

VI. Finances

All Bar and Bat Mitzvah celebrants must be members in good standing. Synagogue policy states that all dues, fees and other financial obligations must be 100% fulfilled at least 6 months prior to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah date. Should you have concerns regarding any of the financial obligations associated with your B'nei Mitzvah, please talk to the Financial Secretary as soon as possible, or the Rabbi can direct you to the appropriate person.

What will this cost me?

It is always prudent to make a financial plan for the expenses associated with your upcoming simcha. It is a matter of your own family's judgment and finances as to what elements are needed. Families should not feel obligated to add on expensive elements to their events if it is a financial burden.

What are the minimum expenses?

- Bar or Bat Mitzvah training (billed automatically over the course of three years following date confirmation)
- Contribution to the Kadden Fund—provides need-based assistance for Bar/Bat Mitzvah tutoring
- Catering expense of Friday night Oneg and Shabbat morning Kiddush (required)

What are optional expenses?

- Tallit and clip for the Bar or Bat Mitzvah
- Facility rental fee, for private celebrations held at Beth El
- Restroom heavy-duty cleaning fee
- Security guard, if applicable
- Leaf on the Simcha Tree in honor of this celebration (form can be found in Appendix I)
- Donation to Beth El and/or other appreciations (e.g., in honor of support from the rabbi)
- Clothing for the Bar or Bat Mitzvah and other family members as needed
- Personalized Kippot
- Programs
- Invitations and postage, including return postage on RSVP cards
- Stationery and postage for thank you letters
- Catering and/or rental expenses of celebration
- Challah for your private celebration
- Room, hotel or building fee
- Music and/or other entertainment at your celebration
- Plants/flowers/food baskets, decorations and/or centerpieces at your celebration
- Group transportation to the celebration site, or from hotel to synagogue
- Favors for guests at celebration
- Expense to house, transport or feed out-of-town guests as needed

Fees Payable to Beth El

Following are some of the specific fees that you may incur. These fees are in effect through 2020. Please note that all fees are subject to change until you have either paid the fee or signed a contract or agreement.

Bar or Bat Mitzvah tutoring (included in annual bill)	\$1920
Kadden Fund	\$150
Sanctuary use for regularly scheduled service	No charge
Sanctuary use for practice/photography sessions*	No charge
Social Hall use for Kiddush lunch	No charge**
Social Hall use for Friday night dinner	\$250***
Social Hall rental for private use	Charges depend on length of event—See Social Hall Use Agreements (Appendix G)
Kiddush catering	Discuss charges with private caterer

Notes:

*Be sure to schedule photography sessions with the office in advance.

** Other charges may include catering, mashgiach, food/beverage, linen rentals and so on.

*** See Friday Night Options (Appendix F) for more information.

VII. B'nei Mitzvah Submissions to the Congregation Beth El Bulletin

Each Bar or Bat Mitzvah is featured in the synagogue Bulletin. Parents are responsible for submitting a write-up on their child by the 10th of the month prior to the publication that includes the child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah. The office will contact you to let you know which issue will feature your child. Read the Bulletin B'nei Mitzvah column to get an idea of standard format and tone.

Please try to follow this format and make any modifications you wish:

XXXXXX will be called to the Torah as a Bar/Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, XXXXXX. XXXXX is the son/daughter of XXXXXXX, grandson/granddaughter of XXXXXXX, brother/sister of XXXXX. XXXX is a student at XXXXXX School. He/she enjoys (sports, hobbies, subjects at school).

For his/her Mitzvah Project.....

Becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah means.....

If your child writes the submission, *please* read and edit it for suitability to a family-oriented newsletter before emailing the office.

Please include a photo of your child--preferably a head shot.

Email to: office@congbethel.org.