

# The JEWISH Proclaimer

## WANTED – HUNDREDS OF GOOD SYNAGOGUES TO WELCOME THE STRANGER, AND JEWS TOO

No. 04 – 01

Winter-Spring 2004-5764

### ANOTHER CHANCE TO REACH OUT

Another year, another time to be positive.	1
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## ANOTHER YEAR, TO INCREASE JEWISH STRENGTH

A double opportunity to take stock, with two separate New Year's. How have Jews bettered Judaism in the past secular year?

How will we better it in the new secular year?

Will we make our congregations more friendly?

Will we increase the ranks of professing Jews?

Your congregation can help itself, and all Jewry, by running its own Taste of Judaism, Introduction to Judaism, and similar courses. This should be a line responsibility of your religious leaders, and a line item in your synagogue budget—to keep and increase membership by making your congregation's activities welcoming to all peoples (including members.)

**National Center to Encourage Judaism** enters its tenth year of making grants to congregations and other Jewish institutions all over the U.S. and Canada, to help advertise outreach programs to the general community in newspapers and other media.

Synagogues write us, as did one this round: "Without your encouragement, our congregation

would find it very difficult to be able to continue an advertising program."

Our window is always open. You are eligible for two grants a year, for programs begun in distinctly different quarters. (We'd like to have synagogues active in outreach the year round.)

The NCEJ application is on page 7 of this *Jewish Proclaimer*. You can see previous *Proclaimer* text as well as the application and other information on our website, [NCEJudaism.org](http://NCEJudaism.org).

### *Outreach Activity across the U.S. :*

#### MOBILE DRAWS ALMOST ALL NON-JEWS

Mobile, AL—Springhill Ave. Temple (R) sponsors a Taste of Judaism minicourse for 48 registrants, 47 of them not Jewish. Ten were interested in converting.

"Everyone was invited to a 'Taste of Judaism' Shabbat service especially to welcome them as a class, and to any program and all services," notes Rabbi Donald Kunstadt. They were also invited to a

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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 first of three Proclaimers this year. Editor: Ash Gerecht.

course he teaches at Springhill College, Introduction to Judaism, which runs 33 hours.

A number who attended said they were searching for a spiritual home. A number were older people.

The temple had 2 conversions in the past year.

## TUCSON CONTINUES POPULAR TASTE

Tucson—Temple Emanu-El (R) continues its popular, ambitious Taste courses. It reports almost 300 students in the fall season classes, of whom 2/3 were not Jewish, and all but a dozen not members of the synagogue. Ten reported themselves interested in conversion. The temple had 12 conversions in the past year. (See Proclaimer 03-01 for earlier story.)

The classes attract "a wide variety of people from the community—temple members, unaffiliated Jews, Jews new to the area who want to learn more about the temple and Tucson's Jewish community, non-practicing Jews, people who have a Jewish grandparent or other relatives but who do not consider themselves Jewish, non-Jewish parents of a convert to Judaism, non-Jewish grandparents of a Jewish child, interfaith couples, non-Jewish partners of Jews, non-Jews interested in Judaism and Jewish history and cultures, bible students, teachers, historians, and non-Jewish clergy."

Among comments:

"This is wonderful outreach to the community of Tucson."

"I'm Jewish but so reformed it's lost its meaning. I was hoping to see if I really believed in Judaism, do I agree with their beliefs. After taking this course I feel a bit closer to my fellow Jews. I need to learn more."

"I feel much more comfortable with my decision to convert! I felt welcome and at peace with it after this class."

"I'm far more committed to my conversion process."

"Reborn. re-Jewish."

Class sum-up:

"The Taste of Judaism program has been very successful in Tucson. The class serves to bring

reluctant Jews into the temple in a casual, non-threatening way, to demystify Judaism for those unfamiliar with it and make Judaism open, accessible, and fun.

"So far about 40 people have signed up for Taste II, Another Bite—Jewish in America; others are signing up for Basic Judaism, Practical Judaism, and other Adult Education Academy classes.

"Many Taste participants attended the High Holy Days and inquired about Temple membership; several have already become members.

"This year, the course's reputation preceded it—there was a lot of word of mouth promotion. Classes this year were held in 5 different locations in Tucson, in the evening and daytime, to make the course as accessible to the public as possible."

**SIMPLY SHABBAT:** The temple is continuing its outreach Shabbat services—for this religious year, Oct. 24, Jan. 30, and April 2. Usual attendance is 400-500, with half or more being nonmembers. It is a slower-paced learning service, with explanations, prayers and songs and historical and background information, with a comprehensive handout and a question-and-answer session instead of a sermon.

