

2011/2012—5772  
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Class

A Handbook for  
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Families



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## Table of Contents

Introduction - The Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony in perspective	3
Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation	4
Bar/Bat Mitzvah tutoring	5-6
Bar/Bat Mitzvah seminars	6
Membership in good standing	7
Attendance at services	7
Celebrating the actual Bar/Bat Mitzvah day	8
Parents learning along with children	8
Participation in the service by Bar/Bat Mitzvah	9-10
Snow cancellation policy	9
Shabbat candle lighting	10
Tallit and tefillin	10-11
Honors during the service	11-12
Family members reading Torah	12
Torah honors	13-14
The host family & guests	15
Information for your guests	15-17
Throwing candy	17
Booklets	18
Kippot and benchers	18
The D'var Torah	18-19
Meeting with the Rabbi	19
Inviting the congregation	19
Celebrating the event	20
Kiddush luncheon in synagogue	21
Invitations	21
Gifts	22
Tzedakah	22-23
Bar/Bat Mitzvah chesed projects	23
A final word	24
Bar/Bat Mitzvah planning	25-26
Event planning session	27
Synagogue honors worksheet	28
Bar/Bat gift registry	29
Letter to guests, customs, appropriate dress	30-32
Aliya blessings	33
On line resources for researching your Parsha	34
5772 Bar/Bat Mitzvah dates	35



## **INTRODUCTION**

### **THE BAR/BAT MITZVAH CEREMONY IN PERSPECTIVE**

Bar or Bat Mitzvah is a public acknowledgement that a boy or girl has begun to become a responsible adult member of the Jewish community. It is an important step in the transition to adulthood and the acceptance of responsibility for one's own actions. As a public acknowledgement, the Bar/Bat Mitzvah "ceremony" takes place in the context of a normal worship service at which a portion from the Torah is read. During the course of that service, the Bar or Bat Mitzvah is given the opportunity to demonstrate that he or she has acquired the skills to participate in the service and the knowledge to fulfill some of the obligations of a Jewish adult.

The Bar/Bat Mitzvah's participation is part of a regular service of the congregation. It is not a separate, private ceremony only for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah family.

At the same time, because we are a relatively small, intimate congregation, it is likely that the Bar/Bat Mitzvah child and family are well known, established members of the community. Therefore, the family's celebration is a simcha shared by the community at large as well.

The Bar/Bat Mitzvah brings honor to himself or herself by the manner and extent to which he or she participates in the service. Participation in the service is the core-the heart and the soul-of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony. Students will be well prepared before leading parts of the service. Since Beth David is an egalitarian congregation, participation in services is not dependent on the gender of the student.

The Bar/Bat Mitzvah at Beth David is an event for the Beth David congregation as well as for the family. The entire congregation looks forward to sharing the joy as our children become young adults. Beth David encourages celebrations following services to be consistent with the religious nature of the occasion.

## BAR/BAT MITZVAH PREPARATION

Bar/Bat Mitzvah is the continuation of a child's Jewish education that includes a minimum of four years of Hebrew School immediately preceding the Bar/Bat Mitzvah year, attendance at a Jewish day school, or other preparation approved by the Rabbi. Formal Jewish education is expected to continue at least through the year of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah; we hope it will continue beyond that year. We are proud that at Beth David Synagogue, most children continue with their Jewish education, participate in service projects and are involved as Madrichim (counselors) in the Congregational School through confirmation in twelfth grade!

- At least one year before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony, your child will begin lessons with Phil Silver, and the year of preparation will begin.
- Several months before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah date, the family and the student will meet with the Rabbi to review the student's progress and anticipated participation in the service.
- The student will also have an opportunity to meet individually with the Rabbi and to rehearse his/her anticipated participation in the service.

In addition to the participation in the service itself, students are urged to:

- Prepare a short D'var Torah (lesson) to be presented to the congregation just prior to the Torah service.

Students and parents are also expected to:

- Attend Bar/Bat Mitzvah seminars
- Attend services regularly throughout their Bar/Bat Mitzvah year

Written study materials and coordinated CDs will be provided as a review of the material which has been taught. There is a fee of \$500.00 to cover the expense of the year of Bar/Bat Mitzvah tutoring, as well as Haftorah book, Siddur Sim Shalom, and CD's. Payment by check or MC/VISA should be made to Beth David Synagogue, at the time that your child begins studying with the Bar/Bat Mitzvah tutor.

NOTE: B'nai Mitzvah taking place in later summer/early fall: In our experience, much of the students' material to be learned, meeting with the Rabbi, D'var Torah and administrative details for these B'nai Mitzvah all need to be completed before the summer. Students, families, and the Rabbi tend to "forget" things over the summer, and it's best to plan ahead to avoid the danger of this calendrical "black hole".

# BAR/BAT MITZVAH TUTORING

## I. The Basics of the Child's Preparation for Bar/Bat Mitzvah

- A. Philip Silver, our Bar/Bat Mitzvah Instructor, will contact parents by phone about one year before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah date to set up lessons.
- B. Initially, lessons are weekly and are 45 minutes long, and often lessons increase to twice a week during the preparatory year. In the final few weeks of preparation, they will have lessons at least twice a week.
- C. Students will learn the Torah and Haftorah blessings, the Haftorah, some or all of the Erev Shabbat and Shabbat morning services, and some Torah reading, (at least the Maftir portion) approximately in that order. Many students learn Haftorah and/or Torah Trope. Students will also learn havdala, Friday night candle lighting, motzi, birkat ha mazon and how to lead weekday afternoon/evening services.

**Students will almost always have homework.**

- D. Parents will receive a note from Philip after each lesson explaining the content of the lesson and the child's homework. Any change in the appointment time for the next lesson will be noted, as are the scheduled times and homework for extra lessons.

**Parents: Please read and sign the notes after each lesson!**

## II. Study Habits

- A. As a general rule, students should study approximately 30 minutes a day, 5 days a week. Parents should take an active role in studying along with their children, and seeing that the material is mastered.
- B. A suggested study method is for the student to read the assigned material 6 times before learning the melody. For example, read the material twice a day for 3 days and on the 3rd day, start learning the melody.
- C. If your child loses any of the learning material, can't locate the assignment on the CD, or has any question regarding homework, he/she should call Philip before the next lesson.

## III. Contact with Philip

- A. Please call Philip at home or his office if you have any questions or concerns. Home number - 294-0823, office 294-0007, ext. 6, **NEW** Cell number 254-7307.

- B. Philip will notify you as to when he will be unavailable. He definitely does teach during the summer, civic holidays, school workdays, and school breaks.

