

Temple Beth Shalom

Midrasha



The very world rests on the breath of children in the schoolhouse.

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TBS MIDRASHA VISION, MISSION, VALUES

Our Vision

TBS *Midrasha* in partnership with our families and our community will produce students who take pride and joy in their Jewish identity and who can make Jewishly informed decisions on how they will practice Judaism in their lives.

Our Mission

TBS *Midrasha* dedicates itself to embracing change and creating innovative and effective methods in order to provide a quality Jewish education for all students. We strive to inform and excite our students about Judaism and Jewish life and do so in ways that will, in shared responsibility with our families, create lasting ties to the Jewish community, its faith, traditions, and ethics.

Our Values

In pursuing our vision and in support of our mission, we are guided by a shared collection of Jewish values:

Jewish Ethical Values

Our interactions with each other are informed by Jewish ethical values.

Mitzvot

Our relationships with others and with G-d require sacred deeds.

Torah Study

Knowledge of the Torah, its themes, and history leads to intellectual and spiritual transformation and the practice of good deeds and Jewish-minded actions.

Hebrew

Hebrew is the language of our ancestors, the predominant language of the Jewish People, and provides a commonality to bind us together.

Jewish Worship and Prayer

Recitation of prayer is a central characteristic of Jewish worship. Our liturgy provides a framework for our public expression of spirituality.

Israel

The land of Israel is our homeland and central to Jewish history, religion, and values.

Conservative Judaism and Jewish Movements

We are affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and understand its relationship to the other branches of Judaism.

TBS MIDRASHA CURRICULA

The TBS curricula propose that Torah is the foundation for character, community and a spiritual life. The Sunday morning curriculum includes holidays, *midot* (Jewish virtues), the life cycle, Jewish history, with the ultimate goal for all our students to be proud with their Jewish identity. You can find our detailed curriculum on TBS website – www.spokanetbs.org

Learning at TBS focuses on “*One Mind at a Time*”, i.e., where teaching is individualized to meet each student’s interests, understanding, and passion. TBS holds community-wide holiday celebrations with arts, crafts, drama, and music. Classes are encouraged to do community service and each spring the school participates in a community-wide Tikun Olam Day.

TBS offers **Sunday morning (9:45am-12:30pm)** Religious School for pre-school through 7th grade; **Wednesday afternoon (4-6pm)** Hebrew School for 3rd through 7th graders; and **Thursday evening (7-8:30pm)** High School for 8th through 12th graders. The final thirty minutes of Religious (noon-12:30pm) and Hebrew School (5:45-6:00pm) are spent as a community in the midrasha minyan. Students lead services and the Education Director gives a weekly d’var Torah.

TBS Religious School Learning Objectives:

- Attain a strong love for Judaism and a sense of pride in being Jewish
- Discover and explore the Torah and the incredible history of the Jewish people and see their relevance in today’s day and age
- Gain understanding of the practice, ritual, and traditions of Judaism
- Understand the moral, values, and ethical behavior mandated by the Torah and how we can adapt them to our modern world
- Experience appreciation for all Jewish holidays through hands-on learning
- Master Hebrew reading skills
- Understand basic Hebrew words from the siddur
- Learn our prayers and feel comfortable and knowledgeable when attending services
- Identify with the land of Israel and its inhabitants
- Freely express opinions and questions about G-D, Torah, and religion

TBS Hebrew School Learning Objectives:

- 1) Ability to perform and participate in the liturgy used at TBS
- 2) Knowledge of Hebrew language to understand the broad meaning of a liturgical passage
- 3) Knowledge of liturgy structure and the role each prayer plays in the process of the service
- 4) Familiarity with the meaning and the story behind each prayer
- 5) Understanding of the services rituals

In addition to these overall learning objectives, students will master the following content areas:

Kamatz Katan: Learn the Alef Beth, the vowels and get familiar with key words from our siddur

Kita Aleph: The Alef Beth, beginning reading fluency, TBS early family service liturgy, and blessings
Expected Service Attendance: 10 Friday night services throughout the school year

Kita Bet: The entire Friday evening liturgy
Expected Service Attendance: 10 Friday night services throughout the school year

Kita Gimmel: (Review Friday evening and) Saturday morning Torah and Musaf services
Expected Service Attendance: 10 Friday night and 10 Saturday Morning services throughout the school year

Kita Dalet: Remainder of Torah and Musaf services and begin learning the Shaharit
Expected Service Attendance: 15 Friday nights and 15 Saturday morning services throughout the school year

Kita Hey: Complete Shaharit and P'zukey D'zimra, Havdalah services, and Hallel services.
Expected Service Attendance: 2 Friday and 2 Saturday services each month throughout the school year. During the last 3 months prior to their B'nai Mitzvah, the students must attend every Friday night and every Shabbat morning service.

