American Jewish Year Book
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Preface

TWO DECADES after the survivors of Nazism began to resume their old lives or build new ones, Arnold Mandel takes stock of the Jewish communities in the free countries of Europe. His article is an assessment of communal institutions and leaders; of the effect of change—not least the creation of the State of Israel—on the young generation of Jews, and of the contribution the European communities are likely to make to Jewish life.

The second major article, "The Purposes of the Jewish Community Center Movement: An Appraisal of Their Operation," is based on an exhaustive study conducted by Dr. Carl Urbont, who directs the YM and YWHA at 92nd Street in New York City, one of the largest and most active community centers in the United States. His findings are important at a time when there is much uncertainty and discussion about the prospects for Jewish commitment, generally, and the center movement, specifically.

Our readers will also find several articles in the Review of the Year of particular interest:

In "Intergroup Relations and Tensions in the United States," Lucy S. Dawidowicz gives a comprehensive picture of the relations and reactions among antisemitism, rightist extremism, the civil-rights movement and its growing militancy, and church-state issues. Her analysis of vandalism and violence for "kicks" and the tolerant passivity with which society tends to treat them is disquieting.

Erich Rosenthal's "Interrmarriage in Indiana," his third study on the subject to appear in the YEAR BOOK, shows how such factors as place of residence and previous marital status affect the intermarriage rate.

"The United States, Israel, and the Middle East," by George E. Gruen, is important as a detailed account of conditions leading up to the war in the Middle East in June 1967. The forthcoming volume of the YEAR BOOK will deal at some length with this conflict and its repercussions.

Professor Daniel J. Elazar's "Pursuit of Community: Selections from the Literature of Jewish Public Affairs, 1965-1966," is a bibliographical essay on recent Jewish social research. We draw particular attention to his theory
of a Jewish public law. An essay of this character will henceforth replace the "American Jewish Bibliography," for twenty-four years, until Vol. 66, a staple of the Year Book. The need for change had become increasingly apparent with the steady increase in the number, diversity, and specialization of books in English about themes of direct Jewish interest. We wish to express our gratitude to Miss Iva Cohen, assistant librarian of the Blaustein Library of the American Jewish Committee, for having so exemplarily well discharged the responsibility of selecting, annotating, and presenting the old bibliography for twenty-two years. It is our intention that Vol. 69 will contain an article on recent literature that may be broadly classified as *Wissenschaft des Judentums*. In future, *belles lettres* will probably not be included—there simply is too much.

We take this opportunity to express our deep sense of loss at the untimely death of Dessie E. Kushell, director of administration of the American Jewish Committee, a good friend of the Year Book and its editors. They will miss equally her personal warmth and her professional understanding.

We wish to thank our colleagues for their cooperation: Mrs. Stella Ettlinger, for technical assistance and preparation of the directories, necrology, and index, and Harry J. Alderman, director of the Blaustein Library, his staff, and Mrs. Lotte Zajac for their aid in providing reference material. Steven Frieder assisted in editing. Rabbi Naftoli Richter prepared the calendars. Mrs. Marjorie Rader read proof.

The Editors
Contributors

EDGAR BERNSTEIN; assistant editor, *Southern African Jewish Times*, Johannesburg, South African correspondent, *JTA*

ALVIN CHENKIN; supervisor, statistics unit, Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds.

LUCY S. DAWIDOWICZ; research analyst, Information Services, American Jewish Committee.

DANIEL J. ELAZAR; professor of political science, director of Center for the Study of Federalism, Temple University, Philadelphia.

MARGARET FEILER; chief accountant, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, lecturer, Borough of Manhattan Community College, New York.

S. P. GOLDBERG; Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds.

MAURICE J. GOLDBLOOM; editor, journalist.

JERRY GOODMAN; European specialist, foreign affairs department, American Jewish Committee.

GEORGE E. GRUEN; Middle East specialist, foreign affairs department, American Jewish Committee.

ALAN C. HARRIS; assistant director of program, English language preparatory division, Middle East Technical University, Ankara.

ALFRED HIRSCHBERG; editor-in-chief, *Crónica Israelita*, Brazil.

BEN KAYFETZ; executive director, Joint Community Relations Committee of Canadian Jewish Congress and B'nai B'rith, Toronto.

HERBERT KELLNER; executive director, Centraal Beheer (Central Jewish Welfare Agency), Antwerp.

JOSEPH KISSMAN; director of research, Jewish Labor Committee.

HANS LAMM; department head, Münchner Volkshochschule, Germany.

MISHA LOUVISH; editor and translator, Israel Program for Scientific Translations, Jerusalem.


SERGIO NUDELSTEIJER; director, Mexican and Central American office, American Jewish Committee, Mexico City.

ERICH ROSENTHAL; professor and chairman, graduate committee, department of Sociology, Queens College, member, graduate faculty, City University of New York.


LEONARD SEIDENMAN; director, office for Italy, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Rome.

LEON SHAPIRO; writer on Russian Jewish affairs.

GERHARD TAUSIG; executive director, Jewish Social Work Foundation, Amsterdam.

CARL URBONT; executive director, 92nd Street YM and YWHA, New York.