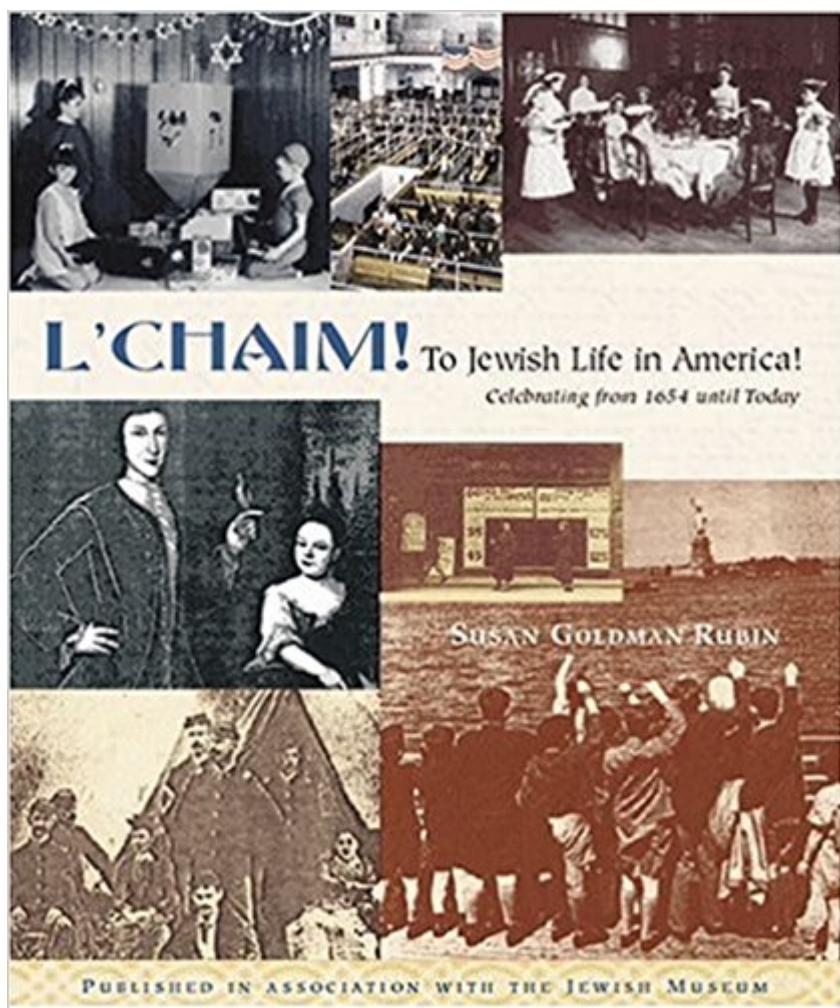


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# L'Chaim!: To Jewish Life In America: Celebrating From 1654 Until Today



## Synopsis

Published in association with The Jewish MuseumCoinciding with the 350th anniversary of the first recorded Jewish settlement in North America, this lavishly illustrated introduction to Jewish life is a compilation of compelling first-person reports and well-documented facts. Brimming with photographs, paintings, memorabilia, and other artifacts from the renowned Jewish Museum and other sources, and with text by award-winning author Susan Rubin, this book provides readers with a wide range of examples of North American Jewish life all across the U.S. and Canada. This book continues the growing library of Abrams' high-quality, award-winning, and accessible Judaic-content books. AUTHOR BIO: Susan Goldman Rubin is the author of many acclaimed books for children on creative figures, among them Degas, Van Gogh, Gaugin, and Steven Spielberg. Her biography of Margaret Bourke-White was named ALA Best Book for Young Adults and a Smithsonian Notable Book for Children. She lives in Malibu, California.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In 1654, the first Jews arrived in New Amsterdam, later to become New York City; as refugees from the Inquisition in Brazil, and the 350th anniversary of the arrival of Jews in the United States is being marked with celebrations and books in 2004. This volume is less ambitious than the similar *From Haven to Home*, but it's more affordably priced and it's handsomely illustrated with photos and ritual objects from the collection of the venerable Jewish Museum in New York City. Rubin, a writer of notable books for children (*Searching for Anne Frank*; *Margaret Bourke-White*), makes history personal by focusing on individuals and families; some well

