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Temple Emanu-El
HONOLULU

B MITZVAH GUIDE

Becoming a BMitzvah takes time, dedication, as well as some sacrifice. It is the time that students show the community that they are ready to wear the mantle of “young Jewish adult”, share what they have learned, and participate fully as a congregant. Here is an outline of what to expect, followed by a more in-depth breakdown of the shared commitments and mutual responsibilities to help guide you and your child through the B’nei Mitzvah process. **We take our role in this process very seriously, and we anticipate the same to be true for your child and you.**

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Temple Emanu-El
HONOLULU, HAWAII

WELCOME MESSAGE



Dear Future BMitzvah* and Family,

Mazel Tov and welcome to this milestone in your Jewish journey! We're honored to help your family along this important path. Know that that are many of us cheering you on as you prepare for your big day.

This is a team effort. The BMitzvah student, parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts and uncles, friends, teachers, Rabbi Cheri, madrichimot and your entire congregation are part of this process. Please make the time to attend Friday night Erev Shabbat services, your SJS peer's celebrations and as many other temple activities as your schedules allow. As much a part of the ceremony are the opportunities to know who is in your Jewish community and the folks that will be part of your Jewish life. Hawai'i has an incredible and diverse Jewish mishpocha "family", unlike any in the world. We hope that you won't think of this ceremony as the end of a journey, but the start of a new connection with our community.

The purpose of this packet is to provide information for the entire family. You'll find timelines, explanations, prayer sheets and many details that should answer questions as to how to prepare for your simcha "celebration". Please don't hesitate to ask Morah Rachel, Jan Fried, Goldie Hellman, Rabbi Cheri and our Administrative Director if we can provide more details.

Kol tov.

Morah Rachel and Morah Jan

Youth Education Director, B Mitzvah Lead Instructor

OVERVIEW OF THE NEXT TWO YEARS

Our goal is for your child to enjoy the process of becoming an adult member of our Jewish community and be fully prepared to lead the congregation in prayer and participate in other religious practices. This is their moment. In order for your child to meet this goal, we need you and your child to make this preparation process a priority and commit to the responsibilities outlined below. Please be aware that a lack of adherence to these requirements may result in review by the rabbi and the rescheduling of your child's B'Mitzvah date.



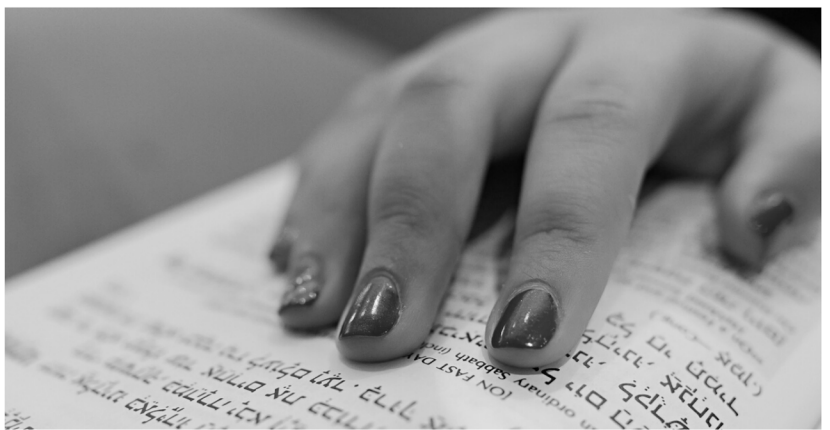
What is ahead for students. They will:

- Regularly attend their Sunday classes, where Hebrew and blessings are introduced and practiced. where Hebrew and blessings are introduced and practiced.
- Regularly attend Kadima, our Wednesday Hebrew program 4:30–6:30 pm, from their 5th grade year and until their B'Mitzvah.
- Attend as many of their classmates' B'nei Mitzvah services as possible to become familiar with our Minhagim HaMakom (customs of the place) as well as get ideas for your child's service.
- Attend or watch one Shabbat evening service (Friday) per month beginning six months out from your child's B'nei Mitzvah date. Not only will you and your child become more comfortable with our Shabbat service, but you will also build relationships between your ohana and members of our community who are regular attendees.
- Work with Morah Rachel and Morah Goldie in small group settings (can you be more specific about what you are doing in these small groups and how this prepares student for b'mitzvah) during Kadima. Several months before your child's B'Mitzvah, the Rabbi will schedule time for one-on-one sessions with your child.

