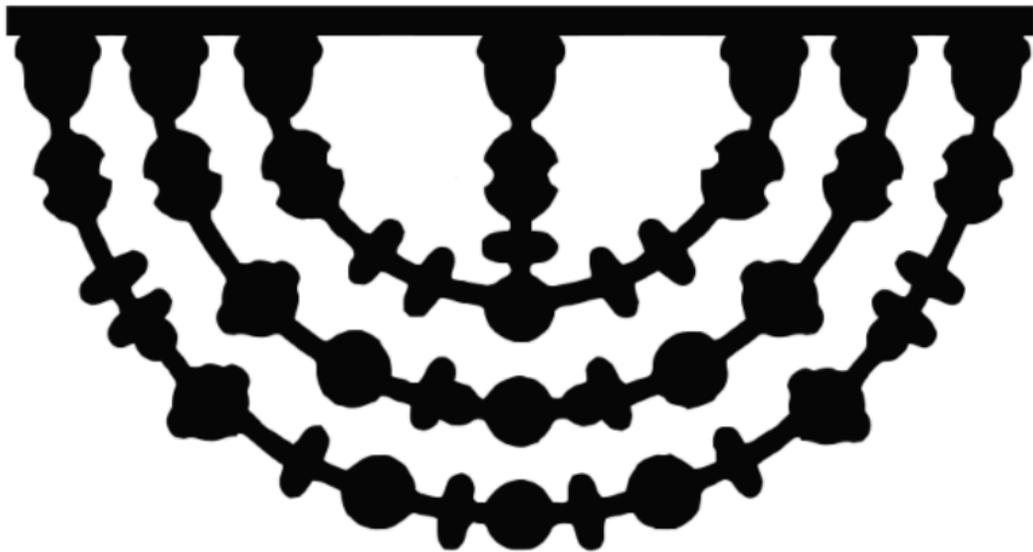


# **Bar/Bat Mitzvah Handbook**

Updated Spring 2020



## **Temple Emanu-El**

1580 Spalding Drive

Atlanta, GA 30350

770-395-1340

# Temple Emanu-El

## Contact Information

Tel: 770-3951340 Fax: 770-395-1343

### **Rabbi Spike Anderson**

sanderson@templemanuelatlanta.com

### **Cantor Lauren Adesnik**

ladesnik@templemanuelatlanta.com

### **Rabbi Max Miller**

mmiller@templemanuelatlanta.com

### **Rabbi Rachael Miller**

rkmiller@templemanuelatlanta.com

### **Stephen Blick, Executive Director**

sblick@templemanuelatlanta.com

### **Assistant to Rabbi Spike Anderson, Cantor Adesnik and Executive Director, Stephen Blick | Coordinator for B'nei Mitzvah Tutoring**

**Nila Szweda** - nszweda@templemanuelatlanta.com

### **Assistant to Rabbi Max Miller and Rabbi Rachael Miller | B'nei Mitzvah Event Coordinator**

**Marina Alberhasky** - malberhasky@templemanuelatlanta.com

### **Diamond Family Religious School**

**Beth Blick, Principal** - bblick@templemanuelatlanta.com

### **Office Manager**

**Denise Jacobs** - djacobs@templemanuelatlanta.com

**RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, DIRECT LINE: (770) 352-9190**

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# I. Why Become a Bar/Bat Mitzvah

Becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah is about entering into a special relationship with the Jewish community and with God. A person is not “Bar/Bat Mitzvahed,” and the phrase is not meant to be a verb; rather, *becoming* a Bar/Bat Mitzvah is a recognition of entering the Jewish community as a fully active participant. As a daughter or son of a commandment (the literal translation), your child enters into a sense of deeper obligation and connection to the *mitzvot*, the commandments, of Judaism. As Reform Jews, many of the commandments that most resonate with our community are the ones that make us better people, who can help to make the world a better place.

Becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah is more than the celebration that occurs at the end of the day. The journey and its culminating ceremony is a deep expression of our Jewish values and commitment to peoplehood.

Becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah is a public declaration of one’s commitment to their Jewish identity. Through leading the community in prayer as *sh’lichei tzibur* (prayer leaders), our synagogue’s children announce their decision to live a life that will find ways to make Judaism an important piece of who they are in the world.

Becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah is a stepping stone toward deeper engagement in the community. Children become acknowledged as adults in the ritual needs of the congregation: they are now counted in a *minyan* (the ten people needed to recite particular prayers of our liturgy) and they may forever be called forward to the Torah for an *aliyah*.

Becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah means your child will carry the covenant of Judaism into yet another generation with the hope that it will endure forever. At Temple Emanu-El, it is our expectation that all of our students will continue their Jewish studies through our various educational and youth leadership programs, which will serve as a launching pads when they seek further Jewish learning in colleges across the country.

## A note about the bat mitzvah:

Early in the 20th century, Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan (the founder of the Reconstructionist Movement) determined that his daughter, Judith, was the equal of any boy who had come to him for Bar Mitzvah instruction, and so the Bat Mitzvah ceremony was born at the Society for the Advancement of Judaism in New York in the Spring of 1922. The Reform movement has stressed the equality of gender since its inception in the 19th century and did away with all sexist barriers in religious practice. Therefore, all genders celebrate their coming of age on their 13th birthdays.

# II. How to Reach Your Day Feeling Fulfilled

(requirements for the honor of leading services as a Bar/Bat Mitzvah)

The Bar/Bat Mitzvah program takes serious time, effort, and responsibility. On the day of the ceremony, we expect your child to be comfortable leading the congregation in prayer, reading from the Torah, and teaching a lesson about the portion of the week.

