

# *The Must-Read* Bar / Bat Mitzvah Handbook



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*Mazal Tov* is Hebrew for “good luck.” It is the common way of saying congratulations.

We wish you a hearty *Mazal Tov* as your child becomes a Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

The Temple Chaverim Family

## From the Rabbis...

*"We will do and we will learn."*



**Come to services so you will feel comfortable at Temple Chaverim.**

Becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah is a beautiful rite of passage for our Jewish children. It teaches them that they are now ready to accept the responsibilities and obligations that Judaism expects of them. And, it also allows them to continue to question, search, and explore all that Judaism has to offer. We, are Temple Chaverim, are so excited to be the guides for your child in this journey towards Jewish adulthood.

This handbook serves as an important reference guide for you and your family to feel fully confident in the process of becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah. It also contains all of the necessary prayers, forms, and information you need to have a wonderful experience.

If this is your first Bar or Bat Mitzvah it can feel very overwhelming—and that there is a lot to do. But, we are here to help you break it all down into manageable pieces that help set everyone up for success. Our goal is to help make this a meaningful, special and enjoyable process for you and your family. Please don't hesitate to reach out if ever you have any questions or concerns. Mazel Tov on this momentous occasion!

**Rabbi Elizabeth Zeller**

The Bar/Bat Mitzvah provides an opportunity for our students to stand before friends and family as leaders of our Jewish community. On this day, they demonstrate their knowledge while also displaying the hard work and dedication they needed to bring them to that moment. They show us what it means to be a Jewish adult. And, we see this expression of their Judaism as only the beginning. In moving ahead, we encourage our students to continue to lead the congregation – through study, through acts of tikkun olam, and through strengthening their connection to their Jewish heritage and beliefs. Mazel Tov!

**Rabbi Debra Bennet**

## From the Cantor...

I am so proud to be a part of this time in your lives, when your children assume the responsibilities and privileges of young adulthood and step up to the bima as Bar and Bat Mitzvah. There are many factors that have led you to this moment. Some of you honor your own parents by insisting your children follow the long chain of traditions, while others are being led down this path by your own children's insistence to be counted among their peers; to be a Jew with all rank and privileges. Whatever the reason, understand that we are here to help and guide you along your journeys.

Each of you are precious, as are your children, and we want you to have the best experience here at Temple Chaverim. We are committed to making your experience a celebration on multiple levels: personal, family, and community-wide.

Certainly, your children will be able to pray at any Reform congregation in North America, but more importantly they will be comfortable praying right here in their own congregation of Temple Chaverim and hopefully inspire all of us to be more prayerful in our lives and our deeds.

Best of everything to you and your families, and I look forward to being with your families every step of the way!

**Cantor Mariel Ashkenazy**



## From the President...

Temple Chaverim is a Temple of "Friends." Just as the name suggests, we are a group of friends who come together for worship, education, and celebration. We hope that Bar/Bat Mitzvah is only the beginning of your family's participation in the life of our temple.

If I can do anything for you, please give me a call at 367-6100.

Mazel Tov  
Michael Zutler



**Bar Mitzvah** means "Son  
of the Commandment."

**Bat Mitzvah** means  
"Daughter of the  
Commandment."

## From the Committee Chair...

I am honored to chair this important committee at Temple Chaverim. Our children have become B'nei Mitzvah at this temple and so we know how much this means to you. I want to do everything I can to make this event special in your lives.

Please don't hesitate to reach out and if you have any questions email [Barbatmitzvahdates@templechaverim.org](mailto:Barbatmitzvahdates@templechaverim.org)

Susan Wolfson

## The History of Bar/Bat Mitzvah



**Bat Mitzvah** means  
"Daughter of the  
Commandment."

Perhaps the best known Jewish life cycle event, the Bar Mitzvah is a coming of age ceremony. Literally, it means "Son of the Commandment." *Bar* is the Aramaic word for "son," and *mitzvah* is Hebrew and Aramaic for "commandment." What the name implies is that after this ceremony, the child is now of the majority age as far as Judaism is concerned. This means being counted in a *minyan*, being called to the Torah, and being responsible for the observance of the commandments.

The ceremony is not mentioned in the Bible. In fact, in the Bible the age of the majority is not 13, but 20. At this age, a man was considered old enough for military service and so, was counted in the reckoning of the number of people in the tribe. Over time, achieving the "age of the majority" changed in both age and significance. By the Middle Ages the age of the majority was 13 and a ceremony which commemorated a boy's achieving that age was performed. It entailed being called to recite the blessing over the Torah and chant a passage from the Prophets (i.e. "the Haftarah portion") during services. This was recognition of his transition into Jewish adulthood.

The modern Bar Mitzvah is quite different in many respects, yet the same in others. It is different because 13 is no longer "the age of the majority." In the Middle Ages a child went directly into adulthood at age 13. Today, the years between 13 and 18 are considered adolescence, an awkward period when the child is not really an adult yet not a child. Bar Mitzvah is the same, however, in the way that it is observed: by calling a child to the Torah and obligating him/her regarding the commandments of Judaism.

