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## **Marriage and its obstacles in Jewish law**

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PREFACE

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## INTRODUCTION

### PREFACE

**W**e continue to be grateful to the Rodef Shalom Congregation for supporting the Freehof Institute of Progressive *Halakhah* and its assistance in technical matters connected with the publication of this volume. Our special thanks to Nancy Berkowitz who has carefully copy edited and proof read this volume. We wish to thank Barbara Bailey for her efforts with the typescript for this volume as well as previous volumes.

Neither the Bible nor the Talmud took monoamy for granted, we do and state that it has been a norm of Jewish life for more than a thousand years. The story is not so simple or un complicated as the road has been long and difficult. Various impediments to marriage such as an adulterous relationships or remarriage with those of dubious descent played a major role in the rabbinic discussions. For centuries in the early rabbinic period efforts to maintain genealogies were made by leading families. Economic decline, persecution, and the vagaries of human life led to the abandonment of this effort. Our