



Congregation B'nai Israel B* Mitzvah Informational Packet

Revised July 2025

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Dear Friends,

Your child is approaching a milestone in their Jewish lives. Soon they will become a “child of the commandments,” a Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah. As such, they will have the rights and responsibilities of a Jewish adult. They will count in a minyan, be able to read from the Torah, have the privilege of leading services, and wearing *tallit* and *tefillin*. They become more responsible for their Jewish choices. In partnership with you, we strive to ensure they live robust Jewish lives, earn a strong Jewish education, and find meaning in the practice of their faith, and the connection to our people. Raising them to this special day is one link in the chain of Jewish existence.

We will work together to prepare for your child’s next step in the *Brit*, the Covenant of Jewish peoplehood and faith. Studying with Maureen, they will prepare their Haftarah and Torah reading. They will become familiar with the Shabbat services and hopefully participate in leadership of those services. They will meet with me to study their Torah portion and prepare words of Torah. **Learning our rituals is a partnership. We need your help to bring them to services on a consistent basis. If you and they regularly participate in Jewish life, your children see the blessing and peace it brings you, in turn making it more important for them. We cannot share the blessings of Jewish life alone—you are our partners in this endeavor.**

Additionally, we expect they will also work on acts of service. Most families find a charity or project to support in the process of becoming a Bat or Bar Mitzvah. Whether it is guide dogs for the blind, supporting Gulfcoast JFCS, working in a food pantry, sharing music, or reading to younger children, there are ways of supporting our broader community financially and through volunteering. We encourage every child to participate in these acts of *gemilut chasadim*.

At CBI, we have the blessing of individualized instruction. We can work with your child’s strengths to make the best use of their skills and abilities as they take their place in our traditions.

Please talk to me about how we can make this day meaningful for your entire family. If you would like, you can also prepare Torah readings and lead parts of the service. Remember, the day of the Bar or Bat Mitzvah is one day in your child’s life. We want to ensure that all the days that follow have the same attention, meaning, and joy!

With blessings,

Rabbi Philip Weintraub

Important Contacts

Congregation B'nai Israel

Telephone (727) 381-4900

<https://www.cbistpete.org>

Rabbi Philip Weintraub	ext. 1008	rabbiweintraub@cbistpete.org
Cantor Jonathan Schultz	ext. 1005	cantorschultz@cbistpete.org
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Maci Morse Synagogue Administrator	ext. 1002	CBladmin@cbistpete.org
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Eileen Richman Sisterhood Catering		speechgodess@gmail.com
Phyllis Werner Sisterhood Decorations		wernerr1116@aol.com

Scheduling Your Child's B'nai Mitzvah

At the beginning of 5th grade, families will meet with Rabbi Weintraub to discuss and receive a Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah date. Many factors are considered in the dates given, including the child's Hebrew skills and comfort level relative to the length and difficulty of the Haftarah reading and Torah portion.

At this meeting, families will receive an initial copy of a "Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah Checklist" to start preparing for the big day.

Timeline

5th grade:	Receive Bar/Bat/B*Mitzvah date _____ My Parsha is: _____
6th grade:	Monthly parent/guardian participation in PRTT B* Mitzvah class
1 year before Bar/Bat/B*Mitzvah:	First official meeting with Rabbi Weintraub Receive Haftarah reading and Torah portion Meet with Maci Morse, Synagogue Administrator, to discuss logistics and facility reservations Start meeting with Maureen on a schedule to learn the Haftarah reading and Torah portion Let friends and family know to save the date
6 months before Bar/Bat/B*Mitzvah:	Meet with Rabbi Weintraub to continue plans Send out invitations Book vendors (catering, florist, photographer, etc.)
3 months before Bar/Bat/B*Mitzvah:	Confirm dates & times of vendors arriving at CBI during the celebration weekend Schedule photography with Rabbi, Cantor, and Synagogue Administrator Contact Jewish Press if family wishes to publicize <i>simcha</i> Prepare program for Shabbat morning (templates available in the office)

