



*Congregational
Bar & Bat Mitzvah
Family Handbook*

*This is the day the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and celebrate it.
--Psalm 118:24*

Revised—August 2012

A Letter from the Rabbi

Dear Parents:

At the time of your daughter/son's naming or bris, you may have recited the words "may this child be privileged to be raised in a life of Torah, to stand under the chuppah and to enter a life of good deeds (*ma-asim tovim*). At that moment, all of these things seemed far away and the concept of the chuppah always gets a chuckle from all who hear it.

Yet, we know that these moments come very quickly. One is now approaching with the Bat/Bar Mitzvah. He/she is able to do so because of the commitment you made to her/his education as a Jew and his/her hard work to reach this moment. It results in an experience that engenders great pride—we kvell with nahas. All of us at Beth Shalom are committed to making this day as special as it can be.

With that in mind, this handbook has been prepared to assist you with the logistics necessary so that you can sit back on that Shabbat and truly enjoy this simcha. When you receive and read this, there will still be many months until that simcha and much work to be done. Beth Shalom with its staff and volunteers will be working with you towards this celebration. I, personally, am pleased to be here this year and to share with you in this effort and to have the privilege of learning together with your daughter/son. Please do not hesitate to call upon me with any questions or for any assistance.

Mazal tov and good luck as we share together.

Sincerely,



Rabbi David M. Glickman



A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE POLSKY RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

We are very excited about the B'nei Mitzvah educational program for the coming year. There will be three workshops for parents and students. The topics to be covered are tzedakah/tikkun olam (to assist students with planning their mitzvah projects), how to write a d'var Torah and tallit and tefillin. The dates and times for these sessions will be set in the coming weeks. These workshops bring students from the Polsky Religious School and the Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy together for meaningful learning and community building. We hope that friendships are formed that will continue long after the Bar/Bat Mitzvah year.

In addition, I will be working with each Bar and Bat Mitzvah student on writing their actual d'var Torah. The initial session will be scheduled by Jill Goldstein, ritual coordinator, and will take place about 3 months prior to the student's Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Plan on about an hour for the initial session and this should include the student and one or both parents. Prior to this first session, the student and parent/parents should read the entire Torah portion the student will be reading from at their Bar/Bat Mitzvah, and think about some of the big issues or questions raised in the parasha (Torah portion). You will need to bring in your pocket size *Etz Chaim* each time we meet. There will be three additional meetings of about 40 minutes and these will be scheduled at the time of our initial and subsequent meetings. It sounds daunting, but I hope to make the process enjoyable and educational as well. I promise you that you will be very proud on your child on the day of their Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

The professional staff of Congregation Beth Shalom are your partners in this very important time in your lives and we look forward to being a part of your family's simchah. Feel free to contact me in the school office if you have any questions or concerns.

L'shalom,

Patti Kroll

Coordinator of the Polsky Religious School



A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Members:

In the coming year each of you will have a child who will reach the age of Mitzvot. Our shul is blessed that your child will commemorate this milestone in our Beth Shalom community.

The process of preparation and training involves many different individuals from our Beth Shalom staff and volunteers. This manual is to serve as a reference guide for a great deal of the important information for your upcoming Simcha.

Mazal tov and best wishes,



Michael Abrams
President, Congregation Beth Shalom

PHILOSOPHY OF A BAR/BAT MITZVAH AT CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM

As a child becomes a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*, he or she is welcomed into the congregation as an adult member of the Congregation Beth Shalom family. It is the philosophy of Congregation Beth Shalom to celebrate this rite of passage with the entire community within the traditions of our regular *Shabbat* or weekday prayer service, with an *aliyah* and the customary honors available to an adult member of the Jewish community. *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* is a sacred passage toward an increased level of Jewish learning and responsibility. We hope it will be viewed as yet another step in a lifetime of Jewish study. Our goal is to help our children continue to grow in their awareness of the obligations and privileges of membership in the adult Jewish community. This milestone presents a wonderful opportunity for the entire family to gain an understanding of Judaism and how it can enhance our lives. We hope this experience will strengthen your connection with your Jewish heritage as well as with Congregation Beth Shalom.

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If you did not receive a Facilities Manual, contact Norman Levitan at 913-647-7283.

To Be a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*...What's Required?

Age 13

Jewish children are considered full members of the Jewish community when they reach the age of thirteen on the Hebrew calendar. Children may celebrate their *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* during our congregation's *Shabbat* morning service if they meet the requirements of our synagogue as follows:

Educational Standards

A Jewish education prepares children not only for their role in the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* ceremony but also for their role in the Jewish community. Preparation is necessary for several years, not just during the year before the ceremony. These years of study provide greater assurance that your child will be ready to take on his or her obligations in the Jewish community. The synagogue requires that a student fulfills the congregation's religious school requirements, has attended a Jewish day school, or has participated in an equivalent Jewish learning experience, approved by the Rabbi, beginning in third grade and continuing through seventh grade.

Absenteeism from religious school prevents the education which a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* ceremony is meant to celebrate. The Rabbi and Religious School Director will determine if a potential *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* has met the *educational standards* of the synagogue to participate in our *Shabbat* morning services.

Requirements for Enrollment

In order to enroll in the Bar or Bat Mitzvah program at Congregation Beth Shalom, your family must be members in good standing. In addition, your *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* student must currently be enrolled at either the Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy or the Polsky Religious School maintaining continual enrollment since at least 3rd grade.

Synagogue Attendance

Our synagogue encourages student participation in *Shabbat* services. Synagogue attendance will provide your child with a feeling of familiarity with what takes place during our service, the melodies used, and the prayers recited, leading to an increased level of comfort both on the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* day and in attendance at Jewish services throughout the child's adult life.

The *Shabbat* service requirements for *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* students apply to all *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* candidates. *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* students are required to participate in a minimum of ten *Shabbat* morning services during the year before the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* takes place. Parents and students should remember that the more familiar they are with the service, the more confident the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* child and their family will be when the date finally arrives.

