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why?

what?

how?

and

anyway...

In case you have questions

Jewish Community of Ojai



**B'NAI
MITZV
AH**

WELCOME

We are delighted and honored that you are considering having your B'nai Mitzvah at the Jewish Community of Ojai.

This guide will help answer many of the questions you may have as you travel through the B'nai Mitzvah journey with your family, including the timeline, and the expectations the Jewish Community of Ojai has.

TIMELINE

24 months prior: contact us.

JCO expects a B'ar/Bat Mitzvah to be able to read Hebrew, therefore this is the time to start Hebrew instructions if you haven't already.

We work with a fantastic Hebrew teacher and can put you in touch if you so wish.

12 months prior: attend services.

We expect a Bar/Bat Mitzvah to attend services at least once month for at least a year.

Contact Rabbi Lisa and JCO to set a date for your B'nai Mitzvah.

6 months prior: start preparations for your Bar/Bat Mitzvah service.

Start focusing on the prayers. Our cantor Mitzi gives instructions in the proper chants and pronunciations.

Start meeting with Rabbi Lisa to discuss D'var Torah.

4 months prior: start planning the day with us. We are happy to help with any question you have, be it about a B'nai Mitzvah handout, the oneg, or anything else.

2 weeks prior: Final Bima rehearsal

TIPS

Parents:

To help your child prepare for their special day:

- * Listen to your child read aloud.
- * Help them schedule home study in preparation for their lessons.
- * Ensure your child attends lessons and services.

The day of:

We are happy to help as much or as little as you wish. We can put you in contact with caterers, photographers, party rental companies that we have worked with successfully - or you bring in your own suppliers.

Security: we recommend you consider hiring security and can put you in contact with the security team we work with.

We expect the sanctuary and the social hall to be returned to their original state after your celebration.

GLOSSAR

Y

Bar Mitvah/Bat Mitzvah - son of the commandments/
daughter of the commandments.

Bimah - the pulpit. During the course of the service, the B'nai mitzvah will be called up to the bimah to help lead the congregation in prayer and to participate in the Torah service.

Torah - the sacred scriptures of the Jewish people, consisting of the Five books of Moses (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy).

Parshah - the weekly Torah portion. The Torah is read in the same weekly portions over the course of one year. The date of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah determines which parshah the student will base his or her D'Var Torah on.

D'Var Torah - a speech using as its focus the message of the Torah portion.

Shabbat (Sabbath) - the last day of the week. A time of study and reflection, cherished as a period for family togetherness, spiritual reflection and personal renewal.

Our Sabbath extends from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday, ushered in with the ritual lighting of candles and related prayers.

Shalom - Hebrew for “hello,” “goodbye,” and “peace.”

The traditional greeting on Shabbat is “Shabbat Shalom”.

Aliyah (“Going Up”) - the honor of being called to the Torah (plural: Aliyot). Often times families honor family members and friends with the opportunity to recite the special prayers that precede and follow the reading of each of the sections of the Torah portion.

Rabbi - our Rabbi is Rabbi Lisa. She will be leading the service and guiding your B'nai Mitzvah.

Mishkan T'filah - the prayer book (**siddur**) used by our congregation.

Tallit - the fringed prayer shawl worn by Jewish people who have reached thirteen years of age. It is worn during morning prayers and Torah services. At JCO we encourage both girls and boys to wear a tallit during Bar/Bat Mitzvah service.

Torah Service - consists of three parts: removing the Torah (the Five Books of Moses) from the Ark, study of the week's Torah portion, and returning the Torah to the Ark.