KAM Isaiah Israel

B’nei Mitzvah Handbook

“And you shall teach them faithfully to your children.”
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Dear KAM Isaiah Israel Family,

 Mazal tov! The celebration of a child's becoming a bar or bat mitzvah is one of the greatest events in the life cycle of a Jewish family. This handbook has been prepared to help make the period of study and preparation for the ceremony less stressful and, hopefully, more meaningful. Please read all of this information carefully.

KAM Isaiah Israel has established certain expectations and responsibilities to help you and your child feel a part of the ongoing tradition לдор ודור, from generation to generation. All of these study and mitzvah opportunities will help you maintain the highest standards during this important life cycle event.

Bar/bat mitzvah is about ritual maturity. It is about growing up as a Jew. It is about becoming a fuller member of the Jewish community. It is about moral responsibility, and about connecting to Torah, to community, and to God. As you begin the process, it is appropriate for you and your child to turn inward and ask yourselves, “Why are we doing this?” and “What does it all mean?”

It is our greatest hope and expectation that the upcoming preparation and celebration you and your family are undertaking will have enduring and lasting significance. The seriousness and commitment required will help to shape the meaning of the celebration.

We look forward to working with your entire family during this meaningful time. Please know that we will make ourselves completely available to you during this process and always feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns during the journey ahead.

It is our fervent prayer that this experience will be one of many meaningful and fulfilling opportunities for your family at KAM Isaiah Israel.

לשלום,

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History of B’nei Mitzvah

Although the origins of the term bar mitzvah go back approximately two thousand years, the ceremony itself appeared around the Middle Ages. A boy aged thirteen was considered a full member of the religious community and was given an aliyah (going up) to the bimah (pulpit) to share in the Torah service. This ritual symbolized the teen’s entry into responsible Jewish living in the community.

Although the Talmud teaches that girls had a legal responsibility to observe mitzvot beginning at the age of twelve, it was not until the twentieth century that some families started celebrating the girl’s new status with festivity. The first bat mitzvah ceremony in North America was that of Judith Kaplan Eisenstein, the daughter of Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan, the founder of Reconstructionist Judaism.

Bar/bat mitzvah is not only a ceremony – it is also a decisive turning point: a period when the child enters adolescence, spiritually as well as emotionally. While the usual age is thirteen, there is no maximum age limit. In our society, when one reaches the age of eighteen, s/he receives many privileges and responsibilities such as the right to vote. So, too, in Jewish society, when one reaches the age of bar/bat mitzvah, one receives certain privileges and accepts certain responsibilities, most especially the full range of personal and spiritual accountability.

This promise by God to Abraham links the idea of blessing and children together, and we all find our own children to be blessings to us. Further, the children of our congregation are the stars that shine brightly in the long night of the Jewish future, and so we use the image of a six-pointed star to talk about becoming b’nei mitzvah.

When we imagine our children becoming b’nei mitzvah, we think about standing on the bima with the Torah scroll, the feeling of accomplishment, the pride we feel, and the joy of the continuation of Judaism into the next generation. That moment of the ceremony is important, but it exists in a matrix of personal development which is much greater than just that one day.

On the one hand, it is a turning point for the development of a person’s Jewish education. This education officially begins with the ceremony of Consecration in kindergarten. At Consecration, the student is dedicated to pursue a Jewish education by his or her parents. The next turning point is in third grade when a student begins learning Hebrew. To mark this development, we celebrate a Giving of the Prayerbook, Matan Siddur. Using the skills learned through Hebrew studies and Judaics, students prepare for becoming b’nei mitzvah.

The turning point of bar/bat mitzvah is incredibly important and marks a change in the student’s education. It is in no way the endpoint of Jewish education; instead, it marks as the transition from primary, elementary education to secondary education and the beginning of exploring adult Judaism. The importance of the transition from pediatric to adult Judaism cannot be overstated. We strive to enable our students to enter an adult Jewish life fully prepared with a mature understanding of Judaism that can help them navigate a complex world.

The final stage of a child’s Jewish education is celebrated with Confirmation here at KAM Isaiah Israel. Confirmation is a year-long exploration of significant topics in Jewish life which prepares a student to confirm at the ceremony that s/he will live a Jewish life by using the tools of Judaism to make life meaningful.

Becoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah

“כִּי־בָרֵ֣ךְ אֲבָרֶכְךָ֗ וְהַרְבָּ֨ה אַרְבֶּה אֶת־זַרְעֲךָ֙ כְּכוֹכְבֵי הַשָּׁמַ֔יִם
I will bestow My blessing upon you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars of heaven...”

-Genesis 22:17
Of course, implicit in the use of this image for our model of Jewish learning is the idea that learning as a child is incomplete on its own. It is only one triangle that goes into the double triangle star of Jewish learning. It is necessary to continue Jewish learning throughout one's life — to connect the corners of the other triangle — in order to experience the fullness of Judaism. The corners of that triangle of adult Jewish learning are not lifecycle events because in the adult stage of life those learning moments are not ritualized. Instead, the fullness of adult Jewish learning is experienced through individual Jewish study, communal Jewish learning, and learning wisdom from other traditions. The significance of adult Jewish learning cannot be overstated.

On the other hand, the personal development that celebrating becoming bar/bat mitzvah itself represents is profound. Leaning on the image of the star with which we started, we take note of the display of six pointed stars throughout our main sanctuary — on the walls, in the stained glass, on the sides of the rows of seats. Many people have spent time contemplating those stars in moments of spiritual stillness, sometimes appreciating their form, sometimes counting the many times that they appear. Of the 613 six-pointed stars in the room, the most prominent is the large star on the dome of the sanctuary. There are six areas of Jewish life represented by the points of that star, and standing under it, as students do when becoming b’nei mitzvah, is a way of acknowledging accomplishment in those areas.
The process of becoming bar/bat mitzvah at KAM Isaiah Israel involves activities in all six of these areas. Some of them are built into the process and are standard for all students; others are chosen by the student for greater development in an area of personal interest. Each student performs at least two activities in each area, then chooses two more areas, one as a major and one as a minor. In the minor area, the student will choose one additional activity, and in the major area, the student will choose two additional activities. We understand that some activities require greater commitment than others. The individual activity plan will be developed in partnership with the student, the parents, and the rabbi.

**Activities**

On the following pages, there are examples of the activities in which a student may engage. Activities marked with a ☑️ are required for all students. This list is not intended to be comprehensive; rather, these are examples to promote thinking about the area.
Mitzvot: Six Points Project (continued)

Lovingkindness

- Volunteer as a farmer on our Urban Farm
- Participate in food deliveries for our winter Fresh Food Initiative
- Volunteer with the Hyde Park Refugee Project
- Visit someone who is ill
- Visit someone who has lost a loved one
- Bring chametz from your home before Passover to a local food pantry
- Volunteer as a family at a soup kitchen
- Write to an elected official about an important issue, using a Jewish idea in the letter
- Participate as a family in a clothing drive for the needy
- Participate in a peaceful rally or demonstration that supports a worthy cause
- Contribute some צדקה tzedakah every Friday night into a family צדקה tzedakah box for at least four consecutive weeks. Decide as a family where the money should go
- Volunteer at your local animal shelter
- Collect supplies for animals living at animal shelters

Prayer

- ⭐ Attend Shabbat morning services
- ⭐ Lead worship on the day of bar/bat mitzvah
- Light Shabbat candles every Friday evening for at least four consecutive weeks
- Lead your family in Kiddush every Friday evening for at least four consecutive weeks
- Lead your family in the Motzi blessing before your main meal every day for two weeks
- Write a special reading for your Passover Seder
- Write a special prayer for the lighting of the Chanukah menorah
- Help build a sukkah for Sukkot, either at home or at the synagogue
- Help nursing home residents hold services for Shabbat or a Jewish holiday

Israel

- Plant a tree in Israel for Tu biShvat
- Purchase and use Israeli products
- Give צדקה tzedakah to Israel
- Travel to Israel as a family
- Write letters of support to elected officials supporting peace in the Middle East for all people who live there
- Establish a penpal/e-mail relationship with an Israeli child

Community

- Visit a Jewish museum
- Attend a play or concert on a Jewish theme
- Record an interview with a grandparent about Jewish life when s/he was thirteen
- Deliver flowers to a nursing home before the start of Shabbat
- Participate in a community event hosted by NFTY-CAR, JCC, JUF, or other Jewish organization in Chicago
Mitzvot: Six Points Project (continued)

