

The JEWISH Proclaimer

Autumn-Winter 2006 -5767

No. 06-02

SET NO MODEST GOALS FOR JUDAISM

Tempe doesn't mark time with its classes.	1
Tucson spreads classes across its area.	2
Camarillo keeps on tasting.	3
Cardiff-by-the-Sea makes booklets available.	3
San Bernardino enters NCEJ's actives' list.	3
San Diego shows Federations what to do.	3
Literacy paves the way to Dors at D.C. bastion.	4
SE Florida rabbis test the water with lectures.	4
Miami's Temple Israel is a consistent inviter.	4

Tampa's Schaarei Zedek, too, is out there.	4
Atlanta tries Bagels in the Park, locks 'em in?	5
URJ in Northeast knows how wind is blowing.	5
Benton Harbor does Judaism 102.	5
Grand Rapids falls for regular outreach.	5
Las Vegas bets on Taste, goes for the 10 th ?	6
Hoboken draws an open circle of friendship.	6
APPLICATION FORM FOR NCEJ GRANTS.	7
South Orange tries dinner plus service for outreach.	8
Hebrew Union College does retreats for outreach.	8
Gastonia weaves attractive net for learners.	8
Philadelphia gets range of synagogues to center.	8

DOUBLE OR SEXTUPLE JEWS IN U.S., THAT'S THE QUESTION

HOW DO WE GAIN 25 MILLION JEWS?

There's a question for you, as we move through the New Year.

How do we achieve 10% of the U.S. population being Jewish, as 10% of the Roman Empire was some 2000 years ago?

If that's too ambitious, try an interim, 5 million gain—how do we double the present population of not-all-confessing Jews in the U.S.?

Our proposed route: By acknowledging there is a marketplace of religion in the modern world. By being positive about the many good reasons for being Jewish in the modern world. By our synagogues being welcoming and warm instead of insular and chilly to all who might want to know if they can come in. By reaching out and inviting the general community to learn about Judaism—and going further, if so inclined.

That's for starters.

National Center to Encourage Judaism can help you. It believes the synagogue is the point of delivery, the point of entry, and it wants to help those synagogues that are interested to broaden their outreach to their general communities.

We do that by helping you with your secular media advertising of outreach programs like Introduction, Basic, Taste. You can get up to \$1,400 twice a

year, for programs begun in distinctively different quarters—as much as \$1,000 for the grant, a 20% bonus if you received a grant from us the year before—encouraging continuity—and as much as \$200 for conducting other beyond-the-ordinary welcoming and integrating, and providing literature for the taking.

To apply, you can use the form on page 7 of this *Proclaimer*, or download from our website at NCEJudaism.org (where there are back issues, as well), or use the form supplied by your headquarters Outreach office (such as URJ; it gets a bonus, if you do that).

Outreach News from around the United States:

MORE CLASSES MARK TEMPE

Tempe, AZ—Temple Emanuel (R), with 550 members, reports about 20 persons converting to Judaism in the preceding year. Its August Taste mini-course drew a “diverse, intelligent” class of 10 students, 8 of whom were not Jewish.

Exec Director Nanci Wilharber says, “We always welcome attendees. We have a saying, ‘Echad—we are one people, we worship one God; say hello and introduce yourself to one person you do not know at the oneg.’” Board members and staff say they will be at the oneg to answer questions.

The Taste 3-session course, says Ms Wilharber, “is a perfect stepping stone since it is short and non-intimidating but leads people to want more!”

NATIONAL CENTER TO ENCOURAGE JUDAISM, a nonprofit foundation, invites synagogues

and other Jewish institutions, as a light unto the nations, to reach out to and encourage all to be Jewish.

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

Web: www.NCEJudaism.org. This is the SECOND of TWO Proclaimers in 2006. Editor: Ash Gerecht.

The temple has a program, New Beginnings, for newly converted and family members. A Shalom rack in the lobby has flyers, magazines and literature, including URJ Outreach brochure.

Among student comments:

"I was attracted to Judaism and wanted to learn more."

This was "a very good, open and frank discussion by everyone about precepts, without attacking or dispute...Emphasis was entirely on learning."

Another registered "to introduce me to Judaism, to prepare me" for the Discovering Judaism class.

One who signed up out of "curiosity" is now ready for the Discovering class.

