

# The JEWISH Proclaimer

Autumn-Winter 2007-5768

No. 07 - 02

## SURVIVAL ITSELF IS A TRIUMPH, BUT...

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## IF WE BELIEVE WITH ALL OUR HEARTS...AND DO SOMETHING

### A MODEST PROPOSAL, FOR JUST MILLIONS

The Jewish community, with major philanthropists, collects and spends billions yearly on different endeavors. Would it be too much to ask for a few millions to be spent on letting the general community know that it is welcome to learn about Judaism, welcome to step inside synagogues, welcome to ask and welcomingly answered?

A big problem: A national advertising campaign would depend on local synagogues being willing to spend the time, and provide the volunteers and staff, to welcome people, and to explain what Judaism is about. Are there synagogues in each town willing?

A bigger problem: For centuries, it was enough, and that a miracle, just to survive. Now, to survive, it is not enough for a saving, but diminishing, remnant—there has to be a growing community. We must encourage the Jewish plant—it's not a building, the plant is us.

Any major institutions willing?

Any major philanthropists willing?

Are there synagogues willing?

Are there Jews willing?

Today, we may still say, we believe, with all our heart—but can we apply that to a brighter future for Judaism? Judaism's is a communal message for a better world in a framework for all. But if we don't unfurl the message, if we don't let others know they can be Jewish and share the vision—are we living our own ideals?

It's not enough any longer to say to others, Don't bother me. We will be bothered, anyway—by living in a majority-other culture, the potential disruptions are there. The challenge is to accept the challenge—engage in the marketplace. The marketplace is there (channeling away Jews) whether or not we take part.

NCEJ can help you take part—not just for numbers' sake, but for intrinsic's sake--by assisting your running your ads for Introduction-Taste-Basic courses of interest to non-Jews in the secular, non-Jewish media, and holding Outreach Shabbats explaining Jewish services to welcomed, attending non-Jews.

You do your own members as well as others a mitzvah by showing you are inviting others to learn more about Judaism.

You can find the application for NCEJ grants on page 7 of this *Proclaimer*. Or on our website (along with previous issues) at [NCEJudaism.org](http://NCEJudaism.org).

### *Outreach activity around the United States:*

#### SANTA FE RETURNS AFTER 4 YEARS

Santa Fe, NM—Temple Beth Shalom (R) returns after an absence, with a Taste program that attracts 32 students, half of them not Jewish. All but 3 were not members. The 365-member congregation had 9 conversions the past year.

Among student comments:

-“I have not been associated with any religion in

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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 SECOND of Two issues this year. Editor: Ash Gerech.

almost 20 years, but I am now considering conversion to Judaism," says a 45-year-old woman.

"What special efforts can I make to accelerate the Reform conversion process for myself and my wife?" asks a mid-30s.

"Although the content was interesting, I would have liked to get to know the people in the room better."

Age range was from a woman 32 to an interfaith couple in their 70s.

### IS THE RACE TO THE WELCOMING?

Saratoga Springs, NY—Students at the Maimonides Hebrew Day School, Albany, visit a colt, Maimonides, at the racetrack here. The horse may be a contender at the Kentucky Derby. One student, Eli O'Brien, pats the horse and promises to say prayers for him. (NY Times 9/3/07)

### SCARSDALE RETURNS AFTER 11-YEAR GAP

Scarsdale, NY—Westchester Reform Temple, which received a grant from us in 1995, wins another in 2006, for its Taste course attended by 20, of whom 4 were not Jewish. One was interested in converting.

#### ARE YOU CURIOUS FOR A TASTE?

A Taste of Judaism: Three, three-part seminars at Temple Emanuel, 201 Oakwood Dr., Winston-Salem

"How we study: A look into the Jewish Bible and Sacred Texts" (Oct. 10, 17 & 24, 2006)

"How we Pray: The Jewish Prayer book" (Jan. 10, 17 and 24, 2007)

"How we act: Tikkum Olam, Messiah, Israel and more" (Apr. 11, 18 & 25, 2007)

Each presentation is from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

All are welcome.

