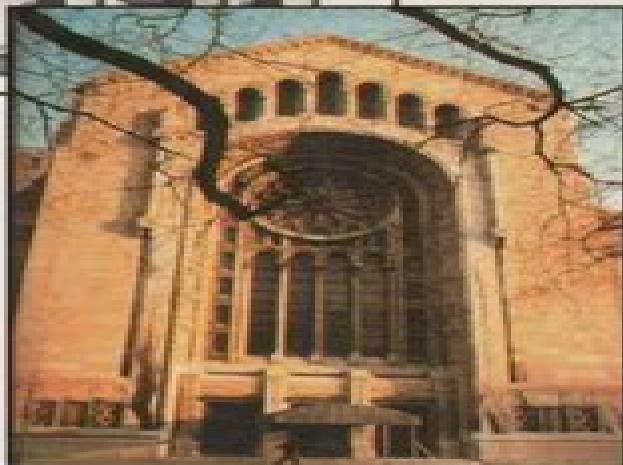
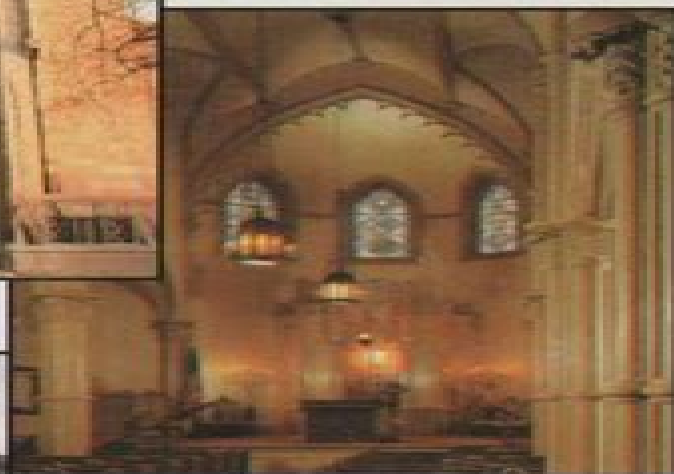




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RABBIS

FACTS AND FICTION



David J. Zucker

American Rabbis Facts And Fiction

David J. Zucker



American Rabbis Facts And Fiction:

American Rabbis, Second Edition David J. Zucker, 2019-06-21 This book is a broad brush approach describing the realities of life in the American rabbinate Factual portrayals are supplemented by examples drawn from fiction primarily novels and short stories Chapters include Rabbinic Training Congregational Rabbis and Their Communities Congregants Views of Their Rabbis Women Rabbis also including examples from TV and Cinema Assimilation Intermarriage Patrilineality and Human Sexuality God Israel and Tradition This book draws upon sociological data including the recent Pew Research Center survey on Jewish life in America and presents a contemporary view of rabbis and their communities The realities of the American rabbinate are then compared contrasted with the ways fiction writers present their understanding of rabbinic life The book explores illustrations from two hundred novels short stories and TV cinema representing well over 135 authors From the first real life women rabbis in the early 1970s to today's statistics of close to 1 600 women rabbis worldwide major changes have taken place Women rabbis are transforming the face of Judaism For example this newly revised second edition of *American Rabbis Facts and Fiction* reflects a fivefold increase in terms of examples of fictional women rabbis from when the book was first published in 1998 There is new and expanded material on some of the challenges in the twenty first century women rabbis human sexuality LGBTQ matters trans post non denominational seminaries and community based rabbis