We will work together to achieve this goal through the requirements listed below.

**If your child has different learning abilities, you must notify us immediately.**

We will do everything possible to provide your child with a positive learning experience.

**Parental commitment and support is essential in helping your child fulfill these requirements. The following requirements must be met in order to become a Bar/Bat Mitzvah at Temple Emanu-El.**

## **Section A: General Information**

- 1. 4 years of consecutive attendance** in Temple Emanu-El's Religious School or a Jewish Day School prior to Bar/Bat Mitzvah
  - Children who have excessive absences must have addition tutoring — your family will need to take on this expense
- 2. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony is a pivotal step towards life-long Jewish learning and involvement for your child. Students in religious school or day school must continue through the end of the academic year after the completion of their Bar/Bat Mitzvah.**
- 3. Attending Shabbat services at Temple Emanu-El** is an essential part of the learning process. We hope each family feels thoroughly at home long before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony. Bar/Bat Mitzvah students, together with their families, are required to attend Shabbat services during the 6 months immediately preceding the Bar/Bat Mitzvah date:
  - 5 Friday night services
  - 5 Saturday morning or Havdalah B'nei Mitzvah Services
  - 2 Saturday morning Chevrah Torah (Torah Study) sessions
  - (Holiday and special services do not fulfill this obligation, though it is strongly encouraged)
  - Parents are asked to usher at least 3 times (more information in Section V)

## II. How to Reach Your Day Feeling Fulfilled (cont.)

(requirements for the honor of leading services as a Bar/Bat Mitzvah)

### Section A: General Information cont.

4. Your family will receive a digital set of postcards to print through Mitzvah Tools. After services/Torah study (*Chevre Torah*), please bring the card to the *bimah*, hand the completed card to a member of the clergy, and say “Shabbat Shalom.” Should you forget your card, please still see a member of the clergy at the end of that service/Torah study.
5. In the 6-8 weeks leading up to your child’s Bar/Bat Mitzvah, they will have the opportunity to meet individually with one or two of our rabbis to study their Torah portion and prepare their *d’var torah* (sermon). Your child can also use this time to ask the Rabbis any and all the questions they have ever wondered about Judaism!
6. Students and parents will attend periodic check-ins with the Cantor to study together and monitor their progress with the prayers, Torah portion, and Haftarah portion that make up the service. Daily home practice and weekly meetings with your tutor will ensure that your child stays on track!
7. Students should complete a Mitzvah Project. Please discuss possible ideas with the Cantor and the Rabbi(s). Ideas and mentoring opportunities are outlined in the Appendixes.
8. Becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah means engaging in the community. We ask that you invite your child’s entire religious school class or day-school homeroom to both Shabbat services and your celebration. To do otherwise, can be hurtful.

**Our Confirmation Academy, Confirmation Class, and Post-Confirmation Program are amazing opportunities for Temple Emanu-El teens to stay in touch with their friends, elevate their Jewish learning, and continue to grow into themselves.**

**We strongly encourage your child to participate in these post-*b’nei mitzvah* opportunities.**

## II. How to Reach Your Day Feeling Fulfilled (cont.)

(requirements for the honor of leading services as a Bar/Bat Mitzvah)

### Section B: Tutoring and Rehearsals

- Approximately 7-8 months prior to your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah, you and your child will meet with the Cantor. Together you will:
  - Explore the deeper meaning of becoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah
  - Discuss Bar/Bat Mitzvah study requirements
  - Clarify logistics
  - Discuss learning process and progression
  - Receive all materials and your tutoring schedule
- Students will work with an assigned tutor on a weekly basis in half-hour sessions
  - Each child receives 20 lessons covered by the Bar/Bat Mitzvah tutoring fee
  - Each additional lesson will be invoiced separately
- We will make every effort to schedule your child's tutoring sessions, and clergy meetings, at times that are convenient. We request your flexibility as sometimes the preferred slot may not be available, and we thank you in advance!

### III. Notes About Service Options

#### 1. Morning Service

- The morning service will begin promptly at 10:00 am and conclude at approximately 11:30 am for a single, 12:00 pm for a double.
- Young women and men should be appropriately dressed for a service that connects them to God and the community.

#### 2. Havdalah Service

- Though under the name, “Havdalah,” this service follows Shabbat liturgy and will conclude with a Havdalah ceremony.
- Young women and men should be appropriately dressed for a service that connects them to God and the community. Should you be holding a party after services with a theme, please ask guests to dress appropriately for services and then change for the party to maintain the decorum of our sacred space.
- All requirements for Bar/Bat mitzvah ceremonies will remain the same regardless of the service time (i.e., number of years in religious school, Friday evening service attendance) or location (like Bar/Bat Mitzvah services on TE trips to Israel.)
- The same rules of decorum are expected at this service that we strive for at all Temple services.
- Like all of our B’nei Mitzvah services, the Havdalah service is open to the entire congregation.
  - Temple members cannot be excluded from coming to services.
- For a **single**, the service will begin promptly at 5:00 pm and conclude at approximately 6:45 pm.
- For a **double** the service will begin promptly at 4:30 and conclude at approximately 6:45 pm.

\*\*\*\*\*

Your clergy will try to honor your clergy requests for your Bar/Bat Mitzvah. All clergy requests can be made one year prior to the child’s service and must be made in writing to a Temple administrator. In the event that a requested clergy is unavailable, another member of our clergy team will be assigned.

