

HAVURAH SHALOM

***HANDBOOK FOR
BAR/BAT MITZVAH***

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Section I. Background and Philosophy for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah

A. Introduction

The Bar/Bat Mitzvah marks the time when a Jewish child attains adult religious status within the congregation. As such, it is an occasion for community pride and celebration. A Jewish 13-year-old is considered a Bar or Bat Mitzvah; tradition implies that by that age, a child has obtained sufficient knowledge and skills to participate in congregational life.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation involves a lot of time and energy devoted to study. Although the ritual usually takes place at age 13, many families choose to postpone the Bar or Bat Mitzvah until their child is emotionally ready. Many members of the Havurah community who did not have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah as a youth have chosen to celebrate this ritual as adults.

Havurah is growing richer in our variety of Bar Mitzvah and Bat Mitzvah experiences; still, families are encouraged to choose a Saturday morning service. Please remember as you prepare, that the B'nai/B'not Mitzvah ritual is a part of the regular weekly Shabbat services in our community. The ceremony should be a comfortable, familiar experience for the congregation, the family, and guests.

In keeping with Havurah Shalom's mission, the B'nai Mitzvah at Havurah is about spirituality, learning, and acts of social responsibility. One expectation is that each child will do a "Mitzvah Project" that expresses their interests and ideals. Mitzvah Projects take many forms and range from very simple to much more elaborate. They may include volunteering, educating others, fundraising, or gathering of materials to support a community in need. The important thing is that the child feel engaged with the project, and empowered to make a difference in the community or the world.

Havurah Shalom wants families to participate in their Judaism in positive ways, following the spirit of tradition while keeping Judaism accessible. Thus, we recognize the validity of a wide range of practices. People celebrate B'nai/B'not Mitzvah at Havurah within this context.

B. Membership Requirement

Having a Bar or Bat Mitzvah is an experience in community. It is a statement that one is now ready to participate in the Jewish community as an adult. Havurah Shalom is a community that thrives only through the active participation of all its members. As adults in the community we believe in passing on Jewish tradition to our children while learning ourselves.

In order to be true to these beliefs, the congregation requires membership for at least 36 months prior to having a Bar or Bat Mitzvah. This period of membership provides the opportunity for new members to become part of the Havurah community. However, special consideration is given to families who moved to Portland within the last 36 months and were members of a congregation where they lived previously.

C. Perspective

The fabric of your family's Bat Mitzvah or Bar Mitzvah day is woven from many strands. The core of the ceremony is when the youngster is first given the adult honor of being called to the Torah (the aliyah), to which they respond by saying the blessings before and after the portion. It has become traditional for the honoree to also chant some of the Torah portions (in Hebrew), give a personal reflection on the Torah portion (drash), and to lead some of the prayers during the service.

Havurah families may celebrate the young person and his or her heritage with specially chosen songs, prayers, poems, readings, or other ritual elements. Many families turn the after-service Kiddush into a luncheon, and/or have a party on Saturday evening. Some families include out of town relatives in Havurah's Friday night services.

Beyond the core of the aliyah, the other elements are optional—please include only those that make sense for your family. Remember: this is something done *with* your child, not *to* your child. For information, perspective, and inspiration, we recommend the following books and resources:

[Putting God on the Guest List: How to Reclaim the Spiritual Meaning of Your Child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah](#) by Rabbi Jeffrey Salkin (Jewish Lights Publishing)

[Whose Bar/Bat Mitzvah Is This Anyway?](#) by Judith Davis (St. Martin's Griffen)

The Havurah library has several other good books about Bar and Bat Mitzvahs plus a notebook of service outline and a few videos of past B'nai Mitzvot. You can also check out Neveh Shalom's extensive library (for a joining fee), or the Portland Jewish Academy library.

Consider the years leading up to the Bat/Bar Mitzvah to be a Jewish learning time for the whole family. Each person can learn at least one new Jewish skill, and parents especially can expand their Jewish reading.

D. Bar Mitzvah and Bat Mitzvah Diversity

Our congregation is a community of individuals with many levels of Jewish observance and learning, and a wealth of unique gifts and experiences. Our families vary in the amount of energy they choose to devote to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah experience, and in their comfort and motivation to lead services. No single model adequately represents the variety of experiences our families create during this important life passage.

AS YOU READ THE EXAMPLES BELOW, DON'T WORRY IF YOU DON'T FIND A DESCRIPTION OF YOUR "IDEAL" BAR OR BAT MITZVAH. These examples are intended to broaden your horizons, not limit your options. While we are inspired by thousands of years of Jewish tradition, and we deeply respect the forms of worship and Torah study practiced by our congregation, we are all enriched by the variety of approaches families have taken over the years to mark the arrival of our youth at the gates of adulthood.

These examples show some of the choices different families make:

1. This style appeals to those who recall that in previous centuries, the Bar Mitzvah consisted of a young man having his first aliyah on the Shabbat after he turned thirteen. Of course, the community would congratulate the family, but any party would be more on the scale of a child's birthday celebration than a royal wedding. This style might feature:

- The youngster leading the Torah service and giving the drash, but he/she has little or no role in the preceding portions of the Shabbat Morning service.
- Invitations to only 20 or 30 people who are truly important in the honoree's life.
- Most of those attending this Shabbat service are "regulars" so the youngster is truly being welcomed into an ongoing community.

2. Some families may prefer a very low-key approach, with the young person coming up during a regular Minyan service on a Saturday morning, reading the Aliyah blessing, and then sitting down again. The family could work with the Minyan organizers on the extent of a child's participation in a particular Saturday morning service. The Torah may also be read on Rosh Hodesh (the start of a new month on the Hebrew calendar), and on Mondays and Thursdays, for those who wish to have a quieter, more intimate service.

3. Some families wish to share the event with a substantial circle of loved ones. This style might feature:

- The youngster leading much (or most) of the Shabbat morning service/Torah Service, as well as chanting several Torah portions and delivering the drash.
- Invitations to several dozen friends and relatives (though remember that our sanctuary/social hall only holds about 350).
- A few carefully chosen acknowledgments during the service that the youngster's special gifts and experiences are blessings to the family and the community—without unduly disrupting the usual order of the Shabbat service.

While no one wants to go overboard and create an unhealthy "adoration of the child", this style lets some youngsters find their voice as accepted and admired members of our community. Some members think of this as the "Classic Havurah" style of Bar and Bat Mitzvah, since it has been the most frequent style over the years.

4. Many youngsters have best friends, twin siblings, or compatible acquaintances with whom they want to share their special day. While the style may resemble any of the examples above, it generally will include:

- Fewer aliyot for each family, fewer Torah portions chanted by each youth, and two shorter drashes taking the place of the usual single drash.
- Pay close attention to the guest lists, since the total number of seats for both families plus the general congregation may not exceed 350 in our building.

5. In rare circumstances a family can request a Havdalah Bar/Bat Mitzvah that can take place on a Saturday afternoon in winter. Due to our many scheduling requirements, Havurah rarely holds Havdallah B'nai/B'not Mitzvah. However, if you would like to take this conversation forward please discuss this option with a member of the B'nai Mitzvah committee as part of your date selection process.

