



# How to Be a Perfect Stranger: The Essential Religious Etiquette Handbook, Fourth Edition

By Stuart M. Matlins, Arthur J. Magida

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**How to Be a Perfect Stranger: The Essential Religious Etiquette Handbook, Fourth Edition** By Stuart M. Matlins, Arthur J. Magida

**The indispensable guidebook to help the well-meaning guest when visiting other people's religious ceremonies?updated and revised. New Edition! 4th edition?Updated, Revised, Expanded?New Glossary of Popular Religious Symbols**

"Finally, for those inclined to undertake their own spiritual journeys ... tells visitors what to expect."

?*New York Times*

We North Americans live in a remarkably diverse society, and it's increasingly common to be invited to a wedding, funeral, or other religious service of a friend, relative, or coworker whose faith is different from our own.

These can be awkward situations....

- What will happen? What do I do? What do I wear? What do I say?
- What should I avoid doing, wearing, saying?
- Is it okay to use a video camera?
- How long will it last?
- What are their basic beliefs?
- Will there be a reception?
- Will there be food?
- Should I bring a gift?
- When is it okay to leave?

These are just a few of the basic questions answered in *How to Be a Perfect Stranger*. This easy-to-read guidebook, with an "Everything You Need to Know Before You Go" checklist, helps the well-meaning guest to feel comfortable, participate to the fullest extent possible and avoid violating anyone's religious principles?while enriching their own spiritual understanding.

**For people of all faiths, all backgrounds.**

African American Methodist Churches · Assemblies of God · Bahá'í · Baptist ·

Buddhist · Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) · Christian Science (Church of Christ, Scientist) · Churches of Christ · Episcopal and Anglican · Hindu · Islam · Jehovah's Witnesses · Jewish · Lutheran · Mennonite/Amish · Methodist · Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) · Native American/First Nations · Orthodox Churches · Pentecostal Church of God · Presbyterian · Quaker (Religious Society of Friends) · Reformed Church in America/Canada · Roman Catholic · Seventh-day Adventist · Sikh · Unitarian Universalist · United Church of Canada · United Church of Christ

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**How to Be a Perfect Stranger: The Essential Religious Etiquette Handbook, Fourth Edition By Stuart M. Matlins, Arthur J. Magida Bibliography**

- Rank: #1201098 in eBooks
- Published on: 2006-01-01
- Released on: 2002-11-30
- Format: Kindle eBook



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## **Editorial Review**

### Review

"Enables the stranger to hold fast to the integrity of their own tradition while stepping onto someone else's holy ground.... Concise, informative and eminently practical."

?**Rev. Christopher Leighton**, executive director, Institute for Christian-Jewish Studies

"Highly recommended.... We encourage all people of faith to read it, refer to it often and use it as their guide when visiting other communities of faith."

?**Rev. Ken Brookner Langston**, director of education, The Interfaith Alliance

"Enables strangers to be better neighbors in a global community."

?**Prof. John L. Esposito**, director, Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding, Georgetown University

"You'll never again feel uncomfortable attending services of a religion not your own, after reading this wonderful book."

?**Rabbi Jack Bemporad**, director, Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding, Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, Connecticut

### From the Inside Flap

This easy-to-use fourth edition is updated and revised with the latest membership statistics on the various faith traditions, an expanded glossary of religious terms and an all new section on popular religious symbols. It also includes the "Everything You Need to Know Before You Go" checklist.

In today's diverse North American society we often are invited--through family, friends or business contacts--to religious ceremonies or services that are not of our own tradition or faith. Entering this unfamiliar atmosphere can be awkward....

What will happen?

What do I do?

What do I wear?

What do I say?

What should I avoid doing, wearing, saying?

What are their basic beliefs?

Should I bring a gift?

When is it okay to leave?

These are just a few of the basic, very practical questions answered in *How to Be a Perfect Stranger*. Based on information obtained directly from each of the religions and denominations, this indispensable handbook helps the well-meaning guest of any other faith to feel comfortable, participate to the fullest extent possible and avoid violating anyone's religious principles or hurting their feelings.

This book helps turn the "strange" into the less confusing (but not the ordinary). Most of all, it enables the invited "stranger" to truly appreciate the experience, and enrich their own spiritual understanding.

## About the Author

**Stuart M. Matlins** is founder, editor-in-chief and publisher of Jewish Lights Publishing and SkyLight Paths Publishing. Both imprints focus on religion and spirituality from a broad non-denominational perspective. He is author or editor of several books, including the best-selling *How to Be a Perfect Stranger: The Essential Religious Etiquette Handbook* (SkyLight Paths); *The Jewish Lights Spirituality Handbook: A Guide to Understanding, Exploring & Living a Spiritual Life* (Jewish Lights); *The Perfect Stranger's Guide to Wedding Ceremonies: A Guide to Etiquette in Other People's Religious Ceremonies*; and *The Perfect Stranger's Guide to Funerals and Grieving Practices: A Guide to Etiquette in Other People's Religious Ceremonies* (both SkyLight Paths).

Stuart was the 2014 recipient of the Abraham Geiger Medal, an award recognizing outstanding service to religious pluralism, and the 2006 recipient of the American Jewish Distinguished Service Award, an annual presentation of Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion. He was a member of the First Catholic/Jewish Lay Conference at the Vatican in October 2007, an event under the auspices of the Interreligious Information Center.

Among his many speaking appearances, Stuart has been the scholar-in-residence or guest lecturer at the National Funeral Director's Association convention, Temple Isaiah (Palm Springs, CA), The Jewish Center of the Hamptons (East Hampton, NY), Temple Sholom (Plainfield, NJ), Israel Congregation (Manchester, NH) and at the annual gatherings of the Jewish Community Centers Association and the Jewish Outreach Institute. He also has been a featured speaker or panel member at many Book Expo America conventions, and at the biennial Festival of Faith and Writing at Calvin College, as well as at churches and other conferences.

Before publishing took over his life, he was a management consultant for over thirty years as a managing partner with Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc. and then heading his own consulting firm.

He is the cofounder of an innovative synagogue in Woodstock, Vermont, with his wife, Antoinette Matlins, and served as lay spiritual leader for nineteen of its twenty-one years. He has served for over twenty years on the Board of Governors of Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion, and was chair of the Board of Overseers of its New York School. He is widely recognized as a leader in the spiritual transformation of Judaism in our time.

Stuart is listed in *Who's Who in America*.

**Arthur J. Magida** is a freelance editor and author.

## Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**Richard Martinez:**

Now a day individuals who Living in the era everywhere everything reachable by match the internet and the resources included can be true or not call for people to be aware of each data they get. How a lot more to be smart in acquiring any information nowadays? Of course the answer then is reading a book. Studying a book

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**Arthur Pascual:**

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**Pedro Turk:**

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**Betty Walsh:**

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