

Daniel Gordis

Daniel Gordis – Biographical Information

Dr. Daniel Gordis is Senior Vice President of the Shalem Center, where he is also a senior fellow in the Institute for Zionist History and Ideas. The author of numerous books on Jewish thought and currents in Israel, Dr. Gordis was the founding dean of the Ziegler Rabbinical School at the University of Judaism, the first rabbinical college on the West Coast of the United States. Dr. Gordis joined Shalem in 2007 after spending nine years as vice president of the Mandel Foundation in Israel and director of its Leadership Institute.

Since moving to Israel in 1998, Dr. Gordis has written and lectured throughout the world on Israeli society and the challenges facing the Jewish state. His writing has appeared in magazines and newspapers including the *New York Times*, the *New Republic*, the *New York Times Magazine*, *Moment*, *Tikkun*, and *Conservative Judaism*.

His books include:

[*Saving Israel: How the Jewish People Can Win a War That May Never End*](#) (Wiley, 2009)

[*Coming Together, Coming Apart: A Memoir of Heartbreak and Promise in Israel*](#) (Wiley, 2006)

[*Home to Stay: One American Family's Chronicle of Miracles and Struggles in Contemporary Israel*](#)
(Random House, 2003)

[*If a Place Can Make You Cry: Dispatches from an Anxious State*](#) (Crown/Random House, 2002)

[*Becoming a Jewish Parent: How to Explore Spirituality and Tradition with Your Children*](#) (Random House, 1999)

[*Does the World Need the Jews: Rethinking Chosenness and American Jewish Identity*](#)
(Scribner, 1997)

[*God Was Not in the Fire: The Search for a Spiritual Judaism*](#) (Scribner, 1995)

He is also presently completing a volume about 19th and 20th century rabbinic responses on conversion, which he is writing together with Rabbi David Ellenson of the Hebrew Union College.

Dr. Gordis received his B.A. from Columbia College, a Masters Degree and Rabbinic Ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, and his Ph.D. from the University of Southern California.

He lives in Jerusalem with his wife, Elisheva, and three children.