



Am Kolel Sanctuary and Renewal Center

19520 Darnestown Road
Beallsville, MD 20839-3308
Web page: www.am-kolel.org

Telephone: 301-349-2799
Facsimile: 301-349-2744
E-mail: info@am-kolel.org

Founder and Director
Rabbi David Shneyer

Board of Trustees

President and Chairman
Jeff Sklaver
Vice Presidents
Ira Levine
Secretary
Sue Levine
Treasurer
Donna Boxer
At-Large
Ralph Tryon
Paige Goodman
Past President
Francine McMahon

Staff

Business Manager
Maura Gost
Sanctuary Manager
Gilah Rosner, PhD
Administrative Assistant
Tarisa Martin
Webmaster
Judy Stone
Librarian
Ann Bradbury

Judaic Consultants

Cantor Margery Auerbach
Rabbi David Kuperman, PhD
Rabbi Gilah Langner
Janeane Marks
Melavah Rukhanit
Spiritual Companion
Cantor Sue Roemer

Dear Parents,

Thank you for choosing to work with Am Kolel Renewal Center in preparation for your child's becoming bar or bat mitzvah. We hope that the coming months will be a time of meaningful and joyful planning.

We would like to encourage you to use this time as a family to deepen your Jewishness and appreciation of Judaism. For your son or daughter, becoming bar or bat mitzvah should not be seen as the culmination of one's Jewish education, but rather as the beginning of an affirmation and commitment to Jewish life. We hope that your family will participate in as many of the programs and services of Am Kolel as possible, and that you will call upon Am Kolel for support when you need it.

Please be reminded that your son or daughter should be meeting weekly with a tutor to work specifically on the prayers and readings for the bar or bat mitzvah. In addition, your child should be meeting monthly – and as the day approaches, perhaps more frequently – with the officiating rabbi or cantor to discuss Jewish history, ethics, the meaning behind the day, and to plan the services. Parents are welcome at the monthly meetings.

Please fill out the attached form for our Office records. This form must be returned to the Am Kolel Office as soon as possible.

We welcome your suggestions and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Rabbi David Shneyer



Am Kolel Sanctuary & Renewal Center

FEE SCHEDULE FOR BAR/BAT MITZVAH CANDIDATES

Am Kolel Membership: \$920.00

Every family who works with an Am Kolel Staff member for B'nai Mitzvah, and is not a current member of another Jewish community, must be full household members in order to secure the date of their Simcha (Bar/Bat Mitzvah).

Benefits of membership include:

1. *Belonging to a congregation*
2. *Access to staff and resources.*
3. *Two (2) adult High Holiday tickets.*
4. *Discounts for life cycle events, classes, programs, retreats and Am Kolel Bookstore.*
5. *Weekly E-letter and all other program mailings.*
6. *Voting privileges.*
7. *Eligibility for subsidies to Jewish educational & renewal conferences or retreats.*
8. *Supporting an organization that benefits the Jewish and general community through community services and human relations programs.*

Fees for Judaic Consulting services vary, depending upon community membership. Please email maura@am-kolel.org for service fee information.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Fee Includes

1. *All brief telephone calls and email correspondence¹*
2. *Rehearsal, Ceremony, and Use of Ark and Torah*
3. *Certificate & Gift*

For their support, families who have been Full Household Members of Am Kolel for 3 or more consecutive years may deduct \$100 from the Bar/Bat Mitzvah fee.

Meetings with Rabbi *On average, 9-12 meetings will be needed during year of preparation.*

Travel Reimbursement *charges will apply for events conducted 40 or more miles from Rockville. Call the Am Kolel office for a specific estimate.*

Process & Payment Schedule:

1. **Due Immediately:** *Information sheet, Am Kolel Membership application and dues, or the name of the community/congregation of which you are members.*
2. **2nd meeting:** *Half (1/2) of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Fee – this secures the date on Rabbi's calendar*
3. **30 days prior to Simcha:** *Balance of fee*
4. *Payment for meetings is due at the time of the meeting.*
5. *Checks should be made payable to: Am Kolel*

Our tradition encourages families who are able to do so to make contributions to their favorite Tzedakah funds or charitable causes. This is a way of sharing your celebration with those who are less fortunate.

