

*Foundation For Family Education, Inc.*

*404 Rices Mill Road  
Wyncote, Pennsylvania 19095*

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

**INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM OPPORTUNITIES**

The following listings are programs of adult education for those who are interested in an introductory study of Judaism, including but not exclusively for potential conversion to Judaism, for dual-faith families, and for parents of students in a synagogue school or day school to parallel their children's education.

The listings occur as received, including (1) Programs sponsored by a community Board of Rabbis, (2) a Rabbinical Assembly region, (3) a Conservative synagogue, and (4) programs conducted by a Rabbinical Assembly colleague individually.

All information is presented essentially as it was provided by those who are listed.

If you have additional information about additional community or synagogue programs, please feel free to submit them to using the Information Form on pages 3-4. This form has been shared with the Rabbinical Assembly regions and members. However, you are welcome to share this request form with others for inclusion.

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## **Information Form For Each Program Listed**

**1. Name of Program:**

**2. Contact persons:**

- a. Regional President name / email / phone:
- b. Chair of Bet Din: name / email / phone:
- c. Course Administrator: name / email / phone:

**3. Conversion Chair:** name / phone:

**4. Email address:**

**5. Snail-mail address of Program Administrator:** Street/ City/ State/ Zip

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CAN BE HELPFUL IF YOU WISH TO HAVE IT SHARED:

**6. Location(s) of class(es):** Street / City / State / Zip

**7. Dates of session(s):** start / conclude

**8. Number of class meetings per session:**

**9. Curriculum:** (Please supply a copy and indicate with whom it may be shared; otherwise it will be kept private)

- a. Hebrew reading
- b. Is a more advanced Hebrew course available
- c. Jewish calendar cycle / life cycle
- d. Shabbat - home observances / synagogue
- e. Kashrut - home / community
- f. History
- g. Philosophy and Theology
- h. Halakhah and Minhagim, including tefillen, tallit, lulav-etrog
- i. Literary heritage: Bible, Talmud, Midrash, Codes, Siddur. etc.
- j. Other
- k. Decisions as a Jewish family, e.g. which synagogue to join, continuing adult Jewish education, moving to another community, day school, youth groups, camping, post-BMitzvah education for children, relationships with non-Jewish family members, recommended Jewish Home Library

**10. Cost for each session:**

- a. books / computer
- b. Judaica for individual / home
- c. Instructor for separate Hebrew course

**11. Is the fee refundable** if the candidate chooses not to convert or can't be converted?

**12. Is Hebrew reading** part of the basic classes or additional [before/after class or other time]

**13. Does fee include**, and, if not, what are the charges for each

- a. Bet Din
- b. Mikveh
- c. Hatafat Dam Brit
- d. Circumcision

**14. Does a candidate need to have a mentoring Rabbi**, and if so, what are their responsibilities for and to the candidate:

- a. Meetings to discuss personal issues, classes, additional assigned reading to classes and questions
- b. Providing experiences for Shabbat in the home, home Kosher kitchen, mentor with whom to sit during synagogue attendance, attendance at services [daily, Shabbat / Festival, fast-days, Torah service, HHD, etc.],
- c. Post-conversion ceremonial welcome into the congregation
- d. Post-conversion synagogue programs for conversionary families
- e. Other

**15. Does the Region sponsor post-conversion program(s)**, and if so, please describe:

**16. Are there other conversionary programs in your area**

- a. Other movements - which, contacts by name / email
- b. Individual tutors - name(s) / email

**17. Does this program include provision for conversion of children:**

**18. Does this program require any current or prospective spouse to participate:**

**Any other information you think we should be collecting to share.**

## **BOSTON**

### **1. Contact person:**

Rabbi Braham David is the Course Administrator and Contact person for the Jewish Discovery Institute, which is the local RA/USCJ Keruv/ Gerim program. Our funding comes from our local Federation (CJP).

Rabbi Braham David  
Executive Director  
The Jewish Discovery Institute  
Finding your Place in Conservative Judaism  
1320 Centre Street, Suite 304  
Newton, MA 02459  
617-964-8210 ex. 14  
617-519-1827 Cell

\*  
\*

(NOTE: Our Website will be up B"H by Sep 1st 2008. If someone needs to email me before then they should use )

### **6. Location(s) of class(es):**

We have two classes each year. Both meet at Temple Emanuel 385 Ward Street, Newton Centre, MA 02459 617-558-8100

### **7. Dates of session(s): start / conclude**

We have two classes each year, one starting in September in and the other in January. Both meet 28 times, and include field-trips, Shabbat dinners, etc. Each class meets over a 9 month period.

Our Fall - September -class is taught by RA colleague Leslie Gordon.

Our Winter – January - class is taught by RA colleague Victor Reinstein.

### **8. Number of class meetings per session: – 28**

### **9. Curriculum:**

Each of our instructors uses a slightly different curriculum. This year, in addition to our class, we are asking students to also participate in one of three area “Learner’s Minyan” programs.

### **10. Cost for each session: books/computer, Judaica, instructor**

The costs of the course is \$650 per candidate (Jewish partner is included for no extra costs). We have some limited scholarship funds for candidates with financial needs.

### **11. Is the fee refundable if the candidate chooses not to convert or can't be converted: No (See #13 below)**

### **12. Is Hebrew reading part of the basic classes or additional [before/after class or other time]:**

There is basic Hebrew taught at the beginning of class. Some sponsoring rabbis require additional Hebrew training for students.

**13. Does fee include, and if not what are the charges for each**

- a. Bet Din
- b. Mikveh
- c. Hatafat Dam Brit
- d. Circumcision

The fee for the class itself is \$650, which is non-inclusive. Books add about \$50.

We use Mayyim Hayyim Mikveh, which has a suggested donation of \$90 for the immersion part. JDI and many local synagogues have memberships with Mayyim Hayyim which comes with free dunking certificates, which we can give to the students.

Hatafat Dam is usually \$60. If they need full circumcision, the candidate needs to use an urologist at their own expense.

We do not charge for the Bet Din, nor do we pay rabbis to serve on batei din. We all help each other out because we all need a bet din at some point!

(I changed our fee structure from an “all-inclusive” to a more “a la carte” structure. Having an all inclusive fee set up the expectation that conversion was a foregone conclusion. It also meant that a candidate was paying for conversion rituals he or she may or may not actually go through.)

**14. Does a candidate need to have a mentoring Rabbi, and if so, what are their responsibilities for the candidate and/or couple and/or children:**

All of our candidates must have a sponsoring rabbi and synagogue (or Hillel if applicable). We ask our rabbis to do the following...

1. Meet a minimum of 5 times with conversion candidates and their significant others to help guide them through the process and to discuss with them any of the issues that inevitable arise when making such a life change.

2. Staying in contact with Rabbi Braham David and course instructor about a candidate's progress.

3. Make sure candidates and their significant others have a place for holiday meals, sederim, High Holiday tickets, etc. Also connecting candidates to learner's minyans, and people who can sit next to them during services.

4. Monitor regular attendance at Shabbat services. We require two Kabbalat Shabbat and two Shabbat morning services each month.

5. Verifying that the candidate is ready and appropriate to appear before the beit din, and a commitment to come to Mayyim Hayyim for the Beit Din and Mikveh appointment.

**15. Does the Region sponsor any post-conversion program(s); if so, please describe:**

We are working on developing programming in this area. This year we are co-sponsoring a group with Jewish Family & Children's Services for women who have recently converted. (This will be facilitated by Elana Kling Perkins, wife of our colleague Carl Perkins.)

**16. Are there other conversionary programs in your area:**

There is a conversion class on the north Shore (Swampscott, Peabody, Marblehead area) jointly taught by our colleagues there. The Lappin foundation pays 100% of the costs for conversion for participants from certain North Shore towns.

The local Reform movement has 16 session "intro to Judaism" courses, but they are not geared towards conversions. Usually graduates of those classes study individually with a local Reform rabbi for their conversions.

**17. Does this program include provision for conversion of children:**

We do from 30-60 conversions per year, including many for children. Some are children of our conversion course participants, other times people call us because they have a child to convert.

**18. Does this program require any current or prospective spouse to participate:**

We require the Jewish spouse or fiancé to actively participate in all aspects of the program, including the class sessions, field trips and sessions with the rabbi.