A male signed up because of "the inner Jew in me."

TUCSON'S EMANU-EL KEEPS BUSY PACE

Tucson—Temple Emanu-El (R) wins another NCEJ grant with its numerous Taste of Judaism and other classes. It reports 25 conversions in calendar 2005. The 806-family congregation spent over \$9,000 for ads for its Taste classes in fall 2005 in area newspapers.

A total of 387 attended the series, of whom 225 were not Jewish. Of these, 18 were interested in conversion, 13 were exploring their spirituality, 16 had Jewish relatives, 6 had Jewish in-laws, 6 were non-Jewish clergy. 144 were Jewish.

Thirtyone students received free High Holyday tickets on request. Participants from the 2005 classes accounted for more than half the conversions.

Follow-up programs include the temple's Adult Education Academy; Taste II, Another Bite, attended by 71; Basic Judaism; Jewish Home & Family; Babies & Bagels monthly for young families.

Of the families who joined the temple after August 2005, 10 were from the '05 Taste classes and 2 from the '04.

"Positive effects on membership and involvement in Tucson's Jewish community continue to accrue," says Mila Anderson, its new outreach coordinator this past spring. (520-327-4501) "Word-of-mouth has become an increasingly significant source of publicity among non-affiliated Jews in Tucson. Taste of Judaism acts as a gateway to Tucson's Jewish community for unaffiliated and intermarried Jews."

Emanu-El has continued its quarterly outreach Simply Shabbats, which incorporates teaching and explanations into a regular Friday night service. Pace is slower and the tone more casual, with jokes and stories. Instead of a sermon, there's a Q&A. Attendees get a handout to follow along, with a vocabulary of terms, and information on activities. That's proved "very helpful." Promotion includes the U of Ariz.-Hillel and Judaic Studies department.

The temple's conversion program outline includes coursework—Taste, introductory, Hebrew marathon and a 2-day miniclass in Hebrew; 4 writing assignments; meeting with a rabbi bimonthly; a reading list; and sensing, in about a year, that "it's time."

Its monthly Babies & Bagels Club, mostly free events, is open to all, members & non, with such topics as Splash Party & Havdallah on a July Shabbat afternoon, Raising a Moral Child in Jan., Tu B'Shevat at the Botanical Gardens in Feb., Rosh Hodesh family concert in April, Lag B'Omer picnic in May.

Some of the temple's conclusions: -Offering Taste classes in various parts of town—northeast, central, east and downtown, and in Green Valley, a suburb of 35,000 30 miles away—"is critical in getting involvement. This outreach program literally reaches out to where people live."

-While many attendees become active right away, some need more time. The temple checks in several months after class to update them on what's going on. One example—non-active alumni were invited to a model seder, and 12 came, 7 months after the class.

-A database includes more than 2000 alumni.

-Adult education budget provides funds for followups. Alumni get mailings for specific programs.

Among Taste attendee comments: -"Deep feelings for the Jewish people. I have always felt a connection to Judaism, to see if I am supposed to be a Jew."

A TASTE OF JUDAISM...

In two 3-week classes!

- 1 Taste of Judaism**
Explore Jewish Spirituality, Values, and Community over three evenings with our Rabbis.
No fees or obligations, but Preregistration required. Classes offered in Central, East, Northwest and downtown Tucson and Green Valley.
Childcare provided at Sunday afternoon class.
- 2 Taste II, Another Bite: Jewish in America**
3-part class explores Jewish History in America, New Approaches to Prayer, and American-Israeli Relations.
Cost for Taste II is \$25 • Includes 2 CDs of Jewish Music

Open to all, Jewish or not.

Call 292-5816 to register

Presented by
Temple Emanu-El
225 N. County Club Rd., Tucson

Made possible in part by a Crowdfunding Needs Grant from the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona

“Judaism was always a mystery to me; I was always under the impression you ‘must’ be a member in order to participate...”

“I love that Judaism is a faith that is open to questioning, thinking & informing one’s own mind & that it is not didactic or based on fear.”

“I saw an article in the newspaper. I have been looking for something like this for several years. Courses offered by the Jewish Federation seemed to be overly Orthodox.”

“One took the course ‘to better understand why my daughter is accepting Judaism. I will feel better to see why she is so happy.’”

