

The JEWISH Proclaimer

SUMMER 2005 – 5765

NO. 05 - 02

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OUTREACH WILL BE TRULY SUCCESSFUL IF MOST SYNAGOGUES TRULY REACH OUT

One lesson comes through in this second decade of making grants for advertising outreach:

Outreach will become an essential, vital part of Judaism when synagogues consider it important for this to be on their regular schedule, and when members insist that their rabbis conduct outreach activity every year.

It's not just that outreach will benefit the synagogue itself—it's the attitude, that welcoming Jews and non-Jews is a key and telling element in synagogue member and staff behavior.

You can tell from our describing various programs where this is so—as at Temple Emanu-El in Tucson, which conducts ambitious outreach—and where membership has grown significantly in the past few years.

Yes, it's good to have consortia approaches—that's far better than nothing at all (for how many synagogues, is there nothing at all?)—but synagogues are the point of delivery. If someone comes to your doors and is turned off by not being welcome, is ignored by member and rabbi alike—that's a lost opportunity for you and for all Jewry.

There's a huge difference between synagogues where the rabbis and members are cold, and where they are warm and welcoming.

To encourage the warmth and welcome and synagogue participation, NCEJ, while delighting to receive applications from consortia and UJFs and JCCs, limits its bonuses to individual synagogue programs.

For an application form, see page 7 of this *Jewish Proclaimer*. In addition, we credit national headquarters when you use an NCEJ application form it has supplied.

Outreach activity throughout the U.S.:

TUCSON TEMPLE REACHES ALL OVER

Tucson, AZ—Temple Emanu-El (R) attracts 415 to its Taste of Judaism minicourses, held all over the area. It spends nearly \$7,000 in newspaper ads in various papers. (520-327-4501)

Its rabbis enrolled 50 people themselves, mostly Jews. Jews were 54% of the total students, because members of Bet Shalom in suburban Green Valley attended as a congregation. Twelve households joined

NATIONAL CENTER TO ENCOURAGE JUDAISM, a nonprofit foundation, invites synagogues and other Jewish institutions, as a light unto the nations, to reach out to and encourage all to be Jewish. Box 651, Silver Spring, MD 20918. 301-593-2319. Fax 301-593-2249. E-mail: NCEJudaism@verizon.net. Web: www.NCEJudaism.org. This is the second of three Proclaimers this year. Editor: Ash Gerecht.

the 800-member temple during the course, as did six from the '03 course. 2/3 of registrants submitted data—only 18 were intermarried, 28 expressed interest in conversion. 18 converted in the past year.

Growing number of attendees didn't want to reveal demographic data.

Follow-up: The temple continues quarterly outreach "Simply Shabbat" services, and invites requests (34) for free High Holy Day tickets.

Lessons: "The more intense and thorough the follow-up, the greater its effect on synagogue membership, attendance, participation in Adult Education, and... children's programs."

The administrator conducts continuing, personal follow-ups. There's a dedicated Taste phone line. The outreach data include 1500 alumni. Funds come from the Adult Education budget for specific event mailings, such as quarterly outreach programs.

Participants from the 2003&4 Taste classes account for more than half the 58 in the conversion class. Many of these have become active volunteers, Rabbi Samuel Cohon reports. The follow-up Taste II course, with nominal fees, attracted 163 students over 3 quarterly sections.

"Positive effects on membership and involvement in Tucson's Jewish community continue to accrue," the rabbi writes. "Word-of-mouth has become an in-

"I am Jewish and my boyfriend was raised both Jewish and Catholic."

"My father was Jewish—we were not raised Jewish—I would like to convert."

"Judaism makes sense—more sense than Christianity, Islam or any other."

Afterward: "Proud to be a Jew and plan to light Shabbat candles and keep learning."

CAMARILLO STEPS CLASS INTO JUDAISM

Camarillo, CA—Temple Ner Ami (R) holds a Stepping Into Judaism class of 8 2-hour sessions for 15, 11 of them not Jewish. The 191-member congregation appeals to interfaith "and other interested individuals." A half-dozen were non-Jews interested in conversion. Two were a Jewish couple raised in the Soviet Union who knew nothing about Judaism, reports Rabbi Michael Lotker. ((805-388-3824)

This was a follow-on to its 2004 Taste course.