## **NASSAU/SUFFOLK HILLEL INSTITUTE**

### **1. Contact persons:**

- a. Regional President / email: Rabbi Scott Hoffman – [Scotttrabbi@aol.com](mailto:Scotttrabbi@aol.com)
- b. Conversion Chair: Rabbi Alan Lavin - [wjc3710@msn.com](mailto:wjc3710@msn.com)/ email
- c. Chair of Bet Din: name / email: Rabbi Ronald Androphy – [RabbiAndrophy@yahoo.com](mailto:RabbiAndrophy@yahoo.com)

**2. Name of Course Administrator:** Susan Lustig

**3. Telephone:** (631) 462-4455

**4. Email address:** [Hillel18@att.net](mailto:Hillel18@att.net)

**5. Snail-mail address of contact:** 74 Hauppauge Road – Room 53 Commack, NY 11725

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CAN BE HELPFUL - IF YOU WISH TO SHARE:

### **6. Location(s) of class(es):**

Plainview Jewish Center, 95 Floral Drive, Plainview, NY 11803

East Meadow Jewish Center, 1400 Prospect Avenue, East Meadow, NY 11554

### **7. Dates of session(s):**

Plainview – September to March – 24 weeks

East Meadow – March to August – 24 weeks

**8. Number of class meeting per session:** 24

**9. Curriculum:** – general Jewish studies, including history, holidays, home

**10. Cost for each session:** Cost to student - \$850 including books & tuition

**11. Is the fee refundable if the candidate chooses not to convert or can't be converted:** No

**12. Is Hebrew reading part of the basic classes or additional [before/after class or other time]** Included in basic class – 1 hour, 22 weeks, generally before class

**13. Does fee include, and if not what are the charges for each:**

- a. Bet Din - included
- b. Mikveh - \$125 or \$150, paid directly to mikveh
- c. Hatafat Dam Brit – fee set by mohel
- d. Circumcision – not included

**14. Does a candidate need to have a mentoring Rabbi,** and if so, what are their responsibilities for the candidate:

Candidate must have Sponsoring Rabbi, who meets with him/her regularly and is expected to accompany candidate to Bet Din and Mikveh

**15. Does the Region sponsor any post-conversion program(s),** and if so, please describe – Not at the moment

**16. Are there other conversionary programs in your area**

- a. Other movements - which, contacts by name / email
- b. Individual tutors - name(s) / email

**17. Does this program include provision for children:** When the candidate has young children, they may come to the mikveh at the same time as the mother. Occasionally, a teenage child has accompanied a parent to class and then converted.

**18. Does this program require any prospective spouse to participate:** Jewish partner (spouse, fiancé, friend) is strongly encouraged to participate in class at no additional cost.

## **JUDAISM FOR THE CURIOUS & QUESTIONING (Dallas, TX)**

Congregation Beth Torah, 720 W. Lookout Dr., Richardson (north Dallas), TX 75080

A 20 week course introducing the fundamentals of Jewish faith, practice, history and traditions.

**Contact:** Cathey Treider, Assistant to Rabbi Raskin at 972-234-1542, ext. 227 or

**Taught by** Rabbi Adam Raskin and lay instructors. Includes field trips and guest speakers.

**Classes begin** each year following the fall festivals.

Individual spiritual direction with rabbi is required for conversion candidates.

**Fee(s):** Free for affiliated family members; \$180 for non-members. Does not include cost of books, mikveh, or mohel. Some texts and readings are provided.

## **AGUDAS ACHIM, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA**

1. **Contact persons:** Rabbi Jack Moline ()
2. **Name of Course Administrator:** Doris Parker ()
3. **Telephone:** 703.998.6460
4. **Email address:** ()
5. **Snail-mail address of contact:** Agudas Achim, 2908 Valley Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CAN BE HELPFUL - IF YOU WISH TO SHARE:

6. **Location(s) of class(es):** Street/ City/ State/ Zip see #5
7. **Dates of session(s):** start / conclude Mid-October -Mid-March
8. **Number of class meeting per session:** 16-18
10. **Cost for each session:** books/computer, Judaica, instructor no charge; purchase own books
11. **Is the fee refundable if the candidate chooses not to convert or can't be converted:** n/a
12. **Is Hebrew reading part of the basic classes or additional [before/after class or other time]:** Hebrew reading instruction required, offered separately
13. **Does fee include, and if not what are the charges for each**
  - a. Bet Din n/a
  - b. Mikveh \$54
  - c. Hatafat Dam Brit n/c
  - d. Circumcision depends on medical circumstances
14. **Does a candidate need to have a mentoring Rabbi, and if so, what are their responsibilities for the candidate** Must have sponsor to meet with student regularly
17. **Does this program include provision for children:** no
18. **Does this program require any prospective spouse to participate:** strongly encouraged

## **Institute for Conversion and Outreach Education ( New Jersey, (ICOE) The Rabbinical Assembly - New Jersey Region**

**Administrator:** Ellen Nesson, 973-285-9772

**Classes location for 2008-09:** Hoboken NJ; Perth Amboy NJ; Toms River NJ; Living ston NJ; Wanaque NJ (in progress). Class locations change every year.

24-session intro to Judaism course, including 45 minutes of Hebrew instruction per session. Open to those in the conversion process as well as those who are simply interested in learning more about Judaism.

**Curriculum available** at or elsewhere at

Those who are taking the class with the goal of conversion should have a sponsoring rabbi; the administrator can assist in finding a sponsoring rabbi

**People with additional questions can contact:** Rabbi Robert Scheinberg, 201-653-6696,

## **LEESBURG, VIRGINIA**

- 1. Contact persons:** Rabbi Michael Ragozin
- 2. Name of Course Administrator:** Rabbi Michael Ragozin
- 3. Telephone:** 703.737.6500
- 4. Email address:**
- 5. Snail-mail address of contact:** PO Box 4518, Leesburg, VA 20177
- 6. Location of course:** 19357 Evergreen Mills Road, Leesburg, VA 20175
- 7. Dates:** Sundays from 9 - 11am; September 2008 - May 2009.
- 8. Number of class meeting per session:** 2
- 12. Is Hebrew reading part of the basic classes:** Yes

## **RICHMOND, VIRGINIA**

- 2. Contact:** Rabbi Gary Creditor
- 3. Telephone:** 804-355-2325
- 6. Temple Beth-El,** 3330 Grove Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221
- 7. Starting:** September 9th, 2008 One year session, ends in May.
- 8. Schedule:** Every Tuesday night at 7:30 to 9:00 P.M. Schedule is distributed.
- 9. Overview of Judaism:**
  - Unique beliefs
  - Contradistinction to Christianity
  - Preparation for all the holidays
  - Review of personal observances such as kashrut, mezuzah, calendar, tefillin,
  - Study of life-cycle observances from birth to death
  - Review of Jewish history
  - Issue and procedures of conversion
  - Hebrew reading included
- 10. Required reading** list bought independently by each student  
\$25 materials fee
- 11. Fee** is for class materials and not connected to conversion.
- 12. Hebrew reading** is part of the class learning.
- 13. Fees:**
  - a. no fee for Bet Din
  - b. \$100 for mikveh use
  - c. no fee for Hatafat Dam
  - d. cost of circumcision family responsibility
- 14. Rabbi is the teacher and the mentor** of each person.
- 15. Being in Richmond,** it is impossible to be involved with any program in the Tidewater or DC area.
- 16. Only other is under orthodox supervision.**
- 17. Children:** I have included older children in the program when the conversion of the parents was uncertain. It all depends on the situation. Other times, when conversion was a certainty from outset, I had the child enrolled in Religious School from the beginning.
- 18. Spouse/partner** are not required but highly desired and encouraged.

## **YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO**

Rabbi Schonberger provides a course and mentoring as requested.

### **Rabbi Joseph Schonberger**

Temple El Emeth  
3970 Loganway  
Youngstown, Ohio 44505  
tel: 330-759-1429  
fax: 330-759-1499  
[temeth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:temeth@sbcglobal.net)

## **METRO DETROIT, MICHIGAN**

- 1. Contact persons:** Rabbi Jason Miller
- 2. Name of Course Administrator:** Rabbi Jason Miller
- 3. Telephone:** 248-535-7090
- 4. Email address:**
- 5. Snail-mail address of contact:** 29901 Middlebelt Road; Farmington Hills, MI 48334
- 6. Location(s) of class(es):** Metro Detroit
- 7. Dates of session(s):** Weekly Sept through May
- 8. Number of class meeting per session:** Class meets approx. 24 times
- 9. Curriculum:** Intro to Judaism; Torah; Hebrew; Life Cycle
- 10. Cost for each session:** books/computer, Judaica, instructor: \$100
- 11. Is the fee refundable if the candidate chooses not to convert or can't be converted:** Yes
- 12. Is Hebrew reading part of the basic classes or additional [before/after class or other time]:**  
Yes
- 13. Does fee include,** and if not what are the charges for each
  - a. Bet Din: Yes
  - b. Mikveh: No
  - c. Hatafat Dam Brit: No
  - d. Circumcision: No
- 14. Does a candidate need to have a mentoring Rabbi,** and if so, what are their responsibilities for the candidate: Rabbi Miller will be mentoring rabbi with private sessions
- 17. Does this program include provision for children:** Yes
- 18. Does this program require any prospective spouse to participate:**  
Recommended

## **ORLANDO, FLORIDA**

### **1. Contact persons:**

- a. Regional President:
- b. Conversion Chair: Rabbi Aaron Rubinger /
- c. Chair of Bet Din:

**2. Name of Course Administrator:** Susan Sparrow, Clergy Assistant

**3. Telephone:** (407) 298-4650

**4. Email address:**

### **5. Snail-mail address of contact:**

Congregation Ohev Shalom, 5015 Goddard Avenue, Orlando, FL 32804

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CAN BE HELPFUL - IF YOU WISH TO SHARE:

**6. Location(s) of class(es):** Cong. Ohev Shalom

**7. Dates of session(s):** August - January (approx.) each year

**8. Number of class meeting per session:** varies, depending on Hebrew reading level; general course, "Discover Judaism" (open to the community & required for candidates for conversion) is a minimum of 18 weeks.

