

The JEWISH Proclaimer

Spring – Summer 2008 – 5768

No. 08 – 01

CAN WE QUADRUPLE OUTREACH EFFORT?

Can we stop taking Jews for granted?	1
Out of the bushel into our limelight.	
Outreach abounding: Start with Greensboro.	2
Dothan has new rabbi and class.	2
Mobile's a fixture on Taste circuit.	2
Tempe finds no desert in Arizona.	3
Riverside's Taste is commentable.	3
San Diego shows pace for UJFs nationwide.	3
Temple City lives up to its name.	3
Denver has ecumenical Introduction.	4

Westminster runs members' welcoming ads.	4
Hartford consortium holds Intro class.	5
DC: One synagogue opens Dor, but will others?	5
In Florida, outreach in Palm Beach, Tampa.	6
Mothers Circle continues in Atlanta.	6
NCEJ GRANT APPLICATION FORM	7
Monroe, LA, shows what small temple can do.	8
Henderson places good bet; Charlotte does double.	8
Cleveland shows hundreds are curious.	8

The Jewish Proclaimer is sent to just about every congregation in the U.S., a few in Canada.

THERE NEED TO BE MORE JEWS—CAN WE MAKE THAT A REALITY?

We may think we're standing pat. But we're not. Judaism is losing strength if not numbers. Just read the news, wedding notices and obituaries.

When Goldsteins are buried Methodist, Finkelsteins stab Judaism, Levys are at Catholic mass, Glasses make Buddhist music, Lantoses sire Mormons, and Solomons preach gospel, there's leakage. The recent Pew religious survey says almost a fourth of born Jews in their sample no longer identify as Jewish. This can't be escaped—but it can be lessened.

It can be countered and compensated for. We can recognize and participate actively in America's religious, open marketplace. That's not unseemly, that's being realistic and positive, not timid and insular. Judaism should not let itself be a piñata.

Of course, not numbers for solely numbers' sake. Judaism as the basis for monotheistic faiths had something going for it—and still does. There are millions who no longer want the encumbrances of the adapted faiths, but don't know they're able to cling to Judaism's basic principles—because we don't invite them to find out, we hide our light. We may not shut our doors, but many of us turn our backs.

By being overt, optimistic and outreaching, we can not only gain adherents, we can diminish the attrition from apathy and absence—the seepage and sinkage of those who just drop out, alone or with family.

Is it a worthwhile effort?

If Jews don't think it is, we might as well give up, and wither within our shawls into Peruvian-like mummies, huddled into anonymity.

Our future is not approaching—it is here.

Do welcoming and outreach take time? Yes. Do they take money? Yes. Do they take effort? Yes.

If we don't reach out, more synagogues will become museums, storage spaces, relics of a vanished belief. We should not be preparing our own warehouses of abandoned thoughts, we should be turning on our brightest lights and showing. We are here, because of tested, relevant faith, and we welcome all who want to learn, and may want to join.

National Center to Encourage Judaism can help you—if you help yourself. If you put on your own Taste of Judaism, Introduction to Judaism, Basic Judaism or similar courses, and advertise them in the secular (non-Jewish) media, we can help you with that cost, toward your next advertising of your next outreach program.

There are great mitzvahs to be had. Helping someone who can't repay you is one. Another is helping to continue the basic reasons you are who you are.

Our current application, for programs begun in 2007 and 2008, is on page 7. Or you can download it

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. Web: www.NCEJudaism.org. This is the FIRST of Two issues this year. Editor: Ash Gerecht.

from our website, NCEJudaism.org. (You can see previous issues of *The Proclaimer* there, too.) Or you can use the form provided by a national headquarters, such as Union for Reform Judaism outreach. (HQs will get a bonus if you use their form.)

That's our message: Reach out. Welcome people, members and non-members. And see Judaism grow.

Outreach to be applauded, around the U.S.:

GREENSBORO GETS 60 TO A FEE CLASS

Greensboro, NC—Temple Beth David (C) has 61 attend its 6-week \$36 Judaism 101 class, 5/6 of them not Jewish, including at least one pastor. The 425-member congregation had 9 conversions in the past year, with more in process.

Among student comments:

“I would be very interested in any more courses available that would allow me to continue to learn more about Judaism.”