Learning

✦ Attend KAM Isaiah Israel religious education program for three years before B’nei Mitzvah ceremony or equivalent
✦ Research and write a d’var Torah with the rabbi to be delivered at B’nei Mitzvah ceremony
  • Read a Jewish book and talk about it with the rabbi
  • Learn your Hebrew name and the person/people for whom you are named and about the special qualities of the person/people after which you were named
  • Attend a Shabbat morning lecture at the synagogue

Self

• Play a Jewish song on an instrument at B’nei Mitzvah ceremony
• Write a poem or prayer on a Jewish topic to include in B’nei Mitzvah program
• Draw a picture to include in B’nei Mitzvah program
• As a family, discuss a way to make Shabbat special through commitments that the family will make together, such as avoiding commercial transactions on Shabbat, turning off screens on Shabbat, making Shabbat into a day for visiting friends or family, etc.
• Eliminate a bad habit
• Patch up a bad relationship with another person
• Transform a negative attitude into a positive attitude
• Hold a family discussion about acceptable kinds of speech. Discuss the quality, the content (and the volume!) of speech in your home. Consider how speech can be used for healing, not hurting.

As these actions are performed, it is important that the student journal what s/he has done both in order to serve as a record and also to serve as a resource. As a record, the student will share the journal with the rabbi and discuss what has been done. As a resource, the student will be able to use the journal in order to write an explanation of what Six Points actions s/he performed and how those actions affected her/him which will be included in the Bar/Bat Mitzvah program.
Six Points Log

This space can be used to record the Six Points actions that the student chooses.
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Requirements of Bar/Bat Mitzvah

The bar/bat mitzvah celebration is a time-honored tradition that represents a significant milestone in the life of a young Jewish adult. In order to ensure that the bar/bat mitzvah process continues to anchor the path of lifelong Jewish learning, the following requirements have been put into place at KAM Isaiah Israel.

1. In order to schedule a bar/bat mitzvah date, families must be members of KAM Isaiah Israel and must maintain that membership throughout the bar/bat mitzvah preparation process.

2. A student must have a minimum of three years at the Shoresh religious education program at KAM Isaiah Israel or its equivalent in order to celebrate becoming bar/bat mitzvah.

3. Transfer students will be accepted if they have successfully completed a minimum of three years of Hebrew or its equivalent in a Hebrew program for bar/bat mitzvah at another synagogue. The family must consult with the Religious School Director in order to establish that the requirement is met, and the family must make a commitment that the student will continue religious studies through Confirmation at KAM Isaiah Israel.

4. All students (including students at Jewish day schools) must be enrolled in Shoresh for the 7th grade year. Students are expected to complete the Shoresh program for the 7th grade year even if their b’nei mitzvah services occur early in the school year.

5. We want our young people and their families to feel connected to Jewish worship and the KAM Isaiah Israel community. Therefore, it is expected that the student and the family will attend all b’nei mitzvah services during the year before the bar/bat mitzvah date. Because we believe that the practice of Judaism should be a family experience, we ask that parents attend services with their child. In this way, everyone in the family will feel comfortable and connected to our worship service. More than this, we want to create a worshipping community in which we know our families. We want to feel connected to you.

6. KAM Isaiah Israel, in concert with our Jewish heritage, considers becoming a bar/bar mitzvah to be an important landmark in a child’s journey toward becoming an educated adult—not the final destination. Therefore, any child who becomes bar/bat mitzvah is making a commitment to continue Jewish education through Confirmation and this commitment is reflected in his/her d’var Torah. We are proud of our legacy of Confirmation classes, and we are grateful to parents for upholding the values of Jewish education for our children.

7. Practice is the key to bar/bat mitzvah preparation. Our experience has shown that the most successful students are those who practice every day rather than “cramming” immediately before their lessons.

8. The clergy is able to implement requirements with flexibility, designing a program to meet the individual student’s needs.

9. All b’nei mitzvah families are expected to usher at the bar/bat mitzvah service immediately prior to their own celebration.

10. If the standards are not met satisfactorily, the bar/bat mitzvah can be postponed or canceled by the clergy. Final approval of the date of the bar/bat mitzvah should be obtained through the clergy three months before the scheduled date.
Family Participation

It is our utmost goal to create an environment where all family members become invested in the sanctity of the bar/bat mitzvah celebration. Our service is designed to be fully inclusive of both Jewish and non-Jewish family members and guests, and our clergy is careful to show respect to both parents.

