Contents

Acknowledgments xv
Foreword, Rabbi Sally J. Priesand xix
Preface, Rabbi Jacqueline Koch Ellenson xxiii
Short Takes xxxiii
An Offering Made in Honor of Those Who Have No Time to Make an Offering, Rabbi Karen Bender xlvii
Women Rabbis’ List of Firsts xlix

Part One • Those Who Came Before Us:
The Pre-history of Women Rabbis 1

1. Who Controls The Narrative? A “Stop Action” Analysis of the Story of Beruriah and the Implications for Women Rabbis, Rabbi Judith Abrams, PhD, z”l 5

2. Chasidic Women Rebbes from 1749 to 1900, Rabbi Renee Edelman 23
3. “The Long and Winding Road” to Women Rabbis, 
Pamela S. Nadell, PhD 31

4. Rediscovering Regina Jonas: The First Woman Rabbi, 
Rabbi Laura Geller 45

5. The Women Who Set the Stage: Celebrating Over 
One Hundred Years of Women in Reform Judaism, 
Rabbi Marla J. Feldman 51

Personal Reflection: A First Rabbi, from a Long Line 
of Rabbis, Rabbi Naamah Kelman-Ezrachi 63

Personal Reflection: Going into the Family Business, 
Rabbi Sue Shankman 67

Part Two • Reform Ordination of Women 71

6. Letters from Hebrew Union College to Sally J. Priesand 75

7. The Ordination of Sally J. Priesand, A Historic Interview 81

8. Looking Back to See Ahead, 
Rabbi Richard F. Address, DMin 101

9. What’s in a Word? Inequality in the Reform S’michah, 
Rabbi Mary Zamore 109

10. A Brief History of the Task Force on Women in the 
Rabbinate, Rabbi Neil Kominsky 127

11. From Periphery to Center: A History of the Women’s 
Rabbinic Network, Rabbi Carole B. Balin, PhD 137

12. Women Who Chose: First a Jew, Then a Rabbi, 
Julie Wiener 153

13. O Pioneers: Reflections from Five Women Rabbis of the 
First Generation, Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell, PhD 165
Contents  •  ix

14. From Generation to Generation: A Roundtable Discussion
with Rabbi Ellen Weinberg Dreyfus 175

Personal Reflection: The Pregnant Rabbi,
RABBI DEBORAH ZECHER 223

Personal Reflection: Ima and Abba on the Bimah:
Being an RK Squared, RACHEL MARDER 227

PART THREE  •  Ripple Effects: The Impact of Ordaining Women 233

15. JTS, HUC, and Women Rabbis—Redux,
RABBI GARY PHILLIP ZOLA, PhD 237

16. Creating Opportunities for the “Other”: The Ordination
of Women as a Turning Point for LGBT Jews,
RABBI DENISE L. EGER 261

17. The Impact of Women Rabbis on Male Rabbis,
RABBI CHARLES A. KROLOFF 269

18. Women Rabbis in Israel, RABBI DALIA MARX, PhD 279

19. The First Thirty Years in Israel: Avnei Derech,
RABBI KINNERET SHIRYON, DD 295

20. A New Reality: Female Religious Leadership in the
Modern Orthodox Community,
MAHARAT ROI PICKER NEISS 305

21. Orthodox Women (Non-)Rabbis,
RABBI DARREN KLEINBERG, PhD 317

Personal Reflection: The Presence of Women Rabbis:
A Transformation of the Rabbinate and of Jewish Life,
RABBI SAM GORDON 339

Personal Reflection: Growing Up with Women Rabbis as
Role Models, RABBI MICHAEL S. FRIEDMAN 343
Personal Reflection: A Man’s Experience of Women in the Rabbinate, Rabbi Jeffrey Kurtz-Lendner 347

Part Four • Women Rabbis and Feminism 351

22. Women Rabbis and Feminism: On Our Way to the Promised Land, Rabbi Laura Geller 355

23. “I Find By Experience”: Feminist Praxis of Theology and Knowledge, Rabbi Oshrat Morag 367