- Work closely with the Rabbi, Morah Rachel and Morah Jan. They will assist your child in becoming “bimah ready.” This includes selecting and completing their Chesed project, the creation and effective delivery of all speeches, deciphering and practicing Torah and Haftarah portions and all Hebrew and English blessings, prayers and readings. Morah Jan will work with you to schedule speech-writing sessions and rehearsals.

What is ahead for parents. You will support your child to:

- Regularly attend SJS on Sundays and Kadima on Wednesdays. These classes are REQUIRED and are vital to ensure that your child has the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed.
- Participate in individual sessions with Rabbi Cheri, Morah Jan, trope teacher and a tutor, if needed.
- Dedicate quiet time each day to practice once they get their date and portions. Even if you are not able to read Hebrew, you can still help your child practice! All prayers and blessings can be found on our website (shaloha.com) under the B Mitzvah tab with the transliteration (Hebrew words written in English letters). Rabbi Cheri will record all Torah, Haftarah, prayers and blessings on audio files for practice at home.
- Complete homework given by the Rabbi and Morah Jan (possibly their Kadima teachers, too!). Some of the material is meant to be completed as a family (including reading the Torah and Haftarah portions in English) and discussed with your child. This is a great opportunity to make connections around values, ethical issues, and family history that are important to them and will help lay the groundwork for their speeches.
- Schedule sessions with a trope teacher who will work closely with your child to ready them to properly chant their Torah and Haftarah portions in Hebrew. This is an important expense to factor into your family’s B Mitzvah budget.
- All the information and resources needed to prepare for a B Mitzvah will be on a shared Google Doc that is shared with you, your child, Rabbi Cheri, Morah Rachel, Morah Goldie and Morah Jan. All speeches will be composed, edited and finalized, on the Doc, too.



What is the Role of the Parents/Family?

- Transport the B Mitzvah student to Temple on Sunday mornings for SJS, Wednesday afternoons for Kadima, Saturday Morning B Mitzvah services and to work with Rabbi and their other teachers.
- Make sure the B Mitzvah student practices at least 15-30 minutes a day beginning 8-12 months before the B Mitzvah.
- Prepare the honors list (in the back of the packet or on the Google Document for the Rabbi.
- Have your child registered for SJS and Kadima and attend regularly.
- Attend all family education events at SJS.
- Be a member in good standing at Temple Emanu-El
- Pay the \$600 B'nei Mitzvah programming fee, along with separate trope teaching fees.
- If you plan on having more than fifty (50) guests in attendance, we ask that you hire a security officer. Please contact our Administrative Director for more information.
- Parking: The Temple parking lot accommodates approximately 30 cars. If you would like overflow parking (at Nuuanu Congregational Church) please contact our Administrative Director one (1) month prior to your event.
- Temple policy requires that all fees, dues, and tuition must be paid and up-to-date prior to the event. Full payment can be made by check, cash, or credit card. Please contact our Executive Director for more information.
- Please send a photo of the B Mitzvah student two (2) weeks prior to simcha to the front office for our brochure and the program.
- Invite all SJS and Kadima classmates to Shabbat Morning (Saturday) service.
- Identify a person who will be your on-site point of contact and assist your family during the B Mitzvah ceremony, Oneg and Kiddush Luncheon. Please furnish the office with their contact information.



2023-2024 PRICE SHEET



B Mitzvah ceremonies entail added fees. Please budget accordingly and be prepared for the additional financial commitment. The cost of hiring outside vendors is outside of Temple Emanu-El's control and is subject to change.

Required Costs:

\$600 – One time B Mitzvah Fee paid before the B Mitzvah date is set. This is our administrative fee for the B Mitzvah program.

\$460 – The cost of the Trope Tutor for twelve 30 minute sessions at \$30 each, plus a one-time prep fee of \$100. After this first package is complete, the tutoring sessions may continue on a month-to-month agreement.

\$150 – Jan Fried's administrative costs, to include speechwriting and week-of rehearsal time.