"We have had many conversion prospects from this class, as well as a number of people joining the temple who began by coming to Simply Shabbat. We run ads in general papers, and the response has been great."

Please join us for

# Simply Shabbat

an Outreach Service

at Temple Emanu-El

225 N. Country Club Rd. • Tucson, AZ 85716  
tel: 520-327-4501 • www.templeemanuelucson.org

Friday Night  
October 24th  
at 7:30pm



**THE MITZVAH OF WELCOMING ALL PEOPLE  
IS COMMANDMENT 614 FOR SYNAGOGUES**

## LSD—LACKADAISICAL SYNAGOGUE DISEASE? TREAT WITH OUTREACH PROGRAMMING.

### APTOS, CA, GETS TWO AWARDS FOR 2003

Aptos, CA—Temple Beth El (R) enters the list of NCEJ grantees with two awards this round, one for a Taste of Judaism program advertising and a second for an interfaith program.

Last spring it created an eight-member committee to plan outreach programs for its “very diverse” congregation, writes Kathy Goldenkranz, VP for worship & justice.

#### This year’s programs include:

-A beginner’s Shabbat service in Oct. for interfaith families, which drew 70 people for dinner and 150 for the service. “To have that many people present without a Bar/Bat Mitzvah or a holiday scheduled was so uplifting...People were in tears. That evening and since we have received such praise for the work. I could not have asked for a better outcome.” The service used a well-done, specially prepared 18-page text, explaining elements and prayers.

-A December discussion group for nonJewish partners. Half the membership is interfaith.

-A February program on the spiritual identity of children in interfaith households, conducted by a rabbi and a minister.

-The temple has a basic Judaism course from October to May, and a crash Hebrew program scheduled in August.

Thirty attended the Taste minicourse, 17 of whom were not Jewish. Six were interested in converting. There were 12 conversions in the past year.

One attendee noted both her paternal grandfathers were Jewish. “Most of my friends are Jewish but nobody is practising...I hope you do this again—I have friends who would like to attend.”

Another: “I had no understanding of Judaism before.”

Another, with non-practising Jewish parentage and husband: “I have 3 daughters variously involved in ‘being Jewish’ but married non-Jews.”

A 58-year-old graduate student, considering conversion: “I have already learned in this brief course...that it is the journey that is important, not the destination.”

A 50-year-old was raised Catholic “but do not consider myself Christian now.”

A single female of Catholic/Protestant parentage feels “very strongly of converting to Judaism.”

A 55-year-old Jewish woman, wed 35 years to a non-Jew, says her daughter is Jewish and her son not.



### TEMPLE BETH EL

Jewish Community Center



**3055 PORTER GULCH RD., APTOS, CA 95003**

*Are you part of an Interfaith Family?  
Are you Jewish and haven't been to a service in years?*

Join with the community of Temple Beth El and celebrate the Sabbath/Shabbat with a special creative service designed for those in interfaith relationships, your children and for Jews who may wish to reconnect!

**FRI., OCT. 24, 2003 • LEARNERS SERVICE AT 7:30PM**  
ONIG/DESSERT TO FOLLOW SERVICE

*Open to the Public • Info: [www.templebethelapotos.org](http://www.templebethelapotos.org)*

### INTRO PROGRAM DRAWS 60% NON-JEWS

Los Gatos, CA—Cong. Shir Hadash (R) receives another NCEJ grant for advertising its Introduction to Judaism 7 ½ month program. Of 27 attending, ¾ are not members, and 3/5 are not Jews. Fees were \$160/190, and included 5 books.

There were 4 conversions in the past year.

## “Introduction to Judaism”

### From a Reform Perspective

A half-hour of Hebrew instruction followed by an in-depth study of the history, thought, and celebrations of Judaism from a Reform perspective.

With Rabbi Melanie Aron and Rabbi Dana Magat. Every other Tuesday evening from October 14<sup>th</sup> to May 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 to 9:30 pm at Congregation Shir Hadash in Los Gatos and Temple Emanu-El in San Jose. Call (408) 358-1751 x7, or e-mail [patty@shirhadash.org](mailto:patty@shirhadash.org) for details and to register.

**Congregation Shir Hadash  
Temple Emanu-El**

# "A Taste of Judaism"



Are you curious?  
Whet your appetite...  
in a three-session exploration.

A Taste of Judaism at Congregation Shir Hadash offers a modern, Reform Jewish perspective on living in today's complicated world. Open to the beginner—Jewish or not. Free, but space is limited! Tuesdays, Sept. 16, 23, 30 at 7 PM.