To register for these free programs, call

**722-6640**

### WINSTON-SALEM STARTS SMOKING AGAIN

Winston-Salem, NC—Temple Emanuel (R) with 250 members re-enters the NCEJ fold after 9 years, with a "Taste" set that attracts over 60 people to each of 3 separate series, 4/5 of them not members, 7/10 of them not Jewish. It had 6 conversions in 2006.

### WYOMISSING FINDS TASTE ALL THERE

Wyomissing, PA—Reform Cong. Oheb Sholom's Taste course draws 28 students, all but 3 not Jewish. Four are interested in converting. Average age: 51.

The synagogue follows this with a special Taste Shabbat.

Among student comments:

"I truly appreciate having been here. No wonder

God chose the Jews to be his people."

"I will be more comfortable about accepting invitations to Jewish celebrations."

"More certain that Judaism should be my faith."

"This class has brought me back to Judaism."

### TACOMA TEMPLE DUO TEACHES BASICS

Tacoma, WA—Temple Beth El and Cong. Bet Chaverim join to teach a Basics of Judaism class in Federal Way for eight, 5 of them not Jewish. Beth El, with 300 members, had 9 conversions the preceding year.

Fee was \$50 plus \$20 for books for the 6-session course. Follow-up includes each rabbi contacting the students.

Rabbi Bruce Kadden of Beth El notes that in the first 2.5 years since his taking that pulpit he's officiated at 21 conversion ceremonies, and this spring was working with more than 12 others. He holds Introduction classes at Beth El twice a year.

Jews by choice range in age from 17 to 72. "Some know they have Jewish ancestry; a few are married to Jews. It continues to be one of the most satisfying aspects of my rabbinate," the rabbi says.

### TUCSON LASSEES MOST ACTIVE TITLE

Tucson, AZ—Can any synagogue in the U.S. challenge our naming as most active in outreach Temple Emanu-El (R), led by Rabbi Samuel Cohon?

The 815-member temple reported 23 conversions in the preceding year. It holds Taste series all through the Tucson area. For its fall 2006 series it spent over \$9,000 in advertising. And it has an Outreach coordinator, Mila Anderson, on staff.

We've reported different elements of Emanu-El's approach. Here's its writeup on greeting:

"We strive very hard to be a warm, welcoming congregation. We have volunteer and board member greeters at all services who welcome attendees as they

Everything you've always wanted to know about Judaism, but were afraid to ask...in only 3 weekly classes!

# A Taste of Judaism

Explore Jewish Spirituality, Values, and Community with our Rabbis and Cantor

Delicious "Tastes of Jewish" food included

- Classes in Central, East, Northwest Tucson and Green Valley
- Free Daytime & Evening Classes

\*Free Childcare provided at Sunday afternoon class

**Open to all, Jewish or not**

No fees or obligation, but space is limited. Preregistration required.

Call **292-5816**

Presented by:  
**Temple Emanu-El**  
225 N. Country Club Rd., Tucson  
[www.templeemanuel-tucson.org](http://www.templeemanuel-tucson.org)

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

Listen to "Too Jewish" Radio 690AM, Sundays 9am

COMING IN OCTOBER • TASTE II: JEWISH IN AMERICA

come in the door, greet all visitors and newcomers and invite them to sign in. Greeters often sit with newcomers during the service, and the newcomers are welcomed from the bimah by a board member. After the service the rabbi, cantor and temple president greet everyone individually in a receiving line and personally welcome newcomers...The greeters seek out any visitors or newcomers during the oneg to talk to them individually...During the oneg, a board member stands by the welcome table to answer any questions...All newcomers are invited to put their name on a sign-in sheet and are later contacted by the Member Services Coordinator..."

A Conversion Group meets quarterly to discuss the process. More than half in the Conversion class come from the Taste classes. A new program, Date Night Shabbat, offers free childcare so parents can go to a "grown-up" service.

The temple is developing an intensive interfaith class that meets once a week for five weeks, with free childcare and snacks. Jewish Home and Family is a monthly class on rituals and home practices.

The temple creates free booklets for all the Jewish holidays and festivals.

Of the 363 who attended the Taste classes in this report, of the 206 non-Jews, 15 were in interfaith relationships, 18 were interested in conversion, 11 were exploring their spirituality, 13 had Jewish in-laws, 13 had Jewish grandparents or other relatives, 4 had Jew-

ish co-workers, 5 were clergy, 6 were "students of religion."

