavonic and East European Review
In Ideals Face Reality Edward Fram draws upon rabbinic legal decisions (responsa), talmudic and legal exegesis, the ordinances of Polish Jewry’s political leadership, Polish legal records, and the responsa of some of the outstanding posequim of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries to show how Polish jurists responded to unfamiliar circumstances.
1997 / Monograph No. 21 / 6 x 9 / 180 pp
Published by Hebrew Union College Press and distributed by Wayne State University Press

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11
“We Are Here”

New Approaches to Jewish Displaced Persons in Postwar Germany

Edited by Avinoam J. Patt and Michael Berkowitz

“This volume presents state of the art research on displaced persons in postwar Germany. I have hardly seen a collection of essays that so clearly fulfills its purpose in providing first-rate scholarship based on new archival findings.”

—Michael Brenner, professor of Jewish history and culture at the University of Munich

By the spring of 1947, less than two years after Nazi Germany’s defeat, some 250,000 Jewish refugees remained in the displaced persons camps of Germany, Italy, and Austria. Yet many Jews did not know whether to return to their home countries or move on to someplace else. As a result, these stateless displaced persons (DPs) created a unique space for political, cultural, and social rebirth that was tempered by the complications of overcoming recent trauma. In “We Are Here,” editors Avinoam J. Patt and Michael Berkowitz present current research on DPs between the end of the war and the creation of the State of Israel in order to present a more complete and nuanced picture of the DP experience, challenging many earlier assumptions about this group.

Contributors to this volume analyze art, music, and literature of the DPs, as well as historical records of specific DP communities to explore the first reactions of survivors to liberation and their understanding of place in the context of postwar Germany and in Europe more generally. A number of the contributions in this volume challenge prior interpretations of Jewish DPs and Holocaust survivors, including the supposedly unified background of the DP population, the notion of a general reluctance to confront the past, the idea of Zionism as an inevitable success after the war, and the suggestion that Jews, despite their presence in Germany, strenuously avoided contact with Germans. Far from constituting a monolithic whole, then, “We Are Here” demonstrates that the DPs were composed of diverse groups with disparate wartime experiences. Scholars of the Holocaust and all readers concerned with the Jewish experience immediately after World War II will be grateful for this volume.

2010 / 6 x 9 / 368 pp / 36 illus / ISBN 978-0-8143-3350-1, $29.95s paper

The Golem Redux

From Prague to Post-Holocaust Fiction

Elizabeth R. Baer

First mentioned in the Book of Psalms in the Hebrew Bible, the golem is a character in an astonishing number of post-Holocaust Jewish-American novels and has served as inspiration for such varied figures as Mary Shelley’s monster in her novel Frankenstein, a frightening character in the television series The X-Files, and comic book figures such as Superman and the Hulk. In The Golem Redux: From Prague to Post-Holocaust Fiction, author Elizabeth R. Bear introduces readers to these varied representations of the golem and traces the history of the golem legend across modern pre- and post-Holocaust culture. In five chapters, The Golem Redux examines the different purposes for which the golem has been used in literature and what makes the golem the ultimate text and intertext for modern Jewish writers.

Baer begins by introducing several early manifestations of the golem legend, including texts from the third and fourth centuries and from the medieval period; Prague’s golem legend, which is attributed to the Maharal, Rabbi Judah Loew; the history of the Josefov, the Jewish ghetto in Prague, the site of the golem legend; and versions of the legend by Yudl Rosenberg and Chayim Bloch, which informed and influenced modern intertexts. In the chapters that follow, Baer traces the golem first in pre-Holocaust Austrian and German literature and film and later in post-Holocaust American literature and popular culture, arguing that the golem has been deployed very differently in these two contexts. Where prewar German and Austrian contexts used the golem as a signifier of Jewish otherness to underscore growing anti-Semitic cultural feelings, post-Holocaust American texts use the golem to depict the historical tragedy of the Holocaust and to imagine alternatives to it. In this section, Baer explores traditional retellings by Isaac Bashevis Singer and Elie Wiesel, the considerable legacy of the golem in comics, and Michael Chabon’s The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay, and, finally, “Golems to the Rescue” in twentieth- and twenty-first-century works of film and literature, including those by Cynthia Ozick, Thane Rosenbaum, and Daniel Handler. By placing the Holocaust at the center of her discussion, Baer illustrates that the golem works as a self-conscious intertextual character who has helped writers to redefine Jewish tradition. Students and teachers of Jewish literature and cultural history will appreciate Baer’s thorough and thought-provoking volume.

April 2012 / 6 x 9 / 256 pp / ISBN 978-0-8143-3626-7, $27.95s paper

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April 2012 / 6 x 9 / 256 pp / ISBN 978-0-8143-3626-7, $27.95s paper
**Sister in Sorrow**

Life Histories of Female Holocaust Survivors from Hungary

Ilana Rosen

“A unique work of superbly researched folkloristic analysis within sophisticated theoretical, structural, psychoanalytical, hermeneutical, and phenomenological frameworks.”

—Galit Hasan-Rokem, Max and Margarethe Grunwald Professor of Folklore, Hebrew University of Jerusalem and author of *War of Life: Folklore and Midrash in Rabbinic Literature*

*Sister in Sorrow* offers a glimpse into the world of Hungarian Holocaust survivors through the stories of fifteen survivors, as told by thirteen women and two spouses presently living in Hungary and Israel. Analyzing the accounts as oral narratives, author Ilana Rosen uses contemporary folklore studies methodologies to explore the histories and the consciousness of the narrators as well as the difficulty for present-day audiences to fully grasp them.

2008 / 6 x 9 / 280 pp
ISBN 978-0-8143-3129-3, $27.95 paper
Raphael Patai Series in Jewish Folklore and Anthropology

**Inside a Gestapo Prison**

The Letters of Krystyna Wituska, 1942–1944

Edited and translated by Irene Tomaszewski

“During World War II, twenty-year-old Krystyna Wituska joined the Polish Underground movement. She was subsequently caught by the German Gestapo and executed. This book comprises the letters she wrote while in prison. Combining humor, irony, tenderness, shrewd observation, and inevitable poignancy, they constitute a remarkable tribute to the indomitability of the human spirit.”

—Canadian Book Review Annual

2006 / 6 x 9 / 168 pp / 12 illus
ISBN 978-0-8143-3294-8, $18.95 paper

**Facing the Glass Booth**

The Jerusalem Trial of Adolf Eichmann

Haim Gouri

Translated by Michael Swirsky

With a Foreword by Alan Mintz

“The publication of Haim Gouri’s *Facing the Glass Booth* is long overdue. This book is an eloquent and compassionate work of journalism, history, and literature. It’s a unique achievement in Holocaust writing. Not until Gouri’s courtroom reporting did the young nation of Israel come to grips with the horrors of World War II. It found the voice to articulate and to chronicle the physical and emotional pain as well as the shame of survivors. Gouri’s narrative must be read and re-read in every home, in every generation. Gouri the poet is also Gouri the historian and teacher.”

—Steven T. Katz, professor of religion and director of the Elie Wiesel Center for Judaic Studies, Boston University

2004 / 6 x 9 / 360 pp
ISBN 978-0-8143-3087-6, $25.95 paper

**Survival in the Shadows**

Seven Jews Hidden in Hitler’s Berlin

Barbara Lovenheim

“At times deeply moving, the book shows in a compelling way the variety of attitudes among Germans towards the Jews and presents dramatic counter-testimony to those who would paint a one-dimensional picture.”

—Michael Berenbaum, Former Director of Research, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

2003 / 6 x 9 / 272 pp / 62 illus
ISBN 978-0-9710686-2-9, $29.95 cloth
ISBN 978-0-9710686-3-6, $16.95 paper
Published by the Center for Holocaust Awareness and Information and distributed by Wayne State University Press

**The Nazis’ Last Victims**

The Holocaust in Hungary

Edited by Randolph L. Braham and Scott Miller

“To commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Holocaust in Hungary, an international scholar’s conference was held in Washington, DC, under the auspices of the United States Holocaust Museum. Nine of the contributed essays are contained in *The Nazis’ Last Victims.*”

—Hungarian Studies Newsletter

2002 (1998) / 6 x 9 / 200 pp / 16 illus
ISBN 978-0-8143-2737-1, $39.95 cloth
ISBN 978-0-8143-3095-1, $23.95 paper
Published in association with the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

**Survival in the Shadows**

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Published by the Center for Holocaust Awareness and Information and distributed by Wayne State University Press

**The Blessed Abyss**

Inmate #6582 in Ravensbrück Concentration Camp for Women

Nanda Herbermann

Translated by Hester Baer

Edited by Hester Baer and Elizabeth R. Baer

“The Blessed Abyss is a rare find, a vivid narrative memoir of Nazi brutality, written by a religious German, an Aryan who resists Nazism as inauthentic dogma.”

—Myrna Goldenberg, Montgomery College

2000 / 6 x 9 / 280 pp / 18 illus
ISBN 978-0-8143-2904-7, $44.95 cloth
ISBN 978-0-8143-2920-7, $22.95 paper

**Appel Is Forever**

A Child’s Memoir

Suzanne Mehler Whiteley

“This deeply personal book recounts the chilling experiences of a young Jewish girl during the savage ordeal of the Holocaust and its aftermath. It shows a stunning acuity of observation and insight, a truly important work.”

—Booklist

1999 / 6 x 9 / 176 pp / 10 illus
ISBN 978-0-8143-2822-4, $18.95 paper
when the radicalization of anti-semitism became an increasingly out, as war approached. coordinated and concerted political battle against persecution, appeared increasingly bleak Polish jews attempted to wage a prominent theme in the country's political life. As the prognosis and unsurpassed account of the destruction of Hungarian Jewry. “The most comprehensive and meticulous research book in the literature of the Holocaust in general and Hungary in particular. It skillfully examines the tragedy of Hungarian Jewry in the context of Hungarian history and social developments. The Politics of Genocide is the standard and unsurpassed account of the destruction of Hungarian Jewry.” —Bernard Klein, Kingsborough Community College, City University of New York

2000 / 6 x 9 / 328 pp / 2 maps ISBN 978-0-8143-2690-9, $44.95s cloth
ISBN 978-0-8143-2691-6, $21.95s paper
Published in association with the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

New Beginnings
Holocaust Survivors in Bergen-Belsen and the British Zone in Germany, 1945–1950
Hagit Lavsky

“Lavsky dispels prevalent ideas of a passive group of survivors and has returned agency and autonomy to this unique community of survivors. It is no exaggeration to say that this is a pathbreaking study.”
—Michael Bodemann, University of Toronto

New Beginnings offers an unprecedented historical inquiry into how Jews in Germany began to rebuild their social and cultural networks immediately following World War II. Lavsky concentrates on the British Zone of occupation in northwest Germany, where some of the most important Jewish communities developed and laid the foundation for a central Jewish organization in the Federal German Republic. It was here, through a unique cooperation of “camp and community,” that a new Jewish post-Holocaust nationalism began to take shape. As the first in-depth analysis of the combined development of “camp and community.” New Beginnings examines the history of both groups within the context of the Jewish world, the emergence of Palestine-Israel, and the international arena. In so doing, it reveals that the Jewish presence in Germany was not only an issue to be tackled by external powers but also an active force shaping the Jewish post-Holocaust stance worldwide.

