

**Or Shalom Synagogue**  
**B'YACHAD**  
**“Together”**  
**Bar / Bar / Simchat Program 2017-18**

Welcome to a year of immersion into Jewish study and participation in the communal life of Or Shalom!

*The Or Shalom Bar / Bat / Simchat Mitzvah Program: A Quick Outline*

The Bar / Bat / Simchat Mitzvah Program at Or Shalom includes the following components. These components are described in detail in this booklet.

- Reserving a date
- Group study and mitzvah projects
- Participation in community Shabbatot and holyday celebrations
- Guided individual preparation for the ceremony
- Ceremony
- Kiddush lunch celebration
- Summary of fees
- Registration form

## ***About***

“Bar mitzvah” literally means “son of the commandments” and “bat mitzvah” literally means “daughter of the commandments” – but the words are more accurately translated as “a person of religious commitment.” Traditionally, the bar or bat mitzvah ceremony marks a young teenager’s willingness to make a commitment to the Jewish path. In order to do so, the teen is expected to have some familiarity with Judaism. Typically, a teen is expected to have a basic acquaintance with Jewish ethics, Jewish prayer, a section of Torah, Hebrew reading, and the cycle of the Jewish year. Or Shalom welcomes students with various levels of advance preparation and provides the resources for Jewish study.

At Or Shalom, most youth come up to the Torah for an *aliyah* (Torah blessing), read a short segment of the weekly *parashah* (Torah portion) from the Torah scroll, present a short *d’var Torah* (teaching), and lead one or more short prayers.

Students with a strong background in Jewish study and practice are welcome to lead more of the service. We also work with differently-abled students to adapt the ceremony to their interests and abilities.

Other members of the family are also welcome to participate in leading prayer or reading from the Torah. Non-Jewish family members may read poems and psalms, or join Jewish family members as they come up for an *aliyah*.

## ***Who Is Eligible for Bar / Bat / Simchat Mitzvah?***

### Age

Usually, becoming a bar or bat mitzvah (a person of religious commitment) is celebrated at age 13. However, a person can celebrate any time after reaching age 13. If a child is not prepared emotionally or intellectually at age 13, he or she may choose to celebrate later in their teens. In certain circumstances, a girl may celebrate at age 12. Adults who wish to renew their commitment to Judaism and have completed a course of study may arrange for a celebration at any time. Our B’Yachad program is meant for the development of a young teen cohort; adult b’nei mitzvah are handled separately.

## Jewish Identity

Or Shalom accepts the traditional view of *halakhah* (Jewish law and custom) that Jewish identity is passed from mothers to their children. If a birth mother is Jewish at the time her child is born, the child is considered automatically Jewish. If the mother is not Jewish at the time of birth, if the child is adopted from unknown or non-Jewish parents, or if only the child's father is Jewish, we ask that the youth participate in a conversion ritual shortly before the bar or bat mitzvah. Please let the rabbi know during your initial conversation if Or Shalom will need to arrange for this brief but meaningful ritual. Or Shalom welcomes interfaith families into its bar and bat mitzvah program. Please speak with the rabbi at any time if you have any questions about your child's Jewish identity or about the rituals for affirming Judaism.

## Jewish Education

Or Shalom welcomes students with various levels of advance preparation. Some of our bar and bat mitzvah students have attended Jewish Day School throughout elementary school, while others have attended synagogue religious school or studied with a private tutor. If your child has little to no Jewish literacy, please speak with the rabbi about options for preparation, so that Or Shalom can connect you with an appropriate tutor.

## ***Group Study and Mitzvah Projects: The B'Yachad Group***

*B'Yachad* is the Hebrew word for "together." At Or Shalom, all students preparing for bar or bat mitzvah enroll in the B'Yachad program during the school year leading up to their ceremony. Depending on bar and bat mitzvah dates, many students attend the B'Yachad program for more than one year: a year and a half for winter celebrants and two years for some students. (Please note that our class fee is assessed only once.) Students with varying levels of previous Jewish education study, socialize, celebrate, and contribute to the community as a group. This year Rabbi Hannah Dresner teaches the B'Yachad program, supported by bar and bat mitzvah tutor and singer/song leader Harriet Frost, along with collaborating parents and various learned members of the Or Shalom community.