In 1922, the first recorded Bat Mitzvah occurred in the United States. Although the ritual varies depending on denomination, since then girls have been included in this tradition as well. Reform Judaism is one of the most egalitarian of the movements of Judaism. So, we observe Bat Mitzvah in exactly the same way as Bar Mitzvah.

# Bar / Bat Mitzvah at Temple Chaverim

## Leading the worship service.

In our synagogue, the ritual of Bar/Bat Mitzvah means leading the congregation in worship, reading from the Torah, reading from the Prophets (the *Haftarah*), and teaching something to the congregation (the *Devar Torah*). These are the skills that we feel are necessary for every Jew, so that they will be able to participate in Jewish life in the future. That is why we stress Hebrew and worship in our Hebrew school.

## Additional requirements.

In addition to the ritual requirements, students are **required** to attend services and complete a Bar/Bat Mitzvah project.

## The beginning of Jewish education, not the end!

After Bar/Bat Mitzvah, students are expected to continue their Jewish education through Confirmation. Our congregation's teen program is called Tuesday Night Live (TNL). We begin with dinner and then have workshops and activities, some are student led. There is an emphasis on leadership development and experiential learning. In the 10th grade, our students study with Rabbi Zeller and create a confirmation service. Students are always encouraged to participate in our youth group, which is a part of the North American Federation of Temple Youth. Youth group members have the opportunity to participate in weekend conventions which may be anywhere in the local or national area. They are encouraged to attend summer camps such as URJ Eisner Camp, URJ Crane Lake and the URJ Kutz Camp, where they connect with other teens and make life-long Jewish friendships.

## Temple Guidelines

### Temple Rules

#### Payment of dues, fees, and tuition.

There are a number of rules which have been established by the Temple Board, the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Committee, and the Religious School Committee pertaining to Bar/Bat Mitzvah at Temple Chaverim.

First, in order to have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah at Temple Chaverim, you must be a member of the Temple. In addition, at the time of the service, you must be in good standing. A member in good standing is one who does not have any arrears to the Temple for Dues, Religious School Tuition and Fees, and Bar/Bat Mitzvah Fee. If this is your youngest child, all fees and dues must be paid three (3) months prior to the date of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah. If you are experiencing a financial problem please contact our Executive Director to explain the situation.

## Service & School Attendance Requirement

**By attending worship at Temple Chaverim, Bar/Bat Mitzvah students become comfortable with our Religious services.**

In order to become Bar/Bat Mitzvah at Temple Chaverim, your child must be enrolled in Temple Chaverim's religious school and have satisfactory participation. 8th graders must be enrolled in Tuesday Night Live.

In addition, all Bar/Bat Mitzvah students and their parents must attend services at least seven times on Friday evenings and three times on Shabbat morning from the time that they begin their Bar/Bat Mitzvah tutoring. Service attendance must be at Temple Chaverim and must be completed before the day of the ceremony. Service attendance is closely monitored. Following services, hand in your card to the Rabbi or Cantor. Remember service attendance is for both parent and child.



**Upon three things does the world stand:**

**On Torah  
On Worship  
On Acts of Lovingkindness**

## Time and Length of Services

**Invitation time should be 15 minutes before your service time.**

Two questions which are frequently asked are: "What time should I put on my invitation?" and "How long is the service?" Both are important considerations in planning your Bar/Bat Mitzvah so that you can coordinate getting your guests to the simcha following services on time.



Sabbath and Rosh Chodesh services begin at 10:30 am. Exceptions to this are those assigned to a 9:00 am Sabbath service. Please invite your guests to come 15 minutes prior to the start of the service so that we can begin the service promptly. The 9:00 service ends at 10:15 and the 10:30 service ends at 12:00.

Afternoon Bar/Bat Mitzvah services, Mincha, commonly called Havdallah after the brief service which concludes the Sabbath, begin at 6:30 PM .

**Restrictions on  
Photographing and  
Video Taping.**

## Photography

Professional still photography is not permitted during services. Professional photography shoots are permitted on Mondays or Thursdays from 2-6pm or one hour before your service. Stationary videography is permitted under careful adherence to both Temple and vendor guidelines. All photography appointments must be formally arranged with the Temple office at least one month in advance of your date. See contract on page 28 and 29 of this packet. The temple does not provide this service.

The Rabbis and Cantor are happy to pose with your child for pictures with the Torah right after the service. The Torah will be taken out of the Ark at that time for photographs. Formal photography can be arranged on a weekday prior to the service in conjunction with regular operating hours of the Temple. You will need to arrange this with the clergy office. The Ark must remain

**Temple Funds.**



**Tree of life.**

**Large gifts.**

## Donation to Temple Chaverim

A donation to Temple Chaverim on the occasion of a Bar/Bat Mitzvah or other happy occasion is appropriate.

There are numerous funds for worthy causes at Temple Chaverim:

- ♦ Rabbi Zeller's Discretionary Fund
- ♦ Rabbi Bennet's Discretionary Fund
- ♦ Cantor Ashkenazy's Discretionary Fund
- ♦ Prayerbook/Torah Commentary Fund
- ♦ Torah Fund
- ♦ Sunshine Fund
- ♦ Tzedakah Fund
- ♦ Religious School Fund
- ♦ Library Fund

Many people honor their children by purchasing a leaf on our "Tree of Life." As the years go by, your children can see their name displayed proudly on our tree.

