



Above All, We Are Jews:

A Biography of Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

by Dr. Michael A. Meyer

Launching in 2025, a project to honor the life, legacy, and leadership of Rabbi Alexander Schindler, marking his twenty-fifth yahrzeit. The project will include a biography and the digitization of his entire archival collection.



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

The year 2025 marks the twenty-fifth *yahrzeit* and what would have been the 100th birthday of Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, a major figure in American Jewish history. To coincide with this anniversary, CCAR Press is undertaking the publication of *Above All, We Are Jews: A Biography of Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler* by Dr. Michael A. Meyer (Professor Emeritus, HUC-JIR).

Rabbi Eric Yoffie, former President of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), has called Rabbi Schindler “the last great national leader of American Jewry.” Yet, despite his significance in the Jewish community, to date there is no published Schindler biography. A champion of inclusion in the Reform Jewish community, as leader of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC, now URJ), Rabbi Schindler created an organization that reached out to Jews on the periphery and advocated for patrilineal descent and acceptance of interfaith marriage. In 1976, as Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations, he became a national leader. Unafraid of espousing unpopular causes, Schindler spoke out for LGBTQ rights, full racial equality, and a clear separation of church and state.

Carl Sagan, American astronomer and author, once wrote, “I have long admired Rabbi Schindler for his concern for justice, for the depth of his knowledge, for his kindly demeanor, and for his courage.”

We ask you to join us in honoring Rabbi Schindler’s legacy and help us make sure that future generations can appreciate the role he played as a catalyst for change in our community.

In celebration of the life and work of Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, we are undertaking two important projects: 1) publication of a comprehensive biography of the life and significance of this amazing trailblazer by CCAR Press, and 2) digitization of Rabbi Schindler’s writings by the American Jewish Archives.

The fundraising for the publication of the biography is complete. With your generous support, the digitization of the archives will enable Rabbi Schindler’s prolific and influential writings to be available to scholars, clergy, the laity, and the broader world. Gifts of \$180 will receive a complimentary first edition copy of the biography. To donate:

- Checks can be written to the American Jewish Archives with "Rabbi Schindler Legacy Project" in the memo and sent to American Jewish Archives, 3101 Clifton Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45220.
- Online donations can be made online [here](#). Contribute to the AJA Digitization Fund with "Rabbi Schindler Legacy Project" in the notes.

For more information, contact Rabbi Judy Schindler, schindlerj@queens.edu, 704-975-3101 or Dana Herman, of the American Jewish Archives, dherman@huc.edu.