



Temple Israel B'nei Mitzvah Handbook

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Need Additional Information about anything in this handbook? Please email [Sue Misselbeck](#) who is the Executive Coordinator to Cantor Einhorn and Rabbi Jacobson.

Introduction and General Information

We are so excited to help guide each student and their family towards a meaningful bar/ bat mitzvah experience. Your child may attend Religious School, a local Day School and/ or has spent time in private tutorial or in other programs. Regardless of your education track, each student will find their individual path through the bat/bar mitzvah program - one size does not fit all! On the following pages you will find essential information, but please feel free to reach out to a member of the clergy if you have questions.

If you need immediate support, please email [Sue Misselbeck](mailto:Sue.Misselbeck@templeisrael.org) who is the Executive Coordinator to Cantor Einhorn and Rabbi Jacobson.

Ensuring Success

We ensure that every bar or bat mitzvah student will feel successful and celebrate their important day in a way that feels meaningful and attainable. No two ceremonies or kids are precisely alike, and we do our best to work with each student to highlight their strengths and guide them towards a beautiful celebration.

Single or Double?

Though we try our best to schedule single ceremonies, we have the blessing of a growing and vibrant community and typically have 3-4 double ceremonies a year. From the Temple Israel perspective, there is double joy on the bima when we have two amazing kids becoming bar or bat mitzvah. We do our best to match students well and avoid pairing close friends or students who attend the same day school unless this is requested by families.

Choosing a Rabbi

Families have the option to request a specific rabbi for their ceremony by emailing Sue Misselbeck, Executive Coordinator for Cantor Roy Einhorn: susanm@tisrael.org. We do our best to honor requests but we cannot guarantee that we will fulfill every request. If you are making a request, we ask you to submit your first and second choice.

Glossary of B'nei Mitzvah Terminology

Bar/Bat Mitzvah 101

By the time your son or daughter steps up to the bimah one Shabbat morning to recite his or her haftarah, they will understand perfectly well what the first half of this sentence meant. But will you? And will you be able to explain it all to your guests? Here is a short glossary of important Hebrew phrases to know before you go:

Aliyah: In Hebrew, the word aliyah means to go up, or, as a noun, an ascent. During the Torah reading portion of the service, some members of the community are offered an aliyah, meaning they are called up to the bimah to perform a certain role. This can include reciting the blessing over the Torah, reading from the Torah, dressing the Torah and returning it to the ark, or some other function. It is considered an honor to be called up, and as such it is often given to family members and close friends of the Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

Aron Ha-Kodesh: Literally meaning “the holy ark,” the Aron ha-Kodesh is an ark where the sacred texts used during a prayer service are held. Mostly, this includes one or more scrolls of the Torah and perhaps a similar looking scroll that will hold the haftarah portions. The ark itself is meant to symbolize the mishkan (tabernacle) in which the ancient Israelites stored the sacred tables Moses received on Mount Sinai.

B'nei Mitzvah: B'nei Mitzvah is the plural of Bar Mitzvah and is the term used to describe the coming of age according to Jewish tradition. Literally meaning “master of commandments,” becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah means the person is obliged to observe the Jewish commandments, and a ceremony, along with a celebration, takes place to mark this moment. The Bar Bat Mitzvah event is a formal and spiritual declaration of a child's accession to adulthood. Jewish tradition designates Bar Mitzvah for a son and Bat Mitzvah for a daughter.

Bimah: Hebrew for stage, the bimah is the raised location in the sanctuary where the Torah is read. At Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, family members and close friends are often called onto the bimah for an aliyah, or to assist with the service.

D'var Torah: Literally “a thing of Torah,” a d'var Torah is a speech that tried to convey a life lesson or message supported by the story in the weekly parasha or haftarah (scripture readings). After the Torah portion is read, the Rabbi will give a d'var Torah, typically as part of a sermon; when a child becomes a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, he or she delivers a d'var Torah as well, often tying it into personal experiences.

Haftarah: Often mispronounced as “half-torah,” the haftarah is a selected reading from one of the other sections of the Jewish Bible (Old Testament). Traditionally, the haftarah is recited after the Torah reading on the Shabbat or another holy Jewish day, and is usually thematically related to the parasha. It is customary for the Bar Bat Mitzvah to read this portion of the scriptures in addition to any part of the parasha he/she has read.

Qiddush: This is the blessing recited over wine on Shabbat and other Jewish holy days. Qiddush derives from the Hebrew word qadosh, which means holy. By saying qiddush, one is proclaiming the holiness of the day.

Kippah: The Hebrew name for the traditional head covering worn by Jews in synagogue as well as, for some, in daily life. Often called a yarmulke, its Yiddish name, the kippah is meant to signify a Jew’s recognition of the presence of God. Some Jews often choose to wear kippot only during religious pursuits, such as when in a synagogue or while studying sacred texts. And some Jews do not wear a kippah at any time.

Minyan: The number of people required to be present for certain prayers to be recited. A minyan consists of 10 Jewish adults. When a child becomes a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, he or she is eligible to be counted in the minyan.

Motzi: The blessing recited over bread, which ordains the start of the meal. On Shabbat and other holy days, a festive, braided challah bread is used.

Parasha: The weekly Torah portion read in synagogue. On Shabbat, a cantor, rabbi or members of the congregation read the parasha. The Torah portion is divided into seven sections. At Temple Israel, we generally assign three aliyot. Once children receive their Bar Bat Mitzvah date, the parasha they will read from is known.

Shabbat: The Jewish day of rest, where everyone is commanded to stop all work before sundown on Friday and enjoy the company of friends and family until sundown on Saturday. This is also typically the day on which Bar and Bat Mitzvahs are held (by custom though not by requirement). It is customary to indulge in an extensive meal on Friday night with guests, and the following morning a longer prayer service is usually held. Shabbat is meant to be a moment of peace in an otherwise hectic world and, depending upon one’s level of observance, some choose to refrain from many activities on Shabbat such as driving, writing, or watching TV.

Simcha: The literal definition of simcha is joy. Simcha refers to a special happy occasion in a Jewish life, such as a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, a bris, or a Wedding.

Tallit: A tallit is a traditional prayer shawl worn by Jewish adults while praying in synagogue. At each of the four corners of the garment are fringes of string, or tzitit in Hebrew, that are braided and knotted as a way to remind Jews of the commandments

issued in the Torah. Anyone of Bar Bat Mitzvah age or older is invited to wear a tallit, but it is not required.

