



PLEASANTVILLE COMMUNITY
SYNAGOGUE

7th Grade
B'nei Mitzvah
Handbook
2018-2019



**PLEASANTVILLE COMMUNITY
SYNAGOGUE**

7th Grade B'nei Mitzvah Parent Meeting

Thursday, October 18, 2018

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B'nei Mitzvah Policy, 2018-2019

At Pleasantville Community Synagogue, we view Jewish learning as a lifelong endeavor. We are committed to helping our children attain an increasingly rich storehouse of Jewish knowledge, memories, and commitments. Moreover, we want our children to feel connected to their Jewish peers, comfortable in the synagogue, and knowledgeable about our services and ritual practices. None of this, of course, can happen overnight. We therefore encourage parents to begin their children's education as early as possible. Our program starts with kindergarten. To become a Bar/Bat Mitzvah we require at least five years of Hebrew School education, expecting our children to start no later than the age of 8. The minimum parameters for children of ages above 8 are as follows:

- If your child is between the ages of 9 and 11, s/he will be admitted to the PCS Hebrew School, but will be required to obtain private tutoring in order to "catch up" to her/his class (unless there has been adequate previous training.)
- If your child has attained her/his 11th birthday, an individual assessment by the synagogue will be required. Private tutoring may need to be obtained, and alternative Bar/Bat Mitzvah times (i.e., other than Saturday morning) and dates (i.e., beyond the thirteenth birthday) may need to be considered. A three-year membership commitment to the synagogue is required of all families with a child 11 years old or above intending to stand for Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

Calendaring for Bar/Bat Mitzvah is done by the B'nei Mitzvah Coordinator. Dates are assigned when students are 11 years old and/or by the end of the fifth grade.

By standing for Bar/Bat Mitzvah, a Jewish child affirms his/her commitment to Jewish values and to a life of Jewish practice. To that end, prospective B'nei Mitzvah are:

- Obligated to attend Shabbat services at PCS a minimum of five times during their fifth grade year (either Friday night or Saturday morning), and 10 Shabbat services (Friday night or Saturday morning with at least 6 on Saturday morning) during their sixth and seventh grade years (four must be Family Education Shabbats). Parents are strongly encouraged to attend services along with their children, and required to participate in the Family Education Shabbats.
- Obligated to attend Friday Kabbalat Shabbat, which is part of the Bar Mitzvah Shabbat. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah and their family will participate and have roles in leading the service.

(continued...)

- Required to fulfill a Community Service commitment of at least 10 mitzvah hours during the Bat/Bar Mitzvah year.
- Required to complete the seventh grade of Hebrew School.
- Parents in the sixth grade year are expected to help usher during a (seventh grade) Bar/Bat mitzvah ceremony at PCS. They are also asked to help in the Kiddush clean-up of that day, and bring the leftover food that day or the next day (Sunday, if they have access to the building) to the Food Pantry, Neighbors Link, homeless shelter or other appropriate setting.

We at PCS are especially committed to promoting the Jewish value of "klal yisrael" (the good of the greater Jewish community). To that end, we require our prospective B'nei Mitzvah receive an exclusively Jewish religious education.

We greatly value the participation of all family members in celebrating the Bat or Bar Mitzvah. Jewish or non-Jewish family members may be invited to do English readings (provided by the Rabbi) on Saturday morning. Jewish family members can be given Torah honors including aliyot, carrying, dressing, and lifting the Torah, and/or chant a Torah selection or lead Hebrew prayers. A non-Jewish parent may accompany a Jewish spouse who is called up for an aliyah and for "handing down" the Torah (an optional ritual) as we take it out of the ark. Parents are invited to offer brief remarks or words of blessing (original or a reading provided by the Rabbi) to their son or daughter after their Devar Torah. On Friday night, the entire family is also invited to say the candle blessing and family members may do English readings. A head covering or kippah may be worn by men or women of any religion, and Jewish adults (men or women) should also wear a tallit, at least when making an aliyah.

Pleasantville Community Synagogue strives to be an "inclusive" community, and we are committed to helping each family achieve its Jewish goals within the parameters of the tradition. We are aware of the personal and sensitive nature of some of the issues that attend to Bar/Bat Mitzvah. For that reason we ask that, if you are interested in Bar/Bat Mitzvah for your child, please contact our Rabbi to schedule an initial discussion.

