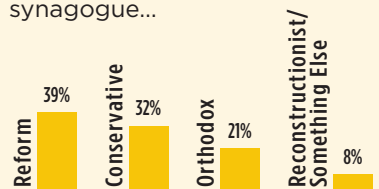


A BIGGER PICTURE

Are you currently a member of a synagogue or temple? If the answer is yes, is that synagogue...



—NATIONAL JEWISH POPULATION SURVEY, 2000–01

because my rabbis warmly embraced their children that our grandchildren have had Jewish upbringings and identify as part of the Jewish people.

Ellen Morrow: Having grown up as a Reform Jew, I've never felt "less than" because I am female, but there was a period—28 years ago—when I felt defensive and angry because some people in my congregation did not accept my decision to marry a non-Jew. I continued to act as if I belonged, but I don't know if I would have continued to stay as involved in my congregation if there hadn't been a real shift toward acceptance, particularly once my children were born. I wouldn't have allowed them to grow up feeling excluded or judged or considered "not as Jewish." The acceptance that finally did come also made it easier for my husband to become a Jew by choice 10 years ago; he did not feel pressured and there was no resistance.

Judy Fisher: The emphasis on social action and social justice as a means to repair our shattered world has been a beacon and provided significant leadership in the Jewish world. We don't just talk about social action and social justice—we do it!

THE RABBIS SPEAK

"We pledge to fulfill Reform Judaism's historic commitment to the complete equality of women and men in Jewish life."

—A Statement of Principles for Reform Judaism, CCAR, 1999—the latest of the Reform Movement's five historic platforms. For the full text visit <http://ccarnet.org>.

John Planer: As a Reform Jew I am obligated to promote the welfare of others, including nonhuman life. I commit my life in service to *tikkun olam*.

Judy Fisher: A significant Reform contribution is our liturgy, especially the new melodies and songs making Judaism relevant to today.

John Planer: Reform Judaism cherishes both our particularism and our universality. As Reform Jews we are a people, a tribe, whose vision is universal and whose membership is always open. I am comfortable being a Jew within the fellowship of all humanity.

Mark Young: I value the fact that Reform Judaism is an evolving and diverse Movement that embraces like-minded people who have been born into it, have migrated to it from other stripes of Judaism, or have been blessed to discover it—all of us striving for new ways to worship God.

Judy Fisher: I really don't refer to myself as a "Reform Jew." I don't like labels because they are limiting. I choose to affiliate with a Reform congregation that is part of the Union for Reform Judaism because I agree with many Reform Movement principles, especially in regard to treating women and men as equals and providing me with the means to make informed decisions about how I choose to live my life in a Jewish context.

Abbey Shepard-Smith: Reform Judaism allows me the freedom to choose my own means and degree of observance, adapting tradition to modernity based on knowledge, not convenience.

TO LEARN MORE...

about being a Reform Jew, read *Liberal Judaism* by Eugene B. Borowitz (URJ Press). HUC-JIR Professor Borowitz explores the scope of Jewish thought and ritual practice from a liberal Jewish perspective: www.urjbooksandmusic.com.

WHO DO YOU WANT YOUR CHILD TO BE?

- A HAPPY CAMPER
- A PROUD JEW
- A MENSCH
- ALL THE ABOVE

GIVE YOUR CHILD A SUMMER EXPERIENCE THAT WILL LAST A LIFETIME!

CAMP COLEMAN
Cleveland, GA

CRANE LAKE CAMP
West Stockbridge, MA

EISNER CAMP
Great Barrington, MA

CAMP GEORGE
Parry Sound, ON Canada

GOLDMAN UNION CAMP INSTITUTE
Zionsville, IN

GREENE FAMILY CAMP
Bruceville, TX

CAMP HARLAM
Kunkletown, PA

JACOBS CAMP
Utica, MS

CAMP KALSMAN
Arlington, WA

KUTZ CAMPUS
Warwick, NY

CAMP NEWMAN-SWIG
Santa Rosa, CA

OLIN-SANG-RUBY UNION INSTITUTE
Oconomowoc, WI

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