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Family Bar/Bat Mitzvah Manual 2018

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Questions & Concerns

Bar/bat mitzvah should make a Jewish statement- to your child, your family, and the community. It should be one building block in your child's Jewish future.

We have prepared this manual with the hope that it will assist you in the preparation for the bar/bat mitzvah of your child and give you a better understanding of exactly what the ritual is to be like. It has been designed to increase parent participation in the bar/bat mitzvah ceremony in order to give the occasion the family focus it deserves.



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A Message from Rabbi Salkin

You already know this, but here goes: the most important thing about bar/bat mitzvah isn't the party or presents.

No – it is leading a congregation in prayer, and sharing Torah with that congregation.

Here is what is true about rites of passage: you can tell what a culture values by the tasks it asks its young people to perform on their way to maturity. In American culture, you become responsible for driving; responsible for voting, and yes, responsible for drinking responsibly.

In some cultures, the rite of passage towards maturity includes some kind of trial, or a test of strength. Sometimes, it is a kind of “outward bound” camping adventure. In some African cultures, a young person has to kill a lion.

What is Judaism's way of marking maturity? It is a combination of both of these rites of passage: **responsibility** and **test**. Our young people show that they are on the way to becoming **responsible** Jewish adults through a public **test** of strength and knowledge – reading or chanting Torah, and then teaching it to the congregation. In addition, we ask them to really perform mitzvot in the form of projects that lead to tikkun olam – repairing the world.

That is what it means for our young people to celebrate becoming bar/bat mitzvah at Temple Solel. It is a gateway to Jewish maturity, a pathway to becoming a responsible Jew.

True to our name, Solel (pathfinder), may this booklet be your bar/bat mitzvah GPS.

And know that we are with you, every step of the way, on your family's Jewish journey.

What does Bar/Bat Mitzvah Mean?

There was no such thing as “bar mitzvah” in the Hebrew Bible. It was a post-biblical, rabbinic idea (first centuries of the Common Era) that says that a child is responsible for performing the mitzvot at the age of thirteen. It took several centuries for a real bar mitzvah “ritual” to start, and those rituals and customs varied from place to place.

Just think of all the great Jews who were never bar/bat mitzvah. They include: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (not to mention Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel or Leah); Moses and Aaron; none of the Jewish kings and none of the prophets.

And what about a “bat mitzvah?” The real “father” of bat mitzvah was Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan, the founder of Reconstructionist Judaism. Rabbi Kaplan had no sons, so he invented bat mitzvah for his oldest daughter, Judith, in 1922. Since then, hundreds of thousands of Jewish women have become bat mitzvah.

How do we use the terms “bar/bat mitzvah” in a sentence? Here is an example:

“My son will become a bar mitzvah next Shabbat morning.”

By bar mitzvah (or bat mitzvah) we mean someone who is old enough to be responsible for doing *mitzvot* and leading an amature Jewish life

But, to a parent and a grandparent, bar and bat mitzvah means something larger. Bar/bat mitzvah says to a Jewish parent: “I am not the last Jew in the world, and this child proves it.”

IT’S ALL ABOUT BEING A MENSCH

Bar/bat mitzvah means “old enough to do mitzvot.” But it’s really about “menschology” — the art of making our kids into deep thinkers and more passionate people.

We, therefore, strongly encourage our young people and their families to be involved in tikkun olam projects that repair a small piece of the world.

How can you do that?

Our children are required to do a **mitzvah project** prior to becoming bar/bat mitzvah. Many choose projects which are close to their hearts; for example, collecting items for needy children, or feeding the homeless, or volunteering their time with an organization to help animals.