Torah: Torah has multiple definitions, but in this context it refers to the first five books of the Bible, often called the Five Books of Moses. The Torah recounts the creation of the world and the establishment of the Jewish faith, while also offering a set of laws on which Jewish life is based. The Torah is divided into 54 portions with one read each week (two weeks have double portions). The reading of each week's portion (or part of the portion in some traditions) serves as the focal point of the Shabbat prayer services.

Trope: In Jewish tradition, sacred text is chanted rather than simply read, whether for public reading or for study. Trope is the Yiddish word for the 1,400-year-old system of distinctive marks that function as musical notation and punctuation for the biblical text. The trope determines the actual tune used by readers for the parasha and haftarah. As part of their preparation, some B'nai Mitzvah learn the names and tunes for each trope marking so they can figure out the cantillation for themselves.

PREPARING for the BAR/BAT MITZVAH:

The Process for Receiving a Bar/Bat Mitzvah Date

Families of children in fourth grade will receive an application in the fall to request a Bar/Bat Mitzvah date. Here is some important info:

- Parents are asked to submit six date requests in priority listing. You may request a date up to six weeks before or after your child's birth date. Those who have summer birthdates can request the month before or after the summer vacation.
- Please be aware that we assign dates in the 7th grade of your child's Hebrew education.
- All B'nei Mitzvah ceremonies are celebrated in the morning. Occasionally a family will choose a Monday or Thursday morning, which are Torah reading days as well, though Saturday morning is our most common time for a b'nei mitzvah celebration.
- Ceremonies at Temple Israel will either be a single or a double. Temple Israel's policy is that no one can be guaranteed a single ceremony at the time of date assignments. If you are scheduled to have a single ceremony and it is less than a year before your date, you will then have the right to graciously deny a request for another family to share your date. When pairing two children, Cantor Einhorn and Rabbi Jacobson in consultation with the rest of the clergy staff will be guided by learning styles and capacities, not pairing two children from the same secular school, and being aware of inter-family compatibility.

Timeline

4th Grade

Fall:

You will receive an application to apply for a Bar/Bat Mitzvah date. We will ask you to choose six possible dates in priority order that fall six weeks before or after your child's birthday.

Winter:

Temple Israel will send you confirmation of your bar/bat mitzvah date

Spring:

First Justice League program

5th Grade

Fall:

Students enter the full Justice League program

Winter:

At the 5th Grade B'nei Mitzvah Torah Portion Celebration, families learn more about the b'nei mitzvah process, service and Justice League program. This is a great time to ask your questions and begin to plan for your ceremony. Each student will receive their Torah portion packet, which includes all the verses in their weekly portion and haftarah.

Spring:

6th Grade

Fall:

1. Every student with their parent(s) meets with a member of the clergy to pick 10-12 Torah verses in consecutive order that they will prepare for their ceremony. This is another opportunity to bring your questions and find connection with a member of the clergy team. The clergy you meet with is not necessarily the clergy who will be on the bima with you during your ceremony.
2. Parents will meet with the cantor for the session, "B'nei Mitzvah 101" to go over all of the details of the b'nei mitzvah process, particularly the Saturday morning service.

Fall - Spring

Each bar/bat mitzvah student will begin their tutoring process approximately 12 months before their ceremony.

Spring:

All 6th grade students (religious school and day school) join clergy and education staff at Camp Eisner for the 6th grade Kallah, a weekend of fun, meaning making, and community building.

All Year:

1. Justice League activities including the group justice projects continue throughout the 6th grade year.
2. Religious School students will spend time with their teachers and clergy learning and reviewing important parts of the b'nei mitzvah liturgy in preparation for their ceremony
3. We encourage you to attend the Saturday morning Torah study (9am-10:45am) a year in advance of your portion. Sometimes, the clergy may teach texts that do not include your child's assigned verses. However, it is always a wonderful opportunity to learn more about your portion and to help your child engage with a critical exploration of their Torah text a year in advance.

7th Grade

All year:

1. Ceremonies begin and continue all year! Some of our kids will celebrate their bar or bat mitzvah in the Fall of their 8th grade year.
2. Justice League activities continue all year and students work with TI staff and clergy to wrap up and assess their justice experiences.

8th Grade and Beyond

We hope that all our students continue with our Teen program, either in the Tent on Monday nights or in our Madrichim (Student teacher) program on Sunday mornings. Please see page 19 for more information.

Guide to B'nei Mitzvah Tutorial

Becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah for many but not all will require learning critical prayers prior to the Torah service and the Torah and Haftarah portions for that Shabbat. The individual's learning process begins approximately twelve months prior to the date of the ceremony. Cantor Einhorn, who begins this process and supervises it throughout, will meet with the student and provide him/her with Dropbox links to the audio and text files of the materials from which the student will learn. Here is the learning process in brief:

(1) The first Dropbox link includes the Qiddush, Torah and Haftarah blessings in a comfortable key for your child. The link also includes an opening and closing prayer to the Torah service as well as the Aleinu prayer.

(2) Once these prayers are learned, a second Dropbox link with your child's Torah portion will be provided.

(3) After your child has learned the Torah portion, the Haftarah portion will be sent along in the same fashion.

(4) After these assignments are completed, we will ask your child to prepare prayers that come before the Torah Service. These are prayers that the kids have been learning in Hebrew School.

Individual Tutoring

As part of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah process, each student is expected to spend thirty minutes a week with a personal tutor. These one-on-one sessions enable the student to establish his/her own pace and to receive individualized attention for any problems that might arise. There are three vehicles available to you for this preparation:

(1) Students will begin their B'nei Mitzvah preparation twelve months prior to their ceremony. B'nei Mitzvah tutoring that takes place in the building will follow the Religious School calendar. Your child will work with a tutor on a one-to-one basis for 1/2 hour each week when Religious School is in session (i.e. there is no tutoring on holidays, during vacation weeks or during the months of July and August). Tutoring sessions

begin on Sunday at 11:30 and continue until 1:30. On Tuesday and Thursday afternoons the sessions can run from 2:30 until 4:30. The cost of the program is \$1000. You will be billed for tutoring approximately 11 months before the ceremony and the fee is due 4 months before your child's ceremony.

(2) If Sunday, Tuesday or Thursday lessons in the building will not work for your family schedule, you may arrange to have a private tutor work with your child at a mutually agreeable time and place. In this situation, the family becomes responsible for all scheduling and paying the tutor directly. Cantor Einhorn can help you in the selection process of a private tutor. If you have a private tutor in mind, you must first check with Cantor Einhorn before going ahead with arrangements.

