AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK

1999

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE
The 1999 AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK, the 99th in the series, continues to offer a unique chronicle of developments in areas of concern to Jews around the world.

This year's volume features a wide-ranging analysis by Jack Wertheimer of a subject of vital importance to the future of the American Jewish community—the state of Jewish education. In "Jewish Education in the United States: Recent Trends and Issues," the author examines developments in both formal and informal education and discusses new directions in the funding of schools and programs.

The volume also includes a sociodemographic study of Soviet Jewish immigrants to Israel during the 1990s, focusing on the absorption process.


(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 featured article, "Jewish Education in the United States: Recent Trends and Issues," by Jack Wertheimer, is a major contribution to the discussion of Jewish "continuity" that has become a matter of urgency in the organized Jewish communal world. The volume also includes a study of Soviet Jews who immigrated to Israel in the 1990s, by Elazar Leshem and Moshe Sicron. Through extensive data and analysis, the authors examine the successes and the shortcomings in the absorption of this large and important aliyah.


Peter Hirschberg provides detailed coverage of events in Israel. Rochelle Furstenberg reports on cultural life in that country. Reports on Jewish communities around the world include Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Great Britain, France, the Netherlands, Italy, Germany, Austria, East-Central Europe, the former Soviet Union, Australia, and South Africa.

Updated estimates of Jewish population are provided—for the United States, by Jim Schwartz and Jeffrey Scheckner of the United Jewish Communities 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 1999 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.

With the publication of this volume, Ruth R. Seldin, who has been editing the Year Book since 1985, leaves to take on new challenges.

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