

## How Can Parents Help?

We believe that parents should be intimately involved with the process of becoming Bar and Bat Mitzvah. Don't just "farm the job" out to the synagogue! Here are some way that you can – and *should* – be involved.

1. **Come with your children to services.** We expect parents to attend services with their children, not only so that they will feel more connected to the worshipping community, but also so that they will feel more comfortable with the service and how it unfolds. Think of the message that you want to send to your child about the importance of Judaism – and send it!
2. **Make sure that they prepare their material.** There will be no "surprises" from us. You will know if you child needs extra work. But, please – keep after them. Behind every successful child, there is a parent who was supporting him or her!
3. **Discuss your child's Torah and *haftarah* portions with them.** Some families like to do so around the dinner table. Read through the portion yourself several times. Become familiar with it. Most kids become attached to their portions, remembering it long after the age of thirteen. Help them.
4. **Usher at the Bar/Bat Mitzvah service before your child's ceremony.** We need parents to help keep order and decorum in the service, especially with our (often large) numbers of young people who come. You will be notified about this when the time comes. Please take this assignment very seriously. Someone will be reciprocating for you.
5. **There is life after Bar/Bat Mitzvah.** We fully expect that all of our young people will continue their Jewish involvement beyond Bar/Bat Mitzvah. This is the way we create committed and connected Jews. Please support the synagogue in this endeavor.

## How Should We Dress For the Service?

We look to tradition and taste as guidance for the appropriate dress of participants in the worship service. As stated earlier, those who ascend the bimah should dress appropriately. This includes, of course, the Bar/Bat Mitzvah. In particular, we ask that Bat Mitzvah candidates dress appropriately for a religious service – no low-cut necklines or bare shoulders, please!

We encourage wearing of the kippah (head covering) and/or tallit (prayer shawl) at The Community Synagogue.

## Ensure Appropriate Behavior in the Sanctuary

**Add PDF of 10 Commandments of sanctuary here.**