The B'Yachad program includes the following commitments:

- ◆ *Meeting eight Sunday afternoons during the school year (as outlined in the year's course calendar) from 3:00 – 5:00 pm.*
  - On many of these Sunday afternoons, students study topics that help them prepare for their bar or bat mitzvah: writing creative prayers, trying on tallit, and discussing the nature of God and Jewish ethics. Every Sunday meeting will include a snack provided by our participating families on a rotating basis.
  - On a few Sunday afternoons, b'nei mitzvah students and their families join with other community members for active, youth-oriented holiday celebrations, particularly at Sukkot and Passover.
- ◆ *Meeting six to eight Shabbat mornings at Or Shalom (as outlined in the year's course calendar) from 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (or later with kiddush)*
  - These Shabbat mornings balance exploration of a theme from the weekly Torah portion and participation in the regular service. Students will have opportunities to lead small sections of congregational prayer and to participate in intergenerational Torah discussions.
  - Students are also encouraged to attend all weekly Shabbat services for the month preceding the bar or bat mitzvah celebration.
- ◆ *Participating in a few holiday celebrations at Or Shalom, such as Purim eve.*
- ◆ *Participating in a mitzvah project*
  - Mitzvah projects are community service *tzedakah* projects. These are hands-on commitments to putting Jewish ethics into practice. The class will join together for a significant project. The Or Shalom staff and adult volunteers work with parents to arrange for the project. In the past, students have participated in serving lunch at a homeless shelter, raising money for earthquake relief,

collecting food for a food bank, collecting clothing for a clothing bank, and sorting goods for a food bank.

◆ *Attending one another's celebrations*

- B'Yachad students are expected to invite one another to their bar and bat mitzvah ceremonies and celebrations. Please send each student in the class a formal invitation. Early in the school year, we will distribute contact information for all the members of the class.

◆ *Contributing to a shul (synagogue) improvement project*

- We ask each B'Yachad class to make a helpful contribution to Or Shalom's physical facility and resources. Past classes have funded a stained glass window, created a group mosaic, inventoried and restocked the kitchen utensils, and funded the purchase of new books for the library. This year we plan to work with a fiber artist to felt a new mantle for one of Or Shalom's Torahs.

◆ *Purchasing books*

- All families in the B'Yachad program are expected to own a copy of *Siddur Eit Ratzon*, the *siddur* (prayerbook) that is used at Or Shalom. Students may make notes or place post-it notes in their own prayer books to help them prepare for the service at their ceremonies. Prayer books will be available for sale early in the year at a Sunday morning B'Yachad meeting.
- Families are also expected to have at home any edition of a *Chumash* in order to facilitate study of the Torah portion. Please note that the usual gift from Or Shalom to each bar or bat mitzvah at the ceremony is an *Etz Chayim Chumash* with English translation, commentaries, essays about the Torah, and *Haftora* (selections from the Prophets).

## ***Guided Individual Preparation***

Each student works with a tutor as well as with Rabbi Hannah in order to prepare for their individual ceremonies and, in some cases, to supplement their Jewish education. Tutors charge a fee per lesson and at present, tutoring is likely to cost \$65 per hour, although cost does vary by tutor. Typically, students will study with their tutors: Hebrew reading, *trope* or cantillation (notes for Torah reading), the student's particular Hebrew Torah reading, selected prayers, and the content of the day's Torah reading. Many tutors also help students increase their background knowledge of Judaism. Each tutor will stay in touch with the rabbi about each student's learning. Please note that, optimally, our tutors recommend beginning with their students one calendar year before the ceremony.

