



B'nai Mitzvah Program Handbook



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Dear Parents,

We welcome you to what promises to be a very exciting year for you and your entire family. While it is true that the greater part of the burden of getting ready will fall upon your child, you, and your family, the congregation will have their own crucial role to play as well.

A Note on Terms: You will see the phrase ‘B’nai Mitzvah’ many times in this book. Functionally speaking, ‘Bnai’ is the plural of ‘Bar’ but many also indicate both ‘Bar’ and ‘Bat’ as a plurality. You may also see the word ‘Simcha’ - this means happy occasion.

Many people think that Bar/Bat Mitzvah is the culmination of a child’s Jewish Education. This could not be further from the truth! The focus and goal of the educational program at Temple Sinai is not to prepare your son or daughter to have the ability to ‘perform’ one day, but to be literate, educated Jewish adults. This journey begins with Consecration, continues through Bar/Bat Mitzvah to Confirmation, and beyond. This progression is our obligation, as the Jewish community is commanded to engage in a lifetime of learning. This process should be meaningful and personal. We want your child to highlight his/her talents and passions. We want him/her to be able to express himself/herself and connect the way they learn best with how they engage in his/her Torah portion.

Note: Though your child might celebrate their Bar/Bat Mitzvah early in the 7th grade year, they are required to finish the year, and the community truly hopes and expects that they will continue to Confirmation.

We have put together this handbook to define and explain your congregation’s B’nai Mitzvah Program. Our solemn oath is that each of us, and all the staff of Temple Sinai, will work with you and your family to ensure that every child lives up to his or her full potential. What we expect in return is that you will be our partners in this task. If each of us does our part together, we will succeed.

Please take the time to familiarize yourselves with all the materials contained herein. Do not hesitate to ask questions. Mazel Tov!

Chazzan Cliff Abramson



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THE MEANING OF BAR AND BAT MITZVAH

Becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah is an important step in the spiritual growth of a young Jewish person. The words, “Bar” or “Bat” Mitzvah mean - son or daughter of the Commandment. Our hope is that in learning Jewish prayers, customs, history and teachings, our children will come to affirm Jewish values as a source of guidance and ennoblement in their lives.

THE HISTORY OF BAR AND BAT MITZVAH

Though the origins of the term Bar Mitzvah (Son of the Commandment) go back thousands of years, the Bar Mitzvah ceremony as we experience it today began to appear about the 14th century. It evolved into a joyous celebration during the 16th century. A boy was considered a full member of the religious community, and was given an Aliyah, the honor of an invitation to ascend the bimah to share in the Torah service. It symbolizes the young person’s change to a more elevated and responsible status in the community.

A similar rite of passage for girls, Bat Mitzvah (Daughter of the Commandment), began in the mid-Twentieth century. In our Reform Movement, girls have all the same honors and expectations as boys for this simcha. A Bar/Bat Mitzvah receives certain privileges and assumes certain responsibilities. Depending on the academic accomplishments of the individual, the Bat or Bar Mitzvah candidate’s participation in the service may vary from reciting a few blessings to conducting the entire Shabbat service. The central achievement is reading or chanting from the Torah and reciting the day’s Haftarah. It was the custom among the Sephardic Jews (i.e., those Jews living in the Mediterranean countries during the Middle Ages) for the service to be followed by a party at which the Bar Mitzvah would deliver a scholarly dissertation for which he would be rewarded with gifts. The tradition of the party and the gifts has survived, but the dissertation has been replaced by a moral lesson usually derived by the student from the Torah or Haftarah readings and delivered as part of the worship service.



BAR/BAT MITZVAH IN REFORM JUDAISM AS PRACTICED AT TEMPLE SINAI

At Temple Sinai becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah is one exciting moment on the continuum of Jewish learning. The purposes of this life cycle event are to enhance the child's self-esteem and to help nurture an identification with his or her Jewish community. Family participation is vital to the success of these endeavors.

The Bar/Bat Mitzvah rite of passage is celebrated by participating in the Friday evening service and helping to lead either the Shabbat morning service or Saturday evening service. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah rite of passage demonstrates that the student:

1. Proudly identifies as Jewish
2. Reached a significant level of Jewish learning
3. Made a commitment to continue his/her religious education at our congregation through at least tenth grade and hopefully through the end of High School.