Ner Ami makes available 2 Jewish Lights booklets—Exploring Judaism as an Adult, and Interfaith Families Making Jewish Choices.

Everything you've always wanted to know about Judaism, but were afraid to ask...in only 3 weeks!

A Taste of Judaism... Are you curious?



Tucson's hottest education series returns!
Explore Jewish Spirituality, Values, and Community over three evenings with our Rabbis

- Classes in East, Central, Downtown and Northwest Tucson & Green Valley
- Daytime & Evening Classes

*Childcare provided at Sunday afternoon class

Open to all, Jewish or not

NO FEES OR OBLIGATIONS, BUT SPACE IS LIMITED. PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED.
CALL **292-5816**

Presented by:
Temple Emanu-El
225 N. Country Club Rd., Tucson
Made possible in part by a Compelling Needs Grant from the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona




**COMING IN OCTOBER - TASTE II
JEWISH IN AMERICA**

creasingly significant source of publicity...Taste of Judaism acts as a gateway...."

Participant comments include:

"Our son married a Jewish lady recently."

"I was raised observing both Jewish and Protestant religions."

STEPPING INTO JUDAISM

Are you Curious?

Come explore Jewish Spirituality, Jewish Values, Jewish Beliefs, and Traditions

SIX SUNDAY SESSIONS FOR INTERFAITH FAMILIES/ COUPLES/ INDIVIDUALS

Sundays Beginning January 30th ending June, 2005

10:00 a.m. – noon

Taught by Rabbi Michael Lotker & Colleagues

TEMPLE NER AMI

www.templenerami.org

4098 Calle Tesoro, Suite D, Camarillo CA 93012

To register or get additional information call (805) 388-3824 or

Email: Nerami@aol.com

STEPPING INTO JUDAISM is provided to the community to serve the needs of Interfaith couples, families and/or other interested individuals who wish to further explore Judaism for themselves and their families. Depending on registration, there may be 3 parallel sessions: Adults, Older Children (grades 4-6) and younger children (grades K-3)

ADMISSION IS FREE. BUT SPACE IS LIMITED AND YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER.



This program is made possible by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Ventura County and is a joint program of Temple Ner Ami and Temple Beth Torah in Ventura

URJ PACIFIC SW COUNCIL RETURNS

Encino, CA—URJ's regional unit, with 80 synagogues as members, returns to NCEJ. It holds about 20 Intro courses yearly, says Rabbi Jerrold Goldstein. Fee is \$250/325.

For the one at Temple Israel at Long Beach, taught by newly ordained Rabbi Steven Moskowitz, it placed a quarter-page ad in the Press Telegram. Ten enrolled, only one of them Jewish. Extra events in-

cluded a Shabbat morning visit to a Los Angeles synagogue, and a tour of the Skirball museum.

Rabbi Moskowitz is a member of the Sandra Caplan community bet din, for pluralistic conversions. (Info website: scbetdin.us) There were 20 conversions at the bet din alone, this past year.

A non-Jewish student who enrolled after seeing the ad comments: "It bothers me deeply that so many Christians do not understand the roots of their own faith... Incredibly, I even encounter Christians who do not know that Jesus was a Jew!"



Some places of inspiration...
Hawaii... Yosemite... Jerusalem... The Grand Canyon...

INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM COURSE

You can find inspiration in the wisdom and traditions of Judaism. **INTRO** courses provide the entry place for adults of all backgrounds.

The **INTRO TO JUDAISM** course will be taught by Rabbi Steven Moskowitz

Wednesday evenings starting January 19 at Temple Israel in Long Beach

Full information on Internet: www.urj.org/psw click "Intro to Judaism" or call toll free: **888.834.8242**



This course is suitable for people of all backgrounds. It also satisfies the basic educational requirements for conversion to Judaism.

Someone raised Episcopalian, but kicked out of class for questioning, says, "I have felt a spiritual need, but thought that all religions required faith without question or debate. Judaism class has been sort of revelation to me."

Another: "I feel that the Christian faith I was raised with and have believed in all my life has taken me farther away from God, instead of closer... I feel that Judaism will help me learn about the one true God..."

