

American Jewish Life in 50 Years

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hysterectomies and menopause. Many of these rituals will involve immersion in a *mikvah*, or ritual bath. This re-emergence of a typically Orthodox practice in the mainstream community might not only herald a new era of greater spirituality, but a solution to the dilemma that so consumes Rabbi Greenberg.

The Chief Rabbinate of Israel, no liberals by Orthodox religious standards, had to find in the early 1990s a *halachic* solution to the uncertain status of many Ethiopians of Jewish ancestry who wished to marry Jews of unquestionable status. Their solution was simple: Immersion in a *mikvah*.

Ironically, the re-introduction of widespread *mikvah* use due to the religious empowerment of Jewish women might open the dialogue between progressive and traditional Jews so that the religious unity of the Jewish community may be preserved.

A majority of the core Jews in 2045 will likely be buying the seder plate with a place for an orange. Perhaps there will even be unanimous observance of that custom. After all, the progressive women who, in the eyes of today's Orthodox are planting seeds of discontent, may actually be planting the seeds of communal redemption.

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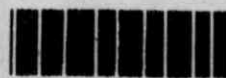
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