



BAR/BAT MITZVAH PARENT HANDBOOK

This booklet is divided into three sections:

- Section 1:** A timeline marking when certain tasks need to be completed.
- Section 2:** Has information you need about your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah.
- Section 3:** Identifies your role in assisting the Temple and other Bar/Bat Mitzvah families.

The purpose of this guide is to describe and explain the philosophy and policies of Temple Isaiah concerning Bar/Bat Mitzvah. We suggest that you read this guide carefully because it will answer many of your questions. If after reading this handbook you still have questions, please feel free to call the Temple office and speak with the B'nai Mitzvah coordinator.

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“TO DO” TIMELINE

This timeline is a personalized way for you to keep track of when you need to be aware of certain components of preparing for your child’s Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Place his/her date on the last line and work backwards to assign the proper dates.

- _____ 6th Grade logistics meeting – October/November of 6th grade
- _____ Sign up for family assignment as room coordinator or reader coordinator.
- _____ 1 year before Bar/Bat Mitzvah date – begin attending Friday night or Saturday morning Services at Temple Isaiah twice a month.
- _____ **Approximately 9 months** before Bar/Bat Mitzvah date – family meets with the Rabbi.
- _____ 7 months before – Bar/Bat Mitzvah coordinator will contact family to set up Tutoring. Parent(s) may call ahead of time if child’s schedule is known.
- _____ 6 months before Bar/Bat Mitzvah – fee due and tutoring begins.
- _____ 6 months before Bar/Bat Mitzvah – all dues, tuition and fees paid and kept current.
- _____ 5 months before, schedule a D’var Torah Meeting with Rabbi Axler
- _____ 3 months before – order kipot if ordering from Temple.
- _____ 4 weeks before – let the office know if you wish to help sponsor the Friday night Oneg Shabbat. The fee is \$108.00 (subject to change). There will be an Oneg after services regardless. Sponsoring help make for a nicer Oneg.
- _____ 3 weeks before – decide who you might want to be a reader on the Friday night before the ceremony. Coordinate this with the family you are sharing the Bar/Bat Mitzvah with and call the reader coordinator for that evening. **Also, remember that only Temple members older than 13 (not the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Student) may read during Friday night services.**
- _____ 2 weeks before – have aliyah and prayer reading forms neatly filled out with Hebrew names (where appropriate) and give to Bar/Bat Mitzvah Coordinator.
- _____ 2 weeks before – contact the Saturday sanctuary coordinators who are to set up the sanctuary to make sure the room will be arranged to meet your needs.
- _____ 2 weeks before – tell the Bar/Bat Mitzvah coordinator approximately how many guests you will have so the sanctuary seating can be set up appropriately. If having a kiddush, luncheon or evening affair, all room set ups must be handed in. Caterer Certificate of Insurance and Health Department Certificate, liquor license along with Temples Caterer’s Agreement must be received from caterer. Any other outside vendors must send their Certificate of Insurance to B’nai Mitzvah coordinator.
- _____ 2 weeks before – if desired reserve room for babysitting through the B’nai Mitzvah Coordinator. **Adult supervision is mandatory.**
- _____ 1 week before date the student has a rehearsal on a Thursday (3:45 to 4:45) with the Rabbi.
- _____ **Day before:** Rehearsal for student and parents with Rabbi. (9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.)
- _____ **Day before:** Bring into the Temple office: (if sharing the service, bring in the following items between the two families). 3 1-pound braided challahs • 1 lg. bottle of white grape juice • kosher white wine (minimum 1.5 liters) • kipot if you have them (with baskets, if desired) • Bar/Bat Mitzvah pamphlets (with baskets, if desired) **RETURN FOB(S)**
- _____ **BAR/BAT MITZVAH DATE! Mazel Tov!**

TEMPLE ISAIAH'S PHILOSOPHY OF BAR/BAT MITZVAH

Temple Isaiah views a child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah as a landmark in his/her Jewish education and identity. Not only is a Bar/Bat Mitzvah a ceremony which marks the religious coming of age, but it recognizes the child's and family's commitment to Judaism and its traditions. In order to make a difference in the life of our children and families, the Temple offers a comprehensive program that encompasses the middle and high school years.

