

Kehilla Adult B'Mitzvah Program

Studying for and completing an adult b'mitzvah is a wonderful way to deepen one's Jewish education, practice, and sense of community. Kehilla's Adult B'Mitzvah Program (ABM) is designed to support growth of learning and spiritual practice integrated in relationships with peers, teachers, clergy, and our wider community. Kehilla membership is required. Participants will spend a minimum of a full Jewish year / complete holiday cycle in the learning year part of the program, during which they will meet as a cohort each month. The journey will culminate in shared leadership at a Kehilla Shabbat morning service, in collaboration with Kehilla spiritual leaders.

Program Description

The learning year includes a combination of group learning and self-facilitated learning, including:

- monthly ABM meetups, usually in person*, on the fourth Wednesday of the month, sometimes on the 3rd Wednesday. Regular participation is a requirement.
* online participation is welcome for disability access needs
- a Torah class or facilitated Torah study
- an Alef Bet class or demonstrated ability to read Hebrew
- experience with hevruta (study-buddy) text learning
- learning Torah trope - in a class or with a tutor
- the Essentials class or an equivalent Judaism 101 type of class (recommended)
- other classes as interested, such as High Holy Days for Rookies; Spring Holiday Arc for Rookies; Prayerbook Hebrew; 700 Benches Talmud workshops, etc.
- attending Kehilla's Shabbat Morning 'Learners' Service'

The culmination process will include:

- co-leading a celebratory Shabbat morning service as part of a group of Adult B'Mitzvah participants (likely 3 to 6 people)
- preparing to co-lead the service, including
 - meeting with the Spiritual Leader and other collaborators to plan the service
 - preparing to either share a *drash* (Torah teaching), chant Torah, and/or receive an *aliyah* (getting called up to the Torah to bless it)
- celebrating!

Program Goals

- Participants gain in knowledge about Jewish texts and practices, particularly about Torah and the Shabbat morning service

- Participants further their sense of belonging and integration in the Kehilla community
- Participants feel supported in personal spiritual growth, including spaces for ongoing reflection (learning in hevruta, ABM meetups)
- Participants have tools to engage directly with Jewish texts (are able to read Hebrew; have had some guided experiences with text-study; understand and have experience with the hevruta model) and practice.

Program Costs

(everything is no one turned away for inability to pay)

- Registration fees for classes
- ABM Program fee of \$500 for preparation/ceremony

The enrollment limit is ten people per year. To express interest, email Rabbi SAM at: rabbisam@kehillasynagogue.org