2002 / 6 x 9 / 312 pp / 24 illus ISBN 978-0-8143-3009-8, $41.95s cloth

And Life Is Changed Forever
Holocaust Childhoods Remembered
Edited by Martin Ira Glassner and Robert Krell

“A rare and most important contribution to the field of Holocaust studies. This remarkable compilation of autobiographies of those who survived genocidal persecution as children is a living testimony to resilience and generosity under the most unspeakable conditions.”
—Ira Brenner, Jefferson Medical College, co-author of The Last Witness: The Child Survivor of the Holocaust

This distinctive collection contains twenty-one first-person narrative essays from Holocaust survivors who were children at the time of the atrocity. While most Holocaust memoirs focus on one individual or one country, And Life Is Changed Forever offers a varied collection of reflections. The survivors come from Germany, Poland, Austria, Romania, Hungary, Italy, Greece, France, The Netherlands, Belgium, Latvia, Czechoslovakia, and Norway. And Life Is Changed Forever also focuses on what these children became—teachers, engineers, physicians, entrepreneurs, librarians, parents, and grandparents—and explores the impact of the Holocaust on their later lives.

2006 / 7 x 10 / 376 pp / 47 illus, 24 maps / ISBN 978-0-8143-3173-6, $29.95s paper

The Politics of Genocide
The Holocaust in Hungary Condensed Edition
Randolph L. Braham

“This book is an important addition to an already enormous collection of literature on the Holocaust, and to a smaller but nonetheless impressive array of books and articles on women’s experiences. Elizabeth Baer and Myrna Goldenberg have gathered a diverse and interesting set of articles that focus on women’s experiences in the Holocaust.”
—Jewish Book World

The many powerful accounts of the Holocaust have given rise to women’s voices, and yet few researchers have analyzed these perspectives to learn what the horrifying events meant for women in particular and how they related to them. In Experience and Expression, the authors take on this challenge, providing the first book-length gendered analysis of women and the Holocaust, a topic that is emerging as a new field of inquiry in its own right. The collection explores an array of fascinating topics: rescue and resistance, the treatment of Roma and Sinti women, the fate of female forced laborers, Holocaust politics, nurses at so-called euthanasia centers, women’s experiences of food and hunger in the camps, the uses and abuses of Anne Frank, and the representations of the Holocaust in art, film, and literature in the postwar era.


No Way Out
The Politics of Polish Jewry 1935–1939
Emanuel Melzer

Drawing from sources in the Polish Jewish and non-Jewish press and from archives in Europe, Israel, and the United States, Emanuel Melzer examines the efforts of Polish Jewry to secure its existence and advance its interests in the late 1930s, when the radicalization of anti-Semitism became an increasingly prominent theme in the country’s political life. As the prognosis appeared increasingly bleak Polish jews attempted to wage a coordinated and concerted political battle against persecution, but many Polish jews found themselves trapped, with no way out, as war approached.

1997 / Monograph No. 19 / 6 x 9 / 248 pp ISBN 978-0-87820-418-2, $39.95s cloth
Published by Hebrew Union College Press and distributed by Wayne State University Press

Experience and Expression
Women, the Nazis, and the Holocaust
Edited by Elizabeth R. Baer and Myrna Goldenberg

“The book offers a fresh and compelling perspective on the Holocaust, and to a smaller but nonetheless impressive array of books and articles on women’s experiences. Elizabeth Baer and Myrna Goldenberg have gathered a diverse and interesting set of articles that focus on women’s experiences in the Holocaust.”

2002 / 6 x 9 / 312 pp / 24 illus ISBN 978-0-8143-3009-8, $41.95s cloth

New Beginnings
Hagith Lavsky

“Lavsky dispels prevalent ideas of a passive group of survivors and has returned agency and autonomy to this unique community of survivors. It is no exaggeration to say that this is a pathbreaking study.”
—Michael Bodemann, University of Toronto

New Beginnings offers an unprecedented historical inquiry into how Jews in Germany began to rebuild their social and cultural networks immediately following World War II. Lavsky concentrates on the British Zone of occupation in northwest Germany, where some of the most important Jewish communities developed and laid the foundation for a central Jewish organization in the Federal German Republic. It was here, through a unique cooperation of “camp and community,” that a new Jewish post-Holocaust nationalism began to take shape. As the first in-depth analysis of the combined development of “camp and community,” New Beginnings examines the history of both groups within the context of the Jewish world, the emergence of Palestine-Israel, and the international arena. In so doing, it reveals that the Jewish presence in Germany was not only an issue to be tackled by external powers but also an active force shaping the Jewish post-Holocaust stance worldwide.

2002 / 6 x 9 / 312 pp / 24 illus ISBN 978-0-8143-3009-8, $41.95s cloth

And Life Is Changed Forever
Holocaust Childhoods Remembered
Edited by Martin Ira Glassner and Robert Krell

“A rare and most important contribution to the field of Holocaust studies. This remarkable compilation of autobiographies of those who survived genocidal persecution as children is a living testimony to resilience and generosity under the most unspeakable conditions.”
—Ira Brenner, Jefferson Medical College, co-author of The Last Witness: The Child Survivor of the Holocaust

This distinctive collection contains twenty-one first-person narrative essays from Holocaust survivors who were children at the time of the atrocity. While most Holocaust memoirs focus on one individual or one country, And Life Is Changed Forever offers a varied collection of reflections. The survivors come from Germany, Poland, Austria, Romania, Hungary, Italy, Greece, France, The Netherlands, Belgium, Latvia, Czechoslovakia, and Norway. And Life Is Changed Forever also focuses on what these children became—teachers, engineers, physicians, entrepreneurs, librarians, parents, and grandparents—and explores the impact of the Holocaust on their later lives.

2006 / 7 x 10 / 376 pp / 47 illus, 24 maps / ISBN 978-0-8143-3173-6, $29.95s paper

The Politics of Genocide
The Holocaust in Hungary Condensed Edition
Randolph L. Braham

“The most comprehensive and meticulously researched book in the literature of the Holocaust in general and Hungary in particular. It skillfully examines the tragedy of Hungarian Jewry in the context of Hungarian history and social developments. The Politics of Genocide is the standard and unsurpassed account of the destruction of Hungarian Jewry.”

2000 / 6 x 9 / 328 pp / 2 maps ISBN 978-0-8143-2690-9, $44.95s cloth
ISBN 978-0-8143-2691-6, $21.95s paper
Published in association with the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

No Way Out
The Politics of Polish Jewry 1935–1939
Emanuel Melzer

Drawing from sources in the Polish Jewish and non-Jewish press and from archives in Europe, Israel, and the United States, Emanuel Melzer examines the efforts of Polish Jewry to secure its existence and advance its interests in the late 1930s, when the radicalization of anti-Semitism became an increasingly prominent theme in the country’s political life. As the prognosis appeared increasingly bleak Polish jews attempted to wage a coordinated and concerted political battle against persecution, but many Polish jews found themselves trapped, with no way out, as war approached.

1997 / Monograph No. 19 / 6 x 9 / 248 pp ISBN 978-0-87820-418-2, $39.95s cloth
Published by Hebrew Union College Press and distributed by Wayne State University Press
Soldiers, Rebels, and Drifters
Gay Representation in Israeli Cinema

Nir Cohen

“This book is a welcome contribution to the growing critical literature on Israeli cinema. As a work of cultural history that aims to understand the emergence of gay cinema in Israel since the late 1970s and its complex relationship to the construction of Zionist and Jewish ‘new’ masculinity, this book will appeal to both students and scholars of Israeli, Middle Eastern, and world cinema.”

—Yosefa Loshitzky, author of Identity Politics on the Israeli Screen

Despite the canonical status of the written word in forging the Zionist-Israeli national narrative and its subversive derivatives, the emergence of gay consciousnes in the mid-1970s relied more on cinematic representations than those found in literature, journalism, or popular music. Film’s global distribution reached wide overseas audiences and emphasized gay men and lesbians’ roles in representing “liberal” Israel to the world. In Soldiers, Rebels, and Drifters: Gay Representation in Israeli Cinema author Nir Cohen studies the role of cinema in portraying gay identities, environments, and lifestyles in Israel over the past three decades, particularly in the wake of a series of legal battles for gay rights in the 1980s and 1990s.

In five chapters, Cohen examines the past, present, and future of gay filmmaking in Israel. In chapter 1, he traces the roots of an imagined Israeli gay community in film by examining the parallels between constructing gay identity on screen and representing the city of Tel Aviv as a cosmopolitan metropolis, with a focus on the early films of Amos Guttman and Eytan Fox. In chapter 2, he explores Guttman’s films in detail to trace their contribution to the evolution of a gay identity in 1980s Israel. Chapter 3 shifts to the work of Eytan Fox, probably the most prolific gay Israeli director since Guttman. In chapter 4, Cohen tackles nonfiction gay filmmaking in Israel in the form of documentaries and self-authored films. Chapter 5 concludes the volume with a look at the current state of gay filmmaking in Israel, including the new directions that recent films have taken and the increasing interest in the experience of gay men and lesbians from religious communities. Beyond simple textual analysis, Cohen addresses the institutional apparatuses of the movie industry, including the politics behind funding, censorship, and television broadcasting, and relates the films studied to the cultural and political history of Israel since the late 1970s. Film and television scholars, as well as those interested in queer studies and the cultural history of Israel will be grateful for this thorough study of gay Israeli cinema.


Unwitting Zionists
The Jewish Community of Zakho in Iraqi Kurdistan

Haya Gavish

“Gavish has done remarkable work, collecting data from a large number of informants, studying it carefully and very ably reworking it from the point of view of three different disciplines: folklore, history, and anthropology.”

—Yona Sabar, professor of Hebrew at University of California, Los Angeles

Unwitting Zionists examines the Jewish community in the northern Kurdish town of Zakho from the end of the Ottoman period until the disappearance of the community through aliyah by 1951. Because of its remote location, Zakho was far removed from the influence of the Jewish religious leadership in Iraq and preserved many of its religious traditions independently, becoming the most important Jewish community in the region and known as “Jerusalem of Kurdistan.” Author Haya Gavish argues, therefore, that when the community was exposed to Zionism, it began to open up to external influences and activity. Originally published in Hebrew, Unwitting Zionists uses personal memoirs, historical records, and interviews to investigate the duality between Jewish tradition and Zionism among Zakho’s Jews.

