

# Reform Judaism in America

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A BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY  
AND  
SOURCEBOOK

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*Edited by*  
Kerry M. Olitzky,  
Lance J. Sussman,  
and Malcolm H. Stern

# Reform Judaism In America A Biographical Dictionary And Sourcebook

**Sarah Imhoff**



## **Reform Judaism In America A Biographical Dictionary And Sourcebook:**

*Reform Judaism in America* Kerry Olitzky, Lance J. Sussman, Malcolm H. Stern, 1993-03-17 This valuable reference extensively documents the lives and careers of the most influential leaders of Reform Judaism in America The editors have assembled concise but informative biographical profiles of approximately 170 people The work spans the period from the beginning of the Reform movement in 1824 through the 1976 Centenary Perspective The individuals profiled were selected because of their impact on Reform Judaism at a national level Included are the principal architects of reform national organizational leaders distinguished rabbis and academicians outstanding cantors volunteer lay activists and women The work begins with an essay on the history of Reform Judaism in America A biographical dictionary follows Each entry in the dictionary assesses the career and contributions of a particular leader and closes with a short bibliography of works by and about that individual The dictionary is followed by a set of essays that overview the history of associations related to Reform Judaism A section of appendices lists the principal figures affiliated with these organizations An extensive bibliography of primary and secondary sources concludes the work making it an indispensable reference tool

**Reform Judaism in America** Kerry Olitzky, Lance J. Sussman, Malcolm H. Stern, 1993-03-17 This valuable reference extensively documents the lives and careers of the most influential leaders of Reform Judaism in America The editors have assembled concise but informative biographical profiles of approximately 170 people The work spans the period from the beginning of the Reform movement in 1824 through the 1976 Centenary Perspective The individuals profiled were selected because of their impact on Reform Judaism at a national level Included are the principal architects of reform national organizational leaders distinguished rabbis and academicians outstanding cantors volunteer lay activists and women The work begins with an essay on the history of Reform Judaism in America A biographical dictionary follows Each entry in the dictionary assesses the career and contributions of a particular leader and closes with a short bibliography of works by and about that individual The dictionary is followed by a set of essays that overview the history of associations related to Reform Judaism A section of appendices lists the principal figures affiliated with these organizations An extensive bibliography of primary and secondary sources concludes the work making it an indispensable reference tool

**The American Synagogue** Kerry Olitzky, Marc Raphael, 1996-06-18 The institution of the American synagogue has played a significant role in the history of American Judaism which remains an incomplete history if it is limited to the lives of individuals and events This work helps complete the history as it is the first reference book to document the historical development of many individual synagogues in the United States and Canada It includes over 350 entries of synagogues from among the four main movements each of which have made an impact on the Jewish community either locally or beyond It is an essential tool for researchers scholars and students as well as anyone interested in the historical aspects of American Judaism An essay on the historical development of the American Synagogue by Frances Weinman Schwartz introduces the volume Entries are arranged alphabetically by city

within each state Synagogue descriptions include the date of the congregation's founding the reason for its founding and its congregational mission the history of buildings and neighborhood its local or national historical impact its significance in the movement to which it belongs major episodes in the congregation's history as well as details about the service of its rabbis A brief bibliography follows each entry and a general bibliography and index complete the volume     Judaism in America Marc Lee Raphael, 2005-12-20 Jews have been a religious and cultural presence in America since the colonial era and the community of Jews in the United States today some six million people continues to make a significant contribution to the American religious landscape Emphasizing developments in American Judaism in the last quarter century among active participants in Jewish worship this book provides both a look back into the 350 year history of Judaic life and a well crafted portrait of a multifaceted tradition today Combining extensive research into synagogue archival records and secondary sources as well as interviews and observations of worship services at more than a hundred Jewish congregations across the country Raphael's study distinguishes itself as both a history of the Judaic tradition and a witness to the vitality and variety of contemporary American Judaic life Beginning with a chapter on beliefs festivals and life cycle events both traditional and non traditional and an explanation of the enormous variation in practice Raphael then explores Jewish history in America from the arrival of the first Jews to the present highlighting the emergence and development of the four branches Orthodox Conservative Reconstructionist and Reform After documenting the considerable variety among the branches the book addresses issues of some controversy notably spirituality conversion homosexuality Jewish education synagogue architecture and the relationship to Israel Raphael turns next to a discussion of eight American Jews whose thoughts and or activities made a huge impact on American Judaism The final chapter focuses on the return to tradition in every branch of Judaism and examines prospects for the future     Historical Dictionary of Sacred Music Joseph P. Swain, 2016-10-11 Sacred music is a universal phenomenon of humanity Where there is faith there is music to express it Every major religious tradition and most minor ones have music and have it in abundance and variety There is music to accompany ritual and music purely for devotion music for large congregations and music for trained soloists music that sets holy words and music without words at all In some traditions Islamic and many Native American to name just two the relation between music and religious ritual is so intimate that it is inaccurate to speak of the music accompanying the ritual Rather to perform the ritual is to sing and to sing the ritual is to perform it This second edition of Historical Dictionary of Sacred Music contains a chronology an introduction appendixes and an extensive bibliography The dictionary section has over 800 cross referenced entries on major types of music composers key religious figures specialized positions genres of composition technical terms instruments fundamental documents and sources significant places and important musical compositions This book is an excellent access point for students researchers and anyone wanting to know more about sacred music     **American Reform Judaism** Dana Evan Kaplan, 2003-04-29 The only comprehensive and up to date look at Reform Judaism this book analyzes the forces