- **Candles**: On the Friday night prior to the bar/bat mitzvah, the parents of the bar/bat mitzvah are invited to lead the congregation in the Shabbat candle lighting.

- **Prayers before the Bar’chu**: At the bar/bat mitzvah celebration, we are happy to welcome a sibling to lead one of the prayers before the Bar’chu.

- **Opening the ark**: There are two opportunities to open and close the ark during the service. Anyone of any age is welcome to receive this honor.

- **Generational passing of the Torah Scroll**: All parents and grandparents are invited to participate in the passing of the Torah from generation to generation.

- **Hakafah (Torah Procession)**: After the generational passing of the scroll, family members and friends are invited to participate in the hakafah around the sanctuary. Please feel free to invite family members to participate in this joyous act of reverence.

- **Removing the Torah ornaments**: Anyone of any age is welcome to receive this honor.

- **Aliyah**: Each bar/bat mitzvah is given the opportunity to honor family members with an עלייה aliya (the recitation of the blessings before and after a Torah reading). The final aliya is reserved for the bar/bat mitzvah, but the earlier עליות aliyot are available to be given as honors. These blessings are recited or chanted in Hebrew, and those being honored can review the correct pronunciation of the Hebrew by contacting one of our clergy. We are happy to welcome up to four people at a time for a single עלייה aliyah. If a non-Jew is receiving an עלייה aliyah, we ask that s/he be accompanied by a Jew. The non-Jew will recite an English version of the blessing, and the Jew will recite the Hebrew.

- **Prayer for our Country/Prayer for Israel**: These prayers in English are optional and can be given to people whom the family wishes to honor.

- **Hagbahah (Lifting the Torah)**: We recommend selecting someone of reliable strength for this honor. This honor is best performed by someone who has done it before or has time for a moment of instruction from the rabbi or cantor before the service.

- **G’lilah (Dressing the Torah)**: Anyone of any age is welcome to receive this honor.

- **Parents’ Blessing**: The parents’ blessing for the bar/bat mitzvah follows the rabbi’s blessing toward the end of the service. It should be written in the form of a personal blessing and not a family story. Examples will be distributed by the rabbi at the three month meeting. The final text should be reviewed by the rabbi no later than two weeks prior to the bar/bat mitzvah ceremony.

- **Kiddush and Motzi**: It is our practice to invite the siblings, class-mates, and friends of the bar/bat mitzvah to join us on the בימה bima for the blessing of the wine and challah.
Shabbat Morning Service Leading

While there are standard expectations for the prayers that our students will learn and lead at the service, our clergy knows that no individual student is standard. We work with each student to craft a service that is right for the student to lead. This table shows standard expectations and possible variations. The number is the page in Mishkan T’filah, our prayer book.

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= Student Leads Prayer  ●= Student May Lead  ●= Musical Selection

First line Hebrew, the rest read in English
Chant every other line
Chant every other blessing
Read in Hebrew
First paragraph English, then sung
Read English Responsively
B’nei Mitzvah Timeline

During the fifth grade year:

- Family Retreat at OSRUI - The retreat is an opportunity for students and their families to learn, grow, and bond together along with their classmates and the larger KAM Isaiah Israel community. This retreat is a chance to live out our קהל k’hilah (community) values, as each year the family retreat will focus on a different theme within the six points.

- 5th Grade Dinner - B’nei Mitzvah Date Request & Assignment. Families will receive a list of available b’nei mitzvah dates and a date request form at the dinner. Many Shabbat mornings are available with the following exceptions: June - August, and secular and Jewish holidays, as appropriate.

- Date selection is overseen by the cantor in consultation with the KAM Isaiah Israel professional staff. Although it will be our aim to give every family one of their top three choices, we need to balance the desires of an individual family with the needs of our community.

- Continue working on prayers - Students will continue their Hebrew studies at Shoresh both in person and with Hebrew@ Home.

During the sixth grade year:

- B’nei mitzvah family education: Three Saturday morning sessions will be held for 6th grade students to learn about the b’nei mitzvah process and service and to get to know other families.

- Family Retreat at OSRUI - Students will receive their Torah portion book, and as a family we will do a preliminary exploration of their Torah portion.

- Continue working on prayers - Students will continue their Hebrew studies at Shoresh both in person and with Hebrew@ Home.

