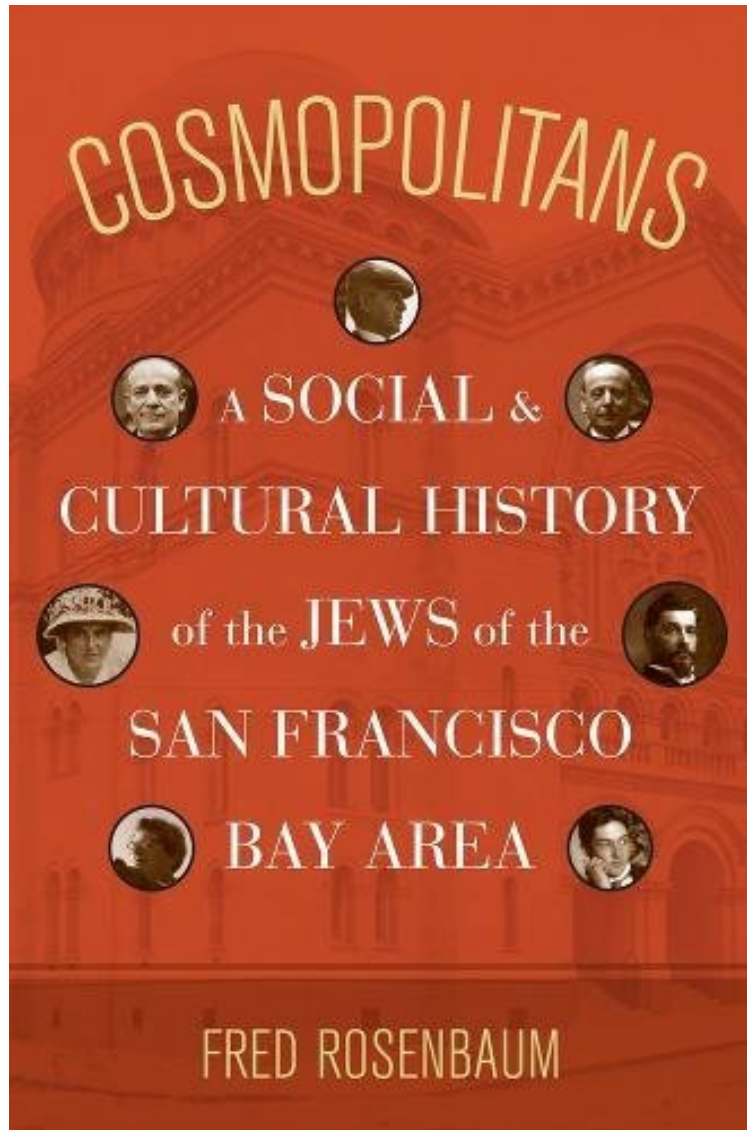


# **Cosmopolitans: A Social and Cultural History of the Jews of the San Francisco Bay Area**

*Fred Rosenbaum*

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**Fred Rosenbaum : *Cosmopolitans: A Social and Cultural History of the Jews of the San Francisco Bay Area*** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Cosmopolitans: A Social and Cultural History of the Jews of the San Francisco Bay Area*:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Worth the read By laurellea A most fascinating read!! My family comes from these people in SF and it was interesting to read the history surrounding these chosen ones! 0 of 0 people

found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy richard dreimanjust as indicated, delivered on time0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good historyBy burton meyerVery thorough history of the Jews of San Francisco. Covers events and personalities and the religious institutions.

Levi Strauss, A.L. Gump, Yehudi Menuhin, Gertrude Stein, Adolph Sutro, Congresswoman Florence Prag Kahn-- Jewish people have been so enmeshed in life in and around San Francisco that their story is a chronicle of the metropolis itself. Since the Gold Rush, Bay Area Jews have countered stereotypes, working as farmers and miners, boxers and mountaineers. They were Gold Rush pioneers, Gilded Age tycoons, and Progressive Era reformers. Told through an astonishing range of characters and events, *Cosmopolitans* illuminates many aspects of Jewish life in the area: the high profile of Jewish women, extraordinary achievements in the business world, the cultural creativity of the second generation, the bitter debate about the proper response to the Holocaust and Zionism, and much more. Focusing in rich detail on the first hundred years after the Gold Rush, the book also takes the story up to the present day, demonstrating how unusually strong affinities for the arts and for the struggle for social justice have characterized this community even as it has changed over time. *Cosmopolitans*, set in the uncommonly diverse Bay Area, is a truly unique chapter of the Jewish experience in America.

From Publishers WeeklyAccording to educator and historian Rosenbaum, Bay Area Jews have encountered relatively little anti-Semitism and have been deeply enmeshed in virtually every phase of local history since the Gold Rush. While Levi Strauss is arguably the city's standout entrepreneur and Yehudi Menuhin and Isaac Stern its most celebrated musical prodigies, other Jews are also prominent. Both Judah Magnes, founder and first chancellor of Jerusalem's Hebrew University, and influential writer Gertrude Stein credited the cultural diversity of their Oakland youth for setting them on a path of personal freedom and intellectual honesty. A patrician businessman who championed the poor, women's suffrage and an improved fire department, San Francisco's Adolph Sutro became the first Jewish mayor of a major American city in 1894. Rose Pesotta, Elaine Black and Samuel Adams Darcy were militant union organizers; and Harvey Milk, who was assassinated in 1978, became the first openly gay office holder in America. This is an absorbing and colorfully detailed story of a minority's outsized impact on its society, particularly in the spheres of the arts, business and politics. 38 bw photos. (Dec.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Will significantly enhance our knowledge of Jews in the Bay Area, especially their uniqueness among Americas Jewry.