



Dear Parent(s):

Mazel Tov on your upcoming simcha. Now that we are getting closer to the date of your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah, we are pleased to provide you with this Short-Term Planning B'nai Mitzvah Book as your resource and guide for the months leading up to your simcha. Since it is our desire that your simcha be as stress free and as meaningful as possible, we have worked hard to logically organize this Short-Term Planning B'nai Mitzvah Book to incorporate as much information as possible while still making it easy to use.

We truly hope that the months leading up to your simcha are full of life, learning, and family. Please do not hesitate to send me an email if you have any questions regarding this wonderful event in your child's life.

Sincerely yours,

Bill Shulman

Bill Shulman
Vice President, Ritual
RitualVP@bethshalomnb.org

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Staff Directory for B'nai Mitzvah families

Main number 847-498-4100

Rabbi Aaron Melman rabbimelman@bethshalomnb.org ext. 13

Rabbi Warner Ferratier rabbiferratier@bethshalomnb.org ext. 49

Cantor Steven Stoehr cantorstoehr@bethshalomnb.org ext. 14

Eli Castellano – Assistant to Clergy ecastellano@bethshalomnb.org ext. 29

[for scheduling individual meetings with student and family, preparation of D'var Torah speech, Aliyot / honors on day of Bar / Bat Mitzvah, service run-through just prior to date, assistance with 3 Pillars project]

Randi Simon rsimon@bethshalomnb.org ext. 23

[for individual tutoring sessions and Mechina classes, Torah readings for family members, rehearsal, scheduling for B'nai Mitzvah photo shoot, options & logistics for Kiddush or Snack Pack alternative on day of Bar/Bat Mitzvah]

Susan Stoehr yayasusan@aol.com ext. 35

[for individual tutoring sessions and rehearsal]

Maria Catezone mcatezone@bethshalomnb.org ext. 26

[scheduling and logistics for Friday night Shabbat dinner (optional) and simchas at CBS]

Susan Karlinsky skarlinsky@bethshalomnb.org ext. 22

[payment of B'nai Mitzvah fee at least 60 days prior to date, payment of Kiddush fees when applicable]

GENERAL INFORMATION

CHILD'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. **Practice** – We expect your child to practice 30 minutes per day to ensure that s/he will be fully prepared for their simcha.
2. **3-Pillars Project** – This is an opportunity for each child to individualize the experience of Bar/Bat Mitzvah by pursuing a project that reaches into the community. The idea is for each student to conceptualize his/her own personal vision and implement it to completion. The family is invited to meet with Cantor Stoehr to explore the possibilities available in fulfilling this required element of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah process. This project has been redesigned to make becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah more meaningful for the entire family.
3. **Chain of Memory Project** (optional)– This is an opportunity to remember one of the 1.5 million Jewish children who were murdered by the Nazis before being able to fulfill the Mitzvah of learning Torah. See page 18 for details on how to participate in this very meaningful experience.
4. **Service Attendance** - Your child is expected to attend Shabbat/Holiday services one-two times per month to become familiar with the services. Ideally, you will attend with your child. As a reminder, 6th & 7th Grade Religious School will be meeting on Saturday morning and with regular attendance, this responsibility will be fulfilled. This is consistent with existing religious school requirements.

PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES - In the Jewish tradition of friend helping friend, each Bar/Bat Mitzvah family will be scheduled for the following assignments:

1. **Congregational Fees** - All outstanding congregational fees (dues, tuition, Bar/Bar Mitzvah fee, etc.) and assessments must be paid in full *60 days* prior to the date of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah service. (Please note: extended payment plans are available for dues and tuition only.)
2. **Ambassador Program** - Each Bar/Bat Mitzvah family will be scheduled for Saturday morning service assignments via letter or email. Parents and B'nai Mitzvah student may serve as Shabbat Ambassadors assisting the congregation in creating a welcoming and helpful environment. The central benefit of these Ambassador assignments is aiding the Bar/Bat Mitzvah families of that morning by helping to maintain decorum and welcoming their guests to our congregation. At 9:00 am sharp, Cantor Stoehr will meet with you to review specific details of that morning's responsibility. There will also be a Ritual Committee Ambassador working with you, and he/she will direct all of the welcoming and ushering procedures during the service.

