



# Jewish Life from Generation to Generation

A Lunch and Learn for Temple Adat Shalom

# Agenda

- Introductions
- A Taste of Jewish Learning
- Brief Overview of the different generations and Jewish life through the last 100 years of American history
- Unpacking the Pew Study
- Deep Dive into Gen Z



# Introductions

## Karen Parry

Karen is a proudly Jewish San Diego native (Mosad Shalom and Ganon Gil Alum) of 99.98% Ashkenazi heritage who is an *older* millennial in a mixed-heritage marriage raising a Generation Alpha daughter. Karen is the Executive Director of Hillel of San Diego with previous roles as the Development Director at the Jewish Federation in Seattle, the Education Director of Mosad Shalom, and the Teen Director and Assistant Camp Director at the Lawrence Family JCC.



# A Taste of Jewish Learning Fellowship: L'Dor V'Dor

*To all generations we will declare Your greatness, and for all eternity proclaim Your holiness. Your praise, O God, shall never depart from our lips. - Kedusha L'Dor V'Dor*

“Whenever your children learn a family tradition, story, or recipe, that's *l'dor v'dor*. Each member of your family plays a role in shaping who your children will become. They instill character, and often embody values and traditions to be passed on to their own children and families. Making your grandmother's matzah ball soup recipe together, lighting shabbat candles, and building a [Family Tree](#) are all ways you can practice *l'dor v'dor*.” - [PJ Library](#)

## **From Slate.com: “American Jews Are Secular, Intermarried, and Assimilated: Great News!” by Gabriel Roth (Dec. 2013)**

If American Jews keep on marrying whoever they want, raising kids in homes where Jewish traditions are vestigial at best, what happens after two or three more generations?

The answer is that, apart from the very small Orthodox community, Jewishness will eventually die out as a distinct element in American life. For my grandchildren, the fact that some of their ancestors were Jewish will have no more significance than the fact that others were Welsh.

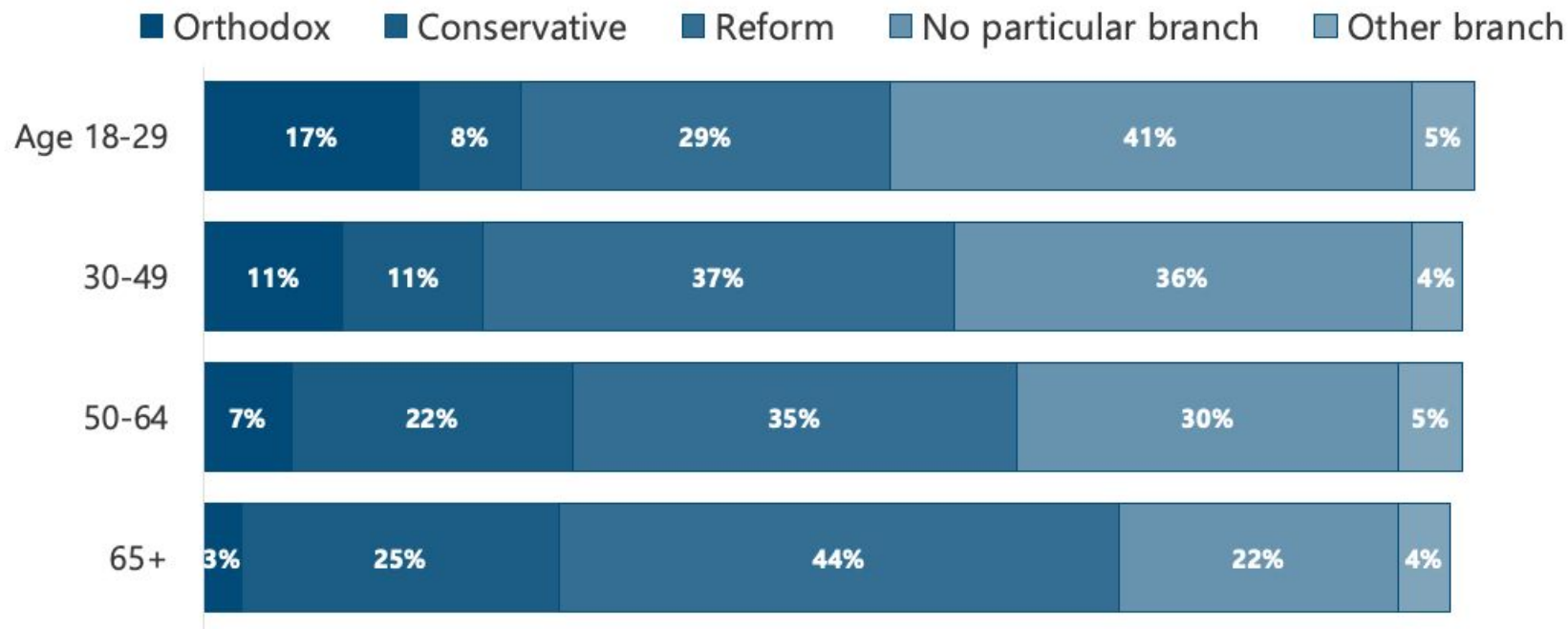
That will be a real loss. But we should be realistic about what's being lost and what isn't. Here are some of the things I cherish about Jewishness: unsnobish intellectualism, sympathy for the disadvantaged, psychoanalytic insight, rueful comedy, smoked fish. Those things have been thoroughly incorporated into American upper-middlebrow culture