American Rabbis David J. Zucker, 1998 What makes this book really interesting is that Zucker compares the facts of the modern rabbinate with the fictional rabbinate that is with rabbis in novels and short stories written during the past fifty years He offers selections from over one hundred works of fiction and nearly seventy five fiction writers including Harry Kemelman Allegra Goodman Noah Gordon Rhonda Shapiro Rieser Joseph Telushkin Naomi Ragen Philip Roth Faye Kellerman Bernard Malamud Eileen Pollack Herman Wouk and Alex J Goldman one of the few men who write about a rabbi who is also a woman In addition Zucker devotes important chapters to God Israel and Tradition as well as to contemporary issues such as assimilation intermarriage and patrilineality Further he includes a major chapter on rabbis who are also women Some rabbi fiction comes closer to reality than others do The most famous of the fictional rabbis is Rabbi David Small of the Harry Kemelman mystery series Beginning with *Friday the Rabbi Slept Late* Kemelman followed Rabbi Small through twenty five years To an outsider looking inside of this weekday rabbi series the on going tensions between Rabbi Small and his Board of Directors seem overdrawn This is understandable considering that fiction often relies upon dramatic moments filled with strife to carry the plot However to an insider many of these conflicts are accurate One of the unsolved mysteries of Kemelman's twelve books is Rabbi Small's survival of his congregational experience a detail that is paralleled in the careers of many real rabbis On the other side of this fact fiction coin some rabbi centered fiction is far from reality Historically TV and the movies have portrayed rabbis as Orthodox men as if only they were authentic Further many have been portrayed as ineffectual Thankfully Rabbi Small televised in 1977 was an exception to these norms All rabbis serve as priests pastors and

companions through the life cycles and life crises of their c *American Rabbis, Second Edition* David J. Zucker, 2019-06-21 This book is a broad brush approach describing the realities of life in the American rabbinate Factual portrayals are supplemented by examples drawn from fiction primarily novels and short stories Chapters include Rabbinic Training Congregational Rabbis and Their Communities Congregants Views of Their Rabbis Women Rabbis also including examples from TV and Cinema Assimilation Intermarriage Patrilineality and Human Sexuality God Israel and Tradition This book draws upon sociological data including the recent Pew Research Center survey on Jewish life in America and presents a contemporary view of rabbis and their communities The realities of the American rabbinate are then compared contrasted with the ways fiction writers present their understanding of rabbinic life The book explores illustrations from two hundred novels short stories and TV cinema representing well over 135 authors From the first real life women rabbis in the early 1970s to today s statistics of close to 1 600 women rabbis worldwide major changes have taken place Women rabbis are transforming the face of Judaism For example this newly revised second edition of *American Rabbis Facts and Fiction* reflects a fivefold increase in terms of examples of fictional women rabbis from when the book was first published in 1998 There is new and expanded material on some of the challenges in the twenty first century women rabbis human sexuality LGBTQ matters trans post non denominational seminaries and community based rabbis **The Sacred Calling** Rebecca Einstein Schorr, Alys Mendelson Graf, 2016-05-17 Women have been rabbis for over forty years No longer are women rabbis a unique phenomenon rather they are part of the fabric of Jewish life In this anthology rabbis and scholars from across the Jewish world reflect back on the historic significance of women in the rabbinate and explore issues related to both the professional and personal lives of women rabbis This collection examines the ways in which the reality of women in the rabbinate has impacted on all aspects of Jewish life including congregational culture liturgical development life cycle ritual the Jewish healing movement spirituality theology and more Published by CCAR Press a division of the Central Conference of American Rabbis **The New Rabbi** Stephen Fried, 2003-08-26 From award winning journalist Stephen Fried comes a vividly intimate portrait of American Judaism today in which faith family and community are explored through the dramatic life of a landmark congregation as it seeks to replace its legendary retiring rabbi and reinvent itself for the next generation *The New Rabbi* The center of this compelling chronicle is Har Zion Temple on Philadelphia s Main Line which for the last seventy five years has been one of the largest and most influential congregations in America For thirty years Rabbi Gerald Wolpe has been its spiritual leader a brilliant sermonizer of wide renown but now he has announced his retirement It is the start of a remarkable nationwide search process largely unknown to the lay world and of much more For at this dramatic moment Wolpe agrees to give extraordinary access to Fried inviting him and the reader into the intense personal and professional life of the clergy and the complex behind the scenes life of a major Conservative congregation These riveting pages bring us a unique view of Judaism in practice from Har Zion s strong willed leaders and influential families to the young bar and bat mitzvahs just