(3) A third option for B'nei Mitzvah training is with the Jewish Online tutoring program. In close consultation with Cantor Einhorn a tutor through this service can be chosen and will work with you child online at a mutually agreeable time. You will pay Online Jewish learning directly for their services. Cantor Einhorn will provide your child and the tutor with all the necessary materials throughout the process.

Of your three choices, #1 will be the least expensive of these options.

Here is a rough timeline for study in the 12 month preparation period:

It is very important to note that some students will follow an altered schedule of learning.

The Qiddush, Torah and the first Haftarah Blessing in the first 10 weeks.

The Torah portion in the next three months.

The Haftarah portion in a month's time.

The pre-Torah liturgy including Yotzeir Or, V'ahavta and the Avot/Imahot and G'vurot in two months.

Aleinu, Torah liturgy and the 2nd. Haftarah blessing one month.

Overview of the Service

Rehearsal

In the week prior to your ceremony you will have a rehearsal run by Cantor Einhorn. This rehearsal is usually held on Monday, but sometimes is moved to another day of the week. At this rehearsal your child will use the microphones, hold the Torah scroll, read from the Torah scroll and get a feel for moving around the Bima. A parent or parents will also use this time to recite their prayers([parent link here](#)) and become familiar with the choreography of the morning service.

Friday Evening

On Friday evening prior to your ceremony your child will chant the Qiddush at the beginning of our 6:00 Qabbalat Shabbat service.

Saturday Morning

On Saturday morning you will arrive at 9:55 for a single ceremony or 9:45 for a double ceremony.

We will begin the morning at 10:15 with a ritual in the Atrium. After clergy welcoming remarks there will be an opportunity for family members to read an English passage (one of four English readings you will choose from) to your child.

Once inside the Sanctuary we will proceed with the Shabbat morning liturgy.

Your child will lead the prayers prior to the Torah service with clergy support.

Here are some of the prayers that are commonly led by the bar or bat mitzvah:

- Barchu
- Yotzeir Or
- Shma
- V'ahavta
- Mi Chamocho
- Avot
- G'vurot
- Aleinu

Immediately before the Torah service begins, a parent or parents will speak to your child with a prepared text expressing what it means to them to pass a Torah scroll from one generation to the next.

Following that will be a passing of the Torah scroll through the generations of your family.

After the scroll has been passed and marched through the congregation you will assemble around the lectern. First the Cantor will chant the Bar/Bat's Hebrew name and then the parent(s) will recite Shehecheyanu. Then your child will deliver a prepared text (d'var Torah) explaining the Torah verses she/he is about to chant from the Torah. Your child will chant the blessing before the reading of the Torah, chant the verses of the first Aliyah and close with the blessing after the Torah reading.

For the second Aliyah, the second set of verses, parent or parents will recite the Torah blessings ([First](#) and [Second](#) Torah Blessings). ([PDF of Blessings](#))

If there is a third Aliyah, other relatives may be selected to chant the before and after Torah blessings.

Following the conclusion of the Torah section, the Rabbi will take the scroll to a pre-selected family member to hold during the section of the Haftarah.

If your child has prepared a Haftarah text, she/he will present remarks about the contents of the Haftarah portion, recite the first Haftarah blessing and then chant the Haftarah text. Following the English translation of the text, your child will recite the blessing after the Haftarah text.

At the conclusion of the Torah/Haftarah section the Torah scroll is returned to the ark. In this moment at the ark the Rabbi will bestow a private blessing on your child. After that you will bless your child with the the Levitical Priestly benediction. ([Priestly Benediction](#) read) ([Priestly Benediction Chanted](#))

We will conclude the service with Aleinu co-lead by your child and then move to the Qaddish prayer. You may add names to the Qaddish list of dear family members or friends who have died in years past, not necessarily on this particular Shabbat.

The service ends with Qiddush and Motzi on the Bima with siblings and cousins of your child's generation.

Family Participation

The bar/ bat mitzvah service is a great way to honor and include members of your extended family and community. There are several places where you may include loved ones in the rituals and special day.

In the Atrium

The first opportunity for family participation occurs at the beginning of our ritual in the Atrium at 10:15. A parent or parents will receive 4 optional readings for this moment. After you have chosen the reading that feels most appropriate to your family you can distribute the text to your selected readers. Some families choose to have grandparents/aunts and uncles or special family friends read in unison. Others choose to divide the the text so that there are individual readers.

During the Service

Once inside the Sanctuary you will need to choose ark openers (often siblings or cousins) for two moments during the service.

During the passing of the Torah scroll from one generation to the next, we invite grandparents and great grandparents to participate in this moment whether they are Jewish or not. Sometimes a family will invite uncles, aunts or other relatives to stand in place of loved ones who are deceased or unable to attend.

Finally, we ask you to select a Torah holder (someone older than the age of Bar/Bat Mitzvah) to receive the Torah scroll and sit with it for approximately ten minutes while the Bar/Bat Mitzvah reads the Haftarah text.

The Celebration

Families are encouraged to celebrate their big day in any way that is meaningful to their child and family, and appropriate for the occasion.

We suggest that an effort is made by each family to include your child's Hebrew School or Day School classmates on your invitation list, in order to build community and rapport in the cohort.

It is also important that your child and you attend as many bar or bat mitzvah ceremonies at Temple Israel as you can prior to your own ceremony. This will help orient you to the experience of bar/ bat mitzvah as celebrated in this community, and prepare you for your big day.

All families are invited to use the beautiful spaces we have at Temple Israel for your post service celebration. You can learn more about space rental at Temple Israel on our website: <http://www.tisrael.org/building-rentals/>.

Day School Students

At Temple Israel, Day school students have the opportunity to fully engage in our b'nei program. Our social justice educator will work with your child individually or with their cohort to identify and coordinate their social justice encounters and projects. As with all students, day school students begin tutorial 12 months in advance of their date and will be guided individually with the assistance of a tutor and guidance of Cantor Einhorn and a rabbi.

Day school students are encouraged to join us for post-b'nei mitzvah teen education and engagement. Please see page 19.

If you have any questions about day school engagement at Temple Israel, please be in touch with Roberta Bergstein (rbergstein@tisrael.org).