3. **Serving** - Each Bar/Bat Mitzvah family will be scheduled to serve at Kiddushim for other Bar/Bat Mitzvah families. One parent or both parents may participate in this responsibility. Assignments will be provided to each family via letter or email. Just as you will do for others, a group of Bar/Bat Mitzvah parents and Sisterhood members will be there for you at your Simcha. This allows you not only to reciprocate the generosity of those who will serve at your Simcha, but also gives you the opportunity to see, first hand, what is involved and what your options are before having your Simcha. Assignments for the Ambassador Program and Serving will NEVER be on the same day since both parents can participate in both activities.
4. **Kiddush** - {*COVID protocols in place until further notice*} A Community Kiddush following the Saturday Morning Service is an option for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah family. For more information on the Kiddush option, please see the Kiddush section of this Short-term B'nai Mitzvah Book.
5. **Kippot and/or head coverings** - If a family choose to supply their own kippot and/or head coverings, special baskets will be provided, compliments of the Ritual Committee. No other decorations or any other baskets will be permitted.
6. Please schedule your photographer and videographer appointments with **Randi Simon, 847-498-4100, x23**. Appointments are not available Friday after 12 pm, all-day Saturday, or national holidays when the office is closed.

SYNAGOGUE ETIQUETTE

As a Conservative Congregation, services follow a traditional pattern. Prayer is participatory. Please join in enthusiastically with community singing as well as English readings.

1. Proper attire is expected for services. While everyone is invited in, it is most respectful to be dressed in a manner befitting the occasion. Females should wear attire that covers the shoulders and skirts that are of modest length. Gentlemen need not wear business attire, but casual wear should be respectful of the sanctuary atmosphere.
2. The Bat Mitzvah and mother of Bat Mitzvah who will be on the Bimah are required to wear a head covering. All women whose custom it is to wear a Tallit are encouraged to do so.
3. All males, regardless of faith, are required to wear a Kippah while in the synagogue. Jewish men over bar mitzvah age are expected to wear a tallit.
4. On Shabbat, the use of telephones, photographic and/or recording equipment, and all electronic devices are prohibited anywhere on synagogue grounds.
5. One should not bring gifts into the sanctuary.
6. Purses may not be carried onto the Bimah.
7. Congregation Beth Shalom is a SMOKE-FREE environment. This means that SMOKING is prohibited at any time within the building. In addition, SMOKING is prohibited on synagogue grounds during Shabbat.

8. No business should be conducted on Shabbat or Holidays (e.g. no emails, texting, telephone calls, etc.).
9. A video providing a general overview of synagogue etiquette is available at:
<https://www.bethshalomnb.org/celebrate/bnai-mitzvah/bar-bat-mitzvah-at-cbs/>

TORAH READERS and YAD SQUAD

As you know, your child will be reading from the Torah during the service. Please be aware that there is also an opportunity for other family members to read from the Torah as well. **If you or your spouse, a post Bar/Bat Mitzvah sibling(s), cousin(s), or grandparent(s) are interested in a Torah portion, please let Randi Simon know RSimon@bethshalomnb.org as soon as possible and she will be happy to assign a portion to you and help you, to the extent necessary, prepare your reading.**

You should also expect to see members of the Congregation Beth Shalom Yad Squad reading the Torah. This is a group of lay Torah readers *over the age of Bar/Bat Mitzvah* who have taken on the mitzvah of reading Torah on a regular basis. There are teens and adults in this group and any one or more of them are likely to be participating in this way.

The Yad Squad is an exciting program at CBS, and we hope your child will be a part of it by coming back to read Torah!

BAR/BAT MITZVAH DAY INFORMATION

BAR/BAT MITZVAH PARENTS INFORMATION

SHABBAT MORNING

1. SATURDAY MORNING SERVICES: Services begin promptly at 9:30 AM. Every member of your immediate family should be present thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of services.
2. AMBASSADORS: A Ritual Committee or Board member will be the Ambassador-In-Charge. He or she will direct all of the ushering procedures.
3. ALIYOT AND HONORS: For a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, the family may receive up to three Aliyot and up to four people to open and close the Ark, not including the Bar/Bat Mitzvah child. NOTE: [*COVID protocols are in place until further notice, and honors may be limited. Please confirm with the clergy how many Aliyot are available to you and how many people may share an Aliyah. Those with speaking honors may choose to speak from the bimah or the floor based on personal preference.*]

Please note the following:

An Aliyah (plural-Aliyot) means coming to the Torah to recite the appropriate blessings before and after the Torah reading. To have an Aliyah one must be Jewish and of Bar/Bat Mitzvah age. An Aliyah is generally given to an individual, however, it may be shared by as many as four people.