Call (408) 358-1751 ext. 7, or e-mail patty@shirhadash.org to register.



Congregation Shir Hadash  
www.shirhadash.org

The synagogue has an interfaith couples discussion group, at a \$15 fee, with 16 couples,  $\frac{3}{4}$  of them not members. It has a matching Jewish buddies program through the year, as well.

## SAN DIEGO UJF RECEIVES 2<sup>ND</sup> 2003 GRANT

San Diego—United Jewish Federation—one of relatively few such taking part in NCEJ-sponsored outreach programs—wins a second grant for 2003.

"This grant will make it possible for us to continue to advertise in the secular press, which keeps getting more expensive every year," says community outreach coordinator Vivian Lampell Olmos. UJF has scheduled five classes for 2004, 2 at Conservative synagogues, 3 at Reform.

UJF runs both introductory Taste I and follow-up Taste II courses. These drew 215 students, 94 of them not Jewish. Nine initiated studies with rabbis or indicated an interest in conversion. At least  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the students were in an interfaith relationship.

Ms Olmos would like to offer a longer program, perhaps 6 sessions instead of the current 3.

One student: "I'm a dissatisfied Unitarian

Universalist. I attended Friday evening Shabbat services on my ship and got hooked!"

Another: "I have attempted with little success to connect to the Jewish community in San Diego. Thank you for offering this class."

**Comment:** UJFs are a great vehicle for outreach. How can more of them be brought to sponsoring these with cooperating synagogues?

## PATHWAYS CONTINUES ITS ROADWORK

San Diego—In the 10 years the Agency for Jewish Education here has been offering the Pathways to Judaism program for interfaith couples, ~~more than 250 families have undertaken the 21-session course~~, reports director Cheryl Bruser.

The 2003-4 program began late because of wildfires in the area, with 18 families, totaling 32 adults and 20 children. Number of responses to newspaper ads was about half of what it had been.

### got tradition?



are you an intermarried, unaffiliated family or couple?  
do you want your family to know more about your Jewish heritage and traditions?

### Pathways to Judaism

a creative Jewish learning experience  
please call the Agency for Jewish Education  
(858) 268-9200 for more information  
or visit our website at www.ajesd.org

We have other adult ed classes - ask about the Melton Mini-School!



Pathways to Judaism was developed by UJF's Task Force on Continuity and is funded by the UJF, Jewish Community Foundation, Agency for Jewish Education, Nieman Foundation and private donations.  
Pilot funding was provided by the Nieman Foundation & UJF.

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR OPEN HOUSE/ORIENTATION OCTOBER 26!**

## SANTA MONICA PLANS FAMILY INTRO

Santa Monica—Beth Shir Shalom (R) plans a family Introduction to Judaism program in 2004, says executive director Bill Concoff (310-453-3361).

Its 2003-4 program runs 19 weeks at \$225, with 18 students, 7 of them not Jewish.

**GET YOUR JCCs, YOUR UJFs, YOUR JFSs TO DO OUTREACH—THEY'LL HELP THE COMMUNITY**

### BOULDER FELLOWSHIP IN FOR GRANT

Boulder, CO—Haver: Boulder Rabbinic Fellowship wins its NCEJ grant for advertising its Derech Hayim Introduction to Judaism program.

The year-long course attracts 35 people, 4/5 of them not Jewish.

“I liked all of the different perspectives given by a variety of rabbis who taught the class,” says one student.

Another: “I took this course to begin learning about having a Jewish home because I’m engaged to a Jew and will be raising our children to be Jewish.”

Another: “Growing up non-Jewish I didn’t have much knowledge of Judaism. About 15 years ago I was introduced to it through a friend. As I learned more, through reading and hanging out with Jewish friends or at the synagogue, I became more intrigued and drawn to the religion and the people. This course was valuable because it showed me how the Jewish mindset is different than the Western cultural milieu in which I grew up.”

And: “I wanted to be more educated about Judaism because we’re raising our children to be



**Derech Hayim: The Jewish Path**  
 An Introduction to Judaism  
 A Class for Jews and Non-Jews

A course for anyone interested in the fundamentals of Jewish Life, Thought, Theology, History and Culture. This class is a prerequisite for conversion.

When: Sunday Evenings, 6:30PM - 9:00PM  
 October 6, 2002 - June 2, 2003

Where: Congregation Bonai Shalom  
 1527 Cherryvale Road, Boulder

Cast: \$350 (singles) \$375 (couples) includes books

For registration call Elyahu Krigel, (303) 442-6605 or email elyahuk@aol.com

*Derech Hayim is sponsored by Haver, The Boulder Rabbinic Fellowship*

Jewish. I’m also interested in possibly converting at some point.”