Finally, PCS is committed to helping all Jewish families to become full members of our community regardless of financial situation. Notwithstanding, we ask that you commit to the following minimum financial obligations:

- All dues and fees must be paid in full six months prior to the Bar/Bat mitzvah event.
- A B'nei Mitzvah fee is required of all families. The current fee is \$1,450 of which \$600 must be paid upon receiving notification of the Bar/Bat mitzvah date, in order to confirm that date. The \$850 balance is due no later than 180 days (6 months) prior to the event and/or before the first tutoring session.*
- PCS provides a congregational kiddush on the Friday evening before and for up to 30 people on the day of the event. Please notify the synagogue office as to how many guests you expect for either with regard to seating and logistics, and whether you would like to serve your guests lunch at the synagogue after services on Saturday.

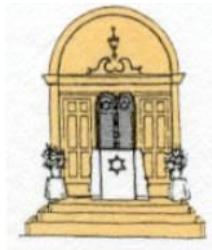
Further detail regarding the kiddush is provided in the 7th grade handbook for those serving lunch, or you may contact the office to discuss. Please be aware that you must contact the caterer and make your payment before Kiddush arrangements are made for lunch.

PCS is committed to making the Bar/Bat Mitzvah process a fulfilling and enriching experience for every student and his/her family. We look forward to working with you toward that goal and invite you to contact members of the B'nei Mitzvah Committee and the PCS office with any questions.

Thank you,

The PCS B'nei Mitzvah Committee

***Fees listed are in accordance with the fiscal 2018-19 budget. Fees are subject to change with the fiscal 2018 budget.**



B'nei Mitzvah Timeline

Mazal Tov on your journey as a B'nei Mitzvah family! This timeline is intended to provide a general guide on what to expect during the B'nei Mitzvah process. Should you have any questions as to the details of any specific piece of the process, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the contact given. Details will also be provided at the two meetings that parents will attend as a class.

FIRST STEPS

January, two years (plus) prior to the calendar year of your b'nei date – **B'nei Date Assignment Letter goes out** along with the **B'nei Mitzvah Timeline**.

B'nei Date Lock-in Deposit due within 30 days of receipt of assignment (see B'nei Policy). Contact our treasurer, Oren Cohen, orencohen99@gmail.com, to make any special arrangements and Barbara Doctor, our bookkeeper at bdoctor670@gmail.com with any questions related to your payment.

Timing per grade year is general; there will be a few exceptions.

5th GRADE YEAR

Fall – Service Attendance Requirements begin – These requirements are explained to the class at the beginning of the school year and a notice is sent home with the children. **At least five times during the academic year are required, either Friday night or Saturday morning.** (See B'nei Policy and Service Attendance Procedure.)

Spring - Meeting of 5th Grade Parents with the Rabbi and the Committee - General discussion of the "b'nei mitzvah journey"; B'nei Class Calendar, PCS B'nei Mitzvah Policy statement, Usher Schedule and Guidelines are distributed.

(continued...)

6th GRADE YEAR

Fall - Service Requirements continue: 10 Shabbat services – Friday night or Saturday morning - with at least 6 on Saturday morning, including four Family Education Shabbats. **Parents must attend the Family Education Shabbats with their child.**

Fall – Usher Schedule begins, and continues throughout the year. Contact Mike Rhodes, mrhodes@citrincooperman.com or Adina McGinley, adina.mcginley@gmail.com with questions. (See *B'nei Policy, Usher Schedule and Usher Guidelines*.)

Spring – B'nei Mitzvah Instruction* begins for 7th grade **fall/winter b'nei mitzvahs**. See *Details below*.

7th GRADE YEAR

Fall - Service Requirements continue: 10 Shabbat services – Friday night or Saturday morning - with at least 6 on Saturday morning. In the case of early (winter) Bar/Bat mitzvahs, five must be completed before the event.

Fall - Meeting of 7th Grade Parents with the Rabbi and Committee regarding expectations for Community Service (including forms), B'nei Instruction procedures, Kiddush Guidelines, Honors Listing sheets and other rituals of the b'nei service.

Fall - B'nei Mitzvah Instruction* begins for 7th grade **spring b'nei mitzvahs**. See *Details below*.

By November – Proposals for Community Service** must be submitted to Community Service Coordinator Pam Papish at pjpapish@gmail.com. See *details below*.

Early Winter – B'nei Mitzvah Instruction for **late fall b'nei mitzvahs (of the 8th grade year)** begins. See *details below*.