In Jewish tradition, a person is obligated to continue to study his/her Jewish heritage well beyond age thirteen. At the age of thirteen, the student is barely able to begin to grasp the true importance and significance of Jewish teaching. Therefore, as a prerequisite for the celebration of Bar/Bat Mitzvah, an agreement by child and parent to continue formal Jewish studies through the tenth grade is made.

Beyond that.... Even though this agreement focuses on continuing their Religious education through the significant ceremony of Confirmation, Jewish learning is a lifelong process and our hope is they will continue their religious education and involvement in Jewish community not only through confirmation, but throughout High School, college and beyond.

PREPARATION AND OBLIGATIONS

Working with Chazzan Abramson

Approximately 12 months prior to your child's simcha, parents join the Bar/Bat Mitzvah student to meet with Chazzan and go over details, questions, and expectations. 3 months later, should your child be able to exhibit the necessary proficiencies with Hebrew and most of the prayers of the service they will continue their work with Chazzan on the Torah portion and Haftarah. If your student is lacking the proficiency they will be guided for more study tutoring with Bethany and/or one of her Hebrew teachers. After that period of time, upon the tutor's report to chazzan we will reassess the students ability to move forward to the study of their Torah portion. Should the student not be ready at this time, consideration for a change in date will be in order. In the case of a special circumstance/special needs students... Because we are aware that arrangements are often made for the celebration of this wonderful simcha well in advance to the date, it is the parents/families responsibility to make sure the student is ready to begin in order to make sure the student is ready to become a bar or bat mitzvah on the date promised. A contract between the student, parent, chazzan, and Bethany will be signed upon completion of reading this handbook. Keep this in a safe place and if you need to post it up do so, so you will refer back to it.

Approximately 8 weeks before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah, your child will meet with Chazzan to show them what he/she has learned. After this, based on the students shown skill at this meeting, the Chazzan will design the service experience. The Chazzan is responsible for the content and conduct of each service. He is determined to find the ways by which the entire B'nai Mitzvah experience may become as holy and worthy as possible. The student will receive a binder at this time as well. They may use the Mishkan Tefilah. If the family has decided to do a creative service, that is their responsibility. Chazzan and Bethany will guide them in this process. Bethany will show them examples from past B'nai mitzvah. They must have this in Chazzan's possession at least 2 weeks before the service.

Working with Bethany

Approximately 5 months prior to the b'nai mitzvah your child will meet with Bethany to discuss his/her Torah Portion and the b'nai mitzvah speech. They will go over the speech writing process, talk about what happened in the parsha, what lessons they learned, and how they can apply it to their own life. They will share what the b'nai mitzvah process meant to them and how they felt preparing for the special day. Bethany will help guide them to decide on a Mitzvah project. The mitzvah project entails 2 parts. The first is a Tzedakah component - will they raise money or donate a portion of their gifts to a fund that is meaningful to them. The second is the Gemilut Chasadim component- an act of loving kindness - going out and physically doing good in the community. These projects should connect to their lives in some way. *See b'nai mitzvah speech format attached.*

In addition to these, we are encouraging every student to participate in the Remember Us Project. This project offers an opportunity for students to connect with the memory of children lost in the Holocaust before they could be called to the Torah. The project provides the student with the name of a lost child, information about him/her, and suggestions for simple acts of remembrance. For instance, your child can do a mitzvah in honor of them, mention them in the D'var Torah (speech), take on the mitzvah of saying Kaddish, have a chair on the bima to represent him/her, light a yahrzeit candle for them. For more information please visit: <http://www.remember-us.org/about.shtml>

For more ideas of mitzvah projects see list attached.

Student Requirements

It is important that the student utilizes his/her time wisely before meeting with Chazzan and starts preparing for his/her special day by studying/reading Hebrew for 15 minutes a day. Students **must** be enrolled in Temple Sinai JQuest at least 3 years prior to the B'nai mitzvah. If the student is not enrolled a date for b/bmitzvah cannot be established. During the year leading up to the Bar/Bat mitzvah, students **must** maintain regular attendance and participation in religious school classes. This is true even if a child has entered 8th grade at the time of their Bar/Bat Mitzvah. In addition, we also require their continued attendance AFTER their bar/bat mitzvah through the completion of the year. **There is an expectation that every one of our B'nai Mitzvah students will continue their religious education to Confirmation class in 10th grade.**

Family Requirements

Each Bar/Bat Mitzvah family will participate as Shabbat greeters twice during the year prior to their child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah. You will be given an assignment before....This will familiarize the family with the service and the congregation.

