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"What is Our Future as American Jews?" 2003.

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## Study: Intermarriage 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 dimbed 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.

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We are today our own worst willains So many the have forgotten run history - Some few (2) it us are strongs big to teach one children . y us and have only a fable hold on our own youry adults, so many of whom seek Prair hoppiness in manninge outside of Assimilation into this succulent society, Abraham's tribe. It with cer its tempitation, opportunities and reverses, master huge inroads into our this ranks. Assimilable in itself is not avil - poor so many benefits avait in the white world of Remarrice a good educeding a are carper, the ebility to contribute to the better improvement betterment, of a fullow citizens, a comprivally home and many luxuries. But assignilation is evil- For our future when it results in people simply surrending their identity as proved and practicing Jews. Our reaks are thin to begin with. We are 5 million in These United States living among 300 million. Danger lies absolut If the number drifting away continues, we may very well become another chapter in The history of previous

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IF the adults of today respond to the adults of today respond to the preation of a huge educational structure to embrace the 3-year odds why to be 23-year odds, we will succeed to the floorent of the will succeed to the solution. 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

WHAT IS OUR FUTURE AS A MERICAN 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 weepons were our beliefs, our mission and the bonds which united us tightly as a family.

We came in our numbers to this tree and welcomingcontinent, struggled to strike roots and have, in the mein, 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 melevolent every in Dris precious land, but from our own in attention to De rules and vituals which sustained us through The millenie of our existence. We are to day our own worst every. So many of us have forgetten our history some few of us are strugglig 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 some succulent society, with all its temptations, opportunities and rewards, makes huge invoads 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 at fellow citizens, a comfortable home and many luxories. But assimilation is evil a for our future when it results in people simply surrendering their identity as proud and practicing Jews, calling theore simply Americans. Our ranks are few to begin with. We are 5 million in these United States living among 300 million. Danger lies chead. If the number drifting away continues, we may very well become another chapter in the history of other Diaspores which disappeared. The only difference will be that this fine it will be our own doing, our own Fault - not something we can blame on some distator or King or hostile religion.

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

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

signed, Rabbi Herbert A. Friedma

Fahrwary, 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

February, 2003