### **Bar/Bat Mitzvah Seminar**

A class for all the 2011 B'nai Mitzvah and parents will be held on Sunday mornings throughout the year. In addition to allowing all the B'nai Mitzvah to get to know each other better, the following topics will be covered:

- Jan 30** Why have a Bar/Bat Mitzvah? What's a Mitzvah? Why do a Chesed project?
- Feb 6** How do I lead services, and what are they? How does the Siddur work?
- Feb 20** How to do an Aliya, What's in our Synagogue?
- Mar 13** Why do Jews put on Talit and Tefillin?
- Apr 10** Candles and Wine - Friday night/ Shabbat morning/Havdalah
- May 1** My Hebrew Name/ My Parsha/ My Torah/ Writing a D'var Torah

### **Possible Fall Seminars:**

Why Shofar? Why Mezuza?

The Jewish calendar and Life Cycle

Why Birkat HaMazon? Why HaMotzi?

How to lead a weekday Minyan

\*All Classes are on Sunday mornings from 10:00 am to 11:00 am in the Beth David Board Room.

\*All Classes will be taught by Rabbi Eliezer Havivi, with assistance from Boaz and madrichim

\*Some classes will be open to post Bar/Bat Mitzvah students and adults

## Membership in Good Standing

It is the policy of Beth David Synagogue that families planning a Bar/Bat Mitzvah must be members in good standing of the synagogue, including being current with synagogue membership dues and assessments. If you anticipate a problem, please contact the Dues Committee well in advance of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah date!

## ATTENDANCE AT SERVICES

You are entering a year of intensive study and occupation with Jewish ritual and Synagogue life. **Regular attendance at Shabbat services for both students and parents is an integral part of Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation.** It is the most effective way of learning the liturgy and enabling the Bar/Bat Mitzvah to feel comfortable in the synagogue and to participate comfortably in his or her Bar/Bat Mitzvah service.

**BETH DAVID ENCOURAGES ALL BAR/BAT MITZVAH FAMILIES TO ATTEND TWO FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES AND TWO SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES EVERY MONTH DURING THE ENTIRE YEAR PRECEDING THE CEREMONY.**

Families should arrive no later than 9:45 am for Shabbat morning services and plan to stay through the end of services at noon. For Friday Evening services, families should be present from beginning (6:00 pm) to end (7:00 pm). To best assure adequate preparation for your child, please bring any anticipated problems to the attention of the Rabbi, as soon as possible. We feel that it is important for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah to feel at home with daily, weekday prayer.

Part of our students' Bar/Bat Mitzvah curriculum is learning to lead and participate in the weekday mincha/afternoon and ma'ariv/evening services. Mincha is a very simple service, consisting of Ashray, Kaddish, Amida and Alenu. Ma'ariv, which we recite at 5:45 pm during the winter months, is similar to the Friday night service. Please bring your student to a few afternoon services at 5:45 pm each month during the course of the pre-Bar/Bat Mitzvah year. Phil will assign your student five weekdays after the Bar/Bat Mitzvah to lead services. Please put these dates on your calendar, and plan to attend with friends and family to support your child as she/he leads mincha or ma'ariv.

## **CELEBRATING THE “ACTUAL” BAR/BAT MITZVAH DAY**

A boy becomes Bar Mitzvah – obligated to commandments-at age thirteen and one day. A girl becomes Bat Mitzvah at the age of twelve and one day, *regardless of when we celebrate it in synagogue!* So even if your daughter’s Bat Mitzvah date at Beth David is when she’s twelve and a half, twelve and three-quarters, thirteen, or seventeen(!), she is officially Jewishly Bat Mitzvah when she’s twelve and a day.

We’d like to celebrate your child’s “official” Bar or Bat Mitzvah on its actual day too. The rabbi will help you determine your child’s Hebrew birthday, and on the day after her twelfth or his thirteenth birthday, s/he will come to afternoon 5:45 pm, or a Thursday morning minyan and our congregation will offer congratulations!

## **PARENTS LEARNING ALONG WITH CHILDREN**

PLEASE NOTE: In order for parents or students to become more familiar with any of these services, we are pleased to make available CD’s with congregational chanting of Shabbat and weekday services. As your child learns to lead services and chant Torah and Haftarah, we encourage parents to learn along with him or her. Although your motivation is clearly different from his or hers, this is an opportunity to share some of the magic feeling of mastering a new skill. This particular skill will make you feel much more comfortable and fulfilled in synagogue. Make a commitment to yourself and learn to chant the services too! Philip Silver and Rabbi Havivi are available and would be happy to assist you.

## **PARTICIPATION IN THE SERVICE BY BAR/BAT MITZVAH**

### **SHABBAT**

On the Shabbat of the Simcha, Bar/Bat Mitzvah candidates are expected to be called to the Torah for the Maftir (final) Aliyah, and chant the blessings before and after the Aliyah. They may chant the Maftir Aliyah Torah portion and Haftorah, and the blessings that precede and follow it. Students may offer a D'var Torah (lesson). Once these portions of the service have been mastered, the student may learn to participate in or lead a variety of other portions of the Shabbat morning or Shabbat (Friday) evening service.

### **THURSDAY MORNING**

The Bar/Bat Mitzvah will be expected to attend Thursday morning 7:00 am Shacharit services with his/her family, on the Thursday preceding the Shabbat of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah. At this service, boys and men will put on Tallit and Tefillin; girls will wear a Tallit, Tefillin are optional. The students and parents will have previously learned how to put on Tallit and Tefillin during the Bar/Bat Mitzvah seminars.

The Bar/Bat Mitzvah will receive an aliyah, and may participate in other aspects of the service. It is customary that the Bar/Bat Mitzvah family or friends provide a modest breakfast after the Minyan - Entenmann's and orange juice, bagels and coffee. There are usually about 15-20 worshippers in attendance. We suggest that friends and family attend this simcha as well. The Minyan is generally over by 8:00 am. A detailed guide to planning and other parts of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah is available from Susan Feldman and will be reviewed with her several months before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

### **SNOW CANCELLATION POLICY**

Beth David holds daily minyan at 5:45 pm and Thursday at 7 am, and services on Friday at 6 pm and Saturday at 9:30 am, Rain or Shine. If snow/ice conditions make it difficult or hazardous to get to shul, don't come. Otherwise, we're on.

Here's a check list of what service skills your child may learn in preparation for Bar/  
Bat Mitzvah:

### THE SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE

- 1) Torah Blessings for Aliyah
- 2) Haftorah and Blessings
- 3) Maftir (Torah Reading)
- 4) Torah Service: *Ein Kamocha* through *Etz Chayim Hee*
- 5) Closing Hymns (*Ein Kayloheynu, Aleynu, Adon Olam*)
- 6) Kiddush and Hamotsi, Birkat Hamazon, Havdala
- 7) Ashray
- 8) Shacharit
- 9) Musaf
- 10) Torah Reading one or more Aliyot by trop

### FRIDAY NIGHT KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE

- 1) Kiddush & closing Hymns, Candle lighting
- 2) Ma'ariv
- 3) Kabbalat Shabbat

### THURSDAY MORNING SERVICE

- 1) Aliyah with Torah Blessing
- 2) Reading one or more of the three Aliyot
- 3) Chanting part of the service

### WEEKDAY MINCHA/MA'ARIV

## SHABBAT CANDLELIGHTING

If your Bar/Bat Mitzvah is between March 15 and October 30, it may be possible for your family to light Shabbat candles as part of the Friday evening service. See the Rabbi. Your child will learn the blessings and procedures for Friday night candle lighting and for end-of-Shabbat havdala. We encourage you to incorporate these practices with your children at home!