TBS believes that Midrasha does not end at B'nai Mitzvah! TBS offers a variety of opportunities for our post-B'nai Mitzvah students to continue to learn and develop into healthy Jewish young adults.

Midrasha High – (the High School experience). Students meet on Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:30 pm for a special dynamic and exciting program designed to address their specific interests. Topics may include: Israel and Zionism in the Middle East; Comparative Religion; Jewish History; Comparative Judaism; Holocaust & Resistance Studies; Ethics; and so forth. We will have 50 minute study sessions with different presenters who will bring their knowledge, experience, and interests to the classroom. From 8:00-8:30, students meet with the Rabbi to discuss current events and news.

Midrasha High Goals:

- To provide continuing education for Jewish youth beyond Bar/Bat Mitzvah.
- To provide students with the knowledge and intellectual tools necessary to enable them to relate to the world as Jews.
- To encourage students to begin the process of life-long Jewish learning

Attending the five-year-sequence curriculum, Midrasha High School students will be guided through the following subjects in Jewish studies:

Unit 1: Judaism: Finding our own Belief and Practice

- Rituals and Customs: The Warmth and Benefit of Tradition
- Growing Up and Growing Old: The Shape of a Jewish Life
- The Road Map of Jewish Community: Institutions and communities of the Jewish World
- Reform, Conservative, Orthodox: Similarities and differences
- The Way to G-d: Shaping our Individual Spiritual Journeys
- Radical Jewish Thinkers: Where and how do I fit?

Unit 2: From Joshua, the Son of Nun, to David, the Son of Gurion: A Survey of Jewish History and Literature Through the Ages

- The tribal formation in the Promised Land
- The Anarchic period during the days of the Judges
- The introduction to the period of kings and prophets
- The destruction of the first Temple and the Babylonian exile
- The second temple and the struggle against the Roman Empire
- The dispersion into the diaspora, culture and literature of the diaspora communities
- The beginning of Kibutz Galuot and the declaration of the State of Israel

Unit 3: Holocaust, The State of Israel, Modern Hebrew

- The post-WWI Germany and the rise of the National Socialist German Workers party
- The beginning of physical separation and alienation of the Jewish population in Germany: The Crystal Nacht and religious and physical restrictions
- The “The Final Solution”: Deportation of Jews to ghettos and later to concentration camps
- The question of belief: “Where was G-d?”
- Resistance: From within and from without
- Communication and Politics: What happened? Why no one reached out and helped?
- Germany is defeated: The release from the concentration camps and the rehabilitation of those who survived the Holocaust
- Our promise: To Remember, Never to Forget!
- History and Founding of the State of Israel
- Contemporary Israeli Culture
- Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
- *Mah Nishmah?* Some essential phrases in Modern Hebrew

Unit 4: Comparative Religion: The Religions of our Friends and Neighbors:

- The roots of Christianity and the various “streams” of Christianity
- The roots of Islam and its basic beliefs
- Compare and Contrast between the three religions’ Belief
- The Past, Present, and Future in Understanding and Accepting of Each Other’s Beliefs
- Houses of Worship: Differences and Similarities
- Spiritual Leadership: Differences and Similarities
- Other Religions Around Us

Unit 5: Issues in Contemporary Jewish Life

- Race, Gender, and Sexual identity within the Jewish community
- The future of the synagogue in our fast-paced lives
- Inter-dating and intermarriage
- Tikkun Olam: Our Jewish Mission
- Jewish Sexual Ethics
- Contemporary Judaism’s perspectives on the Frontiers of Medical and Scientific Developments
- Images of Jewish Life in the Media

Madrichim Program - Students grades 8-12 may apply for a position as *madrichim* (classroom aides) for Sunday and Wednesday classes. Training classes will be provided for students participating in this program.

B'nai Mitzvah Tutor - Students are invited to apply for a limited number of tutor positions annually. Tutors need to be adept at our services and make a commitment to attend services one Friday and one Saturday per month.

TBS Adult Midrasha Learning Objectives:

TBS believes that learning is a lifelong process and we offer opportunities to continue to grow and learn Jewishly. We will meet for the adult education series that will introduce the participants to variety of topics. Each year we offer different classes for adults – stay tuned!

