

Lubavitch of Bucks County

BAT MITZVAH PREPARATION

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Lubavitch of Bucks County

BAT MITZVAH PREPARATION

Introduction

Lubavitch of Bucks County offers a comprehensive Bat Mitzvah Program with multiple service options to choose from. Any of our Rabbis will be glad to officiate.

At Lubavitch of Bucks County our primary goal is assisting families to live Jewish lives with pride, with knowledge and with enthusiasm. When your child reaches the age of Bat Mitzvah, we share with your family the privilege and responsibility of welcoming her into the adult Jewish community. In reaching this goal, we feel that family participation and support are integral to your child's success in this process. We therefore ask for family involvement throughout. Together, we hope to instill the meaning and significance of the occasion, to celebrate appropriately, and to honor your child's place among the Jewish people.

Age and Dates

Bat Mitzvah is the day on which a child becomes responsible for Mitzvot and accountable for both positive and negative behaviors under Jewish law. According to Jewish tradition, this takes place at age 12. This happens automatically on their Jewish birth date, regardless of the way the day is marked. The ceremony and celebration should take place as close to the Jewish birthday as possible. The Jewish calendar follows the lunar cycle and represents the years from creation. The secular calendar follows the solar cycle. Most often, the Jewish and secular birthdays end up being days or weeks apart. To determine your child's Jewish birthday, please consult with the Rabbi.

We recommend scheduling Bat Mitzvahs at least 18 months prior to your child's 12th birthday. While planning and preparation takes about one year, it is important to get the date on the Lubavitch of Bucks County calendar to avoid any conflicts. To choose a date, set up an initial meeting with the Rabbi to determine your child's Jewish birthday. Your child's Bat Mitzvah must be in the year following that date, as close as possible to the date but not before it.

A girl begins Bat Mitzvah preparation 1 year prior to her Bat Mitzvah. This includes a monthly lesson and activity with other Bat Mitzvah girls participating in the Bat Mitzvah Club for approximately one year prior. This will be supplemented by 4 - 6 private lessons in preparation for her Bat Mitzvah ceremony.

The Bat Mitzvah celebration is, after all, a Jewish celebration. We therefore have some guidelines which have been implemented to uphold the proper spirit and character of a Bat Mitzvah. Following are the Bat Mitzvah guidelines.

Bat Mitzvah Guidelines

In order to hold your child's ceremony and/or celebration at Lubavitch of Bucks County, the following requirements must be met:

1. Your child must be born to a Jewish mother or converted in accordance with the guidelines set by the Offices of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel. If the mother or maternal grandmother converted to Judaism, please set up an appointment with the Rabbi to determine if the conversion process meets the above stated guidelines. According to the Talmud, solely the mother determines religious identity and an intermarried family where the father is not Jewish has no effect on the religious identity of the child.
2. We require active family participation in Jewish community experiences beginning at least one year prior to the Bat Mitzvah. Active participation includes participation in holiday programs, parents' participation in adult education programs as well as periodically attending Shabbat morning services. This would show family participation and support to your daughter. It will also make your family and daughter familiar with Jewish community life.
3. Your child will need to attend the Bat Mitzvah Club designed especially for Bat Mitzvah girls who are approaching their special day. This course is a supplement to any Hebrew School and Bat Mitzvah training.

Bat Mitzvah Service Options

There are different options of Bat Mitzvah Services which you may pick from for your Bar Mitzvah. Each has its own unique level of participation for the Bat Mitzvah girl as well as different requirements.

1. **Havdalah Service:** This service begins 1 hour after Shabbat is over. It includes the Havdalah service and Hebrew readings. The Bat Mitzvah girl would also share a speech accompanied by the Rabbi's speech, the parents blessing and/or speech and the throwing of candies are included in this service.

This service is approximately 45 minutes. Photography, videography & microphones are welcome.

This service is only practical during the fall/winter months when EST is in effect and sundown is very early.

2. **A Friday evening Shabbat ceremony:** This service begins approximately 1 hour prior to sundown. It includes Shabbat candle lighting ceremony led by the Bat Mitzvah Girl interspersed with speeches, song and blessings.

This ceremony is approximately 45 minutes.

This service is recommended during Daylight Savings Time only being that Shabbat begins very early during Standard Time.

3. **A Sunday/weekday morning service:** This service includes the Bat Mitzvah Girl chanting the 13 Principles of Jewish Faith in Hebrew. She would also speak about an inspirational Jewish Heroine as well as the significance of her Bat Mitzvah. The Rabbi's speech, the parents blessing and/or speech and the throwing of candies are included in this service.

This service is approximately 45 minutes. Photography, videography & microphones are welcome.

