

# The JEWISH Proclaimer

Spring-Summer 2007-5767

No. 07-01

## JUDAISM LIKE ITS GOD: UNIVERSAL

Jewish universalism: Health unto nations.	1
But we must overcome the Jewish illness.	
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## IT WILL TAKE JEWS TO CURE THE JEWISH DISEASE

The Jewish Disease is A-I-D--Apathy-Insularity-Diffidence.

Apathy—first, toward belonging to a congregation (cost problems in some cases); second, toward being active, attending members (staff problems in some cases.)

Insularity—being content, because of history, to accept a blankets-around-us attitude.

Diffidence—treating Jewishness as baggage instead of a ticket—instead of proclaiming its superiority among religious and other philosophical faiths as a framework in coping with life.

### How can we overcome these elements?

For starters—considering that Judaism beats its competitors hands-down. Judaism's basic concept of an universal God over all trumps the Christian trinity and Islamic exclusivity and revisionist copycat. The Jewish mother-lode is better than its mutants, while allowing others can be good people in their own way.

How do we get that across?

-By being open and welcoming—let people know they can visit your synagogue, that they can learn about Judaism, that they can become Jewish.

-By teaching Jews and non-Jews who want to learn what the basic elements of Judaism have been and are, how Judaism has adapted to changing worlds.

-By being open and teaching, showing both member and non-member Jews that we believe what we say, and do as we say. Such an attitude can change cold to warm, passivity to action.

Okay, Judaism is not today a proselytizing religion, but once it was.

But look at what's happening. Here in the U.S. capital city, an orthodox synagogue holds a Purim march downtown—before S. Patrick's day!—and last December distributed chanukah gelt at a key downtown intersection. Can pamphlets be far behind? An orthodox synagogue!

National Center to Encourage Judaism can help you invite people to learn about Judaism. It will help subsidize your advertising of basic Judaism courses in the secular (non-Jewish) media.

(If you have suggestions for other programs we could employ, send them to us.)

An application for an NCEJ grant, which can be as much as \$1200 twice a year, is on page 7 of this issue, as well as on the web at our site, NCEJudaism.org. Tell your colleagues about us, too.

And—if you use an application supplied by your national organization, such as URJ Outreach, it will receive a bonus from us as well.

### Outreach activity around the U.S.:

#### **HUC SEMINARY EXTENDS OUTREACH**

New York—Hebrew Union College extends its outreach activity beyond weekend seminars for students on its 3 campuses, to active rabbis.

This spring VP-Dean Rabbi Aaron Panken is teaching a class at the Atlanta meeting of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. This is part of an initial set of programs for alumni, sponsored by the Gerech Family Institute for Outreach at HUC.

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NATIONAL CENTER TO ENCOURAGE JUDAISM, a nonprofit foundation, invites synagogues and other Jewish institutions, as a light unto the nations, to reach out to and encourage others to be Jewish. Box 651, Silver Spring, MD 20918. 301-593-2319. Fax 301-593-2249. E-mail: [NCEJudaism@verizon.net](mailto:NCEJudaism@verizon.net). Web: [www.NCEJudaism.org](http://www.NCEJudaism.org). This is the FIRST of TWO Proclaimers in 2007. Editor: Ash Gerech.

**Taste of Judaism:  
Are you Curious?**

*"Whet your appetite" in a three-session exploration of*

- \* Jewish Spirituality \* Jewish Values
- \* Jewish Community

Wednesdays, 7 - 8:30 p.m.  
September 13, 20 and 27

Temple B'nai Sholem, 505 Middle St., New Bern

This FREE program is open to the community,  
Jewish or not.

For more information or to register,  
Call Ed & Carole Greenberg, 252-633-9818.  
Space is limited!

Sponsored by Temple B'nai Sholem and Union for Reform Judaism  
[www.bnai-sholem.org](http://www.bnai-sholem.org)

### NEW BERN IS NEW FOUND, AND PROLIFIC

New Bern, NC—Temple B'nai Sholem, with 70 member households, had 12 conversions—"It was a big year!" says Adult Ed-Outreach chair Marsha Luhrs. This new NCEJ grantee's Taste course attracted 20 people, 16 of them not Jewish.

"Thrilled with the class makeup," says Ms Luhrs. "Many community people came to learn about Judaism. Two families will join the congregation."

The temple is lay-led, described as "the only one for many miles."

