

WELCOME TO YOUR BAR/ BAT MITZVAH EXPERIENCE



YOUR BAR/BAT MITZVAH JOURNEY AT BTBRC

TIMELINE



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All B'nai Mitzvah Families must be members of Beth Torah.

TIMELINE:

The following timeline will help you plan for your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

Hebrew Literacy Prerequisites & Individual Tutoring Policy:

To support our students' mastery of Hebrew reading, the BM program provides a 30-minute one-on-one session with a dedicated tutor. To maximize the effectiveness of these sessions, students must be "alphabetized"—able to identify letters, vowels, and decode basic phonemes. If a student is not yet at this level, parents agree to secure external private tutoring beforehand. This ensures the student enters our system with the confidence needed for a pleasant and productive preparation experience.

Three or more years in advance:

Register for Passport to B'nai Mitzvah – Beth Torah's B'nai Mitzvah Savings Program: information about the program is available at: <https://btbrc.org/passportsavingsprogram/>

Two years in advance:

- Schedule an appointment with Dr. Gaby Rascovsky to learn more about the Bar/Bat Mitzvah program, service, options, schedule, and preparations.
- Book Bar/Bat Mitzvah date and Tefillin service (if applicable) with Dr. Rascovsky and pay a deposit to guarantee your desired date.
- Begin attending regular Friday night and Shabbat morning services.
- Schedule a meeting with Eric Kaufman, of Executive Caterers, the exclusive caterer for Beth Torah, to discuss oneg and party options.
- We strongly suggest immersing your child in a Hebrew/Jewish program such as Beth Torah Benny Rok Campus' Scheck Family Religious School or Jewish Day School.

One year in advance:

- Marla Cohen will contact you to schedule a meeting with Cantor Askenazi in order to confirm Bar/Bat Mitzvah tutoring.
- Parents are required to attend the first tutoring session with the Bar/Bat Mitzvah student.
- You will receive a customized link containing the Aliyah Blessings, the appropriate Haftarah/Torah Trope, and your customized Haftarah/Torah Portion Binder. You will receive a hardcopy of information at the family intake meeting.
- It is suggested that your child know how to read Hebrew on a beginner to intermediate level, otherwise a private tutor will be recommended.
- The student will attend our Journey to Mitzvot (J2M) program – Information about J2M is available at: <https://btbrc.org/j2m-bar-bat-mitzvah-program/>

Six months in advance:

- Bar/Bat Mitzvah student must obtain and purchase ritual items, tefillin, and tallit, as appropriate.
- Marla Cohen will contact you to schedule first progress meeting with the Clergy.

Five months in advance:

- Discuss Mitzvah Project at the J2M Program.

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Three months in advance:

- Bar/Bat Mitzvah student attends morning minyan to learn about Tefillin and Daily Services.
- If not already doing so, attend Friday night Shabbat B'Yachad and Saturday morning services at least twice a month as a family to familiarize yourselves with the service.
- Pay all remaining synagogue fees/financial obligations in full related to Bar/Bat Mitzvah, which includes Synagogue Dues.
- Discuss honoring the Bar/Bat Mitzvah with a leaf on the Tree of Life (located in the synagogue main lobby) with Jill Koch.

One/Two months in advance:

- Marla Cohen will contact you to schedule a meeting with Rabbi Rojzman and/or Rabbi Farber to discuss the distribution of Honors and the preparation of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah speech.
- Schedule your dress rehearsal and pictures with Marla Cohen, who will clear the date on the Beth Torah Calendar and with the clergy.
- If you are sponsoring Kiddush and/or Oneg please contact Marla Cohen (optional).
- Finalize arrangements with Executive Caterers for your Oneg celebration, if applicable.
- Finalize order of flowers for the Bima with Marla Cohen.
- If you are planning to print a program for the ceremony for your guests, please provide a draft to Marla Cohen for proofing of the information and Hebrew in advance of printing.

Two weeks in advance:

- Final copy of child's speech due to Rabbis, together with a list of all honors with Hebrew names, where applicable.

Week of Simcha:

- Pictures and dress rehearsal with Rabbis and Cantor. Tefillin Service (if applicable).

Day of Simcha:

- Don't worry – you're ready. Please remember to bring your binder and your speech to services.
- We are proud of all of your child's accomplishments!

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We have carefully thought out the most popular requests to ensure that you have an enjoyable Simcha. Bundles have been created for every type of B'nai Mitzvah we offer.

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	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Security	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sound & Musical Accompanist*	✓	✓	✓		✓
Livestream	Additional Cost	Additional Cost	✓	✓	Additional Cost
Flowers**	Additional Cost	Additional Cost	Additional Cost	Additional Cost	Additional Cost
Standard Oneg/Kiddush ***			Additional Cost	Additional Cost	

*Included in your fee is our keyboard player. If you would like to have additional musicians, please be in contact with Marla Cohen.

** Floral arrangements: Please contact Marla Cohen. 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.

*** If you are interested in sponsoring an Oneg Shabbat and/or Kiddush, there is an additional fee. We are happy to coordinate and place the order with the caterer, on your behalf. Contact Marla Cohen to make the arrangements.

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Becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah is a unique time in life.

The Journey to Mitzvot (J2M) Program is carefully tailored to help your child prepare for this significant ceremony. We will teach the technical aspects of this journey, as well as help your child find personal meaning in this ancient tradition. Together we will help your child become a stronger member of the Jewish community and responsible citizen of the world.

As a member of J2M, your child will be part of a supportive community of students and families.

