



## Temple Beth El B'nei Mitzvah Orientation Guide

Mazel Tov! We hope that the following information will assist you in the planning and arranging of the service at which your child becomes bar/bat mitzvah at Temple Beth El. Enclosed is a brief overview of a variety of items about which you may have questions. For further detail, please don't hesitate to contact Jaclyn Dubray, Life-Cycle Coordinator, 238-3928 at ext.1323, [jdubray@bethelnw.org](mailto:jdubray@bethelnw.org) or Rabbi Jaffe directly at [jjaffe@bethelnw.org](mailto:jjaffe@bethelnw.org).

### **Family Education:**

To deepen the meaning of the bar/bat mitzvah experience, we offer family education programs for grades four through six, followed by our b'nei mitzvah orientation meeting and check in meeting within the year. We will inform you of the dates and times as each approach. For all programs, parents and children are expected to attend together.

### **Fees:**

To help you plan ahead, below are the fees you can anticipate over the next few years.

Once your child's date is confirmed, the temple will send you an invoice for the bar/bat mitzvah fee (approx. \$2500/morning & \$3150/afternoon). This fee covers, but is not limited to: family education, b'nei mitzvah orientation meeting and check in meeting, tutoring, individual meetings with the rabbi and cantor, and the service. The bar/bat mitzvah fee is due upon confirmation of your child's date.

As the Shabbat of your child's bar/bat mitzvah constitutes a celebration for our entire community, we ask each family to support the congregation's Shabbat offerings. To that end, in the June preceding your child's bar or bat mitzvah service, a fee (of approx. \$600) will be added to your statement to subsidize the Friday night congregational Oneg reception and the weekend's sanctuary flowers.

### **Requirements:**

In order to become a bar or bat mitzvah, your child will need to be enrolled and attending Religious School, and thus your family must be a member in good standing of the temple. Your total financial commitment must be paid in full 90 days prior to the service. If your child has a date in September or October your membership renewal must be completed and paid by the end of July.

### **Ushering:**

It is extremely important that we have enough ushers at all our b'nei mitzvah services. In order to provide this coverage the Worship Committee will ask all parents to usher at two Saturday services. The services will be about three months prior.

### **Service Times:**

Children become bar/bat mitzvah as part of our congregational worship service. Please note that your child will most likely be paired with another student, but we will do our best to avoid known conflicts. Our worship time will be at 10:00am. A Saturday afternoon service at 5:00pm may be available

(on the 1st or 3rd weekends of the month). There is a supplemental fee for an afternoon service to offset our additional expenses.

If you would like to change your child's service date or time, please fill out a change of date form and return it to Jaclyn Dubray.

### **Receptions:**

We are delighted to offer our beautiful social hall for your private reception. Whether you are planning a small family lunch or a larger party, we hope you will consider using the temple's facilities. Please contact Leslie Aufieri in the temple office if you would like more information or to schedule a tour. Leslie can be reached at 914-238-3928 ext. 1320 or [laufieri@bethelnw.org](mailto:laufieri@bethelnw.org).

### **Photography:**

Photography & videography are not permitted in the sanctuary during the service. The sanctuary can be reserved for your family photographs by calling the temple office. On Saturdays, we have time slots for photographs: 8:15am to 9:00am & 9:00am to 9:45am or 3:15pm to 4:00pm & 4:00pm to 4:45pm. Other days and times are available as well. Please note: Only our staff may assist in removing a Torah from the Ark to hold during photos, and the Torah may not be undressed for photos. Please contact Jaclyn Dubray in the temple office to make your photo reservation.

### **Videography:**

The service will be recorded by the temple and a digital copy will be available for you to download.

### **Follow Up/Appointments**

If you have any questions or if you would like to set up an appointment with a member of our clergy please contact Jaclyn Dubray, Life-Cycle Coordinator, 238-3928 at ext. 1323 and at [jdubray@bethelnw.org](mailto:jdubray@bethelnw.org). For facility information please contact Leslie Aufieri, Executive Assistant, 238-3928 ext. 1320 [laufieri@bethelnw.org](mailto:laufieri@bethelnw.org).