1 month before Bar/Bat/B*Mitzvah:	Bar/Bat/B*Mitzvah student's speeches are due to Rabbi Weintraub for review DATE: _____ Finalize "Shabbat AM Worksheet" with <i>Aliyot</i> Have a walkthrough/meeting with Rabbi Weintraub of the weekend of events
Week of Bar/Bat/B*Mitzvah:	Participate in morning minyan and <i>L'chayim</i> Have photos taken Bring kippot, programs, Sunkist Fruit Gems, to CBI Family rehearsal for the weekend's simcha with Rabbi Weintraub
Weekend of Bar/Bat/B*Mitzvah:	Enjoy the special weekend with your loved ones

Expectations for Bar/Bat/B*Mitzvah

Becoming a Bar/Bat/B*Mitzvah is a child's ascent into Jewish adulthood. Our ultimate goal is to make the process a memorable and meaningful one, embracing both parents and children, rather than view everything through the lens of one big day of celebration for the child. Parent and family participation and support is a big part of the B'nai Mitzvah process.

Educational Requirements

Attending PRTT regularly is expected of your child during the year of the Bar/Bat/B*Mitzvah training, in addition to his/her/their regularly scheduled "Bar/Bat/B*Mitzvah lessons" with Maureen. If you miss one of your lessons, it is essential that you reschedule in order to stay on track with your training.

Junior Congregation is another part of PRTT that is expected of ALL students. Learning and leading prayers are great opportunities for your child to become more comfortable speaking on their Bar/Bat/B*Mitzvah day.

Synagogue Attendance

During the year of the Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah training, family attendance at BOTH Friday evening and Saturday morning services are essential in order for the family to familiarize themselves with synagogue dynamics and to become an integral part of the Shabbat family. **At an absolute minimum, families must attend two Shabbat services a month, including Friday evenings and Saturday mornings. Your family's experience will be more positive, more meaningful, and run more smoothly if you attend Shabbat services weekly (or at least 3 times a month on Shabbat morning AND at least once a month on Friday night). If families are not regularly participating, we will need to discuss if a Shabbat morning celebration is best.**

During the year of the Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah training, each student must attend a minimum of three (3) daily services. Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m., weekday mornings at 8 a.m. and weekday evenings at 6:30PM. The Cantor will monitor service attendance by Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah candidates. Candidates must notify Cantor of his/her/their attendance at services for proper credit.

The week of a child's Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah, there are many opportunities for your child to be celebrated with the congregation.

- Monday or Thursday morning: The Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah candidate, accompanied by family, is called to the Torah for an *aliyah* and a *misheberach* in the Chapel.
- Friday evening: The family of the Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah may participate and lead parts during the Friday night Shabbat service. It is also possible to sponsor the *oneg* after services for all worshippers.
- Saturday morning: The candidate will participate in the Shabbat morning service, followed by a Kiddush lunch that includes all congregants in attendance, as well as family and friends. Families traditionally sponsor Kiddush lunch for all invited guests and ALL Shabbat morning attendees.
- Saturday afternoon/evening: We can arrange a Mincha/Seudah Shelishit/Ma'ariv/Havdalah depending on the family's preferences.

Tzedakah Project

Participating in a Tzedakah Project is the beginning of a lifelong Jewish commitment to *Tikkun Olam*, repairing the world. Projects can involve raising or donating monies, volunteering on site and/or organizing drives to benefit an organization or cause. Our hope is that this project will be just the beginning of a life-long commitment to helping others in the world around us. We want our students to use their talents and skills with which they have been blessed to make a positive difference in the world. Tzedakah Projects should be completed or well underway by the date of your simcha. We want to hear about your project, what you've learned and who you've impacted. This should be included in your speech.