“I am more knowledgeable than my son-in-law about his religion.”

CAMARILLO STAYS CONSISTENT IN TASTE

Camarillo, CA—Temple Ner Ami (R) receives another yearly grant for its Taste course advertising. Since it used an application supplied by Union of Reform Judaism, that Outreach office gets an NCEJ bonus, as well.

Attendance was 22, 2/3 not Jewish, reports Rabbi Michael Lotker. This included 2 interfaith couples with the non-Jewish spouses interested in conversion, 4 non-Jews also interested, and a fundamentalist Christian “just curious.”

The temple makes available two Life Lights booklets, Exploring Judaism as an Adult, by Philip Graubert, and Interfaith Families Making Jewish Choices by Edmund Case, along with URJ pamphlets, Becoming a Jew and Intermarried? Reform Judaism Welcomes You.

Jewish, with 5 of these interested in converting.

The 796-member congregation makes its own booklets on the holidays available to its members, and to drop-ins, on such topics as Preparing for the High Holy Days, Sukkot and Passover. These are written by its adult programming director, Linda Silverman Levine.

SAN BERNARDINO ENTERS NCEJ LISTS

San Bernardino—Cong. Emanu El (R) enters the NCEJ list of grantees as it advertises its Introduction to Judaism 13-week \$50 course. Of 10 students, 8 were not Jewish, and 6 interested in converting. The 305-member synagogue had 7 conversions in the pre-

Want to learn about Jewish life? Interested in becoming Jewish? Want to freshen-up what you learned – and forgot – years ago? What is Shavout, after all? How does one “become Jewish?” Want to learn to read Hebrew, too?



Plan to attend the
INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM CLASS
Taught by Rabbi Douglas Kohn



Beginning Wednesday, January 25, 2006, running for 13
Wednesdays/ weeks into May 2006, 7:15 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
Located at 3512 North “E” St., San Bernardino, CA 92405

**Call the Congregation Emanu El, or Rabbi Kohn for more information,
909-886-4818. All are welcome! Modest course and book fees apply.**

ceding year. This past August, Rabbi Douglas Kohn was planning to convert 8 of his class of 15 from last year.

A local broadcast station listed the Intro program for 2 weeks, among its announcements.

SAN DIEGO SETS PACE FOR FEDERATIONS

San Diego—United Jewish Federation here continues to lead the way for U.S. Federations, in holding outreach programs—and on two levels, Taste I and Taste II.

It spends almost \$3500 for local advertising, and attracts 168 students, 3/5 of them not Jewish. 22 began conversion studies, or expressed interest. About a third of the 104 non-Jews had a family member, usually a parent or grandparent, who was Jewish. They “truly wanted to connect with their Jewish roots, and were able to use the Taste of Judaism program as an entry point,” says outreach director Marcie Denberg (858-571-0701).

One commenter: “My mother is Lutheran and my deceased father came from an Orthodox Jewish family. I would like to take more sessions; this was so interesting and sparked my wanting to learn more.”

The UJF has a Passover outreach program, for invitations to seder at homes of volunteers. It is planning more home hospitality outreach. Its Chai Times Outreach publication is sent thrice yearly to over 1700 unaffiliated households.

**FOR SOME THINGS IN LIFE,
IT IS NEVER TOO LATE!**
Interested in learning about Judaism?
Yes?

*Introduction to Judaism offers you a time and a place
to broaden your Jewish awareness.*

For more information about this 18 session
program beginning Wednesday, October 19th
at Temple Solel in Cardiff By The Sea
call 760-436-0654.



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



INTRO CLASS PULLS MOSTLY MEMBERS

Cardiff by the Sea, CA—Temple Solel (R) in 2005 holds a no-fee Introduction course attended by 19, 15 of whom are members, 8 of whom are not

TASTE OF JUDAISM Are You Curious?



Designed for the beginner ... Jewish or not!
FREE classes held from 7-9 p.m., throughout San Diego.