currently challenging the Reform movement now the largest Jewish denomination in the United States To distinguish itself from Orthodox and Conservative Judaism the Reform movement tries to be an egalitarian open and innovative version of the faith true to the spirit of the tradition but nonetheless fully compatible with modern secular life Promoting itself in this way Reform Judaism has been tremendously successful in recruiting a variety of people intermarried families feminists gays and lesbians and interracial families among others who resist more traditional forms of worship As an unintended result of this success the movement now struggles with an identity crisis brought on by its liberal theology which teaches that each Jew is free to practice Judaism more or less as he or she pleases In the absence of the authority that comes from a theology based on a commanding all powerful God can Reform Judaism continue to thrive Can it be broadly inclusive and still be uniquely and authentically Jewish Taking this question as his point of departure Dana Evan Kaplan provides a broad overview of the American Reform movement and its history theology and politics He then takes a hard look at the challenges the movement faces as it attempts to reinvent itself in the new millennium In so doing Kaplan gives the reader a sense of where Reform Judaism has come from where it stands on the major issues and where it may be going Addressing the issues that have confronted the movement including the ordination of women acceptance of homosexuality the problem of assimilation the question of rabbinic officiation at intermarriages the struggle for acceptance in Israel and Jewish education and others Kaplan sheds light on the connection between Reform ideology and cultural realities He unflinchingly yet optimistically assesses the movement's future and cautions that stormy weather may be ahead

**Orthodox Judaism in America** Marc Raphael, Moshe Sherman, 1996-05-14 The last in a series of three volumes edited by Marc Lee Raphael surveying some of the major rabbinic and lay personalities who have shaped Judaism in America for the past two centuries this work focuses on Orthodox Judaism Along with a basic description of the achievements of some of the most notable leaders a bibliography of their writings and sources for further study is included as well as an essay on Orthodox rabbinic organizations and a survey of American Orthodox periodicals Of interest to scholars students and lay persons alike this volume will inform readers about the earliest communities of Jews who settled in America as they developed the institutions of Orthodox Jewish life and set a public standard of compliance with Jewish law These early American Jews followed a Spanish Dutch version of Sephardic customs and rites Their synagogues used traditional prayer books promoted the celebration of Jewish holidays established mikvahs acquired Passover provisions and arranged for cemetery land and burial services While many of these Sephardic immigrants did not maintain halakha in their daily regimen as did their European counterparts they set a public standard of compliance with Jewish law thus honoring Jewish tradition Further immigration of thousands of Jews from Western and Central Europe in the middle of the 19th century brought a world of traditional piety and extensive Jewish learning to America exemplified by Rabbi Abraham Rice who served in Baltimore and Yissachar Dov Bernard Illowy who served communities from Philadelphia to New Orleans Such men marked the beginning of a learned and scholarly rabbinate in

