

**B'NAI  
DAVID-JUDEA**

BAR & BAT  
MITZVAH  
GUIDE  
2018-2019

(310) 276-9269

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[WWW.BNAIDAVID.COM](http://WWW.BNAIDAVID.COM)



Dear Parents,

Mazal Tov as you embark on the exciting adventure of planning your child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah!

As you usher your child into adulthood (or at least teenagehood), the logistics and emotions of planning this event can seem overwhelming. We want to offer you some guidelines about going through this process at B'nai David-Judea.

Our shul professionals look forward to working closely with you to create the simcha that best fits your child's desires.

- **Gesher** - If your child is entering 6th grade (for girls) or 7th grade (for boys), please sign up your child for Sunday morning Gesher, where Rav Yosef and the pre-Bar/Bat Mitzvah kids together study and analyze how Judaism applies to their daily lives and figures into the moral dilemmas the world faces. We recognize that Gesher might not fit the needs of all children depending on their individual circumstances. Rav Yosef and Rabbanit Alissa will gladly work with you to find a suitable alternative or accommodation as needed.
- **Account Balance** - Contact me or our board treasurer to make sure your account is up to date. As you plan your simcha, our shul professionals will be extending their time to you generously, making this an especially appropriate time to make sure that you have met your financial obligations to the shul. No one will be turned away for financial reason, but it is important that we bring all accounts up to date.
- **Bar/Bat Mitzvah Ceremony** - Contact Rav Yosef or Rabbanit Alissa to plan the details of your exciting event. They will:
  - Explore different options as to how your child can mark this occasion, so that you have the most meaningful ceremony for your child (please see "**Bar and Bat Mitzvah Options**" enclosed);
  - Help you choreograph the Bar/Bat Mitzvah services, with an eye toward inclusion of family members;  
Work with your child to prepare a D'var Torah;
  - Advise you with regard to chesed projects and Bar/Bat Mitzvah tutors.

We look forward to working with you to make this simcha meaningful and memorable for you and your family!

Warmly,

Adynna Swarz, Executive Director



# BAR & BAT MITZVAH OPTIONS

It is the B'nai David-Judea community's great privilege to celebrate your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah regardless of which of the below options - if any - your child chooses. The most important thing is to create the Bar/Bat Mitzvah that best fits your child's needs. We have no pre-conceived notion of what a Bar/Bat Mitzvah must look like, and our clergy and staff will support you in creating the ceremony that works for you and your child.

## BAR MITZVAH

A Bar Mitzvah boy may take part in leading the Shabbat morning davening, and is invited to read as much of the Parsha as he would like, receive the Maftir Aliya, read the Haftarah, and/or deliver a D'var Torah at the conclusion of Musaf. Other options include Shabbat afternoon, Monday and Thursday mornings, Rosh Chodesh and Hanukkah -- all occasions when the Torah is read.

## BAT MITZVAH

A girl's Bat Mitzvah offers an exciting opportunity for exploring creative ways to make this occasion a meaningful entry into Jewish adulthood. At B'nai David-Judea, we offer a range of options and are happy to discuss your personal simcha directly with you.

- **Shabbat Morning:** Your daughter and other family and friends can lead the davening and lead the Torah portion at Women's Tefillah service in the Beit Midrash or Social Hall, which occur at the same time as the services in the sanctuary. She can choose to deliver her D'var Torah at the main services. The family can invite approximately 20 male family members and close family friends to come into the women's service during Torah reading only. Men are required to sit in a separate area (as designated by the clergy) and the family must designate a female representative to serve as usher during Tefillah to coordinate timing of the men's attendance and to help assure decorum is upheld.
- **Shabbat Afternoon Mincha:** This service and Torah reading is shorter than the Shacharit service, and offers you a chance to invite your family and friends to join you for Seudah Shlishit, a light afternoon meal. Your daughter also has the opportunity to lead a Torah study or deliver a D'var Torah. The Women's Tefillah service for Mincha can take place in any shul venue, the Main Sanctuary included. A traditional BDJ minyan would be provided in another venue (for men and women). The family can invite as many men as it wishes, for Torah reading only, who will be allowed to sit in the upper balcony (if in the Main Sanctuary) on the opposite side of the mechitza only. The family must designate a male and female representative to serve as ushers during Tefillah to coordinate the timing of the men's attendance and to help assure decorum is upheld.