## TALLIT AND TEFILLIN

A Tallit and a set of Tefillin should be purchased for Bar Mitzvah boys. You may order Tallit and Tefillin through our Sisterhood gift shop, or purchase them independently (New York, Israel...). Although the Bar Mitzvah may practice with borrowed Tefillin, he should have his own pair, by three months prior to the actual Bar

Mitzvah. We do not require that girls wear Tallit or Tefillin, although we encourage them to do so.

Parents may, if they wish, "present the Tallit" to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah in a brief ceremony before the Torah reading on Shabbat morning.

A tefillin source which many of our families have found dependable is AOS Greenfield. The salespeople are knowledgeable and helpful. Their telephone number is 1-866-888-8740 and their website: [www.zerach.com](http://www.zerach.com). Tell them Rabbi Havivi referred you.

## HONORS DURING THE SERVICE

During a Shabbat morning service, a number of Jewish people are given various honors by being called to the Bimah for an Aliyah, to raise or dress the Torah, to open or close the Ark, etc. Often, these honors are given to congregants celebrating life cycle events such as a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, a forthcoming marriage, or the birth or naming of a child, a yartzeit, or a birthday. We know that you will want to honor family members and friends with aliyot to the Torah and other honors in the service. Therefore, Beth David sets aside some of that day's "*Kibbudim*" (service honors) to be distributed by the Bar/Bat Mitzvah family. Some aliya honors are retained by the congregation to be distributed to "regulars" or other worshippers.

You are welcome to distribute honors to family and friends, as you wish. However, please note that all honorees must be Jewish, according to the standards of our synagogue and the Conservative Movement; born to a Jewish mother, or formally converted by a *beit din*. Please avoid any embarrassment to your guests by checking potentially problematic situations well in advance.

Your selection of honorees should be discussed with the Rabbi several weeks in advance of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony. Please do not make any commitments about granting honors before the Rabbi has given his approval.

The Bar/Bat Mitzvah family is not obligated to distribute all of the honors or Torah readings. The congregation will be glad to distribute any honors that are "left over."

## SITTING ON THE BIMA

The Bar/Bat Mitzvah family may ask members of Beth David's Board of Trustees and officers to sit on the bima on the morning of their simcha.

Some trustees change in June of 2011, and a current list is available from the

Rose Ackermann	Risa Hanau	Susan Nehmen
Mike Berkelhammer	Don Henza	Kevin Ossey
Nat Bernstein	Sara Jacobs	Arthur Samet
Kevin Daniels	Ben Kahn	Marc Samet
Leon Davidowitz	Stuart Kaufman	Jeff Segal
Kim Ellsweig	Kathy Kraus	Rick Schneid
Greg Gertz	David Kriegsman	Robert Shuman
Marilyn Goldberg	Michael Krusch	Adele Weinstein
David Gutterman	Mindy Kutchei	Dan Wolf

synagogue office. A listing of officers and trustees as of 01/11 is as follows:

## FAMILY MEMBERS READING TORAH OR LEADING THE SERVICE

We encourage family members, and other guests, to participate in reading Torah or leading the service. If siblings or parents or others are able to do so, or wish to learn to do for the occasion, we will be glad to make the effort to help them learn. If a guest or relative would like to participate in this manner, please speak to the Rabbi well in advance of the occasion. If you wish your guests to read Torah, Phil/Rabbi Havivi must be informed of this at least three months before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah date. Otherwise, the Synagogue will assign Torah readings to readers from the Beth David community. Please note: In order to maintain the integrity of the Torah reading, only one aliya may be "split-up" among different Torah readers. In order to avoid embarrassment, all visiting Torah readers and daveners must complete learning their portions and be checked by the Rabbi two weeks prior to the Shabbat Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

## TORAH HONORS

### Aliyot - Aliyahs

During a Shabbat morning service, seven people in addition to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah are called to the Torah (given an Aliyah). A person designated for the Kohen (first) Aliyah must be a Kohen; a person designated for the Levi (second) Aliyah must be a Levi. All other Aliyot must be Yisrael-Israelites. Usually, honorees include parents, grandparents, older siblings, close friends and relatives. PLEASE ALERT THE RABBI IF EITHER SIDE OF YOUR FAMILY ARE KOHANIM OR LEVI'IM.

**Five** Aliyot are available to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah family to distribute among their family and friends. Two aliyot are left for the congregation to distribute. The last aliyah is reserved for those who have yartzeit and the maftir aliyah will be the Bar/Bat Mitzvah student.

Those designated for an Aliyah should be prepared to recite the blessings in Hebrew. They should also be prepared to give their Hebrew name and their father's and mother's Hebrew names. Page 33 has aliyah blessings in transliteration and translation. Please feel free to xerox this page and send it out to your honorees so they can practice in advance.

Note: A custom which many in our synagogue follow is for children and spouse of a person receiving an aliyah stand as a mark of honor and respect, for the duration of the aliyah - please alert your honorees and their families.

In our synagogue, the custom is for **only one person** to go up and recite the aliyah blessings at a time. We do make occasional exceptions, allowing a couple to go up together, but in any case, only one person may recite the blessings.

### HAGBAH (Lifting the Torah Scroll).

This honor should be given to a person with the ability and experience to raise the Torah in a proper manner. Because of the sanctity of our Torah scroll, only Hagbah lifters certified by our congregation are eligible to receive this honor. If in doubt speak to Phil or Rabbi Havivi.

### G'LILAH (Dressing the Torah Scroll).

The person who rolls and dresses the Torah after it has been raised.

### HOLDING THE TORAH

The Bar/Bat Mitzvah family may select a person - often a child about 10 to 13 years of age, but it may also be an adult- to sit on the Bimah and hold the Torah scroll while the Haftorah is being chanted.

## OPENING THE ARK

The Bar/Bat Mitzvah family may designate people to come to the Bimah to open the Ark. The Ark is opened twice, once before the Torah reading and again after the reading, and closed at the end of the service (i.e. - 3 sets of honors = 6 people). If Anim Zemirot is sung at the service, an additional ark opening may be added. Ark openers should be adults to maintain appropriate bimah decorum. Families may come up together for ark openings.

## CARRYING THE TORAH

You may wish to honor a guest by asking them to carry the Torah around the congregation in a procession. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah will hold the Torah on the bimah, and then give it to the Torah carrier. Alternatively, the Bar/Bat Mitzvah may serve as the Torah carrier for the entire procession.