Remember, Bar/Bat Mitzvah is another chance for parents and their children to discover the rewards of resisting peer pressure—please choose the style that is spiritually and emotionally best for you, which may not be the same one other families choose. Some form of Torah mastery will always be involved. Non-family adult members of the congregation are also key to welcoming the young person at this milestone.

E. A Note about this Handbook

Many of the pages that follow are most applicable to the “Classic Havurah” ceremonies described in #3 above. This is because the handbook and its authors are largely products of our congregation’s recent history. Please accept these sincere invitations:

- If you know certain passages don’t apply to the type of event you are planning, disregard them.
- If you are not sure, please ask. We have a helpful rabbi, responsive adult education and liturgy enthusiasts, and an involved B’nai Mitzvah committee.
- If you feel that sections of the handbook are obsolete or that important information is missing, please let us know. The Committee members are listed on the final page, and we always welcome constructive criticism.

This Handbook can be downloaded from the Havurah website:

<http://havurahshalom.org/life-cycle/Bar-and-Bat-Mitzvah/>

F. Preparation

The next section presents a timeline to help you prepare your student for their Bat Mitzvah or Bar Mitzvah, and for a lifetime of participation in Judaism. Preparation for the Bar or Bat Mitzvah generally begins 12-18 months prior to the date, and many people (teachers, parents, tutors, and the rabbi) contribute to the student’s preparation.

The specific skills needed are:

- **Hebrew:** begin with the alphabet as early as possible; Havurah offers Hebrew classes for students, typically beginning in 3rd grade.
- **Trope** (cantillation): this is the system of chanting used to read from the Bible during services. There are distinct trope systems for Torah and Haftarah. Most students in Havurah do not read the Haftarah. Ideally, Trope tutoring should begin about a year before the Bar Mitzvah or Bat Mitzvah.
- **Services:** many students help lead part of the Shabbat morning service on the day of their Bat Mitzvah or Bar Mitzvah. While the trope tutor can often help with specific

prayers, and the musician may assist in preparing certain songs, *the best preparation is frequent attendance at others' Bat Mitzvahs and Bar Mitzvahs, and at other Shabbat morning services.*

- **Drash:** students present a “teaching” (a short speech) based on the Torah reading. Typically, the Bar/Bat mitzvah meets three times with the Rabbi or another elder of the congregation to help, but the student (and family) will need to spend additional hours studying and writing. Rabbi Benjamin schedules drash meetings with families himself, but you can always contact the B'nai Mitzvah committee for more information about preparing the drash.

TUTORS: In general, a tutor works with the student over many months to learn trope, the *aliyah* blessings, a Torah portion (if applicable), and the other parts of the service. Finding a compatible tutor is important, so begin exploring options early! Havurah has a list of tutors familiar with Havurah's service *Because the list changes often, it is not included in this handbook.* Instead, please contact your mentor and/or the Havurah office for the current list.

Most tutors have a limited number of openings. Please be respectful of their schedules and specialties. Fees are negotiated between the families and the tutors. Some tutors are open to teaching several students at a time, which can reduce the cost per student, if this is compatible with your child's learning style.

If you are planning to work with a tutor that is not on the list he/she should speak with Rabbi Benjamin before lessons begin to familiarize him/her with Havurah customs. Most tutors are present during the Bar/Bat Mitzvah and will assist during the Torah service. If your tutor cannot be present make additional arrangements as necessary.

G. Workshops.

Havurah holds the following workshops over the year to help families prepare for Bar and Bat mitzvot. Please check the Havurah website and calendar for specific dates and to RSVP.

- **B'nai Mitzvah: Why, When, and How?** (Workshop formerly known as Date Selection Meeting) . This workshop intends to launch families on the B'nai Mitzvah journey. Rabbi Benjamin will begin with a focus on the rite of passage itself, then families will learn about the date selection process.
- **Whose B'nai Mitzvah is it Anyway?** Like any life-cycle ceremony, Bar and Bat Mitzvah comes to be about much more than the stated purpose – marking a passage of a child coming of age. What are some of the important explicit – and sometimes hidden – factors and messages? Given their backgrounds, how do parents navigate the planning of a Bar/Bat Mitzvah with varying degrees of familiarity/attachment to Jewish tradition, a variety of goals around inclusion and celebration, and the desire to create a meaningful and relevant experience for their teen – and themselves? This workshop is about the big questions and how they impact the concrete decisions that parents are called upon to make.

- **Discovering Shabbat Morning Learners' Minyan.** Join this upbeat workshop/minyan where we will walk through the Shabbat morning service, learn about the general structure of the service, the key themes and prayers, and some of the choreography. We will practice some prayers together and answer questions. This service is especially for families with youth in grades 5 and up who are in the B'nai Mitzvah process, all adults who are curious or perplexed, and anybody else.
- **Writing your Drash.** Writing a drash is one of the most important parts of B'nai Mitzvah preparation. During this workshop, students with dates set for their B'nai Mitzvah will study a passage of Torah, discover commentary, pose an interesting question, and relate it to contemporary context.
- **Getting Down to Tachlis (The Nitty Gritty: Logistics and Event Planning).** The logistics of B'nai Mitzvah planning and set up at Havurah is the focus of this workshop. Parents will learn about reserving and using Havurah's spaces and the items in them (like tables, plates, etc) from Havurah's Office & Facilities Manager. A new addition to this workshop is a deeper dive into "event planning."

H. Attending Services

All Saturday morning services, including Bat Mitzvahs and Bar Mitzvahs, are open to the entire community. Occasionally, families worry that they would be intruding on someone else's special day if they went to a Bar Mitzvah or Bat Mitzvah to which they were not specifically invited. **This is not the case; you are welcome.** Please attend, share the joy of Shabbat and of your neighbor's *simcha* (blessed event), and learn from the rich traditions of our community. Sometimes other Mitzvahs, such as an aufruf or baby naming, will take place during the same service as a Bar or Bat Mitzvah. Families should be prepared for this and welcome the opportunity to share their special event with another family. Sharing of community is a core value of the Havurah congregation.

Section II. When to do What - a Bat/Bar Mitzvah Timeline

A. Early Years

1st – 4th graders

- Participate in Shabbat School. While Shabbat School attendance is not required, it is highly recommended because it is otherwise difficult for both kids and parents to build such deep friendships and community at Havurah.
- Begin attending Shabbat services and Bar/Bat Mitzvahs as a family and discuss the events and the process.
- Begin Hebrew classes or Hebrew tutoring. Havurah offers Hebrew classes as an adjunct to Shabbat School. Students typically begin studying Hebrew in 3rd grade.
- Participate in service projects and volunteer activities through Shabbah School, Havurah Shalom, and other community organizations.

B. Fifth Grade

Date Selection

Parents of 5th graders wanting a date will attend the **B'nai Mitzvah: Why, When, and How?** Workshop. Rabbi Benjamin will begin with a focus on the rite of passage itself, and committee members will walk participants through the date selection process, including what to consider when choosing a date for the event. Families may choose based on proximity to the child's birthday, ease of travel for out-of-towner's, or to correspond with a holiday or favorite Torah portion. Your family's values and priorities will be respected.