4 months before – Advise Ed Sperling of any **Family Torah Readers** you wish to participate in your service at edsperling@gmail.com or (914) 714-1412. *Readers must be able to chant from the Torah scroll.*

3 months before – Balance of B'nei Mitzvah Fee is due (see *B'nei Policy*). Please contact Barbara Doctor for details related to payment at bdoctor670@gmail.com.

2-3 months before – The Rabbi will meet with each family and in addition will meet with the student approximately 3 times (parents also welcome) to prepare their speech/Devar Torah. You should contact Rabbi Julie regarding the scheduling of these meetings about 3 months prior to the service. These meetings usually take place in the weeks immediately prior to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah, unless there are intervening holidays or the summer vacation, in which case the dates are adjusted.

(continued...)

1 month or more before – You will be contacted by the synagogue office to discuss your plans as relates to **Kiddush** and seating for your guests. (See *Kiddush Guidelines* and contact Marcy Gray in the synagogue office at 769-2672 or mgray@shalompcs.com with questions.)

1 month before – The B'nei Mitzvah student writes a paragraph or two describing his/her community service project for the PCS weekly newsletter, to be submitted along with any photos to Pam Papish at pjpapish@gmail.com.

2-3 weeks before – **Aliyot and other honors** are discussed in detail at the first rehearsal. Please obtain the contact information for your gabbai from the PCS office and contact him/her for detailed information and guidance.

1 week before – **One Torah Service Rehearsal** takes place with the gabbai for your service just prior to the event.

1 week before - The Honors Listing is turned in at the rehearsal, the week of the event. **Photography** sessions are generally accommodated at this rehearsal, as there is no photography allowed in the synagogue on Shabbat. Please alert your gabbai to arrange this ahead of time. The entire service is walked/talked through at this last rehearsal.

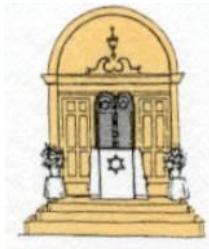
1 week before – Plans are finalized for the PCS **Kiddush** with the synagogue office. If applicable, you might discuss additional arrangements with the caterer, Shalom Shushan, at Seasons (formerly Supersol) at (914) 725-7336.

Any time during the week before – Touch base with PCS office to confirm logistics at mgray@shalompcs.com or (914) 769-2672, ext. 2. *Please do not drop anything off before then.*

DETAILS

***B'nei Mitzvah Instruction** is approximately a 9-month to a year process (depending on summer vacation plans, etc.) comprising 25-30 twenty minute lessons with B'nei Mitzvah Committee Chair Ed Sperling who will contact you a month before lessons are to begin. You may contact Ed at edsperling@gmail.com prior to that time if you have questions.

****Community Service Requirement** – At least 10 hours of community service is required. A class discussion will take place during one of the 7th grade fall classes. Parents are encouraged to attend. Please contact Pam Papish at pjpapish@gmail.com.



B'nei Mitzvah Contacts

2018-2019

Rabbi Julie Danan

rabbi@shalompcs.com

PCS office: 769-2672, option 3; home office: 495-3843

B'nei Mitzvah Committee Chair and Tutor

Ed Sperling: edsperling@gmail.com, 714-1412

Usher Scheduling

Mike Rhodes: mrhodes@citrincooperman.com

Adina McGinley: adina.mcginley@gmail.com

Community Service

Pam Papish at pjpapish@gmail.com

Gabbai Scheduling

Michael Safranek: mlsafranek@aol.com, 420-1815

Synagogue Office

Kiddush and Logistics

Marcy Gray: mgray@shalompcs.com, 769-2672



Service Attendance Q & A

The members of Pleasantville Community Synagogue are in the enviable position of having Shabbat services that are thoughtful, musical, spiritual and user-friendly. They are led by Rabbi Julie in a way that makes our services a wonderful combination of elements taken from all the progressive Jewish movements. They are assisted by a large number of lay congregants as prayer leaders, Torah readers, gabbais and meditation leaders. It is the hope of all concerned, from the synagogue Board of Trustees to each family member, that the children growing up as members of PCS should experience a sufficient number of services as to give them a sense of the inner beauty of our Jewish religion.