POLICIES, RULES, AND EXPECTATIONS

Registration and Tuition

Children entering Gan Rachel (ages 2-1/2 to 5) must be out of diapers. Students entering Keshet (Kindergarten) must be 5 years of age on or before September 1st of the coming school year. Exception to this rule may be made if the child is younger than 5 years of age but is permitted to enroll in public school. All students should be enrolled (by sending in the registration forms) no later than one week before the first Sunday or Hebrew school session. The membership tuition schedule is:

<i>Gan Rachel - 2nd grade</i>	<i>\$400</i>
<i>Sunday school only</i>	<i>\$400</i>
<i>Hebrew school only</i>	<i>\$310</i>
<i>Sunday school & Hebrew school</i>	<i>\$655</i>
<i>Midrash High 8th-12th grade</i>	<i>\$210</i>
<i>Bnei Mitzvah tutorial</i>	<i>\$720</i>

Because Midrasha is supported by TBS, non-members who wish to enroll their children in our education program will pay

<i>Gan Rachel - 2nd grade</i>	<i>\$800</i>
<i>Sunday school</i>	<i>\$800</i>
<i>Hebrew school only</i>	<i>\$620</i>
<i>Sunday school & Hebrew school</i>	<i>\$1310</i>
<i>Midrasha High</i>	<i>\$420</i>

Payment schedules are flexible and can be arranged with the TBS bookkeeper. Financial assistance is available upon request for members in good standing with their TBS account (see registration form).

Very Important:

Please notify the Education Director if your child has a special need or an IEP of which you'd like us to be aware. Please notify your child's teacher if your child will be late/absent from class or has any food allergies.

Classroom Expectations

A positive learning environment requires courtesy and respect, concern for safety, protecting others' right to learn, and care for personal property.

Principles of DERECH ERETZ (Courtesy/Respect)

- We treat all members of the Temple Beth Shalom community (children and adults) with respect and courtesy
- We have a zero tolerance for bullying
- All of the adults in the school are responsible for safety and learning
- Students will respond to the instructions of any staff member and not interfere with the learning of others
- Each student will care for school and synagogue property as well as the property of other students

Parents Observing Class:

We encourage parents, grandparents, and other guests to observe and participate in class activities. All visits, however, **must** be arranged and coordinated with the Education Director and the classroom teacher **prior** to the visit. And, all visitors must cooperate and respect the teacher's wishes while in the classroom.

Classroom Rules:

1. Students should arrive in their classroom **ON TIME**.
2. Students are expected to remain on TBS property during school hours.
3. Students may bring only **kosher dairy** and **parve** snacks that **do not contain nut products** to school.
4. Snacks will be served according to teacher guidelines
5. Students, monitored by their teachers, are responsible to clean their classrooms at the end of each session.

Policy for Dealing with Student Disruptions

The responsibility for proper behavior during class activities and breaks rests primarily with each student. The classroom teacher is the authority during class times and will be supported by the Education Director. The following policy has been approved by the TBS Education Committee regarding student disruptions:

- Step 1:** The teacher will attempt to solve the problem directly with the student.
- Step 2:** If disruption continues, the student will be sent to the Education Director's office and remain there until a parent or parents pick them up.
- Step 3:** If disruption reoccurs following Director's intervention, a conference will be set up between the Education Director, the teacher, student, and parents before the student will be allowed to return to his/her classroom. A contract for behavior will be designed at that meeting. All conference attendees will sign off on the contract. The contract will include specific expectations for improved behavior and consequences should those changes not occur.
- Step 4:** Should a disruption reoccur following the creation of the contract, an alternative education plan will be put in place (this plan might include learning outside the classroom or an aide assigned specifically to the student at the parent's expense).
- Step 5:** Reinstatement to the classroom is a decision made by the Education Director after consulting with the student's teacher and family.

Emergency Clause:

The Education Director or the classroom teacher (in his/her absence) of any Midrasha Sunday, Hebrew, or High School class has the right to immediately remove a student who is a threat to the safety, either physical or emotional, of other students in the classroom or on the premises of TBS during school hours.

Dress and Apparel Expectations

1. A dress code is in place to honor and respect the sanctity of the religious environment. While attending TBS programs or services, all attendees should be dressed appropriately. Our students regularly participate in services in the sanctuary and chapel, and dress should be appropriate for this setting.
2. Youth regularly participate in services in the sanctuary and chapel, any style of dress, article of clothing, hairstyle, or personal presentation that interferes with or disrupts/distracts from the learning atmosphere is unacceptable. No torn clothing; no offensive language printed on clothing; no cleavage; and shorts or skirts no shorter the two inches from the knees.
3. Shoes are required, and students must wear footwear, appropriate to the activity for the safety of the students.
4. A kipa (head covering) is required for boys and encouraged for girls.
5. On Wednesdays, the students are coming directly from school; therefore, the dress and apparel code for clothing will be as established by their school, but all other expectations apply.

Bima Attire

In our continuing quest to climb the ladder of Jewish spirituality as a congregation, it is necessary to address the subject of the spiritual nature of clothes worn during TBS worship services.