Someone of Jewish stock but "brand-new to Judaism" says, "Finally learning what Jews think, feel and do has been like a homecoming. I can't explain it, but there's a comfort there that I haven't experi-

experienced before (having experimented with Unitarianism, Religious Science, Agape, Wicca, etc.)"

U OF JUDAISM CONTINUES TO SCORE BIG

Los Angeles—University of Judaism continues racking in students and NCEJ grants, with its ongoing Introduction courses.

"With your help we have increased our advertising, especially in the outlying areas." Number of students from there has grown, "directly related."

It reports 112 conversions last year, 435 students, 171 interested in converting. Fees are \$18/person to register, and \$292 for one, \$454 for a couple.

LOS GATOS HOLDS INTERFAITH TALK

Los Gatos, CA—Cong. Shir Hadash (R) receives another NCEJ grant for its latest program, an Interfaith Couples Discussion Group. Fee is \$15. Group of 10 couples, 3/4 nonmembers, meets monthly for 6 sessions.

DENVER STEPPING STONES STEPS BACK IN

Denver—City's Stepping Stones program broadens its approach from interfaith families to the Taste of Judaism minicourse, and draws 69 students. 11 were interested in converting.

Comments include:

"I feel there may be a community I will be able to be connected to."

"I am here with my fiance and we have decided to have a Jewish household."

"I am anxious to continue my spiritual journey and I feel I am on the right path."

A Taste of Judaism

Explore Jewish values, Jewish spirituality, and Jewish community.

For information and to register, call Susan at 303.388.4013 or visit www.stepsstonesfamily.com

Three classes designed for the beginner, all backgrounds and faiths welcome.

HARTFORD RABBIS CONTINUE INTRO

West Hartford, CT—Reform Rabbis of Greater Hartford, with 2500 member families, hold another Introduction course. 24 attend, 17 not Jewish, 10 interested in converting. Fee is \$175 single, \$200 couple. The consortium had 27 conversions the past year.

Comments include:

"I look forward to my conversion day!"

"Nothing can replace the effectiveness of a class

with other students asking their questions..."

"After 20 years of marriage with my true identity hidden from view, it is refreshing and wonderful to see my husband's interest in Judaism unfold."

"I choose to follow the Jewish way. My wife thinks I need to learn what the Jewish way is to make this decision."

The consortium plans a Taste course in the fall, followed by a 3-session Opening Doors for interfaith couples. There's been a learning service, Shabbat for Everyone, and in the fall there'll be a service, The Many Jewish Concepts of God. Events are posted in papers' calendar sections, on grocery store billboards

PLANTATION TEMPLE SPREADS WORD

Plantation, FL—Temple Kol Ami-Emanu-El, with 1100 members, continues its good outreach. Its Introduction 15-week program (\$150/250) attracts 20, 9/10 not Jewish. With partners, class size was about 35. Temple had about 10 conversions the past year, reports Senior Rabbi Sheldon Haar (954-472-1988). It holds the conversion ceremony on a Friday night, when 350-700 people attend. First chair of the Outreach Committee set up in '04 went through the Intro course 2 years ago.

CURIOUS ABOUT JUDAISM?

Treat yourself to this popular course, open to everyone. Taught by Rabbi Sheldon J. Harr and by Rabbi Daniel N. Treiser, it covers everything from Jewish law to legend, from history to Hebrew.

TEMPLE 
KOL AMI

8200 Peters Road • Plantation

www.TempleKolAmi.com

954-472-1988

Call today to register!

Classes Begin August 16

PALM BEACH RABBIS HOLD INTRO COURSE

West Palm Beach, FL—County Board of Rabbis' 16-week Intro course (\$205) pulls 28 students, 3/5 non-Jewish and almost all of them interested in converting.

Help Welcome Unaffiliated Jews,
Interfaith Couples and
Anyone Curious About Judaism!

a taste of
JUDAISM

...Are you curious?

- Have non-Jewish friends asked you about Judaism?
- Do you know unaffiliated Jews or interfaith couples who might want an introduction to Jewish life?

TELL them about this special program given in three weekly sessions and designed for beginners, Jewish or not.

WELCOME the unaffiliated into our congregations.