But how many services should we ask our children to attend? Or should we make any requirement at all for attendance, allowing only for the best judgment of the children and their parents? This is an issue which has demanded and received a great deal of attention by the leadership of PCS. It is understood that any "requirement" for services is in some way a contradiction of the ideal which allows for each person's spiritual needs to be followed. However, the spiritual sense in our children needs to be nurtured and stimulated. We can do that at home; we can certainly do that in the synagogue. It is with this thought in mind that the children in our 5th, 6th and 7th grades are asked to attend a minimum number of Friday night and Saturday morning services. Answers to some of the many questions about this synagogue requirement are as follows:

1) Why don't services attended at other Synagogues count towards the requirement? Experiencing services at other synagogues is a wonderful idea. Each synagogue puts their own stamp on the traditional order of the Jewish service and to see the many expressions of our religion is a great idea. However, that each synagogue has its own way of conducting a service is exactly why a minimum number of services at PCS should be experienced. Our research shows that synagogues which allow for attendance at other synagogues to "count" have a much greater number of required services.

2) Why can't the 6th and 7th grader just attend Friday night services to fulfill the service requirements? Friday night services are a wonderful introduction to PCS services. They are shorter and far more easily appreciated by young people. However, the Saturday morning services are different in a great many ways, such that Friday night services alone would fail to give our children a full appreciation of Shabbat services. Those Saturday morning services are 2 1/2 hours long, perhaps a bit much for young minds and spirits. Thus, the children are only required to come by 10 o'clock for the beginning of the Torah service, making their time in the synagogue on Saturday morning a mere two hours!

3) Why do the sixth grade students have to attend four Family Education Shabbats? Family Education Shabbats are a highlight of the synagogue experience for our children. At no other time do they have the opportunity to speak out and express their own individual thoughts on a wide variety of ethical and spiritual issues. For us parents, it is frequently a jaw dropping experience, listening to the amazing things our children say! Please, everyone come to at least one of these Family Education Shabbats. You will be amazed and delighted.

4) Do I need to attend services with my child? You do not have to attend services along with your child. It is only required that your child in the 6th and 7th grade enter the synagogue before 10 am. It is likely that you will want to attend at least some of the services alongside your child, making a shared experience of the moment of bringing out the Torah, of touching the Torah with your tallit or prayer book as it passes you by in the aisle. You can sing along with your child, or just listen to the wonderful music and chanting that goes on during the entire service. You can dance in the aisle at each of the B'nei Mitzvah celebrations. Would you want to share all of this with your child? *Of course you would!*

2019 B'nei Mitzvah Calendar

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>TORAH PORTION</u>
<u>2019</u>		
Jan. 5		
12		
19		
21 (<i>Monday, MLK weekend and Tu Bishvat</i>)		
26		
Feb. 2		
9		
16		
18 (<i>Monday, President's Day/Week</i>)		
23		
March 2		
9	Samara Mahadeva	Pekudei
16		
20 (<i>Wednesday, Erev Purim</i>)		
23		
30		
April 6	Thea and Wynne Kenna	Tazria
13		
19 (<i>Friday, Erev Pesach</i>)		
20		
27		
May 4		
11	Caroline Conti	Kedoshim
18		
25 (<i>Memorial Day Weekend</i>)		
June 1		
8 (<i>Erev Shavuot</i>)		
15	Lena Sealey-Nicotra	Naso
22		
29		

Sept. 7		
14	Charlie Terzuoli	Ki Teitzel
21	Sofia Zucker	Ki Tavo
28		

Sept. 30-Oct. 1 (*Rosh Hashana*)

Oct.	5
	8 (<i>Tuesday, Erev Yom Kippur</i>)
	12
	13 (<i>Erev Sukkot</i>)
	19
	26

Nov.	2
	9
	16
	23
	30

Dec. 7
14 **Clara, Eli and Zachary**
 Neilson-Papish Vayishlach
21
23 (*1st Day of Chanukah*)
28

2019 Usher Calendar

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>USHER FAMILY</u>
2019		
Jan. 5		
12		
19		
21 (<i>Monday, MLK weekend and Tu Bishvat</i>)		
26		
Feb. 2		
9		
16		
18 (<i>Monday, President's Day</i>)		
23		
March 2		
9	Samara Mahadeva	Skylar Aghen
16		
20 (<i>Wednesday, Erev Purim</i>)		
23		
30		
April 6	Thea and Wynne Kenna	TBD
13		
19 (<i>Friday, Erev Pesach</i>)		
20		
27		
May 4		
11	Caroline Conti	Lila & Ava Berkowitz
18		
25 (<i>Memorial Day Weekend</i>)		

[Continued on next page...]

