



## **BAR / BAT MITZVAH PARENT GUIDE**

According to Jewish tradition, a Bar / Bat Mitzvah reflects a major turning point in the life of a Jewish person. As such, we believe very strongly that your son or daughter should celebrate this milestone in a meaningful and traditional manner that will inspire your child for years to come. We want this day to be a positive and powerful Jewish experience. Therefore our focus is on the meaning and traditions of being a Jew as opposed to focusing on memorization of Hebrew text.

Since our primary goal is to leave your child more comfortable in a Synagogue, the Rabbi or Rebbetzin will work together with the family and with your child to assess their knowledge and commitment to customize a personal and memorable Bar / Bat Mitzvah experience that works for your family needs.

### ***Hebrew School / Tutoring:***

Students at our Hebrew School usually have mastered fluent Hebrew reading, and are part of our special BMD (Bar/Bat Mitzvah Division) Class that provides much of the spiritual meaning and significance of this milestone. Although our policy is that no Jewish child should ever be denied this important Jewish experience of being Bar/Bat Mitzvah - regardless of their previous education, it is very beneficial for any student to be attending classes at our Hebrew School, even while also doing private lessons to catch up.

In addition, your child will need to work with the Rabbi or Rebbetzin privately to learn how to read their particular Torah section and the other prayers they will lead. They will also gain personal insight into their Torah portion and be guided in preparing their speech.

Lessons are once a week for 45 minutes, starting approximately 6 months before the agreed date.

### ***Mitzvah Project:***

The Bar/Bat Mitzvah child is encouraged to choose a Mitzvah project that they feels is important; this can include volunteering their time or donating/raising money in honor of this special day.

Our Shul is also affiliated with 'Remember Us'; an organization that assigns your son a child who was killed during the Holocaust before they turned 13. If you choose to do so, that young victim of the Holocaust will be memorialized by your son.

### ***Requirements:***

- ❖ A boy must be after his 13th birthday, a girl after her 12<sup>th</sup> birthday (according to the Jewish calendar) on day of their Bar / Bat Mitzvah celebration.
- ❖ Your child (and hopefully entire family) must attend a Shabbat morning service at least twice a month as well as Holiday services.



- ❖ Family must purchase *NEW* Tefillin through Chabad and Bar Mitzvah boy will learn how to use them. The family can purchase a *NEW* Tallis anywhere they choose.
- ❖ Videos, cameras and microphones are not allowed on Shabbat. You may have a photographer or video for a weekday event or parts of the Friday Night or Havdalah Service. If doing a Shabbat celebration, you may want to plan a pre-Bar Mitzvah photography session at the Shul.
- ❖ Aliyot and additional honors are traditionally bestowed on the family and close friends of the family, please see attached form.
- ❖ The family is responsible to buy the Kosher candy that is “Showered” on the Bar/Bat Mitzvah child. Soft candy is recommended (such as Sunkist Fruit Gems). All candies must be pre-approved by the Rabbi and brought to the Chabad before Shabbat begins.
- ❖ Any food served after the service can only be provided by Chabad or any ORB certified caterer of your choice. No food prepared at home or purchased from other stores may be served.

Based on our experiences we recommend that you consider using Jacky Panigel from Stefano’s Kosher Catering located on 9321 Sample Rd, in Coral Springs. The number is (954)752-0008.

- ❖ Please note that there is separate seating during the services. The Kiddush luncheon afterwards is mixed. The family will be given seats on the head table.

## **Ceremony Options**

### ***Friday Night Service: \****

This service is highly recommended for Bat Mitzvah girls. The service begins with a special Candle Lighting Ceremony led by your daughter for the family and guests. Other family members can be called up to join in the Candle Lighting. The ceremony is followed by the usual Friday Night Service during which there is no Torah reading, or lengthy prayers. We usually dance after signing the L’cha Dodi. (In the winter this would be late afternoon and in the summer it would be evening.) The combined Bat Mitzvah & Friday Night Service is about 90 minutes and concludes with Kiddush. We highly recommend hosting a Shabbat Dinner for all your guests immediately after the Service.

