Mark Washofsky Publications

**BOOKS:**

*Reform Responsa for the Twenty-First Century: Sh’eilot Ut’shuvot.* New York: CCAR Press, 2010.

*Jewish Living: A Guide to Contemporary Reform Practice.* New York: URJ Press, Revised edition, 2010.

(with W. Gunther Plaut). *Teshuvot for the Nineties: Recent American Reform Responsa*. New York: CCAR Press, 1997.

.

**ARTICLES:**

“[Reform Halachah and the Claim of Authority: From Theory to Practice and Back Again](https://www.ccarpress.org/FileCache/2021/05_May/Spring%202020%20Journal%20-%20TOC.pdf),” *CCAR Journal* 67:2, (Spring, 2020), pp. 54-73.

[“Is There a Jewish Version of the ‘Just War’ Doctrine? Some Notes on the Nature of Halachic Interpretation,”](https://www.academia.edu/44814511/Is_There_a_Jewish_Version_of_the_Just_War_Doctrine_Some_Notes_on_the_Nature_of_Halachic_Interpretation) *CCAR Journal* 66:2 (Spring, 2019), pp. 74-94.

“[Kiddushin as a Progressive Halakhic Concept: Toward a Theory of Progressive Halakhah](https://www.freehofinstitute.org/uploads/1/2/0/6/120631295/kiddushin_as_a_progressive_halakhic_concept.pdf),” Walter Jacob, ed., *The Modern Family and Jewish Law*. Pittsburgh: Rodef Shalom Press, 2018, pp. 27-80.

“A Time to Heal and a Time to Cease from Healing: Reform Halakhah on End-Stage Medical Care,” in David Birnbaum and Martin S. Cohen, eds., *U-vacharta Ba-chayim*. New York: New Paradigm Matrix, 2018, pp. 215-228.

“The Jewish Path,” in Dana Evan Kaplan, ed., *A Life of Meaning: Embracing Reform Judaism’s Sacred Path*. New York: Central Conference of American Rabbis, 2018, pp. 191-198.

[“Halakhah as Translation: On the Custody of Children in Jewish Law,”](https://www.freehofinstitute.org/uploads/1/2/0/6/120631295/halakhah_as_translation.pdf) in Walter Jacob, ed.,

*The Modern Child and Jewish Law*. Pittsburgh: Rodef Shalom Press, 2017, pp. 1-63.

“Halakhah, Responsa, and Reform Judaism,” *Uniao do Judaismo Reformista*, 2017, [www.ujr-amlat.org/art/enhalakhah-responsa-and-reform-judaism](http://www.ujr-amlat.org/art/enhalakhah-responsa-and-reform-judaism).

[“What’s So Special About Halakhic Reasoning? Cigarette Smoking, Jewish Law, and Rabbinical Decision Making,”](http://www.freehofinstitute.org/uploads/1/2/0/6/120631295/whats_so_special_about_halakhic_reasoning.pdf) in Walter Jacob, ed., *Addiction and Its Consequences in Jewish Law.* Pittsburgh: Rodef Shalom Press, 2015, pp. 37-88.

[“Ha-p’sikah ha-reformit: al mishpat v’retorikah b’chayei k’hilah y’hudit-liberalit”](https://www.academia.edu/8286292/Reform_Halakhic_Decision_Making_On_Law_and_Rhetoric_in_the_Life_of_a_Liberal_Jewish_Community_Heb_%D7%94%D7%A4%D7%A1%D7%99%D7%A7%D7%94_%D7%94%D7%A8%D7%A4%D7%95%D7%A8%D7%9E%D7%99%D7%AA_%D7%A2%D7%9C_%D7%9E%D7%A9%D7%A4%D7%98_%D7%95%D7%A8%D7%98%D7%95%D7%A8%D7%99%D7%A7%D7%94_%D7%91%D7%97%D7%99%D7%99_%D7%A7%D7%94%D7%99%D7%9C%D7%94_%D7%99%D7%94%D7%95%D7%93%D7%AA_%D7%9C%D7%99%D7%91%D7%A8%D7%9C%D7%99%D7%AA) (“Reform Halakhic Decision Making: On Law and Rhetoric in the Life of a Liberal Jewish Community”), in Avinoam Rozenak, ed., *Hayahadut hareformit: hagut, tarbut v’chevrah.* Jerusalem: Van Leer Institute/Hakibutz Hame’uchad, 2014, pp. 161-182.

