

January 10th & 17th

Tallit Making Workshop

If you can tie your shoes, you can make the fringes on your own tallit!

You can make a custom tallit for yourself or as a very special gift.

Even if you have never threaded a needle; even if you never designed anything before. And for some people, best of all: You do not have to miss the football playoffs while you do it.

How could this be true? Most of the recent Bar/Bat Mitzvah students at B'nai Tikvah have made tallitot, with surprising levels of success. They were all about 12 at the time, and many of them had never threaded a needle before we started.

That old saying, "I do not know anything about art, but I know what I like" explains how much art ability you need for this exciting and spiritual activity.

Two Sunday afternoons - January 10th and 17th - from 1:00 to 5:00 are all the time it will take. Value added bonuses! Intergenerational option, custom fit, and a racy little story about those fringes on the four tallit corners and how they will protect you from sin.

Check out the tallitot in the synagogue vestibule made by our own B'nai Tikvah students.

What do you need to do?

First: Most important: RSVP to the office at (513)336-6233.

We need to know how many tzitzit (fringe tying kits) are needed, if you can bring a portable sewing machine and steam iron and how to set up.

Eat before you come, so that no food will damage the material.

Second: Gather what you will need.

Cloth/material.

Decide what size you would like your tallit to be.

An average woman's tallit is 77 inches by 20 inches (could be as narrow as 16 inches).

An average man's tallit is 77 inches by 24 inches.

There are tallitot much bigger, and you could also make it smaller.

The idea is to feel wrapped in God's love, whatever size that is for you! -

then add 2 inches in both length and width.

An extra quarter to half yard of your fabric.

Type of material: Jewish law requires that the tallit not be made of wool and linen combined.

Choose any other fabric: silk, wool, or cotton. Linen is acceptable, but wrinkles very easily.

Color-matched thread. You should be able to hold a single strand of thread against the fabric and have difficulty seeing the thread because the thread and material colors should be close to identical.

New or not - material to make decorative stripes. An item of yours or a family member's clothing which is no longer worn but has happy associations with the past might add meaning, if you feel OK about cutting it up.

Broken jewelry or single earrings which have beads you or someone else might like to sew onto the tallit.

Beach towel to iron on, extension cord.

A sense of humor and a dash of adventure.

(Sewing experience, art talent, and Hebrew language are all optional.

Questions? Call Marjorie at 631-1221.

If you want to do this project, I promise to see you through not only to completion, but to making a tallit which you will be pleased to own or give as a very special present.

This program has been made possible by a S.E.E.D. Grant from The Jewish Federation of Cincinnati