

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your interest in Bolton Street Synagogue.

Founded over 20 years ago, Bolton Street Synagogue is an open, Jewish community rooted in tradition.

We are a community from a variety of backgrounds who have come together to create a unique place of worship. Our members come from every point in the Jewish spectrum, and we follow those practices from each branch that we find most comfortable and meaningful.

While we are a small congregation; we celebrate each Shabbat in our synagogue home on Friday evenings, some Saturdays, and most major Jewish holidays. We encourage you to come and worship with us at Bolton Street, and meet, Rabbi Jonathan Panitz, Cantor Alan Rubinstein, and our members.

In this packet you will find materials telling you more about us, our synagogue and our religious school.

Please do not hesitate to call if we can provide any additional information or if you have any questions. You can contact our president or myself via our web site at [www.boltonstreet.org](http://www.boltonstreet.org).

We look forward to welcoming you to the Bolton Street Synagogue family.

Sincerely,

Debbie Barnes, Administrator  
410-235-5354

# We look forward to welcoming you to our Bolton Street Synagogue family.

## To Join:

Please complete this form and mail it to:

**Bolton Street Synagogue  
212 W. Cold Spring Lane  
Baltimore, Maryland 21210**

Or call: 410- 235-5354

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name (s):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name(s)/ Birthdate(s) of Child(ren): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check the membership category and any school programs  
that apply, and you will be billed once we receive this form:**

### 2008-2009 Rates

_____ Family Membership	\$1450
_____ Single-Parent Membership	\$1180
_____ Individual Membership	\$ 1000
_____ Student Membership	\$ 275
_____ Religious School **	\$ 525 (Per child) for _____ child(ren)
_____ Gan Alef (4-5 year olds)	\$ 175 (Per child)

\*\* There is an additional fee of \$350 for all B'nai Mitzvah children.

Please note that all new members (except students) will be assessed a building fund payment of \$2000, to be paid over a 6 year period. No payment is required the first year of membership, but payments must begin by the second year (\$400 per year for 5 years).

There is an optional 10% reduction in dues for seniors age 65 or older.

# Religious School

Our once-a-week school has many hats to wear – religious, social, cultural. Above all, we want to help families raise *mentsches* – decent human beings who are proud of their Jewish identity, use it to do good in the world, and regard it as an opportunity and obligation to learn more about our people's evolution over 3800 years.

The goal of our Hebrew instruction is basic prayerbook literacy. Bolton St. Synagogue uses the Conservative siddur, *Sim Shalom*. We also feel entrusted by our parents to offer the children as many aspects of Jewish culture as possible, such as liturgical and folk music, Israeli dancing, and holiday celebrations involving food preparation, to name but a few. Just as important an obligation, we feel, is the nurturing of Jewish friendships among our students, many of whom live in a highly secular world throughout the week. Thus we strive to keep the atmosphere in our class-rooms informal and conducive to socializing as well as to learning from books.

Woven throughout the curriculum is our emphasis on a basic understanding of Torah, especially its role in shaping our history and moral code. We encourage knowledge of Shabbat services by scheduling classes on a rotating basis to participate in them. We also schedule some holiday observances around the school calendar and vice versa. We strive to help others through school-based *tzedukah* and teach the importance of Israel to our identity and survival as Jews. Teachers at all levels are encouraged to use storytelling as the medium *par excellence* for transmitting the wisdom of our people.

Opportunities for older students include a Shabbaton (weekend retreat) in the woods for our b'nai Mitzvah class, based on the Teva Learning Center's model of Jewish environmentalism; Hebrew tutoring of younger students (by our post B'nai Mitzvahs); and ongoing community service projects.

# Gan Alef....

...is a pre-school/kindergarten class for children ages 4 to 5 (and their parents). Students will be introduced to the Jewish holidays through stories, songs, finger plays, craft-making, and of course, eating.

- ✿ The group will meet approximately 15 times during the year to learn about and celebrate the major Jewish holidays and Shabbat.
- ✿ A parent must accompany the child, and children younger than 3 are not eligible for the class.
- ✿ The class will include a snack time. Each family will be asked to volunteer to help with snacks once during the year.
- ✿ There is a \$175 fee charged per child.

# B'nai Mitzvah Program

Bolton Street Synagogue strives to enable the preparation for and celebration of each Bar and Bat Mitzvah celebrated by our congregation to be a meaningful and fulfilling experience.

The Bar/Bat Mitzvah may be viewed as a new beginning in the life of an emerging adult, as well as in the life of his or her family. B'nai Mitzvah may be viewed as a change in status in accord with Jewish sacred heritage. Bar/Bat Mitzvah affirms the decision to formally enter the Jewish community and, according to our tradition, is a time of choosing one's group identity. Bar/Bat Mitzvah functions as a springboard to further strengthen the Jewish experience of the family and the student, and reinforce their engagement with the community. Such a view mandates that the actual celebration day becomes an event in a continuum of Jewish education and participation.

This continuum should be designed to build new peer relationships, to encourage community service, to encourage Torah study, to shape a philosophy of Judaism, and to strengthen the ties of family members to each other and the family's commitment to the Jewish community.

A period of preparation for "coming of age" is an ancient tradition among the Jewish people. For the sake of continuity with Jewish heritage, we categorize the Bolton Street guidelines according to three goals—awareness of Jewish spirituality; mastery of Jewish rituals, skills and community leadership; and community outreach for the purpose of Tikkun Olam (care of the world).