Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda
A World of Jewish Experience

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Experience 2022/2023 5783

MAZEL TOV!

BAT MITZVAH

BAR MITZVAH

SYNAGOGUE OFFICE

416-633-3838

APEX KOSHER CATERING

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416-901-5044 Ext. 1

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda
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PLANNING YOUR BAR/BAT MITZVAH @ BETH EMETH

When can my simcha (celebration) take place?

BAR MITZVAH

- Saturday Morning
- Monday/Thursday Morning
- Rosh Chodesh

BAT MITZVAH

- Saturday Morning
- Saturday Evening (Havdalah)
- Sunday Morning
- Rosh Chodesh

Important Information

1. SPEAK TO THE RABBI

Approve the date with Rabbi Morrison. He will want to meet with you. After you meet with him, call the office to secure the date.

2. TUTORS

You are required to arrange for a Bar/Bat Mitzvah tutor for your child. The office can send you a list of approved tutors. If you do not use a BEBY approved tutor; your tutor must be approved by Rabbi Morrison

3. SPONSORSHIPS

When having a Shabbat morning simcha (celebration), you are requested to sponsor the Congregational Kiddush, as well as have a private meal with APEX Kosher Catering.

4. MEETING

Arrange a meeting with the rabbi 4-6 weeks before your simcha.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Experiential and Educational Sessions

Families with Simchas February 2023-February 2024
Dinner served at all events

Led by Rabbi Morrison w/ featured guests.

September 22nd 6:30PM
Family Orientation
Bring your whole family for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah program orientation.

October 27th 6PM
Learn How to Fight Media Bias Against Israel with guests Honest Reporting Canada
Raise your awareness of the issue of media bias against Israel and learn how to counter it, as well as how to combat Jew-hatred online and on social media.

December 15th 6PM
Ask the Rabbi with Rabbi Howard Morrison.

February 2nd 6PM
Sensitivity/Empathy Training Workshop
Interactive workshop facilitated by Reena trainers, you will acquire tools on how to treat people who are different than you; and understand developmental disabilities and all about Reena.

March 2nd 6PM
Purim Preparation Activity: A Hamentaschen Bake
Join individuals from Reena homes in baking hamentaschen to prepare for a Purim celebration; practice what you learned in the sensitivity workshop last month.

April 20th 6PM
Canadian Friends of Simon Wiesenthal's "Digital Hate: What if Hitler had Social Media"? Training
An interactive educational workshop on the power and use of propaganda by the Nazis during the Holocaust and its relevance to modern day propaganda tool of social media.

June 8th 6PM
B'nai Mitzvah Wrap Up Event.

Register Here:
https://www.beby.org/myjewishid

Introduction

The purpose of this guide is to help prepare bar/bat mitzvah students and their families for the upcoming *simcha* (celebration). At Beth Emeth, we see the bat/bar mitzvah experience as a part of an ongoing commitment to the essentials that make up our Jewish heritage and traditions. We hope that the whole family will support, encourage and participate together with the bar/bat mitzvah in this significant transition from childhood towards maturity.

Family members of the bar/bat mitzvah candidate: parents, siblings, grandparents and others are welcome to participate in this important milestone. In the coming months your child will need and seek advice, help, support and encouragement from you. The efforts you make on your child's behalf will contribute to their success and can be a source of pride for the whole family and the Jewish community.

Bar/Bat mitzvah means that "one is obligated to fulfill the commandments". This is why we say a person <u>becomes</u> a bar or bat mitzvah, rather than <u>has</u> a bar or bat mitzvah. It helps to think of a process rather than an achievement. To become a bat or bar mitzvah is a significant milestone that requires hard work and discipline.

Twelve and thirteen are important ages for young people. It is at this age that Judaism charges you with the responsibilities of *mitzvot* (commandments). At this time, you are asked to live according to the teachings of the Torah. These teachings are comprised of ethical lessons including: *gemilat chesed* (acts of kindness) and *tzedakah* (charity), rituals such as observance of Shabbat and *kashrut* (kosher) and communal observances and responsibilities.

This is a significant step for the bar/bat mitzvah and their family. The synagogue office, rabbi and tutors are here to make the process easier.

Let's get started....

Preparation

Consistent and ongoing attendance in a Hebrew day or supplementary school program is essential in preparing for your bar/bat mitzvah. All candidates must attend for a minimum of five years and must be actively participating for the duration of the bat/bar mitzvah year. Supplementary schools must be approved by the rabbi. Beth Emeth's Aleph Beit Chadash School meets weekly on Sunday mornings and satisfies this prerequisite. Please see our website for more information.

Choosing a date

In order to be considered an official booking, the date must be approved by the rabbi and booked with the office.
For a bar mitzvah, the date must be after the child's 13th Hebrew birthday.
For a bat mitzvah, the date must be after the child's 12th Hebrew birthday
There is more flexibility in dates for girls. The rabbi will confirm that the date chosen is suitable and the office will confirm availability.

What are the options?

