

# מדריך לבת ובר מצוה

## *Bat and Bar Mitzvah Handbook*



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**Mazal Tov!**

**Welcome to the Journey to Bat or Bar Mitzvah at TBZ**

Becoming a Bat or Bar Mitzvah is a journey of just that: becoming. More than a moment in time, something that happened and will be finished, it is a beginning.

Beginning to be a Jewish adult, beginning to be a full member of our congregation and the People of Israel, the next step in building a meaningful adult Jewish identity, a lifelong journey.

Becoming Bat or Bar Mitzvah is more than reaching a new stage of life, it is reaching a new state of being and doing as a Jewish person – it is always with us.

At Temple Beth Zion we aim to partner with you, our Bat and Bar Mitzvah students and your families, to create a communally fulfilling and connected experience that is also uniquely tailored to the individual hopes, skills, desires, and needs of each student.

You will prepare for your Bat or Bar Mitzvah, and explore the ways in which you would like to begin living as a Jewish adult.

As your cantor and rabbi, we look forward to sharing moments filled with thoughtfulness and humor, searching and holiness, discovery and celebration, as together we travel on your road to becoming an adult Jew and a full member of Temple Beth Zion and the Jewish People.

We will help you discover how all that Judaism has to offer can influence the way you view the world. We look forward to getting to know you and your family, and feel privileged to be part of this momentous year in your life

להתראות!

(*l'hitraot* – until next we meet),

Cantor Penny S. Myers

Rabbi Jonathan Freirich



### **A Little About Bat and Bar Mitzvah**

Literally “daughter or son of the commandment,” Bat or Bar Mitzvah is a rite of passage – a recognition of entry into a new stage of life. By marking a move into adulthood, we recognize a Jewish individual’s acceptance of the responsibilities, often talked about as “commandments”, of Judaism.

The Bat or Bar Mitzvah is not mentioned in the Hebrew Scriptures – the Jewish books of the Bible. In the third century Rabbi Judah ben Tema taught in the most important Jewish legal text of the time, the *Mishnah*, “A thirteen-year-old is obligated to fulfill the commandments.” (found in *Pirkei Avot*, 5:21). This rabbi also taught that this obligation developed by learning, so that becoming an adult was the culmination of studying.

Throughout most of Jewish history, young men and women at thirteen years of age usually worked full-time to help support their families. Weddings would take place during people’s middle teen years, parenthood would start then, and life spans were far shorter. The original Bar Mitzvah ceremony, only for boys historically, evolved under these conditions, starting as early as the Thirteenth or Fourteenth Centuries.

By the 1700’s the custom of celebrating a boy becoming Bar Mitzvah was widely accepted in the Jewish world. Early on, all festivities were held in the boy’s family’s home, and a modest meal might be served after the synagogue service. Over time the festive family meal grew into an elaborate party, and often, lavish banquets were held in the public halls of larger towns. The leaders of the Jewish community in Cracow, Poland, were so aroused at this that in 1595 they placed a tax on such celebrations to keep them from becoming extravaganzas. They shared one of our concerns, that the religious significance of becoming a Bar Mitzvah would be dwarfed by the sumptuous party given after the service.

Like most Jewish customs, Bar Mitzvah varied widely. In most *Ashkenazi* congregations (those in Europe outside of Spain and Southern Italy), a Jewish boy wore a *tallit* or prayer shawl for the first time on the occasion of his becoming a Bar Mitzvah. In many *Sephardi* communities (those on the Mediterranean and in the Middle East), a man would not wear a *tallit* until he was married. In Seventeenth Century Germany, a Bar Mitzvah often vowed to donate a pound of wax for candles to light the synagogue, and in Morocco the teacher, not the student, received gifts in honor of the occasion. The highlight of the ceremony occurred when the boy was called to offer blessings before and after the reading from the Torah, the hand-calligraphed scroll containing the Hebrew of the Five Books of Moses, the central sacred text of Jewish traditions.