The Rabbi and Religious School Director will determine if a potential *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* has met the *Shabbat service requirements* of the synagogue to participate in our *Shabbat* morning services.

Tzedakah and Tikkun Olam Requirements

These commitments by the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* students are explored in forthcoming sections of this handbook. Please familiarize yourself with this important material.

The Service

Each student will participate in the *Shabbat* morning or afternoon service held on his or her *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* date. With the help of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* Tutor, students prepare *Torah* and *Haftarah* portions, the blessings before and after these portions, and---depending upon their ability, interest and motivation --- some parts of the *Shabbat* morning or afternoon service. With the assistance of the clergy and staff, a short teaching known as a *D'var Torah* is prepared.

The student is required to participate in a morning minyan during the week prior to the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*. This requirement can be satisfied by attending either the Beth Shalom minyan on a Monday or Thursday, or the Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy minyan.

Tallit and Tefillin

All B'nei Mitzvah boys and girls are required to wear a tallit during minyan/prayer and to recite the appropriate blessing. It is possible for girls to opt out of this requirement if the family meets with the Rabbi and understands the implications of this statement. *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* students will be instructed in the use of *tefillin*. **Every boy must own his own set of tefillin.** As a traditional egalitarian synagogue, we strongly encourage women of all ages to consider wearing *tefillin*. The synagogue office or Sisterhood can provide assistance on the purchase of a *tallit* and *tefillin*.

A Word on Bar/Bat Mitzvah Readiness

At Congregation Beth Shalom we take preparedness for the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* very seriously. The Rabbi and B'nei Mitzvah Coordinator will continually assess the preparedness of each student. If it is determined that a student is not ready, postponement or cancellation of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* may be required.

Special Considerations

At the discretion of the Rabbi, any of the requirements may be modified or waived when there are extenuating circumstances.

Parental Role Modeling and Parent Assistance at Shabbat Services

Parents are expected to attend services on *Shabbat* morning and festivals with their children, and to accompany them to synagogue activities. A parent's active involvement increases a child's participation in Jewish activities, and gives the child positive feelings about Judaism. Parents who willingly volunteer on synagogue committees, in religious school classrooms, or for Jewish organizations set a wonderful example for their children to follow.

Family Education

Periodically during the years before the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* there will be important opportunities for family education. Parent attendance at these gatherings will be **mandatory**, regardless of the student's enrollment in religious school or day school.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Instruction

The ultimate responsibility for fulfilling the requirements of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* rests with the *Bar* or *Bat Mitzvah* child. We can aid in their process of learning their blessings, *Haftarah* and *Torah* portions, *Divrei Torah*, and service leadership in the following ways:

Prepared Materials There are written materials and digital files that we provide at the first or second meeting. All materials are available through the synagogue website, <http://www.bethshalom.us>, or by using the “quick link” on our home page at www.bethshalomkc.org.

Tutoring Each student is assigned a tutor by the B’nei Mitzvah Coordinator. This is generally between 13 months prior to their *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*. Tutoring should consist of approximately 28-30, 1/2 hour sessions. If additional lessons are required it is the responsibility of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* family to arrange and pay for these lessons. The B’nei Mitzvah Coordinator should be consulted regarding an appropriate tutor for extra sessions if these sessions are necessary. *B’nei Mitzvah* instruction begins with the basics of chanting *Torah* and *Haftarah*, navigating the *siddur* and *Chumash*, and leading services. These sessions include specific practice with each *Bar/Bat Mitzvah's parashah*.

Individual sessions with the B’nei Mitzvah Coordinator The Coordinator will meet with the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* tutor to check on progress. Approximately two months before their *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*, the student will meet with the Coordinator to polish their portions and service leadership.

Individual sessions with the Senior Staff One of our clergy, or the Director of the Religious School, will meet with the student to enable an understanding of the *parashah* and to help the student write their *D’var Torah*.

Preparation of the *D’var Torah*

The Director of the Religious School will work with the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* child on preparing a *D’var Torah*, or teaching, to be delivered during the service. The *D’var Torah* is drawn from the day’s *Torah* or *Haftarah* readings and may explore the meaning of Judaism in the student’s life. The Director of the Religious School will meet with the child to help define relevant themes for the *D’var Torah*.

Rehearsals

As the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* date draws near, each student will have practice time on the *bimah* to become comfortable in the setting in which the actual event will take place. Please be in touch with the Ritual Office to schedule a full rehearsal prior to your child’s *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*, with your family in Goldsmith Hall, to walk through the service together and practice

everyone's reading from the *Torah* scroll. (Please note that all Torah readers must read for the B'nei Mitzvah Coordinator, or someone appointed by her, prior to the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*). If that person feels the reader to be insufficiently prepared, the reader will be replaced with a member of our congregation.

TIKKUN OLAM VOLUNTEER PROJECT

All *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* candidates at Congregation Beth Shalom are required to complete a volunteer activity in fulfillment of the *mitzvah* of *Tikkun Olam* (the mending of the world), a fundamental Jewish principle. A student's completion of this task encourages a feeling of commitment in his or her new role as a thoughtful, responsible member of the Jewish community. This commitment can be spread out over time or performed during school vacation time.

Students must complete at least 18 hours of volunteer work. Ideally, this time is spent in human contact. Many organizations, both Jewish and secular, are thrilled to have young volunteers. A sampling of approved volunteer activities can be found in coming pages of this handbook. The *Tikkun Olam* committee is available as a resource for additional activities; phone the synagogue office for a contact number. **A child who wishes to propose another project must present this request to the Rabbi for his approval at least 8 months before the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*.** At least one month before their *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*, students must show they have completed the chosen activity by submitting the form below to the Rabbi, along with a short letter from the project supervisor on the organization's letterhead.

A list of possible volunteer opportunities and their locations can be obtained from the Ritual Office.

***TIKKUN OLAM* VOLUNTEER PROJECT CONTRACT**

I, _____ have a commitment to
_____ for _____
hours of service.

Description of organization:

Why did you choose this particular organization?