In the back of this booklet, you will find copies of the Torah Blessings. Please distribute a copy of the blessings to those having an Aliyah several weeks prior to your Simcha. Any honoree having an Aliyah **must** be able to recite the blessings correctly. Audio recordings are available upon request.

Not all honors require chanting/reading. There is also opening and/or closing the Ark. All honorees must be Jewish and of Bar/Bat Mitzvah age.

It is important that all honorees be present at the start of the service so that they are not late or absent for the appointed time of their honor. All honorees, including those with Aliyot, Torah Readers, or Ark Openers, will be asked by the Rabbi to sit in a special section of the sanctuary at the start of the Torah service to aid their access to the bima.

4. PROCEDURE: All matters pertaining to the order of the Service, family participation on the bimah, and the Service itself will be explained at various meetings with the Rabbi, Cantor, and Bar/Bat Mitzvah Tutor prior to the Service.

5. KIDDUSH: Please refer to the Kiddush Information page located within this book.

6. LIVE STREAMING: All Shabbat services are available for viewing on the Beth Shalom website. You can provide the link to the Live Stream page to your friends and family who are not able to join you for in-person worship. NOTE: we do not have onsite staff on Shabbat; technical difficulties cannot be addressed during a Shabbat service.

Shabbat services are available for 1 week following the Bar/Bat Mitzvah – choose “previous broadcasts” when clicking on the Kamensky Sanctuary from our Live Stream page on our website.

[Live Streaming of Shabbat Services](#)

PRAYERS

For the Parents of a BAT MITZVAH

You may choose one of the following parent's prayers. Immediately after you recite the parent's prayer your child will join you in reciting the *Shechecheyanu* in Hebrew and in English.

- Choose 1 of the 3 prayers below, inserting your child's name.
- Choose paragraphs from any of the 3 prayers below to create your own prayer of similar length.
- Compose your own prayer of similar theme and length.

Please consult the Rabbi about your choice.

1. From Likrat Shabbat

*"This is the day the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and celebrate on it."*

On this Shabbat when our daughter, _____, becomes a Bat Mitzvah, we have come with her and our loved ones to join in worship and to offer our prayer of thanksgiving.

We are grateful, O God, for the privilege of passing along the gift of life which you gave us, thus sharing with you in the miracle of creation. We are grateful for the thirteen years of nurturing this life, for the unnumbered joys and challenges which these years have brought us. Praise to You, O Lord, for keeping us alive, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this day.

*Bless _____, O God; watch over her, protect her, guide her. Help her to continue to grow in body and mind, in soul and character. Keep her loyal to our people and to the teachings of our Torah. May her life be rich and rewarding.
May all her deeds bring pride to us, honor to the House of Israel, and glory to Your name. Amen.*

2. From Likrat Shabbat

We thank You, O God, for the joyous fulfillment we feel as our daughter, _____, reaches the threshold of womanhood.

How privileged we feel that she is our daughter, and that she is bound to us by bonds of love, of memory, and of hope!

O God, accept our thankfulness for the thirteen years that have come and gone; bless our hope for the years that are yet to be. May Your mercy and guidance accompany this Bat Mitzvah at all times, in a life marked by reverence for Torah and love of all Your children. Amen.

3. From Likrat Shabbat

We thank you for the joy which is ours today. As you have been with _____ from birth, so continue to be with her in the life that is before her. Help her to grow in strength, wisdom, and love. Help her to live a dedicated and worthy life, realizing the capacities with which she is endowed. Through her actions, may she be a blessing to us, her family, her community and the people Israel everywhere. Amen.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
שֶׁחַיֵּינוּ וְקִיְמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזִמְן הַזֶּה.

BARUCH ATAH ADONAI, ELOHAYNU MELECH HA-OLAM, SHE-HECHEEYANU, VE-KEY-MANU, VE-HE-GEE YANU LAZMAN HAZEH.

For the Parents of a BAR MITZVAH

You may choose one of the following parent's prayers. Immediately after you recite the parent's prayer your child will join you in reciting the Shechecheyanu in Hebrew and in English.

- Choose 1 of the 3 prayers below.
- Choose paragraphs from any of the 3 prayers below to create your own prayer of similar length.
- Compose your own prayer of similar theme and length.

Please consult the Rabbi about your choice.

1. From Likrat Shabbat

*"This is the day the Lord made;
Let us rejoice and celebrate on it."*

With gladness and thanksgiving we praise you, O Lord our God, for having kept us alive, and sustained us, and enabled us to reach this day.