INVITE them to learn about Jewish spirituality, Jewish values and Jewish community

Admission Is Free

For information and to register, contact

704-944-6838 or

sdipaolo@shalomcharlotte.org

Jewish SPIRITUALITY Jewish VALUES Jewish COMMUNITY

SAVANNAH HOLDS SHABBATON INTRO

Savannah, GA—Temple Mickve Israel (R) holds another of its 12-hour free Shabbat Intro programs, including meals for 63 people. Five were interested in converting. Four converted in the past year.

Among comments:

"The day's events inspired & motivated me to make a conscious decision to take the first step, a leap of faith, and begin my conversion to Judaism."

"OPENING DOORS TO SHABBAT"

at Beth Tikvah Congregation
Hoffman Estates

Friday March 11th 2005 7:30pm

An educational Jewish Shabbat service open to the community.

Interested in learning about Judaism?

Haven't been to the synagogue in a while?

Are you in an interfaith marriage or relationship?

Come spend a Friday Night Service learning about the symbols, prayers and customs associated with Shabbat.

In place of a Sermon the Rabbi will answer questions from the group.

OPEN TO ALL

Non-Jews, Non-Members and Interfaith Families are encouraged to attend.

For more information please contact

Beth Tikvah Congregation
www.beth-tikvah.org
outreachbtc@comcast.net
847-885-4545

300 Hillcrest Blvd.
Hoffman Estates, IL 60195



HOFFMAN ESTATES OPENS SHABBAT DOOR

Hoffman Estates, IL—Beth Tikvah Cong. (R) holds an Opening Doors to Shabbat service. The 315-member temple gets a few more than its usual 30. About half were nonmembers. A 4x6 ad ran in the local paper.

Instead of a sermon the rabbi did a Q&A session. All prayers were projected on a screen, with explanations using PowerPoint.

KC RABBIS RUN CONVERSION CLASS

Overland Park, KS—Rabbinical Ass'n of Kansas City runs an area-wide 36-week conversion class attended by 33 all not Jewish, charging \$125 for textbooks. For its ads, see the previous *Jewish Proclaimer*. The headline we liked: "Do You Ever Question Your Faith?"

The Ass'n includes Reform, Conservative and Modern Orthodox. Rabbi Amy Wollk Katz (913-327-4622) developed the curriculum. It includes monthly follow-up meetings focused on holidays.

Of the class, 19 are women. While reasons for joining are multiple, the common thread is "a serious commitment to completing the conversion process."

"A large number of the students are on a personal journey and religious search based on past experience." There were 16 conversions in the past year as a result of this class.

Each student must have a rabbinical sponsor and meet the sponsor's requirements. Many noted they had seen the newspaper ads.

The area also has a single congregation's class, on another weeknight, which prospective converts are also welcome to attend.

Among comments:

"I enjoy the fact that we have different rabbis from different movements come and talk to us; we are exposed to more ideas that way."

"When I saw the ad for the conversion class in the Kansas City Star I was absolutely thrilled," says a recent migrant from a small Iowa town "where I wouldn't have had access."

History of Judaism should be an early topic "as it gives context to everything we're learning."

URJ NORTHEAST GETS 2 TASTE GRANTS

Needham, MA—Four Taste courses from Nov. '04 to this April drew 275, reports coordinator Joyce Schwartz (781-449-0404) of URJ Northeast Council. In the previous 8 classes, Aug-Nov., registration totaled 160. About 55% were not Jewish, about 15% interested in converting.

Spirituality | Ethics | Community

A Taste of Judaism

 *Are You Curious?*

A Free mini-course taught by Reform rabbis.
For the beginner, Jewish or not.
Contact Reform Jewish Outreach for more info.
To register call 781-449-0404. jschwartz@urj.org
www.urj.org/nec



**Sponsored by the Union for Reform Judaism...
Funded by the Sherman Family Charitable Trust**

Over 60% of students contacted the Council after seeing the secular newspaper ads. An increasing number inquire over the internet.

Suggestion: Have your congregation ask for questions about conversion on your website, do a FAQ of frequently asked questions.

Student comments include:

"I wanted my fiance, whose mother is Jewish but who was not raised in any religion, to consider a more formal spiritual life."—Female Protestant, 44.