“I am in a long-term relationship with a Jewish man and am interested in learning more about converting to Judaism...It is important for me to mention that it is not a prerequisite for me to convert before marriage. This is my decision alone. I am committed to developing a closer relationship with God & integrating Him into my life. I did not grow up in an especially religious home & all my life I have been searching for a way to connect with God. For the first time during these classes, I was able to feel that connection & I would like the opportunity to further explore that feeling.”

DOTHAN DOTES ON NEW RABBI & CLASS

Dothan, AL—Newly ordained, 2nd-career Rabbi Lynne Goldsmith comes to Temple Emanu-El (R) here last Aug., and starts a Taste class for 15, all non-Jews.

“The reaction was overwhelmingly favorable. Here, deep in the Bible Belt, to have this enthusiastic class was wonderful. There is a very small Jewish population here, but I am hoping to reach some who may be searching for a spiritual home. I intend to repeat Taste in the spring.”

The 45-member congregation had 2 conversions in the preceding year.

Visitors are greeted and introduced. Someone sits near, to make sure they're not alone, and others introduce themselves at the oneg.

“I can remember in other synagogues where we have belonged, we tried welcoming committees, or assigning board members to be official greeters. I

A TASTE OF JUDAISM...

Are You Curious?

In a 3-session exploration, during October

A TASTE OF JUDAISM offers a modern Reform Jewish perspective on living in today's complicated world.

Explore Jewish Spirituality Jewish Values Jewish People

OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY, JEWISH OR NOT!

ADMISSION IS FREE, but seating is limited. PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!

Held at:

Temple Emanu-El
188 North Park Avenue
Dothan, AL 36303

* For class dates & times, more details, and registration, call Rabbi Lynne Goldsmith, Tuesday - Friday 792-5001

Sponsored by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, William and Lotie Daniel Commission of Reform Jewish Outreach

have never seen anything like the welcome that this tiny congregation gives...without any prodding or special committees!”

An Introduction class the rabbi was starting had 12 signed up the week before, with 4 potential converts, one from the Taste class, and 2 interfaith couples.

MOBILE STAYS PUT ON GRANTEE LIST

Mobile, AL—Springhill Ave. Temple (R), with 234 families, gets an 07 NCEJ grant, as it had an 06, for its 3-week Taste course with 35 attendees, all but 2 non-Jews. It had 5 conversions in the preceding year.

“We have been at this for a while,” writes Rabbi Donald M. Kunstadt, “and there is no question that it is having a tremendous effect upon the character of our congregation and our membership.

“I certainly plan on continuing doing as much outreach advertising as possible. One never knows how a small act plays out in the future.”

Among comments:

A student describes the rabbi as “very open, personable, knowledgeable.”

Our comment: It's striking how often students emphasize rabbis' accessibility and friendliness.

“I have searched for a spiritual path all my life thru various religions, prayers, practices and nothing has ever” been a fit. “Judaism does resonate with me in many ways: Jews are a community. Focus on this life and making the most of what is now, based on love, concern and ethics and footprint on earth.”

A TASTE OF JUDAISM:
Are You Curious?
 Come explore in three sessions
 • Jewish Spirituality • Jewish Values • Jewish Community
A Taste of Judaism offers a modern, Reform Jewish perspective on living in today's complicated world.
 ☆ All Beginners Welcome...Jewish or Not ☆
 To be held at Temple Emanuel, 5801 S. Rural Road, Tempe
TO REGISTER CALL THE PROGRAM HOTLINE AT 480-839-4839
 Co-Sponsored by the Union of Reform Judaism - Commission on Reform Jewish Outreach and Temple Emanuel

TEMPE TIMES IT RIGHT FOR SMALL CLASS

Tempe, AZ—Another year-to-year repeater is Temple Emanuel (R), with 540 members, which gets special applause for going ahead with a Taste class attended by only a handful. Exec Director Nancy Wilharber thinks this decline might have been due to building expansion, and a torn-up parking lot.

She notes “a shiny moment” when a young woman, born Jewish but never a participant, came in. She signed up for a 6-month Discovering Judaism class. “We may have changed the life of one dear woman, and for that we are eternally grateful.”

The temple reports 30 conversions in the preceding year.

