

Ner LeElef Monthly Newsletter

1. Alternative Locations to Holding Shiurim:

Your kiruv center/shul is not always the best way to hold shiurim. 1. The value of holding classes in locations that are not identified with Torah Judaism needs to be qualified. i.e. it is a good way to "get out there and meet people" however the main progress is always made when people take the step to come to the center this needs to be factored in when evaluating time management issues¹.

Some alternatives could be:

1. The JCC
2. *Large bookstores* in America often have a coffee area where it is possible to give shiurim that have been announced beforehand.
3. The Melton Center runs well-attended adult-education courses in several cities (e.g. Atlanta, Memphis, St. Louis) and has an excellent reputation. Recently, the Melton Center has opened up in several new cities, and a number of Orthodox Rabbis were accepted to be speakers on their courses. This provides an excellent exposure to new people. The Melton mini-School curriculum is a Pluralistic one where the opinions of Reform and Conservative "scholars" are included in the materials and many providers expect them to be taught. However, most of us find that this can be "finessed" a bit but it should be clear that there are issues that can and inevitably arise since the students are told that they are getting a "broad" perspective. Basically, to do this right you need to "hijack" the program. It can and has been done but it is not Glatt².
4. Lawyers and doctors (amongst others) have to take courses as part of their ongoing education. Rabbis could get themselves accredited as speakers in one of these courses, giving related ethics lectures. Rabbi Shalom Kaminetsky, amongst others, gained such accreditation and had developed excellent source material on medical and other ethical issues. He can be contacted at skam@juno.com. On the Subject of CME and CLE credits for lawyers and doctors. It should be noted that it is not the lecturer that needs to be accredited rather the program or the Provider. The way it usually works is for a lawyer or a doctor to apply to his professional body requesting that your course be officially registered. In the Case of CME Jewish Medical Ethics Courses very often can be used for Ethics CME's the best way to do this is through a local hospital's CME program with the help of nice Jewish doctor. As all these things go you need to provide a curriculum, handouts and there is certain amount of record-keeping that CME entails. As far the CLE for Lawyers again Jewish Legal Ethics can qualify for the Ethics requirement which is a small portion of the yearly requirement. The MCLE boards are state agencies and also require accreditation the easiest way to make this happen is by teaming up with a local pre-accredited MCLE provider which may cost money. (unless you are in Arizona where no accreditation is required!!) Rabbi Fishel Todd (fishel@shemayisrael.com) is working on getting the Shulchan Aruch Project Chshem Mishpat Curriculum accredited nationally which will save us a lot of work on this. feel free to contact him³.

¹Rabbi Tzvi Holland

² Rabbi Tzvi Holland

³ Rabbi Tzvi Holland

5. One could also team-teach a course at a university or college together with the official lecturer. This does not require special qualifications on your part, and does not require someone frum or even Jewish to be interested. Many lecturers would be delighted to be able to introduce something creative and unusual in the course.
6. Several organizations give lectures in “Starbucks” (in LA and St. Louis for example). This often attracts a young yuppie crowd. Starbucks will allow a special group to take it over after 8.30 pm. You have to ask your own halachik shealos, but some poskim have allowed it since most of the coffees (not all) are kosher, provided that you bring some of your own cakes with. Rabbi First of Chicago is one of the poskim familiar with the issues involved.
7. Public libraries often have a room which can be used for lectures. Rabbi Farber of Gesher said that this is a venue that Gesher uses often. Public libraries are free and accessible. Some give more liberties than others do, but this really depends on the
8. rapport that you establish with those in charge.)
9. The Rio Kollel made a successful cheese and wine party. They worked out that buying proper cocktail glasses and good plates would be cheaper in the long run than using disposables (which do cost more in Brazil than in the USA). A shiur or a mini-shiur gets given at the event.