

The book was found

Rabbi Max Heller: Reformer, Zionist, Southerner, 1860-1929 (Judaic Studies Series)



Synopsis

This biography of a pioneering Zionist and leader of American Reform Judaism adds significantly to our understanding of American and southern Jewish history. Max Heller was a man of both passionate conviction and inner contradiction. He sought to be at the center of current affairs, not as a spokesperson of centrist opinion, but as an agitator or mediator, constantly struggling to find an acceptable path as he confronted the major issues of the day--racism and Jewish emancipation in eastern Europe, nationalism and nativism, immigration and assimilation. Heller's life experience provides a distinct vantage point from which to view the complexity of race relations in New Orleans and the South and the confluence of cultures that molded his development as a leader. A Bohemian immigrant and one of the first U.S.-trained rabbis, Max Heller served for 40 years as spiritual leader of a Reform Jewish congregation in New Orleans--at that time the largest city in the South. Far more than a congregational rabbi, Heller assumed an activist role in local affairs, Reform Judaism, and the Zionist movement, maintaining positions often unpopular with his neighbors, congregants, and colleagues. His deep concern for social justice led him to question two basic assumptions that characterized his larger social milieu--segregation and Jewish assimilation. Heller, a consummate Progressive with clear vision and ideas substantially ahead of their time, led his congregation, his community, Reform Jewish colleagues, and Zionist sympathizers in a difficult era.

Book Information

Series: Judaic Studies Series

Hardcover: 296 pages

Publisher: University Alabama Press; 1st Edition edition (October 30, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 081730875X

ISBN-13: 978-0817308759

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 1.1 x 9.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (1 customer review)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,058,894 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #70 in Books > Religion &

Spirituality > Judaism > Movements > Reform #11770 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs >

Leaders & Notable People > Religious #18498 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical >

United States

Customer Reviews

Malone writes a biography of the well-known New Orleans reform Rabbi Max Heller of Temple Sinai, beginning with his life in Prague and ending with his death in 1929. Malone examines Heller's family, education, career, travels and ties to the communities in which he lived. Alongside the biography of Heller is a story of the American Jewish community during his lifetime, touching upon such topics as would befit a Rabbi of a major synagogue in America: the Reform movement, Zionism, the New Orleans Jewish community, and immigration. Also, the growth of racial beliefs that affected the Jewish community's identity with and acceptance in a Southern community which was defined upon racial and caste grounds is also much discussed. Malone does an excellent job of giving the reader an "actual feel" for the person Max Heller. Between sharp letters to and from his wife while Heller was in Europe to pictures of him working the land in Palestine, Malone carefully outlines Max Heller the activist, the family man, the community leader, the Rabbi, and the Zionist. As Malone's dissertation, this book is extremely well researched and the sources of evidence are varied and credible. However, Malone does not discuss some of the larger aspects of her scholarly research. Mainly, Malone does not discuss how the environment of New Orleans helped shape Heller's career. Malone argues that Heller's public stance on controversial topics put him at odds with his congregation and community. Yet, why was Heller not fired, as would have occurred in other Jewish communities? The answer lies in a comparison of the relationship of the community, synagogues and Rabbi to other communities, such as Philadelphia.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Rabbi Max Heller: Reformer, Zionist, Southerner, 1860-1929 (Judaic Studies Series) Rebbe Nachman Says... The Teachings of Rabbi Nachman by Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach The Jewish Experience in Classical Music: Shostakovich and Asia (Arizona Center for Judaic Studies Publications) Buried Secrets (Nick Heller Book 2) Stretching for Stiffies: A Full Body Pilates Reformer Stretching Routine for Every Body The Struggle for Social Justice in British Columbia: Helena Gutteridge, the Unknown Reformer A Reformer on the Throne: Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said Magazines and the Making of America: Modernization, Community, and Print Culture, 1741-1860 (Princeton Studies in Cultural Sociology) L'Chaim: Celebrate Life: Judaic Expressions to Color & Inspire (Design Originals) Righteous Victims: A History of the Zionist-Arab Conflict, 1881-2001 Collusion Across the Jordan: King Abdullah, the Zionist Movement, and the Partition of Palestine Missing a Beat: The Rants and Regrets of Seymour Krim (Judaic Traditions in Literature, Music, and Art) Beyond the Secular Mind: A Judaic Response to the Problems of Modernity (Contributions in Political Science) From the Hill to the Mount: A Reform Zionist Quest The Zionist Idea: A Historical Analysis and Reader Putting "Loafing Streams" to Work: The Building of Lay,

Mitchell, Martin, and Jordan Dams, 1910-1929 The Butte Short Line: The Construction Era,
1888-1929 The Women's War of 1929: Gender and Violence in Colonial Nigeria The Great
Bahamas Hurricane of 1929: The Story of the Greatest Bahamian Hurricane of the Twentieth
Century 1929 in Saint Lucia

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)