Each student has the opportunity to meet with the rabbi for three or four one-hour sessions beginning approximately six to eight weeks before the bar or bat mitzvah ceremony. Together they will study the *parashah* and prepare the *d'var Torah*. Rabbi Hannah or Harriet Frost will schedule a rehearsal in the Or Shalom sanctuary approximately one week before the ceremony. At that rehearsal, the bar or bat mitzvah will practice reading directly from the Torah scroll, delivering the *d'var Torah*, carrying the Torah scroll, and other contributions to the service.

If your tutor is not one of the tutors familiar with Or Shalom on the list below, please ask them to contact Rabbi Hannah as soon as the process begins and to stay in close touch.

Tutors include:

Harriet Frost, 604-617-6200, harriet.bfa@gmail.com

Rabbi Dina-Hasida Mercy, 604-876-2770, dhasida@shaw.ca

David Medzon, 604-469-6630, dmedzon@telus.net

## ***The Ceremony***

### Timing

The bar or bat mitzvah ceremony is integrated into a prayer service. Most ceremonies take place during a Shabbat morning service (10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.).

When inviting your guests, please ask them to come at the beginning of the service. This is particularly important so that guests who are unfamiliar with Or Shalom can be greeted, get oriented, and feel comfortable.

### Welcoming Guests

Our sanctuary holds up to 250 people. On a Shabbat morning, expect approximately 50 Or Shalom members in addition to your guests. In order to accommodate this maximum number of 250, it may be necessary to rearrange pews and chairs. Please check with the office for guidance on the set-up. If you rearrange the sanctuary, please designate someone to return it to its original configuration.

Please note that the sanctuary is heated but not air-conditioned.

Designated greeters can be helpful. Arrange for friends to take turns to welcome guests, hand out booklets (see below) and kippot, and direct the overflow of coats downstairs. You should provide a table or box for gifts and have someone watch it. It may also be useful to designate one person for the role of “floor manager” or “usher” to ensure that every guest finds a seat.

### Order of the Shabbat Morning Service

*Psukei D'zimra* – Psalms and Blessings: The bar or bat mitzvah may receive a tallit and say the blessing and may also lead prayers or songs along with family members or tutors.

*Shacharit* – Affirmations of Faith and Silent Prayer: The bar or bat mitzvah may lead *Barechu*, *Shema*, and possibly other prayers.

Torah Service (Opening the Ark through Candy Throwing):

- Opening the Ark: An honor often given to family members.
- Taking out the Torah Scroll, singing *Shema*, carrying the Torah in the procession: Usually done by the bar or bat mitzvah.
- *Hagbah* – Raising up the Torah scroll: An honor often given to physically strong family members or friends.

- Aliyot – Being called up to the Torah for a blessing: On the day of the ceremony, there will be between three and five *aliyot*, decided upon by you and Rabbi Hannah. At least one *aliyah* is reserved for the needs of the community and is assigned by Rabbi Hannah. The final *aliyah* is for the bar or bat mitzvah. One, two, or three *aliyot* are available to honour parents and other family members/close friends/teachers. As the date approaches, please provide Rabbi Hannah with the English and Hebrew names of those being called up.

The bar or bat mitzvah usually reads at least one *aliyah* worth of Torah verses. Other sections of the Torah reading may be done by the bar or bat mitzvah, the tutor, the rabbi, friends, family members, or community members.

- D'var Torah – Torah commentary: Given by the bar or bat mitzvah.
- Parents' blessing – Three minutes of good wishes
- Presentations of gifts: A board member presents each bar or bat mitzvah with an *Etz Chayim Chumash*, a certificate, and a six-month JCC membership. Rabbi Hannah presents an "I Count" Or Shalom t-shirt, signifying that the bar or bat mitzvah now counts in a *minyan* and as an adult member of the Jewish community.
- Returning the Sefer Torah and closing the Ark: Usually done by the bar or bat mitzvah, though a family member or friend can close the ark.
- Candy throwing: Some teens like to be showered with candy, thrown by the younger members of the congregation. Younger siblings, friends, or relatives often enjoy passing these out. The only approved candy is individually wrapped soft gummies that can usually be purchased from Omnitsky's (5775 Oak Street). If purchased elsewhere, please ensure the gummies are kosher.