More than 90% of the Jewish attendees were unaffiliated. 11 from the 06 Taste classes were in the conversion group, and 5 from the 05; many of these have become active volunteers in the temple.

Taste 06 attendees accounted for 58 enrollments in Fall 06 adult education, while 27 came from 05. In the 07 year Basic Judaism class, 52% are from the 06 Taste program.

Aug. 2006 to March 2007, 6 households joined the temple from 06 Taste classes, and 5 from 05.

#### Coordinator comment:

"With the rate of intermarriage in Tucson at 46%, one of the highest rates in the nation, the Taste program is an incredibly invaluable tool to help interfaith couples begin to explore Jewish options at their own pace. Additionally, with more people now examining different religions and searching for a spiritual home, Taste provides the ideal environment for learning about and experiencing Judaism for the first time.

"Often these searches result in conversion to Judaism, and when the students are ready to convert we have programs in place to take them through the process..."

#### Among student comments:

-One registered "to learn about my roots. I am a descendant of very observant grandparents & completely nonobservant parents - & after reading the book 'A Hole in the Heart of the World' I finally felt free to explore, reclaim my Jewish heritage."

- "It was more than I expected. I loved going into the sanctuary to see & feel Torah and the eternal light."

- "Rabbi is knowledgeable & personable, patient & tolerant with my stupid questions."

- "I am Jewish and wanted more of an understanding of my religion. My oldest son is religious and his fiancée is in the process of converting to Judaism... I would like to get my younger son involved."

- "My daughter has embraced Judaism and will be married in Temple Emanuel, San Francisco. I feel much more comfortable with what was a mystery."

- "I wish I were Jewish myself actually."

- One feels "I am on the right track to finding a comfortable place for my spirituality."

Among comments from the 24 attending Taste II, in this latest round:

- "I am just trying to figure out if I want to be Jewish. It's been in the back of my mind for a lot of years and has never gone away, so I figured I should

explore things a bit more.”

-“I’m drawn to Judaism.”

-“I was born and raised a protestant but have never been able to connect to these beliefs. I feel a big hole in my heart and my life. I would like to explore Judaism to see if I can find some spirituality for my life. I have never ‘fit in’ the Christian life.”

The temple issues a calendar for the Jewish New Year, full of postings on its schedule for the entire

year, with Hebrew dates, pictures of congregational activities and staff, and ads.

For outreach starters, in May it holds a Conversion to Judaism meeting, with both Rabbis Cohon and Benjamin Sharff. The discussion topic this past May was, What does Judaism say about some of the major and ethical issues we face today?

It issues a separate Outreach Programs schedule listing its Taste I & II classes, its Babies and Bagels club schedule, Date Night Shabbat (the kids have separate events, including a pajama party), its 3 outreach Simply Shabbat services, a monthly \$9 dinner and services at an outlying hotel in an area of 1000 Jewish families and no synagogue, a monthly Jewish Home and Family class, holiday workshops, 4 conversion group sessions—more than half the group comes from the Taste classes—and Rabbi Cohon’s Sunday Too Jewish radio show.

At the Home and Family class discussing weddings were two couples, interfaith at marriage, where the non-Jewish spouse has now converted and the couples were planning Jewish weddings to reaffirm their commitment. This class offers free child care.

Emanu-El conducts quarterly Simply Shabbat services, at a slower pace, with explanations.

Its advice on holding these outreach services—Contact the Nat’l Jewish Outreach Program for a packet with flyers and instructions.

The temple participates in the madrich program begun by URJ in California, where mentor Ambassadors keep in regular contact with new members. A surprising effect, says member services coordinator Barbara Zaslofsky, is the effect on the mentor-members—they become more integrated into the temple. “Our goal is to make people feel they matter.”

### FULLERTON’S BETH TIKVAH SCORES

Fullerton, CA—Temple Beth Tikvah (R) draws 20 to its Taste course, 3/5 of them not Jewish. The 240-member synagogue, last with us 3 years ago, used a URJ application form, for which URJ Outreach will be credited with a bonus.

#### Among student comments:

-“I was able to get the information I need to move forward with converting.”

-“A little surprised about attitude towards Republicans in 2007.”

