**GUIDELINES FOR ADULT BAR/BAT MITZVAH AT KOL AMI – DRAFT (effective July 1, 2012)**

When desires for adult b’nei mitzvah classes and ceremonies arise at Kol Ami, the community has cause to celebrate. We have established the following guidelines to facilitate the journey.

1. The prospective Bar or Mat Mitzvah must be Jewish. In Reconstructionism, a person is recognized as Jewish in three ways:

— if the individual is born of a Jewish mother.

— If the individual is born of a Jewish father and has been raised and educated from early childhood with a Jewish identity (Jewish religious education, synagogue membership, etc,)

— If the individual is a “Jew by choice” (i.e., a convert to Judaism) and has undergone the necessary education, rites and rituals of conversion under the supervision of a rabbi of any Jewish denomination and has documents to attest to the conversion.

1. The prospective Bar or Bat Mitzvah will engage in a course of Jewish study under the supervision of the community’s rabbi or lay leaders including:

— the Shabbat service

— mastery of basic prayers to include:

•Shabbat candle lighting, *Kiddush*  and *motzi*

*• Barchu*

• *Sh’ma* and *v’ahavta*

*•* Blessings before and after Torah reading

*• Aleinu*

• Mourner’s *Kaddish*

• *Adon Olam* or other closing song

If some individuals would like to gain mastery and lead more of the service, they need only ask!

1. Those participating in adult b’nei mitzvah celebrations will study Torah – not just Hebrew reading and leyning (chanting) and the accompanying Reconstructionist versions of the prayers, but the meaning of Torah.  This can happen in a Kol Ami adult b’nei mitzvah class, or through another route, such as individual lessons.
2. The prospective Bar or Bat Mitzvah will learn to *leyn* (chant) at least three verses from the Torah to chant them at a Shabbat service. We encourage individuals to learn the Torah *trope* (rather than learning their verses via a recording) so that they can become part of our corps of *leyners.* However, this is the participant’s personal choice.
3. The prospective Bar or Bat Mitzvah will meet with the Rabbi at least either individually or as part of a class twice to discuss the contents of his/her *parsha* in order to prepare a *d’var Torah* in order to offer some words of learning to the community.
4. The prospective Bar or Bat Mitzvah will be expected to a) be a member in good standing of Kol Ami; and b) pay a one-time fee as determined by the Steering Committee, independent of the annual membership dues. This fee will be used to cover the congregation’s associated costs (e.g, administrative expenses, rental of a UUCA room for the ceremony, etc.) The Bar or Bat Mitzvah will be responsible for covering the additional costs for UUCA facilities if utilized (e.g., Fellowship Hall for Kiddush luncheon, use of UUCA for rehearsal, UUCA event coordinator, etc.). Adults who are organizing a group celebration may work with Kol Ami’s treasurer to determine how these costs can be shared.

7. Kol Ami is a true community. As such, it is expected that the individual becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah will make every effort to invite the entire community to the Shabbat service and celebration of this great *simcha.*