

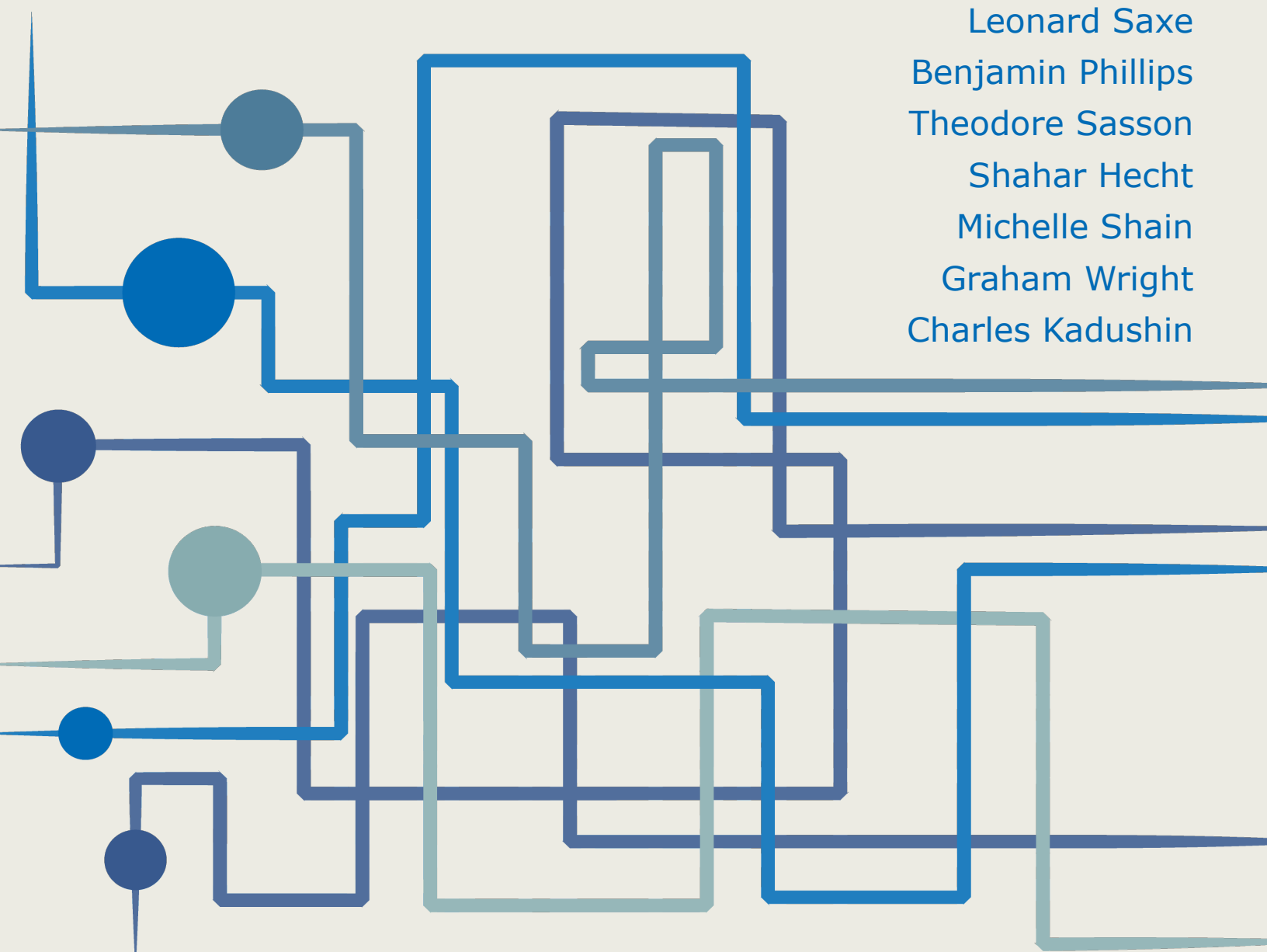
Brandeis University

Maurice and Marilyn Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies

Generation Birthright Israel:

The Impact of an Israel Experience on
Jewish Identity and Choices

Technical Appendices



Leonard Saxe
Benjamin Phillips
Theodore Sasson
Shahar Hecht
Michelle Shain
Graham Wright
Charles Kadushin

BRILT

Taglit-Birthright Long Term Evaluation
Welcome!