The Jewish ideal towards which we should strive emanates from the Torah, which says that the clothing we wear for worship should be *l'avod u'tiferet*, for dignity and adornment (Exodus 28:2). Among the commentaries on this mitzvah is that of Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch (as paraphrased by Rabbi Aaron Frank), "No matter the social norm, a certain level of modesty must be preserved to maintain ... dignity and self-respect. This is *kavod* (respect). On the other hand, aesthetic beauty ... may change from person to person. We (should) dress with the modesty and dignity of one who is serving G-d and yet adorn ourselves with clothing which, while modest and dignified, expresses who we are."

- 1) Head covering: All males are required to wear a kipa; all females are required to wear a kipa or other appropriate head covering.
- 2) Tallit: During morning services & Kol Nidrei worship services, all Jewish males on the bima are required to wear a tallit; all Jewish females on the bima are encouraged to wear a tallit. In addition, during all worship services, the person leading the congregation in the liturgy is required to wear a tallit.

TBS YOUTH POLICY

- All members of the Temple Beth Shalom community (children and adults) will be treated with respect and courtesy.
- Temple Beth Shalom will not tolerate any bullying behavior or harassment.
- Students must respond and be respectful to all instructions by any staff members and/or teachers. Youth must not interfere or distract from the praying and learning of others.
- Each student must care for and respect school and synagogue property as well as the property of other students.
- Youth must adhere to the “Open Door Policy”: During school hours, religious services or any program involving youth using a room, lounge, USY lounge, the door to the room should always remain open. Doors shall stay open, and will never be locked while persons are inside the room. A supervising adult may only close the door when there are two or more students in the room. The adult will remain in the room while the door is closed.
- Improper use of prescription medication, use of tobacco including E-cigarettes, and the possession, distribution, purchase, sale, transfer, use or being under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs, or cannabis are prohibited by youth and Program Coordinators while at TBS or while attending a youth program or event outside of TBS . Any violation is grounds for immediate removal from TBS property and suspension or dismissal from the TBS program or other youth program or event outside of TBS.
- Sexual Activity - Any sexual activity on Temple premises is grounds for immediate removal from TBS grounds and dismissal from the TBS program.
- A kipa (head covering) is required for boys and encouraged for girls. However, while on the Bima all have to wear a head covering.

TBS YOUTH GROUPS

Temple Beth Shalom youth groups are a place for our youth to come together and participate in fun and educational informal activities where they can build character and leadership skills while creating bonds with peers. Youth groups also help young people develop a strong sense of Jewish identity and help create socially active, conscious Jewish adults.

Kadima (“Forward”): helps move 6th and 7th grade students forward into Jewish adulthood. It is where 12 and 13 year olds get to hang out with their friends and make friends with Jewish youth from around the area. Kadima encourages young people with games, activities, and mitzvah projects which help people throughout the community. Kadima also helps prepare Jewish youth for USY and the responsibilities they will undertake therein.

United Synagogue Youth (USY): is the youth movement of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. Our local chapter is Spokane *Adir*. The broad goal of USY is to bring Jewish teenagers closer to Judaism and Israel through learning and social interaction.



USY is open to all Jewish high school youth. USY offers your teen the opportunity to lead Jewish lives. A USY group teaches Judaic living skills and creates leadership learning opportunities and other formal and informal learning experiences. USY enables youth to become involved in Jewish observances and discuss how to enjoy their Jewish lives, all within a framework of an exciting, active, stimulating, and social environment.

TBS POLICY REGARDING CAMP SOLOMON SCHECHTER AND USY/KADIMA SCHOLARSHIPS

TBS Scholarships

Please read and sign at the bottom. This signed agreement should be return to TBS by 9.16.19

Temple Beth Shalom children and teenagers are truly blessed. As a result of a generous scholarship program, children of TBS Members who meet the criteria set forth below are eligible for generous scholarships. The scholarships include Camp Solomon Schechter tuition and transportation (75% of tuition); convention registration to youth group regional and international events for USY and Kadima members (75% of transportation and tuition), and scholarships to offset costs of an eligible Israel program, subject to the following criteria:

1. A recipient's family must be current with their membership contribution to Temple Beth Shalom. Members of TBS who hold dual membership with CEE, and are paying a partial membership contribution to TBS, will be eligible for reduced scholarships (50% of scholarship awards) to Camp Solomon Schechter and USY conventions (per 4 below).
2. Scholarships for Israel programs, USY/Kadima events and Camp Solomon Schechter are available after 6 months of membership in good standing at TBS.
3. For USY/Kadima scholarships, a recipient must be eligible for membership in USY nationally.
4. Scholarship recipients must be enrolled in and regularly attend Temple Beth Shaloms' Midrasha programs (all grades) and Hebrew School (if are 2nd – 7th grade). Regular attendance means the student is present for at least 80% of scheduled classes. All students must attend services as required by their age bracket. This requirement may be satisfied by attending services at other congregations while out of town.
5. If a participant cannot attend the TBS educational program, his/her parents should contact the Education Director to arrange for an approved alternative learning opportunity for their child.
6. All scholarship recipients must be present for and participate in class led services and USY led services as applicable. **Prior** approval from the recipient's teacher, or the Youth Director for teen recipients, is required in the case of absence. An appropriate substitute may be offered and shall be agreed to and implemented (i.e. participate in other service in cooperation with Rabbi) to maintain qualification.

7. All teen recipients of scholarships are **strongly encouraged** to give back to the TBS community by volunteering their time as thanks for the support by the Temple for helping fund their programs.

 8. Prior to attending an International Convention, a USYer must attend one regional event to receive scholarship funding (9th graders please note). The following events are included in the scholarship program:
 - Camp Solomon Schechter (including one year of Oded)
 - USY Regional General Board (RGB)
 - USY / Kadima Kinnus (Fall and Spring)
 - USY Regional Convention
 - USY International Convention
 - Approved Israel and USY Summer Programs. Current approved programs include USY Israel Pilgrimage, USY on Wheels, Alexander Muss High School in Israel

 9. Payment of a recipient's portion of fees is **due at the application deadline**. Applications that are received after the deadlines set by CSS or by the Youth Director are not eligible for scholarship money. If timely payment of the recipient's portion for a USY event is not received, the USY member will become ineligible for scholarship assistance for that event.

 10. Travel to youth group events is to be done within the itinerary selected by the Youth Director. In the event separate travel arrangements are made, each family will be solely responsible for the purchase of said transportation. Reimbursement shall be at the rate of 75% (or 50% for CEE members paying a reduced membership contribution) of the actual cost of the ticket---not to exceed 75% (or 50%) of the price of the chapter-arranged ticket. Reimbursement will be made within a reasonable time after submission of receipts. TBS is responsible for providing chaperones for chapter travel only.

 11. A one to two-page report or other media presentation must be submitted to the Youth Director within two weeks following a USY event. This paper/ presentation will describe the participant's learning and experience from the event, and how these experiences and learning will influence the recipient in the future. These reports will be submitted to the Scholarship Committee.
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Failure to submit the above report will render the participant ineligible to receive a scholarship to the next event that participant attends.

For an Israel trip, the teen can substitute this requirement with a speaking engagement during Friday night services at Temple Beth Shalom

12. Scholarships for experiences in Israel for summer or high school programs and non-Israel USY Summer Programs shall be available in the following amounts:

USY Pilgrimage – \$4,250

USY on Wheels – \$4,000

Alexander Muss High School Program – \$4,250

Each teen will be eligible to receive a scholarship for one Israel/Summer Program.

Additional participation will not be eligible for a scholarship.

13. If a child or teen is sent home from any program as a result of any violation of the “code of conduct”, the participant and parents will be responsible for the immediate and full reimbursement of the scholarship amount to Temple Beth Shalom. **Failure to reimburse Temple Beth Shalom will render recipient ineligible to be considered for any future scholarship.** Further, the participant will be ineligible to receive a scholarship for a period of one year thereafter. The participant will be expected to propose and implement a service project to TBS, approved by Rabbi, to become eligible for future scholarships.

15. Fulfillment of requirements is mandatory to receive scholarship. Any questions can be directed to the scholarship committee.

Parents

Date

Student

Date

Requirements by scholarship activity:

	CSS	Kadima	USY	Israel trip/ USY on wheels
School registration and attendance	✓	✓	✓	✓
Service attendance by age bracket	✓	✓	✓	✓
Report/ thank you submitted within two weeks of event		✓	✓	✓
Recipient's family must be <u>current</u> with their membership contribution	✓	✓	✓	✓

MADRICHIM GUIDELINES

The Madrichim (teacher assistant, leader or guide) program is a teen leadership program created to help our TBS teens stay involved in our educational program and in the wider synagogue community. The Madrichim hold a number of different leadership roles in our religious school, such as assisting teachers in classrooms and tutoring the younger students during Hebrew School. However, most importantly, they are role models for our youth.

The Madrichim program is designed as an internship program for TBS teens. The lead teachers provide guidance to the Madrichim on everything from good role modeling and appropriate leadership to classroom and behavior management along with designing lesson plans.

All teens whose families are TBS members are welcome to join the Madrichim program, based on the following:

To work in Sunday School, teens must:

- Be in at least 8th grade in secular school.