**9. Curriculum:** Comprehensive overview of Jewish history, holidays, ritual practices, and classical literature; basic Hebrew reading

**10. Cost for each session:** \$360 (includes books); no charge for synagogue members

**11. Is the fee refundable** if the candidate chooses not to convert or can't be converted?  
- Usually not.

**12. Is Hebrew reading part of the basic classes or additional [before/after class or other time]:** Part of basic class

### **13. Does fee include, and if not what are the charges**

- a. Bet Din - no charge
- b. Mikveh - no charge (we have our own mikveh on-site)
- c. Hatafat Dam Brit - \$150 (paid to the mohel)
- d. Circumcision - The procedure is arranged with a local urologist, and costs are the responsibility of the candidate; there is no charge for the witnesses or Beit Din.

**14. Does a candidate need to have a mentoring Rabbi,** and if so, what are their responsibilities for the candidate? The course is co-taught by Rabbis Aaron Rubinger and David Kay, who are the sponsoring rabbis for any candidates in the class.

**15. Does the Region sponsor post-conversion program(s), and if so, please describe:-** There are none locally (central Florida)

**16. Are there other conversionary programs in your area**

a. Other movements - Reform: Congregation of Reform Judaism, Rabbi Steve Engel (407)645-0444 [There are two Chabad rabbis in the area, but both rarely, if ever, complete conversions]

b. Individual tutors

**17. Does this program include provision for children:**

Yes

**18. Does this program require any prospective spouse to participate:** Spouses or prospective spouses are both strongly encouraged to attend, whether Jewish or non-Jewish. However, it is not a requirement of enrollment.

## **EUROPEAN MASORTI BET DIN**

### **1. Contact persons:**

- a. Regional President / Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg
- b. Conversion Chair: Rabbi Chaim Weiner
- c. Chair of Bet Din: Rabbi Chaim Weiner

**2. Name of Course Administrator:** Rabbi Jeremy Gordon

**3. Telephone:** 00 44 207 328 1026

**4. Email address:**

### **5. Snail-mail address of contact:**

New London Synagogue, 33 Abbey Rd, London, NW8 0AT

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CAN BE HELPFUL - IF YOU WISH TO SHARE:

**6. Location(s) of class(es):** New London Synagogue

### **7. Dates of session(s):**

Tuesday evenings 11 months of the year.  
Intakes are approximately every 6 weeks.

### **10. Cost for each session: books/computer, Judaica, instructor**

£250 covers affiliation to the Synagogue including all teaching and Rabbinic support for the length of a person's involvement in the programme. Jewish partners of conversion candidates are expected to join the Synagogue as full members.

### **12. Is Hebrew reading part of the basic classes or additional [before/after class or other time]:**

Yes, small class learning opportunities are offered.

### **13. Does fee include, and if not what are the charges for each**

- a. Bet Din: Two charges, £250 in total. The first is paid on registration the second is to be paid on the day of conversion.
- b. Mikveh: Included in Bet Din fees
- c. Hatafat Dam Brit: Included in Bet Din fees
- d. Circumcision: To be arranged privately

**14. Does a candidate need to have a mentoring Rabbi, and if so, what are their responsibilities for the candidate:** Yes. Candidates should approach the Rabbi of a local community in the first instance. If it is not clear who to approach, contact Rabbi Weiner

### **18. Does this program require any prospective spouse to participate:**

Yes.

**For more information**

and

## **QUEENS, NEW YORK**

**1. Contact Person:** Rabbi Stanley Greenstein, 53-37 202 St., Oakland Gardens, NY 1364

email: Phone: 718-224-6533

Regional President: Rabbi Joseph Prouser

Chair Bet Din: Rabbi Stanley Greenstein (

**2. Course Administrator:** Rabbi Stanley Greenstein 53-37 202 St., Oakland Gardens, NY 1364

email: Phone: 718-224-6533

**6. Location of Classes:** Hollis Hills Jewish Center, 210-10 Union Turnpike, Hollis Hills, New York 11364

**7. Dates of Sessions:** as enrollment allows.

**8. 24 classes per session** and if helpful 6 months more privately with Sponsoring Rabbi

### **9. Curriculum:**

a. Hebrew reading; b. more advanced Hebrew course available; c. Jewish calendar cycle / life cycle; d. Shabbat - home observances / synagogue; e. Kashrut - home / community;

f. History; g. Philosophy and Theology; h. Halakhah and Minhagim, including tefillin, tallit, lulav-etrog; i. Literary heritage: Bible, Talmud, Midrash, Codes, Siddur. Etc.; j. Decisions as a Jewish family, e.g. which synagogue to join, continuing adult Jewish education, moving to another community, day school, youth groups, camping, post-BMitzvah education for children, relationships with non-Jewish family members, recommended Jewish Home Library

**10: \$600, including partner, for three-hour sessions.**

Plus books.

Separate Mikveh and Bet Din fee.

**11. No, fee is not refundable** because the classes do not convert; the Bet Din does this.

**12. Yes, Hebrew reading** is part of the curriculum.

**13. All these fees are not included.**

14. Yes, candidate has a **Sponsoring Rabbi**, who meets with candidate and his significant other.

a. Meetings to discuss personal issues, classes, additional assigned reading to classes and questions - Yes

b. Providing experiences for Shabbat in the home, home Kosher kitchen, mentor

with whom to sit during synagogue attendance, attendance at services [daily, Shabbat / Festival, fast-days, Torah service, HHD, etc.] - No  
c. Post-conversion ceremonial welcome into the congregation - Yes, if requested.  
d. Post-conversion synagogue programs for conversionary families - Yes, if requested.

**15. Does the Region sponsor post-conversion program(s):** No, not yet.

**16. We cooperate with the Nassau/Suffolk program.** The Reform cooperate with us sometimes.

**17. Does this program include provision for conversion of children:**  
Yes.

**18. Does this program require any current or prospective spouse to participate:**  
Yes.

We also provide for private instruction of the candidate. Sometimes, for people with special needs this is necessary and helpful. The special needs can be people who are challenged in one way or another, or also people who seek an in-depth understanding of Judaism beyond what the classes offer. We seem to have a number of the latter.

## **ISRAEL**

### **1. Contact persons:**

a. Regional / phone / email address: ; 972-2-5658000

b. Conversion Chair: name / phone / email address: Rabbi Andrew Sacks

c. Chair of Bet Din: name / phone / email address: Rabbi Reuven Hammer

**2. Name of Course Administrator:** Rabbi Andrew Sacks

**3. Telephone:** 972-2-5658000

**4. Email address:** ;

**5. Snail-mail address of Course Administrator:**

Rabbinical Assembly in Israel, PO Box 7559, Jerusalem 91074 ISRAEL

## **INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM/CONVERSION (Minneapolis, MN)**

**Conservative synagogues** offer a joint Introduction to Judaism/Conversion class that rotates between three synagogues. Leaders include:

Rabbi Aaron Brusso, Adath Jeshurun 10500 Hillside Ln. W, Minnetonka, MN 55305  
952 545 2424

Rabbi Alexander Davis, Beth El Synagogue, 5224 West 26th St, St Louis Park, MN 55416  
952 920 3512 fax 952 920 8755

Rabbi Charni Selch, Bnai Emet Synagogue, 3115 Ottawa Ave S., St Louis Park, MN 55416  
952 927 7309

### **The "Introduction to Judaism" follows an academic year from the Fall to the Spring**

There are about 30 classes that meet Tues. evenings

6:30-7:30 is Hebrew language

7:30-9:00 are the rabbis' classes

**Cost** is \$50 for rabbis' class, \$100 for Hebrew  
Fee does not include mikveh or brit milah

Required readings accompany each class

Class covers holidays, lifecycles, Jewish thought, basic mitzvot and history, etc.

Course includes Shabbat dinner, Hanukkah party, mikvah tour

### **Conversion candidates choose a sponsoring Rabbi**

We highly encourage spouses to participate but do not have child care options

St Paul synagogues have their own conversionary programs as do other non-Conservative Minneapolis synagogues

## **BROWARD, MIAMI-DADE, FLORIDA (South Florida)**

1. Contact person: Rabbi Ed Farber 786 586 1816

**2. Course Secretary:** Mariette Feldman, 305-932-2829

20350 NE 26th Ave, Miami, FL 33180

**6. Location(s) of class(es):** Usually at Beth Torah, 20350 NE 26th Ave, Miami, FL 33180

**7. Dates of session(s):**

Fall Classes: begin in Middle of August and go for 18 weeks.

Winter/Spring: Feb. for 18 weeks.

**9. Curriculum:**

a. Hebrew reading - first 45 minutes of class is hebrew reading and rituals.

b. Is a more advanced Hebrew course available - no

c. Jewish calendar cycle / life cycle; d. Shabbat - home observances / synagogue; e. Kashrut - home / community; f. History; g. Philosophy and Theology; h. Halakhah and Minhagim, including tefillen, tallit, lulav-etrog; i. Literary heritage: Bible, Talmud, Midrash, Codes, Siddur. Etc.; j. Decisions as a Jewish family, e.g. which synagogue to join, continuing adult Jewish education, moving to another community, day school, youth groups, camping, post-BMitzvah education for children, relationships with non-Jewish family members, recommended Jewish Home Library included in the curriculum

**10. Cost for each session:** \$500 and is inclusive. No Rabbis charge for the actual day of conversion if they went through the class.

**11. Is the fee refundable** if the candidate chooses not to convert or can't be converted? It is only refundable if they withdraw from the class before the 6th session. But the fee is for the classes - not for conversion. So if they take the classes they get no refund. We have no fee for actual conversion.

