

Comments from the 2015-16 CONVERSION CLASS PARTICIPANTS

What liked about the Community-wide Conversion class:

- Variety of opinions presented. I appreciated having different Rabbis speak to their group's specific beliefs.
- The structure was great. It's impossible to cover the entire realm of Judaism in nine months, but the class does a great job covering the main points. It gives people a great first step and the ability to continue more in-depth learning beyond the 9 months if they so choose.
- It is a well-structured class and designed class providing the audience a wide perspective of Judaism three movements, core values, traditions, holidays and history.
- The diversity of the participants and instructors was also enriching.
- I loved the fact that I was able to go to different synagogues in the city for our classes. Each synagogue is so unique and provides such a different perspective. It's an opportunity that most people only have in a class like this. I loved the fact that our class of students was so diverse. I was pleasantly surprised on the first night of class to see and hear about everyone's background
- Learning about the culture and tradition of Judaism was most important, but second to that I liked the fact that total strangers could come together and become as one family.
- Meeting people on the same journey. Experiencing Judaism through the different holidays and the different movements.
- It is a great survey course on Judaism. Many topics were covered. The Hebrew portions were very helpful. Enjoyed learning in different venues within the community and from different Rabbis. The out of class experiences like Sukkot, Chanukah, and Pesach were inspiring and encouraging. Its one thing to read about a topic and it's another to see it done or do it.
- Learning practical applications of the assigned readings, such as how to make Seder was very helpful and enjoyable. Also, meeting and bonding with other classmates was an amazing experience
- Everything; hearing the different movements and customs. The ability to read Hebrew. Met a great group of people.
- Discussions and questions were always allowed
- Questions were always encouraged.
- I really loved the Hebrew textbook. I like how the class went at different places for this too so I never felt overwhelmed. It became a fun challenge and wasn't too intimidating with this set up.
- The Hebrew textbook was easy to follow and helpful in the learning process. Presentation was engaging and helpful as well.
- Great book I can follow services in Hebrew now and not rely so much on the transliterated side
- Hebrew is essential for services; I feel more comfortable now during services as I am able to follow the service in Hebrew.
- The Hebrew textbook was great and I very much enjoyed the method in which it was taught.
- I loved how we had differing Hebrew groups to study with that allowed for homogenous grouping.
- I feel more comfortable saying the prayers because I know more of what's being said verses just saying the Hebrew words. By understanding Hebrew it brings more meaning to the prayers.
- Going over Hebrew each week has allowed me to begin to say/read most of my prayers in Hebrew now.
- I do plan to continue to learn Hebrew and follow up on certain words and what they mean. And, to learn the different prayers for different events.

Did the class meet your expectations:

- Absolutely it went above and beyond!
- This class points the convert in the right direction, but it is up to each of us to continue on a path of study and participation in the Jewish community.
- We honestly had no idea what to expect. We have heard about conversations that take years but have never spoken to anyone who had gone through one. It's a rewarding experience and helps when you have a group of students as engaged as this one.
- This class absolutely and without a doubt exceeded my expectations. I am very grateful for all the resources, time and material provided. This class has helped me in so many areas not just spiritually. The tuition is really symbolic for the materials received and the knowledge gained from the class. I wish I had taken this class many years ago.

- Yes it met my expectations. I feel much better educated and more well-rounded after attending the class.
- I am very thankful that many have taken time to make this class an enjoyable and learning experience.
- The class has exceeded my expectations with the level of detail covered with each lesson.
- The class completely exceeded my expectations! There are so many great things to say.
- The size and diversity of the students in our class was great. I am walking away with some great new friends.
- I learned more about the how and why's of Judaism than I could have ever learned from a book.
- I am walking away feeling full of knowledge and with a solid foundation to continue my journey.

The out of class holiday group experiences were helpful/meaningful/informative:

- I do believe it is helpful to actually experience these programs and not just read about them. It also helps us incorporate these experiences into our own lives.
- I attended these and other services/activities at my congregation.
- The events were both educational and enjoyable.
- They provided real world experiences which are very different than classroom experiences which are beneficial. They also allowed for some time to get to know other's in the class.
- Very helpful and informative for sure to put information into context.