In addition, there are numerous opportunities for large gifts and naming opportunities in support of the Temple. If you would like to discuss the possibility for a large gift, speak directly to Rabbi Zeller.

**Oneg Shabbat is the  
collation after services  
on Friday night.**

**"You will call the  
Shabbat a delight  
(Heb.: Oneg)."**

## Oneg Shabbat and Kiddush

On Friday Evening the entire congregation is invited to our Oneg Shabbat, which includes coffee, tea, soda, fruit and assorted cakes and pastries. On Saturday morning there will be a light kiddush (grape juice, challah, and cakes) following services. It is appropriate for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah family to sponsor the Oneg Shabbat on the Friday Evening before and the day of your celebration and the cost of that sponsorship is included in your Bar/Bat Mitzvah fee.

If you would like a more substantial kiddush on Saturday morning, you must speak directly to our caterer.



# Preparing For Bar / Bat Mitzvah

We spend a considerable amount of time preparing your child for this special day. In this section, we describe the process so you can know what to expect.

## Religious School and Bar/Bat Mitzvah Lessons

**Hebrew School** Temple Chaverim Hebrew School meets on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Sundays. There are also required family activities. At Hebrew school, both Hebrew and Judaica subjects are taught. Although Bar/Bat Mitzvah is very important to us, it is *not* the only thing we teach in religious school.

Our Temple's requirement is that children begin religious school in the Third Grade in order to have a Bar/Bat Mitzvah at Temple Chaverim.

**Bar/Bat Mitzvah  
classes and  
tutorials**

Your child will begin preparing for his or her Bar/Bat Mitzvah nine to ten months prior to his or her Bar/Bat Mitzvah date. The process proceeds in three stages in order to assure the maximum one-on-one time with a Torah teacher and the Cantor.

The first stage is the **Torah / Haftarah Tutorial**. The Torah / Haftarah Tutorial is a 9 - 10 month process, in which your child will meet with a B'nei Mitzvah teacher once a week for twenty minutes to learn his or her Torah portion and Haftarah portion. The Cantor is potentially one of these teachers. If additional help (beyond this schedule) is needed, there may be associated fees due (see p.10).

The second stage is the **Bar/Bat Mitzvah Class** and a private meeting with the rabbi to discuss your Torah portion in great depth and to formulate a greater understanding. The end result of these meetings is a finely crafted D'var Torah, or teaching of Torah worthy of giving to our community.

Just before the Rabbi's Class begins, there is a **Sunday Family Workshop**, which should be attended by parents and Bar/Bat Mitzvah students alike. At the workshop, the meaning of Bar/Bat Mitzvah is discussed, and the workshop concludes with a very meaningful and emotional "Handing Down" of the Torah ceremony, where the Torah is passed from generation to generation and a picture of you and your child with the Torah is created for our photo display board in the clergy office waiting area.

The third stage is the **Cantor Tutorials**. In this stage your child will meet privately with the Cantor every week for twenty minutes. In these sessions students will review and polish all materials for the big day. This stage will be about 4-6 weeks long and will continue up to the week of your child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

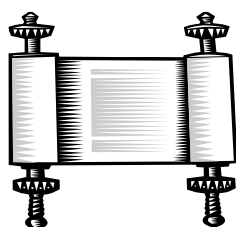
Rabbi Zeller will be individually meeting with you and your child twice to help them prepare their **Devar Torah**. The first meeting will be purely about the Devar Torah and will be scheduled 6 - 8 weeks out. The second meeting will be a Family meeting/second Devar Torah meeting where you will discuss all the honors that you will assign AND polish their Devar Torah. The Clergy Administrator will set up both of these meetings with you and Rabbi Zeller.

Parents are encouraged to attend each and every lesson along with their child.

Because of the nature of the material, your child will be assigned **homework** every week. It is important that your child spend 20-30 minutes every day learning his or her assignment. We expect that your child will chant his or her assignment for you *at least* once during the week. **Even if you do not know Hebrew**, it will be apparent if your child knows the material and can sing it for you with confidence or not. The time you spend studying with your child will be rewarding for everyone.

Your child will receive instructions on how to download his/her Blessings, Torah and Haftarah portions. Students must practice the material using the download each night in order to master it. We are aware of the time commitment necessary to be successful, and appreciate your support.

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## Learning the Torah and Haftarah Portions

The students will receive the download instructions and a book containing the Torah and then the Haftarah portion in Hebrew and English. A small section of the portion is assigned to the student, who must master it verse by verse.

Torah and Haftarah are chanted at Temple Chaverim. Because the chanting systems are slightly different, we begin with Torah, then add Haftarah.

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## Bar / Bat Mitzvah Study Materials

**Students study from a download file.**

The blessings, Torah and Haftarah portions are available to your child by downloading them from the Google folder created specifically for them.

You and your child should be aware of their materials at all times. If you need assistance with downloading this material, please speak to Cantor Ashkenazy.