A prospective convert asked for a Hebrew learning marathon early in the course, when everybody is fired up and ready to learn.

### WE CREDIT AN AD WHICH CREDITS US

Boulder, CO—Our article on Cong. Bonai Shalom (C) and its Jewish Thought course ran in our 03-01 winter issue—but we didn’t run the ad—which credits NCEJ’s assistance. (Down at the very bottom.) It’s too good to miss.



### Congregation Bonai Shalom A Conservative Egalitarian Synagogue

You don't have to be Jewish to love...

#### Lesser Known Gems of Jewish Thought

Ten weeks of informal learning and spiritual exploration—Saturday afternoons beginning November 9 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

at Congregation Bonai Shalom  
1527 Cherryvale Road, Boulder

ALL ARE WELCOME

Led by Rabbi Doug Weber, we will examine the works of some of the lesser known but profound Jewish thinkers past and present. There are no fees or other prerequisites, only a desire to explore the meaning of life through a Jewish philosophical lens. Please call the synagogue at 303-442-6605 for schedule and further information.

An outreach project of the Bonai Shalom Rabbi's Fund and the National Center to Encourage Judaism.

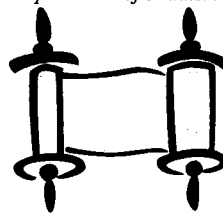
### MANCHESTER HAS BASIC JUDAISM CLASS

Manchester, CT—Temple Beth Shalom (C) returns to the list of NCEJ grantees after some years away, with its Institute for Basic Judaism.

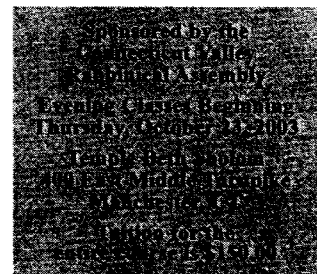
The \$150 course of 20 sessions draws 10 people, mostly Jewish, reports Rabbi Richard Plavin. The synagogue had 3 conversions the past year.

### Preparing People to Become Jewish

A Challenging and Inspirational Exploration of Judaism



For further information, call Rabbi Richard Plavin at 860.643.9563 ext. 101, or email riplavin@cox.net



### DC: WAS YOUR FATHER OR GRANDMA...?

#### OPEN THE DOOR TO YOUR JEWISH IDENTITY



Are you a 20 or 30-something with Jewish/non-Jewish ancestry, perhaps a Jewish parent or grandparent?  
 Are you interested in learning how Judaism can spiritually enhance your life?  
 Do you want to discover what has kept the Jewish people - your people - a vital force in human history and civilization?

TUESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 16 & 23  
 7:30 - 9:00 pm at Adas Israel  
 with Rabbi Avis Miller & Natalie Merkur Rose, MSW of JSSA

\*The Hebrew word "dor" means generation

Let us share with you the magic of our Jewish tradition!  
 We'd like to meet you... Come with your curiosity - and your questions!

#### ADAS ISRAEL CONGREGATION

2850 Quebec St., NW, Washington, DC 20008  
 Cleveland Park Metro · 202-362-4433 x112 · www.adasisrael.org

## MIAMP'S ISRAEL HAS OUTREACH GRANT

Miami—Temple Israel (R) returns for another NCEJ grant after some years absence, for a Taste program that draws 104 people. Nonmembers were 3/5 of the group, and non-Jews only a tenth.

Two-thirds of registrants responded to newspaper ads, and the rest to word of mouth. Attendance grew during the 4 sessions, and students asked for a part II, says outreach coordinator Linda Levin.

“Attendance and feedback from this course have helped us to recognize how important offering a Taste program is to our community. We hope to offer it again in the Spring.”

The temple had 3 conversions in the past year.

**TEMPLE ISRAEL COMMUNITY EVENT  
ALL ARE WELCOME**

**A TASTE OF JUDAISM**

**Are You Curious?**

**Come explore...Jewish Spirituality,  
Mysticism, Jewish Values, Jewish People.**

Whet your appetite...in a four-session exploration

**WED., OCT. 1, 8, 15 & 22, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.**



...“Mitch is one of the finest of a new generation of American Kabbalists”  
—Lawrence Kushner



“Karina Zilberman... the way today's angels sing.”

A Taste of Judaism offers a modern, relevant Reform Jewish perspective on living in today's complicated world. Open to all, Jewish or not. Each session, led by Rabbi Mitch Chefitz and Cantorial Soloist Karina Zilberman will be engaging, informative, and enlightening. For more information, call 305-573-5900.