Gavish consults a variety of sources to examine the changes undergone by the Jewish community as a result of its religious affiliation with Eretz-Israel, its exposure to Zionist efforts, and its eventual immigration to Israel. Because relatively little written documentation about Zakho exists, Gavish relies heavily on folkloristic sources like personal recollections and traditional stories, including extensive material from her own fieldwork with an economically and demographically diverse group of men and women from Zakho. She analyzes this firsthand information within a historical framework to reconstruct a communal reality and lifestyle that was virtually unknown to anyone outside of the community. Appendices contain biographical details of the interviewees for additional background. Israeli studies scholars, as well as anyone wanting to learn more about religion, community, and nationality in the Middle East will enjoy Unwitting Zionists.


Raphael Patai Series in Jewish Folklore and Anthropology
Finding Home and Homeland: Jewish Youth and Zionism in the Aftermath of the Holocaust

Avinoam J. Patt

“Finding Home and Homeland is a superb contribution to the historiography of the Holocaust and the often-neglected experience of Jews in Europe since the Second World War.”

—Michael Berkowitz, professor of modern Jewish history at University College London and author of *The Crime of My Very Existence: Nazism and the Myth of Jewish Criminality*

Although they represented only a small portion of all displaced persons after World War II, Jewish displaced persons in postwar Europe played a central role on the international diplomatic stage. In fact, the overwhelming Zionist enthusiasm of this group, particularly in the large segment of young adults among them, was vital to the diplomatic decisions that led to the creation of the State of Israel so soon after the war. In *Finding Home and Homeland*, Avinoam J. Patt examines the meaning and appeal of Zionism to young Jewish displaced persons and looks for the reasons for its success among Holocaust survivors and their role in the ultimate creation of the state of Israel.

Patt argues that Zionism was highly successful in filling a positive function for young displaced persons in the aftermath of the Holocaust because it provided a secure environment for vocational training, education, rehabilitation, and a sense of family. One of the foremost expressions of Zionist affiliation on the part of survivors of the Holocaust was the search for a new home that ultimately brought them to a new homeland. It was the search for a new home that among them, was vital to the diplomatic decisions that led to the creation of the State of Israel so soon after the war. In *Finding Home and Homeland*, Avinoam J. Patt examines the meaning and appeal of Zionism to young Jewish displaced persons and looks for the reasons for its success among Holocaust survivors and their role in the ultimate creation of the state of Israel.

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A Narrative Community
Voices of Israeli Backpackers
Chaim Noy

“A great story is the true backpacker’s most prized souvenir, better by far than a photograph or trinket. In this brilliant book, Noy captures how tourists use language to find and give meaning to their adventures along the unbeaten paths of the world. Beautifully conceived and written, A Narrative Community gets to the heart of tourism as a personally transformative event.”

—Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, author of Destination Culture: Tourism, Museums, and Heritage

2007 / 7 x 10 / 256 pp / 7 illus
ISBN 978-0-8143-3176-7, $29.95s paper
Raphael Patai Series in Jewish Folklore and Anthropology

Ex-Soviets in Israel
From Personal Narratives to a Group Portrait
Larisa Fialkova and Maria N. Yelenevskaya

“In this well-conceived engaging exploration of life and attitudes of ex-Soviets in Israel, there is much narrative derived from interviews, well-constructed bridge comments connecting them, and accompanying insightful comments and useful analyses. Fialkova and Yelenevskaya successfully convey a surprisingly broad social picture of this large varied immigrant population. There is an extensive bibliography and brief but useful indexes. A valuable contribution to Israeli, migration, and Soviet studies.”

—Choice

In this volume ex-Soviets in Israel reflect on their immigration experiences, allowing readers to explore this transitional cultural group directly through immigrants’ thoughts, memories, and feelings, rather than physical artifacts like magazines, films, or books. Larisa Fialkova and Maria N. Yelenevskaya present a collage of cultural and folk traditions—from Slavic to Soviet, Jewish, and Muslim—to demonstrate that the mythology of Soviet Jews in Israel is still in the making.

2007 / 6 x 9 / 392 pp / 25 illus
ISBN 978-0-8143-3169-9, $49.95s cloth
Raphael Patai Series in Jewish Folklore and Anthropology

Jerad Al-Islam
The Jewish “New Muslims” of Meshhed
Raphael Patai

“Through a masterful examination of many sources, the book traces the history of Jewish life in Meshed before, during and after the Alladhad... The book offers a fascinating account of a little-known branch of the Jewish family tree whose roots date back 2,500 years to ancient Persia at the time of the first exile.”

—The Canadian Jewish News

In 1839, Muslims attacked the Jews of Meshhed, murdering 36 of them, and forcing the conversion of the rest. While some managed to escape across the Afghan border, and some turned to true believing Muslims, the majority adopted Islam only outwardly, while secretly adhering to their Jewish faith. Jadid Al-Islam is the fascinating story of how this community managed to survive, at the risk of their lives, as crypto-Jews in an inimical Shi’i Muslim environment.

1997 / 6 x 9 / 344 pp / 34 illus
ISBN 978-0-8143-2625-2, $44.95s cloth
Raphael Patai Series in Jewish Folklore and Anthropology

Backlist Titles


Dialogic Moments
From Soul Talks to Talk Radio in Israeli Culture
Tamar Katriel

“Tamar Katriel takes an urgent topic, theorizes it with exceptional precision, tackles it with the best that ethnographic research can offer, and writes with clarity and passion.”

—Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, New York University

2004 / 6 x 9 / 392 pp
ISBN 978-0-8143-2774-6, $51.95s cloth
Raphael Patai Series in Jewish Folklore and Anthropology

Beyond Survival and Philanthropy
American Jewry and Israel
Edited by Allon Gal and Alfred Gottschalk

In Beyond Survival and Philanthropy, thirty scholars and communal leaders address the important issues that confront twenty-first century Israeli and American Jewry. The volume is based on a 1996 Israeli conference entitled “North American Jewry and Israel: Beyond Survival and Philanthropy,” sponsored by the Center for North American Jewry at the Ben-Gurion Research Center of Ben-Gurion University of Negev and the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

2000 / 6 x 9 / 260 pp
ISBN 978-0-87820-218-8, $55.00 cloth
Published by Hebrew Union College Press and distributed by Wayne State University Press

Desert and Dead Sea Studies

Jerusalem and Its Environs
Quarters, Neighborhoods, Villages, 1800–1948
Ruth Kark and Michal Oren-Nordheim

Jerusalem and Its Environs illustrates the history of urban and rural development of Jerusalem from the 1800s to the mid-twentieth century, during which the city endured 120 years of Ottoman rule and three decades of British military and mandatory government. Ruth Kark and Michal Oren-Nordheim trace the city’s interaction with its rural hinterland until the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948, when Jerusalem became socially and geographically divided in two.

2001 / 6 x 9 / 444 pp / 28 illus / 39 maps
ISBN 978-0-8143-2909-2, $49.95s cloth
Co-published with the Magnes Press
Sales restriction: CUSA
Beyond the walls of their synagogues, Jewish adults are creating religious meaning in new and diverse ways in a range of unconventional sites. In *Back to School*, authors Alex Pomson and Randal F. Schnoor argue that the Jewish day school serves as one such site by bringing adults and children together for education, meeting, study, and worship-like ceremonies. Pomson and Schnoor suggest that day school functions as a locus of Jewish identity akin to the Jewish streets or neighborhoods that existed in many major North American cities in the first half of the twentieth century.

*Back to School* began as an ethnographic study of the Downtown Jewish Day School (DJD) in Toronto, a private, religiously pluralistic day school that balances its Jewish curriculum with general studies. Drawing on a longitudinal study at DJD, and against the backdrop of a comparative study of two other Toronto day schools as well as four day schools from the U.S. Midwest, Pomson and Schnoor argue that when parents choose Jewish schools for their children they look for institutions that satisfy not only their children's academic and emotional needs but also their own social and personal concerns as Jewish adults. The authors found an uncommon degree of involvement and engagement on the part of the students’ parents, as genuine friendships and camaraderie blossomed between parents, faculty, and administrators. In addition, the authors discovered that parents who considered themselves secular Jews were introduced to or reacquainted with the depth and meaning of Jewish tradition and rituals through observing or taking part in school activities.
**A Guide to Jewish Practice**

**Family and Sexual Ethics**

David A. Teutsch

Part of the multi-volume *Guide to Jewish Practice* series that takes a fresh look at all of Jewish ethics and practice, this volume looks at relationships and obligations between parents and children, between spouses, and among extended family members, and examines sexual activity of all kinds. It considers such topics as bisexuality, transgendered identity, and the evolution of the functions of sexuality. In considering the historical diversity of Jewish family structures and sexual practices, the book opens the possibility of broad ethical diversity within what is considered Jewishly legitimate while taking a strong stand against violence, exploitation of power imbalances, and harm to children.

2010 / 6 x 9 / 110 pp
ISBN 978-0-938945-16-1, $13.95s paper
Published by Reconstructionist Rabbinical College Press and distributed by Wayne State University Press

**A Guide to Jewish Practice**

**Welcoming Children**

Richard Hirsh

*Welcoming Children* provides teachings, insights, traditions, rituals and commentaries that can help create a meaningful Jewish context for the arrival of children. It includes extended discussions of how adoptive as well as interfaith families can find rich resources in Judaism and provides a thorough yet accessible guide to one of life's most meaningful moments. A supplementary section includes innovative blessings, prayers and rituals for parents.

Published by Reconstructionist Rabbinical College Press and distributed by Wayne State University Press

**A Guide to Jewish Practice**

**Community, Gemilut Hesed and Tikun Olam**

David A. Teutsch

At a time when individualism is the dominant social motif in North America, Jewish thought offers a more communitarian view. This volume explores what obligations Jews have to their communities, as well as what obligations communities have. It explicates the obligations people have to each other in terms of *gemilut hesed* (deeds of loving-kindness), such as caring for the sick and helping those in mourning. It also explores the requirements of *tikun olam* (repairing the world) by accomplishing social change.

2009 / 6 x 9 / 100 pp
Published by Reconstructionist Rabbinical College Press and distributed by Wayne State University Press

**A Guide to Jewish Practice**

**Organizational Ethics and Economic Justice**

David A. Teutsch

This exploration of basic approaches and major issues examines business ethics, not-for-profit ethics and economic justice. Topics include the meaning of work; obligations of employers and employees and of buyers and sellers; competition and cooperation; monopolies; gifts, wills and bequests; government, taxation, zoning and criminal behavior; self-defense; and mediation and arbitration. Commentary explores conflicts and introduces alternative approaches.