To work in Hebrew School, teens must:

- Be in at least 9th grade (high school)
- Have had their Bar/ Bat Mitzvah
- Have graduated from our TBS Hebrew school program (through Kita Hey)
- Know our services proficiently and able to lead them

Madrichim are expected to follow these guidelines:

- Maintain a positive attitude: it will be contagious to the younger children who look up to you as a role model
- Take initiative in the classroom and contribute to the activities
- Cell phones, iPods, and all other electronics are not to be used during school hours unless they are part of the educational programming. All electronics will be left in the assigned location in the Education Director's office
- Attendance and timeliness are expected: absences affect the class significantly; when you commit to the madrichim program we expect you to be here. If attendance becomes an issue, we will need to meet to discuss your continued involvement
- Notify teacher and the Education Director in advance if you need to leave early or will be absent. It is your responsibility to find a substitute. Being able to communicate in a timely manner is a necessity of the position

- Being able to communicate in a timely manner is a necessity of the position. Madrichim must have access to email and check it daily. If you receive an email or text from the Education Department, you must reply within 24 hours.
- Work hours are Sundays 9:30am-1:15pm and Wednesdays 3:45pm-6:15pm, unless otherwise noted
- All Madrichim **are expected** to attend services when their students are leading services (Friday nights, Saturday mornings)
- Madrichim **shall not** discuss student information with parents or with other madrichim; refer parents to the teacher or the Education Director
- Madrichim must be able to manage their schedules to ensure they are present during contracted hours

Participation in the following is **mandatory**:

- Participate in a teen service during High Holy day service
- Midrasha High attendance (minimum of 80% of classes). If attendance in Midrasha High becomes an issue, contact the Education Director for alternative plan.
- Participation in one Friday evening and one Saturday morning service a month. This may be a teen/USY led service
- Attend the summer orientation meeting and other Madrichim meetings throughout the school year
- You will be required to preview lesson plans and meet with the lead teacher at designated times
- You must be available for review with lead teacher after school one time per quarter
- You must be where you are assigned at all times
- Boys are to wear kipot at all times and girls are encouraged to do so
- Please dress appropriately, see the dress and apparel expectations on page 12
- Do not let questions or concerns grow; make sure to discuss issues promptly with the lead teacher and/or the Education Director. This is a learning opportunity; it is expected that Madrichim will ask questions

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM B'NEI MITZVAH GUIDE

Mazel Tov! You are beginning a journey that culminates in an important Jewish life cycle event for your family. Let us begin with an awareness of where this fits into your son or daughter's growth and development as a knowledgeable Jewish adult.

One goal for our children and young adults is that they acquire the knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about living as Jewish adults and raising their own Jewish children. One-step in this process is that our b'nei mitzvah students be able to participate in services at Temple Beth Shalom (TBS), at other synagogues (such as when traveling with USY), and that they feel comfortable and have a desire to participate in organizations for Jewish college students (such as Hillel).

The moment when your son or daughter is first called to the Torah, his or her bar or bat mitzvah, is not an end; it is a milestone along a path towards Jewish adulthood. It signifies acceptance of the bar or bat mitzvah into a new status in our community; that is, being considered a ritually Jewish adult among the Jewish people. This includes being counted in a minyan.

We understand that there is a big focus on the service itself. Nevertheless, it is important to remember that this is just one-step in your child's growth and development as a Jewish person.

The Temple Beth Shalom (TBS) family is here to assist you in preparing for, planning, and enjoying this *simha*. It is our hope that this B'nei Mitzvah Guide will help you through this process. You are encouraged to discuss your individual needs with the TBS staff.

Eligibility for Bar/Bat Mitzvah

The TBS policy states that any child who meets the following criteria is eligible to celebrate his or her bar or bat mitzvah service at the synagogue:

- Be halachically Jewish
- Be at least 12 years old (girl) or 13 years old (boy)
- Successfully completed five years of Hebrew school (or at the Rabbi's discretion)
- Successfully completed B'nei Mitzvah Training Program
- Attended Shabbat services as required in preparation for becoming a bar/bat mitzvah
- Parent(s) are members in good standing at TBS

Scheduling the Bar/Bat Mitzvah

The date for your child's bar/bat mitzvah service will be determined by the Jewish calendar, your child's Hebrew birth date, and his/her mastery of the material. This includes completion of the Hebrew School program. You can expect your child's bar/bat Mitzvah to occur during the 7th grade year. The date is set approximately two years in advance through a collaborative effort of the Rabbi, Education Director, and Administrator, with input from the parents.

