



February 2011

Shvat 5771

**SPECIAL BAR/BAT MITZVAH PROGRAMS at CONGREGATION OHEL AVRAHAM**

**Overview**

Congregation Ohel Avraham, incorporating the Appelbaum Bet T'filla and the Hugo Gryn Outdoor Synagogue & Gardens is the spiritual heart of the Leo Baeck Education Center. Centrally located on the Leo Baeck campus, the synagogue not only serves the Leo Baeck schools and Community Center, but reaches out to populations with special needs, families in economic or social distress and offers a rich alternative for non-Orthodox and secular Jews. Ohel Avraham welcomes mixed-marriage new immigrant families, soldiers, students far from home and offers ceremonial solutions for all lifecycle events.



**The Need**

All too often in Israel special needs children, new immigrant mixed marriage families and children in hiding with their battered mothers in sheltered housing, are denied the joy of Bar/Bat Mitzvah due to *Halachic*, financial or personal safety restrictions. Ohel Avraham provides these children with a life-changing solution to explore and rejoice in their Jewish identity.

**The Response**

- Bar-/Bat-Mitzvah Program for the children of the Gil Special Needs School
- Bar-/Bat-Mitzvah Program for children of mixed marriage new immigrant families
- Bar-/Bat-Mitzvah Program for the children of the Nashim L'Nashim Battered Women's Shelter



**The Bar-Bat Mitzvah Program - A Life-Changing Experience**

Each week a different topic is studied from a different Jewish perspectives; the family, the synagogue, the Jewish life cycle, Shabbat, Jewish rituals and culture, Jewish holidays, Jewish symbolism, responsibilities, *Tikkun Olam*.

- 12 one-on-one lessons + 12 group sessions
- Introduction to Judaism – many new immigrant families have had little exposure to Judaism
- Connecting to our roots – Jewish tours of the Land of Israel
- Celebrating diversity – exploring multicultural Haifa and meeting spiritual leaders
- Celebrating Shabbat – Kabbalat Shabbat with the Ohel Avraham congregation
- Learning about tefillin and prayer services
- Group "rehearsal" ceremony
- B'nei Mitzvah gifts - Talit and Siddur
- Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony, *Aliyah l'Torah*, celebratory Kiddush and modest party
- B'nai Mitzvah Holocaust Program - connecting children preparing for Bar/Bat Mitzvah with the memories of children lost in the Holocaust



**New Programs at Congregation Ohel Avraham**

In collaboration with The Association for the Rights of Mixed Families, a conversion program for the mothers of our new immigrant Bar/Bat Mitzvah students is underway; as is a mother-daughter text study program. In the aftermath of the catastrophic December 2010 Carmel Forest fire, Ohel Avraham has organized the Tikkun Carmel Conference which is being held conducted at a number of locations in the affected Carmel Coast region.

Bar-/Bat-Mitzvah Program Budget 2011	ILS	\$=3.7	£=5.6	€=5
Cost per child - ceremony, kiddush, modest celebration, tefilin, talit	4,560	1,232	814	912
<b>Total Cost 20 children</b>	<b>91,200</b>	<b>24,649</b>	<b>16,280</b>	<b>18,240</b>