

“My child is taking a Torah home!”



The night prior to a child's Bnai Mitzvah, the child and the parents are brought into a darkened sanctuary, the only light coming from the ner tamid and the ark. The Bnai Mitzvah is handed a Torah and reminded that Judaism survives because past generations have protected this holy scroll. The child keeps the Torah in their possession, protecting it through the night, and returning it safely to the synagogue the next day. Families describe the sense of calm the Torah brings to their homes, and the pride the children feel because of this responsibility.

be part of the **revolution!**

Working with lay leaders and outside professionals, Temple Kol Tikvah reinvented the Bnai Mitzvah experience. Our program focuses on both the child and the family. By bringing families together to celebrate, reflect, learn, and eat (we are Jewish after all), we strive to spark a meaningful conversation about Bnai Mitzvah, our connection to Judaism, and the life challenges that face teens.

let's talk about us...

Temple Kol Tikvah is a Reform congregation located in the heart of the San Fernando Valley. At Temple Kol Tikvah's core there resides a single idea – joy. We describe this idea with the Hebrew word simcha. No matter whether we are praying, playing, studying, celebrating, or taking action to heal our world, we do it with joy in our hearts. In these moments of simcha, we connect to all that is holy.

we want to hear from **you.**

**Rabbi Jon Hanish**

818.348.0670 ext 222  
rabbihanish@koltikvah.org

**Cantor Noa Shaashua**

818.348.0670 ext 212  
cantorshaashua@koltikvah.org

**Rabbi Becky Hoffman**

Associate Rabbi & Religious School Director  
818.348.0670 ext 209  
rabbihoffman@koltikvah.org

**Tiffany Kosloy**

Executive Director  
818.348.0670 ext 214  
tkosloy@koltikvah.org

**Samantha Duenas**

Experiential Education Coordinator  
818.348.0670 ext 218  
sduenas@koltikvah.org



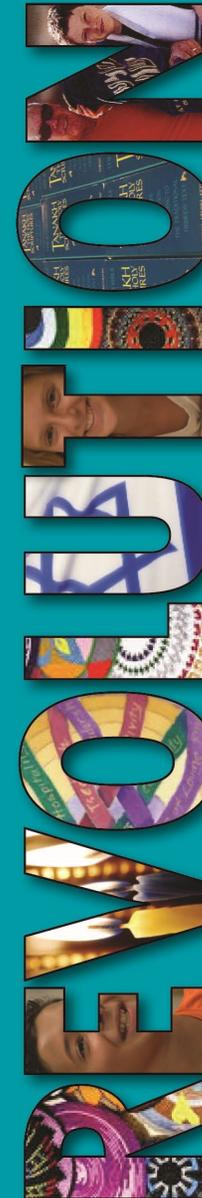
20400 Ventura Boulevard  
Woodland Hills, California 91364  
koltikvah.org

**BMR**

a journey for the whole family beginning in the 4th grade

**bnai mitzvah**

2017-2018



KOLTIVVAH

the faux mitzvah  
retreat  
AN OVERNIGHT  
EVENT

connection. joy. celebration.

**Join us** to see your friends or make new friends ■ All fees are included with your Religious School registration ■ RSVP is required to attend

## for teens & parents

Over the course of the year, families will gather three times. For ages 12-16 years old.

**November 14, 2017; January 23, 2018;  
March 20, 2018, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

The teen years bring new challenges for teens and their families. Temple Kol Tikvah is a safe space for families to discuss and confront issues such as cyberbullying and suicide prevention. Explore the above topics with experts in the field. Dinner will be served.

## for fourth graders

Over the course of fourth grade, families will gather two times. Dinner will be served.

**L'Dor V'Dor: From Generation to Generation  
November 8, 2017, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm**

At this initial gathering for families, we will celebrate the start of the Bnai Mitzvah journey together. To commemorate this beginning, each child will receive a book that will become part of their Jewish library. The program will focus on the tradition of passing important ideas from generation to generation. From memories that reflect the importance of Bnai Mitzvah, the evening will emphasize our connection to the past.

**Havdalah Social: Welcoming a New Week  
April 14, 2018, 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm**

As a family, you will learn about the ritual of Havdalah and create your own Havdalah set. There will also be a separate child and parent social.

## for parents only

**October 24, 2017, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

Work with Rabbi Jon Hanish on how to write a speech for your child's Bnai Mitzvah. Review essential prayers in preparation for the Bnai Mitzvah with Cantor Noa Shaashua. Dinner will be served.

## for fifth graders

Over the course of fifth grade, families will gather two times and enjoy the Faux-Mitzvah Retreat.

### **Biblical Heroes Bootcamp**

**November 29, 2017, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm**

After sharing dinner together, each child will receive a book to add to their personal Jewish library. Our program will focus on connecting each child to a Biblical hero. Parents and child will reflect on the child's personal strengths and, with the assistance of a "matchmaker," pair the child with one of their Biblical ancestors. The children will then teach the community about their Biblical counterparts. Dinner will be served.

### **Putting the Mitzvah in Bnai Mitzvah**

**January 28, 2018, 11:15 am - 1:15 pm**

Tikkun Olam, healing the world, is an ethical responsibility for every Jew. Our innovative Kemach program brings our 5th-8th graders together to take action by helping our local community. While students are allowed to do individual projects, we have created a system where they can earn credits toward their mitzvah requirement while working with their peers. Families will learn about how their child can fulfill their Tikkun Olam requirement and earn their first Kemach credits. Lunch will be served.

the faux  
mitzvah  
retreat

## for sixth graders

Over the course of sixth grade, families will gather three times and enjoy the Faux-Mitzvah Retreat. Dinner will be served.

### **On the Threshold: Torah and Tradition**

**November 29, 2017, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm**

After dinner is served, students will receive a TaNaKh, a Jewish Bible, to help build their Jewish library. As part of the program, each family will review their child's Torah portion. As a group, we will hear from the Kol Tikvah staff who will guide and support you through the many facets of the Bnai Mitzvah experience.

### **The Fabric of Life: Tzitzit and Stress**

**February 28, 2018, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm**

One of the major experiences of becoming a Bnai Mitzvah is putting on a tallit. We will explore the meaning behind the tzitzit, the fringes on the tallit. We will also discuss the concept of stress in young people and how we can support them during difficult moments in their lives. We will conclude with a meditation utilizing tzitzit.

### **Tied Up in Knots: Conflict Resolution**

**April 25, 2018, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm**

Families will learn how to deal with family, peer, and teacher/student conflicts. Through role-plays and discussions, adults and children will learn skills that will help them through adolescence. We will also introduce the act of laying Tefillin and explore how the Tefillin can be a source of strength and guidance. Dinner will be served.

## for fifth and sixth graders

**Saturday, December 2, 2017, 4 pm - Sunday, December 3, 2017, 9:00 am**

Have you ever wondered why we stand here or bow down there at the service? Or why do we sing this prayer here? This is your time to ask! We will run through an entire Bnai Mitzvah service with explanations, time for questions, and we will celebrate! Fifth and sixth graders will have an overnight at the temple with fun games and activities. Parents will have a dinner social and get to know each other. Babysitting for younger siblings will be available with fee.