

# The JEWISH Proclaimer

**TEACH THAT OLD-TIME RELIGION—JUDAISM.  
GET THE RUACH—THE SPIRIT OF JUDAISM.**

No. 03 – 03

Autumn 2003 – 5764

## TURNING ... OPENING DOORS TO FOLK

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## WILL JEWS OVERCOME THEIR DIFFIDENCE IN 5764?

Another New Year—5764—another opportunity for Jews to decide to open their doors and welcome all who want to learn about Judaism.

Judaism is the old-time religion—the basics. Consider its history and what it can teach—the mother-lode of billion-member other religions that would not exist if not for Judaism—with basic beliefs, minus senseless overlays, that more people are today willing to acknowledge, learn about...and accept.

But Judaism has to let them know they can come in, they can learn, and they can if they wish be part of K'lal Yisrael.

A contrast for the Jewish century: As it began, in 5700, in the American heartland a High Holy Day audience heard the town's chief rabbi harangue it on—the importance of kashrut. This, in the same month that World War II started, and as his own son, a band leader, was keeping company with the daughter of city manager McElroy.

The Jews in the U.S. were no longer in shtetls, the psychological as well as physical boundaries were blurring, insularity was going. And now, 2/3 of a century later, the marketplace is indeed open, and

competitive. Jews—and all others—are free to be apathetic, to switch, or to stay. There's good reason to stay, there's good reason for others to join. Jews have a noble, romantic, sensible presence to display—we need to offer it, and allow our preeminence.

We should not bleed away because we are too timid to speak our own piece, afraid we will upset non-Jews in our assemblies by proclaiming the verities and values of Judaism, providing a framework for action in today's world.

People may choose to compare—we need to supply the comparatives and accept the superlatives. Being silent or diffident is not an option for survival.

**The National Center to Encourage Judaism** will help you let your communities know that you welcome the stranger, that you love the stranger as yourself, that the stranger can choose to become one with you.

We will help you advertise your Basic Judaism, Introduction to Judaism, or Taste of Judaism-type courses to the general or school community. We will help you advertise a learner's Open House Shabbat open to the entire community.

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**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@aol.com](mailto:NCEJudaism@aol.com)  
Web: [www.NCEJudaism.org](http://www.NCEJudaism.org). This is the third of three Proclaimers this year. Editor: Ash Gerecht.

# YOUR SYNAGOGUE IS THE FOCUS OF JUDAISM. YOUR SYNAGOGUE IS THE POINT OF DELIVERY

Applications are easy—once you decide to undertake the programs. See page 7 for details.

*What's happening in the U.S. and Canada?  
Here are stories of outreach you can copy.*

## JEWS WELCOME CONVERTS? MAN BITES DOG? GET STORIES INTO YOUR PAPERS!

Tucson—Rabbi Samuel Cohon, who's doing such a good job reaching out at Temple Emanu-El, suggests more publicity for outreach.

Mainstream magazine and newspaper articles about congregations that are most successfully doing outreach would be extremely beneficial, he writes us.

"I truly believe that the vast majority of congregations and rabbis strongly wish to bring more people to Judaism, but I also believe that they think they are doing the best job they possibly can already.

"What is needed is a way to convince them that this is simply not the case, and show them how they might do more in the largest potential growth area for Judaism today." (See news article example, p.5.)

## MIAMI'S BETH AM HAS OUTREACH CHIEF FULL TIME — THAT'S REAL SPIRIT!

Miami—Temple Beth Am has what Emanu-El in Tucson would much like—a full-time outreach director. Both synagogues realize the importance of reaching out—if you actively welcome new Jews, you will be actively welcoming older ones, too—and that helps your synagogue right away.

Karen Sobel, the director, offers courses in English and Spanish, such as Understanding Judaism, Entendiendo el Judaismo en Espanol, Taste of Judaism. It has Chaver: A Mentoring Program, for graduates of Understanding Judaism. (The contents of its little flyer are reproduced here.)