Mourners' Kaddish: Led by Rabbi Hannah. Special mention may be made of deceased family members who are greatly missed at the event.

Closing Song(s): Can be led by the bar or bat mitzvah with siblings and friends.

Kiddush and HaMotzi – Blessings over wine and challah: May be done in the sanctuary at the end of the service or in the social hall at the beginning of the meal. Can be led by the bar or bat mitzvah with siblings and friends. Please arrange to provide wine and challah for the blessings.

## Booklets for the Service

The Or Shalom office prepares a four-sided, black-and-white, 4 1/4" x 5 1/2" handout for your celebration. It can include the names of people being called up for *aliyot*, a description of the service and bar or bat mitzvah ceremony, a special message from the family to its guests, words to special songs that might be sung, a poem by or photos of the bar or bat mitzvah. This basic booklet is part of Or Shalom's bar and bat mitzvah package.

Some families choose to independently prepare a longer booklet that contains additional family information, more detailed descriptions of the service and its meanings, extra transliterations, or color photographs. Please advise us if this is the case.

## Information Needed by Or Shalom Prior to the Ceremony

Six weeks in advance: The tutor or family should request from the rabbi an outline of the service and let the rabbi know who will be leading which portions of the service and who will be reading from the Torah. The rabbi and *gabbaim* (prayer service organizers) can identify additional leaders and Torah readers, if necessary.

Ten days in advance: The family should contact the rabbi to go over the final plans for the service. The family *must finalize* all details of the bar / bat / simchat mitzvah booklet with the Or Shalom Office Administrator. It is highly advisable to begin communication on the booklets well in advance.

The family and rabbi should schedule the rehearsal.

The family should let the rabbi or Torah service leader know who will be called up for the *aliyot* and their Hebrew names. The family should give the rabbi the full Hebrew name (including parents' Hebrew names) of the bar or bat mitzvah.

## Invitations to the Ceremony

Most of our families create electronic invitations to their celebrations. We recommend these be emailed six to seven weeks before the date. If you are sending invitations, we recommend that you organize them three or four months before the date, expecting to mail them seven or eight weeks ahead. The community at large will be informed of the upcoming ceremony through the weekly electronic Shabbat bulletin, *Doar Shalom*. However, a general

announcement does not have the warmth of a personal invitation, so make sure that people you want to reach personally do receive an invitation.

### Flowers

Flowers make a beautiful addition to the sanctuary on a special occasion. Many people choose to set vases on the round stands at either side of the ark. Or Shalom has vases available for this use, donated by b'nei mitzvah families. If you order flowers for the sanctuary, please avoid heavily scented flowers.

### Child-minding

Or Shalom provides one child minder for Shabbat morning services. Our child minder takes care of the children on Shabbat from 10:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in the same room downstairs where the *kiddush* is set up. If you are expecting a large number of younger children to be in attendance, please notify the program coordinator at least three weeks in advance so that we can discuss options of hiring an additional child minder. We might not be able to accommodate later notifications.

Please bring, or ask your caterer to provide, a snack for 12 children, plus more if additional little guests are expected. Otherwise, they will be tempted to help themselves to the food as it is being set out!

### ***Kiddush Luncheon***

#### Background

*Halacha* (Jewish law and custom) mandates that following a life cycle ceremony we invite our guests to a *se'udat mitzvah*, a meal. At Or Shalom, every Shabbat morning bar and bat mitzvah invites the entire congregation along with the family's guests to a *kiddush* luncheon held either in the Or Shalom social hall or at a neighbourhood location within walking distance.

If the cost of a luncheon is prohibitive, please check with Rabbi Hannah. It is certainly possible to arrange a potluck or self-catered lunch instead of a professionally catered meal. If you are going to use a caterer, please book their services early.