Name and phone # of contact person at organization:

Type of work I will be doing:

Signed _____
(*Bar/Bat Mitzvah*)

TZEDAKAH

In Biblical and Rabbinic times every Jew would give 10% of his or her income or produce to the Temple to support the communal needs of our people. We encourage your child to consider approaching this model as you decide how to fulfill the commandment of *Tzedakah*, in light of the generosity which may be shown to your child during this time. Please feel free to speak to the Rabbi for ideas.

Please discuss the *Tzedakah* Contract (see below) with the Rabbi when you meet with him in your *D'var Torah* lessons.

----- (Cut here and submit form below to the Rabbi.) -----

TZEDAKAH CONTRACT

"We are obligated to be more scrupulous in fulfilling the commandment of *Tzedakah* than any other positive commandment because *Tzedakah* is the sign of a righteous person."
– *Mishnah Torah*

I, _____ have made/pledge a donation of _____ % of my Bar/Bat Mitzvah gifts.

to _____.

Description of organization(s):

Why did you chose to donate to this particular organization(s)?

Signed,

(Bar/Bat Mitzvah)

We _____, the parents of

_____, certify that our child has provided accurate information to the Synagogue regarding the obligation of *Tzedakah*.

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____ Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

You will find many people at Congregation Beth Shalom to help you...

THE RABBI - The Rabbi provides spiritual leadership for the Congregation. The Rabbi oversees the child's preparation, and discusses the meaning of *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* with the entire family. The Rabbi will educate them regarding the synagogue's expectations, and how each child must fulfill his or her obligations according to *Halakha* (Jewish Law).

The Rabbi has designed a questionnaire to help him get to know your child better. It is included later in this handbook and is to be filled out by your child and brought to the Rabbi for their first meeting.

THE B'NEI MITZVAH COORDINATOR – During 2012-13, a B'nei Mitzvah Coordinator (Mirra Klausner) will coordinate and oversee the work done by your child's tutor. In this capacity, Mirra aims for each child to chant to the best of his/her ability the *Torah* and/or *Haftarah B'rakhot* (blessings), along with the applicable *Torah* and/or *Haftarah* texts using appropriate *cantillation*. She will monitor each student's progress with their tutors and be available to families needing to discuss concerns over their child's progress.

THE BAR/BAT MITZVAH TUTOR - Each *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* candidate will receive lessons and support from a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* tutor who is experienced at teaching and coaching *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* students in preparation for *Torah* and *Haftarah* reading on the *bimah*.

BETH SHALOM STAFF- Families engaged in the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* process often have many questions and don't know whom to ask.

Questions about all facility usage or physical set ups	Norman Levitan 913-647-7283 or nlevitan@bethshalomkc.org
Questions about ritual aspects, calendaring, or any Bar/Bat Mitzvah requirement or meeting	Jill Goldstein 913-647-7281 or jgoldstein@bethshalomkc.org
Questions about tutoring, lessons & progress	Mirra Klausner (816) 333-4397 or mirratodd@hotmail.com

THE BUILDING STAFF

Our building staff works very hard to set up for your event (and to clean up after it). You will find them knowledgeable, cooperative and efficient.

Outline of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* Week

WEEKDAY MORNING

Each *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* is expected to attend and receive an aliyah during morning services on the week of his/her *simcha*. Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy students may attend the HBHA Monday morning service. Polsky Religious School students (and HBHA students who desire to do so) will attend 7 a.m. Thursday morning services in the Appleman Synagogue at Village Shalom. At that time, your child will participate in services and be presented with a gift bag and certificate from the synagogue. Families who are unable to attend should contact the ritual coordinator (913-647-7281) prior to the week of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*.

FRIDAY EVENING / *KABBALAT SHABBAT*

All families are *expected to attend* the weekly Friday evening services before the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*. Please contact the Ritual Office if you would like to participate in the Friday evening service. *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* students are encouraged to learn the *Kiddush* for Friday evening. Your family may also arrange to have a private *Shabbat* dinner catered for your family at Beth Shalom's facility, following *Kabbalat Shabbat* services. See the Facilities Guide for further information on making these arrangements.

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE

The *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* participates in the weekly *Shabbat* morning service which begins promptly at 9:30 a.m. The *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* sits on the *bimah*, next to the Rabbi. **At 9:15 a.m.** *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* and parents meet with the Rabbi at their seats for the *tallit* blessing which the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* recites. The first part of the service is *Shacharit*. The *Torah* service follows, in which the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* reads from the weekly *Parsha* and chants the appropriate blessings. During this service, the parents of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* and other family members are honored with opportunities to participate (see honors information later in this handbook). Before the *Torah* reading, the child teaches his/her *D'var Torah*. After the *Torah* reading, the *Hazzan* says a traditional prayer for the child, and parents say their Parents' prayer. The *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* then chants the *Haftarah* and accompanying blessings, then the Rabbi gives each child a personal and formal charge. Family members or friends may lead the congregation in additional English language prayers. The *Torah* service concludes with the return of the *Torah* to the Ark, after which the Rabbi addresses the congregation with a teaching or sermon. The *Musaf* (or additional) and concluding services follow.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah children may lead the congregation in prayer during the service, with the approval of the Rabbi.

At the end of the service, the *Kiddush* & *Motzi* are recited on the *bimah*. The *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* or one or more family members may recite these blessings.

At least two weeks prior to your *simcha*, you are required to inform the synagogue office of the accurate number of guests you are expecting, including the friends of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*. An accurate guest count is the only way to ensure adequate materials. **If you expect to have a number of guests with children from walkers to pre-K, that require babysitting during the Shabbat morning service, please contact Patti Kroll at 913-647-7290 or pkroll@bethshalomkc.org so that we can arrange for additional sitters.**

KIDDUSH FOLLOWING SERVICES

The *Kiddush* following the service is an integral part of the observance and tradition of *Shabbat*. The *Kiddush* meal is the concluding moment of *Shabbat* services for the community. This is an important opportunity for your congregation to share in your *nachas* (pride) and to congratulate you and your child on his or her accomplishment. It celebrates the commitment to community that each synagogue family has. Each family includes the congregation in this important event.

