

Dear Ohr Kodesh Families,

My name is Samantha Vinokor-Meinrath. I'm a former Rockville resident, and am currently completing my doctorate in Jewish Education at Gratz College in Philadelphia. I'm writing to ask for your assistance in the research that I'm hoping to conduct in the DC area.

My doctoral thesis focuses on Jewish high school students who have completed their bar/bat mitzvahs, but are not currently involved in formal Jewish education (confirmation, youth group, etc.). I'm hoping to directly interview these high school students about their Jewish identities - what value they find in being Jewish, how they define themselves, and how they relate to Judaism at this stage in their lives.

More information about the technicalities of the research process [can be found here](#), but in a nutshell, I'm asking for your consent to spend one hour talking to your teen (either via video chat or in person in Rockville) about their Judaism. Their answers will be kept fully anonymous and confidential, and will be used to inform research on what matters to Jewish teens today. I will be presenting the findings in the Rockville area next Fall, and you will be invited to hear the aggregated results.

If your teen is interested in participating in a conversation that will hopefully be a great opportunity for their own self-reflection, as well as a chance to participate firsthand in a research process that may be similar to those they may conduct/partake in at the college level, please email me at svinokor@gmail.com, or call me at 516-817-2854, to ask any questions and to set up our interview time.

Thank you for your consideration of my proposal.

Warm regards,

Samantha