

# THE ARI MARK ZEILER FUND

Proudly  
Presents



Designed for  
Pre-B'nai Mitzvah  
students  
grades 5-7

In partnership with **the Ari Mark Zeiler Fund**, AIC BMC has been designed to help B'nai Mitzvah learn the purpose of the ceremony and how to meaningfully fit into our Jewish community. It's informal Jewish education at its best. Our program allows young adults to meet and make new connections while the parents' sessions provide an opportunity for kids and parents to share their experiences about the journey into Jewish adulthood and how this ceremony can help infuse Jewish meaning into their family lives.

## Wednesday nights

- Session 1: 7:00-7:40 pm
- Session 2: 7:50-8:30 pm

## Course Facilitator:

Dr. Jack Lipinsky (principal@adathisrael.com)

*Principal of the Congregational School  
with exciting guest appearances by "Team Clergy"*

Jack (or "Doc" as he is known to his students) has a well established reputation as a master educator of middle school students over the past 30 years. He focuses on building life long relationships with his students and creating curricula and classroom experiences that are student centered, experientially based, and mindful of various learning styles that reach all students. He is also an accomplished Torah Reader & Service Leader and Department Chair of Jewish History and Identity at the Associated Hebrew Schools - Danilack Middle School.

Register online at

<https://adathisraeltoronto.shulcloud.com/form/bnaimitzvahclub2021.html>

## Schedule:

\*STUDENTS & PARENTS \*\*STUDENTS ONLY

### WEEK 1: JANUARY 13\*

- Meet "Team Clergy"
- What's the point of all this preparation?

### WEEK 2: JANUARY 20\*\*

- Rabbi Cutler Supper Schmooze
- Why read from a scroll in an age of computers?

### WEEK 3: JANUARY 27\*\*

- Creating personalized Jewish art with Miriam Herlin, guest artist

### WEEK 4: FEBRUARY 3\*\*

- Tikkun Olam - Improving the World
- Caring about others

### WEEK 5: FEBRUARY 10\*\*

- Creating a great D'var Torah
- Shabbat: Why does it matter?

### WEEK 6: FEBRUARY 17\*\*

- What does being Jewish mean?
- The power of being commanded

### WEEK 7: FEBRUARY 24\*

- Cantor Stein Music Program
- Rabbi Seed - Being Jewish in the 21st century

### WEEK 8: MARCH 3\*

- What unexpected things did we learn?
- The Bar/Bat Mitzvah as a starting line for our family's Jewish identity

Thanks to a very generous sponsorship<sup>^</sup>, the cost of this program has been reduced to \$99 from \$325 per student. Limited space. Register now!

**^THIS PROGRAM IS GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY THE ARI MARK ZEILER FUND**



37 Southbourne Avenue • Toronto, Ontario • M3H 1A4  
Tel: 416.635.5340 • Fax: 416.635.1629  
www.adathisrael.com • info@adathisrael.com

Session # / Date	Attendees	Part 1: 7:00-7:40 p.m.	Part 2: 7:50-8:30 p.m.
1: January 13	Parents and B'nai Mitzvah	Meet "Team Clergy" and Icebreakers ("meet our family"/ Who are we?/ What do we expect to gain from this experience?	"What's the Point of all this Preparation?" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A parent and B'nai mitzvah dialogue on the challenges and excitement surrounding this occasion</li> <li>• Different types of ceremonies and what makes them all similar</li> </ul>
2: January 20	B'nai Mitzvah only	Rabbi Adam Cutler, Senior Rabbi Schmooze (6:30-7 p.m.) followed by class	"Why Read from a Scroll in an Age of Computers?" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quick history of Bar/Bat Mitzvah and Jewish peoplehood</li> <li>• How a Torah is created</li> <li>• Why work so hard to read from the Torah? What makes lessons so challenging?</li> </ul>
3: January 27	B'nai Mitzvah only	Creating Personalized Jewish Art (7-8:30 p.m.) The Torah is covered at all times except when being read as a sign of respect. It is traditional to use a specially embroidered cloth for this. There is a tradition of personalizing this and turning it into a heirloom.	Miriam Herlin, our guest artist, will help each BMC member create their own personalized Torah cover. She is an artist in her own right and specializes in creating Jewish statements through art.
4: February 3	B'nai Mitzvah only	Tikkun Olam: "Improving the world" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discover and discuss how we can leverage the B'nai Mitzvah into an opportunity to benefit the community</li> <li>• What makes this an opportune time to care about those less fortunate?</li> <li>• The value and power of appreciation and gratitude</li> </ul>	Caring about Others <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How is Tzedakah very different from charity?</li> <li>• Discovering how to experience the power of helping others</li> </ul>
5: February 10	B'nai Mitzvah only	"Creating a Great D'var Torah" Every B'nai Mitzvah has to write this, but there are some strategies that will make this much easier. This will be a great session for beginning or polishing this very important part of the ceremony.	Shabbat: Why does it matter? Why and how can we make Shabbat a special day? Strategies for making Shabbat different from the rest of the week.
6: February 17	B'nai Mitzvah only	What Does Being Jewish Mean?" Two short and exciting videos will frame our conversation about what we think is important about being Jewish and what our experiences as B'nai Mitzvah have taught us about our identity as sons, daughters, grandkids, Canadians, and Jews.	The Power of Being Commanded Jewish tradition teaches that "doing a mitzvah because we have to is better than doing it because we want to." That sounds outrageous! Let's explore why this statement might be true and why we should care.
7: February 24	Parents and B'nai Mitzvah	Cantor Alex Stein "Music Program"	Rabbi David Seed Being Jewish in the 21st century
8: March 3	Parents and B'nai Mitzvah Special Closing Ceremony	"What unexpected things did we learn?" Some of the best experiences are happy surprises. In this family journey of preparation, what positive and unexpected experiences took place? For parents: How different is your kids' b'nai mitzvah experience from yours? For the BM: Has this class affected your preparation?	The Bar/Bat Mitzvah as a starting line for our family's Jewish ID" After all our work as parents and B'nai Mitzvah, how can we play this occasion forward? Or do we just leave it at the "starting gate" and move on to the next big life cycle occasion? Traditionally a very spirited, open, entertaining, and often moving conversation!