



# BAR AND BAT MITZVAH

AT

# TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL

Rabbi Hector Epelbaum

Arlene S. Needleman  
B'nai Mitzvah and Ritual Coordinator

Dear Parents,

Temple Beth Israel extends our best wishes to you on the occasion of your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah. We want to do everything possible to assist and enhance the beauty and significance of this milestone in your child's life.

The institution Bar/Bat Mitzvah as it developed over the years signifies that a child had now achieved spiritual maturity. The Talmud says, "at five years of age a child is ready to study the Bible, at ten, the Oral Law, and at thirteen assume the responsibilities of the commandments (Mitzvot)". As our children learn more from what we do than what we say, it is important that our actions reflect a commitment to Judaism and Jewish Education. Therefore, the significance of Bar/Bat Mitzvah increases with the level of parent participation. Parents are encouraged to attend services with their children, study the Torah Portion and Haftarah together, learn to read from the Torah for your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Participation in activities are strongly encouraged.

At Temple Beth Israel we believe that the ritual of passage you are about to experience with your family is another beginning and not an end and we hope that the teaching process you are about to start will not be only for your child but for the family as well.

According to the Avot De Rabbi Natan, "at the age of 13 the Yetzer Hatov, the good impulse is born and with it, our capacity for compassionate behavior." We will educate your child to help them in their character building process and that will last a lifetime. We hope that the Jewish values and religious meanings they will learn while studying with us will last and be transmitted from generation to generation.

Parents have already become a Bar or Bat Mitzah. Your children, on the other hand, are just in the process and Temple Beth Israel is thrilled to accept the challenge you are giving us, that will instill the values of Judaism that will last forever.

B'vracha,

Hector Epelbaum  
Rabbi

Arlene S. Needleman  
B'nai Mitzvah and Ritual Coordinator

## Hebrew School Attendance

All Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebrants must be enrolled in our Hebrew School two years, or must be enrolled in a Jewish Day School. The year of their Simcha counts as one of the two years. (Ben Gamla Charter School does not fulfill this requirement.) In certain circumstances, a private study program, will be developed by B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator and Rabbi. Service attendance at Shabbat services is required in the year preceding the Bar/Bat Mitzvah. At least part of these services must be on Shabbat morning during the 12 months preceding the Bar/Bat Mitzvah year.

## Bar/Bat Mitzvah Ceremony

The Bar/Bat Mitzvah is comprised of:

- Thursday morning minyan – 8:00 A.M. – Photography of any kind is permitted.
- Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat – 7:30 P.M. – No photography and no video is allowed.
- Saturday morning – 9:15 A.M. – No photography and no video is allowed.

We encourage not only the celebrant and their immediate family but, all members of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah child's family to participate fully in every aspect of your child's Simcha.

The honor of being called to recite the blessing before and after the reading of the Torah is called an Aliyah. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah families are given the opportunity to designate those called for aliyot on the day of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah. However the congregation reserves the right to designate aliyot for others who may be celebrating a family Simcha at the time. It is customary to call a Kohen for the first aliyah, a Levite for the second and an Israelite for the third and succeeding aliyot. All people called to these aliyot must be Jewish.

We welcome people of all faiths to our services and programs. We especially appreciate the role that so many non-Jewish family members play in supporting our B'nai Mitzvah. Within the guidelines of Jewish tradition and the Conservative Movement, we have created a number of appropriate opportunities to honor non-Jewish family members. We welcome the participation of interfaith parents in the service during the presentation of Tallit to Bar/Bat Mitzvah child and during the parent's prayer or speech. We also welcome the participation of other non-Jewish invited guests in the following ways: Opening/closing the ark if accompanied by a Jewish

participant, The Prayer for our Country in English and the Prayer for Israel in English.

The Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony is a spiritual event and experience. We need not remind you that no smoking or photography is permitted on the synagogue grounds at any time during Shabbat. We request that all cell phones and pagers be turned off before entering the Sanctuary.

All males are asked to wear a head covering (kipah) at all times during the service and the Kiddush that follows. The wearing of the head covering (kipah) is not a religious act, but an act of respect requested of all males in attendance. Talitot are to be worn by all males who have aliyot and all females who desire. Women are asked to dress modestly.

