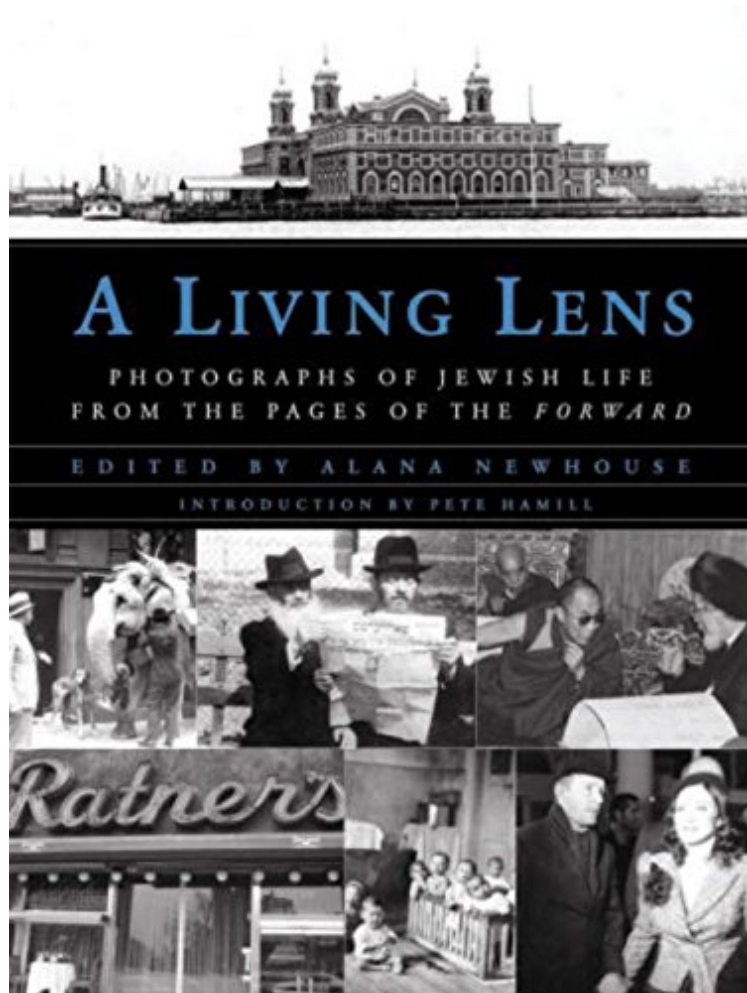


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A Living Lens: Photographs of Jewish Life from the Pages of the Forward

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From W. W. Norton Company : A Living Lens: Photographs of Jewish Life from the Pages of the Forward before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Living Lens: Photographs of Jewish Life from the Pages of the Forward:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. It' s Okay...But Not Really A-OKBy sgI found it less, actually MUCH LESS, than I expected, from the fabulous, glowing reviews I read. I found most of the pictures and test very pedestrian, and the more recent pictures ranging from boring to inappropriate. I don't feel that a picture of Kaballah aficianado Madonna enhances any volume of photos purporting to document a "Jewish Life". Nor do pictures of (former) "Hassidic Superstar" , Matisyahu.(But he's somewhat less inappropriate than Madonna)I personally prefer (and reccommend) the several books of archival photos of old New York by BRIAN MERLIS for those people who

want to recapture the bygone era of Jewish Life in old New York.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Life at the time of my grandparents and parentsBy Herman Rosen HERMAN ROSENImmigrant history not just for Jews but for all those who resided on the lower East Side of Manhattanfrom the turn of the century and earlier to the 1940s.The Forward was the newspaper that chronicled Jewish life in the so called new world of the USAIt is hard to imagine the bravery it took for some of these people who came as far away asRussia to get to New York and to eke out a living in New York...they did and they survivedThe pictures bring this world back ..not romantic but truthful0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Beautiful Conversation PieceBy Kay RossThis is a beautiful volume. It is much more than I expected and I'm so pleased about that. The Jewish Daily Forward contains a piece of history that should not be ignored. Much can be learned from these pages about the beginning of the 20th Century on up to modern times.