June	1 8 (<i>Erev Shavuot</i>) 15 22 29	Lena Sealey-Nicotra	TBD
<i>July-August</i>			<i>No B'nei Mitzvot</i>
Sept.	7 14 21 28	Charlie Terzuoli Sofia Zucker	Aiden McGinley Nolan Rhodes
Sept. 30-Oct. 1 (<i>Rosh Hashana</i>)			
Oct.	5 8 (<i>Tuesday, Erev Yom Kippur</i>) 12 13 (<i>Erev Sukkot</i>) 19 26		
Nov.	2 9 16 23 30		
Dec.	7 14 21 23 (<i>1st Day of Chanukah</i>) 28	Clara, Eli and Zachary Neilson-Papish	Jadyn Serebin



B'nei Mitzvah Usher Guidelines

Overall Responsibility:

- The B'nei Mitzvah family will call you in advance of the date to communicate any relevant information.
- To welcome guests and congregants, help them with coats, tallissim and kippot as they walk in the door. The key is to create a welcoming and friendly atmosphere.
- To assist with seating and prayer books.
- To make sure that B'nei Mitzvah children log in their attendance appropriately.
- To establish a level of decorum in regard to appropriate times for entering the sanctuary.
- To help supervise in the social hall so as to provide a warm and pleasant Kiddush experience for the B'nei Mitzvah family, friends and guests.

Specific expectations and duties:

- Arrive by 9:15 am. There should be at least two people, of which one must be a parent.
- Make sure the tallitot are accessible, as well as kippot, head coverings and pins. If there are brochures, they can be distributed.
- Say hello to each person as they walk in. Help them with their coats when appropriate.
- Handle any special needs cases such as elderly guests. Assist them to a seat near the front, if possible.
- Direct friends and classmates of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah to seats near the front on the West (left) side of the sanctuary. Keep an eye on the children so they do not disrupt the service.
- Assist people with availability of the bathroom, and when crowded, direct them to the bathroom near the social hall. Make sure a/c is on low if the weather warrants it.
- Check the bathroom occasionally to make sure it is clean and there are no water problems.
- Postpone seating at certain times of the service, most essentially during the "Kedusha" of the Amidah (first two pages of the communal standing praying) and the Rabbi's sermon. Use good judgment at other times.
- Remind PCS 5th, 6th and 7th graders to locate their class folder and place a star in the appropriate spot next to their name. Assist, if necessary. Folders are removed once the Torah service begins, at which point latecomers do not get credit for attendance.
- Make sure the aisles are clear when we carry the Torah around the Sanctuary.
- Assist attendees with what books to use, especially when we switch to the Chumash for the Torah service.
- Assist our kiddush server at the close of services and remain until 1 pm if required.
- If b'm family is not taking home the leftovers, bring to Neighbor's Link (27 Columbus Avenue, Mount Kisco, NY 10549, 914-666-3410) or other charity. (Sunday is OK if the building is open.)
- Be available to assist the gabbai and Rabbi as needed.



B'nei Mitzvah Checklist

B'nei Mitzvah Committee contacts for counsel and questions:

Rabbi Julie: rabbi@shalompcs.com, (914) 769-2672, option 3
Ed Sperling: edsperling@gmail.com, (914) 714-1412, Chair, B'nei Mitzvah committee
Mike Rhodes: mrhodes@citrincooperman.com, Usher Assignments
Adina McGinley: adina.mcginley@gmail.com, Usher Assignments
Pam Papish: pjpapish@gmail.com, Community Service
Michael Safranek, mlsafranek@aol.com, (914) 420-1815, Gabbai Coordinator
Marcy Gray, PCS office: mgray@shalompcs.com (914) 769-2672, Kiddush, Logistics

Please notify Marcy Gray of the approximate number of guests you expect.

- SERVICE ATTENDANCE:** When a student attends a service, an email should be sent to Educational Director Galit Sperling at pcshebrewschool@gmail.com to let her know.
- GUEST ATTENDANCE:** When the B'nei Mitzvah guest attendance is expected to reach or exceed 110, it is likely that the multipurpose room will be used for overflow, where congregants and guests who can no longer be comfortably accommodated in the sanctuary can view the service on the video screen. If your guest list is in that range, we ask that you arrange for appropriate **adult supervision** in that room. A teen "babysitter" is not nearly as effective in maintaining decorum in the room and hall. Always inform the office of the number you expect.
- FAMILY TORAH READERS:** You are more than welcome to have family members or friends read from the Torah, but they need to be experienced in this sacred tradition. In other words, they should chant the verses according to Torah "trope" (tune). Also, they must read straight from the holy scroll, not from a piece of paper superimposed on the parchment. Please do not give them this assignment just for the sake of "honoring" them - there are plenty of other opportunities during the service where you can do this. When it is not done with the above described respect, it becomes an embarrassment for the congregation and for you! If you would like to have readers called up to the Torah, please inform your gabbai or the Rabbi four months prior to your date.
- PARENT SPEECHES:** Speeches and other such presentations by parents are optional, not required. Should you decide to take advantage of this opportunity (usually done after the Torah service) we ask that you limit the entire process to around 5-6 minutes. Regarding speeches, please only prepare one page maximum (12 font), or one and a half pages between two parents. If you want to include a "talit" hand-off, please include that within the time limit we have specified. Extra presentations on the part of youth or family are discouraged (e.g. poems, songs, etc.) to prevent the service from becoming too long or "child-centered", taking the focus away from Shabbat.

(continued...)

FLOWERS:

The synagogue now has a permanent silk flower arrangement in place on the bimah. If you would like additional flowers, two suggested options are **East Meets West**, owned by PCS congregant Jan Gordon, 769-1151 or **the Flower Basket** in Pleasantville, 769-1688.

FOOD: Kiddush is made possible by sponsorships from B'nei Mitzvah families and other congregants. If you would like to sponsor kiddush on the day of your child's Ba' Mitzvah, please call the synagogue office to make arrangements. Our caterer is Shalom Shushan at Seasons (725-7736) for menu suggestions. **All food and beverages must be Kosher/Dairy/Parve - no meat!**

PAPER GOODS: The following items should be brought to PCS during the week prior to the date: 4 paper rectangular tablecovers (unless you are bringing tablecloths), hot/cold cups (min. 100), plates, and napkins. Choose any colors or designs you like but please, no Styrofoam.

PHOTOGRAPHY: No photos may be taken on Shabbat. Photos may be taken in the sanctuary a day or two prior to services (Torah scrolls removed.) This is often done at a last rehearsal. Please contact your gabbai to arrange.

BUS SAFETY: The B'nei Mitzvah committee strongly recommends that you provide a minimum of two adults to supervise children being transported from the synagogue, as well as the return trip if applicable. The designated individuals should be adults, rather than older siblings, friends or cousins, and the adult supervisors should be asked to collect any unwanted or accidentally dropped kippot. *When picking up guests from the temple, the bus should be parked on the east side of Clark Street, not on Bedford Road.*

CANDY THROWING: Baskets of candy to be thrown at Bar/Bat Mitzvahs will be provided by PCS for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah family. No other candy will be allowed.

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS: *Not mandatory, but a nice touch.*

2 packages of paper hand towels for 2 bathrooms.

Kippot: We ask that you provide clips to hold the yarmulkes and doilies in place.



B'nei Mitzvah Community Service

Each child in the B'nei Mitzvah class is required to perform a "mitzvah" in the form of at least 10 hours of community service. Ideally, the community service should include some direct interpersonal contact. We encourage you to brainstorm with your child to come up with a project they will find interesting and meaningful. You may want to review the Torah portion your child will be reading for inspiring themes. Your child should ask himself/herself: What am I good at? What do I like to do? What is going on in the world that bothers me?

Keep in mind:

- 10-hour commitment to an organization of your choice; consider service to Jewish community, special needs, pets, nature centers.
- Pursue your passion, while linking your interests to your Torah studies.
- The list below may just get you started into thinking about possibilities.
- **Write a short essay on your mitzvah project, and send it, along with a photo if possible, to Pam Papish at pjpapish@gmail.com, during the month of your Bar/Bat Mitzvah so we may include it in one of the weekly newsletters.**

A few organizations to consider:

Miracle League of Westchester – engaging in sports activities with children with mental and physical challenges.

www.pinwheelproject.org - providing comfort to hospitalized children and their families.

American Friends of Magen David Adom: www.afmda.org - paramedics, blood supplies, disaster recovery in Israel.

www.areyvut.org/organizations/ - Mitzvah project ideas

Jewish Child Care Association: www.jccany.org/site/PageServer - helps more than 16,000 children and families every year through quality programs for those building new lives, eg. immigrant Jewish families. Includes local Pleasantville Cottage Schools.

www.afyafoundation.org - supporting ongoing health initiatives for people in developing countries of Africa and the Caribbean.