Families will also receive a calendar of available dates for the coming year and a date selection form. These dates are determined by the rabbi's availability and the Havurah community calendar. Families consider the available dates and make their requests using the date selection form. **The form must be returned by the deadline.** Based on your requests, a date will be assigned by the B'nai Mitzvah committee, as follows:

- On time requests will be considered first. Late requests will be scheduled after dates for on-time forms have been assigned.
- When there are multiple on-time requests for the same date, the date will be given to the family that has been a member of Havurah the longest. In the rare situation that this does not resolve the conflict, a member of the B'nai Mitzvah committee will call the families involved to negotiate.
- Note: members of the committee do not participate in the selection process if their family is having a Bar or Bat Mitzvah in the year being scheduled.

Once dates are scheduled, families are notified and dates are recorded in the Havurah calendar. If the Rabbi has an unavoidable schedule change he will notify the family. The B'nai Mitzvah Committee will assist in either finding a new date or engaging a community member to lead the service.

If at any time you need to cancel or change a date, be sure to contact the B'nai Mitzvah Committee. Do not contact the Rabbi as he does not manage the calendar. You can reach the Committee by email: BnaiMitzvah@havurahshalom.org

C. Sixth Grade

Students

Start one-to-one tutoring in Torah trope and prayer at least 12 months before the Bat/Bar Mitzvah. See page 5 for information about securing a tutor to work with your student.

Families

Please consider the Havurah community as a giant support system for families on the B'nai Mitzvah journey! Talk with other families, service leaders, and members.

We also have a B'nai Mitzvah mentor program. A mentor will be assigned to your family who will call to offer advice and support for B'nai Mitzvah planning. This mentor can help brainstorm ideas, plan, reassure, and support you and the family as you progress through the year.

Generally, mentors make first contact with families eighteen months to a year before the date. If no one has contacted you and you want to talk with someone, contact Amanda Coffey or anyone on the committee.

Attend workshop and events concerned with Bar and Bat Mitzvah, and consider coordinating with other families around ways to support one another in the process.

- Workshops are offered annually to help answer the questions that come up as the big day approaches (see page 5).
- In the spring, families may wish to organize into small support groups by seasons, to help each other with set-up, baking, etc. in the busy year to come.

D. Month-by-month countdown

One year before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah

- Re-read this Handbook (download the most current version from the website), which can be downloaded from the website. The Handbook is updated by February of each year.
- Double-check with Education Director, B'nai Mitzvah committee, or tutor that their student is working on the correct portion. Confirm Torah portion for the date by checking the website and other Havurah sources
- Again, attend workshops!
- Talk with your mentor!
- Become more familiar with the Shabbat morning service by attending services once a month or more.
- Begin planning the Mitzvah Project. Help your child to think about their interests and passions, and where they want to put their energy. Past projects have focused on the environment, human/animal rights, hunger, housing, education, etc. Consider volunteering with an organization that is doing inspiring work, or engaging with others (soccer team? school club?) to plan a food drive or fundraiser. Find out about the projects of Havurah's Tikkun Olam committee and consider ways to contribute. Think about ways to personalize and extend the project, and how to tell the community about it. Recognizing that planning the Mitzvah Project is challenging for many kids and families, a member of the B'nai Mitzvah Committee, Laura Orgel, is available to help you brainstorm ideas, plan, make connections and troubleshoot. Her phone # is 503-860-3174. Email: ljorgel@earthlink.net.

6 - 12 months before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah

- Student begin practicing the Torah portion(s) if applicable and prayers from the service.
- Student should know that they'll be expected to give a *drash* (see page 4 or 5).
- Expect a call from Rabbi Benjamin about scheduling drash meetings.
- Start thinking about the music piece of your service, and contact your mentor or B'nei Mitzvah committee if you need assistance finding a musician.
- Select and order invitations, thank you notes, and caterers; make explore hotel arrangements accommodation options for out-of-town guests, explore and reserve a

venue for your celebration, if applicable. reserve the Havurah social hall, restaurant or party room (if you plan on having a party later that evening).

3 - 6 months before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah

- Continue to practice Torah portion(s) and other prayers (as applicable).
- Confirm with music leader if part of your service.
- Plan how your family will participate in the service (tutors and mentors are helpful with these decisions).
- Confirm your service leader. If you've chosen or been assigned a date when the Rabbi is not available, the Spiritual Life Committee will assist you in selecting a service leader who is knowledgeable about liturgy and Havurah custom. Contact the committee (SpiritualLife@havurahshalom.org) for names of Havurah members who are knowledgeable about liturgy and Havurah's customs. The student's tutor or musician may help with portions of the service, and you can contact the Rabbi to discuss how he can help develop and lead the service.
- Organize the *Aliyot* (Torah blessings). Work with the the student's tutor to determine which he/she is going to chant, and then contact Diane Chaplin, Spiritual Life Committee chair (see Havurah directory) about 3 months ahead of time who will find others to cover those Torah portions not being read by the student, family members and friends. **Send the prayers and/or the portion to each person doing an aliyah and instruct them to practice.**
 - *Note that anyone leading an aliyah must be Jewish and over age 13. At Havurah a non-Jew who is in a committed relationship with a Jew may come up to Torah with their spouse/partner, as they are considered adjunct and "sustaining" the Jewish life of the household. Aliyah blessings are available in the Havurah Office (in mp3 form along with the written transliterations)*
- Review the logistics packet that will be sent from the Havurah office. If you don't receive this packet, call the office.
- Send your B'nai Mitzvah fee payment for \$280 to the office. The office will remind you.
- Make sure your membership dues are up-to-date.
- Make sure you have the dates of your drash meetings with Rabbi into your calendar.
- Continue to engage in Mitzvah Project activities . Begin this if you haven't yet. Get help if you need it. Consider telling the community about the project through a notice or article in Hakol.
- Design invitations, plan flowers, plan and source supplies, make lists, think about personal needs (clothing, shoes, ties, haircuts).
- Delegate, delegate, and delegate! Other families in your child's Shabbat school class are wonderful sources of help and support!

Remember, if at any time you need to cancel or change a date, be sure to contact the B'nai Mitzvah Committee and reschedule through the B'nai Mitzvah committee, NOT through the Rabbi. You can reach them by email: BnaiMitzvah@havurahshalom.org

8-10 weeks before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah

- Finalize and address invitations. Mail them 6-8 weeks in advance.
- Review drash materials provided by the Rabbi and/or committee. Work with the Rabbi or your drash coach as determined. *After the Bar or Bat Mitzvah please send a copy of your child's drash to the office for the Havurah History Project.*
- Find out the Hebrew names of anyone to be honored with an Aliyah.
- Invite family and/or friends to be *Hagbah* and *Gli'lah* (to lift and dress the Torah).
- Let any family members and guests know that if they have an aliyah or other Mitzvah they must wear a tallit when on the bimah. Havurah has some available for guests to borrow.

6 weeks before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah

- Mail invitations if you haven't already.
- Confirm/review with the service leader those portions of the service not being conducted by the student. Details for a service leader other than the Rabbi are outlined in 3-6 months before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah.
- Invite someone from the congregation to make the Congregational presentation of the Bible. If you need suggestions, ask your mentor or notify the office and they will make arrangements. The wrapped Bible will be in the cupboard underneath the basket of tallitot and kippot as you enter the Bet Knesset. Tell the Havurah office who will be presenting the bible so they can notify that individual of its location.
- Note that Havurah has monthly Kabbalat Shabbat dinners before the Friday night service. These dinners require reservations and advance payment. If you plan to bring guests make sure to reserve and pay as necessary.
- Some families like to lead the Kiddush at the conclusion of services using a kiddush cup of some sentimental value. If this would mean someone from out of town would have to bring the cup, ask them now.
- Identify someone to be your "Cookie Coordinator." You will receive suggestions on how you might organize this in the packet you will receive from Havurah about 3 months before your date. Also, check in with other families in your cohort.

