Editor's Introduction

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I am humbled to be taking the reigns of *Contemporary Jewry* after my esteemed predecessor, Samuel Heilman. Sam nurtured *Contemporary Jewry* for 12 years, developing it from an in-house annual issue, sometimes struggling to see publication in a timely manner, to a thriving three issues a year, published by a major publisher and disseminated through SpringerLink to over 7,000 libraries and institutions. From a journal practically begging for submissions, we have become much more selective and are able to choose the best-quality articles for publication. Our international submissions have grown and the social science net broadened to include cultural studies, demography, communications, and more. SJR ranks CJ in the highest quartile for cultural studies, history, and religious studies, and citation of its articles has grown exponentially since Sam began his editorship. It is now indexed in all of the major abstracting and indexing services such as EBSCO, ProQuest, JSTOR, SCOPUS and FRANCIS. We are all indebted to Sam's devoted stewardship for bringing the journal to its current heights, and I know I speak for all of its readers in thanking him for his myriad efforts over the course of so many years.

I will do my utmost to maintain the standards Sam has worked so diligently to instill in the journal. At the same time, I look forward to expanding its offerings, and am very pleased to be introducing two new sections with this first of my issues. Up to now, CJ has concentrated on publishing completed research. With this issue, we debut a section that reviews ongoing research, with Helen Kim as research editor. As the primary journal of social science research, we thought it fitting that we inform our readers of the current research that is taking place in our field. There is a

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lot of it! And so we've chosen to highlight one institution in depth, and a selection of individual research projects underway for each issue. We hope this will help researchers connect with each other as well as keep all of you informed of what to expect in the not-so-distant future. The book review section, under the able editing of Daniel Parmer, renews a tradition of days gone by: the last book reviews appeared in 2002, issue 23 of *Contemporary Jewry*. Fittingly, Daniel broadens the notion of review to engage us in the contexts of the works reviewed. I trust you will find these reads thought-provoking. Needless to say, both of these new sections will be enriched by your feedback and your input to the respective editors, with relevant research and books to be reviewed.

It is a particular delight for me that my first issue brings to you Sylvia Barack Fishman's 2014 Marshall Sklare Award address. Few of us have her depth, breadth, or clarity of perception and articulation; take note of the far-reaching references cited and consulted for her essay. She fearlessly tackles a subject—family—that goes to the heart of contemporary concerns about the nature and quality of American Jewish continuity and cultural transmission. Her three respondents critically stretch the implications of her words toward the global and national context of American Jewry (DellaPergola), modes of inquiry and their implications (Horowitz), and contemporary modes of transmitting Jewish culture and its production (Kelner). The Sklare section is followed by a fascinating exploration of a new communal phenomenon among contemporary Jewish women, exemplifying the kinds of adaptations contemporary Jews are making to strengthen communal spirituality.

So with an eye to renewal and evolutionary change to meet the new demands of contemporary Jewry, I bring you my first edited issue and hope you enjoy it from cover to cover. I thank all of you who have placed your confidence in my stewardship, and especially Samuel Heilman and Deborah Grant, Managing Editor, who have made my transition all the easier.