Thank you for participating in this study of Jewish young adults. This short survey will take less than 10 minutes to complete and when you are done you will receive a \$20 Amazon.com gift card in appreciation of your time. Your responses will help Jewish organizations learn about the opinions and choices of Jewish young adults.

This research is conducted by the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University. Your answers are confidential - results will only be reported in ways that do not identify individuals.

The study is funded by Taglit-Birthright Israel, the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation and the Jim Joseph Foundation.

Thank you for helping with this important project!

Leonard Saxe, PhD and Theodore Sasson, PhD
Co-Principal Investigators

There are 64 questions in this survey

1 [Issues] These are tumultuous times. In the past month, how often have you actively sought news about...

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Never	Once	Once a week	Every few days	Once a day	Several times a day
The economy?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Health care?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Israel?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2 [news|srI] During the recent conflict in Gaza and southern Israel, have you used any of the following to keep track of events? (check all that apply)

Please choose **all** that apply:

- ☐ Israeli news sources (Ha'aretz, Jerusalem Post, etc.)
- ☐ Jewish news sources (Forward, Jewschool, Jewlicious, etc.)
- ☐ Other news sources (CNN, NPR, New York Times, etc.)
- ☐ YouTube, Facebook or other social networking sites
- ☐ Word of mouth, personal email
- ☐ Other sources:

3 [IsrlConf] If someone asked you about the current situation in Israel, how confident do you feel in your ability to give a good explanation?

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Not at all
confident
- ☐ A little
confident
- ☐ Somewhat
confident
- ☐ Very
confident

4 [Country]What country do you currently live in? *

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ United States
- ☐ Canada
- ☐ Israel
- ☐ Other

5 [Zip]What zip code do you live in?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° Answer was 'United States' at question '4 [Country]' (What country do you currently live in?)

Please write your answer here:

6 [beentolsrl]Since turning 18 how many times, if any, have you been to Israel?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° Answer was NOT 'Israel' at question '4 [Country]' (What country do you currently live in?)

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Once
- ☐ Twice
- ☐ 3 times
- ☐ 4 times
- ☐ 5 or more times

7 [Howlonglsrl]How long was your longest visit to Israel since you turned 18?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° Answer was NOT 'Never' at question '6 [beentolsrl]' (Since turning 18 how many times, if any, have you been to Israel?)

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Two weeks or less
- ☐ More than two weeks but less than one month
- ☐ One to two months
- ☐ Three to nine months
- ☐ More than nine months

8 [IsrlYear]What was the last year you were in Israel?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° Answer was NOT 'Never' at question '6 [beentolsrl]' (Since turning 18 how many times, if any, have you been to Israel?)

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ 1991
- ☐ 1992
- ☐ 1993
- ☐ 1994
- ☐ 1995
- ☐ 1996
- ☐ 1997
- ☐ 1998
- ☐ 1999
- ☐ 2000
- ☐ 2001
- ☐ 2002
- ☐ 2003
- ☐ 2004
- ☐ 2005
- ☐ 2006
- ☐ 2007
- ☐ 2008
- ☐ 2009

9 [BRlgo]Did you ever go on a Birthright Israel trip?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

°

----- Scenario 1 -----

Answer was 'Israel' at question '4 [Country]' (What country do you currently live in?)

----- or Scenario 2 -----

Answer was NOT 'Never' at question '6 [beentolsrl]' (Since turning 18 how many times, if any, have you been to Israel?)

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

10 [BRIFeel]Thinking back on your Birthright Israel trip, would you say that the trip...

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° Answer was 'Yes' at question '9 [BRIGO]' (Did you ever go on a Birthright Israel trip?)

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Not at all	A little	Somewhat	Very much
Made you feel closer to Israel?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Made you feel closer to your Jewish heritage?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Was a disappointment?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Was a life-changing experience?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

A little about you

11 [Conn]To what extent do you feel...

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Not at all	A little	Somewhat	Very much
A connection to Israel?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A connection to a worldwide Jewish community?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A connection to the Jewish community where you live?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A connection to Jewish customs and traditions?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

12 [Student]Are you currently a student?

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

13 [School]What is the last grade or level of schooling you have completed?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° Answer was 'No' at question '12 [Student]' (Are you currently a student?)

