

The JEWISH Proclaimer

Winter-Spring 2005-5765

No. 05 - 01

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*Please note--NCEJ e-mail address is now
NCEJudaism@verizon.net*

TODAY'S JEWS ARE THE NEW DESERT ISRAELITES, UNCERTAIN IN FREEDOM

We Jews of these modern times can compare ourselves to the Israelites wandering out of Egypt, unclear as to why they are there, what they are doing, and where they will go.

We have been freed—at least in the U.S.—of the millenia-long suppressive domination of Christianity and Islam, but find it hard to shuck ourselves of the insularity built in over those centuries. We find it hard to realize we are free to—and must—compete in the marketplace, we can't just huddle within ourselves (arms crossed over and protecting our philosophic head, arms wrapped defensively around our world identity) hoping just not to be noticed, not to be killed, hoping at best for benign neglect.

But we can see--we live in--a new day. While our children fritter from our passivity, we wait for some Moses to smile down the mountain with directions confirming the old, sans obligations. In this free desert we, this body of Jews, need guide ourselves straightforwardly to our base of belief, affirm it, practise it, and invite all others who want to travel our path to come along and learn with us.

When we invite others, we bolster ourselves.

The National Center to Encourage Judaism will help you reach out. It has an open window, offering your synagogue or institution help in advertising your Taste of Judaism, or Introduction to Judaism-type courses to the general community in the general (non-Jewish) media.

Use our application form on page 7 of this *Jewish Proclaimer*. You can also access the form on the website, NCEJudaism.org.

We give cooperating parent organizations a bonus if you submit the form they supply, such as the one from URJ Outreach.

RABBIS WITH RUACH, THAT'S THE GROUP

Forget Human Rights, the Environment, Peace in Our Time, or other such distracting diversions.

What Judaism needs is Rabbis With Ruach—rabbis with spirit and enthusiasm who will inspire Jews out of, not immerse Jews further in, the miasma of diffidence, who will teach Judaism positively and gladly, and welcome both strangers and Jews alike to learn more about the faith.


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

Outreach reports from the U.S. and Canada:

SAN ANTONIO OUTREACH STEADY

San Antonio—Temple Beth-El (R) continues its steady outreach programming. Its latest Taste course attracts 56 people, all but one non-members, all but 4 not Jewish. Five are interested in converting. Program coordinator Nancy Gerson follows up with all who express an interest in its Introduction course, and in conversion.

The temple hopes a new position, Volunteer Coordinator, will help new people get personal appeals to join congregational activities.

A Taste of Judaism ...  ... Are you curious?


Explore
Jewish Spirituality · Jewish Values · Jewish Community

Three Thursday evening sessions at Temple Beth Or in Everett beginning in March.
Learn about the modern Reform Jewish perspective on living in today's world.

Open to the community, Jewish or not!

Admission is FREE. Seating is limited. Register now.

For information, call 425-259-7125 or email VF@TempleBethOr.org

Sponsored by the Union for Reform Judaism, and the William and Lottie Daniel Commission on Reform Jewish Outreach 

30 ATTEND IN W.VA., SOME JEWS BALK

Charleston, WV—Thirty people show up for the 3-class Taste of Judaism minicourse at Temple Israel (R), all but one not Jewish. Rabbi Helen Bar-Yaacov added a fourth session at students' request, strictly for questions and answers.

Some Jews had been interested, but didn't want to share their questions with non-Jews.

After the Spring 04 course, the rabbi planned another for Fall, for the Jewish community and family members, as part of a newly organized Inreach committee, and another in 2005 for the general community. A number of people were waiting for the next course to be available, the rabbi says. The temple gained a member from the class.

The Spring 04 class included a variety of Protestants and a couple of Catholics, who understood one another's questions and answers were geared to Christians. One was interested in conversion. By mid-04, there were 8 candidates for conversion, with another 3 considering it.

If enough are interested in further study, the temple plans a Torah study of Genesis, to show how Jews engage the text.

Satisfy the desire for learning and understanding with

A Taste of Judaism

Explore the Reform Jewish perspective on:
• Jewish spirituality • Jewish ethics & values • Jewish community

For the Beginner ... Jewish or not
Wednesdays: May 5, May 12 & May 19
7:00-9:00 P.M. at Temple Beth-El

Registration Required
To register, call 733-9135
Admission free - but space is limited



EVERETT, WA, WINS FIRST GRANT

Everett, WA—Temple Beth Or (R) enters NCEJ grant circles with its Taste program, attended by 10, all non-members, 7 of them not Jewish. 3 are interested in converting. The temple had 8 conversions the past year.