-“I found myself hearing many Jewish words from my past—A Unitarian Universalist Jew”

-“My wife and I both learn things that we didn’t know and that my wife didn’t learn being raised in the Jewish faith and schools. I was not sure that I would enjoy this as much as I did, being raised Christian and going to Baptist and Quaker churches.”

-“I would like to learn much more about Judaism.”

### GLENDALE ENTERS NCEJ GRANTEE LIST

Glendale, CA—Temple Sinai of Glendale (R) receives its first NCEJ grant for advertising its 18-week Introduction program, attended by 29, 2/3 of them Jewish and members. Fee, at the 300-family temple, was \$325.

Comments its publicity chair, Andrea Renshoff, “Because it has been several years since we have held this class and because we have a new rabbi, there is a large number of temple members taking the class.”

A special invitation for everyone in our community!

## “Shabbat Across America” at Temple Emanu-El

...unaffiliated individuals and families are invited to share dinner and services with our congregational family along with 700 other congregations in the country

**Friday, May 4**

**6pm - Shabbat Dinner (no charge)**

**7:30pm - Super Shabbat Evening Services**

**(led by Rabbis Samuel Cohon and**

**Ben Sharff and Cantor Marjorie Hochberg)**

To RSVP to our Shabbat Across America Shabbat Dinner, call the Temple Office at 327-4501.



**Listen to "Too Jewish"**  
**KVOI 690AM, 9am Sundays**

**Open to All**



**Temple Emanu-El**

**225 N. Country Club**

**327-4501**

[www.templeemanuelucson.org](http://www.templeemanuelucson.org)

## Are You Or Your Partner Curious About Judaism?

For Jews Who Want To Know More About Their Roots  
And Non-Jews Who Want To Learn About Judaism

Temple Sinai of Glendale Presents

### Introduction to Judaism

Sponsored By The Union For Reform Judaism (URJ)

#### An 18-week Course

Monday Nights, Beginning January 29th

#### Among The Topics To Be Discussed

Jewish Beliefs, Holidays and Rituals, Spirituality,  
Ethics, Culture, History, Family, Israel and More!

This Course Satisfies The Basic Educational Requirement  
For Conversion To Judaism

Pre-Registration and Payment By Check  
Must Be Received By January 22nd

Call Beverly Ross at the URJ (818) 907-8740 or  
Go to [www.URJ.org/psw](http://www.URJ.org/psw)



TEMPLE SINAI  
OF GLENDALE

1212 NORTH PACIFIC AVENUE  
TEL 818 246-8101  
[WWW.TEMPLE-SINAI.NET](http://WWW.TEMPLE-SINAI.NET)

She adds, "A conversion group from the Intro class meets monthly, and we will have a group conversion ceremony. We plan to do an adult b'nai mitzvah class for those in the class who haven't had it."

"I think through advertising in community newspapers more community awareness is raised."

### AMERICAN JEWISH U (U OF J) SETS PACE

Los Angeles—Can we get a western tide moving eastward? How can the American Jewish University (previously University of Judaism)'s outstanding conversion program ripple through the rest of the U.S. conservative movement, to stimulate more outreach? Does not inviting people in bring more people in?

Figures for the latest batch of attendees at its Intro program: 143 Jews, 305 non-Jews, 194 interested in converting. 128 conversions the preceding year. Current tuition, \$308/one, \$479 couple.

Advertising has been extended to a Spanish newspaper in the area.

#### Among student comments:

—"I am evermore convinced that our commitment to a Jewish life is the cornerstone of our relationship."

-Of director Rabbi Neal Weinberg: "Always willing to accommodate, going out of his way to be of help. A real inspiration for those who want to convert."

—"It was only through my husband's conversion class that I began to really learn about Judaism."

-Of an explanatory Friday night service: "The 'Judaism by Choice'-like format was extremely helpful because this was one of the first true experiences where someone explained and walked me through an evening service."

—"It was great to have the opportunity to ask questions—and I felt I learned a lot from the questions of others."

-Of a Shabbaton: "I think the service portion of this Shabbaton was the most spiritually enchanting experience."

-Another: "The step-by-step service was so helpful. I was feeling some anxiety about going for the first time and now I know what to expect, and feel comfortable."