In the early Twentieth Century, Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan (who founded Reconstructionist Judaism), officiated over the first ever Bat Mitzvah for his daughter. After that, Bat Mitzvah ceremonies slowly spread through the Jewish world, and eventually became as widespread as Bar Mitzvah. Reform Judaism made the ceremonies equal, so that girls and boys fulfill the same requirements and lead the same parts of the service.

Bat and Bar Mitzvah are communal gatherings celebrating a young person’s acceptance of adult Jewish responsibility. Today we celebrate the community’s role in acknowledging Jewish adults in the religious centers of our communities, in synagogues and temples, in every place where Jews live.

## **Temple Beth Zion Expectations for Bat and Bar Mitzvah**

Becoming a Bat or Bar Mitzvah requires devotion, thought, and practice. We ask every Bat or Bar Mitzvah family to be our partners and to make this commitment: a personal covenant between the student, the family, and the clergy, staff, and teachers of Temple Beth Zion.

Bat or Bar Mitzvah Families must keep scheduled appointments with all educators and clergy.

To reschedule an appointment, please contact our staff in a timely fashion at 716-836-6565. We understand that all our schedules are tight and that changes can be difficult. Please make every effort to keep to scheduled appointment times.

These policies help us safeguard the beauty and meaning of Bat and Bar Mitzvah and to guarantee each student's success:

### **Religious School**

Students becoming Bat or Bar Mitzvah must complete at least four consecutive years of Religious School at Temple Beth Zion *before* the ceremony.

A student who has not completed Religious School at Temple Beth Zion for those years, must show evidence of equivalent training at another religious school or an alternative learning program to our TBZ Clergy.

**The candidate must be a student in “good standing”** at our religious school and it is expected that the student will continue formal religious education through Confirmation.

“Good standing” means:

1. Registration in the TBZ Religious School, and satisfaction of all academic and attendance requirements through the year Bat or Bar Mitzvah.
2. Meeting Shabbat and Religious School Worship attendance requirements (as detailed in the Religious School Policy materials – if you do not have a copy please contact Kara Kane for more information).

### **Mitzvah Projects**

A vital part of the Bat or Bar Mitzvah journey includes the adult responsibility of giving back to the community, so students must complete a community-service project to be determined in consultation with the TBZ Rabbi (See the Mitzvah Project, Page 6).

### **Service Attendance**

Attendance at a minimum of thirteen (13) community Shabbat services at Temple Beth Zion during the twelve months prior to Bat or Bar Mitzvah is required – six (6) Friday Evening Services and seven (7) Saturday Morning Services, preferably during other Bat or Bar Mitzvah ceremonies. High Holy Day services do not count towards this total.

We urge that service attendance be a family activity – please have at least one parent or guardian should attend each service with the Bat or Bar Mitzvah student.

### **Training to lead services with Cantor Myers, speech-writing and study with Rabbi Freirich**

Approximately 8-10 months before the Bat or Bar Mitzvah ceremony, students will begin training to review and learn the liturgy and *Torah* and *Haftarah* portions, in one-on-one weekly sessions with Cantor Myers. TBZ Staff will contact families to schedule tutoring, as well as meetings with Rabbi.

Leading the congregation as a student becomes a Bat or Bar Mitzvah is an opportunity for a profound communal moment with learning and spiritual potential. Our Bat and Bar Mitzvah students benefit from learning the mechanics of prayer and explore the personal connections developed while praying. With our teachers and clergy, each student will delve into the texts and their meanings, grappling on intellectual and emotional levels, questioning and answering in purposeful and thoughtful exchanges. We hope students will realize and strengthen spiritual connections to our traditions, the Jewish community, and individual personal depths. When a Bat or Bar Mitzvah leads the Shabbat Morning Service on her or his big day, she or he will share personal understandings and insights of what our sages have passed on to us, and offer blessings of learning to all who share in our communal *simcha* (celebration).