## CARRYING THE YAD

A young child - usually a sibling - may be honored by carrying the yad (pointer) during the procession of the Torah around the congregation.

## KETER

1. Removing silver crown from the Torah after it is carried in the first procession.
2. Replacing silver crown onto the Torah before it is carried in the second procession.

## GABAYIM

Monitors, at each end of the Torah reading table who follow and correct the reading, call up and assist honorees. You may obtain a list of Gabayim from the synagogue office.

## OTHER HONORS

Others whom you wish to honor may be asked to lead portions of the service. A worksheet for honors and service parts is on page 28. A person could also be chosen to lead the "Prayer for our Country" in English or the "Prayer for the State of Israel" in Hebrew, or to lead English readings on Friday night. Usually, the Bar/Bat Mitzvah carries the Torah in each procession, but if the child is small, someone else may be given the honor of carrying the Torah.

## USHERS

Welcome and help seat guests, hand out kipot and booklets, and are alert for emergencies. At least one of the ushers must be a member of Beth David Synagogue.

## THE HOST FAMILY AND GUESTS

- Notify guests in advance that they have been chosen to receive an honor, especially those receiving an Aliyah.
- Obtain from your guests receiving Aliyot, their Hebrew names, and that of their fathers and mothers and pass this information to Phil Silver or Rabbi Havivi.
- Your family and out of town guests will need to eat Friday night Shabbat dinner after services. Beth David Synagogue is available to host a Kosher Shabbat dinner in the social hall or front foyer for any size group. We encourage you to consider this option for your simcha. Contact Susan Feldman at the synagogue office to arrange.

## INFORMATION FOR YOUR GUESTS

Your guests may not be familiar with a Conservative congregation, especially non-Jewish guests, and may feel more comfortable during their visit to Beth David if you advise them in advance about proper decorum customary at Beth David during Shabbat. Guests may feel ill at ease if they do not know what to expect or what is expected of them. For your information, we have compiled the following basic list of do's and don'ts. Please share them with guests who may not be knowledgeable. Some families have sent out a letter to guests in advance of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah, advising them of what to expect in the service, etc. A sample is included in this booklet on page 30.

### DRESS

Modest dress (sleeves, and dress hemlines at or below the knee) is appropriate for synagogue wear, and required for adult and adolescent honorees ascending the bimah. A wrap-around skirt will be provided for honorees whose attire is not bimah-appropriate. Everyone, including men and women, ascending the bimah should wear a head covering.

All men and boys should wear a Kipah in the Synagogue building AT ALL TIMES. They are available at the entrances. Heads should remain covered while they remain in the building, whether in or out of the sanctuary, thru the end of the Kiddush luncheon.

It is customary for Jewish men to put on a Tallit (prayer shawl) before entering the sanctuary. This is obligatory for males chosen to ascend the Bimah to receive an honor such as Aliyah, an Ark opening, etc.

Non-Jewish men should wear a Kipah but should not put on a Tallit.

Women are encouraged to wear a tallit on the bimah and in the congregation, but are not required to do so.

## RESPECTING SHABBAT

- SMOKING is not permitted on the Sabbath or on Holidays in the sanctuary, anywhere in the building (including the restrooms), and anywhere on the Beth David grounds - inside or outside the building.
- CAMERAS Photography, still or video, is not permitted at Beth David on the Sabbath. This includes the sanctuary, the entire building, and Beth David grounds outside the building. Please inform your guests beforehand so that they do not bring cameras into the building or carry them into the Sanctuary.
- If you wish to arrange a photo session before or after Shabbat, or on Thursday morning please contact the synagogue office.
- Gifts and other packages should not be carried into or out of the sanctuary on the Sabbath.
- Telephones There is no public telephone at the synagogue. Office phones are not available on Shabbat. **Cell Phones should be turned off before entering the sanctuary, and should not be used in the synagogue building on Shabbat.**
- Writing is forbidden by Jewish law on Shabbat and holidays. - no coloring or sketching or note-taking by adults or children, please.
- Please ask your guests not to chew gum in services.

## SERVICE TIMES

Services begin at six pm, promptly, on Friday evenings, and end approximately at seven pm.

Services on Shabbat morning begin at nine-thirty am and end approximately at noon, but may run as late as twelve-thirty.

Please make sure that your family arrives early enough to get settled before the services begin.

Please advise your guests to arrive on time, or early, so that you may greet them properly, before the start of services. If your guests will be unable to arrive at the beginning of services, an usher will direct them to seats. We suggest that guests arrive by ten am at the latest, so as not to miss out on the action.

## **CHILDREN ARE OUR FUTURE!**

Children of all ages are most welcome at Beth David Synagogue. If infants or very young children attend services, please suggest that they and their parents find seats near the rear or on the aisles of the sanctuary, to facilitate easy exit in the event of howling! Children are encouraged to kiss the Torah during the Torah processions, and will all be called up to the Bimah for Kiddush and the closing hymns at the end of services, both Friday night and Shabbat morning. Coloring or writing or electronic games by children or adults is forbidden on Shabbat; Shabbat friendly books and toys are welcome. We have books and toys in a play area in the corner of the sanctuary. Parents and children are welcome to use them. Please make sure that puzzles, etc., are put back in place after use.

## **THROWING CANDY AT BAR/BAT MITZVAHS**

We throw candy to indicate our joy at happy occasions, and to express our wish that life will be sweet for the family observing this simcha.

Distribution of candy during services is distracting to the child reading the haftorah, and sometimes, the youthful exuberance of teenage guests gets out of hand, and spoils the joyous mood. Therefore, we recommend that:

Candy will be distributed by the Bar/Bat Mitzvah family to **NO MORE THAN TEN ADULTS, PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING SERVICE**. It will be the responsibility of these adults to toss the candy at the Bar/Bat Mitzvah child at the conclusion of the haftorah blessings, while everyone sings SIMAN TOV.

Candy used at the synagogue must be certified Kosher. Some-commonly found Kosher candies are: Sunkist Gems, Kraft Caramels, Hershey's Kisses, Nestles and Hershey's Products and Tootsie Rolls. Individually wrapped Jelly Bellies are ideal "throwing" candy – the individual wrapping slows them down when airborne and they are unlikely to injure anyone. The Jelly Belly brand is Kosher and available (we recommend five pounds) from 1-800- NYC- NUTS.

## **BOOKLETS**

A small booklet, titled "Welcome to our Simcha," details the architecture of the Synagogue and the structure and meaning of various parts of the Shabbat service. It is available for you to put into pews, or have ushers distribute to guests. You may wish to personalize the information by inserting a one-page "program" sheet (8.5" X 5.5") with notes on who is doing what in the service, something about your child, a personal welcome note, etc.