Family Guidelines for Saturday Morning

- Arrival in the Clergy Wing at 9:55 a.m. for parents(s), Bar/Bat Mitzvah and siblings
- Time for focusing and private words. If the Bar/Bat Mitzvah has a Tallit we will say the blessing and put it on in the Clergy Wing.
- The Ceremony begins at 10:15 a.m. in the Atrium. Family and Clergy enter with Bar/Bat Mitzvah holding a Torah Scroll, as the Cantor leads all in a Niggun (song without words). On the podium, the Rabbi welcomes all and facilitates a “meet and greet”. Family members, (chosen by Parent(s)) form semi-circle in front of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah and read one of the four poetry offerings. The Niggun resumes and everyone walks into the Sanctuary. Bar/Bat Mitzvah leads liturgy before Torah Service.
- Parent(s) speak publicly to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah (immediately before Torah service)
- The Bar/Bat Mitzvah comes up to the Bima with Parent(s) and Grandparent(s) to pass the Torah Scroll through the generations of the family (both Jewish and non-Jewish).
- The Ark is opened by the First Ark Opener(s)
- The Bar/Bat Mitzvah reads the liturgy from the prayerbook.
- The Rabbi or Cantor speaks briefly about the importance of the Torah Scroll before it is passed through the generations.
- The Torah Scroll is passed through the generations of the family. Grandparents do not hold the Scroll, it is only leaned on their shoulder. If a Grandparent or Great-Grandparent cannot come up the steps to stand in the generational line, we will take the Scroll down to them.
- The Bar/Bat Mitzvah continues reading the liturgy from the prayerbook.
- The generational line breaks up, the Ark is closed and the Scroll is marched through the congregation held by the Bar/Bat Mitzvah and assisted by the Cantor.
- The Bar/Bat Mitzvah returns to the Bima with the Scroll, the Rabbi takes it out of his/her hands and the Scroll is undressed by the Parent(s).
- The Cantor chants the Hebrew names of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah and the Parent(s).
- The Parent(s) chant or say the Shehecheyanu.
- The Bar/Bat Mitzvah reads the D’var Torah (Lessons of Torah interpreted by Bar/Bat Mitzvah).

- The Bar/Bat Mitzvah chants the First Torah Blessing and the First Aliyah (verses from the Torah) and reads the English translation.
- The Bar/Bat Mitzvah chants the Second Torah Blessing.
- The Parent(s) chant or say the First Torah Blessing.
- The Bar/Bat Mitzvah chants the Second Aliyah (verses from the Torah) and reads the English translation.
- Parents chant 2nd Torah Blessing.
- Third Aliyah family members chant 1st Torah Blessing.
- The Bar/Bat Mitzvah chants the Third Aliyah (verses from the Torah) and reads the English translation.
- 3rd Aliyah blessers chant or say the Second Torah Blessing.
- The Parent(s) retrieve the Torah cover and dress the Torah Scroll.
- The Scroll is taken into the Congregation to be held by the honoree of the family (in a Double Ceremony one Scroll is used for each family).
- The Parent(s) take a seat on the Bima with a copy of the Priestly Benediction placed in their hand by the Cantor.
- The Bar/Bat Mitzvah reads the Haftarah Introduction Speech and chants the First Haftarah blessing, the Haftarah portion and reads the English translation.
- The Bar/Bat Mitzvah chants The Second Haftarah Blessing.
- The Second Ark Opener(s) are called up to return the Scroll to the Ark.
- The Bar/Bat Mitzvah reads the liturgy from the prayerbook as the Scroll is taken back to the Ark. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah walks with the Clergy. Parent(s) stay standing by their seat(s).
- The Rabbi speaks privately to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah then asks Parent(s) to speak to their child privately expressing how they feel at that moment. After the private time, Parent(s) publicly bless their child with the Priestly Benediction.
- The Rabbi brings the family(s) forward to the edge of the Bima and the congregation blesses the child(ren) with the Shehecheyanu.
- (Optional: Candy Throwing.)
- The Rabbi takes the Bar/Bat Mitzvah to the lectern and speaks publicly about how well the child did and to elaborate on the portion of the week. Parent(s) are seated on the Bima.
- The Rabbi presents the Bar/Bat Mitzvah with certificates and a representative of our Board of Trustees or Leadership Council presents the Qiddush Cup.
- The Bar/Bat Mitzvah opens the Ark for the Aleinu prayer and chants Aleinu
- The Qaddish list is read including any names the Bar/Bat Mitzvah family wishes to hear at that time, regardless of the actual Yahrzeit time.
- The Bar/Bat Mitzvah will chant the blessings over the wine and challah on the Bima. We will invite siblings and cousins to join us on the Bima.

- The Clergy escort the Bar/Bat Mitvah and Parent(s) to the Qiddush in the lobby and the Congregation follows us out.
- If the family wants photographs taken after the service, the Clergy will usher the immediate family back into the Sanctuary. In the next ten minutes, pictures of the passing of the Torah Scroll, reading the Scroll at the lectern and all Aliyah blessings will be taken.

Justice League

Wake Up. Champion. Unite

The Justice League is an interdisciplinary community designed to incorporate religious education, social justice experiences, and youth group style fun to prepare our 5th-7th graders for b'nei mitzvah and beyond. The Justice League is designed for all TI 5th-7th graders who will become b'nei mitzvah at Temple Israel, whether they are students in our religious school or a local day school.

The Justice League provides room for personal exploration of issues of injustice that are important to students and families while also working within and towards community. We are supporting our students to take a proactive role in civic life and realize their capacity for making change. A key component of the Justice League is our **Social Justice in Action** program. This program offers the opportunity for families to build community – both within and beyond Temple Israel – through confronting injustice.

We recognize that both the B'nei Mitzvah experience and the development of an identity as a justice changemaker are bigger than any one event or encounter. Pedagogically, we seek to guide our students on a journey of **Learning and Discovery (5th grade)**, **Action and Reaction (6th grade)**, and **Reflection and Interpretation (7th grade)**.



TI Teen Program Post Bar/Bat Mitzvah Ceremony

Temple Israel's Teen Education Program engages teens as participants in Jewish educational experiences that are relevant to their day-to-day lives. Students learn to advocate for themselves and their needs and develop as leaders who have ownership and agency over their education and what their Judaism means to them.

For more information visit : <http://www.tisrael.org/teen-ed/>

THE TENT: A JEWISH LEARNING COMMUNITY FOR GREATER BOSTON TEENS AT TEMPLE ISRAEL OF BOSTON

The Tent connects teens with a diversity of voices to strengthen them as learners, as thinkers, and as young American Jews. Our program is open to all interested teens, grades 8 through 12.

We meet (almost) every Monday, October – May.

Dinner: 5:45 – 6:30 p.m., 1st Class: 6:40 – 7:30 p.m., 2nd Class: 7:40 – 8:30 p.m

For more information, including courses, an FAQ and registration visit

<http://www.tisrael.org/the-tent/>

MADRICHIM PROGRAM

Every year, a cohort of teens serve as student teachers. The goal of the Madrichim Program is to help our teens develop as leaders and teachers, and to provide our Religious School students with excellent role models. Teens apply to the program in the spring and are offered positions over the summer. Each student receives a small volunteer stipend each semester.