Cost Varies – Tallit

Cost Varies – Food (Friday Night Oneg, Saturday Kiddush, Candy, Extra Challah and Grape Juice)

Optional Costs:

\$200 – Professional security officer, paid the day of B Mitzvah (9:45am-12:30pm)

\$200 – Tech support to livestream Saturday morning service

Cost varies – Laundering tablecloths

Cost varies – Flowers

Additional Options to Consider:

- Decorations for social hall tables
- Kippot
- Guest Book
- B Mitzvah Coordinator
- Photographer
- Videographer

YOUR BMITZVAH IN 3 ELEMENTS



The experience of becoming a BMitzvah at Temple Emanu-El involves the following 3 elements, each requiring a sacred partnership between Temple's professional staff, parents and children: **Torah, Avodah & G'milut Chasadim.**

Element 1: Torah (Sacred Wisdom)

Jewish Education

The experience of becoming a BMitzvah and the richness of adult Jewish life is enhanced when it is built on a solid educational foundation. That is why it is the **policy of Temple Emanu-El that all BMitzvah students must be enrolled for at least two (2) consecutive school years in our Sunday SJS and Wednesday Kadima programs** or have attended another congregational religious school for at least one year up to their BMitzvah year. For any situation that deviates from this policy, the Rabbi must be consulted and will make the final decision.

Students are expected to finish their SJS year regardless of when they have their BMitzvah. We also expect that your child will continue with their Jewish education following their BMitzvah; this is a way for them to maintain cultural continuity and interpersonal connections. In keeping with the values of commitment to one's community, we encourage the continued attendance at Kadima so your child can keep up with their Hebrew and support/motivate/inspire other classmates as they prepare for their big day.

The School of Jewish Studies has created fun, thoughtful, engaging and innovative experiences for our post-BMitzvah students. Our Kesher (8th-10th grade program) and Confirmation (11th-12th grade) programs are led by Rabbi Cheri one Sunday a month.

Another great post-BMitzvah opportunity is our Temple Emanu-El's youth group which meets for three of four activities during the year, including a community service activity. This offers students the opportunity to gain leadership skills and stay connected to other Jewish teens on Oahu.

Beginning in the 8th grade or after their BMitzvah, students can give back to SJS (and earn a little money or Service-Learning credit) by becoming a madrichimot (teacher's assistant). This is another way for your teen to remain engaged and gain work experience.

Practice, Practice, Practice

Success is only attainable through practice. For your BMitzvah student to be prepared and confident for their simcha, we highly recommend that **beginning eight (8)–twelve (12) months prior to their ceremony, your child establishes a routine of practicing their blessings and Torah and Haftarah portions AT LEAST 15–30 minutes a day.**

In addition, your child will work on:

- Hebrew blessings and English readings decided upon with the Rabbi for the Shabbat evening and morning services.
- Speeches: Name, Project Chesed, D'var Torah, and Haftarah, and D'var Torah. (See Speeches section for explanations).

Exposure to “Doing” and “Being” Jewish

Since becoming a BMitzvah means taking one's place as an adult member of the Jewish community, we want each child to feel at home in as many Jewish settings and with as many Jewish— ritual, educational, communal and philanthropic experiences—as possible. To that end, *once your child has their date and during the six months leading up to their BMitzvah, **families are required to attend or view one (1) Shabbat evening service per month and attend their classmates' BMitzvah Shabbat services.***

Element 2: Avodah (Prayer, Ritual & Spirituality)

Prayer Expectations

We will empower your child to take ownership of key aspects of Jewish ritual/prayer. Their role during the BMitzvah service includes:

Friday Night

- Co-leading the service with Rabbi Cheri

Saturday Morning

- Preparing to lead *tefilot* (prayers) and English readings. (Please see the Jewish Experience Center Prayer Completion Form for a full list of Hebrew prayers)
- Preparing and chanting (up to) twelve (12) verses from a Sefer Torah (Torah scroll) as well as blessings before and after chanting of the verses.
- Preparing and reciting the Haftarah blessings and up to 10–12 verses from the prophetic writings or historical narrative of the Haftarah.
- Preparing and giving the following speeches: Name, Project Chesed, D'var Torah, and Haftarah.



