

## Traditional Judaism (formerly "Conservadox")

This is a primarily North American movement that has nothing in common with "traditional" Jews in Israel. It is a relatively new offshoot from Conservative, but philosophically closer to Orthodox. They attempt to be as lenient as possible within an Orthodox framework, although many Orthodox would not accept their leniencies, such as using microphones on shabbat. It has yet to be determined if conversions and divorces under Traditional auspices are acceptable within the Orthodox world.

There is an umbrella organization for the organized "Traditional" movement (please contrast this usage with the generic term "traditional"). This organization is the Union for Traditional Judaism.

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## What B'nai Or was like when I was there...

The old B'nai Or was much more orthodox than the Jewish Renewal movement of today (which grew out of B'nai Or.) It was closer to what is now called Traditional Judaism (or Conservadox), except that it had a much more mystical bent to it. It has been called *neo-Chassidic* and I think the term fits well, although I cringe at the sound of neo-anything. But I do always think of B'nai Or in an Essene-Chassidic context. Reb Zalman once told me that he envisioned it as a repository of Chassidic knowledge that would preserve and renew the Jewish spirituality that

was destroyed in the Holocaust -- similar to the way that the Essenes retreated to the wilderness to preserve their knowledge from being lost under persecution of the Romans.