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ High school or less
- ☐ Associates degree (AA, AN, etc.)
- ☐ Bachelors degree (BA, BS, etc.)
- ☐ Masters degree (MA, MBA, MSW, etc.)
- ☐ Professional degree (JD, MD, etc.)
- ☐ Doctoral degree (PhD, etc.)
- ☐ Other

14 [Major]What was your major or field of study?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° Answer was 'No' at question '12 [Student]' (Are you currently a student?)

Please write your answer here:

15 [Schoolnow]What level of schooling are you currently enrolled in?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° Answer was 'Yes' at question '12 [Student]' (Are you currently a student?)

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ High school or less
- ☐ Associates degree (AA, AN, etc.)
- ☐ Bachelors degree (BA, BS, etc.)
- ☐ Masters degree (MA, MBA, MSW, etc.)
- ☐ Professional degree (JD, MD, etc)
- ☐ Doctoral degree (PhD, etc.)
- ☐ Other

16 [Majornow]What is your major or field of study?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° Answer was 'Yes' at question '12 [Student]' (Are you currently a student?)

Please write your answer here:

17 [Married]What is your marital status?

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Never married
- ☐ Engaged to be married
- ☐ Living with a life partner
- ☐ Married
- ☐ In a civil union
- ☐ Separated / divorced
- ☐ Widowed

18 [SpJew]Is your spouse...

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° Answer was 'Married' or 'In a civil union' at question '17 [Married]' (What is your marital status?)

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Jewish
- ☐ Protestant
- ☐ Catholic
- ☐ No religion
- ☐ Another religion:

19 [SpJewraised]Was your spouse raised...

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° Answer was 'In a civil union' or 'Married' at question '17 [Married]' (What is your marital status?)

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Jewish
- ☐ Protestant
- ☐ Catholic
- ☐ No religion
- ☐ Another religion:

20 [FSpJew]Is your former spouse...

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° Answer was 'Separated / divorced' at question '17 [Married]' (What is your marital status?)

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Jewish
- ☐ Protestant
- ☐ Catholic
- ☐ No religion
- ☐ Another religion:

21 [FSpJewraised]Was your former spouse raised...

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° Answer was 'Separated / divorced' at question '17 [Married]' (What is your marital status?)

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Jewish
- ☐ Protestant
- ☐ Catholic

☐ No religion

☐ Another religion:

22 [DSpJew]Was your spouse...

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° Answer was 'Widowed' at question '17 [Married]' (What is your marital status?)

Please choose **only one** of the following:

☐ Jewish

☐ Protestant

☐ Catholic

☐ No religion

☐ Another religion:

23 [DSpJewraised]Was your spouse raised...

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° Answer was 'Widowed' at question '17 [Married]' (What is your marital status?)

Please choose **only one** of the following:

☐ Jewish

☐ Protestant

☐ Catholic

☐ No religion

☐ Another religion:

24 [LPJew]Is your life partner...

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° Answer was 'Living with a life partner' at question '17 [Married]' (What is your marital status?)

Please choose **only one** of the following:

☐ Jewish

☐ Protestant

☐ Catholic

☐ No religion

☐ Other

25 [LPJewRaised]Was your life partner raised...

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° Answer was 'Living with a life partner' at question '17 [Married]' (What is your marital status?)

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Jewish
- ☐ Protestant
- ☐ Catholic
- ☐ No religion
- ☐ Other

**26 [Rabbi]Who officiated at your wedding ceremony?
(check all that apply)**

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° Answer was 'Widowed' or 'Married' or 'Separated / divorced' at question '17 [Married]' (What is your marital status?)

Please choose **all** that apply:

- ☐ A rabbi or cantor
- ☐ A non-Jewish clergy member
- ☐ A judge or justice of the peace
- ☐ Other:

**27 [RabbiCU]Who officiated at your civil union ceremony?
(check all that apply)**

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° Answer was 'In a civil union' at question '17 [Married]' (What is your marital status?)

Please choose **all** that apply:

- ☐ A rabbi or cantor
- ☐ A non-Jewish clergy member
- ☐ A judge or justice of the peace
- ☐ Other:

28 [RitDid]Did your wedding ceremony include...

