

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910817097703321
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Titolo	New rituals old societies : invented rituals in contemporary Israel // Nissan Rubin
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Boston, : Academic Studies Press, c2009
ISBN	1-61811-080-2
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (208 p.)
Collana	Judaism and Jewish life
Disciplina	296.3/82095694
Soggetti	Rites and ceremonies - Israel Judaism - Customs and practices Manners and customs Group identity - Israel Israel Social life and customs
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Rites and social structure. Rites and civil religion: invention of tradition. Personal definition rites: changing one's identity.
Sommario/riassunto	Rituals provide public solutions to some types of life crises. There are crises which beset individuals in modern and post-modern society which are not easily addressed by traditional rituals. However, rites have not disappeared in contemporary society, but have merely changed their guise. New Rituals - Old Societies examines rituals which were invented by individuals and communities in order to celebrate important turning points. In contemporary Israel a process of innovation of new rituals was introduced, either by the adoption of ritual elements from outside sources or by the transformation of existing Jewish symbols through the infusion of new contents originating in secular ideology. The term "personal definitional rites" coined here refers to rites carried out by individuals undergoing a change in identity. Structural analysis supplies an additional dimension to this collection of studies.