

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Procedures for Parents and Students

Temple Sinai
Dresher, PA



תורה • עבודה • גמילות חסדים
TEMPLE SINAI
Learning • Serving • Caring

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May 2019

Dear Temple Sinai *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* Family:

When it comes to milestones in a young person's life, becoming a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* is without a doubt the most exciting. It is also one of great significance and a celebration in which you and your child will invest much time and energy. It is my hope that the ceremony will be one which all of you enjoy immensely.

I also hope that you will find the process of preparing for this momentous event meaningful. There are many components to it and a great many details to consider. Hopefully, this handbook will serve as a helpful guide and answer many of your questions as you plan for your special day.

With so much to attend to, it is possible to lose sight of what becoming a *Bar* or *Bat Mitzvah* truly represents. It is an opportunity for family, friends and the congregation to celebrate as a young person says: "I am proud of who I am, of what I have learned and from where I came. I am proud to be Jewish and want to do my part to make this world a better place." If that can be said, then it matters little how much of the service one leads or how elaborate the celebration is following the ceremony. The greatest blessing we experience comes from celebrating our child's commitment to the Jewish people and to Jewish life.

I, and the rest of the Temple Sinai professional staff, look forward to sharing in the preparations for your special day!

Mazal Tov!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rabbi Adam Wohlberg". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Rabbi Adam Wohlberg

BAR/BAT MITZVAH TIMETABLE

(What needs to be done and When it needs to be done)

End of 4th grade: *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* dates will be assigned at a meeting with students and parents. At this meeting Rabbi Wohlberg, Shira Weissbach and others, will review several important components of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* process. Information regarding a **mitzvah project** will be shared as well. Any issues that arise concerning a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* date should be brought to the attention of Rabbi Wohlberg as soon as possible.

Temple Sinai is a wonderful venue for a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* celebration. The synagogue can be reserved as soon as a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* date has been acquired. Questions and reservation requests should be directed to Ben Wachstein, our Executive Director (ben@tsinai.com or 215-643-6510 ext 114).

15 - 18 Months Ahead: Depending upon your celebration date, you will receive a digital letter from us asking you to finalize the space needed for your celebration at Temple Sinai (e.g. Friday *Shabbat* dinner, Saturday extended *kiddush*/luncheon and/or Saturday evening celebration).

Note: If you are planning a **Saturday evening celebration** at Temple Sinai, please note that the start time of your celebration will be dependent upon the time at which *Shabbat* ends. **You must contact Rabbi Wohlberg for the appropriate time at which to start your event at Temple Sinai.**

Mitzvah project details must be shared with Rabbi Wohlberg.

12-15 Months Ahead: You will be contacted by:

1. The synagogue to schedule a date on which to attend a Shabbat morning service at **which the pre-*Bar/Bat Mitzvah* student will be called to the Torah for an aliyah with his/her family.** Rabbi Wohlberg or Rabbi Hollander will give recognition to the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* student and his/her family.
2. The synagogue to **schedule the start of individual lessons.**
3. Rabbis' Assistant to schedule the first of 2 meetings with Rabbi Wohlberg and Rabbi Hollander. At the first meeting, you will receive a packet of information/forms and the rabbi will present a **set of guidelines and materials for writing a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah D'var Torah.***
4. You will also receive an assignment for your family to serve as "**Shabbat morning greeters**". Typically you will fulfill this mitzvah of *hachnasat orchim* ("welcoming guests") one to three weeks ahead of your child's ceremony.

10 Months Ahead: **If you/family members/friends want to read Torah at your child's *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* service, please inform Edy Israel** no later than 6 months prior to your service.

Purchase Religious Apparel - **Tallit and Tefillin** (can be purchased in our Sisterhood Giftshop)

You will receive our b'nei mitzvah information form asking for more detailed information about your celebrations (e.g. caterer, # of guests, etc). **These forms must be returned no later than 4 months** before the celebration. These forms are available on the Temple Sinai website at the bottom of the homepage under "Forms". www.tsinai.com

Timeline continued on the back of this page

BAR/BAT MITZVAH TIMETABLE

(What needs to be done and When it needs to be done)

- 6 Months Ahead:** You will be contacted by the Rabbis' Assistant to schedule a **2nd meeting with Rabbi Wohlberg or Rabbi Hollander** to take place after he has received a draft of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* child's *D'var Torah*.
- Mitzvah Project** should be well underway.
- Photography forms** must be completed and returned to Rabbi's Assistant.
- Submit a draft of your **Bar/Bat Mitzvah invitation** to Rabbi Wohlberg for review.
- Send a **picture and short biography** of your *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* child to Beth Berkowitz (schooloffice@tsinai.com) for inclusion in the Temple Sinai News.
- 2 Months Ahead:** Submit to Rabbi Wohlberg for approval:
1. **Parent's Prayer** (offered by parents on the bimah) in front of the Ark
 2. **Family Bar/Bat Mitzvah brochure** (optional). If you choose to create one, it must be approved by Rabbi Wohlberg no later than 1 month prior to your *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* service.
 3. The *final version* of the student's *D'var Torah* must be submitted to Rabbi Wohlberg for approval **no later than 1 month** ahead of the BBM date. Students missing this date may forfeit the privilege of sharing a *D'var Torah*/speech at their ceremony.
- 1 Month Ahead:** Submit names for the Temple Sinai **Shabbat brochure** (people whom you wish to recognize, remember or thank) to Rabbi's Assistant.
- Serve as greeters at a Shabbat morning service** prior to your *simcha* (one week or more prior to your family's *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* service.)
- Edy Israel will schedule your family's attendance at morning minyan** during the week preceding your *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* service (Monday or Thursday morning). *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* students participate in the service and typically read from the Torah. Family members are called up to the Torah for an *aliyah*. Your family will be invited to **sponsor the minyan breakfast**.
- 1 - 2 Weeks Ahead:** **Rehearse with Rabbi Wohlberg or Rabbi Hollander** in Sanctuary and provide him with the final version of your **honors/aliyot list**.
- Week of:** Attend Monday or Thursday morning *minyan*.
- Family photographed on the *bimah* (optional).

Contact information for synagogue personnel is located on the back of the handbook cover.

PREREQUISITES

Families who wish to celebrate a child's becoming a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* at Temple Sinai must be members in good standing.

In order to become a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* at Temple Sinai a student must have completed at least five years of Religious School or the equivalent at a Jewish Day School. The student must be enrolled in a Religious School, Day School or Hebrew High School at the time of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* ceremony and must continue his/her studies through the end of 7th grade. Even when the *Bat/Bar Mitzvah* ceremony takes place before the student has reached 7th grade, a student is required to continue his/her studies through the end of 7th grade.

ATTENDANCE

It cannot be emphasized strongly enough how much a familiarity with our synagogue's Shabbat services will aid a student in feeling more relaxed and comfortable on the day of his/her celebration. Please plan to attend Shabbat services (Friday night and especially Shabbat morning) regularly from now until the time of your family's *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* ceremony.

During the *Vav* year (6th grade), students will be introduced to the practice of wearing *tallit* and *tefillin*. Families are strongly encouraged to purchase a set of *tefillin* for their son or daughter. *Tallitot* and *Tefillin* are available for purchase in the Sisterhood Gift Shop.

RECOGNITION FOR A BAR/BAT MITZVAH STUDENT ONE YEAR IN ADVANCE

We will contact your family to schedule a date on which to attend a Shabbat morning service at which the pre-*Bar/Bat Mitzvah* student will be called to the *Torah* for an aliyah with his/her family. Rabbi Wohlberg or Rabbi Hollander will give recognition to the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* student and his/her family.

TRAINING PROCESS

The family will be contacted 1 year before the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* date to schedule the start of lessons. It is important that a parent should be present for the entire first lesson.

Lessons are generally 25-30 minutes in length, are given weekly, and are scheduled so as to not conflict with Religious School classes.

In order for lessons to begin, a family's synagogue financial obligations must be up to date and the student must be enrolled in an approved Jewish educational program (i.e. religious school or day school).

Please note: family members and family friends of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* can be assigned a Torah reading for the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* ceremony. These arrangements must be made no later than 6 months prior to the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* ceremony.

MITZVAH PROJECT

Students are required to conduct a mitzvah project prior to becoming a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*. The purpose of the mitzvah project is to give the student a greater awareness of the responsibility that we have as Jewish adults to fix the broken elements in our world. A mitzvah project can take many forms, but it should help a student feel that he/she can have an impact on the lives of others.

Information regarding a mitzvah project will be shared with families at the meeting at which *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* dates are assigned (end of 4th grade).

A student should decide on his/her mitzvah project no later than 18 months prior to his/her *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* ceremony. Details of the mitzvah project must be shared with Rabbi Wohlberg at that time. The mitzvah project must be completed 2 months prior to the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* ceremony.

If you are in need of project ideas, please contact Sydnie Ciment at sciment@tsinai.com.

MEETINGS WITH THE RABBIS - WRITING A D'VAR TORAH

Each student and his/her parents will have 2 meetings with the Rabbis. At the first meeting (10-12 months before the ceremony), the Rabbi will collect personal information from the student, discuss the significance of becoming a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* and provide information that will be helpful for the writing of a *D'var Torah* (speech).

Once a draft of the *D'var Torah* has been completed and submitted to the Rabbi (no later than 6 weeks prior to the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* ceremony), a second meeting with one of the Rabbis will be scheduled. At the second meeting, the Rabbi will review the *D'var Torah* with the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*, listen to the student chant and discuss options for further Jewish education.

Extra guidance and aid in writing the *D'var Torah* is available to students who request it.

TIME OF SERVICES

Our Friday night service customarily begins promptly at 6:00 P.M. and concludes at about 7:00 P.M. The service is followed by an *Oneg Shabbat* consisting of light refreshments to which the entire congregation is invited. **All families celebrating a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* are expected to attend Friday night services on the weekend of the ceremony.** Extended family and friends are welcome as well.

Our *Shabbat* morning service begins promptly at 9:30 A.M. and concludes at about noon. The *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* family is requested to arrive no later than 9:15 A.M. and to take their seats in the Sanctuary by 9:25 A.M. The service is followed by a *kiddush* to which the entire congregation is invited and at which the congregation may extend good wishes to the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* family. Families that choose to celebrate in the synagogue with a *kiddush* luncheon are asked to include the congregation in their *Se'udat Mitzvah* (Meal of Celebration).

If the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* is being celebrated at a *Mincha/Ma'ariv/Havdalah* service, the starting time will be determined Rabbi Wohlberg and is based on the time at which *Shabbat* concludes. The service lasts about one and one-quarter hours. **Rabbi Wohlberg must be consulted to establish the time of service and the time for the invitation.**

A Sunday morning *Rosh Chodesh, Chol HaMoed* or *Chanukah* service begins at 10:30 A.M. and concludes at about 12:00 P.M.

PARTICIPATION IN SERVICES

Friday Night Service

The *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* and his or her parents will ascend the *bimah* and read an English prayer before the congregation blesses the *Shabbat* candles. The *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* will lead the *Shema* and chant the *Kiddush* (the blessing over the wine)

Shabbat Morning - Shabbat Mincha/Ma'ariv/Havdalah - Sunday Service

1. The parents of the *Bar Mitzvah* - and of the *Bat Mitzvah* if she has chosen to wear a *tallit* - will present the *tallit* to their child prior to the start of the service.
2. The *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* will lead portions of the service both in Hebrew and in English.
3. The *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* will be called to the *Torah* for an *aliyah*. Siblings or other relatives of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* are welcome to call him/her to the *Torah*. A recording may be obtained for young children. Or, if you prefer, a member of the clergy will call your child to the *Torah*.
4. Parents of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* will be called to the *Torah* for an *aliyah* as well as others whom the family wishes to honor.
5. The *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* will share a *D'var Torah* (speech) with the congregation.
6. Parents of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* are invited to share a prayer with their child in front of the ark ("Parent's Prayer").
7. The Rabbi will speak to the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* and then recite a blessing over the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*. Parents, siblings and grandparents of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* will be invited to stand and recite the *Shehecheyanu* blessing with the Rabbi. As the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* then leaves the *bimah*, he/she will be showered with soft candy (optional) which is supplied by the ritual ushers.
8. At the conclusion of a *Shabbat* morning service, the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* and his/her immediate family will exit the sanctuary first and stand alongside the Rabbi in the auditorium as the blessings over the wine and challah are recited. (On certain *Shabbatot* these blessings will be recited on the *bimah* with the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* standing alongside the Rabbi.)

TORAH HONORS - ALIYOT

An *aliyah* (being called to the *Torah* to recite the *Torah* blessings) will be given to you and a set number of adult men and women whom you designate. A person called to the *Torah* for an *aliyah* must be able to read or recite the *Torah* blessings. If a person to whom you wish to give a *Torah* honor needs assistance with the blessings, please call Edy Israel, and a copy (in Hebrew and with transliteration) will be sent to you. If adults called to the *bimah* have small children, please assure them that children are welcome on the *bimah*.

A maximum of 6 adults can come up together for an aliyah.

Specific honors information can be found on the honors sheets included in this handbook. If members of your family are not Jewish, please consult with Rabbi Wohlberg during your first meeting as to how they might be honored during the service.

TORAH READERS

Temple Sinai encourages family members and friends of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* who are comfortable doing so, to read a portion of *Torah* at the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* service. Those who wish to read *Torah* will be required to have their *Torah* readings approved by Rabbi Wohlberg or Rabbi Hollander.

Arrangements for such readings must be made by calling or emailing Rabbi Wohlberg no later than 6 months prior to the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* service.

REHEARSAL

In the weeks leading up to the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* ceremony, students will spend lesson time in the sanctuary to become comfortable on the *bimah*, reading from the *Torah*, etc. Approximately two weeks before the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* ceremony, each student and his/her parents will have a full rehearsal in the sanctuary.

The rehearsal dates are set at least 6 months in advance of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* rehearsal and communicated by mail. They are generally held on Monday or Wednesday evenings. If your family has a conflict with the scheduled rehearsal, please be in touch with Edy Israel as soon as possible to discuss rescheduling.

At the rehearsal, the student will review everything that he/she has prepared and receive detailed instructions for his/her participation in the service (e.g. when to stand, sit, go to reader's table, etc). Students should bring their completed *D'var Torah* along with all other materials. Parents should bring their Parent's Prayer. If siblings are actively participating - through *Torah* reading, calling up their sibling for his/her *aliyah*, or in another way - they should attend the rehearsal as well.

PARTICIPATION OF NON-JEWS DURING THE BAR/BAT MITZVAH SERVICE

Non-Jewish relatives (i.e. grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, step-siblings) of a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* are permitted to come to the *bimah* for an *aliyah*, so long as there is at least one Jewish person called up for that *aliyah* and the Jewish individual is capable of reciting the *Torah* blessings. Non-Jewish relatives will not be asked to recite the blessings or participate in kissing the *Torah*.

Non-Jewish relatives of a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* are permitted to come to the *bimah* to recite a non-liturgical reading, which will be assigned by Rabbi Wohlberg upon request.

Non-Jewish relatives of a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* are permitted to come to the *bimah* to stand at the ark when the *Torah* is being taken from the ark, so long as Jewish relatives or friends are responsible for opening and closing the curtain and carrying the *Torah*.

A non-Jewish relative is permitted to accompany a Jewish relative onto the *bimah* who has been assigned the honor of *gelilah* (dressing the *Torah*).

MORNING MINYAN PARTICIPATION

Bar/Bat Mitzvah students are strongly encouraged to come with their families to the Monday and/or Thursday morning services which occur during the week prior to the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* ceremony. The family will receive an *aliyah* and the student will chant portions of his/her *Torah* reading and participate in the service. Extended family and friends are welcome to attend this service.

During these midweek services, young men - and those young women who have chosen this obligation - are expected to wear a *tallit*. The same is true of wearing *tefillin*.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah families are asked to sponsor the breakfast which follows the morning minyan. If you would like to sponsor the minyan breakfast (the fee for which can be obtained from the Accounting Office), that decision must be shared no later than 1 month prior to the breakfast.

Families whose *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* ceremony will take place on Saturday afternoon at a *Mincha/Ma'ariv/Havdalah* service have a different timetable for morning *minyan* participation.

RELIGIOUS APPAREL

A *Bar Mitzvah* must wear a *kippah* and *tallit*. A *Bat Mitzvah* must wear a head covering. If a *Bat Mitzvah* wishes to wear a *tallit*, she may do so. However, this decision should not be taken lightly, as the wearing of *tallit* is a lifelong obligation.

At Temple Sinai, all men wear head coverings. All women who go to the *bimah* must wear head coverings and should leave their handbags at their seats. We will gladly provide head coverings for those men and women who do not bring their own. If you would like to order personalized *kippot* for your guests, these can be ordered through the Sisterhood Gift Shop.

At Temple Sinai, the *tallit* is worn at a morning service, but not at a *Mincha* (evening) service. However, at all services, any man coming to the *bimah* for a *Torah* honor must wear a *tallit*. At a service where *tefillin* are worn (Sunday or weekday) the *Bar Mitzvah* - and *Bat Mitzvah* if she has chosen this obligation - must wear *tefillin*. Fathers and male siblings are also encouraged to wear *tefillin* as are other men receiving *Torah* honors.

Religious apparel, including *tallitot*, *tefillin*, *tallit* and *tefillin* bags, head coverings for women and *kippot* (personalized), are available for purchase in **Temple Sinai's Sisterhood Gift Shop**

BAR/BAT MITZVAH INVITATION

A draft of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* invitation must be submitted to Rabbi Wohlberg in advance of printing and mailing. This is done so that the Rabbi can confirm the accuracy of Hebrew spellings and that appropriate times are listed.

PARENT'S PRAYER

This prayer is offered by the parents to the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* student as the family stands together in front of the Ark during the service. Sample prayers will be provided at your first meeting with Rabbi Wohlberg or Rabbi Hollander. If you choose to write your own, please submit it to Rabbi Wohlberg for review no later than 2 months in advance of the service.

SHABBAT MORNING GREETERS & ADDITIONAL RECOGNITION

A week or two prior to a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* service, the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* and his/her parents are expected to come to the synagogue and serve as "Shabbat morning greeters." A *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* will be invited to close the Ark doors at the end of the Shabbat morning service the week before and the week after his/her own ceremony.

SHABBAT BROCHURE

Each week, a *Shabbat* brochure is created which is handed out at the Friday night service and again at *Shabbat* morning services. This brochure contains a listing of Torah readings and readers, service times, a weekly list of *yahrzeits* and contributions. *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* families can submit for inclusion the names of people whom they wish to recognize, remember or thank. This information must be submitted to the Rabbi's Assistant **no later than 4 weeks prior** to the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* service. (A sample copy of the *Shabbat* brochure is available in the synagogue office.)

Grandparents, family members, and friends are encouraged to make donations in celebration of the *simcha*. All donations will be listed in the brochure. If you are sharing a date with another family, reciprocal donations are common.

FAMILY BAR/BAT MITZVAH BROCHURE (optional)

On occasion, a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* family will create a family brochure which will be distributed along with the synagogue *Shabbat* brochure at the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* service. Family brochures are highly individualized but often include a welcome from the family, a description of the service and a listing of family to whom honors have been assigned.

Please note: A family brochure must be submitted to Rabbi Wohlberg for review no later than 1 month in advance of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* service.

BAR/BAT MITZVAH CELEBRATION

The *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* celebration should focus on the religious significance of the occasion. This is a time that should be marked by the gathering of family and friends. The beauty and the significance of our Jewish rituals and ceremonies are enhanced when they are shared with the community. To that end, we encourage you to consider inviting all members of your child's Religious School Class to your *simcha* so that no one feels excluded and the bonds within our Temple Sinai community are strengthened.

In planning your celebration, we strongly urge you to keep in mind the pronouncement of the Conservative Rabbis of our community regarding the manner of celebrating religious occasions. They state that: "Two of the most hallowed Jewish institutions which we deem indispensable for the survival of Judaism are *Shabbat* and *kashrut* (Jewish dietary laws). To violate either or both of these sacred traditions in conjunction with the celebration of a religious event, such as a wedding or *Bar* or *Bat Mitzvah*, is to compromise seriously the significance of the occasion and to render a disservice to the tradition which provides the motivation and the framework for that occasion. Accordingly, we call upon our people to enhance the spiritual character of the sacred moments in their lives by observing them in ways which honor the *Shabbat* and *kashrut*."

In order to enhance the celebration of a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* in the Synagogue, the following policy has been approved by the Board of Directors: "In accordance with an opinion within the Rabbinical Assembly's Committee on Law and Standards, the Temple Sinai Religious Committee approves live background and Israeli folk music at a social function celebrating a religious *simcha* held in the synagogue on *Shabbat*. The type of music will be specifically regulated, and only Israeli dancing will be allowed."