## III. Notes About Service Options (cont.)

### 3. Bar/Bat Mitzvah in Israel

- If you are planning to celebrate your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah in Israel, we will prepare your child and help you select an appropriate trip for a wonderful experience.
- If you will not be having a ceremony at Temple Emanu-El, please inform the Executive Director so that the date can be released for other students.
- Please check-in to see if we are offering a Temple Emanu-El-led B'nei Mitzvah service in Israel this year.

### 4. Participation of Non-Jewish Family Members

- We welcome all people, regardless of religion, to join with us in prayer and celebration. Please see next note for participation in honors for all friends and family.

### 5. Distribution of Honors

- **Please do not assign your honors until after you have met with and discussed them with the Cantor.**
  - **Tallit:** Our suggestion is that either the parents or a Jewish elder give the *bar/bat mitzvah* the tallit.
  - **Torah Pass:** All grandparents can be up on the *bimah* for the Torah pass. If it makes a non-Jewish grandparent uncomfortable to participate in this ritual, we can find them another honor, please let the Cantor know.
  - **Aliyot:** The honoree for an *aliyah l'torah* should be Jewish. In cases of interfaith couples, they may come up to the *bimah* together. Anyone doing an *aliyah l'torah* must be of *b'nei mitzvah* age or older.
  - **Ark openings:** Anyone may open the ark.
  - **Hagbah:** Clergy and *Gabbai* are permitted to do *hagbah* (the lifting of the Torah scroll). If none of the clergy are able to do this, then a strong Jewish member of the family should be briefly trained prior to the service.
  - **Galilah:** Anyone can do *galilah* (the redressing of the Torah scroll).

# IV. Timeline

- 3 years in advance:** - Date Assigned
- 4th, 5th, 6th Grade:** - Once-a-year mandatory Family B'nei Mitzvah Program  
See Appendix A
- 8 months prior:** - A Temple administrator will contact you to schedule your child's appointments with the Cantor, the Rabbi(s), and tutor
- 7-8 months prior:** - Initial meeting with the Cantor  
- One-on-one meeting with our Temple administrator/event coordinator to discuss event logistics and space rental
- 6-7 months prior:** - Student begins weekly tutoring sessions —this may begin earlier depending on the student's summer schedule  
- Periodic check-ins with the Cantor
- 1-6 months prior:** - Mitzvah Project  
- Consistent practice at home  
- Complete your first *d'var torah* assignment  
- Continued attendance at religious school/Jewish Day School  
- Shabbat service and Torah study with parents is strongly encouraged  
- Ushering  
- Am Yisrael Chai twinning project (optional)
- 6-8 weeks prior:** - Initial meeting with a rabbi to begin Torah study  
- Your child will also have three more one-on-one meetings with one or two of our rabbis  
- (Optional) Parent(s) can meet with a rabbi to study their child's Torah portion
- 10 days prior:** - Torah reading rehearsal with the Cantor  
- *D'var Torah* due to the Rabbi(s) and the Cantor  
- Completed honors and parent charge due to the Cantor

# IV. Timeline

## Week of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah:

### Thursday: PICTURES

For a single: 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm OR 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

For a double: First Family: 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Second Family: 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

**For both a single and a double, clergy will be present for photos from 4:00 to 4:15 pm**

### REHEARSAL

For a single and a double, the dress rehearsal will begin promptly at 5:00 pm.

**Friday:** All food, kippot, programs, etc., must be in the building by **noon**; Family attends services at 7:30 p.m. (Please arrive at least 15 minutes early)

Parent(s) leads candle blessing.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah leads *V'ahavta*, Friday night Kiddush, *Aleinu*

**Saturday:** Morning Service family arrives at 9:30 a.m.

Morning Service begins 10:00 a.m.

Havdalah Single Family arrives at 4:30 p.m.

Havdalah Single Service begins at 5:00 p.m.

Havdalah Double Family arrives at 4:00 p.m.

Havdalah Double Service begins at 4:30 p.m.

**PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE SANCTUARY BEFORE THE SERVICE IS NOT PERMITTED**

# V. Ushering Guide for Bar/Bat Mitzvah Parents

## Ushering Requirements

- As part of the parents' Bar/Bat Mitzvah commitment, parents are asked to usher at least 3 times
  - By doing this, we help ensure that every Bar/Bat Mitzvah service will have the decorum and atmosphere conducive to prayer.
- Remember, your child must attend at least 5 Saturday morning or Havdalah services, so if you are ushering, this is a good time for your child to attend.

**Sign up with Marina in the Temple office at 770-395-1340 or  
malberhasky@templemanuelatlanta.com**

## Ushering Responsibilities

Thank you for volunteering to serve as an usher for Saturday Shabbat Bar/Bat Mitzvah services. Please read the following instructions **before** Saturday. This document is intended to help you understand your duties as an usher and better able to serve the congregation and guests who attend the service.

As an usher, you are the welcoming face of our congregation. You are the first impression our guests receive before entering the sanctuary. We are grateful for your willingness to say "Good morning/afternoon and Shabbat Shalom" to our community and guests.