A TASTE OF JUDAISM—ARE YOU CURIOUS?
 SPIRITUALITY — ETHICS — COMMUNITY
 ALL WELCOME—JEWISH OR NOT
 3-SESSION BASIC JUDAISM CLASS—NOW ENROLLING

SPACE LIMITED: (951) 684-4511 TO REGISTER STIRRINGS, DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE, CA

Riverside, CA—Temple Beth El (R) tells us about its Taste classes in 05 and 06, with first a student rabbi, then interim then newly-hired.

In 05, its class had 20 attendees, 14 of them non-Jews. It had 3 conversions. In 06 the 235-member congregation had 30 students, with 22 not Jewish. It had 2 conversions, reports Taste Administrator and Rachamim/Lovingkindness Coordinator Randy Lester-Wilson.

In addition to media ads, it prepared a 5-foot X 15-foot banner (reduced, above), with Velcro strips near the base for attaching laminated session dates..

Among attendee comments:

—“I am interested in raising my children Jewish as a result of this class.”

—“I have always been envious that people in the Jewish faith get a lot better education. So, I decided to learn about Judaism.”

—“This has sparked interest in my Jewish ancestry.

A Taste of Judaism . . .
Are you curious?
 In a 3-session exploration, A Taste of Judaism offers a modern, Reform Jewish perspective on living in today's complicated world.
 ☆ Explore Jewish Spirituality ☆ Jewish Values ☆ Jewish People ☆
 Open to the entire community, Jewish or Not!
 Taught by Rabbi Singer on three Thursday evenings in October and November.
 Admission is FREE, but seating is limited.
Pre-registration is required.
 Temple Beth El
 2675 Central Ave., Riverside
 Tbe2675@aol.com
 www.tberiv.org
 For information, class dates, times and registration, call Randy Lester-Wilson, Class Administrator
 (951) 684-4511
 Sponsored by the Union for Reform Judaism, William and Lottie Daniel Commission on Reform Jewish Outreach

I would like to learn more.”

—“My husband is not Jewish and our adult daughter—who was raised Catholic—is marrying a man who’s Jewish. This provided necessary information for us.”

—“I wanted to learn more about the religion that I’m considering converting to. I also wanted a more condensed version of the basics.”

—“It’s about time for me to encompass some form of religion.”

—“Thank you for being so open and honest to a total stranger.”

SAN DIEGO UJF SETS NATIONAL PACE

San Diego—UJF here continues showing federations what to do with outreach programs—hold them.

Outreach director Nancy Feldman reports 24 initiated studies with participating rabbis or said they intended to. 149 people attended the Taste I & II three 2-hour sessions. 3/5 were not Jewish.

Said one: “I found the Rabbi very genuine and approachable...I am fascinated with Jewish spirituality and have a desire for more.”

TEMPLE CITY WORKS TO THAT GOAL

Temple City, CA—Temple Beth David (R) joins NCEJ grantees’ ranks with a Taste course that attracts 9 students, 6 of them not Jewish. The 190-member congregation had one conversion in the preceding year. 2 students were interested in converting.

Pres. Gina Frierman-Hunt says, “The class was small but very successful. Two people who attended have joined the temple, one of whom is in the process of conversion. The other has already become our outreach chair.”

Curious About JUDAISM?

Explore Jewish spirituality, ethics, and people.

"A Taste of Judaism"

is a FREE, three-session workshop open to all, Jewish or not.

3 Evenings, begins last week of February at Temple Beth David, Temple City.

Pre-registration required.

Call June at **626-287-9994** for details.

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

Student comments include:

"Judaism is something that makes sense to me. It feels like something has been missing all my life; after learning more about this faith, I feel so much more complete and hopeful. I look forward to converting at some point in the future."

Says the Pres.: "Our Rabbi (Alan Lachtman) very much enjoyed offering the participants an actual as well as theoretical 'taste' of Judaism. He prepared Jewish food and served it to the participants at each meeting."

She adds, "Our increased efforts over the past year have paid off with an increase of 30 new members" in 07.

After two Taste programs in 07, the temple plans both Taste and Intro programs in 08.


DENVER CONTINUES ALL-HANDS INTRO

Denver—Rocky Mountain Rabbinical Council continues its 28-week Introduction course, one of the few we've heard about in which all sectors participate—Reconstructionist, Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox. The \$400 course is held thrice yearly.