[petosalivewest.org](http://www.petosalivewest.org): Pets Alive Westchester. "A no-kill animal sanctuary"

Atria Senior Living Center: carol.daly@atriaseniorlivining.com

UJA of Westchester: www.ujafedny.org/westchester

Environmental organizations:

Teatown: www.teatown.org

Riverkeeper: www.riverkeeper.org - Hudson River activities

Stone Barns: www.stonebarnscenter.org - farm, sustainable living

Saw Mill River Coalition: www.sawmillrivercoalition.org/volunteering/free-a-tree-vine-cutters/ removing invasive vines along the Saw Mill River, rescuing native vegetation

Questions?

E-mail Pam Papish, pjpapish@gmail.com.



Frequently asked questions about the PCS B'nei Mitzvah Kiddush

- **KIDDUSH FAQ #1: DO I NEED TO ADD TO THE KIDDUSH?**

The answer varies with your family's arrangements for the day. If your plans do not include serving your guests lunch at the synagogue, you need not add to the kiddush (see menu below). If you would like your guests to stay for lunch, please contact Marcy Gray at the synagogue office to make arrangements.

Marcy confirms our standing order to Seasons (formerly Supersol) on Monday of the week of your Kiddush, so she needs to know your intentions by the previous Friday as to how many guests you expect and whether or not your guests will be staying for lunch. Shalom Shushan is your contact for discussion/planning/payment of your order, as the caterer at 914-725-7736. *If you are not serving lunch to your guests, you can skip the rest of the kiddush details!*

- **KIDDUSH FAQ #2: WHAT IS THE PCS BASIC KIDDUSH ORDER?**

Our standard (\$8 per person) kiddush order consists of the following menu, but you can make any arrangement you would like:

1 CHALLAH
3.5 DZ ASSORTED BAGELS, SLICED AND PLATTERED
PLATTER OF SLICED TOMATO, RED ONION AND CUCUMBER
CREAM CHEESE PLATTER (SCOOPS OF REGULAR, SCALLION, VEGETABLE CREAM CHEESE AND BUTTER)
ASSORTED PASTRY PLATTER – 1-16" PLATTER (5 LB. PLATTER)

2-12" COMPARTMENT PLATTERS, INCLUDING:
TUNA SALAD, EGG SALAD AND WHITEFISH SALAD

OR

1-16" MIDDLE EASTERN PLATTER INCLUDING:
CHUMUS, TECHINA, BABAGANOUSH AND TURKISH SALAD SLICED PITA PLATTER

If you choose to use a different caterer, it must be approved by PCS before ordering. **All food and beverages must be Kosher/Dairy/Parve - no meat!**

(continued...)

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- **KIDDUSH FAQ #4: HOW DO I KNOW HOW MANY TO ORDER FOR?**

This is not an exact science and is best reviewed with Marcy at least a week prior to the event, or much earlier with a view to your own advance planning and budgeting.

- **KIDDUSH FAQ #5: WHAT DO I NEED TO THINK ABOUT?**

This list is intended as a tickler for those who find the details helpful (NOT to complicate matters for those who don't).

Tablecovers and paper goods are necessary only if your guests are having lunch.

There are about 40 adult chairs in the multipurpose room, 20 folding chairs stored in the cellar and eight 6-foot tables. We have found that it is hard to accommodate more than 60 seated at tables – and at that it is crowded. If you are expecting to accommodate more guests, you might avoid setting up all the tables so there is plenty of buffet-style standing room.

The caterer delivers on Friday morning (barring holiday intervention). PCS has an extra refrigerator downstairs in the cellar so most orders can be accommodated. In the case of very large orders, refrigeration requires some discussion.

Set up (*=optional)

Let Marcy know if you will need the chairs brought up from the cellar.

Alternate table/chair set up is done by family after motzi on Friday.

Tablecovers

Paper goods

Paper guest towels for bathrooms*

Plastic cutlery

Centerpieces*

Special serving platters or utensils*

A la carte and/or upgrade considerations

Extra milk

Extra challah

Specialty coffee

Specialty teas

Ice, soda (any other specific beverages)

Food additions (must be kosher/parve)

White fish

Kugel

Fruit

Embellished Desserts

Check with caterer for other options

Seasons' options

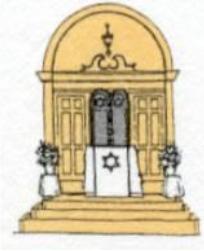
Minibagels

Middle Eastern salads with pita

They have a whole menu you are free to discuss with them.

