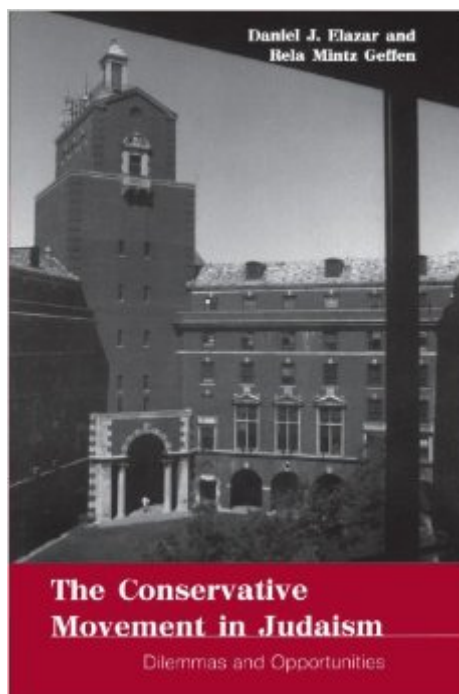


The book was found

The Conservative Movement In Judaism: Dilemmas And Opportunities (Suny Series In American Jewish Society In The 1990s) (Suny Series, American Jewish Society In The 1990s)



Synopsis

Illustrates how the American Conservative Movement in Judaism can continue to prosper amidst ideological and institutional challenges. Viewing the Conservative Movement at a turning point, this book analyzes the problems facing the religious movement with the largest synagogue membership in the American Jewish community and outlines a plan of action for the future. Elazar and Geffen suggest: clarifying ideology, mission, and purpose, finding the right balance between traditionalists and advocates of change, unifying movement institutions in a cooperative effort, staunching the decline of membership to the left, recapturing the loyalty of lapsed adherents, closing the gap in observance between the laity and the standard bearers of the movement, developing the Movement in Israel and world-wide, and strengthening ties with Jewish federations and other Jewish communal bodies. The authors propose that the Conservative Movement's remedying of these problems will benefit not just American, but all world Jewry. "This book should be a welcome addition to every Jewish household. In addition to the detailed discussion of the Conservative Movement, the authors provide an in-depth analysis of current American Jewish identities" -Nitza Druyan, Hofstra University

Book Information

Series: Suny Series, American Jewish Society in the 1990s

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: State University of New York Press (September 11, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0791446905

ISBN-13: 978-0791446904

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.3 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #4,170,862 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #93 inÂ Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > Movements > Conservative #3370 inÂ Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > History #4986 inÂ Books > History > World > Religious > Judaism

Customer Reviews

The most interesting things about this book were not the suggestions (which were probably more interesting for Conservative rabbis, congregational officials, etc. than for me) but the impressive collection of data and the authors' speculation about why the Conservative movement has lost ground. One especially interesting table addressed denominational changes among Jews,

categorizing Jews both by the denominations they were raised in and by the denominations they now choose. As of 1990, 89% of Orthodox Jews were brought up Orthodox; only 11% came to Orthodoxy from other denominations. (By contrast, only 55-60% of Conservative and Reform Jews were born in their denominations). If I read the book's data tables correctly, only 23% of the people who were born Orthodox stayed Orthodox; most have become Conservative or Reform.

Conservative Jews have a 60% retention rate, and Reform Jews have an 80% retention rate.

Conservative Jews who "defect" to other denominations usually move left instead of right: only 0.5% of born Conservatives are now Orthodox, while 27% are now Reform and the rest have no denominational affiliation or are Reconstructionist. Of course, the authors were using data that is now 15 years old; I wonder if more recent figures are available. (A second edition of this book would be nice, taking into account the 2000 National Jewish Population Survey; for example, the growth of Orthodox outreach may have increased defections to Orthodoxy). The authors speculate that the decline of Conservative membership has in large part been due to factors beyond anyone's control, such as: *The decline of the nuclear family and in particular of American Jewish birth rates.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Conservative Movement in Judaism: Dilemmas and Opportunities (Suny Series in American Jewish Society in the 1990s) (Suny Series, American Jewish Society in the 1990s) Movement Matters: Essays on Movement Science, Movement Ecology, and the Nature of Movement Judaism: Everything You Need to Know About: Jewish Religion; Jewish Culture; and the Process of Converting to Judaism (How to Become a Jew) Conservative Judaism Our Ancestors to Our Descendants Conservative Judaism: The New Century Comparing Judaism and Christianity: Common Judaism, Paul, and the Inner and the Outer in Ancient Religion Judaism Defined: Mattathias and the Destiny of His People (Studies in Judaism) Covenant of Blood: Circumcision and Gender in Rabbinic Judaism (Chicago Studies in the History of Judaism) The Horizontal Society: Understanding the Covenant and Alphabetic Judaism (Vol. I and II) (Emunot: Jewish Philosophy and Kabbalah) How Do We Know This?: Midrash and the Fragmentation of Modern Judaism (Suny Series in Judaica) The Reform Movement in Judaism Religious Therapeutics: Body and Health in Yoga, Ayurveda, and Tantra (SUNY Series in Religious Studies) (Suny Series, Religious Studies) The Enlightened Will Shine: Symbolization and Theurgy in the Later Strata of the Zohar (SUNY Series in Judaica) (Suny Series in Judaica, Hermeneutics, Mysticism and Religion) Ritual, Politics, and the City in Fatimid Cairo (Suny Series in Medieval Middle East History) (Suny Series, Medieval Middle East History) Tradition and Fantasy in the Tales of Reb Nahman of Bratslav (SUNY Series in Judaica) (Suny Series, Judaica: Hermeneutics, Mysticism & Religion) Dark Night, Early Dawn:

Steps to a Deep Ecology of Mind (Suny Series in Transpersonal and Humanistic Psychology) (Suny Series, Transpersonal & Humanistic Psychology) "Can We All Get Along?": Racial and Ethnic Minorities in American Politics (Dilemmas in American Politics) Judicial Reform as Political Insurance: Argentina, Peru, and Mexico in the 1990s (ND Kellogg Inst Int'l Studies) Small Animal Practice, Gastroenterology: The 1990s, 1885, vol. 23 #3 (The Veterinary Clinics of North America) The Radical American Judaism of Mordecai M. Kaplan (The Modern Jewish Experience)

[Dmca](#)