Approximately 4-6 months before the ceremony, Bat or Bar Mitzvah students and their parents will meet with the Rabbi for at least five individual sessions to learn about the Torah reading of the week, reflect on it, craft a speech or presentation for the Bat or Bar Mitzvah Ceremony, come up with a Mitzvah Project, and complete any and all speeches to be presented.

Parents are encouraged to participate fully in these sessions with students. Engaging in the process connects parents and students with each other and our TBZ Rabbi. Parents appear as models of lifelong learning. Involved parents are excellent resources for successful Bat and Bar Mitzvah students.

Please see the detailed timeline on Page 5.

### **Students with Special Needs**

We at Temple Beth Zion are dedicated to the inclusion and ritual participation of all congregants. Please let us know about any concerns about a Bat or Bar Mitzvah student's ability to participate in any parts of the preparation process or service. If a Bat or Bar Mitzvah student has an IEP or accommodations at school, please inform Cantor Myers.

We will schedule a meeting with you and our professional team to determine the best ways we can work with your Bat or Bar Mitzvah student to create a meaningful and beautiful experience.

### **Continuing Education**

We ask and encourage each candidate for Bat and Bar to make a personal commitment to continue their religious education through Confirmation (10<sup>th</sup> grade) and to take advantage of becoming a *madrich* or *madrichah*, a student teacher in the TBZ Religious School.

## Overall TBZ Timeline for Bat or Bar Mitzvah Preparation

This timeline is a *guideline*.

We begin 8-10 months prior to the Bat or Bar Mitzvah date.

If there is a block of time, (two or more consecutive weeks),  
when the student will be unavailable for lessons, like for summer camp or vacation,  
then we may begin preparations earlier.

Preparation, practice, and integration, are keys to the success of Bat and Bar Mitzvah.

Please make practice at home a priority.

Even fifteen minutes a day will help a student advance well.

**We will tailor each student's service to their individual advancement and abilities.**

**Students insufficiently prepared may require additional tutoring.**

For those who need extra help we can provide you with names of excellent tutors.

*\*Please note this is a guideline, adjustments may be made to accommodate the needs of each student.\**

WHEN (prior to date)	WHAT
8-10 Months	*1 Orientation with Rabbi Freirich and Cantor Myers *Begin attending required Shabbat services <b>(13 services; 6 Fridays and 7 Saturdays)</b> *Schedule speech meetings to begin 4 months prior to Bat or Bar Mitzvah
7-8 Months	*Begin weekly appointments with Cantor Myers to <i>review</i> prayers and blessings.
4-6 Months	*Meet with Rabbi to plan Mitzvah Project and Speech *Begin Mitzvah Project *Begin 4-5 meetings to work on speeches with the Rabbi
2-4 Months	*Work on Torah without vowels *Learn Haftarah portion *Clergy check-in and review progress
1-2 Months	*Assign English readings *Complete Bat/Bar Mitzvah Ceremony Information Sheet on Mitzvah Tools
1 Month	*Two rehearsals at 805 Delaware Ave. (Sanctuary or Sisterhood Chapel), <u>with all parents</u>

***MAZAL TOV!***

**From your Temple Beth Zion family**

Questions?

Please contact Darcie Beattie at 716.836.6565, x 132 or [Darcie@tbz.org](mailto:Darcie@tbz.org)

## TBZ Mitzvah Project

As our students take on the responsibility of Bat or Bar Mitzvah, we ask them to embrace the responsibility of giving back in accord with Jewish principles.

The Mitzvah Project offers each and every Bat or Bar Mitzvah an opportunity to take something that she or he values and turn it into doing good for others.

The requirements for a Mitzvah Project are that a student should devote at least 13 hours of time to a volunteer activity that brings them into direct contact with the beneficiaries of their donated time.

We recognize that this requirement is not always easily achieved through traditional organizations that may have age requirements for volunteers, and we will work closely with families to help Bat and Bar Mitzvah students find a fulfilling way to pursue their Mitzvah Projects.