It advertises in local newspapers and on Spanish radio, to reach unaffiliated Jews and others.

Understanding Judaism/New Beginnings runs 26 weeks, enhanced with monthly sessions that "touch upon the emotional feelings and realities that accompany the embracing of a new religious tradition." Twelve people attended the \$250/300 (person/couple) course, 8 of them non-Jews, 2 definitely interested in converting.



**ENTENDIENDO EL JUDAÍSMO EN ESPAÑOL**

Auspiciado por UAHC en cooperación con el Templo Beth Am

¿Qué significa ser Judío?  
¿Qué es el Judaísmo, sus costumbres y su historia?  
¿Cómo se celebran las fiestas en el hogar y en el Templo?  
¿Quiere traer a su vida más conocimiento sobre el Judaísmo?


**Este curso es ideal para individuos o parejas que quieran enriquecer su conocimiento sobre el Judaísmo**

Las clases comienzan el 9 de Octubre

Duración: 10 semanas  
Miércoles de 7:30 a 9:30 p.m.  
Matrícula: \$125 por persona o por pareja, incluye materiales

Para preguntas y para registrarse, favor de contactar a la Instructora, Hadassah Blum, 305.667.6667, ext. 808

Templo Beth Am  
5950 North Kendall Drive, Pinecrest  
ABIERTO PARA TODA LA COMUNIDAD


**UNDERSTANDING JUDAISM  
NEW BEGINNINGS COURSE**

Are you an interfaith couple who wishes to bring Jewish knowledge and observance in your home?  
Are you a prospective Jew-by-Choice who seeks to fulfill the requirements for conversion?

Explore Jewish values, history and traditions in an atmosphere of open discussion. Gain comfort and familiarity with the symbols and liturgy that accompany Jewish celebrations in the home and synagogue. Understanding Judaism is ideal for any individual or couple curious about Judaism. Open to Jews and non-Jews whether conversion is a consideration.

**Starting Date:** Wednesday, October 2, for 26 weeks  
**Time:** 7:30 to 9:30 pm  
**Tuition:** \$250 per individual or \$300 per couple, includes all materials  
**Instructors:** Rabbi James Simon and supported by UAHC Outreach Fellows

**Outreach Department  
305.667.6667 ext. 151  
Temple Beth Am  
5950 N Kendall Drive Pinecrest FL 33156**



The 10-week Spanish course, \$125 person/couple, had 6 attendees, 5 not Jewish.

Teacher Hadassah Blum's comment: "The people that I had were born Jewish but were so far

## COURSE OFFERINGS

**Opening Doors: A Workshop for Interfaith Couples**

This six-week discussion group for interfaith couples and those contemplating interfaith marriages provides a forum for tackling the difficult concerns and issues related to these special relationships.

**Understanding Judaism New Beginnings**

A comprehensive twenty-six week course designed to provide an overview of Jewish thought, history, rituals and holidays for those interested in learning about Judaism. Study is enhanced by monthly sessions that touch upon the emotional feelings and realities that accompany the embracing of a new religious tradition. Participation fulfills part of the course of study leading to conversion to Judaism. Open to Jews and non-Jews whether or not conversion is a consideration.

**Entendiendo el Judaísmo en Español**

A 10-week introduction to Jewish life taught in Spanish. *Este curso es ideal para individuos o parejas que quieran enriquecer su conocimiento sobre el Judaísmo.*

**A Taste of Judaism**

An easy access three-week course designed to give participants a "taste" of what is delicious about Judaism. Each session covers an essential principal of Jewish thought: Spirituality (God), Ethics (Torah), and Community (Israel). Stated differently, A Taste of Judaism responds to three questions: Who is God? What does God expect of us? How does one live a Jewish life?

**The Beginner's Guide to Living Jewishly**

This four-week workshop is for those who are interested in learning the practical aspects of living a Jewish life and are curious about the how-to's of Jewish rituals, life cycle and holiday observances. It is ideal for individuals who were not raised in a Jewish home, and who, through conversion or their relationship to extended Jewish family, are living in the Jewish community.