4 weeks before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah

- Go over order of service with the trope tutor and Service Leader. a congregant who is knowledgeable about Havurah liturgy.
- Many families like to print a Bar/Bat Mitzvah program. Now is the time to do this. Your mentor can provide examples and templates.
- Again, ensure that anyone being honored with an Aliyah is aware they need a tallit when on the *bimah* and that they are comfortable saying the blessings. **Encourage everyone to practice.** Tallit and Kippot are available at Havurah. If you anticipate needing a larger than usual supply, contact the Havurah office.
- Make sure the Sanctuary space is available for any rehearsals with tutors and family members and friends who would like to practice. Contact the office to reserve the time. Read from the actual Torah while wearing a tallit. Practice carrying the Torah and as

much of the service as the student will participate in. Ask your tutor or service leader to help with this.

- Decide where to get challah, wine, and juice for kiddush. One challah serves about 30 people; 1 liter of wine/juiced serves 40 x 1oz cups. The wine **must** be kosher.
Remember to ensure you have enough challah and wine for the 20-30 members of Havurah who routinely attend Saturday morning services.
- Havurah Shalom provides one childcare worker on Saturday morning who can care for up to 6 children. If more children will be attending the service contact the Office to make arrangements for additional childcare worker(s). You will be responsible for the additional cost. See Section V: Logistics for details. Havurah Shalom does not provide childcare at Friday night services (unless otherwise noted) so if you will have young children attending services on Friday and need childcare, please contact the Havurah office.
- Arrange to have juice and crackers (or finger food) for the children who will be in childcare. Check with the Havurah office as these supplies may be stocked and available.
- Arrange for 2 ushers who should be responsible for directing visitors to the sanctuary and for ensuring security during the service. You will receive a letter with more details about security about 1 month before the event.
- Check in with your Cookie Coordinator to confirm bakers.
- Arrange for a friend or member of the community to be responsible to begin Kiddish after the service as you will likely be busy.
- Establish transportation for flowers, people, food, baskets, paper goods, etc.
- Buy everything you can ahead of time to avoid the last-minute crunch.
- Organize a notebook to keep track of gifts

2 weeks before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah

- Confirm the Hebrew names of anyone being honored with an Aliyah.
- Many parents make a few short remarks after the student's drash. If you are going to do this, write them now. And please keep them **brief** and appropriate to the occasion and audience (ie. 5 minutes or less).
- Prepare a list of people for aliyot, lifting and wrapping the Torah. The list should include English names, Hebrew names, and the relationship to the youngster.
- Finalize your clean-up crew.

1 week before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah

Make sure someone is assigned to do each of the following:

- Pick up and bring to Havurah: challah, kiddish wine/juice and all other refreshments not being catered
- Pour wine for kiddish
- Supervise set up and clean up
- Supervise room change-over between service and luncheon
- Uncover and/or serve food

- Bring containers (and labels) for leftover food. Shlep gifts back home: (a) baskets, bags, or other containers can help (b) the volunteer in charge of this should bring extra tape to securely fasten cards to presents before transporting them. Please note that extra food can be donated to a group of your choice. See kitchen for directions of donate to a nearby organization.
- Kippot if you're supplying any special ones to augment the congregation's supply. You may also request extra kippot by contacting the Havurah office.
- Please note that custodian will be setting up for the B'nai Mitzvah by the Thursday before unless there is a Friday night service; then set up will take place after the service on Friday night. You will be notified by the Havurah office on the procedure.

**** *The families of your child's Shabbat school class can be a huge source of help in all of these tasks.***

The day before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah

- The sanctuary is available throughout the day on Friday (although please check availability with the Havurah Office). Families have been setting up in the morning to allow for a more restful afternoon and evening.
- Do not be concerned if there is a Kabbalat Shabbat Dinner or other event and service the night before your child's B'nai Mitzvah - the custodian will arrange the sanctuary in time for Saturday morning. Please be in contact with the Havurah office to insure that your set-up arrangements are understood.
- Make sure the copies of the *Aliyah* prayers are on the *bimah*.
- Consider bringing a comfortable change of clothes/shoes for clean up.

The day of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah

- On the morning of the service (no sooner) give Rabbi the list of people for aliyot, lifting and wrapping the Torah. The list should include English names, Hebrew names, and the relationship to the youngster (see page 20).
- DON'T FORGET DRASH, PARENTS' COMMENTS, TORAH PORTION, TALLIT (and extras for aliyot).
- Copies of order of service with each person's parts marked for child, rabbi, parents and musicians.
- Any photo sessions you wish to have before the service should be concluded by 9:45 a.m.

And please, take time to enjoy the experience!!

After the Bar or Bat Mitzvah

***** *Please send a copy of your child's drash to the office for the Havurah History Project.***

Section III. Shabbat Morning Services

The following service outline is based on one prepared by Michele Goldschmidt of the Spiritual Life Committee. It spells out the essential elements of the service. Items in parentheses are optional. In consultation with the rabbi or service leader, tutor, and/or musician(s), use this outline as you plan the service. Be sure to review it with your music person ahead of time.

Add welcome, explanations, transitions, music, and a few special readings as you wish—but keep it simple! One or two special songs and two or three special readings are plenty—but NOTHING special is necessary. Part of the beauty of the service is its familiarity. Your family's participation is all that's needed to make the service warm, moving, and expressive of yourselves. **** See various pages above for important suggestions about aliyot and other honors during the service.**

Please remember that Shabbat morning services belong to the entire community. Other congregational activities such as a baby-naming or Tot Shabbat may coincide with your event. In most cases you will have advance notice. Please welcome these additional events..

SOURCES FOR READINGS: Other prayer books, especially creative ones; back issues of Reconstructionist Magazine (in PSU library); Havurah library; the files and libraries of Havurah members; PJA library, Neveh Shalom library.

A. Saturday Morning Service

*page numbers refer to where selected prayers begin in *Kol Haneshama*.