The summer 07 class had 14 couples and 2 singles, with 16 considering converting; the fall class, 16 couples and 10 singles, 22 considering conversion.

Each student must have a rabbinic sponsor, who meets with the person through the 6 months and then through the year (generally) of a "Jewish life" before conversion. The council has also started a part II program students can take with one of the rabbis. Many go on to the community's Florence Melton educational program. Majority of the area's rabbis teach in the Intro course.

The council has a new brochure on its Intro to Judaism class, reports coordinator Betsy Epel (720-941-2655)

Intro Judaism 

Come Study with us!

A 28-week evening program designed specifically for people wanting to learn more about Judaism or are considering conversion. Explore basic Jewish beliefs, holidays, lifecycle events, history and more!

Classes begin **May 31, 2007**
OPEN TO ALL


For information please call Betsy Epel
720-941-2655
or email itjrmrc@aql.com

Students' comments:

"The class has had a profound impact on my life. I never imagined I'd be so dedicated to and moved by a classroom learning experience. There have been so many meaningful topics, so many fantastic rabbis and so many wonderful people. Because of the class I now have my own little 'Chavurah.' We get together to celebrate holidays, Shabbat dinners...attend services."

"The class is a springboard for many other Jewish learning experiences. The net effect the class had had on me is a feeling of being a little more grounded in my conversion decision. It...has given me a starting point from which I can begin my own personal Jewish journey...My experience was very positive."

"At Congregation B'nai Torah, we teach and learn a Jewish way of life from generation to generation."



The Freedman/Hendricks family, three generations strong

Please join us in celebrating the High Holy Days September 12th, 13th, 21st and 22nd. Visitors are welcome at no charge.


Congregation B'nai Torah
3990 W. 74th Avenue
Westminster, CO 80030
www.bnai-torah-colorado.org
303-692-5234

WESTMINSTER MEMBERS' WELCOME ADS

Westminster, CO—The 55-member Cong. B'nai Torah (R) runs ads featuring its own members, inviting others to its services and High Holy Days.

We show some of them, to illustrate what you can do to welcome others.

"As a new member, I felt a great sense of community and of being welcomed."



Bill Lorber, Member Since 2006

Join us for services Friday, August 24th 7:00 pm and learn about preparing for the High Holy Days.

Congregation B'nai Torah
3990 W. 74th Avenue
Westminster, CO 80030
www.bnai-torah-colorado.org
303-692-5234

We found a home at Congregation B'nai Torah



Diane and David Firestone - Members since 2000

Join us for services and find yourself at home too.

Congregation B'nai Torah
3990 W. 74th Avenue
Westminster, CO 80030
www.bnai-torah-colorado.org

The 22-year-old temple, halfway between Denver and Boulder, "looks for creative ways to find Jewish and non-Jewish individuals and families interested in what we have to offer," says Pres. Paula Emeson.

From this campaign, she adds, 5 families joined, including one where both spouses chose to convert. "They found a place where they feel comfortable."

HARTFORD REFORM HOLDS INTRO CLASS

W. Hartford, CT—Reform Rabbis of Greater Hartford get 16 students to their 18-session \$175-200 Intro course in 07. Seven rabbis take part. The consortium reports 24 conversions in the previous year.

Of the class, at least 5 were converting. 3

The Reform Rabbis of Greater Hartford Present:

INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM

MONDAY EVENINGS from 7:15 to 9:30 PM
OCTOBER 9, 2006 to MARCH 5, 2007

The curriculum promises comprehensive study that includes basic Hebrew, Jewish history, liturgy, holidays and life cycle events as well as the Jewish perspective on spirituality, values and community.

The eighteen classes will be held at
CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL
701 Farnington Ave., West Hartford

TUITION:
\$175 per individual or \$200 per married/engaged couples
Call Cheryl Goldberg at (860) 233-8215 ext. 224 or e-mail her at cgoldberg@cbict.org for information or to register.

If not now, when?

spouses took the class to learn more about Judaism to support raising their children Jewish.

On Yom Kippur, one program, Congregants' Hour, features a convert discussing the journey.

DC: WILL SYNAGOGUES OPEN L'DOR?