Our experience is that the older the children, the more they need the continued guidance and nurturing environment of their synagogue. We want the synagogue to become an integral part of the life of our children and their families. We want our children to continue to grow Jewishly, to be challenged intellectually and to be supported in their formative years. In our judgment, these goals are best achieved through continued study through Confirmation and beyond. We at Temple Isaiah are convinced that the more our children are with us, the more they will know, and the more committed and connected they will be. We look forward to continuing to be a part of your child's Jewish journey today and for many years to come. **MAZEL TOV!**

REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES

EDUCATION: It is the Temple's philosophy and policy to provide a comprehensive educational experience for all our children. Preparing for a Bar/Bat Mitzvah at Temple Isaiah includes formal study through attendance at the Temple Isaiah Religious School as well as regularly attending services the year before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah. We hope that the students make a commitment to continue with a religious education through Confirmation class (10th grade). When beginning this journey, the Bar/Bat Mitzvah students along with their parents/guardians enter into a *B'rit* (covenant) with the Temple to this effect.

SERVICE ATTENDANCE: Our policy is that each student, we hope together with their family, must attend Shabbat services twice a month for the twelve months prior to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony. The policy was established to help prepare and familiarize the child with Shabbat services and rituals, as well as experience the spiritual joy of Temple Isaiah services. We believe this is necessary and important, so the child is more fully prepared to accept the commitment he/she is about to undertake. These services include Friday evening and Saturday morning Shabbat, as well as holiday services. These Saturday morning services include our periodic "Shabbat & Schmooze" services and our "Lobby Minyan". Consult the website (www.templeisaiah.org) for service schedules. Yellow attendance cards are available in a basket on the table outside the sanctuary, for the student to fill in and hand to the Rabbi at the conclusion of the service to be credited for his/her attendance toward fulfilling this requirement. We realize attendance during the summer can be difficult. If your child(ren) are going to a Jewish camp, let the B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator know so a record of attendance can be made. If your child is away at overnight camp, let the B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator know so a note can be made for the accepted absence.

TUTORING: Individual tutoring will begin approximately six months before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah date. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah coordinator will contact the family about setting up a schedule for tutoring. You are welcome to call beforehand if you already know your child's schedule. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah fee is due **before** tutoring begins, unless payment arrangements are made with the Temple Administrator. Tutoring times are scheduled for individual thirty-minute sessions that meet weekly up through the Bar/Bat Mitzvah week. **If a Bar/Bat Mitzvah tutoring session is missed without giving the Temple office at least 24 hours' notice (other than illness or emergency), there is a \$25.00 penalty charge.** In the parent packet there is a Tutoring payment plan sheet to sign and return to coordinator.

The course of study provided by the tutor, Rabbi, and religious school for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Student is designed to teach each student the skills necessary for participating in Shabbat services, reading the Torah and Haftarah portions, and analyzing and explaining the significance of their particular portions.

SECURITY: In an effort to maintain security at Temple Isaiah, the doors leading into the building remain locked at all times. For your convenience it is **mandatory** that each family receive a KEY FOB. These FOBS are programmed to unlock only the front school doors during tutoring hours. Even if the majority of your tutoring times are during business hours, we ask that you get a FOB, because sometimes that time may change to an after hour time. There is a mandatory **\$10.00 CASH ONLY** security deposit for each FOB. The security deposit will be refunded to you at the time you return your FOB, which should be by your child(ren)'s last day of tutoring.

If you already have a FOB, for instance, to gain entry to the preschool or religious school, please let us know. This way we can re-program the FOB for entrance during tutoring. You DO NOT need to pay another fee.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS: All fees (e.g., Temple Member Commitment, school tuition, Bar/Bat Mitzvah fees) must be current at the time the child starts tutoring (six months before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah date) and remain current through the Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

SHABBAT EDUCATIONAL RETREAT: Bar/Bat Mitzvah students are required to attend an overnight Shabbat Educational Retreat as a part of their sixth-grade program. The date will be published in a timely manner. The retreat will usually be in the winter of your child's 6th grade year.