**12. Is Hebrew reading part** of the basic classes or additional [before/after class

or other time] - part of class

**13. Does fee include**, and, if not, what are the charges for each

- a. Bet Din - yes
- b. Mikveh – no fee
- c. Hatafat Dam Brit – not included
- d. Circumcision – not included

**14. Does a candidate need to have a mentoring Rabbi**, and if so, what are their responsibilities for and to the candidate:

- a. Meetings to discuss personal issues, classes, additional assigned reading to classes and questions
- b. Providing experiences for Shabbat in the home, home Kosher kitchen, mentor with whom to sit during synagogue attendance, attendance at services [daily, Shabbat / Festival, fast-days, Torah service, HHD, etc.],
- c. Post-conversion ceremonial welcome into the congregation
- d. Post-conversion synagogue programs for conversionary families

Yes to all the above although they can take the classes without a mentoring Rabbi. But then they have no one to perform the actual conversion when classes are over; it really doesn't happen often.

**16. Are there other conversionary programs in your area** - Yes - it's Miami - everything exists.

**17. Does this program include provision for conversion of children** : yes - no charge - except for hatafat dam brit and that is the mohel's fee, who will do it on a sliding scale, even without charge.

**18. Does this program require any current or prospective spouse to participate:** That is up to the sponsoring Rabbi.

## **OPEN DOR FOUNDATION, INC., (Chevy Chase, MD)**

President: Rabbi Avis D. Miller  
Phone: 240-395-0454  
Email: ; website:  
Mail: 5502 Western Ave.  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

**Description:** The Open Dor Foundation opens the door to Jewish involvement through educational programs designed to reach out to unaffiliated and marginally active Jews, as well as to non-Jews who are part of the Jewish family, either through marriage to a Jew or through Jewish ancestry.

Free counseling for individuals and couples.  
Sponsorship for conversion available free for selected individuals.  
Rabbi Miller participates in teaching the conversion class offered through the DC area Conservative Conversion Consortium.

### **Current Class offerings:**

#### **Crash Hebrew Reading Class**

September 21, 2008, beginning at 10 AM

Location: 6 & I Historic Synagogue

Phone: 202-408-3100

For those who never went to Hebrew school, and for those who've forgotten

Free

#### **Jewish Literacy**

6 weekly sessions: October 29--December 10, 2008 (excluding November 26)

Location: 6 & I Historic Synagogue

Phone: 202-408-3100

Description: Intro to Jewish Beliefs/Values; Jewish Home and Prayer, 2 sessions holiday cycle, 2 sessions life cycle

For those who never attended religious school, and for those who quit after bar/bat mitzvah; For those with Jewish ancestry who want to explore their heritage; For those in interfaith relationships; For non-Jews with Jews in their family; For those considering conversion; For the Jewishly curious, Jews and non-Jews

Free

#### **Adult Bat Mitzvah**

open to the community

2 year, biweekly classes, beginning October 28, 2008

Location: Tifereth Israel Congregation, DC Phone: 202-882-1605

Fee: \$400/yr for Tifereth Israel members, \$600/yr for non-members; scholarships available

## **CONVERTJUDAISM.ORG, (Evanston, Il.)**

**1. Chair of Bet Din:** Rabbi Jonathan Ginsburg

Rabbi Jonathan Ginsburg

&

Online: Hebrew school, Conversion, Pararabbi

My 400 Youtube videos categorized at

**2 . Name of Course Administrator:** Gail Ginsburg

**3. Telephone:** 847-331-3584

**4. Email address:**

**5. Snail-mail address of contact:** 2127 Lincolnwood dr. Evanston, Il. 60201

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CAN BE HELPFUL - IF YOU WISH TO SHARE:

**6. Location(s) of class(es):**

a. Online:

b. Onsite: 4500 Dempster St., Chicago, Il. 60201

**7. Dates of session(s):** start / conclude

Online is ongoing enrollement.

Onsite course runs three times a year, September, February, May

**8. Number of class meeting per session:** 16

**9. Curriculum:** God, Holy Books, Other religions and Judaism, History, prayer, Ritual Objects, Shabbat, Holidays, Jewish People, Anti-semitism and Holocaust, Israel, Life cycle,

**10. Cost for each session:** books/computer, Judaica, instructor

Onsite \$300 plus \$125 books and materials, online \$400 plus \$150 including shipping

**11. Is the fee refundable** if the candidate chooses not to convert or can't be converted:

Onsite, half is refunded

**12. Is Hebrew reading** part of the basic classes or additional [before/after class or other time] additional

**13. Does fee include,** and if not what are the charges for each

a. Bet Din \$100 each for other 2 Rabbinic witnesses

- b. Mikveh \$150
- c. Hatafat Dam Brit \$75
- d. Circumcision On their own expense

**14. Does a candidate need to have a mentoring Rabbi,** and if so, what are their responsibilities for the candidate Yes. Meet with Rabbi at least 3 times, attend services, sign declaration of faith, answer yes to all RA guideline questions, Live Jewishly

**15. Does the Region sponsor any post-conversion program(s),** and if so, please describe: We have Conversion havurah, also all students receive my 3x a week Torah email

**16. Are there other conversionary programs** in your area of

- a. Other movements - which, contacts by name / email RA Region has a program
- b. Individual tutors - name(s) / email

**17. Does this program include provision for children:** yes, for children over 7 attend

**18. Does this program require any prospective spouse to participate:** strongly encouraged

## **THE CENTER FOR CONVERSION TO JUDAISM (New York)**

### **1. Name of Program:**

### **2. Contact persons: Rabbi Stephen Lerner**

212.877.8640 201.837.7552 fax 201-837-8981

### **4. Email address:**

[ravsteve@earthlink.net](mailto:ravsteve@earthlink.net) website: [www.jewishconversion.com](http://www.jewishconversion.com).

### **5. Snail-mail address of Program Administrator:**

752 Stelton Street, Teaneck, New Jersey 07666.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CAN BE HELPFUL IF YOU WISH TO HAVE IT SHARED:

### **6. Location(s) of class(es):**

We hold individual tutorials (one person or a couple ) in Manhattan (two locations there) and in Teaneck, New Jersey. We hold small seminars (three to five couples or individuals) in Manhattan. Tutorials can begin as requested and seminars start every six weeks or so. In addition to me, two other rabbis teach under the auspices of the Center.

For many years, we have held classes at the Society for the Advancement of Judaism, 15 West 86th Street in Manhattan and for the past year at Town and Village Synagogue, 334 East 14th Street in Manhattan. The rabbis who work with me meet their students at their residences on the Upper West Side.

### **8. Number of class meetings per session:**

Each tutorial or seminar runs about a year and there are 36 sessions. The Jewish partner must participate unless geography prevents it.

### **10. Cost for each session:**

There are thirty-six classes over a period of a year. We expect the Jewish partner to participate unless geography prevents it. Each couple pays \$35 a class session as does an individual without a partner. There are no upfront costs; the students pay session by session. Thus, if they drop out, there is no issue of refunding money to them. The tutorial rate is \$100 per couple or individual; some students pay less. We don't check IRS statements if students ask for a reduction of the fee, even in a seminar, we are happy to accede.

### **13. Does fee include, and, if not, what are the charges for each:**

The Center does not set mikveh fees, The Manhattan mikveh is \$175 and the Teaneck mikveh costs \$100. The candidate for conversion is expected to present a token of appreciation to the members of the bet din (generally some multiple of hai) and encouraged to make a tax-deductible contribution to The Center for Conversion to

Judaism. The mohalim I use for hatafat dam brit also serve on the batay din and request anywhere from nothing to \$200. I have for many years referred men needing ull milah to an observant urologist who may note some medical reason for the circumcision which may be covered by insurance. In the case where insurance would not apply, the urologist reduces his fee to make the operation affordable.

**14. Does a candidate need to have a mentoring Rabbi, and if so, what are their responsibilities for and to the candidate:**

The couple must have a sponsoring Conservative rabbi who will hopefully meet with the couple regularly and help them deal with any questions that arise and help integrate them into his/her synagogue community which they are expected to join.

**17. Does this program include provision for conversion of children:**

Certainly we convert children. If the mother is not Jewish, we require her at least to take some sort of course in Judaism and to affirm and sign a parental statement of commitment that she will only raise her child as a Jew and in no other religion, that Christmas decorations not be found in her house.

**18. Does this program require any current or prospective spouse to participate:**

We expect the Jewish partner to participate unless geography prevents it.