- Trope class with the cantor - The cantor begins working with 6th grade students at Shoresh in January to teach them trope. Trope is a fundamental skill that will be necessary for the b’nei mitzvah process and requires both instruction in class and practice at home. We encourage parents to help their students to practice, reinforce, and develop this skill at home.

- Attend Shabbat morning services - In 6th grade, we expect our students to attend all of the b’nei mitzvah services. In April, the 6th grade class will be responsible as a group for planning and leading a Shabbat morning service.

- Six Points Project - Students meet to review the progress of their Six Points Project with the rabbi.

Twelve months before the ceremony:

- Initial Family Meeting with Clergy - This meeting provides the opportunity for the clergy and family to deepen their relationship and chart out the student’s specific road to bar/bat mitzvah, including an overview of the Six Points Project.

Nine months before the ceremony:

- Begin meeting weekly with the cantor to work on Torah and Haftarah

- Schedule meeting with a temple administrator to review facility usage

Three months before the ceremony:

- Parental Meeting - This is a time for the clergy to check in with the parents about their participation in the service and give them the opportunity to have their questions answered and review the timeline from this point until the B’nei Mitzvah date. Please bring the completed service honors list with you to this meeting.

- Continue working on Torah and Haftarah in addition to prayers (weekly meetings with the cantor)

- Begin working on d’var Torah (weekly meetings with the rabbi)

One month before the ceremony:

- Program material due to the temple office

One and a half weeks before the ceremony:

- Students and parents meet with the rabbi on Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon at 4pm at KAM Isaiah Israel for a full rehearsal.
Logistics

The KAM Isaiah Israel staff is delighted to work with you to plan your successful, upcoming life cycle event. Please contact the temple office to schedule a meeting to begin planning your event at least six months in advance. Here is guidance, parameters, and recommendations for using the synagogue's space for your happy occasion.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Service program

You may include a personalized message welcoming your family and friends as your guests; there is a 300-word limit. A listing of the aliyot that you provide and information about your child's Six Points Project will be included as well. Material for the program must be received one month before the event. Please see the appendix for a sample program.

Decorating the Sanctuary or Chapel

It has become the custom at KAM Isaiah Israel for families to purchase and arrange the bimah in a way that reflects the social justice values of the synagogue. This arrangement can take several forms - books to be donated, school supplies, a coat drive. The most popular option leverages our Food Justice and Sustainability program and consists of food that can be donated to the local hot meal programs that we supply. Please let the temple office know what you are planning at least one month in advance of your event so that arrangements can be made.

Suggested Food for Bimah

- 45 lbs. of potatoes (20 lbs Russett and 15 lbs. Gold)
- 20 lbs. of sweet potatoes
- 20 lbs. of onions
- 30 lbs of apples
- 10 lbs. of red peppers
- 10-15 each of butternut & acorn squash
- 30 lbs. of apples, pears, grapes or oranges

Photography

Videography is permitted during the service from a fixed location on the Sanctuary balcony only. The videographer may not move about during the service, as it is distracting to worshippers. Similarly, photography is permitted if the photographer is stationary in the balcony and does not use a flash. Before and after the service, there are no restrictions on photography.

Posed photographs on the bimah may be taken immediately prior to the service at 8:30am. Please note that the rabbi and cantor are not generally available at this time. It is possible, however, to arrange an alternate date for photographs with the clergy (such as at the final rehearsal).

Friday Night Reception or Oneg

It is ideal for your family to attend the Friday night service prior to your child becoming bar/bat mitzvah and to sponsor the wine and cheese reception preceding the service. The cost for a Pre-neg Shabbat varies depending on the quantity and the type of pastries or other food you wish to be served. Typical costs run from $200 to $300. Alternatively, you may ask friends or relatives to bake and supply the oneg with homemade baked goods, in which case there will be a charge of $150 to cover staff, beverages, and fruit. You may also choose to hire a caterer for this event. Please speak with the Executive Director to make arrangements.

Saturday Kiddush Luncheon

You are welcome to host Kiddush or a luncheon at the synagogue after the Saturday service. If you are holding your luncheon at a different location, you may want to host the Kiddush immediately after Saturday service. A Kiddush repast might include fruit, crudité, and hors
doëuvres to fuel your guests as they travel to your offsite luncheon. You may make your own arrangements, or work with the temple office and use the synagogue's caterers for prepared trays of food.