beginning their Jewish lives from the three days a year synagogue goes to the hard core of devout attendees We are touched by their times of joy and times of grief intrigued by congregational politics moved by the search for faith We witness the conflicts between generations about issues of belief observance and the pressures of secular life We meet Wolpe's vigorous minded ailing wife and his sons one of whom has become a celebrity rabbi in Los Angeles And we follow the author's own moving search for meaning as he reconnects with the religion of his youth We also have a front row seat at the usually clandestine process of choosing a new rabbi as what was expected to be a simple one year search for Rabbi Wolpe's successor extends to two years and then three Dozens of resumes are rejected a parade of prospects come to interview the chosen successor changes his mind at the last minute and a confrontation erupts between the synagogue and the New York based Conservative rabbis union that governs the process As the time comes for Wolpe to depart a venerated house of worship is being torn apart And thrust onto the pulpit is Wolpe's young assistant Rabbi Jacob Herber in his first job out of rabbinical school facing the nearly impossible situation of taking over despite being technically ineligible for the position and finding himself on trial with the congregation and at odds with his mentor Rich in anecdote and scenes of wonderful immediacy this is a riveting book about the search for personal faith about the tension between secular concerns and ancient tradition in affluent America and about what Wolpe himself has called the retail business of religion Stephen Fried brings all these elements to vivid life with the passion and energy of a superbly gifted storyteller *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

Jewish Relational Care A-Z Jack H Bloom, 2013-05-13 A collection of caregiving tools combining the values of Jewish tradition and self relations useful for practitioners of ANY faith Self relations a powerful framework for doing respectful and humane caregiving for oneself and for others is here brought into relationship with Jewish thought Jewish Relational Care A Z We Are Our Other's Keeper is an extensive resource for caregiving tools and approaches Using Jewish tradition and Self Relations as take off points experts from many fields provide insightful perspectives and effective strategies for caregiving In the language of self relations each of us is not referred to as a Self Instead each of us is more accurately described as a relationship between selves relationship is the basic psychological and religious unit Jewish Relational Care A Z We Are Our

Other s Keeper sensitively centers on relationships and the healing process using the understanding that to spark healing in others a loving respectful relationship must first be present between every aspect of our selves Thirty six categories of caregiving are comprehensively presented allowing its use as a helpful resource for any clergy considering any of the included topics Each author s personal reflections and personal experiences using care tools clearly illustrate how love respect relationships within oneself can transcend into effective care for others Jewish Relational Care A Z We Are Our Other s Keeper provides helpful tools and explores the use of language as a relational care tool time management for optimum performance for oneself and for others compassion fatigue the need for self care and nurturing your own spiritual and psychological development purposeful visiting as a sacred task silence as an important part of spiritual care the profound difference made in lives through relational listening music as sacred power a communion between humans and the Divine chanting as an intimate expression of the soul creative ritual in relational healing spontaneous prayer and its place in relational care relational care with other faiths inside and outside of the community care for those going through divorce care when a pregnancy is unwelcome relational care for sexual orientation and gender identity issues successful caring for those who don t care about you dealing with traumatic loss care for those who have sinned sexually fragile relationships care with the healthy aging relational care and retired clergy care for those traumatized by sexual abuse care for the cognitively impaired mentally ill and developmentally disabled care for the final moments of life care for the sick and dying care within the grieving process Jewish Relational Care A Z We Are Our Other s Keeper is practical insightful reading for clergy and caregivers of all denominations educators students and lay people who care about clergy and their work *CCAR Journal: The Reform Jewish Quarterly, Spring 2025* Rabbi Edwin Goldberg, 2025-06-13 This edition of CCAR Journal considers various topics including loneliness and the rabbinate Judah and Tamar s encounter and Jewish brides breads The issue also contains new book reviews poetry and a CCAR responsum on removing a pacemaker from a corpse for reuse **CCAR Journal: The Reform Jewish Quarterly, Fall 2023** Edwin Goldberg, 2023-12-11 This issue of the CCAR Journal focuses on language including articles on the languages of Diaspora Jewry the language of lifelong learning the language of inclusion and the language of sacred text Additional articles book reviews and poetry are also included *CCAR Journal: The Reform Jewish Quarterly, Winter 2023* Edwin Goldberg, 2023-02-10 This issue of the CCAR Journal considers the current state of the Reform rabbinate from the point of view of the rabbis themselves The themed pieces include discussions related to well being success and finding meaning in a rabbinic career A variety of general articles book reviews and poems are also featured

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