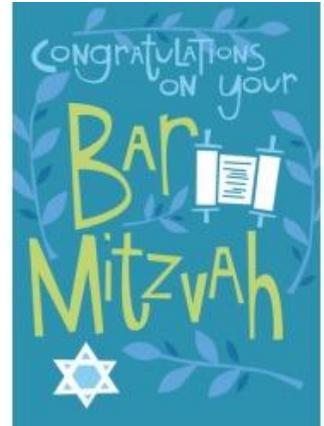


Congregation Kneseth Israel Bar Mitzvah Guide

Mazel tov on the upcoming Bar Mitzvah of your son and thank you for choosing Congregation Kneseth Israel as the synagogue where your simcha will take place. We hope that this publication will be helpful in preparing you, your family, and guests for the service. Under the guidance of Rabbi Moshe Weisblum, this should be a day that you will always cherish. Ideally, planning and scheduling of this Jewish lifecycle event should begin approximately a year in advance of this ceremony.



Services



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A Bar Mitzvah can take place on Monday, Thursday, Rosh Chodesh, and most commonly on Shabbat (Saturday morning). Saturday morning services begin at 9:00 AM, and the approximate time that the Torah is taken out is at 9:45 AM; guests should arrive before this portion of the service.

There are several honors which you are entitled to distribute to family and friends. This include alliyot where men are called up to the Torah and chant a blessing before and after a section is read, and a few non-reading honors. There are also honors given out to women. The assignment of these honors should be coordinated with the Rabbi or one of the Gabbayim (Lay Leaders) several weeks in advance of the service. Here is a listing of these honors:

- Opening the Ark and removing the Torah (9:45 AM)
- Kohen alliyah (man must be a Kohen)

- Levi alliyah (man must be a Levi)
- Shlishi (third alliyah, any Jewish man who is not a Kohen or Levi)
- Reve'i (fourth alliyah, any Jewish man, not a Kohen or Levi)
- Chamishi (fifth alliyah, any Jewish man, not a Kohen or Levi)
- Shishi (sixth alliyah, any Jewish man, not a Kohen or Levi)
- Sh've'ih (seventh alliyah, any Jewish man, not a Kohen or Levi)
- Optional extra alliyot can be distributed (called Acharon; any Jewish man)
- Maftir – the Bar Mitzvah boy
- Hagbah (Lifting the Torah – needs to be someone with some strength)
- Gellilah (Tying the Torah)
- Opening the Ark and replacing the Torah

Men called up to the Torah for an alliyah should know their Hebrew name and that of their father. Each will take their tallit fringe and touch the portion of the Torah scroll shown by the Rabbi, kiss the fringe and say the attached blessing (Hebrew and transliterated English is also on the bimah in large print). Hagbah requires lifting the Torah so all can see the script, preferably three columns wide.

Gabbaiyim are present to guide and assist with all of this. Please note that when an alliyah is assigned, a father and son or brother and brother cannot have back-to-back alliyot. Men must be dressed appropriately – arms must be covered with a long sleeve dress shirt or a sport/suit jacket.

Women's honors include:

- Carrying the Torah (prior to the Torah reading)
- Prayer for the Congregation (page 518, see attached)
- Prayer for the Welfare of the American Government (page 520, see attached)
- Prayer for the Safety of the American Military (page 520)
- Prayer for the State of Israel (page 522, see attached)
- Prayer for Those Being Held in Captivity (back of the siddur, see attached)
- Additional prayers can be arranged in advance with the Rabbi.
- Carrying the Torah (prior to returning the Torah to the Ark)

Men's honors should be arranged in advance with one of the Gabbayim (David Cohen, Glenn Carr, Jody Goldsmith, Steve Sutton or Barnett Rattner). Please provide the Hebrew names and the father's Hebrew names of all men that are being given an honor. Ladies honors can be arranged in advance with Marilyn Halpern, Libby Monias or Gail Snyder. For those leading readings, they should be

aware that horizontally arrayed microphones are on the lecterns – they should not be covered or moved. They pick up well-enunciated voices very effectively. Readers should just speak in a normal, conversational tone.

Please be sure that women are dressed appropriately – married women are required to cover their head (a small head covering will be provided), no sleeveless or low cut blouses, and no short dresses, skirts or shorts.

Proper Decorum in the Synagogue

There may be non-Jewish guests that are attending and have never been in a synagogue before. Every man should wear a yalmulke (kippah/skull cap), even if they are not Jewish. Men and women should wear dress clothes.

The Sabbath is a holy day. For a Bar Mitzvah on Shabbat (Friday sundown through Saturday sundown), there are several actions that are forbidden that must be followed while in our synagogue. These include:

1. No cell phone calls. If a cell phone or PDA (Personal Digital Assistant) must be used for on-call purposes, please inform your guests in advance to set the phone on vibrate. Incoming calls must not be taken in the synagogue building.
2. No texting or emails while in the synagogue building.
3. No taking photos or movies in the synagogue building.
4. No writing (i.e. taking notes, drawing, etc.).
5. No iPods, MP3 players, PS3 or any electronic devices.

Following the Haftorah, candy provided by the Bar Mitzvah family is often gently lofted or tossed in celebration. Please use discretion avoiding shapes and sizes that could cause injury and damage to the synagogue (unwrapped candy that could melt).

The Bimah may be decorated with flower arrangements, although their delivery and arrangement must occur before Shabbat. This should be coordinated with office staff at Congregation Kneseth Israel.

A Kiddish for guests and/or the Congregation is often sponsored following services. This should be coordinated well in advance through the office staff. Likewise, an evening reception in the Reiter Auditorium can be hosted and this should also be coordinated well in advance through the office staff.

We hope that the Bar Mitzvah is a successful, fulfilling, and memorable event.
Please do not hesitate to contact Rabbi Weisblum with any questions or concerns.