

# Temple Israel Earns National Honor

## *Earns URJ's Belin Outreach Award*



(L to R: Cantor John Kaplan, Rabbi Adam Grossman, Rabbi Eric Yoffie (URJ President), Billy Orgel (Temple President), Jeff Manis (Temple Executive Director).

The Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) has awarded Temple Israel a Belin Outreach Award for its “Community Six-Pack” program.

Rabbi Adam B. Grossman and Celia Mutchnick created, coordinated, and administered the “Six-Pack” program geared for those in their 20s and 30s. Rabbi Grossman accepted the award on Temple’s behalf at the URJ’s Biennial convention in Toronto, held Nov. 4-8, 2009.

Temple Israel is one of only nine synagogues in North America that earned the award this year. This is the fifth time that Temple Israel has been honored with national awards by the URJ.

The prestigious Belin Outreach Awards honor congregations for their exceptionally innovative, effective, and reproducible outreach and membership programs. They are given to recognize superior programs from around North America that actively welcome and integrate those new to Judaism.

“We are extremely pleased with the tremendous response we received with this program,” said Rabbi Grossman. “It is very gratifying and meaningful through this initiative, to establish, maintain, and broaden a sense of community for so many young Jewish adults and to create and develop many positive and lasting connections with them.”

Rabbi Adam added, “I would like to thank the leadership of Temple Israel for actively supporting the creation of this program, the initial leadership committee, and Jimmy Jalenak and Marcia Levy for helping to prepare and complete the Belin Award application.”

Temple Israel also received a \$1,000 prize, funded through the generosity of David Belin, of blessed memory, the first chairman of the URJ-CCAR Commission on Reform Jewish Outreach. The award-winning program will also be included in the URJ’s publication, “The Outreach and Membership Idea Book, Volume III,” a program resource guide for congregations all across the United States and Canada.

For information about the Community Six-Pack, go to the “20s and 30s” page under the “About Temple” tab at [www.timemphis.org](http://www.timemphis.org).