Throughout the year, Madrichim focus on developing skills in small group facilitation, classroom management, and experiential lesson-planning. In addition to hands on learning in the classroom, Madrichim will also receive targeted support and training on differentiated instruction in a series of six development meetings led by experts in the field.

RYFTI - REFORM YOUTH FEDERATION OF TEMPLE ISRAEL

RYFTI teens join together for fun, informal, Jewish experiences. RYFTI holds monthly activities that range from scavenger hunts in Harvard Square to apple picking. Along with the monthly activities, there are two weekend Kallah held each year: Fall Kallah (November) and Clergy Weekend (May). These weekend getaways are a time for the teens to bond, have fun, and engage in excellent peer-led learning. RYFTI is led by a teen board, elected by their peers each Spring. RYFTI is an affiliate of [NFTY- North East](#).

CONFIRMATION

A Yearlong Experience for 10th Graders at Temple Israel of Boston

Temple Israel of Boston 10th graders spend a year together building community and grappling with the questions that help them define their personal relationship to Judaism. The Confirmation Year includes:

CONFIRMATION COURSE

Spend wonderful learning time with Rabbis Zecher, Soffer, and Jacobson, exploring questions of great meaning to you. You'll also have the special opportunity to work with Cantor Einhorn on creating your Confirmation Service. For your other class block on Monday nights, you'll be able to make a choice from The Tent's excellent slate of elective classes.

L'TAKEN SOCIAL JUSTICE SEMINAR

Join hundreds of other Reform Movement teens in a weekend of civic engagement. Share Shabbat, tour D.C., experience havdalah at the Jefferson Memorial, and more. On Monday morning, you'll have meetings in the offices of your own federal Senators and Representative, where you will advocate on a Reform Movement campaign of your choosing.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE

Our confirmands lead services on Shavuot Morning. The culmination of your Confirmation year. As a class, you will lead our congregation in a service you helped create. Through the service, you'll inspire our community with some of the things you'll have taken away from your Confirmation experience.

Economic Justice & B'nei Mitzvah

Temple Israel is known for incorporating justice work into Jewish practice. Why not make this a central tenet of your B'nei Mitzvah experience as well?

Leaders within Tikkun Central pinpointed an easy, effective, actionable step each family can take to use their money for good. This economic justice project, we call "Purchasing Power" helps us think about where we put our money - large and small.

This project is anchored on the importance of investing in local, minority-owned business, with our awareness of the racial disparities in Boston between generational wealth and in the evidence that Black-owned businesses are likely to hire more people of color, and foster economic improvement for families and communities of color along with myriad other benefits.

Like all small businesses (only much more so), Black-owned businesses often fail, or fail to start, due to lack of access to capital or the challenge of reaching their desired markets and customers. When we make a meaningful effort to spend dollars in line with our hopes for the world around us, we are participating in the drive for economic justice.

We encourage you to think about the way our life events can seamlessly be spaces of economic and racial justice action. Imagine the impact if each B'nei Mitzvah family at Temple Israel chose one of the below caterers, bakers, florists, etc. for their B'nei Mitzvah celebration?

We are on the forefront of igniting our Jewish ritual and life cycle events with tangible economic justice. Will you join us?

** These business owners are friends of Temple Israel, please treat them as such. These purchases are building relationships and strengthening our community in the process. If you have feedback, contact Tali Puterman at tputerman@tisrael.org

** Planning to use one of the below resources? Let us know! We want to honor you and the investment you are making in our local communities, contact Tali Puterman at tputerman@tisrael.org

FOOD, DRINK, AND ENTERTAINMENT (INCLUDES CATERING)

[Fresh Food Generation](#)

Dorchester, 617-602-7185

This “farm to plate” caterer is now a regular presence at Temple Israel. Owners Cassandria Campbell and Jackson Renshaw have deep roots in farming, nutrition and youth development. Empanadas, salads, wraps, soups and more are bursting with flavor. Excellent catering and a food truck too!

[Darryl’s Corner Bar & Kitchen](#)

604 Columbus Ave, South End, 617-536-1100

Owned by Nia Grace, Darryl’s Corner Bar & Kitchen has a relaxed, sophisticated atmosphere for “southern comfort food and signature cocktails with a side of some of the best jazz in Boston.” Go for dinner or Sunday brunch, and consider their excellent catering.

[Slade’s Bar and Grill](#)

958 Tremont Street, Lower Roxbury, 617-442-4600

Recently re-done by Darryl Settles, Slade’s has more than 80 years of history being the “soul of Boston” with southern-style dining, drinks and entertainment in Lower Roxbury. It was owned by Celtic legend Bill Russell in the 1960s.

[Restaurante Cesaria](#)

266 Bowdoin St., Boston (Dorchester), 617-282-1998

70,000 Massachusetts residents are Cape Verdean and Tony Barros’ has been offering the cuisine of the archipelago off the coast of West Africa for 15 years. If you have not tried Cape Verdean cuisine or if you already love it – this is your place.

[Suya Joint](#)

185 Dudley Street, Roxbury, 617-708-0245

Owner & chef Cecilia Lizotte offers “All-Africa Cuisine” and describes the Nigerian inspired fare as “an artistic creation”

[ZaZ](#)

1238 River Street, Cleary Square, Hyde Park, 617-276-3729

Caribbean, Italian, Spanish & Asian flavors define the palate of owner/chef Orlie Roberts. Lunch, dinner & excellent catering.

[Coast Cafe](#)

233 River Street, Cambridge, 617-354-7644

Cambridge locals adore the soul-food that Tony Brooks and team prepare. “Our food is the progressive, healthier prepared version that our families grew up on in the South.”

[Lucy Ethiopian Café](#)

334 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, 617-536-0415

Owners Netsanet Woldesenbet and husband (chef) Girmay Cirsto Ziegaye have a perfect pre-Symphony spot for dinner. Their Ethiopian café boasts authentic flavors and is an art gallery too – and some say you just have to try the Peanut Tea.

[MIDA](#)

782 Tremont Street, South End, 617-936-3490

Zagat says Chef/owner Douglass Williams has one of the hottest new Italian restaurants in Boston. From MIDA’s website: “We believe meals are meant to be shared and that everyone in the neighborhood should have a comfortable place to unwind, enjoy great food, imbibe and have fun.”

[Blue Nile Restaurant and Marathon Foods](#)

389 Centre Street, Jamaica Plain, 617-522-6453

Some say this is the best Ethiopian food in Boston. Really good vegetarian options. “Healthy food prepared from scratch” is not just a slogan. This is a serious food place. Marathon Foods is the name of their company that packages their offerings for sale in area markets.

