Since 1899, the American Jewish Year Book, at various times published by the Jewish Publication Society and the American Jewish Committee, has been "The Annual Record of the North American Jewish Communities." This volume, now published by Springer, has been a very important and prestigious annual publication because it has acted as a major resource for academic researchers; practitioners and researchers at Jewish institutions and organizations; the media, both Jewish and general; education leaders and lay persons; and libraries, particularly University and Jewish libraries, for up-to-date information about the American and Canadian Jewish communities.

For decades, the American Jewish Year Book has been the premier place for leading academics to publish long review chapters on topics of major interest to the American Jewish communities. Each volume features 5-7 major review articles, including 2-3 long chapters written by leading experts on topics of contemporary interest.

The 2018 volume features a Forum on "American Jewry in the 21st Century: Grounds for Optimism or Pessimism." Contemporary assessments from more than 20 leading scholars are included. A review article on "Anti-Semitism in Contemporary America" by Tom W. Smith and Benjamin Schapiro is followed by several standard articles typically featured in the Year Book, including "American Jews and the Domestic Arena" by Steven Windmueller; "American Jews and the International Arena" by Mitchell Bard; "United States Jewish Population, 2018" by Ira M. Sheskin and Arnold Dashefsky; "Canadian Jewish Population, 2018" by Charles Shahar; and "World Jewish Population, 2018" by Sergio DellaPergola.

In addition, the volume contains up-to-date listings of Jewish Federations, Jewish Community Centers, Jewish social service agencies, national Jewish organizations, Jewish day schools, Jewish overnight camps, Jewish museums, Holocaust museums, Israeli consulates, national Jewish periodicals and broadcast media, local Jewish periodicals, Jewish studies programs, Holocaust and genocide studies programs, Israel studies programs, as well as Jewish social work programs in institutions of higher education, major books, journals, and scholarly articles on the North American Jewish communities, websites and organizations for research on North American Jewry, and major Judaic and Holocaust research libraries. Lastly, the volume contains a list of major events in North American Jewish communities, a list of persons honored by the Jewish and general communities, and obituaries for the past year.

Data submitted by the new publisher, Springer, indicate that for the 2012-2017 volumes, 25,100 chapters were downloaded from the Springer website. In addition, Google found about 439,000 references to the Year Book; Google Scholar found 6,350 references to the Year Book in the scientific literature; and Wikipedia has 283 references to the Year Book.

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