

The Quotable Jewish Woman, Wisdom, Inspiration and Humor from the Mind and Heart.
Edited and Compiled by Elaine Bernstein Partnow.
Jewish Lights Publishing 2004.

The Creative Jewish Wedding Book – a hands-on guide to new and old traditions,
ceremonies and celebrations. By Gabrielle Kaplan-Meyer.
Jewish Lights Publishing 2004.

Elaine Bernstein Partnow has compiled a fascinating anthology of quotations by Jewish women, the famous, the less well-known, and the women whose names you'll read and say – I never knew SHE was Jewish! The quotes themselves come under a range of headings from A-Y, including such predictable topics as Age and Aging, Change, Children, Death and Grief, Morality and Ethics, Women but also the less predictable such as Civil Rights, Social Movements and Activism, Fashion and Shopping, The Human Body...and Its Parts, Marriage, Husbands, Wives and Divorce, Racism, Sexism and Other Prejudices. Some of the quotations are excellent, others are less so, and a few are very poor, but overall this is a collection that will give pleasure to all devotees of such anthologies.

The Creative Jewish Wedding Book is one of those publications at which Jewish Lights Publishing excels. Approaching its subject in a way that includes almost all types of Jew, Gabrielle Kaplan-Meyer has amassed a huge amount of information, wonderful practical suggestions and really helpful advice. Her purpose is to make any wedding as meaningful, spiritual and fulfilling as possible, laudable aims which all too easily get lost in the plethora of minor details that often obscure the bigger picture. There is practically no aspect of a chuppah to which she does not turn her intention and anyone wishing to make their wedding day both memorable AND inspirational would profit from reading this book.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh