

STEPHEN WISE TEMPLE

What is an adult b'nai mitzvah?

Traditionally, one becomes B'nai Mitzvah—an adult in the Jewish community, with all the privileges and responsibilities thereof—at the age of 13. Some elect to have a second b'nai mitzvah at the age of 83, but others never even had a first. An adult b'nai mitzvah offers the chance to pursue deeper Jewish learning, to mark a milestone birthday, or to have that rite of passage that maybe you were denied due to circumstances beyond your control. Becoming an adult B'nai Mitzvah gives you the opportunity to connect with your clergy and an intimate group of fellow learners, and to chant and teach Torah for your friends, family, and community.

I want to become an adult B'nai Mitzvah. What's the first step?

Attend our spring cohort online information session on *Wednesday, March 22 at 6 p.m.*

Do I have to be a Wise member?

This experience is open only to committed members of Stephen Wise Temple. Feel free to be in touch with Membership Director Alicia Cohen to discuss your options.

How much does this cost?

The \$360 fee covers costs such as tutoring materials like a Hebrew primer and intro textbook, food for a light *oneg* reception after the service, and hiring a sound technician for the service.

Stephen Wise Temple Adult B'nai Mitzvah 2023 Study Schedule

- Spring Learning Sessions (*April-June*); Tuesday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m. with Wise clergy
 - Subjects covered: liturgy, ritual and holidays, Jewish history, texts, and values
 - April 25
 - May 2, May 9, May 16, May 23, May 30
 - June 6, June 13, June 20, June 27
- Summer Hebrew Learning Sessions (*June-August*)
 - In small groups and/or one-on-one sessions, students will study Hebrew decoding (no matter their level of Hebrew understanding) with our b'nai mitzvah educator Malcolm McElheny.
- Fall *D'var* Torah (Teaching) Preparation (*September/October-November*)
 - Students will meet one-on-one with one of our rabbis to study their Torah portion in depth and to prepare the teaching they will deliver from the *bimah* at their bar/bat mitzvah.
- Fall Torah/Haftarah (Chanting) Preparation with Cantor Emma (*September/October-November*)
 - Students will meet one-on-one with Cantor Emma to prepare the chanting of their Torah and Haftarah portion; Cantor will also divide up parts of the service for students to lead (in Hebrew and/or English based on desire and ability).
- Rehearsal and Service (*December/January*)
 - Students will have rehearsals for the adult b'nai mitzvah service with Rabbi Sari and Cantor Emma.