TASTE I

Discover Jewish Spirituality, Community & Ethics

Sundays, January 23, February 6 & 13 at Temple Emanu-El (College area)

Tuesdays, March 1, 8 & 15 at Ohr Shalom Synagogue (Downtown area)

Thursdays, May 5, 12 & 19 at Congregation Beth Israel (UTC area)

TASTE II

Explore Jewish Customs, Life-Cycles, Holidays & Traditions

Thursdays, March 3, 10 & 17 at Tifereth Israel Synagogue (San Carlos area)

Wednesdays, April 13, 20 & 27 at Congregation Dor Hadash (Kearny Mesa area)

Mondays, May 16, 23 & 30 at Congregation Beth El (La Jolla area)

• A PROGRAM FOR THOSE UNAFFILIATED WITH A CONGREGATION •

To register, call Rachel Zagursky, Community Outreach,

(858) 571-3444 x217 or e-mail outreach@ujfsd.org

Co-sponsored by United Jewish Federation Outreach
in coordination with the San Diego Rabbinical Association.

ADMISSION IS FREE • BUT SPACE IS LIMITED

Register on-line TODAY at www.jewishinsandiego.org



LITERACY IS A DOR TO D.C. SUCCESS

Washington, DC—Adas Israel Cong. (C) continues its successful Literacy program and its Open Dor, inviting people with some Jewish ancestry to come through.

Its mikveh had 250 conversions in 2005, drawn from a number of congregations in the area, Rabbi Avis Miller reports.

The 8-week Literacy program—free to members, \$80 to non—attracted 34 students, all but 5 nonmem-

bers. About 2/5 were not Jewish. While not a conversion course, it invites those considering it.

The Open Dor one-time workshop, for 20-30somes, drew women only, with one Jewish parent. During the year following, others responded, citing the ads. Rabbi Miller cites estimates there may be 10 million Americans with at least one Jewish grandparent who could qualify under the Israel Law of Return.

While she was writing to us, a young man with a Jewish father and non-Jewish mother came to see her, considering conversion. He'd been in last year's Literacy class, the ad for which he'd seen while in Starbucks. He remembered that half the students said they'd learned about the class from the ads.

SOUTHEAST FLA. RABBIS TRY LECTURES

Port St. Lucie, FL—Treasure Coast Rabbinical Association does a series of 11 lectures, from Dec. to this past April, titled a Taste of Judaism. Three rabbis took part, from here, Vero Beach and Stuart. Fee is \$50 for the series. Mostly Jews attended.

MIAMI REPEATS TASTE AT TEMPLE ISRAEL

Miami—Temple Israel (R) is among the numerous grantees receiving a 20% bonus this year from NCEJ for having received a grant last year—an encouragement to continue yearly outreach advertising.

This was the fourth Taste series in 3 years for the 500-member congregation, with 5 conversions in the preceding year. Forty attended—14 signed up after the ads ran, but 27 showed the first night, and others trickled in. 27 were Jewish, 12 of these not members.

Outreach coordinator Linda Levin says the temple, besides repeating Taste, may also try a 6-session Walking Through the Jewish Calendar. Altogether, it offers 101 courses, with a number of interfaith programs.

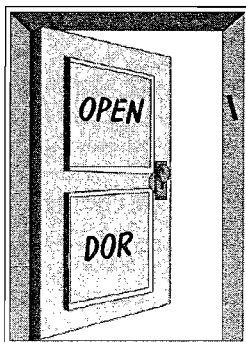
TAMPA'S SCHAAREI ZEDEK UMPTEENTH

Tampa—One of the most consistent NCEJ grantees over the past decade, Schaarei Zedek (R) keeps scoring, with some of the best outreach advertising in the country. We've run a number of the ads in past issues and, we hope, in future ones.

The 950-member congregation drew 75 to its 5-week Introduction course, 85% not Jewish. Executive Director Sherry Stein excuses this last year's number—"hurricanes have taken a toll—I hope this year will be better!"

About 90% of converts, invited to become members, do so, she reports.

would you like to explore your Jewish heritage?



OPEN DOR...

for 20- and 30-somethings with mixed Jewish / non-Jewish ancestry. Do you have a Jewish parent or grandparent? (*"Dor"* means generation in Hebrew). Are you interested in learning how Judaism can spiritually enhance your life? And do you want discover what has kept the Jewish people—your people—a vital force in human history and

civilization? We'd like to meet you... Join Rabbi Avis Miller of Adas Israel Congregation and Natalie Merkur Rose, LCSW-C, of the Jewish Social Service Agency.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 7:30 – 9:00 PM

Bring your curiosity and your questions, and let us share with you the magic of our—and your—Jewish tradition!