- First and foremost, it is essential that our young people remember the larger Jewish community, and make Jewish giving a priority — through donations to Federation or other worthy causes. Contact the Jewish Federation of Broward at: <http://www.jewishbroward.org/who-we-support>. Our clergy and staff will be happy to give you other ideas of how to focus on Jewish giving.
- Consider asking your guests to bring a can of food for the needy when they attend the service. Include a note about that in your invitation. Please make arrangements to have canned food donations picked up by the agency in a timely manner from the temple.
- Consider asking your guests to make donations to a favorite charity/cause.
- Encourage your child to personally donate a portion of his/her gift money to tzedakah.
- Remember Temple Solel! Please refer to the Temple office for the list of available funds.



Religious Education Requirements



All of your child's Jewish education prior to bar/bat mitzvah has connections to the ceremony because our young people learn how to lead the important prayers in the service. But bar/bat mitzvah is not just about skills. It is about learning to live, think and respond, based upon Jewish teachings and traditions. In that sense, everything in your child's Jewish studies curriculum is preparation for becoming a bar/bat mitzvah- i.e., a Jewish adult.

The requirements to become a bar/bat mitzvah at Temple Solel are:

- Four years, or the equivalent thereof, prior to and including the year of the bar/bat mitzvah ceremony. Private tutoring is not a substitute for attendance at Temple Solel's School of Living Judaism.
- Enrollment in religious school during the academic year in which the bar/bat mitzvah occurs is **mandatory**. The classes prior to the ceremony consist of final preparation in reading the prayers for the ceremony.
 - A child needs to worship with the Temple Solel community. In order for our young people and their parents to appreciate what is happening in the worship service, and to feel part of the community, they must participate in worship.
 - A child must attend **six bar/bat mitzvah services** at Temple Solel prior to their ceremony. Students will receive attendance cards which they must sign and give to the Rabbi, Cantor, or Fran after the service.
 - A child must attend **three Friday evening erev Shabbat services**. Students will receive cards that they will give to the Rabbi or Cantor after the service.
 - A child must attend **services on the Days of Awe (Rosh Ha-Shanah and Yom Kippur)**
 - A child must commit to regular practice and preparation. We expect that bar/bat mitzvah preparation should take twenty minutes to a half hour per day.
 - Students who transfer from another community will be accepted as candidates for the celebration

Rehearsals with Rabbi Salkin and Cantor Rosen will usually be scheduled on a Thursday afternoon during the month prior to the ceremony in order to review the procedures for the service. A final rehearsal for the student with the Rabbi and Cantor will be scheduled, on a Tuesday, the week of the bar/bat mitzvah. Parents are expected to attend these rehearsals.

Leading the congregation in worship is a privilege and an honor. The Rabbi, Cantor, and Director of Education will have the final authority to determine whether a child is ready to lead the entire service.

Post Bar/Bat Mitzvah Education Opportunities

We expect that our children will continue their Jewish education and involvement in Temple Solel to help nurture a connection for serious engagement with Judaism.

We offer a full educational program of formal and informal activities through 12th grade. All of our children study regularly with Rabbi Salkin both in and outside of the traditional classroom to provide meaningful Jewish experiences.

As an affiliate of the URJ, Reform Judaism's national movement, our teens participate in regional and national youth group events. The URJ also runs several Jewish camps in our area, as well as summer Israel experiences. They help build a young person's connection to Judaism and to the Jewish community.

Temple Solel's Tikkun Olam committee offers a number of social action opportunities for our children to acquire community service hours while doing a Mitzvah!

Here is the bottom line: every bit of post-bar/bat mitzvah Jewish involvement is an investment in your family's Jewish future.

Financial Obligations

There is a bar/bat mitzvah fee of **\$1,900** for Saturday morning and **\$2,200** for Saturday evening. This fee covers instruction beyond the standard religious school education and includes weekly lessons with Cantor Rosen as well as tutors, beginning approximately 6 months prior to the ceremony, private training sessions and/or rehearsals with clergy, and all books and training materials.

It also includes standard bimah flowers, oneg for up to 50 guests on Friday night after services, maintenance and security. Any additional private tutoring your child needs or the choice of special floral arrangements, must be paid for by the family.