# The Generations, a quick review



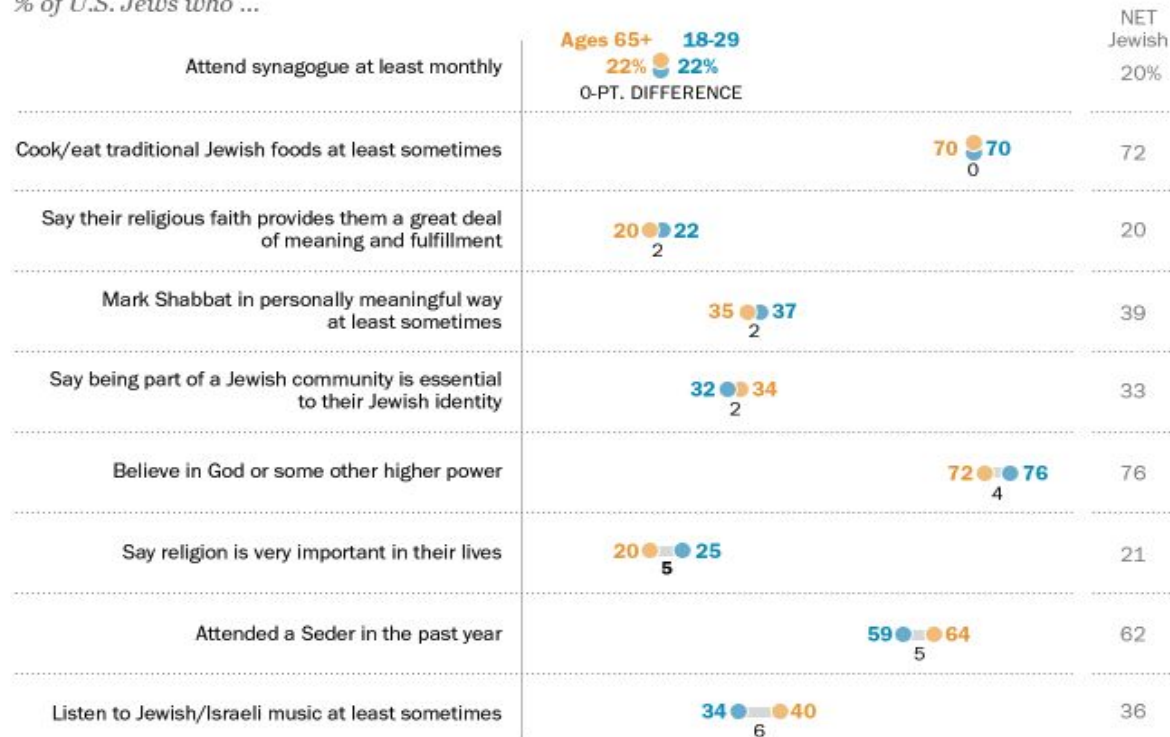
# We're Different, We're the Same

## Unpacking the Pew Study



## Younger, older Jews in U.S. don't differ much on belief in God or synagogue attendance

% of U.S. Jews who ...



Note: Statistically significant differences shown in **bold**.

Source: Survey conducted Nov. 19, 2019-June 3, 2020, among U.S. adults.

"Jewish Americans in 2020"

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## Most Jews say remembering the Holocaust, leading an ethical and moral life are essential to being Jewish

*% of U.S. Jews who say \_\_\_\_\_ is an essential part of what being Jewish means to them*

	<b>NET Jewish</b>	<b>Jews by religion</b>	<b>Jews of no religion</b>
	%	%	%
Remembering the Holocaust	76	81	63
Leading an ethical and moral life	72	81	47
Working for justice and equality in society	59	63	47
Being intellectually curious	56	58	49
Continuing family traditions	51	61	24
Caring about Israel	45	52	27
Having a good sense of humor	34	36	28
Being a part of a Jewish community	33	40	12
Eating traditional Jewish foods	20	23	11
Observing Jewish law (halakha)	15	19	3

Source: Survey conducted Nov. 19, 2019-June 3, 2020, among U.S. adults.  
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# As intermarriage rises, so does the percentage of intermarried couples raising their children Jewish.

## 72%

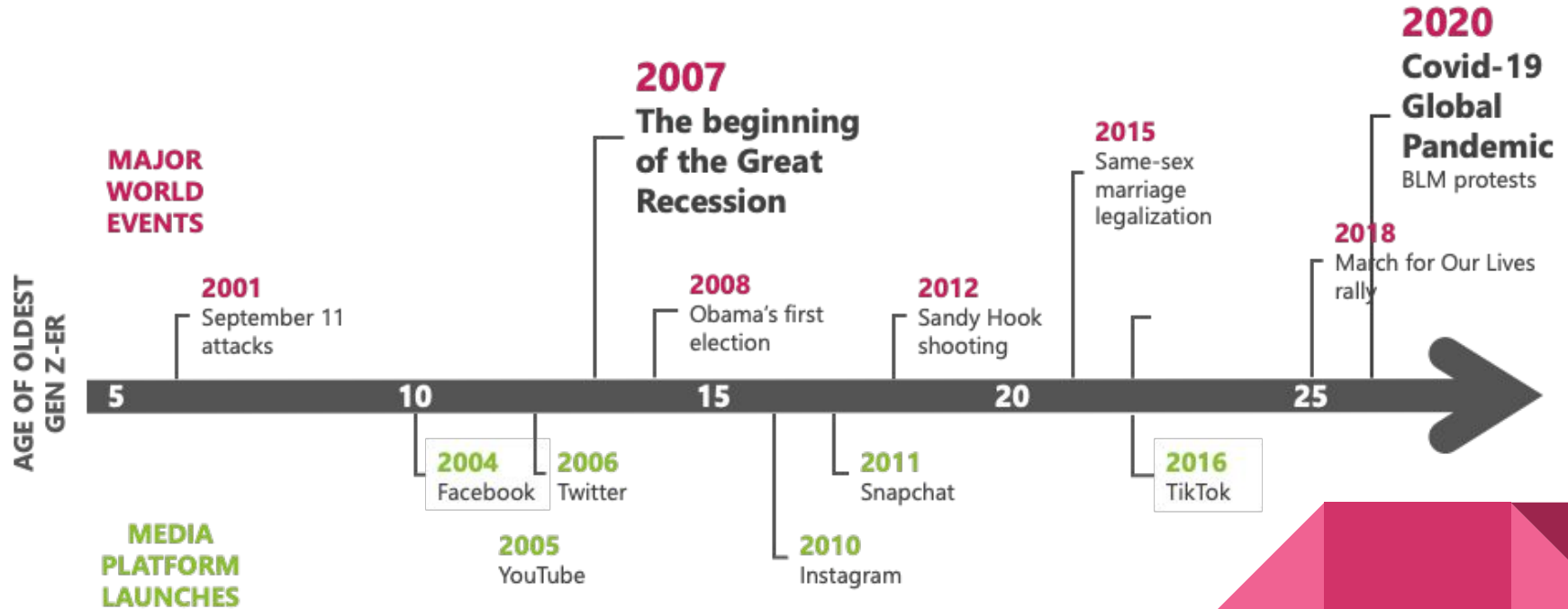
of non-Orthodox  
married Jews have a  
**non-Jewish spouse**

*Jews who got married in the last decade*



"The children of intermarriage have become increasingly likely to identify as Jewish in adulthood".

# Gen Z Timeline



# Jewish Gen Z are more diverse than ever before



**15%**

identify as  
a Jew of  
Color

**29%**

live in households in  
which at least one  
child or adult is non-  
White

**40%**

identify as  
Jews of no  
religion

**45%**

have  
1 Jewish parent

# Areas for Intersection, Connection, Community

**71%** cook or eat traditional Jewish foods either often or sometimes

CLOSE TO  
**1/3** cook & seek out Jewish foods *at least two to three times a month*

**59%** Share Jewish culture/holidays with non-Jewish friends either often or sometimes

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# Ways to connect Gen Z



Empowering young people to make decisions about how they map their Jewish engagement.



Using digital platforms as a space for connection, not just information.



Focusing on diversity, equity, and inclusion.



Investing in wellness. Looking at the multiple identities of the individual.



Connecting students to Israel through a wide lens. Providing all the information so that young people can come to their own conclusions.



Questions?



THANK YOU!

*thank you*

**Karen Parry**

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