- **Please be inside Temple Emanu-El at 9:30 am** on the Saturday morning that you are serving as an usher or at **4:00 pm** (for a double havdalah) or at **4:30 pm** (for a single havdalah) on the Saturday evening that you are serving as an usher.
- Please wear the usher magnetic nametag to identify yourself as an usher. Nametags will be in a plastic box found on the file cabinet to the left of Marina's desk.
- Please collect the following materials to handout from the welcome table (materials will be found in the office on the file cabinet to the left of Marina's desk):
  - Congregational Shabbat Handout
  - Torah Supplemental Sheet
  - B'nei Mitzvah Family's Shabbat Program
  - Basket of *kippot*
- Guests and family members arrive at about 9:30 am (3:55 pm / 4:25 pm) followed by the rest of the guests and b'nei mitzvah child's friends. As they come into the lobby, please:
  - Say "Hello" or "Shabbat Shalom," and "Welcome to Temple Emanu-El!"
  - Distribute all handout materials
  - If anyone asks for a *tallit* or *kippah*, let them know that the *tallitot* and *kippot* are right outside the sanctuary doors.
  - If families have provided *kippot*, you will have those with you at the greeting table.
  - Many of the guests who come to our service are unfamiliar with Jewish customs. All guests are welcome to wear *kippot*.

# V. Ushering Guide for Bar/Bat Mitzvah Parents (cont.)

## Ushering Responsibilities cont.

- When guests with small children arrive, please let them know that they are welcome in the sanctuary and that if they need it, we have a room (the Shalom Sanctuary) for them to bring their children where they can still listen to and see the service (they can access this room through the entrance way into the social hall).
- At 9:55 am (4:25 pm / 4:55 pm) please invite the community to find their seats in the sanctuary. This is a really big help, otherwise one of the clergy will need to come into the lobby to make the announcement. We really appreciate your help with this piece so that we can remain with the *b'nei mitzvah* child and the service can begin in a timely manner.
- Please make sure unaccompanied children (teenagers) sit in the center sections of the sanctuary. If it is a particularly large group, we ask that one usher sit or stand near the group.
- At 10:00 am (4:30 pm / 5:00 pm), one usher should be stationed inside the main sanctuary doors and should close the sanctuary doors. The second usher should remain stationed in the lobby. The third usher should be at the far door of the sanctuary down the right-hand hallway.
- The usher at the main sanctuary doors should communicate with the lobby usher as the sanctuary begins to fill to direct guests to enter the sanctuary from the right hall doors.
- The service is most successful and spiritually moving when all members of the congregation are participating. If you notice that teens are excessively whispering to one another or causing a distraction, we ask that you gently remind them to help us maintain the sanctity of the space and to discontinue their side conversation. Please use your judgment as to what is proper behavior both inside and outside the sanctuary. The decorum that you would want for your own service is what you should require of guests at the service for which you are ushering.
- During services, do not allow guests to enter the sanctuary when:
  - The congregation is standing and the ark is open
  - The *bar/bat mitzvah* is delivering their sermon
  - The *bar/bat mitzvah* is chanting from the Torah or is chanting their Haftarah portion
    - ◆ Guests may enter quickly between *aliyot*
- Students preparing for their *b'nei mitzvah* should not be ushering, they should be attending the service.
- **NO FOOD OR BEVERAGE IS ALLOWED IN THE SANCTUARY.** Closed water bottles are permitted.
- No cameras or pictures may be taken by guests. Only a video camera operated by a professional videographer, hired by the *b'nei mitzvah* family is allowed, stationed at the back of the sanctuary. If you see anyone with a camera, please politely inform them that we do not allow picture taking during the service.
- At the conclusion of the service, please be outside the sanctuary doors to say "Shabbat Shalom/ Shavua Tov" and wish everyone a good week.

Thank you so very much for helping out at this very wonderful time in the lives of our congregation's children. Your help is so appreciated.

## VI. Family Event Checklist

**FRIDAY SHABBAT:** \*Unless otherwise noted, Friday services begin at 7:30 pm followed by an Oneg.

The Friday evening service belongs to the congregation, including special programs, speakers, or discussions. If you have family/friends who wish to supplement the Oneg with additional sweets they may, but the fee will remain the same.

*B'nei mitzvah* ceremonies are part of the congregational Shabbat experience. It is customary for the celebrating family to participate in the Friday night Shabbat service the evening before your ceremony and to host the Oneg Shabbat for the congregation. The family also provides flowers or food baskets for the *bimah*.

**Oneg sponsored by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Relation to Bar/Bat Mitzvah child:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Honor of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**# of Guests for service (Friday only):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Friday Night Shabbat Dinner at Temple Emanu-El: Please reserve with the event team.**

**Facility use fee includes tables and chairs. Storage is in the Small Social Hall.**

Caterer: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_

Families find it convenient to use the small social hall for their Friday Shabbat dinner so that they can enjoy their meal without the stress of rushing to the synagogue for services. Meals generally begin at 6:00 pm and last until 7:15 pm.

### **SATURDAY MORNING:**

**# of Guests for Shabbat service:** \_\_\_\_\_

A Kiddush can be provided for the congregation and guests by all Bar/Bat Mitzvah families. When two families are sharing a date, and both wish to use the Temple facility, they must agree either to hold a joint Kiddush in the Social Hall or use separate rooms. In these cases, families must use the same caterer. In planning for the Kiddush, each family should include in their count food for 20 congregants.