2007 / 6 x 9 / 112 pp
ISBN 978-0-938945-12-3, $13.95s paper
Published by Reconstructionist Rabbinical College Press and distributed by Wayne State University Press

**A Guide to Jewish Practice**

**The Journey of Mourning**

Richard Hirsh

Traditions and customs and extensive commentaries illuminate the ways Reconstructionist Judaism can guide us through loss. Included are rituals for getting up from shiva, lighting a yahrtzeit candle, unveiling/dedication of a memorial marker, and a ritual for closing a home following a death. Also included are the text, translation, and transliteration of the mourner’s kaddish.

2006 / 6 x 9 / 104 pp
ISBN 978-0-938945-10-9, $13.95s paper
Published by Reconstructionist Rabbinical College Press and distributed by Wayne State University Press

**A Guide to Jewish Practice**

**Tzedaka**

David A. Teutsch

*A Guide to Jewish Practice: Tzedaka* examines such questions as where we should give and how much, how we should solicit funds and how we can assess the effectiveness of organizations we might want to support. It provides ways to analyze such complex issues as Jewish giving versus general giving, giving to help the needy versus supporting cultural undertakings, and educating the next generation about tzedaka.

2005 / 6 x 9 / 94 pp
ISBN 978-0-938945-09-3, $13.95s paper
Published by Reconstructionist Rabbinical College Press and distributed by Wayne State University Press
A Guide to Jewish Practice
Bioethics
David A. Teutsch

A Guide to Jewish Practice: Bioethics thoughtfully surveys the field of bioethics from a Jewish perspective and addresses a number of hot-button issues. Is euthanasia ever permissible? How should we make decisions on behalf of an incapacitated patient? When is abortion a valid ethical choice? And ultimately, is it only the individual patient who is responsible for maintaining health, or should society assume some of the burden? The book also contains an essay that explores the implications of values-based decision making.

2006 / 6 x 9 / 80 pp
ISBN 978-0-938945-08-6, $13.95s paper
Published by Reconstructionist Rabbinical College Press and distributed by Wayne State University Press

Behoref Hayamim / In the Winter of Life
A Values-Based Jewish Guide for Decision Making at the End of Life
Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

This book offers practical advice about Jewish traditions and customs for families facing difficult choices at the end of life. Chapters deal with such topics as technologies used in end-stage medical interventions, documents and advance conversations that can aid the family later, managing key relationships with professionals, challenges accompanying diagnosis, approaches to pain and suffering, hospice and end-of-life care, when to end a life, and death and mourning.

2002 / 5.5 x 8.5 / 224 pp
ISBN 978-0-938945-06-2, $20.00s paper
Published by Reconstructionist Rabbinical College Press and distributed by Wayne State University Press

Making a Difference: A Guide to Jewish Leadership and Not-for-Profit Management
David A. Teutsch

Making a Difference: A Guide to Jewish Leadership and Not-for-Profit Management provides an encyclopedic introduction to leading not-for-profit organizations in a time of rapid change and unprecedented turbulence. It integrates state-of-the-art insights from such fields as management, organizational culture, leadership, psychology and systems theory with Biblical, rabbinic and medieval Jewish texts, examples drawn from contemporary American Jewish organizational life, and the Jewish values, virtues and insights that mark distinctively Jewish leadership.

2009 / 6 x 9 / 315 pp
ISBN 978-0-938945-14-7, $29.95s paper
Published by Reconstructionist Rabbinical College Press and distributed by Wayne State University Press

A Guide to Jewish Practice
Kashrut
Second Edition
David A. Teutsch

This volume includes a comprehensive list of Jewish values, providing definitions for each one, as well as an essay on the use of values-based decision making. The main part of this volume examines traditional and contemporary justifications for Jewish dietary regulation. It summarizes the traditional practices related to Jewish dietary regulation, and considers such alternatives as eco-kashrut and vegetarianism. All these approaches to dietary regulation are placed in the context of both traditional and contemporary Jewish values and the shifts in food production, ecology and economics that can have a substantial impact on decision making in these areas.

2003 / 6 x 9 / 64 pp
ISBN 978-0-938945-07-9, $13.95s paper
Published by Reconstructionist Rabbinical College Press and distributed by Wayne State University Press
Inventing the Modern Yiddish Stage
Essays in Drama, Performance, and Show Business
Edited by Joel Berkowitz and Barbara Henry

While Yiddish theater is best known as popular entertainment, it has been shaped by its creators’ responses to changing social and political conditions. Inventing the Modern Yiddish Stage: Essays in Drama, Performance, and Show Business showcases the diversity of modern Yiddish theater by focusing on the relentless and far-reaching capacity of its performers, producers, critics, and audiences for self-invention. Editors Joel Berkowitz and Barbara Henry have assembled essays from leading scholars that trace the roots of modern Yiddish drama and performance in nineteenth-century Eastern Europe and span a century and a half and three continents, beyond the heyday of a Yiddish stage that was nearly eradicated by the Holocaust, to its post-war life in Western Europe and Israel.

Each chapter takes its own distinct approach to its subject and is accompanied by an appendix consisting of primary material, much of it available in English translation for the first time, to enrich readers’ appreciation of the issues explored and also to serve as supplementary classroom texts. Chapters explore Yiddish theater across geography—from Poland and Russia to France, the United States, Argentina, and Israel and Palestine. Readers will spend time with notable individuals and troupes; meet creators, critics, and audiences; sample different dramatic genres; and learn about issues that preoccupied both artists and audiences. The final section presents an extensive bibliography of book-length works and scholarly articles on Yiddish drama and theater, the most comprehensive resource of its kind available. Collectively these essays illuminate the modern Yiddish stage as a phenomenon that was constantly reinventing itself and simultaneously examining and questioning that very process. Scholars of Jewish performance and those interested in theater history will appreciate this wide-ranging volume.


Seeing Israeli and Jewish Dance
Edited by Judith Brin Ingber

“Seeing Israeli and Jewish Dance, with 182 illustrations and photographs, is a beautiful, dazzling, encyclopedic work about Israeli folk dance and Jewish dance in the Diaspora that quite simply deserves a place in any Judaica library.” —Mordecai Spektor, American Jewish World

In Seeing Israeli and Jewish Dance, choreographer, dancer, and dance scholar Judith Brin Ingber collects wide-ranging essays and many remarkable photographs to explore the evolution of Jewish dance through two thousand years of Diaspora, in communities of amazing variety and amid changing traditions. Ingber and other eminent scholars consider dancers individually and in community, defining Jewish dance broadly to encompass religious ritual, community folk dance, and choreographed performance. Taken together, this wide range of expression illustrates the vitality, necessity, and continuity of dance in Judaism.

This volume combines dancers’ own views of their art with scholarly examinations of Jewish dance conducted in Europe, Israel, other Middle East areas, Africa, and the Americas. In seven parts, Seeing Israeli and Jewish Dance considers Jewish dance artists of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries; the dance of different Jewish communities, including Hasidic, Yemenite, Kurdish, Ethiopian, and European Jews in many epochs; historical and current Israeli folk dance; and the contrast between Israeli and American modern and post-modern theater dance. Along the way, contributors see dance in ancient texts like the Song of Songs, the Talmud, and Renaissance-era illuminated manuscripts, and plumb oral histories, Holocaust sources, and their own unique views of the subject. A selection of 182 illustrations, including photos, paintings, and film stills, round out this lively volume. Many of the illustrations come from private collections and have never before been published, and they represent such varied sources as a program booklet from the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair and archival photos from the Israel Government Press Office. Seeing Israeli and Jewish Dance threads together unique source material and scholarly examinations by authors from Europe, Israel, and America trained in sociology, anthropology, history, cultural studies, Jewish studies, dance studies, as well as art, theater, and dance criticism.


Raphael Patai Series in Jewish Folklore and Anthropology
Mediterranean Israeli Music and the Politics of the Aesthetic
Amy Horowitz

“Horowitz’s significant contribution to this discourse should be of lasting value to students and scholars of Jewish and Israeli society and culture. This is a substantive and worthwhile study of a diverse and multifaceted musical genre, which emerged from and continues to reflect the complex historical, sociopolitical, and multicultural contexts of a particular moment in time and place.” —Robert Fleisher, H-Net Reviews

This volume is both an ethnographic study based on Horowitz’s immersion in the pan-ethnic Mizrahi community and a multi-voiced account of community members, who describe their music and musicians who play it. Horowitz focuses primarily on the work of three artists—Avihu Medina, Zohar Argov, and Zehava sic and musicians who play it. Horowitz’s significant contribution to this discourse should be of lasting value to students and scholars of Jewish and Israeli society and culture. This is a substantive and worthwhile study of a diverse and multifaceted musical genre, which emerged from and continues to reflect the complex historical, sociopolitical, and multicultural contexts of a particular moment in time and place.”

ISBN 978-0-8143-3465-2, $29.95
2010 / 6 x 9 / 272 pp / 42 illus

Yiddish Folksongs from the Ruth Rubin Archive
Edited by Chana Mlotek and Mark Slobin

“Ruth Rubin’s love of the Yiddish song was equaled only by her passion for ferreting out every last snippet of melody and text, no matter how obscure the source. What she left behind is a treasure trove of folklore: songs identified and collected simply because they needed to be found and preserved. Yiddish Folksongs from the Ruth Rubin Archive is an important and well-edited book. While the introductory material is valuable, the song collection itself is invaluable.” —Theodore Bikel, renowned actor, writer, and Jewish folksinger

This collection is based on a manuscript that Rubin was unable to publish before her death, with additional annotation and commentary provided by noted music scholars Chana Mlotek and Mark Slobin. The text of the songs is given in standard Yiddish, unless the singer is singing in a different dialect. Rubin’s commentary is presented throughout and sheet music is included for all of the songs. Variants of songs are indicated. An audio CD is also packaged with this collection.

ISBN 978-0-8143-3258-0, $34.95 paper with audio CD

Twenty Israeli Composers
Voices of a Culture
Robert Fleisher

Foreword by Shulamit Ran

“The boiling cauldron of Israeli music, music by immigrants and by Israelis born of diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds, comes to life in the monologues representative of three generations of composers, born between 1909 and 1961.” —Jehoash Hirshberg, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

This collection of interviews with Israeli composers offers a unique understanding of the nation’s culture at the mid-point of its first century. In first-person narrative, twenty of Israel’s leading art music composers discuss the interaction of inspiration, method and cultural context in their work, revealing both international and national influence and scope.