If you want to hold a Kiddush luncheon for your guests at the synagogue, we are delighted to assist you and your caterer. Vick Hall can accommodate up to 190 guests for a buffet or 230 for a plated meal. Tables and chairs up to 200 are included in the rental fee of $600; chairs and tables beyond 200 must be rented through your caterer. There is an additional rental charge of $200 for 101-199 guests and an additional charge of $400 for 200 or more guests. The synagogue does have table linens available although you may wish to rent them through your caterer.

Your caterer will have use of our full kitchen for your event. Your caterer is expected to provide staff for preparation, serving and cleaning up the kitchen after the luncheon as well as any additional items. The Executive Director is available to work with your caterer on set up, deliveries, our kosher restrictions and other arrangements prior to your event.

Other Considerations
- Please advise your guests that applause during the service is not customary in Jewish prayer spaces.
- Ask your guests to turn off cell phones.
- Please respect the Sanctuary as a sacred space by dressing modestly.
- After your luncheon or other celebrations at the synagogue, a detailed invoice for all services will be sent to you for payment. Please make payment to KAM Isaiah Israel Congregation.
- All deliveries should be made to the 5039 S Greenwood parking lot entrances to the building and kitchen.

Damages
- Damage to our facility will require an additional assessment for the cost of repairs and will be billed to you.

Kippot
- The synagogue has a supply of black and white kippot. If you would like to order additional or personalized kippot, please have them delivered to the synagogue before the event.

Security
- If your event requires security, the synagogue will hire security guards to be at the entrance of the building. You will be charged for the security staff. Please inform the temple office of your needs.

Vendors
- Any event professionals who have not worked at KAM Isaiah Israel within 18 months of your date must schedule a meeting with the temple office at least three months prior to your date.

Flowers/Florists
- Please consult with the temple office about the use of flowers in the Chapel or Sanctuary. Please request that your florist refrain from using heavily-scented flowers.
- Here are some florists other congregants have used with success:
  - Cornell Florist
    www.cornellflorist.com, 773-324-1651
  - Nancy Krause Floral Design
    nkfloraldesign.com, 773-241-7777
Caterers

The temple office is available to consult with you before you select a caterer. We are happy to work with the caterer of your choosing. Below is a list of caterers who have experience with our facility.


Although KAM Isaiah Israel does not require strict adherence to Jewish dietary laws (כשרות kashrut), we do not permit any pork or shellfish products to be served. We appreciate your respect of the varied dietary practices of our diverse community by not having meat and dairy in the same dish. Additionally, if the main entrée is a meat dish, it is recommended that a vegetarian alternative be offered. Please inform your caterer of these dietary restrictions.

Caterers must provide a Certificate of Insurance and proof of worker compensation coverage of at least $1 million, as well as a $250 deposit at least two weeks before the event. The value of any tableware, kitchen equipment, or synagogue-owned food items missing after your event will be deducted from the deposit.

You may serve beer, wine, champagne, and soft drinks (no hard liquor). If you are serving alcoholic beverages, we require that you or your caterer provide a dedicated staff person to serve guests.

Equipment/Supplies

Tables and chairs are included in the rental fee.

- 72” round (seats 8-10): 15 available
- 60” round (seats 6-8): 6 available
- 48” round (seats 4-6): 10 available
- 8’ long (seats 10): 20 available

A limited quantity of linens is available in white, royal blue, beige, and rust for an additional charge.

- Tablecloths: $10 each
- Napkins: $1 each

A layout of the rental space is provided on the facing page. You and/or your caterer must complete and return the set-up specifications at least two weeks prior to your event. Our staff will also accept and store most deliveries, based on space availability. Please inform our Executive Director of delivery dates and times, as well as the amounts to be stored, at least one week in advance.

During your event, our staff will attend to all building maintenance problems and needs during your event: we are available to assist you.

Your caterer is required to clean the kitchen and Vick Hall thoroughly after use. Failure to do so will result in a $200.00 cleaning charge that will be assessed against the caterer’s $250.00 deposit or billed to your account.

Gratuities to our staff are discretionary and greatly appreciated.
Additional Mitzvah Suggestions

The following is a list of organizations that do worthwhile mitzvot that can be used in a number of ways. Your child may choose to give part of his or her bar/bat mitzvah gift money to a particular organization whose work is meaningful to your family. You may choose to put certain organizations on a list that will accompany the bar/bat mitzvah invitations, suggesting that your guests donate to the groups of their choice in honor of the bar/bat mitzvah. Finally, your family may volunteer for the organization and use the experience as a Chesed Six Points Project.

