

# Your Bar/Bat Mitzvah Journey at BTBRC

## TIMELINE



**All B'nai Mitzvah Families must be members of Beth Torah. Bar/Bat Mitzvah Celebrants, if not a Day School Student, must be enrolled in the Scheck Family Religious School.**

- Two years in advance of birthday:** Book Bar/Bat Mitzvah date and Tefillin service with Marla Cohen in the Rabbis' and Cantor's Office and pay deposit to guarantee the date you want. Begin to develop a schedule of regular attendance at Friday night and Shabbat morning services. Schedule with Executive Caterers (305-935-3454)
- One year in advance:** Intake meeting with our Cantor to set up the schedule for the start of private lessons. Parents will then be required to attend the 1st lesson. You will receive a customized link to the needed material of the Aliyah Blessings, Haftarah/Torah Trope, and your customized Haftarah/Torah Portion binder.
- Six months in advance:** 1st Progress meeting with the Rabbis. Boys must obtain Tefillin for their use. Five months in advance: Choose and submit Mitzvah Project Proposal to the Rabbis and Cantor, who will be able to give you many suggestions for projects.
- Three months in advance:** 2nd Progress meeting with the Rabbis. Bar Mitzvah begins attending Sunday morning minyan to learn about Tefillin and the Daily Service. Begin attending Shabbat services at least twice a month as a family to familiarize yourselves with the service. All financial obligations must be met and balance of fees paid in full.
- Two months in advance:** Meetings with Rabbi Farber and/or Rabbi Rojzman to discuss distribution of Honors and preparation of Bar/Bat Mitzvah speech. Schedule your dress rehearsal and pictures with Marla Cohen, who will clear the date on the Beth Torah Calendar. Make arrangements for sponsoring Kiddush, Oneg Shabbat, Flowers and honoring the Bar/Bat Mitzvah with a leaf on the Tree of Life.
- One month in advance:** 3rd Progress check with the Rabbis for a full rehearsal. If you are planning to print a program, please show the draft to the Rabbis and Marla to check that the information and the Hebrew is correct in advance of printing.
- Two weeks in advance:** Final copy of parents and child speech due to Rabbis, together with a list of all honors with Hebrew names.
- Week of Simcha:** Pictures and dress rehearsal with Rabbis and Cantor. Tefillin Service. Day of Simcha: Don't worry – you're ready. Don't forget to bring your binder and your speech to services. Cover your face when the candy shower starts?



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## CELEBRATION OPPORTUNITIES



We have carefully thought out the most popular requests to ensure that you have an enjoyable Simcha. Equal bundles have been created for every type of B'nai Mitzvah we offer, all of them the same price to make it easier for you and your family.

The only decision you need to make is which day you want to have your ceremony!

	MONDAY/ THURSDAY	ROSH CHODESH	FRIDAY PM	SAT. AM	SAT. PM
Tutoring	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
J2M	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kadima	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Flowers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Security	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Valet up to 75 Guests	✓	✓			
Standard Oneg/Kiddush			✓	✓	
Musical Accompanist*	✓	✓	✓		✓
Jump Drive with Service	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

\*Included with your fee is our piano player. If you would like to have additional musicians, please be in contact with us and we can help facilitate that.





# Your Bar/Bat Mitzvah Journey at BTBRC CATERING



## A NOTE FROM OUR CATERER

Dear Beth Torah B'nai Mitzvah Families

It is our great pleasure to be given this opportunity to introduce ourselves to you and inform you of the services that are readily available to you.

Events by Executive Caterers is proud to be Beth Torah's exclusive caterer.

Throughout the year we would greatly appreciate the opportunity to cater a Simcha that you will remember.

Call us to cater any event, from a Viennese Dessert Reception to a Black Tie Affair. All events are strictly Glatt Kosher. Call to have us hold a date for you and discuss your child's reception. Dates will not be held just because you have booked the Bar/Bat Mitzvah date with the synagogue – we must be contacted directly.

We look forward to serving you.

Warmest Regards,

**Events by Executive Caterers**

20350 NE 26th Avenue, North Miami Beach, FL 33180

P: (305) 935-3454 E: [eventsbyexecutivecaterers@gmail.com](mailto:eventsbyexecutivecaterers@gmail.com)



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## STATEMENT ON BAR/BAT MITZVAH RECEPTIONS

Allow us to offer some recommendations on Bar/Bat Mitzvah receptions. Judaism considers the subsequent celebration of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah as Seudat Mitzvah, a Festive meal of Mitzvah, because the reception is a reflection of our happiness that our children have reached the age where they are required to keep the Mitzvot. We would like to suggest that you seriously consider that the reception be guided by the Dietary Laws of Judaism- Kashrut.