ISBN 978-0-8143-2648-0, $44.95 cloth

Music in the World of Islam
A Socio-Cultural Study
Amnon Shiloah

“Provides basic musicalological information about a vast variety of Middle Eastern musical genres within an ethnomusical context. The author succeeds remarkably well in holding the reader’s attention while imparting copious information on these subjects.” —Choice

ISBN 978-0-8143-2970-2, $22.95 paper
Sales Restriction: CUSA

Jewish Musical Traditions
Amnon Shiloah

“A masterful study of Jewish music, rich and fascinating in its complexity, yet presented in a highly lucid and informative style. The author…widely regarded as the world’s foremost authority on Jewish and Arab musical traditions…provides a very comprehensive picture of the crucial role of Jewish music on Jewish history and culture.” —Association of Jewish Libraries Newsletter

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2010 Jordan Schnitzer Award
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2001 / 6 x 9 / 272 pp

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Fenia and Yaakov Leviant Memorial Prize in Yiddish Studies from the Modern Language Association (Honorable Mention)

2010 Jordan Schnitzer Award
Notable Selection

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS JEWISH STUDIES
Holy Dissent
Jewish and Christian Mystics in Eastern Europe
Edited by Glenn Dynner
Foreword by Moshe Rosman

“This very interesting collection of essays opens the door wide to considering Eastern European Jewry and Judaism in a broad historical context. Dynner and the participants have made a solid contribution to our understanding. I learned much from reading it.”
—Arthur Green, rector in the Rabbinical School, Hebrew College

The religious communities of early modern Eastern Europe—particularly those with a mystical bent—are typically studied in isolation. Yet the heavy Slavic imprint on Jewish popular mysticism and pervasive Judaizing tendencies among Christian dissenters call into question the presumed binary quality of Jewish-Christian interactions. In Holy Dissent: Jewish and Christian Mystics in Eastern Europe, editor Glenn Dynner presents twelve essays that chart contacts, parallels, and mutual influences between Jewish and Christian mystics. With cutting-edge research on folk healers, messianists, Hasidim, and Christian sectarians, this volume presents instances of rich cultural interchange and bold border transgression.

Holy Dissent is divided into two sections: “Jewish Mystics in a Christian World” and “Christianizing Jews, Judaizing Christians.” In these essays, readers learn that Jewish and Christian folk healers consulted each other and learned from common sources; that the founder of Hasidism, Rabbi Israel Ba’al Shem Tov, likely drew inspiration from Christian ascetics; that Christian peasants sought and obtained audience with Hasidic masters; that Jewish mystics openly Christianized; and that Christian mystics openly Judaized. In contrast to prevailing models that present Jewish and Christian cultures as either rigidly autonomous or ambiguously hybrid, Holy Dissent charts specific types of religio-cultural exchange and broadens our conception of how cultures interact.

The scholarship in this volume is notably fresh and significant and makes an important contribution across disciplines. Jewish and Christian studies scholars as well as historians of Eastern Europe will benefit from the analysis of Holy Dissent.

2011 / 6 x 9 / 432 pp / 8 illus / ISBN 978-0-8143-3517-8, $44.95s cloth

The En Yaaqov
Jacob ibn Habib’s Search for Faith in the Talmudic Corpus
Marjorie Lehman

“A major work of intellectual history that will stand as a model of close textual scholarship, Jewish history, and the subtle play of the history of ideas.”
—Burton Visotzky, Appleman Professor of Midrash and Interreligious Studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary

After his expulsion from Spain in 1492, Jacob ibn Habib created the En Yaaqov, a collection of Talmudic aggadah (non-legal material), by removing the majority of the Talmud’s legal portions but preserving the chapter order of the remaining material and adding his own introduction and running commentary. In The En Yaaqov: Jacob ibn Habib’s Search for Faith in the Talmudic Corpus author Marjorie Lehman argues that the En Yaaqov’s anthologizer, Jacob ibn Habib, purposely sought to create a Talmud “look-alike” in order to prove that Judaism’s foundational legal tract could also be seen as a theological document. By considering the factors that influenced ibn Habib, Lehman argues that his En Yaaqov was a reaction to the way that the Talmud was perceived and studied during the late medieval period among Spanish Jewry.

In four chapters, Lehman explores the first printed edition of the En Yaaqov, delving into the intellectual culture and theological intricacies surrounding its creation and elaborating on the contributions of the En Yaaqov to the development of faith. Chapter 1 considers the political turmoil and challenges of resettlement that ibn Habib encountered after expulsion and that prompted him to produce the En Yaaqov. Chapter 2 focuses on the intellectual framework within which ibn Habib’s attitude toward Talmudic aggadah developed and explains why few running commentaries on the aggadot of the Talmud existed prior to his work. Chapter 3 discusses ibn Habib’s editorial decisions in choosing to construct the En Yaaqov as a Talmud “look-alike.” In Chapter 4, Lehman analyzes key passages in ibn Habib’s commentary to the En Yaaqov to examine how he integrated text and context to provide a resource that Jews could utilize for spiritual growth and continuity of faith. In her conclusion, Lehman addresses the evolving printing history of the collection, which was quite different from that of the Talmud. This insightfully researched book will be informative to scholars of Talmud and Rabbinic Literature, late-medieval intellectual history and culture, Sephardic history, and the history of the Jewish book as well as to readers interested in the still-popular En Yaaqov.

In Comparative Perspectives on Judaisms and Jewish Identities, author Stephen Sharot uses his work published in journals and collected volumes over the past thirty-five years to examine a range of Jewish communities across both time and geography. Sharot's sociological analyses consider religious developments and identities in diverse Jewish communities from Imperial China and Renaissance Italy to contemporary Israel and the United States.

Jewish Law in Transition: How Economic Forces Overcame the Prohibition Against Lending on Interest

Hillel Gamoran

A well-known biblical prohibition strictly forbids Israelites to lend to each other on interest. As formulated in Exodus 22:24, the verse reads, “If you lend to any of my people with you who is poor, you shall not be to him as a creditor, and you shall not charge interest from him.”

“In Jewish Law in Transition, Hillel Gamoran explores five areas in which the talmudic Rabbis believed that business agreements violated the biblical ban: loans of produce; advance payment which the talmudic Rabbis believed that business agreements violated the biblical ban; buying on credit; mortgages; and violations of the biblical ban: loans of produce; advance payment which the talmudic Rabbis believed that business agreements violated the biblical ban; buying on credit; mortgages; and violations of the biblical ban. Gamoran shows how the Rabbis, through inventive extensions of halakhot; and the claim that two redundant peritextual rubrics are needed to ward off incorrect analogies.

Rabbinic Culture and Its Critics

Jewish Authority, Dissent, and Heresy in Medieval and Early Modern Times

Edited by Daniel Frank and Matt Goldish

“The Judaism of the rabbis has been predominant among Jews for almost 2000 years, yet it has not survived unchallenged. This superb collection of essays focuses on conflicts within rabbinic Judaism, as well as on alternate forms of Judaism, and can serve as a valuable introduction to pre-modern Jewish pluralism. The editors and the authors are to be congratulated.”

—Daniel J. Lasker, Norbert Blechner Professor of Jewish Values at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer Sheva, Israel

The Hebrew Goddess

Third Enlarged Edition

Raphael Patai

“This brilliant essay on goddess worship in Judaism written by an anthropologist represents a major contribution to comparative religion.”

—Encyclopedia of Religion

Carefully researched, well written, and well illustrated, this book is an interesting and invaluable contribution to Jewish studies.”

—Library Journal

A Great Voice that Did Not Cease

The Growth of the Rabbinic Canon and Its Interpretation

Michael Chernick

Hermeneutics may be described as the development and study of theories of interpretation. In this seminal study, Michael Chernick demonstrates how hermeneutical methods confronted the difficulties that arose for the rabbis when logical inconsistencies or examples of poor writing or speech appeared in scriptural texts and later in rabbinic texts they regarded as divine in origin.

Chernick focuses on six midrashic hermeneutics: outright midrashic resolutions of contradictions in scripture; distinguishing between what constitutes true scriptural proof and what is merely a support text; a midrashic hermeneutic that transfers the rules of one rubric to another; two hermeneutics that limit interpretive extensions of halakhot; and the claim that two redundant peritextual rubrics are needed to ward off incorrect analogies.

Remember Amalek!

Vengeance, Zealotry, and Group Destruction in the Bible according to Philo, Pseudo-Philo, and Josephus

Louis H. Feldman

The divine commandment to exterminate all the Amalekites is what in contemporary terms has been called no less than genocide. Louis Feldman helps us to understand how three ancient Jewish commentators on the Bible—Philo, Pseudo-Philo, and Josephus—wrestled with the issues involved in this divine command, especially its provisions that descendants must be punished for all time for the misdeeds of their ancestors. Feldman broadens the issue by examining several biblical parallels where God commands the destruction of whole groups of people—namely, in the Great Flood, Sodom and Gomorrah, the siege of the first-born Egyptians, and the seven Canaanite nations.

Comparative Perspectives on Judaisms and Jewish Identities

Stephen Sharot

There is no comparable work that covers all of these periods and particular cases.”

—Harriet Hartman, professor of sociology at Rowan University
Mystical Bodies, Mystical Meals
Eating and Embodiment in Medieval Jewish Mysticism
Joel Hecker

A superb and distinctive contribution to the study of ritual in Judaism in general, and kabbalah in particular. . . . A work of considerable methodological sophistication, it is also an important contribution to the history of religion.

—Lawrence Fine, Irene Kaplan Leivant Chair of Jewish Studies, Mount Holyoke College

Mystical Bodies, Mystical Meals is the first book-length study of mystical eating practices and experiences in the kabbalah. Focusing on the Jewish mystical literature of late-thirteenth-century Spain, author Joel Hecker analyzes the ways in which the Zohar and other contemporaneous literature represent mystical experiences of embodiment. His new research further illustrates the importance of this genre. All texts presented here are published for the first time with Saperstein’s annotated translation accompanying the Hebrew original.

2005 / 6 x 9 / 296 pp
ISBN 978-0-87820-417-5, $49.95s cloth
Published by Hebrew Union College Press and distributed by Wayne State University Press

Exile in Amsterdam
Saul Levi Morteira’s Sermons to a Congregation of “New Jews”
Marc Saperstein

The leading rabbi of this community, Saul Levi Morteira (ca. 1596–1660), a master of Jewish homiletical art, was known to have published one book of fifty sermons in 1645. Recently a collection of 550 manuscript sermons in Morteira’s writing turned up in the Rabbinical Seminary of Budapest. After years of painstaking study from microfilms and three trips to Budapest to consult the actual manuscripts, Marc Saperstein has written the first comprehensive analysis of the historical significance of these texts. Starting with the preacher, Saperstein reviews the broad outlines of Morteira’s biography, his treatment by scholars, and his image in literary works; he then reconstructs the process by which the preacher produced and delivered his sermons.

