



Adat Ari El B'nai Mitzvah Program From Start to Simcha---An Overview

Becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah means acknowledging that this ancient, wise, dispersed and diverse people are your people. Guided by our Cantor, Rabbis and tutors, your child will develop the skill to chant Torah, Haftarah and Tefillot (prayers) in Hebrew, explore an individual connection to prayer and texts, and engage in making a commitment to Tikkun Olam. Our program includes family education, meetings and study with our clergy, small group classes, and one-on-one tutoring. One family at a time, we are here to help our learners flourish and acquire the tools to add their voices to the story of our tradition.

TIMELINE

(indicated time in relation to B'nai Mitzvah date)

4-5 years out: Enrolled in JLC/Approved Jewish Educational Program

~If not before, become enrolled now, for Hebrew reading and Judaics, and continue at least through end of B'nai Mitzvah year (contact Rabbi Holtzman)

3-4 years out: Welcome Meeting for parents of 4th grade students

~This meeting in the Fall is to introduce families to the process, answer questions, distribute and explain questionnaire

2-3 years out: Assigned Dates are sent out along with contracts

~Dates are received in the Spring following the Fall meeting

13-15 months out: Year Out Meeting with Cantor Aranoff

~For parents and kids of a cohort (cohort = 4 months) for discussion of what to expect as training unfolds

~13 Mitzvot Program introduced. Rachel follows up and families begin to work on their own

~Signed contracts and financial arrangements must be completed at this time

12 months out: Introductory Classes

~Intro Class #1: Reading Review, Intro Class #2: Blessings

~Small group classes, approximately 2-4 students per class

12 months out: Contact Events Coordinator Cady Belkin

~Receive Kiddush & party information

~Receive event planning time line

10-11 months out: Assign Tutor Meeting with Cantor Aranoff

- ~Private meeting where tutor is assigned and expectations are discussed
- ~Review basic terminology, esp. Haftarah and Parsha

9-10 months out: Private Tutoring begins

- ~Default is half hour per week

5-8 months out: B'nai Mitzvah Beit Midrash #1: The "T's"

- ~Gathering after having attended Shabbat morning services to study Torah, Tefillah and Tikkun Olam with Rabbi Schuldenfrei

Continually: Check-Ins

- ~Cantor Aranoff hears each child along the way at key points
- ~Rachel checks the progress on 13 Mitzvot Program, and offers assistance

3-6 months out: B'nai Mitzvah Beit Midrash #2: How to write a Drasha

- ~Gathering after having attended Shabbat morning services to learn how to prepare a Drasha (speech) with Rabbi Schuldenfrei

2-4 months out: Drasha Meeting with one of our Rabbis

- ~Student writes their speech on Torah or Haftarah

2-4 months out: Home Stretch Meeting with Cantor Aranoff

- ~Details of the last month before the Simcha

1 month out: Month Out Meeting

- ~Parents meet with Cantor Aranoff
- ~Student and parents meet with Rabbi Schuldenfrei

Shabbat before Bar/Bat Mitzvah: student leads Ashrei during services

Week of Bar/Bat Mitzvah: rehearsals, pictures, and attendance at

Thursday morning minyan...and then: Erev Shabbat & Shabbat morning Bar/Bat Mitzvah!

We ask families to attend services on Shabbat mornings at least 7 times in the year leading up to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah (and before that is also great!). This way, everyone can be familiar with the flow of services and can meet other congregants, so that they feel a part of the community and feel comfortable in the service on the day of their Simcha.