

# *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* **Procedures** **for** **Parents and Students**

**Temple Sinai**  
**Dresher, PA**



תורה • עבודה • גמילות חסדים  
**TEMPLE SINAI**  
Learning • Serving • Caring

**Revised February 2023**  
**Shevat 5783**

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May 2022

Dear Temple Sinai *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* Family:

When it comes to milestones in a young person's life, becoming a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* is without a doubt the most exciting. It is also one of great significance and a celebration in which you and your child will invest much time and energy. It is our hope that the ceremony will be one which all of you enjoy immensely.

We also hope that you will find the process of preparing for this momentous event meaningful. There are many components to it and a great many details to consider. Hopefully, this handbook will serve as a helpful guide and answer many of your questions as you plan for your special day.

With so much to attend to, it is possible to lose sight of what becoming a *Bar* or *Bat Mitzvah* truly represents. It is an opportunity for family, friends and the congregation to celebrate as a young person says: "I am proud of who I am, of what I have learned and from where I came. I am proud to be Jewish and want to do my part to make this world a better place." If that can be said, then it matters little how much of the service one leads or how elaborate the celebration is following the ceremony. The greatest blessing we experience comes from celebrating our child's commitment to the Jewish people and to Jewish life.

We, and the rest of the Temple Sinai professional staff, look forward to sharing in the preparations for your special day!

*Mazal Tov!*

*Rabbi Adam Wohlberg*

Rabbi Adam Wohlberg

*Rabbi Sam Hollander*

Rabbi Sam Hollander

*Shira Weissbach*

Shira Weissbach,  
Director of Education



# **BAR/BAT MITZVAH TIMETABLE**

## **(What needs to be done and When it needs to be done)**

**End of 4th grade:** *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* dates will be assigned at a meeting with students and parents. At this meeting Rabbi Wohlberg, Rabbi Hollander, and Shira Weissbach and others, will review several important components of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* process. Any issues that arise concerning a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* date should be brought to the attention of Shira Weissbach as soon as possible.

Temple Sinai is a wonderful venue for a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* celebration. The synagogue can be reserved as soon as a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* date has been acquired. Questions and reservation requests should be directed to Ari Goldberg, our Executive Director ([ari@tsinai.com](mailto:ari@tsinai.com) or 215-643-6510 ext 105).

**15 - 18 Months Ahead:** Depending upon your celebration date, you will receive a digital letter from us asking you to finalize the space needed for your celebration at Temple Sinai (e.g. Friday *Shabbat* dinner, Saturday extended *kiddush*/luncheon and/or Saturday evening celebration).

Note: If you are planning a **Saturday evening celebration** at Temple Sinai, please note that the start time of your celebration will be dependent upon the time at which *Shabbat* ends.

**Please Rabbi Wohlberg for the appropriate time at which to start your event at Temple Sinai.**

**Mitzvah project details** should be shared with the rabbis or Shira Weissbach.

**12-15 Months Ahead:** You will be contacted in order to schedule:

1. A date on which to attend a Shabbat morning service at **which the pre-Bar/Bat Mitzvah student will be called to the Torah for an aliyah with his/her family**. Rabbi Wohlberg or Rabbi Hollander will give recognition to the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* student and his/her family and the student will receive his/her own copy of the siddur (prayerbook) to be used during Bar/Bat Mitzvah lessons and beyond.
2. **The start of individual lessons.**
3. The first of 3 meetings with Rabbi Wohlberg and/or Rabbi Hollander. **Prior to the first meeting, you will receive a packet of information/forms to be filled out and returned to Edy Israel.**
4. You will also receive an assignment for your family to serve as “**Shabbat morning greeters**”. Typically you will fulfill this mitzvah of *hachnasat orchim* (“welcoming guests”) one to three weeks ahead of your child’s ceremony.

**10 Months Ahead:** **If you/family members/friends would like to read Torah at your child’s Bar/Bat Mitzvah service, please inform Rabbi Hollander** no later than 6 months prior to your service.