All kipot baskets, candy, flowers, decorations for the Oneg Shabbats for Friday night and Saturday morning must be delivered to Temple Beth Israel by no later than 12:00 P.M. on Friday. All food (candy) must be kosher. Candy that is thrown at the Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebrant must be gels because they are a softer type of candy.

### **The B'nai Mitzvah Fee**

Each Family will be charged an inclusive B'nai Mitzvah fee of \$1,554.

This fee includes all of the following:

1. Individual tutoring lessons.
2. Continual opportunity for student to practice on the Bimah.
3. Educational materials, including supplies and CD.
4. Individual recordings on Digitalized MP3 format. (Up-loadable to (IPOD) of all materials student needs to study and learn.
5. Family Meeting with the Rabbi to discuss service participation and life cycle event.
6. Family Meeting with B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator to discuss Family Participation during the Torah Service and Recording of Family's Torah Portions. Listening by phone to out of town participants the week before Bar/Bat Mitzvah.
7. Rabbi meets with each Bar Mitzvah Student 6 – 8 weeks before their Bar Mitzvah and instructs them on the why and how of putting on Tefillin.
8. Rabbi meets with each students 6 – 8 weeks before the Bar/Bat mitzvah to discuss the meaning of the B'nai Mitzvah celebrants Parasha (portion) and assists them to write a meaningful D'var Torah (speech) about their Bar/Bat Mitzvah portion.

9. Dress rehearsal and photography session, the week of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah after Thursday morning minyan. All Torah readers including the Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebrant will have the opportunity to read from the Torah.
10. Announcement of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah in the weekly Kehilaton, and Kol Shabbat the week of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah.
11. Contribution to the Thursday morning minyan congregational breakfast. Breakfast includes bagels, lox, cream cheese, tomato and onion.
12. Contribution to Friday night Oneg Shabbat celebration.
13. Contribution to the Bimah flower arrangement for the weekend of your celebration. Choice of ribbon colors is available.
14. The maximum amount of guests that can be accommodated in the synagogue is 180. Please speak to the office manager if you expect more than that. Alternative arrangements might possibly have to be obtained.
15. TBI will require a **\$554** non-refundable deposit to secure your Bar/Bat Mitzvah date. \$554 will be applied to your \$1,554 Bar/Bat Mitzvah fee. An additional **\$500** of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah fee must be paid 2 months before lessons can begin. Temple dues and all fees must be paid **60 days** before your Simcha.

It is customary to host the Kiddush and to include the congregation following Saturday morning services. We pride ourselves in being an inclusive community. Thank you in advance for sponsoring the Kiddush on Saturday morning. Please contact the Temple office for further arrangements.

It is the earnest desire of the synagogue staff that the ceremony of Bar/Bat Mitzvah serves as the occasion of religious inspiration and dedication for the child who is honored. It is our fond hope that the preparation for this event will permanently enrich your child's knowledge of Judaism and motivate him/her to pursue his/her Jewish studies enthusiastically, whereby he/she may be drawn closer to G-d, Judaism and the people of Israel.

Temple Beth Israel  
481 Sawgrass Corporate Parkway  
Sunrise, FL 33325

\_\_\_\_\_  
Child's English Name                      Home Phone                      Family e-mail

Father: \_\_\_\_\_ Hebrew Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Mother: \_\_\_\_\_ Hebrew Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

How Many (approximately) guests do you expect on Saturday Morning? \_\_\_\_\_

Bar/Bat Mitzvah child Hebrew Name:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Date                      Date of Deposit (\$554)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Payment Options:

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1. An additional \$500 is payable 2 months before lessons begin and the balance of \$500 is due 60 days before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah.
  2. Payment may be made in 10 equal monthly installments of \$100 each, beginning 12 months prior to the Bar /Bat Mitzvah. These monthly payments will be automatically applied to the credit card number that you will supply for this purpose. (We regret that we will be unable to bill you monthly for this option.)
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*All prior financial obligations to the synagogue must be paid in full **60 days** prior of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah date (i.e. membership dues, religious school, etc.)*

*Parents Signature:*  
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