We give thanks for the wondrous privilege of seeing our son, _____, grow day by day, week by week, year by year. For the health and strength You have given him, for the mind and spirit with which You endowed him, for his ability to elicit and return love- -for all these precious gifts, we thank you.

Watch over him O God, on this special day and every day. Grant him a growing understanding of the true significance of this occasion and a deepening loyalty to everything which it represents. May the teachings of our heritage guide him throughout life; and may he lead a life worthy of Your blessings. Amen.

2. From Likrat Shabbat

Lord our God, author of life and source of all blessings, we praise You for keeping us alive, and sustaining us, and enabling us to reach this day.

Gratefully we thank you for the joyous privilege of seeing our son, _____, attain this milestone. On this day cherished dreams and hopes are fulfilled. On this day new dreams and new hops are born.

We pray that Your protecting and loving care will accompany him wherever he goes and in all that he does. Help him become all that he is capable of being. Give him strength to do all the good things that are within his reach. Keep him loyal to the best that he has been shown, and the noblest Jewish teachings he has been taught.

May his deeds find favor in the eyes of his fellow men and be worthy of Your blessings. Amen.

3. From Likrat Shabbat

Dear God:

We thank you for the joy which is ours today. As you have been with _____ so continue to be with him in the life that is before him.

Help him to grow in strength, wisdom, and love. Help him to live a dedicated and worthy life, realizing the capacities with which he is endowed.

Through his actions, may he be a blessing to us, his family, his community, and the people Israel everywhere. Amen.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
שֶׁחַיֵּינוּ וְקִיּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזִמְן הַזֶּה.

BARUCH ATAH ADONAI, ELOHAYNU MELECH HA-OLAM, SHE-HECHEEYANU, VE-KEY-MANU, VE-HE-GEE YANU LAZMAN HAZEH.

BLESSINGS BEFORE AND AFTER THE TORAH READING

Before the Reading

When you are called to the Bimah, stand before the Torah, take the corner of the tallit (for women, if you are not wearing a tallit, take the Torah sash). The reader will show you where to touch the Torah with the tallit or sash. Next, bring the tallit or sash to your lips and kiss it. Then recite the following:

בְּרַכּוּ אֶת יְיָ הַמְּבָרֵךְ:

Bar'chu et Adonai ham'vorach

The congregation will recite the following single line. You repeat the line after the congregation recites it. You then immediately continue with the next paragraph.

בָּרוּךְ יְיָ הַמְּבָרֵךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד:

Baruch Adonai ham'vorach l'olam va-ed

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר בָּחַר בָּנוּ
מִכָּל הָעַמִּים, וְנָתַן לָנוּ אֶת תּוֹרָתוֹ. בָּרוּךְ
אַתָּה יְיָ נוֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה:

Baruch atah Adonai, Elohaynu melech hah-olam, asher ba-cahr bahnu mekol ha-amim v'natan lanu et torahto. Baruch atah Adonai notayn ha-Torah.

After the Reading

After the reading, the reader will, once again, show you where to touch the Torah with the Tallit or sash. Again, bring the tallit or sash to your lips and kiss it, then recite the following:

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

Baruch atah Adonai, Elohaynu melech ha-olam, asher natan lanu torat emet v'cha-yey olam nata b'tochaynu. Baruch atah Adonai, notayn ha-Torah.

After your honor, please move to the other side of the bimah so you can be witness for the next honoree.

SYNAGOGUE PROGRAMS

Continuing Education Beyond Bar/Bat Mitzvah and 7th Grade

Next-step learning for our young adults as they continue their Jewish journeys – we strongly believe that Jewish education does not END with a Bar/Bat Mitzvah – it is a new beginning!

The goals of the program are:

1. To help our students continue their Jewish education in a comfortable and secure atmosphere.
2. To look at topics through a Jewish lens.
3. To prepare teens for life challenges.
4. Students in our High School program are eligible to apply for employment as a Madrich in our religious school program – earn some money, develop teaching skills, build your resume!
5. Our High School program is open to all Jewish students in our community – bring your friends and learn together!