In the first meeting with a TBZ Rabbi about speech-writing, Bat and Bar Mitzvah students will also set up their Mitzvah Project.

In the final speech-writing meeting with a TBZ rabbi, our students will compose a paragraph describing their Mitzvah Project, reflecting on their experience, and talking about the particular mitzvah/commandment they fulfilled through their volunteer efforts.

WHEN (prior to date)	WHAT
4-6 Months	*Meet with a rabbi to plan Mitzvah Project – in speech-writing meetings *Begin Mitzvah Project
1-2 months	*In final speech-writing appointment write Mitzvah Project paragraph
Around Bat or Bar Mitzvah Date	*Complete Mitzvah Project

***MAZAL TOV!***  
**from your Temple Beth Zion family**

Questions on the Mitzvah Project?

Please contact Darcie Beattie at 716.836.6565, x 132 or [Darcie@tbz.org](mailto:Darcie@tbz.org)

or

Rabbi Jonathan Freirich at [rabbifreirich@tbz.org](mailto:rabbifreirich@tbz.org)



### **For Parents: What's My Role in All of This?**

Who said becoming a Bat or Bar Mitzvah is only about the kid? The Bat or Bar Mitzvah ceremony and celebration serves as a major milestone for the entire family and is at the heart of our Temple Beth Zion extended family. Parents must participate actively every step of the way with your student.

1. **Write a Personal Letter to your Bat or Bar Mitzvah Student.** Offer your student the beautiful gift of a personal letter written before the process begins, filled with your thoughts, hopes, and dreams about this sacred transition into Jewish adulthood. Seal the envelope, set it aside, and read it as a family after the celebration.
2. **Attend Worship Services.** Jewish worship builds bridges between all of us and aims to connect with our inner selves. Families should become familiar and comfortable with our Friday Night and Saturday Morning Shabbat services at Temple Beth Zion. You will increase your understanding of the service, and have opportunities to make new friends in our community. Please see "Service Attendance" expectations on Page 4.
3. **Schedule Sessions for Training and Speech-writing.** The office will notify you when it is time to schedule your study sessions. Both parents are invited and encouraged to attend all sessions with rabbi and at least one parent is expected to attend every session with Rabbi Freirich. We ask you to please keep appointments and attend in a timely fashion
4. **Find Practice Time: Training at Temple and Practicing at Home.** Once preparations begin with our clergy, please keep the appointments. If a student falls behind, then parents must help that student increase her or his minimum time practicing to 30 minutes per day and, if needed, parents must then engage a private tutor for additional support and expense. **Preparation practice and integration are key to the success of not only every Bat or Bar Mitzvah, but also to our meetings and learning sessions. Our students and families are responsible for making practice at home a priority. Based on every student's progress, we may modify their participation. We will not provide additional tutoring to those who come unprepared, however for those who wish to have extra help we can provide you with names of excellent tutors.**
5. **Attend Rehearsals.** Students and parents must attend two rehearsals in our sanctuary within the last month before the service.
6. **Maintain TBZ Membership: Bat or Bar Mitzvah families must be members in good standing of our TBZ community. Financial obligations to Temple Beth Zion must be up to date** at each and every stage of the process. This includes: the time a date is assigned, the time the tutoring process begins, and on the assigned date of Bat or Bar Mitzvah. With questions regarding financial arrangements – and we never want to have finances get in the way of participation – please contact our Temple Administrator.

## 7. *Oneg/Kiddush.*

- a.* Temple Beth Zion provides an *oneg* following Friday Night Services during the main part of the year that begin at 7:00 PM. Temple does not provide an *oneg* following Friday Night Services which begin at 6:00 PM, during summer months. A caterer may provide one when TBZ does not.
- b.* Temple Beth Zion provides *challah*, juice and wine for the *Kiddush* following the Saturday morning service. Bat or Bar Mitzvah families may prefer to sponsor a Congregational *Kiddush*, open to the entire congregation, or a private luncheon. Because of the communal nature of the Bat or Bar Mitzvah celebration, we encourage families to sponsor a *Kiddush* open to the entire congregation.
- c.* For full information on fees associated with sponsoring an *oneg*, *Kiddush* or private luncheon, please see our Administrative Information for Bat or Bar Mitzvah, or call Ann Marie Randall in the office.

## 8. Deliveries, Decorations, and Florists.

- a.* To schedule deliveries, please contact the office – **arrangements must be made at least a week in advance.** For full information on all matters associated with florists and decorating, please see our Administrative Information for Bat or Bar Mitzvah or call Ann Marie Randall in the office
- b.* There is limited space for storage. Decorations may not be delivered more than 5 days in advance. All deliveries must be scheduled with and approved by the Temple Administrator. TBZ is not responsible for charges associated with missed deliveries.

## 9. Photography and Videography.

- a.* **During the service.** Still photography is permitted during the service from the balcony alone, and from fixed positions. Too much movement on the balcony may distract our Bat or Bar Mitzvah student and detract from the sanctity of our services. Please inform guests not to take photographs during services.
- b.* **Other times.** Still photographs may be taken before or after services. For photos before the service please make sure to finish no **later than 30 minutes before the service begins.** Other times for photography may be scheduled with the TBZ Office.
- c.* **Videotaping** of the service is allowed. Video cameras must be set up on a tripod in the balcony and the tripod cannot be moved during services. For audio, there is a plug on lectern or a small additional microphone may be placed on the lectern. The sound system may not be accessed for recording or otherwise. Upon request, the Bat or Bar Mitzvah service can be streamed live, and/or a recording from the TBZ video equipment can be made – for a small fee.

- d. Temple Beth Zion's Torah scrolls may only be taken from the ark and used in photographs while a member of the clergy or their designated representative is present.**

**10. Invitations and Service Time.** Please indicate on invitations that services begin at 10:15 AM on Saturday morning (we start promptly at 10:30 AM).

**11. Honors for Family and Friends.** At the Friday Evening Service prior to the Bat or Bar Mitzvah, the student's family is invited to lead the congregation in the Shabbat Candle Lighting.

During the Saturday Morning Service, family members and friends, both Jewish and non-Jewish, may be honored in many ways. Non-Jewish family members may be comfortable doing most of these – please consult with our TBZ Clergy with any questions about honors. The honors available include:

- One *Aliyah* for the Bat or Bar Mitzvah plus usually at least two additional *aliyot* for family members – this is the Blessing before and after the Reading of the Torah.
- A small number of English readings.
- Ark openers and closers.
- *Hagbah* and *Gelilah* (“raising” and “dressing” the Torah). *Hagbah* requires lifting the Torah over one's head by the handles while the Torah is open, and is usually done by a Jewish person. **This is physically demanding and requires significant hand and arm strength and balance.** Please keep these demands in mind when considering whom to ask.
- Parents' blessings
- Grandparents' and great grandparents' participation in passing the Torah
- Presentation of *tallit* to the Bat or Bar Mitzvah

Please note: The above list of honors is comprehensive. All other honors during the service are reserved for members or special guests of the congregation who are not connected to the Bat or Bar Mitzvah family.

**All family members and/or friends who are being honored and have a part in the service must meet with a member of the clergy 30 minutes before the start of the service.**

## Parents' Blessing

Temple Beth Zion offers each Bat or Bar Mitzvah family the wonderful opportunity to offer a blessing to the Bat or Bar Mitzvah Student on the *bimah* before friends and family during Saturday Morning Services. This is a sacred moment.

