

James L. Kugel Class of 1963

Jim Kugel graduated from Yale in 1968 and by 1971 had written his first book, *The Technique of Strangeness*, about modern poetry. Following stints as a Junior Fellow at Harvard, the Poetry Editor of *Harper's* magazine, a Faculty Fellow at the City University of New York, and an Assistant Professor at Yale, he was named the first Harry Starr Professor of Classical and Modern Jewish and Hebrew Literature at Harvard in 1982. Jim grew into one of the most popular professors at the school, and his course *The Bible and its Interpreters* became the largest course at Harvard. In 1992, he began to alternate semesters between Harvard and Bar-Ilan University in Israel, where he remains the Chair of the Institute for the History of the Jewish Bible. He is recognized as one of the world's leading Biblical scholars, having written numerous books and articles on the subject. Kugel's 2001 book *The Bible As It Was* won the Grawemeyer Award in religion for "promoting understanding between human beings and the divine." In 2007, his book *How to Read the Bible* received the Everett Family Foundation Jewish Book of the Year Award.

