

JPS ANTHOLOGIES  
OF JEWISH THOUGHT

# Modern Responsa

*An Anthology of  
Jewish Ethical and  
Ritual Decisions*

PAMELA BARMASH



# Responsa Of Modern Judaism

**Dana Evan Kaplan**



## **Responsa Of Modern Judaism:**

**Responsa of Modern Judaism** Sholom Klass, 1992-06-01      **Responsa of Modern Judaism; a Compilation of Quest** Sholom Klass, 1965      **Conversion to Judaism in Jewish Law** Walter Jacob, Moshe Zemer, 1994 This essays explore conversion to Judaism and the issues connected with it in the late twentieth century      **Reading Reform Responsa** Mark Washofsky, 2024-03-04 The responsa literature in which rabbis answer questions about halachah Jewish law is a vast treasury reaching back nearly fifteen centuries Reform rabbis have been writing responsa since the 1800s In Reading Reform Responsa Rabbi Mark Washofsky PhD presents a deep dive into this literature boldly arguing that Reform Judaism is indeed a movement fundamentally based on halachah By inviting and guiding readers to understand Reform responsa with a critical eye he shows that our movement has always been informed by Jewish law as well as Reform history A teacher and mentor of generations of students at Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion Rabbi Washofsky gives us a peek inside his classroom making Reform responsa and their history framing and context engaging and accessible for all Dr Washofsky masterfully demonstrates the centrality of responsa for the continued vitality of Reform as an authentic stream of contemporary Judaism Addressing himself to the everyday Jew in the pew he explains what halachah is what responsa are and what makes Reform responsa distinctive More importantly he draws on his expertise as a scholar both of our tradition and of legal and literary theory to teach the non specialist reader to become a critical reader of responsa From the foreword by Rabbi Joan S Friedman PhD Chair CCAR Responsa Committee Rabbi Washofsky gifts us with a series of informed and sensitive discussions of how Reform Jews should think about and act on specific moral and ritual issues In doing so he graphically demonstrates that Reform Judaism s emphasis on personal autonomy is complemented by its insistence that Jewish tradition must play a role in individuals choices if these decisions are to be not just one s own opinion but also a recognizably Jewish one Rabbi Elliot Dorff PhD Past Chair Committee on Jewish Law and Standards Rabbinical Assembly Rabbi Mark Washofsky offers us a fascinating entry into and analysis of the Reform Movement s engagement with Jewish law practice and values Where responsa analyze the issues and concerns implicit in a question of immediate practicality posed to a Jewish legal authority Washofsky analyzes the body of over 1 300 Reform responsa promulgated since the early nineteenth century pointing out the intellectual and ethical approaches employed as well as the traditional philosophical and scientific resources marshalled to arrive at a persuasive answer A wonderful read in its own right this book provides an insider s look at modern liberal Jewish religious thought in action Rabbi Amy Scheinerman author of The Talmud of Relationships Drawing on his deep mastery of classical halachic literature Reform religious culture and modern secular legal theory Mark Washofsky offers insightful and compelling analyses of some of the Reform Movement s most important responsa Washofsky s special ability to combine rigorous scholarship with his characteristic dry humor engaging storytelling and accessible writing style makes Reading Reform Responsa an essential study companion for anyone clergy academics and laypeople alike

who is interested in learning or teaching Reform Judaism's rich tradition of halachic discourse. By inviting the reader to be not just an observer but also a participant in the reasoning and argumentation of responsa, Washofsky teaches us what it means to think halachically in a uniquely Reform way. Rabbi A. Brian Stoller, Senior Rabbi, Temple Beth El of Great Neck, NY. Those curious about the tradition of responsa in the Reform tradition or merely about the intersection of Jewish law and modern life will find much here of interest. A substantial but accessible guide to reading and applying Reform responsa.

Kirkus Reviews      **Reform Responsa For the Twenty-First Century** Mark Washofsky, 2019-09-04. Reform Responsa for the Twenty-First Century. Sh'eilot Ut Shuvot is the latest in an ongoing series of Reform Responsa. Drawing from the breadth of traditional and modern Jewish texts, law and ideology, this two-volume set addresses over seventy contemporary topics including conversion of adopted children, fertility treatments, patrilineal descent, issues of synagogue management, social justice, activism, interfaith marriage, and rituals of death and mourning. Published by CCAR Press, a division of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

Contemporary American Reform Responsa Walter Jacob, 1987. More than 200 responsa offering practical guidance in all areas of life.      *Modern Judaism* Nicholas Robert Michael De Lange, Miri Freud-Kandel, 2005. This collection of newly commissioned essays covers the major areas of thought in contemporary Jewish studies, including considerations of religious differences, sociological, philosophical, and gender issues, geographical diversity, and interfaith relations.

Further Perspectives on Jewish Law and Contemporary Issues Wayne Allen, 2011. As a dynamic tradition, Judaism has always relied on experts to interpret sacred texts for modern times. Responding to the questions posed to him from congregants, other rabbis, and Jews around the world, Rabbi Allen blends his special sensitivity with profound scholarship in addressing a wide range of religious issues. This book is a window into how an ancient tradition can still keep its relevance today.