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## Additional Tutoring

We are committed to the success and comfort of every child who ascends our bima. Every child, regardless of gifts or abilities is equal in our eyes. When a student is in need of extra help, we want to work with you to ensure their success. Additional private tutoring with either the temple's tutors or other tutors can be arranged at the parents' expense. With diligent adherence to the tutoring schedule and homework assignments, this should not be necessary (see p. 11 "Study Each Night"). The Cantor has telephone numbers of some local tutors and private arrangements can be made. Call Cantor Ashkenazy for further information.



## Study Each Night !

Because this is a self-taught system each student must study *every* night. The assignments are designed to take approximately 20-30 minutes of study a night. If this schedule is followed, there is never a problem with mastering the material. The *real* learning takes place outside of individual lessons.

However, students who attempt to learn the entire portion the night before coming for lessons, or in the car on the way to lessons, cannot make progress.

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## Se'udat Mitzvah: The Bar/Bat Mitzvah Party

The Hebrew name for this is Se'udat Mitzvah, which means the "meal celebrating the observance of this commandment."

Often, following the worship service, families prepare a Bar/Bat Mitzvah "party." The Hebrew name for this is Se'udat Mitzvah, which means the "meal celebrating the observance of this commandment." The party is an extension of the worship service (even if held on a later date), and therefore should maintain the sanctity of a holy observance. These parties should be *freilach*, that is, fun in nature, but also in keeping with good taste. No one should ever feel like they have to go into debt for a Bar/Bat Mitzvah party. Remember, this is a birthday party for a 13 year old.

Temple Chaverim's exclusive caterer, Lessing's, is available to help you plan and execute the Se'udat Mitzvah. Their telephone number is (516) 779-1930. The Temple has placed restrictions on the kinds of "themes" that can be employed to make sure they are appropriate for the occasion.

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## Copy of Service

Each student receives a copy of the service during the Bar/Bat Mitzvah class. This copy already has the cues written on it. It will be placed in the black binder and used on the day of the service.



## Friday Evening Participation



On Friday evening, during our worship service, you and your child will be asked to participate. Your child will be leading the congregation in kiddush over the Sabbath wine.

Parents of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah are invited to bless the candles, open the ark or to read the introduction to the kiddush. Children who have a Saturday afternoon service are asked to lead the congregation in the V'ahavta.

After services, the Bar/Bat Mitzvah is usually asked to recite the blessing over the *Challah*.

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## Sanctuary Rehearsals



The Sunday morning before the ceremony, your child will have a full rehearsal with Cantor Ashkenazy in the sanctuary, reading from the actual scroll. This rehearsal will last one hour. Please plan accordingly.

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## Projects

Each student must complete a Bar/Bat Mitzvah project. There are many possible projects. Here are some suggestions:

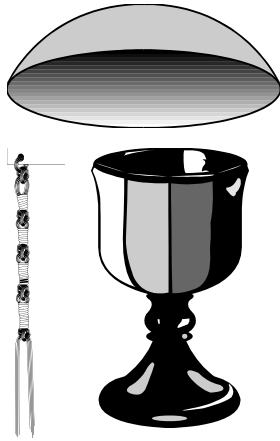
The project gives every child a chance to find additional realms of meaning in their Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation.

- Book Report
- Challah Baking
- Volunteer at Soup Kitchen
- Food Drive
- Visit a Nursing Home
- Make a Tallit
- Clothing Drive
- Interview Holocaust Survivor
- Walk-a-thon
- Service Project
- Twin with a Bar/Bat Mitzvah student in Israel or the former Soviet Union
- Yad Making Workshop

Projects must be cleared in advance with Rabbi Zeller.



## Kippot and Tallit, Kiddish Cups and Candles



Yarmulke, Tzitzit  
(Fringes), and  
Kiddush Cup

It is very special to have Kippot printed with the name of your child and the date of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

Another very special item is a special Tallit (prayer shawl) purchased for your child on this occasion. Talk to the Rabbi or the Cantor for more information on sizes and styles.

In addition, a Kiddish Cup (a silver wine glass) and Shabbat candle sticks, make lovely gifts and can be incorporated into the service.

Another wonderful gift for Bar/Bat Mitzvah is a prayerbook, a Torah commentary, or other book of Jewish content.

Sometimes there is a special Tallit, Kiddish cup, or candle sticks that are family heirlooms and can be used on the day of the service. Isn't it wonderful to have your son or daughter blessed on the day of their ceremony while wearing the Tallit that your grandfather used?

## Practice with your child

Make Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation into a family affair. You can study the portion with your child even if you don't know Hebrew!

Read the translation of the Torah and Haftarah portions with your child and try to help them figure out what they are about!

Read the English portions of the prayers and extract their meanings.

Of course, if you know Hebrew, you can help them learn the prayers and their portions. If you don't, you can listen to them read with the downloaded files.



## Read about Bar/Bat Mitzvah & Judaism

There are many excellent books on Judaism and Bar/Bat Mitzvah. For starters, try *To Life! A Celebration of Jewish Being and Thinking*, by Harold Kushner (New York: Little Brown, 1993).

A book on Bar Mitzvah is *Putting God on the Guest List*, by Jeffrey Salkin. Rabbi Salkin was the Rabbi at Central Synagogue in Rockville Centre and is a good friend of Rabbi Hecht.

