

Chadeish Yameinu Community School

Essential Information

1. What is the Chadeish Yameinu Community School and what programs do you offer?

The Chadeish Yameinu Community School was founded in 2003 as an alternative Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation program, serving 10-13 year olds. While the primary focus of the school is Bar and Bat Mitzvah preparation, we also provide the **Kitah Aleph/Bet Group** for 9 & 10 year olds.

2. When, Where, How Much?

Please see the “**Class Schedule & Parent Meetings**” and “**School Fees 2008-2009**” information sheets for these details.

3. What are my obligations as a parent?

B’nai Mitzvah: One parent per family (at least) is required to attend monthly parent meetings. These meetings have been wonderful in the past. They include some study, discussion of personal and practical concerns relating to upcoming bar/bat mitzvah (what to do about including non-Jewish relatives in the service, how to deal with households with one Jewish parent and one non-Jewish parent, keeping it spiritual and not materialistic, etc.).

We also require each family to provide a minimum of six hours of volunteer help to the school in the course of the school year. We expect those parents who are not able to do this to "pay for their time" at the end of the school year at the rate of \$20 per hour. We value your time, and even more, value your demonstration to your child that this process is of importance to your family. Please let us know how you would like to volunteer your time:

- PR for the CYCS
- Organize a Shabbat meal either at an off-site location or in your home.
- Host a family learn at your home.
- Help build a succah.
- Organize, assist or chaperone a special event.
- Other: _____

Ellen Abrams will contact you prior to the beginning of school to follow up on your selection. For more information about parent hours contact Sarah Young at @ 423-8044.

Kitah Aleph/Bet: Parent(s) are invited to attend monthly parent meetings. These meetings have been wonderful in the past. They include some study, discussion of personal and practical concerns relating to upcoming bar/bat mitzvah (what to do about including non-Jewish relatives in the service, how to deal with households with one Jewish parent and one non-Jewish parent, keeping it spiritual and not materialistic, etc.).

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4. What are my child's obligations?

B'nai Mitzvah

Preparation for Class: We expect regular attendance by our students and for each student to come to class prepared with their books, kippa and a willingness to focus on class material.

Attending Services: Each child in the school who is preparing for a Bar or Bat Mitzvah is **required to attend thirteen services over the course of the school year, before the B. Mitzvah celebration.** At least seven of these must be Shabbat morning services. Certain holiday services may qualify, but must be pre-approved.

Attendance at Shabbat services, especially morning services and other B. Mitzvahs, is essential for the student to become familiar with the structure and content, to become more comfortable with the process, and to learn about being an active member of a Jewish community. It also offers opportunities in some cases to practice leadership. Your child will be involved in creating his or her own B. Mitzvah service along with Rabbi Eli, and will be drawing from all they have learned in study and observation.

The student is required to keep a log of this attendance, with dates and type of service. The log will be reviewed periodically. Three months prior to the B. Mitzvah, if the attendance requirement is not being met, **the service and celebration will be postponed until the requirement can be met.** (Note that the change of date will entail studying a different Torah portion).

Mitzvah Project: In the year leading up to Bar/Bat Mitzvah, all B'nai Mitzvah students are also required to put in a minimum of 13 hours toward a Mitzvah Project in service to the community. All projects need to be approved with Rabbi Eli first. Talk to him if you have questions about the Mitzvah Project. It is the responsibility of each student to track his/her own hours.

Kitah Aleph/Bet

We expect regular attendance by our students and for each student to come to class prepared with their books, kippa and a willingness to focus on class material.

7. Who's in charge?

Our teachers/leaders make day-to-day teaching decisions. The School Committee makes other decisions. The current members of the School Committee are: Debra Sloss, Ellen Abrams, Sarah Young, Carl Pechman and Miranda Allen Brower. Their contact information is at the bottom of this information sheet. Please see the policy information about who to talk to for further details.

8. Who do we talk to if we have a concern or problem?

Our intent is that everyone involved in the school is able to communicate on issues of importance to the school in a reliable and effective manner. To achieve this goal, we have established the following procedures:

- Comments about classroom issues should initially be brought to the teacher involved. The teacher, in turn, can decide if the issue requires the attention of the committee.
- If it seems inappropriate to discuss a classroom issue with a teacher, the committee may be contacted to discuss the issue.
- More difficult questions should be directed to a member of the school committee as soon as possible
- Educational policy issues will be addressed by the committee.
- Registration and logistical questions should be directed to Sarah Young for the 2008-2009 school year. Ellen Abrams is the treasurer and volunteer coordinator.
- If any decisions are to be made involving more than one student, those decisions will be made by the committee.

The current members of the committee are listed below:

Reb Eli Cohen: 429-6936; rebeli@sbcglobal.net

Debra Sloss (Contact Person for the KA Class): 426-4800; dscloss@pacbell.net

Ellen Abrams (Treasurer): 423-8570; autybe@hotmail.com

Sarah Young (General Contact Person): 423-8044; sarahyo@cruzio.com

Miranda Allen Brower: 460-9118; Miranda@cruzio.com

Teachers/Staff:

Reb Eli Cohen: 429-6936; rebeli@sbcglobal.net

Sephy Elizai: 539-1105; sephyrad@gmail.com

Michelle Newman: 475-5554; michelle_newman18@surfneta.com