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° Answer was 'Widowed' or 'Married' or 'Separated / divorced' at question '17 [Married]' (What is your marital status?)

Please choose **all** that apply:

- ☐ Breaking a glass?
- ☐ Signing a ketubah (Jewish marriage contract)?
- ☐ A chuppah (Jewish wedding canopy)?

29 [RitDidCU]Did your civil union ceremony include...

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° Answer was 'In a civil union' at question '17 [Married]' (What is your marital status?)

Please choose **all** that apply:

- ☐ Breaking a glass?
- ☐ Signing a Ketubah (Jewish marriage contract)?
- ☐ A Chuppah (Jewish wedding canopy)?

30 [Partner]Do you have a significant other (e.g. boyfriend or girlfriend)?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° Answer was 'Widowed' or 'Never married' or 'Separated / divorced' at question '17 [Married]' (What is your marital status?)

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

31 [FncJew]Is your fiancé/fiancée...

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° Answer was 'Engaged to be married' at question '17 [Married]' (What is your marital status?)

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Jewish
- ☐ Protestant
- ☐ Catholic
- ☐ No religion
- ☐ Another religion:

32 [FncJewraised]Was your fiancé/fiancée raised...

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° Answer was 'Engaged to be married' at question '17 [Married]' (What is your marital status?)

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Jewish
- ☐ Protestant
- ☐ Catholic
- ☐ No religion
- ☐ Another religion:

33 [SoJew]Is your significant other...

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° Answer was 'Yes' at question '30 [Partner]' (Do you have a significant other (e.g. boyfriend or girlfriend)?)

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Jewish
- ☐ Protestant
- ☐ Catholic
- ☐ No religion
- ☐ Another religion:

34 [SoJewraised]Was your significant other raised...

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° Answer was 'Yes' at question '30 [Partner]' (Do you have a significant other (e.g. boyfriend or girlfriend)?)

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Jewish
- ☐ Protestant
- ☐ Catholic
- ☐ No religion
- ☐ Another religion:

35 [Dates]In the past year, how many of the people you dated were Jewish?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° Answer was 'No' at question '30 [Partner]' (Do you have a significant other (e.g. boyfriend or girlfriend)?)

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Did not date
- ☐ None
- ☐ A few

- ☐ About half
- ☐ Most
- ☐ All

36 [ImpMryJew] Thinking about the future, how important is it to you to marry someone Jewish?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° Answer was 'Never married' at question '17 [Married]' (What is your marital status?)

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Not important
- ☐ A little important
- ☐ Somewhat important
- ☐ Very important

37 [RabbiWill] Which of the following will officiate at your wedding ceremony?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° Answer was 'Engaged to be married' at question '17 [Married]' (What is your marital status?)

Please choose **all** that apply:

- ☐ A rabbi or cantor
- ☐ A non-Jewish clergy member
- ☐ A judge or justice of the peace
- ☐ Have not decided yet
- ☐ Other:

38 [Kids] How many children do you have, if any?

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ 0
- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4 or more

39 [GenderKid] Is your oldest child...

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° Answer was NOT '0' at question '38 [Kids]' (How many children do you have, if any?)

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male

40 [CircName]Did you have a Jewish naming ceremony or Jewish circumcision for your oldest child?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° Answer was NOT '0' at question '38 [Kids]' (How many children do you have, if any?)

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

41 [ImpKidJew]Thinking about the future, how important is it to you to raise your children Jewish?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° Answer was '0' at question '38 [Kids]' (How many children do you have, if any?)

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Not important
- ☐ A little important
- ☐ Somewhat important
- ☐ Very important

42 [Relkid]Are you raising your oldest child...

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° Answer was NOT '0' at question '38 [Kids]' (How many children do you have, if any?)

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Jewish
- ☐ Protestant
- ☐ Catholic
- ☐ No religion
- ☐ Jewish and another religion
- ☐ Have not decided yet
- ☐ Something Else:

43 [Friends]How many of your close friends are Jewish?

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ None
- ☐ A few
- ☐ Half
- ☐ Most
- ☐ All

44 [Belong]Do you belong to ...

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Yes	No
A synagogue, temple, minyan, havurah or other Jewish congregation?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A JCC or YMHA/YWHA?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Any other Jewish organization besides a JCC or Jewish congregation?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

45 [Attnsrvc]In the past year how often, if at all, have you attended some type of organized Jewish religious service?