24. Shifting the Focus: Women Rabbis and Developments in Feminist Theology, Rabbi Kari Hofmaister Tuling, PhD 379

25. Real Men Marry Rabbis: A History of the Jewish Feminist Movement, Rabbi Rebecca W. Sirbu 391

26. Betty Friedan’s “Spiritual Daughters,” the ERA, and the CCAR, Rabbi Carole B. Balin, PhD 403

Personal Reflection: Finding a Seat at the Right Table: Gender at HUC-JIR, Rabbi Daniel Kirzane 419

Personal Reflection: Becoming a Woman of the Wall, Rabbi Susan Silverman 425

Part Five • Jewish Life 429

27. Making Up for Lost Time: Female Rabbis and Ritual Change, Rabbi Debra Reed Blank, PhD 433

28. The Mikveh as a Well of Creativity, Rabbi Sara Luria and Shaina Herring 475

29. Offering a New Look: Women Rabbis and Jewish Spirituality, Rabbi Michele Lenke 483
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents</th>
<th>xi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 30. *El Na R’fab Na Lab*, Heal Us Now,  
  **Rabbi Eric Weiss** with **Hilly Haber** | 493 |
| 31. Kindling Change: Women Rabbis and Social Action,  
  **Rabbi Patricia Karlin-Neumann** | 501 |
| 32. How Jewish Women Have Come to Read the Bible:  
  The Creating of Midrash, **Rabbi Sandy Eisenberg Sasso**, DMin | 515 |
| 33. **140 Faces of Torah and Counting**: Communal  
  Transformation, Theological Evolution, and the Authority of Interpretation,  
  **Rabbi Elizabeth W. Goldstein**, PhD | 525 |
| *Personal Reflection*: A Rabbi Goes to the Mikveh,  
  **Rabbi Julie Wolkooff**, DMin, CT | 537 |
| *Personal Reflection*: A Rabbi in the Military—  
  **Rabbi Sarah Schechter**, Chaplain (Major), United States Air Force Academy | 541 |
| *Personal Reflection*: Born in the USSR:  
  **Rabbi Elena Rubinstein** | 545 |
| Part Six · *Congregational Culture and Community Life* | 549 |
| 34. Weaving Webs of Sacred Connection:  
  Women Rabbis and Congregational Culture,  
  **Rabbi Judith Schindler** and **Cantor Mary Thomas** | 553 |
| 35. Forty Years—What Moses Might Have Learned (from His Women Colleagues),  
  **Rabbi Amy M. Schwartzman** | 565 |
| 36. Creating a New Model: From Rabbi and Rebbetzin to Co-Rabbis,  
  **Rabbi Linda Motzkin** and **Rabbi Jonathan Rubenstein** | 577 |
| 37. Women Rabbis and the Gender Pay Gap:  
  Lessons from the CCAR’s 2012 Landmark Study and a Call to Action,  
  **Michael J. Gan** and **Joshua Scharff** | 585 |
### Part Seven • Image

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>The Rabbi As Symbolic Exemplar: A Feminist Critique</td>
<td>Rabbi Sara Mason-Barkin</td>
<td>649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>From Imagination to Reality: <em>Ima on the Bima</em></td>
<td>Rabbi Mindy Avra Portnoy</td>
<td>661</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>“Funny, You Don’t Look Like a Rabbi”: Transference and the Female Rabbi</td>
<td>Rabbi Ellen Jay Lewis, LP, NCPsyA</td>
<td>673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>The Public Image of the Woman Rabbi</td>
<td>Rabbi Wendy Spears</td>
<td>683</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>A Mirror, a Prism, and a Telescope: Reimagining Role Models</td>
<td>Rabbi Leah Rachel Berkowitz</td>
<td>693</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
45. Portraits of the Rabbi as a Young Woman,  
WENDY ZIERLER, PhD  707  

46. Searching for the Fictional Woman Rabbi on the Small and Large Screen, RABBI DAVID J. ZUCKER, PhD  721  

*Personal Reflection*: Rabbis in Red Lipstick,  
DASI FRUCHTER  735  

*Personal Reflection*: Letter to Hollywood—I Don’t Have a Beard or Side Curls and I Look Just Like You: American Judaism’s Image Problem, RABBI JORDIE GERSON  741  

*Personal Reflection*: Dropping the “R-Bomb,”  
RABBI ELIZABETH S. WOOD  743  

*For Further Reading* 747  
*Contributors* 753