Serving and Cleaning

Please call the office to arrange a kiddush server for your lunch (\$50 paid directly to her). Coffee urns and coffee service, sugar, and Sweet n' Low are available for your use. Serving platters and utensils, as well as baskets for bagels, are also here.



Dear B'nei Mitzvah Family,

We wish you a very hearty Mazel Tov on the occasion of your child's upcoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah. We hope you will enjoy a very meaningful experience as your child embarks on his/her rite of passage to Jewish adulthood in our PCS community.

As you are probably aware, each year our community works hard to maintain its financial health. We are also a caring community that supports everyone who wishes to join and provide their children with a Jewish education, regardless of financial need. This support is achieved through the generosity of our membership.

As such, we ask those of you in a position to give to consider a financial gift to PCS in honor of your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

We would like to inform you of three ways you can make a financial donation:

- 1) **Fair Share Dues.** As you saw in your recent annual dues bill, PCS counts on each family contributing their fair share. PCS asks that you consider giving 2% of your household income to your religious home.
- 2) **Targeted Gift to the PCS Hebrew School Fund.** These funds are used to help pay for students that cannot afford Hebrew School tuition, subsidize the B'nei Mitzvah tutoring program, fund school activities and update books and supplies.
- 4) **The Rabbi's Discretionary Fund.** This fund enables the Rabbi to support various individuals, organizations and/or programs at her discretion.

Some communities suggest that families give up to 10% of what they spend on the B'nei Mitzvah party to charity. PCS has also received some generous gifts from families, including gifts from the children themselves. It is a perfect time to teach your child about the meaning of tzedakah (charity) by helping support our Jewish community.

Thank you for considering this appeal.

The PCS Fundraising Committee

HONORS:

Name _____

Date of Bar/Bat Mitzvah _____

Opening of Ark: _____

1st Torah Reader: _____

1st Aliyah: _____

Hebrew Name: _____

_____ Hebrew Name: _____

2nd Torah Reader: _____

2nd Aliyah: _____

Hebrew Name: _____

_____ Hebrew Name: _____

3rd Torah Reader: _____

3rd Aliyah: _____

Hebrew Name: _____

_____ Hebrew Name: _____

4th Torah Reader: _____

4th Aliyah: _____

Hebrew Name: _____

_____ Hebrew Name: _____

5th Torah Reader: _____

5th Aliyah: _____

Hebrew Name: _____

_____ Hebrew Name: _____

6th Torah Reader: _____

6th Aliyah: Gabbai's Aliyah

7th Torah Reader: _____

7th Aliyah: Healing – Open

Mafot Reading: _____

Hebrew Name of Bat/Bar Mitzvah _____

Raising and Dressing Torah: _____

Raising and Dressing 2nd Torah: (Special Shabbats only)

Walk Torah back to Ark: _____

Closing the Ark: _____

Blessings before and after the Torah readings

ברכות הקריאה

BLESSINGS AT THE READING OF THE LAW

Before the reading of the Law:

ברכו את־נָאִי הַמְבָרֵךְ.

Barchu et Ado-nai ha-m'vorach.

ברוך יְיָ הַמְבָרֵךְ לְעוֹלָם וְעַד.

Baruch Ado-nai ha-m'vorach l'olam va-ed.

**ברוך אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ
הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר בָּחָרָבָנָנוּ מִכָּלְ-
הָעָמִים, וַנְתַּן־לָنּוּ אֶת־תּוֹרָתְךָ.**

ברוך אַתָּה יְיָ נֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה.

Baruch ata Ado-nai, Elo-heinu Melech ha'olam, asher
bachar banu mi-kol ha-amim, v'natan lanu et Torato,
Baruch ata Ado-nai, notain ha-torah.

After the reading of the Law:

**ברוך אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ
הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר נָתַן־לָנּוּ תּוֹרָת
אֶמֶת וְחַיִּים עוֹלָם נִטְעָה בְּתוּכָנָנוּ.**

ברוך אַתָּה יְיָ נֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה.

Baruch ata Ado-nai, Elo-heinu Melech ha'olam, asher
natan lonu torat emet v'cha-yei olam nota b'to-chei-nu.
Baruch ata Ado-nai, notain ha-torah.