ADAS ISRAEL CONGREGATION • www.adasisrael.org

2850 Quebec St, NW, Washington, DC 20008, Cleveland Park Metro, 202.362.4433

SUNDAY in the PARK
with **BAGELS**

A Kid-Friendly TASTE OF THE JEWISH HOLIDAYS

Sunday, May 21 2-4 pm
Newtown Park, Alpharetta

• ARTS
• CRAFTS
...AND A TASTE OF
JEWISH HOLIDAY
FOODS FROM THE
YEAR'S CALENDAR
OF CELEBRATIONS!


THE MOTHERS
CIRCLE
www.themotherscircle.org
Free Resources, Education and Events
For Non-Jewish Women Raising Jewish Children



This program is **FREE** and open to all.
No prior Jewish knowledge required. We welcome interfaith families.

www.atlantajcc.org DETAILS: 678.948.4006



DO BAGELS BAG BELIEVERS IN ATLANTA?

Alpharetta, GA—In this Atlanta suburb, Jewish Outreach Inst. and the local Marcus JCC hold Sunday in the Park with Bagels, a free Jewish holiday food tasting, and draw over 150, mainly young families. About half the attendees were “new faces.”

Families signed up for “passports” that kids used to receive special stamps as they walked from food station to station, apples and honey for Rosh Hashonah, doughnuts for Hanukkah, challah for Shabbat. Staff provided some basic education about the holidays. Contact information will be used for follow-ups.

URJ BLOWS UP A NOR'EASTER IN MASS.

Needham, MA—We hear (and report) pretty much semiannually from URJ's Northeast region, which holds a series of Taste programs in its area.

The latest batch, reported to us in June, drew 15 to 25 at each of 6 events, says coordinator Joyce Schwartz. Total in 12 classes, August 2005-May 2006, was 250, half from the Boston area. Just over half were not Jewish.

A 56-year-old female raised Jewish took this as a refresher: “My boyfriend who is Catholic is also interested in learning so I thought it was a good opportunity.”

About 60% of students contact the office after seeing the secular newspaper ads. 25% of new participants reach the office directly through the site or indirectly by visiting it after seeing an ad listing.

BENTON HARBOR REPEATS HOSTING

Benton Harbor, MI—Temple B'nai Shalom (C) hosts a Judaism 102 program early this year, as it did 2 years before. The 100-member congregation, with one conversion in the past year, had 27 show for its 5-class \$10 series, 4/5 of the students not Jewish. Half

Judaism 102

4,000 Years of Jewish History

Open To All

Thursdays 7:30-9:00 PM

Rabbi Michael Rascoe

Will Teach Classes

Registration Cost: \$10

For information and to Register Contact:

925-8021

email: bnaishalom@qtm.net

**Temple B'nai
Shalom**

2050 Broadway, Benton Harbor

CLASSES

Jan. 26 ~ Introduction, Bible

Feb. 2 ~ Bible, Talmud

Feb. 16 ~ Talmud, Medieval

Feb. 23 ~ Medieval, Modern

March 2 ~ Modern

came from the newspaper ads. A number had children who'd married Jews, and they wanted to learn more.

Topics, covering “4,000 years of Jewish history,” included the Bible, Talmud, medieval and modern times.”

Among comments:

One person in this “very fundamentalist Christian area” didn't like the class, felt the religions should be kept separate.

Another: “To be honest no class has had such an impact. Thank you very much for all your wisdom and answers to my questions and understanding.”

Another series may run this fall, based on requests from attendees at the first two, says Rabbi Michael Roscoe.

GRAND RAPIDS KEEPS A STEADY STREAM

Grand Rapids, MI—A regular outreach-program holder is Cong. Ahavas Israel (C). It's another recipient of our bonus for having received a grant the year before, as well.

Its Introduction program had 17 students, all nonmembers, and 15 of them not Jewish. Class has tripled in size, says Rabbi David Krishef, “probably because of additional publicity” from an Understanding Judaism 3-week series partnered with a Christian ecumenical group. Class is 17 weeks, \$75.

A 20-week Hebrew Reading and Comprehension class, \$150, had 15 students, all not Jewish.

Six students, half not Jewish, attended a 17-week Survey of Mishnah course.