A 24-year-old male raised Buddhist wants "to learn about Judaism as my first step towards conversion."

FLINT TEMPLE STRIKES AGAIN

Flint, MI—Temple Beth El (R) draws 34 to 20 for its 3-class Taste course, all non-Jews.

The 205-member temple had 11 conversions the past year, reports Rabbi Karen Companez. Five from the new class will be attending her Intro program.

"My main concern," she says, "is ensuring that people who say they are interested in converting through Temple Beth El are well integrated socially into the Temple community. I encourage them to attend services and get to know the people who are members here to see whether it is a good fit for them."

The rabbi's run a couple of learners' Shabbat services and plans two or three a year, alternating at 8 p.m. and the family-friendly 6:30 p.m.

"We know there is a healthy interest in Judaism out there in the general community. I receive two or three hone calls or emails a week from people who are interested in learning more...and/or converting."

GRAND RAPIDS RUNS SMALL CLASS

Grand Rapids, MI—Temple Ahavas Israel (C) has the spirit and shows the way—even though its 15-week \$75 Intro course this time attracted only 5 people, it went ahead with the program. Good for it.

Top class draw is Biblical Hebrew, 25 weeks for \$150—less than a nearby college, the only competitor, charges, notes Rabbi David J.B. Krishef.

Temple is planning a "Shabbat Experience" this fall, patterned after its successful Passover program (150 people, \$25/40) with only "unleavened cookies" and fruit—and a Haggadah. (619-949-2840)

Hebrew - Bible Israel - Jewish Thought



Are you Curious?

Learn at Congregation Ahavas Israel!
2727 Michigan St. NE • 616-949-2840
Fall courses begin Monday, October 11, 2004



Hebrew:

- Hebrew Reading and Comprehension - Beginning • Intermediate Hebrew - Contemporary
- Intermediate Hebrew - Biblical

Bible:

- Torah with modern and classical commentary

Israel:

- From Zionist Ideal to Israeli Society • Politics and Society of Israel

Prayer:

- The Art of leading Jewish Prayer

Coming This Spring:

- Understanding the Christian Missionary's Approach to the Hebrew Bible
- Introduction to Judaism • The Talmud: Not for Rabbi Only
- Jewish Cooking • Jewish Storytelling • The Passover Seder Experience

Discount for advance registration (before September 20).

Call 616-949-2840 to receive a complete course guide and registration information.

MT. ZION'S INTRO IS A HONEY

St. Paul, MN—Mt. Zion Temple (R) has 32 people attend its Taste of Honey: An Introduction to Judaism 14-week course. 11 were members, and 26 not Jewish. 18 were interested in converting. The 680-member temple had 6 conversions in the past year. Fees were \$36/50 for members, \$75/100 for non.

Mt. Zion had offered a Taste of Judaism course, funded by the Minneapolis Jewish Federation, which has cut its budget.

**A Taste of Honey:
INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM**

Come explore Jewish theology, history, practice and culture

FOR ANYONE (Jewish or not) WHO WANTS TO LEARN
12-week course taught by Rabbi Esther Adler-Rephan
beginning Monday evening, October 4 is sponsored by

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To Register Call: 651-698-3881
Or e-mail Mountzion@mzion.org

This course offers a modern Reform perspective
on living in today's complicated world

1300 Summit Avenue St. Paul, MN 55105 www.mzion.org

**Learn More at Mount Zion's
Open House, Sun., Sept. 12TH 11:00AM - 12:30PM
Receive free High Holy Day tickets!**

While this was Intro's fourth year, it was the first with public ads—and had the largest enrollment, notes Exec Director Jane Steinman.

Rabbi Esther Adler, who teaches the course, also holds a monthly Exploring Judaism meeting mostly for non-Jews interested in converting. An interfaith group, Mingled Roots, "has brought many newcomers," and has grown to 25-30 each month.

Adult Ed program, MaZAL, Mount Zion Adult Learning, offers numerous courses.

MISSOURI RABBI MAKES ACCESS EASIER WITH GUIDE, ACCESSIBLE JUDAISM

Kansas City, MO—Rabbi Jacques Cukiercorn, who's been particularly active with conversion activities directed toward Spanish and Portuguese speaking prospects, publishes "Accessible Judaism: A Concise Guide," a 201-page softcover. Price is \$25.

