

# Debra Nussbaum Cohen

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## Employment:

**Haaretz**, Tel Aviv

**New York correspondent**, July 2012-present. Cover U.S.-Israel relationship and American Jewish politics, religion, culture, campus life, philanthropy and organizational life for Israel's leading daily.

**The Forward**, NYC

**Interim Editor**, The Sisterhood. July-December 2011. Handled all aspects of editing and administrative management while editor was on maternity leave. Grew readership; created contributors' coding and style guide; conceptualized and developed story ideas; sourced and contracted with new writers; policed errant commas; lassoed wayward prose; overall and line editing; care and feeding of contributing writers; sourced photography and video, securing permissions; coded for CMS.

**Contributing Editor**. 2009-present. Founding contributing writer to The Sisterhood blog and regular contributor of articles to the newspaper on philanthropy and Jewish identity.

**The New York Jewish Week**, NYC

**Staff Writer**. 2000-2008. Wrote award-winning news, trend and feature stories and essays for the largest circulation Jewish newspaper in North America. Focus on philanthropy, religion, spirituality and ethics, issues relating to modern Jewish identity and communal affairs.

**JTA Global News Service**, NYC

**Staff Writer**. 1990-2000. Reported for the daily wire service carried by 100 Jewish newspapers, with an emphasis on issues relating to religion, spirituality, ethics, Jewish identity and continuity, inter-religious and inter-group affairs. Won several journalism awards.

**Religion News Service**, Washington, D.C.

**Stringer**. 1992-1997. Wrote about spiritual trends, religious issues and inter-religious affairs. Bylined articles carried by leading dailies nationwide, including The Los Angeles Times, The Washington Post and The Houston Chronicle.

**The Goldsmith**, A/S/M Communications, NYC

**Editor**. 1990. Developed each issue, supervising editorial and art staffs, managing freelancers and coordinating production. Wrote regular features and column about marketing.

**Senior Editor**. 1989-1990. Trained and supervised managing and associate editors; managed news sections; supervised copy editing.

**Senior Associate Editor**. 1989. As acting managing editor prepared copy for production, coordinated editorial, art and production. Wrote column and news.

**Associate Editor**. 1988-1989. Wrote news and coordinated regional coverage.

## Freelance:

The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, New York Observer, New York magazine, The Village Voice, The Washington Post, Chronicle of Philanthropy, Marketing Week/BrandWeek, Crain's New York Business, Elle, Teacher Magazine, New Jersey Monthly, Beliefnet.com, The Jerusalem Report, The Jerusalem Post, Moment, Hadassah.

## Book:

**"Celebrating Your New Jewish Daughter: Creating Jewish Ways to Welcome Baby Girls into the Covenant,"** Jewish Lights, 2001. The first complete guide to welcoming ceremonies for girls, including the ritual's history, theology and sociological context. The book includes prayers, blessings, rituals, songs and readings, and addresses the needs of traditionally observant, adoptive, interfaith and gay and lesbian families.

## Chapters & Essays:

**Jewish Ritual: An Introduction for Christians**, edited by Rabbis Kerry Olitzky and Dan Judson, Jewish Lights 2005/**The Rituals and Practices of a Jewish Life: An Introduction for Personal Spiritual Renewal**, edited by Rabbis Kerry Olitzky and Dan Judson, Jewish Lights

2002/ **RitualWell.org**, 2002/ **MyJewishLearning.com**, 2002/**America September 11<sup>th</sup> : The**

**Courage to Give**, edited by Jackie Waldman, Conari Press, 2001/**Tears of Sorrow, Seeds of Hope: A Jewish Spiritual Companion for Infertility and Pregnancy Loss**, by Rabbi Nina Cardin, Jewish Lights, 1999/**Jewish Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia**, edited by Paula Hyman and Deborah Dash Moore, Routledge, 1998/**Jewish Family & Life: Traditions, Holidays and Values for Today's Parents and Children**, edited by Yossi Abramowitz and Rabbi Susan Silverman, Golden Books, 1997/**Jewish and 20-Something**, American Jewish Committee, 1994.

Awards &  
Honors

**New York Press Association, First Place for In-Depth Reporting**, 2006. For a series in the New York Jewish Week about a circumcision-related controversy between the Orthodox Jewish community and the New York City Department of Health.

#### **American Jewish Press Association**

- **Excellence in Writing About Women**, 2006. "Jewish Women in Science," for Jewish Woman magazine.
- **Excellence in Writing About Women**, 2002. "The Feminine (Giving) Mystique" and "Orthodox Shul May Break Taboo," for The New York Jewish Week.
- **Excellence in News Reporting**, 2002. "Waiter, Hold the Knishes" for The New York Jewish Week.
- **Excellence in Investigative Reporting**, 1997. "Rabbinic Sexual Exploitation: Violating a Sacred Trust – A Six-Part Series" for JTA.
- **Excellence in Spot News Reporting**, 1997. "Anti-Semitism at Texaco" for JTA.
- **Excellence in Magazine Features**, 1996. "Jew Against Jew: Are We Still One People?" for B'nai B'rith Jewish Monthly.
- **Excellence in Comprehensive Coverage**. 1994. For reporting on religious and spiritual issues, for JTA.

**Templeton-Cambridge Journalism Fellowship**, 2005. Finalist.

**Lilly Endowment**, 1991. Won a grant competition and traveled nationwide to research and write a series of news and feature stories about the impact of women on ministry. Carried by major metropolitan dailies nationwide.

**Palamountain Prose Award**, Skidmore College, 1986. Senior-class essay prize that was for the first time awarded to a freshman.

TV:

MSNBC The Rachel Maddow Show (2015), MSNBC Road Map (2015), NPR's Interfaith Voices (2016), PBS Religion & Ethics Newsweekly (2002)

Speaking:

The 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y: Makor, Jewish Theological Seminary Rabbinical School, Hebrew Union College, Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance International Conference, Jewish federations and synagogues, American Jewish Committee, Cleveland Jewish-Catholic Colloquium, National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, PBS' Religion & Ethics Newsweekly.

Education:

**Drisha Institute for Jewish Education**, NYC. 2008-09 & 2010-11. Arts Fellow. Studied Biblical and rabbinic texts in a fellowship for writers and artists.

**New York University**, NYC. 1987. Bachelor of Arts. Major: Near Eastern Literature and Languages, concentrating in the sociology and religions of the Middle East, with graduate coursework. Minor: Journalism.

**Tel Aviv University**, Ramat Aviv, Israel. 1984-85. Overseas Student Program.

**Skidmore College**, Saratoga Springs, NY. 1983-84.