In a city like Miami where Kosher facilities are readily available, including our own beautiful Deakter Ballroom, and with Kosher caterers of high quality, it is especially regrettable that so many Bar/Bat Mitzvah receptions are not Kosher. Many people claim that they do not keep Kosher, so it would be “hypocritical” to have a Kosher Bar/Bat Mitzvah affair? Not at all! Many people do not attend Shabbat Services on a regular basis. Is it hypocritical for them to do so on an occasional basis or on the occasion of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah? We think not. Many people do not observe the Jewish holidays of Sukkot or Shavuot but do observe Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Pesach. It may be inconsistent, but it is not hypocritical. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah reception is not just another party. The 13th (or 12th) birthday is not just another birthday. It has special significance for us as Jews. To make it a Kosher meal would add more Jewish meaning, more religious significance. It would also make it possible for the observant Jew, as well as the non-observant Jew, to feel comfortable at the celebration.

Moreover, for those who decide to have a reception on Shabbat we recommend that when organizing the party you take the sanctity of the day into account without desecrating it. In this way, all the values expressed through the Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony are extended into the celebration. It is important to note that the Beth Torah Clergy adhere to the National Policy of the United Synagogue of the Conservative Movement, which prohibits their attendance at non-Kosher receptions following a Bar/Bat Mitzvah or wedding ceremony.

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## SIMCHA PREPARATION TIPS



### INFORMATION FOR YOUR INVITATIONS

**Synagogue Name:** Beth Torah Benny Rok Campus

**Address:** 20350 NE 26th Avenue  
North Miami Beach, Florida, 33180

**Phone:** (305) 932-2829 **Fax:** (305) 933-6955

**Service Locations:** Scheck Family Sanctuary or Perez Chapel

**Service Times:**

- Friday Night Service- 7:00pm
- Shabbat Morning Service- 9:30am
- Shabbat Afternoon Service- candle lighting time the night before
- Shacharit (Tallit and Tefillin) - 7:30am

**Directions:**

I-95 to Ives Dairy Road, go east. Stay in the left lane. Go to NE 26th Avenue, make a left. Synagogue is on the left, make a left into the parking lot.

**Beth Torah Customs:**

As a traditional Conservative Synagogue, we ask you to observe the following customs:

All married women called to the Bima must wear a head covering and shoulders must be covered; all men must wear a Kippah, and at morning services, Jewish men should wear a Tallit. Please no smoking, cell phones, or photography on the synagogue grounds at any time during Shabbat.

**Sample Wording:**

We invite you to share in our joy when our beloved son/daughter (Name) is called to the Torah as a Bar/Bat Mitzvah on (date) at (time). Beth Torah Benny Rok Campus (address)

(Parents' Names)

Please join us as we celebrate the Bar/Bat Mitzvah of our dear son/daughter (Name). (Date) (Time)

(Synagogue) (Address) (Parents' Names)





## **PHOTOGRAPHY**

Beth Torah is a traditional Conservative Synagogue affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. We do not permit photography or videotaping on our premises on Shabbat or Yom Tov. On the Wednesday or Thursday prior to the Simcha there is a dress rehearsal with the Rabbis and Cantor present. During the dress rehearsal key portions of the service can be videotaped and still photos of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah and family with our Clergy can be taken. We ask you to please schedule the dress rehearsal and your photographer with the Rabbi's assistant Marla Cohen. There is often more than one Simcha on any given weekend and we need to make sure there is no conflict.

## **ONEG AND KIDDUSH**

Sponsorship of Oneg Shabbat and/or Kiddush is included in the Bar/Bat Mitzvah fee.

## **FLOWERS**

Floral arrangements are included in the Bar/Bat Mitzvah fees. If you have any questions or special requests, please contact the office. Flowers must be delivered on Friday for Shabbat use by 3:00 pm and cannot be removed from the Synagogue premises until after sundown on Saturday night.

## **THROWING OF CANDIES**

There is a custom amongst some Jewish communities to throw candies at the Bar/Bat Mitzvah at the completion of their chanting of the Haftarah. This is a symbolic way of wishing them sweetness in their lives. Candies should only be distributed to the first few rows of seats. This usually takes about five minutes. Allow either a younger sibling, a cousin, or friend to distribute the candies. They have a good time with it and always manage to pocket a few extra for themselves. Candies should be soft, individually wrapped and of course, Kosher.

## **CHILD SUPERVISION AT YOUR SERVICE**

We recommend that you designate a family member or friend to sit with the friends of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah. This will help to insure proper decorum and no disruptions.



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## CONTACT LIST



### MARLA COHEN

(305) 932-2829 ext 7818

mcohen@btbrc.org

To schedule appointments, questions about Kiddush, flowers, service times, invitations.

### TERI SMOLKEN

(305) 932-2829 ext 7812

tsmolken@btbrc.org

For payments / accounting department.

### ERIC KAUFMAN

(305) 935-3454

eventsbyexecutivecaterers@gmail.com

Executive Caterers

### RABBI MARIO ROJZMAN

(305) 932-2829 ext 7817

rabbirojzman@btbrc.org

### RABBI EDWIN FARBER

(305) 932-2829 ext 7820

rabbifarber@btbrc.org

### CANTOR GASTON BOGOMOLNI

(305) 932-2829 ext 7822

cantorbogomolni@btbrc.org

NOTES:

