B'nai Mitzvah
at Broward Central Synagogue

BROWARD CENTRAL SYNAGOGUE



INTRODUCTION

At Broward Central Synagogue, we want your child's B'nai Mitzvah to be a truly meaningful and memorable experience. Each service is personalized to reflect your family's preferences, and we welcome the participation of your loved ones throughout this special milestone.

SCHEDULING

Most B'nai Mitzvah ceremonies take place during **Shabbat Morning Services (Shacharit):**

- **Saturdays, 9:30am**
  Service lasts about 2 hours

We also offer alternative options for families who prefer a different setting:

- ***Mincha** - Saturday afternoons at 1:30pm lasting about 60 minutes.
- ***Havdalah Services** - Saturdays 75 minutes before Shabbat ends 75 minutes duration. ***Service requires party to be booked with one of our caterers.***
- **Thursday mornings** - 8:00am and last approximately 75 minutes.

If you would like to explore one of these options or adjust your date, please contact **Rabbi Mark Goldman**. Additionally, families who would like their child to begin the tradition of wearing *tefillin* on a weekday before the B'nai Mitzvah should reach out to **Rabbi Uri Romano** to arrange a time.

Please note: All information in this booklet, including service times, schedules, fees, and program details, is subject to change. Please confirm current information with the synagogue office as you plan your B'nai Mitzvah.

Brit Mitzvah
A Sacred Covenant

Throughout the B'nai Mitzvah year, your family will have many opportunities to connect with our clergy and community. Our clergy will guide your child in learning, preparation and spiritual growth leading up to this milestone and beyond.





We ask each B'nai Mitzvah family to commit to the following:

a) Daily Practice: Students should study Hebrew and prayers for at least **18 minutes per day** beginning six months before their ceremony.

b) Service Attendance: Attend at least **7 Shabbat services** (Friday night or Saturday morning) during the B'nai Mitzvah year.

c) Hebrew Preparation: If your child is not yet fluent in Hebrew, they must participate in Hebrew reading classes offered by the synagogue or work with a private tutor. One year before the ceremony, our clergy will review your child's Hebrew skills. If extra support is needed, additional lessons will be required. Contact Valeria Michanie for Hebrew tutoring opportunities.

B'nai Mitzvah
Timeline

6TH GRADE AT RELIGIOUS SCHOOL – PRE B'NAI MITZVAH PREPARATION

In 6th grade, members of our clergy team lead family programs throughout the year.
These sessions help families:

- Explore the meaning of becoming B'nai Mitzvah
- Learn about the Mitzvah Project
- Discuss the role of Torah in our lives
- Review the preparation process and expectations

A detailed schedule of these sessions will be sent before the school year begins.

7TH GRADE – HEBREW HIGH

Hebrew High offers a vibrant Jewish community for 7th–12th graders, inspiring teens to explore their identity, connect with tradition and develop leadership skills. Through interactive learning and hands-on experiences led by clergy and educators, students build confidence, strengthen their Jewish values and deepen their connection to the community.

From B'nai Mitzvah preparation to Confirmation and leadership development, Hebrew High empowers teens to grow into knowledgeable, confident and engaged Jewish young adults.

10 MONTHS BEFORE – FOCUS ON HEBREW

At this stage, Hebrew fluency is essential. Students should already be able to read Hebrew confidently before private lessons will begin (six months prior to B'nai Mitzvah).

- For Hebrew classes, contact **Valeria Michanie** for information.
- Private tutors may also be arranged with Valeria's guidance.

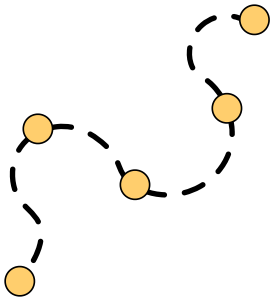
7 – 9 MONTHS BEFORE – MEETING WITH THE RABBI

This first meeting is an introduction to the B'nai Mitzvah journey.
The Rabbi will:

- Learn more about your family
- Explain the expectations of the process
- Review the four pillars of becoming B'nai Mitzvah at Broward Central Synagogue:
    1. Leading prayers
    2. Reading from the Torah
    3. Delivering a speech (*D'var Torah*)
    4. Completing Mitzvah Projects

The synagogue office will contact you to schedule this meeting.