**"Try It You'll Like It," An Intro to Becoming a Jewish Cook**

This four-week mini course is designed to provide a basic understanding of the kosher dietary laws and a hands-on Jewish cooking experience with David and Shelley Schwadron of *Elán Caterers*.

## SPECIALLY FEATURED PROGRAMS

**Speak-Easy: Where there is no "prohibition" on sharing your feelings because you shouldn't keep them all "bottled up!"**

Speak-Easy is a monthly, professionally facilitated, ongoing discussion group for individuals or couples in interfaith relationships, Jews-by-Choice and those with extended families whose religion is different than their own. New participants are always welcome.

**When Chanukah and Christmas Conflict: Finding Your Family's Solution to Two December Traditions**

An annual workshop that explores the emotional and practical considerations of observing the holiday season in nuclear and extended families with more than one religious background.

**"It's a Family Affair," Spring Symposium**

An evening dedicated to the many issues facing interfaith families of every age, shape and size. Topics such as creating traditions for newly marrieds, making religious choices for children, and grandparenting grandchildren of a different faith will be addressed. Open to the community.

## OTHER SERVICES

**Chaver: A Mentoring Program**

Chaver is designed to welcome members of our community who are new to Judaism. Through the pairing of volunteer mentors with newly Jewish congregants, we hope to provide support and a warm and nurturing link to the Jewish world and to Beth Am. We welcome anyone interested in becoming or receiving a mentor to contact the Outreach Department.

**Outreach Insights**

A periodic column in the Beth Am Commentator, "Insights" addresses Outreach issues through the personal stories of our members.

apart from the community that the course opened the door back to the tradition. The community of Miami, and the Temple neighborhood in particular, has the opportunity to open the door to a lot of professionals and nonprofessionals who want to convert but don't want to study in English.

"I had a girl in class who converted three or four years ago. She's a dentist in America and speaks English. But her husband was shlepping her to Chabad and she understood nothing. When she attended our Friday service held in Spanish she said, 'Wow, this is the first time I understood what praying is.' This is because of the language. You see, the understanding in Spanish is much more profound. You understand it more in your spirit. The English can be an obstacle to the meaning of Judaism."

The free Taste minicourse had 51 attending, 28 not members, 21 not Jewish, 16 couples in an interfaith relationship.

**Follow-up:** The Outreach Dep't keeps a database of everyone who even inquires about a program, to let non-members know about activities. The coordinator helps inform prospective members about Outreach activities, and can pass on the names of any new members interested in Outreach issues.

"Once an individual has made an inquiry to the Outreach Dep't he will FOREVER receive

information and updates that may be useful in his Jewish journey," Ms Sobel says.

**Be welcoming!** Ms Sobel had referred one inquiring couple in Miami Beach to a synagogue closer to their home. They were called back when the Taste program advertised, to see if all was well.

"The couple had experienced a rude and unwelcoming response from the congregation which caused their Jewish exploration to come to a grinding halt! They were thrilled by our personal outreach to them and participated fully in our spring course."

Outreach to the Spanish-speaking community is aided by several Latin Jews in professional positions in the synagogue.

Follow-up for Understanding Judaism attendees includes an invitation to connect with a mentor. The Chaver program goal is to provide support for people new to Judaism and the temple. "This year alone, mentors and their Understanding Judaism past participants celebrated together at a bar mitzvah and two weddings."

The monthly newsletter includes personal testimony from congregants touched by outreach issues. "The frank and sensitive manner in which topics have been addressed has been well received," says Ms Sobel.

## WHEN YOU REACH OUT, YOU TOUCH MEMBERS, TOO—YOU WIN ALL-AROUND

### THEY COME TO CAMARILLO FOR TASTE

Camarillo, CA—Taste of Judaism 3-week minicourse draws 33 people to Temple Ner Ami (R), 2/3 of them not Jewish, reports coordinator Barbara Wagner. The “very diverse” group included teenagers, pregnant couples, seniors, many faiths and cultures, including Native American, Brazilian, and Filipino. The rabbi will follow up with each attendee.

