

Gil Mitzvah at FJC!



Shalom!

A B'nai Mitzvah is one of the most exciting and meaningful moments in our religious and spiritual lives. It is a powerful celebration that brings together family, friends and community to witness the end of early childhood and the beginning of the path towards adulthood.

Though a b'nai mitzvah is a one day event, it takes years to prepare for it. Much of what we know a b'mitzvah to be is merely tradition. There are no hard and fast rules about what must happen and at FJC, we do not have one way that they all must look. We are happy to chat with you about crafting a ceremony that is as traditional or as out of the box as you would like it to be—the most important aspect is that it represents your child's Jewish journey.

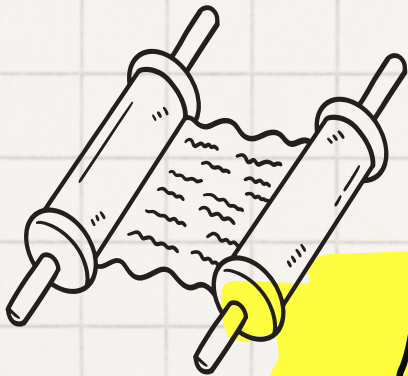
This handbook is intended to get you started and to alleviate some logistical anxieties so that you can focus on this simcha as a family. Please feel free to be in touch with us at any time. Please send all questions about the b'nai mitzvah process to office@flatbushjewishcenter.org.

We look forward to celebrating this sacred and joyous occasion with you. Mazal tov on reaching this milestone!

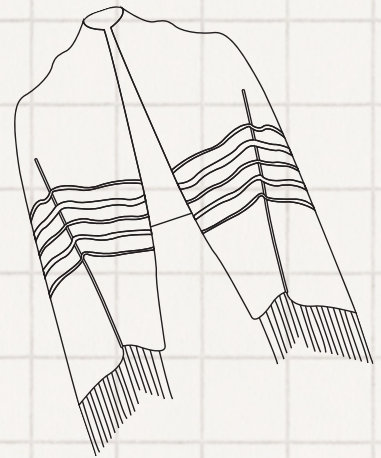
What do you call this ceremony?

"Bar mitzvah" is the classical name for a boy who reaches this life stage. While we often think of it as literally meaning "son of commandments," it is more accurately understood as a Talmudic idiom meaning "in the category of" or "eligible for" commandments. (When discussing capital punishment, for instance, the Talmud uses an analogous phrase, "bar katla," to mean "eligible for capital punishment.") When Rabbi Morechai Kaplan's daughter Judith became the first American girl to celebrate the same ritual in 1922, Kaplan coined the term bat mitzvah, using the feminine equivalent of "bar." "B'nai mitzvah" is the masculine plural, often used for the collective since Hebrew classically uses the masculine plural for groups of any gender. In recent years, some have adopted "BMitzvah" (shortened to "BMitz") as a non-gendered, inclusive term. Another possibility that Rabbi Lev would like to popularize is "Gil Mitzvah," a Hebrew double entendre meaning both "age of mitzvot" and "joy of mitzvot" that makes no reference to the gender of the child celebrating.

Your family is welcome to use the terminology that works best for you.



Meaning of a B'Mitzvah



At its core, a bar mitzvah signifies that a person has reached the age where they can participate fully in communal Jewish ritual and can fulfill religious obligations on behalf of the community. The simplest way of demonstrating this is by having an aliyah (saying the blessings over the Torah).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

TIMELINE

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2 years out: Schedule date with FJC office and reserve spaces on the calendar

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1 year out: Choose your mitzvah project

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9mo-1 year out: Begin B'Mitz classes

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6 months out: Confirm plans with FJC office for meals and catering (Friday night dinner? Shabbat luncheon? Party?)

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5 months out: Begin attending FJC Shabbat Services

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4 months out: D'var Torah prep

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1 month out: work with Rabbi Lev to decide honors for service

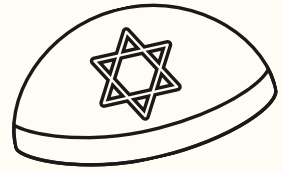
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2 weeks out: finalize details with FJC office (availability of space for setup, food delivery times, coordination with caterers, etc...)

B'Mitz Tutoring

Depending on the type of service you would like to have, we have several options for B'Mitz prep. Students enrolled in FJC Hebrew School can work 1:1 with our teachers who can help with the following:

- Leyning one or more aliyot during Torah service
- Learning the Aliyah blessing
- Chanting the Haftorah
- Writing and delivering a D'var Torah
- Leading Musaf



We are open to supporting our students in learning to lead and participate in as much of the service as they would like.

Our teachers can also work with our non-Hebrew school students. Our FJC community is blessed to have many gifted teachers in it who we can connect you with for B'Mitz tutoring.

FJC B'nai Mitzvah Norms

Egalitarianism

FJC is fully egalitarian and Jewish people of all genders are invited to participate in our services.

Dress Code

The FJC community is nonjudgmental and we leave it to each family to determine what appropriate dress is. This is a special day and many folks will be in dressy casual or business casual attire.

Head covering and Tallit

Anyone who has an honor during the service on the bimah must wear Tallit. We have plenty to borrow. It is customary to see people covering their heads during the service. It is not a requirement but it is a common practice for all genders.

Candy Throwing

One way to involve the whole community in showering the b'nai mitzvah with sweetness and blessing is by throwing candy. This typically occurs after Torah reading. We will help coordinate passing out the candy during the service if you need support with that. Sunkist Fruit Gems are customary but any candy you choose must be:

- Soft
- Kosher certified
- individually wrapped

Electronic Devices and Shabbat Observance

If your b'nai mitzvah will take place during the main Shabbat service, we ask that electronic devices are not in use, which includes taking pictures. You may record your child when they are practicing for their b'nai mitzvah when it is not on Shabbat. Please ensure that your guests, regardless of observance or different faith tradition are aware of this community norm.