B'nai Mitzvah
Timeline



6 MONTHS BEFORE – INDEPENDENT TUTORING SESSIONS

Weekly 30-minute individual lessons, held in person. Online lessons may be arranged upon request when needed.

- Students are expected to study at home for **18 minutes per day.**
- Tutors are available to answer student questions until 7:00pm daily (except Shabbat).

5 MONTHS BEFORE – RABBI'S STUDY SESSIONS

Families will meet with Rabbi Uri at TKAE or Rabbi Mark at TBO several times in the five months before the ceremony. These sessions focus on:

- Learning about the Torah portion
- Preparing the student's B'nai Mitzvah speech (*D'var Torah*)
- Helping parents with their speeches

Speech guidelines can be found in the appendix of this booklet.

4 MONTHS BEFORE – FOCUS ON MITZVOT

Our Youth Coordinator, **Rabbi Melissa Stollman**, will contact you to begin planning the Mitzvah Project. Each student selects two projects:

1. ***Bein Adam LeChavero*** – mitzvot between people (helping others, repairing the world)
2. ***Bein Adam LaMakom*** – mitzvot between ourselves and God (strengthening Jewish identity and practice)

A list of possible projects is included in the appendix.
If you'd like to get a head start on planning, feel free to reach out to Rabbi Melissa in advance.

1 MONTH BEFORE

- Families will receive a **B'nai Mitzvah Honors Sheet**, listing ways to honor relatives and friends during the service (*Torah aliyot*, English readings, ark openings, etc.).
- Rabbi Uri (Kol Ami Campus) or Rabbi Mark (Beth Orr Campus) will review this with you in your meetings.
- The completed Honors Sheet is due **15 days before** the ceremony.

1 – 2 WEEKS BEFORE

There will be a **rehearsal in the sanctuary** with the clergy.

- At least one parent must attend with the student.

Who to Contact

SCHEDULING AND GENERAL QUESTIONS:

Rabbi Mark Goldman
rabbimark@bcsfl.org

CATERING AND BALLROOM RENTAL:

Heather Gottlieb
hgottlieb@bcsfl.org

FORMS AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT:

Nadia Elishiv
nadia@bcsfl.org

MITZVAH PROJECT

Rabbi Melissa Stollman
mstollman@bcsfl.org

HONORS, SPEECHES AND FAMILY MATTERS:

Rabbi Uri Romano
rabbiuri@bcsfl.org
TKAE

Rabbi Mark Goldman
rabbimark@bcsfl.org
TBO

SCHEDULE TUTORING

Rabbi, Cantor Gastón Bogomolni
rabbigaston@bcsfl.org

B'nai Mitzvah Preferences and Options

INCLUDED IN YOUR B'NAI MITZVAH EXPERIENCE

Thursday Morning Sponsorship:
Families are invited to participate in our Thursday morning minyan and sponsor the Israeli-style breakfast following services in honor of their B'nai Mitzvah.

Friday Night Participation
Families are invited to light the Shabbat candles during Friday night services. In addition, you will have the opportunity to help lead several familiar prayers as part of the celebration.

Shabbat Dinner Sponsorship
Many families choose to stay and sponsor the Shabbat dinner following services.

- Your B'nai Mitzvah fee includes dinner sponsorship for up to 10 guests.
- Additional guests may be added for $36 per person.

Please note: this fee covers only the added individuals and does not include or reserve an additional table.

- A reserved additional table (seating up to 10 guests) is available for $360.
- Upgrades to both the dinner and the dessert Oneg are available upon request.

