

Lubavitch of Bucks County

BAR MITZVAH PREPARATION

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Lubavitch of Bucks County

BAR MITZVAH PREPARATION

Introduction

Lubavitch of Bucks County offers a comprehensive Bar 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 Bar Mitzvah, we share with your family the privilege and responsibility of welcoming him 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

Bar 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 13. 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 Bar Mitzvahs at least 18 months prior to your child's 13th 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 Bar Mitzvah must be in the year following that date, as close as possible to the date but not before it.

A boy begins Bar Mitzvah preparation 1 year prior to his Bar Mitzvah. This includes a weekly class with other Bar Mitzvah boys participating in the Bar Mitzvah Heritage Course for approximately 12 weeks and thorough completion of the Bar Mitzvah workbook. This will be preceded or followed by at least 4 months of private lessons with the Rabbi in preparation for his ceremony.

The Bar 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 Bar Mitzvah. Following are the Bar Mitzvah guidelines.

Bar 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 those conversions meet with the above stated guidelines. According to the Jewish tradition, 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 Bar Mitzvah. Active participation includes participation in holiday programs. This would show family participation and support to your son. It will also make your family and son familiar with Jewish community life.
3. The Bar Mitzvah Heritage Course is designed especially for Bar Mitzvah students who are approaching their special day. It is necessary for the Bar Mitzvah boy to attend this course which is a supplement to any Hebrew School and Bar Mitzvah training. (If your child attends a Jewish Day School he will not be required to attend the Bar Mitzvah Heritage Course.)
4. A pair of Kosher Tefillin must be purchased for every Bar Mitzvah boy at least 3 months prior to his Hebrew birthday. Either Lubavitch can order them for you or we can refer you to a legitimate seller. Please do not purchase them from an outside source before consulting with us. The Rabbi will teach your son the significance of Tefillin and how to put them on.

Bar Mitzvah Service Options

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

1. **A Sunday/weekday Tefillin service.** This service held on Sunday/weekday morning. It does not include a Torah reading. The Bar Mitzvah boy dons Tefillin, leads several prayers in Hebrew as well as in English. After the service the Bar Mitzvah boy shares a speech. Songs, 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.

2. **Havdalah Service:** This service begins 1 hour after Shabbat is over. It includes the Bar Mitzvah Boy chanting the service in Hebrew and reciting the blessings over grape juice, spices and the havdalah candle. He would also share a speech. Songs, 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 as sundown is very early.

3. **A Rosh Chodesh service.** This service is generally held when the first day of the Jewish month, Rosh Chodesh, falls out on a Sunday. This morning service begins at 9:00am or 10:00am. It includes the Bar Mitzvah Boy reading the Torah during service. The Rabbi shares vignettes about the prayers interspersed throughout the service. After the service the Bar Mitzvah boy shares a speech. The Rabbi's speech, the parents blessing and/or speech and the throwing of candies are included in this service.

This service is approximately 75 minutes. Men & women sit separately. Photography, videography & microphones are welcome.

4. **A Monday or Thursday service on a legal holiday.** This service held on legal holidays when guests have flexibility to attend. It is a morning service at 9:00am or 10:00am. It includes the Bar Mitzvah Boy reading the Torah during service. The Rabbi shares vignettes about the prayers interspersed throughout the service. After the service the Bar Mitzvah boy shares a speech. The Rabbi's speech, the parents blessing and/or speech and the throwing of candies are included in this service.

This service is approximately 75 minutes. Men & women sit separately. Photography, videography & microphones are welcome.

5. **A Shabbat afternoon service:** This service begins approximately 75 minutes before sundown. It includes the Bar Mitzvah Boy reading the Torah followed by a small service. After the service the Bar Mitzvah boy would share a speech. Songs, the Rabbi's speech, the parents blessing and/or speech and the throwing of candies are included in this service.

This service is approximately 75 minutes. Men & women sit separately.

6. **A Shabbat morning service.** This service is on Saturday mornings and begins at 9:30am - 12:15pm. It includes the Bar Mitzvah Boy reading the Torah and possibly parts of the service and the throwing of candies is included. The Bar Mitzvah boy & the Rabbi give a speech during the service. The service is following by a Kiddush (an informal light buffet lunch) that usually ends about 1:00pm. The parents blessing and/or speech are welcome during the Kiddush. The service includes a morning Shabbat service from 9:30 - 10:40, the Torah reading from about 10:40-11:30, speeches and the concluding service from about 11:50 - 12:15.

We encourage you to invite your guests for the main service which begins at 10:30am.

This service is approximately 2 hours. Men & women sit separately.

Fees

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

This includes:

- The Bar Mitzvah Heritage Course
- Private tutoring with the Rabbi.
- Officiating of Bar Mitzvah
- 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 his Bar Mitzvah the Bar Mitzvah preparation is \$2,050.

If your child has attended our Aleph Bet Hebrew School for at least two years prior to his Bar Mitzvah the Bar Mitzvah preparation is \$1650:

Appendix I

Bar 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.

Kippot

The Synagogues make available the simple Kippot for usage by your male guests. It is a beautiful tradition (not obligatory) for the family to order special Kippot with a personal “Mazel Tov” imprint. These should be ordered well in advance to allow for shipment. Included below is a list of suppliers.