Together, we aim to:

- Ensure students and their families feel welcomed and supported by the Beth Torah family.
- Teach students about our prayer services, their meanings, and structures, help them master basic prayers and confidently lead any service.
- Guide students in learning to read and navigate Torah and Haftarah portions, understanding their meanings and relevance to their lives.
- Introduce students to the practice of a wide range of mitzvot (sacred Jewish obligations).
- Foster a sense of community through team building and leadership activities.
- Provide each student with the opportunity to write their own statement of Jewish identity, exploring various aspects of the Jewish world.

Our program is also built around core Jewish values, which include:

Shabbat, T'filin, Kashrut, Respect for the Elderly, Bikur Cholim (visiting the sick), Addressing Homelessness and Poverty, Protecting the Environment, Caring for Animals, G'meloot Chasadim (Acts of Loving Kindness), Loving One's Neighbor, Righteousness, Connection to Israel, Building Community,

As you look forward to the celebration, we invite you to share this learning process and journey with your child. We are here for you every step of the way on your B'nai Mitzvah Journey.

B'Shalom,

Rabbi Mario Rojzman, Senior Rabbi

Rabbi Ed Farber, Rabbi Emeritus

Cantor Marcos Askenazi, Cantor

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CATERING:



A NOTE FROM OUR CATERER

Dear Beth Torah B'nai Mitzvah Families,

It is our great pleasure 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. We 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: catering@eventsbyexecutivecaterers.com



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Information For Your Invitation

Synagogue Name: Beth Torah Benny Rok Campus

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

Phone: (305) 932-2829

Service Locations: Scheck Family Sanctuary or Perez Chapel

Service	Time
Friday Night Shabbat B'Yachad	7:00 PM
Shabbat Morning	9:30 AM
Shabbat Evening Havdalah	Depends on when Shabbat ends
Weekday Minyan	8:30 AM
Weekday Private	10:00 AM
Rosh Chodesh/Chol HaMoed Chag	Private at family discretion

CUSTOMS

As an egalitarian 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.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Beth Torah is an egalitarian 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 may be taken. We ask you to please schedule the dress rehearsal and your photographer with the Rabbi's assistant, Marla Cohen by phone at (305) 932-2829 ext. 7818 or email at mcohen@btbrc.org. There is often more than one Simcha on any given weekend and we need to make sure there is no conflict.

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STATEMENT ON KASHRUT AT BAR/BAT MITZVAH RECEPTIONS

We are pleased to offer some recommendations for Bar/Bat Mitzvah receptions. Judaism views the celebration of a Bar/Bat Mitzvah as a Seudat Mitzvah, a festive mitzvah meal, reflecting our joy as our children reach the age to observe the Mitzvot. We encourage you to consider guiding your reception keeping in mind the Dietary Laws of Judaism—Kashrut.

In Miami, Kosher facilities, including our own beautiful Deakter Ballroom and high-quality Kosher caterers, are readily available. Unfortunately, many Bar/Bat Mitzvah receptions are not Kosher. Some believe it is hypocritical to have a Kosher reception if they do not keep Kosher regularly. However, just as attending Shabbat services or observing certain holidays occasionally is not hypocritical, neither is choosing a Kosher reception for this special occasion. A Bar/Bat Mitzvah is not just another birthday; it holds special significance for us as Jews. A Kosher meal adds Jewish meaning and religious significance, allowing both observant and non-observant Jews to feel comfortable at the celebration.

For those planning a reception on Shabbat, we recommend organizing the event in a way that respects the sanctity of the day. This ensures that the values expressed during the Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony extend into the celebration.

Please note that the Beth Torah Clergy adhere to the National Policy of the United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism, which prohibits their attendance at non-Kosher receptions following a Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

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 a friend to distribute the candies. Candies should be soft, individually wrapped, and of course, Kosher. Sunkist fruit gems are a good option.

CHILD SUPERVISION AT YOUR SERVICE

We strongly recommend that you designate a family member or friend to sit with the friends of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah. This will help ensure proper decorum and no disruptions during the service. B'nai Mitzvah young friends must sit in the front rows after or opposite the family of the honoree.

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CONTACT LIST:

RABBI MARIO ROJZMAN	Senior Rabbi	Contact Marla See below	rabbirojzman@btbrc.org
RABBI EDWIN FARBER	Rabbi Emeritus	Contact Marla See below	rabbifarber@btbrc.org
CANTOR MARCOS ASKENAZI	Cantor	Contact Marla See below	cantormarcos@btbrc.org
JILL KOCH	Executive Director	305-932-2829 x 7834	jkoch@btbrc.org
DR. GABRIELA RASCOVSKY Director of Lifelong Learning	B'nai Mitzvah Initial Inquiry	305-932-2829 x 7821	grascovsky@btbrc.org
JENI BUCHHOLZ Youth & Camp Director	J2M	305-932-2829 x 7848	jbuchholz@btbrc.org
DIANA GARCIA Director of Finance	Accounting	305-932-2829 x 7812	dgarcia@btbrc.org
MARLA COHEN Executive Assistant to the Clergy	To schedule logistics, appointments, questions about Kiddush, flowers, service time, invitations	305-932-2829 x 7818	mcohen@btbrc.org
ERIC KAUFMAN	Executive Caterers	305-932-2829 x 7830	catering@eventsbyexecutivecaterers.com

THANK YOU:

We are deeply grateful for the trust you have placed in the Beth Torah Benny Rok Campus clergy and staff during your child's journey to becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah. It is an honor and a privilege to be a part of this significant milestone in your and their life.

We are proud to support your child through their growth and achievements. Thank you for allowing us to share this special time with your family.

Your Beth Torah family looks forward to celebrating this simcha and many more with your family.