Purchase Religious Apparel - **Tallit and Tefillin** (can be purchased in our Sisterhood Judaica shop).

You will receive our *b'nei mitzvah* information form asking for details regarding your celebrations (e.g. caterer, # of guests, etc). **These forms must be returned no later than 4 months** before the celebration. These forms are available on the Temple Sinai website ([www.tsinai.com](http://www.tsinai.com)) by clicking on “Ritual” and selecting “Bar/Bat Mitzvah Information” from the drop-down menu.

**Timeline continued on the back of this page**

# **BAR/BAT MITZVAH TIMETABLE**

## **(What needs to be done and When it needs to be done)**

- 6 Months Ahead:** You will be contacted by Edy Israel to schedule a **2nd meeting with Rabbi Wohlberg**.
- The student's **Mitzvah Project** should be well underway.
- Photography forms** must be completed and returned to Edy Israel.
- Submit a draft of your **Bar/Bat Mitzvah invitation** to Rabbi Wohlberg for review.
- Send a **picture and short biography** of your *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* child to Edy Israel (edisrael@tsinai.com) for inclusion in the congregation's weekly email.
- 2 Months Ahead:** Submit to Rabbi Wohlberg for approval:
1. **Parent's Prayer** (offered by parents on the bimah) in front of the Ark.
  2. **Family Bar/Bat Mitzvah brochure** (optional). If you choose to create one, it must be approved by Rabbi Wohlberg or Rabbi Hollander no later than 1 month prior to your *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* service.
  3. The *final version* of the student's *D'var Torah* should be submitted to Rabbi Hollander for approval *no later than 1 month* prior to the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* date.
- 1 Month Ahead:** Submit names for the Temple Sinai **Shabbat brochure** (people whom you wish to recognize, remember or thank) to Edy Israel.
- Rabbi Wohlberg or Rabbi Hollander will schedule your family's attendance at morning minyan** during the week preceding your *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* service (Monday or Thursday morning). *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* students participate in the service and typically read from the Torah. Family members are called up to the Torah for an *aliyah*. Your family will be invited to **sponsor the minyan breakfast**.
- 1 - 2 Weeks Ahead:** **Rehearse with Rabbi Wohlberg or Rabbi Hollander** in the Sanctuary and provide the rabbi with the final version of your **honors/aliyot list**.
- Serve as greeters at a Shabbat morning service prior to your simcha (one week or more prior to your family's *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* service.)
- Week of:** Attend Monday or Thursday morning *minyan*.
- Family photographed on the *bimah* (optional).

Contact information for synagogue personnel is located on the back of the handbook cover.

## **PREREQUISITES**

**Families who wish to celebrate a child's becoming a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* at Temple Sinai must be members in good standing.**

In order to become a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* at Temple Sinai a student must have completed at least five years of Religious School or the equivalent at a Jewish Day School. The student must be enrolled in a Religious School, Day School or Hebrew High School at the time of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* ceremony and must continue his/her studies through the end of 7th grade. Even when the *Bat/Bar Mitzvah* ceremony takes place before the student has reached 7th grade, a student is required to continue his/her studies through the end of 7th grade.

## **ATTENDANCE**

It cannot be emphasized strongly enough how much a familiarity with our synagogue's Shabbat services will aid a student in feeling more relaxed and comfortable on the day of his/her celebration. Please plan to attend Shabbat services (Friday night and especially Shabbat morning) regularly from now until the time of your family's *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* ceremony.

## **TALLIT & TEFILLIN**

During the Vav year (6th grade), students will be introduced to the practice of wearing *tallit* and *tefillin*. Families are strongly encouraged to purchase a set of *tefillin* for their son or daughter. *Tallitot* and *Tefillin* are available for purchase in the Sisterhood Judaica Shop.

