



The BEKI Benei Mitzva Program Package 5780

Students celebrating bar- or bat-mitzva between February 2020 and March 2021 should register for the Benei Mitzva Program now (2019-2020 School Year).

□ **First Class Meets Wednesday 11 September 2019 from 5:00p to 6:20p**

In 1999, in response to requests by BEKI parents, Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel created the **BEKI Benei Mitzva Program** for children of BEKI members. The program provides **peer study** and **individual one-on-one instruction**, and meets Wednesdays 5p-6:20p when BRS is in session. Participants will have the opportunity to learn to lead significant portions of services as well as the fundamentals of what it *means* to be a bar- or bat-mitzva in our day, particularly as those issues are raised in the liturgy. The focus of the class is on synagogue skills. Educational and planning support for parents and families are included.

In addition to the Wednesday afternoon class meetings, participants meet with their tutor on a weekly basis (approximately) at a time of mutual convenience to be arranged with their assigned tutor. Each participant is expected to devote at least 30 minutes to home practice three days a week.

The BEKI Benei Mitzva Program provides about 25 hours of “class time” plus up to 25 hours of individual one-on-one tutoring. The program is designed to provide a complete preparation package for most students. However, students who wish to supplement this “basic” program with additional studies, students with special interests, or students needing extra help, are encouraged to study beyond the scope of the program. Program staff will be glad to help with such arrangements, either within or beyond our program’s structure. We are eager to work closely with our tutors to help make these months of preparation the best they can be for our benei mitzva.

During the preparation year, participants will be scheduled to lead public services several months before their date of celebration. There are several service segments that minors may lead, and it is important for them to gain familiarity with the services and comfort in leading public worship *before* their “big day.” Please plan to attend Shabbat evening services (Friday night) and Shabbat morning services each week. Be sure to check the “Rotation Schedule for Service Leaders” as well as the instructions that accompany it.

A team of tutors have a significant role in training the participants. Besides their teaching, these tutors, some of whom are young adults, can serve as excellent role models for our benei mitzva students.

Beyond a commitment of your student's time, the program requires a significant financial commitment. The good news is that we believe *we can provide a quality program at a cost that is significantly less than what most families would otherwise pay.*

The program fee includes –

- Twenty-five hours of class time (including individual work with adult teachers) (a \$600 value)
- Up to 25 hours of individual tutoring (a \$1,000 to \$5,000 value)
- Up to five hours with Rabbi Tilsen or another BEKI educator for *Devar Torah* (sermon) preparation (invaluable)
- Parent Preparation on making the celebration a family experience
- A major credit toward use of the social hall following the service (see rental form for details) or higher credit for multiple event weekend
- Three hours of *kashrut* supervision (required) for a celebration at BEKI (included in room rental fees)
- A copy of *Siddur Sim Shalom for Shabbat and Festivals* (a \$70 value)
- The [Guide to Benei Mitzva Observances at BEKI](#)
- Electronic Recordings of BEKI melodies for our services
- Workshops and individual consultations on assigning *aliyot* (honors)

At standard rates, a typical family would pay at least \$5,000 for these services. (If you are experiencing “sticker shock” at this point, be aware that most BEKI families spend, *in addition to* this figure, \$3,000 to \$25,000 for the relatively modest and tasteful qiddush luncheons and parties that follow the religious services.) **We are able to provide this benei mitzva preparation “package” to BEKI members for \$1,600** (some limitations apply) for those who register and pay by 23 September 2019. After that date, the program fee will be \$1,625. This program actually costs the synagogue more than we are charging. The subsidy represents part of BEKI's commitment to youth education.

Your student may also need supplies, such as tallit, tefillin, third-party software including *Trope Trainer* and *Tefillah Trainer*, and other items, some of which are described in the [Guide](#) and which may cost several hundred dollars. Families who need to may speak with Rabbi Tilsen about finding library copies or alternatives.

(Additional fees apply for date reservation, facility rentals, food service and other services for celebrations you may plan at BEKI. Please contact Office Manager Peggy Hackett at 203.389.2108 x114 office@beki.org for information on options for extended celebrations.)

Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel

ק"ק בית-ישראל כתר-ישראל

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BEKI Benei Mitzva Program Registration Form 2019-2020 5780

Yes! Please enroll my/our child in the BEKI Benei Mitzva Program. I have read the "BEKI Benei Mitzva Program" description and I understand what the program includes and does not include. [Pay online](#) or submit this form.

Member enrollment rates are available to members in good standing only.

- [Pay online \(https://www.beki.org/about/make-a-payment/\)](https://www.beki.org/about/make-a-payment/)
- Enclosed is a check for \$1,600 made to "Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel" for tuition for one child (by 23 September 2019)
- Enclosed is a check for \$1,625 made to "Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel" for registration for one child (after 23 September 2019)
- Enclosed is a check for \$800 made to "Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel." Please bill me for the balance to be paid by 15 December 2019
- _____.

Name of student: _____.

Name(s) of parent(s): _____.