

# The Litvak Legacy

The Litvak Legacy Anatole Litvak Hospital, Heal Thyself Irena Veisait Studies in Contemporary Jewry Jewries at the Frontier Sanctified Sex Eighteen Words to Sustain a Life Jewish Affairs Jews and Zionism South African Jewry South African Jewry The Jewish Journal of Sociology Anti-semitism in South Africa Today Ultimate Visions The Six-Day War and World Jewry Religious Freedom in South Africa The Origins of Yiddish Scholarship and the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research Love and Terror in the God Encounter University of Toronto Quarterly Mark N. Ozer Michelangelo Capua Mark Taylor Yves Plasseraud Jonathan Frankel Sander L. Gilman Noam Sachs Zion David Patterson Gideon Shimoni Leon Feldberg Jocelyn Hellig Martin Forward Eli Lederhendler University of South Africa. Institute for Theological Research. Symposium Cecile Esther Kuznitz David Hartman University of Toronto

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between the 1880s and the 1920s a million litvak jews migrated throughout the world from lita their home in the western edge of the russian empire this book is the story of the legacy of that migration the questions answered are where did they come from how did they get to where they are what are some of the lasting values they we share the world over in what

way do we differ depending on the countries in which various members of my family have lived one common response in a course based on this material was i now know why my family was the way it was the book will enable you to better know why you are the way you are and enable your children and grandchildren to understand their background it is my thesis that there is a distinctive litvak cultural heritage that can be traced through the maintenance of that culture through the several generations and the significant impact it has had on the countries in which the immigrants settled the jewish inhabitants of lita were called litvaks litvakes in yiddish to distinguish them from non jewish lithuanians as well as from other jews in their home they formed a distinct culture that differed in its variant of their language of yiddish as well as the character of their religion as followers of the vilna gaon in the late 18th century in opposition to the spread of hassidism litvaks maintained a unique commitment to rabbinical judaism and intellectual study they were also unusual in the degree to which arduous and sharp witted talmudic study was widespread the religious tradition continued to evolve in lita in response to the challenges of both hassidism and the haskalah enlightenment the ethically oriented musar movement became widespread within the lithuanian yeshivot orthodox judaism evolved out of traditional judaism however relatively few of the traditionally religious chose to emigrate in the late 19th century particularly centered in vilna lita was a major source of the jewish responses to modernity such as socialism and the recognition of the yiddish language as well as modern hebrew and zionism lita was the greenhouse of secularism the literary and political responses to the breakdown of the jewish social structure retained the traditional spirit of intensity and sharp wittedness the quest for bringing about a better world via socialism and zionism partook of the religious impulse while denying it the language battles between yiddish and hebrew were joined to these ideologies the characteristic litvak intellectual strand was expressed in the flowering of secular literary and historical studies that partook of the intensity previously devoted to the sacred writings as the russian empire containing lita was broken up following world war i its inhabitants found themselves living either in latvia poland the russian and belorussian republics of the soviet union or in the newly independent lithuania the entire area now divided had a common cultural entity e that can be called litvakia when the new boundaries were drawn many of the inhabitants stayed in place and were subject to the holocaust the great migration from lita occurred in the period of the latter third of the 19th century and in the 20th century prior to the first world war but extended through world war ii even beyond the holocaust shoah the few survivors continued to bear witness to its memory section one deals with the evolution of the core in lita from 1840 to its destruction during the

shoah focus is on the relationship between the developments following 1880 and the ideas carried by the emigrants to the diaspora from lita mainly ending in the 1920s section two deals with those ideas carried to the english speaking world and their subsequent evolution mainly in the united states but also in comparison with the united kingdom canada and south

during his 40 year career director producer anatole litvak 1902 1974 made films of all genres in russia germany england france and the united states his rootless background was cited by critics lamenting his lack of consistent style but it also added to his mystique as a chameleon like realisateur litvak directed hollywood greats like edward g robinson john garfield kirk douglas ingrid bergman vivien leigh sophia loren anthony perkins olivia de havilland yul brynner burt lancaster barbara stanwick and many others he was twice nominated for best director by the academy of motion picture art and sciences for the snake pit 1948 and for decision before dawn 1951 these films along with mayerling 1936 sorry wrong number 1946 and anastasia 1956 are considered classics but his pictures don t offer many clues about litvak the man apart from passing references to his wartime service as combat documentarian he never discussed his life in print allowing only brief interviews relating exclusively to his work this biography fills that void providing the first detailed portrait of an artist described by film historian richard schickel as an adept adaptable and prolific man the kind of director that hollywood likes best

proven solutions to transform a healthcare system in crisis part biography and part clear eyed examination of a healthcare system in crisis hospital heal thyself one brilliant mathematician s proven plan for saving hospital many lives and billions of dollars tells the story of enigmatic healthcare visionary eugene litvak whose research and strategies have already been implemented at many top 12 ranked hospitals to save hundreds of millions of dollars and countless thousands of patient lives while u s healthcare costs continue to skyrocket litvak s program described in this book offers tested effective methods to trim those costs while simultaneously improving patient outcomes written by veteran prize winning healthcare journalist mark taylor this book includes compelling discussion on how hospital and emergency room overcrowding has harmful and potentially deadly effects on patients and staff how litvak s algorithms and complex mathematical theories help hospitals staff appropriately to safely manage patient flow how applying litvak s unique patient flow interventions improves nurse retention in an era of mass nurse exodus litvak s methods have been proven to work in the best hospitals in america and the world studies in the top medical journals confirm their success in reducing medical errors hospital and emergency room

