

The JEWISH Proclaimer

JUDAISM: ABSTRACT MONOTHEISM. AMAZING AND UNIQUE THEN. AMAZING, UNIQUE NOW.

No. 04-02

Summer 2004 - 5764

Still Time to Hop on the Welcome Wagon...

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WELCOMING EXPANDS, INSULATION DIMINISHES

What's the most important word in modern Judaism? What's the 614th mitzvah? After God, Torah, Israel, what comes next—and what's needed to continue them?

One word, one answer, one action:

Welcoming.

If American synagogues and their congregations don't welcome people—Jews and non-Jews alike, indeed alike—they guarantee we will diminish, our numbers will thin, our message will pale, our future will see the end of history.

We can be a saving remnant. We should not be a shrinking one.

How often have you been at a synagogue service where (a) the rabbi and/or cantor (aka "professional staff") disappears post-duty pronto, (b) board members are absent (attend services, are you kidding?), (c) the congregation stands around without saying hello to any different face?

Put it another way—how often have you been at a service where the rabbi etc. circulates and greets everybody, newcomers are welcomed, talked with, made to feel at home, and it's a happy place?

Sure, Torah dialectic is wonderful (and not

always present) but your congregation will not grow as the Jews you take for granted wither away and aren't replaced with fresh membership. A house of prayer is not a home unless the people in it smile at others.

Is your synagogue busy most days and nights, or could it shut down and nobody notice except for payroll?

Your members aren't just looking for a tax deduction, they seek a community. If they want "professionals" they can call a doctor.

There are lots of things, besides holding friendly, outgoing onegs and kiddush, you can do to let your community know yours is an open place:

-You can state All Are Welcome on your signboards.

-You can greet everyone who comes into the building.

-You can let the community know anyone is free to learn about Judaism. (It's constantly amazing, the number of people who think Judaism is a closed, maybe country-club kind of place.)

You can hold Introduction to Judaism or Taste

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 Web: www.NCEJudaism.org. This is the second of three Proclaimers this year. Editor: Ash Gerech.

WE CAN BE A LIGHT UNTO THE NATIONS IF WE FIRST PUT A CANDLE IN OUR WINDOW

of Judaism programs, and advertise them in the local media. You can hold teach-ins, Outreach Shabbats where you explain the service and welcome non-Jews and lapsed Jews.

You can send Welcome Wagon-type greetings to move-ins in your neighborhood.

Reach out, reach out.

You can be confident that if you reach out you will help your congregation (and all Jewry) grow.

The National Center to Encourage Judaism can help you invite new membership, by finding people in the general community who are interested in learning about Judaism. By welcoming non-Jews you may also find lapsed Jews, and strengthen your ties to waffling members as well.

You can win two awards a year from NCEJ for advertising, in secular (non-Jewish) media, either outreach courses or an Outreach Shabbat, where you explain the service and aspects of Judaism.

For an NCEJ grant application, see page 7 of any *Jewish Proclaimer*. Send in that form (or one supplied by your movement headquarters, such as Reform Outreach—which is credited with a bonus if you do), a copy of the ads and a copy of the specific billing for the media.

For back copies of the *Proclaimer* see our website, NCEJudaism.org.

Outreach Activity Around the U.S.:

PHILLY ASSEMBLY RUNS COURSE

Elkins Park, PA—Rabbinical Assembly of Philadelphia (C) runs a \$600 Introduction program for 22 students, 21 interested in converting. This is through its Rabbi Morris Goodblatt Academy.

The program has been reformatted. It is discussing partnering with the Jewish Converts Network, a local support organization.


Every student is paired with a sponsoring rabbi and a mentor family.

“Many have gone on to become leaders in their congregations and in the Conservative Movement’s affiliates such as Men’s Club and Women’s League.”

A woman from a Chinese Christian background, with Jewish husband and child, and whose parents

felt that conversion would bring more unity to her family, notes a similarity of cultures.

Another student, of Jewish parentage, at 20 married a Catholic, had 2 children in a “secular but Christian-dominated household,” divorced, met a Jewish man, and has become observant.