## **KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI**

**1. Name of Program:** Kansas City Rabbinical Association Conversion to Judaism Programme

**2. Contact persons:**

a. Regional President name / email / phone: for this year, Rabbi Jacques Cukierkorn/cukeikorn@sbcglobal.net/816-523-7809

b. Chair of Bet Din: name / email / phone: each denomination has their own

c. Course Administrator: name / email / phone: Annette Fish is the Rabbinical Association administrator/

I am the conversion class coordinator: Linda Cohen/lincohen@sbcglobal.net/913-642-0572

**3. Conversion Chair:** name / phone: Rabbi Scott White/ 913-642-6460

**4. Email**

**5. Snailmail address of Program(Conversion Class) Administrator:** Street/ City/ State/ Zip Linda Cohen/10065 Hemlock Dr./Overland Park/KS 66212

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CAN BE HELPFUL IF YOU WISH TO HAVE IT SHARED:

**6. Location(s) of class(es):** Street / City / State / Zip rotate among the community temples/synagogues

**7. Dates of session(s):** start late August and conclude late May

**8. Number of class meetings per session:** 34

**9. Curriculum:**

a. Hebrew reading -30 minutes each week

b. Is a more advanced Hebrew course available – at various local temples/synagogues and through the department of adult education at the JCC, Jewish calendar cycle / life cycle, Shabbat home, Observances / synagogue, Kashrut home/ community, History, Philosophy and Theology, Halakhah and Minhagim, including tefillin, tallit, lulavetrog, Literary heritage: Bible, Talmud, Midrash, Codes, Siddur. Etc.,

**10. Cost for each session:** \$136.00 which includes 8 books

a. books / computer

b. Judaica for individual / home

c. Instructor for separate Hebrew course

**11. Is the fee refundable if the candidate chooses not to convert or can't be converted?** No but if a student drops out, they can return the next year.

**12. Is Hebrew reading part of the basic classes or additional [before/after class or other time]** 30 minutes at the beginning of each weekly session

**13. Does fee include, and, if not, what are the charges for each**

a. Bet Din – no charge to my knowledge – arranged by rabbis

b. Mikveh - \$54.00

c. Hatafat Dam Brit – no charge to my knowledge but again, that is up to the rabbi

d. Circumcision – as a newborn whatever the mohel charges and if it is a surgical procedure, that would be dependent upon insurance etc.

**14. Does a candidate need to have a mentoring Rabbi,** and if so, what are their responsibilities for and to the candidate: Yes, each student must have a mentoring/sponsoring rabbi. Since this is a community programme, each rabbi decides individually what he/she requires of the candidate and completes the conversion according to the standards of their particular movement.

a. Meetings to discuss personal issues, classes, additional assigned reading to classes and questions

b. Providing experiences for Shabbat in the home, home Kosher kitchen, mentor with whom to sit during synagogue attendance, attendance at services [daily, Shabbat / Festival, fastdays, Torah service, HHD, etc.], The class schedules a visit to a sukkah, Hanukkah get together, a Shabbat service and dinner and a Havdallah experience. The rest we leave to the house of the worship the student is attending and ask that institution to help the student integrate in to their culture.

c. Postconversion ceremonial welcome into the congregation – depends upon the temple/synagogue

d. Postconversion synagogue programs for conversionary families

e. Other

**15. Does the Region sponsor postconversion program(s), and if so, please describe:**

**16. Are there other conversionary programs in your area** -not to my knowledge

a. Other movements which, contacts by name / email

b. Individual tutors name(s) / email

**17. Does this program include provision for conversion of children:** some students enroll children in Religious School programmes if they are old enough. Young children can be converted when their parents complete their conversion

**18. Does this program require any current or prospective spouse to participate:** We encourage their attendance but it is not required

Any other information you think we should be collecting to share.

## **FRANCE - COURS DE JUDAÏSME - PROGRAMME**

### **1. Cours de judaïsme**

2. rabbin Tom Cohen et rabbin Pauline Bebe

4.

5. Kehilat Gesher, 7 rue Léon Cogniet 75017 Paris FRANCE

6. Classes alternate monthly between the congregation Kehilat Gesher, 7 rue Léon Cogniet 75017 Paris & the Centre Mayaan, 10-14 rue Moufle 75011 Paris

7. Continual year round classes, outside of vacation periods.

9. Attached is the general program which may be shared with prospective students

### **Cours de Judaïsme - Programme 5769 : mots clés et concepts**

#### **Les Sources littéraires :**

*Torah, TaNaKH, Midrash, Mishna, Guemara, Talmud, Zohar, Codes des lois, SHuT : She'alot veTeshouvat (Responsum).*

#### **Shabbat :**

*Qedousha, 'Hol, Melakhah, Avodah, Menou'Ha, Qiddoush, Hamotsi, Qabbalat Shabbat, 'Hallah, Birkat Hamazon, Tsedaqa, Havdala, zemirot*

#### **Synagogue et objets juifs :**

*Beit Tefillah, Beit Midrash, Beit Keneset, Shule, Aron HaQodesh, Parasha/Sidra, Haftara, Sofer, Sefer Torah, Bima, Yad, Paro'Het, Menorah, Ner Tamid, Ta'amim, Hazzan, Rabbin, Shammash, Gabbai, Shomer, Mezouzah, Mizra'H,*

#### **Tefila : les livres des prières et l'acte de prier**

*Berakha/Berakhot, Ma'ariv, Sha'Harit, Min'Ha, Moussaf, Qeva/Qavannah, Minyan, Siddour, Ma'Hzor, Shema, Amidah, Aleynou, Qaddish, Aliyah, Maftir, Haftara, Tefilline, Tallit, Kippah.*

#### **Le cuisine cachère et la manière juive de manger :**

*Kasher, Terefah, Mil'Hik (lait), Fleishik (viande), Parve, Sho'Het, She'Hita, Netilat Yadayim, Birqat Hamazon, Shalom Bayit.*

#### **Le cycle de la vie - naissance à l'âge majoritaire**

*Berit Leida, Berit Milah, Mohel, Sandek, Qevater, Qevatrin, nomination, présentation à la Torah, Pidyon Haben, Talmoud Torah, Torah lishma.*

#### **Le cycle de la vie - Benei Mitsva au mariage**

*Bar Mitsva, Bat Mitsva, Confirmation, "dating" : 'sortir avec' et la sexualité, avortement, contraception, mère porteuse, adoption, stérilité.*

#### **La conversion**

*Guer/Guiyoret, miqvé, Beit din, attitudes et sources dans la tradition, Ba'alé Teshouva, Confirmation de judaïté.*

#### **Le cycle de la vie - loi familiale du mariage et du divorce**

*Miqvé, tevila, nidda, Aufruf (Shabbat 'Hatanim), Ketouba, kinyan, 'Houppa, Erousine, Qiddoushin, Nissou'ine, Sheva Berakhot, Yihoud, Guet, 'Halitsa.*

### **Le cycle de la vie - maladie et décès**

*Biqour Houlim, Tahorah, Takhrikin, aron, âninout, El Malé Ra'Hamim, Qaddish, Queriah, Se'oudat Havera'ah, Shiva, Sheloshim, Année (Jahrzeit), Pierre tombale, Hazqarat Neshamot, Yizqor, Vie après la mort.*

### **Le Calendrier juif**

*Rosh 'Hodèsh, Moléd, 'Hodèsh malé, 'Hodèsh 'Hassér, lunaire/solaire, Qiddoush levanah, Qiddoush Ha'Hama.*

### **Les Grandes Fêtes : Rosh HaShana & Yom Kippour**

*Eloul, Yamim Nora'im, 'Hét, Teshouva, Seli'Hot, Rosh Hashanah, Ma'Hzor, Shofar, Tashlikh, Yom Tov, Shabbat Shouva, Kol Nidré, Yom Kippour, Néila.*

### **Soukkot, Hoshana raba, Shemini Atseret & Sim'Hat Torah**

*Arba minim, loulav, etrog, soukka, Haqqafa/haqqafot, shelosh regalim, Qohelet.*

### **Hannoucca**

*Menora, 'Hanoukia, shamash, Maccabées, Dreiydl /Toupie/Sivivon, Latkes, Soufganiyot, le dilemme de décembre.*

### **Tou Bishvat**

*Rosh HaShana la'Ilanot, les arbres du mariage, Peri Ets Hadar, KKL.*

### **Pourim**

*Pour, Meguilla, Shabbat Zakhor, Amalek, , jeûne d'Esther, Greggar/Rashanim , Pourim spiel, Shoushan Esther, Mishloa'H manot, Tsedaqa, Se'oudat Pourim, Ma'Hatsit haSheqel.*

### **Pessa'H**

*'Hamets, Matsa, Kasher lePessa'H, bediqat 'Hamets, 'Hol Hamoéd, qorban Pessa'H, Shir Hashirim, Ta'anit Bekhorim, Seder, Haggadah, plateau: matsa, 'Haroset, 'Hazeret, maror, os, œuf, afiqomen, hallel, coupe d'Eli*

### **L'Omer et Shavou'ot**

*Sefira, Omer, Rosh 'Hodesh Iyar, Yom HaShoa, Pessa'H Sheni, Hilloula de rabbi Meïr Baal HaNess, Yom HaZikaron, Yom Ha'Atsma'out, Lag B'Omer, Hilloula de rabbi Shimone Bar Yohaï, Yom Yeroushalayim, Rosh 'Hodesh Sivan, Sheloshet Yemé Hagbala, Pirqei Avot, Shavou'ot, Torah min haShamayim, Matan Torah, Tiqoun Leil Shavou'ot, Ruth, Mets lactés, Confirmation.*

### **Les jeûnes publics**

*Ta'anit, tsom, 17 de Tamouz, les trois semaines, Tisha B'av, Eikha, Se'ouda hamafsèqèt, jeûne de Guedalia, jeûne de 10 Tevet, Yom Kippour Qatan, jeûne individuelle.*

### **Dieu et l'Etre humain**

*Emounah vs croyance, Dieu dans la Bible, monothéisme éthique, Dieu dans les philosophies*