D'VAR TORAH MEETING: About five months before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah, a *D'var Torah* Meeting needs to be scheduled between your child and the Rabbi. This appointment can be made the same time the tutoring schedule is organized between parents and the coordinator. All Bar/Bat Mitzvah will deliver a *d'var* (brief talk, interpretation or explanation) on either the Torah portion or the Haftarah portion for the week. They will meet with the Rabbi one or more times to discuss the meaning of their portion and to facilitate the writing of this *d'var*. They will then submit **in a Word document** the draft to Rabbi Axler to: rabbiaxler@templeisaiah.org as well as Lori Levitas at lori@templeisaiah.org

GROUP SESSIONS WITH THE RABBI: In the months before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah date, the student begins a series of six weekly group sessions with the Rabbi. They are held on Thursdays, between 4:45 and 5:45pm. If the student cannot attend one series of the six sessions, he/she is welcome to join another series **BEFORE** their B'nai Mitzvah date. These sessions involve a range of significant topics such as: the meaning of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah, G-d and prayer, modern Israel, the Holocaust, the Torah, and rituals and customs. An additional goal of the class is to provide the students with an opportunity to get to know the Rabbi more personally and to explore questions with him. These sessions must be completed **BEFORE** the child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah date.

REHEARSALS: In addition, the Rabbi holds two rehearsals. The first one will be on Thursday afternoon between 3:45 to 4:45pm, the week before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah date. The second and final rehearsal will include the student and his/her parents. This rehearsal typically takes place from 9:30-11:00 am the Friday morning before the scheduled Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony. This is for each student in preparation for the ceremony. The list of Aliyot (those who will say the Torah blessings) and Readers are due at the first Thursday rehearsal. All FOB(s) must be returned to the B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator on this day. No professional photos or videos can be taken during the rehearsals. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!**

MITZVAH PROJECT: We encourage our students to voluntarily take on a Mitzvah Project during the year of their Bar/Bat Mitzvah. The themes of the projects vary tremendously, but they are all valuable and are *Gemilut Chasidim* (acts of loving kindness). Whenever a Mitzvah Project is taken on by one of our students and it is appropriate to advertise to our Temple Isaiah community, we will be happy to include information in the E-Blast, the Religious School weekly email and in the Prophet under a section called Community News. If you are going to leave a collection container at the Temple, they are left here generally up to two months prior to your bar/bat mitzvah.

SHABBAT SERVICES ON THE BAR/BAT MITZVAH WEEKEND

SHABBAT EVE SERVICE – FRIDAY

FAMILY ATTENDANCE AT FRIDAY EVE SERVICE: Families and Bar/Bat mitzvah are expected to be at Friday night services in order to begin the Shabbat of their Bar/Bat mitzvah together with the community and with the honor of leading the community during the service. These honors vary according to the desire of the family, but **always** involves the Bar/Bat Mitzvah student leading the extended Friday evening Kiddush (Blessing over the wine/juice). Our Friday night services are typically at 8:00pm, with the fourth Friday (Family Service) at 7:00pm. However, there are exceptions to this, due to several factors. Check the website schedule and/or the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Coordinator.

READERS: The Shabbat Reader Coordinator will contact you at least a week before your ceremony to ask whom you would like to have read during the Friday night Shabbat service.

Often families will recite the candle blessing or the Torah blessing. **Only adult Temple Isaiah members may be asked to read during Shabbat evening services.** Siblings over 13 years old may serve as readers, but the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Student *does not* read. Friday night readings are a way of engaging our members to help lead a service and to help with a sense of community.

ONEG: Many families choose to honor the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Student during the Shabbat evening service the night before the ceremony. If you wish, you may provide a (store bought, nut free) special cake/cookie, etc. to mark your *simcha*, otherwise we will supply the food. If you would like to sponsor the oneg, please contact the Temple office ahead of time to let them know of your plans. Sponsoring the Oneg costs \$108 (subject to change) per family and will result in an expanded Oneg selection. There will be an Oneg Shabbat after Friday night services regardless of sponsorship. However, a sponsored Oneg will increase quantity of what is being served, for example we will add a large fruit tray, etc.

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE - BAR/BAT MITZVAH CEREMONY

Much time and preparation has gone into making the Bar/Bat Mitzvah's participation in the service a memorable and spiritual milestone in the student's life. All the requirements and guidelines are set up to provide for a well-prepared student and family. This helps ensure that the service will run smoothly, and the student's experience will be a pleasant and meaningful one.

The service begins on time. All guests should be seated at least ten minutes before the service which is scheduled to begin at 10:00am. The Rabbi will take each Bar/Bat Mitzvah Student into his office around 9:45am to help them focus and bring peace into their mindset. We encourage that Bar/Bat Mitzvah families arrive no later than 9:30am.

At Temple Isaiah it is customary to have the student chant the Blessings before and after the Torah and Haftarah portions and recite the portions themselves in Hebrew. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah student will have prepared a speech explaining the meaning of the either the Torah or Haftarah portion or its significance. The student will also present personal remarks. We find our students are confident and calm because they have been prepared thoroughly. The speech is intended to reflect the "voice" of our students and their reaction to the material in their portions.