Its membership brochure shows its Greek classic synagogue, built in 1908 for \$5,000. It's listed on the National Register of Historic Places. From 1953 to the late '80s it was served by rabbis from Kinston. Fees are \$200/individual, \$400/families. Membership comes from 5 coastal counties.

The course offered perspectives of Reform, Conservative and Orthodox rabbis. At its end, most students wanted the course to be longer,

### CLEVELAND CONSORTIUM GETS GRANT

Cleveland—More consortia seem to be undertaking outreach programs in the U.S. Latest one we've heard from is the Jewish Education Center, here. Its extensive advertising program—over \$3600—attracted 64 students to a Taste of Judaism minicourse. 2/3 were not Jewish.

These fall classes were held in two locations. East side, at Temple Israel Ner Tamid, drew 40; west, at Beth Israel, 24.

For the beginner...Jewish or not



"Taste of Judaism"

Explore Jewish Spirituality, Ethics and Community

Three Evening Classes

Beginning October 4 - Temple Israel Ner Tamid  
Taught by Rabbi Matthew Eisenberg

Beginning October 5 - Beth Israel - The West Temple  
Taught by Enid Lader

FREE CLASS - REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Contact Ava Hodous, Project Director, JECC  
216-371-6139 ~ [www.jecc.org/outreach](http://www.jecc.org/outreach)



Co-Sponsored by  
The Jewish Education Center of Cleveland and The Cleveland Board of Rabbis with funding support from The Jewish Education Center of Cleveland

Another, Jan. series, was held at 3 locations, including Lorain. After that, another program, Feast of Judaism, began.

All participants receive e-mail updates of coming events.

Each student in the fall classes received a set of index-sized cards with information and recipes for the holidays. Another set was mailed, about Chanukah. Other holidays will be highlighted, as well.

Advertising included radio public service announcements, flyers in the community at libraries and other places, and a laminated bookmark with a Taste ad on one side and a book and video guide on the other.

Triangle Area Rabbis Presents

**Introduction to  
JUDAISM**

A Survey Course On Jewish Life

EVERY WEDNESDAY  
EVENING  
SEPT 13-  
NOV 15

A ten-week class offering an overview of Jewish Holidays, lifecycle and text. This class extends a pathway to Jewish studies for those interested in conversion, interfaith couples, and Jews wishing to see their Hebrew School learning from an adult perspective.

The class will be offered in two locations:

<b>RALEIGH:</b> Temple Beth Or 5315 Creedmoor Rd • 781-4895 7:30-9:00pm	<b>DURHAM:</b> Judea Reform Congregation 1933 W. Cornwallis Rd • 489-7062 7:00-8:30
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**COST:**  
\$25 for members of any congregation • \$50 for non-members  
Scholarships available through area Rabbis

**REGISTRATION:**  
Bring a check to the first class, or call the synagogue in which you would prefer to take the class.

**OPEN TO ALL**

### RALEIGH DRAWS 35 TO INTRO PROGRAM

Raleigh, NC—Of the 35 attending the Introduction to Judaism 10-week course offered by Temple Beth Or (R), 2/3 are not Jewish, and half of them interested in converting. Fee is \$25/50.

# JUDAISM IS PREFERABLE TO CHRISTIANITY. JUDAISM IS PREFERABLE TO ISLAM. UNLESS YOUR SYNAGOGUE BELIEVES SO, SAYS SO, TEACHES SO, IT WON'T BE.

To maximize exposure, ads went into the Plain Dealer, the largest newspaper, as well as zone-specific suburban papers. Jewish preschools had flyers to attract the interfaith couples beginning to identify with the Jewish community.

Over 90% of students ask to be contacted by someone, says Ms Bonnie Shapiro, administrator. (216-371-0446.) She adds:

"The enthusiasm evidenced by the response to the evaluation form...is part of the impetus for continuing outreach programming...It often evolves into an opportunity for continued study and a gateway into the Jewish community."

JECC used an NCEJ application supplied by URJ Outreach, which receives a bonus for that.

Advertising continued in the Ritz Filmbill, and there were spots on National Public Radio "which proved to be very worthwhile."

Each participant gets a folder listing opportunities for further education, mitzvot programs, the mitzvah food pantry, and a synagogue guide.

The program expanded this winter to Taste 2, with sessions on life cycle events, calendar, and wisdom. This is adapted from the program of UJF, San Diego (another NCEJ participant.)

