Philanthropy and Voluntarism Among the Jews
Egon Mayer
Professor of Sociology, Brooklyn College
and Director of the Center for Jewish Studies, Graduate School and University Center
The City University of New York
Undergraduate guide
108 pages

Description
This guide introduces the reader to the religious-cultural and historical origins of modern American Jewish philanthropy and voluntarism, and includes excerpts from traditional religious texts that provide the foundation of the Jewish philanthropic tradition. Finally, it considers the centrality of philanthropy and voluntarism to the history of Jewish institutions and cultural movements in American society.

Uses
The best way to use this guide is to review the short weekly units and the literature overview to see what issues have engaged women, as a group, in the past, and to show how women’s social action has been intimately connected with philanthropic giving. This knowledge may then serve as a springboard for involving women today by reminding women of their ability to use giving and voluntarism to shape the future in directions they believe important.

Audience
It will be of particular use to those seeking to understand Jewish philanthropy and the communal institutions that depend on it. In doing so, the author offers insight into the ties between generosity, theology, and religious structures.