A wonderful book to share with your children is *Teaching Your Children About God: A Modern Jewish Approach*, by David J. Wolpe (New York: Henry Holt, 1993).

# Appendices

Contained in the appendices are useful blessing sheets (with transliterations) and forms to help you prepare for your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

## Blessings

### Blessings:

- The candle lighting prayer.
- The Kiddush prayer.
- The blessing over the Torah.
- The *Shehecheyanu*; recited by parents or sibling during the Saturday Service.

The Torah Blessing sheet is also for you to distribute to those who will be called to the Torah for an Aliyah.

Note: We encourage all those who *do not know Hebrew* to recite these prayers in English.

## Parents' Prayer

Some parents participate in the Bar/Bat Mitzvah service by reciting a special prayer. One suggested version, taken from our Reform Prayerbook, is included for your consideration. You may choose to write your own prayer, however, make sure it is appropriate and in keeping with the Jewish tradition. If you are not sure, check with the Rabbi.

## Honors

***"Aliyah"* is the Hebrew word meaning "to go up."**

The Honors List must be handed in so that your honored guests may be announced properly. Rabbi Zeller will help you figure out the honors when she meets with you at the family meeting. The honors that are distributed include the opening of the ark, the three blessings over the Torah, and the lifting and dressing of the Torah. When assigning these honors remember that only Jewish people can recite the prayers over the Torah. If more honors are necessary, please discuss this with the Rabbi.

***Kaddish* is recited for those who have died.**

Finally, at the bottom of the Honors List form, there is space for you to enter names of loved ones who have passed away. We will read these names during the service, prior to the recitation of Kaddish, the Jewish prayer for the deceased. Dedication of a Memorial Plaque at the time of your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah is a very powerful way to bring the spirit of your loved one(s) into your family's special moment.

# Shabbat Candle Lighting

(participating mothers please read together)

O SOURCE of light and truth,  
Creator of the eternal law of goodness,  
help us to find knowledge by which to live.  
Lead us to take the words we shall speak  
into our hearts and our lives.

Bless all who enter this sanctuary in need,  
all who bring the offerings of their hearts.  
May our worship lead us to acts of kindness, peace and love.

[(1) Light taper from the votive; (2) Light the Shabbat candles; (3) Extinguish taper in dirt dish]

All Say:

BARUCH atah, Adonai  
Eloheinu, Melech haolam,  
asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav,  
v'tzivanu l'hadlik  
ner shel Shabbat.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יי  
אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו,  
וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק  
נֵר שֶׁל שַׁבָּת.

BLESSED ARE YOU, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe,  
who hallows us with mitzvot,  
commanding us to kindle the light of Shabbat.

## Shabbat Kiddush

[Father(s) present hold up kiddush cup(s) and read:]

The seventh day is consecrated to Adonai our God. With wine, our symbol of joy, we celebrate this day and its holiness. We give thanks for all our blessings, for life and health, for work and rest, for home and love and friendship. On Shabbat, eternal sign of creation, we remember that we are created in the divine image. We therefore raise the cup in thanksgiving.

[Father(s) pass kiddush cup(s) to their children, who chant:]

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרִי הַגֶּפֶן.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ  
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְרָצָה בָּנוּ, וְשִׁבֵּת קִדְּשׁוֹ בְּאַהֲבָה וּבְרָצוֹן  
הַנִּחְיָלָנוּ זְכוֹרֹן לְמַעֲשֵׂה בְּרָאשִׁית, כִּי הוּא יוֹם תְּחִלָּה  
לְמִקְרָאֵי קִדְּשׁ, זֵכֶר לִיצִיַּאת מִצְרַיִם, כִּי בָנוּ בְּחֵרָת  
וְאוֹתָנוּ קִדְּשָׁתָּ מִכָּל הָעַמִּים, וְשִׁבֵּת קִדְּשְׁךָ בְּאַהֲבָה  
וּבְרָצוֹן הַנִּחְלָתָנוּ.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, מִקְדֵּשׁ הַשַּׁבָּת.



# בְּרָכוֹת הַתּוֹרָה

Blessings At The Reading of the Torah

*Before the Reading of the Torah:*

בְּרָכוּ אֶת־יְיָ הַמְּבָרֵךְ.

(*Congregational Response:* בְּרוּךְ יְיָ הַמְּבָרֵךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.)

בְּרוּךְ יְיָ הַמְּבָרֵךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,

אֲשֶׁר בָּחַר בָּנוּ מִכָּל־הָעַמִּים,

וְנָתַן לָנוּ אֶת־תּוֹרָתוֹ.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, נוֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה.

*BAR'CHU et Adonai Ham'vorah*

*(Baruch Adonai Ham'vorach l'olam va-ed.) Congregational Response*

*Baruch Adonai Ham'vorach l'olam va-ed.*

*Baruch Ata Adonai,*

*Eloheinu, Melech ha-olam,*

*Asher bachar banu mikol ha'amim,*

*V'natan lanu et Torato.*

*Baruch atah, Adonai, notein ha-Torah.*

*BLESS ADONAI who is blessed.*

*Blessed is Adonai who is blessed now and forever.*

*Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe, who has chosen us from among the peoples, and given us the Torah. Blessed are You, Adonai, who gives the Torah.*

# בְּרָכוֹת הַתּוֹרָה

Blessings At The Reading of the Torah

*After the Reading of the Torah:*

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ,  
אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
אֲשֶׁר נָתַן לָנוּ תּוֹרַת אֱמֶת,  
וְחַיֵּי עוֹלָם נָטַע בְּתוֹכָנוּ.  
בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, נוֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה.