THE BAR/BAT MITZVAH'S RESPONSIBILITIES DURING THE SERVICE

Aliyah – Each child will be called up to chant his/her portion of the *Torah*, and recite the blessings before and after the *Torah* reading.

Haftarah – Each child will recite a portion of the Prophetic readings that correspond with the *Shabbat Torah* portion of the ceremony. Each child will also chant the blessings before and after the *Haftarah*.

D'var Torah – The *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* will deliver a short teaching on the topic of the *Torah* or *Haftarah* as it pertains to his/her life or experiences.

Leading Additional Prayers – Some children may prepare additional prayers of the morning service, with approval of the Rabbi.

Optional *Torah* Verses – Some *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* students may wish to learn to chant additional *Torah* verses. The *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* should speak with the *B'nei Mitzvah Coordinator* and/or *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* tutor if he/she wishes to master additional verses.

PARENTS' PARTICIPATION

Aliyah – Parents of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* are given the honor of participating in the *Torah* service. Jewish parents will be given an *aliyah* immediately before their child's *aliyah*. The child is then called to the *Torah* and chants his/her *aliyah*. A blessing for the child is then chanted. Parents may say a prepared "Parents' Prayer" (suggested formats appear later in this handbook).

Shehecheyanu – The Rabbi will ask the family to rise from their seats and will lead them in reciting the *Shehecheyanu*, a blessing in which they thank God for sustaining them to witness this joyous occasion.

Optional *Torah* Reading – Parents and relatives wishing to celebrate their child's accomplishment by learning to chant a section of the *Torah* verses read on the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* date are encouraged to consult with the *B'nei Mitzvah Coordinator* at least 4 months in advance. When a parent reads from the *Torah* on this very special day, it is extremely meaningful and adds immeasurably to the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* experience for the whole family and all in attendance. You may wish to ask a guest or other member of your family to read from the *Torah*, provided they are skilled in doing so. Please inform the *B'nei Mitzvah Coordinator* of this possibility at least 4 months in advance of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* date.

Kippot -- *Kippot* must be worn throughout the building at all times by all males. As a traditional egalitarian synagogue, we strongly encourage women of all ages to consider doing the same. The synagogue will provide baskets for the *kippot* each family supplies for the service. When ordering *kippot*, families should order enough for guests, as well as weekly worshippers. **As with all items needed for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebration, kippot (along with Bar/Bat Mitzvah brochures, special napkins, etc.) should be brought to the rehearsal prior to the event, or at the latest, must be delivered to the synagogue before 2:00 p.m. sharp on Friday prior to services and give them to one of our staff people.**

Proper Attire It is up to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah family to make sure that all friends and family members called to the bimah as part of the simcha have their heads covered and are wearing appropriate and modest attire.

RITUAL COMMITTEE AND GABBAYIM

The Ritual Committee provides *Shabbat* Officers for all *Shabbat* morning services to assist the clergy, congregants and families on their child's *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* day. Whenever the *Torah* is read there are two *Gabbayim*, one standing on each side of the reader, to assist honorees and those reading. The Ritual Committee assigns *Gabbayim* for all *Shabbat* morning services.

HONORS DURING THE TORAH SERVICE

Approximately 2-3 months before your *simcha* you will meet with the Rabbi to discuss the service and the opportunities for honors. People receiving Hebrew honors must be Jewish adults (thirteen years old or older).

You will need to obtain the full Hebrew names (including mother's and father's Hebrew name) of each person you are honoring with an *aliyah*. Please have your honorees Hebrew names ready to present to the Ritual Coordinator at your meeting with the Rabbi.

Also, please inform those people whom you are honoring that they need to arrive at services on time and wear appropriate attire and head covering, and if a Jewish male, a *tallit*.

Aliyah A person is "called up" to stand by the *Torah* when it is read and recites the blessings before and after the reading. We recommend that you suggest to those who are being given *aliyot* the importance of reviewing the *Torah* blessings to avoid any embarrassment. (A copy of the blessings with English transliteration is provided later in this handbook). Please contact the B'nei Mitzvah Coordinator if any family member requires assistance with the *Torah* blessings. People receiving an *aliyah* must be Jewish adults. Other honors are available for friends and family.

Aliyot Reserved for the Congregation - On practically every *Shabbat* morning there are others in the synagogue that require *aliyot*. Parents naming a new child, persons observing *yahrtzeit*, a couple about to be married, individuals celebrating special birthdays and anniversaries, persons who have just recovered from a serious illness or returned from a dangerous experience, and those going to Israel are all entitled to *aliyot*. We reserve three

aliyot for the congregation in the event of a single *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*, and two in the event of a double.

Younger Siblings, Friends/Classmates of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* - A younger sibling or friends and classmates of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* has the opportunity to lead the congregation in a prayer during the service (e.g., *Ashrei, Ein Keloheinu*). The child will be able to rehearse it at the family rehearsal.

Additional Honors: Insufficient Readings and *Peticha* - There is also the possibility, should the above honors be insufficient, for one or two additional persons to lead the congregation in English prayers for the United States or for Peace. In the case of a double *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*, these prayers will be divided evenly between the two families. In addition, two more honors--the honor of opening and closing the Ark (*Aron Hakodesh*)--both at the beginning and at the end of the *Torah* service--are also available.

Parents' *Aliyot* - In general, each family of a single *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* receives four *aliyot*, with the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* parents counting in the four. The *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* receives an additional *aliyah* called the Maftir. The parents of each *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* have the *aliyah* immediately preceding their son or daughter so that they can stand next to their child on the *bimah* and recite the appropriate parent's prayer at that time. In the case of divorce, each parent may have his and her own *aliyah*.

People who are not Jewish—non-Jewish friends and family—are welcome to receive any of the following honors: Prayer for Country (English), Prayer for Israel (Hebrew), or the Prayer for Peace (English). Men are required to wear a *kipah* (head covering) at all times.