[Savor Restaurant and Lounge](#)

180 Lincoln Street, Boston, 857-250-2165

Owner F. Eddy Firmin’s upscale Leather District spot is “the perfect combination of authentic Southern comfort cuisine with delectable Caribbean influences.” Firmin calls Savor “a restaurant whose employees are held in the highest esteem, guests are treated like family and food is paramount.”

[Teranga](#)

1746 Washington Street, South End, 617-266-0003

Boston’s first Senegalese restaurant is in the South End. Chef/Creator Marie Claude-Mendy was born in Senegal, raised in Paris and educated in London; but Boston is home. “Teranga” means hospitality and the place is built to bring that virtue of Senegalese culture to life. Catering too.

[Wally’s Cafe Jazz Club](#)

427 Massachusetts Avenue, South End, 617-424-1408

Since 1947 the Walcott family has been delivering an authentic jazz experience to patrons. Professionals take the stage every night and exceptionally skilled and talented students from Berklee and other places too. This is an institution – for music and for Boston.

[Morrell’s BBQ](#)

Stoughton, 480-226-4976

With a passion for delivering the taste of home-cooking and a reputation for excellence, Morrell’s caters events all over the greater Boston area.

[Brazo Fuerte Brewing](#)

Founder/CEO Beverly Armstrong runs the state’s first female-owned brewery. The former biotech executive makes full flavored session ales and pursues sustainable practices in every aspect of the business, even making dog treats from used grains. Find it at any Craft Beer Cellar location or on tap at Boston’s Club Cafe, Midway Cafe or Townsman; or Cambridge’s Flat-top Johnny’s – among many other places.

[The Dream Team Band](#)

[Athene Wilson](#), 617-594-9338

Dream Team “rocks crowds at weddings, parties and corporate events” with a “mix of music designed to fit your unique crowd.” TI’s Shel Klein says, “Great dance band for any occasion!”

[Sweet Teez Bakery](#)

Dorchester, 718-473-4112

Teresa Thompson Maynard set out to create a nut-free cupcake in response to her children’s allergies. Now she runs a custom cakes and bakery business and will have a store location soon.

[Me & the Bees Lemonade](#)

512-580-3899

Find pre-teen CEO Mikaila Ulmer’s products at Whole Foods or order directly online. This dynamo has created a phenomenon around all natural product development and the use of honey from her own bees in the flaxseed enriched lemonade she makes. She even won a \$60K investment on Shark Tank!

[MarTia’s Cakes](#)

857-342-2468

What began for Owner and Lead Baker Markita Durant as a family activity and a passion has become a business, offering “custom design, a classic layer, cupcakes or cake pops” for dessert lovers, party or event hosts, and anyone with a sweet tooth.

[Lyndigo Spice](#)

617-276-8097

Founder and CEO Celeste Croxton-Tate channels her love of Indian and Caribbean spices and flavors into her catering business and her own line of chutneys, relishes, fruit spreads and spice blends (perfect gifts).

City Fresh Foods

617-606-7123

From their Roxbury location, CEO Sheldon Lloyd and team “make thousands of delicious, affordable meals from scratch, and deliver them to childcare centers, schools and rehabilitation and eldercare programs.” You can connect them to an organization where you are affiliated and in doing so invest deeply in the community.

Petsi Pies

Cambridge Cafe: 31 Putnam Avenue; 617-499-0801

Somerville Bakery: 285 Beacon Street 617-661-7437

Owned by Renee McLeod, Petsi is an icon for fresh-baked, outrageously good savory and sweet pies and baked goods. People wait in line at dawn before holidays just to bring Petsi pies fresh from the oven. The cafe (Cambridge) is great for breakfast or lunch, a community meeting or working on your laptop.

Museum of the National Center of Afro-American Artists (& Museum Shop)

300 Walnut Ave, Roxbury, 617-442-8614

The museum fosters and presents the finest in contemporary, visual and performing arts from the global Black world. Through its teaching, visual and performing arts divisions, the NCAAA brings the best of the Black world to you.

Museum of African American History (& Museum Shop)

46 Joy Street, Boston (Beacon Hill), 617-725-0022, x330

Among the most important National Historic Landmarks in the US, the African Meeting House and Abiel Smith School on Beacon Hill were built in the early 1800’s. The Meeting House has been returned to its 1855 appearance and is open to the public (talks, tours, events). The School, the oldest US public school for African American children, currently houses exhibit galleries, education programs, a caterers’ kitchen, and a museum store filled with books and inspired gifts.

Haley House Bakery Cafe and Catering

12 Dade Street, Roxbury, 617-445-0900

Non-profit cafe with locally-sourced food prepared from scratch. Really good pizza, sandwiches, soups, salads, brownies, cookies. Provides job training and arts and cultural programming for the community.

Down Home Delivery and Catering

2 Bowdoin Street, Dorchester, 617-288-0813

Executive Chef Daren Payne and Down Home make the claim that they “proudly serves the best down home southern cooking in the City of Boston” and they did a great job catering the Temple Israel MLK celebration in 2016. Eat in, take out, catering, or delivery!

Chocolate Therapy

60 Worcester Rd., Framingham, MA, 508-875-1571

“Chocolate Therapy is a new kind of chocolate shop, dedicated to providing you with remarkable, locally produced chocolates, as well as our unique handmade collection.” [Watch a video here to learn more.](#)

PERSONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Black Market

2136 Washington Street, Dudley Square, Roxbury

Kaidi Grant's Dudley Square weekend pop-up shopping spot features local entrepreneurs. Clothing, jewelry, music, skincare products, art...and creative energy that only a real community effort could generate.

Frugal Bookstore

57 Warren Street, Boston, 617-541-1722

Leonard and Clarrissa Egerton run this community bookstore located in the heart of Dudley Square "with a passion of promoting literacy within our children, teens and adults," and a mission to "change minds one book at a time."

Great place to buy books by and about the African diaspora.

Leash Dog Care

Jamaica Plain, Roslindale, West Roxbury, Hyde Park, Brookline, Chestnut Hill, 617-294-9455

Darrell Kelton has 3 years in finance behind him and Co-founder Javier Vega grew up caring for dogs, cats, pigs and horses on a family farm. Now they run a modern pet-sitting, dog-walking operation, and handle owners gently too.

Natasha's Homemade Body Butter

617-610-2553

Natasha Williams is the CEO and creator of this homemade organic skincare company. Made with passion for the health and wellness of all. Available to retail or wholesale customers.