Says one student: "I have always had Jewish beliefs."

Nearly all the students were continuing in Rabbi Harley Karz-Wagman's spring Judaism course. "In light of the success of this program," says V-P Cheryl Waldbaum, she recommends planning and advertising more classes and events that target interfaith families.

A website opened this year was to have a discussion board including topics on conversion. The rabbi conducts Basic Judaism courses twice yearly. A Women's Conversion Ritual the temple created helps welcome converts.

This past year Beth Or matched new and prospective members to first seders—so well, "the community seder numbers were quite low."

Every 4 weeks there's a New Member Shabbat.

"Perhaps the best way Temple Beth Or has integrated many new members—at least women members—is via Mah Jongg games conducted in members' homes (daytime and evening.)"

A Saturday TBO Minyon Club was promoted for fall, to have a Saturday morning service once monthly.

 A Taste of *Are you curious?* Judaism

An opportunity to welcome the unaffiliated in our community to three weekly sessions beginning in April on the modern Reform Jewish perspectives on living in today's world

This program is for beginners, Jewish or not.
To register, call Temple Israel, 342-5852

ADMISSION IS FREE. SEATING IS LIMITED. REGISTER TODAY.

SPONSORED BY THE UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM

Jewish Spirituality
Jewish Values
Jewish Community

KENOSHA ENTERS NCEJ GRANT RANKS

Kenosha, WI—Beth Hillel Temple (R) wins its first NCEJ grant for a Taste course attracting 14 registrants, all nonJews.

Most attended because they were curious about Judaism, says Adult Ed Committee Chair Helene Sobin. One person was raised Catholic who just

discovered her father was part-Jewish, and one was interested in conversion.

A rabbinic intern, Carmit Harrari, taught the course while Rabbi Feingold was on sabbatical. The temple was to offer an Intro course in the fall.

A number of people called who wanted to attend only one session, Ms Sobin notes.

Among student comments:

"A desire to learn about the Jewish people from Jewish people."

"I read about it in the newspaper...(Now) I know more about my Jewish brothers and sisters. I am glad they believe in God."

"I was hoping to get more into learning about rituals and seeing the inside of the synagogue. Maybe a tour after Temple. I have never been inside one before."

"The course should be much longer—say, 18 sessions."

"It would be helpful if the instructor had rudimentary knowledge about Christianity since questions comparing it with Judaism are inevitable. (I am now) better informed and ready to speak directly with a rabbi about more details re conversion."

TWOSCORE & EIGHT AT MOBILE TEMPLE

Mobile—Springhill Ave. Temple returns for another NCEJ grant, with 48 registered for its Taste course. All are non-members, and all but 2 are not Jewish.

Students have been invited for a special Taste of Judaism Shabbat, to study with Rabbi Donald Kunstadt, and to audit his Judaism class at Springhill College.

That "the message of Judaism needs to be spread more actively...is exactly what I believe in," the rabbi writes.

THERE'S MORE TASTE AT TEMPE

Tempe, AZ—Temple Emanuel (R) here receives its second NCEJ grant in 2004 for another Taste course, which draws 18, 10 of them not Jewish.

It had 20 conversions in 5764, Administrator Nanci Wilharber reports.

Follow-up programs include Discovering Judaism, Opening Doors, non-Jewish spouse discussions. The Outreach Committee distributes Q&A pamphlets on such topics as Chanukah and High Holy Days.

A booklet the temple distributes on Sabbath services (*JP 04-02*) is published by Behrman House.

Among student comments:

"I converted to Judaism about 10 years ago and unfortunately did not remain active. I would like to become more involved and thought this would be a good starting point."

"You all make me glad to reaffirm my commitment to being a Jew."

"I am interested in possibly converting to Judaism & wanted to learn more about it."

"I learned many things and answered many questions I had on where being Jewish came from. Made me feel even more sure of my decision to raise my children Jewish."

CAMARILLO TOPS MINYAN FOR TASTE

Camarillo, CA—Temple Ner Ami (R) receives another NCEJ award for a Taste course that draws 14 persons, split between Jews and nonJews.