America This volume provides valuable biographical insights regarding some of the most notable religious leaders in American Orthodoxy      **Encyclopedia of American Jewish History** Stephen H. Norwood, Eunice G. Pollack, 2007-08-28  
Written by the most prominent scholars in American Jewish history this encyclopedia illuminates the varied experiences of America's Jews and their impact on American society and culture over three and a half centuries American Jews have profoundly shaped and been shaped by American culture Yet American history texts have largely ignored the Jewish experience The Encyclopedia of American Jewish History corrects that omission In essays and short entries written by 125 of the world's leading scholars of American Jewish history and culture this encyclopedia explores both religious and secular aspects of American Jewish life It examines the European background and immigration of American Jews and their impact on the professions and academic disciplines mass culture and the arts literature and theater and labor and radical movements It explores Zionism antisemitism responses to the Holocaust the branches of Judaism and Jews relations with other groups including Christians Muslims and African Americans The encyclopedia covers the Jewish press and education Jewish organizations and Jews participation in America's wars In two comprehensive volumes Encyclopedia of American Jewish History makes 350 years of American Jewish experience accessible to scholars all levels of students and the reading public

**A Bibliography of Jewish Education in the United States** Norman Drachler, 1996 This book contains entries from thousands of publications whether in English Hebrew Yiddish and German books research reports educational and general periodicals synagogue histories conference proceedings bibliographies and encyclopedias on all aspects of Jewish education from pre school through secondary education      **The Rabbi's Wife** Shuly Rubin Schwartz, 2007-09-01 2006 National Jewish Book Award Modern Jewish Thought Long the object of curiosity admiration and gossip rabbis wives have rarely been viewed seriously as American Jewish religious and communal leaders We know a great deal about the important role played by rabbis in building American Jewish life in this country but not much about the role that their wives played The Rabbi's Wife redresses that imbalance by highlighting the unique contributions of rebbetzins to the development of American Jewry Tracing the careers of rebbetzins from the beginning of the twentieth century until the present Shuly Rubin Schwartz chronicles the evolution of the role from a few individual rabbis wives who emerged as leaders to a cohort who worked together on behalf of American Judaism The Rabbi's Wife reveals the ways these women succeeded in both building crucial leadership roles for themselves and becoming an important force in shaping Jewish life in America      *The A to Z of Sacred Music* Joseph P. Swain, 2010-04-09 Nearly all religious traditions have reserved a special place for sacred music Whether it is music accompanying a ritual or purely for devotional purposes music composed for entire congregations or for the trained soloist or music set to holy words or purely instrumental in some form or another music is present In fact in some traditions the relation between the music and the ritual is so intimate that to distinguish between them would be inaccurate The A to Z of Sacred Music covers the most important aspects of the sacred music of Buddhism Christianity Confucianism Hinduism

Islam Judaism and other smaller religious groups It provides useful information on all the significant traditions of this music through the use of a chronology an introductory essay a bibliography appendixes and hundreds of cross referenced dictionary entries on major types of music composers key religious figures specialized positions genres of composition technical terms instruments fundamental documents and sources significant places and important musical compositions *The Blackwell Companion to Judaism* Jacob Neusner, Alan Avery-Peck, 2008-04-15 This Companion explores the history doctrines divisions and contemporary condition of Judaism Surveys those issues most relevant to Judaic life today ethics feminism politics and constructive theology Explores the definition of Judaism and its formative history Makes sense of the diverse data of an ancient and enduring faith [Conservative Judaism in America](#) Pamela S. Nadell, Marc Raphael, 1988-09-16 Pamela Nadell's biographical dictionary and sourcebook is a landmark contribution to American Jewish and religious history For the first time a great American Jewish religious movement is portrayed with amplitude authority and personality In the most revolutionary era in two millennia of Jewish history this surely is an important volume Moses Rischin Professor of History San Francisco State University *Conservative Judaism in America A Biographical Dictionary and Sourcebook* is the first extensive effort to document the lives and careers of the most important leaders in Conservatism's first century and to provide a brief history of the movement and its central institutions It includes essays on the history of the movement and on the evolution of its major institutions The Jewish Theological Seminary of America The Rabbinical Assembly and The United Synagogue of America It also contains 135 biographical entries on the leading figures of Conservative Judaism appendixes and a complete bibliography on sources of study *PORTRAIT OF A REFORM RABBI: CONTINUITY AND CHANGE* Rabbi Lance J. Sussman Ph.D., 2024-09-11 I am a Jew because I believe that Judaism understands that between mercy and justice there is a path of righteousness I am a Jew because I believe the saving of a life is an urgent mitzvah I am a Jew because I believe Judaism believes that education is an urgent mitzvah I am a Jew because Judaism rejects the belief that it is superior to other traditions and makes its claim on me only because it is already mine I am a Jew because in Judaism all of God's children are equally God's children and every life is sacred I am a Jew because Judaism believes that existence is not an accident and has meaning I am a Jew because Judaism recognizes holiness in everything beautiful kind and just in this world I am a Jew because Judaism is my spiritual home and from my home I can share in the beauty and delights of all creation I am a Jew because Judaism believes in personal responsibility forgiveness and hope I am a Jew because Judaism values my humanity above my ethnicity and enables me to become a better person by becoming a better Jew I am a Jew because Judaism recognizes that the world is not complete and that all of us have deep responsibilities in completing it and thereby complete ourselves as human beings and as Jews Rabbi Lance J Sussman Ph D **The Sacred Table** Mary L. Zamore, 2011-02-28 *The Sacred Table* Creating a Jewish Food Ethic is an anthology of diverse essays on Jewish dietary practices This volume presents the challenge of navigating through choices about eating while seeking to create a rich dialogue about the intersection of