OPTIONAL ADD-ONS

- **Live Stream - $250-** Sanctuary only; not available in the chapel
  - Private channel or synagogue Facebook page
- **Ballroom Use**
  - Available for Kiddush, brunch, dinner or party
  - Contact Heather Gottlieb for approved caterers and rental fees

Frequently
Asked Questions



- **What should my child (and family) wear?** Please dress modestly and respectfully in the sanctuary. Shoulders and knees should be covered. If you have questions, contact the office.

- **Can we have photographers or videographers?** Yes.
  <u>They may:</u>
  - Take photos/video up to **45 minutes before the service.**
  - Coordinate with the office to schedule photography times.

- **What financial obligations must be completed?** All synagogue financial commitments must be up to date **two months before** your B'nai Mitzvah:
  - Membership dues
  - Religious school tuition
  - B'nai Mitzvah fee
  - Building fund
  - Security fee

- The B'nai Mitzvah fee also includes sponsorship of the **Friday night Shabbat Dinner** (up to 10 guests).

- **Can we decorate or set up in the sanctuary?** Light, respectful decorations may be discussed with the office in advance.

- **What happens if we have more questions?** Our clergy and staff are here to support you. Please don't hesitate to contact us at any time.







The B'nai Mitzvah Speech
D'var Torah



The **speech or *D'var Torah*** is a central part of becoming B'nai Mitzvah. It provides each student the opportunity to share their own learning and insights about the weekly Torah portion and Jewish life.

Expectations

- Students will write their speech with guidance from **the clergy.**
- A **draft must be submitted** to the Rabbi at least **two weeks before the ceremony.**
- Average length: **5 minutes** (about one typed page).

Outline for the Student Speech

Each speech is unique. We suggest the following:

- **Welcome**: Greet your family, friends and community.
- **Hebrew Name**: Share the meaning of your Hebrew name, its origins or why it was chosen.
- **Jewish Identity**: Speak about what Judaism means to you (favorite holiday, story or Jewish value).
- **D'var Torah**:
  - Name your Torah portion and which book of the Torah it is from.
  - Give a brief summary of the portion.
  - Share a personal insight (*chidush*) about one story, law or idea from the portion.
- **Mitzvah Project**: Describe your chosen projects and why they are meaningful.
- **Closing**: Thank parents, family, clergy and friends.

Guidelines for Parents Speech

Parents also have the opportunity to share a short blessing or reflection.

- Focus on your child's **Jewish journey** and the significance of becoming B'nai Mitzvah.
- Mention the **Mitzvah Project** or other ways your child contributes to the community.
- You may give one combined speech or divide it between parents.
- Keep the total time to **3–4 minutes.**

Kivudim
Honors

The **Torah service** is a highlight of the B'nai Mitzvah ceremony. Families have the opportunity to honor relatives and friends with meaningful roles.

Types of Honors

- ***Aliyot* (Torah Blessings)**: Individuals are called to the Torah to recite the blessings before and after the reading.
- **Ark Openings *(Peticha)***: Opening and closing the Ark where the Torah is kept.
- **Lifting the Torah *(Hagbah)***: Lifting the Torah scroll and displaying it to the congregation.
- **Dressing the Torah *(Gelilah)***: Wrapping and dressing the Torah after it is lifted.
- **English Readings:** Selected prayers or blessings in English.

Rabbi Uri at TKAE or Rabbi Mark at TBO will review all options with your family during your meetings and help you decide who to honor.

Number of Aliyot

- **Shabbat Morning Service (Saturday):** 7 *Aliyot*
- **Thursday Morning or Saturday Afternoon Services:** 3 *Aliyot*

A **B'nai Mitzvah Honors Sheet** will be provided for you to fill out and return 15 days before your ceremony.



Sample B'nai Mitzvah Program

***For Saturday Morning.** Call the synagogue office for Thursday and Saturday afternoon programs.

Many families create a printed program to help guests follow the service. Below is a sample outline you may adapt for your child's ceremony.