CBS High/8th-12th Grade – Class meets every other week, 6:15 - 8:15 p.m. For 2021-22, class meets on Monday evenings (subject to change)

- Top shelf teachers, small groups and access to the best resources.
- 8th graders have opportunity to participate in Israel Now – peer group trip to Israel. There are scholarships available for CBS members.
- Good resume-builder for college applications.
- Facetime and meaningful discussion with clergy.
- We talk about Israel, modern Jewish law and explore topics that are of particular interest to our students.
- There are opportunities for choice among a variety of topics of interest to teens. Some recent choices have included:
 - Photography
 - Cooking
 - Self-Defense
 - Mah Jongh
- Dinner is provided for all students.



Congregation Beth Shalom Youth Department

Chaverim, Kadima and USY

Welcome to the wonderful world of the CBS Youth Department. Our award-winning programs are filled with Jewish FUN, EXCITEMENT, and FRIENDSHIP. Our program encourages participants to feel comfortable in an environment exclusively for Jewish youth. Our outstanding youth program begins in kindergarten and continues through high school. Membership in our four separate groups is included for all CBS families:

Young Family Programming (Birth – Grade 2)
Chaverim (Grades 3-5)
Kadima (Grades 6-8)
USY (Grades 9-12)

While Chaverim is unique to CBS, Kadima and USY are part of the International Jewish Youth organization sponsored by the Department of Youth Activities of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. All our programs offer a range of cultural, social, educational, religious, and recreational activities geared to the needs and interests of Jewish youth of each age group at the chapter, regional, and international levels. Leadership and travel opportunities are available for our high school participants!

Our Youth Commission is chaired by Seth Schrank. He can be reached at YouthVP@bethshalomnb.org

Eric Golberg, Director of Youth & Young Family Engagement, at 847.498.4100 x25 or EGolberg@BethShalomNB.org

The CBS Youth Department is ready to meet your needs. We look forward to meeting you!

Also, be sure to check us out online at:

[CBS Youth on our website](#)

Find out about upcoming events, scholarships and RSVP for programs!

Don't miss out... become a part of the excitement and meet new friends
at OUR CBS AWARD WINNING YOUTH PROGRAMS!

Seventh Grade - College Students

Want to visit Israel?
Interested in available scholarships?
IT IS TIME TO JOIN IN.

ISRAEL NOW!

Congregation Beth Shalom's Israel Initiative

\$750 Scholarship for your first trip to Israel
\$375 Scholarship for your second trip to Israel
\$250 Scholarship for Israel Now (Eighth Grade)

We can help you find other Scholarships to make your trip to Israel possible!

Scholarships are available through Congregation Beth Shalom's
Janna Sugar Israel Scholarship Fund
Must be a trip approved by the
Israel Experience Program at JUF

For more information, please contact Eric Golberg, Director of Youth & Young Family
Engagement, at 847.498.4100 x25 or via email at EGolberg@BethShalomNB.org

Additional scholarship opportunities for CBS members:

Visit our webpage: [Scholarships at CBS](#)

Camp Ramah - overnight camp
Camp Ramah - Israel travel programs
Camp Ramah - day camp
Nativ gap-year study in Israel

Scholarships are available through the Francine Shapiro Memorial Scholarship Fund, the
Steven Teitelbaum Memorial Ramah Scholarship Fund and the Alan Medansky Memorial
Nativ Scholarship Fund.

Congregation Beth Shalom Bar/Bat Mitzvah Gift of Israel

Dear Family:

Mazel Tov you your child's upcoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah. As this important spiritual step on the ladder of your child's Jewish education draws near, we would like to invite you to participate in the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Gift of Israel Program established by the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago. The Gift of Israel provides an opportunity for celebrants to save toward an Israel Experience trip that will enhance their sense of Jewish identity for the rest of their lives and is an integral part of your child's Jewish education.

The Bar/Bat Mitzvah Gift of Israel Program is open to all Bar/Bat Mitzvah age youths from throughout the Chicago area. Your child is eligible for enrollment starting 6 months prior to their Bar/Bat Mitzvah date. Funds may be deposited into the Gift of Israel account anytime between enrollment in the program and the time that your child goes to Israel. All funds, plus interest earned, may be used toward any approved Israel Experience Program anytime from the summer following ninth grade through the participant's twenty-third birthday. Unused funds and all accrued interest are fully refundable to the family at any time. As an added bonus, once \$1000 has been deposited into your child's account, Federation will add a onetime matching gift of \$180 to be allocated at the time of your child's Israel Experience.