The synagogue had 3 conversions in the past year.

### U OF JUDAISM WINS ANOTHER GRANT

Los Angeles—University of Judaism’s Introduction program keeps rolling along. With \$18 registration per person, and tuition of \$292 for one and \$454 per couple, for an 18-week, 63-hour course, its latest score is 145 Jews and 311 non-Jews, with 120 interested in converting.

The program includes support groups led by a professional therapist, who’s a resource for any later help. “We also ask converts to speak to prospective converts about what brought them to Judaism, and their experiences in the Jewish community.”

**The importance of the rabbi:** About the instructor, Rabbi Dershowitz, one student writes:

“He seems to be readily available & willing to make appointments as you need them. He is always very positive about everyone asking questions and will explain anything you don’t understand.”

Another student, on the class: “I honestly found this class to be more than I had expected and garnered more information about Judaism and its traditions and history than many of my Jewish friends. I found it to be thorough and comprehensive.”

Books used include: Jewish Literacy--Telushkin; To Life--Kushner; Becoming Jewish--Isaacs; Teach Yourself to Read Hebrew; a Hebrew tape; Classroom Companion.

### OVER 50 AT TALLAHASSEE INTRO CLASS

Tallahassee, FL—Sixteen-week Introduction course at Temple Israel (R) attracts 55 people, 39 of them not members, 35 of them not Jewish, including an Episcopal priest.

Fee is \$170 single, \$200 couple.

“Our new rabbi (Jack Romberg), a dynamic and engaging teacher, presented a rich curriculum and attendance and enthusiasm among the students remained high,” reports Sally Gertz, outreach chair.

“We know that, no matter how good our programs are, our outreach efforts will not be effective if our programs are not made known to the broader community.”

All class members and their families were invited to the Purim celebration, and to a class dinner followed by services.

**INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM**


*Come explore. . . Jewish Theology, History, Practice and Culture*


**FOR ANYONE WHO WANTS TO LEARN . . .  
JEWISH OR NOT**

*A sixteen week course taught by Rabbi Jack Romberg  
Beginning January 5<sup>th</sup>*

**TEMPLE ISRAEL**   
UAHC

To Register: 877-3517

INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM offers a modern Reform perspective on living in today's complicated world.

### TAMPA TEMPLE IN 9<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF GRANTS

Tampa—Cong. Schaarei Zedek wins an NCEJ advertising grant for the ninth year.

Its ads are among the best we’ve seen, too, over the years, and we’ve reproduced a number in previous Proclaimers. Such as the one with this headline, “The Only Requirement is that You’re a Jew or a Non-Jew.”

There’s no charge for its 9-week Introduction course, which drew about 100 students, one-fourth of them members, one-half of them not Jewish. Eight who were interested in converting also met in a special seminar five or more times, and had special counseling. All eight have joined the temple.

“Your help with our advertising has enabled us to make the Tampa Bay area aware of our Introduction to Judaism class,” writes Sherry Stein, program director. (813-876-2377)



## Congregation Schaarai Zedek

is offering a 9 week "Introduction to Judaism" course taught by Rabbi Richard Birnholz. The course is for Jews and non-Jews who want to learn more about the nature of Judaism, God, Torah, worship, Marriage, Death, other lifecycle events, and Jewish holidays.

The course is held at Congregation Schaarai Zedek  
3303 W. Swann Ave. In Tampa

from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesdays  
beginning September 24, 2002

There is no charge for the course,  
but there are required books.  
For more information, call 876-2377

## SAVANNAH TEMPLE RETURNS FOR GRANT

Savannah, GA—Temple Mickve Israel gets an NCEJ grant, six years after it received its previous one. It had 38 students for its 12-hour Introduction course, 2/3 of them not Jewish. It had seven conversions in the past year.