Website is guidetojudaism.com. You can order from the rabbi, 7100 Main st., Kansas City 64114.

MORRISTOWN GETS 10 TO TASTE CLASS

Morristown, NJ—Temple B'nai Or (R) has 10 attend its Taste course, 9 of them not members, half of them not Jewish. It had 2 conversions the previous year, reports Rabbi Donald Rossoff.

LAS CRUCES OFFERS UP A FULL COURSE

Las Cruces, NM—The 160-member Temple Beth-El (R) has 12 people attend its 9-week "A Full Course of Judaism: More Than a Taste." Fee is \$36 members/75 non. Two were interested in converting, with good prospects for membership. The temple had 7 conversions in the preceding year.

Rabbi Gerald M. Kane held the class as a follow-up to his Taste series, at students' request. He will reformat the material to 3-week segments.

Temple held a Shabbat Across America teaching service in March, with about 20 non-Jews among the

TEMPLE BETH-EL LAS CRUCES, NM
IS PROUD TO OFFER

A FULL COURSE OF JUDAISM
(more than a Taste!)
taught by
RABBI GERALD KANE

**A TEN WEEK PROGRAM
FOCUSING ON**

JEWISH HOLIDAYS
JEWISH CUSTOMS
JEWISH LIFE CYCLE
JEWISH FOODS

Mondays 6-7:30 PM
starting
October 18

\$36 TBE Members
\$72 non-members
includes all materials

call 524-3380 or email rabbikane@cs.nmsu.edu

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

NATIONAL CENTER TO ENCOURAGE JUDAISM -- APPLICATION, 2005-2004

Box 651, Silver Spring, MD 20918 - 301-593 - 2319 - Fax 301-593-2249 - E-mail: NCEJudaism@verizon.net

NCEJ grants, for year 2004-2005 programs, are for a maximum of \$1000 up to one-half the cost of the secular (non-Jewish) press or periodical advertising. Programs must be open to all; those limited to interfaith are eligible for one-half the regular awards. Individual synagogue grantees may win a 20% bonus atop the basic grant, if you received an NCEJ ad grant the previous year, for a \$1200 maximum. We help you let your broad community know people are welcome to obtain information about Judaism.

Eligible courses are of two types: 1) Introduction to Judaism, Taste of Judaism, Basic Judaism, or similar classes. 2) Adult Education classes of interest to prospective converts--these ads must state, "Open to All" or "Open to Jews and non-Jews." Ineligible are such ads as: Institutional, High Holy Day, Shabbat or Shabbaton, membership, Hebrew, Chanukah, Passover, cooking, dancing, or lectures not of interest or help to prospective converts. Aborted programs are ineligible.

Send in your completed applications after your program starts. **Include demographic information and class reaction** as requested; a copy of the ads (for radio/tv, of the text) and of the specific billing. We welcome your expanded comments. You are eligible for two grants yearly for separate programs in different quarters. Grants are at NCEJ's sole discretion.

(For Outreach Shabbat grants, fill in Sections 1 & 3; for course grants, fill in Sections 1 & 2.)

(1) Organization _____ Cong. membership numbers _____ Date _____
 (_____ Reform _____ Conservative _____ Reconstruction _____ Orthodox _____ Mix of: _____ No affiliation _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail: _____
 Web? _____ Contact person _____ Role _____

Ads ran in these venues _____
 Dates run _____ Size of ads _____ Total print/air cost of ads _____

How many conversions at your synagogue/consortium/institution (specify) last secular\ religious year? _____

PROGRAM BONUSES FOR SYNAGOGUES: Award winners are eligible for 2 bonuses of \$100 each for these ongoing out-of-the-ordinary activities, at NCEJ's discretion. Supply detailed documentation; cursory response doesn't qualify.

1) _____ You actively welcome attendees at oneg shabbat/kiddush with more than such routine as bima announcements or blue cups; both rabbi & board take continuing initiative.. _____ You operate programs to further integrate interfaith & converts. More than Dec. dilemma-type sessions. What others can learn from and copy. Details, please.