Rabbi Michael Lotker will follow up with a Stepping Into Judaism program in 2005, a series of six free monthly classes for adults and children.

The temple makes available 2 Jewish Lights Life Lights booklets, Exploring Judaism as an Adult, and Interfaith Families Making Jewish Choices. It had 3 conversions the preceding year.

Comment from a nonJewish wife who has since joined the temple and plans to convert: "The class was much more interactive than I expected. I found Rabbi Mike's joy and enthusiasm inspiring!"

FULLERTON WINS TWO GRANTS IN 2004

Fullerton, CA—Temple Beth Tikvah (R) wins two NCEJ grants in 2004, for two Taste programs.

A TASTE OF JUDAISM

Are you curious?

Join Rabbi Kenneth Milhander for an easy access, open-minded three part forum exploring Jewish views on:

SPIRITUALITY

Finding God's meaning in a secular world

VALUES

Understanding ethics in our personal and professional lives

PEOPLE

Finding a sense of community and belonging

OPEN TO ALL!

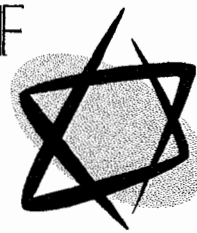
Tuesdays: Nov. 9, 16 and 23 • 7-9 p.m.
Temple Beth Tikvah
1600 N. Acacia Ave., Fullerton

FREE OF CHARGE • REFRESHMENTS SERVED

Designed for the Beginner, Jewish or Not

To register call Miriam at (714) 871-3687 or e-mail: tbtaa@sbcglobal.net
Please include name(s) and telephone number

Co-sponsored by the Union for Reform Judaism
William and Lottie Daniel Commission on Outreach and Synagogue Community



The first drew 25 people, 15 of them not Jewish. The second drew 15, but again 3/5 not Jewish. The Jewish students were trying to reconnect. 2 nonJews were interested in converting.

All students are invited to the countywide Introduction class.

U OF JUDAISM WINS TWO MORE GRANTS

Los Angeles—University of Judaism (C) wins two more grants from NCEJ for its advertising its area-wide Introduction programs.

It reported 552 students, 307 of them not Jewish, attending its late 03-early 04 classes, which run 18 weeks of 3.5-hour periods. Registration is \$18, and tuition \$292-454, with 133 conversions in the previous year.

Among comments:

An ex-sephardic attendee who thinks praying in English “felt too much like church,” said, “The most important thing for me was the discovery of a community with similar interests and concerns.”

“Before this experience I most definitely felt overwhelmed and very lost in temple. The experience of becoming knowledgeable helps to alleviate feelings of being an imposter...The speakers were all moving. I was encouraged that they all felt they were welcomed in the Jewish community.”

About discussion groups: “It’s very comforting to see a variety of people from different backgrounds who made the choice to be a Jew and how they handled outside resistance to their choice.”

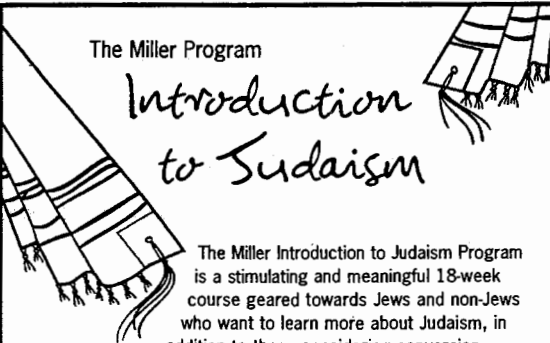
“My experience with Judaism is that every last word of the Torah has the potential for many explanations and understandings. The journey to understanding is a big part of the road for me.”

“Yesterday I attended Rosh Hashana services as the member of a synagogue community for the very first time. I am 50 years old, and both of my parents were Jewish.”

“I continue to explore Judaism at every opportunity. It’s wild to me that I am frequently the most knowledgeable person in the room when it comes to Jewish history and tradition. More than once I’ve had to say, ‘No, I’m not Jewish...’ but I have studied with one of the finest Rabbis around! I can’t tell you where this journey will ultimately lead me. I know I’m not ready to convert yet, and I also am aware that Judaism continues to seep into my spirit. One day, I expect I’ll wake up and the two will be seamless.”