Class "participants were made aware that they are always welcome & that they could receive our mailings." (*Ad is to the right.*)

## LAFAYETTE, WE ARE HERE!

Lafayette, IN—Cong. Sons of Abraham (C) sponsors a 4-week Introduction class for \$20 and draws 37 people, all of them not Jewish. It had one conversion this past year. (*Ad is on p.6.*)

The congregation is small and shares its rabbi with another synagogue. Ads appeared in the local paper and the university Purdue Exponent. Most attendees were area residents. A newspaper article

## INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM:

### Are you curious?

Come explore...Jewish Spirituality, Jewish Values,  
Jewish People, Jewish Music and Culture.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 7**

**10 am to 10 pm**

**(yes, it is 12 hours)**

**JUDAISM: ARE YOU CURIOUS?** Offers a  
modern Reform Jewish

Perspective on living in today's complicated world.

**Rabbi Arnold Mark Belzer and Cantor Dan Pincus will present the course.** Space is limited so please call the Temple office (233-1547, ext. 26) to reserve a space.

This Sabbath experience includes two meals, Sabbath worship, Havdallah (the service which ends the Sabbath), discussion, lecture and question periods. A complete interactive experience!

**Open to the entire community.** Jews, Christians, and others who wish to know more about Judaism (in order to deepen their understanding of the roots of the Abrahamic tradition), those contemplating conversion to Judaism.

**There is no charge.**

**Congregation Mickve Israel**  
Monterey Square  
Savannah, Georgia

Pre-registration required: 912-2331547, ext. 26

about the rabbi appeared a couple of weeks before the course began. (*See article, below.*)

## DOZEN CONVERSIONS AT ANN ARBOR

Ann Arbor, MI—Temple Beth Emeth (R) reports a dozen conversions in the past year.

It holds a two-session Taste class attended by 14, 2/3 of them not Jewish.

Another Taste program, scheduled for spring, was to focus more on the basics of Jewish practice.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2003

# Rabbi aims to teach non-Jews about faith

By Bob Scott  
Journal and Courier

Rabbi Michael Rascoe said he is committed to spreading the truth about Judaism.

To accomplish that goal, he is teaching a series of classes on Judaism, starting next week. The classes at Sons of Abraham synagogue in Lafayette are aimed at a general audience and open to all faiths. They will cover Jewish traditions and opinions.

"Judaism has a different way of looking at the world — a long, cherished tradition of looking at the world," he said.

"Take abortion, for example. Judaism is traditional, neither pro-life or pro-choice. It combines values of both sometimes and is irrelevant at other times."

Rascoe said a lot of misinformation is being spread about Judaism.

"I am amazed when these messianic Jews or the Jews for Jesus

groups go into places and teach things. It isn't what I know," he said.

"The point is to educate people about Judaism from somebody who knows something about it. I would contend that people might learn something about Christianity, too."

One of the classes will focus on ethics. Rascoe said many moral business practices are rooted in Jewish tradition and the Bible.

"The business ethic comes from a tradition going back 3,000 or more years," he said. "Paying workers on time is already in the Bible. We have been talking about worker benefits for a long time."

"Judaism has a tradition that includes how we relate to consumer safety."

Synagogue member Susan Prohofske said the classes are an "educational outreach."

"We hope we get a broad spectrum of people interested in Judaism. We want to increase people's

## If you go

An "Introduction to Judaism" series will be held from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. next Thursday and Feb. 13, 20 and March 13 at Sons of Abraham, 661 N. Seventh St.

On-site registration will be held. The cost is \$10 for materials.

Everybody is invited. Topics include holidays, daily life, prayers, ethics and Jewish mysticism.

understanding."

Prohofske said she admires the rabbi's organizational skills. For 18 months, Rascoe has split his duties between Lafayette and Temple B'nai Shalom in Benton Harbor, Mich. He usually will spend two weeks at each synagogue.