Siddur Page #	Preliminary Service
535	(Hinei Ma Tov or other Nigun)
141	(Ma Tovu)
142-3	Tallit Blessing
	(i) Welcome – orientation – childcare announcement.
153-161	(Birchot Hashachar - Morning Blessings)

164-7	(Elohai)
P'seukei d'Zimrah	
176-81	(Baruch Sheamar)
183-207	(You may select 1-3 additional psalms)
209-211	(Psalm 92)
212-3	(Psalm 93)
429-31	Ashrei
230-1	Psalm 150
232-9	(Nishmat)
Shacharit Service – Led by: _____	
240-3	Shochen Ad
243	Yishtabach
245	Hatzi Kaddish
Shema and its Blessings	
246-7	Barchu, Yotzer Or
248-51	(Let all beings)
251	(Ayn k'er'k'cha - None like You exists)

252-5	Eil Adon
260-1, 265-71	Yotzer, Or Chadash (continues)
272-5	Ahavah Rabah, V'ha-er ay-nay-nu (Love & Torah)
276-277	Shema, V'ahavta
282-5	Biblical Selection II: 2 nd , 3 rd Paragraphs of Shema
286-91	Emet Vayetziv
	Introduce Amidah
290-1	Mi Chamocha
292-321	Amidah – followed by nigun/song/poem or special reading
381	Kaddish Titkabal
Torah Service – Led by: _____	
383	Eyn Kamocha, Av harachamim
385	Vayhi binso'a, Ki mitziyon
Ark Opening	
393	Shema, Echad, Gadelu
393	Lecha Adonai (Sung during Torah procession)

841	Eleh Chamedah Libi, and other selections
399	Birchot Hatorah* *Reconstructionist Torah blessings are slightly different.
1 st aliyah	
2 nd aliyah	
3 rd aliyah	
4 th aliyah	
5 th aliyah	Reserved for Congregant (honoring a special day)
6 th aliyah	
7 th aliyah	Student's Parents
405	Hatzi Kaddish
Maftir	Student
400-3, 416, 684-693	Mi Shebeyrach (Blessings for deliverance, Healing, Thanksgiving)
	Release Blessing for Parents and Mazel Tov!
Hagbah	
G'lilah	

407	V'zot Hatorah
	Student's drash, Parents brief words, presentation, Rabbi's blessing, Shehecheyanu, (special song)
Return Torah	
433	Y'hallelu
434-5	Psalm 29 - Hodo al eretz
Ark closing	
441	Etz chayim hi
Closing Prayers	
445-9	Aleynu
450-1	Mourners' Kaddish
	Thank you's and announcements
	Closing Song (Choose from: Adon Olam – p.458, Kol haneshamah – p.231, or Yigdal – p.460)
464-5	Kiddush for Shabbat Mornings

B. The Torah Portion

The Torah portion each week has a name. The entire portion is read aloud in the congregation over the course of three years, on a triennial cycle. When checking your child's Torah portion,

make sure you know which third we are reading that year. A chart of the triennial divisions is available on the Havurah website here: <http://havurahshalom.org/religious-life/Shabbat/torah-reading-schedule/>

When you receive your B'nai Mitzvah date from the committee, you will also receive the portion, divided into seven readings.

The weekly "third" that we read is further divided into seven sections, with one section being read after each of the seven *aliyot* (Torah Blessings). Most B'nai Mitzvah students will have one aliyah and will chant one or more of those biblical sections, some may just do an aliyah (Torah Blessing) before a section is chanted in Hebrew.

Section IV. Havdalah Services

Havdalah services begin in the afternoon on Saturday. They are only scheduled in months that are not on daylight savings time. Due to our many scheduling requirements, Havurah rarely holds Havdalah B'nai/B'not Mitzvah. However, if you would like to take this conversation forward please discuss this option with a member of the B'nai Mitzvah committee as part of your date selection process. We do not schedule a Havdalah service and a morning Bar or Bat Mitzvah on the same Saturday.

Torah portion: The Bar/Bat Mitzvah for Havdalah includes only 3 aliyot. The readings are from the portion of the following week.

Planning for a Havdalah Service:

- Please provide wine , havdalah candle, and spice box, a kiddush cup, and a tray.
- If you want to turn off the lights at the end of the service, appoint someone to do so.
- There is a special Havdalah prayer book. Locate copies before the service. Please contact the office for more information.
- The only people that wear tallitot during the Havdalah service are those who are doing an aliyah blessing, reading from the Torah, or lifting or wrapping the Torah.
- Note that kiddush and blessing over the challah are not a part of the Havdalah service.

A suggested framework for your service follows: (be sure to check with your music person, your Torah tutor, and with the Rabbi or service leader to make sure you have everything in the service you need.)

Saturday Afternoon Service

Siddur Page #	Mincha – Afternoon Service
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	(Nigun, opening melody)
2	(Ma Tovv)
	Welcome – orientation – childcare anncmt.
3	Ashrei
5	Chatzi Kaddish
Torah Service	
6	Shema / Echad / Gadlu
	Torah procession while singing: Eileh Chamda Libi, and others
Reading Of The Torah	
1 st aliyah	
2 nd aliyah	(usually the Bar/Bat Mitzvah child parents)
3 rd aliyah	usually Bat Mitzvah or Bar Mitzvah child
10	Torah Blessings
	Release Blessing for parents -- Mazel Tov !
	Torah lifter, Hagba: _____

	Torah dresser, G'lila: _____
16	Chatzi Kaddish
17-36	Amidah for Mincha
38	Aleinu
	Student's Drash/commentary
	(ii) Pparent's BRIEF words
	(iii) Ccongregational Gift
	(iv) RRabbi's Blessing
	Shehechyanu
Ma'ariv – Evening Service	
41	Barchu
43	Ahavat Olam
44	Shema/V'Ahavta
49	Mi Chamocha
51	Hashkiveynu
	Ufros Aleynu
56	Silent Amidah

73	Chatzi Kaddish
78	Aleinu
81	Mourners' Kaddish Rabbi
	Thank you's & acknowledgements Student
Havdallah - Saying Goodbye to Shabbat	
	Nigun
85	Havdalah blessings
	Eliahu Hanavi
	Shavua Tov

Section V. Logistics

Every family can feel a bit overwhelmed by the logistical details involved in planning and organizing the service, a kiddush luncheon, and any number of other events to celebrate this rite of passage. While logistics are a cold reality, we encourage families not to let them overshadow the focus on this event as an experience in community. Mentors can be a great resource, and like most things at Havurah, so can members and other families who have recently been through this process. Your Shabbat School cohort can be a huge support system all year long.

We have created a new Bar/Bat Mitzvah Resource Box containing gathered information from previous Bar/Bat Mitzvahs to help you in creating your event, specifically with some of the logistics covered in this section.

The black and white box is located in the library on the far left corner wall. We invite you to look through the folders for ideas. You may make copies of materials that are appealing to you. Some sections have copies of lists that you're welcome to take. As time goes on, information changes. Please attach a note to the front of the box if you have updates so others can see.

Feel free to contribute to the folders! This is a work in progress!

A. Location

Shabbat morning services are held at our building, which currently has a seating capacity for up to 350 in the sanctuary and social hall (combined).

There is table seating for approximately 150 in the sanctuary/social hall for lunch. If you are having a large kiddush luncheon it is best to provide a mixture of table seating, chairs along the walls, and standing/mingling near the serving tables.

Note: when estimating guests remember to include those 20 to 30 people who regularly attend Saturday morning services.

B. Invitations

Invitations can be composed on a home computer and copied at a local shop. Many families use online and local services for design and printing (a few suggestions are in the Appendix).

Send out invitations 8-10 weeks ahead for out-of-towners, 6 weeks locally. You might include information about the Tzedakah project, about local accommodations and childcare availability during the service.

Hakol includes announcements of Bar/Bat Mitzvah services, and in that way, the congregation is invited. If you have made non-standard arrangements (change of time or place), please send the information to the office at least 6 weeks before the date.

C. Planning and Organizing the Service

An outline of the service is included in this Handbook. Based on attending regular services and other B'nai Mitzvah services, determine what prayers to include in your child's service. The more familiar you are with the service and the ways Havurah members make these choices, the easier and more joyful this experience will be. Havurah also offers workshops, services, and other events specifically around the Saturday morning service and prayers. Your tutor, the Rabbi, and other community members can help with this selection and planning.