Ideas for Tzedakah Projects include, but are not limited to:

- Community clean up
- Helping at an animal shelter
- Serving food at a homeless shelter
- Starting a collection drive for a non-profit group or marginalized community
- Visiting with the elderly at a retirement home or assisted living facility

Gulf Coast JFCS has a list of potential projects available on their website.

It is customary at CBI, that the Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah candidate makes a contribution of his/her/their funds to a worthy charity of his/her/their choice in honor of this occasion. This is how we live our Jewish value of *zedakah*, bringing justice into the world.

Tallit & Tefillin

All children must own their own *tallit* and are strongly encouraged to acquire their own pair of kosher *tefillin* in preparation for their Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah. Both of these mitzvot are beautiful and meaningful with experience. CBI has *tefillin* you can try out to discover the power of the mitzvah. These can both be purchased in our CBI Sisterhood Gift Shop.

Financial Policy

Congregation B'nai Israel's Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah fee is \$1250.00. \$360 is due when we confirm your child's Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah date. The balance, \$890, is due no later than ninety (90) days prior to the Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah date.

Due: _____.

All other financial obligations must be current. Speak to the synagogue administrator if you would prefer a payment plan. Financial limitations will not prevent your family from celebrating this important *simcha*. Rabbi Weintraub has funds available to assist, as needed.

The above fee includes your child's personal copy of a siddur for Shabbat and Festivals, all Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah training materials, and limited use of our facilities. You are expected to sponsor the Saturday Kiddush on the day of your child's *simcha*. We also encourage our families to sponsor the Friday night *oneg*, as well. The *oneg* and Kiddush must be provided by your choice of your family and friends under the supervision of Synagogue Staff, our Sisterhood Catering Committee, or an outside approved kosher caterer. All synagogue attendees, in addition to your invited guests, will be included in the meals and/or *oneg*.

Any further use of the facilities must be specifically requested. This may include, but is not limited to, use of the building for a party or meal to celebrate the Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah after Shabbat has ended. The cost of renting additional facilities can be discussed with the Synagogue Administrator. Please refer to the "Facility Reservation"

section for full details. If your Shabbat Kiddush requires additional set up or staff resources, there may be additional charges.

The Week Of

At CBI, it is customary for the family to have a walkthrough rehearsal of the Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah service so the child and family can be more comfortable. This also gives everyone involved a better idea of how the service will flow. Please be sure to schedule this walkthrough with Rabbi Weintraub one month before the requested date of the walkthrough.

This rehearsal is also a great opportunity to coincide with the Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah photos in the sanctuary. If any clergy are requested to be present for photos, please make sure it is discussed when the walkthrough is scheduled to ensure proper attire. The CBI office must be notified of the date and time in which your photographs are scheduled to occur.

Another custom CBI offers is for the child and family to attend the morning minyan service on either Monday or Thursday the week of the Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah. This will be another opportunity for the child to practice having an aliyah at this time, as well. Following the minyan service, it is appropriate to provide a *L'chayim* (This means to help sponsor the breakfast after the minyan service). Please bring the following to the Synagogue kitchen before Wednesday:

- 3 bottles of kosher Israeli wine, a bottle of scotch, 2 Entenmanns coffee cakes, and 2 half gallons of kosher orange juice. Our staff will set up the *l'chayim* for you.

Post-Bar/Bat/B*Mitzvah

1. **Gesher/USY:** Gesher is the middle school age affiliate of United Synagogue Youth (USY) and The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ). These 6th, 7th, and 8th graders meet approximately once a month for social, cultural, and religious programs. Our chapter participates in fall convention, Disney/Universal Day, and Gesher convention (just for 8th graders). USY is the youth group associated with USCJ, which includes 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th graders. Our chapter participates in sub regional, regional, and international conventions each year as well as day events and a Shabbaton. Through USCJ, USYers have the opportunity to participate in a number of summer adventure experiences to Israel and around the country.
2. **Sign up as a Madrikh in PRTT:** Learn leadership skills, earn community service hours, and gain some experience by helping out in PRTT.
3. **Hebrew High:** Further your Jewish education after PRTT with Hebrew High on a bi-weekly basis. Join the conversation with like-minded Jewish teens.

