



# **Your Bar/ Bat Mitzvah**

## **at Temple Israel**

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Name        |  |
| Hebrew name |  |
| BM Date     |  |
| Hebrew Date |  |
| BM Mitzvah  |  |

The teachers and rabbis are looking forward to working with you as you prepare for your special day. By the time your Bar/ Bat Mitzvah arrives you will:

- ◆ **have completed a Bar/ Bat Mitzvah Mitzvah**
- ◆ **be able to lead Kiddush on Erev Shabbat**
- ◆ **be able to lead the Shabbat morning service**
- ◆ **chant your Maffir and Haftarah**
- ◆ **deliver a Dvar Torah**

## PREPARING FOR YOUR BAR/BAT MITZVAH

### ◆ **Fill in a Hebrew School application form**

Your Bar/ Bat Mitzvah date can only be set once you are enrolled in the Hebrew School. Please complete the attached form and return by hand or to [melbeswick@mweb.co.za](mailto:melbeswick@mweb.co.za)

### ◆ **Shabbat and Festival service attendance**

In order to properly prepare for your Bar/ Bat Mitzvah, you and your family need to feel comfortable with the service and get to know the other families and congregants who attend shul. As such, we require that families attend the Shabbat morning and festival services throughout the year preceding you Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

### ◆ **Saturday morning Hebrew School attendance** (a min of 18 months before BM date)

Hebrew School classes are on a Saturday morning from **9am to 11.30am** in both Green Point and Wynberg. These lessons include Hebrew and Jewish Studies in a Progressive Jewish environment.

### ◆ **Weekday lessons for Siddur reading** ( $\pm$ a year before BM date)

Once your Saturday Hebrew teacher is happy with your Hebrew reading you will start weekday lessons. These are on:

- Monday or Tuesday in Green Point with Hayley Kornblum between 3.30 and 5.00
- or Wednesday in Wynberg with Mel Beswick between 4.00 and 5.30

The teachers will set up a time for your lesson which will take place in small groups.

### ◆ **Torah Leyning classes** (at least 6 to 9 months before BM date)

These are individual lessons with N'Tanya Gordon Davis and will happen on the same day as your weekday *siddur* classes. At these lessons you will learn to chant your *Torah* and *Haftarah* blessings as well as your *Maffir* and *Haftarah*.

### ◆ **Meeting with the Rabbi** ( $\pm$ 6 months before BM date)

You will have six sessions with the Rabbi to prepare your *Dvar Torah* and to work out your final preparations for the day. The week before you Bar/ Bat Mitzvah the Rabbi will invite you and your family to a rehearsal in the shul.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### ◆ **Setting a Bar/ Bat Mitzvah date**

A provisional date can be put on the Shul calendar with Mel Beswick. Please note that this date will only be confirmed once you have met with the Rabbi.

### ◆ **Bar/Bat Mitzvah Mitzvah** (this should happen during the year of your BM preparation)

Having a Bar or Bat Mitzvah is not just about the day in shul, but about taking responsibility as a Jewish adult for all the *mitzvot* of Jewish life and for Tikkun Olam, repairing the world that we live in.

You will choose a Mitzvah that you would like to do in the wider community, something that will make Cape Town a better place for all. It could be volunteering, collecting money or goods, sharing time, energy or skills in any project that helps to fix our community. A poster about your Mitzvah needs to be completed and presented on or before your Bar/ Bat Mitzvah.

### ◆ **Wearing a Tallit**

Progressive Judaism believes that men and women are regarded equally in the synagogue and as such we expect both Bar and Bat Mitzvah candidates to wear a tallit, as it says

*'God said to Moses as follows: Speak to the Israelite people and instruct them to make for themselves fringes on the corners of their garments throughout the ages; let them attach a cord of blue to the fringe at each corner. That shall be your fringe; look at it and recall all the commandments of God and observe them.'* Numbers 15:37 – 39

Should you wish to make a tallit in honour of the occasion you may contact Andrea Kuti for more information.

### ◆ **The Brocha**

Our bnei mitzvah are cause for celebration in our congregation, it is therefore customary for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah family to sponsor the brocha after the Shabbat morning service for everyone. Should you wish to use the hall for a private function this can be done after the brocha. There are a range of options for caterers and budgets. The contact details for The Woman of Progressive Judaism (WPJ) have been included; however private caterers may be used.

## ◆ The Bar/ Bat Mitzvah fee

An invoice will be sent when you book your Bar/ Bat Mitzvah date. This will give you time to budget or work out a payment plan. For any financial queries contact Eric Beswick.

The price includes:

- All Hebrew School classes for the year before you Bar/ Bat Mitzvah
- All Siddur and Torah tuition
- Sessions with the rabbi
- A bookplate that is placed in a Mishkan Tefilah siddur to commemorate the event

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Siddur** – prayer book

**Leyning** – to chant Torah

**Parasha** – Torah portion of the week

**Maffir** – the concluding section of the parasha

**Haftarah** – a portion from the Prophets read after the Torah reading

**Mitzvah** – literal translation is 'commandment' but has been taken to mean 'good deed'

**Dvar Torah** – sermon

## CONTACT NUMBERS

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Hebrew School Co-ordinator

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