Once you have decided what to include in the service, decide what or how much the Bar/Bat Mitzvah will do, how much Rabbi Benjamin (or service leader) will do, and/or how much the music person will do.

Music

Music has always played an important role at Havurah. Consider if and how to incorporate music into the service. You can choose to sing and chant without any accompaniment; you can have musical accompaniment for prayers and songs; or you can have a music leader for parts of the service and various songs. Prayers are often led by the many wonderful and talented musicians who are members of our congregation. Each of these musicians brings their own

unique sensitivity and spirit to the service. As their gift to the community, a number of these musicians have agreed to be available during Bar and Bat Mitzvahs.

Havurah has a list of musical leaders who know the service well and enjoy being part of Havurah's B'nai Mitzvah community. Musical leaders have various requests and lead times, so be sure to acquire the list and contact your musical leader well in advance to secure the date and to plan and/or practice. *Because this list is regularly updated, it is not included in this handbook. Please contact your mentor or call the Havurah office for the current list.*

We strongly recommended you attend a number of "regular" Saturday morning services and Bar/Bat Mitzvah services 6-9 months before your child's event, and pay special attention to the music. This will help you make a decision about the music at your child's Bat or Bar Mitzvah.

Personal touches

Some families have found great value in personalizing the service by involving relatives and special friends. Parts can be assigned, special poems, songs, etc. can be included.

Other families find it is much more meaningful for the service to be the same as any other Shabbat morning service, to focus on the joy of our tradition and the spark the child brings to the *drash* and the Torah reading. Handing the Torah down through the generations is a lovely custom, especially if any grandparents or great-grandparents are able to join the student on the bimah.

The early pages of this handbook provide important details on Havurah's philosophy. Please keep these in mind as you plan your service.

Aliyot/Hagbah, G'ililah, and Ark Openers

- An *aliyah* is the honor of reciting the Hebrew blessings before and after each Torah portion is read. On a regular Saturday morning service there are seven of these honors. Six of these aliyot may be assigned to family or friends you wish to honor. **One aliyah is traditionally left unassigned to be given to a congregant during the service.**
- Get the Hebrew names of people doing aliyot, hagbah, gilah, and their relationship to the Bar/Bat mitzvah. **Have a sheet with that information ready for Rabbi Benjamin (or the service leader) on the day of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah.**

NOTE: If you are asking someone to do an aliyah who is not familiar with the honor, please send them following: a copy of the Torah blessings in Hebrew, transliteration and English, an audio file of the blessings and directions for "how to have an aliyah". All of this is available from the office. You honor the Torah, the congregation, and the honoree by helping them prepare.

- The *Hagbah* is the honor of lifting the Torah after it is read. Pick someone strong, and if possible with experience. The *G'ililah* is the honor of dressing the Torah as the *Hagbah* holds it.

- Jewish tradition reserves Torah honors of *Aliyot*, *Hagbah*, and *Glilah* for Jews of age 13 or over. In Havurah, a non-Jew who is in a committed relationship (married or same-sex/married) with a Jew may come up to Torah with their spouse/partner, as they are considered adjunct and "sustaining" the Jewish life of the household. Non-Jewish and non-adult relatives are welcome to do readings and lead songs.
- For each aliyah the rabbi will "call up" individuals by their Hebrew name (which includes the Hebrew names of the person's parents), so ask each honoree to provide these. All honorees must wear *tallit* (prayer shawls) so you should make sure to have extra *tallitot* available (*Aliyot*, *Hagbah*, and *Glilah*). Havurah does own a few tallitot.
- Jewish children are frequently honored by being asked to open and/or close the doors to the ark. This is a less formal honor, and Hebrew names are not announced.
- Everyone should practice his or her honors, preferably while wearing *tallit* at a rehearsal.

Prayer books

For Saturday mornings we have approximately 200 copies of *Kol Haneshamah*. For Saturday afternoon Havdalah, we use the special blue Havdalah prayer books. Havurah owns 80 Tanakhim (Hebrew/English Bibles). As a sign of respect, prayer books and Bibles should not be placed on the floor. See more about this in the very next section.

Handouts or Service Booklet

Most families prepare a 'program' for the service, which includes a section explaining the significance of the day (see example in the Appendix), an order of the service, along with songs, extra readings, etc. As you attend other Bar and Bat Mitzvah services at Havurah you might want to save examples of what other families have compiled to gather different ideas. Your mentor may have copies to share with and or template documents you can use to create your own. It is up to you to decide what to include in the booklet, but a very important detail to include in a service handout is the information about not placing prayer books on the floor. There are many ways to express this, for example:

- As a sign of respect, prayer books and Bibles should not be placed on the floor.
- These are our sacred texts and contain the word of God and our history.
- If a lap or adjacent chair is not available, prayer books should be put on top of something like a tallit bag or purse, something other than directly on the floor.

Any or all of these could be combined to make the point clear and firm.

These handouts can be inserted in the prayer books, stacked alongside them, or handed out by ushers. (Please be mindful of how much paper you are generating.) Before you leave please be sure that the handouts are collected and either take them home with you, or please them in one of the recycling bins.

Information for the Rabbi and Others

As expressed in the timeline section of this handbook, have a copy of the outline of the service with the parts you want Rabbi Benjamin or other service leader to do clearly marked.

** Additional information about vendors, catering, and Havurah's kitchen is provided at the end of this handbook, in the Appendix.

D. Using our building

Havurah is a busy place, and our building is rarely free of activity! Please be respectful of the other activities and uses of the building, including meetings and Friday Night Services. As explained earlier in this handbook, the simplest of Bar Mitzvahs and Bat Mitzvahs might be indistinguishable from any other Shabbat morning service. Most families invite friends and family to share the joy of their child's coming of age. This results in some special considerations.

You will receive a packet from the Havurah office 3 months before the event providing information regarding building access and set-up information, security, janitorial/building fees, childcare and how you want the chairs and tables set up etc. The Operations Manager will email you a month in advance of the date to start finalizing details. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your mentor, or a member of the B'nai Mitzvah committee.

Set Up

The Custodian cleans and sets for the Shabbat morning service on Thursday or Friday (schedule varies) using the diagram given to the office. The sanctuary is available throughout the day on Friday, and many families tray cookies and do other set up on Friday morning to allow for a more restful afternoon and evening. When there is a Kabbalat Shabbat Dinner or other service/event on Friday night, the custodian will set up the sanctuary in time for the Saturday morning service based upon the detailed pre-arranged diagram that you provided to the Havurah office. They will set up the tablecloths and flowers arrangements you've left for them to use.

Some families decorate the Bima with flowers. Two large arrangements can be accommodated. Havurah has a supply of vases in all sizes that can be used for flower arrangements.

Please be considerate of other events in the building when you decide how to stage flowers, food preparation, personal items, and other items for the morning service. For example, trays of cookies can be stacked in the food warmer but they should be labeled and out of the way of the Friday evening service setup.

Havurah's building includes a permanent sound system, which the family will need to know how to turn on Saturday morning (usually your music person will do this). We have listening assistance devices for those who need them.

