



B'ruchim Ha'ba'im, **Welcome to Chai Mitzvah!**

Thank you for registering for **Chai Mitzvah**, the innovative adult Jewish education initiative that is bringing participants to deeper and more engaged Jewish lives.

Included in this document are some helpful promotional tools that will assist you in forming your **Chai Mitzvah** group.

If you have any questions, or need anything, please let me know. I look forward to working with you!

Best,
Nina Woldin

nina@chaimitzvah.org
973-568-5788

In this document:

- Talking points for launching a Chai Mitzvah group
- What does a facilitator need to do?
- Short bulletin article
- Sample letter to synagogue members

Please visit our website for more helpful marketing materials.

www.chaimitzvah.org

Talking Points for Chai Mitzvah Groups

Chai Mitzvah builds and deepens Jewish connections within the congregation and community.

Our tradition teaches us that a fully integrated Jewish life includes study, ritual and community involvement. **Chai Mitzvah** does just that, providing the framework for a meaningful Jewish journey.

There are five components to the nine-month **Chai Mitzvah** experience:

- Group study –meeting monthly on a set curriculum
- Independent Study – something you would like to learn more about in Jewish life, history, literature, culture, etc
- Ritual – choosing a ritual or spiritual practice to incorporate into your life
- Social Action – choosing either individually, or as a group, to commit to a local volunteer opportunity
- Celebrate! At the end of the nine months, acknowledge the journey with some kind of celebration. Participants who finish the program receive a certificate from **Chai Mitzvah**, and a tree planted in their honor courtesy of Jewish National Fund's collaboration with **Chai Mitzvah**.

This program is for everyone. (Some examples: Rosh Chodesh groups, Early Childhood parents, Empty Nesters, Adult B'nai Mitzvah, and more...)

However you structure it, **Chai Mitzvah** participants become more fully engaged in the congregation, establishing their own meaningful adult Jewish lives.

Please visit our website for more information: www.chaimitzvah.org

What does a facilitator do?

Seven Easy Steps:

1. Explain the components of the Chai Mitzvah initiative.
 - group learning
 - personal learning
 - spiritual practice/ritual
 - social action/volunteering
 - celebration at the end!
2. Gather the contact information for each participant – register each participant through the Chai Mitzvah website.
3. Schedule the monthly learning sessions.
4. Encourage the participants to choose their individual commitments, keep track of what they've chosen, and communicate them to the Chai Mitzvah office.
5. Act as a resource for the participants' decisions on what they'll explore for personal and community involvement, and help them stay on track. Perhaps involve members of the group to keep track of what everyone has chosen to explore.
6. Lead the discussion or arrange for "guest" leaders on each of the individual units. In some groups participants take turns as leaders. Chai Mitzvah offers monthly webinars on each topic.
7. Share stories about your participants' experiences and some great photos!
(Please email to nina@chaimitzvah.org)

Short Bulletin Article

What does your meaningful Jewish life look like?

Our tradition tells us that an integrated Jewish life involves head, heart and hand... study, spirituality and social action. Explore all of these on your terms, with your personal interests through a new adult education initiative called Chai Mitzvah. You will participate in a monthly learning group with a specially designed curriculum that focuses on real life, relevant issues. You will also choose an individual study topic that is personally interesting to you, adopt a new ritual or deepen an existing practice, and engage in a social action activity in your community. Then, at the end of the nine-month program, you can celebrate your journey!

To become a Chai Mitzvah, or for more information, contact _____.

Please visit the website for more information: www.chaimitzvah.org

Sample Letter

Dear Congregant,

Being Jewish means you learn and do, all your life. Our tradition teaches us the world stands on Torah, Avodah and Gmitut Chasadim - learning, spirituality and social action. That is, head, heart and hand.

We point our children's learning toward that moment when they become full members of our community, when they become Bar or Bat Mitzvah. What about after that? How do we develop, re-define our own adult Jewish lives?

We have decided to launch an innovative initiative for adults, Chai Mitzvah.

Chai Mitzvah has five basic components in a nine-month program:

- Group study –meeting monthly on a set curriculum
- Independent Study – something you would like to learn more about in Jewish life, history, literature, culture, etc
- Ritual – choosing a ritual or spiritual practice to incorporate into your life
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If you have any questions, please contact: *add contact info here*

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