Providing you with an understanding and knowledge of the basic ideas and practices of Judaism as well as the background to live a full and meaningful Jewish life.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL 215 735-5148**

Our Comprehensive Program Includes These Important Elements:

- ✦ 30 Weeks of Beginning Hebrew
- ✦ 30 Weeks of Judaic Instruction from area Rabbis and Educators
- ✦ Meaningful Experiential Activities in the Jewish Community
- ✦ Personal Mentorship with a Sponsoring Rabbi
- ✦ Spiritual Conversion Ceremonies
- ✦ Assistance in Integrating into the Jewish Culture

Main Line— Beginning Monday, September 15, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. (Conversion in June)
At Adath Israel Synagogue
250 N. Highland Avenue, Merion Station
(Classes will rotate among Temple Beth Hillel Beth El, Wynnewood and Har Zion Temple, Harborth as well.)

Northern Suburbs— Beginning Thursday, January 9, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. (Conversion in December)
At Congregation Adath Jeshurun
7763 Old York Road, Elkins Park
(Classes will rotate among Temple Sinai, Dreiser and Thayer Bet Israel, Blue Bell as well.)

•••••
• A Taste of Judaism:
• Are You Curious?



• Are you someone who:
• Hasn't belonged to a temple or been observant in a while?
• Is in an interfaith relationship where one of you is Jewish?
• Is considering converting to Judaism?
• Feels curious about what Jews believe?

• Whet your appetite...
• In a 3-session exploration
• "A Taste of Judaism" offers a modern perspective on living in today's complicated world.
• We will explore Jewish Spirituality, Jewish Values and Jewish People.

• **Free of Charge!**
• **Join us on**
• September 4, 11 & 18
• at 7:30 - 9:30 pm

• We also invite you to a Friday night Shabbat Service geared to prospective members on September 5 at 7:30.

• Beth Samuel Jewish Center (Ambridge, PA)
• www.bethsamuel.org
• 724-266-5238

SEATTLE TEMPLE DRAWS 75 TO TASTE; THEN, INTRO

Seattle—Temple De Hirsch Sinai (R) returns for another NCEJ grant, for advertising its Taste of Judaism program. It attracts 75 students, all but 5 not Jewish, with 20 interested in converting.

It follows with a 16-week conversion course in the fall and winter.

ALL BUT ONE NON-JEWS IN TEMPE TASTE CLASS

Tempe, AZ—Of 37 people in the Taste of Judaism class at Temple Emanuel (R), all but one are not Jewish, with 10 interested in converting.

It was a “diverse, stimulating, curious group of students,” comments Administrator Nanci Wilharber.

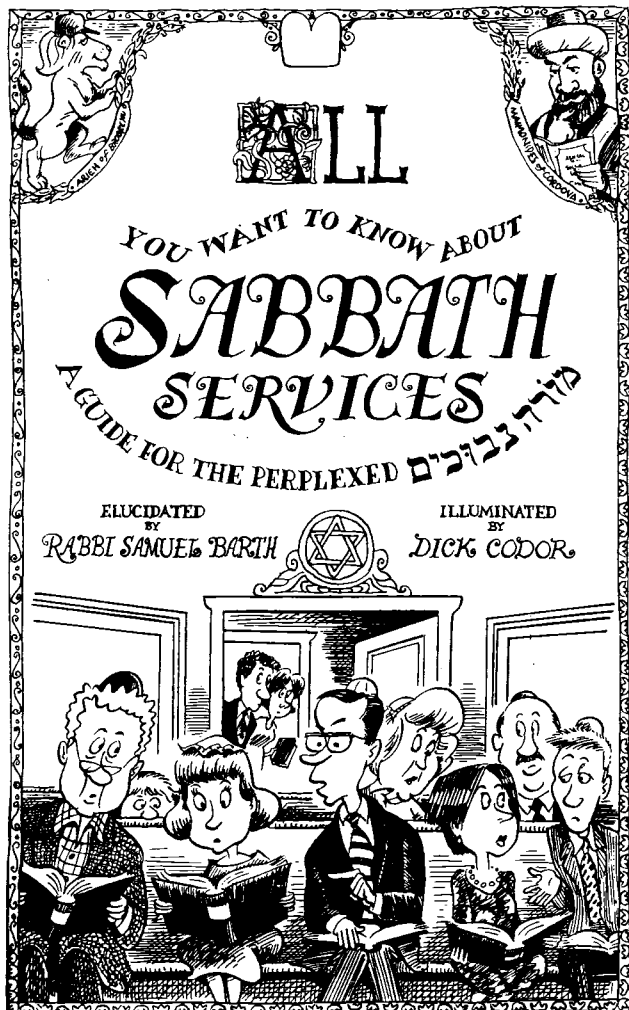
Follow-up programs include Discovering Judaism, and Opening Doors, a 6-week interfaith couples