Tutoring

Each of our students prepares for their B Mitzvah under the guidance of Rabbi Cheri and our Temple Emanu-El educators. Specific preparation of the texts they will recite on the Shabbat of their celebration is done with a Temple Emanu-El approved trope tutor. Temple Emanu-El staff guides each family in selecting an appropriate tutor for their child. Individual tutoring begins 8 to 10 months prior to each child's celebration date. This varies based on seasons of the year and student individual needs. Individual tutor rates range from \$30 to \$60 per lesson. At this time, financial arrangements are made directly with the chosen tutor.

Spiritual Engagement

It is natural to associate a B Mitzvah with tradition and Jewish heritage, but the B'nei Mitzvah preparation process at Temple Emanu-El is designed to help you and your child see that there is another layer—using prayer, study of sacred texts and community service to feel God's presence. By connecting with your Temple Emanu-El community your child's B Mitzvah will mark the shift they are making in seeing Judaism through the eyes of a young Jewish adult rather than a child's.

Element 3: G'milut Chasadim (Deeds of Loving Kindness)

Becoming a B Mitzvah means taking on the responsibilities of a Jewish adult. Those responsibilities include supporting the needs of the local Jewish and non-Jewish communities, strengthening Israel and worldwide Jewry and repairing the world (Tikkun Olam). We are God's hands and feet in making the world a better place in which to live for all humankind. Every action performed for the benefit of another, no matter how small, helps to repair and restore the world we call home.

At Temple Emanu-El, we instill and model this value for all our children. While we celebrate our children for their growth and accomplishments, we want them to be reminded that they are part of a greater community. **Project Chesed** is a way for your child to give their time and energy to organizations, projects or actions they find meaningful.

That is why each of our children are required to, with the help of Morah Jan and Morah Rachel, take on a Project Chesed activity as part of becoming a B Mitzvah. Students meet with Morah Jan and Morah Rachel and work together to choose, plan and document their Project Chesed for their B Mitzvah. Each child must complete eighteen (18) hours of service before their big day. Hours should be documented and photographs taken throughout the Project Chesed experience. Students will be expected to write a short speech explaining what need they saw in the community, what they decided to do to help, the impact made, and how they felt after the experience ended. A poster or slideshow may be created by the B Mitzvah student and their family to visually share their experience with our congregation during their service.

SERVICE GUIDELINES

Below you will find important BMitzvah ceremony guidelines we hope will create a meaningful and joyous service. We look forward to celebrating with you!

Rabbi Cheri strives to make our religious services engaging, and spiritually rewarding, and our spaces welcoming and joyful spaces for communal and family celebrations and ceremonies. We do our best to ensure that every family's simcha (celebration) and every congregant's Shabbat experience is meaningful, fulfilling and memorable.

We want to ensure that your family, guests, and members of the congregation are focused on your simcha, your child, and the beauty of our services. And we want to make certain that everyone attending our services, regardless of their connection to the BMitzvah, remains engaged and inspired from start to finish.

To this end, we have guidelines we believe enhance the flow and choreography of services during a BMitzvah.

Should you have any questions at any time leading up to your child's big day, please do not hesitate to be in touch with us.

Torah Aliyot Available for BMitzvah and Family

Aliyah, meaning "to go up," is the great honor to be called up to say blessings before and after a reading from the Torah. The number of Aliyot is based on the number of verses the BMitzvah student and the Rabbi choose. There are typically five (5) Aliyot—one (1) Aliyah for the BMitzvah student and four (4) for parents, family and friends. Please let the Rabbi know as soon as possible how many Aliyot you will need.

People honored with an Aliyah have the option of being called by their Hebrew name as they approach the bimah.

Included in this packet is our new "Honors/Aliyah Form," which lists all the honors available during your family's simcha. Please complete this form as fully as you can and return it to the Temple Office, no later than two (2) weeks before the BMitzvah. The deadline will give us enough time to follow up with you if there are any questions. Please be sure to include the Hebrew names for those being called for an Aliyah. If you need assistance with the Hebrew names, (or if the Hebrew names are not known), please contact Rabbi Cheri.

Use of Musical Instruments

We welcome and encourage the use of rhythm instruments during the Friday evening and Saturday morning Shabbat services.

Currently Temple Emanu-El has hand-held egg shakers passed out to our congregants to enhance the energy and engagement level of our services. If your child or a family member plays a musical instrument and would like to add their talent to the BMitzvah service, please be in touch with the Rabbi.