Washington—An onlooker's report on an outreach program held by Adas Israel Cong. (C) illustrates a problem within the Jewish community on welcoming the stranger.

Adas every year holds a Jewish Literacy and an Open Dor program. The latter, a free one-time workshop, is for 20-30 somethings with mixed Jewish ancestry. A dozen were at the 06 Dor, along with an observer from a MD synagogue.

He tried vainly to get an announcement of the event on the websites of 4 synagogues: "Some would not even talk to me—not the orthodox, but the conservative. Crazy."

Story: One attendee, born in Queens, NY, with a Jewish father, Catholic mother, no religious identity: "Until I found myself in Washington DC many years later did I think to ask the questions—who am I and what do I want to become? I was sitting in Starbucks reading the Washington Post when I came across an advertisement for the Jewish Literacy course at Adas Israel. The ad suggested that if you were 'Jewishly curious' this was the course for you.

"I tore the ad from the paper and placed it in my wallet. During the first class...Rabbi (Avis) Miller asked the students where we heard about the class and within seconds, half the class, if not more, raised the same piece of torn newsprint in the air. From that moment, I felt as though I was on the right path...

"About a year and a half into my journey, I went

clip and save

Jewish Literacy

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



Taught by the Adas Israel Rabbis, Jewish Literacy is perfect for... Jews who never went to Hebrew school (or have simply forgotten what they learned there), intermarried or inter-dating couples, non-Jews with Jews in their family; people with Jewish ancestry who want to explore their heritage, those exploring the possibility of conversion, the Jewishly curious!

8 Tuesdays, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Oct. 17 thru Dec. 5
Adas Israel members, free; non-members, \$80

Other programs of interest: Hebrew Literacy, Conversion Class, "Making Mishpacha" (workshop for expectant Jewish parents), "Seven Blessings" (workshop for engaged & newly-married Jewish couples), Learners' Services, Saturday Afternoon Learning Series, and more!
Please visit www.adasisrael.org/adult_education.htm.

Adas Israel Congregation ☆ www.adasisrael.org

2850 Quebec Street, NW, Washington, DC 20008 · Cleveland Park Metro
Connecticut Avenue, NW & Porter Street, NW · 202.362.4433 x133

bring a friend

home during the Hanukkah and Christmas holidays. My mother typically purchases and distributes the gifts. This year however my father handed me a medium-sized box wrapped in blue and white Hanukkah paper. I could tell that my father wrapped the box himself by the uneven corners and excessive use of tape. I opened the box, and found a slightly discolored and obviously old Tallit.

"My father explained that it was his father's prayer shawl. He said that it was the only thing he owned that belonged to his father and he wanted me to have it. I immediately started to cry and embraced my father like I had never done before. I quickly realized that I was reclaiming my Jewish roots."

Another was interested in the Jewish Literacy class (8 weeks, \$80, drew 25, of whom 22 were non-members) "to broaden my knowledge and understanding of the Jewish religion. Shortly after the classes began I chose to enroll in the conversion class."

One subject broached at the Dor class was the feelings experienced on entering a synagogue for the first time not knowing anyone and having little or no background. It was noted that every synagogue is different, some are more open and friendly than others.

"One has to find a synagogue where one feels comfortable," the observer comments. "That is difficult even under the best of circumstances."

LATEST FROM THE TAMPA STRONGHOLD

Tampa—Cong. Schaarei Zedek (R) keeps going great guns in outreach. The 970-unit synagogue had 75 attending its Introduction to Judaism and Jewish Spirituality 6-week class last year. Half were not

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

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

Learn about the nature of Judaism, God, Torah, and worship during this 6 week course, beginning September 5, 2006 at 7:00PM.
Call 813-876-2377 for more information on this informative course.
There is no tuition, but there are course books to purchase.



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

members, one-fourth were not Jews. It had 7 conversions in the preceding year.

Included were a 10-year-old and a 16-year-old, who had family approval and have since joined the temple.

Its ads feature a headline, The Only Requirement is that You're a Jew or a Non-Jew. The temple spent over \$4,000 for advertising this program.

Not Jewish but Raising Jewish Kids?