### Approved B'nei Mitzvah Caterers

The Or Shalom board has compiled a list of approved caterers for bar and bat mitzvah luncheons at Or Shalom. These caterers are familiar with Or Shalom – its kosher/dairy standards, its kitchen, and its procedures. If you wish to use a different caterer, please contact the rabbi.

Lazy Gourmet, 604-734-2507 (Susan Mendelson)

Sabra, 733-4912 (Simon Kahlon)

Solly's, 604-872-1821 or 604-738-2121 (Leah Markovich)

Shlomo's Catering, 604-738-1304 (Shlomo Yekutieli, 604-603-4629)

Nava Creative Kosher Cuisine (JCC), 604-676-7579 (Susy Segal, 604-272-2103)

BC Catering (formerly known as the Bagel Club), 604-638-7288

### Capacity

If you fill our sanctuary to capacity (250 people) for the ceremony, there will be standing room only for your *kiddush* luncheon. For this reason, many members have chosen to rent various sized tents. During the summer one can gamble on the weather and plan for some guests to eat outside in the garden. Please consider the need to arrange for renting additional tables, chairs, tablecloths, plates, etc.

### Children's Play Area

When you, your helpers, or your caterer are setting up the room for the lunch, please make sure that the children's play area, including its table and chairs, are not disturbed. This will ensure that the children have their regular indoor play space and will not disrupt the rest of the setup!

### Kitchen Inventory

This inventory lists the approximate number of utensils, dishes and platters that Or Shalom owns. If you expect to need more than this for your *kiddush* lunch, please arrange to rent what you need.

Forks 295, Spoons (soup) 75, Spoons (tea) 173, Knives 264, Large plates 200, Medium sized plates (glass) 100, Plates (pink glass) 22, Bowls (large, serving) 12, Bowls (medium serving) 12, Bowls (small, serving) 7, Mugs (coffee) 130, Wine glasses 84, Glasses (drinking) 75, Glasses (schnapps) 24, Cream servers 2, Platters (large, serving) 12, Platters (small, serving) 10, Coffee urns 2, Hot water urn 1, Vases (flowers) 21

## Food Policies

### *Dairy Vegetarian*

At Or Shalom, we maintain a “dairy vegetarian” standard in our kitchen. The tradition at Or Shalom is to serve only dairy vegetarian foods such as fruits, vegetables, fish, eggs, dairy, etc.

Meat, shellfish, and foods containing rennet and gelatin are NOT acceptable.

### *For Higher Kosher Standards*

Some of your guests may require a standard higher than our dairy-vegetarian standard. If you are using one of our approved caterers, please discuss your guests’ needs with them to make sure they can be met, before you sign a contract with the caterer. Please discuss with the caterer Or Shalom’s commitment to eco-kashrut and arrange for the use of non-disposable kosher plates. Alternatively, if you are preparing a potluck, a table for these guests should be set with koshered plates, cutlery and cups from a kosher kitchen, and with food prepared in a kosher kitchen. Please place a sign that says “reserved” on that table.

### *Kosher symbols*

Various symbols found on packaged food indicate rabbinical approval of the ingredients and processing of a product. Typical symbols found on products on BC grocery store shelves are: OU, BCK, COR, MK, WK. Certified kosher retail outlets in Vancouver include Sabra's, Omnitsky's, and the Kosher Food Warehouse.

The Vancouver organization that supervises British Columbia Kosher - BCK - will provide you with up-to-date information of currently approved foods. You can call their office to receive a copy of the current list at 604-731-1803.