**Soup kitchens for the homeless:**
Soup kitchens feed the poor and the homeless. Sometimes, they feed entire families. Donate leftovers from your bar or bat mitzvah celebration. Consider how much smoked salmon and salad is thrown out on any Saturday afternoon after a bar/bat mitzvah party.

**Some local food banks and shelters:**
- Hyde Park and Kenwood Hunger Programs  
  www.hpkific.org/social-services/hunger-programs/  
  A non-profit interfaith organization whose mission is to provide free and nutritious food to residents in need without prejudice or discrimination.
- The ARK  
  www.arkchicago.org  
  The ARK provides free social and medical services to help distressed members of our Chicagoland Jewish family return to self-reliance.

**Other worthy organizations:**
- ARMDI: American Red Magen David for Israel  
  www.armdi.org  
  The sole support arm in the United States for the Magen David, Israel’s emergency medical and blood services organization.
- American Jewish World Service  
  www.ajws.org  
  AJWS has become the Jewish response to suffering caused by famine, epidemic, or natural disaster. The group has managed projects in Africa, South America, Mexico, and the United States.
- HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society)  
  www.hias.org  
  HIAS provides information, support, education and a broad program of services at all stages of the migration process for refugees and migrants; advocates for fair and just policies affecting refugees and immigrants; maintains an office in Vienna that can provide immigration information for people resident in Europe.
- Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life  
  www.hillel.org  
  As its web site says, “the largest Jewish campus organization in the world, Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life provides opportunities for Jewish students to explore and celebrate their Jewish identity through its global network of over 500 regional centers, campus Foundations and Hillel student organizations. Hillel is working to provoke a renaissance of Jewish life.”
- Israel Bonds  
  www.israelbonds.com  
  Israel Bonds and the UJC are the great international pillars of support for Israel. Israel’s capital improvements and infrastructure are largely the result of the strong commitment to Israel Bonds by Jews all over the world. Not just tzedakah--it’s an investment in Israel’s future.
- The Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago  
  www.juf.org  
  Our local Jewish federation supports the JCC, Jewish education, nursing homes, youth activities, etc. It should be an essential part of every Jew’s tzedakah plans.
Additional Mitzvah Suggestions (continued)

- Jewish Foundation for the Righteous
  www.jfr.org
  Many Christians who saved Jews from the Nazis now live in poverty in the United States, Europe, and Israel. Jews must remember them; our history is incomplete without them. The foundation sustains them financially and emotionally, thus bearing witness to eternal gratitude. The Foundation has an excellent “twinning” program for bar and bat mitzvah.

- Lifeline for the Old - Yad LaKashish
  www.lifeline.org.il
  Yad LaKashish was formed so Jerusalem’s elderly would create lovely handicrafts, challah covers, talitot, toys, metal mezuzot, ceramic items, clothing, book binding. They also employ young and old handicapped individuals.

- The New Israel Fund
  www.newisraelfund.org
  The New Israel Fund supports the following programs in Israel: Jewish/Arab relations; pluralism; civil rights and civil liberties; women’s rights, especially rape crisis centers; and community action.

MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger

www.mazon.org

Once you have the invitations, the food, the flowers, and the music…Consider giving 3% of the cost of your celebration to help the hungry.

The day you become bar or bat mitzvah is one of the few that will stay with you all of your life. Our Jewish tradition tells us to mark special occasions by celebrating with family and friends, in part so that these memorable days will remain with us forever.

There is a companion tradition, one that teaches us to deepen our happiness by sharing joyous celebrations with those in need. It is especially appropriate to do so on the day one becomes bar or bat mitzvah, when a child becomes an adult and accepts the responsibilities for fulfilling the mitzvah of tzedakah.

On that special day of your celebration, millions of children in America and around the world will go hungry, as they do every day. That tragedy – and the happiness of a bar or bat mitzvah – represents the joys and sorrows of life. Both need your family’s attention.

In the spirit of our Jewish tradition, we ask you to consider giving 3% of the cost of your celebration to MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger. You have the opportunity to make this day even more special by providing food and other help, through MAZON, to poor families everywhere. For example, 3% to the cost of $1,000 is $30. 3% to the cost of $20,000 is $600. 3% of your celebration adds hope. Your 3% will enrich their lives – and your own.