When you have been assigned a date for the bar/bat mitzvah service, please check your calendar and talk with key family members to assure they are available. If the date will not work then it is best to discuss alternative dates with the Rabbi and TBS Administrator as soon as possible. Many factors (e.g. length of Haftarah) are considered when assigning a date so please understand if a requested date is not available.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Timeline

Though the date of the bar/bat mitzvah service is set about two years in advance (usually some time during the 5th grade school year) your child's study will increase during the final year of preparation. Parents will also be involved in various Parent Education Programs in anticipation of the bar/bat mitzvah. When the student attends Shabbat services, he/she is to sit with the Rabbi on the *bima* or in the front of the chapel.

5th grade/Kita Gimmel

- Bar/bat mitzvah service date is scheduled
- Attend Shabbat Services as required, at least two Friday evenings and one Saturday morning per month

6th grade/Kita Dalet

- Attend Shabbat Services as required, at least two Friday evenings and two Saturday mornings per month
- Initiate b'nai mitzvah volunteer opportunities
- Begin weekly tutorial with assigned peer tutor under the direction and supervision of the lead tutor and Rabbi. Tutorials are 30-minute sessions. The date and time of the tutorials should remain constant throughout the year until the bar/bat mitzvah service. Please remember that the peer tutors have their own schedules and do not often have the option of accommodating time changes

7th grade/Kita Hey

- Attend Shabbat services as required, at least two Friday evenings and two Saturday mornings per month, until three (3) months prior to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah, then the requirement is to attend Shabbat services every Shabbat evening and every Shabbat morning service prior to Bar/Bat mitzvah
- Continue B'nei Mitzvah volunteer opportunities
- Master the content and become confident in leading the congregation in worship service
- Continue weekly tutorial sessions

With the peer tutor's assistance, the student is expected to master the following:

- Kabbalat Shabbat, P'zuki D'zimra, Shoharit, Torah, and Musaf Services, as able
- Blessings before and after the Torah and Haftarah readings
- His/her *Maftir* reading
- His/her *Haftarah*, as able, depending on student's progress

One year in advance

- If you are planning to have a Saturday evening party at TBS then you must reserve the facility. Please note that all events at TBS must adhere to TBS Kashrut policies
- Meet with TBS Administrator to begin planning the logistics. The Administrator will discuss costs and various logistics with you

Three months in advance - Parents

While your student is preparing for his/her bar/bat mitzvah service you will be involved in planning the logistics with the TBS Administrator

- Meet with the TBS Administrator to estimate costs of the bar/bat mitzvah services and celebration.
- Begin writing a short, 150-word article about your child for **publication in the TBS Voice**. A picture can be included with this statement, if you wish.
- The TBS Administrator will discuss with you TBS policies and practices such as:
 - child care
 - delivery of supplies and set-up of equipment
 - Kashrut in the kitchen, including what may be done on Shabbat

- Kiddish luncheon
- kosher grape juice for ritual use on Shabbat evening
- menu planning
- Oneg Shabbat
- photography and videography
- security
- what time Shabbat ends on Saturday evening of your child's bar/bat mitzvah service

The TBS Administrator can discuss options with you such as:

- approved caterers
- article and/or invitation for the Voice Publication
- auf ruf
- printing announcement sheets and inserts, clip art
- disposition of leftover food
- floral arrangements, decorations, including specific policies
- Havdalah logistics
- ideas for gifting TBS
- invitations
- kipot
- linens and/or paper products (e.g. napkins)
- number of guests anticipated
- tallit, tallit clips, yad, etc

Three months prior to Bar/Bat Mitzvah

- Attend Shabbat services as required, every Shabbat evening and every Shabbat morning service
- Lead parts of the Shabbat worship services. Parents and the Rabbi will also work together while your student is preparing to become a bar/bat mitzvah
- Schedule three individual meetings with the Rabbi to prepare D'var Torah
- Schedule two final practices with the Rabbi, one a month prior to the bar/bat mitzvah, and the second the week of the bar/bat mitzvah
- Meet with the Rabbi to discuss the bar/bat mitzvah service. Among the topics to discuss at this meeting is how to honor various family members and friends by having them participate in the Shabbat services. Assigning honors is a way to recognize important family and friends at this special time for your family. Please see the Honors Sheet in the Appendix for a list of ways in which they can be involved in the services. While this is a list of all the Honors usually available, please understand that you are not obligated

to fill all of them. If you do not assign all of the honors then TBS will follow our usual customs for assigning Shabbat Honors

- The Hebrew name is required for anyone receiving an aliyah, including Hagba and G'lila. TBS maintains a file of Hebrew names for our members; you will need to provide the Hebrew name for those who are not TBS members
- Greeters for Shabbat services are often assigned by the bar/bat mitzvah family
- Shabbat evening service—typically two adult members of TBS
- Shabbat morning service—typically two to four of your student's peers from his or her TBS classrooms (two each for the first two hours of the morning services)
- Non-Jewish friends and family can participate by leading English readings
- Torah reading is done under the direction and supervision of the Rabbi, which can provide resources to assist (e.g. written copy and audio recording of the *aliyot*). If you would like friends or family members to chant a torah portion then please discuss this with the Rabbi.
- If you would like a Kohen to give the priestly blessing then please inform the Rabbi.
- If you would like assistance with assigning honors then please talk with the Rabbi or other TBS members. We are all happy to help you with your *simha*.