2005 / Monograph No. 32 / 6 x 9 / 612 pp
ISBN 978-0-87820-457-1, $49.95s cloth
Published by Hebrew Union College Press and distributed by Wayne State University Press

The Meaning of God in Modern Jewish Religion
Mordecai M. Kaplan

Mordecai Kaplan, the father of Reconstructionism, has been called the prophet of Jewish renewal. Throughout his life he searched for ways to help the modern Jew relate meaningfully to the Jewish tradition. In this volume, Kaplan translates the major categories of traditional Jewish life into the compelling language of the present, revealing his interpretation of the Sabbath and Jewish holidays as well as the total philosophy and program of Reconstructionism.

1995 (1962) / 5.5 x 8 / 416 pp
ISBN 978-0-8143-2552-0, $26.95s paper

“We Your Voice Like a Ram’s Horn”
Themes and Texts in Traditional Jewish Preaching
Marc Saperstein

The eighteen studies in this book continue the exploration of the Jewish sermon that Marc Saperstein began in his groundbreaking Jewish Preaching, 1200–1800. His new research further illustrates the importance of this genre. All texts presented here are published for the first time with Saperstein’s annotated translation accompanying the Hebrew original.

1997 / Monograph No. 18 / 6 x 9 / 526 pp
ISBN 978-0-87820-417-5, $49.95s cloth
Published by Hebrew Union College Press and distributed by Wayne State University Press

Were Our Mouths Filled with Song
Studies in Liberal Jewish Liturgy
Eric L. Friedland

This volume explores the ways that the Siddur, Mahzor, and Haggadah have been adjusted, amplified, or transformed as to mirror modern Jews’ understanding of themselves, their place in society, and their sancta. Friedland focuses on latter-day adaptations of the Prayerbook, giving proper recognition to more recent exertions on behalf of intellectual integrity, cultural congruity, group and individual self-redefinition, and honest speech in Jewish prayer.

1997 / Monograph No. 20 / 6 x 9 / 368 pp
ISBN 978-0-87820-419-9, $45.00s cloth
Published by Hebrew Union College Press and distributed by Wayne State University Press

The Memoirs of Nahum N. Glatzer
Edited and Presented by Michael Fishbane and Judith Glattzer Wechsler

The geographic, spiritual, and intellectual journeys of Nahum Glatzer—a prolific scholar, Brandeis University professor, and editor of the Schocken publishing house—reveal a rich cultural ambiance that no longer exists, as well as a breadth of perspective and learning that remains enviable in our time.

1998 / 6 x 9 / 175 pp
ISBN 978-0-87820-506-6, $29.95s cloth
Published by Hebrew Union College Press and distributed by Wayne State University Press
Happiness in Premodern Judaism
Virtue, Knowledge, and Well-Being
Hava Tirosh-Samuelson

That Jews were interested in happiness may appear odd to most people. According to conventional thought, its pursuit hardly seems like one of the major tenets of the religion. This book argues to the contrary. To demonstrate the connection of Judaism with the good life, Tirosh-Samuelson shows how Aristotle’s reflections on happiness were very much a part of Rabbinic thought and how Jewish philosophers in the Hellenistic period read the Jewish Scriptures in light of the Greek conception of happiness.

The book is arranged chronologically, showing the correlation between a given notion of happiness and Jewish history and culture at a particular time. Demonstrating how the discourse on happiness is a dramatic interplay between wisdom and Torah, between philosophy and religion, and between reason and faith, Tirosh-Samuelson presents a fascinating tour of Jewish intellectual history.

2003 / Monograph No. 29 / 6 x 9 / 396 pp
ISBN 978-0-87820-453-3, $50.00 cloth
Published by Hebrew Union College Press and distributed by Wayne State University Press

Abraham Geiger & Liberal Judaism
The Challenge of the Nineteenth Century
Max Wiener

The late Dr. Max Wiener was a keen admirer of Geiger, his biographical introduction to this volume is sympathetic and balanced. But the real Geiger—a great scholar, profound thinker, and ardent Jew—emerges from the excerpts of his own writings to which the major portion of this book is devoted. The reader will find here illustrations of Geiger’s viewpoint as he wrote to friends, that explore the complex relationship between myth and ritual and the function and dynamic effect of myths in modern Jewish culture. The eleven contributors examine such topics as the ancient myth of the Golem, myth and the function in modern Jewish society. This book is ideal for folklorists and scholars of cultural and Jewish studies.

2000 / 6 x 9 / 210 pp / 2 maps
ISBN 978-0-87820-216-4, $39.95 cloth
Published by Hebrew Union College Press and distributed by Wayne State University Press

To Worship God Properly
Tensions Between Liturgical Custom and Halakhah in Judaism
Ruth Langer

Underlying Rabbinic decisions about prayer is the desire to ensure that the worship of the heart is as acceptable to God as biblically prescribed sacrifices. To this end, the Sages constantly struggled to define the boundaries of proper prayer, influenced by Halakhic theory, actual custom, intellectual currents, and the vicissitudes of history.

2005 / Monograph No. 22 / 6 x 9 / 304 pp
Published by Hebrew Union College Press and distributed by Wayne State University Press

Modern Jewish Mythologies
Glenda Abramson

Modern Jewish Mythologies presents ten essays, each of which seeks to demonstrate the function and dynamic effect of myths in Jewish social, political, and psychological life. The essays are based on the Mason Lectures delivered at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies in the winter of 1995. Glenda Abramson has gathered a series of essays that explore the complex relationship between myth and ritual in modern Jewish culture. The eleven contributors examine such topics as the ancient myth of the Golem, myth and the function of collective memory, South African Jewry and their moral views

2000 / 6 x 9 / 210 pp / 2 maps
ISBN 978-0-87820-216-4, $39.95 cloth
Published by Hebrew Union College Press and distributed by Wayne State University Press

American Jewish Liturgies
A Bibliography of American Jewish Liturgy from the Establishment of the Press in the Colonies through 1925
Compiled by Sharona Wachs
Introductory Essays by Eric L. Friedland and Karla Goldman

Wachs has compiled nearly 1,300 American Jewish prayerbooks, devotions, memorials, children’s prayers, hymnals, and scores from the eighteenth century to 1925. Included are four Hebrew and English indices to places, names, titles, and types of liturgy. Historical and liturgical introductions are provided by Karla Goldman and Eric L. Friedland respectively.

1997 / 6 x 9 / 224 pp
ISBN 978-0-87820-912-5, $25.00 cloth
Published by Hebrew Union College Press and distributed by Wayne State University Press

Jewish Lore in Manichaean Cosmology
Studies in the Book of Giants Traditions
John C. Reeves

A work entitled the “Book of Giants” figures in every list of the the Manichaean “canon” preserved from antiquity. Although leading Orientalists of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries consistently stressed the Iranian component in Mani’s thought, John C. Reeves argues in the light of evidence drawn from a number of recent manuscript discoveries and from a rich panorama of other textual sources, that the fundamental structure of Manichaean cosmogony is ultimately indebted to Jewish exegetical expan-

1997 / Monograph No. 14 / 6 x 9 / 260 pp
ISBN 978-0-87820-413-7, $49.95 cloth
Published by Hebrew Union College Press and distributed by Wayne State University Press
Women Remaking American Judaism

Edited by Riv-Ellen Prell

“Women Remaking American Judaism not only breaks new scholarly ground, it also rewards readers with well-chosen illustrations and a useful timeline. A path-breaking assessment of feminism’s impact on American Judaism by the field’s leading practitioners.”

—Jonathan D. Sarna, Joseph H. & Belle R. Braun Professor of American Jewish History at Brandeis University and author of American Judaism: A History

The rise of Jewish feminism, a branch of both second-wave feminism and the American counterculture, in the late 1960s had an extraordinary impact on the leadership, practice, and beliefs of American Jews. Women Remaking American Judaism is the first book to fully examine the changes in American Judaism as women fought to practice their religion fully and to ensure that its rituals, texts, and liturgies reflected their lives.

Essays in the first section, Reenvisioning Judaism, investigate the feminist challenges to traditional understanding of Jewish law, texts, and theology. In Redefining Judaism, the second section, contributors recognize that the changes in American Judaism were ultimately put into place by each denomination, their law committees, seminaries, rabbinic courts, rabbis, and synagogues, and examine the distinct evolution of women’s issues in the Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, and Reconstructionist movements. Finally, in the third section, Re-Framing Judaism, essays address feminist innovations that, in some cases, took place outside of the synagogue. An introduction by Riv-Ellen Prell situates the essays in both American and modern Jewish history and offers an analysis of why Jewish feminism was revolutionary.

Published under the aegis of the Cohn-Haddow Center for Judaic Studies at Wayne State University

Let Me Continue to Speak the Truth

Bertha Pappenheim as Author and Activist

Elizabeth Loentz

In 1953 Freud biographer Ernest Jones revealed that the famous hysterical Anna O. was really Bertha Pappenheim—the prolific author, Austro-German Jewish feminist, social activist, and pioneering social worker. This study directs attention away from the young woman who arguably invented the “talking cure” and back to Pappenheim and her post-Anna O. achievements, especially her writings, which reveal one of the most versatile, productive, influential, and controversial Jewish thinkers and leaders of her time.

Pappenheim’s oeuvre includes stories, plays, poems, prayers, travel literature, letters, essays, and aphorisms. She translated into German Mary Wollstonecraft’s Vindication of the Rights of Women as well as the Memoirs of Glückel von Hameln and other Old-Yiddish texts. She was discussed, as writer and newsmaker, in German Jewish newspapers of every religious and political affiliation and in German feminist publications. Pappenheim also founded and led the Jewish Women’s League of Germany and the International Jewish Women’s League. She was at the forefront of the campaign to combat human trafficking and forced prostitution (“white slavery” or Mädchendel), and was considered an expert on the plight of Jews in pogrom-ridden and economically depressed areas of Eastern Europe. In addition, Pappenheim was a pioneer in social work with “endangered” girls, unwed mothers, refugees, and immigrants.

The first five chapters of Let Me Continue to Speak the Truth explore how Pappenheim’s writings and her activism engaged with the key political, social, and cultural issues concerning German Jews in the four decades leading to the Holocaust: the status of the Yiddish language, Zionism, the “conversion epidemic,” responses to the plight of Eastern European Jews, and Jewish spirituality. Two additional chapters discuss Pappenheim’s biographers and the portrayal of Pappenheim and Anna O. in film, fiction, opera, and sculpture.

Published by Hebrew Union College Press and distributed by Wayne State University Press

(800) 978-7323
My Dear Daughter
Rabbi Benjamin Slonik and the Education of Jewish Women in Sixteenth-Century Poland
Edward Fram

To educate women in a more efficient manner according to the laws of niddah, Rabbi Benjamin Slonik (ca. 1550-after 1620) compiled a "how-to" book for women in the Yiddish vernacular. Slonik's book, Seder mitzvot ha-nashim (The Order of Women's Commandments), notably illustrates the history of Yiddish printing and public education, but is a remnant of a direct interaction between a member of the rabbinic elite and the laity, especially women. In My Dear Daughter, Edward Fram investigates these issues while locating Slonik's efforts in their bibliographic and historical context. The study is accompanied by a transcription of the 1585 edition of the Seder mitzvot ha-nashim and facing-page English language translation of the Yiddish text.