Kiddush

If you have chosen the Saturday morning service option, the Bar Mitzvah families are required to sponsor the kiddush (an informal light buffet lunch) immediately following a Shabbat services. Please keep in mind that the kiddush is for the whole Congregation. You may opt to host a sit-down lunch. Prices for Kiddush vary based upon the number of people and choice of foods. Included below is a list of bakeries and accepted kosher caterers.

Outside Caterer

Lubavitch of Bucks County adheres to Kosher standards. If you prefer bringing in an outside caterer for the Kiddush/Lunch, 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 “Bar 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

The Kol Yisroel service adheres to traditional Jewish Laws and Customs.

We hope that with your participation in Shabbat services prior to the Bar Mitzvah you will become accustomed to the practices and traditions of the service. We have outlined some of the guidelines below:

- a. The Shul has a “mechitza” (divider) between the men and women section during the services mentioned above.
- b. There is no mechitza needed for a Tefillin and Havdallah Service.
- c. Photography shoots for a Shabbat service are allowed on a date prior to the Shabbat celebration.
- d. All items that will be delivered for a Shabbat service, whether food, flowers, kippot or anything else, must be delivered prior to Shabbat. All pick up of left over items must be done after Shabbat is over.
- e. Any printed materials (booklets, flyers, etc.) that you plan to distribute at the Bar Mitzvah must be reviewed and approved by the Rabbi prior to the event.
- f. All speeches must be pre-approved by the Rabbi.
- g. There is a tradition to toss candies at the Bar Mitzvah boy after his Aliya. 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.
- h. The family of the Bar Mitzvah can distribute the Aliyot (honor of being called to the Torah) to their family and friends. Please keep in mind that only Jewish men over the age of 13 are called for these honors. An Aliya form has been included in this package with detailed information to help you select those you wish to honor.

Appendix 2

Bar Mitzvah Resource List

Kippot & Yarmulkes

1. A-I Skullcaps
800-4-KIPPAS
www.skullcap.com
2. J. Lowy Yarmulke Manufacturing
800-KIPPOTT
www.kipot.com

(856) 816-3233

7. Shoprite of Lawrenceville
Kosher Experience Department
(609) 275-8555
8. Shoprite on the Boulevard
Kosher Experience Department
(215) 673-1200
9. Shoprite of East Windsor
Kosher Experience Department
Contact person: Ben
(609) 448-1040

Acceptable Kosher Caterers

1. Greenwald Caterers
Michael Rubin
(732) 370-8300
2. Elite Caterers
Shlomo Katz
(718) 337- 6600
3. Prestige Caterers
Craig Stier
O (718) 464-8400
C (201) 206-5363
www.prestigecaterers.com
4. Scoop & Co.
(718) 853-5368
www.scoopparty.com
5. Exquisite Catering
718-778-8787
718-778-6884
6. Signature Caterers
Isaac Linietsky
(856) 755-1277

10. 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

Appendix 3

For Shabbat Morning Service Option

Shabbat Sleeping Accommodations

For your guests or those who would like to observe the Shabbat in a traditional fashion, there are 2 hotels within 1/4 mile of the Glazier Jewish Center in Newtown.

- The Brick Hotel - 1 E. Washington Avenue, Newtown (215) 860-8313
- The Temperance House Inn - 5-11 South State Street, Newtown (215)860-9975

There is one hotel one mile from Kol Yisroel Shul in Yardley.

- The Hampton Inn - 1000 Stony Hill Road, Yardley (215) 860-1700

Classic Kiddush List

Per 20 people

2 boxes of Tam Tams
2 kosher spreads (i.e, hummous, eggplant, egg, tuna)
2 bottles of soda
Water/Seltzer
1 bag of kosher chips
1 bag of kosher pretzels
1 box of kosher cookies
Kosher cake

1 bottle of grape juice
1 bottle of wine
Plastic cups
Plastic forks
Napkins
Small Plates

Enhanced Kiddush List

Fish or meat platters can be ordered from Shoprite of East Windsor Kosher Experience Department per the number of expected people.

1 bottle of grape juice
1 bottle of wine

Aliyah Form

General information regarding aliyot: Only Jewish men above the age of 13 may be honored with an aliyah. The first aliyah is given to a Kohen. The second aliyah is given to a Levite. The remaining aliyot are given to Israelites. A father and son cannot receive “back to back” aliyot. A child may be honored with tying the Torah.

	Aliyah	Name & Relation	Hebrew name & fathers Hebrew name
	Opening Ark	Name	
		Relation	
	Kohen	Name	Hebrew name
		Relation	Fathers Hebrew name
	Levi	Name	Hebrew name
		Relation	Fathers Hebrew name
	3 rd Aliyah	Name	Hebrew name
		Relation	Fathers Hebrew name
	4 th Aliyah	Name	Hebrew name
		Relation	Fathers Hebrew name
	5 th Aliyah	Name	Hebrew name
		Relation	Fathers Hebrew name
	6 th Aliyah	Name	Hebrew name
		Relation	Fathers Hebrew name
	7 th Aliyah	Name	Hebrew name
		Relation	Fathers Hebrew name
	Maftir	Name	Hebrew name
		Relation	Fathers Hebrew name
	Lifting Torah	Name	Hebrew name
		Relation	Fathers Hebrew name
	Tying Torah	Name	Hebrew name
		Relation	Fathers Hebrew name
		Name	
		Relation	

Bar 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 Bar Mitzvah.

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

Credit Card No. _____ Exp _____

Security Code _____

Signature _____

Print Name On Card _____

Phone No. _____