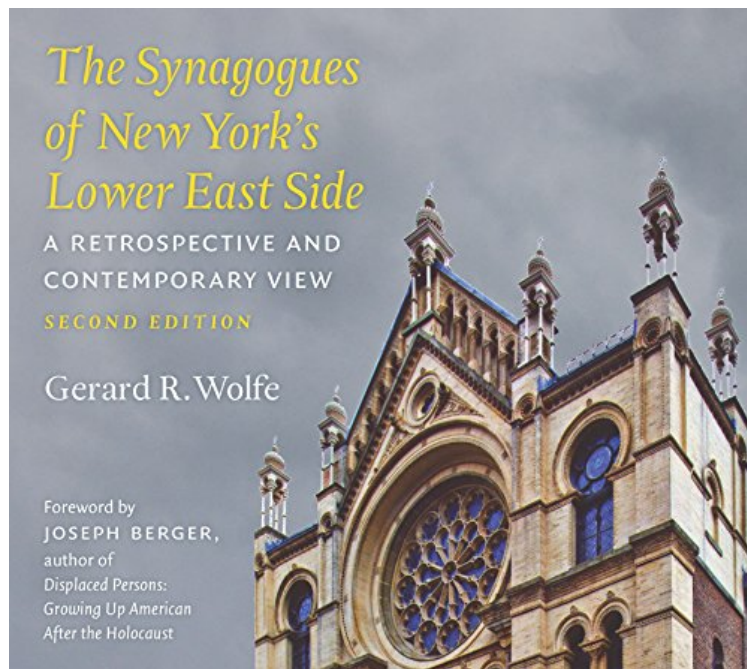


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The Synagogues of New York's Lower East Side: A Retrospective and Contemporary View, 2nd Edition

Gerard R. Wolfe

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Gerard R. Wolfe : The Synagogues of New York's Lower East Side: A Retrospective and Contemporary View, 2nd Edition before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Synagogues of New York's Lower East Side: A Retrospective and Contemporary View, 2nd Edition:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. great stories of New York historyBy hseGreat book. Very interesting stories and photos.9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Synagogues then and now on the Jewish Lower East SideBy Joyce MendelsohnThis is an important book and a valuable historic document -- meticulously researched and expertly written by Prof. Gerard Wolfe. He describes in intricate detail the religious heritage of the iconic immigrant neighborhood that formed the heart of the American Jewish experience. It is fascinating to read Prof. Wolfe's narrative tracing the history of Jewish houses of worship in NYC and focusing on 12 active synagogues, 24 "lost" or endangered synagogeues and a handful of other significant buildings in the neighborhood. The text is accompanied by fine contemporary photographs by Norman Borden and beautiful ones by Jo Renee Fine from the first edition of the book (1978). This is a book that you will be proud to own and to pass on to future generations. It is an excellent gift for Jewish holidays and other occasions.Joyce Mendelsohn, author: The Lower East Side Remembered and Revisited (second edition, Columbia University Press, 2009)7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. History Comes AliveBy Lydia GlickI've been a fan of Dr. Gerard Wolfe for many years, since the publication of the first edition of this book. I am thrilled with the format, the photos and the updated information. As a NYC resident and frequent visitor to the LES, I think Dr.Wolfe did a wonderful job capturing the changes to the the community, and the

sacred sites which they support. I might have liked a little bit more input from the local community, but that's a quibble.

It has often been said that nowhere in the United States can one find a greater collection of magnificent and historic synagogues than on New York's Lower East Side. As the ultimate destination for millions of immigrant eastern European Jews during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, it became the new homeland and hoped-for goldene medinah (promised land) for immigrants fleeing persecution, poverty, and oppression, while struggling to live a new and productive life. Yet to many visitors and students today these synagogues are shrouded in mystery, as documentary information on them tends to be dispersed and difficult to find. With *The Synagogues of New York's Lower East Side*, Gerard R. Wolfe fills that void, giving readers unparalleled access to the story of how the Jewish community took root on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. Using archival photographs taken by Jo Renee Fine and contemporary shots taken by Norman Borden alongside his text, Wolfe focuses on the synagogues built or acquired by eastern European Ashkenazi Jewish immigrants during the great era of mass immigration, painting vivid portraits of the individual congregations and the new and vital culture that was emerging. For many, the Lower East Side became the portal to America and the stepping-stone to a new and better life. Today, the synagogues in which these immigrants worshiped remain as a poignant visual reminder of what had become the largest Jewish community in the world. Originally published in 1978, *The Synagogues of New York's Lower East Side* became the authoritative study of the subject. Now completely revised and updated with new text, photographs, and maps, along with an invaluable glossary, Wolfe's book is an essential and accessible source for those who want to understand the varied and rich history of New York's Lower East Side and its Jewish population. Its readable and illuminating view into the diversity of synagogues large and small, past and present and their people makes this book ideal for teachers, students, museum educators, and general readers alike.

.com A Look Inside The Synagogues of New York's Lower East Side Entrance to House of Sages. (Photo by Norman Borden)