Ushers and Security

Usually, the Shabbat School parents or other members volunteer in shifts as greeters and ushers. Greeters stand at the front door and direct visitors to the sanctuary and provide security during the service. Ushers hand out prayer books and service programs, and help guests feel comfortable and welcome.

Childcare

Havurah Shalom provides one adult child care provider on Saturday morning to care for up to 6 children. If you think more children will need supervision during a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, additional people can be hired. Typically these are teenage or young adult members of the congregation. The family is asked to cover this cost by paying the additional assistant directly.

Childcare takes place in the Pardes room. Juice & crackers (or other finger food) is provided by the Bar/Bat Mitzvah family (please check with the Havurah office first as these supplies may be fully stocked).

Because of limited childcare space, we request that children over 8 (including teenagers) remain in services with their parents. Please make this announcement at the beginning of the service. The suggested text of this announcement will be mailed to you.

Fees

Havurah Shalom requires a one-time fee of \$280 for Bar/Bat Mitzvah that is payable to the office prior to the event. Membership dues should be in good standing.

Please note that Havurah has set aside a small amount of money for families who need financial assistance with building usage fees or the Kiddush following the Bar Mitzvah. Contact the B'nai Mitzvah committee Chairperson for information on this.

E. Friends

Let friends help, and don't feel shy about approaching others for help. Some examples of help you could request are:

- Bake cookies for the kiddush luncheon; this is a treasured Havurah tradition!
- pour wine for the kiddish (if the caterer is not going to do this),
- pass out wine/juice, and the challah during kiddish; kids like to do this!
- set up,
- move furniture between services and luncheon; Shabbat School parents generally provide this support!
- help with clean up,
- package gifts (tape cards to corresponding gifts),
- transport items as needed and
- provide out-of-town guests with rides.

Keep a list of chores handy for offers of help and accept **all** offers of help. Some families ask a close family friend to organize all the tasks and volunteers. Your mentor can also help!

F. The Home Front

Do as much as you can in advance (e.g. shop for family clothes, bake and freeze, buy non-perishable supplies).

Makes notes along the way about: guests, jobs to be done, menus, supplies and sources, necessary rentals, items to buy, items to borrow, plane and hotel reservations for out-of-town guests, and volunteer drivers and assignments.

Make sure the Bar/Bat Mitzvah child has downtime the day before the event.

G. Photographing and Videotaping the Service

Remembering the Bat or Bar Mitzvah with photographs, or on video, is important to many families. However, the community wants to make sure that these activities do not detract from the service. Therefore, we have the following guidelines to prevent any obtrusiveness:

Photography

- Finish all family portraits 15 minutes prior to the service (by 9:45am).
- Do not let any photographers disturb the service. Make sure the photographer has a good position where she or he can remain during the service. If using a tripod it should be set up in the back of the sanctuary and not moved during the service.
- Use a quiet camera.
- Do not use flash photography during the service.
- A video camera connected to the sound recording system is mounted overhead in the sanctuary and is pointed towards the bimah.

Video Recording: for a less intrusive way of documenting your special event....

A video camera connected to the sound recording system is mounted overhead in the sanctuary and is pointed towards the bimah. The recording system is connected to a computer that is inside a cabinet next to the sound system on the right hand side of the sanctuary as you are facing the bimah. Using a program on the computer, you can easily record the service - to keep yourself or share with others. Please contact the Havurah IT Committee at havurashalom@gmail.com for more information.

Thank you for your careful attention to these matters. Please share this information with any volunteer or professional photographers. If you have any questions, please contact the B'nai Mitzvah committee.

H. Technology during Shabbat Services

Havurah aims to honor Shabbat and respectfully asks families to limit the use of technology during and after Shabbat Services.

I. Kiddush Luncheon

Most families host a luncheon after the Bar Mitzvah. Some use a caterer (See Appendix for information) while others have a potluck or cater it themselves. Havurah policy requires "kosher style dairy" food. Our kitchen is vegetarian. You will receive a catering agreement in the logistics packet 3-4 months prior to your date.

As part of our concern for environmental *tikkun olam*, families are required to use the congregation's ceramic dishes and metal knives, forks, and spoons. Note that Havurah has adequate china and glassware on hand to ensure that paper plates or cups are not needed. If caterers are used, they must take everything with them that they brought, and must clean the dishes, wipe-down the kitchen, and empty the garbage.

Acceptable music after the lunch includes Hebrew, Jewish, or Klezmer type music. A DJ or Top 40 music is not appropriate for the luncheon.

J. Clean-up

In advance, organize a clean-up crew to be responsible for picking up papers, reuniting lost items with their owners, and tidying up our building. If there is no caterer, your clean-up crew must also be responsible for thoroughly pre-washing dishes, sanitizing them in our dishwasher, and putting them away.

After the service, the Bar/Bat Mitzvah families are asked to take home everything that they have brought to the building, including flowers, photos, linens, dishes, and other items. If you would like to leave flowers for other weekend events, please take responsibility for removing them within a week or contact the office.

The custodians clean the bathrooms, tables, floors, and take down the tables and chairs. They also inspect the kitchen when the caterers leave.

Note: there are often leftovers from the kiddush luncheon. There is information posted on the wall in the kitchen, regarding a shelter two blocks away from Havurah that accepts food donations. If you plan to bring leftovers remember to bring containers to pack them into.

Note for Shabbat School Days: On Saturdays when Shabbat School is in session, families are responsible for taking down luncheon tables in Moadon **by 1:30 pm**, and for having all food and dishes removed from the entire Beit Knesset and the Social Hall by **2:30 pm**. Quiet kitchen cleanup may continue beyond 2:30 pm if necessary, but be respectful of classes in the foyer. The custodians can be hired for an additional \$125 fee to take care of moving tables and chairs. Contact the office if you are interested in arranging this.

K. Afterwards

Many families host a party on Saturday night to continue the celebration. There is more variety here than in any other aspect of Bat Mitzvah and Bar Mitzvah—and of course you can do what you like—this is not a Havurah event! Still, fellow congregants who have been through this have used or suggested the following ideas that you may wish to consider:

- Rent Havurah for an evening party. For details about cost and procedures, contact the Havurah Office

- Rent a hall for dancing, or gym/community center for both dancing & basketball or swimming, have an “Out-of-towners-only party”, or have a combined event with another family whose Bat/Bar Mitzvah date is near your own
- Open gifts at a calm time with someone to record names and gifts.
- Emphasize gratitude. Closure will come when your student has sent the last of their thank-you notes. (It is up to you to decide whether to send another thank you note if the gift was a donation to a charity, as the charity will generally send a thank-you directly to the donor.)

Tributes

Many families give tributes of "thank yous" after their event to those who were of special help. These tributes are listed in the Hakol. Each tribute requires a donation (amount discretionary) and can be designated to one or more of the following funds:

- Adult Education
- Building
- Cemetery
- Educator’s Discretionary
- Emergency Kehillah
- General Operations
- Havurah Endowment
- High Holidays
- Joey Wolf Education Fund
- Kabbalat Shabbat Dinners
- Library
- Music
- Prayer Book
- Rabbi Discretionary
- Religious Articles
- Tikkun Olam
- Youth Activities Scholarship
- Youth Education Fund

Please call the office for a current list of funds. You can make a donation by sending a check to the office with a note indicating what fund and your note thanking those who helped you. You may also make an online donation, using a credit card, on the Havurah website under the “donate” tab.