*modernes, la nature de l'être humain, Berit : Alliance, Election, Mitsvot, Halakha, Minhag, récompense et punition, Yetser HaTov et Yetser Hara, résurrection, messianisme, Tiqoun Olam, Providence et théodicée.*

### **Les différences à l'intérieur et à l'extérieur du judaïsme**

*Libéraux (Renewal, Reconstructioniste, Massorati/Conservative, Réforme), Consistoriaux (Orthodoxe moderne et traditionaliste), Hassidique (Loubavitch, Satmar, Bratslov) ; Islam, Christianisme, Bouddhisme, Hindouïsme, Laïcité, Communisme.*

### **Citoyenneté et les institutions juives**

*Crif, Fsjv, Aujf, Alliance israélite universelle, FJL, Consistoire, Agence Juive, Ort, Keren Kayemet leYisraél, WIZO, Bnei Berit, World Union, European Board, Leo Baeck College, Hebrew Union College, Jewish Theological Seminary, Yeshivah University. Les médias juifs : radio et journaux.*

### **Sho'a**

*Holocauste, antisémitisme.*

### **Israël**

*Sionisme, A'Had Haam, Herzl, Rabbi Kook, Knesset, La Loi du Retour, immigration, Guerre d'Indépendance - de 56 - des six jours - du Kippour - du Liban, L'intifada, les territoires.*

### **L'Histoire : biblique**

*Période patriarcale, Exode, installation dans la Terre, 1er Temple, Le schisme entre Israël et Juda, Babylone, Perse.*

### **L'Histoire : rabbinique**

*2ème Temple, Grecs, Maccabées, Rome, Bar Ko'Hba, Tannaïm, Amoraïm.*

### **L'Histoire : médiéval - geonim et rishonim**

*Croisades, Rashi, l'âge d'or de l'Espagne, Rambam, Inquisition.*

### **L'Histoire : médiéval - a'Haronim**

*Mysticisme, Hassidisme, Mitnagdim.*

### **L'Histoire : l'ère des Lumières**

*Haskala, Emancipation, Rénovateur.*

### **L'Histoire : contemporaine**

### **Programme de lecture et d'activités pour les personnes désirant se convertir**

- A. Ecrire un journal avec les réflexions et les questions que suscitent vos lectures et vos expériences pendant votre préparation.
- B. Vous devez participer aux offices de Kehilat Geshet et de la CJL d'une façon régulière (assez souvent pour qu'une personne puisse dire à votre sujet que vous fréquentez la synagogue régulièrement).

C. Vous devez aller dans les autres synagogues de la ville pour voir comment les offices y sont célébrés:

1 synagogue de votre choix qui est Orthodoxe de la stricte Observance ou Loubavitch

La synagogue de la Victoire (44, rue de la Victoire 9e) *rite Ashkénaze*

La synagogue des Tournelles (21bis, rue des Tournelles 4e) *rite Séfarade*

ULIF (24, rue Copernic 16e)

MJLF (soit 11, rue Gaston de Caillavet 15e soit 23-25, rue Pétion 11e)

Adat Shalom (8, Rue Georges Bernard Shaw 15e)

D. Vous devez acquérir la Traduction de la Torah avec un commentaire, la traduction de la Bible du Rabbinate, un guide pour la pratique juive, et un livre de prières libéral de votre choix.

Lectures

Livre d'introduction :      date:

Histoire juive :      date:

Pensée juive :      date:

Israël :      date:

## **SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA**

**1. Name of Program:**

Basic Judaism

**2. Contact persons:**

Rabbi Leonard Rosenthal

Tifereth Israel Synagogue

6660 Cowles Mtn. Blvd.

San Diego CA

619-697-6001/voice

619-697-1102/fax

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CAN BE HELPFUL IF YOU WISH TO HAVE IT SHARED:

**6. Location(s) of class(es):** Street / City / State / Zip

Tifereth Israel Synagogue

6660 Cowles Mtn. Blvd.

San Diego CA

**7. Dates of session(s):** start / conclude

Sept. 21, 2008 – May 17, 2009 (late entry is possible)

9:30-10:40 – Hebrew

10:45 – 12:00 p.m. – Basic Judaism

**8. Number of class meetings per session:**

1

**9. Curriculum:** (Please supply a copy and indicate with whom it may be shared; otherwise it will be kept private)

Syllabus and reading list available at:

a. Hebrew reading

Class required for conversion. Three levels of Hebrew instruction are available during the course of the year.

**10. Cost for each session:**

a. books / computer

The cost for all books is approximately \$100. They are available for purchase at the synagogue or through the vendor of the student's choice.

b. Judaica for individual / home

Course fee is \$150.00 for individuals and couples for non-members. \$40.00 for members. Scholarships are available.

c. Instructor for separate Hebrew course

Course fee for Hebrew is included in the above.

**11. Is the fee refundable** if the candidate chooses not to convert or can't be converted?

The course is "Basic Judaism" and open to anyone who wishes to study. Therefore the fee is not based on conversion.

**12. Is Hebrew reading** part of the basic classes or additional [before/after class or other time]

Yes. Please see above.

**13. Does fee include**, and, if not, what are the charges for each

a. Bet Din

b. Mikveh

c. Hatafat Dam Brit

d. Circumcision

None of the above.

**14. Does a candidate need to have a mentoring Rabbi**, and if so, what are their responsibilities for and to the candidate:

A list of Jewish experiences in which the candidate has to participate is provided for those interested in conversion. It includes service attendance, performance of Jewish rituals, and meetings with Rabbi Rosenthal

**17. Does this program include provision for conversion of children:**

Children of prospective converts are welcome to attend our Torah School and go through conversion rites at the same time as their parents.

**18. Does this program require any current or prospective spouse to participate:** Yes

## **GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA**

### **1. Contact persons:**

- a. Regional President / email:
- b. Conversion Chair: name / email
- c. Chair of Bet Din: name / email

Rabbi David Kaiman,

### **2. Name of Course Administrator**

Rabbi David Kaiman,

### **3. Telephone**

352 376 1508 ext. 104

### **4. Email address**

### **5. Snail-mail address of contact: Street/ City/ State/ Zip**

3830 NW 16th Blvd., Gainesville FL 32605

### **6. Location(s) of class(es): Street/ City/ State/ Zip**

Congregation Bnai Israel, Gainesville, Florida 32605

### **7. Dates of session(s): start / conclude**

Depends

### **8. Number of class meeting per session**

Depends

### **9. Curriculum**

Comprehensive Curriculum

### **10. Cost for each session: books/computer, Judaica, instructor**

No charge

### **11. Is the fee refundable if the candidate chooses not to convert or can't be converted? n/a**

### **12. Is Hebrew reading part of the basic classes or additional [before/after class or other time]**

Yes

### **13. Does fee include, and if not what are the charges for each? n/a**

- a. Bet Din
- b. Mikveh
- c. Hatafat Dam Brit
- d. Circumcision

**14. Does a candidate need to have a mentoring Rabbi,** and if so, what are their responsibilities for the candidate

**15. Does the Region sponsor any post-conversion program(s),** and if so, please describe

**16. Are there other conversionary programs** in your area of

- a. Other movements - which, contacts by name / email
- b. Individual tutors - name(s) / email

**17. Does this program include provision for children**

Yes

**18. Does this program require any prospective spouse to participate**

Yes

Any other information you think we should be collecting to share.

## **COLUMBUS, OHIO**

- 1. Contact persons:** Rabbi Michael Ungar
  - a. Regional President / phone / email address: n.a.
  - b. Conversion Chair: name / phone / email address: n.a.
  - c. Chair of Bet Din: name / phone / email address: Rabbi Michael Ungar
  
- 2. Name of Course Administrator:** Rabbi Michael Ungar
  
- 3. Telephone** 614-253-8523
  
- 5. Snail-mail address of Course Administrator:** Street / City / State / Zip Congregation Tifereth Israel, 1354 E. Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43205
  
- 6. Location(s) of class(es):** Street / City / State / Zip Congregation Tifereth Israel, 1354 E. Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43205
  
- 7. Dates of session(s):** start / conclude Start: Sunday, Sept. 14; Conclude: Sunday, May 17
  
- 8. Number of class meetings per session:** 27 total class sessions
  
- 9. Curriculum:** (Please supply a copy and indicate with whom it may be shared; otherwise it will be kept private) See attachment; may be shared at will
  - a. Hebrew reading
  - b. Is a more advanced Hebrew course available
  - c. Jewish calendar cycle / life cycle
  - d. Shabbat - home observances / synagogue
  - e. Kashrut - home / community
  - f. History
  - g. Philosophy and Theology
  - h. Halakhah and Minhagim, including tefillin, tallit, lulav-etrog
  - i. Literary heritage: Bible, Talmud, Midrash, Codes, Siddur. etc.
  - j. Decisions as a Jewish family, e.g. which synagogue to join, continuing adult Jewish education, moving to another community, day school, youth groups, camping, post-BMitzvah education for children, relationships with non-Jewish family members, recommended Jewish Home Library
  
- 10. Cost for each session:** Tuition for all sessions is \$250.00 (may be fulfilled over up to five payments)
  - a. books / computer Book/Activity fee \$110 (may be lower if student already owns book)
  - b. Judaica for individual / home n.a.
  - c. Instructor for separate Hebrew course No Charge
  
- 11. Is the fee refundable** if the candidate chooses not to convert or can't be converted? No

**12. Is Hebrew reading part of the basic classes or additional [before/after class or other time]**  
Held separately in cooperation with Read Hebrew American (NJOP); 5 Monday nights beginning Nov. 3

**13. Does fee include, and, if not, what are the charges for each**

- a. Bet Din (included)
- b. Mikveh \$25 (not included)
- c. Hatafat Dam Brit no charge if done by Rabbi Ungar, \$72 if done by Mohel (not included)
- d. Circumcision (not included)

**14. Does a candidate need to have a mentoring Rabbi, and if so, what are their responsibilities for and to the candidate:** All done with Rabbi Michael Ungar

- a. Meetings to discuss personal issues, classes, additional assigned reading to classes and questions
- b. Providing experiences for Shabbat in the home, home Kosher kitchen, mentor with whom to sit during synagogue attendance, attendance at services [daily, Shabbat / Festival, fast-days, Torah service, HHD, etc.],
- c. Post-conversion ceremonial welcome into the congregation
- d. Post-conversion synagogue programs for conversionary families

**15. Does the Region sponsor any post-conversion program(s), and if so, please describe:** Our congregation offers extensive adult education (including biennial Adult BM class) + many resources in the community including Melton Center for Jewish Studies at Ohio State University, Melton Mini-School.