- **Holiday Mornings:** If your date falls near Purim, consider having your daughter lain all or part of the book of Esther at the Women's Tefillah Purim Morning reading. If your date falls near Shavuot, the Women's Tefillah reading of Megillat Rut can be particularly meaningful for a girl's entry into womanhood.
- **D'var Torah During Services:** Your family may opt for regular BDJ davening, and the Bat Mitzvah girl can choose to offer a D'var Torah at the conclusion of musaf.

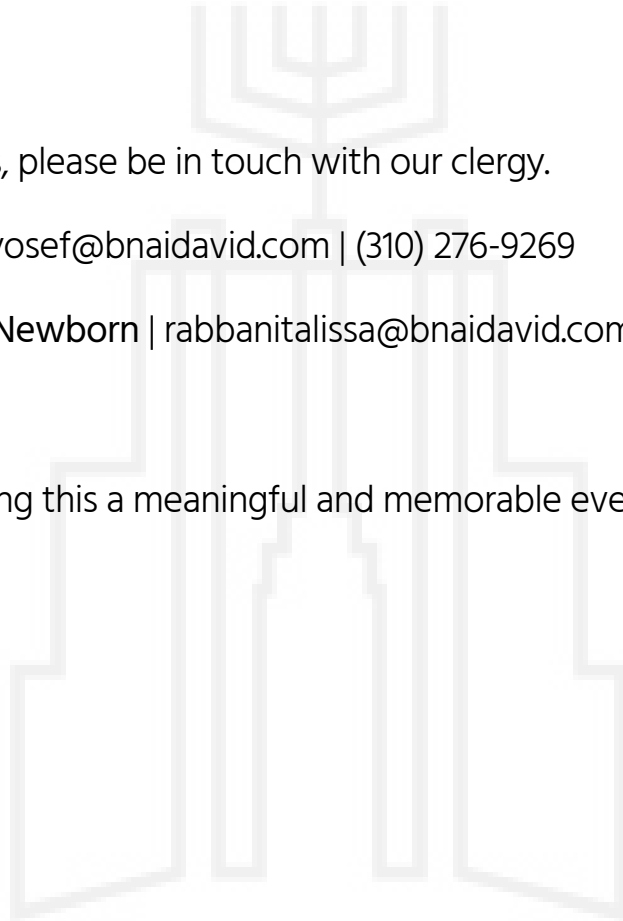
## CONTACT

If you have any questions, please be in touch with our clergy.

Rav Yosef Kanefsky | [ravyosef@bnaidavid.com](mailto:ravyosef@bnaidavid.com) | (310) 276-9269

Rabbanit Alissa Thomas-Newborn | [rabbanitalissa@bnaidavid.com](mailto:rabbanitalissa@bnaidavid.com) | (310) 276-9269

We look forward to making this a meaningful and memorable event for your family!



# BAR & BAT MITZVAH CHECKLIST

## 3 YEARS PRIOR

- Schedule your child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah date. Dates are reserved on a first come, first serve basis. Only one Bar or Bat Mitzvah will be scheduled per Shabbat. Facilities rentals and fees can also be discussed with the Executive Director. The clergy are available to discuss your child's unique needs.

## AS YOUR CHILD ENTERS 6TH GRADE (FOR GIRLS) OR 7TH GRADE (FOR BOYS)

- Geshet - Register your child for Geshet which meets on Sundays from 9:15 – 10:30 AM. You can speak with Rav Yosef about your child's particular needs.
- Choose your chesed project. The clergy are available to assist with ideas.
- Choose a tutor to assist in laining. This may be needed prior to this year depending on your child's celebration date.

## 3-6 MONTHS PRIOR

- Facilities Rentals – Submit **Facilities Rental Form** and provide further details about vendors and set-up needs.
- Contact Rav Yosef or Rabbanit Alissa to plan the Bar/Bat Mitzvah D'var Torah.

