

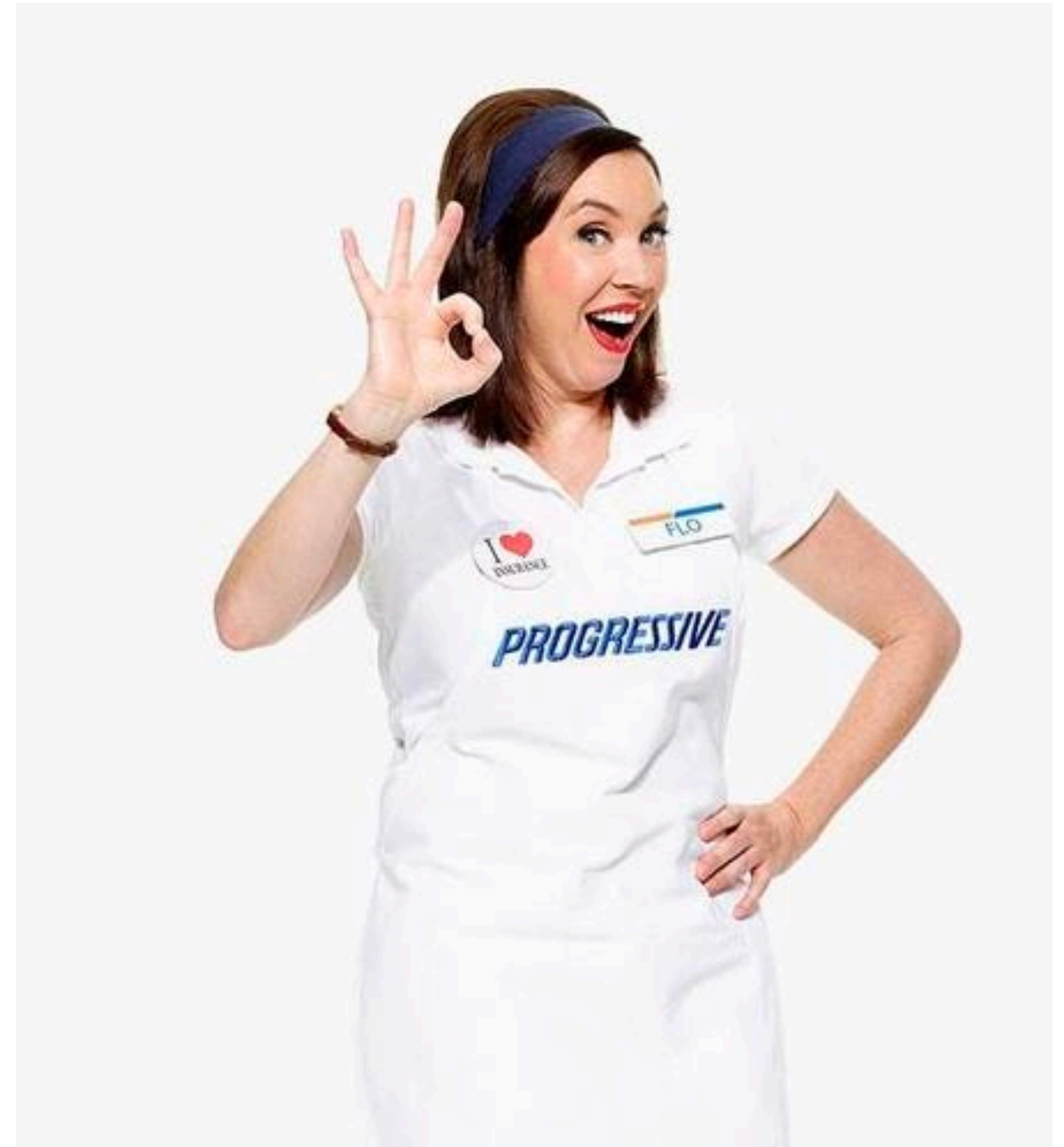
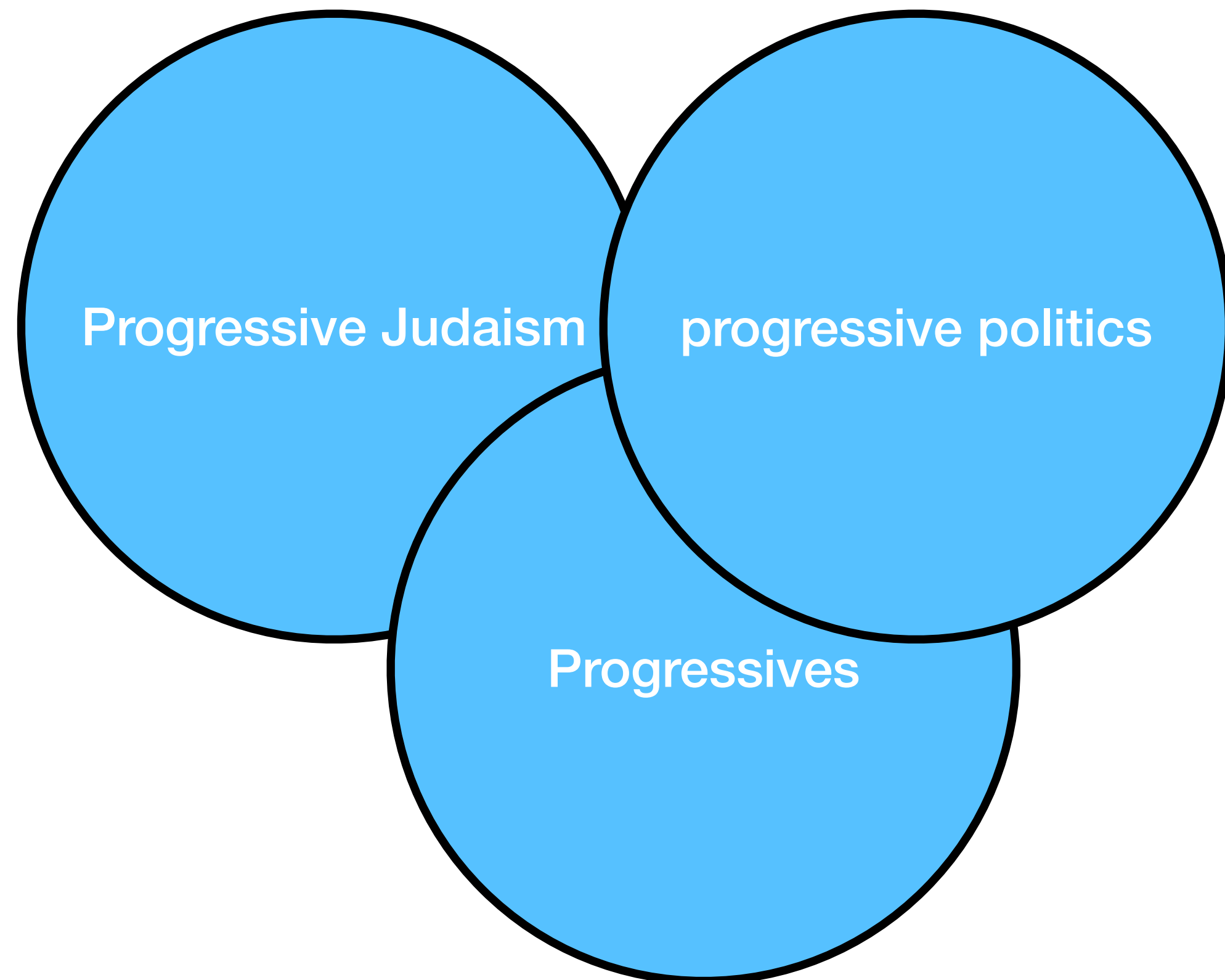
What's the Deal with Progressives?