Rascoe grew up in a Pittsburgh suburb and was educated in New York City at Columbia University

and the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Rascoe, 44, said his October marriage has added another challenge to the bi-weekly commutes.

"These jobs have made a newly married life very interesting," he said with a laugh.

He's learned to rely on a cell phone and a handheld computer to stay organized.

"Keeping two congregations straight is difficult sometimes," he said.

"The nice thing is that the two are on different sides of the Conservative movement."

Being a traditional Jew, Rascoe said he must be within walking distance of the synagogues on the Sabbath.

He has a house in the Benton Harbor area for his family, an apartment near Temple B'nai Shalom, and an apartment near Sons of Abraham.

"I have files, books and other things scattered all over the place," he said with another laugh.



Photo provided  
**TEACHER:** Michael Rascoe, rabbi of Sons of Abraham synagogue in Lafayette, will teach classes about Judaism. The classes are intended for a general audience.

# JUDAISM MAKES SENSE OUT OF OUR WORLD— TELL YOUR COMMUNITY, DOORS ARE OPEN

# HAS YOUR SYNAGOGUE OBTAINED A GRANT FROM NCEJ YET? IT'S EASY TO APPLY.

Short course:



## An Introduction to Judaism

Rabbi Michael Rascoe

1. Introduction (calendar, holidays)
2. Life cycle (home, daily life, prayers)
3. Ethics (including Business Ethics)
4. Mysticism

Thursday evenings: Feb. 6, 13, 20, Mar. 13.  
7:30—9:30 p.m.

Sons of Abraham, 661 N. 7th St., Lafayette  
Open to all



Registration and Materials \$10.00  
Call the synagogue: 765-742-2113  
For more info: Susan Prohofskey, 463-1980

Participants in the class felt that had not been addressed enough, reports program director Andrew Goodman.

He's concerned that "the synagogue can be an intimidating place to go if one is a non-Jew and is interested in just learning a little. In the future we might hold classes off site in order to make the location less oppressive for people who are weary about their studying Judaism."

**Comment:** The synagogue's the synagogue. Part of the immediate indoctrination should be a tour of the premises—see, no horns. An explanation of the bima, the eternal light, the Torah, the menorah, etc., might diffuse any concern. Docents in Jewish museums have been asked, for instance, about where sacrifices occur in synagogues.

### A TASTE OF JUDAISM

ARE YOU CURIOUS? Come explore Jewish Spirituality, Jewish Values, Jewish People  
Sundays, November 17 & November 24, 7:30 - 9 p.m. at Temple Beth Emeth  
(2309 Packard Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48104)

To Register: 734-665-4744...Space is limited, Registration is required  
FREE OF CHARGE...FOR THE BEGINNER, JEWISH OR NOT

## FLINT STRIKES INTEREST WITH TASTE

Flint, MI—New Rabbi Karen Companeze starts at Temple Beth El and holds a Taste course in February, with attendance ranging from 55 to 35 over the 3 classes. A 13-session Introduction course was scheduled to start in August.

A number of people expressed interest in conversion, and are attending Shabbat services.

"My main concern 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. Our congregation is very welcoming in an informal, unstructured way."

The temple has a learners' Shabbat service, "very well received by both Jews and non-Jews."

## U MINN HILLEL SAYS IF NOT NOW, WHEN

Minneapolis—Hillel at the U of Minnesota here stays ahead of the pack, by continuing to offer an Introduction to Judaism class.

It receives another grant from NCEJ, as a result.

**Comment:** Hillels should be a prime place for offering Introduction or Taste programs. Synagogues in university communities should link up with the chapters to let students know they're welcome to learn about Judaism.

Five students attended the 4-session class. Two were Jewish, from the former Soviet Union, with very little Jewish education.

Rabbi Sharon Stiefel, associate director, holds a monthly Exploring Judaism meeting. Two students from Hillel converted via a Conservative synagogue.