A trifold called "A Guide to the Perplexed for Shabbat Morning" is also available to distribute to your guests. The synagogue also has available booklets of TRANSLITERATION (Hebrew spelled out in English letters) of the Hebrew prayers we sing in the Friday night and Shabbat morning services. We have found that non-Hebrew reading guests (Jews & non-Jews) are most grateful to be able to use this booklet. We suggest that these transliteration booklets be distributed by ushers as appropriate.

A handout with Synagogue announcements is distributed each Shabbat.

## **KIPPOT AND BENCHERS**

Some families have ordered and distributed commemorative, imprinted kippot, for their guests. In addition, you may wish to consider ordering booklets containing the "benching," the grace after meals, which will be recited after the Kiddush Luncheon. For help ordering these items, please consult the synagogue office or the gift shop. Your child will lead Birkat Hamazon/Grace after meals after the luncheon. Please alert your guests to stay at lunch until after Birkat Hamazon.

## **THE D'VAR TORAH - THE BAR/BAT MITZVAH SPEECH**

Beth David invites the Bar/Bat Mitzvah to deliver a D'var Torah, giving meaningful expression to Jewish ideals, identity or values. Topics may be the meaning of the Torah reading or haftorah, Israel, aspects of Jewish life, specific rituals or a personal Jewish experience.

The D'var Torah should not be merely a collection of facts, but it should also include the child's own feelings and opinions. Desired length is not more than two double-spaced, typed pages, but quality is the best determining factor.

Boaz Avraham Katz will contact your family several months before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah to help the child choose a topic and organize thoughts; Families should anticipate being involved in reading the parasha and haftorah in English at home, and encouraging progress in writing the speech and practicing it.

As part of our parent/child Bar/Bat Mitzvah meetings, we will hold one session on "How to write a D'var Torah". We will also distribute to families material appropriate to each child's parasha, and will be happy to meet with you to get the ball rolling.

The D'var Torah will be delivered before the Torah Service, and will serve as an introduction to the Torah Reading.

### **MEETING WITH THE RABBI**

Several months prior to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah date, the family will meet with the Rabbi. At that time, actual plans for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah may be discussed, and any unusual circumstances should be aired. The Rabbi will review the honors available to the family to distribute, and be available to assist with special plans you have made. It is also an opportunity for the Rabbi to get to know you as a family and as parents of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah, and for you to discuss Jewish or family issues with him. Please be prepared to tell the Rabbi about your extended family who will be attending; who, in general, the guests will be; any recent events, achievements, tribulations in the life of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah family to which he should be sensitive; any particularly noteworthy guest who will be in attendance (Great Aunt Tilly, who ran a kosher butcher shop during the Civil War), and, most important - about your child-his/her character, achievements, commitments, things that make you proud.

Needless to say, the Rabbi is available to you at any time, to discuss issues of the upcoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah, as is the Educational Director, Philip Silver, the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Tutor.

### **INVITING THE CONGREGATION**

It is customary to place a small notice in our synagogue bulletin during the month in which your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah falls, inviting the congregation to share in your simcha by joining your family at services that Shabbat. It is also customary to include 100-150 words describing your child and his/her interests, and a picture. Deadline is the 15th of each month for the following month's bulletin. You may drop this off at the synagogue office, or email directly to the bulletin editor, Susan Feldman at [sfeldman@bethdavidsynagogue.org](mailto:sfeldman@bethdavidsynagogue.org).

## CELEBRATING THE EVENT

The Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebration is a significant religious event in the life of a Jewish child and family. Beth David strongly recommends that the spiritual character of the occasion be stressed.

When the party or celebration becomes the chief feature of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah event, much meaning and richness is lost. The spiritual aspects of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah will be enhanced by a luncheon and reception/party in keeping with the concept of *se'uda shel mitzva* - a meal or party celebrating a mitzvah. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah party should adhere to some standard of Kashrut - either dairy, vegetarian or a kosher meal. It is just not appropriate to mark a Jewish religious ceremony, especially after so much effort and study, by serving unkosher meat or other forbidden foods at the party.

The party should incorporate appropriate blessings before (*Hamotzi*) and after the meal.

If the party is on Saturday night, it is a meaningful and beautiful observance to recite HAVDALA. Your child will learn to lead havdala as part of his/her Bar/Bat Mitzvah studies.

Another way to enhance the Jewish celebratory aspect of the party is with "Jewish" dancing. Few local musicians know more than Hava Nagila, but the synagogue has available tapes, videos, and sheet music for "circle dances" and others that we are happy to lend out for DJ's or bands. Even a few minutes of "Jewish" or Israeli dancing adds a great deal to the festivities.

Ostentation and conspicuous consumption mar the atmosphere of *se'uda shel mitzva* - The "Mitzvah meal". You may consider limiting your menu somewhat, and donating the difference to Mazon or some other tzedaka (see page 22). You may also wish to direct leftovers to the Greensboro Urban Ministry Food Bank - telephone number 271-5975.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Another mitzvah to which you should be sensitive is the commandment not to embarrass others. In light of the fact that our Jewish community in Greensboro is so small, and that acceptance by their peers is so crucial in the Bar/Bat Mitzvah age group, we urge you to include ALL of your child's Religious School/B'nai Shalom classmates on your invitation list.

## KIDDUSH LUNCHEON IN SYNAGOGUE

Our synagogue is blessed with a vibrant, welcoming congregation of Shabbat morning "regulars." Although your child will of course perform brilliantly, it is really the regulars who make "your" Shabbat morning a warm, meaningful davening experience. They are really the ones who welcome your guests into our congregation. It is customary at Beth David Synagogue to have a Kiddush luncheon after Shabbat services. It is most appropriate to make sure that our regular congregation feels invited and welcome. There are approximately 100 "regulars" - 70 adults and 30 children, many of whom will probably be among your invited guests.

Whether you plan to celebrate with your guests at a Shabbat dinner, a Kiddush luncheon after services on Shabbat morning, or a party after Shabbat, there are a number of options available to you through the synagogue. There are local caterers who are registered to prepare and serve in the synagogue, or use the synagogue's kosher kitchen. All planning should be organized through Susan Feldman in the synagogue office.

Whether at the Synagogue or elsewhere, we encourage modesty in consumption, and a recognition of the religious character of the celebration.

We suggest that you emphasize LESS BAR AND MORE Mitzvah; instead of a big bash, consider taking the family for a visit in Israel.

The Rabbi is available to you to answer questions or provide advice in these matters.

It is the Rabbis' policy to attend only those Bar/Bat Mitzvah (or other mitzvah) celebrations that are kosher, dairy, or vegetarian.

## INVITATIONS

We suggest that your invitation reflect the spiritual and religious nature of the occasion as well, by including some Hebrew - perhaps the Bar/Bat Mitzvah's name, the name of the parsha, or a verse from the Torah in Hebrew or English.