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What do you think of when you hear “progressives?”

Several References

- progressive politics
- Progressives
- Progressive Judaism



Progressive Judaism

- An international stream (denomination) of Judaism represented by the World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ)
- WUPJ founded in 1926 in London - liberal and reform Judaism already existed in Germany and England
- Progressive chosen as an umbrella to represent both since the term was unused
- Has grown to include Reform, Liberal, Progressive, Deconstructionist Jewish communities around the world
- WUPJ includes URJ in North America plus 6 other geographic regions, with communities in 50 countries - over 2M members

Progressive Judaism cont.

- Millions more (according to Pew) identify with Reform Judaism in North America but are not counted in official numbers derived from synagogue membership
- In countries where synagogue membership is not counted, we believe a significant percent more engage and/or identify with Reform communities.
- WUPJ is part of the Zionist movement as is URJ in North America - both of which have accepted the Jerusalem Platform at the organizational level (emergence of liberal/progressive Zionism)
- WUPJ is represented by two Zionist Youth Movements (Netzer Olami & Tamar Olami) - NFTY is the *snif* in North America

progressive politics

- From the legacy of political liberalism
- Policy bias for political decisions that can improve the human condition
- Historically found homes in both parties on an issue-basis
- Reduce economic inequality
- In USA, progressive issues have often been bipartisan (Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security)
- Approach to Israel has included both recognition/support for a Jewish sovereign state as well as humanitarian aid to Palestinians, often embracing support for a two-state solution

The Progressives

- A far left caucus within the Democratic Party
 - “The Squad”
- Often at the intersection of other progressive social movements - BLM, Sunrise, Pro-Choice, etc.
- In favor of big government to reduce social inequity, punitive action for corporations that exploit people or environment, etc. (i.e. Green New Deal, etc.)
- Embrace of universalist values over political or ideological particularism
- Often painted in opposition of ultra-Conservatism (MAGA, Tea Party, Freedom Caucus)
- Often singularly define Israel by treatment of Palestinians and/or human rights abuses, have included embrace of BDS esp. when featured in platforms of social movements
 - Has threatened US bipartisan support of Israel (esp on security) by willing to conditionalize aid
- This has fueled antisemitism “on the left” which is more ideological/political than violent from the right.

The Venn diagram

It's important to clarify...

- Not all progressive Jews are political progressives
 - Not all reform Jews in USA vote Democratic
- Not all political progressives are Democrats nor identify with The Progressive Caucus
- Not all political progressives NOR Progressives are “left hard-liners” on Israel
- Not all Jewish Democratic voters are Reform