As determined by the Board of Directors, all families must be current in their fiscal responsibilities in order to participate in any life cycle event, including bar/bat mitzvah. All dues, religious school tuition and fees must be up to date and bar/bat mitzvah fees paid in full before your child's private lessons begin.

For any financial questions, please call Frida Ziegler, Bookkeeper at 954-989-0205, ext. 104



The Bar/Bat Mitzvah Service

The bar/bat mitzvah ceremony takes place during a traditional worship service — either Shabbat morning (shacharit) at 10:30am, or late Shabbat afternoon (minchah) at 5:00pm. As such, the individual elements of your child's participation might differ, based on which service he or she is leading. During the winter months, the mincha service will end with Havdalah.

In general, our young people...

- Read and/or chant the most significant prayers in the liturgy, with the focus being on Hebrew literacy.
- Read or chant a section of the Torah portion of the week (parasha).
- Read or chant a section of the prophetic reading of the week (haftarah) (This is not done at a mincha bar/bat mitzvah).
- Deliver a d'var Torah (a sermonette) on the meaning of the Torah portion. When the Rabbi meets with your family (approximately six months before the ceremony), he will share some ideas with you about your Torah portion. The Rabbi helps our young people write their speeches.
- Prepare a personal prayer before the open Ark. The Rabbi will share some ideas with you about how to make this an effective prayer.

Distribution of Honors

Friday Evening before your Simcha

On Friday evening, a parent of the bar/bat mitzvah is invited to light and say the blessing over the Shabbat candles during services Friday night.

It is traditional for the bar/bat mitzvah to lead the congregation in the V' Ahavta and/or Avot.

At the end of the service, another parent usually leads the congregation in kiddush.

The Bar/Bat Mitzvah Ceremony

- **A parents' blessing for the child**

Please speak about Jewish values to your child, and what you want your child to be, Jewishly. The Rabbi is available to help give you some ideas.

- **Torah blessings — aliyot**

- There are four aliyot that come before the bar/bat mitzvah has his or her aliyah. These are done in Hebrew. Cantor Rosen can provide you with transliterations, but please make sure that your honorees are competent in doing the blessings.
- We try to line the aliyot up generationally — i.e., the first aliyah for grandparents (or great-grandparents); then other family members; and the parents having the aliyah before their child's aliyah.
- While several people can come up at one time, we strongly advise having one person read the blessing before the Torah reading, and another to read the blessing after the Torah reading.
- The fifth and last aliyah is reserved for the bar/bat mitzvah. We need to know the child's Hebrew name and the parents' and grandparents' Hebrew names, so that we can call the child to the Torah. A Hebrew name is: [Hebrew name] ben or bat [parents' Hebrew names]

- **Ark openings**

The ark doors will be opened and closed four times during the service, and at each opening you may invite guests to open/close the ark doors.

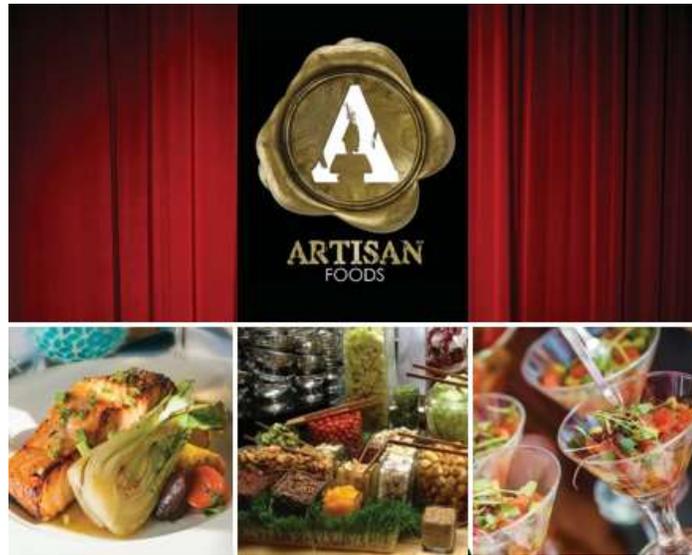
- At the beginning of the service, as the child reads his/her prayer
- For the kedusha
- For the beginning of the Torah service
- At the end of the Torah service

We recommend that there be **no more than four people** opening the ark at any one time. Each person or pair will ascend the bimah, open the ark doors and remain standing at the sides of the ark doors until the Rabbi signals for the ark doors to be closed.