### ***Shabbat Morning Service:***

A Shabbat Morning Service begins at 10:00 a.m. with *Shacharit* (morning service.) It includes the *Torah & Haftarah* Readings which are interspersed with open Q&A on the Torah reading, and the *Musaf* service. The Rabbi’s Sermon will be directly addressed to the Bar Mitzvah boy. Services end by 12:30 pm, after which the family is encouraged to sponsor the sit-down Kiddush luncheon at which the Bar/Bat Mitzvah child, and any other members of the family can speak. (Please see the Kiddush page on our website for all the Kiddush options).



***Havdalah Service: \****

This ceremony takes about 75 minutes. During Mincha (afternoon service) there is a short Torah reading of only 3 Aliyas that the Bar Mitzvah boy could read. The congregation usually does this Service earlier, and the crowd would be exclusively guests of the Bar Mitzvah family. (In the winter it would be late afternoon and in the summer it would be evening.)

After the Rabbis sermon and Bar/Bat Mitzvah speech, we conclude the Shabbat with a beautiful Havdalah Ceremony that could be led by the Bar Mitzvah boy standing together with his family.\*

***Weekday Service: \*\****

The weekday Shacharit (morning service) is approximately 1 hour long. The Bar Mitzvah boy wears his Tefillin. There is a short Torah reading which is read only on Monday, Thursday, or special occasions such as *Rosh Chodesh* (1st day of Hebrew month.) Days like Memorial Day, Presidents Day, Thanksgiving Day and Labor Day might work for your family. The services are usually followed by a breakfast for your guests.

*\* Pictures and video may be taken of ONLY the Candle-lighting or Havdallah ceremony.*

*\*\* Pictures and video may be taken of the entire service..*

**Price Schedule:**

	<b>Non-Members</b>	<b>Hebrew School Families</b>
<b>Basic Bar/Bat Mitzvah:</b> <i>Includes a Bar/Bat Mitzvah Service of your choice and 4 Private lessons with the Rabbi or Rebbetzin.</i>	\$1,000	\$700
<b>Complete Bar/Bat Mitzvah:</b> <i>Includes a Bar/Bat Mitzvah Service of your choice and 15 Private lessons with the Rabbi or Rebbetzin.</i>	\$1,800	\$1,500
<b>Beginners Bar/Bat Mitzvah</b> (for students who don't yet read Hebrew): <i>Includes a Bar/Bat Mitzvah Service of your choice and 25 Private lessons with the Rabbi or Rebbetzin.</i>	\$2,500	\$2,000
<b>Kosher Tefillin</b> <i>*Required</i> <i>(Family may purchase their own Tallit)</i>	\$475.00	\$475.00
<b>Hall Rental for a Dinner or Party after the Service</b> <i>Chabad can prepare the Shabbos Kiddush.</i> <i>All other events must be with ORB certified caterer.</i>	\$250 <i>Plus Cleaning fees.</i>	<i>There is no hall rental fee for the Sanctuary after the Service.</i> <i>Cleaning fees apply.</i>



**BAR/BAT MITZVAH REGISTRATION FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Hebrew Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_ Time of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Hebrew birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrew School Experience: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Hebrew name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's email: \_\_\_\_\_ Mother's cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Hebrew name: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's email: \_\_\_\_\_ Father's cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the natural mother of the child Jewish? \_\_\_\_\_

Were there any conversions or adoptions in your family? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please explain \_\_\_\_\_

Is the Bar Mizvah boy a: Kohen \_\_\_\_\_ Levi \_\_\_\_\_ Israelite \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmed Date of Service: \_\_\_\_\_ Parsha: \_\_\_\_\_

- I have read the *Parent Guide*, and I am prepared to comply with all of its requirements,
- I agree to allow my child's picture be posted on the Bar/Bat Mitzvah page of the Chabad website ([www.chabadSWcoralSprings.org](http://www.chabadSWcoralSprings.org))
- I have agreed to a payment plan for the total Bar/Bat Mitzvah to cost: \_\_\_\_\_

To be paid in the following manner: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mother Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Father Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bar/Bat Mitzvah Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_