WELCOMING IS JUST THE WARMEST THING ANY SYNAGOGUE CAN DO. SPREAD THE WORD.

course, \$50/unaffiliated, \$25/members.

The temple has a Shalom Rack with all sorts of Jewish literature. It had 15 conversions in the past year.

It publishes a booklet, "All you want to know about Sabbath services, A guide for the perplexed."



Among student comments:

"Have never been to a synagogue. Wanted to learn more about the Jewish faith (since) Rabbi Plotkin spoke at my church...on the book of Job."

One registered from "curiosity—stemming from youth. Disillusioned with religion of my parents."

Another came "to learn more about my religion so that I can raise my son Jewish and for myself as well. I have always 'felt' Jewish but never really knew much about the religion."

"I am very interested in Jewish faith beliefs and values. I've read multiple books on the subject and wanted to learn more from a live source."

NORTHRIDGE HOLDS INTRO PROGRAM

Northridge, CA—Temple Ahavat Shalom (R) holds an Introduction to Judaism course running 18 weeks, at \$275, with scholarships available. It then seeks to integrate students into the larger Adult Education and Temple programs, with special invitations, e-mail, etc.

"Geshet: Building Bridges to Jewish Life," says Rabbi Jerry Brown, is an ongoing program with courses and support groups especially for Jews by Choice and intermarried couples, such as "Now that I'm Jewish" and a parents and grandparents of inter-faith couples discussion group.

Its newspaper ad picks up a theme from URJ's Outreach poster.



DENVER SETS SEPARATE INTRO GROUP

Denver—Rocky Mountain Rabbinical Council sets up Introduction to Judaism as a separate operation, split from the Institute for Jewish Studies.

Its 26-week \$360 course (single or couple) attracted 49 students, half of them interested in converting. Fee includes 4 books. Synagogue affiliation is not a requirement for enrolling, but students are asked to have a rabbinic sponsor. Students must attend 23 of the sessions, to get a certificate of completion. Since the course runs three times yearly, sessions can be made up.

THE MORE YOU SHARE YOUR JUDAISM— THE MORE JUDAISM THERE IS TO SHARE

“We are delighted with the response we have received from our advertisements and we are going to run more ads for our summer program,” says coordinator Betsy Epel. This was the first time it had advertised in 4 years.

The program is a mix of Reconstruction, Reform, Conservative and non-affiliated, and covers Denver, Colorado Springs, and the mountain communities.

Each month the students of all Intro classes, current and graduate, are invited to attend the Shul Hopping program, visiting a different synagogue. The coordinator meets them 5 minutes before services, to make sure they sit together. Students are welcomed from the bima, and meet afterward to discuss reactions and speak with the rabbis.

Every 3-4 months students are invited to a Shabbat dinner at one of the synagogues.

Intro 
Judaism

Come Study with us!

ITJ is sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Rabbinical Council

A 26-week evening program designed specifically for people wanting to learn more about Judaism or are considering conversion. Explore basic Jewish beliefs, holidays, lifecycle events, history and more!

Classes begin January 22, 2004

For information please call Betsy Epel

720-941-2655

or email

itjrmrc@aol.com

Feedback has helped the program change. “We have added holiday workshops, shul hopping, Sunday get-togethers, internet chat site, part-time staff, and student notebook, a class on Orthodox Judaism, tour of Jewish Denver, more Shabbat dinners, and more in-depth orientation” at the start, says Ms Epel.

