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Inspirational Volume Conveys Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan's Legacy

April 2019—You are invited to spend a year with the words, ideas, and counsel of the great twentieth-century thinker Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan, as his quotes and ideas are used to illuminate each of the 54 weekly Torah portions and eleven Jewish holidays.

A pioneer of ideas and action—teaching that “Judaism is a civilization” encompassing culture, art, and peoplehood—Kaplan transformed the landscape of American Jewry. His contributions to Jewish life, from his reimagining of synagogues as centers of Jewish living to his creating the first bat mitzvah ceremony, are familiar; yet much of Kaplan’s treasury of ethical and spiritual thought is largely unknown.

Rabbi Steven Reuben, who studied closely with Kaplan, uses the annual cycle of Jewish ritual life and Torah study as a framework for demonstrating this legacy. His *A Year with Mordecai Kaplan* presents a Torah commentary, a related Kaplan quotation, a reflective commentary based on the wisdom of Kaplan, and an intimate story about his family or his community’s struggles and triumphs. In this first-of-its kind book, Reuben offers unique insight into Kaplan’s teachings about ethical relationships and spiritual fulfillment, including how to embrace the Godliness in everyday experience, our mandate to become agents of justice in the world, and the human ability to evolve personally and collectively.

“There is no sage greater than Mordecai Kaplan to walk us into an appreciation of how religion can add depth and insight to the experience of modernity, and no rabbi with greater sensitivity to guide us along the way than Steven Carr Reuben,” said Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson, Dean of the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, American Jewish University.

For more information about A Year with Mordecai Kaplan, including an excerpt from the book, visit <https://jps.org/books/a-year-with-mordecai-kaplan/>. To contact the author, email Suzanne Selengut, sselengut@jps.org. For a review copy, contact Anna Weir, aweir@unl.edu.

About The Jewish Publication Society: Founded in 1888, The Jewish Publication Society is the preeminent publisher of classic and contemporary Jewish texts for English readers worldwide. JPS has been publishing partners with the University of Nebraska Press since 2012. For more information, please visit jps.org or nebraskapress.unl.edu/jps.