4. **Golden Kipah Honor Society:** Any post Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah student upon reading five (5) times from the Torah other than their anniversary portion, and enrolled in formal Jewish studies will be eligible for the Golden Kipah Honor Society. Those in the Golden Kipah Society are honored to be asked to read Torah on High Holidays.
5. **Next scheduled Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah:** It is customary at CBI for the Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah to be presented with their certificate by the most recent Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah child in the congregation. It is our hope that your child will continue this tradition.

DATE: _____

The Role of the Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah Child in the Service

There is a great deal of preparation and study needed for a child to be comfortable on the *bimah* and speaking on his/her/their Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah. The educational process begins when our children begin their education at PRTT. Throughout the years of study, their Hebrew reading skills improve with practice.

Being that each child is unique, and has his/her/their own talents, we are aware that our students learn and practice at their own pace. CBI does not have a one-size-fits-all mold for what a Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah must lead during their *simcha*. Children must feel comfortable and competent in leading the parts of the service they are prepared and confident in their skills to do so.

As important as it is to recognize and respect each child's aptitude, it is equally important to make sure that students work to maximize their capabilities. Children who are not able to do more should not be forced to; those who are highly capable of doing more should do no less than their full potential.

Parents are encouraged to help out in the Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah tutoring process by monitoring their child's daily study time. Even those parents who are not as comfortable with Hebrew text or the melodies used can be a valuable resource in the process when they sit and listen to a child practice. Recordings and transliterations of *Torah* readings, Haftarah readings, and *tefillot* are also available upon request.

Shabbat Morning Service

The Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah is generally expected to lead or recite the following during their Shabbat morning service: being called to the Torah for an *aliyah* (chanting the *brachot* before and after a Torah reading), at least one *Torah* reading, the *brachot* before and after the Haftarah, Haftarah reading, and *Ashrei*. Please note that the

individual who is reading the Haftarah is honored with saying the blessings for the *Maftir Aliyah*.

D'var Torah

Every Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah shares their own words of Torah through a D'var Torah. Over the course of the year, they will meet regularly with Rabbi Weintraub to discuss the meaning of their *parsha*, their Haftarah, and what it means to become a Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah. Completing this exercise a month before their “big day” will give them time to practice their speech, so it can be presented **slowly, clearly and loudly enough for the congregation** to hear them!

Over the years, the basic format has become a five paragraph essay. While adaptable to each case, the material covered is usually as followed:

- 1) Introduction of our young adult
- 2) Brief explanation of the Torah reading
- 3) Elaboration on why the Torah reading is important and relevant to our lives today/lesson for the community
- 4) What it means to become Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah
- 5) Thanks, explanation of their mitzvah project and conclusion

The rabbi also encourages studying the Haftarah and its relevance, which can be additional material in the D'var.

Participation of Parents, Family & Friends

Distribution of Ritual Honors

There are various honors that may be distributed among family members and friends. Because some of these honors are specifically Jewish rituals, these specific honors may be assigned only to those of the Jewish faith (Please see “Note to Interfaith Couples”). Additionally, some honors are limited to individuals above the age of Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah. These specific honors described can be explained by Rabbi when assigning them.

On page 16, you will find a sample of what your typical Shabbat Morning Service Worksheet will look like. The highlighted portions are honors that can be given out to family members and friends. Congregation B'nai Israel asks that you leave one *aliyah* not assigned so that we may give it out to a congregant in attendance that may have their own simcha or anniversary of a simcha happening. All unassigned honors will be filled by Congregation B'nai Israel. In addition to the honors below, you are encouraged to assign two “greeters” to welcome family and friends into the sanctuary, while handing

out Shabbat programs, Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah programs, and *kippot*. This can also be a CBI member who you know well that will welcome your family and friends into our congregation.