(Caterer must provide food and decoration set-up and clean-up of tables for Kiddush luncheon)

Caterer: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

**We will share our Kiddush with our Bar/Bat Mitzvah partner family in the Social Hall**

# VI. Family Event Checklist (cont.)

## Additional Items for your Saturday Service

**Flowers:**

- 2 *bimah* arrangements: no taller than 40" or wider than 26" (No stargazers, lilies, or stock). Please DO NOT select strong smelling flowers or flowers with heavy pollen, as your clergy have allergies! Should the clergy have a reaction to the flowers on the *bimah* they will need to move them in order to perform the service.
- **Florist Name:**\_\_\_\_\_ **Phone #:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Food Baskets** in lieu of flowers

**Special Kippot (optional):** May be ordered through the Sisterhood Gift Shop. **Must be at the Temple by Friday at noon.**

**Booklets explaining service (optional)** and artwork in Sanctuary. **Must be at the Temple by Friday at noon.**

**Tree of Life Plaque** in honor of your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah:

- Please make check for \$118 to **Temple Emanu-El Sisterhood**
- Child's Name:\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Bar/Bat Mitzvah:\_\_\_\_\_
- By:\_\_\_\_\_
- Check #:\_\_\_\_\_ Date Paid:\_\_\_\_\_

**Israel Bond** in your child's honor | Contact Israel Bonds Office

**Videotaping the service:**

- **Name of videographer:**\_\_\_\_\_ **Phone #**\_\_\_\_\_

• **Videotaping Rules:**

- Professional videographer must not disturb the service in any way or move around once the service has begun.
- All equipment must be at the rear of the sanctuary; tripod must not block anyone's view or block the path for the carrying the Torah.
- All wires and cords must be run along partitions or taped to floor.
- If monitor is used, sound must be turned down
- No floodlights are permitted.
- If double Bar/Bat Mitzvah, both families must agree on a single videographer.
- No transistorized microphones permitted. Connection to Temple sound system is available using an audio cable in the middle of the Social Hall.
- The videographer may not bring in any platforms that obstruct the aisles or require the removal of seats from the sanctuary.

• **Photography:**

- Still photography is appropriate during your scheduled rehearsal. It is not allowed during or after Friday or Saturday services.

## VII. Blessings for Families to Practice: Candle Lighting

### Blessing for Candles



בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו,  
וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל שַׁבָּת.

*Baruch atah, Adonai, Eloheinu, Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu  
b'mitzvotav, v'tzivanu l'halik ner shel Shabbat.*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe, who  
hallows us with mitzvot, commanding us to kindle the light of  
Shabbat.

---

As these candles give light to all who behold them, so may we, by  
our lives, give light to all who behold us.

As their brightness reminds us of the generations of Israel who  
have kindled light, so may we, in our own day, be among those  
who kindle light.

May we be blessed with Shabbat Joy.  
May we be blessed with Shabbat Peace.  
May we be blessed with Shabbat Light.

## VII. Blessings for Parent or Jewish Elder to Practice: Tallit

Parent(s) or a Jewish elder in your family may present your child with their tallit

### Presentation of the Tallit

\* As this tallit is draped around your shoulders, may the voices of the generations speak to you. May you know that there is a people, a rich heritage to which you belong, a sacred place from which you are connected to all who dwell on earth.

\*\* As you are embraced in the folds of this tallit, so too are you wrapped in the loving embrace of your family, community and this holy congregation. May this simplest of garments always be for you a symbol of God's abiding and sheltering presence.

\*\*\* As you recite the blessing and wrap yourself in this tallit, we proudly watch and celebrate with you as you accept your place in the chain of our tradition.

### Blessing for Wearing of Tallit

Recited by Bar/Bat Mitzvah



בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו  
וְצִוָּנוּ לְהִתְעַטֵּף בְּצִיצִית.

*Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu  
l'hitateif ba-tzitzit.*

Praised are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, who hallows us with your mitzvot, and teaches us to wrap ourselves in the fringed tallit.

### Shehecheyanu

Sung together with the clergy

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ וְקִיָּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ  
לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה.

*Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech haolam, shehecheyanu v'ki-y'manu v'higianu  
laz'man ha-zeh.*

Praised are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this great day.

## VII. Blessings for Families to Practice: Torah



Just Hebrew



With Transliteration

### Blessing Before the Reading of the Torah

בְּרַכּוּ אֶת יְיָ הַמְּבָרֵךְ. **Reader**

*Bar'chu et Adonai ham'vorach*

(בְּרוּךְ יְיָ הַמְּבָרֵךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.) **Congregation**

(Congregation responds: *Baruch Adonai ham'vorach l'olam va-ed.*)

בְּרוּךְ יְיָ הַמְּבָרֵךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד. **Reader**

*Baruch Adonai ham'vorach l'olam va-ed*

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר **Reader**

*Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha-olam, asher*

בָּחַר בָּנוּ מִכָּל הָעַמִּים, וְנָתַן לָנוּ אֶת תּוֹרָתוֹ.

*bachar banu mi-kol ha-amim, v'natan lanu et Torah-to.*

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ, נוֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה.

*Baruch atah Adonai, notein ha-Torah.*

Bless Adonai who is blessed.

Blessed is Adonai who is blessed now and forever.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe, who has chosen us from among the peoples, and given us the Torah. Blessed are You, Adonai, who gives the Torah.

## VII. Torah Blessings for Families to Practice: Torah



Just Hebrew



With Transliteration

### Blessing After the Reading of the Torah

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,

Reader

*Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha-olam*

אֲשֶׁר נָתַן לָנוּ תּוֹרַת אֱמֶת,

*asher natan lanu Torat emet,*

וְחַיֵּי עוֹלָם נִטַּע בְּתוֹכֵנוּ.

*v'cha-yei olam nata b'to-cheinu.*

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ, נוֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה.

*Baruch atah Adonai, notein ha-Torah.*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe, who has given us a Torah of truth, implanting within us eternal life.  
Blessed are You, Adonai, who gives the Torah.

## **VII. Torah Blessings for Families to Practice: Parents' Blessing**

\* May you live to see your world fulfilled,  
May your destiny be for worlds still to come,  
And may you trust in generations past and yet to be.