¹ Preparation sessions conducted by telephone with out-of-area students are charged at the regular session fee.



Am Kolel Membership Information

1 Year Membership

Full Household Membership Includes

- Membership in the Am Kolel Havurah
- 2 High Holiday tickets
- Eligibility for subsidies to Jewish educational and renewal conferences and retreats
- One free Open Shabbes stay at Sanctuary
- Weekly e-letter and up-to-date information
- Voting privileges
- Discounts at the Am Kolel Bookstore
- Reduced fees for lifecycle events
- 20% Discount at Am Kolel Events at Sanctuary
- All mailings

Complete the Form Below and Return with \$920 Full Household Membership Dues.

Family Last Name: _____ (name under which your records will be filed)

Individual Member(s): [Please list all household members. For children living in the household, please list name & date of birth]

Adults: _____

Children: _____ Date of Birth _____
 _____ Date of Birth _____
 _____ Date of Birth _____

Address: _____

Phone(s): (H) _____ (A) _____ Cell Work

E-mail: _____

Other communities to which you belong: _____

Payment: Check Money Order Credit Card (Visa & Mastercard Only)



Name as it appears on Credit Card: _____

Credit Card #: _____

Expiration date: _____ Signature: _____

Credit Card Billing Address (if not same as home address above) _____

Would you like to receive our weekly e-mail newsletter? Yes No
 (Please make sure you provided your email address if you want to receive our e-letter)

Preparation Checklist for Parents of Bar/Bat Mitzvah Students

What to Do	When to Do It
1. Call the Am Kolel office (301-349-2799) to schedule an initial phone conference with Rabbi David Shneyer. A <u>tentative</u> date for the service can be arranged with Reb David at this time.	As soon as possible. At least 1 year prior to bar/bat mitzvah
2. Complete and return the enclosed Information For the Am Kolel Office (yellow form).	Immediately
3. If you are <u>not</u> currently a member of an established Jewish community, complete the enclosed Am Kolel Membership Information (bright green form) and return with dues.	Immediately
4. Schedule the first monthly meeting with Reb David.	12 months before bar/bat mitzvah date
5. When the Am Kolel office has received the Information and, where appropriate, Membership forms, you will receive an invoice for the Simcha services. (see enclosed Fee Schedule) A 50% deposit is required to secure the bar/bat mitzvah service date. The date is <u>not confirmed</u> until the deposit has been received by the Am Kolel office.	As soon as possible, but at least by the 2 nd meeting
6. Schedule monthly meetings with Reb David.	Monthly throughout preparation period.
7. Schedule a rehearsal for the week prior to the bar/bat mitzvah	At least 1 month prior to service
8. If you are preparing a Simcha booklet, make selections from the Anthology (will be provided by Reb David). Send a list of your selections to info@am-kolel.org . The office will email you a copy of your selections.	At least 1 month prior to service
9. Send balance of Simcha fee to Am Kolel.	30 days prior to service

Meetings with your Rabbi

- 1) Should be scheduled **monthly** during the year prior to Simcha. Contact the Am Kolel office at 301-349-2799 to schedule. Please contact the office at least 2-3 weeks before you want the meeting scheduled.
- 2) **Most meetings will take place at Rabbi David's Rockville office: 1719 Wilmart Street, Rockville, MD 20852.** Only by special arrangement, will meetings be scheduled elsewhere. Please verify meeting location when scheduling with the office.
- 3) Payment for the meeting is due by the time of the meeting. Please send payment, (checks payable to Am Kolel) to the office at 19520 Darnestown Road, Beallsville, MD 20839.

Payments

- 1) All checks should be made payable to **Am Kolel** and mailed to 19520 Darnestown Road, Beallsville, MD 20839
- 2) Payments may be made by credit card (Visa or Mastercard only). Please contact the office with your credit card information.