Anyone participating in the Torah services, i.e. readers, *aliyot*, Hagbah, will be contacted several weeks in advance by CBI to confirm that preparation is complete for these mitzvot. Representatives from CBI are available for any help or practices needed or wanted by people with speaking honors.

Greeters for Friday Night and Shabbat Morning Services

You are encouraged to ask 2 to 4 people, family or friends, to greet guests in the lobby. When you have many family and friends not familiar with our services, traditions and buildings, it provides a much more welcoming atmosphere. If these people are members of CBI, they can usually answer most questions about where the bathrooms or *tallitot* to be borrowed can be found. They will also be responsible for handing out the Shabbat programs and kippot to all who enter. This is an honor for these people to support your family simcha in this way.

If you choose to have greeters for Friday night, please make sure they arrive at synagogue 15 minutes before the service begins and remain in the lobby for 10 minutes after the service begins. For Saturday morning greeters, they must arrive in the lobby by 9:00am and remain until the beginning of the Torah service at approximately 9:45am.

When to Arrive at Services

Please have your immediate family and anyone participating in the service arrive 15 minutes before Friday night services begin and no later than 9:00am on Saturday morning. If those with *aliyot* do not arrive in a timely manner, their *aliyah* may be reassigned.

***Tallit* Presentation**

Parents will present the child's *tallit* along with appropriate remarks to the Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah candidate on Saturday morning just prior to the Torah service.

Passing of the Sefer Torah

When the Ark is open (at approximately 10:00 a.m.) Jewish grandparents and Jewish parents of the Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah will approach the Ark. The grandparents will

pass the Torah to the parents who will then pass the Torah to the Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah candidate. Great grandparents are also welcome to participate, if able to do so.

Parental Blessing

Parents of the Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah have the opportunity to write a 1-3 minute blessing for their child to read aloud before the *Maftir aliyah*. The parental prayer should communicate your wishes about your child's future character and values as a Jewish adult. The focus of this blessing is to celebrate their Jewish journey and their connection to our shared, holy traditions.

Recitation of Torah Blessings

People often invite family and friends to have *aliyot* during the Torah services. One honor is to recite blessings/brachot before and after each Torah reading. Traditionally, the parents of the Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah offer the blessing for the 7th reading, so they can stand by their child for the Maftir aliyah. All individuals called to the Torah must be Jewish. Since these blessings are in Hebrew, it is vital for everyone to practice them. One can find the blessings in Hebrew, transliteration and English with the Hebrew recording [HERE](#).

Torah Readings

A beautiful way of honoring your child is to learn a Torah reading. Family and friends are invited to participate in this powerful mitzvah. Torah readers must be able to chant from the Torah, having prepared and learned the Torah trope and proper pronunciation and grammar. It is CBI policy that all Torah readers have been vetted by our religious leadership. This must be arranged one month in advance of the celebration.

Recitation of the *Sheheheyenu*

Parents, together with other family members, rise and recite the *Sheheheyenu* blessing, thanking God for enabling them to reach this milestone. Rabbi Weintraub will invite any and all family members in attendance to rise during this blessing.

Reminder for all Parents

As you prepare for your child's simcha please demonstrate *derech erez*, good manners, with all you come into contact with. Our CBI staff works hard to ensure the holiness of the day and this process.

Note to Interfaith Couples/Guardians

As a synagogue, we commend interfaith couples who raise their children as Jews, and are sensitive to the unique challenges of parenting a child in a religion different than one's own. We encourage both Jewish and non-Jewish spouses to participate in all parent meetings and programs of family education, and to attend services together.

Following the Jewish parent offering the blessing of the 7th *aliyah*, we invite the non-Jewish parent to join their partner on the bimah and participate with their partner in the parental blessing/two minute speech. Together, the parents may share personal words of blessing about their child's Jewish journey. When the *Sheheyanu* is recited, all family members - regardless of religious affiliation - are invited to stand for the recitation. This blessing thanks God for "granting us life, sustaining us, and enabling us to reach this day." Additionally, non-Jewish family and friends may serve as the Shabbat greeters. Rabbi Weintraub is also available to advise non-Jewish parents and grandparents about a variety of creative ways to lend additional spiritual significance to the celebration inside and outside the formal service.