Some statistics, covering 185 inquiries:

- 129 were women.
- Age range was spread, 20s through 60s mostly.
- 33 saw ads in the Filmbill, 35 in a Metro paper, 23 word of mouth, 16 traced to the radio spots, etc.
- 70 took the course for reconnecting to Judaism, 52 were in an interfaith relationship, 54 were non-Jewish "seekers."

Among suggestions made to class teachers:

- Acknowledging that students come for different reasons, ask them to discuss any personal issues by phone or e-mail. This helps people feel at ease.
- Prepare a book list of your appropriate favorites.
- People love to see the Torah and your sanctuary. This makes them more comfortable at services.
- Have a break time, good food helps.
- Invite them to a Shabbat dinner.
- Read The Spirit of Welcoming by Ron Wolfson.

Participating rabbis' comments:

-Rabbi Avi Winokur: Four 2005 students are in his 06 \$300 introductory course, plus 2 from 06. Others are taking a Shabbat 101 course. Each year participants seem more likely to get involved. For younger or single Tasters, "this course may be the reason that they join 5, 10, 15 years from now."

-Rabbi Ira Stone sees significant impact on 2 types: Jews "who were clearly curious and perhaps looking for a way back into the community"; and non-Jewish and interfaith relationships, with several asking about conversion. "The impact on the synagogue can mostly be measured by good feeling, the pride

**a taste of JUDAISM**

**...Are you curious?**

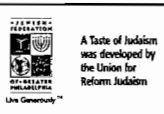
Do you want an introduction to Jewish life?  
Do you know someone who wants a greater feel for Jewish traditions?

**JOIN US** to explore the Jewish perspective on living in today's world.  
**ALL ARE WELCOME, Jewish or not.**

<b>Taste of JUDAISM 1</b> October–November   Free • Jewish Spirituality • Jewish Values • Jewish Community	<b>Taste of JUDAISM 2</b> February–March   \$18 per person • Jewish Life Cycle Events • Jewish Calendar • Jewish Wisdom	<b>SEATING IS LIMITED.</b> <b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED.</b> <b>TWO THREE-WEEK CLASSES</b> <b>OR ONE SUNDAY.</b>
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Classes taught by: Rabbi Albert Gabbai,  
Rabbi Yochanon Goldman, Rabbi Julie Greenberg,  
Rabbi Jill Maderer, Rabbi Ira Stone, Rabbi Avi Winokur

For information on class dates, times, locations and how to register:  
[tasteofjudaism@comcast.net](mailto:tasteofjudaism@comcast.net) | 215-832-0597



Kehillah of | A Taste of Judaism  
CENTER CITY | was developed by  
Community Collaborative | the Union for  
Reform Judaism

## PHILADELPHIA KEHILLA LIVES PAST A 120

Philadelphia—Center City Kehilla, a consortium of all different strands, continues its Taste of Judaism series through a third year. The latest, last fall, drew 129 people, 2/3 of them Jewish, to sessions at four different synagogues. Advertising expenditures this winter for the fourth round top \$10,000.

The heavily Jewish attendance, surmises coordinator Catherine Fischer (215-832-0597), may have been due to the timing right after the High Holydays.

taken by the President announcing" the program...

-Rabbi Jill Maderer sees impact on students as "exposure to lots of people on the fringe with diverse stories." Impact on the synagogue: "Pride!" Congregants have "been both willing to extend a welcome and proud that others might find something meaningful" there. "Taste kindles something wonderful and I think that some of these students won't join into membership; I consider them long term projects. (Maybe when they have children, buy a house, whatever, they will commit.)"

#### Among student comments:

-One has "a desire to learn a lot more and actively seek a role in the Jewish community on a path to conversion."

-Another feels "more welcome in the Jewish community. I had the impression (previously) that the Jewish community was very isolated."

-One with a Jewish father: "For lack of a better word, awestruck. It is everything I could have hoped for and more. I am no longer 'considering': I know I want to convert."

"Inspired and have no doubt that I would like to convert."

#### Among student profiles:

-D, 28, raised Catholic in Ky. Met Jewish kids at camp. All her friends and boyfriends are Jewish. Brother married a Jewish woman; she was at their son's bris. She feels it's time to learn more.

-Woman, 66, grandson will have a bar mitzvah this June; daughter is converting, says: "I am personally intrigued and want to better support my family's religious choices."

-Woman, 28, raised Methodist, father Jewish. Been hurt by remarks she would not be welcomed into the community. Is considering conversion, loves Jewish religion and traditions.