## *Eco-Kashrut*

Eco-kashrut provides an ecological perspective to Judaism by including environmental practices as part of our religious practice. Please try to respect this practice at your kiddush lunch. Eco-kashrut practices include:

- being careful to avoid using disposable plates and cutlery
- minimizing the amount of packaging used for foods
- cleaning and recycling the containers brought into the building
- avoiding genetically engineered foods

## *Luncheon Cleanup*

Be clear with your caterer or helpers about the responsibility to set up and to clean up. It is ultimately your responsibility to ensure that the kitchen and sanctuary have been restored to the condition they were in when you arrived to set up. Following the celebration, Or Shalom will vacuum the sanctuary and wash the downstairs floors. Sweeping downstairs is part of your responsibility. Your security deposit will not be refunded if there is any damage or if the following conditions are not met:

1. Garbage must be bagged and taken out to the appropriate area in the back lane.
2. If the washable vinyl tablecloths are used, they must be washed with the labeled bleach solution in a spray bottle in the kitchen. Permission is required to use the fabric tablecloths. If they are used, you are responsible to wash and return them to the shul. Otherwise, you will be charged a cleaning fee.
3. Leftover food must be removed from the kitchen.
4. Freezer and refrigerator doors should be securely closed.
4. Cups, glasses, plates and cutlery must be brought in from the back yard.
5. Cups, glasses and plates must be clean before being put into the sterilizer. It is not a dishwasher! Be sure that you or your designate understand the operation of the equipment before use. Sterilizer instructions are posted near the appliance.
6. Cups, glasses, plates and cutlery should be returned to their original locations on the appropriate shelves after cleaning.
7. All stove burners and the oven must be turned off before leaving.
8. The stove top and oven must be wiped clean.
8. Caterers should take all recyclables with them when they leave, including cardboard boxes, foil containers, etc. Glass and plastic bottles may be put in the designated recycling bin under the kitchen sink.

9. Any pews, chairs, tables or other furniture that is moved by you or your helpers must be moved back to their original locations soon after the event (e.g., chairs from downstairs go back downstairs).

### *Food Storage*

All foods stored at Or Shalom must be in animal-proof containers. There are a side-by-side fridge and a freezer available to store foods. Any food brought in prior to Shabbat and stored in the fridge, in the freezer, or on the counter must be clearly labeled. No food can be left in the kitchen after lunch. Any remaining food must be taken home or donated to Food Runners at 604-889-4018.

### *Building Access*

Office hours at Or Shalom are Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Please inquire about Friday office hours during winter, as closing time may be 2:00 p.m. The office is closed on statutory holidays and on Jewish holydays.

Please check with our Office Administrator *at least* one week in advance regarding possible delivery and pickup times for rentals. Rental pickups should be arranged to take place during normal business hours no later than Thursday, noon, of the week following the ceremony.

Access to Or Shalom outside of these hours must be arranged with the office. Please plan well in advance. A charge may be deducted from your security deposit for access to the building outside of normal office hours, such as late Friday afternoon set-up or Shabbat morning access before 9:00 a.m.

### *Support*

If all of this sounds a bit overwhelming, please note that in past years, some families have coordinated support groups with other willing parents of that year's B'Yachad class. The group members assist each other with such details as greeting, set-up, etc. It is also possible to organize a group of friends and relatives to help with food preparation, driving, schlepping, set-up, cleanup, etc.

Or Shalom provides you with a Family Liaison to help you through the logistical process of planning your *simcha*. Congregant Karen Rabinovitch serves in this capacity and can be reached by email at [karenrab1@gmail.com](mailto:karenrab1@gmail.com). Early in the school

year we will arrange for a parent meeting with Karen, so that she can answer many of your questions and explain the parameters of her availability to you.

