

Sowing Seeds: Reaping Rewards

Reform Judaism expects its members to carefully and thoughtfully choose how they will lead Jewish lives. This cannot happen in a vacuum. The choice should be informed, educated and internalized. We realize that growth rarely proceeds in a straight line. It often takes years for a Jewish identity to grow. **Outreach** strives to provide a fertile climate of inclusion and opportunity for that growth. Our goal is to bring Judaism into the homes and lives of Jews and non-Jews alike.

What Outreach Participants Have to Say:

- Conversations with Interfaith Families

"Everyone learned that it is possible to involve their non-Jewish family." - Suzy Callahan

- Welcome to the World, My Child: Brit Milah

"Fabulous program! Despite having two sons, I still learned things I didn't know." - Roberta Glick

- "The Many Voices of Conversion"

"This provided valuable information on what is involved in the conversion process." - Scott Stephenson

- Chanukah 101

"My introduction to latke making occurred at an Outreach program over 25 years ago. How meaningful it was to now be the one teaching others to enjoy this holiday favorite." - Trish Salk



Participants at an Outreach Chanukah Party: Chanukah 101

The Learning Never Ends...

Outreach at Temple Jeremiah creates educational opportunities for those whose Jewish education ended in childhood, Jews-by-Choice and members who are not Jewish. **Children who see their parents engage in study understand that Jewish education is a lifelong and enriching pursuit.**

Recent Outreach Programs

Here is a sampling of the wide array of Outreach programming offered by Temple Jeremiah.

"On One Foot: An Introduction to Judaism"

Rabbi Greenberg explored the foundations of Jewish spirituality, values and history.

Welcome to the World, My Child: Brit Milah

Our discussion focused on what is probably the oldest rite in the Jewish faith, the covenant of circumcision.

"To Convert or Not To Convert"

Rabbi Cohen led this program on the history of conversion in the Jewish community.

"Their Memory Shall be for a Blessing"

Outreach looked at the choices we face when a loved one dies, including Jewish mourning rituals.

Annual Shabbat Across America

We celebrate Shabbat with synagogues across the country.

Outreach Chanukah Party: Chanukah 101

Outreach celebrated our rich Chanukah traditions with an interactive party for congregants of all ages.

Outreach Excellence at Temple Jeremiah

As a **four-time winner** of the Union for Reform Judaism's coveted Belin Award for Outreach Programming Excellence, most recently in 2005, Temple Jeremiah's **Outreach** committee is recognized nationally for its enriching and varied format of programs:

- "The Many Voices of Conversion"
- "Today's Agenda for Jewish/Christian Dialogue"
- Interfaith B'nai Mitzvah Discussion
- Shabbat Service with Ron Miller, Common Ground
- Grandfather/Father/Child Torah Study
- Conversations with Interfaith Couples
- Almond Tree Book Discussions



Rabbi Michelle Greenberg fields questions from participants at "Shabbat Afternoon in the Ark."

For More Information ...

- Contact Rabbi Michelle Greenberg at 847/441-5760, x109 or Steve Salk at 847/559-8069.
- Check out the great collection of books in the Outreach section of the temple library.
- Look for Outreach news in the monthly newsletter.

Outreach Mission Statement

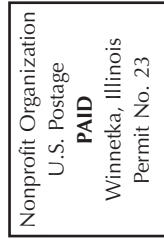
The Outreach Committee provides programs, resources and support that address the unique needs of interfaith families, Jews-by-Choice, conversion candidates and those who feel disconnected or under-informed regarding Jewish life and practice both in the home and in the synagogue.

Our Outreach Committee:

- Welcomes interfaith families to take part in synagogue life, to learn more about Judaism and to raise their children as Jews.
- Welcomes and educates new Jews-by-Choice as well as those investigating Judaism.
- Inspires Jews to engage more fully in the community, especially those who feel disconnected or distant.
- Invites non-Jewish partners to explore, study and understand Judaism, thereby providing an atmosphere of support in which a comfortable relationship with Judaism can be fostered.
- Assists young adults in strengthening their Jewish connection and identity.
- Educates and sensitizes the congregational community to be accepting of all who seek a place at Temple Jeremiah.

Welcoming You, You and You

Whether you're a Jew by birth, Jew-by-Choice or an interfaith couple or family, **Outreach** is for you. We want to help those involved in interdating or intermarriage examine the issues that come with these choices. We also want to welcome those who may feel equivocal about their Jewish heritage, particularly those whose Jewish roots stemmed from their father's side of the family. In 1993, the Reform Jewish movement recognized patrilineal descent, resolving any question of "who is Jewish."



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Welcoming *All* To the Joys of Jewish Choices:

- Interfaith Couples & Children
- Jews by Choice - Jews by Birth
- Parents of Children Married to Non-Jews
- Young Adults Seeking Connections
- *Anyone* Looking to Learn More and Connect

*Multiple Year Winner of the URJ Belin
Award for Programming Excellence*