A non-Jewish parent of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* accompanies their spouse for the 7th *aliyah*, but does not wear a *tallit* or say the *Torah* blessings. We are grateful and awed by their gift and commitment and honor their choice to identify religiously according to their conscience. They remain on the *bimah* together as their child is called as a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*, and both parents fully participate in the parents' prayer on the next page.

The Parents' Prayer

Immediately following the blessing of your child, you as parents have the opportunity to say a prayer of thanksgiving to God. Please feel free to choose one of the following examples or write your own prayer (based on the guidelines which follow) to be approved by the Rabbi, prior to the rehearsal.

Some Examples

I. We give thanks for the wondrous privilege of seeing our son/daughter grow day-by-day, week-by-week, year-by-year. For the health and strength You have given him/her, for the mind and spirit with which You endowed him/her, for his/her ability to elicit and return love – for all these precious gifts, we thank You.

Watch over him/her, O God, on this special day and every day. Grant him a growing understanding of the true significance of this occasion and a deepening loyalty to everything that it represents. May the teachings of our heritage guide him/her throughout his/her life; and may he/she lead a life worthy of Your blessings. Amen.

II. On this *Shabbat* when our son/daughter becomes a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*, we have come with him/her and our loved ones to join in worship and to offer our prayer of thanksgiving.

We are grateful, O God, for the privilege of passing along the gift of life that You gave us, thereby sharing with You in the miracle of creation. We are grateful for the thirteen years of nurturing this life, for the unnumbered joys and challenges that these years have brought us.

Bless our son/daughter, O God; watch over him/her, protect him/her, guide him/her. Help him/her to continue to grow in body and mind, in soul and character. Keep him/her loyal to our people and to the teachings of our *Torah*. May his/her life be rich and rewarding. May all his/her deeds bring pride to us, honor to the house of Israel, and glory to Your name. Amen.

III. Gratefully we thank You for the joyous privilege of seeing our son/daughter attain this milestone. On this day cherished dreams and hopes are fulfilled. On this day new dreams and new hopes are born.

We pray that Your protecting and loving care will accompany him/her wherever he/she goes and in all that he/she does. Help him/her to become all that he/she is capable of being. Give him/her strength to do all the good things that are within his/her reach. Keep him/her loyal to the best that he/she has been shown, and to the noblest Jewish teaching he/she has been taught.

May his/her deeds find favor in the eyes of his/her fellow people and be worthy of Your blessings. Amen.

IV. Humbly do we give thanks for this day, and for the years of growth and learning that have preceded it.

We pray that this day's service may long echo in our child's memory. May it engrave on the table of his/her heart the understanding that this day initiates a life more firmly dedicated to the study of *Torah* and the fulfillment of *mitzvot*, to deeds of justice and kindness, to faithful membership in the household of Israel.

O God, make each of us a worthy example to our children. Let nothing estrange us from them and from You, the Source of all goodness and compassion. Help us, too, again and again to review our attachment to the Covenant of Israel, to walk hand in hand with our child in the ways of righteousness and truth. Amen.

We give thanks for the wondrous privilege of seeing our son/daughter grow day-by-day, week-by-week, year-by-year. For the health and strength You have given him/her, for the mind and spirit with which You endowed him/her, for his/her ability to elicit and return love – for all these precious gifts, we thank You.

V. We thank You, O God, for the joyous fulfillment we feel as our son/daughter reaches the threshold of manhood/womanhood.

How privileged we feel that he/she is our son/daughter, and that he/she is bound to us by bonds of love, of memory, and of hope!

O God, accept our thankfulness for the thirteen years that have come and gone; bless our hope for the years that are yet to be. May Your mercy and guidance accompany this *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* at all times, in a life marked by reverence for *Torah*, and love of all Your children. Amen.

We give thanks for the wondrous privilege of seeing our son/daughter grow day-by-day, week-by-week, year-by-year. For the health and strength You have given him/her, for the mind and spirit with which You endowed him/her, for his/her ability to elicit and return love – for all these precious gifts, we thank You.

GUIDELINES FOR WRITING A PARENTS' PRAYER

1. Writing an original prayer is an opportunity to thank God in your own words for the gifts your child and family have received. You can invoke God's continuing blessing and guidance in the years to come in this short prayer.
2. If you choose to write your own prayer, we ask that you show the written text of the prayer to the rabbi for approval at the rehearsal prior to the actual *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*. A parent's prayer should always be written out ahead of time.
3. **The prayer is addressed to God – not the congregation or your child.**
4. The length of the prayer should be 30 seconds to 1 minute.
5. The prayer is not an opportunity for you to elaborate on all of your child's wonderful characteristics and personality traits. It is not a toast.
6. You may touch on the significance of the day and what becoming a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* means to you in the life of your family and in your child's life.
7. Ideas or concepts you may wish to include in the prayer:
 - ❖ Gifts your child has received from God.
 - ❖ Thanksgiving on your behalf for family, friends, community, teachers, and synagogue.
 - ❖ Significance of this rite of passage, vis-à-vis your child and yourselves.

The Rabbi's *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* Questionnaire

This questionnaire is to be completed by the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* so that the Rabbi can get to know you better. Don't just give answers that you think he wants to hear! Be honest, and enjoy thinking about these things a little bit.

Please bring this completed questionnaire to your first meeting with the clergy.

1. Name
2. Birthday
3. Date of *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*
4. *Parsha*
5. Parents' Names (English & Hebrew, if known)
6. Siblings' Names
7. School
8. My favorite subject is, _____, because:
9. My favorite Judaic subject is _____, because:
10. My favorite teacher is _____, because:
11. Three qualities I most like about myself are
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)

12. My favorite book is _____, because...
13. If I could go anywhere in the world, I would....
14. If I could be famous for doing something, it would be....
15. If I could change the world, I would...
16. Three qualities I admire in a friend are....
17. What do you enjoy doing with your friends?
18. I don't like it when people...
19. For fun, I enjoy....
20. What do you think you are good at?
21. What do you think you would like to be better at?
22. Do you have pets? What/who are they?
23. On the day of my *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*, I hope that the rabbi will...