BAR/BAT MITZVAH LEARNING AND PRACTICE CHECKLIST

- I. Base Knowledge
 - A. Overview of Jewish history
 - B. Knowledge of major beliefs and concepts
 - C. Familiarity with Jewish customs and ceremonies as they relate to holidays and life cycle events
- II. Hebrew and Prayers (for *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* and beyond)
 - A. *Sh'ma V'Ahavta* (though not done in the afternoon, important to learn)
 - B. *Brachot* before and after *Torah* reading
 - C. Familiarity with *Amidah* and themes (the *Avot* may be chanted by B.)
 - D. *Torah* Service: familiarity with (*may also lead*)
- III. *Ki Mitzion/Baruch Shenatan*
- IV. Line of *Sh'ma, Ekhad, Gadlu*
- V. *L'kha...optional*
 - A. *Torah* Portion (12 to 21 verses)
 - B. *Haftarah* (optional in the afternoon)
 - C. Speeches/Divre *Torah*
- VI. Summary of reading
- VII. Personal comments on meaning
- VIII. Thank you's
 - A. Closing prayers
- IX. *Eyn Keyloheynu*
- X. *Aleynu*
- XI. *Adon Olam*
 - A. Additional blessings to know
- XII. Blessing for *tallit*
- XIII. Blessing over fruit of the vine (*kiddush*)
- XIV. Blessing over bread
- XV. *Mitzvah* project
- XVI. Visit to Holocaust Museum
- XVII. Learn to put on Tefillin

XVIII. Attend Am Kolel Shabbat gatherings and programs

A BAR/BAT MITZVAH CANDIDATE'S

JEWISH HOME LIBRARY

BOOKS

1. Tanakh (Jewish Bible – English) [strongly recommended: The Living Torah, edited by Aryeh Kaplan, or Soncino Bible {Hertz Edition}]
2. One People: Volumes I and II (history texts), edited by Abba Eban
3. When a Jew Celebrates (Behrman House)
4. What is a Jew? (Kertzer)
5. The Holocaust, edited by Bea Staudler. About resistance

SUGGESTED VIDEOGRAPHY

1. The Chosen (Story by Chaim Potok)
2. The Frisco Kid (with Gene Wilder)
3. The Ten Commandments
4. Hester Street (location: Lower East Side NYC, early 1900's)
5. Fiddler on the Roof
6. Diary of Anne Frank
7. Partisans of Vilna
8. Image Before My Eyes

RECOMMENDED TRIPS OF JEWISH INTEREST

1. Lower East Side and Ellis Island, New York City
2. US Holocaust Museum, Washington DC
3. Sixth and I Historic Synagogue, Washington DC
4. Lloyd Street Synagogue, Baltimore MD
5. ISRAEL!!
6. Washington Jewish Bookstore, Wheaton MD
7. Lisbon's Hebrew Bookstore, Wheaton MD

QUESTIONS FOR A BAR/BAT MITZVAH CANDIDATE

STUDENT NAME: _____

1. What is the most important belief of Judaism?
2. Describe your favorite Jewish holiday and how it is practiced.
3. Briefly define or explain the following words:
 - a. Mitzvah
 - b. Tzedakah
 - c. Chesed
 - d. Yom Tov
 - e. Torah
 - f. Shalom Bayit
 - g. Tefila
 - h. Shabbat
 - i. Brit Milah
 - j. Kiddush
 - k. Mazal Tov
 - l. Kaddish
 - m. L'Chayim
 - n. Shalom
 - o. Baruch
 - p. Simcha
4. Name 10 Jewish heroes – men and women. When did they live? Why are they important? (Use the back of this sheet or a separate sheet)
5. What are some of the differences between Judaism and Christianity?
6. How did the Jewish people come to the United States?
7. What happened at a place called Auschwitz?
8. Why is the State of Israel important to the Jewish people? What is the relationship between Arabs and Jews in the Middle East?
9. What is your full Hebrew name? How do/did you receive your name?
10. Why is being Jewish important to you?
 - a. Shalom
 - b. Baruch
 - c. Simcha