We believe that the Gift of Israel is a meaningful give, something that many of your friends and family will enjoy giving and that your child will enjoy receiving. If you have any questions about the Gift of Israel, please contact me, Lyndsey Garbacz, at lyndseygarbacz@juf.org

Yours truly,

[Lyndsey Garbacz](#)

Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago

SYNAGOGUE INITIATIVES

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum “Chain of Memory” Project

The darkest chapter of the 20th Century, the Holocaust, is being remembered through the establishment of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC. One important focus of the Museum is the education of the half million school children who visit the Museum each year from all over the United States.

The “Chain of Memory” Project was established so that Bar/Bat Mitzvah children can remember one of the 1.5 million Jewish children who were murdered by the Nazis before being able to fulfill the Mitzvah of learning Torah. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah dedicates the occasion to the memory of this child symbolizing the importance of remembering the past as well as educating for the future.

By participating in the “Chain of Memory” Project, a family will have the opportunity to remember a child who was not able to celebrate his or her own Bar/Bat Mitzvah and be part of the historic efforts of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

How Can You Participate?

If there is a relative or friend of your family who is a survivor of the Holocaust, the Bar/Bat Mitzvah child is encouraged to speak directly to that person, who will give them a name and the background on a child that they knew, who did not survive the Holocaust. If this is not the case, the Midwest Regional Office of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum will provide the Bar/Bat Mitzvah with the name, birthdate, picture (if available) and other biographical information on the child who is to be remembered.

The Bar/Bat Mitzvah will receive a certificate from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum recognizing the importance of remembrance and of this Mitzvah.

The Bar/Bat Mitzvah family is encouraged to honor the memory of this child who perished by making a meaningful contribution to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Your support is very much appreciated.

To participate in the “Chain of Memory” Project, contact the Midwest Regional Office of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum at 847.433.8099.

B'nai Mitzvah Commitment Fee - \$1950 billed over 3 years (\$650 per year): must be paid in full 60 days prior to your Simcha date.

This fee includes:

Mechina Class (9 Sessions) – A little more than a year before becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, you and your child will attend a series of classes. Most of these classes will take place on Saturday mornings. For part of the session, parents will convene with Rabbis Melman or Ferratier to discuss pertinent religious and social issues while the students meet with B'nai Mitzvah coordinator Randi Simon to learn some of the blessings and special skills needed to participate in their Bar/Bat Mitzvah service. During the second part of the morning, you and your child(ren) will participate in a learners service with Cantor Stoehr or Randi Simon.

Tutoring – Tutoring begins approximately one year before the Simcha, and it includes individualized tutoring once a week until the date of their Simcha. Each child will have approximately 42 lessons, each of which is 20 minutes in length. Students are expected to practice regularly at home. (20-30 minutes a day, 5-6x a week is suggested).

Day of your Simcha – Set up/cleanup of the social hall, kitchen staff, bimah flowers and all paper goods and basic table coverings. *[Note: if you do not choose to host a Community Kiddush – optional while COVID protocols are in place – we will reduce your B'nai Mitzvah Commitment Fee by \$450]*

Clergy Meetings - As a member of CBS, you always have access to our Clergy and Staff. As part of your CBS B'nai Mitzvah preparation, special meetings will be set up with Rabbis Melman & Ferratier and Cantor Stoehr. Each of them has specific goals to accomplish with your family for the special day.

- Cantor Stoehr will meet with the student and parents to help narrow down and focus on the necessary steps for achieving a successful Mitzvah project (our Three Pillars Project), if requested.
- Rabbi Ferratier will meet with you about two months prior to study and prepare ideas for your child's D'var Torah as well as discuss family honors and other service logistics.
- Rabbi Melman will meet you on the bimah within 2 weeks of the Simcha for a final walk-through.

It is vital that you and your child keep track of meeting dates and deadlines. It is very difficult to reschedule appointments in the weeks leading up to your Simcha date.

The clergy and staff, as always, will be available to answer any of your questions and concerns at any time.

Please note that the food portion of the (optional) Kiddush following your service is not included in the Commitment Fee.



Shabbat Kiddush *(as of 12/6/2021 and subject to change)*

Dear Bar/Bat Mitzvah Parents,

Congregation Beth Shalom would like to wish you a hearty *Mazel Tov* on your forthcoming Simcha! As your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah approaches, I would like to share some important information regarding your options for Kiddush on that special day.

As a member of our Congregation Beth Shalom community, each Bar/Bat Mitzvah family is obligated to sponsor the Kiddush for the congregation following their service, however, **due to current COVID-19 protocols in place at CBS, a Kiddush lunch is optional at this time (please see the next page for Kiddush information)**. We recommend that if you choose not to host a Kiddush lunch, that you consider providing a "to-go snack bag" for your guests and the congregation. This is a lovely and inexpensive way to honor your child's accomplishment and share a favorite treat! You may contact any of the following pre-approved Kosher caterers, restaurants, bakeries, or sweet shops and make arrangements for delivery of a *sealed, non-refrigerated snack bag*.

The bags must be prepared and sealed by your chosen vendor on their premises and delivered by the vendor directly to Congregation Beth Shalom. If delivery is not available, please discuss other options with Randi Simon (contact information below.) See the list of approved vendors on page 25 of this packet.

A few ideas for Snack Bags include:

- Individual bags of flavored popcorn
- Custom decorated cookies / bars
- Custom wrapped candy
- Mini Bundt cake
- Challah roll
- Cupcake / Muffin

As we continue to welcome our community back to CBS for in-person worship, the number of attendees each Shabbat is subject to change. Currently, we estimate between 100 and 125 congregants PLUS your family and guests. I will contact you several weeks prior to your simcha to provide you with an update to the estimated number of attendees so that you will know how many snack bags to order. We ask that you arrange to have the snack bags delivered to the synagogue on the Friday morning before your date. CBS will provide bottled water to accompany the bags.

CBS would also like you to be aware of the following synagogue policies:

- Any specially ordered kippot must be brought to the synagogue before 12:00 pm on the Friday before your simcha.
- Please notify CBS of any bus transportation to a party or luncheon that may take place after services.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Kiddush or Snack Bag, please feel free to call me.

Again, Mazel Tov on reaching this exciting milestone!

Randi Simon

RSimon@BethShalomNB.org

847-498-4100 ext. 23

Shabbat Kiddush - continued (as of 12/6/2021 and subject to change)

Beginning in January 2022, Bar/Bat Mitzvah families have the option to host a community Kiddush to honor their child. The kiddush lunch is for the congregation and your family and guests. The cost is per person and is based on several options as shown below. You are responsible for all attendees including the CBS community and your family and guests. **Under current COVID protocols**, food items are individually packaged or plated.

Basic Kiddush - \$14 per person
Assorted Bagels w/ cream cheese
Tuna on bed of mixed greens
Fresh fruit cups
Noodle kugel
Cookies & brownies
Coffee & tea
White plastic table covers, plates & cutlery
Additional cost for: custom linens and/or personalized napkins

If you prefer an enhanced Kiddush luncheon, you may choose to order drop-off catering from Zelda's Catering. Boxed meal options include: (prices subject to change)

- Bagel w/ lox, tomato, onion, cream cheese, and fruit cup \$22 pp
- Avocado Toast w/ two hard boiled eggs and fruit cup \$24 pp
- Tomato & Mozzarella caprese sandwich w/ pasta salad \$24 pp
- Custom options -contact catering at Zelda's Catering \$ market

- Add Personalized cookies & fancy sweets \$5 pp
- Add Tuna on bed of mixed greens \$5 pp
- Add Noodle Kugel - \$60 per kugel (serves approximately 30-40 people)

Also included with boxed meals - Cookies & brownies, coffee & tea, white plastic table covers, plates and cutlery. Additional cost for custom linens and/or personalized napkins.

Please refer to the Kiddush Agreement for additional details.



Celebrate Your Simcha at Congregation Beth Shalom

Congregation Beth Shalom offers everything you need to make your Simcha a memorable occasion. Our beautiful facility can accommodate your b'nai mitzvah party with ample parking, excellent caterers, large dance floor and professional party planning assistance.

CBS offers the services of several outstanding full-service Kosher caterers.

1. **Goldman Segal Kosher Caterers**
David Segal
www.goldmansegal.com
847.675.4060
2. **Shallots Catering**
Bea
www.shallotsbistro.com/catering
847.677.3463
3. **Zelda's Catering**
Linda Zelda Neiman
www.zeldascatering.com
847.674.0033
4. **Starr Kosher Catering - Chicago Tailgators**
Karen
www.starrkosher-chicagotailgators.com
773-465-6247

Hosting your Simcha at the synagogue will add a unique dimension you will not find anywhere else. For more information, please contact Maria Catezone at 847.498.4100 ext. 26 at Congregation Beth Shalom or Jill Olefsky 847.272.1758, jolefsky@aol.com, Catering Committee Chairperson.