The Miller Program

Introduction to Judaism




The Miller Introduction to Judaism Program is a stimulating and meaningful 18-week course geared towards Jews and non-Jews who want to learn more about Judaism, in addition to those considering conversion.

CONEJO/WEST VALLEY
Temple Aliyah, Woodland Hills
Taught by: Rabbis Camras, Johnson, Orenstein, Spiegel & Vogel
Class begins: **Thursday, October 14, 2004, at 6:30 pm**

Future classes at the University of Judaism, Bel Air:

- Monday, November 8, 2004, at 6:30 pm
- Tuesday, December 8, 2004, at 6:30 pm
- Sunday, January 9, 2004, at 9:30 am

Call for information:
(310) 440-1273 • www.uj.edu



**ZIEGLER SCHOOL OF
RABBINIC STUDIES**
UNIVERSITY OF JUDAISM

“Rabbi Dershowitz is very open & supportive & helpful in guiding me and my husband through the conversion process.”

Rabbi Dershowitz “did a great job incorporating everyone’s questions and addressing everything even if it meant getting off track for awhile! He taught us so much more than we thought we’d learn!”

The Fall group of classes had a registration of 450, 2/3 of them not Jewish.

Rabbi Neal Weinberg, the Introduction program director, tells us of a Shabbaton for converts held Oct. 29-30. “We had participants from California and Arizona of all ages who had converted during the past thirty years from all religious denominations (Orthodox, Conservative, Reform and Reconstructionist.)”


He adds, “The most wonderful thing about the whole Shabbaton is that Jews By Choice led all the services.” Cantor was Lorna Lembeck, an actress. The sermon was given by Rabbi John Crites Borak, who after converting went to the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies and is now at the American Jewish Committee. Other Jews by Choice read the Torah, the Haftarah and led other parts of the service.

This included a one-woman autobiographical show, Teshuvah, Return.

LOS GATOS SWINGS OPEN FOR 2ND TIME

Los Gatos, CA—Another two-time-in-04 winner of NCEJ grants is Cong. Shir Hadash (R).

Its Introduction to Judaism course of 7 ½ months attracts 33 students, 3/5 not Jewish, at fees



**INTRODUCTION
TO
JUDAISM**

From a Reform Perspective

Beginning Oct. 19, 2004 7:30 pm
with Rabbi Melanie Aron
&
Rabbi Dana Magat

Every other Tuesday evening at Congregation Shir Hadash in San Marcos &
Temple Emanu-El in San Jose

Call 408/358-1751 ext. 7 or email parnas@shirhadash.org to register

Congregation Shir Hadash & Temple Emanu-El


of \$160/195 (member/non), including six books.

It also has an interfaith couples discussion group with 10 couples, mostly nonmembers, at \$150, and a matching Jewish buddies activity.

Temple Beth El

Invites You To
INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM CLASS

Thursday Evenings
March 4-May 27
7:30-9:30 p.m.



Taught by
RABBI BRUCE KADDEN
Learn about Jewish
holidays, traditions,
history, beliefs, and values.
\$35 plus book fee

For more information • 424-9151
1212 Riker Street (Corner of Blanco)

SALINAS FINDS INTRO A HANDFUL

Salinas, CA—Temple Beth El (R) comes back in 2004 after a 3-year absence from the NCEJ grantee roster, with an Introduction to Judaism program that attracts 5 people. 4 of them not Jewish. It had 3 conversions the previous year.

The temple, says then-Rabbi Bruce Kadden (now in Tacoma, WA) introduces non-members to others after services, and invites them back. Free pamphlets on becoming Jewish are on a table in the social hall. Books on conversion are in the book cart in the main hallway.

UJFs SHOULD DO AS SAN DIEGO DOES

San Diego—The UJF here provides an example for UJFs all across the country—Outreach is a valuable program—it can help bring in future UJF participants, among other good deeds.

UJF runs six classes of 3 2-hour sessions, both Taste I & II, attended by 197, 117 of them not Jewish. 23 reported an interest in converting. UJF has scheduled 6 classes for this year, says Rachel Zagursky, the outreach coordinator.

Among student comments:

“The Rabbi was informative, well prepared and non-judgmental. She was generous with her time.”

“I grew up without G-d and found this class so informative that I want to learn more so I can study more and get involved in a congregation.”

“I especially appreciated the visit to the sanctuary to see the Torah scroll and learn about it.”

“I enjoyed Taste I and look forward to taking a Basic Judaism class.”