As follow-up, students stay on the mailing list and are invited to all workshops and programs, such as the community’s Florence Melton Mini School.

“It is critical that we remain in contact with the students,” Ms Epel notes. “Students tell us that after the course ends, they miss the camaraderie of the

classroom and the meetings with their rabbis.”

Each of the participating rabbis teaches 2-3 classes. Synagogues advertise the programs in their bulletins, and host various elements. Every 2 years the program rotates to a new synagogue, and synagogues open their adult education programs to the students.

Student comments:

“Class had profound effect on me. I feel closer to my faith and the Jewish community...I feel as though I am on a journey of self-discovery but now I have the foundation to build on to become a more observant Jew.”

“I have been on a voyage of discovery for a number of years...I have not only learned about a religion, but about a people from all over the world and their way of life. I have learned about something that they all share and have in common. Most of all it has confirmed my missing piece of identity.”

“In a way, I have always been Jewish, so converting will formalize who I have been...I feel much more a part of the community. I look forward to my conversion and our family living a Jewish life.”

“I opened my eyes and my mind to many of the traditions and daily practices that would become so much a part of my new life.”

“Having been raised Catholic, the class has shown me a new and wonderful way to approach my hunger for spirituality...I feel closer to G-d than I have felt in a long time and wish to continue my studies in Judaism...The more I learn about Judaism and the more I experience it, the more it feels like coming home.”

“This class has solidified my resolve to convert. It has helped me better understand Judaism and how my philosophy and approach to life are aligned with the religion.”

“Overall I think it has provided a great base to begin my studies in Judaism. I will convert to Judaism in the near future, although I feel there are still some things I need to study and learn before I get to that point. I think the course was a good refresher for my husband who is Jewish.”

“One of the most valuable lessons is that ‘you have to try it on, and practise to see if it fits.’”

JUDAISM WILL GROW IF WE HELP IT GROW. LET PEOPLE KNOW, OUR DOORS ARE OPEN.

“One thing I was not expecting at the start of the class was how attending class would ‘re-awaken’ my fiance’s Jewishness. Having him become reinvigorated about his religion and cultural history is important to me.”

make me want to learn more about Judaism, and my relationship to it.”

“The class structure and atmosphere lends itself to an open and friendly environment without prejudice of the participating students’ religious backgrounds.”

HARTFORD CONSORTIUM RUNS INTRO

Hartford, CT—Reform Rabbis of Greater Hartford get 23 students, 2/3 not Jewish, to an 18-session *Introduction to Judaism* course. Fee is \$175 single, \$200 couple.

“Most people are in the class because their partner is Jewish and they either want to learn more or want to convert but four people are there solely because they are looking for something in their life that is missing,” comments executive assistant Abby Kramer Mayou.

The consortium had 16 conversions in the past year.

The Reform Rabbis of Greater Hartford Present:

INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM

A survey course on Jewish Life

MONDAY EVENINGS from 7:45 to 10:00 PM
NOVEMBER 3, 2003 to MARCH 29, 2004

An eighteen class overview of
 Jewish holidays, lifecycle and text.

The class will be held at
CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL
 701 Farmington Ave., West Hartford

\$175 individual or \$200 married/engaged couples
 Call Abby Mayou at (860) 233-8215
 for more information or to register

Cong. Beth Israel Senior Rabbi Stephen Fuchs notes, “We feel it is imperative to advertise this course in secular sources.” He adds, “Our outreach efforts are such an important part of what we do.”

One-on-one follow-up is the most effective kind, Ms Mayou says. “We sent notes, made phone calls, extended personal invitations to events that were appropriate to each individual. Until people are comfortable, events alone are not the answer.”

Student comments include:

“My spiritual journey had brought me to a place where my readings no longer satisfied my need to learn about and feel the essence of Judaism.”

“It’s been energizing to be near such enthusiastic rabbis. They are truly excited about the subject, and

DC ADAS REOPENS CONSERVATIVE DOOR

Washington, DC—Rabbinical Assembly has revived its committee on outreach and conversion and reappointed Rabbi Avis Miller of Adas Israel Congregation its chair. It wants to promote nationally the kinds of programs she has begun at Adas, especially Open Door and Literacy.


The committee has been dormant for some years, after having tried an 800-inquiry number and other approaches in the early ‘90s.

Open the Door to Your Jewish Identity (see ad, JP3/03) invited 20-30s to learn “how Judaism can spiritually enhance your life.”

Jewish Literacy teaches Jewish basics in an 8-week 12-hour course, free to members, \$80 for non-members. It attracted 64 students, 24 of them non-members. While not expressly conversionary, it included “those exploring the possibility of conversion.” Of respondents to a survey, about 1/3 were not Jewish; half of these had a Jewish father or family member.

Adas reports 37 conversions in the past year.

 * **Jewish Literacy 5764** *
 * Learn the basics of Jewish beliefs, history, holidays & life cycle *
 * Ask the questions you never had a chance to ask! *



The perfect class for...

- * Jews who never went to Hebrew school, or have simply forgotten what they learned there
- * Interfaith couples
- * Non-Jews with Jews in their family
- * People with Jewish ancestry who want to explore their heritage
- * Those exploring the possibility of conversion

EVERYONE WELCOME! 8 Tuesdays, October 21 - December 9, 7:30 - 9:00 PM
 Free to Adas Israel members, \$80 for non-members

Other Programs of Interest: Hebrew Literacy Classes, Conversion Classes, Making Mishpacha (for Expectant Jewish Parents), Seven Blessings (for Engaged & Newly Married Jewish Couples), Learners' Services, Sunday Adult Torah, plus...

NEW - FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER - "OPEN DOOR" September 16 & 23
 A program for people with mixed Jewish/non-Jewish ancestry 7:30 - 9:00 PM

ADAS ISRAEL CONGREGATION * www.adasrael.org *
 Connecticut Ave. & Porter St., Washington DC (Cleveland Park Metro)
 Rabbi Avis Miller, Coordinator - 202-362-4433 x112 / shira.handelman@adasrael.org

THE SYNAGOGUE FRIENDLY TO NON-JEWS IS FRIENDLY TO JEWS AND MEMBERS, TOO

45 OF 47 NON-JEWISH IN FLA. TASTE

Stuart, FL—Temple Beit HaYam (R) holds a Taste of Judaism class with an overwhelmingly non-Jewish attendance—45 of 47. Sandy Crile, course administrator, notes some of these had Jewish parents and “were seeking their roots. It was a real eye-opener for some non-Jews—a good move for improving good will.”

Attendance was so good the temple ran two sessions. “We are planning to run 6-week Torah study classes” in the fall, Ms Crile says.

Her opinion on the mini-course: “Prospective converts acquaint themselves with our Temple by attending Shabbat services and possibly social or adult opportunities. I would think a 2 or 3 session course geared toward Shabbat ritual culminating with a Shabbat service would be good. Goals would be to familiarize students with:

1. Concept of Shabbat (including importance.)
2. Hows and ways to observe Shabbat.
3. Components of a service.
4. Study and practice of the liturgical music (using transliterations.) I have found the more familiar people are with our services, mainly music, the more inclined they are to attend.”

TALLAHASSEE BACK WITH INTRO

Tallahassee, FL—Temple Israel’s 16-week Introduction to Judaism course draws 40 people, 23 of them not Jewish, 5 interested in converting. Fees are \$170 single/\$200 couple, including all books.

Attendance is high and there has been “an extremely low attrition rate.”

The temple comments, “In the present religious climate it is heartening to see so many non-Jews interested in learning about Judaism. And, as always, it is a delight to have the interest of non-active Jews sparked, as well as rekindling the fire of faithful members.”

Twice a year the temple has a learning service, with the rabbi explaining various aspects. Each service is different, so that attendants at one will be engaged in the other. The rabbi answers questions from attendees.

A rack in the foyer includes pamphlets on conversion free for the taking.

INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM

☆ Come explore Jewish theology, history, ☆
practice, and culture.

FOR ANYONE (Jewish or not)
WHO WANTS TO LEARN

A sixteen week course taught by
Rabbi Jack Romberg
Beginning Sunday, January 11

Sponsored by

TEMPLE ISRAEL

To Register call: 877-3517

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

MAINE RETURNS FROM WILDERNESS

Bangor, ME—Cong. Beth El (R) returns for an NCEJ grant 8 years after its previous award.

