

***Brit B'nei Mitzvah***  
***Lech L'cha***

The Brit B'nei Mitzvah is intended as a contract between parents, Bar/Bat Mitzvah students and Temple Beth Am. It is a tool through which all are able to understand and agree to do their part in preparation for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

***Preparation/Education:***

- ❖ Parent(s) agree to participate fully in the B'nei Mitzvah program as an important part of having a meaningful community experience.
- ❖ Parent(s) agree to enroll their child in Religious School through and including seventh grade as part of their required Jewish education.
- ❖ Parent(s) agree to encourage student as he/she studies and works on B'nei Mitzvah materials.
- ❖ Parent(s) agree to schedule required appointments.
- ❖ Parent(s) agree to learn about their role in the Bar/Bat Mitzvah service so that they are fully comfortable participating.
- ❖ Students agree to attend all educational and preparation sessions as required including those with the Rabbi and Cantor.
- ❖ Students agree to practice and study, as necessary, to feel fully comfortable with prayers, service format, Torah and Haftarah..
- ❖ Temple Beth Am agrees to present to students during Religious School, the prayers necessary to lead a Shabbat service.
- ❖ Temple Beth Am agrees to work with students during B'nei Mitzvah lessons on preparation of Shabbat services.
- ❖ Temple Beth Am will provide each student with teachers, as well as recordings to facilitate learning.
- ❖ Rabbi and Cantor will work with students to understand Torah to be read at their service and create a personal and meaningful interpretation.

### **B'nei Mitzvah Project:**

❖ All students are required to complete a Bar/Bat Mitzvah project within the year before their celebration. Your child's project should involve approximately 10-14 hours of time and should focus on something that is relevant and valuable to your child and your family. Further information will be provided.

### **Ceremony:**

❖ The Rabbi and Cantor of Temple Beth Am will conduct all Bar/Bat Mitzvah services in the sanctuary.

❖ All services will be Saturday morning services.

❖ Aliyot (honors) are arranged with the Rabbi and Cantor.

❖ Bar/Bat Mitzvah services begin at 10:30am and end by 11:45 am. To ensure a prompt start, invitations should ask guests to arrive at 10:15.

❖ The sanctuary can accommodate a maximum of 200 people.

❖ Flash photography and/or floodlights may not be used during the ceremony. It is asked that photographers/videographers remain in the back of the sanctuary during the service.

❖ You are able to have access to the Temple, sanctuary and Torah that morning for taking family pictures. Arrangements need to be made with the Rabbi in advance.

❖ We ask that your family and friends refrain from using electronics and smart phones during the service (even for purposes of taking pictures).

### **Attire:**

❖ All attire shall be appropriate for Shabbat. Appropriate attire may include suits, ties, dresses, skirts and pants. All attire should cover shoulders and midriffs.

❖ Shorts, jeans/denims, athletic wear, sneakers and tee-shirts are not permitted.

❖ Visible signs of other religions are not permitted.

### **Gloria Hall:**

❖ Reservations for a Kiddush or reception after the Saturday service in Gloria Hall should be made with the business office at least six months in advance. Additional charges may apply.

❖ Kosher food is optional; kosher style is expected. Pork and shellfish are not permitted.

❖ Set up and clean up of Gloria Hall is the responsibility of the family for Friday night and Saturday morning.

### **Donations:**

❖ It is customary that a donation be made to the synagogue in honor of life cycle events. These donations can be made in any amount to one or more of the many funds that support our temple. These include, but are not limited to, the Rabbi's fund, the Cantor's fund (many families choose to make a donation to each of these), the Tree of Life, the Religious School, the Roselyn Levine Book Fund. A complete list is available when you log into your account on the Temple website.

### **Ushering:**

❖ It is expected that all families will usher the Saturday morning B'nei Mitzvah service as assigned. These dates have been included in your contract.

### **Oneg:**

❖ It is the family's responsibility to provide treats, challah and beverages for the Oneg following the Friday night service. Guidelines for what to have and do are on the Temple website.

❖ The first Friday night of the month is a family service and starts at 7:30 pm. You can expect to have a larger crowd on these weeks. All other Friday nights start at 8pm.