

FROM JTA (212) 643-8498



Daily

4/23/03

Vol. 81, No. 76

TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

Study: Inter-marriage still rising

Homes of intermarried American Jews soon will outnumber purely Jewish households if high intermarriage rates keep pace, a new report suggests.

A study out this week by the New York-based Jewish Outreach Institute says that intermarriages have climbed above 33 percent since the mid-1960s, meaning that the ratio of intermarried households to Jewish households is rising.

With intermarriage estimates since 1990 ranging between 40 percent and 52 percent, the report says, the ratio of intermarried homes to in-married homes runs between 4:3 and 2:1. The institute, which promotes outreach to unaffiliated and intermarried Jews, says there is hope for Jewish survival because an estimated 30 percent of interfaith families raise their children as Jews, an amount that the institute believes could be increased to 50 percent.

(1)
We are a glorious and
significant people. ~~Some~~ many
~~the~~ others, ^{in the past}
who have tried so often to
destroy us, have themselves become
the detritus of history. Our
strength ^{over the} ~~in the past~~ centuries lay not
in battalions or grand navies.
Our weapons were our beliefs in
our origin, our mission, and
the bonds which united us as tightly
as a family.

We came in our numbers to this free
and welcoming continent,
struggled to strike roots and have, in the
main succeeded brilliantly. Receiving
freedom which allowed us to flourish, we
made our contributions to the arts and
sciences of this democracy, the economy
and the governance.

Now we are in danger, not from some
malicious enemy, ^{in this precious democracy} but from our own
inattention to the rules and rituals which
sustained us throughout the millennia of our
existence.

So many of us ^{we} are today our own worst villains. We have forgotten our history - Some few of us are struggling to teach our children and have only a feeble hold on our own young adults, so many of whom seek their happiness in marriage outside of Abraham's tribe. (2)

Assimilation into this succulent society, with all its temptations, opportunities and rewards, makes huge inroads into our thin ranks. Assimilation in itself is not evil - ~~and~~ so many benefits await in the wide world of America - a good education, a ~~good~~ career, the ability to contribute to the betterment ~~improvement~~ betterment of ~~the~~ fellow-citizens, a comfortable home and many luxuries.

But assimilation is evil - For our future when it results in people simply surrendering their identity as proud and practicing Jews.

Our ranks are thin to begin with. We are 5 million in these United States living among 300 million. Danger lies ahead. If the number drifts away continues, we may very well become another chapter in the history of previous Diasporas which disappeared. The only

difference will be that this time it will ⁽³⁾
be our fault - not something we can blame on
~~attributed to~~ some dictator or King.

We must create a huge protective
shield to embrace the next two
generations, to shape for them an identity
based upon the wonders of which have
marked the 1000 years of our existence,
and hope that the result will be
a resounding sense of PRIDE in their
heritage and a determination
to add ~~to~~ their contributions to
the making the world a better
place for all mankind.

If the adults of today respond
to the ^{creation} ~~creation~~ of a huge educational
structure to embrace ^{all} the 3-year-olds
up to the 23-year olds, we will
succeed ^{and flourish in} ~~in a future generation~~.

If there is no response, we shall
disappear. Then
America will suffer
Israel will suffer

And history will judge us as blind
and selfish.

Feb. 4, 03
~~F~~ HAF

WHAT IS OUR FUTURE AS AMERICAN JEWS?

An elegy or a eulogy

We are a glorious and significant people. Many others, who have tried so often in the past to destroy us, have themselves become the detritus of history. Our strength over the centuries lay not in vast battalions or grand navies. Our weapons were our beliefs, our mission and the bonds which united us tightly as a family.

We came in our numbers to this free and welcoming continent, struggled to strike roots and have, in the main, succeeded brilliantly. Receiving freedom which allowed us to flourish, we made our contributions to this democracy, in the arts and sciences, the economy and the governance.

Now we are in danger, not from some malevolent enemy in this precious land, but from our own inattention to the rules and rituals which sustained us through the millennia of our existence. We are today our own worst enemy. So many of us have forgotten our history - some few of us are struggling to teach our children. We have only a feeble hold on our own young adults, so many of whom seek their happiness outside of Abraham's tribe.

Assimilation into this ~~sum~~ succulent society, with all its temptations, opportunities and rewards, makes huge inroads into our thin ranks. Assimilation in itself is not evil - so many benefits await in the wide world of America - a good education, a career,

the ability to contribute to the betterment of fellow citizens, a comfortable home and many luxuries.

But assimilation is evil for our future when it results in people simply surrendering their identity as proud and practicing Jews, calling themselves simply Americans. Our ranks are few to begin with. We are 5 million in these United States living among 300 million. Danger lies ahead. If the number drifting away continues, we may very well become another chapter in the history of other Diasporas which disappeared. The only difference will be that this time it will be our own doing, our own fault - not something we can blame on some dictator or King or hostile religion.

We must create a huge protective shield to embrace the next two generations, to shape for them an identity based upon the wanderings which have marked the 4000 years of our existence, and hope that the result will be a resounding sense of PRIDE in their heritage and a determination to add their contributions to making the world a better place for all mankind.

If the adults of today respond to the creation of a huge educational structure to embrace all the 3-year olds up to the 23-year olds, we will succeed and flourish.

If there is no response to the challenge, we shall disappear. Then - America will suffer, Israel will suffer - and history will judge us as blind and selfish.

Signed, Rabbi Herbert A. Friedma

February, 2003

WHAT IS OUR FUTURE AS AMERICAN JEWS?

An Elegy or a Eulogy

We are a glorious and significant people. Many others, who have tried so often in the past to destroy us, have themselves become the detritus of history. Our strength over the centuries lay not in vast battalions or grand navies. Our weapons were our beliefs, our mission and the bonds which united us tightly as a family.

We came in our numbers to this free and welcoming continent, struggled to strike roots and have, in the main, succeeded brilliantly. Receiving freedom which allowed us to flourish, we made our contributions to this democracy in the arts and sciences, the economy and the governance.

Now we are in danger, not from some malevolent enemy in this precious land, but from our own inattention to the rules and rituals which sustained us through the millennia of our existence. We are today our own worst enemy. So many of us have forgotten our history – some few of us are struggling to teach our children. We have only a feeble hold on our own young adults, so many of whom seek their happiness outside of Abraham's tribe.

Assimilation into this succulent society, with all its temptations, opportunities and rewards, makes huge inroads into our thin ranks. Assimilation in itself is not evil – so many benefits await in the wide world of America – a good education, a career, the ability to contribute to the betterment of fellow citizens, a comfortable home and many luxuries.

But assimilation is evil – for our future when it results in people simply surrendering their identity as proud and practicing Jews, calling themselves simply Americans. Our ranks are few to begin with. We are 5 million in these United States living among 300 million. Danger lies ahead. If the number drifting away from us continues, we may very well become another chapter in the history of the Diasporas which disappeared. The only difference will be that this time it will be our own doing, our own fault – not something we can blame on some dictator or King or hostile religion.

We must create a huge protective shield of education to embrace the next two generations, to shape for them an identity based upon the wonders which have marked the 4000 years of our existence, and hope that the result will be a resounding sense of PRIDE in their heritage and a determination to add their contributions to making the world a better place for all mankind.

If the adults of today respond to the creation of this educational structure to embrace all the 3-year olds up to the 23-year olds, we will succeed and flourish.

If there is no response to the challenge, we shall disappear. Then – America will suffer, Israel will suffer – and history will judge us as blind and selfish.

Signed, Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman