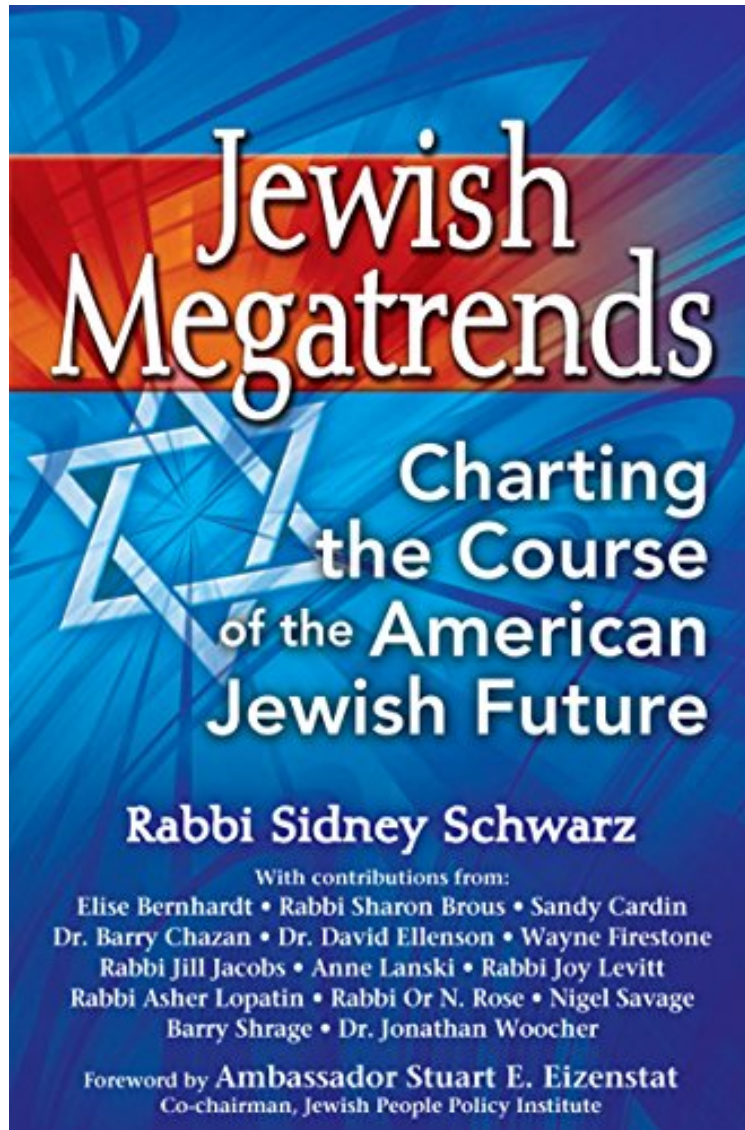


Jewish Megatrends: Charting the Course of the American Jewish Future

Rabbi Sidney Schwarz
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Rabbi Sidney Schwarz : Jewish Megatrends: Charting the Course of the American Jewish Future before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jewish Megatrends: Charting the Course of the American Jewish Future:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wake Up!By J. Stern"Wake up!" is the message of Rabbi Sid Schwartz's third book: the face of Judaism is changing and we as a Jewish community need to come to terms with

those changes and proactively do something to address them. Schwartz then offers four possible tools to adapt Judaism to these changing times. The commentaries that follow from a range of rabbis, educators and communal leaders offer a canvas from which readers can then formulate their prescriptions within their own institutions and organizational structures. We at Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Synagogue, the synagogue that Rabbi Sid Schwartz founded twenty five years ago, have been consciously part of an experiment to transform synagogues since our beginning. We now draw lessons from Jewish Megatrends as we continue to evolve to embrace Judaism's dynamic evolution. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An important topic addressed By Tennessee Rabbi Schwarz writes the introductory and closing chapters of this book, which address how Millennial and Gen X Jews motivations' differ from their elders, the future of Judaism in the diaspora, and what we can do to alter its course. The chapters in between discuss and add to his assertions. I found some of the contributor's thoughts very enlightening. I rolled my eyes a bit at (just a few) others. I think that Jewish leadership and educator's ought to read this book. It is a quick read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Must Reading for all Leaders in the Jewish Community By M. H. Melmed Rabbi Schwarz brings together many creative minds to explore the challenges facing the Jewish Community. It is difficult for one generation to understand other generations especially these days when things move so quickly that even siblings may have a generational divide. With the seductive nature of secular society in America traditional Jewish communal organizations face great challenges to attract younger members. This book articulates well the problems some of the solutions.

Visionary solutions for a community ripe for transformational change from fourteen leading innovators of Jewish life. "Jewish Megatrends offers a vision for a community that can simultaneously strengthen the institutions that serve those who seek greater Jewish identification and attract younger Jews, many of whom are currently outside the orbit of Jewish communal life. Schwarz and his collaborators provide an exciting path, building on proven examples, that we ignore at our peril." from the Foreword The American Jewish community is riddled with doubts about the viability of the institutions that well served the Jewish community of the twentieth century. Synagogues, Federations and Jewish membership organizations have yet to figure out how to meet the changing interests and needs of the next generation. In this challenging yet hopeful call for transformational change, visionary leader Rabbi Sidney Schwarz looks at the social norms that are shaping the habits and lifestyles of younger American Jews and why the next generation is so resistant to participate in the institutions of Jewish communal life as they currently exist. He sets out four guiding principles that can drive a renaissance in Jewish life and gives evidence of how, on the margins of the Jewish community, those principles are already generating enthusiasm and engagement from the very millennials that the organized Jewish community has yet to engage. Contributors leading innovators from different sectors of the Jewish community each use Rabbi Schwarz's framework as a springboard to set forth their particular vision for the future of their sector of Jewish life and beyond. CONTRIBUTORS: Elise Bernhardt Rabbi Sharon Brous Sandy Cardin Dr. Barry Chazan Dr. David Ellenson Wayne Firestone Rabbi Jill Jacobs Anne Lanski Rabbi Joy Levitt Rabbi Asher Lopatin Rabbi Or N. Rose Nigel Savage Barry Shrage Dr. Jonathan Woocher

From Booklist According to the author, the American Jewish community is at a crossroads. Its traditional institutions, synagogues, Jewish day schools, and Jewish community centers, are losing membership. They no longer meet the needs of the Generation Xers and Millennials who should be joining them. Instead, younger people seek out other opportunities for spiritual development and social action. Schwarz, a Reconstructionist rabbi who works to build innovative Jewish communities, examines the reasons for the decline of the traditional institutions and offers ideas for reinvigorating them. He notes that Jewish life needs to be based on wisdom from sacred texts put into a contemporary context: social justice throughout the world, community as a source of support and celebration, and sacred purpose that provides meaning for life. This is an excellent book for Jewish professionals and those who wish to create new spiritual institutions. --Barbara Bibel <http://www.publishersweekly.com/978-1-58023-667-6> (Publisher's Weekly) From the Inside Flap Visionary solutions for a community ripe for transformational change from fourteen leading innovators of Jewish life. "Jewish Megatrends offers a vision for a community that can simultaneously strengthen the institutions that serve those who seek greater Jewish identification and attract younger Jews, many of whom are currently outside the orbit of Jewish communal life. Schwarz and his collaborators provide an exciting path, building on proven examples, that we ignore at our peril." from the Foreword The American Jewish community is riddled with doubts about the viability of the institutions that well served the Jewish community of the twentieth century. Synagogues, Federations and Jewish membership organizations have yet to figure out how to meet the changing interests and needs of the next generation. In this challenging yet hopeful call for transformational change, visionary leader Rabbi Sidney Schwarz looks at the social norms that are shaping the habits and lifestyles of younger American Jews and why the next generation is so resistant to participate in the institutions of Jewish communal life as they currently exist. He sets out four guiding principles that can drive a renaissance in Jewish life and gives evidence of how, on the margins of the Jewish community, those principles are already generating enthusiasm and engagement from the very millennials that the organized Jewish community has yet to engage. Contributors leading innovators from different sectors of the

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