

A Different Format for Confirmation



This year we will be trying out a different format for Confirmation. Instead of marking this annual milestone on the first morning of *Shavuot*, it will be held on the Friday night of *Shavuot* weekend, May 25, preceded by a congregational dinner that is open to all.

But the significance will remain the same.

There is a debate in the *Talmud*. What is more important, study or action, intent or fulfillment? It is an important debate, not because of the clarity of the answer, but because it embraces the two polarities of the spiritual life: the private spiritual motivation of the individual, and the act that projects the spirit outward toward the world and others. The arguments are heavy on each side.

Confirmation is a celebration of both sides of the polarity.

When children become a *Bar* or *Bat Mitzvah*, they are indicating a willingness to undertake seriously the obligations of being a Jew. It is a promise. A statement of intent.

When teenagers become confirmed at the end of tenth grade, it indicates that they have taken the first steps to fulfill that promise. They have studied for three years. They have been involved in social action projects. They have been part of the school community and made their mark on it in numerous ways. They have established lasting Jewish friendships that they cherish.

Bar or *Bat Mitzvah* is the point of embarkation on the road of Jewish adulthood. Confirmation is one of the stations along the way that indicates a person is continuing on the path.

Shavuot marks the time that our ancestors stood at Sinai and received the *Torah* as our heritage, our constitution, our way of life. The *Torah* is the subject of our study and the repository of the sacred deeds that become Jewish living. Our young people have committed themselves to Jewish study and deed, just as our ancestors did at Sinai. They have demonstrated their commitment through action. Their lives comprehend both intent and fulfillment.

These young people are our congregational treasures. They each have made the decision to continue. Sometimes at great sacrifice of time and energy in their busy schedules.

They are worthy of our honor and of celebration.

I urge you to come and join in the celebration. The dinner which precedes the service will be open to all, and since *Shabbat* begins so late at that time of year, you will be able to pay at the door.

Confirmation is not a private celebration for parents and confirmands. It is a communal celebration, rejoicing in the continuity of our people from generation to generation. It continues the journey begun at Sinai, which is commemorated on *Shavuot*, and advances it securely into the future.

CONGREGATION
ADATH JESHURUN



7763 Old York Road
Elkins Park, PA 19027
215.635.6611
www.adathjeshurun.info