24. On the day of my *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*, I hope that my parents will...
25. On the day of my *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*, I hope that I will...
26. I am most afraid of...
27. Who was your tutor?_____. About how many times did you meet?
28. I (Do/Do not) know how to put on Tallit and *Tefillin*. (Please bring to our next meeting).
29. What does becoming a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* mean to you?
30. What do you think you would like to do for a living, after High School and College?
_____ Why?
31. My *Tikkun Olam* Volunteer Project was _____
32. What are your plans for *Tzedakah* after your *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*?
33. What are your plans for Jewish education after your *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*?

Congregation Beth Shalom Maintains the Following Minimum Standards of Decorum

*Cell phones and pagers must be turned off and remain off throughout the building. Please include this in your correspondence to your guests.

*Clothing and appearance should be modest and dignified. Business attire is recommended. Please, no bare shoulders, exposed midriffs, or short skirts.

*Please be aware that voices in the lobby carry into the sanctuary, even when the doors are closed, disturbing the service and those in prayer. Please keep lobby conversation to a minimum.

*Every male must wear a *kippah* (head covering) while in the building.

*A *tallit* (prayer shawl) is to be worn by all Jewish males above the age of *Bar Mitzvah* at all morning services.

*A *tallit* may be worn by Jewish females above the age of *Bat Mitzvah* at all daytime services.

**Tallitot* are never worn at evening services, except *during Kol Nidre* services (and except for the prayer leader)—nor are they worn in the restroom.

*For all women above the age of *Bat Mitzvah*, head coverings are recommended in the sanctuary and on the *bimah*.

*No food or drink of any kind may be consumed in the sanctuary, including bottled water.

* People will not be permitted to enter or exit the sanctuary during several parts of the service, including, whenever the Ark is open, the *Torah* and *Haftarah* are read and during the *D'var Torah* and the Rabbi's Sermon.

*Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the synagogue or on the synagogue grounds.

*No photography or videography is permitted at any time in the building on *Shabbat* or *Yom Tov*. An audio recording of the service will be made and will be provided to you within a reasonable time after your *simcha*. No supplementary sound amplification or recording equipment is permitted.

*Torah readers, male and female, must wear a head covering and a tallit. Those receiving aliyot must wear a head covering.

SAMPLE LETTER TO CHILDREN WHO WILL BE ATTENDING THE *BAR/BAT MITZVAH*

You and your child will be pleased to have friends attend services on this special day. It is your responsibility to make sure that your friends respect the sanctity of the day as well as the synagogue building. We encourage you to send this letter or a similar one to your young guests:

Dear _____,

We are delighted that you will be coming to our *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*. The service on Saturday is our regular worship service for Sabbath morning. This service may be longer than the ones with which you may be familiar; the service begins at 9:30 a.m., and we recommend that you arrive no later than 10:00 a.m., when the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* begins his or her participation in the service.

When you enter the synagogue building, remember that this is a holy place and proper respect is due. Boys should wear sports jackets and slacks or suits, and girls should wear skirts or dresses of respectful length and have their shoulders covered. It is expected that you participate in the service or observe quietly. Talking is inappropriate during the service. Boys will be asked to wear a “*kippah*” or “*yarmulke*” head covering as a sign of respect. For that same reason, everyone should stand when the congregation rises. During the service, the books should be treated respectfully, and never placed on the floor.

As a traditional Conservative Synagogue, we have a number of ordinary activities which are forbidden on our Sabbath. **We ask that no one takes photographs, uses electronics, writes, or draws while visiting our premises on Friday evenings and Saturdays. Care should be taken to turn off cell phones before entering the synagogue, or should be left at home.**

_____ will be called up to the “*bimah*” (pulpit) and will recite the blessings and read from the Torah. He/she has studied very hard for this important day in his/her life and as a friend, you can be supportive by paying attention and behaving appropriately during the service. The service will include a sermon by the Rabbi and closing prayers.

If you must leave the sanctuary, please remember that the same expectation for appropriate and considerate behavior exists in the lobbies, restrooms, and grounds. Understanding that voices do carry in these areas, we would appreciate your keeping your voice at a low level so as not to disturb the prayer of those in the service. Please also respect that the rest of the synagogue building is closed and off-limits. Departure for the rest room should not be a group activity. Since you are coming to help your friend celebrate this special milestone, it is most appropriate that you remain in the sanctuary for the service and leave only if absolutely necessary, returning to your seat as quickly as possible.

Services are over approximately at noon. You have the opportunity to congratulate _____ after the service when we share a “*Kiddush*” (refreshments). You can plan to be picked up at the synagogue around 1:00 p.m.

We hope these instructions will help you feel comfortable in the synagogue. We look forward to seeing you at the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* services and celebration.

Policy Regarding *Kashrut*

All food comes from God, and our choices in eating and drinking reflect important and ancient traditions and beliefs in Judaism. “*Kosher*” means “fit for use” and is a term used to describe those items that are permitted to Jews.

We are a *kosher* facility, and our events within the building should always be *kosher*. We ask for everyone’s understanding and sensitivity in respecting and adhering to our religious traditions and standards. No outside food or snacks are allowed to be distributed.

On this holy day in your family's history, we are thrilled to know that *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* families will be fulfilling the *mitzvah* of the *Shabbat* luncheon here at Congregation Beth Shalom. As part of the religious observance of the day, the meal itself is of a high spiritual and emotional value. Our community views shared meals as an opportunity to experience holiness together, and we are dedicated to our people's *kosher* dietary traditions. We encourage all of our families to honor their child's acceptance of our traditions with a commitment to a sacred and festive meal that is both *kosher* and joyous.

Please feel free to speak with the Rabbi if you have questions or concerns.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS: Congregation Beth Shalom requires that all families participating in life cycle celebrations in our synagogue must be members in good standing. This means ***the family must be current in all fees for religious school tuition, Bar/Bat Mitzvah instruction, synagogue membership dues, assessments, and all other financial obligations to the synagogue at least three months prior to the date of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah.*** If you anticipate any problems, please contact the congregation's Executive Director.