Section VI: Appendix

A. Sample Letter to Aliyah honorees	E-mail the Havurah Office to receive an electronic version
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Dear _____

Havurah Shalom is pleased to honor you with the _____ Aliyah.

Please sit near the front of the sanctuary, so you will be ready to come up when the service leader calls your name.

Please bring your tallit. (If you don't have one, there will be an extra one available on the bimah.)

When called, please approach the side of the bimah that is on your left as you walk toward it. Turn and face the congregation with the Torah on your left. _____ (Torah reader) will point to the first word of the reading with the yad. It is traditional to touch the Torah scroll with the fringes of your tallit, kiss the fringes of your tallit, and then begin the Torah blessing. (See next page.). Please touch the scroll in the white space between columns, so as not to rub the ink from the scroll. Enjoy being close to the Torah, and watch while it is being chanted!

When _____ is finished chanting the portion, s/he will point to the last word of the reading so you can again touch the scroll with the tallit and kiss it. Then chant the second Torah blessing.

Next, move to the other side of the bimah, so that the Torah is now on your right. Please remain on the bimah for the next aliyah, and then return to your seat after the blessing following that reading is completed.

Thank you for helping _____ celebrate his/her Bar/Bat Mitzvah!

Please fill out the following information and return it to me as soon as possible:

_____ Aliyah
Name: _____

Hebrew Name: _____

Father's Hebrew Name: _____

Mother's Hebrew Name: _____

B. Torah Blessings

Before a section of the Torah has been read, the following blessing is said

	Barchu et Adonai ha-m'vorach.
--	-------------------------------

The congregation responds

	Baruch Adonai ha-m'vorach l'olam va-ed.
--	---

*The person called to the Torah **repeats** the response and continues*

	<p>Baruch atah, Adonai, Elo-hay-nu melech ha-olam, Asher ba-char ba-nu mikol ha-a-mim v'na-tan lanu et tora-to. Baruch ata, Adonai no-tayn ha-torah.</p>
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Translation

Bless the Holy One of Blessing

Blessed is the Holy One who is forever blessed

Holy One of Blessing, Your Presence fills creation.

You called us from all the peoples and gave us Your Torah.

Holy One of Blessing, You give us Torah.

After a section of the Torah has been read, the following blessing is said

	<p>Baruch atah, Adonai, Elo-hay-nu melech ha-olam, Asher natan lanu torat emet, v'chai-yay olam na-ta b'to-che-nu Baruch ata, Adonai no-tayn ha-torah.</p>
--	--

Translation

Holy One of Blessing, Your Presence fills creation.
You gave us the Torah of truth and planted within us eternal life.
Holy One of Blessing, You give us Torah.

C. Sample Welcome Letter	<i>to be included in your service booklet or distributed at the service. E-mail the Havurah Office to receive an electronic version.</i>
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(Date)

Dear Family and Friends,
Welcome to Havurah Shalom. This morning, you are participating in a Shabbat morning service. This service is a special one, where (student) will be called up to the Torah for the first time. This signifies her/his being accepted by the congregation as an adult.

Our service has five parts. The first part is the introductory morning prayers and Psalms. Many of these prayers are done as songs. These are followed by the Barchu ("call to prayer") and the Sh'ma. The Sh'ma begins with the most fundamental statement of Judaism: "Listen, all of Israel. Adonai is our God, Adonai is One." The third part of the service is the prayer called the Amidah. This is the "standing prayer", a collection of blessings which praise and thank God for gifts given to us. This is a very individual, personal prayer.

The Torah service follows. The Torah consists of the five Books of Moses, written in Hebrew by hand on a parchment scroll. It is our "tree of life" and the heart of our history, theology, and ethics.. Every week, a portion of the Torah is read, so that by the end of the year the entire Torah is completed. Then we begin again.

The weekly portion of the Torah reading is divided into seven parts. _____ and other members of the congregation will be honored by chanting these portions. Family and friends will also be honored by doing an Aliyah ("going up") - reciting the blessings before and after the chanting of each Torah portion.

The fifth and final part of the service is the closing prayers, including the Mourner's Kaddish and the Alenu.

Please stay after the service for the Kiddush - the prayers over wine and bread.

Please refrain from applause and flash photography during the services. As a sign of respect, prayer books and bibles should not be placed on the floor.

Attendees may choose to make a donation to Havurah Shalom or one of its funds. Optional: As part of his/her Mitzvah Project, Is requesting that donations be made to.....

We are honored and blessed that you have joined us on this special day. Shalom,

D. Sources of information, items and vendors

We have created a Bar/Bat Mitzvah Resource Box containing gathered information from previous Bar/Bat Mitzvah's to help you in creating your event!

The black and white box is located in the library on the far left corner wall. We invite you to look through the folders for ideas. You may make copies of materials that are appealing to you. Some sections have copies of lists that you're welcome to take. As time goes on, information changes. Please attach a note to the front of the box if you have updates to share..

Feel free to contribute to the folders! This is a work in progress!

CATERERS: In exchange for the right to cater events at Havurah Shalom, caterer agrees to abide by all of the following rules: (please see building rental agreement for more information)

- Caterer must have current business license.
- **LIABILITY INSURANCE:** At least one month prior to each function, professional caterers must supply a Certificate of Liability Insurance (CLI) showing current comprehensive liability (including food liability) coverage of at least \$1,000,000 single limit and \$100,000 property damage. The certificate must name Havurah Shalom as an additional insured. If a professional caterer is not used, then single-event liability coverage must be obtained.
- **WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE:** Professional caterers shall carry workers' compensation insurance on their employees and workers and provide Havurah Shalom with proof of coverage.
- **INDEMNITY:** Caterer shall indemnify and hold Havurah Shalom harmless from and against all claims and liabilities arising from or in connection with caterer's use of the Havurah Shalom facilities.
- **DAMAGE DEPOSIT: A refundable deposit of \$150.00** is required for each event which can be provided by either the caterer or the renter. This is in addition to the cleaning fee otherwise required under the Agreement. **No damage or cleaning fee deposit is required with the \$280.00 building use fee for the service and luncheon.** This only applies to additional rentals such a Friday night Shabbat dinner for your out of town guests or a Saturday night party.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- **KITCHEN & DECORATIVE ITEMS:** Havurah has many serving trays, doilies and little kiddush cups available for use. Havurah also owns round and rectangular tablecloths. It is your responsibility to check they are clean before your event, and then to launder and return them within 5 days after your event. Havurah also has large flower baskets, vases, cookie trays, a set of metal "silver" ware, etc. Any questions? Call the office.

- **TABLE SETTINGS & ROOM DECORATIONS:** Use your creativity as you add beauty to the space or carry out a theme. If the Havurah table linens are insufficient your caterer may provide them or you may rent them.
- **CHALLAH:** Challah can be purchased at numerous local bakeries and grocery stores.

E. ACCOMMODATIONS FOR OUT OF TOWN GUESTS: Call several hotels and/or motels to get comparative rates, you might be able to get a senior, wedding or Bar Mitzvah rates, check into hotels that offer family suites or family deals in which kids stay free. Consider asking your friends to host your guest- and then return the favor when their turn comes.