

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910966298703321
Autore	Wilhelm Cornelia <1964->
Titolo	The independent orders of B'nai B'rith and True Sisters : pioneers of a new Jewish identity, 1843-1914 // Cornelia Wilhelm ; translated by Alan Nothnagle and Sarah Wobick
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Detroit, : Wayne State University Press, c2011
ISBN	9780814337059 0814337058
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (375 p.)
Altri autori (Persone)	NothnagleAlan L. <1962-> WobickSarah
Disciplina	943/.004924073
Soggetti	Jews, German - United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Translation of: Deutsche Juden in Amerika by Cornelia Wilhelm. Stuttgart, Germany : Steiner Verlag, c2007.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Sommario/riassunto	Explores the roles of the two oldest American Jewish fraternal organizations in the process of American Jewish identity formation. Founded in New York City in 1843 by immigrants from German or German-speaking territories in Central Europe, the Independent Order of B'nai B'rith sought to integrate Jewish identity with the public and civil sphere in America. In The Independent Orders of B'nai B'rith and True Sisters: Pioneers of a New Jewish Identity, 1843-1914, author Cornelia Wilhelm examines B'nai B'rith, and the closely linked Independent Order of True Sisters, to find their larger German Jewish social and intellectual context and explore their ambitions of building a "civil Judaism" outside the synagogue in America. Wilhelm details the founding, growth, and evolution of both organizations as fraternal orders and examines how they served as a civil platform for Jews to reinvent, stage, and voice themselves as American citizens. Wilhelm discusses many of the challenges the B'nai B'rith faced, including the growth of competing organizations, the need for a democratic ethnic representation, the difficulties of keeping its core values and solidarity alive in a growing and increasingly incoherent mass organization, and

the iconization of the Order as an exclusionary "German Jewish elite." Wilhelm's study offers new insights into B'nai B'rith's important community work, including its contribution to organizing and financing a nationwide hospital and orphanage system, its life insurance, its relationships with new immigrants, and its efforts to reach out locally with branches on the Lower East Side. Based on extensive archival research, Wilhelm's study demonstrates the central place of B'nai B'rith in the formation and propagation of a uniquely American Jewish identity. The Independent Orders of B'nai B'rith and True Sisters will interest all scholars of Jewish history, B'nai B'rith and True Sisters members, and readers interested in American history.