Broward Central Synagogue
Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah of [Child's Name]
Saturday, [Hebrew Date] / [Gregorian Date]
Senior Rabbi Uriel Romano
Senior Cantor, Rabbi Mark Goldman

Understanding the Service:

- ***Birkot Hashachar* (Morning Blessings)**
  Opening blessings expressing gratitude for life and creation.
- ***Pesukei Dezimra* (Verses of Praise):**
  Psalms and prayers of praise that set the tone for the service.
- ***Barchu* (Call to Prayer):**
  Formal beginning of communal prayer.
- ***Shema* and Its Blessings:**
  Central declaration of Jewish faith: "Hear, O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is One."
- ***Amida* (The Standing Prayer):**
  A series of blessings recited silently while standing.
- **Torah Service:**
  - Opening the Ark and removing the Torah
  - Torah reading with family/friend honors *(Aliyot)*
  - *Haftarah* reading by [Child's Name]
  - *D'var Torah* (speech) by [Child's Name]
  - Parents' Blessing
  - *Kaddish* (memorial prayer)
- ***Kiddush* and *HaMotzi*:**
  Blessings over wine and bread at the conclusion of the service.

Key Jewish Symbols in the Synagogue

- ***Kippah* (*Yarmulke*):** Head covering worn as a sign of respect.
- ***Tallit* (Prayer Shawl):** Worn during morning prayers.
- ***Bima*:** The platform from which the Torah is read.
- **Ark (*Aron Kodesh*):** Cabinet where Torah scrolls are kept.
- ***Ner Tamid* (Eternal Light):** Always-burning light symbolizing God's eternal presence.

Personal Touches

- **Mitzvah Project:** [Child's Name] has chosen to [insert project description]. This project is meaningful because [reason].
- **Torah Portion:** [Child's Name] will read from [*Parsha* Name], which includes [brief summary].
- **Thank You:** Thank you for joining us to celebrate [Child's Name]'s B'nai Mitzvah. Your presence makes this day even more meaningful.

The Mitzvah Project

Becoming B'nai Mitzvah is not only about reading from the Torah, it is about taking responsibility as a Jewish adult. Each student will complete **two Mitzvah Projects:**

- ***Bein Adam LeChavero*** - *mitzvot* between people (helping others, repairing the world).
- ***Bein Adam LaMakom*** - *mitzvot between ourselves and God (strengthening Jewish identity and practice).*

Students should select projects that are **meaningful and personal**. Projects must be approved by our Youth Program Coordinator, **Rabbi Melissa Stollman**, at least **four months before** the ceremony.

At the end of 6th grade, families will also be invited to a **Mitzvah Fair** to meet local organizations and learn about opportunities for involvement.

How to Choose a Project

Ask yourself these questions:

- What am I good at?
- What do I enjoy doing?
- What problems in the world matter most to me?
- Who do I know that could help me?

Examples of Projects

Bein Adam LeChavero (Social/Community Projects)

- ***Tzedakah* (Charity):** Organize a fundraiser or clothing drive for those in need.
- ***Gemilut Chasadim* (Acts of Kindness):** Visit a nursing home or volunteer at a shelter.
- ***Tikkun Olam* (Repairing the World):** Lead an environmental clean-up or recycling project.
- ***Hachnasat Orchim* (Hospitality):** Welcome new families to the community with meals or events.
- ***Bikur Cholim* (Visiting the Sick):** Visit hospitals or send care packages to those who are ill.
- **Respect for the Elderly:** Volunteer at an assisted living facility or record stories from seniors.
- **Kindness to Animals:** Volunteer at an animal shelter or organize a fundraiser for animal welfare.

Bein Adam LaMakom (Jewish Practice and Tradition)

- **Shabbat:** Add a new family Shabbat practice (candle lighting, *Kiddush* or technology-free time).
- ***Tallit* or *Tefillin*:** Begin wearing a tallit or tefillin once a week.
- **Daily Prayer or Blessings:** Recite the *Shema* in the morning and evening, or say blessings before eating.
- **Torah Study:** Read a Jewish book (traditional or modern) and share what you learned.
- ***Tzedakah* Box:** Put coins in a *tzedakah* box daily to build the habit of giving.
- ***Mezuzah*:** Hang a *mezuzah* on your bedroom door and help provide *mezuzot* for others.
- ***Modeh Ani*:** Begin each day with this short prayer of gratitude.
- ***Ahavat Tzion* (Love for Israel):** Learn more about Israel and create a project to support its people.

