The **1996 AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK**, the 96th in the series, continues to offer a unique chronicle of developments in areas of concern to Jews around the world.

This year's volume features two special articles. In "Jewish Experience on Film—An American Overview," Joel Rosenberg offers a novel analysis from the perspective of current film criticism, examining the ways in which Jews are both reflected in film and have helped to shape it. He discusses films, personalities, and trends, including the growth of independent filmmaking and Jewish film festivals.

"Israelis in America," by Steven J. Gold and Bruce Phillips, provides a wide-ranging sociodemographic profile of an immigrant group that differs in important ways from any other in the American Jewish experience. The authors discuss the controversial subject of how many Israelis there are in the U.S. and provide data about their economic and social adjustment. They also shed new light on Israelis' identity conflicts and their creation of a distinctive Israeli-American community.

*(Continued on back flap)*
The American Jewish Committee acknowledges with appreciation the foresight and wisdom of the founders of the Jewish Publication Society (of America) in the creation of the AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK in 1899, a work committed to providing a continuous record of developments in the U.S. and world Jewish communities. For over a century JPS has occupied a special place in American Jewish life, publishing and disseminating important, enduring works of scholarship and general interest on Jewish subjects.

The American Jewish Committee assumed responsibility for the compilation and editing of the YEAR BOOK in 1908. The Society served as its publisher until 1949; from 1950 through 1993, the Committee and the Society were co-publishers. In 1994 the Committee became the sole publisher of the YEAR BOOK.
Preface

This year's volume features two special articles. Continuing our series on aspects of American Jewish culture, Joel Rosenberg contributes "Jewish Experience on Film--An American Overview," a penetrating review and analysis of films, personalities, and trends. Sociologists Steven J. Gold and Bruce Phillips provide an update on a subject of continuing interest, "Israelis in the United States." The authors review demographic data and discuss Israelis' sense of marginality, their creation of a distinctive subgroup culture, and their relationship to American Jewish life, among other topics.


David Horovitz provides extensive coverage of events in Israel. Reports on Jewish communities around the world include Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Italy, Germany, Austria, East-Central Europe, the former Soviet Union, Australia, and South Africa.

Updated estimates of Jewish population are provided--for the United States, by Barry Kosmin and Jeffrey Scheckner of the North American Jewish Data Bank; and for the world, by U.O. Schmelz and Sergio DellaPergola of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Carefully compiled directories of national Jewish organizations, periodicals, and federations and welfare funds, as well as religious calendars and obituaries, round out the 1996 AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK.

We note with sorrow the death of Uziel (Oscar) Schmelz, at the age of 77, on September 20, 1995, in Jerusalem. Co-author of the annual article on "World Jewish Population" since 1982, Prof. Schmelz was on the staff of Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics and professor of Jewish demography and statistics in the Hebrew University's Institute of Contemporary Jewry. In addition to his research on world Jewish demography, he published studies on immigration and absorption in Israeli society, the population of Palestine during the Ottoman period, and the polyglot inhabitants of Jerusalem, the city that was his great love. The Vienna-born scholar was a humanist of the European school and an expert on both Western and Middle Eastern cultures.

We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of our colleagues Cyma M. Horowitz and Michele Anish of the American Jewish Committee's Blaustein Library.

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