2007 / 6 x 9.25 / 360 pp
ISBN 978-0-87820-459-5, $39.95 cloth
Published by Hebrew Union College Press and distributed by Wayne State University Press

The Stains of Culture
An Ethno-Reading of Karaite Jewish Women
Ruth Tsoффar

“Combining textual analysis and ethnographic study, Tsoффar writes on women’s bodily practices vis-a-vis patriarchal authority. The Stains of Culture examines women’s rituals as forms of ‘reading,’ precisely in relation to the Karaite community, whose tradition against interpretation is at the very core of its identity.”

—Ella Shohat, Tisch School of the Arts, New York University

A minority within Judaism, the Karaites are known as a “reading community”—one that looks to the Bible as the authority in all areas of life, including intimate relations and hygiene. Here Ruth Tsоффar considers how Egyptian Karaites of the San Francisco Bay Area define themselves, within both California culture and Judaism, in terms of the Bible and its bearing on their bodies.

2006 / 6 x 9 / 264 pp / 10 illus
ISBN 978-0-8143-3223-8, $27.95 paper
Raphael Patai Series in Jewish Folklore and Anthropology

Jewish Women in Historical Perspective
Second Edition
Edited by Judith R. Baskin

“Few contemporary works have attempted to illuminate contemporary dilemmas and concerns by scholarly investigation of the lives and experiences of Jewish women in the past. This collection is intended to fill the vacuum.”

—Choice

While there have been numerous contemporary responses to traditional Jewish views of women’s perspectives from the past have been missing from the ongoing discussion. This collection of essays is intended to provide such a historical excursion. Each essay provides an overview of the period in question, and asks serious questions about the general situations of Jewish women and their activities in a male-dominated public and intellectual Jewish life, as well as in a larger non-Jewish cultural environment.

1998 / 6 x 9 / 416 pp
ISBN 978-0-8143-2713-5, $23.95 paper

Next Year I Will Know More
Literacy and Identity among Young Orthodox Women in Israel
Tamar El-Or
Translated from the Hebrew by Haim Watzman

“In this fascinating, provocative anthropological study, young orthodox Jewish women from Israel’s Religious-Zionist sector are interviewed and observed at the Midrasha—women’s study institute—of Bar Ilan University as they endeavor to achieve educational parity with men.”

—Choice

Distinguished anthropologist Tamar El-Or explores the spreading practice of intensive Judaic studies among women in the religious Zionist community. Feminist literacy, notes El-Or, will alter gender relations and the construction of gender identities of the members of the religious community.

2002 / 6 x 9 / 336 pp
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“The Whole Wide World, Without Limits”
International Relief, Gender Politics, and American Jewish Women, 1893–1930
Mary McCune

“Mary McCune offers an excellent case study of the gendered politics of organizational life within the Jewish community. Her finely tuned analysis illuminates the complex negotiations taken by women of different class and activist backgrounds as they shaped their own identities apart from male colleagues.”

—Journal of American History

Often perceived as being removed from the rough-and-tumble world of male politics, women involved in relief during World War I and the 1920s found themselves grappling daily with questions of ideology, nationalism, and political statehood. “The Whole Wide World, Without Limits” explores the international relief activities of three American Jewish organizations during this period: the National Council of Jewish Women, Hadassah (the Women’s Zionist Organization of America), and the Workmen’s Circle.

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American Jewish Civilization Series

Eve’s Journey
Feminine Images in Hebraic Literary Tradition
Nehama Aschkenasy

“A perceptive and searching analysis of feminism as it pertains to Judaic sources.”

—David Weiss-Halivni, Columbia University

“A landmark study of women in Judaic literary tradition. Aschkenasy’s treatment of biblical sources, as well as midrashic and modern, is magisterial.”

—David H. Hirsch, Brown University

“A subtle and skillful charting of the metamorphosis of the female figure has experienced in her literary odyssey from biblical writings to modern Hebraic literature.”

—Tikkun

1994 / 6 x 9 / 288 pp
Pointing to an early instance in Hebrew literary history, *And Rachel Stole the Idols* takes its title from a biblical episode in which a daughter seizes control of a paternal spiritual legacy and makes it her own. This episode is the thematic key to Wendy Zierler’s in-depth research into the ways modern Hebrew women writers—after centuries of silence—took control of the language of Hebrew literary culture, laying claim to icons of femininity and recasting them for their own purposes.

*And Rachel Stole the Idols: The Emergence of Modern Hebrew Women’s Writing*  
Wendy I. Zierler

“*And Rachel Stole the Idols* has commendable grounding in biblical and rabbinic sources; by bridging these classic sources, modern uses of them, and contemporary feminist theory, Zierler brings to English readers a sense of the profoundly polyphonic, intertextual richness of Hebrew poetry.” —Naomi Sokloff, University of Washington

*Women of the Word: Jewish Women and Jewish Writing*  
Edited by Judith R. Baskin

“Combining feminist theory, biography, history, psychology, and literary criticism, Baskin’s book brings to life the courage, fears, talents, and painful confusion experienced by Jewish women writers of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.” —Lilith

This collection of seventeen essays surveys the achievements of Jewish women writers from the Renaissance through the Modern Era. Written by scholars of Jewish literature, *Women of the Word* studies the works of women writers in Yiddish, Hebrew, English, and Spanish. Essays reveal literary discoveries of self and forings of identity by women as well as those women writers upon whom silence was reimposed. Additional contributors investigate how Jewish women are depicted by male writers from the Middle Ages through the mid-nineteenth century and a final chapter documents the ways in which memory, testimony, and survival affect the writing of women who have survived the Holocaust.

*Our Lives Are But Stories: Narratives of Tunisian-Israeli Women*  
Esther Schely-Newman

Personal accounts of the lives of four Tunisian-Israeli women are interwoven with Esther Schely-Newman’s theoretical analysis to reveal how and why we communicate. The author looks at how narration reflects storytelling as a cultural phenomenon and highlights the need to understand stories in the contexts in which they are told. The chapters are organized according to phases in the life-cycle of the women telling the stories, each celebrating the historical significance of the role oral tales have played in societies.

*The Merit of Our Mothers*  
Tracy Guren Kirs

The tkhines, prayers and devotions for Jewish women, originated in the world of premodern Ashkenazic Jewry and represent one of the richest and least-known forms of Jewish religious literature. The intention of this book is to make a significant sample of this rich literature available to men and women, especially but not exclusively Jews, who may find in it not only an important historical example of Jewish women’s spirituality, but also a vehicle for their own devotions.

*Women Rabbits: Exploration and Celebration*  
Edited by Gary P. Zola

Among the queries addressed is volume are: What has been the history of women’s journey to ordination? How has the existence of women rabbis changed Reform Judaism and the larger Jewish community? What impact has this transformation of the rabbinate had on liturgy and theology, Jewish identity, and Jewish communal leadership? And how will women rabbis affect the future of the rabbinate, congregational life, and Jewish communal life as we enter the twenty-first century?

*Woman at the Window: Biblical Tales of Oppression and Escape*  
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Zafíria Lidovský Cohen

Presents the first full-length critical analysis in English of the works of maverick Israeli poet Yona Wallach (1944–1985). As Cohen demonstrates, her poetry is rooted in the poetic revolution in Israel during the 1950s and in many ways epitomizes the literary climate of her time.

*Loosen the Fetters of Thy Tongue, Woman*  
The Poetry and Poetics of Yona Wallach  
Zafíria Lidovský Cohen

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The Heart Is a Mirror

Tamar Alexander-Frizer

"The Heart Is a Mirror, first written in Hebrew and now well translated into English, offers new approaches to the study of oral transmission and is a major contribution to the field."
—Moshe Lazar, professor of comparative literature at the University of Southern California

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—Elliott Oring, California State University, Los Angeles

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Yoram Bilu

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—Melford E. Spiro, UC San Diego

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—Majid Khadduri, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies

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—Don Handelman, The Hebrew University, author of Models and Mirrors: Towards an Anthropology of Public Events

2004 / 6 x 9 / 224 pp
ISBN 978-0-8143-2845-3, $47.95 cloth
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The Messiah Texts: Jewish Legends of Three Thousand Years

Raphael Patai


Raphael Patai Series in Jewish Folklore and Anthropology
Yiddishlands
A Memoir
David G. Roskies

“David G. Roskies’s passionate narrative of a brilliant family is more than a memoir of rupture and renewal—it is a history of a civilization, its languages, its lost cities, its living songs.”
—Cynthia Ozick, recipient of the National Book Critics Circle Award, and finalist for the Pulitzer Prize

A rich, sweeping memoir by David G. Roskies, *Yiddishlands* proceeds from the premise that Yiddish culture is spread out among many different people and geographic areas and transmitted through story, song, study, and the family. Roskies leads readers through Yiddishlands old and new by revisiting his personal and professional experiences and retelling his remarkable family saga in a series of lively, irreverent, and interwoven stories.

Roskies’s story centers around Vilna, Lithuania, where his mother, Masha, was born in 1906, and where her mother, Fradl Matz, ran the legendary Matz Press, a publishing house that distributed prayer books, Bibles, and popular Yiddish literature. After falling in love with Vilna’s cabaret culture, an older man, and finally a fellow student with elbow patches on his jacket, Masha and her young family are forced to flee Europe for Montreal, via Lisbon and New York. It is in Montreal that Roskies, Masha’s youngest child, comes of age, enthranced by the larger-than-life stories of his mother and the writers, artists, and performers of her social circle. Roskies recalls his own intellectual odyssey as a Yiddish scholar; his life in the original Havurah religious commune in Somerville, Massachusetts, in the 1970s; his struggle with the notion of aliyah while studying in Israel; his visit to Russia at the height of the Soviet Jewry movement; and his confrontation with his parents’ memories in a bittersweet pilgrimage to Poland.

Along the way, readers of *Yiddishlands* also meet such prominent figures as Isaac Bashevis Singer, Melekh Ravitch, Itsik Manger, Avrom Sutzkever, Esther Markish, and Rachel Korn. An audio CD of Masha Roskies singing a Yiddish pilgrimage to Poland.