Our Kosher kitchen is only able to accommodate one (1) of our caterers per weekend. After a caterer has been scheduled to be used for any reason on a particular weekend, only that caterer can be used for another event that same weekend. Since this process is implemented on a first come, first serve basis, it is important to contact Maria or Jill to schedule the use of a caterer or check on availability.

Please contact Maria for the most up to date COVID-19 protocols concerning such items as the number of attendees and food service guidelines.



Drop off Friday Night Dinner:

Up to 50 guests: Base room rental fee \$180 + \$125 Non-Refundable Security Fee
Dinner is after 6pm Shabbat service.

Base fee

The base fee includes round guest tables, folding chairs, white skirted rectangle buffet tables, white skirted drink table, salt and pepper, ice water, coffee, tea, sweeteners, creamer, motzi table, hand washing table and kitchen staff. This base fee does not change if congregant does not use all of the above.

Additional \$1.80 per guest will be charged if using Beth Shalom white plastic table covers and disposable paper goods and flatware.

Because storage needs to be arranged, requests to bring in other items must be made in writing or via email at least a month before the dinner to Maria Catezone, at mcatezone@bethshalomnb.org. These items include, but are not limited to:

Flowers in vases

Kosher Wine - UNOPENED

Rented Linens

Disposable paper goods – UNOPENED packages of plates, napkins, flatware, table covers

Soft drinks -UNOPENED

Any items being brought in for the dinner (excluding drop off food and anything supplied by restaurant/caterer) must be in the building by 11:00 am Thursday before the dinner. If not received at the synagogue by Thursday, we will provide disposable white dinner plates, paper cups, white napkins, white plastic flatware and white plastic tablecloths at an additional charge of \$2.50 per person.

Prices Subject to Change Without Prior Notice



Drop Off Dinner Friday Night **Approved Restaurants/Caterers**

Drop off food, with directions for reheating and anything else supplied by the restaurant/caterer, must be delivered by noon Friday, day of event.

EJ's Pizzeria	224-534-7215
Emma's Bagel Café	847-673-3030
Goldman Segal Kosher Caterers	847-675-4060
Hamachi's Sushi Bar	773-273-6904
Jewel Kosher Department (Highland Park, IL location)	847-579-0872
Ken's Kosher Diner	847-679-4030
Milt's BBQ for the Perplexed	773-661-6384
Mizrahi Grill	847-831-1400
The Sandwich Club	847-677-6020
Shaevitz Uptown BBQ	847-432-7310
Shallot's Bistro	847-677-3463
Starr Catering - Chicago Tailgators	773-465-6247
Taboun Grill	847-965-1818
Tacos Gingi	847-983-0648
Zelda's Catering	847-674-0033

Desserts

Cinnaholic (Evanston only)	847-425-0239
Highland Pop	847-433-4200
Illinois Nut and Candy	847-677-5777
North Shore Kosher Bakery	773-262-0600
Nothing Bundt Cakes (Skokie & Deerfield only)	847-315-9077
Shalom Bakery	847-808-9300
Zelda's Catering	847-679-0033



Catered Friday Night Dinner

Fee: \$350 + \$125 Non-Refundable Security Fee
Dinner is after 6pm Shabbat service

Includes:

- Round guest tables, folding chairs.
- Room decision is based on size of party and room availability.

Caterer provides all table covers, plates, flatware, food and beverage, kitchen and waitstaff.

Prices subject to change without prior notice.

**Contact: Maria Catezone for scheduling and logistics for catered dinners: MCatezone@bethshalomnb.org
847-498-4100 ext.26**

Approved Caterers for full-service meal: see page 23 of this guide.



The Simcha Shop

For your convenience, the Simcha Shop has a full line of napkins for your Simcha. Please call our Simcha Shop Chairperson:

Suzy Hakimian

847-205-1488

Louis Gurvitz Memorial Sisterhood Judaica Shop

The Judaica Shop offers a selection of tallitot, kippot, tefillin, Kiddush cups, candlesticks, and other Judaic items. Visit the shop online at:
<https://cbs-sisterhood-judaica-shop.square.site/>
or call for an appointment!

The Sisterhood Judaica Shop Co-Managers will be happy to assist you:

Diana Lewis

847-903-6175

Darlene Padnos

847-217-4531

Donna Fox

513-378-2491

Photographs & Videos

Please call Randi Simon at CBS - 847-498-4100 ext. 23 to set up your appointment for your photos and/or videos. Photo appointments are not available after noon on Friday or all day Saturday or on national holidays when our offices are closed.