## 1 MONTH PRIOR

- Kiddush Sponsorship – Select your sponsorship level and linen colors from the **Kiddush Menu**.
- Set-Up - Finalize any set-up needs or other requests you will need for your special weekend.
- Aliyot - Submit **Simcha Aliya Request Form**.
- D'var Torah - Schedule final review of D'var Torah with the clergy.
- Laining - Schedule practice laining sessions at the shul as needed.

## ONE DAY PRIOR (FRIDAY MORNING)

- Drop off any items you will be using for Shabbat:
  - Kippot
  - Programs
  - Signs
  - Candy (Sunkist Gems only). Baskets are available at the shul for your use.
- Vendors – please make sure all vendor deliveries are scheduled BEFORE noon. Our office closes early on Fridays.

## SHABBAT

- Should you need anything on your special day, please either find the Executive Director, an Officer of the Board or Clergy to assist you as needed.

# KIDDUSH MENU

## Level I

\$900

Meat Chulent (W)  
Vegetarian Chulent (W)  
Tuna Salad (E)(F)  
Spicy Carrots  
Fatoush Salad  
Chips & Salsa (W)  
Egg Salad (E)  
Israeli Salad  
Hummus  
Crackers (W)  
Cakes & Cookies (E)(W)  
Fruit  
Soda

## Level II

\$1,600

All of Level I  
&  
Babaganoush (E)  
Penne Pasta Salad (E)(W)  
Asian Noodle Salad (E)(S)(T)(W)

## Level III

\$2,250

All of Level II  
&  
Broccoli Kugel (E)  
Lentil Salad with Mint  
Chickpea Salad  
Mignardises (E)(W)

## Level IV

\$3,600

All of Level III  
&  
House Matjes Herring (F)  
Chopped Liver  
Greek Salad  
Mousse Duo: Chocolate with  
Cookie Crumble (E)(W)  
Pineapple  
Challah Rolls (W)

## Level V

\$5,400

All of Level IV  
&  
Assorted Cold Cuts  
Thai Salmon Carpaccio (F)  
Pesto Beef Carpaccio  
Mexican Salad (W)  
Caramel Flan (E)  
Red Fruit Verrine

All options include linens, color of choice:  
White | Cream | Dark Red | Black | Navy Blue | Gold

Allergen Key  
(E) Eggs | Fish (F) | (T) Tree Nut | (S) Sesame | (W) Wheat

Menu items may be rotated occasionally.

Please contact [director@bnaidavid.com](mailto:director@bnaidavid.com) if you'd like to customize a tailored menu for your special event.



# ALIYA FORM

Please list the names of people you wish to present an aliya to the Torah or the honor.

Note: BDJ reserves two aliyot for aufrufs, baby namings or other last minute s'machot that may arise.

It is customary for the celebrant's family to make a donation of \$360 to the shul in presenting these honors.

For final arrangements, please contact Adynna Swarz at [director@bnaidavid.com](mailto:director@bnaidavid.com).

## PETICHA \*

[2 or 4 depending on the day]

English Name 1:

English Name 2:

English Name 3:

English Name 4:

## WOMEN TO CARRY TORAH

Name:

Name:

## COHEN

English Name:

Hebrew Name:

Relation to Celebrant:

## LEVI

English Name:

Hebrew Name:

Relation to Celebrant:

## YISRAEL

[Provide 3, with 2 additional on the back]

English Name:

Hebrew Name:

Relation to Celebrant:

## MAFTIR

English Name:

Hebrew Name:

Relation to Celebrant:

## HAGBAH

English Name:

Hebrew Name:

## GELILAH

English Name:

Hebrew Name:

## PSUKEI DZIMRA \*

English Name:

Hebrew Name:

## SHACHARIT \*

English Name:

Hebrew Name:

## MUSAF \*

English Name:

Hebrew Name:

## CONCLUDING SERVICES

English Name:

Hebrew Name:

\* In consultation with the Clergy