**TASTE OF JUDAISM I & II
ARE YOU CURIOUS?**

Designed for the Beginner ... Jewish or Not!
Whet your appetite in a FREE 3 session exploration.
All classes held from 7-9 p.m., throughout the San Diego area.

TASTE I

Discover Jewish Spirituality, Community & Ethics

Thursdays, February 26, March 4, March 11
at Congregation Beth Israel (La Jolla/UTC area)
Thursdays, March 18, March 25, April 1
at Tifereth Israel Synagogue (San Carlos area)
Wednesdays, April 14, April 21, April 28
at Temple Solel (Encinitas - North County Coastal area)

TASTE II

**Explore Jewish Customs, Life-Cycles,
Holidays, & Traditions**

Sundays, April 18, April 25, May 2 at Temple Emanu-El (College area)
Mondays, May 3, May 10, May 17 at Temple Adat Shalom (Poway area)
Thursdays, May 6, May 13, May 20 at Congregation Beth El (La Jolla area)

◆ A Program for those Unaffiliated with a Congregation ◆

To register, call Rachel at Community Outreach
at (858) 571-3444 x217 or via e-mail at outreach@ujfsd.org
Co-sponsored by United Jewish Federation Outreach and UAHC
in coordination with the San Diego Rabbinical Association.

ADMISSION IS FREE ◆ BUT SPACE IS LIMITED
Register on-line TODAY at www.jewishinsandiego.org

Special funding by Continuity Endowment Fund
of Jewish Community Foundation




HAMILTON HAS HUGE TASTE TURNOUT

Hamilton, Ontario—Temple Anshe Shalom (R) gets 135 people, 4/5 of them not Jewish, to its 3-class Taste minicourse.

Many of the students, says educator Laura Wolfson, have connections to Jews, both personal and business; many are looking for “global conciliation.”

The temple had 5 conversions the previous year.



A Taste of Judaism . . .
... Are You Curious?

Explore Jewish Spirituality Ethics and Community.
For the beginner . . . Jewish or not.

Thursdays 7:30-9:00pm, Feb. 26, March 4, March 11
 No cost but registration required.

Temple Anshe Sholom, 215 Cline Ave. N., Hamilton
 To register call 905-528-0121. Please ask for Laura Wolfson.

MISSISSAUGA DINNER ISN'T TO TASTE

Mississauga, Ontario—Coupling a \$22 Shabbat dinner to a subsequent teaching service at Solel Synagogue brings out only one non-Jew.

The ad for Shabbat Across Peel states that dinner pre-registration is required, and invites “all members of the community.”

NCEJ comment: The combination detracts from any intent to draw non-Jews. Inviting people to learn about Judaism should be as non-obligatory as we can make it, as welcoming and easy as can be.

DENVER INTRO COURSE HITS NEW PEAK

Denver—Rocky Mountain Rabbinical Council gets a record attendance for its summer 04 Intro program. Fee is \$360, single or couple, with 4 books. Synagogue affiliation is not a requirement, but students are asked to have a rabbinic sponsor. 42 people attended, with the 27 non-Jews all expressing an interest in conversion, reports coordinator Betsy Epel

Participation is a mix of synagogues. Each month the students of all Intro classes are invited to shul-hop, visiting a different synagogue. They sit together, meet afterward for discussion with the rabbis. Every few months there's a Shabbat dinner; there's a tour of Jewish Denver, and now there's a Coffee & Conversation at a Starbucks.

In 2004 a management consultant team evaluated the program, interviewing students from the past 3 years.

WORD GROWS FOR MIAMI'S TASTE PLAN

Miami—Temple Israel of Greater Miami (R) has 58 people respond to its ads for a 4-session Taste of Judaism course in the Miami Herald and Biscayne Times. 38 came in because of word of mouth. “More came for the 2nd and 3rd sessions and the class continued to grow,” reports Linda Levin, outreach coordinator. About a fourth were not Jewish.

Four people asked about the community-sponsored Intro program. There were 2 conversions in the previous year.

The temple had anticipated a much smaller response to this Feb.-March 2004 course because the previous one had been in October 2003. More young people and unaffiliated responded to this one.

The temple plans to continue offering the course twice yearly. It sees a “direct benefit.”

The Only Requirement... That You're A Jew Or A Non-Jew.