*Baruch Ata Adonai,  
Eloheinu, Melech ha-olam,  
Asher natan lanu Torat emet,  
V'chayei olam nata b'tocheinu.  
Baruch Ata, Adonai, notein ha-Torah.*

*BLESSED ARE YOU, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe,  
who has given us a Torah of truth, implanting within us eternal life.  
Blessed are You, Adonai, who gives the Torah.*

## PARENTS BLESSING (A)

Into our hands, O God, You have placed your Torah, to be held high by parents and children, and taught by one generation to the next. Whatever has befallen us, our people have remained steadfast in loyalty to the Torah. It was carried in the arms of parents that their children might not be deprived of their birthright.

And now, we pray that you, \_\_\_\_\_, may always be worthy of this inheritance. Take its teaching into your heart, and in turn pass it on to your children and those who come after you. May you be a faithful Jew, searching for wisdom and truth, working for justice and peace.

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May the One who has always been our Guide inspire you to bring honor to our family and to the House of Israel.

Blessed is Adonai our God, who gives me the honor and privilege of entrusting you with Torah.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
שֶׁהֶחַיֵּנוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמֶן הַזֶּה.

*Baruch Ata Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha-Olam,  
Shehecheyanu, v'kiy'manu v'higi'anu laz'man hazeh.*

Blessed are You, God, Sovereign of the Universe,  
For creating us, for sustaining us and for enabling us to  
reach this singular moment.

## PARENTS BLESSING (B)

Our hearts are one on this joyous day as you commit yourself to a life of Torah: a life, we pray, filled with wisdom, caring and right action.

We pray that you will grow each day in compassion for the needy, in concern for the stranger, in love of all people.

May the One who blessed our ancestors, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob and Rachel and Leah, bless you on your becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

May you grow with strength and courage, with vision and sensitivity. And may you always be certain of our love.  
Amen.

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May the One who has always been our Guide inspire you to bring honor to our family and to the House of Israel.

Blessed is Adonai our God, who gives me the honor and privilege of entrusting you with Torah.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
שֶׁהֶחַיֵּנוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמֶן הַזֶּה.

*Baruch Ata Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha-Olam,  
Shehecheyanu, v'kiy'manu v'higi'anu laz'man hazeh.*

Blessed are You, God, Sovereign of the Universe,  
For creating us, for sustaining us and for enabling us to  
reach this singular moment.



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## *Honors List*

Honors for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah of \_\_\_\_\_

Ark Opening: \_\_\_\_\_

Aliyah 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Aliyah 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Aliyah 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Aliyah 4: (reserved for Bar/Bat Mitzvah)

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

*Hagba'ah* (Lifting Torah): \_\_\_\_\_

*Gelilah* (Dressing Torah): \_\_\_\_\_

Names for Kaddish List: \_\_\_\_\_

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Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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## ***Donation Form***

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in name), make this donation in ☐ honor or ☐ memory  
(check one) of...

Mark the appropriate fund and use space to give further details:

Name of Fund	Use this space to fill out inscription, if any	Amount
Rabbi Zeller's Discretionary Fund		
Rabbi Bennet's Discretionary Fund		
Cantor Ashkenazy's Discretionary Fund		
Memorial Plaque		
Tree of Life		
High Holy Day Appeal		
Adult Education Fund		
Prayerbook Fund		
Torah Commentary Fund		
Torah Fund		
Religious School Fund		
Religious School Scholarship Fund		
Tikkun Olam Fund		
General Fund		
Sunshine Fund		
Library Fund		
Social Action Fund		
Healing Fund		
Memory/Yahrzeit Fund		
Oneg Sponsor Fund		
Eisner/Crane Lake Camp Fund		
Senior Programming Fund		
Social Action Fund		
Tzedakah Fund		
Youth Programming Fund		
Youth Discretionary Fund		
Darchei Noam Fund		

Notes: Memorial Plaques are \$360, Tree of Life Leaves are \$250, a limited number of boulders are available for \$1800, Shabbat Prayerbooks are \$36.00, High Holy Day Prayerbooks are \$40.00. Torah Commentaries are \$50.00.

If you would like to donate to our Temple, there are numerous funds for worthy causes at Temple Chaverim:



**Rabbi Zeller's Discretionary Fund:** For use by Rabbi Zeller to provide scholarships for children, guest speakers, donations to other Jewish causes and to help the needy in the community.

**Rabbi Bennet's Discretionary Fund:** For use by Rabbi Bennet to provide scholarships for youth programming, facilitate and improve youth events, and donations to other Jewish causes.

**Cantor Ashkenazy's Discretionary Fund:** For use by Cantor Ashkenazy to provide scholarships for children, build the Jewish musical repertoire of the congregation, promote musical programming and donations to other Jewish causes.