Key Dictionary Words

For B'nai Mitzvah Students

SYNAGOGUE AND SACRED SPACE

- **בימה – *Bimah (bee-mah)* – Platform -** The raised area in the synagogue where the Torah is read and services are led.
- **ארון קודש – *Aron Kodesh (ah-RONE koh-desh)* – Holy Ark -** The cabinet where the Torah scrolls are kept.
- **נר תמיד – *Ner Tamid (nair tah-MEED)* – Eternal Light -** A light that always stays lit above the Ark, symbolizing God's eternal presence.
- **סידור – *Siddur (see-DOOR)* – Prayer Book -** The book of Jewish prayers used during services.
- **חומש – *Chumash (khoo-MASH)* -** A printed book of the Five Books of Moses (the Torah), used for study and reading along.

TORAH SERVICE

- **עלייה – *Aliyah (ah-lee-YAH)* – "Going up" -** Being called up to the Torah to recite blessings before and after a reading.
- **פרשה – *Parashah (pah-rah-SHAH)* – Torah Portion -** The weekly section of the Torah that is read on Shabbat.
- **הפטרה – *Haftarah (haf-tah-RAH)* – Prophetic Reading -** A selection from the Prophets read after the Torah portion.
- **יד – *Yad (yahd)* – Pointer -** A pointer, often silver or wood, used to follow the words in the Torah without touching the scroll.
- **כבוד – *Kavod (kah-VOHD)* – Honor/Respect -** The value of showing respect — often used to describe the honor of being called to the Torah.
- **דרשה / דבר תורה – *D'var Torah (d'VAR toh-RAH)* – Word of Torah -** A short speech or teaching about the Torah portion, often given by the B'nai Mitzvah.

PRAYER

- **תפילה – *Tefilah (teh-fee-LAH)* – Prayer -** The Hebrew word for prayer in general or sometimes a specific service.
- **שחרית – *Shacharit (SHAH-khah-reet)* – Morning Service -** The daily morning prayers, which include the Torah reading on Mondays, Thursdays and Shabbat.
- **מנחה – *Mincha (min-HAH)* – Afternoon Service -** The daily afternoon prayers.
- **הבדלה – *Havdalah (hahv-dah-LAH)* – Separation -** The ceremony marking the end of Shabbat, with blessings over wine, spices and a braided candle.
- **קדיש – *Kaddish (kah-DEESH)* – Sanctification -** A prayer that praises God; also recited in memory of loved ones.
- **קדושה – *Kedushah (keh-doo-SHAH)* – Holiness -** A special section of the Amidah prayer, recited out loud in community, declaring God's holiness.
- **קידוש – *Kiddush (kee-DOOSH)* – Sanctification -** The blessing over wine that sanctifies Shabbat and holidays.
- **המוציא – *HaMotzi (hah-MOHT-see)* – Blessing over bread -** The blessing said before eating bread, especially challah on Shabbat.

ARMENTS AND RITUAL OBJECTS

- **טלית – *Tallit (tah-LEET)* – Prayer Shawl -** A shawl with fringes (tzitzit) worn during morning prayers.
- **תפילין – *Tefillin (teh-fee-LEEN)* – Phylacteries -** Small leather boxes with Torah verses inside, wrapped on the arm and head during weekday morning prayers.
- **כיפה – *Kippah / Yarmulke (KEE-pah / YAH-mul-keh)* – Head Covering -** A skullcap worn as a sign of respect and awareness of God.