## **RECOGNITION FOR A BAR/BAT MITZVAH STUDENT ONE YEAR IN ADVANCE**

We will contact your family to schedule a date on which to attend a Shabbat morning service at which the pre-*Bar/Bat Mitzvah* student will be called to the *Torah* for an aliyah with his/her family. Rabbi Wohlberg or Rabbi Hollander will give recognition to the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* student and his/her family.

## **TRAINING PROCESS**

The family will be contacted approximately 1 year before the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* date to schedule the start of lessons. It is important that a parent be present for the entire first lesson.

Lessons are generally 30 minutes in length; and are conducted on Zoom. Lessons are provided weekly and are scheduled to accommodate the student's schedule.

In order for lessons to begin, a family's synagogue financial obligations must be up to date and the student must be enrolled in an approved Jewish educational program (i.e. religious school or day school).

Please note: family members and family friends of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* can be assigned a Torah reading for the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* ceremony. These arrangements must be made no later than 6 months prior to the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* ceremony.

## **MITZVAH PROJECT**

Students are required to take part in a *mitzvah* project prior to becoming a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*. The purpose of the mitzvah project is to give the student a greater awareness of the responsibility that we have as Jewish adults to fix the broken elements in our world. A mitzvah project can take many forms, but it should help a student feel that he/she can have an impact on the lives of others.

Information regarding a *mitzvah* project will be shared with families a year-and-a-half before the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* date or earlier at the family's request.

A student should decide on his/her mitzvah project no later than 14 months prior to his/her *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* ceremony. Details of the mitzvah project should be shared one of the rabbis or with Shira Weissbach.

The *mitzvah* project must be started no later than 6 months prior to the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* ceremony.

If you are in need of project ideas, please contact Shira Weissbach at [sweissbach@tsinai.com](mailto:sweissbach@tsinai.com).

## **MEETINGS WITH THE RABBIS - WRITING A D'VAR TORAH (Speech)**

Each student and his/her parents will have 2 meetings with Rabbi Wohlberg. At the first meeting (10-12 months before the ceremony), the Rabbi will collect personal information from the student; and discuss the significance of becoming a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*.

After the first meeting with Rabbi Wohlberg, Rabbi Hollander will meet with the student to discuss and begin working on the student's *D'var Torah*. Once a draft of the *D'var Torah* has been submitted to Rabbi Hollander, he will assist the student with its completion.

At the second meeting with Rabbi Wohlberg, he will review the *D'var Torah*, listen to the student chant and discuss options for further Jewish education.

**Extra guidance and aid in writing the *D'var Torah* is available to students who request it.**

## **TIME OF SERVICES**

Our Friday night service customarily begins promptly at 6:00 P.M. and concludes at about 7:00 P.M. The service is followed by an *Oneg Shabbat* consisting of light refreshments to which the entire congregation is invited. **All families celebrating a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* are expected to attend Friday night services on the weekend of the ceremony.** Extended family and friends are welcome as well.

Our *Shabbat* morning service begins promptly at 9:30 A.M. and concludes at about noon. The *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* family is requested to arrive no later than 9:15 A.M. and to take their seats in the Sanctuary by 9:25 A.M. The service is followed by a *kiddush* to which the entire congregation is invited and at which congregants will want to extend good wishes to the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* family. Families that choose to celebrate in the synagogue with a *kiddush* luncheon are asked to include the congregation in their *Se'udat Mitzvah* (Meal of Celebration).

If the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* is being celebrated at a *Mincha/Ma'ariv/Havdalah* service, the starting time will be determined Rabbi Wohlberg and is based on the time at which Shabbat concludes. The

service lasts about one-and-a-half hours. **Rabbi Wohlberg should be consulted to establish the time of service and the time for the invitation.**

A Sunday morning *Rosh Chodesh*, *Chol HaMoed* or *Chanukah* service begins at 10:30 A.M. and concludes at about 12:00 P.M.

## **PARTICIPATION IN SERVICES**

### **Friday Night Service**

The *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* and his or her parents will ascend the *bimah* and read an English prayer before the blessing of the *Shabbat* candles. The *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* will lead the portions of the service and chant the *Kiddush* (the blessing over the wine)

### ***Shabbat* Morning - *Shabbat Mincha*/Ma'ariv/*Havdalah* - Sunday Service**

1. The parents of the *Bar Mitzvah* - and of the *Bat Mitzvah* if she has chosen to wear a *tallit* - will present the *tallit* to their child prior to the start of the service.
2. The *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* will lead portions of the service both in Hebrew and in English.
3. The *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* will be called to the *Torah* for an *aliyah*. Siblings or other relatives of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* are welcome to call him/her to the *Torah*. A recording may be obtained for young children. Or, if you prefer, a member of the clergy will call your child to the *Torah*.
4. Parents of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* will be called to the *Torah* for an *aliyah* as well as others whom the family wishes to honor.
5. The *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* will share a *D'var Torah* (speech) with the congregation.
6. Parents of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* are invited to share a prayer (the Parent's Prayer) with their child while on the *bimah*.
7. One of the rabbis will speak to the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* and then both rabbis will recite a blessing over the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* student. Parents, siblings and grandparents of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* will be invited to stand and recite the *Shehecheyanu* blessing with the Rabbi. As the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* then leaves the *bimah*, he/she will be showered with soft candy (optional) which is supplied by the ritual ushers.
8. At the conclusion of a *Shabbat* morning service, the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* and his/her immediate family will exit the sanctuary first and stand alongside the Rabbi in the auditorium as the blessings over the wine and challah are recited. (On certain *Shabbatot* these blessings will be recited on the *bimah* with the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* standing alongside the Rabbi.)

## **TORAH HONORS - ALIYOT**

An *aliyah* (being called to the *Torah* to recite the *Torah* blessings) will be given to you and a set number of adult men and women whom you designate. A person called to the *Torah* for an *aliyah* must be able to read or recite the *Torah* blessings. If a person to whom you wish to give a *Torah* honor needs assistance with the blessings, please call Edy Israel, and a copy (in Hebrew and with transliteration) will be sent to you. If adults called to the *bimah* have small children, please assure them that children are welcome on the *bimah*.

**A maximum of 6 adults can come up together for an *aliyah*.**

Specific honors information can be found on the honors sheets. These forms are available on the Temple Sinai website ([www.tsinai.com](http://www.tsinai.com)) by clicking on "Ritual" and selecting "*Bar/Bat Mitzvah* Information" from the drop-down menu. If members of your family are not Jewish, we are happy to provide them with honors. Please speak with Rabbi Wohlberg or Rabbi Hollander regarding all of the options that are available.

## **TORAH READERS**

Temple Sinai encourages family members and friends of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* who are comfortable doing so, to read a portion of *Torah* at the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* service. Those who wish to read *Torah* will be required to have their *Torah* readings approved by Rabbi Wohlberg or Rabbi Hollander.

Arrangements for such readings must be made by calling or emailing Rabbi Wohlberg no later than 6 months prior to the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* service.

## **REHEARSAL**

Approximately two weeks before the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* ceremony, each student and his/her parents will have a full rehearsal in the sanctuary.

The rehearsal dates are set at least 6 months in advance of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* rehearsal and communicated by mail. If your family has a conflict with the scheduled rehearsal, please be in touch with Edy Israel as soon as possible to discuss rescheduling.

At the rehearsal, the student will review everything that he/she has prepared and receive detailed instructions for his/her participation in the service (e.g. when to stand, sit, go to reader's table, etc). Students should bring their completed *D'var Torah* along with all other materials to the rehearsal. Parents should bring their Parent's Prayer. If siblings are actively participating - through *Torah* reading, calling up their sibling for his/her *aliyah*, or in another way - they should attend the rehearsal as well.