Its 3-week Taste of Judaism program drew over 50, with the last class registering 43, of whom 36 were not Jewish. The 156-household congregation had 2 conversions this past year.

“The advertising was very effective,” notes Shellie Batuski, membership chair and course administrator. “This was a huge response for our small community.”

“We had a team of eight ‘greeters’ who welcomed” students at the door, helped with paperwork, provided coffee and refreshments at the break, chatted and answered questions. “Many students commented to us how surprised and pleased they were by our warm welcome.”

During the course, Ms Batuski adds, “I was able to identify some Jewish and interfaith families. I contacted them by speaking to them during class breaks and/or calling them during the week in between classes and encouraging them to continue their participation in Beth El. All of them thanked me for making them feel so welcome.”

“We extend a warm welcome to all newcomers (Jewish and non-Jewish) at all Shabbat services. We have greeters/ushers who welcome everyone...”

Membership committee members “make a point of talking to newcomers, getting to know them, and introducing them to others to make them feel at home.

(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. 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; 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 (welcomed; use separate sheet):

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

Your thoughts/suggestions about classes, alternatives, follow-ups (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? _____

We offer them copies of our newsletters, brochures about Beth El, conversion, synagogue membership, etc.”

Ms Batuski says she invites newcomers “to come to services with me, offer to have them meet me at shul and sit with my family (rather than come in alone or sit alone) and let them know that I will be there to introduce them to the Rabbi and others. I often invite them to come to a Shabbat dinner or other holiday dinner at my home. This is sometimes the first such experience for a non-Jew, an interfaith family, or a Jew who has been disconnected to Judaism for a long time. It is a very meaningful experience for all of us.”

A TASTE OF JUDAISM


Come explore...
Jewish Spirituality, Jewish People,
Jewish People

A Three-Evening Course
DESIGNED FOR THE BEGINNER,
JEWISH OR NOT

Mondays, January 26, February 2, 9 -
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
CONGREGATION BETH EL
183 French Street
Bangor, Maine

ADMISSION FREE... BUT SPACE IS LIMITED.
To register, please call: 207-945-4578

Co-sponsored by the
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
Commission on Reform Jewish Outreach



She adds, “Our synagogue is also unusually open in that we allow all those who are committed to Judaism to join. This means that people who are studying for conversion, or members’ non-Jewish spouses, can become members of the synagogue.

“Once a person joins the synagogue he or she may enroll his or her children into religious school. We have had the experience of persons studying for conversion while their children simultaneously attend religious school and study for their conversion.”

Among attendee comments:

“I didn’t know there was a reformed Jewish church.”

An M.D. of Jewish origin with a Protestant wife brought his 11-year-old daughter “who enjoyed examining the Torah.”

A copyeditor whose father’s father was Jewish and mother Lutheran says the brief introduction “has encouraged me to attend the Basic Judaism course.”

NORTHEAST URJ DRAWS HUNDREDS

Needham, MA—Northeast Council of URJ (R) holds 5 more Taste sessions starting this March.

It had 215 participants enrolled during fall-winter 2003, including Jews, Anglican, Baptist, Buddhist, Hindu, Universalist, Scientologist, Catholic, Christian Scientist, Congregationalist, Episcopalian, Greek Orthodox, ages 22-72.

From Aug. to Dec. 2003, “we reached over 76% of our participants by secular newspaper advertisements,” notes Joyce Schwartz, outreach coordinator.

Almost 3/5 of the students surveyed are not Jewish. 20% were interfaith couples.

PROCLAIMER TO ALMOST ALL SHULS

The Jewish Proclaimer is sent free of charge to almost all synagogues in the U.S., and some in Canada; to all recent award-winners, and to some other Jewish institutional bodies. Individuals may obtain a year’s mail subscription with a contribution, or can view it on our website and download a pdf version.

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

Summer 2004 – 5764

No. 04 - 02

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**If There's Welcoming
To All Who Wish To Learn
New People Will Come In,
Judaism Will Grow.**