## Hillel

The Jewish Student Center

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**Introduction to Judaism**

Wednesdays, January 29, February 5, 12, 19  
at 4:30 pm

For Jews and non-Jews who want to  
learn more about Judaism  
Taught by Rabbi Sharon Stiefel

Free for students, \$15 for non-students.  
Register in advance or at the first class.

For more information, please call 612-379-4926

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1521 University Ave S.E. • 612-379-4026  
hillel@umn.edu • http://www.tc.umn.edu/~hillel

## SANTA FE FINDS GREAT WAKENING

Santa Fe, NM—Demand for Temple Beth Shalom's Taste of Judaism course was so great, it had to do it 3 times—once last Oct., once last Nov., and once this March, reports Administrator Dorothea Migliori.

In Oct., 24 came, 15 non-Jewish; in Nov., 25, 19  
(continued on page 8)

## NATIONAL CENTER TO ENCOURAGE JUDAISM -- APPLICATION, 2003-2002

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

NCEJ grants, for year 2003-2002 programs, are for a maximum of \$800 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. We want to help you let people in the broad community know they are welcome and able 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 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. You are eligible for two grants yearly for separate programs in different quarters. Grants are at NCEJ's sole discretion.

**(For Open House 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, the rabbi & board take continuing initiative. \_\_\_\_\_ You operate programs to further integrate interfaith & converts. More than a Dec. dilemma session. 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 for the free 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 (use separate sheet if need): \_\_\_\_\_

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

Your thoughts/suggestions about such classes or alternatives or follow-ups: \_\_\_\_\_

**(3) OPEN HOUSE SHABBAT** Please write expanded 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? \_\_\_\_\_

## AFTER YOU'VE READ THE PROCLAIMER— SEND IT TO YOUR LIBRARY FOR POSTING

non-Jewish; in March, 14, half non-Jewish. In all, 8 were considering conversion, and a goodly number were in interfaith relationships.

There's an active Outreach committee, which plans Learner's Shabbat potlucks and other meetings to help interfaith couples. The monthly Bulletin includes an Outreach column. UAHC pamphlets on conversion are available in the main office and in the sanctuary foyer at all times.



### A TASTE OF JUDAISM:

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One student registered as a Chanukah present for her Dad and his rabbi-fiancee.

Another, considering conversion, writes: "A lot of our cousins are converting to the Jewish faith and I wondered why." And, "As we were researching our roots, we found out our names had been changed. Our ancestors on our father's family fled Spain during the Inquisition. A lot of our traditions were very similar to Jewish—burials, toys, mourning periods, covering of windows, mirrors, etc. Our great great grandfather, our grandfather were all merchants and wealthy landowners. Our father ran a general

merchandise store, bar and dance hall, as did his brothers..."

Another, considering conversion: "I discovered Jewish roots so this inspired me to learn more about Judaism."

Another student is "searching for something spiritual in my life."

Another: "We, as a family, have committed to live as Jews this year, and then I will ask you to 'make it official.'"

Another writes, "I have had close Jewish friends for 30 years. Most all of them were not, however, that connected to the Jewish community."

A Jewish student says, "Actually learned more in 3 classes than I have learned in a lifetime."

### CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE BASICS

Middletown, NY—Temple Sinai (C) draws 37 people to its free 8-week Basic Judaism course, 26 of them not Jewish. Rabbi Joel Schwab describes them as "A few newer and younger members, among a lot of older, intellectually curious Jews and non-Jews, plus 3 non-Jews who work in the synagogue."

Comment: A small but present phenomenon—a number of non-Jews who work in synagogues or with Jewish organizations are converting to Judaism.

### PROCLAIMER SENT TO 3000 INSTITUTIONS

*The Jewish Proclaimer* is mailed to all the synagogues and temples we know about in the U.S. and some in Canada. We'll be pleased to add others to our list. Individuals may receive the *Proclaimer* for a year for a contribution to the NCEJ.

NATIONAL CENTER  
TO ENCOURAGE JUDAISM  
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