## GIFTS FOR THE BAR/BAT MITZVAH

As a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, your child will receive three gifts from Beth David, a Hebrew English Tanach (full Jewish Bible) from the Beth David Board of Trustees, candlesticks from the Sisterhood, and a Kiddush cup from the Men's Club. Please make sure that your child writes "thank you" for these gifts. Families may wish to commemorate this important event at Beth David by dedicating leaves on the Tree of Life or contributing to any of the congregation's special funds.

Some months after your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah, the entire Bar/Bat Mitzvah class will receive Bar/Bat Mitzvah Certificates as a group in a ceremony from the synagogue. This year, Bar/Bat Mitzvah certificates will be awarded to the class as a group on **Shabbat, October 15, 2011**. Please save the date!

Gifts of religious content, such as books, CD's and ceremonial objects are appropriate for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah. This is a particularly good time for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah to begin his/her own Jewish library. A suggested list of Jewish Bar/Bat Mitzvah gifts is on page 29.

The Sisterhood Gift Shop carries supplies and appropriate gifts. An assortment of domestic and Israeli Kippot, Tallitot and Tefillin is available. In addition, the gift shop prepares a "Bar/Bat Mitzvah registry" for each child, noting books & Judaica objects appropriate for Bar/Bat Mitzvah gifts as suggestions to the community.

Mail order catalogs of Jewish books and Judaica objects are available through the Rabbi or the gift shop.

## TZEDAKAH

We encourage Bar/Bat Mitzvah children and their families to positively mark this simcha with acts of tzedaka, sharing your family's joy with others who are less fortunate. Here are some suggestions:

- Tithing part of his/her Bar/Bat Mitzvah "take", or otherwise making a personal donation to a tzedaka of his/her choosing.
- Families are also encouraged to set the example for their children, by pledging a percentage of the cost of the reception to those who have less.
- "Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger," which offers American Jews a vehicle through which they may add a rich dimension of public service to their private

celebration. Through Mazon, you can voluntarily contribute three percent (3%) of the cost of your celebration (\$30 for every \$1,000 spent) as an offering to help defeat the scourge of hunger here in the United States and around the world.

- Consider making a contribution or planting a tree in honor of each guest, with a certificate as a favor or as a centerpiece.
- Arrange to donate floral centerpieces to a hospital or nursing home, or choose fruit or food baskets to be donated to a charitable organization.
- Perhaps you could ask guests to bring a can of food to Friday night services or to the party, to give to the food bank.
- We encourage you to donate leftover food from your luncheon and Saturday night party to organizations which have agreed to accept packed up, left-over food. Your caterer will be happy to help you pack up the food in transportable containers. Your family will have the opportunity to take the food to one of the institutions which will use leftover food on Sunday morning.
- You may also wish to mark the occasion of your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah by making a gift to the synagogue: Books to the library, a ritual object, etc. Please speak to the Rabbi or the for suggestions.
- Other ideas for tzedaka tied to this Bar/Bat Mitzvah occasion will be discussed at Bar/Bat Mitzvah seminars.

## **BAR/BAT MITZVAH CHESED PROJECTS**

Tzedaka is usually limited to money; the Hebrew term for "volunteering to help others" is GEMILUT HESED", literally, "acts of loving kindness." We encourage students to commit themselves to some activities of gemilut chesed as well, in the year following the Bar/Bat Mitzvah and throughout their lives. Examples might e: collecting used eyeglasses, or shoes for the poor, tutoring Hebrew or some other subject, picking up bread at the end of a day and delivering it to the soup kitchen once a week, volunteering in an office of a charitable organization, etc.

## **A FINAL WORD**

Bar/Bat Mitzvah is a delightful and important event in the life of a family.

It is a stepping stone, a transitional point, in growing up as a Jew. Continued Jewish growth requires ongoing Jewish engagement and learning by a child and by a family.

After the Bar/Bat Mitzvah year, the student should continue Jewish education, attending our Religious School or B'nai Shalom and then AHA or other Jewish enjoyment through confirmation. Unless education continues through the high school years, the Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebration will prove to have been an empty ceremony.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah signifies a commitment to the fellowship of Israel, the study of Torah, and Jewish observance. These commitments should be honored by the Bar/Bat Mitzvah student and by his/her family!

We hope that the synagogue involvement you experience surrounding your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah - attending services, learning together with him/her - is pleasant and meaningful for you as a family. Please don't let the intensity of this Jewish quality time slip away. Use the Bar/Bat Mitzvah experience as a springboard to continued involvement and observance, at home and in the synagogue.

Identify yourself with the Jewish religious community through positive activity. Judaism becomes more meaningful when the entire family is truly integrated into congregational life.

In addition, our Synagogue Board, Sisterhood, Men's Club, Religious School Board, and numerous committees are eager for your help. Don't be just a name on the Beth David roster. Your personal qualities and gifts of mind can enrich the life of our congregation. Take advantage of your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah to become involved in Jewish life for yourself, for your family, for our community.

Mazal Tov!

## **BAR/BAT MITZVAH PLANNING:**

### **ONE YEAR IN ADVANCE:**

Reserve hotel rooms  
Start invitation list  
Choose invitation  
Start lessons with Philip  
Reserve caterer and band/DJ  
Think about Friday night, Saturday night, Sunday morning meals/hosting/events

### **SIX MONTHS BEFORE**

Finish preparation of invitations & thank you notes  
Take invitations to printer  
Siblings and relatives begin preparation of parts  
Meet with Susan Feldman to begin planning of Kiddush lunch/celebration

### **FIVE MONTHS BEFORE**

Prepare inserts of invitations  
Prepare letter about dinners and brunch and Saturday night party  
Meet with caterer and mashgiach  
Order benchers and kipot  
Measure Bar/Bat Mitzvah and choose tallit and purchase with tefillin  
Reserve rooms at Synagogue, reserve kitchen dates  
Contact photographer

### **FOUR MONTHS BEFORE**

Finalize invitation list  
Begin addressing envelopes  
Finalize menus for Shabbat dinner/luncheon/Saturday party  
Set up Synagogue honors  
Buy candy for throwing  
Begin work on D'var Torah  
Think about party favors  
Set-up Thursday morning breakfast

### **THREE MONTHS BEFORE**

Stuff invitations  
Reserve: table cloths, microphones, tent, chairs, all rental equipment  
Register Bar/Bat Mitzvah at Synagogue Gift Shop  
Begin working on table set up for Shabbat dinner/luncheon etc.  
Clothing for family members and shoes  
Contact florist  
Arrange for care for small siblings in synagogue

## **TWO MONTHS BEFORE**

Buy stamps  
Divide up friends' volunteer responsibilities  
Mail out of town invitations  
Welcome bags for guests  
Greensboro information sheets for guests  
Prepare notice and submit with photo to Susan Feldman for bulletin  
Begin work on Bar/Bat Mitzvah program  
Arrange for babysitting in Synagogue  
Meet with Rabbi Havivi

## **SIX WEEKS BEFORE**

Mail remainder of invitations

## **ONE MONTH BEFORE**

Order special challah  
Re-contact: photographer, florist, rental company, caterer  
Select ushers and all honors  
Picture collage

## **THE MONTH OF THE BAR/BAT MITZVAH**

Arrange transportation for guests  
Hospitality baskets for hotel  
Check all clothes for different events

### **TO ORGANIZE BAR/BAT MITZVAH CELEBRATIONS IN ISRAEL:**

Rabbi Andy Sacks-email: RAIsrael@JTSA.edu  
Fax 011-972-2-782441 or 011-972-2-666049  
Rabbi Lee Diamond-email: amidiam@Mail.Netvision.net.il

## EVENT PLANNING SESSION

At least 6 months before your simcha, please contact Susan Feldman and book a date to start planning your Bar/Bat Mitzvah weekend events. Susan can be reached at 294-0007 x 2 or at [sfeldman@bethdavidsynagogue.org](mailto:sfeldman@bethdavidsynagogue.org).