Parent Speeches

The role of a parent's speech at a BMitzvah is to applaud the hard work your child put in to make this day possible. It is also a great opportunity to impart a lesson or piece of advice to your child at this important Jewish moment in their life. With this in mind, we ask you to think about the significance of the moment, the wisdom you wish to impart and the love and pride you have for your child. Your speech should be 5 minutes or less. Let us know if you need help or want to see examples of other parent speeches.

Inclusion of non-Jewish Family Members

As a welcoming and inclusive congregation, we are happy to involve every family member in your simcha regardless of religious orientation. It is our custom to include non-Jewish grandparents, parents etc. in our "Chain of Tradition". The Torah is taken out of the ark and passed down from generation to generation, ending with the BMitzvah student, to recognize the support they provided to the BMitzvah in receiving the teachings of Torah.

Being called to recite the Aliyah blessings before and after a reading from the Torah is meant for a Jewish adult only. We appreciate that we have many interfaith families in our congregations. In an effort to be inclusive, we provide the non-Jewish spouse, grandparent or relative with the opportunity to give a special blessing prior to the traditional blessing for an Aliyah.

Other honors that are appropriate for someone who is not Jewish include:

- Unwrapping the Torah
- Opening/Closing the Ark
- Doing a reading during the service

Although it is our hope that these opportunities encourage your family's full engagement and involvement in the entire preparation process leading toward your child's simcha, it is your choice how best to embrace participation in the service.

Speeches

We ask each B'Mitzvah student to write a total of four (4) speeches. Students work with the Rabbi to ensure they understand their portions and tease out the key concepts. Morah Jan will then work with them to find their voice and best express their thoughts. She will also work with them on the delivery of their speeches and being an effective service leader.

1. **Name speech:** Your child will need to gather information about their names (first, middle, last and Hebrew), their meanings and how they were selected. The speech draft will be put into their Google Doc. This highly anticipated speech gives your child the opportunity to share meaningful information about themselves and a bit about your family history, as well. If they do not yet have a Hebrew name, the Rabbi will work with your family to select one.
2. **Project Chessed:** You and your child will meet with Morah Jan who will get them started identifying what issue they want to address and researching organizations that deal with that issue. It is our child's responsibility (not parents or the Rabbi) to do the research, after which they will dedicate 18 hours of time to their project– taking photos to document their experience. You and your child may use the photos to create a poster board display or slideshow to be shown on the day of their B'Mitzvah.
3. **D'var Torah:** (Words about the Torah reading): Your child will work with the Rabbi on reading the summary in their B'nei Mitzvah booklet underlining interesting points. They will then select key points of interest to address as they interpret and write about the message of their Torah portion.
4. **Haftarah Speech:** Your child will work with the Rabbi underlining key points from the summary provided in their B'nei Mitzvah booklet. They will use this information to write about the significance of the reading, its connection to that week's Torah reading and its relation to current issues.



BMITZVAH TIMELINE

- **Beginning of 5th Grade year** – Regular attendance at both SJS in the Gesher class and Kadima. In 6th grade your student enters the Avodah class for BMitzvah preparation.
- **5th and 6th Grade year** – Monthly attendance at Shabbat services (virtual or in person) and attendance at classmates' B'nei mitzvahs
- **6th Grade year** – Morah Rachel and Morah Jan meet with student and parents to choose Project Chesed experience.
- **12–18 months before event** – Pay \$600 BMitzvah programming fee. First family meeting with the Rabbi. Choose and confirm date.
- **8–12 months** – BMitzvah student begins meeting with the Rabbi.
- **6–9 months**– Begin with the Trope Tutor
- **3 months** –Parents meet with the Administrative Director to discuss facilities details.
- **1 week before** – BMitzvah student rehearses the Erev Shabbat and Shabbat services with Rabbi Cheri and Morah Jan in the Sanctuary.
- **Day of** – Be on the bimah ready to start with the Rabbi by 6:30 PM on Friday evening (service runs from 7:00 – 8:00 PM) and by 9:45 AM on Saturday morning (service runs from 10:15 AM – 12:15PM)

Selecting a Date

Traditionally the Shabbat closest to a child's 13th birthday was selected for a child's B'nei Mitzvah. However, at Temple Emanu-El families will most often choose a date that reflects their child's readiness, when their mainland relatives and friends can travel to Honolulu, as well as a date that works with Rabbi Cheri's and the Temple's calendar.