There are prayers/readings and aliyot that the student's family and close friends can participate in during the service. Each family may have several readings which can be assigned to family and/or friends. There are some readings that are particularly appropriate to be recited by non-Jewish family members or friends. In addition, you may invite family members/friends to share the special honor (Aliyah) of blessing the Torah before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah student does. Each family has a number of aliyot; the last aliyah is chanted by the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Student. Grandparents (when applicable) usually receive the first honor(s), then family members and/or friends. The parents recite the next to the last blessing and the child goes last. The Hebrew names for those who are blessing the Torah are needed (if available) and should be given to the Rabbi two weeks before your date (at the Thursday rehearsal with Rabbi).

HONORS: During the Shabbat morning service, in addition to the Aliyot and English readings, each family may participate in the following Honors:

- Presentation of Tallit – the tallit is typically presented to the child by the parents although the honor is sometimes given to a grandparent or other relative. The tallit is handed to the child, the presenter gives the child a kiss and/or a hug, and then the presenter sits down. The child recites the blessing and then puts on the tallit.
- Lifting and holding the Torah (Hagbah) – one person from each family may be given this Honor. TORAH HOLDER/PASSER (13 or older. Must be Jewish). There can only be 1 Torah Holder & 1 Torah Passer. Please coordinate with your partner.
- Dressing the Torah (Gelilah) – up to two people (usually children) from each family assist the Rabbi in replacing the Torah cover, yad and crowns.
- Opening and closing the Ark. May be done by anyone.
- You will note that the Reading Sheet (in this packet), has alternative readings that are appropriate to be assigned to non-Jewish family or friends you wish to honor in this way. If you need further guidance in this question, feel free to consult with Rabbi Axler.

TRADITIONS AND ETIQUETTE: There are a number of traditions and etiquette guidelines that are important for guests to be aware of to safeguard the sanctity of the ceremony and to reduce distractions for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Student, family and worshippers. As tempting as it may be to applaud the student, congratulations are reserved for after the service. Leaving the Sanctuary should only be done when absolutely necessary, preferably not when the Torah is out of the Ark or during the Mourner's Kaddish. *Cell phones must be turned off. Texting during the service is not allowed.* **No photos or videos may be taken, unless it is by the approved videographer of Temple Isaiah.**

Many families are asked about what type of dress is appropriate for attending a Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony. Dresses or dressy pant suits for women and girls and ties and jackets/suits for men and boys are appropriate attire. Those who wish, are encouraged to wear a kippah as a sign of reverence and a tallit.

Guests who have young children should sit near a door in case the child becomes restless. This will allow them to slip out unobtrusively. Just outside the sanctuary in the school wing, the room immediately to your left (Youth Lounge) will be used as a **Quiet Room**. **All children must** be accompanied by adults while they are in the Quiet Room. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah family can request to have the ceremony streamed into that room. (This is not the same as a babysitting room which may be arranged separately-see below.)

BABYSITTING: You may reserve a small room for babysitting during the service. The room can be reserved from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. The families need to provide the babysitter and books, toys, etc. If requested, a TV will be provided, so that you can stream programs from your iPad, laptop, etc... You must contact the Bar/Bat Mitzvah coordinator to make these arrangements. It is the responsibility of the user to leave the room in a neat and orderly condition. We also only provide the space for your babysitting and carry no liability for injuries or damage to room.

IMPORTANT DETAILS TO PREPARE FOR THE BAR/BAT MITZVAH

TALLIT: It is customary for each family to provide their Bar/Bat Mitzvah with a tallit. The tallit is presented to the student by the parents at the beginning of the service. The tallit could (not absolutely necessary) have the Blessing on it so the student can recite the prayer before putting it on. If tallit does have a blessing, make sure the blessing is as follows:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו,
וְצִוָּנוּ לְהִתְעַטֵּף בְּצִיצִית.

This is just the English transliteration: Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu l'hitateif batzitzit.

If you are not sure this is the blessing on the tallit, before you purchase it, please make a copy and send it to the B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator for proofing. ***Online sites such as Amazon often feature something that looks like a tallit but which is a "Messianic Tallit" - that is, a tallit used by Christians. These are not appropriate under any circumstances. Please consult Rabbi Axler if you have any questions.

