



The Shul of New York Bar/Bat Mitzvah Policy

We are delighted that you are considering the Shul of New York for your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah study. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah is a life cycle event that is an important rite of passage within Jewish tradition. The Shul of New York is committed to developing a meaningful, personalized curriculum that includes the educational components a student needs for Bar/Bat Mitzvah. The Rabbi and tutor will work directly with Shul students and their families regarding any specific preparation needed.

Students often come to the Shul of New York already having:

- Participated in a Religious School for at least 2 consecutive years immediately preceding Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation (or the equivalent).
- An ability to read Hebrew.
- A knowledge of Jewish Holidays, Jewish Life Cycle, the Bible, and Jewish Culture and History.

Some students come to the Shul **not** having been previously enrolled in a Religious School community (or the equivalent) for the 2 year time period prior to Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation. Families of these students should contact Rabbi Eva Sax-Bolder to set up a meeting to discuss their specific circumstances and assess what is needed for Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation.

In general, students who participate in Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation with the Shul of New York will:

- Engage in reflective work with Rabbi Eva to explore all facets of the preparation for this rite of passage.
- Work with a tutor for at least 12 months to develop necessary skills. In addition to Hebrew study, the student will learn about:
 - Jewish Holidays and the cycle of the calendar.
 - Jewish Life Cycle events.
 - Exploration of the Bible.
 - Jewish Culture and History.
 - Israel.
 - Jewish New York.
 - Exploration of Jewish values, principles and identity.

- Complete a year-long family mitzvah project.
- Work with Rabbi Eva to discuss Jewish values and principles, and to prepare his/her *d'var* Torah.

Rabbi Eva will discuss with each family the options for their committed participation during the year of preparation.

The year of Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation is a wonderful opportunity for student and family to enhance their Jewish literacy and share this milestone experience. Some examples of activities that families may commit to complete during the Bar/Bat Mitzvah year are: Participation in Shabbat services and Holiday services and celebrations; enrollment in Shul activities; and taking part in other Shul events. In consultation with Rabbi Eva, a Bar/Bat Mitzvah Brit (covenant) will be developed and signed by the student and family to reflect the commitment each family makes to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation. The exact nature of the individualized Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation will be determined in a meeting with Rabbi Eva.

Rabbi Eva will:

- Work with each student/family to jointly develop a Bar/Bat Mitzvah Brit (covenant) reflecting the family's plan to engage in services, programs and activities throughout the Bar/Bat Mitzvah year.
- Meet regularly with the student to guide the student's reflective work about the Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation process and work with the student through the preparation of his/her *d'var* Torah.
- Recommend potential tutors aligned to the student's needs (Tutoring fees will be arranged directly with the tutor.) Rabbi Eva will communicate with the tutor on a regular basis.
- Have a bi-monthly meeting with the student and family to discuss Jewish values and principles, and to address how to follow through in the home.
- Call on the family for an *aliyah* prior to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah to gain experience prior to his/her own event.
- Work with the student/family to craft an individual ceremony reflective of the student's interests and level of preparation.
- Discuss the options for a Friday evening, Havdalah, or Saturday morning Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony with the family.
- Serve as the Bar/Bat Mitzvah service officiant, either at a scheduled Friday evening Shul of New York Shabbat service or other venue. (Please see Fee Schedule).

We warmly invite you to consider having your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony at a Shul of New York Shabbat service on the first or third Friday of the month. It is very moving for your family and friends to share this important milestone celebration with the congregation. To schedule the ceremony at the Shul, please contact Rabbi Eva at rabbieva@theshulofnewyork.org or the Shul at board@theshulofnewyork.org.

We also encourage you to consider sponsoring an Oneg Shabbat at a Shul Shabbat service to celebrate your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Information is available on the Shul website www.theshulofnewyork.org.

The first step in arranging Bar/Bat Mitzvah Preparation is to talk to Rabbi Eva. Email the rabbi at rabbieva@theshulofnewyork.org or call 929-269-4382.

Fee Schedule

Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation with Rabbi Eva	\$5,400
Tutoring (on an as needed basis)	TBD
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Ceremony at a Shul Shabbat Service (optional)	\$750