2) _____ You supply free pamphlets/booklets on becoming Jewish. Send us the list, and copies of any you yourself have prepared. You must have a rack or table in an open area, with pamphlets free for the taking any time. Details necessary.

(2) **COURSE TITLE** _____ Fee (Members/non) _____

Course length: _____ # Students: _____ (Numbers or %:) Members _____ Nonmembers _____ Jews _____ Non-Jews _____

In interfaith relationship _____ Interested in converting _____ Your comments on class makeup?

Student comments on class (especially welcomed; use separate sheet):

What follow-up programs & contacts do you have in place?

Your thoughts/suggestions in general about classes, alternatives, follow-ups to increase conversion (separate sheet):

(3) **OUTREACH SHABBAT** (Mainly prospective member events ineligible.) Add details on a separate sheet.

Title of your event? _____ When held? _____

Attendance: Your estimate of number of members _____ Of nonmembers _____ Usual attendance: _____

Did you include: Explanations _____ Information on classes, or conversion? _____ Have pamphlets available? _____

Describe how you made this different from your usual service _____

Would you hold this service again? _____ When? _____ How would you change it? _____

What advice would you give other synagogues planning such an event? _____

90 attending. Rabbi Kane thinks offering a vegetarian potluck might attract more.

As in the past, the rabbi and his wife bake home-made items for each class, and a different food-related item tied into that week's theme. He plays Jewish music as folks gather, and lets them know how to order the music for their own libraries.

GASTONIA TEMPLE KEEPS KNITTING

Gastonia, NC—Temple Emanuel wins another NCEJ grant with its latest Taste course. The 70-member temple attracts 35 this time. A number of students have continued with other adult ed classes. Three from the '04 class will complete their conversions this spring, and 6 previously non-affiliated Jewish persons/families have joined, reports Adult Study committee chair Dr. Mark E. Epstein, DVM.

It held a Shabbat Across America preceded by a kosher dinner, attended by 25; usual is 15-20.

RALEIGH INTRO CLOAKS OVER FIFTY

Raleigh, NC—Cong. Beth Or (R) wins its second grant in '04 for 10-week Intro program, which attracts 52, ¾ of them not Jewish. Twelve were interested in converting; six converted in the past year. The 520-member synagogue charges \$25/50 for the class. Rabbin from the 3 major movements helped teach.

CINCINNATI TEMPLE ATTRACTS 14

Cincinnati—The Valley Temple's (R) Taste course has 14 students, only 4 of them not Jewish. Two were interested in converting; 4 converted in the previous year.

It's prepared a well-organized learner's service, along with an explanation of the music.

TACOMA FINDS LIFE SCORE IN CLASS

Tacoma, WA—Temple Beth El (R) has 18 attend its Taste minicourse, all but 2 not Jewish. One is interested in converting. 3 converted in the past year, but new Rabbi Bruce Kadden was working with more than 20 people as 2005 began.

Most of the students indicated interest in the Intro program that began in March. A Taste program that started in Jan. was opened to Temple members as this was not.

Rabbi Kadden has started a Jews-by-Choice support group, and plans an interfaith group as well.

Among student comments:

"I have been drawn to Judaism for 60 of my 70 years. I am searching for my spiritual home. I don't feel I belong in a Christian church any longer and I sense a pull toward Judaism."

"Always wondered how to connect with the local Jewish community."

"I was curious. I had read contemporary post-Holocaust literature and had a very rudimentary understanding of Judaism."

"I was adopted at age 7 and have always felt at certain times of the year something is missing, also remember or think I remember my natural family may have been Jewish."

Another: "Jewish; adopted & raised in a Christian home. Just didn't connect with Christianity."

PROCLAIMER SENT TO U.S. SYNAGOGUES

and a few in Canada. Non-institutional subscriptions for a year are available with a donation. Send this copy to your library if you're not filing it for later use.

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TO ENCOURAGE JUDAISM
Box 651
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Summer 2005 – 5765 No. 05 - 02

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**If Every Synagogue Could Reach Out
And Every Synagogue Could Be Welcoming
It Could Be a Great Jewish Era
And You Would Have Helped
And NCEJ Would Have Helped You**