-Jewish father 62, long disconnected; agnostic mother 54, and 2 daughters 24 & 16. A daughter wanted to learn about dad's heritage, found this class. Family became so intrigued all signed for it. Father "realizes that he can not replace his heritage with anything else and the other members of his family are considering conversion."

#### **SUMTER FIRES ANOTHER GOOD SHOT**

Sumter, SC—Cong. Sinai (R), with 40 families, and a part-time rabbi, holds another Taste program,



**"A Taste of Judaism: Are You Curious?"**  
Come explore... Jewish Spirituality, Jewish Values, Jewish People

DESIGNED FOR THE BEGINNER  
JEWISH OR NOT

SATURDAYS: February 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>,  
2006  
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

**CONGREGATION SINAI**  
11 CHURCH ST.  
SUMTER

*Free of charge, but seating  
is limited*

**To Register: Call 773-2122**  
Monday - Friday  
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

and 35 people attend, 32 of them not Jewish. 3 were in conversion process.

Several were crossover members of Saturday morning community-based religious education classes, studying Torah at the time.

Two were Presbyterian ministers. One student had a Jewish parent, was raised outside the faith, and was married to a woman of similar background. Their daughter also attended. Another, with a lineage believed Jewish from Spain and Corsica, wanted to learn more.

The synagogue, with 11 notable stained glass windows, was built in 1912 and remodeled in 1969.

The temple took part in Jewish Heritage Days this March, with lectures and events open to the public.

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 17, May 24th & May 31**  
**7:00-9:00 P.M. at Temple Beth-El**

**Registration Required**  
**To register, call 733-9135 ext 118**  
Admission free - but space is limited



#### **SAN ANTONIO TEMPLE, YEAR AFTER YEAR**

San Antonio—Were there more synagogues like Temple Beth-El, which has held outreach programs every year almost since we started counting.

The 1125-member congregation had 15 conversions in the preceding year. Its Taste program this past spring draws 42, all but 5 not Jewish. There were more unaffiliated Jews than usual, comments, membership coordinator Nancy Gerson.

**MOBILE TEMPLE ATTRACTS NON-JEWS**

Mobile, AL—Springhill Ave. Temple (R) returns to NCEJ for another grant, and wins a 20% bonus for repeating. Its Taste program draws 46 students, all of them not Jewish. Three are interested in converting. The 235-member temple had 5 conversions the previous year.

A special Taste Shabbat Dec. 8. welcomed the class, helped make it comfortable with the service.

About outreach, Rabbi Donald Kunststadt says, "I am convinced this is the direction we must move in to help Judaism grow."

Among student comments about the minicourse:

"Everyone was very friendly."

One attended to learn about "my grandfather's heritage."

Another, for "history. Why are the Jews so intelligent? They seem to excel in family...business. What can I learn that I can incorporate into my life and my grandchildren's lives?"

"I would like a course that is longer and goes into more depth—maybe 6-8 weeks."

"I feel that we Christians have abandoned the fact that we are 'grafted in' and have much to learn to get back on track."

**URJ HOLDS INTRO CLASS IN L.A. REGION**

Encino, CA—URJ Pacific SW Council has 14 students for its Introduction course, which runs 18 weeks for \$250/325. Six are interested in converting.

Teachers comment that most students remain after class to ask questions, then continue conversations in the parking lot.

*Are you curious about Judaism?*

Would you or your partner like to know the basic traditions and customs of the Jewish people?

TEMPLE JUDEA IN TARZANA AND  
TEMPLE ADAT ELOHIM IN THOUSAND OAKS OFFER  
**INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM** COURSES  
IN 18 EXCITING LESSONS FOR PEOPLE OF ALL BACKGROUNDS:

- If you missed out on a Jewish education
- If you are not Jewish but would like to be
- If you are married to a Jewish person (or about to be)

This Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) course satisfies the basic educational requirement for conversion to Judaism.

**CLASSES BEGIN SOON!**



Call the URJ's Introduction to Judaism office:  
Beverly Ross, Registrar: (818) 907-8740  
Or visit our web site: [www.urj.org/psw](http://www.urj.org/psw)

**LOS GATOS HOLDS BOTH TASTE & INTRO**

Los Gatos, CA—Cong. Shir Hadash (R) has 41 attending its Taste of Judaism course and 42 its Introduction to Judaism classes.

