

PATH TO BECOMING A B. MITZVAH



THE JEWISH JOURNEY TO BECOMING YOURSELF

☆ Must attend Mensch Lab consistently

☆ Must attend services

B. Mitzvah - Who to Contact

Meetings with Rabbi Leib

Jackie Lehner – jlehner@oyrtbetham.org – ext. 148

Lessons with Cantor Zarkh

Cantor Zarkh – ezarkh@oyrtbetham.org – ext. 134

Planning the Big Day

Rehearsal – Ushering - Extended Kiddush – Luncheon – Dinner
Jackie Lehner – jlehner@oyrtbetham.org – ext. 148

Financial

Yelena Korotchuk – yelenak@oyrtbetham.org – ext.145

5th Grade

☆ B. mitzvah date presented at Simchat Torah Celebration

6th Grade

☆ Shabbat Dinner & Service
and special Saturday morning service

9 Months Prior

☆ Meeting with Rabbi Leib to begin D'var Torah
and receive packet

7 months Prior

☆ Lessons with Cantor Zarkh

6 months prior

☆ Meet with Executive Director,
Sherrie Turetsky to plan logistics of the
special day

3 months prior

☆ Begin working on Haftarah

Wednesday Prior

☆ Rehearsal with Rabbi Leib

Student Responsibilities

- At least four years of formal Hebrew and Judaic training in our “Mensch Lab” or have participated in equivalent instruction from another Jewish education program (requires previous approval). Consistent attendance is expected.
- We require that each student and parent(s) attend eight services, within one year prior to their becoming b. mitzvah. Six at Beth Am Shabbat morning or Friday Shabbat services. Two services can be elsewhere with a note from the parent that includes the date of the service and the name of the venue.
- Required to complete a mitzvah project (10 hours). All mitzvah projects must contain an interactive element such as reading aloud, visiting, or participation in community activities. Must be completed no later than six weeks prior to becoming b. mitzvah. Needs pre-approval to start.
- Meet with Rabbi Leib to write their D’var Torah (sermon) based on their Torah portion and to discuss their mitzvah project.
- Meet with Rabbi Leib to talk about the meaning of their Haftarah portion.
- Final Rehearsal with Rabbi Leib the Wednesday prior to celebrating their b. mitzvah.

Parent Responsibilities

Preparation

- Listen to your child read aloud
- Help them schedule home study in preparation for their weekly lessons
- Register your child and facilitate regular attendance at Mensch Lab.

Worship

- Usher at two Saturday morning services a year or two before your child becomes b. mitzvah.
- Attend services on the Friday night preceding your child becoming b. mitzvah and lead the congregation with your child in the candle blessings, *kiddush* and *motzi*.

Financial

- Keep your financial account in good standing leading up to your child becoming b. mitzvah.
- A \$1000 b. mitzvah fee will be billed once the b. mitzvah date has been given. A \$200.00 deposit is required to reserve the date. At that time the financial commitment plan must be made.

Tzedakah Opportunities

Contributions to Beth Am are a wonderful way to say, “thank you”. A contribution to any synagogue fund is always appreciated. If you are so inclined to commemorate this occasion with a permanent dedication, opportunities include a Diamond on our Simcha Wall (\$500) or dedicating a seat in our Molish Sanctuary.

Service Guidelines

When celebrating becoming a b. mitzvah, the participation of family members is critically important. It is crucial that the b. mitzvah see parent(s) as standing behind the decision to raise them as Jews and reinforcing their Jewish identity. Shabbat morning service begins promptly at 10:00 a.m. and concludes at approximately 12:00 p.m.

Attire:

Appropriate dress is expected by all who enter our sanctuary for services. We expect everyone in the congregation and especially those joining us on the bimah to dress appropriately and modestly. *Tallit* and *kipah* are strongly encouraged but not required.

Bimah Baskets:

You may choose to decorate the *bimah* with food baskets. Your donation will benefit the Mitzvah Food Pantry. Please contact Because We Care at 215-635-4774 to order two baskets to be placed in front of each clergy podium.

Oneg:

Families can choose to host the oneg on the evening before their child becomes b. mitzvah. It is your responsibility to purchase and tray desserts of your choice. Your generosity in hosting the oneg would be appreciated, and an acknowledgement will appear in “Shabbat Topics”.

Rehearsal & Photos:

A final rehearsal will take place the Wednesday before the b. mitzvah PROMPTLY at 4:00 p.m. We strongly encourage that your formal portraits be taken BEFORE rehearsal. Alternatively, a photographer may take pictures before the service on Saturday morning as early as 8:15 a.m. Photos must be completed by 9:00 a.m. No photos or video of any kind may be taken during the service.