### Interested in Judaism?

Come learn the insights and wisdom  
of an ancient and ageless faith

**INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM COURSE**  
**WEDNESDAYS, 7:00 - 9:00 PM**  
**BEGINNING JANUARY 17, 2007, thru MAY 30, 2007**  
**18 WEEK COURSE**  
**Taught by Rabbis Mark Goldfarb & Steven Moskowitz**  
**At Temple Israel of Long Beach**

Tuition: \$325 including books worth over \$140.  
A partner/spouse may attend at no additional cost;  
\$250 for dues-paying members of a URJ congregation.

Please call the Temple office at (562) 434-0996  
to pre-register and order your books.

**3538 E. 3rd St., Long Beach, CA 90814**

For more information, visit our website at  
<http://www.tilb.org/adulted.html#IntroJudaism>

### LONG BEACH SWIMS BACK AFTER 9 YEARS

Long Beach, CA—Temple Israel (R) returns to NCEJ after 9 years, with both a Taste and Intro program in its 2006-7 year. The 509-member synagogue had 9 conversions in the second half of 2006.

The 18-week Intro program, fees \$250/325, had 25 students, ¾ not members, about 50/50 Jews/non. Of the 13 non, 11 may be interested in converting. Follow-ups include a conversion mentor program, and studying with the rabbi in cohorts of 3 at a time for 9 sessions. Each convert is asked to write a column for the monthly bulletin on the journey.

The Fall 06 Taste program had 14 students, 10 of them not Jewish. The Spring 07 Taste course had 10 students, 8 of them not Jewish. Rabbi Steven Moskowitz estimates a third to a half may go on to conversion.



**Temple Israel**  
of Long Beach

**Brand New Class**  
**A Taste of Judaism**

This beginner's class is especially designed for unaffiliated Jews, intermarried couples, those seeking an initial orientation into an adult approach to the study of Judaism, and all those searching for an entry into Jewish life.

Please share information about this class with anyone who you think might be interested.

A Taste of Judaism is offered free of charge to everyone. Preregistration is required.

**Instructor:** Rabbi Steven Moskowitz  
**Class Dates:** October 12, 19, 26  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Please Call The Temple Office at**  
**(562) 434-0996**  
**to Preregister**  
3538 E. 3rd Street, Long Beach, CA 90814  
[www.tilb.org](http://www.tilb.org)

### UNIVERSITY SYN. SEES TASTE DIVERSITY

Los Angeles—University Synagogue (R) sees considerable diversity in the Taste class with which it enters the ranks of NCEJ grantees. Among the 25, says Rabbi Morley Feinstein, was a “fascinating combo of hip West L.A., Hollywood, Persian Jews, non-Jews, elderly & middle-age seekers.”

The synagogue had 8 conversions the past year.

The younger students, the rabbi found, “were hungry for Jewish spirituality and an understanding of ethics.”

One student: “Believe this course began my journey back to my faith & to having a more spiritual home for my spouse, children and grandchildren.”

### Introduction to Judaism:

Come Explore...

Jewish Spirituality • Jewish Values • Jewish People

**Saturday, February 3, 2007**

**10:00 am to 10:00 pm**

(yes, it is twelve hours)

### JUDAISM: ARE YOU CURIOUS?

Offers a modern reform perspective on living in today's complicated world. Rabbi Arnold Mark Belzer will present the course. Space is limited so please call the Temple office to reserve a space.

The 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) and those contemplating conversion to Judaism.

**Congregation Mickve Israel**  
Monterey Square - Savannah, Georgia

Pre-registration required. For more information call 912-233-1547, ext 22.

### SAVANNAH CONTINUES ALL-DAY SEMINAR

Savannah, GA—Temple Mickve Israel (R) resumes its free full-Saturday Introduction to Judaism seminar, with 116 attending, 5/6 of them not Jewish.

The 315-member congregation had 2 conversions the preceding year.

Among student comments:

—“So while the Christians got a crash course, the rabbis gave me the gift of affirmation and inclusion into Savannah Jewry, even if I don't know the tunes yet.”

—“I was quite impressed with the full day. I have learned a lot of positive things about Judaism—many of which I fully agree and feel more of a closeness to than my own faith's beliefs.”

