A NAOMI FOR EVERY RUTH

Name of Congregation: Temple Israel
Address: 5725 Walnut Lake Rd
West Bloomfield, MI 48323

Phone Number: (248) 661-5700
Number of Members: 3,250
UAHC Region: Northeast Lakes Council
Rabbis: Harold Loss, Paul Yedwab, Joshua Bennett, Marla Hornsten
Outreach chairperson: Carol Lynn Cooper
Other Temple contact: Alan Ellias, Director of Programming

Brief Description: An educational/support/discussion group meeting monthly for two hours each session in the relaxed and confidential setting of the committee chair’s home. The first hour, instructed by a rabbi or Jewish educator, is strictly educational, covering topics on the syllabus. The second hour, facilitated by the committee chair-person(s) encourages group members to share their own stories about Jewish experiences, and openly discuss issues and concerns in a supportive environment. This program was inspired by a similar Outreach effort sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Miami.

Program Goal: To enhance the participants’ knowledge of Jewish ritual, tradition and community and to develop a stronger connection to Judaism with interactive and hands-on activities. Group members are encouraged to seek out Jewish community involvement and to enrich their homes and cultivate new generations of Jewish memories. They are provided both literature and support in their pursuit of further adult Jewish education, organizational/community programming involvement and congregational affiliation.

Target Population: Jewish and non-Jewish women, affiliated or not, who want to learn more about Judaism. A high percentage of the group is Jews-by-choice.

Number of Participants: Ideal number is 10-15 group members.

Number and Length of Sessions: Nine 2-hour monthly sessions

Staffing Required: Jewish educators, and clergy, Outreach chair

Total Cost of Program: Coffee and bagels-$90.00; copies and flyers-$100.00; daycare, if not paid for by group members, -$30.00 per meeting.
Source of Funding: Congregation Outreach and Programming budget.
Fee for Attendees: None

Logistics: Pencils and paper for notes, seating in the round, refreshments, if not in the budget, provided by committee chair(s) and group members. Childcare in a separate room to allow mothers of small children to attend.

Instructions to Facilitator: Group members should be contacted monthly to verify and encourage attendance at the upcoming group meeting. Phone contact is essential to build rapport and provide support. Co-chairs serve as Jewish role models, should be good facilitators and have knowledge of Jewish customs and traditions. Host(s) also make Judaica available as needed for teaching home ritual observance.
Evaluation of Program: As with any group experience, evaluation of the project is somewhat subjective in nature. Participants are asked to complete an evaluation of the group after four months, and then again at nine months to determine if participants have made outside connections to the Jewish community and also if they are attempting to bring what they have learned from the group into their own homes. The evaluation also offers valuable feedback to the co-chair about how the participants feel about their own personal experiences in the group and if they are getting the support and educational experiences they need.

Some of the statistics gathered to date are noted below. The results are based on the original 20 participants of the group since inception:

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Converted who were not Jewish when joining group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Affiliated with Temple</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Joined Sisterhood/ Choir/ Outreach Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Celebrate Shabbat in their homes regularly</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Established friendships within the group</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Attend services regularly</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Have attended further adult Jewish education</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Co-chair evening Outreach group</td>
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In response to continued interest from those unable to attend a daytime group and serving as a measurement of the success of “A Naomi For Every Ruth”, a second group was created. It is held in the evening for both women and men and has been named “Gesharim: Bridges to the Jewish Community.” This group of 15 new members began in March with an enthusiastic reception and already extraordinary feedback.

Follow-up: In addition to information given on adult education opportunities and community programs, group members also receive a follow-up call six months after leaving the group.

- **Types of Publicity**
  - Detroit Jewish News Article
  - Brochure promoting both “A Naomi for Every Ruth” group and “Gesharim”
  - 2 “Messenger” articles (“The Messenger” is Temple Israel’s newsletter)
  - Flyer for Gesharim sent as part of Temple Israel’s mid-month mailing to both congregants and other targeted groups, such as Introduction to Judaism class members