*Introduction to Judaism*

From a Reform Perspective

*Open to the community  
... Jewish or not*

**Beginning October 17, 2006 at 7:30 pm**

with Rabbi Melanie Aron  
&  
Rabbi Dana Magat

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

For more information call 408/358-1751 ext. 7  
or email [patty@shirhadash.org](mailto:patty@shirhadash.org)

The 569-member congregation charged \$150/175 for the Intro course, which included 8 books. 3/5 of students were not Jewish.

Taste students "especially enjoyed going into the sanctuary and opening up the Torah scroll."

Advertising in the secular media "contributes to the diversity of students."

**BOCA RATON SHINES ON CONVERTS**

Boca Raton, FL—Temple Beth El (R), with 1450 members, reports 20 conversions in the previous year.

Its 14-week, \$300 (includes books) Introduction course had 16 students, all but one not Jewish. But they all joined the Temple after the class and conversion, Rabbi Stephen Wise notes.

**We laughed.  
We cried.  
We learned.**

Whether you're Jewish, not Jewish, or thinking about *becoming* Jewish, there's something exciting about being with people who share your desire to learn. There are thousands of years of history and heritage to explore together. Beliefs, traditions, stories and customs come together to form the Jewish experience.

Enroll today in Temple Beth El of Boca Raton's Introduction to Judaism course.

You'll laugh. You'll cry. You'll learn.

The weekly course - taught by our rabbis - will be held on Tuesdays, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., from June 6 to September 12. Your \$300 tuition covers the class and all the books you'll need.

For more information, or to enroll, call Joanne Kabel at 561-391-8900.

Visit [www.tbeboca.com](http://www.tbeboca.com) or drop in to 333 Southwest 4th Avenue.

**MIAMI-BET BREIRA BACK AFTER A BIT**

Miami—Cong. Bet Breira (R) returns to the NCEJ fold after a half-decade. We last heard from it in 2001. 17 attended at least one of the 3 sessions at



the 300-family temple. Half were not Jewish, one considering conversion.

Among comments:

-“I had the idea that Judaism has to be taught from childhood.”

-A 53-year-old lone student with a Jewish father, Catholic mother, said this was the first time he had taken a Jewish education class, and wanted to go on.

### PENSACOLA RETURNS, AFTER 7 YEARS

Pensacola, FL—Also returning is Temple Beth El (R), last heard from here in 1999. The 150-member congregation's 3-week Taste class (\$25/10) drew 15, all but one not Jewish, 6 interested in converting. There were 4 conversions in the past year.

Among comments:

-“Your members were so friendly and cordial.”

-“Am considering conversion, although I believe I was born Jewish.”

### CURIOSITY PAYS OFF AT PLANTATION

Plantation, FL—Temple Kol Ami Emanu-El (R) continues its successful 14-week series, Curious About Judaism, with 20 attending, all but one not Jewish. It reports 3 conversions the past year. Course fee is \$125/250.

### KANSAS CITY WINS SECOND 06 GRANT

Overland Park, KS—Rabbinical Ass'n of Greater Kansas City had 33 attending its latest 34-week Community-Wide Conversion to Judaism class. It reports 18 adults and 11 children converting in the past year in its consortium.

NCEJ funding, says Ass'n Pres. Rabbi Scott White, “allows us to advertise this program and reach out to those in our community who are considering conversion to Judaism. We are fully confident that the program will continue to grow and provide a tremendous benefit to our entire community.”

Students are exposed to almost all the rabbis in the area, Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform. Six class members are already married to Jews, and others are in relationships. A large number “are on a personal journey and religious search based on past experiences.”

Among comments:

-It “helps to travel around to some of the local synagogues and to get more familiar with some of the Rabbis.”

-Traveling about “helps new Jews by choice get a feel for the broader Jewish community and helps them feel more comfortable in a variety of temples and settings.”

-“There is no lecture that can explain and really help someone understand a Shabbat service or what Sukkot is” as actually participating.

-“The opportunity to be able to participate in the Jewish community instead of just reading about Judaism has made, at least for us, a major and very positive difference.”

### CHEVY CHASE FINDS TASTE REASONS


Chevy Chase, MD—Evaluations of its Taste program show Temple Shalom (R) the range of reasons for taking the minicourse.

Fourteen, all non-members, attended, including a candidate for Unitarian ministry. The 600-member synagogue had 6 conversions in the preceding year.