—“I agree with your view more than my own church!”

—“We love your open arm philosophy and optimistic outlook.”

—“Very interesting, new definition and insight into being Jewish. Enlightening and uplifting, entertaining too!”

—“I have waited two years to attend this seminar. It was a wonderful experience.”

—From a Jew: “It was a real treat to share our faith with others who may previously have viewed us as so different.”

### FLINT STRIKES RECEPTIVE TASTE

Flint, MI—Temple Beth El (R), with 196 members, attracts 10 to its Taste program, 4/5 of them not Jewish. It reports 11 conversions last secular year, and 8 pending for 2007.

Rabbi Karen Companez says, “The class makeup was an interesting mix of people wanting to learn about Judaism and a couple who are considering converting, one of whom is living in a Jewish family.”

She adds, “I have run several learners' Shabbat services and they were well received by both Jews and non-Jews attending. I plan to run these on an occasional basis.”

### GRAND RAPIDS RUNS GOOD APPROACH

Grand Rapids, MI—Cong. Ahavas Israel (C) continues doing what it's been doing well, with Hebrew classes open to the community starting in October, and Introduction classes starting in January.

Rabbi David Krishef says the 15 students in the \$75 20-week Intro course, all but one not Jewish, are “the most serious group of any in the past 5 years.” Seven are interested in converting. The synagogue had one conversion this preceding year.

(continue on page 8)

**NATIONAL CENTER TO ENCOURAGE JUDAISM -- APPLICATION, 2008-2007**

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

NCEJ grants, for 2007-2008 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? \_\_\_\_\_

Ten students attended the \$150 26-week Hebrew reading course. All were not Jewish.

Of the synagogue's B'nai Noah affiliation for non-Jews, the rabbi says, "It draws potential converts to be more attached to the synagogue."

#### U MINN HILLEL HAS LEARNERS SHABBAT

Minneapolis—Hillel at U of Minnesota here holds a 4-week Introduction course for a handful, 2 of the 3 non-Jewish students interested in converting.

Assoc. Dir. Rabbi Sharon Stiefel says she has "many" conversions in process.

Hillel holds a monthly Exploring Judaism group for students thinking about becoming Jews.

The chapter works with Jewish Outreach Inst. to make Jewish life on campus more welcoming. Some of the initiatives are posted on the web, joi.org.


A learner's shabbat in March drew about 60,

# One Jewish Parent

Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 5 pm  
Coffman Union, Room 302

This informal discussion is for students who have one Jewish parent and one parent of a different faith background. For more information, contact Rabbi Sharon Stiefel at 612-379-4026 or e-mail [hillel@umn.edu](mailto:hillel@umn.edu)

Hillel: The Jewish Student Center  
1521 University Ave. SE  
Visit us on the web at [ujews.com](http://ujews.com)



FREE  
Learner's Shabbat

Friday, March 23

Services 6 pm, Dinner 7:15 pm at Hillel

Visit [www.JewTube.com](http://www.JewTube.com) for more Jewish Culture Week events

For those interested in the explanations and history behind the rituals, the annual learner's service is a Shabbat experience explained as we go along. Come with questions and anyone interested in learning about Shabbat, the Jewish Sabbath. All are welcome.

Please RSVP for dinner by calling 612-379-4026 or e-mailing us at [hillel@umn.edu](mailto:hillel@umn.edu). Dinner is free for students, and only \$15 for non-students.

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JewTube.com  
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about half not Jewish, and about half again as large as a regular attendance.

Rabbi's advice on this to others: Offer a free gourmet Shabbat dinner. "We had the student group called 'Damn it Tastes Good' cook the meal in the afternoon and it was out of this world."

For the past 2 years the chapter has had a group, One Jewish Parent, for students from interfaith families. "The students are now more comfortable attending Jewish events."

Among comments:

-"I don't want to be excluded because I didn't go to synagogue or summer camp."

-"If you don't have the pedigree it's difficult."

-"I'm totally in one world (Jewish.) But the other world is trying to suck you back (to tell you that you're not Jewish.)"

**NATIONAL CENTER  
TO ENCOURAGE JUDAISM**  
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There can be more Jews.  
There should be more Jews.  
You can help make it more likely  
There will be more Jews.  
We can help you.