“Getting Our *Get* Back: On Restoring the Ritual of Divorce in American Reform Judaism,” in Lisa J. Grushcow, ed., *The Sacred Encounter: Jewish Perspectives on Sexuality*. New York: CCAR Press, 2014, pp. 407-414.

“It’s *Our* Book: A Talmudic Reading for Reform Jews,” *CCAR Journal* 61:3 (Summer, 2014), pp. 17-30.

[“Privacy, the Internet, and Progressive *Halakhah,*”](http://www.freehofinstitute.org/uploads/1/2/0/6/120631295/the_internet_privacy_and_progressive_halakhah.pdf) in Walter Jacob, ed., *The Internet Revolution and Jewish Law*. Pittsburgh: Rodef Shalom Press, 2014, pp. 81-142.

[“The Woodchopper Revisited: On Analogy, *Halakhah*, and Jewish Bioethics,”](http://www.freehofinstitute.org/uploads/1/2/0/6/120631295/the_woodchopper_revisited.pdf) Walter Jacob, ed., *Medical Frontiers and Jewish Law*. Pittsburgh: Rodef Shalom Press, 2012, pp. 1-64.

[“Torture, Terrorism, and the *Halakhah*,”](https://digital.ub.uni-potsdam.de/content/pageview/346630) in Walter Jacob, ed., *War and Terrorism in Jewish Law*. Pittsburgh: Solomon B. Freehof Institute of Progressive *Halakhah*, 2010, pp. 3-50.

“Faith and Fertility in Reform Jewish Thought,” in Eric Blyth and Ruth Landau, editors, *Faith and Fertility: Attitudes Towards Reproductive Practices in Different Religions from Ancient to Modern Times*. London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2009, pp. 225-245.

[“Narratives of Enlightenment: On the Use of the ‘Captive Infant’ Story by Recent Halakhic Authorities,”](http://www.freehofinstitute.org/uploads/1/2/0/6/120631295/narratives_of_enlightenment__1_.pdf) in Walter Jacob, ed., *Napoleon’s Influence on Jewish Law*. Pittsburgh: Rodef Shalom Press, 2007, pp. 93-147.

[“On the Absence of Method in Jewish Bioethics: Rabbi Yehezkel Landau on Autopsy,”](https://www.academia.edu/2946024/_On_the_Absence_of_Method_in_Jewish_Bioethics_Rabbi_Yehezkel_Landau_on_Autopsy_) in Alyssa Gray and Bernard Jackson, eds., *Jewish Law Association Studies XVII* (2007), pp. 254-278.

[“Halachah, Aggadah, and Reform Jewish Bioethics: A Response,”](https://www.academia.edu/44349682/Halachah_Aggadah_and_Reform_Jewish_Bioethics_A_Response) *CCAR Journal* 53:3 (Summer, 2006), 81-106.

(With Harvey Gordon). “Jewish Bioethics,” in John F. Peppin, Mark J. Cherry, and Ana Iltis, eds., *The Annals of Bioethics: Religious Perspectives in Bioethics*. Leiden, Netherlands: Taylor and Francis, 2004, pp. 131-146.

[“Against Method: On *Halakhah* and Interpretive Communities,”](http://www.freehofinstitute.org/uploads/1/2/0/6/120631295/against_method.pdf) in Walter Jacob, ed., *Beyond the Letter of the Law: Essays on Diversity in the Halakhah*. Pittsburgh: Rodef Shalom Press, 2004, pp. 17-77.

[“Taking Precedent Seriously: On *Halakhah* as a Rhetorical Practice,”](https://www.freehofinstitute.org/uploads/1/2/0/6/120631295/taking_precedent_seriously.pdf) in Walter Jacob and Moshe Zemer, eds., *Re-Examining Reform Halakhah* (New York: Berghahn Books, 2002), pp. 1-70.

[“*Halakhah* in Translation: The Chatam Sofer on Prayer in the Vernacular,”](https://www.academia.edu/2946939/_Halakhah_in_Translation_The_Chatam_Sofer_on_Prayer_in_the_Vernacular_) *CCAR Journal* 51:3 (Summer, 2004), pp. 142-163.