\*\* May your heart be filled with intuition  
And your words be filled with insight.  
May songs of praise ever be upon your tongue  
And your vision be on a straight path before you.

\*May your eyes shine with the light of holy words  
And your face reflect the brightness of the heavens.  
May your lips ever speak wisdom  
And your fulfillment be in righteousness.

\*\* A Jewish home opens its heart,  
and its link to the generations is proclaimed.  
Today, our child, nearly grown,  
is called to read from the Torah  
and is welcomed into the congregation.

\*\*\* May this moment be blessed.

## VIII. Appendixes

### A: Mandatory B'nei Mitzvah Family Program

This once a year meeting was added to the rhythm of our *b'nei mitzvah* training at the request of parents who wanted a grounding force in the years leading up to the 8 months of intensive preparations.

The program is a meaningful time to be in your family unit and continue to prepare spiritually for the journey ahead. This program is for families with children in 4th, 5th, or 6th grade. Even if you do not have a bar/bat mitzvah date, this program is for you.

**Attendance is mandatory each year** for at least one parent and your 4th, 5th, or 6th grader(s).

Talmud Torah is a core pillar of Temple Emanu-El, and we live out this value of life-long learning by engaging students of all ages. We know that education, which takes place at home AND in the synagogue, is most powerful when parents and children learn together.

We believe that learning about Judaism gives us the tools for a more meaningful and richer life. Jewish identity and education is not only conveyed by certified teachers of Torah; rather, our families' are some of the strongest educators in the Jewish world. No matter what each of us knows, our young people look to the adult leaders of the community for guidance on how to live.

## VIII. Appendixes

### B: Mitzvah Project Ideas

#### Why are Mitzvah Projects so important?

Upon becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, your child enters the Jewish community as an active, young Jewish adult. One way our B'nei Mitzvah demonstrate their commitment as active leaders in the Jewish community is by fulfilling a Mitzvah Project. Doing so allows your child to participate in helping both to build the community and to participate in acts of *tikkun olam*, repairing the world.

We strongly encourage our Bar/Bat Mitzvah students to fulfill a project in honor of their ceremony. Helping to fix one small part of our world brings a deep meaning to the process of becoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Please refer to the following resources to help you get started. You will also find these resources in your Mitzvah Tools account, after your initial meeting with the Cantor.

The following projects are suggestions. Please speak to our rabbis or cantor for further clarification if your child would like to consider a different project.

**We highly encourage you to consider donating 10% of your monetary gifts to a charity of your choice.**

**Our Torah teaches that when the Levites received tithes from the Israelites, they were to take a tenth of their earnings and give them as a gift to God (Numbers 18:26). So too today, do we consider this amount as a gift to the holy spark that resides within people who are in need.**

# VIII. Appendixes

## B: Mitzvah Project Ideas

### 1. Garden Isaiah



**Thank you for considering doing your mitzvah project for Garden Isaiah. Here are some of the things you can do to help Garden Isaiah.**

- Collect pumpkins after Halloween to chop up for the compost bins. You would also have to do some publicity and help prep the compost bins.
- Purchase plants and plant a particular bed during the growing season. Contact congregants Peggi Stone or Robert Wittenstein for suggestions on appropriate plants.
- Advertise the garden on social media, flyers and through your school as a way to get more volunteers for the garden.
- Organize a volunteer day. For example, set up and advertise a day of volunteering at the garden and maybe have snacks for the participants.
- Set up a fundraiser for the garden through either your school or Temple Emanu-El.

**For more information, please contact:  
Robert Wittenstein [robertlw@mindspring.com](mailto:robertlw@mindspring.com)**

## VIII. Appendixes

### B: Mitzvah Project Ideas

#### 2. Zaban Couples Center



Zaban  
Couples Center

Thank you for considering the Zaban Couples Center as your B'nei Mitzvah Project. This is a very effective way to help homeless couples in Atlanta. Here are the ways you can help!

- Help to serve dinner in the evening to the couples.
- Set up and facilitate a day that you and all your friends and family meet up and pack lunches for the couples at the shelter.
- Set up a donation drive to collect supplies for the couples.
- Set up a bake sale and/or lemonade stand where all the profits go to the Zaban couples center so it can stay up and running.
- Prepare a full dinner meal that serves 44 people and help to distribute it at the center for the couples evening meal.
- Talk to a local elementary school and see if you can set up a day that the kids pack lunches for the couples at the center.

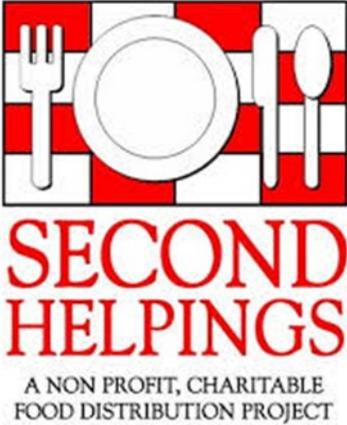
**For more information, please contact:**

**Nancy Shapiro [NancyEShapiro@gmail.com](mailto:NancyEShapiro@gmail.com)**

## VIII. Appendixes

### B: Mitzvah Project Ideas

#### 3. Second Helpings



**Thank you for considering Second Helpings Atlanta as your B'nei Mitzvah service project. Below are some ways that you can help drive out hunger and food insecurity in Atlanta through Second Helpings Atlanta**