Judaism and food The definition of Kashrut the historic Jewish approach to eating is explored broadened and in some cases argued with in these essays Kashrut is viewed not only as a ritual practice but also as a multifaceted Jewish relationship with food and its production integrating values such as ethics community and spirituality into our dietary practice The questions considered in *The Sacred Table* are broad reaching Does Kashrut represent a facade of religiosity hiding immorality and abuse or is it in its purest form a summons to raise the ethical standards of food production How does Kashrut enrich spiritual practice by teaching intentionality and gratitude Can paying attention to our own eating practices raise our awareness of the hungry Can Kashrut inspire us to eat healthfully Can these laws draw us around the same table thus creating community In exploring the complexities of these questions this book includes topics such as agricultural workers rights animal rights food production the environment personal health the spirituality of eating and fasting and the challenges of eating together *The Sacred Table* celebrates the ideology of educated choice The essays present a diverse range of voices opinions and options highlighting the Jewish values that shape our food ethics Whether for the individual family or community this book supplies the basic how tos of creating a meaningful Jewish food ethic and incorporating these choices into our personal and communal religious practices These resources will be helpful if we are new to these ideas or if we are teaching or counseling others Picture a beautiful buffet of choices from which you can shape your personal Kashrut Read educate yourself build on those practices that you already follow and eat well Published by CCAR Press a division of the Central Conference of American Rabbis      **The Cambridge Companion to American Judaism** Dana Evan

Kaplan,2005-08-08 This volume provides readers with a comprehensive introduction to the most important and interesting historical and contemporary facets of Judaism in America Written by twenty four leading scholars from the fields of religious studies American history and literature philosophy art history sociology and musicology the book adopts an inclusive perspective on Jewish religious experience Three initial chapters cover the development of Judaism in America from 1654 when Sephardic Jews first landed in New Amsterdam until today Subsequent chapters include cutting edge scholarship and original ideas while remaining accessible at an introductory level A secondary goal of this volume is to help its readers better understand the more abstract term of religion in a Jewish context *The Cambridge Companion to American Judaism* will be of interest not only to scholars but also to all readers interested in social and intellectual trends in the modern world      A

*Place of Our Own* Michael M. Lorge,Gary Phillip Zola,2006-10-15 This is a collection of seven essays which commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the first Reform Jewish educational camp in the US The text covers topics related to both the Reform Judaism movement and the development of the Reform Jewish camping system in the US      **Insecure**

**Prosperity** Ewa Morawska,2021-04-13 This captivating story of the Jewish community in Johnstown Pennsylvania reveals a pattern of adaptation to American life surprisingly different from that followed by Jewish immigrants to metropolitan areas Although four fifths of Jewish immigrants did settle in major cities another fifth created small town communities like the one



described here by Ewa Morawska Rather than climbing up the mainstream education and occupational success ladder the Jewish Johnstownians created in the local economy a tightly knit ethnic entrepreneurial niche and pursued within it their main life goals achieving a satisfactory standard of living against the recurrent slumps in local mills and coal mines and enjoying the company of their fellow congregants Rather than secularizing and diversifying their communal life as did Jewish immigrants to larger cities they devoted their energies to creating and maintaining an inclusive multipurpose religious congregation Morawska begins with an extensive examination of Jewish life in the Eastern European regions from which most of Johnstown's immigrants came tracing features of culture and social relations that they brought with them to America After detailing the process by which migration from Eastern Europe occurred Morawska takes up the social organization of Johnstown the place of Jews in that social order the transformation of Jewish social life in the city and relations between Jews and non Jews The resulting work will appeal simultaneously to students of American history of American social life of immigration and of Jewish experience as well as to the general reader interested in any of these topics