At Peace Arts

617-462-2426

Would you host a party where every guest paints wine glasses or canvases before they sit down to eat? Over 400 have done just that under accomplished artist Kyia Watkins' gentle tutelage at "Paint Your Peace" parties. Kyia also wowed the TI team (and lots of kids) at Brookline Day doing face-painting at our table.

Lifeforce 2.0

Boston/Cambridge

This wellness organization offers Vinyasa yoga, meditation, wellness services and African dance instruction via a regular schedule in community settings. Founder Melissa Alexis brings her education and training from Amherst, Sarah Lawrence, Columbia and JP Centre Yoga to the pursuit of wellness, self-care and healing within historically marginalized communities.

Ivyees "Everything Honey" A Logwood Company, LLC

Boston based Ivy C. Lawson is an engineer turned bee-farmer and has accomplished her goal of making products we use daily, such as shampoo, conditioners, anti-wrinkle cream, and toothpaste. She uses raw honey and 100% natural and organic ingredients. Ivyees honey alone wins raves, especially the hibiscus & sorrel and other premium varieties. [Read a Q&A with Andy Tarsy and Ivy Lawson here!](#)

Quock Associates, LLC

Quock is a construction management and real estate development company specializing in the transformation of distressed real assets into high-impact properties. The team's experience includes a vast array of multi-million dollar construction projects. Quock's founder Karl Coiscou promotes the company's mission of influencing and advancing social enrichment in those communities in which the company is engaged.

Cyanta Studio11

Humphries Street, B #03, Boston (Dorchester)

This graphic design & production services business provides creative and strategic visual communication solutions for clients of all shapes and sizes, from retail stores to citywide public engagement campaigns to corporate branding efforts. Led by artist and owner Franklin Marval, Cyanta can make everything from a simple banner to a promotional "wrap" for a car as well as a strategy to make the art tell the story you want to tell.

IncluDe

617-580-0870

Kristen Ransom's digital design shop serves organizations making social, economic, cultural and environmental change. Clients have included the Boston Impact Initiative and Darryl Settles. Websites, campaigns, and much more.

Fabwright Origins

594 Columbia Road, Suite 203, Dorchester, 617-506-9293

This Boston-based design and manufacturing firm "helps creatives do more using digitally augmented tools."

Founder/CEO Jemuel Stephenson is an artist, designer, digital creator, instructor and inventor with a background in mechanical engineering.

OneUnited Bank

President/COO Teri Williams spoke at Temple Israel in 2017 and explained why considering a Black-owned bank is good for social justice and equity. This one happens to have its HQ in Boston. Mobile banking, real-estate secured lending and more.

Advoqt Technology Group

10 Guest Street, Suite 290, Brighton, 617-600-8161

STEM advocate and IT services CEO Reinier Moquete Payano "empowers mid-sized organizations to lead their industry, deliver the highest level of service, and to use technology to make a difference in people's lives." Advoqt can "accelerate growth by leveraging the power of Robotic Process Automation, Machine Learning, and Predictive Analytics."

DSP Executive Search

617-273-5662

Kim Dukes is Managing Director and Co-Founder of DSP Executive Search, a national search firm based in Cambridge. Kim is a recognized expert in building balanced talent pools for client organizations which means increasing diversity and inclusion. DSP is a key component of a modern approach to finding talent and strengthening culture.

St. Fleur Communications

617-637-3070

During her 12 years in elected office, Marie St. Fleur chaired the education committee and was vice-chair of the powerful House Ways and Means committee. She subsequently played a senior role in Mayor Tom Menino's city hall and then led a statewide non-profit. Now St. Fleur runs a potent communications practice that specializes in community engagement and grass-roots outreach.

Catalyst Ventures Development

Darryl Settles' real estate, business consulting, and investment firm dedicated to enriching the city of Boston via transformational development of residential and commercial properties and the creation of valuable community resources and assets. Darryl's vision, reach, experience and expertise make CVD a valuable partner.

Finesse Florist

221 Washington Street, Brookline, 617-566-5683

Entrepreneur owner and Floral Designer Leslie Epps is also a nurse, which may explain this Brookline Village florist's reputation for taking great care of customers and their life cycle events, celebrations, and business gift needs. She calls the highly regarded shop she bought ten years ago "a place to spread love, with finesse."

Devon Plumbing and Heating

52 Evelyn Street, Mattapan, 617-298-2728 or 617-590-5858 (cell)

"Great for small jobs around the home, and they also did the plumbing for our kitchen and bathroom renovations. Very responsive and good work."

Windwalker Group

67 Kemble Street, Suite 3.3, Boston (Roxbury), 800-270-6420

Herby Duverné is CEO and Founder of this 200 employee business services company that has expert teams in a wide range of areas including physical and cyber security, instructional design for e-Learning and workplace training, and many other categories that are very familiar to their large corporate or government clients like Keolis, Amtrak, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Air Force, and U.S. Postal Service.

Colette Phillips Communications (CPC)

177 State Street, Suite 6 Boston, 617-357-5777

CPC serves corporate clients and cultural institutions with branding, positioning, stakeholder and public relations strategy. A long-time board member with American Jewish Committee and many other organizations, CEO Colette Phillips also created the 10-year-old *Get Konnected* program to bring together, recognize and support diverse professionals in Boston.

D/R/E/A/M Collaborative

617-606-7029

Gregory Minott and Troy Depeiza lead a team of architects and designers who have the attention of the the building design community in Boston right now. For residential, multi-family, institutional or commercial work, do not miss the opportunity to meet with them and find out why people are talking.

Taylor Smith Group, LLC

617-947-6089

The Taylor Smith Group is an established Boston real estate development and consulting company. Currently the group is part of the diverse team preparing to build a major hotel in the Seaport area of Boston. Forty years of Development, commercial brokerage, property management; and they are master connectors too.

Bowdoin Bike School

14 Southern Ave, Dorchester, 857-246-9534

Bowdoin Bike School offers a full retail store and bicycle repair as well as an opportunity for customers to learn how to maintain their own bikes, Noah De Amour (nee Hicks). De Amour has plans to convert the store to a cooperative, employee-owned model and is committed to seeking sponsors and grants in order to keep his shop affordable to serve his Dorchester community.

Quality Interactions

888-568-9918

CEO Michele Courton Brown and QI are delivering cultural competency solutions to premier hospitals and healthcare organizations to improve outcomes (sometimes save lives) and keep people out of the hospital. The team has trained over 140,000 healthcare professionals at institutions like Mass General, Barnes Jewish, New York Presbyterian, Tufts Healthplan and UMass Memorial.

