AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK

A Record of Events and Trends in American and World Jewish Life

1976
The AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK for 1976 presents a comprehensive account of Jewish life in the United States and abroad. It features several articles:

Professor Henry L. Feingold's "'The Condition of American Jewry in Historical Perspective: A Bicentennial Assessment'" discusses the historian's task of recording the development of the community and its ability to act effectively on issues of major Jewish concern. "Religion in Israel," a thoroughly documented study by Zvi Yaron, deals with the historical reasons for, and current manifestations of, the religious dispute in the State of Israel. The problem exists, he demonstrates, because modernity has made for a paradoxical situation in Jewish life — the rise of Jewish nationalism and the simultaneous erosion of religion.

The volume further contains tributes to two great American scholars: Leo Strauss, philosopher of modern political thought, by Professor Ralph Lerner, and Harry Austryn Wolfson, historian of ancient and medieval philosophy, by Professor Isadore Twersky.

(Continued on back flap)
American
Jewish
Year Book
HARRY SCHNEIDERMAN, 1885–1975
Editor, American Jewish Year Book, 1919–1949
At a time when the United States is celebrating its bicentennial, Professor Henry L. Feingold’s assessment of “The Condition of American Jewry in Historical Perspective” will be of special interest. It deals with the historian’s task of recording the evolution of the Jewish community in a free society and with the effect of this process on our ability or inability to sway American policy on issues of major Jewish concern. The special emphasis is on the United States’ failure to rescue the Jews from the Nazis.

In his significant study of “Religion in Israel,” Zvi Yaron discusses the history and the contemporary manifestations of the dispute over religion in Israel.

Other special articles in this volume are “Leo Strauss (1899–1973),” by Professor Ralph Lerner of the University of Chicago, and “Harry Austryn Wolfson (1887–1974),” by Professor Isadore Twersky of Harvard. These are tributes to two extraordinary and eminent American scholars who knew and respected each other.

Among other than regular reviews of the year are Fred Massarik’s “Basic Characteristics of the Greater New York Jewish Population,” as they emerged from the National Jewish Population Study; a second article by William Korey on “The Struggle Over the Jackson Amendment,” which carries to the final Soviet rejection the attempt by Congress to link the question of the right of Soviet citizens to emigrate with trade benefits to the USSR, and a brief history and description of the small Jewish community of Alaska.

The essay on the literature of Jewish public affairs by Professor Harold M. Waller of McGill University covers the three-year period ending December 1974.

We deeply mourn the death of Harry Schneiderman, for three decades
editor of the AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK, whose knowledge, craftsmanship, and kindness inspired those of us who were fortunate enough to have him as mentor and have continued his work.

We wish to thank our colleagues for their cooperation: Reva Craine, for technical assistance and preparation of the directories, necrology, and index; and Harry J. Alderman, director of the Blaustein Library, his staff, and Mrs. Lotte Zajac for their aid in providing reference material. Rabbi Naftoli Richter prepared the calendars. Don Rosenfield read proof.

THE EDITORS
Contributors

BERNARD BASKIN; rabbi, Temple Anshe Sholom, Hamilton, Ont., Canada.

KARL BAUM; journalist, editor; chairman, International Council of Jews from Czechoslovakia, London.

ALVIN CHENKIN; supervisor statistics unit, Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds.

JULIO DRESNER; foreign press correspondent, Aufbau, Davar, SPK-Bern, Rome.

MILTON ELLERIN; director, trends analysis division, American Jewish Committee.

HENRY L. FEINGOLD; professor of history, Baruch College and Graduate Center of City University of New York; adjunct professor, Institute for the Advanced Study of the Humanities, Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

FRIEDLINGER, PETER; journalist; Austrian correspondent, Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Vienna.

GEORGE E. GRUEN; director, Israel and Middle East affairs, foreign affairs department, American Jewish Committee; professor of political science, Touro College; adjunct associate professor of Judaic studies, Brooklyn College, CUNY.

ISRAEL HABER; rabbi; chaplain, U. S. Air Force; lecturer on Israel and Middle East affairs, Alaska Methodist University.

LIONEL KOCHAN; Bearsted Reader in Jewish history, University of Warwick, England.


WILLIAM KOREY; director, B'nai B'rith UN office; visiting professor of Russian history, Yeshiva University.

RALPH LERNER; professor of social science, The College, University of Chicago.

SAM LIPSKI; editor, Australia/Publications, Melbourne.

MISHA LOUVISH; writer, journalist, Jerusalem.

ARNOLD MANDEL; novelist, essayist; literary critic, reporter, L'Arche and Information Juive.

FRED MASSARIK; scientific director, U.S. National Jewish Population Study; professor, graduate school of management, University of California, Los Angeles.

NAOMI F. MEYER; assistant editor, Majshavot; instructor, high school department, Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano, Buenos Aires.

WALTER REHFELD; cultural assistant, Congregação Israelita Paulista; lecturer, on Jewish philosophy, Brazilian Center of Jewish Studies of São Paulo University.

GERALDINE ROSENFIELD; researcher, American Jewish Committee.

FRIEDO SACHSER; political and news editor, Allgemeine Judische Wochezeitung; German correspondent, London Jewish Chronicle, Düsseldorf.

GUSTAV SARON; honorary consultant, South African Jewish Board of Deputies, Johannesburg.

LEON SHARIRO; teaches Russian and Soviet Jewish history, department of Hebrew, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J.

S. AWRAHAM SOETENDORP; rabbi, Liberal Jewish Congregation, The Hague and Amsterdam.

ISADORE TWERSKY; Nathan Littauer professor of Hebrew literature and philosophy, Harvard University.

HAROLD M. WALLER; associate professor of political science, McGill University, Montreal, Canada.

YARON, ZVI; editor, Forum, Jerusalem; senior executive, Jewish Agency; teacher, School for Overseas Students, Hebrew University.