**16. Are there other conversionary programs in your area of**

a. Other movements - which, contacts by name / email Rabbi at Cong. Beth Tikvah in Worthington, OH offers individual program—Reform.

b. Individual tutors - name(s) / email

**17. Does this program include provision for conversion of children:** Yes.

**18. Does this program require any current or prospective spouse to participate:** not required by highly encouraged.

## **SEATTLE, WASHINGTON**

1. Contact persons:
  - a. Congregation President: / phone / email address: Susan Monas / 206.781.8543 /
  - b. Rabbi: name / phone / email address: Rabbi Jill Borodin / 206.524.0075 /
2. Name of Course Administrator:
  - a. Course Instructor: Mary Potter Engel /
  - b. Adult Ed Chair: Ron DeChene /
3. Telephone: 206.524.0075
4. Email address: see above
5. Snail-mail address of Course Administrator: 6800 35th Ave NE / Seattle, WA / 98115

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CAN BE HELPFUL IF YOU WISH TO HAVE IT SHARED:

6. Location(s) of class(es): 6800 35th Ave NE / Seattle, WA / 98115
7. Dates of session(s): September 23, 2008 / May 19, 2009
8. Number of class meetings per session: 23
9. Curriculum: (Please supply a copy and indicate with whom it may be shared; otherwise it will be kept private)
  - a. Hebrew reading
  - b. Is a more advanced Hebrew course available
  - c. Jewish calendar cycle / life cycle
  - d. Shabbat - home observances / synagogue
  - e. Kashrut - home / community
  - f. History
  - g. Philosophy and Theology
  - h. Halakhah and Minhagim, including tefillen, tallit, lulav-etrog
  - i. Literary heritage: Bible, Talmud, Midrash, Codes, Siddur. etc.
  - j. Decisions as a Jewish family, e.g. which synagogue to join, continuing adult Jewish education, moving to another community, day school, youth groups, camping, post-BMitzvah education for children, relationships with non-Jewish family members, recommended Jewish Home Library

10. Cost for each session: \$400

- a. books / computer
- b. Judaica for individual / home
- c. Instructor for separate Hebrew course

11. Is the fee refundable if the candidate chooses not to convert or can't be converted? No; The fee is for the course, which is required for conversion, but is open to anyone.

12. Is Hebrew reading part of the basic classes or additional [before/after class or other time]: Yes.

13. Does fee include, and, if not, what are the charges for each

- a. Bet Din: Honorarium
- b. Mikveh: \$100 to Mikveh association
- c. Hatafat Dam Brit: Honorarium
- d. Circumcision

14. Does a candidate need to have a mentoring Rabbi, and if so, what are their responsibilities for and to the candidate: Yes.

- a. Meetings to discuss personal issues, classes, additional assigned reading to classes and questions
- b. Providing experiences for Shabbat in the home, home Kosher kitchen, mentor with whom to sit during synagogue attendance, attendance at services [daily, Shabbat / Festival, fast-days, Torah service, HHD, etc.],
- c. Post-conversion ceremonial welcome into the congregation
- d. Post-conversion synagogue programs for conversionary families

15. Does the Region sponsor any post-conversion program(s), and if so, please describe:

16. Are there other conversionary programs in your area of

- a. Other movements - which, contacts by name / email
- b. Individual tutors - name(s) / email

17. Does this program include provision for conversion of children: Yes

18. Does this program require any current or prospective spouse to participate: Participation of spouse, whether Jewish or not, is strongly encouraged

Any other information you think we should be collecting to share.

## **ONTARIO, CANADA**

Rabbi Martin J. Berman"  
To: "Rabbi Barry Dov Lerner"  
Subject: Re: Interim report on Conversion Referral list  
Date: Fri, 11 Jul 2008 01:35:41 +0000

There is no simple answer, I suppose Wayne Allen as our Av Beit Din is the chair. He and I each teach a class. Mine begins in mid--August and his in January following the same curriculum.

You can contact me directly (although I am about to go away on vacation). I am attaching the pertinent information for you.

Marty Berman

13. Does fee include, and if not what are the charges for each No
    - a. Bet Din \$500 covers all of these expenses.
    - b. Mikveh
    - c. Hatafat Dam Brit
    - d. Circumcision
  14. Does a candidate need to have a mentoring Rabbi, and if so, what are their responsibilities for the candidate Yes - oversee the process with the candidate and make the decision to send on the name to the Beit Din.
  15. Does the Region sponsor any post-conversion program(s), and if so, please describe
  16. Are there other conversionary programs in your area of
    - a. Other movements - which, contacts by name / email
    - b. Individual tutors - name(s) / email
  17. Does this program include provision for children
  18. Does this program require any prospective spouse to participate Yes
- Any other information you think we should be collecting to share.

## **NORTHAMPTON, MA**

Rabbi Justin David  
Congregation B'nai Israel  
253 Prospect Street  
Northampton, MA 01060  
413-584-3593  
[rabbidavid.bnaiisrael@verizon.net](mailto:rabbidavid.bnaiisrael@verizon.net)

Rabbi Bruce Bromberg Seltzer  
Smith College - Chaplain to the College  
Amherst College - Religious Advisor  
Director, Smith/Amherst Hillel  
Helen Hills Hills Chapel  
Northampton, MA 01063  
(413)585-2755 fax (413)585-2794

## **PHOENIX, ARIZONA AND AREA**

We do not have a joint Conservative Beit Din in the Greater Phoenix area.

## **SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA**

**1. Name of Program:** Har Zion Introduction to Judaism and Conversion Instruction

**2. Contact persons:** Rabbi Mark Bisman & Rabbi Elon Sunshine

**4. Snailmail address of Program Administrator:**

Har Zion Congregation  
6140 E. Thunderbird Rd.  
Scottsdale, AZ 85254-3863  
(o) 480-991-0720

## **SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA**

**2. Contact persons: “Rabbi Joe” Mendelsohn (570) 342-0350**

**4. Email address: “ “Rabbi Joe" Mendelsohn” <[RabbiJoe@epix.net](mailto:RabbiJoe@epix.net)**

**5. Snail-mail address of Program Administrator: Temple Israel, Scranton, PA**

## **LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

### **Miller Introduction to Judaism Program**

1. Contact persons: **Rabbi Neal Weinberg**
  - a. Regional President / phone / email address:
  - b. Conversion Chair: name / phone / email address:
  - c. Chair of Bet Din: name / phone / email address:
2. Name of Course Administrator: **Rabbi Neal Weinberg**
3. Telephone: **310-440-1273**
4. Email address: [nweinberg@ajula.edu](mailto:nweinberg@ajula.edu)
5. Snail-mail address of Course Administrator: Street / City / State / Zip

### **American Jewish University**

**15600 Mulholland Drive**

**Los Angeles, CA 91356**

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CAN BE HELPFUL IF YOU WISH TO HAVE IT SHARED:

6. Location(s) of class(es): Street / City / State / Zip

**American Jewish University, 15600 Mulholland Drive, Los Angeles, CA 91356**

**Outlying areas: Santa Monica, Pasadena, Woodland Hills/Conejo Valley, Venice, East Valley**

7. Dates of session(s): start / conclude: **Begin almost monthly**
8. Number of class meetings per session: **18 sessions**
9. Curriculum: (Please supply a copy and indicate with whom it may be shared; otherwise it will be kept private): **(I have attached a list of topics taught)**
  - a. Hebrew reading: **2 ½ hour of beginning Hebrew are offered as part of the program at no charge.**
  - b. Is a more advanced Hebrew course available **Hebrew is offered at the University**
  - c. Jewish calendar cycle / life cycle
  - d. Shabbat - home observances / synagogue
  - e. Kashrut - home / community
  - f. History
  - g. Philosophy and Theology
  - h. Halakhah and Minhagim, including tefillin, tallit, lulav-etrog
  - i. Literary heritage: Bible, Talmud, Midrash, Codes, Siddur. etc.
  - j. Decisions as a Jewish family, e.g. which synagogue to join, continuing adult Jewish education, moving to another community, day school, youth groups, camping, post-BMitzvah education for children, relationships with non-Jewish family members, recommended Jewish Home Library