At the conclusion of the service on Shabbat morning, the ark opening for the Aleinu prayer is reserved for the bar/bat mitzvah's parents.

- **Dressing the Torah.** A younger sibling or cousin can help dress the Torah at the end of the Torah service.
- **Challah at the end of the service.** Do you want to honor younger siblings or cousins? We can call them up by name for challah at the end of the service.

About our Caterer



Temple Solel offers congregants a beautiful social hall, ballroom and catering by Artisan Foods. Artisan has developed a fine reputation at Solel, the Broward Center for Performing Arts, and throughout the tri-county area. We highly recommend their services to you. Members will be given calendar priority to plan celebrations at the Temple.

In addition, by holding your celebration with Artisan Foods at Temple Solel, you are helping to support your synagogue.

There are many ways to celebrate a *simcha*. Artisan Foods creates innovative menu ideas to bring your ideas to fruition. From menu design, to relationships with the best in the event business, to furnishings including chivari chairs, up-lighting and pin spotlighting, the sophisticated atmosphere is a great venue for your celebration.

Artisan's esteemed event staff is committed to enhancing your bar/bat mitzvah celebration, while maintaining the sanctity of the experience. Whether your function is an extended kiddush, elegant buffet luncheon, sit-down dinner or club-style, Artisan is available to you. Please remember to set up a consultation meeting with Artisan Foods when planning your celebration.

Contact Brad Friedman, Artisan Foods, 954-983-5338, www.artisanfoodsinc.com, for all of your catering needs.

Getting Ready for your Simcha

APPROPRIATE BIMAH ATTIRE

- We ask that participants and guests wear clothing that keeps with the sanctity of the occasion. Women/girls should wear suits, skirts, or appropriate dresses for the sanctuary. Men/boys are expected to wear ties and jackets.
- A tallit should be worn by every Jewish man (over the age of thirteen — the age of bar mitzvah) who ascends the bimah during the service. Because Reform Judaism believes in gender equality, we encourage any adult Jewish woman to wear a tallit as well. You can purchase tallitot and kippot (yarmulkes) at the Temple Solel Judaica Shop.

GIFTS FROM THE CONGREGATION

One representative from Temple Solel, the Sisterhood or Brotherhood will be presenting certificates and gifts to the bar/bat mitzvah. If you are personally acquainted with someone who serves on the Board, Brotherhood or Sisterhood, or is a synagogue member, you may request that this person be the presenter. Please submit that person's name to the clergy assistant as soon as possible.

PUBLICITY

The Temple announces bar/bat mitzvahs in its publicity and weekly email blasts. Two months prior to the bar/bat mitzvah, please submit a photo of your child to the Temple office, accompanied by a short bio describing your child's school, extracurricular activities, and their mitzvah project.

INVITATION INFORMATION

Synagogue Name: Temple Solel

Address: 5100 Sheridan Street, Hollywood, FL 33021

Phone: (954) 989-0205 Fax: (954) 989-5787

Service Times: Friday Night - 7:30pm; Shabbat Morning - 10:30am; Shabbat Evening - 5:00pm

We recommend printing service times 15 minutes earlier on your invitation.

Directions: I-95 to Sheridan Street, go west. Synagogue is on the left; make a left into the parking lot.

RECORDING YOUR MEMORIES

We recognize the sanctity of Jewish simchas or lifecycle events, and that you will want to create memories of this sacred occasion. Here is what you need to keep in mind in order to safeguard the dignity of the worship experience.

