The 1989 AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK, the 89th in the series, continues to offer a unique chronicle of developments in areas of concern to Jews around the world.

Jews in the United States are the focus of two feature articles: "The Impact of Feminism on American Jewish Life," by Sylvia Barack Fishman; and "Recent Trends in American Judaism," by Jack Wertheimer.

Regular articles covering Jewish life in the United States are "Inter-group Relations," by Earl Raab; "The United States, Israel, and the Middle East," by Kenneth Jacobson; and "Jewish Communal Affairs," by Lawrence Grossman. Updated estimates for the U.S. Jewish population are provided by Barry A. Kosmin, Paul Ritterband, and Jeffrey Scheckner.

Jewish life around the world is reported on in a series of articles about Israel, Canada, Brazil, Argentina, Great Britain, France, the Netherlands, Italy, West Germany, East Germany, the Soviet Union, and Soviet bloc countries. Estimates for the world Jewish population are provided by U.O. Schmelz and Sergio DellaPergola.

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Preface

Two special articles in this volume are devoted to the American Jewish community, specifically, to the enormous changes that have taken place in the social and religious spheres just in the last two decades. In “The Impact of Feminism on American Jewish Life,” Sylvia Barack Fishman uses sociodemographic data from a variety of sources to document the radical transformation of Jewish women’s lives as a result of the feminist movement. She also traces the entry of women into public religious roles, reviews the ideological debate surrounding Jewish feminism, and discusses the implications of this social revolution for the Jewish family and the Jewish community.

Jack Wertheimer’s “Recent Trends in American Judaism” takes a close look at developments in the Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, and Reconstructionist movements since the late 1960s, including demographic data, changes in liturgy, and responses to intermarriage and other social forces. The author also discusses the rise of the havurah movement and other new forms of religious expression.

Regular articles on Jewish life in the United States are Earl Raab’s “Intergroup Relations,” Lawrence Grossman’s “Jewish Communal Affairs,” and “The United States, Israel, and the Middle East,” by Kenneth Jacobson. The article on Jewish population in the United States is by Barry A. Kosmin, Paul Ritterband, and Jeffrey Scheckner, of the North American Jewish Data Bank.

Events in Israel are covered extensively by Ralph Mandel. This year’s reports on Jewish life around the world include updates on Brazil and Argentina, by David Schers and Shlomo Slutzky. Estimates for world Jewish population are provided by researchers at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Carefully compiled directories of national Jewish organizations, periodicals, and federations and welfare funds, as well as religious calendars and obituary notices, round out the 1989 AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK.

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