The AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK for 1977 presents a comprehensive account of Jewish life in all parts of the world. It features a critical examination by Anne Lapidus Lerner, Jewish Theological Seminary faculty, of the movement for equal rights for women in American Jewry and how it is affecting Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform Judaism.

Events relating to Israel and the Middle East are analyzed in three articles: Sidney Liskofsky's "UN Resolution on Zionism," George E. Gruen's "The United States, Israel, and the Middle East," and Misha Louvish's review of Israel.

A special article by Jack J. Diamond, "A Reader in the Demography of American Jews," gives an overview of the demographic changes in the Jewish community as they were recorded in the pages of the YEAR BOOK over the last 76 years.

"Soviet Jews in the United States: A Profile," by Joseph Edelman of HIAS, describes the

(Continued on back flap)

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American Jewish Year Book
JEWISH FEMINISM in the United States, essentially an outgrowth of the American women’s movement, has been described as the “growing assertiveness by women to resist ancient Jewish practice of male dominance in religious practices,” reflecting “a unique combination of radicalism and traditionalism.” In “‘Who Hast Not Made Me a Man’: The Movement for Equal Rights for Women in American Jewry,” Anne Lapidus Lerner of the Jewish Theological Seminary faculty discusses the changing roles of Jewish women in public worship, education, and community life. Mrs. Lerner concentrates on what has been happening in Conservative Judaism, which is both more favorable than Orthodoxy to change and more favorable than Reform to tradition.

Sidney Liskofsky analyzes the “UN Resolution on Zionsim”: the anti-Israel moves in the General Assembly leading up to it, the debate and vote, and subsequent attempts to broaden the condemnation of Israel by constant reference to the resolution’s wording in other contexts. This article is accompanied by George E. Gruen’s extensive coverage of “The United States, Israel, and the Middle East” and Misha Louvish’s report on Israel.

Joseph Edelman’s “Soviet Jews in the United States: A Profile” describes the demographic characteristics of these newcomers to the United States, their adjustment problems, and the assistance given them by local Jewish agencies.

Jack J. Diamond’s “Reader in the Demography of American Jews,” based on the AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK, Volumes 1 through 76, illustrates the growth of the community as well as advances in the art of arriving at population estimates.

Fred Massarik’s analysis of National Jewish Population Study data yields information on “Trends in U.S. Jewish Education,” especially concerning
the proportion of American Jews who receive some Jewish education at some time in their lives. This will supplement other sources.


We wish to thank our colleagues for their cooperation: Reva Craine, for technical assistance and preparation of the directories, necrology, and index; Cyma Horowitz, director of the Blaustein Library, her staff, and Lotte Zajac for their aid in providing reference material.

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