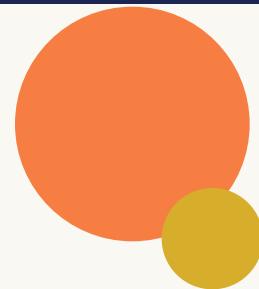




CONGREGATION KEHILLATH ISRAEL

BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS



B'nei Mitzvah Seminar

2026-2027

A year of **learning, belonging, practice, and becoming**—as students prepare to take their place as active members of the Jewish community.

INAUGURAL GATHERING

Wednesday, September 30, 2026

Pizza, icebreakers, singing in the sukkah, and the beginning of a new cohort.

Most evening gatherings anticipated 6:00-8:00 PM • Times and locations subject to confirmation

FAMILY PROGRAM GUIDE • 2026-2027

The Journey Ahead

The B’nei Mitzvah Seminar brings students together for a shared year of Jewish learning, spiritual exploration, practical skills, and community. Across eleven gatherings, students will learn with trusted teachers, practice rituals they can carry into adulthood, build friendships, and reflect on what it means to inherit—and help shape—the Jewish story.

LEARN

Big Jewish ideas

Eight interconnected Tell Institute lessons invite students to examine Jewish peoplehood, history, difference, resilience, Zionism, and contemporary life.

PRACTICE

Jewish skills

Students gain hands-on experience with ritual objects, prayer leadership, sacred time, tefillin, and preparing words of Torah.

BELONG

Cohort & spirit

Meals, singing, homes, holiday gatherings, chesed, prayer, art, and closing circles turn a class into a community.

WHO PARTICIPATES?

Students participate in the B’nei Mitzvah Seminar during the Jewish calendar year immediately preceding the Jewish calendar year in which their B’nei Mitzvah will take place. Each annual cohort includes all students whose Bar or Bat Mitzvah falls within the following Jewish calendar year, approximately September through September.

A NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH THE TELL INSTITUTE



Exploring the layers of Jewish civilization

Founded by acclaimed author and scholar Dr. Dara Horn, The Tell Institute has created a new eight-session B’nei Mitzvah curriculum. Through discussion, sources, interactive learning, and student workbook materials, participants will explore who Jews are, how Jewish ideas shaped the world, and how young people can carry the Jewish story forward with knowledge, confidence, and hope.

Learn more: thetellinstitute.org

Opening the Story

SEP

30

WEDNESDAY

ALL FAMILIES WELCOME

Welcome to the Seminar

Cohort: Pizza, icebreakers, program overview, and singing in the sukkah

Jewish skill: Shaking the lulav

Tell Session 1: “Who Is Am Yisrael?”

OCT

28

WEDNESDAY

B'NEI MITZVAH STUDENTS ONLY

Ideas That Change the World

Tell Session 2: “Judaism’s World-Changing Ideas”

Jewish skill: Shofar blowing

NOV

18

WEDNESDAY

B'NEI MITZVAH STUDENTS ONLY

The Meaning of Being Different

Tell Session 3: “How Others See Our Being Different”

Jewish skill: Tallit making

DEC

9

WEDNESDAY

ALL FAMILIES WELCOME

Light, Memory & the Twentieth Century

Holiday gathering: Dinner on the sixth night of Hanukkah

Tell Session 4: “Lessons from the 20th Century”

Jewish skill: Hanukkah candle lighting

Hosted in Rabbi Hamilton’s home • Address forthcoming

Living Our Values

JAN

19

TUESDAY

ALL FAMILIES WELCOME

A Shabbat Table of Our Own

Ruchani experience: A mock Shabbat dinner at the Wyners' home, giving students and families the chance to practice creating sacred time around a shared table.

FEB

22

MONDAY

B'NEI MITZVAH STUDENTS ONLY

Responsibility, Service & Zionism

Chesed: Food packing and community service project

Tell Session 5: "For Zion's Sake: Another Look at Zionism"

MAR

17

WEDNESDAY

B'NEI MITZVAH STUDENTS ONLY

Tools for Jewish Thriving

Tell Session 6: "Jewish Thriving Toolkit"

Jewish skill: Making a yad

APR

14

WEDNESDAY

B'NEI MITZVAH STUDENTS ONLY

Prayer, Leadership & Digital Life

Tell Session 7: "Hope in the Digital Age"

Jewish skill: The role of the shaliach tzibur and finding meaning in prayer, led by Hazzan Ariel Wyner

Carrying It Forward

MAY

7

FRIDAY

ALL FAMILIES WELCOME

Shabbat Neshama

Community: Join Shabbat Neshama as a cohort

Jewish skill: How to write a D'var Torah

Ruchani experience: Special program and tish after dinner

Exact Shabbat timing forthcoming

MAY

23

SUNDAY

B'NEI MITZVAH STUDENTS ONLY

Minyan, Bagels & Tefillin

8:00 AM: Join the KI chapel minyan

After minyan: Bakey + Bagels and hands-on tefillin wrapping

Tell Institute Session 8: "We Are Living Jews"

Led by Rabbi William Hamilton

JUN

10

THURSDAY

ALL FAMILIES WELCOME

Tikkun Leil Shavuot: Our Closing

Session 1 — Parashah Art: Explore your B'nei Mitzvah parashah through an artistic project.

Session 2 — Final Closing Circle: Reflect on the year and look ahead together. All families are welcome.

The closing circle will take place at a different time • Full schedule forthcoming

Planning Notes for Families

- Please save all eleven dates now.
- Most weekday evening gatherings are anticipated to run from 6:00–8:00 PM; final times and locations will follow.
- Five gatherings welcome the whole family: September 30, December 9, January 19, May 7, and the June 10 closing circle.
- Participation in every gathering is strongly encouraged. Students are required to attend at least 8 of the 11 gatherings. Families facing circumstances that may affect attendance should speak with program leadership in advance.