- **Video:** A professional videographer can videotape the service. He or she must, however, be **unobtrusive and** must remain in a stationary position at the rear of the sanctuary using no extra lights.
- **Photography:** The same rule applies – unobtrusive.
 - Photographs can be taken exclusively by one professional photographer. Guests will be explicitly told that there is no “private” photography during the service — i.e., no cell phones.
 - No equipment for additional lighting.
 - No flash photography.
 - The photographer must be as quiet and non-intrusive as possible without disrupting or interfering with the service or the worship experience of anyone on the bimah or any members sitting in the congregation.
 - No posed photography can take place during the service.

FLOWERS

Basic floral arrangements are included in the bar/bat mitzvah fees. If you choose to add additional flower arrangements for the service, flowers must be unscented. Please contact Marla Towbin, Executive Director if you have any questions.

The Bar/Bat Mitzvah Journey: The Countdown

Three Years Prior: Your Date _____

- Bar/bat mitzvah date assigned. Due to the number of children in our congregation, more than one child may become a bar/bat mitzvah during the same worship service. Such decisions may be necessary for scheduling. The Ritual Committee will make the final decision.

One to Two Years Prior: _____

- Bar/bat mitzvah overview meeting with Rabbi Salkin, usually in March (attendance essential). From time to time, there are bar/bat mitzvah enrichment programs for parents, including “Bar/Bat Mitzvah Boot Camp.” We strongly encourage parents to participate in these programs.

One Year Prior: _____

- Student should start attending services, and should be thinking about his or her mitzvah project.

Six Months Prior: _____

- Tutoring with Cantor Rosen and other teachers begins. If additional tutoring is necessary, this will be discussed during this time and arrangements will be made.
- All bar/bat mitzvah fees should be paid before lessons begin.
- Parents complete information sheet and return to Cantor Rosen.

Four to Six Months Prior: _____

- Family meets with Rabbi Salkin. He will discuss the meaning of bar/bat mitzvah with your family; get to know your family better, and introduce your child to his/her Torah portion, providing ideas for the d’var Torah.
- Rabbi Salkin continues giving input and helps edit d’var Torah.
- Student completes prayer to God

Two Months Prior _____

Send photo and bio for publicity

Choose preferred Temple Solel presenter.

Send out invitations.

One Month Prior: _____

Family rehearsal (usually Thursday)

Student begins to rehearse on the bimah.

Parents discuss family participation with Cantor Rosen.

Obtain additional copies of transliterations for those honored with Torah aliyot

Week of Ceremony: Final Rehearsal (Tuesday); To be scheduled with Anita Lorenz, Clergy

Administrative Assistant, extension 102.

Friday night: Family attends services.

Saturday: Bar/bat mitzvah family must be at the Temple at least one half-hour before the worship service begins. If the bar/bat mitzvah ceremony occurs during a morning service, the family(ies) sponsoring are responsible for the kiddush following services.

MAZAL TOV!



Mitzvah Project Ideas

*The following list has been adapted from
"116 Practical Mitzvah Suggestions"
written by Danny Siegel and published by
Tikun Olam Publications, 155 Fifth Avenue, NY, NY 10010.*

Pick some immediately solvable *Tzedakah* situation and solve it: shoes, holiday meal, table and chairs for recently arrived immigrant family, space heater, large print prayer book for synagogues.

Establish a **Flower Committee** to take leftover flowers from the synagogue and other Jewish communal events to shelters, hospitals, or residence for the elderly.

Hold a **tree-planting campaign** at the synagogue. Plant trees in Israel in honor of friends for specific occasions (or in memory of friends or family who have passed away.) **Plant trees in Israel** for others for no particular reason at all.

Take a tour of your local *tzedakah* agencies, Federation-sponsored and other, private-organizations. (Some communities like San Francisco take contributors on a daylong bus tour.) **Ask questions, learn** about the workings of the agency, and **get involved**.