FACILITIES USAGE INFORMATION



Note:

There is no charge to Temple members for usage of the facilities as long the building is left in the condition in which you find it prior to your family's simcha.

Meeting with the Administrative Director

The Administrative Director will discuss your setup requirements for the big day including desired layout of the Social Hall, determining if overflow parking and security presence are needed, program booklet and more. **We ask that you make your appointment with the Administrative Director AT LEAST three (3) months prior to the B Mitzvah date.**

SANCTUARY GUIDELINES

- Please inform your guests that cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off prior to coming into the Sanctuary.
- **Please let your guests know that proper attire is expected in the Sanctuary on Shabbat. We ask that you and your guests wear clothes that are respectfully casual (otherwise known as Aloha wear). If you have any questions, you can call the office. Examples of inappropriate attire: mini shorts, logo shirts, rubber slippers, pants with rips, tops/dresses with spaghetti straps, midriff tops, strapless tops.**

Signature

Signature

- If you have any ritual inquiries and or should you want ritual changes, please speak with Rabbi Cheri.
- Torahs are not to be removed from the Ark without Rabbi Cheri present.
- If you have family or friends that will be invited up to the bimah and have trouble walking up the stairs, we can place in a railing. Please contact our
- Administrative Director, for more information for this accommodation or others that may be needed.

FOOD POLICIES

- At Temple Emanu-El, the BMitzvah family contributes dessert items, including fruit, for the oneg immediately following the Friday night Shabbat service.
- Families are also responsible for a Kiddush luncheon following the Saturday morning service. This meal is traditionally set for all in attendance at the service and is a great way to celebrate the BMitzvah with the Temple Emanu-El community. This meal may be as modest or elaborate as you wish.
- To make your Kiddush Luncheon a celebratory, smooth, hassle-free and delicious experience we ask that you make an appointment three (3) months out with Temple Emanu-El's Executive Director. At the meeting, the Administrative Director will be discussing Temple's policies and help you brainstorming for a Kiddush luncheon that will fit your style, taste and budget.
- *Please note: Temple Emanu-El follows the following Kashrut (Kosher) guidelines: we do not allow pork or shellfish on Temple property. We also do not allow dishes that combine milk and meat, but chicken or turkey with dairy is allowed to be served on the table but NOT in the same dish. We strongly recommend that you also offer a vegetarian option for those in attendance.
- While Temple Emanu-El is not a strictly kosher community/facility, it is kosher-style in observance. We respect our families' decisions to serve shellfish or meat/dairy dishes at evening celebrations not held at Temple Emanu-El. However, if such items will be served, please note that the Rabbi will not lead HaMotzi blessing before dinner is served. **Please note that all menus served at Temple Emanu-El must be approved by Rabbi Cheri.**

If you need nosh referrals, please ask our office.



CONTACT INFORMATION

2550 Pali Highway Honolulu, HI 96817
Phone: 808-595-7521 Fax: 808-595-6306
Website: www.shaloha.com

Seven Terrific Resources

Carolann Biederman - Interim Administrative Director
(808) 595-7521, Executivedirector@shaloha.com

Rabbi-Cantor Cheri Weiss
(808) 595-7521, rabbicheri@shaloha.com

Rachel Garcia - Youth Education Director
(808) 595-7521, sjs@shaloha.com

Erica Westmoreland - Administrative Assistant
(808) 595-7521, admin@shaloha.com

Jan Fried - B'nei Mitzvah/Avodah SJS Teacher
(808) 295-0645, janfried@gmail.com

Goldie Hellman, Kadima/Kadima Lead Teacher
goldahellman@brandeis.edu

Temple Emanu-El Sisterhood
(808) 595-7521, hitemplesisterhood@gmail.com



WHO'S WHO DURING THE BMITZVAH YEAR

To understand the BMitzvah process more fully, the information below attempts to define who is involved in the BMitzvah process as it relates to religious preparation and practices and use of the synagogue. It highlights each role so you know who can answer particular questions you may have.