Information for Interfaith Families

At TBS there are many opportunities for non-Jewish parents, relatives and friends to participate. Here are some particulars about participation of non-Jewish family and friends. Please feel free to discuss any of these customs with the Rabbi.

- When the parent(s) are called for an Aliyah: The Jewish parent is typically called for an aliyah. The non-Jewish parent can accompany the other to the bima for the aliyah but does not say the blessing.
- When the parent(s) say a blessing over their child. After the child has read the Torah and Haftarah readings, the parents will recite the Shehecheyanu blessing, which thanks God for the opportunity to celebrate the occasion. Non-Jewish and Jewish parents are included in this blessing.
- The parent(s) hand the Torah to the child: This relatively new ritual is meant to symbolize how the Torah, the holiest book of the Jewish religion, is passed from generation to generation, and has been passed from generation to generation for thousands of years. The non-Jewish parent may participate in the ritual, but the Jewish parent is the one who touches/passes the Torah.
- When relatives open/close the ark: Non-Jewish relatives may stand with another relative at the ark, but the opening or closing the ark is generally reserved for the Jewish relative.

- When a relative carries the Torah around the congregation: Non-Jews, like Jews, can "kiss" the Torah indirectly, either by touching their prayer shawl to the Torah and then kissing the prayer shawl or by touching their prayer book to the Torah and then kissing the prayer book when the Torah is carried around the congregation. At TBS, only Jews actually carry the Torah.
- When the parent(s) give a talk to the child after he/she reads the Torah and Haftarah. This is an opportunity for the parent to publicly express their love and pride for their child. Non-Jewish parents can fully participate.
- When the parent(s) present the child with a tallit: Non-Jewish parents can fully participate.
- When relatives read prayers or recitations: Non-Jewish relatives can participate in English readings. The Hebrew readings are reserved for Jews.
- A Hebrew name is required for anyone receiving an aliyah, including Hagba and G'lila. TBS maintains a file of Hebrew names for our members; you will need to provide the Hebrew name for those who are not TBS members.
- Greeters for Shabbat services are often assigned by the bar/bat mitzvah family.
 - Shabbat evening service—typically two adult members of TBS
 - Shabbat morning service—typically two to four of your student's peers from his or her TBS class (two each for the first two hours of the morning services)
- Torah reading is done under the direction and supervision of the Rabbi, who can provide resources to assist (e.g. written copy and audio recording of the aliyot).
- Please discuss with the Rabbi if you would like:
 - Friends or family members to chant a Torah portion
 - A Kohen to give the priestly blessing
 - If you would like assistance with assigning honors.
- Decide on which type of program you would like to have at the service. There are two options. Examples of each are available for review in the TBS office)
 - Option 1: TBS will provide a simple program listing those being honored with a Aliyah or Torah reading
 - Option 2: You can design your own program that describes the meaning of the bar/bat mitzvah; the various services included in our Shabbat observance; the names of those being honored with aliyot, Torah readings, etc. If you decide to design your own program, you are required to print it. This will not be done by TBS. It will also need to be approved by the Rabbi.

Two months in advance

- Continue meeting with the TBS Administrator for planning purposes
- Invitation and/or article about your child for publication in the Voice must be submitted to the TBS Administrator

Four weeks in advance

- Confirm family/friends' availability for fulfilling assigned Honors
- Confirm Hebrew names for family and friends who are not TBS members
- Approval of menus should be provided by this date

Two weeks in advance

- Submit completed Honors worksheet to the Rabbi

One week in advance

- Attend rehearsal
- Pay balance of all anticipated costs
- Attend rehearsal (usually on Wednesday or Thursday evening)

Friday of the bar/bat mitzvah service

- Set up Oneg Shabbat at 9:00 am, usually with assistance of various TBS members
- All items needed for the bar/bat mitzvah must be delivered to TBS by noon on Friday
- You have the option of starting services at 6:00 or 7:00 pm
- Please arrive no later than 15 minutes before services
- ENJOY Shabbat!

Saturday of the bar/bat mitzvah service

- Arrive at the synagogue no later than 8:45 am
- ENJOY the *nachas* of watching your child become a bar/bat mitzvah!