Some of the topics that will be discussed at this first planning session include:

How to start planning for this weekend

How to plan and execute the Thursday morning minyan breakfast

What to do about booklets

What options exist for a Kiddush lunch celebration

- Catering options
- Self catering
- Kashrut guidelines
- Serving options
- Room set ups
- Menu ideas
- Approximate costs
- Table setting options
- Linens
- Paper goods

Saturday night celebrations at the synagogue

What to do about flowers for the weekend

Any special needs, considerations or questions you have

You can also receive lists of:

- Congregational Cohanim
- Congregational Levi'im
- Certified Gabbayim
- Certified Hagbahs (Torah lifters)
- Establishments that have kashrut supervision
- Lists of common snack brands that are generally kosher

# SYNAGOGUE HONORS WORKSHEET

Bar/Bat Mitzvah of \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## FRIDAY NIGHT

Candlelighting \_\_\_\_\_

English readings (optional)

1. (pg. 23) \_\_\_\_\_

2. (pg. 32) \_\_\_\_\_

3. (pg. 33) \_\_\_\_\_

## SHABBAT MORNING

Talit Presentation

Open Ark p. 139 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Torah carrier in procession \_\_\_\_\_

Yad Carrier \_\_\_\_\_

Gabayim (must be approved) \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Keter Removal (p. 141) \_\_\_\_\_

**Torah Reading and Aliyot** (two in addition to Acharon, are TBA as “congregational aliyas”)

Aliyah # \_\_\_\_\_ Torah Reader \_\_\_\_\_ Hebrew Name, Ben/Bat \_\_\_\_\_ English Name

Cohen \_\_\_\_\_

Levi \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

5 \_\_\_\_\_

6 \_\_\_\_\_

7 \_\_\_\_\_

(Acharon – for Yartzeits)

Bar/Bat Mitzvah student will “have” the maftir aliya

Hagbah (Lifting the Torah (must be approved) \_\_\_\_\_

G'lila (tying the Torah) \_\_\_\_\_

Torah Holder (seated) \_\_\_\_\_

English reading – Prayer for Country (p. 148) \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrew reading – Prayer for Israel (p. 149) \_\_\_\_\_

Keter - Placing Silver crown on top of Torah (p. 153) \_\_\_\_\_

Open/close ark p. 154 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Torah Carrier in procession \_\_\_\_\_

Open/close doors at end of service \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Kiddush \_\_\_\_\_

Motzi \_\_\_\_\_

Birkat Hamazon at Luncheon \_\_\_\_\_

Ushers \_\_\_\_\_

Other daveners, participants \_\_\_\_\_

Shacharit \_\_\_\_\_

Torah Service \_\_\_\_\_

Musaf \_\_\_\_\_

P. 185 Anim Zemirot (optional) plus open/close ark \_\_\_\_\_

Guests/Relatives to be recognized/mentioned by name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bar/Bat Gift Registry**  
(These items are available through  
Beth David Synagogue Sisterhood Gift Shop)

Tallit & Bag  
Tefillin & Bag  
Kippot with name  
Chanuka menorah engraved  
Kiddush cup(s) engraved  
candlesticks  
Tzedaka Box  
gragger  
hadvala set  
Jewish & Israeli Tapes/CD's  
magazine subscription: The Jerusalem Report, Moment  
Teenage books  
Israel Bonds (to go to Israel trip)  
clock with Hebrew  
watch with Hebrew  
Hebrew name in calligraphy or plaque  
Hebrew name necklace or bracelet

**Books**

Jewish Catalogs 1, 2, 3  
The Jewish Book of Why 1, 2, 3, 4  
Klein, A Guide to Conservative Jewish Practice  
Art Scroll Chumash  
Gilbert, Jewish History Atlas  
Art Scroll Siddur  
Telushkin, Jewish Literacy  
Klagsbrun, Voices of Wisdom  
Potok, Wanderings  
Sarna, Understanding Genesis, Understanding Exodus  
Davka Jewish & Hebrew Computer programs & games  
Danny Seigel, Tzedaka Books  
Donin, To Be A Jew, To Pray as a Jew  
Kitov, The Book of our Heritage  
Junior Encyclopedia Judaica  
Jewish Publication Society gift certificate  
1-800-Judaism gift certificate  
Strassfeld, The Jewish Holidays

## SAMPLE LETTERS TO GUESTS WHO ARE UNFAMILIAR WITH BETH DAVID

Dear Friends,

We are delighted that you will be joining us for \_\_\_\_\_'s Bar/Bat Mitzvah on \_\_\_\_\_ at Beth David Synagogue in Greensboro.

### CUSTOMS

We realize that many of you may not be familiar with the customs of a Conservative Jewish congregation such as Beth David. In order for everyone to feel at ease, we would like to share some of our customs with you.

Our Jewish Sabbath (Shabbat) begins at sundown on Friday evening and ends at dark on Saturday evening. We will welcome Shabbat at a one hour Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat service beginning at 6:00 pm at Beth David Synagogue, 804 Winview Drive. Please feel free to join us, our family, and out-of-town guests, as \_\_\_\_\_ will be leading the service.

Our main Shabbat Morning service will begin at 9:30 am on Saturday, \_\_\_\_\_, at Beth David, when \_\_\_\_\_ will lead the congregation and will become a Bar/Bat Mitzvah. The first 30 minutes of the service consists of opening prayers and psalms. Our immediate family and out-of-town guests will be arriving shortly before 9:30 am. For others, it is acceptable to plan to arrive between 9:30 am and 10:00 am. Because the service may not end until 12:30 pm, it is quite acceptable to get up and leave during the service to attend to small children or to use the rest room. During the service, family members and close friends will be honored by being asked to participate in the service. The Torah reading is the spiritual heart of the service. The Torah, which contains the Five Books of Moses, is a scroll of parchment, handwritten in Hebrew. When the Torah is taken out of the Ark and read, there is a procession, song, and prayer. Different sections of The Five Books of Moses are read each Sabbath morning. Before and after each reading, members of the congregation and family members will be honored by reciting a blessing. \_\_\_\_\_ will read a section of the Torah in Hebrew, which is quite an accomplishment as there are no vowels, punctuation, or musical notation present in the Torah. \_\_\_\_\_ will mark her becoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah (responsible to follow the commandments) by reading the final portion of the Torah service (Maftir). Upon the completion of chanting the Haftarah portion reading from the Prophets which follows the Torah portion, the adult congregation will throw some Kosher candy (which we will provide), toward \_\_\_\_\_. A traditional song of congratulations (Siman Tov) will then be sung. The candy toss symbolizes the joy and happiness of the

occasion and the wish for a sweet life. Young children may go up onto the Bimah (stage) to help retrieve the candy.