HEBREW - BIBLE • JEWISH THOUGHT

Are you Curious?

Learn at Congregation Ahavas Israel!
2727 Michigan St. NE • 616-949-2840

Winter courses, Monday Evenings, beginning January 9, 2006

- Hebrew Reading and Comprehension - Beginning • 7:00 - 8:10 pm.
Tuition - \$150
- Intermediate Hebrew - Biblical • 8:20 - 9:30 pm.
Tuition - \$150
- Torah with modern and classical commentary • 7:00 - 8:10 pm.
Tuition - \$75
- A Survey of Mishnah - the central work of 1st Century Judaism. • 7:00 - 8:10 pm.
Tuition - \$75
- Introduction to Judaism. 8:20 - 9:30.
Tuition - \$75.

Discount for advance registration (before December 16)
Call 616-949-2840 or see AhavasIsraelGR.org
for a complete course guide and registration information.

The congregation's CD of its Shabbat evening and morning and home ritual has sold almost 100 copies in a year and a half "to people all over the country and as far away as India!"

Rabbi Krishef (616-949-2840) has put together a 52-page booklet, An Explanatory Guide to Various Blessings and Prayers, including a 17-page Q&A.

Ahavas Israel had 2 conversions in the past year.

LAS VEGAS STAYS AT THE TASTE TABLE

Henderson, NV—Cong. Ner Tamid (R), in its 9th year of Taste classes, says, "Non-Jews are always so curious about our religion and what makes it work."

"A Taste of Judaism"

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



A Taste of Judaism at Congregation Ner Tamid 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!

Thursdays - April 29, May 4 and May 11 ~ 7-9 pm



To register, please call 313-5270
Or e-mail Runger@lvnertamid.org

Sponsored by Bradley, Rebecca and Elizabeth Alm Snyder Scholarship Fund

The 559-family congregation had 40 students for this spring's class, 30 of them not Jewish, 7 interested in converting. All but 1 student felt the program was excellent or very good, reports Rabbi Sanford Akselrad.

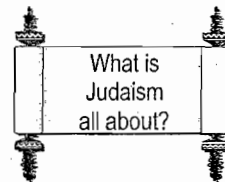
This summer's follow-ups included an Introduction class, Understanding Shabbat, Writing Our Own Prayers, Should Reform Jews Keep Kosher?, with conversion classes beginning in Sept.

HOBOKEN KEEPS MAKING INTRODUCTION

Hoboken, NJ—United Synagogue (C), with 230 members, continues its Introduction classes, 14 students this time split as usual between Jews and non-Jews. Fee is \$65/single, \$125/couple, for 6 sessions.

Rabbi Robert Scheinberg notes its active welcoming: "Anyone who has visited our congregation knows it is virtually impossible to attend a service here without meeting someone new." At the oneg, all stand in a circle and introduce themselves.

"Newcomers are usually greeted with invitations to dinner. Most of those attending regularly on Friday night are single, and a large number are under 30. One of our community's challenges is the general transience of our area; many of those who move to Hoboken are likely to move out to the suburbs within a few years. Our congregation has turned this challenge into one of its greatest strengths, as we always have a steady stream of newcomers and have developed a very friendly and welcoming face."



Introduction to Judaism
6 Tuesday nights
beginning Jan. 17

A class for Jews and non-Jews who seek a deeper understanding of Jewish tradition, values and spirituality.

Class meets 6 Tuesday nights, 7:45-9:30pm
United Synagogue of Hoboken, 115 Park Avenue

United Synagogue of Hoboken



\$65/individual, \$120/couple
Reserve a space:
201-659-4000 or
office@hobokensynagogue.org

A few programs are specifically for those in conversion process and converts, including havdalah/coffee and discussion, a Shabbat dinner, a trip to the Museum of Jewish Heritage.

"Those who have converted are a great source of knowledge and inspiration to those beginning the process," says Rabbi Scheinberg (201-659-4000).

United has also tried a mentorship approach, matching a convert-in-process with a convert. When those in process "feel that they have a peer group in the synagogue, they are more likely to attend more programs, services and classes."

A number taking classes join United or commit to another synagogue.