Fees

There is a \$2,350 fee for the Bat Mitzvah ceremony and all preparations that are involved.

This includes:

- The Bat Mitzvah Club
- Private tutoring sessions
- A one time fee for usage of the Center for a Bat Mitzvah Service

This fee does not include expenses incurred for renting additional chairs table or other equipment.

Discounts

If your child has attended our Aleph Bet Hebrew School for at least one year prior to her Bat Mitzvah, the Bat Mitzvah preparation is \$2,050.

If your child has attended our Aleph Bet Hebrew School for at least two years prior to his Bat Mitzvah the Bat Mitzvah preparation is \$1,650.

Appendix I

Bat Mitzvah Information

Location

There are 2 Lubavitch of Bucks County locations in the community: Yardley & Newtown.

Yardley – Kol Yisrael Shul - Lubavitch, 1444 Yardley-Newtown Road

Newtown – Glazier Jewish Center, 25 N. State Street

Date Reservations

Every effort will be made to accommodate you on the date you need for the ceremony.

However, please understand that dates are booked well in advance and there is a chance that the date and/or location of your choice will not be available. We suggest you call first and check the calendar before finalizing any plans.

Outside Caterer

Lubavitch of Bucks County adheres to Kosher standards. If you prefer bringing in an outside caterer for your celebration, please review the enclosed list of acceptable Kosher caterers. No other caterer may be used without prior approval of LBC. The caterer will be responsible for all tables, linens, cutlery, dishes, set up, serving, clean-up, etc. Arrangements with the caterer are to be handled directly between yourself and the selected caterer. **Menus must be pre-approved by our office.** All catering bills are to be paid directly to the caterer. No other outside food will be allowed into the Center without prior approval of one of the Rabbis.

Invitations

If you are planning an off-site party reception in honor of the Bar Mitzvah in addition to the service, we suggest and encourage that it be a Kosher affair and held after the Shabbat. This would be the proper message for a “Bat Mitzvah”. In the event you choose not to follow this suggestion, ***separate invitation cards must be prepared, one for the Service and another for the reception.***

Information you may need to know

- a. Photography shoots for a Friday Night Shabbat service are allowed on a date prior to the Shabbat celebration.
- b. All items that will be delivered for a Shabbat service, whether food, flowers or anything else, must be delivered prior to Shabbat. All pick up of left over items must be done after Shabbat is over.
- c. Any printed materials (booklets, flyers, etc.) that you plan to distribute at the Bat Mitzvah must be reviewed and approved by the Rabbi prior to the event.
- d. All speeches must be pre-approved by the Rabbi.
- e. There is a tradition to toss candies at the Bat Mitzvah girl. Only “Sunkist Fruit Gems” may be used for this purpose. They are kosher, soft and come in individual wrappers. They should be available at most local supermarkets. The synagogue usually has containers of 144 available for a \$15 fee.

Appendix 2

Bat Mitzvah Resource List

Acceptable Kosher Caterers

1. Greenwald Caterers
Michael Rubin
(732) 370-8300
2. Elite Caterers
Shlomo Katz
(718) 337- 6600
3. Signature Caterers
Isaac Linietsky
(856) 755-1277
(856) 816-3233
4. Prestige Caterers
Craig Stier
O (718) 464-8400
C (201) 206-5363
www.prestigecaterers.com
5. Scoop & Co.
(718) 853-5368
www.scoopparty.com
6. Shoprite of Lawrenceville
Kosher Experience Department
(609) 275-8555
7. Shoprite on the Boulevard
Kosher Experience Department
(215) 673-1200
8. Shoprite of East Windsor
Kosher Experience Department
Contact person: Ben
(609) 448-1040

9. Shalom Pizza
7598 Haverford Ave
Philadelphia, PA 19151
(215) 878-1500

Acceptable Kosher Bakeries

1. Weiss Bakery
6635 Castor Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19149
(215) 722-4506
2. La Romme
10186 Bustleton Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19115
(215) 969-6003
3. Gelbstein's Lakewood
Shoprite of East Windsor
Kosher Experience Department
Contact person: Ben
(609) 448-1040

Bat Mitzvah Payment Plan

Please let fill out the below payment plan. There are 2 options:

1. By check – in installments or up front
2. By credit card – in installments or upfront

Please check your appropriate fee.

\$2,350

\$2,050

\$1,650

Please fill out this form so that we can finalize your date:

Please charge my credit card \$ _____ (monthly/quarterly) _____ for the Bat Mitzvah.

Please charge my credit card \$ _____ a month for _____

Credit Card No. _____ Exp _____

Security Code _____

Signature _____

Print Name On Card _____

Phone No. _____