Spread the word about "**The Tzedakah Habit**" of buying an extra item of food whenever you go grocery shopping- for distribution to hungry people. Set up a place for the food to be donated. **Install a food barrel** in the synagogue or other Jewish communal building. Collect food and distribute to individuals in need, either through local agencies or individual contacts. Decorate the food barrel together.

Set up a **baby crib** to collect toys, diapers, formula, etc. and donate to a local shelter or new mothers in need. Hold an **infant car seat drive**. Gather car seats no one is using and get them to agencies that will deliver them to people who need them.

Have the synagogue give a ***Tzedakah* box** to every bar and bat mitzvah student. An ideal synagogue gift for weddings, *Chanukat HaBayit* (moving into a new home), conversion, and other occasions. Work with residents of the local residence for the elderly to **make the *tzedakah* boxes**.

Replace the floral centerpieces at the bar/ bat mitzvah with a card noting that the cost of the flowers was contributed to *Tzedakah*. Or:

- a. Have a centerpiece made of books, to be contributed to a local synagogue or Jewish communal library.
- b. Have trees planted in honor of the guests, with their certificates on the table
- c. Have cans of food, to be donated after the celebration to a local agency that will channel the food to hungry people.
- d. **All of the above.**

Establish a large print and Braille section of the synagogue library. Ask visually impaired individuals which books they might want. Publicize this service in the synagogue or agency bulletin and local newspapers. (For large print and Braille books of Jewish interest, contact:

The Jewish Braille Institute of America

110 E. 30th St.

NY, NY 10016

(212) 889-2525.

Or,

Record some of your favorite stories or books onto tapes or CD's and make them available through the synagogue.

Establish a *tzedakah* newspaper and magazine clipping committee to scan the papers and magazines for *tzedakah* articles to be shared with your class. Review at least one article before each week. Compile a scrapbook and share it with the religious school and the rest of the congregation.

Conduct a **clothing drive** for local individuals in need. Encourage your friends and classmates to clean out their closets and bring in old clothes to donate. When cleaning out the closet and selecting clothes to give away, recite some formula such as **“I am now about to perform the Mitzvah or *Halbashat Arumim*- providing clothes for those in need of them.”** Make sure your friends and classmates are aware that this is a specific and important mitzvah, stretching back many centuries in Jewish tradition. Also, it is important, on occasion, to give away clothes that we would still use.

Establish a special “twinning” program with Jewish special education children and adults for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah program. Match up a Bar and Bat Mitzvah with one of the special people to share the day.

Locate the Jewish elders in non-Jewish old age residences and provide for them. Ask if your local zoo will **bring pets** to old age residences for programs. Set up an inter-generational program with the religious school, always an enjoyable and entertaining event. **Start an inter-generational choir, choral group or band.**

Hold a **Marathon *Tzedakah* Day**, combining study about the Mitzvah and specific *Mitzvot* that can be done within the time frame. Eight hours is a good start.

Establish a *Bikur Cholim*-Visiting the Sick Committee. Check with your Rabbi during the week, asking who is in the hospital, and offer to make rounds. Or, set up a weekly visit to the children's wing of your local hospital to **visit terminally ill children.**

Honors for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Service

Bar Bat Mitzvah Child: English Name: _____

Hebrew Name: _____

Ark openings/hallah duty

Before the child's opening prayer:

Before the Kedusha:

At the beginning of the Torah service – always grandparents:

At the close of the Torah service:

Before Aleinu – always parents:

Challah duty:

Aliyot (prayers before and after each Torah reading)

First aliyah (with Hebrew names if possible):

Second aliyah (with Hebrew names, if possible)

Third aliyah (usually grandparents – with Hebrew names if possible)

Fourth aliyah (child's parents – please supply Hebrew names – Hebrew name ben or bat parents' Hebrew names):

Fifth aliyah (child – with Hebrew name – Hebrew name ben or bat parents' Hebrew names):

Dressing Torah:

Child's Opening prayer

God, as I approach the ark on this day when I become bar/bat mitzvah, I am grateful to You for_____.