## **PARTICIPATION OF RELATIVES WHO ARE NOT JEWISH DURING THE BAR/BAT MITZVAH SERVICE**

Relatives of all faiths (i.e. grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, step-siblings) are welcome to come to the *bimah* for an *Aliyah* (*reciting the Torah blessings*), so long as there is at least one Jewish person called up for that *aliyah* and that Jewish individual is capable of reciting the *Torah* blessings. Please note that reciting the *Torah* blessings and kissing the *Torah* before and after the *Torah* reading are only appropriate for someone who is Jewish. Relatives who are not Jewish are asked to refrain from reciting the blessings or kissing the *Torah*.

Relatives of all faiths are permitted to come to the *bimah* to recite a non-liturgical reading, which will be assigned by Rabbi Wohlberg or Rabbi Hollander upon request.

Relatives of all faiths are permitted to come to the *bimah* to stand at the ark when the *Torah* is being taken from the ark, so long as Jewish relatives are responsible for opening and closing the curtain and carrying the *Torah*.

A relative of any faith is permitted to accompany a Jewish relative onto the *bimah* who has been assigned the honor of *gelilah* (dressing the *Torah*).

## **MORNING MINYAN PARTICIPATION**

*Bar/Bat Mitzvah* students are strongly encouraged to come with their families to the Monday and/or Thursday morning services which occur during the week prior to the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* ceremony. The family will receive an *aliyah* and the student will often chant portions of his/her *Torah* reading and participate in the service. Extended family and friends are welcome to attend this service.

During these midweek services, young men - and those young women who have taken on the obligation - are expected to wear a *tallit* and *tefillin*.

*Bar/Bat Mitzvah* families are invited to sponsor the breakfast which follows the morning minyan. If you would like to sponsor the *minyan* breakfast please inform Edy Israel no later than 1 month prior to the breakfast. Edy will share with you the fee for sponsorship.

**Families whose *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* ceremony will take place on Saturday afternoon at a *Mincha/Ma'ariv/Havdalah* service have a different timetable for morning *minyan* participation.**

## **RELIGIOUS APPAREL**

On the day of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* ceremony, a *Bar Mitzvah* must wear a *kippah* and *tallit*. A *Bat Mitzvah* must wear a head covering. If a *Bat Mitzvah* wishes to wear a *tallit*, she may do so, however, this decision should not be taken lightly, as wearing of *tallit* on one's *Bat Mitzvah* day indicates acceptance of this lifelong obligation.

At Temple Sinai, all men wear head coverings. All women who go to the *bimah* must wear head coverings and should leave their handbags at their seats. We will gladly provide head coverings for those men and women who do not bring their own. If you would like to order personalized kippot for your guests, these can be ordered through the Sisterhood Judaica Shop.

At Temple Sinai, the *tallit* is worn at a morning service, but not at a *Mincha* (evening) service. However, at all services, any man coming to the *bimah* for a *Torah* honor must wear a *tallit*. At a service where *tefillin* are worn (Sunday or weekday) the *Bar Mitzvah* - and *Bat Mitzvah* if she has taken on this obligation - must wear *tefillin*. Fathers and male siblings are also encouraged to wear *tefillin* as are other men receiving *Torah* honors or simply attending the service.

Religious apparel, including *tallitot*, *tefillin*, *tallit* and *tefillin* bags, head coverings for women and *kippot* (personalized), are available for purchase in **Temple Sinai's Sisterhood Judaica Shop**

## **BAR/BAT MITZVAH INVITATION**

A draft of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* invitation must be submitted to Rabbi Wohlberg in advance of printing and mailing. This is done so that the Rabbi can confirm the accuracy of Hebrew spellings and that appropriate times are listed.

## **PARENT'S PRAYER**

This prayer is offered by the parents to the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* student as the parents and their child stand together on the *bimah*. Sample prayers will be provided prior to the first meeting with Rabbi Wohlberg and can also be found on the Temple Sinai website. If you choose to write your own, please submit it to Rabbi Wohlberg for review no later than 2 months in advance of the service.

## **SHABBAT MORNING GREETERS & ADDITIONAL RECOGNITION**

A week or two prior to a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* service, the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* and his/her parents are expected to come to the synagogue and serve as "Shabbat morning greeters." A *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* will be invited to close the Ark doors at the end of the Shabbat morning service the week before and the week after his/her own ceremony.

## **SHABBAT BROCHURE**

Each week the congregation produces, a *Shabbat* brochure which is handed out at the Friday night service and again at *Shabbat* morning services (*Shabbat* afternoon or for a Sunday/weekday morning service if this is when the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* ceremony is taking place). This brochure contains a listing of *Torah* readings and readers, service times, and a weekly list of *yahrzeits*. *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* families can submit for inclusion the names of people whom they wish to recognize, remember or thank. This information must be submitted to Edy Israel no later than 4 weeks prior to the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* service. (A sample copy of the *Shabbat* brochure is available in the synagogue office.)

Grandparents, family members, and friends are encouraged to make donations in celebration of the simcha. All donations will be listed in the brochure.

## **FAMILY BAR/BAT MITZVAH BROCHURE** (optional)

On occasion, a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* family will create a family brochure which will be distributed along with the synagogue Shabbat brochure at the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* service. Family brochures are highly individualized but often include a welcome from the family, a description of the service and a listing of family to whom honors have been assigned.

**Please note: A family brochure must be submitted to Rabbi Wohlberg for review no later than 1 month in advance of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* service.**

## **BAR/BAT MITZVAH CELEBRATION**

The *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* celebration should focus on the religious significance of the occasion. This is a time that should be marked by the gathering of family and friends. The beauty and the significance of our Jewish rituals and ceremonies are enhanced when they are shared with the community. To that end, we encourage you to consider inviting all members of your child's Religious School Class to your *simcha* so that no one feels excluded and the bonds within our Temple Sinai community are strengthened.

In planning your celebration, we strongly urge you to keep in mind the pronouncement of the Conservative Rabbis of our community regarding the manner of celebrating religious occasions. They state that: "Two of the most hallowed Jewish institutions which we deem indispensable for the survival of Judaism are *Shabbat* and *kashrut* (Jewish dietary laws). To violate either or both of these sacred traditions in conjunction with the celebration of a religious event, such as a wedding or *Bar* or *Bat Mitzvah*, compromises the significance of the occasion and the tradition which provides the motivation and the framework for that occasion. Accordingly, we call upon those who are celebrating these sacred moments in their lives to observe them in ways which honor the *Shabbat* and *kashrut*."

In order to enhance the celebration of a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* in the Synagogue, the following policy has been approved by the Board of Directors: "In accordance with an opinion within the Rabbinical Assembly's Committee on Law and Standards, the Temple Sinai Religious Committee approves live background and Israeli folk music at a social function celebrating a religious *simcha* held in the synagogue on *Shabbat*. The type of music will be specifically regulated, and only Israeli dancing will be permitted."

**The use of cell phones, pagers and other electronic devices is prohibited on *Shabbat*.** Please make certain that you and your guests turn off such devices before entering the synagogue.

**Chewing gum is not permitted in the sanctuary.**

Smoking is prohibited within the building as well as on the grounds of Temple Sinai. Please ask your guests to abide by our policy.

Please encourage your guests to remain in the sanctuary for the duration of the service. Constant entering and exiting during the service detracts from the sanctity of the occasion.

Men of all faiths will be required to cover their heads when in the synagogue's Sanctuary or Chapel.

It is expected that visitors and guests act appropriately at all times and treat our facility with respect.

The synagogue does permit professional videotaping and still photography of *Shabbat* luncheons under certain conditions (see next page); flash photography and video lights are not permitted.