**Modern Responsa** Pamela Barmash, 2024      **Marriage and Its Obstacles in Jewish Law** Walter Jacob, Moshe Zemer, 1999. THE FREEHOF INSTITUTE OF PROGRESSIVE HALAKHAH. The Freehof Institute of Progressive Halakhah is a creative research center devoted to studying and defining the progressive character of the halakhah in accordance with the principles and theology of Reform Judaism. It seeks to establish the ideological basis of Progressive halakhah and its application to daily life. The Institute fosters serious studies and helps scholars in various portions of the world to work together for a common cause. It provides an ongoing forum through symposia and publications, including the quarterly newsletter HalakhaH, published under the editorship of Walter Jacob in the United States. The foremost halachic scholars in the Reform, Liberal, and Progressive rabbinates, along with some Conservative and Orthodox colleagues as well as university professors, serve on our Academic Council.

American Reform Responsa Central Conference of American Rabbis, 1983. This volume is a revised compilation of responsa issued by CCAR from 1892 to 1982, grouped by subject for clarity and easy access. An appendix includes the report of the Committee on Patrilineal Descent on the Status of Children of Mixed Marriages.

**Reform Responsa for Our Time** Solomon Bennett Freehof, 1977      **Jewish Religious Law** John D.

Rayner,1998 Reconstructs Jewish law or Halachah to make it more consistent with the principles of Progressive Judaism Beginning with a brief history of the Progressive movement in 20th century Judaism the author continues with illustrations of how traditional law must be adapted to the views of modern liberal Jews The Halachic problems addressed range from Jewish territorial rights in Israel divorce law and questions of medical ethics such as organ transplantation to the recycling of old prayerbooks Paper edition unseen 15 50 Annotation copyrighted by Book News Inc Portland OR

**The New Reform Judaism** Dana Evan Kaplan,2020-04-01 This is the book that American Jews and particularly American Reform Jews have been waiting for a clear and informed call for further reform in the Reform movement In light of profound demographic social and technological developments it has become increasingly clear that the Reform movement will need to make major changes to meet the needs of a quickly evolving American Jewish population Younger Americans in particular differ from previous generations in how they relate to organized religion often preferring to network through virtual groups or gather in informal settings of their own choosing Dana Evan Kaplan an American Reform Jew and pulpit rabbi argues that rather than focusing on the importance of loyalty to community Reform Judaism must determine how to engage the individual in a search for existential meaning It should move us toward a critical scholarly understanding of the Hebrew Bible that we may emerge with the perspectives required by a postmodern world Such a Reform Judaism can at once help us understand how the ancient world molded our most cherished religious traditions and guide us in addressing the increasingly complex social problems of our day

**Jewish Law Annual (Vol 7)** Bernard S Jackson,2021-12-24 First Published in 1988 The Annual is published under the auspices of The Institute of Jewish Law Boston University School of Law in conjunction with the Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies and the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists This volume concludes the symposium on the philosophy of Jewish law which started in Volume 6 It concludes with a response by the late Julius Stone to most of the preceding articles This edition looks at natural law and Judaism Halakhah and the Covenant Jewish attitudes towards the taking of human life mortality and a study of Solomon Freehof

*Gender Issues in Jewish Law* Walter Jacob,Moshe Zemer,2001 Published in Association with the Solomon B Freehof Institute of Progressive Halakhah General Editor Walter Jacob

**Responsa on Contemporary Jewish Women's Issues** J. H. Henkin,2003 No one interested in Jewish women s issues or contemporary Halakhah can afford to forgo this book For the first time twenty four modern responsa have been translated from the Hebrew including four never before published From mehitzah in the synagogue to the blessing recited by men shelo asani ishah who has not made me a woman from women s prayer groups to hair covering and from Talmud study to limiting family size Responsa on Contemporary Jewish Women s Issues written by Rabbi Yehuda Henkin treats current and controversial topics with authority and erudition forcefulness and grace

**Rethinking Modern Judaism** Arnold M. Eisen,1998 Arnold Eisen here calls for a fundamental rethinking of the story of modern Judaism More than simply a study of Jewish thought on customs and rituals Rethinking Modern Judaism explores the

central role that practice plays in Judaism's encounter with modernity Fascinating and insightful entrance point to understanding the evolution of the theologies of America's largest Jewish denominations Tikkun I know of no other treatment of these issues that matches Eisen's talents for synthesizing a wide variety of historical philosophical and social scientific sources and bringing them to bear in a balanced and open minded way on the delicate questions of why modern Jews relate as they do to the practices of Judaism Joseph Reimer Boston Book Review At once an incisive survey of modern Jewish thought and an inquiry into how Jews actually live their religious lives Mr Eisen's book is an invaluable addition to the study of American Judaism Elliott Abrams Washington Times *Ask the Rabbi* David Samson, 2005-11-30 **Issues in**

**Contemporary Judaism** Daniel Cohn-Sherbok, 1991-05-24

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