FLOWERS/FOOD BASKETS: Some families have found it a nice addition to decorate the front of the bimah with flowers. If you choose to do so, please have them before 4:00 p.m. on the Friday before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Families who share a Bar/Bat Mitzvah coordinate the ordering and payment for the flowers or baskets themselves. Please do not let water spill onto the carpet. The Temple also has two fake tall white long stem flowers in a glass vase to offer for free. If you are interested coordinate this with the B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator.

KIPOT: Many families like to order *kipot* (yarmulkas) for their guests. These can be ordered through the Temple OR from the comfort of your very own home computer. We have samples to show. All you need to do is make arrangements with B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator to see the samples and then place your order. The kipot are shipped directly to your home. If you prefer to order yourself, we use *Mazel Skull Cap*. Their contact information is: <http://www.kippah.com> or Toll Free: 1-888-547-7247. Here is the information you need in order to receive the same pricing as we receive: YOU MUST PAY IN FULL AT THE TIME OF ORDER. YOU CANNOT CHOOSE THE "BILL ME LATER OPTION". For customers to place their order online, our **username is ISA122** and our **password is TI200**. This is located on the bottom left of the webpage. *We do receive notification of orders made, please DO NOT share our username or password with anyone else.* Orders cannot be placed without an initial payment. Prices subject to change.

If you provide kipot, we suggest you put them in a basket placed on a table outside the sanctuary. You may want to arrange the child's name or invitation on the basket to guide your guests to the correct kipot.

BAR/BAT MITZVAH PROGRAM: Some families choose to provide a printed program describing the purpose of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony, the Torah and other Jewish traditions. Families who are sharing a Bar/Bat Mitzvah often choose to write the program together and have enough copies made for all their guests. This is optional and at the families' expense. For samples, please consult with the B'nai Mitzvah coordinator.

HONORING HOLOCAUST VICTIMS: REMEMBER A CHILD: It is customary for us, to remember bitter times even during times of joy. Some families choose to remember a child/relative who perished during the Holocaust. The Generation After organization will give you the name of a child who perished in the Holocaust. You are given a certificate as well as key information about the life of the matched child and when possible, will include bibliographic/references, citations, or links to enable families to conduct even more in-depth independent research. The generations can thereby "communicate" with each other and perhaps the tragically curtailed lives of those one-and-a-half million children will inform the lives of subsequent generations. You can request a particular gender and/or location as well as a specific person, to make it more personalized for your child and family. The Survivors organization needs at least eight weeks to make a match and get you the certificate. It is proper to send them a donation for their efforts. To participate in the Remember a Child program, be matched with a child Shoah victim, and receive a Scroll of Remembrance for your bar/bat mitzvah, please submit your completed information via the [Remember a Child/Program Participation Form](http://genafterdc.com/remember-a-child/program-participation-form/) (<http://genafterdc.com/remember-a-child/program-participation-form/>) on their newly designed webpage at <http://genafterdc.com>.

TABLE OUTSIDE OF SANCTUARY: If you choose to have kipot, handout or Holocaust memorial certificates, they may be displayed on this table. If requested, we will cover the table with the Temple's white tablecloth. Families are welcome to bring their own tablecloth if they want a different option.

HONORING YOUR SIMCHA: Most families choose to mark their special simcha by giving a donation to one of the Temple's funds as a way of giving thanks for one's blessings, in particular the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, Life Cycle Fund or the Religious School Fund. A list of the funds is printed in the Prophet, on the website or you can call the office. One particularly lovely way to honor this special day is with a leaf or rock added to our "Tree of Life", on the lobby-side wall of the sanctuary. Your B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator can help you with this.

HONORING YOUR TUTOR: Many families acknowledge the tutor's efforts by giving her/him a gift or making a donation to the Temple Library Fund in their honor.

PHOTOGRAPHY: Whenever photography is going to be done at the Temple, the date/time *MUST* be approved by the B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator. Photographs may **not** be taken during the

service under any circumstance or during rehearsals with Rabbi Axler. On the morning of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah service photographs may be taken from 8:00 to 9:30 am. If there is no one to open the door, please call the phone number given near the doorbell. If two families would like to take photographs on Saturday morning before the service, there is a great deal of coordination that must be taken care of beforehand. This can work, but can be extremely challenging because of the time constraint, there is a possibility that it will not work. Coordination between families/photographers is the key to success. During the week, the times can vary depending on what is happening at the Temple. No photos can be taken on Friday's before 11:30am or during rehearsals with the Rabbi. The Rabbi and Cantor are always pleased to be in your photographs if possible. It is also required that we receive your photographer's Certificate of Insurance.