Rabbi Richard Birnholz' Course, Introduction to Judaism and Jewish Spirituality, is ideal for Jews, Non-Jews, Interfaith Couples and Unaffiliated Jews.

During this 9 week course, which begins Tuesday, October 14 at 7:00 PM, you will learn about the nature of Judaism; God, Torah, worship, Jewish holidays, marriage and other Jewish life cycle observances. Call 876-2377 for registration information for this informative course. There is no tuition cost, but there are course books to purchase.



CONGREGATION SCHAARAI ZEDEK

for more info: (813)876-2377 or www.zedek.org 3303 W. Swann Av. Tampa

TAMPA CONTINUES DRAWING CROWDS

Tampa—Cong. Schaarai Zedek continues its winning streak—with winning ads—in the latest Introduction course it's brought to our attention.

The 9-week no-fee class had 100 students, half not Jewish. There were 14 conversions the previous year. “The best year yet,” says program director Sherry Stein, “& all joined the temple!”

The ads are just about the best in the country. We've reproduced a number. (813-876-2377)

INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM:
ARE YOU CURIOUS?
 Come explore...Jewish Spirituality,
 Jewish Values, Jewish People
SATURDAY, JANUARY 31
10:00A.M. TO 10:00P.M.
 (yes, it is 12 hours)

JUDAISM: ARE YOU CURIOUS?
 Offers a modern Reform Perspective on living in today's complicated world with Rabbi Arnold Mark Belzer will present this 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: 912-233-1547, ext 26

(continue on page 8)

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. Grantees may win a 20% bonus atop their basic grant, if you received an NCEJ ad grant the previous year, for a \$1200 maximum. We help you let people in the broad community know they 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 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? _____

SAVANNAH COURSE RUNS ALL SHABBAT

Savannah, GA—Cong. Mickve Israel (R) attracts some 60 people, ¾ of them not Jewish, to its free, 12-hour Shabbat Introduction to Judaism program. This included 2 meals.

Ten are interested in converting, the “largest and most diverse class to date,” says Administrator Anne Maner. There were 4 conversions in the previous year.

“We plan on producing recordings of the class, since interest in this was high.”

Among comments: “We felt like we were part of the family & not outsiders looking in.”

ALL EYES IN IDAHO ON BOISE TASTE

Boise—Cong. Ahavath Beth Israel (R&C) gets its third grant from NCEJ for its largest Taste class yet—85 altogether counted at the 3 sessions. It drops its previous fee this time.

“We have obtained several interfaith couples as members,” Outreach Chair Harriet Bodesheim notes, and “working with several on conversion (3 currently).” “‘Taste’ really brings goodwill in the community by more understanding of Judaism.”

An Introduction-type course is to run Jan.-May this year.

GREENSBORO TASTE A LIVELY TOPIC

Greensboro, NC—Temple Emanuel (R) returns to NCEJ ranks after a 6-year absence—after receiving 4 straight yearly grants—with a Taste program that attracts 44 people, ¾ of them not Jewish. Six are interested in converting. Two converted the previous year.

“Our response was fantastic!” says Administrator Diane Press.

KC CONVERSION IS REALLY UP-TO-DATE

Overland Park, KS—Greater Kansas City Rabbinical Ass’n has 33 attending its Community-Wide Conversion to Judaism class. Fee is \$125 for textbooks. Rabbi Amy Wollk Katz developed the course curriculum. Reform, Conservative and Orthodox rabbis help teach the class.

More about this next time, but we wanted you to see the ads run for the course.

Do you ever question your faith?

Have you ever considered learning more about Judaism?

A 30-week course taught by local rabbis is being offered for those considering conversion to Judaism. Classes meet Mondays 7-9 p.m..

Call 913/327-4622 or rabbinicalkc@aol.com to sign up or for more info.

Sponsored by the Rabbinical Association of Greater KC and the Department of Adult Jewish Learning, with funding provided by the Jewish Heritage Foundation of Greater KC.

Community-wide Conversion to Judaism Course

A 30-week course taught by local rabbis for those considering conversion to Judaism.

Classes meet Mondays 7-9 p.m.

Call 913/327-4622 or email rabbinicalkc@aol.com for registration materials and information.

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**NATIONAL CENTER
TO ENCOURAGE JUDAISM
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Each Jew Can Be a Priest
We All Can Reach Out
Judaism Can Grow...
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