10. Cost for each session:

- a. books / computer: **Books \$94.60**
- b. Judaica for individual / home
- c. Instructor for separate Hebrew course: **Yes, Hebrew is taught by a Hebrew teacher**

11. Is the fee refundable if the candidate chooses not to convert or can't be converted? **No**

12. Is Hebrew reading part of the basic classes or additional [before/after class or other time] **see above**

13. Does fee include some or all of the following, and, if not, what are the charges for each

- a. Bet Din
- b. Mikveh
- c. Hatafat Dam Brit
- d. Circumcision

14. Does a candidate need to have a mentoring Rabbi, and if so, what are their responsibilities for and to the candidate: See attached

- a. Meetings to discuss personal issues, classes, additional assigned reading to classes and questions
- b. Providing experiences for Shabbat in the home, home Kosher kitchen, mentor with whom to sit during synagogue attendance, attendance at services [daily, Shabbat / Festival, fast-days, Torah service, HHD, etc.],
- c. Post-conversion ceremonial welcome into the congregation
- d. Post-conversion synagogue programs for conversionary families

15. Does the Region sponsor any post-conversion program(s), and if so, please describe:

16. Are there other conversionary programs in your area of

- a. Other movements - which, contacts by name / email
- b. Individual tutors - name(s) / email

17. Does this program include provision for conversion of children:

18. Does this program require any current or prospective spouse to participate:

Letter to Rabbi and Schedule for 2008-2009 / 5769 available from [nweinberg@ajula.edu](mailto:nweinberg@ajula.edu)

## **PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA**

1. Name of Program: Rabbi Morris Goodblatt Academy
2. Contact persons: Elana Shaw
  - a. Regional President name / email / phone:
  - b. Chair of Bet Din: name / email / phone:
  - c. Course Administrator: name / email / phone: Elana Shaw, , 215-844-1507 Ext 19
3. Conversion Chair: name / phone:
4. Email address: Elana Shaw, ,
5. Snail-mail address of Program Administrator:  
Goodblatt Academy c/o GJC/400 W. Ellet St. Philadelphia, PA 19119
6. Location(s) of class(es): Street / City / State / Zip Adath Israel/250 N. Highland Ave./Merion Station, PA 19066
7. Dates of session(s): start / conclude Classes begin in September & January of each year. September class usually ends in May or June, January class ends in August.
8. Number of class meetings per session: 30
9. Curriculum: (Please supply a copy and indicate with whom it may be shared; otherwise it will be kept private) Introduction to Jewish holidays, history, beliefs, lifecycle events and customs, as well as beginning Hebrew.
  - a. Hebrew reading - Yes
  - b. Is a more advanced Hebrew course available – No, but we offer a “Judaic enrichment” class for those who already know how to read Hebrew
  - c. Jewish calendar cycle / life cycle - Yes
  - d. Shabbat - home observances / synagogue - Yes
  - e. Kashrut - home / community - Yes
  - f. History - Yes
  - g. Philosophy and Theology - Yes
  - h. Halakhah and Minhagim, including tefillen, tallit, lulav-etrog - Yes
  - i. Literary heritage: Bible, Talmud, Midrash, Codes, Siddur. etc. - Yes
  - j. Other - Yes
  - k. Decisions as a Jewish family, e.g. which synagogue to join, continuing adult Jewish education, moving to another community, day school, youth groups, camping, post-BMitzvah education for children, relationships with non-Jewish family members, recommended Jewish Home Library - Yes
10. Cost for each session:

\$750 per couple, \$650 per individual, payment plans and scholarships available. Includes text books.

- a. books / computer
- b. Judaica for individual / home
- c. Instructor for separate Hebrew course

11. Is the fee refundable if the candidate chooses not to convert or can't be converted? No

12. Is Hebrew reading part of the basic classes or additional [before/after class or other time]  
Part of class

13. Does fee include, and, if not, what are the charges for each

- a. Bet Din – No, but no specific fee is charged, many students give donations to rabbis/synagogues
- b. Mikveh – No, \$72 additional fee applies
- c. Hatafat Dam Brit – No, this is worked out directly w/ mohel
- d. Circumcision – No, this is worked out directly w/ mohel/doctor

14. Does a candidate need to have a mentoring Rabbi, and if so, what are their responsibilities to the candidate: Yes, I will help students find one if necessary

- a. Meetings to discuss personal issues, classes, additional assigned reading to classes and questions that arise Yes
- b. Providing experiences for Shabbat in the home, home Kosher kitchen, mentor with whom to sit during synagogue attendance, attendance at services [daily, Shabbat /Festival, fast-days, Torah service, HHD, etc.], Yes
- c. Post-conversion ceremonial welcome into the congregation Up to conversion candidate and rabbi
- d. Post-conversion synagogue programs for conversionary families Up to conversion candidate and rabbi
- e. Other

15. Does the Region sponsor post-conversion program(s), and if so, please describe: We encourage students to take classes at individual synagogues and/or community wide programs like Melton through Gratz College.

16. Are there other conversionary programs in your area Yes, but this is only one sponsored by the Conservative movement in the Philadelphia area

- a. Other movements - which, contacts by name / email I know that URJ offers courses, not sure if there are others as well
- b. Individual tutors - name(s) / email

17. Does this program include provision for conversion of children: Not directly, but sponsoring rabbis will often work w/ families when necessary

18. Does this program require any current or prospective spouse to participate: We recommend that (Jewish) significant others take the course along w/ non-Jewish partners, but do not require it

19. Any other information you think we should be collecting to share. Although a large majority of those who enroll in the Goodblatt Academy are seeking conversion, and generally do convert immediately upon completion of the course, we do not assume that all participants will convert. For those who do wish to convert, readiness for conversion is determined by students in consultation with sponsoring rabbis, and depends not only on progress in the class, but living Jewishly outside of class as well.

## **INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM IN BROWNSTONE, BROOKLYN, NY**

**1. Name of Program:** Introduction to Judaism in Brownstone Brooklyn

**2. Contact persons:** Rabbi Matt Carl

a. Regional President name / email / phone: n/a

b. Chair of Bet Din: name / email / phone: n/a (The course is co-sponsored by 7 synagogues in the area; any potential conversions are administered by the rabbis of these synagogues and is not a part of the course itself.)

c. Course Administrator: name / email / phone: Rabbi Matt Carl / / 646-391-0757

**3. Conversion Chair: name / phone:** n/a

4. Email address:

5. Snailmail address of Program Administrator: Street/ City/ State/ Zip

Rabbi Matt Moshe Carl  
108 6th Ave, #1R  
Brooklyn NY 11217

6. Location(s) of class(es): Street / City / State / Zip Park Slope, Cobble Hill and Brooklyn Heights, Brooklyn NY

7. Dates of session(s): start / conclude shortly after High Holidays

8. Number of class meetings per session: 20

9. Curriculum: (Please supply a copy and indicate with whom it may be shared; otherwise it will be kept private)

a. Hebrew reading a little

b. Is a more advanced Hebrew course available x

c. Jewish calendar cycle / life cycle x

d. Shabbat home observances / synagogue x

e. Kashrut home / community x

f. History x

g. Philosophy and Theology x

h. Halakhah and Minhagim, including tefillen, tallit, lulavetrog x

i. Literary heritage: Bible, Talmud, Midrash, Codes, Siddur. etc. x

j. Other

k. Decisions as a Jewish family, e.g. which synagogue to join, continuing adult Jewish education, moving to another community, day school, youth groups, camping, postBMitzvah education for children, relationships with non-Jewish family members, recommended Jewish Home Library x

10. Cost for each session: \$325/person  
a. books / computer varies but approx. \$50  
b. Judaica for individual / home n/a  
c. Instructor for separate Hebrew course n/a

11. Is the fee refundable if the candidate chooses not to convert or can't be converted? No

12. Is Hebrew reading part of the basic classes or additional [before/after class or other time]  
Very little as part of the class, may be offered as a follow-up course if there is enough demand.

13. Does fee include, and, if not, what are the charges for each

- a. Bet Din No  
b. Mikveh No  
c. Hatafat Dam Brit No  
d. Circumcision No

14. Does a candidate need to have a mentoring Rabbi, and if so, what are their responsibilities for and to the candidate:

- a. Meetings to discuss personal issues, classes, additional assigned reading to classes and questions  
b. Providing experiences for Shabbat in the home, home Kosher kitchen, mentor with whom to sit during synagogue attendance, attendance at services [daily, Shabbat / Festival, fastdays, Torah service, HHD, etc.],  
c. Post-conversion ceremonial welcome into the congregation  
d. Post-conversion synagogue programs for conversionary families  
e. Other

**NO TO ALL OF #14**

15. Does the Region sponsor post-conversion program(s), and if so, please describe: Don't know

16. Are there other conversionary programs in your area Don't know

- a. Other movements which, contacts by name / email  
b. Individual tutors name(s) / email

17. Does this program include provision for conversion of children: No

18. Does this program require any current or prospective spouse to participate: No, though it is highly encouraged.

Any other information you think we should be collecting to share:

Basically, this course is co-sponsored by 7 synagogues/temples in the area. This is an introduction to Judaism course only (with an eye toward issues particular to potential converts.) Any conversions still go through the individual area rabbis (of which I, however, am one.)