Each Bar/Bat Mitzvah family will attend at least 3 Friday night and 3 Saturday morning bar/bat mitzvah services, as well as Adult High Holiday services the year prior to the bar/bat mitzvah date.

It is your responsibility to monitor the home study process of the student.

We are asking that one parent be in the room or bldg office lobby for every lesson - no more dropping off. Even though we all have our own roles, we are working together as a team to make this a wonderful experience for you and your child.

USHERS, GREETERS, AND DOOR OPENERS

Before your B'nai Mitzvah, you will be assigned and must attend/fulfill the duties at 3 other classmates's b'nai mitzvah as the job of Usher, Greeter, and Door Holder. In addition, the day of your B'nai Mitzvah your classmates will have the jobs of usher, greeter, and door holder. These assignments will be given out at the beginning of the B'nai Mitzvah season to each student by the Director of Youth Education.

GENERAL TEMPLE POLICY STATEMENTS AND HELPFUL INFORMATION

1. **Temple Facility Reservations** -- Application for use of the Temple facilities for your luncheon or dinner *must be made* through the office and Jerry Thomas, Kitchen Manager. We recommend reserving the date at least one year prior to the event. Attached you will find all guidelines and requirements, as well as rental fees for the social hall, catering, and use of other Temple Sinai resources. Email Jerry Thomas to schedule your appointment: Jerry Thomas <kitchenmanager@templesinai-sarasota.org>
2. **Kiddush** -- Families are required to provide a Kiddush following services for the entire congregation on Shabbat morning. This Kiddush can be as simple as Challah and wine, or it can be a more elaborate celebration.
3. **Oneg (Welcome Reception) Options** -- The family of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah traditionally hosts the entire Oneg Shabbat, or shares the hosting with another family who is also celebrating a simcha (baby naming, anniversary, adoption of Judaism, etc.). There are some options available for participation in the Friday evening Oneg Shabbat. Please refer to the page containing the Kiddush contract. It is customary for Jews to share their Simchas with the Congregation. You should coordinate your desires regarding this Oneg and the Saturday morning Kiddush with the Temple office. If providing a Kiddush or Oneg will cause a financial hardship, arrangements can be made with the Temple office.
4. **Flowers** -- Bimah flowers enhance the beauty of our synagogue for Sabbath worship. You must order the Bimah flowers through the Temple office due to Chazzan's severe allergy issues. Notification of your choice must be made at least one month prior to your date. *In lieu of flowers, you may beautify the Bima with a basket containing items that can be donated to charitable organizations.*
5. **Times** -- Invitations should invite people to the service at 10:30 a.m. or 5:00p.m.
6. **Honors** -- There are a variety of honors that a family may bestow upon their loved ones during the B'nai Mitzvah ceremony. This may include but are not limited to: Aliyot, opening/closing the Ark, and reading selected prayers. The Chazzan will be able to provide more guidance and advice on what honors are available and how they might be distributed. See attached form that must be turned in one week prior.
7. **Tallit & kippah** -- We invite the wearing of tallit (prayer shawl) and kippah (skull cap or yarmulke) by both boys and girls during worship on Saturday, and just a kippah on Friday

evening. We can provide suggestions as to where these can be purchased or we can provide 'loaners' if necessary.

