

Help your Movement to grow:

* Encourage others to follow your example and join a Conservative congregation. You are the best testimonial! Invite the unaffiliated to attend services, an educational program or a social event with you.

* Make the Movement a beneficiary of your *zedakah*. Your gift can help "seed" new congregations in North America and throughout the world. You can help Israeli Jews find new spiritual meaning by helping us foster Conservative (Masorti) Judaism in Israel.

* Make a conscious decision to encourage your children's participation in the Conservative Movement USY and Kadima programs. Not all youth programs are the same. Enroll your children in Camp Ramah and foster their participation in USY summer programs so that they can integrate Conservative Jewish values, ideals, practice, and pride into their own lives.

* Encourage college students to identify with KOACH so that they can be inspired by the values of our Movement.

* Participate in Conservative Movement online learning programs. Learn a chapter of the Jewish Bible by enrolling in Peret Yomi (www.perekyomi.org). Read a chapter of Mishnah each day by enrolling in Mishnah Yomi (www.mishnahyomi.org). Contribute to the dynamic discourse on the core issues of Conservative Jewish life by attending the United Synagogue Convention in Dallas, Texas (October 26-30, 2003). Contact crane@uscj.org or visit our website: www.uscj.org.

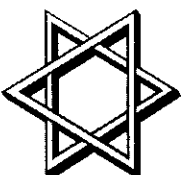
THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

WORKING TO ENHANCE YOUR JEWISH LIVES

Visit us on the web: www.uscj.org where you can

- Order a good Jewish book
 - Find out the dates of Jewish holidays as well as candle lighting times for Shabbat and holidays
 - Learn the Conservative Jewish position on important social and political issues
 - Locate Conservative congregations and kosher restaurants throughout North America
 - Read articles from the *United Synagogue Review*
 - Sign up for Peret Yomi and Mishnah Yomit study groups and receive valuable study guides
 - Find out how to make your synagogue more accessible
 - Visit "AllforIsrael" and order products made in Israel
 - Donate to programs that reflect your values
 - Discover the world of Solomon Schechter Day Schools
 - Become more knowledgeable about Shabbat, kashrut, and holiday practices
 - Find out how the USCJ Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center can help you arrange a bar or bat mitzvah in Israel
 - Locate your regional office and take advantage of its many resources
- Let us help you create "Jewish memories" that will last a lifetime.*

The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism promotes the role of the synagogue in Jewish life in order to motivate Conservative Jews to perform mitzvot encompassing ethical behavior, spirituality, Judaic learning, and ritual observance.



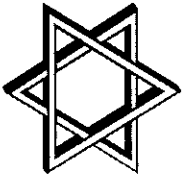
LIVING AS A

CONSERVATIVE JEW:

Knowledgeable * Proud * Dynamic

By Rabbi Jerome Epstein

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Why is our Movement called “Conservative”? (Hint: It was *not* chosen to distinguish our policies and religious ideology from “liberal” approaches.) Rather, the name was carefully and deliberately chosen to reflect our unique vision: to *conserve* the traditions, values, and practices of Judaism while enhancing the lives and meeting the real needs of Jews living in modern society.

Conservative Judaism embodies a vibrant tradition and a timeless message. We should all be proud to be part of this dynamic movement. Still, while an ideology, a synagogue, and a movement are all vital ingredients in realizing the Conservative vision, it requires individual commitment and passion if it is to succeed. You have taken the first step by joining a Conservative synagogue. Below, we enumerate additional ways in which Conservative Judaism can help you to fulfill your intellectual and spiritual needs.

(1) **A Conservative Jew is proud of his Jewish values.** He is committed to bringing these values to bear on the life he lives. Judaism is experienced in the home and synagogue -- but it is lived in the world. It is an integral part of who we are. It guides how we act in business and school. It directs our behavior with friends and strangers. It shapes our minds, our hearts, our souls.

(2) **A Conservative Jew is proud to be part of the Jewish community.** She accepts responsibility for *Klal Yisrael* – the entire Jewish people. Her life is inextricably bound up with Israel as a Jewish homeland. She is committed to the welfare of all Jews – no matter where they live. Our priorities and our behaviors are guided by the enhancement of the totality of Jewish life as well as our personal concerns.

(3) **A Conservative Jew is proud of our tradition.** He views Jewish law (*halakha*), rooted in the Torah, as a dynamic force. *Halakha* perpetually evolved for our ancestors, just as it does for us today. It is this evolution that makes it especially meaningful as it is applied to current issues and concerns.

(4) **A Conservative Jew is proud to live according to Jewish law.** She accepts *halakha* as binding and strives to live according to its dictates. *Halakha* does not always sanction what we do; often, it challenges us to live the long-held values we treasure. As Conservative Jews, we are committed to allowing *halakha* to shape the way we live.

(5) **A Conservative Jew is proud of his Jewish knowledge.** He is committed to studying Jewish texts in the context of accumulated knowledge. What we learn in the fields of science, history, anthropology, and sociology does not diminish the authenticity of a Jewish text but instead challenges the Conservative Jew to apply acquired knowledge to the understanding of those texts. We need not deny the truth we know in order to live the meaning of our faith. However, we must seek to understand these truths in light of our experiences in the world if our faith is to have meaning.

(6) **A Conservative Jew is proud of her relationship with God.** She engages the world as God’s partner. God’s message, as relayed in Jewish teachings, is concrete, specific and applicable to our lives. It is through our regular encounters with God that we can help create the caring, sensitive and productive society we seek.

(7) **A Conservative Jew is proud to evolve.** She is open to the opportunities that new thoughts, ideas and experiences may offer for personal growth. Each Conservative Jew is challenged to envision herself as climbing on a ladder of Jewish living. Where one is on the ladder is not the issue. What is essential is the commitment to climb and to grow.