### ***Reserving a date for a Bar or Bat Mitzvah and Summary of Fees***

1. Contact Rabbi Hannah Dresner to discuss possible dates for the ceremony. She will give you information about the Jewish ritual calendar, the Torah portion of the week, and the availability of your proposed dates, and help you make a final decision. Rabbi Hannah can be reached at [rebhannah@orshalom.ca](mailto:rebhannah@orshalom.ca).
2. To enroll in the B'Yachad Bar / Bat / Simchat Mitzvah group study program, fill in the form on the last page of this booklet. Tuition for the B'Yachad program is tax-deductible. Send the completed form along with a \$720 cheque for the B'Yachad tuition as indicated on the form to our Office Administrator, 710 E. 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver BC V5T 2A7. The Office Administrator can be reached via email at [office@orshalom.ca](mailto:office@orshalom.ca) and by phone at 604-872-1614. REGISTRATION DEADLINE: September 1, 2017. Cheques are to be made out to Or Shalom Synagogue and marked 'B'Yachad' in the memo section.
3. Once your bar or bat mitzvah date has been chosen in collaboration with Rabbi Hannah, send \$500 for facility booking, plus a \$200 security deposit, to our Office Administrator, 710 E. 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver BC V5T 2A7. Tracey can be reached via email at [office@orshalom.ca](mailto:office@orshalom.ca) and by phone at 604-872-1614. Your date will be entered into the Or Shalom calendar upon receipt of the booking fee.
4. Please make sure your Or Shalom membership is in good standing by checking with our Office Administrator. Bar / Bat / Simchat mitzvah families who are not currently members of Or Shalom are required to make a two year full dues membership commitment starting with the current year. Costs of membership are detailed on the next page. If you are not currently a member of Or Shalom, please go to our website [www.orshalom.ca](http://www.orshalom.ca) to apply for membership. Membership dues can be paid online.

*Please know that no child will be turned away for financial reasons.*

## SUMMARY OF FEES PAYABLE TO OR SHALOM:

- *B'Yachad* course tuition (\$720)
- 2-year membership in Or Shalom plus one-time building fund commitment
- Bar/bat/simchat mitzvah booking fee (\$500)
- Refundable security deposit (\$200)

Fees for tutoring & catering are arranged privately with service providers.

### ***Membership in Or Shalom***

Or Shalom (Light of Peace) is a Jewish Renewal community seeking to live an authentic, creative and deeply satisfying spiritual life. We are committed to the integrity of our Jewish tradition and its continual evolution. Women and men share and participate equally in all aspects of our community's religious life. We are dedicated to providing an inclusive community and resources for individuals to explore their Judaism in the modern era. Our uniqueness expresses itself in all modalities – music, visual arts, creative liturgy and new ceremonies, evolving ritual practice, and sharing of ideas from the heart.

Or Shalom was founded by Rabbis Daniel and Hanna Tiferet Siegel in 1979. We began as a *chavurah* (circle of friends) and moved to our *bayit* (home) at 710 East 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, in 1992. We are affiliated with ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal and draw on the strengths and beauties of the Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, and Reconstructionist movements. Or Shalom and the Jewish Renewal movement attribute their origins largely to the intellectual and spiritual insights and teachings of Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi.

Or Shalom offers its members religious services, holyday celebrations, lifecycle events, adult and youth education, social action projects, rabbinic consultation, conversion study, artistic opportunities, social events, and opportunities to get involved with synagogue life.

The financial responsibilities of membership consist of ongoing annual dues and a one-time contribution of \$2,500 per adult member to the building fund. Last year Or Shalom set individual dues at \$980 and family dues at \$1,960 and introduced a flexible payment option, "Pay What You Can," for members unable to pay full dues. That said, B'Yachad families joining at this time, in preparation for a bar or bat mitzvah, are obligated to commit to two years at the full dues level.

Please contact Or Shalom's treasurer Marty Puterman, [martyput@telus.net](mailto:martyput@telus.net), to discuss alternate financial arrangements, if required, or speak with Rabbi Hannah. Confidentiality is assured.

**Or Shalom B'Yachad Class: Registration Form 2017-2018**

Student's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrew Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's T-shirt size \_\_\_\_\_

Address (including postal code):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Names and Ages of Siblings:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Physician: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Information (allergies, including food sensitivities, medications,  
medical conditions, learning/behavioural/physical challenges):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Student's Hobbies/ Favourite Activities:

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Parental Skills/Talents to Offer:

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*Information for certificate, as applicable:*

Parent's Hebrew Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Hebrew Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Is either parent Kohen or Levi? \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian's Signature:

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*Or Shalom protects the personal information of its community members in accordance with legal guidelines.*