**Memorial Plaque:** A donation of \$360 will pay for the cost of a plaque to put on the Memorial Board in memory of a deceased loved one.

**Tree of Life:** Tree of Life leaves are \$250 and \$1800 (for boulders). These leaves are put on our Tree of Life to commemorate happy occasions such as, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, weddings, anniversaries, college graduations or any happy occasion.

**High Holy Day Appeal:** Donations made during the High Holy Days to help cover our operating expenses.

**Adult Education Fund:** Donations will be used to create and enhance our adult education opportunities.

**Prayerbook Fund:** A \$36 donation will pay for the prayer book we use during Friday night service or \$40 for the High Holy Days. A bookplate will be placed in the prayer book with the name of those honored or remembered.

**Torah Commentary Fund:** A \$50 donation will help the Temple acquire Torah Commentaries, which are the books that members use during services to follow along with the Torah reading.

**Torah Fund:** This is used to purchase our Torah Scrolls, Scroll of Esther and to clean and maintain the accouterments relating to the Torah (silver and mantles).

**Religious School Fund:** A donation to this fund is used to purchase additional supplies and fund additional activities not covered in our budget.

**Religious School Scholarship Fund:** Donations to this fund will ensure that all children have access to a Jewish education, regardless of ability to pay.

**Tikkun Olam Fund:** For use by the Board of Trustees to support local, regional, or efforts stemming from, but not limited to, a national or worldwide emergency. Examples of efforts we might support could be the URJ's Disaster Relief Fund to help the victims of the Haiti Earthquake or floods/drought around the world.

**General Fund:** General operating expenses.

**Sunshine Fund:** Donations offset the cost of shiva, simcha, and illness baskets sent to congregant's homes.

**Library Fund:** Will be used to build our literary collection of Jewish books for our library.

**Social Action Fund:** Donations to this fund will help us extend a caring, compassionate hand in our community -- near and far -- by supporting initiatives such as the Tikkun Alliance of the North Shore which delivers hot food and warm clothes to people in need on Long Island, area-wide Food Drives, and broader emergency responses to global events that occur.

**Healing Fund:** Donations to this fund will help Temple Chaverim's Caring Community to reach out to those who are coping with illness, grief and loss.

**Memory/Yahrzeit Fund:** A donation in any amount in memory of a loved one on the anniversary of their death.

**Oneg Sponsor:** Honors a simcha within the congregation or your family.

**Eisner-Crane Lake Scholarship Fund:** Provides scholarships for children of Temple Chaverim to attend a UAHC camp program during the summer.

**Senior Programming Fund:** Supports Sociable Seniors events and other senior-finance programming.

**Youth Programming Fund:** Provides scholarship funds for our youth to participate in NFTY, Hebrew Union College and other Jewish educational leadership development programs.

**Youth Discretionary Fund:** Donations to this fund help to subsidize educational and engaging Jewish programs for Youth such as NFTY retreats, HUC leadership programs and the Religious Action Center seminars.

**Darchei Noam Fund:** Temple Chaverim's sister Synagogue in Israel. Funds are sent directly to them to support Reform Judaism in Israel.

**Directions to Temple Chaverim**  
**1050 Washington Ave., Plainview, NY 11803 - (516) 367-6100**

**From New York City:**

Long Island Expressway to Exit 46 (Sunnyside Blvd.). Stay on S. Service Road .8 miles to Washington Ave. exit. Turn right on Washington Avenue – go 1.5 miles to Temple on right side of street (just past St. Margaret's Church).

**Or**

Northern State Parkway to Exit 38 (Sunnyside Blvd.). Make a left and go to the second light (Expressway Service Road E.). Take Service road to Washington Ave. Make a right for 1.5 miles to Temple on right side of street.

**From Eastern Long Island:**

Long Island Expressway to Exit 48 (Round Swamp Road). Make a left at the first light which becomes Old Country Road – go 2 blocks past the Post Office to E. Bethpage Rd-make a right. Go to the end and turn right on Washington Ave – go 1.5 miles to Temple on right side of street (just past St. Margaret's Church).

**Or**

Northern State Parkway to Exit 38 (Sunnyside Blvd.). Make a right –go to next corner make a right. Go two traffic lights to Expressway Service Road East to Washington Ave. Make a right for 1.5 miles to Temple on right side of street.

**From Jericho Turnpike (Syosset-Woodbury)**

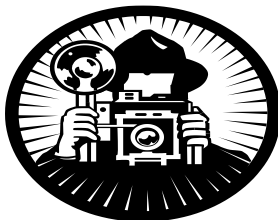
Turn South on Plainview Road (1/2 mile from Woodbury Country Club). Continue on Plainview Road 1.5 miles through Northern State Parkway underpass. Once through underpass – SLOW DOWN – entrance to Temple Chaverim is on left (before St. Margaret's Church).

**From Old Country Road (Plainview–Old Bethpage)**

Turn on to Manetto Hill Road and make first right turn on to Washington Avenue. Stay on Washington Avenue for approximately 2 miles. As you approach the Northern State Parkway under pass – SLOW DOWN. Temple Chaverim entrance is on right (approximately 100 feet before Northern State underpass).