Welcome to
The Mothers Circle

It's All Free:

- "How-To" courses - childcare provided. RSVP now!
- Email listserv for moms
- Family fun events



Log on or call Suzette at
(770) 667-1985



www.TheMothersCircle.org

MOTHERS CIRCLE KEEPS ON IN ATLANTA

Atlanta—Jewish Outreach Institute, NYC, continues working with its prototype Mothers Circle here.

Appealing to non-Jewish mothers of children being raised Jewish, ads run in the Atlanta Parent magazine. Fifteen attend the 8-month program.

The alumni group includes 10 active from 2004, of whom 4 have converted, 9 belong to a synagogue. Of the 2005 group, one has converted, and 5 belong.

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? _____

MONROE: WHAT A SMALL GROUP CAN DO

Monroe, LA—Cong. B'nai Israel (R), with just 90 families and a visiting rabbi once monthly, shows what a small congregation can do in outreach.

In 07 it holds another Taste course, of 4 sessions, attracting 20 people, half of whom were not members.

One couple expressed interest in pursuing Judaism. The synagogue had one conversion in the preceding year, says Administrator Phyllis Marcus.

HENDERSON CONTINUES WINNING STREAK

Henderson, NV—Cong. Ner Tamid (R), 600-unit strong in this Las Vegas suburb, continues its Taste course, attracting 46 students, all but 7 non-Jewish. 7 were interested in converting.

It doesn't stop in the summer—in 07, summer adult ed included a review of Reform Judaism; Kabbalah; Our Obligation to Change the World; Our Need to Knead—Challah in tradition and home, as well as beginning and intermediate Hebrew.

Afterward, one student comments: "More confident—I want to convert and learn more about the Torah and holidays."

Conversion classes run from Sept. to May.

Ner Tamid is now into its 2nd decade of outreach.

CHARLOTTE DOES TWO YEARLY CLASSES

Charlotte, NC—Temple Beth El (R) holds its 3-session Taste of Judaism program twice yearly.

In Spring 07 it drew 39, all but 6 not Jewish. A large percentage continued to the Introduction course, says Stephanie DiPaolo, director. Beth El, with 1150 members, had 12 conversions in the previous year.

Ms DiPaolo notes, about the Proclaimer: "I always look forward to reading what's going on around the country in different congregations."

Welcome Unaffiliated Jews, Interfaith Couples and Anyone Curious About Judaism!

- Do you get asked questions about Judaism but don't know the answers?
- Do you know any unaffiliated Jews or interfaith families who might want an easy-access introduction to Jewish life?
- Do you ask your Jewish friends questions but want to know more?

a taste of
JUDAISM



...Are you curious?

This special program is given in three weekly sessions and designed for beginners, Jewish or not.

Learn about Jewish spirituality, Jewish values and Jewish community.

We welcome all who are curious into our congregation.

ADMISSION IS FREE. Class begins May 30, 2007.

For info & to register, contact 704-944-6838 or sdipaolo@shalomcharlotte.org

Among student comments:

"I had no religious upbringing per se. My mother was Jewish & dad Protestant. I have always considered myself a Jew. I want to learn more and as I am getting older, I feel I must have a religious family."

The importance of welcoming: Family had belonged, moved away for 11 years. On return 12 years ago, went to services, High Holy Days, but felt "we were not welcomed. No one ever spoke to us. We finally never went back. After these 3 sessions, however, we're thinking about giving the Temple another try."

Beth El has its own Merkin Outreach Institute brochure, Have you ever thought about being Jewish?

CLEVELAND SHOWS HUNDREDS READY

Cleveland—By June 07, Jewish Education Center co-administrator Bonnie Shapiro reports 294 people had attended its Taste sessions in 4 locations. She was adding two more locations, with NCEJ ad grants.

"Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland is committed to furthering the efforts of outreach programming," she adds.

Comment: More UJFs needed for this!

After the Taste success, the JEC continued with a Feast of Judaism extension, for 50 people at one site and over 30 at another.

**NATIONAL CENTER
TO ENCOURAGE JUDAISM**

Box 651

Silver Spring, MD 20918

Spring-Summer 2008 - 5768

No. 08 - 01

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SOUTHERN, MD.
PERMIT NO. 1906

When we believe in Judaism
Don't we want as many
As sands in the sea, stars in the sky?
When we lose some, should we not gain more?
You can do that....NCEJ can help you do that.