I am grateful for what Judaism has meant to me in my own life: (list three things)

_____.

I pray that (list three things)_____.

I am proud to be a Jew because (list three things) _____

The d'var Torah made simple!

My Torah portion is (name of portion)_____, from the book of _____, chapter _____.

In my Torah portion, we learn that_____ (Summary of portion. It is as if you are writing a book report on what is in the portion).

For me, the most important lesson of this Torah portion is (what is the best thing in the portion. Take the portion as a whole; it does not have to be what you are reading)_____.

OR: As I learned my Torah portion, I found myself wondering (the student raises a question that the Torah portion raises, and that that he or she is curious about, and would want the rabbi to answer in his own d'var Torah) _____

I have lived the values of the Torah by _____ (the student talks about what he or she has done in his or her own life, including mitzvah project).

The Parents' Prayer: What To Think About, How To Do It

The parents' prayer is intended to be a brief (two minutes) powerful blessing to your child as he or she becomes bar/bat mitzvah. As such, it should deal with sacred and eternal themes that relate to ethics, spirituality, and Judaism.

Similarly, experience has shown that references to "when I first gave birth to you" and "when you were an infant, toddler, etc.) tend to make young people uncomfortable.

Topics to consider (choose one to focus on):

- What do you want your child to remember of this day?
- Which of your child's spiritual and/or moral qualities do you want to strengthen and affirm in your child?
- What do you hope for your child's Jewish future?
- In your child's Torah or haftarah portion, what verse or teaching speaks to you?
- What are the sacred traditions in your own family?
- For whom was your child named? What special qualities did that person have?
- What is important in your family's Jewish story or background?

Remember – you are going to be saying these words from the bima, right before the Torah service.

Bottom line: when your child is your age, what do you want to remember that you said to them on the day of his or her entrance into Jewish maturity?

Blessings Before and After the Torah Reading

Each congregant receiving an aliyah recites these b'raktot.

Before the Reading:

בְּרַכּוּ אֶת־יְהוָה הַמְּבַרְךְ.

Congregation responds:

בְּרוּךְ יְהוָה הַמְּבַרְךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.

Congregant repeats above response, then continues:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
אֲשֶׁר בָּחַר בָּנוּ מִכָּל־הָעַמִּים וְנָתַן לָנו אֶת־תּוֹרָתוֹ.
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה נוֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה.

After the Reading:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
אֲשֶׁר נָתַן לָנו תּוֹרַת אֱמֶת וְחַיֵּי עוֹלָם נִטַע בְּתוֹכֵנו.
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה נוֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה.

Each congregant receiving an aliyah recites these b'rakhot.

Before the Reading:

Bar'khu et Adonai ha-m'vorakh.

Congregation responds:

Barukh Adonai ha-m'vorakh l'olam va-ed.

Congregant repeats above response, then continues:

Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melekh ha-olam,
asher bahar banu mi-kol ha-amim, v'natan lanu et torato.
Barukh atah Adonai, noten ha-Torah.

After the Reading:

Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melekh ha-olam,
asher natan lanu torat emet, v'hayei olam nata b'tokhenu.
Barukh atah Adonai, noten ha-Torah.

GLOSSARY

ALIYAH

“Coming up” for an honor on the bimah, usually to read the blessings before or after Torah. (aliyot-plural).

BAR/BAT MITZVAH

Responsible for the performance of the commandments incumbent upon an adult Jew (b’nai/b’not mitzvah —plural).

BIMAH

The raised area in front of the sanctuary where the service is conducted.

MINCHAH

The afternoon service.

MITZVAH

A commandment of Jewish life, sometimes translated as “a good deed.” (Mitzvot — plural).

SHACHARIT

The morning service.

TALLIT

Sometimes pronounced “tallis.” Jewish prayer shawl worn during morning services and the eve of Yom Kippur.

TEFILAH

Jewish prayer.