According to the guidelines of the Rabbinical Assembly, USCJ defines a Jewish individual as someone who has been born to a Jewish mother or converted to Judaism with Bet Din and mikvah. Rabbi Weintraub is happy to meet personally with any family to discuss your Jewish roots and Jewish journeys. In accordance with Jewish tradition, some children will require affirmation of their Judaism through mikvah and Bet Din before their Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah.

Note to Divorced Parents/Guardians

The most important thing to remember is that your child's Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah is a celebration of your child and his/her/their achievements. While a spousal relationship may have ended, it does not end the relationship between parents and their child. With this in mind, Congregation B'nai Israel is committed to making this *simcha* a meaningful experience for your child without conflict affecting that.

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE WORKSHEET

ENGLISH DATE: _____
 HEBREW DATE: _____
 Parsha: _____
 SERVICE LEADER: Rabbi Weintraub
 CANTOR: Cantor Schultz
 PESUKEI D'ZIMRA: _____
 SHAHARIT: _____
 HALLEL: _____
 TORAH SERVICE: _____
 PASS TORAH: _____
 OPEN & CLOSE ARK #1: _____
 CARRY SEFER TORAH: _____
 GABBAIM (2): _____
 TORAH READING: _____
 Haftarah: _____

READER		ALIYOT	OCCASION
	RISHON		
MISHEBERACH FOR THE SICK:			
	SHENI		
	SHELISHI	(Include Hebrew and English name)	
	REVI'I		
	HAMISHI		
	SHISHI		
	SHEVI'I	Parents of the child	
	MAFTIR	Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah child	

HAFTARAH: Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah child
 HAFTRAH READING: Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah child
 PRAYER FOR OUR COUNTRY: _____
 PRAYER FOR ISRAEL: _____
 PG. 151-152 ASHREI: _____
 CARRY SEFER TORAH: _____
 OPEN & CLOSE ARK #2: _____
 SERMON: Rabbi Philip Weintraub
 MUSAF: _____
 EIN KELOHEINU: _____
 ANNOUNCEMENTS: CBI BOARD MEMBER
 GIFT PRESENTATIONS: _____
 ADON OLAM: _____

The Celebration of Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah

Synagogue Etiquette

- Please ensure that your immediate family arrives on time for our 9:00 AM Shabbat morning services.
- We strongly encourage all Jewish individuals to wear a *tallit* and head covering of some kind. Every male, regardless of religion, must wear a *kippah* while at services. All Jewish males above the age of thirteen should wear a *tallit*. CBI has *tallitot* in the lobby. The Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah family usually provides celebratory *kippot* for the occasion.
- All individuals on the bimah require a head covering. We strongly encourage all participating on the bimah to wear a *tallit* (as appropriate).
- Appropriate attire for families, guests, and the Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah child themselves consist of long pants, dresses or skirts longer than knee length, collared shirts, or shirts with shoulders covered. Short pants, mini skirts, and t-shirts would not be traditional Shabbat attire. In our community, we encourage modest dress.
- In keeping with our practice of Jewish law, we do not use technology inside the synagogue on Shabbat and Festivals, with the exclusion of medical and hearing assistance devices. Please ensure all cell phones, watches, etc. are turned off (or minimally on complete silent mode).
 - Please remind family and friends not to use their phones to photograph or record in the building on Shabbat and Festivals.
- Out of respect for our Torah readers and all the hard work that they have put into preparing for the readings, please make sure Aliyah honorees/those saying the blessings stay in their seats until each reading is completed.
- Thank you notes for the gifts received from the different CBI and community organizations are appropriate.