**FREE  
ADMISSION**

**REGISTRATION  
A MUST! CALL  
305-573-5900**



**Temple  
Israel**  
of Greater Miami  
137 NE 19th St., Miami 33132  
www.templeisrael.net

## PLANTATION KEEPS CULTIVATING JEWS

Plantation, FL—Temple Kol Ami (R) offers a 14-session Introduction course and attracts 25 students, 2/3 of them not Jewish. A “significant number” are converting, notes Senior Rabbi Sheldon J. Harr. “The others will be ‘supportive’ of having a Jewish family and raising their children as Jewish.”

NCEJ encouragement, he adds, “is an important aspect of our ability to present ourselves in this manner.”

The \$150/250 fee includes High Holy Day tickets.

## 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 are held on Wednesday evenings, starting August 20th.

## PALM BEACH OFFERS INTRO PROGRAM

West Palm Beach, FL—A 16-class Introduction to Judaism course offered by the Palm Beach County Board of Rabbis attracts 40 people, all in an interfaith relationship, with 19 of the 20 non-Jews interested in converting. One set of classes is at Temple Torah in Boynton Beach; the other at Cong. B'nai Israel, in Boca Raton. Fee is \$185.

## INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM CLASSES

If you are interested in learning about Judaism or thinking about conversion, The Palm Beach County Board of Rabbis announces evening classes from September through May at Boynton Beach and Boca Raton.

For information, call Peter Eckstein at 561-833-8421 or email [peter@temple-israel.com](mailto:peter@temple-israel.com).



## URJ REGION CONTINUES TASTE DEAL

Needham, MA—UAHC (now URJ) Northeast Council continues its regional outreach, with Taste of Judaism programs in Aug. and Oct. with 15 to 49 students in a class.

Among comments, reports coordinator Joyce Schwartz: “The class rekindled my desire to be part of the community. I’m interested in Judaism again,” says a 41-year-old Jewish man whose partner is considering conversion. (continue on page 8)

NATIONAL CENTER TO ENCOURAGE JUDAISM -- APPLICATION, 2004-2003

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

NCEJ grants, for year 2003-2004 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? \_\_\_\_\_

# READ THE PROCLAIMER...APPLY FOR GRANT SEND IT TO YOUR LIBRARY FOR OTHERS' USE

Graduates are offered a choice of other programs, and are invited to area synagogues. More than 70% learn about Taste from secular newspaper ads, with additional publicity when a paper writes up the program.

## IN NORTH ADAMS 85% NON-JEWS TASTE

North Adams, MA—Cong. Beth Israel's Taste minicourse has an 85% non-Jewish registration, 17 out of 20. Two were interested in conversion.

Students liked the open discussion format and the "friendly, accepting atmosphere."

Four asked for the rabbi to contact them.

## HUC OFFERS 3 OUTREACH SHABBATONS

New York City—Hebrew Union College plans to hold an outreach Shabbaton for approximately 30 students at its New York campus Feb. 8.

Similar programs are to be held on the campuses in Cincinnati and Los Angeles this school year.

Programs are under the auspices of the Gerecht Family Institute for Outreach, through the National Center to Encourage Judaism.

## TASTE DOES THE CHARLESTON WELL

Charleston, SC—Cong. Beth Elohim (R), with 450 members, holds a Taste class that draws 55 students, 3/4 of them not Jewish.

Temple administrator Mark Block notes it had to open a second class in response to its ads. It started a 25-week Introduction class in Sept., with 20

individuals enrolled. Eight of these came from the Taste class.

## SEVENTH AWARD TO SAN ANTONIO UNIT

San Antonio—Temple Beth-El (R) wins its seventh grant from NCEJ, for a Taste of Judaism course that attracts 60 people, all but 4 of them not Jewish. "Most took it for informational and educational purposes," says membership coordinator Nancy Gerson. It's "wonderful p.r. in the community," she adds. Follow-ups include an Intro course, and adult education programs.

Comment: You never can tell where today's seeds bear fruit tomorrow.

The temple had 10 conversions this past year.

**NATIONAL CENTER  
TO ENCOURAGE JUDAISM**  
Box 651  
Silver Spring, MD 20918

Winter-Spring 2004 – 5764 No. 04 - 01

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
SOUTHERN, MD.  
PERMIT NO. 968

**A NEW SECULAR YEAR**  
**FOR A GOOD RELIGIOUS PURPOSE==**  
**WELCOME THE STRANGER...**  
**AND WELCOME THE JEW...**  
**AND FLOURISH**