HONORS LIST

Honor	OK for pre-bmitz person	OK for non- Jewish person	Who	Hebrew name
Pezukei D'zimrah prayer leader				n/a
Shacharit prayer leader				n/a
Torah service prayer leader				n/a
Open ark	Yes	Yes		n/a
Carry Torah		Yes		n/a
[Speech can be made by a parent here, after Torah is set down and before it's read]				
1st aliyah - bracha				required
1st aliyah - read Torah				n/a
2nd aliyah - bracha				required
2nd aliyah - read Torah				n/a
3rd Aliyah - bracha				required
3rd Aliyah - read Torah				n/a
4th Aliyah - bracha				required
4th aliyah - read Torah				n/a
5th aliyah - bracha				required
5th aliyah - read Torah				n/a
6th aliyah - bracha				required
6th aliyah - read Torah				n/a
7th aliyah - bracha				required
7th aliyah - read Torah				n/a

HONORS LIST

Honor	OK for pre-bmitz person	OK for non-Jewish person	Who	Hebrew name
Pezukei D'zimrah prayer leader				n/a
Shacharit prayer leader				n/a
Torah service prayer leader				n/a
Open ark	Yes	Yes		n/a
Carry Torah		Yes		n/a
[Speech can be made by a parent here, after Torah is set down and before it's read]				
1st aliyah - bracha				required
1st aliyah - read Torah				n/a
2nd aliyah - bracha				required
2nd aliyah - read Torah				n/a
Maftir aliyah - bracha				required
Maftir aliyah - read Torah				n/a
Lift torah (Hagbah)		Yes		n/a
Dress Torah (gelilah)		Yes		n/a
Haftarah (this person will get maftir aliyah bracha)				(see maftir)
[Speech can be made at this point, by a parent or bmitz kid]				
Conclude Torah service (Usually same as Musaf but doesn't have to be)				
Prayer for Country (English)	Yes	Yes		

HONORS LIST

Honor	OK for pre-bmitz person	OK for non-Jewish person	Who	Hebrew name
Pezukei D'zimrah prayer leader				n/a
Shacharit prayer leader				n/a
Torah service prayer leader				n/a
Open ark	Yes	Yes		n/a
Carry Torah		Yes		n/a
[Speech can be made by a parent here, after Torah is set down and before it's read]				
1st aliyah - bracha				required
1st aliyah - read Torah				n/a
2nd aliyah - bracha				required
2nd aliyah - read Torah				n/a
Prayer for Israel (Hebrew)	Yes			
Carry Torah around		Yes		n/a
Open/Close ark	Yes	Yes		n/a
[Speech can be made at this point, by a parent or bmitz kid]				n/a
Musaf prayer leader				n/a
End of musaf (from Ein Keloheynu until the end)	Yes			n/a
Kiddush before the meal (in the sanctuary)	Yes			

HONORS LIST

Honor	OK for pre-bmitz person	OK for non- Jewish person	Who	Hebrew name
Pezukei D'zimrah prayer leader				n/a
Shacharit prayer leader				n/a
Torah service prayer leader				n/a
Open ark	Yes	Yes		n/a
Carry Torah		Yes		n/a
[Speech can be made by a parent here, after Torah is set down and before it's read]				
1st aliyah - bracha				required
1st aliyah - read Torah				n/a
2nd aliyah - bracha				required
2nd aliyah - read Torah				n/a
Hamotzi (in the sanctuary)	Yes			
Confirm: Blessing for the bmitz will be made at what point				
Confirm: Will there be candy thrown? Family should bring if so.				
Will the family want to have a special email go out for the bmitz?				

Financial Responsibilities

We ask that all **member** families make a donation of \$300 to FJC for all b'nai mitzvah that will be held in our space. We ask that all nonmember families make a donation of \$1,000 to FJC. Additional fees may be associated with setup/cleanup, security and/or door person (contact the FJC Office for current rates). Rental fees will be associated with space rental **outside of Shabbat** at the following rates:

Space	Member Rates	Non-Member Rates
Small Sanctuary (max capacity 80)^	\$1500 (3-6hrs) \$750 (up to 3hrs)	\$2500 (3-6hrs) \$1500 (up to 3hrs)
Main Sanctuary (max capacity 495)^	\$4000 (3-6hrs) \$2500 (up to 3hrs)	\$8000 (3-6hrs) \$5000 (up to 3hrs)
HANID Room ^ (max capacity 210)	\$1250 (3-6hrs)+ \$700 (up to 3hrs)+ \$125/hr (meeting space only)	\$2500 (3-6hrs)+ \$1250 (up to 3hrs)+ \$200/hr (meeting space only)
FJC Patio ^	Contact FJC Office	Contact FJC Office

Rentals include access to:

- 10 | 8-10 person round tables
- 10 | 8 person rectangle tables
- Indoor/outdoor folding chairs
- Indoor chairs



** additional fees may apply for setup/cleanup; security; door person*

^ Space is fully accessible (elevator building)

+ Kitchen is under the supervision of Rabbi Heather Miller and only approved Kosher caterers and purveyors may be used. Contact the FJC office for a list of approved purveyors.

If you choose to hold a kiddush or luncheon following the service, we can help you coordinate those details. All costs of the oneg will be the responsibility of the b'mitzvah family. Additional fees may be associated with the use of FJC flatware, place settings. We do have a limited number of decorations, cloth tablecloths and napkins available for use—please contact the FJC Office for the current inventory.