- 8.. **Photographers/Videographers** - Photos may be taken before and after the service on the Bimah and with lighting. During the service, no flash photography is allowed and photographers must remain in the back of the sanctuary, behind the pews.
9. **Live streaming** – If requested, the temple is happy to offer live streaming of the service for a \$300 fee. This way, if you have friends or relatives who can't make it in person, they can view the services from their ipad or computer by going to our website, www.templestinai-sarasota.org.
11. **Ushers** -- Parents of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah candidates should ask members of their families (or friends) to serve as ushers during the service. A copy of the guidelines for ushering is available in our Temple office. Ushers must be provided with a copy of the instructions.
12. **Temple Gifts** – A member of the Board of Trustees will present your child with the Temple gift(s). If there is a particular Board member that is close with your family you may request their presence.
13. **Financial obligations** -- You may only secure your Bar/Bat Mitzvah date if you are in good standing with your congregation. A reminder that ***All*** dues, JQuestl fees and financial obligations due to the Temple, must be paid no fewer than thirty (30) days before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah.
14. **Chazzan** -- The Chazzan of our Temple must officiate at all religious ceremonies.
15. **"Differences" and Inclusion** -- If parents are divorced or the child's name is different from the parents, please clarify how he/she is to be addressed. If there are other special dynamics, please inform the clergy. All parents and family members are embraced exactly as you are and invited to participate fully in this ceremony, as much or as little as you are comfortable. Everyone is included and welcome. We invite all parents and all members of a family to join in a child's B'nai Mitzvah, regardless of their faith, gender, race, sexual orientation, family of origin, marital status or any other possible difference we may have forgotten. Seriously - Temple Sinai truly welcomes you, and everyone may be included in this special day!
16. **Thank You Notes** -- When you are ordering your invitations, make sure to order "Thank You" notes. Have your child list the gifts as soon as they are received. Then he/she can check off the donor's name when a note has been written. "Thank you" notes may be written one week after the gift is received. Parents should oversee notes and encourage the child to keep up with acknowledgments. Thank you notes should be written to Temple auxiliaries who give gifts.
17. **Etiquette** -- We strongly recommend that you and your child invite **ALL** students of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah class. No child should be left out. We also suggest that you become Balaboostehs and bake for your child's classmates Onegs. This supplements the Onegs in a lovely way.

18. **Dress Code** – It is expected that your child and his/her guests be dressed appropriately and respectfully for both the service and the reception. The following expectations are to be adhered to: Dress pants, suits, nice skirts or dresses only. No t-shirts, shorts or flip flops. Shoulders must be covered. A tallit does not count as coverage for shoulders. The family should make every effort possible to ensure the shoulders are covered by the garment being worn.
19. **Behavior/Sanctuary** -- We expect our students and their guests to behave appropriately and respectfully during the bar/bat mitzvah ceremony. A child will be removed immediately from the sanctuary if they do not demonstrate proper behavior. Electronic devices must be turned off before services begin or they will be taken away and returned after services. The students are expected to worship with the congregation and give the candidate his/her full attention and participation. It is expected that our bar/bat mitzvah students set an example for invited guests. Parents are to discuss appropriate sanctuary behavior during a Bar/Bat Mitzvah and worship service with guests, especially if a child is present without an accompanying adult. Respect for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah candidate as well as for the endeavor of worship must be maintained.
20. **Behavior/ Reception** -- If your reception is held at the Temple, you are responsible for the supervision of the young adults and children. You will be required to reimburse the Temple for the cost of a security guard to be present during the time of your reception. Furthermore, it is your responsibility to inform your children and their guests that they are not allowed in rooms other than the social hall and the bathrooms during the time of the reception. The sanctuary, classrooms and offices are off-limits. Families will be held accountable if any damage is done to our building during your event. Additionally, *if adults are drinking, it is imperative that you as the host/hostess are sure there is a designated driver (or uber/lyft) to ensure the safety of them and their children.*

BAR/BAT MITZVAH SERVICE OUTLINE

Friday Night Shabbat Services

- ☐ Parents join in lighting candles, kiddush, and motzi
- ☐ Bar/Bat Mitzvah leads the V'Ahavta

Shabbat Morning and Evening Services

- ☐ Family meets in the Chazzan's office 10 minutes before the service begins for any last minute questions or concerns.
- ☐ Bar/Bat Mitzvah walks in with Chazzan.
- ☐ Parents are seated in the sanctuary in the first row with siblings.
- ☐ The Chazzan begins the service with a welcome and opening song.
- ☐ Parents will be invited up to help with the donning of the Tallit while the b'nai mitzvah student says the blessing
- ☐ Formal prayer begins.
- ☐ Chazzan will invite Bar/Bat Mitzvah to help lead parts of the service, according to their ability.
- ☐ Torah is removed from the Ark and symbolically passed through the generations, followed by the Torah processional (hakafah)
- ☐ Bar/Bat Mitzvah chants Torah (at least one portion) Most students will do 3.