(continue on page 8)

NATIONAL CENTER TO ENCOURAGE JUDAISM -- APPLICATION, 2007-2006

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

NCEJ grants, for year 2006-2007 programs, are for a maximum of \$1000 up to one-half the cost of the secular (non-Jewish) press or media advertising. Individual synagogue grantees may win a **20% bonus** atop the basic grant, if you received an NCEJ ad grant the previous year, for a \$1200 maximum. Programs must be advertised open to all; local sponsors of those limited to interfaith are eligible for half the regular grant, without bonuses. We want to help you let your broad community know all people are welcome to obtain information about Judaism and to become Jewish.

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

Send in your completed applications after your program starts. **Include demographic information and class reaction** as requested; a **copy of the ads** (for radio/tv, of the text) and of the **specific billing**. We welcome students' and your additional 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 colored cups; both rabbi & board **take continuing initiative**. _____ You operate programs to further integrate interfaith & converts. More than Dec. dilemma-type sessions or monthly interfaith. What others can learn from and copy. Details needed.

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

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

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

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

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

What follow-up programs & contacts do you have?

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

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

Title of your event? _____ When held? _____

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

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

Describe how you made this different from your usual service _____

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

What advice to other synagogues planning such an event? _____

S. ORANGE SHABBAT DINES AT SMALL TISH

South Orange, NJ—Temple Sharey Tefilo-Israel holds a learner's Shabbat dinner and service attended by 20. The 1100-member synagogue's outreach program will continue this Shabbat for Everyone this service year, along with Sharing Shabbat, for Jewish

"Shabbat for Everyone"

Join our Sabbath Dinner & Learner's Service
Sponsored by the Interfaith Outreach Committee

Friday, January 13th ~ 6:30 pm

Temple Sharey Tefilo-Israel 432 Scotland Rd., South Orange, NJ

Come spend an evening with family, make new friends, enjoy a Sabbath meal, and **ASK QUESTIONS**. A Children's Program and/or babysitting will be provided with advance reservations.

Call 973-763-4116 x 221

or email jritsti@comcast.net

~ We welcome you home. ~

Temple
Sharey Tefilo-Israel

children and their non-Jewish parents and grandparents, with a UJC grant; Life Cycle: Birth and Adoption; Interfaith Couple Discussion, 6 weeks; and Walking through the Jewish Year: Sukkot.

The January Shabbat event included a 2-page explanation of the prayers and procedures, with a questionnaire.

HUC-JIR HOLDS OUTREACH RETREATS

New York City—Hebrew Union College (R) holds its annual outreach retreats for third-year students, with 17 rabbinical, 7 cantorial and 2 others attending last fall's sessions at a Port Washington center.

At the Los Angeles campus the event occurred after graduation, for 17 rabbinical students, at the Brandeis-Bardin Institute in Simi Valley.

This school year is to include the Cincinnati campus as well, for over 30 third and fourth year rabbinical students.

The program, under the sponsorship of the Ger-echt Family Institute for Outreach, is updating a 300-page guide including articles on outreach, synagogue programs, guiding principles, traditional texts outlining the process, and poetry and prayers.

BIG RETURNS FROM SMALL SYNAGOGUES

Gastonia, NC—Temple Emanuel, lay-led, with 70 members, gets almost as many—60—to attend its latest, seventh Taste of Judaism program. Of these, 55 are not members, 51 are not Jewish. Two conversions were in process when Dr. Mark Epstein, the adult study-outreach chair, wrote us. 5 expressed interest. 6 had taken the class once before.

"As has been our experience each of the last 5 years, attendance was beyond expectation."

Two of the Jewish attendees "were unaffiliated, previously unknown to us in the community, and interested in re-connecting with their faith."

PHILA. KEHILLAH COVERS WHOLE RANGE

Philadelphia—Kehilla of Center City, which represents the spectrum of Jewish belief, returns for another NCEJ grant, for its Taste program, attracting 110, 50 of them not Jewish. 16 were interested in converting. Inquiries totaled 155. Program was offered at 5 Center City congregations in February.

This was our first application which included advertising in a filmgoers' playbook.

Among comments:

"I have more in common with Judaism than I thought and would like to learn more."

"I feel privileged my relationship with a Jewish man opens this door for me. I feel lucky I can learn more!"

"Very confident that Judaism is the religion that I want to pursue."

NATIONAL CENTER
TO ENCOURAGE JUDAISM
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