- Food Drives - Set up cardboard boxes in school cafeterias or at Temple Emanu-El and collect non-perishable foods and then help deliver the food collected.
- Prepare meals that are packaged in full or half size aluminum pans and then deliver to one of our partner agencies.
- At Temple or your school, set up and advertise a bake sale where instead of cash, people pay for the treats with canned goods to purchase the treats that will later be donated.
- Set up a fundraiser for Second Helpings Atlanta through Temple or your school.
- Select a once-a-month route where your family and/or a group of friends picks up food from a food donor and delivers it to a local agency. Keep track of the amount of food that you've helped to collect for the six months prior to your Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

**For more information, please contact:**

**Roy Baron [roybaron18@att.net](mailto:roybaron18@att.net)**

## VIII. Appendixes

### B: Mitzvah Project Ideas

#### 4. The Packaged Good



**Thank you for considering The Packaged Good as your B'nei Mitzvah project. We are excited to assist you as you take your first steps into adulthood. Your service project marks your acceptance of the responsibility in fulfilling the Jewish tradition of *tikkun olam*, repairing the world.**

- Choose a charity to donate care packages to and also explain why he or she chose the charity. All care packages assembled using the information below will go to the chosen charity. More than one charity can be chosen.
- Produces 125+ total care packages, through events setup by the student, through The Packaged Good.
- Do an actual donation drive or monetary collection to get supplies for the production of 125 care packages.
- Volunteer at two events organized by The Packaged Good.
- Host one or more friends and family event(s) at The Packaged Good to decorate and pack care packages.
  - Must be an hour long
  - Must have a minimum 25 attendees
  - Explain at event for choice the of your charity
- Upon completion of all above requirements, child delivers the care packages to the chosen charity(s).

**For more information, please contact:**

**Harrison Frank [harrisonvfrank@gmail.com](mailto:harrisonvfrank@gmail.com)**

## VIII. Appendixes

### B: Mitzvah Project Ideas

#### 5. Mary Hall freedom House



Thank you for considering Mary Hall Freedom House as your B'nei Mitzvah service project. Below are the ways that you can help women to break the cycle of addictions, poverty and homelessness for themselves and for their children in Atlanta through Mary Hall Freedom House.

- The Heavenly Angels Daycare needs help engaging with babies, toddlers, and preschool age children. This could include cuddling a baby and/or reading a story to a toddler.
- The Heavenly Angels After Care Program needs help with homework, recreational activities, and playing games with children ages 6 - 11.
- The Heavenly Angels Afterschool Program needs help tutoring children and assisting with their homework.
- Organize a fundraiser for the Mary Hall Freedom House to keep their wonderful facility running.
- Start a drive to collect clothes for newborns, blankets, diapers, and baby bottles. Then arrange a day when you and your friends can pack the items into bags and then donate them to the Mary Hall Freedom House.

Everyone under 16 must have an adult with them at all times while volunteering at the Mary Hall Freedom House. That adult must have a background check before being able to bring their kids to the facility. You can go to any police station to complete a background check. The cost of a background check at the Chamblee Police Station, located at 3518 Broad Street, Chamblee, Ga 30341, is only \$5.00 In addition, everyone volunteering must have a brief orientation. Finally, the correct volunteering paperwork must be filled out.

**For more information, please contact:**

**Marita Anderson [marita.anderson@gmail.com](mailto:marita.anderson@gmail.com)**

**And lastly, enjoy your time volunteering! Not only are the babies and children getting something out of your presence, but we hope you get a lot out of it as well!**

## VIII. Appendixes

### B: Mitzvah Project Ideas

#### 6. Hightower Elementary



Thank you for considering Hightower Elementary as your B'nei Mitzvah service project. Below are the ways that you can help kids at Hightower Elementary School.

- Read to students at Hightower
- You can also help them out with things you're passionate about such as:
  - Working outdoors
  - Robotics
  - Running
  - Drama
  - Arts and Crafts
  - Gardening
  - Girlsclub
  - STEM
- Help plant and/or take care of the school garden.
- Set up and execute an educational workshop on any of the above activities.
- Set up and execute a project or event for the Hightower students, such as an arts and crafts project or a field trip.
- Set up a fundraiser for the school.
- Help them with their homework at their homework club.

**For more information, please contact:  
Karen Baron karenbaron13@gmail.com**

## VIII. Appendixes

### B: Mitzvah Project Ideas

#### 7. Temple Emanu-El Collection Bins



**Thank you for considering doing your B'nei Mitzvah project for Temple Emanuel Bin Collection. Here are some of the things you can do to help the drives.**

- Manage one of the Bin collection drives.
- Deliver collected items to the charity accordingly.
- Sponsor an event to motivate people to donate to the charity drives.
- Expand the drive to your school or other organization, then put the collected items in the Temple bins.
- At Temple or your school, set up and advertise a bake sale where instead of cash they pay for the treats with items relating to the specified charity that will later be donated.