***Note: If a family chooses to have other family members or friends read Torah as well, that is permitted.*

- ☐ Torah is lifted (hagbah) and dressed (gelilah) and put on stand.
- ☐ Bar/Bat Mitzvah chants Haftarah blessings, chants or reads Haftarah portions and chants closing blessings.
- ☐ Torah is returned to the Ark
- ☐ Bar/Bat Mitzvah gives D'var Torah (explanation of his/her Torah portion, how it relates to him/her, and sharing about their tzedakah and Gimilut Chasadim)
- ☐ Chazzan blesses Bar/Bat Mitzvah
- ☐ (Optional) Parents speak, offering a blessing if they would like.
- ☐ Bethany or Board member presents gifts
- ☐ Chazzan leads closing prayers (Aleinu and Mourner's Kaddish)
- ☐ Chazzan will end with Adon Olam.
- ☐ Bar/Bat Mitzvah leads Kiddush and Motzi
- ☐ (can have siblings/parents/friends join)

- ☐ **Note:** All evening services end with Havdalah



B'NAI MITZVAH TIMELINE

AT LEAST 3 YEARS PRIOR

- ☐ Child will enroll in and attend Temple Sinai Religious School
- ☐ You may secure a date if your family is in good standing with the congregation.

1-2 YEARS PRIOR

- ☐ Family will attend a B'nai Mitzvah Retreat where they will meet with Clergy and the Director of Youth Education. Bethany or Tina will give you a financial packet if you choose to have your celebration at Temple Sinai. At this time, there is no additional cost for the service, clergy, or Bethany that is included in your membership commitment fee. This is subject to change.

12 MONTHS PRIOR

- ☐ Family will meet with Chazzan to go over details, questions, expectations, and requirements.
- ☐ Students will meet the Director of Youth Education for Hebrew evaluation.
- ☐ Students, if needed, will begin working with Bethany or Hebrew tutors.
- ☐ **See: PREPARATION AND OBLIGATIONS - Working with Chazzan Abramson**

☐ 9 MONTHS PRIOR

- ☐ Director of Youth Education and Chazzan, will decide if we are postponing b'nai mitzvah OR MOVING FORWARD. If moving forward, the student will begin 30 minutes weekly meetings with Chazzan and will receive Torah Portion resources. Parents are required to stay in the building if the student is meeting in person or near the room if the student is on the computer at every meeting.
- ☐ Students will receive Torah portion resources if they are reading Hebrew fluently.

20 WEEKS PRIOR

- ☐ Students will begin working with Bethany Leinweber on D'var Torah/Bnai Mitzvah Speech and discuss the Mitzvah Project.

2 MONTHS PRIOR

- ☐ Tablet article form/photo are emailed to Bethany
- ☐ D'var Torah is written
- ☐ Student's participation in service is determined by meeting and discussion with Chazzan and Bethany - they will receive their binders for the service
- ☐ Weekly meetings with Chazzan continue to practice all you have learned.

6 WEEKS PRIOR

- ☐ Prayers, blessings, Torah, and Haftarah have been learned
Student begins practicing in the Sanctuary on the dates their rehearsals are scheduled
- ☐ Parents must attend the 3 rehearsals scheduled.

2 WEEKS PRIOR

Honors form that can be found in the back of this handbook is completed and turned into Chazzan.

DAY OF B'NAI MITZVAH

- ☐ If AM: Photographs may start as early as 9:00 am. Torah photos must be done at 9:30am the latest. No photos will be taken from 10:00am-10:30am as it is time for the b'nai mitzvah student to chill.
- ☐ If PM: Photographs may start as early as 4:00pm. Torah photos must be done by 4:30pm the latest. No photos will be taken from 5:00pm - 5:30pm as it is time for the b'nai mitzvah student to chill.
- ☐

Please arrive on time.