Invitations

Planning a joyous celebration should not be the cause of another child's hurt feelings for not receiving an invitation. We ask that you invite all children in your religious school class at a minimum. Class lists, as well as Kadima/USY lists, may be obtained in the CBI office. It is also proper etiquette to invite the President of the Congregation, the Rabbi, the Cantor, and the Director of Lifelong Learning.

For invitation and attendance purposes, Friday evening services begin at 6:30 p.m. (or at the assigned Kabbalat Shabbat time) and Saturday morning services begin

at 9:00 a.m. Please consult the office for the starting time of your Seudah Mitzvah (Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah party) before printing your invitations.

Shabbat Kiddush

A child's Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah is always a joyous moment in our community's life. Accordingly, it is commonplace for families of the celebrant to sponsor kiddush in honor of the *simcha*. For proper acknowledgement in the Shabbat announcements and programs, please be sure to provide the CBI office with the names of the Shabbat Kiddush sponsors one to two months before the *simcha*.

As a Conservative synagogue we observe Shabbat. All preparations for the Shabbat kiddush or any other CBI functions must be facilitated according to the laws of Shabbat and kashrut. The Shabbat kiddush luncheon must be catered by an approved kosher caterer. See below.

Working with Maci Morse, our synagogue administrator, a "pink sheet" must be completed so the office knows when the food will be delivered and prepared.

(If you are having an additional celebration outside of CBI, we can assist with finding kosher options.

Catering

The following caterers are available for kosher catering at the synagogue, under the supervision of a mashgiach of the Vaad Hakashrut of Pinellas County:

CBI Sisterhood Catering Committee

300 58th Street N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33710
Email: speechgoddess@gmail.com

Eileen Richman
727-492-4509

Chives Catering

St. Petersburg, FL 33704
Email: chivescatering@me.com
www.chivescatering.com

Ken Jurgensen
Chef/Owner
727-470-0784

Jo-El's Specialty Foods

2619 23rd Avenue N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33713
Email: sharon@joelskosher.com

Sharon Goetz
727-321-3847

Lynn's Catering of Tampa

4318 S. Manhattan Avenue

Lynn Mollett

Tampa, FL 33611

813-837-7157

Nosh Caterers

2040 W. Platt Street

Tampa, FL 33606

<https://noshcaterers.com/>

Max Sherard

Executive Chef/Owner

813-505-5142

Decor

Congregation B'nai Israel congregant, Phyllis Werner, is our in-house decorator for CBI dinners, *onegs*, *Kiddushes*, and more. She has an excellent skill set of incorporating the celebrant's Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah theme, interests, and hobbies into the decorations. Please contact Phyllis at least two months before your event to share any ideas or information needed for decorations.

Flowers

Each week, CBI has a beautiful display of artificial flowers in the sanctuary. If the family desires to provide fresh flowers for the Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah, the family is more than welcome to order them. Please advise the office of the name of the florist and the date and time in which the flowers will be delivered to the synagogue. Bima flower arrangements must meet the following criteria:

- Dimensions, not more than 40" wide x 40" high x 18" deep.
- Absolutely no decorations on handrails.
- Deliveries will not be accepted after 3:00 p.m. on Friday. Nothing can be brought in on Shabbat.
- The name of the florist, contact person's name, and telephone number need to be provided to the CBI office one month in advance.
- To respect our congregants with allergies, please ensure that any live floral displays are not overly aromatic.

Photos

Please make sure to contact the synagogue office two months in advance to reserve time in the sanctuary for Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah pictures. If desired, the family can make an appointment with the Rabbi and Cantor to be included. The Rabbi and Cantor are typically available on Thursday morning after minyan or Friday. Please remember that no photography or videotaping is allowed on Shabbat.

Facility Reservation

Congregation B'nai Israel's facilities may be reserved by your family for Shabbat Dinner on Friday evening and/or for your Simha on Saturday night or Sunday by filing a "Requisition for Use of Facilities Form" (Pink Sheet) with the synagogue office. Please consult the synagogue office for the appropriate starting time of your kosher function before printing your invitations. Congregation B'nai Israel members do not need to pay for facility reservation for either Friday night *oneg* or Saturday morning Kiddush lunch because those are held regardless of a simcha coinciding. Please see the next section for room rental rates.