Temple Beth Zion provides for parents the traditional blessing text, in Hebrew, transliteration, and English translation:

בְּרַכָּהּ יְהוָה וְיִשְׁמְרֶהָ:  
יְאֵר יְהוָה | פָּנָיו אֵלֶיהָ וַיַּחֲנֶנָּה:  
יֵשֵׁא יְהוָה | פָּנָיו אֵלֶיהָ וַיַּשֵּׁם לָהּ שְׁלוֹם:

Y'va-recha Adonai v'yish-m'recha.  
Ya-eir Adonai panav ei-lecha vi-chunecha.  
Yisa Adonai panav ei-lecha v'ya-seim l'cha shalom.

May God bless you and watch over you.  
May God's face shine upon you and bring you grace.  
May God's face turn towards you and place peace on all paths before you.

**Length and manner of presentation:** In order to maintain and preserve the sacred time of the service, should parents opt for additional words of blessing, or create a unique blessing for the moment, the length of time for such blessing must be limited to two minutes (approximately 200 words). Please no props or memorabilia. While the blessing may be personalized, the moment is elevated and for the entire community.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

**Question: IS THERE “ETIQUETTE” FOR SHABBAT AND THE SYNAGOGUE?**

**Answer: Yes.**

No smoking inside or outside of the synagogue.

We request that all attendees dress respectfully in semi-formal attire. Positively no eating or beverages within sanctuary and chapel. Water is provided for Bar or Bat Mitzvah candidate, however, please do not bring water bottles or beverages of any kind into our synagogue.

When the Ark is open, the Rabbi or Bat or Bar Mitzvah delivers a sermon, during the Torah service, or the congregation is standing, please do not enter or exit the sanctuary. Please be considerate.

**Question: DO WE NEED TO ORDER KIPPOT/YARMULKES?**

**Answer:** We encourage our congregants and their guests to wear a head covering if they wish. Many families order customized head coverings to commemorate the occasion. Everyone may use the ones provided by the TBZ.

**Question: HOW CAN WE ARRANGE FOR PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY AT THE TEMPLE?**

**Answer:** Please see “Photos and Videography” on pages 8-9.

**Question: ARE WE EXPECTED TO “GIVE SOMETHING” TO THE CLERGY OR THE TEMPLE?**

**Answer:** Clergy at Temple Beth Zion do not accept fees for the performance of Bat or Bar Mitzvah services and training for members of the congregation.  
Jews often express gratitude for happy events by contributing support to our synagogues. The Rabbis’, Cantor’s, Administrator’s, and Educator’s Discretionary Funds, and the Gross B’nai Mitzvah Fund, help those in need and support causes that Temple Beth Zion and Reform Judaism value.  
Our Torah Commentary and Prayer Book Funds allow us to purchase the books we need to function as a religious community.  
Through your celebration and by virtue of your generosity, others may be blessed by your blessings.

**Question: ARE WE EXPECTED TO INVITE THE CLERGY TO OUR CELEBRATION?**

**Answer:** There is no requirement or expectation to invite the Rabbi, the Cantor, or teachers to celebrations, although including them is perfectly allowable. Please include clergy spouses on any invitations, and please forgive TBZ Clergy and Staff for not being able to attend every celebration.

Question: **HOW CAN FAMILY MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN THE SERVICE?**

Answer: See “Honors for Family and Friends” on page 9.

Question: **DO YOU PROVIDE BABYSITTING?**

Answer: We do not offer regular babysitting during Saturday Morning Services.

Question: **NOT EVERYONE IN MY FAMILY IS JEWISH; IN WHAT WAY CAN THEY PARTICIPATE IN THE SERVICE?**

Answer: We respect the profound commitments that non-Jewish family members have made to help transmit a Jewish identity to a child whose parents are not both Jewish. All of the Honors on page 10 can be given to a family member from a different faith tradition with a few noted exceptions.

Question: **WHAT PREPARATION IS NECESSARY FOR AN ALIYAH?**

Answer: It is important to be familiar with the procedures and blessings involved in being called to the Torah. Please send copies of blessings at least one month prior to the Bat or Bar Mitzvah Service to everyone you wish to honor with an *aliyah*. Recordings of the blessings can be found on Temple Beth Zion website. The clergy are available to assist as necessary.