Mitzvah Project ideas:

Lev LaLev - Help an orphan Israeli girl have a Bat Mitzvah

https://levlalev.com/batmitzvah/?gclid=Cj0KCQiAxbefBhDfARIsAL4XLRrIED3U4Zx3n3Nu0ywl-ICtl2Th4vcwKZDJgXH0OPnc9F9pki9vPmoaAlASEALw_wcB

<https://mitzvahquest.org/mitzvah-project-ideas/>

<https://www.mitzvahmarket.com/find-projects/>

<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/how-to-choose-a-mitzvah-project-for-a-barbat-mitzvah/>

<https://rac.org/project-ideas-mitzvah-days>

<https://www.jnf.org/menu-2/our-work/education-and-advocacy/kindergarten/jnf-bnai-mitzvah-programs>



Bar/Bat Mitzvah	“Son/Daughter of the Commandment”
Bimah	Pulpit
Aliyah	“Going Up” to read from the Torah
Haftarah	A selected reading from the Prophets/read after the Torah
Berachot	Blessings
Shabbat	Sabbath
Erev Shabbat	Sabbath Eve
Tallit	Prayer Shawl
Simcha	A joyous occasion
Sefer Torah	Scroll of the Torah
Aron HaKodesh	The Holy Ark
Ketuvim	Writings
Kiddush	Blessing over wine
Mazel Tov	Congratulations and Good Luck
Ner Tamid	Eternal Light
Yad	Pointer
Torah	The Five Books of Moses
Oneg	Joy Delight...term referring to social gathering to celebrate Shabbat
Talmud Torah	“The study of Torah” - Mitzvah of Jewish Study
Tzedakah	Righteousness or helping others
HaMotzi	Blessing over Bread
Challah	Bread
Kippah/Yarmulke	Head covering

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Announcement Form

Bar/Bat Mitzvah announcements will go in the Sinai Celebrates Email weeks before or following the Bnai Mitzvah. . Color photos are acceptable (No Polaroid's please). Please email them Bethany,

The form and photos should be returned no later than 2 months prior.

CONTACT PERSON: _____

TELEPHONE (daytime): _____

ADDRESS: _____

(someone we can call if there are any questions)

First, Middle, Last: _____

son/daughter of _____

of (city) _____

will be called to the Torah as a Bar/Bat Mitzvah on _____ (day/date)

A student at: (middle school): _____

He/She is (list honors, religious activities, hobbies, organizations, sports, etc.)





FAQs:

Q: Does Temple Sinai require my child to have a mitzvah project?

A: Yes and a tzedakah project!

Q: What's the difference between mitzvah and tzedakah?

A: mitzvah is doing with one's hands, taking your time and effort; students can donate their time or talent - a little bit of their treasure! When you become a Jewish adult you make the world a better place, so becoming a bat or bar mitzvah means *actively* working to make the world a better place

B: tzedakah is giving to charity - raising money for an important cause, typically seen as a moral obligation

Q: What do parents do during the morning service?

A: At the beginning of the service the parents present their child with his/her tallit. During the service they will be called up for an aliyah blessing for the reading of the Torah. After the student completes his/her Dvar Torah, the parents will speak to their child.

Q: Are siblings allowed to be involved in the service?

A: YES! Siblings can open the ark, dress the Torah, read a prayer or sing a blessing. Siblings over the age of 13 may also be called to the Torah for an Aliyah blessing or to chant from the Torah.

Q: If there are certain prayers, readings, etc. that are special to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah, are we able to include them in the service?

A: You may ask the Chazzan about any specific prayers or songs.

Q: Do both parents speak?

A: Both parents are welcome to speak, but are not required to do so.

Q: Who do I speak to regarding practice sessions and general questions?

A: Chazzan

Q: What time should my family arrive at Temple on Friday night and on Saturday?

A: Your family should arrive at 5:15pm on Friday to welcome family, friends, and congregants at our Oneg (Welcome Reception). Services begin at 6:00pm. On Saturday, your family should arrive 30 minutes prior to the start time of your service. Morning service begins at 10:30am. If you want to take photographs beforehand, you should do that from 9:00am – 10:00am. Evening service begins at 5:00pm so your family should arrive at 4:30pm - photographs can be anytime before that.

Q: Is a Saturday evening service an option for us?

A: Yes, it will be a 5:00pm service, including Maariv and Havdalah, ending at 6:30pm.

HONORS SELECTIONS FOR BAR/BAT MITZVAH SHABBAT SERVICES

Tallit Presentation in Service or Private before Service.

If in Service, being presented by who: _____

ALIYOT (THE TORAH BLESSING)

There are 3 Aliyot in the Service. Each section has a blessing before and after the reading of the Torah. The individuals who recite the blessing before the reading of the Torah also do the blessing after the reading of the Torah.