*Yiddishlands*: A Memoir

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*Yiddishlands*: A Memoir

David G. Roskies
Byron and the Jews
Sheila A. Spector

“Sheila Spector’s Byron and the Jews is a marvel of scholarship, deftly interweaving the treatment of Jewish themes, approaches to reading, translation theory, and the historical importance of Byron’s work to the Jewish community—and vice versa. Ambitious and accomplished, Spector’s book performs foundational as well as groundbreaking work in illuminating the works of Byron’s Jewish translators. Translation is here revealed as both interpretation and deployment of Byron’s words and themes in the cause of Zionism and the aesthetic theories of several generations of Jewish writers. Bravo to Sheila Spector for restoring the historical record and elucidating the complexities and fascinations of the Jewish response to Byron.”
—Paul Douglass, professor of English at San Jose State University

Despite their religious and geographic differences, the British poet Lord Byron shared certain attitudes about politics, institutionalized religion, and individual identity that made him very popular with Jewish readers. In Byron and the Jews, author Sheila A. Spector investigates why, of all the British Romantic poets, Byron is the most frequently translated into Hebrew and Yiddish and how Jews used translations of Byron’s works to help construct a new Jewish identity.

Spector begins by examining Byron’s interaction with contemporary Jewish writers Isaac D’Israeli and Isaac Nathan and investigates how the writers translated each other. The following three chapters demonstrate how the Byron translations interrelated with intellectual leaders of the three cultural movements that dominated Jewish culture in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries: the Maskilim, the Yiddishists, and the Zionists. Spector’s conclusion explores the theoretical inference implicit in this study—that the act of translation inevitably produces an allegorical reading of a text that may be contrary to an author’s original intention.

A useful appendix contains transcriptions of many of the texts discussed in this volume, as few of these Hebrew and Yiddish translations are readily available elsewhere. Not only are portions of all of the translations represented, but different versions are included so that readers can see for themselves how Byron was adapted for different Jewish interpretive communities. Scholars of Byron, Jewish identity, and those interested in translation and reception studies will appreciate this insightful volume.


Members of the Tribe
Native America in the Jewish Imagination
Rachel Rubinstein

“This volume occupies a much needed space in the available literature about Jewish identifications with ‘America.’ As Rubinstein powerfully argues, Jews could be Indians or cowboys; Indians could be seen as Jew-haters or fellow objects of persecution; all positions might slip into one another and back again.”
—Jonathan Freedman, professor of English and American studies at the University of Michigan

In Members of the Tribe: Native America in the Jewish Imagination, author Rachel Rubinstein examines interventions by Jewish writers into an ongoing American fascination with the “imaginary Indian.” Rubinstein argues that Jewish writers represented and identified with the figure of the American Indian differently than their white counterparts, as they found in this figure a mirror for their own anxieties about tribal and national belonging. Through a series of literary readings, Rubinstein traces a shifting and unstable dynamic of imagined Indian-Jewish kinship that can easily give way to opposition and, especially in the contemporary moment, competition.

In the first chapter, “Playing Indian, Becoming American,” Rubinstein explores the Jewish representations of Indians over the nineteenth century, through narratives of encounter and acts of theatricalization. In chapter 2, “Going Native, Becoming Modern,” she examines literary modernism’s fascination with the “imaginary Indian.” Rubinstein argues that Jewish writers represented and identified with the figure of the American Indian differently than their white counterparts, as they found in this figure a mirror for their own anxieties about tribal and national belonging. Through a series of literary readings, Rubinstein traces a shifting and unstable dynamic of imagined Indian-Jewish kinship that can easily give way to opposition and, especially in the contemporary moment, competition.

In the third chapter, “Red Jews,” Rubinstein considers the work of Jewish writers from the left, including Tillie Olsen, Michael Gold, Nathanael West, John Sanford, and Howard Fast, and in chapter 4, “Henry Roth, Native Son,” Rubinstein focuses on Henry Roth’s complicated appeals to Indianness. The final chapter, “First Nations,” addresses contemporary contestations between Jews and Indians over cultural and territorial sovereignty, in literary and political discourse as well as in museum spaces. Students of Jewish studies and literature will enjoy the unique insights in Members of the Tribe.

Yannai on Genesis
An Invitation to Piyyut
Laura S. Lieber

Piyyutim are Hebrew or Aramaic poems composed for use in the Jewish liturgical context, either in place of or as adornments to the statutory prayers. Laura S. Lieber’s seminal study uses the piyyutim of a single poet, Yannai (ca. sixth century CE), to introduce readers to this important but largely unfamiliar body of writings. Yannai, the first Hebrew poet to sign his name to his works (by means of an acrostic), influenced Hebrew sacred poetry for centuries beyond his lifespan. Lieber demonstrates how Yannai’s poetic presentations in a liturgical context transformed common ideas into powerful experiences. With Yannai as creative guide and narrator, worshippers became active participants in still-unfolding biblical events.

Lieber points out that Yannai’s time and place situate him at a critical moment in Jewish cultural history: despite Roman oppression, important rabbinic sources were crystallizing; the synagogue was thriving; the liturgy was taking definitive shape. His works, with their dynamic mixture of messianism, defiance, and restraint, reflect this society in flux and show him to be a poet of transformative importance in a period when Judaism and Western culture itself were both coalescing and becoming something new. The book is divided into two parts. In part 1, Lieber examines Yannai’s poetic language and structures, considers broader questions of his exegetical, cultural, and societal importance, then explores intriguing motifs in Yannai’s worldview—mysticism, holiness, God, the Covenant of the Land, Jewish-Christian relations, and the roles and importance of women in his piyyutim. Part 2 presents the texts of the Yannai’s 31 extant piyyutim embellishing the Book of Genesis along with Lieber’s translation, annotations, and analyses. Lieber’s groundbreaking study is an invitation to scholars to approach these beautiful and neglected texts using all the tools of their own disciplines. It encourages those in diverse cognate areas—such as liturgical studies, rabbinic literature and targum studies, the early synagogue and its art, Byzantine Christian culture and society, and the history of biblical interpretation—to engage with the piyyutim and include them in larger intellectual conversations.

2010 / 6 x 9 / 500 pp / ISBN 978-87820-464-9, $75.00 cloth
Published by Hebrew Union College Press and distributed by Wayne State University Press

A Jew in the Public Arena
The Career of Israel Zangwill
Meri-Jane Rochelson

“Meri-Jane Rochelson’s stellar literary biography of this author dubbed the ‘Jewish Dickens’ provides a uniquely rich backdrop for unfolding Zangwill’s life as a modern man of letters. A Jew in the Public Arena brings together with intellectual acumen his impact on late-Victorian and early twentieth-century feminism, literature, Zionism, and print culture history.”

—Susan David Bernstein, Sally Mead Hands Bascom Professor of English, University of Wisconsin–Madison

After winning an international audience with his novel Children of the Ghetto, Israel Zangwill went on to write numerous short stories, four additional novels, and several plays, including The Melting Pot. Author Meri-Jane Rochelson, a noted expert on Zangwill’s work, examines his career from its beginnings in the 1890s to the performance of his last play, We Moderns, in 1924, to trace how Zangwill became the best-known Jewish writer in Britain and America and a leading spokesperson on Jewish affairs throughout the world.

Once he achieved fame as an author and playwright, Israel Zangwill became a prominent public activist for the leading social causes of the twentieth century, including women’s suffrage, peace, Zionism, and the Jewish territorialist movement and rescue efforts. Rochelson shows how Zangwill’s activism and much of his literary output were grounded in a universalist vision of Judaism and a commitment to educate the world about Jews as a way of combating anti-Semitism. Still, Zangwill’s position in favor of creating a homeland for the Jews wherever one could be found (in contrast to mainstream Zionism’s focus on Palestine) and his apparent advocacy of assimilation in his play The Melting Pot made him an increasingly controversial figure. By the middle of the twentieth century his reputation had fallen into decline, and his work is unknown to many modern readers.

A Jew in the Public Arena looks at Zangwill’s literary and political activities in the context of their time, to make clear why he held such a place of importance in turn-of-the-century literary and political culture and why his life and work are significant today. Jewish studies scholars as well as students and teachers of late Victorian to Modernist British literature and culture will appreciate this insightful look at Israel Zangwill.

Stories of Joseph
Narrative Migrations in Judaism and Islam
Marc S. Bernstein
“The Judeo-Arabic text [Bernstein] has studied is generally not well known and is quite remarkable. . . . Aside from its usefulness for scholars, the tale of Joseph as presented here is a fascinating story and one that many others will be interested in reading if only just for pleasure.”
—William M. Brinner, University of California, Berkeley
Marc S. Bernstein’s analyzes the nineteenth-century Judeo-Arabic manuscript The Story of Our Master Joseph, an intricately woven tale integrating a multitude of sources from a range of time periods and cultures. By investigating literary phenomena specific to the Joseph story, Bernstein sheds light on the interpretive process and the relationship between text and metatext, both within the bounded worlds of Judaism and Islam and in general.
2009 (2006) / 6 x 9 / 336 pp

From the Ghetto to the Melting Pot
Israel Zangwill’s Jewish Plays
Three Playscripts by Israel Zangwill
Edited, with introductions and commentary, by Edna Nahshon
“First, [From the Ghetto to the Melting Pot] makes available texts which are crucial for scholars in at least three fields: Jewish studies, late-Victorian and early modernist British studies, and American studies. And, second, it offers an exhaustive scholarly apparatus, giving vital information on the plays themselves, their social and cultural background, their performance history, their reception.”
—Jonathan Freedman, University of Michigan
After more than a century, theater historian Edna Nahshon brings the original manuscript of Children of the Ghetto, as well as that of another unpublished Zangwill play, The King of Schnorrers, and the original version of The Melting Pot together in print for the first time in From the Ghetto to the Melting Pot.
2006 / 6 x 9 / 576 pp / 16 illus
ISBN 978-0-8143-2955-9, $34.95s paper

The New Tradition
Essays on Modern Hebrew Literature
Gershon Shaked
As cohesive Jewish communal life began to disintegrate in the late nineteenth century, a modern Hebraic secular cultural tradition emerged. This volume presents a selection of seminal essays by acclaimed literary critic Gershon Shaked, all of which explore the evolution of that new tradition, tracing its major processes and identifying central stages in the development of its new canonical master-texts.
2006 / 6 x 9 / 350 pp
ISBN 978-0-87820-250-8, $40.00s cloth
Published by Hebrew Union College Press and distributed by Wayne State University Press

The Spectacular Difference
Selected Poems of Zelda
Translated, with an Introduction and Notes, by Marcia Falk
“Falk’s translation preserves Zelda’s melodies, idioms, and colors, allowing the beauty of the original to shine through the English lines. This is an exemplary translation of one of the most wonderful voices in modern Hebrew poetry.”
—Amos Oz, author of The Same Sea and A Tale of Love and Darkness
2004 / 6 x 9 / 288 pp / 1 illus
ISBN 978-0-87820-221-8, $26.95s cloth
ISBN 978-0-87820-222-5, $18.95s paper
Published by Hebrew Union College Press and distributed by Wayne State University Press

The Modern Hebrew Poem Itself
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