**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ATTENTION:** Jewish Interest, Jewish History and Culture, New Books

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**Scholarship with Heart**

**May 2019**—Rabbi Reuven Hammer invites readers to spend a year with the inspiring ideas of the Sages through their reflections on the 54 weekly Torah portions and the 11 Jewish holidays in his new book, [*A Year with the Sages: Wisdom on the Weekly Torah Portion*](https://jps.org/books/a-year-with-the-sages/) (JPS, 2019).

From the fifth century BCE to the fifth century CE, the Sages considered themselves to have inherited the oral teachings God transmitted to Moses, along with the mandate to interpret them to each subsequent generation. With teachings revolving around core concepts such as God’s justice, God’s love, Torah, Israel, humility, honesty, loving-kindness, reverence, prayer, and repentance, their ideas helped form the structure of Jewish belief and practice.

“Any publication by Rabbi Reuven Hammer is cause for celebration,” said Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson, dean of the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, American Jewish University. “His wisdom, warmth, and depth are treasures. *A Year with the Sages* is exceptional—the contemporary sage, Rabbi Hammer, guides us in walking the path of the ancient sages.”

In this second volume in the JPS Daily Inspiration series (released on the heels of the first volume, *A Year with Mordecai Kaplan: Wisdom on the Weekly Torah Portion*), Hammer quotes from the weekly Torah portion and presents a Torah commentary, selections from the Sages that chronicle their process of interpreting the text, a commentary that elucidates these concepts and their consequences, and a personal reflection that illumines the Sages’ enduring wisdom for our era. Both scholarly and personal, each chapter offers insight into the foundations of Rabbinic Judaism, together with warm, accessible scholarship that is sure to enlighten.

**Rabbi Reuven Hammer**is an author and former dean of the Israel programs of the Jewish Theological Seminary in Jerusalem and a founding director of the Institute for Jewish Studies, today the Schechter Institute.

*For more information about A Year with the Sages, visit* [*jps.org.*](http://www.jps.org/) *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.