The finest photographic account of Jewish life in America. This extraordinary volume features classic photographs of the history one has learned to associate with the ForwardLower East Side pushcarts, Yiddish theater, labor ralliesalong with gems no one would expect. The premiere national Jewish newspaper has opened up its never-before-seen archives, revealing a photographic landscape of Jews in the twentieth century and beyond. From shtetl beauty contests and matchmakers caught mid-deal to the streets of the New World; from diaspora communities and mandate Palestine to the Holocaust, the Soviet Jewry movement, and the emergence of Jewish suburbia; from Paul Muni and Barbra Streisand to Woody Allen and Madonnathis book is a kaleidoscopic array of modern Jewish life. Original essays are included by leading intellectuals and historians, including Leon Wieseltier, J. Hoberman, Roger Kahn, and Deborah E. Lipstadt, plus an introduction by Pete Hamill. A great gift book in the tradition of Roman Vishniac's A Vanished World and Frederic Brenner's Diaspora: Homelands in Exile. 531 duotone photographs

From Publishers WeeklyFounded in 1897, the Jewish-American newspaper the Forward was in its heyday of the 1920s a powerhouse daily Yiddish newspaper with a larger circulation than the New York Times. Drawn from a treasure trove of 40,000 photos, the pre-1925 pictures are the most gripping here, depicting New York's pushcart-teeming Lower East Side, soldiers in the czar's army celebrating a seder, Polish pogrom victims, and men who deserted their families in Americaprinted to aid in tracking them down. Pictures from 1926 through 1945 show Yiddish theater's "royal" couple, Bessie and Boris Thomashefsky; a Jewish portrait artist sketching Mussolini; and an emaciated Jewish orphan being rescued from an Auschwitz crematorium by former Jewish inmates after the Nazis' retreat. Later decades show Bess Myerson, the first Jewish Miss America, and Hall of Fame pitcher Sandy Koufax, but also a disturbing 1986 visual of a neo-Nazi computer game. Notable recent photos depict a New Orleans synagogue that was flooded after Katrina, and a Krakw souvenir stand offering yarmulkes and wooden klezmer figures, emblematic of the 1990s preoccupation with all things Jewish in European areas where Jews were largely exterminated in WWII. Gathered by Forward arts culture editor Newhouse, this is a worthy, provocative group portrait of modern Jewish life in all its misery and glory. (Apr.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistThe Jewish daily Forward was founded in 1897. Published in Yiddish, by the 1920s it was selling around 250,000 copies a day. When it moved in 1974 from New York City's Lower East Side to East Thirty-third Street, its 40,000-strong photography collection was transferred to a storage room. The selection of photos published here chronicles the story of the newspaper and more than a century of Jewish life: scenes of Lower East Side pushcarts, Yiddish theater, labor rallies, Jewish peddlers and merchants, village beauty contests, and matchmakers. Settings include not only New York but also Warsaw, Tel Aviv, Cracow, and rural areas of the Carpathian region of eastern Europe. Shots include such celebrated figures as Barbra Streisand, Woody Allen, Al Jolson, Paul Muni, and Emma Goldman. All 531 duotones are augmented by essays by noted historians such as Deborah Lipstadt and an introduction by Pete Hamill. An illustrious photographic journey through Jewish life. George CohenCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Not only an amazing book, but an invaluable artifact and a work of art. - Jonathan Safran FoerIf a photograph of the Jewish soul exists, it will be discovered in the metal filing cabinets of the Forward. Until then, we have this book: here is what it looked like, and how it felt, to be a Jew in the Twentieth Century. - Nicole KraussEach picture is worth well more than a thousand words. They provide a window to important times in our history that are long gone but will live in our hearts and minds forever. - Sid Caesar