NAMES

To be called to the Torah to do the blessings – Three names are needed:

- They are:**
- 1. Hebrew Name of Blesser**
 - 2. Hebrew Name of Blesser's Father**
 - 3. Hebrew Name of Blesser's Mother**

Example:

	Aliyah #1		
Shmuel	Ben(or Bat)	Yakov v'	Tziproah
Hebrew Name of Blesser	Son/Daughter of	Hebrew Name	Hebrew Name
		Blesser's Father	Blesser's
Mother			

ALIYAH #1

English Name of Blesser #1 _____

Hebrew Name of Blesser #1 _____

English Name of Blesser #2 _____

Hebrew Name of Blesser #2 _____

English Name of Blesser #3 _____

Hebrew Name of Blesser #3 _____

English Name of Blesser #4 _____

Hebrew Name of Blesser #4 _____

ALIYAH #2 Parents

English Name of Blesser #1 _____

Hebrew Name of Blesser #1 _____

English Name of Blesser #2 _____

Hebrew Name of Blesser #2 _____

English Name of Blesser #3 _____

Hebrew Name of Blesser #3 _____

English Name of Blesser #4 _____

Hebrew Name of Blesser #4 _____

ALIYAH #3 Bar/Bat Mitzvah Student

English Name of Blesser #1 _____

Hebrew Name of Blesser #1 _____

Opening of the Ark

Beginning of Torah Service

1. _____

Returning Torah after the Haftarah

2. _____

Aleinu

3. _____

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**Names for Kaddish Yatom (Mourners Kaddish) To be Read on Saturday morning.**

**Name**

**Relationship**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Saturday Morning Door Openers, Greeters And Ushers: Classmates, Teen or Adult friends, and/or congregants of the temple. They need to arrive no later than 10:00 a.m. (need at least 4)**

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**Any other *optional* honors**  
**(English Readers, Other prayers, Dressing and lifting the Torah)**

| <b>Name</b> | <b>Relationship</b> |
|-------------|---------------------|
| <hr/>       | <hr/>               |
| <hr/>       | <hr/>               |
| <hr/>       | <hr/>               |

**Student's Full Hebrew**

**Name:** 

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**(youth Hebrew name, bat or bar father's Hebrew name and mother's Hebrew name) If parents don't have a Hebrew name, we will use his/her English name**

**Saturday: Pictures and/or video may not be taken during the service. Please make arrangements for pictures to be taken before or after the Service.**

**HONORS FOR FRIDAY NIGHT**

**Candlelighting (Family of Bnai Mitzvah):** 

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**Kiddush & Motzi (Family of Bnai Mitzvah):** 

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**The Bar/Bat Mitzvah will say or chant the V'ahavta**

**If you need assistance completing the information, please contact Chazzan Abramson directly at 941-356-3532**



## Speech Introduction

### **Shabbat Shalom!**

**Thank everyone for coming:** Your guests came from all over the place to celebrate with you - so start off by thanking everyone for being here with you.

Start with the elders: grandparents, aunts/uncles... and people who came from a distance (auntie Bracha came all the way from Australia? Show her you appreciate it)

## Speech body

**Give a Dvar Torah:** First, everyone came to hear you read your Torah portion... Now, they want to hear YOUR interpretation of the Torah portion:

... What happened in the Parsha? (see websites in email to read the parsha)

... What lessons did you learn from the Parsha?

... How does it apply to your own life (and hopefully theirs too)?

**Make it Personal:** People like to hear what the Bar/Bat Mitzvah means to you: How did you feel while preparing for the Torah reading? How does it feel like to finally be a Bar/Bat Mitzvah? Share the whole experience with your friends & family!

**Announce your Mitzvah Project:** You announce the [Mitzvah Project](#) you chose, why you chose it and how you're going to fulfill it. Both tzedakah/charity and Gimilut Chasadim/acts of loving kindness.

## Speech Wrap Up

**It's Thank You Time:** You thank everyone who made this Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebration possible: your parents, family, chazzan, teachers, guests, neighbors, the neighbor's dog... you get the picture. Of course, don't forget to thank G-d! Finish off by wishing everyone a pleasant day/night and end with Shabbat Shalom!



KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
MAZEL  
TOV