Organization	Contact Name	Cell	Email
FIDF **Friends of IDF**	**Miriam Engel** **Becky Saka**	**(561) 613-5474** **(754) 317-1607**	**Miriam.Engel@fidf.org** **Becky.Saka@fidf.org**
YEDIDIM A South Florida Jewish community organization that brings together volunteers and professionals to assist those facing hardship.	**Eran**	**(954) 822-6157**	**Eran@yedidimusa.org**
The Cupboard Jewish Food Pantry	**Lourdes Flieger**	Direct: **(954) 530 -7555 x 401** Office: **(954) 530-7555**	**lfiegler@jfsbroward.org**
Showering Love Provides a variety of critical services to families, women, men and children who are experiencing homelessness, with a special focus on veterans.	**Jeanne Albaugh**	**(954) 529-6098**	**contact@showeringlove.org**
Sharsheret A Jewish breast cancer organization that helps women and their families face breast cancer.	**Michelle Mavora**	**(305) 962- 6413**	**mmavorah@sharsheret.org**
Hatzalah Hatzalah South Florida Emergency Medical Services is a volunteer, not-for-profit organization with a mission to improve medical outcomes and save lives.	**Mapal Levy**	**(786) 355-7746**	**mapal@hsfems.org**

Organization	Contact Name	Cell	Email
Joshua's Heart Foundation Joshua's Heart is dedicated to the fight against global hunger and poverty.	**Claudia**	**(305) 944-4452**	**jeannette@eagleshaven.org**
Coastal Cleanup		**(954) 519-1296**	**CoastalCleanup@Broward.org**
Giborim Special Need program at David Posnack JCC	**Debra Lombard**		**dlombard@dpjcc.org**
Rak Pak JFS clothe pantry for women and children	**Darelle Buckley**	**(954) 547-0649**	**dbuckley@jfsbroward.org**
JFS Holocaust Department	**Rami Sinkoe**	**(954) 214-4654**	**rspiegel@jfsbroward.org**
Humane Society of Broward County	**Darlene Feldman**		**dfeldman@hsbroward.com**
Joe Di Maggio	**Milin Espino** **Kacee Reid**		**mespino@mhs.net** **KacReid@mhs.net**
Blood Mobile			**Nylma.Vargas@oneblood.org** **Gary.Jusino@oneblood.org**
JAFCO- Eagles' Haven Wellness Center	**Janett Cohen**	**(754) 422-7241**	**jeannette@eagleshaven.org**
Cantor Center Residency Cantor Senior Center is a hub of social, educational and recreational activities for seniors in the North West Broward area	**Wendy Bercowitz**		**wendy@cantorcenter.com**

Organization	Contact Name	Cell	Email
Debbie's Dream Foundation Curing Stomach Cancer is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness about stomach cancer, advancing funding for research	**Andrea Eidelman**	**(305) 298-4848**	**andrea.eidelman@debbiesdream.org**
JNF Jewish National Fund	**Liron Ozery**	**(305) 682-0025**	**lozery@jnf.org**
In Jacob's Shoes Providing children in need the opportunity to walk with pride and go to school prepared and with dignity.	**Maddy Chusid**	**(954) 257-4563**	**Maddy@injacobsshoes.org**
Sunshine Circle Help break the cycle of loneliness. Prevent isolation, make the golden years brighter for Holocaust survivors and seniors.	**Liba**		**Libaanddru@gmail.com**
Kids Can Help	**Maxine Jacobowitz**	**(305) 588-7414**	**www.KidsCanHelpKids.com**
American Friends of Magen David Adom (AFMDA)		**(212) 757-1627**	**info@afmda.org** **https://afmda.org/**
Soccer for Peace			**http://soccerforpeace.com/**
Becca's Closet A non-profit organization that donates free prom dresses to high school girls around the United States.		**(954) 424-9999**	**https://www.beccascloset.org/donate/**
Broward Outreach Center Helping men, women, and children with meals, safe shelter, life-changing residential programs, employment, and housing resulting in transformed lives.		**(954) 926-7417**	**https://browardoutreachcenter.org/**