Any additional roles filled by contracted services are not covered here. There are specific policies in this handbook which the BMitzvah families and their service providers must adhere to. Service providers include: videographers, photographers, florists, caterers, decorators, etc.

The BMitzvah family

Here are some tips to make this the most rewarding and special experience possible.

- Become involved and engaged in the Jewish life that our synagogue offers long before your celebration.
- Attend services regularly so that you understand and are prepared for the event ahead of you.
- Be proactive, ask questions, come to meetings, attend all scheduled classes.
- Read the Parent handbook which contains lots of useful information.
- Don't get too focused on the superficial things and enjoy the sanctity and meaning of this sacred event.

Rabbi Cheri

Rabbi Cheri has responsibility and authority for all aspects of the religious ceremony and activities that occur in the Sanctuary during the services. The following items should be discussed or reviewed with Rabbi Cheri prior to the service:

- Who can participate in the service and the manner in which they are allowed to participate.
- Any alterations to the content or flow of the standard service, including additional readings or creative ideas.
- General or expected religious practices for attendees.
- Any materials/programs distributed at the service.
- D'var Torah and Haftarah preparations with the students for their service.

SJS Staff

- Assist with Project Chesed Selections
- Guide speech writing
- Share information about service providers and decorations used by past BMitzvah families

Temple Office Staff

The Temple office staff will handle many of the details of the BMitzvah as it pertains to the Temple and are available to answer your questions or refer you to the correct individual.

The staff will:

- Act as the central point of reference for questions pertaining to the logistics of the use of the synagogue
- Confirm that members are in good standing with the congregation.
- Obtain information from families regarding their Temple usage requirements – number of seats to be set up in the sanctuary, table arrangement for onegs, building access etc.
- Bill for BMitzvah fees
- Coordinate presenter/s of congregational gifts from the temple board, and Sisterhood – consider special requests from families
- Collect and distribute Honor/Aliot form from the celebrant (including Hebrew name information) and ensure that they are received by Rabbi Cheri

Parent Helpers

Each Avodah family will be requested to be a parent chaperone for other BMitzvah families throughout the year. As a helper you will be asked to perform the following duties:

- Greet guests as they enter the Temple and familiarize them with the facility
- Assist guests into the sanctuary and hand out books, yarmulkes, and pamphlets
- Set up and clean up onegs as requested by the celebrant families

DO'S AND DON'TS FOR BMITZVAH

(Adapted from an article by Rabbi Samuel Dresner, "Beineinu," December 1976)

BMitzvah: DON'T think of a BMitzvah as a once and for all ceremony. One doesn't become BMitzvahed. It is not a verb. DO think of a B Mitzvah as a noun. It is a certain kind of child whom parents, Rabbi and educators strive to nurture and develop. Thus, paradoxically, one can be BMitzvahed and still not be a BMitzvah.

Milestone Not Terminal: DON'T consider this occasion as the conclusion of your child's Jewish education. DO think of it and speak of it as a milestone in his or her life as a Jew. One of the major mitzvot, which the BMitzvah is committed to fulfill, is the study of the Torah. There is no "graduation" from the task, which continues throughout your lifetime.

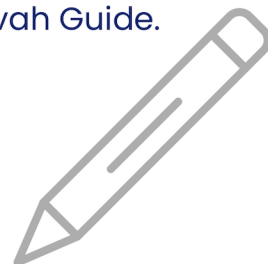
A Year of Opportunity: DON'T think of this as just another year. DO consider this year as a unique opportunity of taking advantage of your child's interest in all that surrounds the Temple and SJS. Attendance at SJS and Kadima as well as services is required so that he/she will be completely familiar with our community and our services. This should be an opportunity to make a commitment to Jewish family experiences.

Adult Study: DO take advantage of this period to engage in Judaic study yourself. If you do not know Hebrew, come to our adult classes on weekends. Participate in our Tuesday adult learning sessions with Rabbi Cheri. Study, just as your child is studying this year, as an example to your child.

The Ceremony: DO place emphasis where it is appropriate, on the religious ceremony of becoming BMitzvah. DO enjoy this milestone.

Signature

By my signature, I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to the policies and procedures of Temple Emanu-El as defined in this B Mitzvah Guide.



Signature

Print Name

Signature

Print Name