“[Responsa and the Art of Writing: Three Examples from the *Teshuvot* of Rabbi Moshe Feinstein](https://www.academia.edu/2945990/_Responsa_and_the_Art_of_Writing_Three_Examples_from_the_Teshuvot_of_Rabbi_Moshe_Feinstein_),” in Peter S. Knobel and Mark N. Staitman, eds., *An American Rabbinate: A Festschrift for Walter Jacob*.Pittsburgh: Rodef Shalom Press, 2001, pp. 149-204.

“Conversion to Judaism: The Question of Motivation,” in Stephen J. Einstein and Lydia Kukoff, eds., *Introduction to Judaism: Instructor’s Guide and Curriculum*. New York: UAHC Press, 1999, pp. 88-105 and 156.

[“Is Old Age a Disease? The Elderly, the Medical System, and the *Halakhah*,”](https://digital.ub.uni-potsdam.de/content/pageview/326869) in Walter Jacob and Moshe Zemer, eds. *Age and Aging in the Halakhah*, Tel Aviv and Pittsburgh, Freehof Institute of Progressive Halakhah, 1998, pp. 43-82.

Twenty-two entries in R. J. Zwi Werblowsky and Geoffrey Wigoder, eds., *The Oxford Dictionary of the Jewish Religion*. New York, Oxford University Press, 1997.

[“Abortion and the Halakhic Conversation: A Liberal Perspective,”](https://digital.ub.uni-potsdam.de/content/pageview/346825) in Walter Jacob and Moshe Zemer, eds., *The Fetus and Fertility in Jewish Law*. Tel Aviv and Pittsburgh, Freehof Institute of Progressive Halakhah, 1995, pp. 39-89.

“Reinforcing our Jewish Identity: Issues of Personal Status,” *CCAR Yearbook* 104 (1994), pp. 51-57.

[“Responsa and Rhetoric: On Law, Literature, and the Rabbinic Decision,”](https://www.academia.edu/4175989/Responsa_and_Rhetoric_On_Law_Literature_and_the_Rabbinic_Decision) *Pursuing the Text: Studies in Honor of Ben Zion Wacholder*, London, Sheffield Press, 1994, pp. 360-409.

[“*Halakhah* and Ulterior Motives: Rabbinic Discretion and the Law of Conversion”,](https://digital.ub.uni-potsdam.de/content/pageview/346735) in Walter Jacob and Moshe Zemer, eds., *Conversion to Judaism in Jewish Law*, Tel Aviv and Pittsburgh, Freehof Institute of Progressive Halakhah, 1994, pp. 1-47.

“Medieval Halakhic Literature and the Reform Rabbi: A Neglected Relationship,” *CCAR Journal*, Fall 1993, pp. 61-74.

“*Minhag* and *Halakhah*: Toward a Model of Shared Authority on Matters of Ritual”, in Walter Jacob and Moshe Zemer, eds., *Rabbinic-Lay Relations in Jewish Law*, Tel Aviv and Pittsburgh, Freehof Institute of Progressive Halakhah, 1993, pp. 99-126.

Biographical entries on: Samuel Atlas, Alexander Guttmann, Jacob Z. Lauterbach and Moses Mielziner in Mark Raphael, ed., *Reform Judaism in America*, Westport, CT, Greenwood Press, 1993.

“The Proposal for a National *Beit Din*: Is It Good for the Jews?”, in Michael Shapiro, ed., *Divisions Between Traditionalism and Liberalism in the American Jewish Community*, Lewiston, NY, The Edwin Mellen Press, 1991, pp. 35-54.

“The Study of Talmud and Halacha: A Survey of Some Recent Scholarship”, *Journal of Reform Judaism*, Spring, 1991, pp. 1-16.

“The Search for a Liberal Halakhah: A Progress Report”, in Walter Jacob and Moshe Zemer, eds., *Dynamic Jewish Law*, Tel Aviv and Pittsburgh, Freehof Institute of Progressive Halakhah, 1991, pp. 25-52.