## Photography Request Form



All requests for formal photography must be cleared through the Clergy Administrator in the temple office. Photography shoots can be arranged one hour before your service or, if you choose to have your photography shoot during the week, you can schedule it on Monday or Thursday between 2pm - 6pm.

The Ark must remain closed and the Torah cannot be removed. A small replica of a Torah is available for photography. It is located in the small wood cabinet on the right of the bimah area.

Please return this form or call the Clergy Administrator at ext. 112 if you wish to arrange a photography appointment.

Photography sessions are usually 1 hr in length. Please do not bring any food into the sanctuary. Your cooperation is very much appreciated.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date Requested \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Photographer \_\_\_\_\_



Phone: 516.367.6100  
Fax: 516.692.0208  
www.templechaverim.org

1050 Washington Ave.  
Plainview, NY 11803

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Videographer:

Temple Chaverim grants permission to you to video the bar/bat mitzvah service for \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ am/pm provided the following conditions are satisfied. Kindly sign one copy of this agreement and return it via fax, along with a Certificate of Liability Insurance naming Temple Chaverim as additional insured, to (516) 692-0208, attn: Julie Feinman, Executive Director.

Many thanks for your cooperation. Please feel free to call if you have any questions.

- **Coordination:** Only ONE videographer is permitted in the sanctuary for any given service. Families sharing a service must coordinate with each other.
- **Insurance:** Videographer must maintain appropriate liability insurance and provide certificates to Temple Chaverim naming Temple Chaverim as additional insured.
- **Location:** Videographer must set-up fixed tripod in a designated spot in accordance with the Rabbi and Executive Director's instructions.
- **Restrictions:** No videography is to be done outside the sanctuary (e.g., parking lot, lobby prior to -- and/or, in the case of morning services, immediately following -- the service as it may diminish the sanctity of Shabbat for worshippers. Food or drink is not allowed in the sanctuary at any time.
- **Set-up/Break-down:** Videographer must work in a non-obtrusive, non-disruptive fashion so as not to disrupt any portion of the service.
- **Professional Comportment:** Videographer must dress in a black suit and be presentable as befits the surroundings. Videographer must be professional in all communications (verbal and written) and in the performance of all photographic services.
- **Pricing:** Videographer will prearrange any and all fees, if any, directly with the congregants booking his/her services.
- **Conditions:** Failure to comply with performance expectations may result in summary removal from the synagogue, at the discretion of the Executive Director.

Sincerely,

*Julie Feinman*

Julie Feinman

Executive Director

**Agreed to and accepted by:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Videographer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print name of company

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





Phone: 516.367.6100  
Fax: 516.692.0208  
www.templechaverim.org

1050 Washington Ave.  
Plainview, NY 11803

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### IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- \*Preparation begins in earnest 9-10 months before with Torah/Haftorah tutoring
- \*The Bar/Bat Mitzvah class happens for 6 weeks in the season before the Bar or Bat Mitzvah.
- \*Individual meetings (2) with Rabbi Zeller for the D'var Torah happen about 8 weeks and 4 weeks before the Bar or Bat Mitzvah.
- \*Private meetings with the Cantor happens 4-6 weeks before the Bar or Bat Mitzvah.
- \*The rehearsal of the Bar or Bat Mitzvah will occur on Sunday, the weekend before your Bar/Bat Mitzvah.
- \*Please have your child bring all materials they have (binders, service, Torah portions, etc) to every meeting regarding Bar or Bat Mitzvah and to their service.
- \*You will be responsible for Candle Blessing and/or Kiddush introduction at the FRIDAY NIGHT of the weekend of your child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah.
- \*You will be reading the Parent's Blessing (p. 19-20; either side A or side B) during your child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah.
- \*Your child must be enrolled in religious school the year of their Bar or Bat Mitzvah (or TNL in the 8th grade year) and you must be a member in good standing.



Phone: 516.367.6100  
Fax: 516.692.0208  
www.templechaverim.org

1050 Washington Ave.  
Plainview, NY 11803

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## Please return to the synagogue office

As the Parent and/or Legal Guardian of \_\_\_\_\_  
I have read through this packet and agree to adhere to all the expectations that our family has for being a productive part of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah process at Temple Chaverim. If I have any questions, I will ask the Executive Director or Clergy in a timely manner. If there are any changes that need to be made to this process, for whatever reason, I will be forthcoming about it and work with the staff at Temple Chaverim, who will in turn work with me, to ensure a smooth successful outcome for all. I am so looking forward to my child becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah and enjoying this family *simcha* with my Temple Chaverim family.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent 1

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent 2

As a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, a son or daughter of God's commandments, I will take my learning and studying seriously as I prepare for this momentous occasion. I will do my best to prepare as best I know how and am capable of doing and I will not judge others or compare myself to anyone else – this process and learning is for me and me, alone. If I have any questions or concerns, I will raise them with my parents, the clergy and the staff at Temple Chaverim so that they can effectively answer them and I can continue on in my process. I am so excited to become a Bar or Bat Mitzvah with my Temple Chaverim family.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
(2<sup>nd</sup>/Twin Bar or Bat mitzvah Student)