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Once
- ☐ Two or three times
- ☐ Every few months
- ☐ About once a month
- ☐ Two or three times a month
- ☐ Once a week or more

46 [Shabbat]In the past year, have you had or attended a special meal on Shabbat...

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Sometimes

☐ Usually

☐ Always

47 [Jnow]Do you consider yourself to be...?

Please choose **only one** of the following:

☐ Secular/Culturally Jewish

☐ Just Jewish

☐ Reform

☐ Conservative

☐ Reconstructionist

☐ Orthodox

☐ No religion

☐ Other

48 [Vol]We know that young adults live busy lives. In the past year, have you volunteered for...

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Yes	No
Jewish causes?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Non-Jewish causes?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

49 [MEIM]How much do you AGREE or DISAGREE with the following statements?

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Agree
I have spent time trying to learn more about Judaism, such as its history, traditions and customs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I think a lot about how my life will be affected by my being Jewish	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have a clear sense of my Jewish background and what it means for me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have a strong sense of belonging to the Jewish people	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Agree
I feel good about my Jewish heritage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Your Upbringing

50 [JRaised]Were you raised...

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Secular/Culturally Jewish
- ☐ Just Jewish
- ☐ Reform
- ☐ Conservative
- ☐ Reconstructionist
- ☐ Orthodox
- ☐ No religion
- ☐ Other

51 [ParIntmar]Were you raised by...

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Two Jews
- ☐ A Jew and a non-Jew
- ☐ Two non-Jews
- ☐ A Jew
- ☐ A non-Jew

52 [Shabbaths]During your high school years, did someone in your home regularly light Shabbat candles?

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

53 [Sederhs]During your high school years, did your family hold or attend a Seder?

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

54 [Hannukkahhs]During your high school years, did your family celebrate

Hanukkah?

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

55 [kosherhs]During your high school years, did your family keep kosher at home?

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

56 [Camp]Did you attend an overnight camp that had Shabbat services or a Jewish educational program while growing up?

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

57 [campyrs]For how many years did you attend such a camp?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° Answer was 'Yes' at question '56 [Camp]' (Did you attend an overnight camp that had Shabbat services or a Jewish educational program while growing up?)

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ 1 or less
☐ 2
☐ 3
☐ 4
☐ 5
☐ 6
☐ 7
☐ 8 or more

58 [SunSchoolYN]During grades 1-12, did you ever attend a supplementary Jewish school, like Hebrew or Sunday school?

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

59 [SunSchoolYrs]For how many years did you attend such a school?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° Answer was 'Yes' at question '58 [SunSchoolYN]' (During grades 1-12, did you ever attend a supplementary Jewish school, like Hebrew or Sunday school?)

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ 1 or less
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6
- ☐ 7
- ☐ 8
- ☐ 9
- ☐ 10
- ☐ 11
- ☐ 12 or more

60 [DaySchoolYN]During grades 1-12, did you ever attend a full time Jewish day school?

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

61 [DaySchoolYrs]For how many years did you attend such a school?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° Answer was 'Yes' at question '60 [DaySchoolYN]' (During grades 1-12, did you ever attend a full time Jewish day school?)

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ 1 or less
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4

- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6
- ☐ 7
- ☐ 8
- ☐ 9
- ☐ 10
- ☐ 11
- ☐ 12 or more

Final thoughts

62 [BRIText] OK, we're almost done.

63 [BRISTuff] During the years since your trip, can you think of any decisions that you made that were influenced by your experience on Birthright Israel (for example, decisions about jobs, relationships, religious observance, how you spend your free time, etc.)?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° Answer was 'Yes' at question '9 [BRlgo]' (Did you ever go on a Birthright Israel trip?)

Please write your answer here:

64 [Thoughts] Is there anything else you would like to add about your Jewish identity?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° Answer was 'No' at question '9 [BRlgo]' (Did you ever go on a Birthright Israel trip?)

Please write your answer here:

30.09.2009 – 12:00

Submit your survey.

Thank you for completing this survey.



The Maurice and Marilyn Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University is a multi-disciplinary research institute dedicated to the study of American Jewry and the development of religious and cultural identity.

Brandeis University



Maurice *and* Marilyn Cohen
Center *for* Modern Jewish Studies