BAR/BAT MITZVAH FEE: To partially cover the synagogue's costs of meeting your family's needs during this time there is a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* fee. Among other things, this fee includes: your child's basic individual technical instruction (approximately 28-30 half-hour lessons), group lessons, educational materials, and the basic *bimah* rehearsal. **The fee is \$550. One half of this fee is due when your child is assigned a tutor and the other half is due three months before the date of your simcha** (unless specific arrangements have been made with the synagogue.) This fee is subject to change in future years.

As stated above, the *Bar/Bar Mitzvah* fee does not cover any additional tutoring that your child may require or desire.

*** EXTREMELY IMPORTANT - PLEASE NOTE ***

The *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* will *not* take place unless all outstanding obligations are paid in full at least three months prior to the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* date. Please contact Elaine Levine (913-647-7293) prior to those three months should you need to make any special arrangements.

THANK YOU'S AND HONORARIA

In the days following the ceremony the family may want to thank the many people involved in making sure this important event ran smoothly. These people include, but are not limited to, the synagogue and religious school staff, committee members, friends and relatives, and clergy.

BAR/BAT MITZVAH GIFTS AND INFORMATION FOR THANK YOU NOTES

Your child will be receiving a number of gifts from the synagogue. Just as you expect your child to write a thank you for a gift from relatives or friends; it would be proper to urge your child to write notes thanking the following synagogue entities for their gifts. Please send the notes in stamped envelopes: c/o Beth Shalom Ritual Office, 14200 Lamar Avenue, Overland Park, KS 66223, and they will be addressed and mailed to the correct people.

Shabbat Kiddush Cup – The Hershman Family Fund

One-Year *Kadima* Membership – The Stein Family

Tzedakah Box – Beth Shalom Sisterhood

TIMELINE/CHECKLIST to help you plan...

Three years before

The date is set. The ritual office will put an item in the November **Scroll** listing names of children in our data base from a specific birth year, and asking for additions to the list. ***Beth Shalom begins this process and solicits families by birth year and not by the specific grade children are attending at school. Therefore, while families with children having birthdays early in a school year may be contacted, there may very well be students in the same grade who will not be contacted about date selection until the following school year.*** We will then send out a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* Data Request Application to applicable families, asking for information and preferred dates. Follow up letters will be sent notifying families of the date that has been assigned to each child for their *simcha* and dates will be put on the Beth Shalom master calendar.

Fifteen to Eighteen Months before

Hebrew assessments are conducted through the Polsky Religious School.

A Parents' meeting will be held with the clergy, Executive Director, Ritual Coordinator, B'nei Mitzvah Coordinator and Lay Leaders to review policies and guidelines and to distribute Bar/Bat Mitzvah binders.

Thirteen Months in Advance

The B'nei Mitzvah Coordinator will match the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* with a specially trained tutor who will prepare the student for the *simcha*. The tutor will meet with the family in the first session to (1) go through the child's binder, (2) discuss the logistics of the meetings and progression of the year of study, (3) review tutor expectations, and (4) discuss parent and child expectations about content of study.

The *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* will then begin *Trope/Torah* sessions with their tutor, including the fundamentals of reading *Torah* and *Haftarah*, as well as the *nusah* for leading *Shabbat* services. The *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* will begin studying their *parashah* within the course of these lessons.

There will be periodic required family study sessions with the clergy to familiarize families with the values and ritual process of the *B'nei Mitzvah* and to study *Torah* together.

***Tikkun Olam* Volunteer Project & *Tzedakah* Project** -- At this time students are required to declare their *Tikkun Olam* Volunteer Project and *Tzedakah* Project by completing and turning in the forms in this handbook to the ritual office.

Arrangements for the *Simcha* Weekend – Families must advise the synagogue office if they plan on having a *Shabbat* dinner or Saturday night party at our facility. As well, the name of their synagogue-approved caterer, or, if the family is self-catering for the *Kiddush* lunch needs to be determined and the office notified. If the caterer or family needs to book kitchen time, it is advised that it be planned and scheduled with the synagogue at the earliest point possible.

***Bar/Bat Mitzvah* fee is billed** – One-half of the \$550 due upon receipt of the bill, and the balance must be paid at least three months before the event. If you anticipate any financial issues in conjunction with payment of this bill, please contact the Executive Director.

Five to six months prior

***Bar/Bat Mitzvah* family purchases *tefillin*, arranges to learn how to put them on at a Sunday Morning *Minyan*.**

Three to four months prior

Fulfillment of financial obligations – At this time, all *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* families are required to have paid their financial obligations to the synagogue in full. Inquiries about status can be made in advance to the synagogue bookkeeping office or Executive Director.

Rabbi and parents meeting – The ritual office will arrange a meeting for discussion of honors. An Honors Form will be provided to the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* family, to be approved by the Rabbi at the meeting. Please bring completed your child's completed *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* Questionnaire and your Parents' Prayer.

Religious School Coordinator and *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* meetings – The ritual office will arrange a series of at least three meetings between the Religious School Coordinator and the student to begin working on his/her D'var Torah. The first meeting will be one hour in length and should be attended by both the student and at least one parent.

Two to three months prior

Kippot – Families will order *kippot*, if they choose.

***Torah* readers from family** – Family contacts the ritual office with names of *Torah* readers from the family.

Scroll (Bulletin) article – Parents should submit a photograph and brief biography written by the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* student for publication in the Synagogue's monthly newsletter. Forms can be submitted through our website.

Six weeks prior

Preparation of *D'var Torah* – Students have been working on a teaching, or *D'var Torah*, and will continue to meet with the Religious School Coordinator to review it.

One month prior

Your tutor may add additional sessions to your child's schedule, if needed, and with permission of the B'nei Mitzvah Coordinator.

