

## A Sinai Sea of Jews By Choice

*To commemorate the twentieth anniversary of Reform Jewish Outreach during Shabbat services at the UAHC Biennial in December, 1999, Jews by choice were honored with an aliyah. Of the estimated 5000 Jewish leaders who worshipped together, 300 ascended the bimah, including Dr. Christina Ager.*

We were a few rising  
Hesitant at first  
Moving forward.  
Then we were a stream  
Flowing toward Torah.  
We looked at each other  
Surprised overwhelmed;  
We recognized ourselves  
In the faces we saw.  
We were Jews  
By Choice.  
The stream became a river.  
We moved together  
Up aisles of friends, teachers, lovers.  
Up we flowed onto the bimah.  
We were smiling weeping;  
We knew each other  
Though we had never met.  
We stood amazed  
Before the light  
Of Torah.  
We looked around;  
The river became a sea.  
We were numerous  
As the crowd at Sinai.  
We are Jews  
By choice.  
We are a blessing.  
A gift to the people Israel,  
Rabbi Schindler said it.  
We felt it.  
We belonged.  
There, here.  
We belong to Torah  
As Torah belongs to us.  
We kept coming  
This sea of Jews  
By Choice.  
We said the blessing  
Together, a Sinai sea strong.  
Strangers who were not

Strangers anymore.  
One of our own  
Chanted Torah  
We were proud  
We were a stream,  
A river, a sea  
Of Jews  
By Choice.  
A stranger  
Who was not a stranger  
Wrapped me in her tallit.  
We loved each other  
We loved being Jews  
Belonging.  
We were called  
And we came  
This Sinai sea of Jews  
By Choice.

*Dr. Christina Ager is a member of Keneseth Israel in Elkins Park, PA.*