Question: **WHAT TIME SHOULD WE ARRIVE AT THE TEMPLE?**

Answer: All participants in the service are expected to arrive at the synagogue 40 minutes before the service begins. The Bat or Bar Mitzvah Student, family, and all participants will meet with one of the clergy in the “Rabbi’s Study” 30 minutes before the service begins.

Question: **IS THERE A CLOTHING REQUIREMENT ON THE BIMAH?**

Answer: Men are expected to wear a coat and tie, and women are asked to dress respectfully. This dress code applies to all in attendance. We encourage, but do not require, Jewish adults to wear *tallitot*, prayer shawls, and all participants to wear kippot or yarmulkes.

Question: **MAY WE SIT ON THE BIMAH?**

Answer: We encourage the immediate family to sit on the *bimah*.

Question: **ARE THERE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES FOR A BAR/BAT MITZVAH?**

Answer: Bat or Bar Mitzvah Educational Fees are included in the Seventh Grade Religious School Tuition. For students becoming Bat or Bar Mitzvah before reaching Seventh Grade, additional fees will apply.  
Please see our Administrative Information for Bat or Bar Mitzvah or call Ann Marie Randall in the office for information about these and all other fees (such as costs for parties, etc.).

**Temple Beth Zion is Here to Help**

Members of the Temple Beth Zion staff are here to help make the Bat or Bar Mitzvah experience beautiful and meaningful. We offer easy-to-access assistance and provide advice and support throughout every stage of this process. Please approach any of us with questions or requests for assistance. We recognize that the Bat or Bar Mitzvah ceremony is one of the most sacred and powerful moments in our families' lives and feel privileged, honored, and blessed to share in your joy.

Telephone (716) 836-6565

Cantor Penny S. Myers	x 130
Rabbi Jonathan Freirich	x 138
Kara Kane, Religious School Director	x 112
Jeff Coren, TBZ Administrator	x 135
Darcie Beattie, Clergy Assistant	x 132
Ann Marie Randall, Administrative Assistant	x 111



Temple Beth Zion  
700 Sweet Home Road, Amherst NY 14226  
716.836.6565

**Bat and Bar Mitzvah Covenant**

We have read the Bat and Bar Mitzvah Handbook and are ready to uphold the mitzvah, the “commandment”, of becoming a Bat or Bar Mitzvah at Temple Beth Zion.  
We understand the responsibilities of the student, the student’s parent(s), and the clergy, staff, and teachers of Temple Beth Zion.

We understand and accept the requirements, as stated in the Bat and Bar Mitzvah Handbook, including but not limited to:

1. The Bat or Bar Mitzvah Student will be enrolled in Temple Beth Zion’s Religious School through the entire year of Bat or Bar Mitzvah and will meet all attendance and other requirements of the school.
2. The Student will fulfill the required Shabbat service attendance as noted in the Bat and Bar Mitzvah Handbook prior to the date of the Bat or Bar Mitzvah service.
3. **All** Temple financial obligations and agreements will remain current from at least twelve months before the Bat or Bar Mitzvah Date, until the date of the Bat or Bar Mitzvah date.  
Parents should contact the Executive Director regarding any financial questions.
4. The Bat or Bar Mitzvah Student and parents will attend all scheduled sessions with cantor and rabbi or make changes as necessary and with appropriate notice.
5. Temple Beth Zion will provide student with all required materials, training, and support necessary to prepare for the Bat or Bar Mitzvah. Clergy, staff, and teachers will be available as appropriate for guidance, lessons and support as detailed in the Bat and Bar Mitzvah handbook.

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Signature of Bat or Bar Mitzvah Student

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Signature of Parent/Guardian

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Signature of Parent/ Guardian

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Signature of Clergy