



KEHILA CHADASHA

19520 Darnestown Road
Beallsville, MD 20839

301-349-2799
www.e-Kehila.org

Rabbi David Shneyer, Spiritual Director
RebDavidS@aol.com

Dear Kehila Bar/Bat Mitzvah Parents,

So where has the time gone?

I hope that the coming months will be a time of meaningful and joyful planning. If I have not met with your family yet, please schedule a time with my administrative assistant, Sherry.

This year is also an opportunity for your family to deepen your appreciation of Judaism. This could be done at home through Shabbat dinners, adding to your Jewish library and cd collection, doing a mitzvah project together. Bar or Bat Mitzvah should not be seen as the culmination of one's Jewish education but rather the beginning of an affirmation and commitment to Jewish life. Please join me for Shabbat morning services once a month during this year so that your child and other members of the family will feel more at home with the singing and the prayers.

Your son or daughter will need to meet weekly with a tutor to learn the mechanics of the service and the particular Torah and other readings. Monthly meetings with me are spent discussing Jewish concepts, reviewing and interpreting key Biblical passages and planning a personalized service for the day.

Please fill out the enclosed forms for our office records and return them to our office as soon as possible. Also, the Kehila's web site may also be useful to you in planning.

I welcome your suggestions and your questions.

Bivracha, with blessings,

Rabbi David

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. Schedule the first monthly meeting with Reb David. The Information for the Am Kolel Office form must be returned <u>before</u> this meeting can be scheduled.	12 months before bar/bat mitzvah date
4. When the Am Kolel office has received the Information 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
5. Schedule monthly meetings with Reb David.	Monthly throughout preparation period.
6. Schedule a rehearsal for the week prior to the bar/bat mitzvah	At least 1 month prior to service
7. 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
8. Send balance of Simcha fee to Am Kolel.	30 days prior to service

Meetings with your Rabbi

- 1) Should be scheduled **monthly** (bi-monthly if attending Sunday school) 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.



FEE SCHEDULE FOR BAR/BAT MITZVAH CANDIDATES

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

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, 1st meeting with Rabbi David cannot be scheduled until this form is received by the Am Kolel office .
2. 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.

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 Keyloheyenu*
- 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 Stadler. 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