



## TEMPLE EMANUEL

### **B'nai Mitzvah Preparation – 2020-2021 Virtual Learning**

Mazel Tov on your student's upcoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah is the culmination of years of study, and the gateway to further Jewish learning. Additional training is necessary to prepare your student for this special event. Here at Temple Emanuel, we offer two B'nai Mitzvah preparation options:

#### **I. B'nai Mitzvah Class - VIRTUAL**

Temple Emanuel offers a B'nai Mitzvah class for your student, which will completely prepare your student for their Bar/Bat Mitzvah service. The class is taught by Cantor Elizabeth Sacks, Steve Brodsky, and a team of Temple Educators. The class meets on Wednesday afternoons from 4:30-5:30p.m. or Sunday mornings from 10:45am-11:45am. Students begin the class **approximately 7 months before** their date.

**During our 2020-2021 year of virtual learning, the B'nai Mitzvah class will be taught in a Zoom call. In addition to the class hour, you will be assigned a B'nai Mitzvah Class teacher who will schedule a private Zoom call with you for another 30 mins/week.**

Through the class, your student will receive group as well as individual instruction, a recording of all Hebrew materials, including all blessings and each student's Torah and Haftarah portions, an annotated copy of the B'nai Mitzvah service, and other written materials to prepare your student for this special event. ~~The total cost for this class is \$850.00, which averages to \$30.00/week for 28 weeks of tutoring.~~

**DUE TO A GRANT FROM THE DAVID JACOB REYNOLDS B'NAI MITZVAH PROGRAM FUND, THE COST OF THE CLASS FOR YOUR COHORT IS ONLY \$300.00.**

#### **2. Private Tutoring**

You may select a private tutor if the class does not work for you. Tutors provide individual instruction to prepare your student for their ceremony. The Temple works with a number of private tutors on a regular basis; your choice of a private tutor **MUST** be approved by Cantor Sacks or Steve Brodsky in advance. Please contact Patricia Lackner for a list of recommended tutors. We highly recommend that all students begin tutoring **approximately 7 months before** their Bar/Bat Mitzvah, so please make sure that your tutor of choice is available for that time frame. Please note that for private tutoring students **there will be a book fee of \$175.00 to cover books and materials.**

We will ask you to register for your preparation as part of the invitation to the B'nai Boot Camp - gathering for B'nai Mitzvah families scheduled 9-11 months before your Bar/Bat Mitzvah date. Regardless of your preparation choice, all students will also have meetings and rehearsals with their officiating clergy. If you would like more information about these options before making a decision or have specific concerns about your student, please feel free to contact Cantor Sacks ([sacks@emanueldenver.org](mailto:sacks@emanueldenver.org)) or Steve Brodsky ([brodsky@emanueldenver.org](mailto:brodsky@emanueldenver.org)). If you would like to schedule a phone or Zoom call conversation with Cantor Sacks or Steve Brodsky, please email Patricia Lackner ([lackner@emanueldenver.org](mailto:lackner@emanueldenver.org)).



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#### **Temple Emanuel B'nai Mitzvah Class**

Faculty: Cantor Elizabeth Sacks, Cantorial Soloist Steve Brodsky, plus additional Temple Emanuel educators

Schedule: Two options: Wednesdays, 4:30pm-5:30pm or Sundays, 10:45am-11:45am.  
*The Sunday class is offered from September through April only.*

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#### **Class Overview**

Preparing for a Bar/Bat Mitzvah is an exciting time for your child and your entire family. At Temple Emanuel, we are proud to offer our B'nai Mitzvah Class as our primary preparation option for all families. Through this class, our students will:

- Learn and review all liturgical materials for their Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony, including their Torah portion and Haftarah portion, and all Hebrew and English blessings and prayers
- Explore their understanding of prayer
- Expand their knowledge of the arc and order of the Shabbat morning service, engaging the questions: What prayers do we say? In what order? Why?
- Build social connections with other students preparing for B'nai Mitzvah
- Deepen their relationship with Temple Emanuel clergy

#### **Materials – To Bring Each Week!**

Each week, we ask that students bring their Torah portion book (mailed to your home), their B'nai Mitzvah Class Worksheet Packet (in their Dropbox folder – B'nai Mitzvah Class Worksheets), and a writing utensil. In addition, each student should have their Dropbox link with the sound files of all blessings/t'filot and their particular Torah and Haftarah portions. Please make sure that all students have access to their electronic files on a daily basis.

#### **Calendar//Religious School**

In general, we follow the Religious School calendar. If there is Religious School, there is B'nai Mitzvah class; if there is not Religious School, there is no B'nai Mitzvah Class. We do expect that all students preparing for Bar/Bat Mitzvah are registered and attending Religious School – even this year in our virtual format. If you need to register for Religious School, please contact Brad Cohen at [cohen@emanueldenver.org](mailto:cohen@emanueldenver.org).



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#### **Homework Expectations**

We do ask that students work on their assigned materials between weekly classes. Each week, we will assign each student specific prayers and blessings/Torah or Haftarah verses to review. We recommend that students practice 20-30 minutes 4-5 times a week. We also recommend that students review their materials out loud for a parent at least once a week; this helps students prepare to chant and read in public.

#### **Missed Classes/Tutoring Sessions – Let us know!**

If your child will be missing B'nai Mitzvah Class at any point, please let Cantor Sacks or Steve know. If we know in advance, we can plan class accordingly and make sure that you and your student have the necessary materials to keep moving forward. If you need to reschedule a tutoring session, please reach out to your tutor directly.

We are very excited to learn with your child and guide them on their path to celebrating their Bar/Bat Mitzvah. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Cantor Sacks ([sacks@emanueldenver.org](mailto:sacks@emanueldenver.org)) or Steve Brodsky ([brodsky@emanueldenver.org](mailto:brodsky@emanueldenver.org)).