Law Office of Koinonia Givens

320 Washington Street, Suite 403, Brookline, 617-934-2597

Givens is a town meeting member in Brookline and a skilled tax attorney practicing in Brookline Village with a focus on tax planning, elder law, and real estate. An active Yale University alumna, Givens is also a licensed real estate broker and works with small business owners, families, and non-profits with governance and tax law compliance issues.

Planning a Green B'nei Mitzvah

Mazal Tov as you plan this powerful day of tradition and transition! Cantor Einhorn and the rest of the Green Team would like to tell you about a new program at Temple Israel and invite you and your family to participate.

Mission and Objectives

None of us have to be reminded of the earth's fragility and the need to take active steps to protect it. Not only is that a Jewish commandment, but it's also a scientific reality. Although behavior change is difficult for all of us, children and teens are at ideal ages for establishing climate-friendly behaviors...but only with the help and support of their families.

Therefore, on one of the most important days of your child and family's life, please consider adding another dimension of pride and purpose to this meaning-filled occasion. Temple Israel's Green Team is asking families who are planning a B'nei Mitzvah to host a "green celebration," thereby signaling your support of climate justice and sustainability.

If your child is interested in earning the Green B'nei Mitzvah certificate, please review the suggested guidelines for participation. This is an "honor system" and no one will be asking you to verify that you did all—or even most—of these things. In fact, no one is expected to fully follow these recommendations. Instead, we ask that you honor the spirit of the program's purpose. Each participating student will be required to submit a short statement (or list) of what was done to "green" her/his B'nei Mitzvah.

Mention climate, the environment, and/or sustainability in D'var Torah...

—B'nei Mitzvah student integrates green message or theme into her/his D'Var. It need not be a dominant theme, but it must be more than a passing mention.

Talit and Kippah (if wearing a Kippah)...

—Choose one(s) with green in them, or add a green thread

Make a monetary contribution—or, ideally, designate a percentage of gift money— to organization(s) doing good work on behalf of the environment.

—to environmental organizations*

—to food justice organizations*

—to Jewish or interfaith organizations working on climate related issues*

—to organizations working to reduce and/or offset carbon emissions*

Select a “green” mitzvah project...

- design or participate in a project to change sustainability behaviors at the synagogue, school, neighborhood, or in the community
- engage others in/educate others about the project so as to build awareness
- sample projects include
 - ...expanded efforts to reduce waste by composting, food donations, recycling
 - ...volunteering at an organization whose mission is to mitigate climate change
 - ...volunteer to change lightbulbs to LEDs for elderly or disabled persons who might have difficulty doing it themselves
 - ...create a presentation for green action and bring it to assisted living communities, or Jewish retirement homes
 - ...volunteer on an urban farm (e.g., Urban Farming Institute, Boston Gleaners)
 - ...volunteer at a local food banks or pantry
 - ...volunteer at a used clothing stores
 - ...volunteer at a used clothing/goods organization
 - ...volunteer at a used bookstore
- other suggested mitzvah projects are available upon request

Plan a low-carbon-impact Bar/Bat Mitzvah event...

- Identify a caterer who has sustainable food practices, or educate your caterer about them. This includes an agreed upon commitment to avoiding most—if not all--single use plastics (i.e., cups, utensils, water bottles, etc.), composting (available through the Temple Israel kitchen), recycling, and donating leftover food that the family does not want.
- reducing high-impact consumption, i.e., reducing the amount of red meat

Offset the “costs” of the emissions generated by your event...

- off-set the carbon footprint of your event (i.e., those emissions created by travel and consumption) by donating to a carbon-absorbing project or a renewable energy development organization*
- encourage guests to buy offsets for their travel*
- donate a solar panel to a vetted MA charity (estimated cost would be \$70 for 1 panel for 1 yr, \$180 for 1,000 kWh over three years, etc.)

Conservation Measures...

- reduce waste and energy at the event(s) and share lessons about savings goals and how they were met
- identify “green” hotels and provide a list to out of town guests
- where practical, encourage guests to use the T, LYFT, Zipcar, Hubway, or to walk, rather than drive

Green Catering...

- choose a caterer who uses locally sourced food, where possible
- choose a caterer who uses sustainably raised food, where possible
- minimize use of single use plastics or paper that cannot be recycled
- instead, use reusable plates, glassware, flatware, and linens
- make the meal vegetarian, or at least offer less meat
- honor TI's composting/recycling rules and urge the caterer to do the same
- rinse and recycle all wine and sparkling water bottles
- rinse recycle all aluminum pans
- commit to reducing food waste by donating any leftover food that the family does not want
- commit to use a minimum amount of paper towel, chemical cleaners, and water when washing dishes, containers, etc.

Green Party Favors...

- purchase, where possible, reusable bags, refillable water bottles, locally sourced items, minimum packaging; properly recycle all packaging
- minimize use of plastic
- buy tree certificates
- donate to a green cause (some individuals donate in each of their guest's name to a kibbutz and given them certificates indicating the donation)
- a sapling to plant
- herbs or seeds to grow food
- seeds or plants that are pollinator plants
- Items that can be donated. E.G; kitchenware arrangements that were donated (e.g., to "Heading Home")
- a sheet with list of green readings, movies, organizations
- musical downloads instead of CD

Centerpieces...

- avoid cut flowers unless they are from a sustainable grower; potted plants are fine, particularly those which can be planted outside or thrive indoors
- if you do use cut flowers, donate them after- you can drop them off at Children's (or another) Hospital on your way home to be given to patients, or donated to nursing homes or hospitals and prior arrangements must be made.—choose something which can be donated somewhere (books, canned goods, games and puzzles)
- try to avoid balloons or anything plastic. If used, all balloons must be properly disposed of so as not to present a threat to birds and fish

Recognition:

- Green B’nei Mitzvah certificate
- acknowledgement in ChaiLights and Insights
- a special blessing for the Green B’nei Mitzvah group one Friday night during the year (proposed, not yet confirmed)
- small gift for the B’nai Mitzvah presented at the service

Thank you for considering this new program. Our sacred texts teach us that we are guardians of the earth, and we therefore hope you will explore with your child the possibility of becoming part of the the Green B’nei Mitzvah program. For further information, please contact Cantor Roy Einhorn (reinhorn@tisrael.org) or Joan Rachlin (rachlinj@aol.com)

*A list of suggested, vetted organizations will be provided to all who sign up.

Need Additional Information about anything in this handbook? Please email [Sue Misselbeck](#) who is the Executive Coordinator to Cantor Einhorn and Rabbi Jacobson.