Monday morning
Thursday morning
Rosh Chodesh morning

} bar mitzvah with the synagogue's *minyan* or as a private service - bat mitzvah as a private service only

Shabbat morning
Shabbat *mincha* (afternoon) bar mitzvah with the synagogue's *minyan,* bat mitzvah as a private service
Havdalah (winter evenings at least an hour after Shabbat has concluded) – bat mitzvah only
Sunday morning – as a private service bat mitzvah only

Beth Emeth members can book up to 30 months in advance.
Non-members may book up to one year in advance.

The Bat Mitzvah service

The Bat mitzvah service is focused around the chanting of the *haftarah* and the delivering of a d'var Torah from the *bimah.* The bat mitzvah may also participate by reading additional prayers. The service can also incorporate the involvement of parents, grandparents and siblings.
If the bat mitzvah wishes to read Torah, arrangements should be made for a private service, at which she may do so.

The Bar Mitzvah service

(when on Shabbat morning)
The *maftir* and *haftarah* readings, along with the delivering of a d'var Torah from the bimah are the centerpieces of the bar mitzvah service. The bar mitzvah may also choose to take on additional Torah reading and/or prayers.

It is strongly recommended that your family, especially the bat/bar mitzvah, attend Shabbat services regularly leading up to the *simcha.* Becoming familiar with the service and our practices will help everyone to feel more comfortable and relaxed on the special day.

The ABM (actual bar mitzvah)

One of the most significant *mitzvot* your son will be responsible for is putting on *tefillin.* Since *tefillin* are not worn on Shabbat, it is advisable to arrange for an ABM service one morning during the week preceding a Shabbat bar mitzvah.
This will allow the bar mitzvah to put on his *tefillin* and *tallit* (prayer shawl) and have an *aliyah* to the Torah.

The bar mitzvah will need a new pair of *tefillin*. These, along with a *tallit,* should be purchased from a reputable Judaica dealer several months prior to his being called to the Torah.

Any bat mitzvah who wishes to learn and practice the rituals of *tallit,* and *tefillin* should discuss this option with the rabbi.

Tutors

Your child will require a tutor to assist with learning the *trop* (cantillation) and text of his/her *maftir* and *haftarah*. The tutoring process usually starts a year prior to the *simcha* (celebration) date. If your child has unique learning challenges, these should be discussed with the rabbi at the time of booking.

<u>The current list of approved tutors:</u>

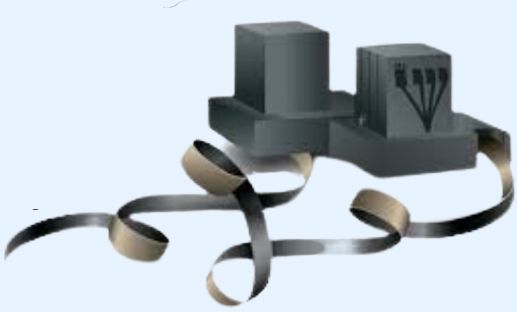
Steve Holland 905-731-7305 or 416-839-0088
Guy Mannheim 416-917-7017
Ahsher Zeldin 416-807-6409
Roseanne Zarnett 647-282-8448

If you wish to use a tutor not listed above, she/he must be approved by Rabbi Morrison prior to starting the tutoring process.

Above and Beyond

Each child is expected to make a *tzedakah* (charity) commitment to a worthy cause. In addition, each bar/bat mitzvah is expected to perform an act of *gemilat hesed* (kindness). This may include a project to help improvethe lives of the vulnerable or society at large. Options include but are not limited to:

- Out of the Cold
- Ve'ahavta
- Chasdei Kaduri Jewish Food Bank
- Shoresh
- Reena



Each child is strongly encouraged to continue her/his formal Jewish education. Please discuss available opportunities with the rabbi.

Strongly recommended reading for the bat/bar mitzvah: "Putting God on Your Guest List" by Jeffrey K. Salkin

Tzniut (Modesty)and Etiquette

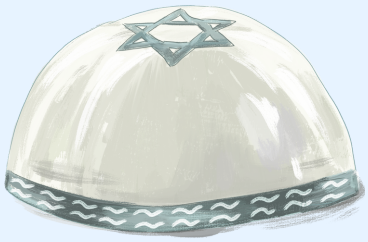
Judaism endorses a lifestyle of modesty. When attending synagogue services one should dress modestly. Religious prayer is considered sacred, and one's dress and deportment should reflect respect.

All males (Jewish and non-Jewish) must wear a *kippah* (yarmulke) when in the synagogue. This practice is optional for females.

Traditional Sabbath law forbids the use of electronics. One should not use a cellphone, camera or other electronic device on Shabbat or festivals.

It is a sign of respect and will enhance your experience if you and your guests arrive on time. Congregational service times are posted on our website. If you are hosting a private service, that time should be listed on your invitation.

We look forward to welcoming you and enhancing the joy or family's bat/bar mitzvah.



Contact Information

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