LIVE STREAMING (NEW)/VIDEOGRAPHY: All Saturday morning b'nei mitzvah services will be streamed online via StreamSpot (unless a family or families have specifically requested that we NOT stream the service). Appropriate signage indicating the streaming, will be posted in the sanctuary so that guests/worshippers are aware. The stream may be watched live via Temple Isaiah's service, and may be watched as an archive for a month following the date. Here is the link: <https://venue.streamspot.com/07482aca>. Additionally, each family will be provided with a direct download link in the week following the service, allowing them to download a permanent digital file in the MP4 format. *** The streaming of services will utilize a static, high-resolution camera with one shot, allowing the viewer to easily see the activity that is happening in the middle of the bimah. In the event of a double-b'nei mitzvah service where one family requests that the service NOT be live-streamed, and the other family wants streaming, we will arrange for the stream to be password-protected. The login information will be provided to the family requesting streaming in advance of the service to enable distribution to family/friends to access the stream.

In conjunction with this service, we will continue to make available our partner **Iron Mountain Video (Bernie Eisenberg, 410-653-3979)** for families who wish to have professionally recorded and edited video of the service. Iron Mountain's current rates for this are Cost for a DVD: \$300 for a single Bar/Bat Mitzvah or \$200 per family for a double or triple; Additional DVD copies may be purchased for \$25. Sharing and downloading a HD version of the service via Vimeo is available at a cost of \$100; arrangements will continue to be made directly between the individual families and our partner and prices are subject to change. Bernie will notify Temple Isaiah b'nei mitzvah families of the availability of his services via e-mail well in advance of their dates.

No other recording of Shabbat morning services at Temple Isaiah, either by other professionals or laypersons, is permitted. Questions regarding these policies should be directed to Rabbi Axler at rabbiaxler@templeisaiah.org.

CONGREGATIONAL INVOLVEMENT AND THE BAR/BAT MITZVAH FAMILY

Temple Isaiah is a congregation run by its members. Congregants are actively involved in services, both behind the scenes and up front. For all services, congregants assist in setting up and supervising the sanctuary.

Each family will have three “jobs” for during the year before/of their Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

You will have the opportunity to choose the dates that you serve as:

1. Two (2) FRIDAY NIGHT SANCTUARY COORDINATOR/USHER – set up, usher, distribute prayer books and straighten the sanctuary for Friday night services
2. Two (2) FRIDAY NIGHT READER COORDINATOR – find readers (Temple members only) for one or more Friday evening services
3. Two (2) SATURDAY BAR/BAT MITZVAH ROOM COORDINATOR - Temple Isaiah Bar/Bat Mitzvah families set up the sanctuary, distribute prayer books and usher at the Bar/Bat Mitzvah preceding their own simcha and may be asked to help at two other Saturday morning services.

✧ There may be times that families are asked to volunteer for more than just the two coordinator responsibilities.

WHAT TO BRING FOR SATURDAY SERVICE

BAR/BAT MITZVAH PARENTS PROVIDE

Please bring these in no later than the Friday before Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

**There will be a cart for all of the above items in front of the B'nai Mitzvah Coordinators desk.
If sharing the service, bring in the following items between the two families.**

- One large bottle of sweet, kosher WHITE wine
- One large bottle of WHITE grape juice
- 3 braided challahs

OPTIONAL: ● Kipot ● Basket for Kipot ● Holocaust Certificate ● Handouts ● Basket for Handouts
● Directions to Party

- ❖ **Call your set-up families** several weeks before your simcha to let them know what items they will need to set out or other details, i.e., if they will need spaces left in the sanctuary to accommodate wheelchair

**TUTORING FOB(S) MUST BE RETURNED NO LATER THAN AT THE FRIDAY REHEARSAL
WITH RABBI AXLER.**

WEBSITE RESOURCES

You can find the Parent Handbook, Aliyot & Readings, Mitzvah Project Advice, Catering Contracts and many other resources at (<https://templeisaiah.org/> * Learning * Religious School * B'nai Mitzvah Resources

The numbers below are to links that are actual chanting blessings (turn on your speakers). You can find other prayers there as well.

Go to (<https://templeisaiah.org/> * Learning * Religious School * Prayers

Specific prayers you (bar/bat mitzvah) will lead include:

#9

#10

#27

#28

#35

#41

#42