**For more information, please contact:**

**Marina Alberhasky [malberhasky@templeemanuelatlanta.com](mailto:malberhasky@templeemanuelatlanta.com)**

## Approved Vendors

Vendor Type	Vendor Name	Person of Contact	Contact Information	Email	Website
Adult Beverages	Mark Brown	Parkaire Wine Shop	(770) 578-8027		
Catering	LoSaffron Gourmet, LLC Catering	Loretta Nixon - TE In-house Caterer	678-520-3802;	losaffron60@yahoo.com	
Catering	Affairs to Remember Catering	Yossi Ben-Haim/ Richard Wilner	404-847-9629	Yossi@affairs.com	www.affairs.com
Catering	Annette Marcus Catering	Annette Marcus	770-842-4648	annette-marcus@att.net	
Catering	Bagelicious	Carol Carola	404-822-9888	clcbagel0418@gmail.com	breadwinnercafe.com
Catering	Breadwinner	Geoff Melkonian	404-874-7644	geoff@breadwinnercafe.com	cparkscatering.com
Catering	C. Parks Catering and Events	Tara Teilhaber	770-429-0060	tara@cparkscatering.com	http://chefcaryscuisine.com/
Catering	Chef Cary's Cuisine	Colin Moore	404-808-5624	Sales_chefcaryscuisine@mindspring.com	https://farmburger.com/catering/
Catering	Farmburger	Tyler Frisbee		tfrisbee@farmburger.com	https://goingplacesdoingthings.vpweb.com/Home.html
Catering	Going Places...Doing Things	David Vaughn			https://legacycateringandevents.com/
Catering	Legacy Catering and Events	Rhys Buhrman	(404) 698-4710	rbuhrman@vmgt.com	
Catering	Lison Speigelman	Lison Speigelman	404-822-5779	lison@comcast.net	
Catering	Maggianno's Perimeter	Jasmin Blue	770-522-9470		https://www.rumiskitchen.com/
Catering	Rumi's Kitchen	Hasseln Moradi	(404) 477-2100		
Catering	Three Sisters Catering	Katie Rosenberg	404-488-4565	katie@caterwiththreesisters.com	
Catering	Yumi!	Ande Baron, Linda Baron	678-592-1783; 404-273-4447	Ande.yum@gmail.com; lindabaroon@gmail.com	Randy Farrow - sales 404-376-0385 zestatianta.com
Catering	Zest Catering	Dana Harris	678-977-3712	dana@zestatianta.com	
Catering	Southern Crust Catering	Darlene Drost	678-521-8637	darlene@southerncrustcatering.com	southerncrustcatering.com
Catering-Kosher	Dolce	Moshe Benjigui	(678) 343-8002	cateringbydolce@gmail.com	http://www.cateringbydolce.com/
DJ	B-Rockin Parties	Brian Adams	404-394-2666	brockinparties@gmail.com	http://www.brockinparties.com/
DJ	DJ Neezzy Entertainment	Ben Needle	678-520-0194	info@djneezzy.com	https://www.djneezzy.com/
DJ	Horizon DJ	Keith Schroder	678-592-0285	keith@horizondj.com	horizondj.com
DJ	SIFI Entertainment	Simon Rimmer			
DJ / Dancers / MC	Well-Crafted Event Concepts	Garrett Hayes	678-386-9558	Garett@Well-Craftedeventconcepts.com	https://www.well-craftedeventconcepts.com/
Event Coordinator	Atlanta Fever Entertainment	Jeff Schwartz	(770) 998-2338		https://www.atlantafeverent.com/
Event Coordinator	Mireille Naturman	Tammy Wilson/ Kathy Thompson	770-595-7504	info@partygirlatlanta.com	partygirlatlanta.com
Event Coordinator	The Party Girl Events	Karen Segal	(678) 665-1597	karen@yourpartybykaren.com	https://yourpartybykaren.com/
Event Coordinator	Your Party By Karen	Melissa Miller	404-202-6693	melissa@5millers.net	
Food Baskets	Jewish Family & Career Services		770-677-9337		
Israel Bonds	Israel Bonds	Tracie Bernstein	404-817-3500	tracie_bernstein@israelbonds.com	
Kippot, Tallitot, and Judaica	Temple Emanu-El Gift Shop	Linda Satlof	770-856-3047		
Photographer	Beddingfield Photography	Greg Beddingfield	678-557-9890	trendyfunparty@gmail.com	http://www.beddingfieldphotography.com/
Photographer	Diego's Photography	Monica / Diego Salcedo	404-432-2198		
Photographer	DS Photography	Deborah Singer			
Photographer	Glenn Price Photography	Glenn Price		studio@jasonseagle.com	http://www.jasonseagle.com/
Photographer	Jason Seagle + Photography	Jason Seagle	770-587-3365	jonmarks@jonmarksphoto.com	http://www.jonmarksphoto.com/
Photographer	Jon Marks Photography	Jon Marks	404-734-4886	katie@katiehealey.com	https://www.katiehealy.com/
Photographer	Katie Healy Photography	Katie Healy		lindsey@lindseylarue.com	https://lindseylarue.com/
Photographer	Lindsey LaRue Photography	Lindsey Smith		pmgphoto@mindspring.com	https://pmgphoto.com/
Photographer	PMG Photo Inc	Paula Gould	(404) 303-0570	Patti@scenesationsphotography.com; Brad@scenesationsphotography.com;	
Photographer	Scenesations	Patti and Brad Covert	770.616.0553	Chandler@scenesationsphotography.com	http://www.scenesationsphotography.com/
Photographer	Shapiro Photo Plus	Barry Shapiro		barry.shapiro@japaac.com	
Photographer	SRD Photography	Steven Dewberry	404-374-2846		www.srdphoto.com
Photographer	Tara Nixon Photography	Tara Nixon	678-644-6265	tara@taranixonphotography.com	https://taranixonphotography.com/
Photographer	Two Ears Creative	Annalise Kaylor			http://www.twoearscreative.com/about-us/
Photographer	Zach Porter Photo	Zach Photo		zach@zachporter.com	
Photographer	Lee Burns Productions	Emily Pee		emily.pee@ihg.com	
Photographer/Photo	Lee Burns Productions	Lee Burns		lee@leeburnsphotography	http://leeburnsphotography/wp/