

Contents

Introduction	9
 Chapter 1 Jewish Women in American Society	 17
1.1 Jewish Immigration into the United States	17
1.2 Religious Dimensions of American Jewish Community ...	32
1.2.1 Women in Reform Judaism	32
1.2.2 Women in Conservative Judaism	35
1.2.3 Women in Reconstructionist Judaism	38
1.2.4 Women in Orthodox Judaism	40
1.2.4.1 'Ultra-Orthodox' Judaism	45
1.2.4.2 'Modern Orthodox' Judaism	49
1.2.4.3 Problematic Position of Women in Orthodox Judaism	50
1.2.5 Women in Humanistic Judaism and Jewish Renewal	56
1.3 Impact of Jewish Feminism on the American Jewish Community	61
1.3.1 Jewish Feminist Movement versus American Feminism	63
1.3.2 Feminist Critique of Judaism	73
1.3.3 Achievements of Jewish Feminism	85
1.4 Position of Jewish Women in the American Community – Concluding Remarks	92
 Chapter 2 American Jewish Women's Writing	 97
2.1 Defining American Jewish Literature	97
2.2 Three Generations of American Jewish Female Writers	119
2.2.1 The First Generation – Jewish Immigrant Experience	121

2.2.2 The Second Generation – Immersion in the American Mainstream	131
2.2.3 The Third Generation – Return to Jewish Roots/Orthodoxy	142
2.3 American Jewish Women’s Literature in the Twentieth Century – Concluding Remarks	153
 Chapter 3 American Jewish Women’s Quest for Identity and Spirituality in the Contemporary Writings of American Jewish Female Authors	157
3.1 Orthodoxy as Patriarchy – Maintenance of the Status Quo	158
3.2 Revivification of Orthodoxy – Development of Feminist Orthodoxy	170
3.3 Diversity within Orthodoxy – Amelioration of Intra-Orthodox Friction Through Feminism	196
3.4 Return to Jewish Roots, Tradition and Religion	209
3.4.1 <i>Ba’alot Teshuvah</i> Searching for Spirituality and the Roots within Orthodoxy	211
3.4.2 <i>Ba’alot Teshuvah</i> Searching for Post-Modern Piety and Post-Ethnic Identity	237
3.5 Judaism and Intermarriage – Jettisoning Orthodoxy for the Secular World	251
 Conclusion	263
 Works Cited	269
 Index	305