

## **Jewish Women Watching Demands Affordable Jewish Life**

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The anonymous, renegade group Jewish Women Watching – known for mailings and demonstrations aimed at exposing sexist practices in the organized Jewish community – is demanding that Jewish life be offered at an affordable price. The group’s latest mailing, sent to thousands of executive directors, board members, and staff of national Jewish organizations, is emblazoned with the quote: “I grew up thinking Jews should work in social change, but only investment bankers can afford a Jewish life.”

The card hits mailboxes on the holiday of Shavuot, which celebrates the receiving of the Torah. Jewish Women Watching reminds us that Shavuot also marks the Israelite’s idolatrous worship of the golden calf, by answering its central question, “How much does it cost to be Jewish?” with “Way too much.” Images of Jewish summer camp, day school, and the interior of a synagogue, among others, are stamped with price tags in the hundreds and thousands of dollars.

Jewish Women Watching’s latest outrage comes on the heels of a study published by the American Jewish Committee called, “The Costs of Jewish Living.” The study asserts that it costs even wealthy families nearly 40% of their salaries to cover rising fees for day schools, synagogue memberships, and Jewish community center dues.

Since women continue to earn less money than men for each hour of work that they perform, these prohibitive price tags are a feminist issue. “There’s all this talk about community being a priority,” proclaimed one masked member of the group, “but if access to Jewish resources is limited by our bank books, then what sort of community are we really building?”

*For more information, log onto [www.jewishwomenwatching.com](http://www.jewishwomenwatching.com) or e-mail [jww@jewishwomenwatching.com](mailto:jww@jewishwomenwatching.com)*

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