The majority of the service is chanted in Hebrew. The English translation may be found in the prayer books located at each seat. Page numbers are announced periodically to help you follow along. In order to follow the Torah readings, you will need to switch to a Bible (Chumash or Five Books of Moses) which the ushers will provide just prior to the Torah service section. Booklets entitled, "Welcome to Our Simcha" and "A Guide to the Perplexed for Shabbat Morning", will be available for the ushers. It will provide you with an explanation of the service, additional customs, and symbols found in the sanctuary. If you wish to sing along with the congregation a separate booklet of Transliteration into English is also available from the ushers.

#### APPROPRIATE DRESS AND BEHAVIOR

Men will be wearing suits and ties. All men and boys are required to wear a Kipah (head covering) at all times while in the Synagogue building. Kippot will be provided at the entrance, should be kept on through the end of the Kiddush luncheon, and should be removed only upon exiting the building. It is customary for all Jewish men and boys over 13 to wear a Tallit (prayer shawl) during the Saturday morning service. Non-Jewish men should wear a Kipah but should not put on a Tallit. Women and girls should dress modestly: sleeveless, backless and above the knee skirts are not appropriate synagogue wear.

Our Conservative Beth David congregation observes the traditional prohibitions of Shabbat which include "not kindling fire" or doing any form of work. In keeping with these traditions, our congregation refrains from the following while in the Synagogue:

1. There is no smoking anywhere inside the building or anywhere on the Beth David grounds.
2. Writing and the use of any type of electronic equipment such as photographic equipment (cameras, camcorders, etc.) is not permitted. Please do not bring cameras into the building or carry them into the Sanctuary.
3. Please do not chew gum during the services.
4. Gifts and other packages should not be carried into or out of the synagogue on Shabbat.

There are no working telephones available in the building during Shabbat. Cell phones should be off during services and the luncheon following.

If you or your child will need to be picked up after services, a good rule of thumb is: 7:00 pm on Friday nights; 1:15 pm on Shabbat afternoon.

#### LUNCHEON

Immediately following the service, you are invited to join us for a buffet style Kiddush luncheon which will be held in the Beth David social hall directly across the hallway from the Sanctuary. It will give you an opportunity to sample some traditional Jewish foods. Please don't leave before the Grace after the meal is recited - \_\_\_\_\_ will be leading it!

We sincerely hope that these brief guidelines will help you to feel more at home and to enjoy the moment. It is a very special time for \_\_\_\_\_ as well as for our entire family. Thank you again for your willingness to share this most happy occasion with us.

Sincerely yours,

# Welcome to Beth David Synagogue

## Aliyah laTorah – Getting an Aliyah

You are being honored with an Aliyah, going up to the Torah. Please be prepared to give your Hebrew name and your father's and mother's Hebrew names. Before your aliyah, go up to the Bimah via the shortest route possible, and sit behind the Torah reader. When your Hebrew name is called, go to the lectern and stand to the right of the Torah reader, who will show you the place. Take the corner of your tallit, (or the Torah wrapper which will be on the lectern), touch it to the Torah at the spot indicated, kiss the tallit or wrapper, hold the two handles of the Torah, open, and say:

### **Barkhu et Adonai ha-m'vorakh**

(Praise the Lord, Source of blessing.)

The Congregation will respond:

Barukh Adonai ha-m'vorakh l'olam va-ed

(Praised be the Lord, Source of blessing, throughout all time.)

You repeat their response:

Barukh Adonai ha-m'vorakh l'olam va-ed

(Praised be the Lord, Source of blessing, throughout all time.)

and continue:

***Barukh attah Adonai, Eloheinu melekh ha-olam, asher bahar banu mi-kol ha-amim,  
v'natan lanu et torato. Barukh attah Adonai, noten ha-torah.***

(Praised are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe who has chosen us from among all peoples by giving us His Torah. Praised are You, Lord who gives the Torah.)

The Torah reader will read a portion from Torah. You should stand at his/her side, follow the reading, reading quietly along. At the conclusion of the reading, touch the concluding place with your tallit/wrapper, kiss it, hold the Torah handles closed, and say:

***Barukh attah Adonai, Eloheinu melekh ha-olam, asher natan lanu torat emet,  
v'hayei olam nata b'tokhenu. Barukh attah Adonai, noten ha-torah.***

(Praised are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe who has given us the Torah of truth, planting within us life eternal. Praised are you, Lord who gives the Torah.)

When you finish, move over to your right to make room for the next honoree. When he/she is finished, shake hands all around (People may say to you – "Yishar Koach" (power to you). The appropriate response is "baruch tee-hee-yeh" (bless you too), or simply "thank You". Walk across the bimah and back to your seat the long way.

If you wish to send a contribution to the shul in honor of your aliyah:

Beth David Synagogue

804 Winview Drive

Greensboro, NC 27410

336-294-0007

[www.bethdavidsynagogue.org](http://www.bethdavidsynagogue.org)

## Some Online Resources For Studying Torah

<http://uscj.org> - United Synagogue (Conservative) Torah Sparks

<http://www.usy.org/yourusy/reled/dt/default.asp> - USY D'var Torahs

<http://learn.jtsa.edu/x1941.xml> - JTSA

<http://urj.org/learning/torah/> - Reform Movement

<http://www.jrf.org> - Reconstructionist Movement

<http://bible.ort.org> Navigating the Bible - ORT/ Ohr Somayach

<http://www.torah.org/learning/ravfrand> - Rabbi Yissocher Frand, Ner Israel Rabbinical College

<http://www.aish.com/tp> - Aish HaTorah

<http://www.ou.org/torah/index> - Orthodox Union

<http://shamash.org/tanach/dvar.shtml> - Shamash.org Dozens of Dvar sites

<http://www.shemayisrael.co.il> - Rashi Analysis for the technical stickler

<http://www.chabad.org> - The Lubavitch approach

<http://www.breslov.org> - Breslov Research Institute

<http://www.tfdixie.com> - Torah from Dixie - The Down Home View

**Our Beth David Website [www.bethdavidsynagogue.org](http://www.bethdavidsynagogue.org)**

