

## MESSAGE FROM RABBI GRUBER Three Days A Year

### Adult *B'nai Mitzvah* Classes to Begin January 17

Did you miss the opportunity to celebrate a *bat* or *bar mitzvah* at the age of 13?

Would you enjoy studying with our rabbis to become a more literate Jew?

Would you like to learn to read from the Torah?

Are you willing to make a commitment of time and energy exploring your own Jewish identity with a small group of like-minded adults?

If you answer "Yes!" to any of these questions, seize the opportunity to join our new adult *b'nai mitzvah* class. Our two year program will culminate in being called to the Torah and leading our worship on *Shabbat Shemot* 5780. We have designed this program for members of Central Synagogue - Beth Emeth who want to broaden their Judaic knowledge and experience. Past participants in adult *b'nai mitzvah* classes noted that this experience has helped strengthen their Jewish identity and enhanced their connections to our Jewish community in ways they never imagined. Congregants who have attended these celebrations have been inspired by our *b'nai mitzvah*. If you join our class, you will enjoy a meaningful and moving experience you will cherish for a lifetime.

George Bernard Shaw observed, "Youth is the most beautiful thing in this world—and what a pity that it has to be wasted on children!" With respect to preparing for and celebrating a *bar* or *bat mitzvah*, frequently adolescents do not make the most of this experience. For adults participation in this class can be a transformative experience. Any adult member of Central Synagogue - Beth Emeth may participate in our adult *b'nai mitzvah* program - even if you celebrated a *bar* or *bat mitzvah* at 13. This is a special opportunity to learn from a much more mature perspective.

Wednesday January 17, 8:00-9:15 PM, we are beginning a two-year program of Jewish studies that will lead to adults celebrating *bar* or *bat mitzvah*. This is an exciting opportunity to study Judaism in a small group. These classes often turn into *chavurot* as people share a significant learning experience and meaningful life cycle event.

During this course of study we will learn about the prayerbook, liturgy, and Torah study; we will supplement these topics with selected subjects of the Jewish life cycle and basic Jewish literacy, understanding our textual heritage from the Torah through contemporary responsa. We will expect students to learn about a topic of special interest and present a lesson. In the last 6-8 months we will focus on preparation for the *b'nai mitzvah* service. By that time students should have prepared themselves adequately in Hebrew.

We are offering a 15 week Hebrew course on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-7:50 for those who need a formal beginners training. (See the description and registration information in this edition of Central Times.) We expect students to serve our congregation on a task force or in another capacity. The two-year program will cost \$613; you may pay in two installments. You can register using this link <https://goo.gl/forms/7vTjLl93dMshZCRY2>

If you have questions about this program, please speak with Rabbi Elliot Skiddell or me.

With blessing - *B'vrakha* - בברכה,

Rabbi Marc A. Gruber