**The Readers Guide to Judaism and Jewish Studies** Sarah Imhoff, 2013      We Shall Build Anew Shirley Idelson, 2022-08-30 In 1922

Rabbi Stephen S Wise a leader of the Zionist movement as well as many Progressive causes established a non denominational rabbinical seminary in New York City Having already founded the thriving Free Synagogue movement and the American Jewish Congress he now turned his energy toward opening the Jewish Institute of Religion JIR with the same ambitious aim revolutionizing American liberal Judaism He believed mainstream American Jewish institutions had become outdated refusing to relinquish a nineteenth century mindset In championing the new Jewish nationalism and fighting alongside America's leading proponents of social and economic justice Wise had developed a mass following But he recognized that he alone could not bring about the change he sought he needed a new cadre of young rabbis who shared his outlook and could spread his vision We Shall Build Anew tells the little known story of how Wise changed the trajectory of American Judaism for the next century By opening the Jewish Institute of Religion he began to train that new cadre of young rabbis charged them with invigorating and reshaping Jewish life and launched them into positions of leadership across the country We Shall Build Anew explores Wise's vision for the Jewish Institute of Religion and the central role it would play in shaping twentieth century American liberal Judaism Conflict lies at the heart of this story Wise faced hostility from across the denominational landscape including attempts to quash the school before it ever opened The national Reform leadership weary of Wise's unceasing criticism and worried that a new rabbinical school would create competition for their own seminary Hebrew Union College HUC opposed the endeavor There were weaknesses in the JIR model and in Wise's leadership too Faculty fought bitterly and the discord contributed to a constant rotation of scholars Some eventually moved to more prestigious secular institutions like Harvard and Columbia which established the first two academic chairs in Jewish studies in the nation in the 1920s And the students fought From a wide range of backgrounds they fiercely debated their Zionist political and cultural

ideals JIR also admitted several highly accomplished women designated as special students who could sit in on classes but were barred entry into the rabbinical program Despite years working on behalf of women's suffrage and civil rights Wise would not be party to women's entry into the rabbinate Finally Wise's failure to generate a sustainable funding model created further instability for the school Still the JIR flourished and sent rabbis to congregations throughout the United States JIR's non denominationalism did not last though In the late 1940s JIR's fiscal problems became insurmountable and as Wise approached his death he reluctantly agreed to merge the Institute with Hebrew Union College forfeiting the school's independence and bringing it under the umbrella of the Reform movement And despite Wise's early aim to break down barriers between American Jewry's various factions the Reform Conservative and Reconstructionist movements continued to carve out separate identities In the early 21st century however Wise's vision for liberal Judaism and non denominationalism has gained traction and distinctions between the non Orthodox denominations have begun to collapse Whether or not Wise's ideas about non denominationalism will continue to flourish remains to be seen But it is clear that his blend of Jewish nationalism and American progressivism which made him and his congregation objects of contempt within the world they sought to change took hold Today it is impossible to think of the Reform Conservative and Reconstructionist movements without their core commitments to Zionism Jewish peoplehood now called klal yisrael and social and economic justice commonly referred to as tikkun olam The story of We Shall Build Anew has greater importance now than ever With Orthodox Jewry moving increasingly to the right on the political spectrum and a growing number of secular Jews joining the left in challenging the legitimacy of Zionism and the idea of a Jewish state the Conservative and Reconstructionist movements in the middle are grappling with significant contraction This leaves the Reform movement the most direct heir to Stephen S Wise's legacy as American Jewry's hub of resistance to the radical right and a stronghold of support for progressive forces in Israel In creating JIR Stephen S Wise acted on his convictions and thanks to his prescience as well as his efforts ultimately the American Jewish community came around to his ideas fulfilling Wise's most ambitious goal A reinvention of modern American liberal Judaism

Delve into the emotional tapestry woven by in Dive into the Emotion of **Reform Judaism In America A Biographical Dictionary And Sourcebook** . This ebook, available for download in a PDF format ( Download in PDF: \*), is more than just words on a page; it is a journey of connection and profound emotion. Immerse yourself in narratives that tug at your heartstrings. Download now to experience the pulse of each page and let your emotions run wild.

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