“Morality and Choice: A Response to Daniel Callahan”, in Barry S. Kogan, ed., *A Time to Be Born and A Time to Die: The Ethics of Choice*, New York, Aldine de Gruyter, 1991, pp. 73-82.

“Nancy Cruzan and the `Right to Die’: A Jewish Perspective,” *Midwest Medical Ethics*, Fall, 1990, pp. 5-10.

“R. Nissim b. Reuben Gerondi and the Mishneh Torah of Maimonides,” *Proceedings of the Tenth World Congress of Jewish Studies*, Hebrew section, Jerusalem, 1990, Division C, v. 1, pp. 187-194.

“The Commentary of R. Nissim b. Reuben Gerondi to the Halakhot of Alfasi: A Study in Halakhic History,” *Hebrew Union College Annual*, v. 60, 1989, pp. 191-258.

“Halakhah and Political Theory: A Study in Jewish Legal Response to Modernity,” *Modern Judaism*, October, 1989, pp. 289-310.

“AIDS and Ethical Responsibility: Some Halakhic Considerations,” *Journal of Reform Judaism*, Winter, 1989, pp. 53-65.

Biographical entries on: Simcha Assaf, Louis Ginsberg, J.Z. Lauterbach, Saul Lieberman, Moses Schreiber and I.H. Weiss, in *The Blackwell Companion to Jewish Culture*, Oxford, Basil Blackwell, 1989.

“A Fitting Response: A Jewish Perspective” (on discontinuation of heroic therapy in terminal cases), in *Second Opinion*, published by The Park Ridge Center, An Institute for the Study of Health, Faith and Ethics, v. 7, March 1988, pp. 34-39.

“R. Asher b. Yehiel and the Mishneh Torah of Maimonides,” in David R. Blumenthal, ed., *Approaches to Judaism in Medieval Times III*, Atlanta, Scholars Press, 1988, pp. 147-157.

(with Howard L. Apothaker) “Patrilineality and Presumption,” *Journal of Reform Judaism*, Summer, 1984.

“The Recalcitrant Husband: The Problem of Definition,” *Jewish Law Annual*, v. 4, Leiden, Brill, 1981.

“Abortion, Halacha, and Reform Judaism,” *Journal of Reform Judaism*, Fall, 1981.

**REVIEWS:**

Fishbane, Simcha, *The Boldness of an Halakhist: An Analysis of the Writings of Rabbi Yechiel Mechel Halevi Epstein's Arukh Hashulhan.* H-Judaic, H-Net Reviews. December, 2008.

URL: <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=23501>

David Novak, *Natural Law in Judaism*, in *AJS Review*, vol. 26 (2002), pp. 384-385.

Robert Brody, *The Geonim of Babylonia and the Shaping of Medieval Jewish Culture*, in *Speculum* 74/4 (October, 1999), 1035-1037.

Peter J. Haas, *Responsa: Literary History of a Rabbinic Genre*, in *Shofar* 17:2 (Winter, 1999), 134-135.

Simcha Fishbane, *The Method and Meaning of the Mishnah Berurah*, in *AJS Review*, vol. 19, no. 1, 1994, pp. 106-108.

Walter Jacob, *Questions and Reform Jewish Answers: New American Reform Responsa*, in *Reform Judaism*, vol. 22, no. 4, Summer, 1994, pp. 64-67.

Jonathan R. Ziskind, transl. and ed., *John Selden on Jewish Marriage Law: The Uxor Hebraica*, in *Shofar*, v. 11 , no. 1, Fall, 1992, pp. 148-150.

Richard Kalmin, *The Redaction of the Babylonian Talmud*, in *Shofar*, v. 8, no. 4, Summer, 1990, pp. 134-136.

Nina Beth Cardin and David Wolf Silverman, eds., *The Seminary at 100*, in *American Jewish Archives*, Fall-Winter, 1991, pp. 270-272.

Simon Greenberg, ed., *The Ordination of Women as Rabbis*; J. Simcha Cohen, *Intermarriage and Conversion: A Halakhic Solution*; and Aaron Levine, *Economics and Jewish Law: Halakhic Perspectives*, in *Religious Studies Review*, 1988.

Joel Roth, *The Halakhic Process*, in *Religious Studies Review*, 1987.

R. Shain, *All for the Boss*, in *Religious Studies Review*, 1986.