

Recommended Reading

Humash (collection of Torah/Haftarah readings with commentary) – We recommend *The Torah, A Modern Commentary*, published by URJ (Union for Reform Judaism) or *Etz Hayim*, published by the Conservative movement. Families should use this modern translation and commentary as a basis for shared study and discussion both of the weekly Torah reading and especially of the assigned Torah and Haftarah readings for the B'nai Mitzvah service.

TaNakh (English translation of the *entire* Hebrew Bible) – The standard Jewish Bible now is the Jewish Publication Society's modern translation titled *TaNakh*, available in the various formats (hardcover, softcover, etc.). Contains the entire Hebrew Bible, whereas the Humash contains only the first five books (the Torah).

Siddur (prayerbook) – The Reconstructionist prayerbook that we use at JRC, *Kol HaNeshamah: Shabbat VeHagim* is recommended for purchase so you can study and use it at home. Our movement has two other prayerbooks in the same series, *Kol HaNeshamah: Shirim Uverachot* (a home prayerbook with rituals, readings and music) and *Kol HaNeshamah Limot Hol* (for daily use other than Shabbat). Those celebrating a B'nai Mitzvah on a day other than Saturday use this prayerbook. All are available for purchase at the JRC office.

***Putting God on the Guest List: How to Reclaim the Spiritual Meaning of your Child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah* by Rabbi Jeffrey K. Salkin** – Highly recommended for its insight into the issues modern families face around B'nai Mitzvah, as well as for its useful suggestions about practical issues. A version written specifically for B'nai Mitzvah students has been distributed to students. Available in most large trade bookstores and websites or any Jewish bookstore.

***Make Your Own Bar/Bat Mitzvah: A Personal Approach to Creating a Meaningful Rite of Passage* by Rabbi Goldie Milgram** – Full of very creative ideas for making the B'nai Mitzvah "planning process" emotionally and spiritually fulfilling for the entire family.

***Bat Mitzvah: A Jewish Girl's Coming of Age* by Barbara Diamond Goldin** – Recommended for *Bat Mitzvah* students and their parents; written from a progressive and feminist viewpoint, it places the *Bat Mitzvah* celebration in the larger context of the new and emerging roles of Jewish women. *Bar Mitzvah* students will also benefit from reading and thinking about the role of Jewish men in creating and egalitarian Judaism in which women are fully equal.

Compiled by Rabbi Brant Rosen, September, 2005/Elul 5765

An excellent all-around resource for planning a Jewish party is the *Guide to Jewish Living in Chicago*, published annually by the Jewish Federation/Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago. Call (312) 357-4848 to request a copy or view it online at <http://www.juf.org/guide/default.aspx>.