overcrowding nurse and physician burnout and stress and patient mortality rates they've saved millions of dollars for each hospital adopting them while improving patient satisfaction and outcomes nurse retention hospital efficiency and addressing healthcare disparities and inequities distilling complex ideas into accessible language hospital heal thyself a mathematician's proven plan for saving american hospitals many lives and billions of dollars is a timely essential read for all medical practitioners and healthcare administrators and staff who want to play their part in transforming modern healthcare and the world for the better

irena veisait is held in deep esteem throughout her country this volume is an attempt to relate the difficult journey of her remarkable life against the backdrop of the complex history of lithuania and its litvaks lithuanian jews after being rescued by christian lithuanian families and having survived the holocaust irena veisait devoted herself to study and creative work she was a memorable lecturer respected theatre critic associate film director and also founder and chairman of the open society fund soros foundation which made an invaluable contribution to the process of democratisation in lithuania irena veisait made it her life's work to speak up for dialogue and mutual understanding and believes that even in the most difficult circumstances it is possible to preserve one's humanity having lived through some of the major atrocities of the twentieth century her insistence on the need for tolerance has inspired many

this series is published yearly by the institute of contemporary jewry at the hebrew university of jerusalem it is edited by jonathan frankel peter medding and ezra mendelsohn all distinguished professors of history at the hebrew university the volumes include symposia articles book reviews and lists of recent dissertations by major scholars of jewish history from around the world among the topics examined in this volume are the transformation of russian jewish communal life habsburg jewry and its disappearance the bolsheviks and british jews and the palestinian labor movement this diverse collection is one of the first attempts to examine the over all impact of the first world war and the russian revolution on the jewish people

traversing far flung jewish communities in south africa australia texas brazil china new zealand quebec and elsewhere this wide ranging collection explores the notion of frontier in the jewish experience as a historical geographical reality and a conceptual framework as a compelling alternative to viewing the periphery only as a locus of dispossession and exile from

the homeland this work imagines a new jewish history written as the history of the jews at the frontier in this new history governed by the dynamics of change confrontation and accommodation marginalized experiences are brought to the center and all participants are given voice by articulating the tension between the center periphery model and the frontier model jewries at the frontier shows how the productive confrontation between and among cultures and peoples generates a new multivocal account of jewish history

sanctified sex draws on two thousand years of rabbinic debates addressing competing aspirations for loving intimacy passionate sexual union and sanctity in marriage what can judaism contribute to our struggles to nurture love relationships what halakhic precedents are relevant and how are rulings changing the rabbis of course seldom agree underlying their arguments are perennial debates what kind of marital sex qualifies as ideal sacred self control of sexual desire or the holiness found in emotional and erotic intimacy is intercourse degrading in its physicality or the highest act of spiritual mystical union and should women or men or both wield ultimate say about what transpires in bed noam sachs zion guides us chronologically and steadily through fraught terrain seminal biblical texts and their talmudic interpretations talmud tales of three unusual rabbis and their marital bedrooms medieval codifiers and mystical commentators ultra orthodox rabbis clashing with one another over radically divergent ideals and finally contemporary rabbis of varied denominations wrestling with modern transformations in erotic lifestyles and values invited into these sanctified and often sexually explicit discussions with our ancestors and contemporaries we encounter innovative jewish teachings on marital intimacy ardent lovemaking techniques and the art of couple communication vital for matrimonial success

in the jewish tradition going back to jacob many fathers have written down whatever wisdom they might have attained in their lives in order to pass along that wisdom to their heirs it is called an ethical will written as a testimony and a testament in an epistolary format this book is a compendium of the wisdom of a father who has spent a lifetime studying the teachings of the jewish tradition as well as literary and philosophical traditions of the west the insights taken from those traditions which explore the life of the soul are intended for anyone who has a soul the book is organized around eighteen words that form the foundations of human life the number eighteen is taken from the hebrew word for life chai which has a numerical value of eighteen among the words at the heart of these reflections are faith goodness responsibility meaning gratitude prayer

love and others

antisemitism in south africa began in the late 19th century with the wave of jewish immigration from eastern europe and in the 20th century it conspicuously permeated the ideology of the nationalist party antisemitism was economically motivated and the zionist orientation of south african jewry led to an accusation of lack of loyalty to the country from 1967 on jewish relations with white south africans improved whereas relations with non whites deteriorated in post apartheid south africa antisemitism of the white sector emerges from the right blacks who suffer from economic inequality are more antisemitic their political leadership however attacks zionism but condemns antisemitism muslim antisemitism which emerged after the revolution in iran in 1979 is an intractable problem for south african jewry muslim anti zionist rhetoric has some influence on blacks however in any case the jews are a secondary issue for the new south african leadership and its approach to the country s jews and to relations with israel is rather pragmatic

a compelling collection of essays by leading theologians who explore the reasons for their commitment to a particular religion

this work contains a collection of papers presented at the seventeenth symposium of the institute for theological research unisa at the university of south africa in pretoria in september 1993

the author analyzes the thought of rabbi joseph b soloveitchik

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