Finalizing list of honorees – The family will indicate which members from the family, if any, would like to read from the *Torah* at the event. The final assignments will be made by the clergy or ritual committee. All those reading must insure that they read for the B'nei Mitzvah Coordinator or tutor at least one week in advance of the event. At this time, the family should give a final list of those people who should be given an honor in the service. Guidelines for giving honors are available from the ritual coordinator. English names and full Hebrew names (including Hebrew names of the honoree's mother & father) must be provided according to the Honors Form previously received. **Please** make sure that your honorees are prepared for the service. The synagogue has copies of all prayers honorees recite, including English transliteration of Hebrew prayers and stage directions, which you must send to your guests who will be receiving honors. They need to familiarize themselves with their role in the *Shabbat* morning service. You can obtain copies of these honors from the synagogue office. **Please keep the ritual office informed of any changes in *Torah* readers, so that the ritual coordinator has adequate time to select and prepare alternative readers.**

If you wish to prepare a personalized *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* brochure for your family's *simcha*, please contact the ritual coordinator (913-647-7281) to obtain a template. Your family will be responsible for the creation of that brochure, and it is the family's responsibility to take the brochure to a printer and provide adequate copies for their child's *simcha*. The brochures must be delivered to the synagogue by 2:00 p.m., on the Friday before your *simcha*.

Fulfillment of *Tikkun Olam* volunteer obligations – Candidates will provide documentation to the Rabbi of their 18 hours of community service.

Two weeks prior

Guest Count -- You must give the Facilities Coordinator an accurate count of your guests so that we can ensure that an adequate seating is established and that enough materials are prepared.

The week of the simcha

Each Bar/Bat Mitzvah is required to attend either the Monday morning service at the Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy (HBHA students) or the Thursday morning service in the Appleman Synagogue at Village Shalom (PRS students). The student is expected to wear tallit (boys & girls) and tefillin (boys & some girls) at this service and at every weekday service from this moment on. They lead the Torah service, and receive their first aliyah.

***Bimah* rehearsal** – The B’nei Mitzvah Coordinator or a member of the ritual committee will conduct a complete rehearsal in Goldsmith Hall including all *Torah* readings. The *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* will also participate in the Friday evening service, leading the congregation in selected prayers.

Deliveries – You must let the synagogue office know at least one week in advance if you are expecting party/service-related deliveries. You or someone you appoint must be at the synagogue to receive any deliveries you schedule. Please note that all deliveries of flowers, food, *Kippot*, etc., for the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* and *Kiddush* must be completed by 2:00 p.m. on Friday; **no deliveries will be accepted after 2:00 p.m. under any circumstances. Please be clear with your party planner, caterer and family regarding deliveries of all items for your celebration.**

Consider donating leftover food and flowers to community organizations in need and make appropriate arrangements.

The day of the ceremony

Relax and enjoy this wonderful day.

Afterwards and for Years to Come

Come to synagogue. Study for and read *Torah* and *Haftarah* on a regular basis during *Shabbat* and festival services.

BAR/BAT MITZVAH GLOSSARY

- Aliyah:** Honor of standing by the *Torah* when it is read, and reciting the blessings before and after the reading.
- Amidah:** Literally, the “standing” prayer. The nineteen prayers that constitute the main body of Jewish liturgy. Also known as *Tefillah* and the *shemoneh esrei*.
- Bar Mitzvah:** A boy who at the age of thirteen is considered responsible for the obligations of Jewish life. Also, the ceremony where the child receives an *aliyah* in recognition of his new status.
- Bat Mitzvah:** A girl who at the age of twelve and a half or thirteen is considered responsible for the obligations of Jewish life. Also, the ceremony where the child receives an *aliyah* in recognition of her new status.
- Brakha:** Blessing. (Plural: *b'rakhot*).
- D'var Torah:** Literally, “a word of *Torah*.” The brief exposition of the *Torah* portion for the week.
- Gelilah:** The honor of rolling up the *Torah*, fastening the belt and replacing the *Torah* mantle and crown.
- Golel:** The one who ties the *Torah*. (Feminine: *Golelet*)
- Haftarah:** Literally, “completion.” The reading of a section from the Prophets for a particular *Shabbat*.
- Hagbah:** The honor of lifting the *Torah* and holding it upright for the Congregation to see.
- Kiddush:** Prayer chanted over wine. Also, a celebration with wine and cookies.
- Kol Hakavod:** Literally, “all the honor,” A Hebrew expression to someone who has done something in which they can take great pride.
- Maftir:** The final *Torah* reading on *Shabbat*.

<i>Magbiah (male): Magbihah (female)</i>	One who lifts the <i>Torah</i> .
<i>Minyan:</i>	The required ten Jewish adults for a prayer service.
<i>Motzi:</i>	Prayer over bread.
<i>Musaf:</i>	The “additional” prayer in traditional liturgy. Repeats some themes covered earlier in the liturgy.
<i>Parshah:</i>	The <i>Torah</i> portion of the week. Also called the <i>sidrah</i> .
<i>Peticha:</i>	The honor of opening and closing the Ark curtain (<i>parohet</i>) before the <i>Torah</i> is read and when it is replaced in the Ark (<i>Aron Hakodesh</i>). (Plural: <i>Petihot</i>)
<i>Rosh Chodesh:</i>	The new month.
<i>Shacharit:</i>	The morning prayer service.
<i>Shul:</i>	Synagogue (Yiddish).
<i>Simcha:</i>	A joyous occasion (Hebrew).
<i>Tallit:</i>	Traditional prayer shawl with fringes (<i>tzitzit</i>) on the four corners to remind us of the <i>mitzvot</i> .
<i>Tefillin:</i>	The phylacteries worn by Jews for morning prayer every morning, except on <i>Shabbat</i> and festivals.
<i>Trope:</i>	The cantillation used to chant the <i>Torah</i> and <i>Haftarah</i> .

Tzedakah: The *mitzvah* of sacred giving.

*YasharKoakh(m),
Yashar Kokhekh (f):* A congratulatory Hebrew expression to one who has performed an honor; literally, "go forward with strength." The appropriate response is "*barukh tih'yeh* (to a man) or *b'rukha tih'yi* (to a woman), literally, "may you be a blessing."

Please be advised that all policies and fees included here are current at the time of publication of this handbook (August 2012).

We provide this handbook as a guide for you well in advance of your child's *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* date. All policies and prices are subject to change.

Notes