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Stepping into Zion: Hatzaad Harishon, Black Jews, and the Remaking of Jewish Identity

By Ph. D. Janice W. Fernheimer

The University of Alabama Press. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Hardcover. 216 pages. Dimensions: 0.0in. x 0.0in. x 0.0in. By studying the multiracial Jewish organization Hatzaad Harishon, Janice W. Fernheimers Stepping into Zion considers the question Who is a Jew a critical rhetorical issue with far-reaching consequences for Jews and non-Jews alike. Hatzaad Harishon (The First Step) was a New York-based, multiracial Jewish organization that worked to increase recognition and legitimacy of black Jews in the sixties and seventies. In Stepping into Zion, Janice W. Fernheimer examines the history and archives of Hatzaad Harishon to illuminate the definition and borders of Jewish identity, which have critical relevance to Jews of all traditions as well as to non-Jews. Fernheimer focuses on a period when white Jewish identity was in flux and deeply influenced by the Civil Rights and Black Power movements. In 1964, white and black Jews formed Hatzaad Harishon to foster interaction and unity between black and white Jewish communities. They raised the question of who or what constitutes Jewishness or Jewish identity, and in searching for an answer succeeded both historically and rhetorically in gaining increased recognition for black Jews. Fernheimer traces how members of Hatzaad Harishon, who did not share the same set...



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