The **1997 AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK**, the 97th in the series, continues to offer a unique chronicle of developments in areas of concern to Jews around the world.


*(Continued on back flap)*
The American Jewish Committee acknowledges with appreciation the foresight and wisdom of the founders of the Jewish Publication Society (of America) in the creation of the AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK in 1899, a work committed to providing a continuous record of developments in the U.S. and world Jewish communities. For over a century JPS has occupied a special place in American Jewish life, publishing and disseminating important, enduring works of scholarship and general interest on Jewish subjects.

The American Jewish Committee assumed responsibility for the compilation and editing of the YEAR BOOK in 1908. The Society served as its publisher until 1949; from 1950 through 1993, the Committee and the Society were co-publishers. In 1994 the Committee became the sole publisher of the YEAR BOOK.
This year’s volume features three special articles, all dealing with subjects high on the Jewish communal agenda. In a groundbreaking study, “Current Trends in American Jewish Philanthropy,” Jack Wertheimer analyzes the changes that have occurred, the new paths being pursued by the Jewish fund-raising establishment, and the implications of these developments for Jewish communal viability. One aspect of the relationship between American Jews and Israel is explored by Alan Mintz in “Israeli Literature and the American Reader.” And the religious life of American Jews is the focus of “A Study of Jewish Denominational Preferences: Summary Findings,” an analysis of data from the 1990 National Jewish Population Survey, by Bernard Lazerwitz, J. Alan Winter, Arnold Dashefsky, and Ephraim Tabory.


David Horovitz and Peter Hirschberg provide extensive coverage of events in Israel, and Rochelle Furstenberg reports on Israeli cultural life.

Reports on Jewish communities around the world include Canada, Mexico, Great Britain, France, the Netherlands, Italy, Germany, Austria, East-Central Europe, the former Soviet Union, Australia, and South Africa. David Fishman adds to our picture of current affairs in the former Soviet Union with “The Rebirth of Jewish Scholarship in Russia.”

Updated estimates of Jewish population are provided—for the United States, by Jeffrey Scheckner of the Council of Jewish Federations and North American Jewish Data Bank; and for the world, by Sergio DellaPergola of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Carefully compiled directories of national Jewish organizations, periodicals, and federations and welfare funds, as well as religious calendars and obituaries, round out the 1997 AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK.

We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of our colleagues Cyma M. Horowitz and Michele Anish of the American Jewish Committee’s Blaustein Library.

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