A signed application with a non-refundable deposit of 34% or \$500 of the estimate to confirm the date of any function. A second minimum payment of 33% is due 90 days before the event. The final payment of 33% is due 30 days before the event.

Rental Rates

	Members	Outside Org & Non-members
Social Hall & Lobby	\$500	\$1000
Atrium with Social Hall	\$150	\$300
Atrium without Social Hall	\$300	\$500
Per Person Fair Usage	\$2 per person	\$4 per person
Courtyard	\$150	\$300
Sanctuary (lifecycle event)	No Charge	\$300
Chapel (lifecycle event)	No Charge	\$200
Bride's Room (lifecycle event)	No Charge	\$100
Library (lifecycle event)	No Charge	\$100
Each Additional Room	\$75	\$100
Mashgiach (necessary if using kitchen)	\$35/hour	\$35/hour
Additional Police Officer (as needed)	\$75/hour	\$75/hour
Social Hall Projector (plus technician)	\$100	\$150

Rates are subject to change until a signed contract and deposit check have been received.

Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah Communications Worksheet

ENGLISH NAME: _____

HEBREW NAME: _____

SCHOOL: _____ GRADE: _____

Bar/Bat/B* MITZVAH DATE: _____

PARSHA: _____

Friday night Service participation:

GREETERS: _____

CANDLE LIGHTING: (Dependent on timing) _____

CLOSING PRAYER: _____ Select a reading, pg. _____

Oneg Shabbat Sponsored by (optional): _____

CATERER: _____

Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____

Shabbat morning Service participation: (not included on worksheet):

GREETERS: _____

Kiddush Sponsored by: _____

TZEDAKAH PROJECT:

Logistics

- FLORIST (name & date/time of delivery):

Contact person: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Pulpit flowers provided by: _____ " ...in

honor of the Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah of:

- CATERER (name & date/time of arrival):

Contact Person: _____

Phone: _____

- PHOTOGRAPHER

Contact person: _____

Telephone Number: _____

- MONDAY/THURSDAY MORNING MINYAN (date): _____
- PICTURES (date & time): _____
- RESERVATION DATE OF FACILITIES (only required if having a private event in addition to the service):

Pink Sheet Due (1 month before reservation date): _____

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgment Form

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have received, read, and understand the contents of the informational packet provided by Congregation B'nai Israel for my child's Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah. I am aware of the expectations, policies, and procedures outlined within, and I agree to support my child in fulfilling the responsibilities described.

Student Information

- **Student Name:** _____
- **Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgment

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the information provided in this packet and agree to the following:

- **Service Attendance Requirements**
- **Educational Requirements**
- **Tzedakah Project**
- **Financial Policy**
- **Synagogue Etiquette**
- **Communication with CBI Staff & Clergy:** A commitment to ongoing dialogue with Maureen Sechan and Rabbi Weintraub regarding the progress of the Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah student and any thoughts and concerns they might have. Parents/Guardians will assist the tutoring process by being a strong source of encouragement for their child.

I understand that this acknowledgment form will be kept on file and may be referenced if questions arise about program expectations or policies.

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Student Acknowledgment Form

I have read the information in this packet. I understand what is expected of me, and I will follow the rules and be responsible for completing my Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah training. I know that my parents/guardians and teachers are here to help me succeed.

Student Information

- Student Name: _____

Student Acknowledgment

By signing below, I agree to:

- Service Attendance Requirement
- Educational Requirements: This includes practicing at home.
- Choose and carry out a Tzedakah Project
- Synagogue Etiquette

I, also, agree to try my best throughout my Bar/Bat/B* Mitzvah training and afterward. I agree to represent myself as the Jewish person I know would make my community, my family, and me most proud.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____