known, some not who exemplify the wide-ranging experiences of Jews in America: Haym Solomon and Abraham Cohen supported the American Revolution; Joseph Jonas, the first Jew to settle in Cincinnati, represents the move west; Rose Schneiderman, pictured at her sewing machine, is one of the host of immigrants who worked in the oppressive garment factories. Works by artists Ben Shahn, Jacob Epstein and George Segal illuminate the history and culture of Jewish America; a Yiddish patriotic poster supporting WWI shows how Jews identified with the American cause. So intertwined have "Jewish" and "American" become in many Jews' minds that one historian, Shalom Goldman, of Emory University says, "I grew up thinking that Thanksgiving was somehow a Jewish holiday;" Anyone who identifies with that statement will take pleasure in this volume. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Grade 5 Up - A beautifully produced and illustrated book. Rubin focuses on particular individuals to show how European immigrants have found ways to be both Jewish and American. Though there are some experiences that reflect the tension between the religious and the secular world, the tone of the book is upbeat. The author does not provide a history, but uses a series of vignettes connected by a basic chronological narrative. For instance, the chapter "Jews in the American Revolution" focuses on Haym Salomon and does not discuss general Jewish attitudes toward the Revolution, or ideas about Jews that were held by members of the Revolutionary movement. Rubin is meticulous in her use and crediting of quotations, and they contribute to the text's liveliness and immediacy. Some of the most interesting vignettes are about Jewish cowboys and pioneers. The illustrations include paintings, photographs, and maps. Artifacts from the Jewish Museum are shown and matched to the text in terms of period, but they do not always relate to or amplify the narrative. Although Rubin attempts to show the diversity of American Jewry by focusing on African-American Jews and an Iranian Jew, one noticeable omission is feminism and its impact on Jewish life in America. L'Chaim is more likely to enjoy success as a gift book rather than as a resource for research. It could, however, be a jumping-off point for more serious reading, especially if students use the extensive bibliography, which has useful notations for adult books that are appropriate for younger readers. - Sue Giffard, Ethical Culture Fieldston School, New York City Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Book and delivery EXCELLENT!The information, articles, photos, sorrows, tragedies of our Jews is presented clearly, better than any other book of its ilk. I recommend it 100% per cent, and more.

Maggie Wise Riley

Fully illustrated. L'Chaim! celebrates the 350th anniversary of the first recorded Jewish settlement in North America as well as the Jewish people from all over the world who, over the last three and a half centuries, have settled in communities throughout the continent. The process of becoming a Jewish American has meant retaining a connection to one's roots while integrating into a new culture. This book communicates a particularly American story as it reflects and illuminates some of the finest aspects of life in the United States: the potential for diversity to flourish, the possibility of overcoming political, economic, and social obstacles, and the creativity that is encouraged for developing a full life as both an American and a Jew.

Produced in association with The Jewish Museum, this book is an overview of Jewish life in America from the earliest Colonial days to the present. Eighteen chapters follow Jewish-American history chronologically, with a few chapters zeroing in on topics of particular interest such as the life of Rebecca Gratz or Irving Berlin's army experiences. The large, square volume with its many color photographs has the feel of a coffee-table book, and its short tid-bits of information suit it to browsing more than to research purposes. Photographs and art objects from The Jewish Museum are large, well-reproduced, and clearly captioned, and the pages are made attractive with color accents (there is hardly a white page in the whole book!). This book was named a 2004 Notable Children's Book of Jewish Content by the Association of Jewish Libraries. An audio interview with the author is available on The Book of Life podcast's July episode at [...]

Finally, there is a work for young people on the 350th anniversary of Jewish settlement in America that meets the high standards of adult books created for the 350th. Noted young adult book author Susan Goldman Rubin has written the junior version of American Judaism by Jonathan Sarna--the young person's book of the year for the 350th. L'Chaim achieves its purpose by focusing on individuals and families who have helped shape the American Jewish experience. Rubin is an award-winning writer who has written many biographies of creative people, so she is ideal to tell this story. The book is accompanied by extraordinary photographs of objects and images from the collection of the unsurpassed Jewish Museum in New York City. What a wonderful book to read, to use as a reference, and to pass down to younger children and grandchildren in the future!

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