## **APPROPRIATE DRESS**

The *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* and family should dress in a manner which reflects the religious nature of this ceremony; **short skirts, low-cut necklines, off-the-shoulder and/or sleeveless dresses are inappropriate synagogue attire.**

It is important to remind female guests, especially those who will come to the *bimah* for an honor, that **short skirts, low-cut necklines, off-the-shoulder and/or sleeveless dresses are inappropriate synagogue attire.**

## **PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY POLICY**

As a rule, **photography is prohibited on *Shabbat* and photographs may not be taken inside the synagogue or on the grounds of the synagogue during *Shabbat*.**

Since Temple Sinai now livestreams *Shabbat* services through a viewer on our website, we are also able to provide *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* families with the livestream recording of the service. Therefore, outside videography is no longer allowed for *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* services. For *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* services, we utilize a “produced livestream” which means that two cameras are used and there is a remote producer choosing which camera, zooming in and out as appropriate, following the action, etc. These cameras are top quality and provide high definition recordings. There is a \$450 fee for the recording (about 50% less than what the videographers charge) and we will provide the recording to you on a thumb drive customized for your celebration.

*There is no charge for the actual livestream experience should you not want to purchase a recording of the service. You may share that link with friends and relatives who are unable to attend services in person.*

If the luncheon at Temple Sinai following the service is the primary affair that the family will be holding (i.e. the only affair to which the adult guests will be invited) then videography and photography will be permitted at this affair so long as:

- a. **ONLY** professional photographers and videographers are taking the pictures and video;
- b. Neither the photographer nor the videographer make use of a flash or a light on his/her camera;
- c. Arrangements for such photography and videography have been discussed in advance with Rabbi Wohlberg and he has given his approval for photography for that event.

## **ADDITIONAL CELEBRATIONS ON A SHABBAT MORNING**

Please be aware that on a *Shabbat* morning when a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* ceremony is taking place, other celebrations may also be scheduled to occur during the service.

For example:

- A babynaming;
- An *auf ruf* (and *aliyah* and a blessing for a couple soon to be married);
- A wedding anniversary;
- The anniversary of a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* ceremony.

These celebrations take place throughout the year, and, in most weeks, coincide with a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* ceremony. In each case, an individual or a family will be assigned one *aliyah*. These, too, are wonderful events that reflect the vitality of our congregation and add to the joy of our *Shabbat* service.

## **SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

The experience of becoming a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* provides a wonderful opportunity to focus on what a child can accomplish. The *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* highlights successes, not limitations. If your child has a special need, the Educational Staff and Clergy should be informed as early as possible. With ample preparation provided by our staff, the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* ceremony can and will be a meaningful event in a young person's life.

## **FEES**

**Families who wish to celebrate a child's becoming a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* at Temple Sinai must be members in good standing.**

The *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* fee and all other outstanding financial obligations to the synagogue must be paid in full **no later than 3 months prior** to the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*.

The *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* fee covers the costs of all instruction, including materials. The fee also helps to defray the cost of the *Oneg Shabbat* following the Friday night service. In addition, the fee includes the cost of our basic Shabbat morning *kiddush* (wine, juice, challah, cookies) for congregants and up to 50 of your guests. As the celebration draws closer, the Executive Director will work with you to determine an appropriate additional fee if one is needed, which will reflect the number of guests you anticipate for Shabbat morning.

The use of the synagogue for your personal celebration is also included in the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* fee.

## **SECURITY**

The synagogue enlists the services of security guards for all *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* evening parties and occasionally for other related events as well depending on the type of event and number of attendees.

**This security service is arranged by the synagogue office and is billed to the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* family.**

## **BABYSITTING:**

During *Shabbat* morning services, adult supervised babysitting is available upon request. Requests must be made 6 weeks prior to your celebration. We also ask that if you are anticipating more than 8 children who will be eligible for babysitting attending the service that you let Edy Israel know so that the synagogue can arrange for additional babysitters. This is an additional fee.

## **Helpful Contact Information**

**Ari Goldberg, Executive Director**

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ari@tsinai.com**

**Edy Israel, Rabbi Wohlberg's & Rabbi Hollander's Assistant**

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**Shira Weissbach, Director of Education**

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**Sisterhood Judaica Shop**

**(215) 643-6510 x104**