



❑ **Susan Giardina, 40-59, Temple Emanu-El, Dallas:**

As other faiths become increasingly radical (e.g., Islam, evangelical Christianity, etc.), Judaism, Reform in particular, continues to offer a very rational and ethical perspective on spirituality. If more people knew how sensible and amazingly wise Judaism is, there would be many more of us.

Perhaps therein lies one of the ways to strengthen the Movement.

❑ **Glenn, K.K. Bene Israel (Rockdale Temple), Cincinnati, Ohio:**

Sadly, it's become all too easy for people to isolate themselves and focus only on their immediate needs. We need to teach ourselves and our kids the value of community, and set the example by being active in our synagogues and the greater community. I know it sounds cliché, but we need to be the community we want to see.

❑ **Andrew Paull, 21-39, Larchmont Temple, Larchmont, New York:**

In general, people are less committed to organizations in general when they:

1. believe what they need will not be heard—start with a listening campaign;
2. believe they will not have common interests with other members—expand synagogue interest groups;
3. do not understand what the organization stands for—ask each synagogue to articulate in real terms what it stands for and why.

❑ **Anonymous, 21-39, California:** The Jewish community needs more *minyans*. Young people don't want to go to a stuffy temple full of old people. They want to be with people their age.

Also, I have a young child, and aside from the once-a-month tot service at my synagogue, there's nothing to do with him at services—no kids room, no babysitting. Lame. I do not feel part of my temple community.

Plus it needs to be cheap or free when you're young. Maybe cheaper associate membership in satellite *minyans*, and we could all go to High Holy Day services together. Rabbis or lay leaders could step in and do some life-cycle stuff too. If people are connected in some way, albeit tenuously, they're more likely to come back when they're seeking "more."

"Create occasions where the leaders of industry, banking, thought, and spiritual life—ideally, all of whom are members of the same synagogue—meet with college graduates."



❑ **Leslie Saul, 40-59, Temple Shir Tikvah, Winchester, Massachusetts:**

I do think money is an issue. A \$500 membership would be more appealing than \$1500. If Harvard can raise enough money to offer free tuition, can we organize a national endowment that would bring membership costs down for everyone?

❑ **Jacob Yungman, 13-20, Temple Beth Ohr, La Mirada, California:**

When I was in NFTY, I loved always knowing I was part of a bigger international community (NFTY is affiliated with NETZER), and that I had friends from all over the world. I believe our youth groups should not just be affiliated with NFTY, but include NFTY in their names, i.e. NFTY-La Mirada or NFTY-Temple Beth Ohr. Similarly, our synagogues should stress in their names that they are members of the URJ—that they belong to something bigger than the borders of a city.

Also, congregations should utilize social networking sites such as Twitter and Facebook, since that's how a majority of my generation gets the know-how on events, be it a rock concert or a midnight Purim party.

#2 *Do you agree that "the supreme challenge" facing the Reform Movement today is "the changing attitude toward affiliation and membership...that people are less committed to organizations of any kind"? If you agree, how do we tackle this problem? If you disagree, what do you think is the "supreme challenge" and what needs to be done to address it?*

❑ **David Mollen, 60+, Temple Sha'arey Shalom, Springfield, New Jersey:**

I don't agree that there is a changing attitude toward affiliation and membership: I see people "affiliating" enthusiastically to their families, their friends, their country....The problem isn't that people don't want to affiliate; it's that what we are offering doesn't compete successfully against their other choices. They have more choices nowadays and we need to be competitive!

Sharing this definition of religion may help demonstrate our importance: Religion is the field that enables people to ask the questions for which there are no answers.

❑ **Terri Forman, 40-59, Congregation Emanu-El, San Francisco:**

People do not care about membership; they care about belonging. Open your doors, be welcoming, and listen to the ideas of the people who enter.

❑ **Carol Martin, Central Synagogue, New York, New York:**

Slash membership dues for young people. In the