Among comments:

-“I have been living a Jewish life with my Jewish husband and daughter and I am seriously considering completing my conversion which began in 1997...I was raised agnostic but have always been searching for a sense of community and a spiritual home and believe that I have found it in Reform Judaism...I am comfortable wrestling with meaning and interpretation and finding that this is encouraged in Judaism has made me more committed to converting.”

-“I came from a household that did not practise Judaism even though we were technically Jewish.



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

**An Introduction in Three Tuesday Sessions**  
October 10, 17 & 24 • 7:30 – 9:00 PM


Have you ever wondered or had questions about Jews or Judaism? Are you part of an interfaith family? Do you have doubts or disappointments with organized religion? Then our easy-access, open-minded and nationally-tested *taste* might be just for you. Open to the community, Jewish or not.

**No charge to attend, but space is limited.**

For information or to register:  
**301-587-2273**

Religious School Registration Still Open!  
Attend our Open House Sunday Oct. 8  
9:30-10:30 AM • 12 NOON-1 PM

Visit us on the Web at [templeshalom.net](http://templeshalom.net)



**Temple Shalom**  
A Reform Jewish Congregation  
Making Connections  
Through Community,  
Prayer & Learning  
1100 West Highgate at Grady Road  
Chevy Chase, Maryland

Getting married to a Jewish man and he wants to raise his children in a Jewish household.”

-“Long-term interest/curiosity in Judaism. Many questions/concerns with my Christian upbringing. Have not been comfortable with the ‘closed’ atmosphere for years.”

(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. **Must 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 comments. You are eligible for two grants yearly for separate programs in different quarters. Grants are at NCEJ's sole discretion.

**(For course grants, complete Sections 1 & 2; Outreach Shabbat grants, Secs. 1 & 3.)**

(1) Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Cong. membership numbers \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 ( \_\_\_ Reform \_\_\_ Conservative \_\_\_ Reconstruction \_\_\_ Orthodox \_\_\_ Mix of: \_\_\_\_\_ No affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Web? \_\_\_\_\_ Contact(Rab-Ctr-ExD-Adm-Coord-Pres-Chr) & Title \_\_\_\_\_

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? \_\_\_\_\_

-“My daughter has converted to Judaism and she and her husband have pledged to have a Jewish home. I want to both understand and support her.”

#### URJ NEW ENGLAND CONTINUES CLASSES

Needham, MA—URJ Northeast Council holds a number of Taste programs in the area yearly. Most get 15-20 attending, but one held last Nov. at Temple Israel in Boston had 61.

About 60% of participants contact the council after seeing secular newspaper ads. Many visit the listed new website, ReformJudaismBoston.org, says Ms Joyce Schwartz, outreach coordinator.

**A Taste of Judaism:  
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*Explore* spirituality, ethics & community.

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Among student comments:

-“I was raised Catholic but had many Jewish friends and was always interested in Judaism. Recently I learned that my great grandmother was Jewish and I now want to convert and learn about my Jewish heritage.”

-“I was raised Protestant but have been on a spiritual journey since 1985. I am now ready to start the process of conversion to Judaism. After seeing your ad for the Taste class, I feel that the Jewish faith keeps finding me.”

-“I was coming out of the MBTA and on the ground was the Metro Boston newspaper opened to the Taste ad. I was raised Catholic but worked at a golf course in Sharon with many wonderful Jewish people and was always curious about Judaism.”

#### W BLOOMFIELD SPONSORS GESHARIM

West Bloomfield, MI—Temple Israel (R) returns to the list of NCEJ grantees, with its 11-week no-fee Gesharim—Your Bridge to the Jewish Community program, attended by 17, all but 3 non-members and half not Jewish. The 3000-family congregation had an estimated 15-20 conversions in the preceding year.

98% of participants become affiliated with the temple, it reports. The course is held in a private home. The following year past students get a copy of the new syllabus, and are free to attend. The temple also has a New Beginnings discussion group, for those choosing Judaism.

Syllabus for this year includes these topics—High Holidays, Land of Israel, Shabbat, Shabbat dinner, December dilemma, Jewish Home/Tu B'Shevat, Purim, Passover, Life cycles, Shavuot/Havdalah.

#### URJ-NY HOLDS INTRO PROGRAM FOR NINE

Stony Brook—Greater NY Council of URJ holds an Introduction course at Temple Isaiah here, with 9 (4 not Jewish) attending the \$195 21-week course. The 444-member temple had 3 conversions in the preceding year.

**NATIONAL CENTER  
TO ENCOURAGE JUDAISM**  
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