The use of cell phones, pagers and other electronic devices is prohibited on *Shabbat*. Please make certain that you and your guests turn off such devices before entering the synagogue.

Chewing gum is not permitted in the sanctuary.

Smoking is prohibited within the building as well as on the grounds of Temple Sinai. Please ask your guests to abide by our policy.

Please encourage your guests to remain in the sanctuary for the duration of the service. Constant entering and exiting during the service detracts from the sanctity of the occasion.

Men of all faiths will be required to cover their heads when in the synagogue's Sanctuary or Chapel.

It is expected that visitors and guests act appropriately at all times and treat our facility with respect.

The synagogue does permit professional videotaping and still photography of *Shabbat* luncheons under certain conditions (see next page); flash photography and video lights are not permitted.

APPROPRIATE DRESS

The *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* and family should dress in a manner which reflects the religious nature of this ceremony; **short skirts, low-cut necklines, off-the-shoulder and/or sleeveless dresses are inappropriate synagogue attire.**

It is important to remind female guests, especially those who will come to the *bimah* for an honor, that **short skirts, low-cut necklines, off-the-shoulder and/or sleeveless dresses are inappropriate synagogue attire.**

PHOTOGRAPHY POLICY

As a rule, **photography is prohibited on *Shabbat* and photographs may not be taken inside the synagogue or on the grounds of the synagogue during *Shabbat*.**

Temple Sinai does permit a videographer to record the *Bat/Bat Mitzvah* service, but the professional videographer must remain unseen in the closet at the back of the sanctuary for the duration of the service. Videography must be set up with our Main Office no later than 2 months prior to the service.

If the luncheon at Temple Sinai following the service is the primary affair that the family will be holding (i.e. the only affair to which the adult guests will be invited) then videography and photography will be permitted at this affair so long as:

- a. **ONLY** professional photographers and videographers are taking the pictures and video;
- b. Neither the photographer nor the videographer make use of a flash or a light on his/her camera;
- c. Photography and videography do not take place during the recitation of *Kiddush* and *Hamotzi* (the blessings over the wine and the challah) at the congregational *Kiddush* following the service;
- d. Arrangements for such photography and videography have been discussed in advance with Rabbi Wohlberg and he has given his approval for photography for that event.

ADDITIONAL CELEBRATIONS ON A SHABBAT MORNING

Please be aware that on a *Shabbat* morning when a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* ceremony is taking place, other celebrations may also be scheduled to occur during the service.

For example:

- A babynaming;
- An *auf ruf* (and *aliyah* and a blessing for a couple soon to be married);
- A wedding anniversary;
- The anniversary of a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* ceremony.

These celebrations take place throughout the year, and, in most weeks, coincide with a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* ceremony. In each case, an individual or a family will be assigned one *aliyah*. These, too, are wonderful events that reflect the vitality of our congregation and add to the joy of our *Shabbat* service.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

The experience of becoming a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* provides a wonderful opportunity to focus on what a child can accomplish. The *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* highlights successes, not limitations. If your child has a special need, the Educational Staff and Clergy should be informed as early as possible. With ample preparation provided by our staff, the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* ceremony can and will be a meaningful event in a young person's life.

Every child has the right to participate in a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* ceremony which is both meaningful and appropriate.

FEES

Families who wish to celebrate a child's becoming a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* at Temple Sinai must be members in good standing.

The *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* fee and all other outstanding financial obligations to the synagogue must be paid in full **no later than 3 months prior** to the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*.

The *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* family pays a fee to cover the costs of all instruction, including materials. The fee also helps to defray the cost of the *Oneg Shabbat* following the Friday night service. In addition, the fee includes the cost of our basic Shabbat morning *kiddush* (wine, juice, challah, cookies) for congregants and up to 50 of your guests. As the celebration draws closer, the Executive Director will work with you to determine an appropriate additional fee, which will reflect the number of guests you anticipate for Shabbat morning (if one is needed.)

The use of the synagogue for your personal celebration is also included in the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* fee.

SECURITY

The synagogue enlists the services of security guards for all *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* evening parties and occasionally for other related events as well depending on the type of event and number of attendees.

This security service is arranged by the synagogue office and is billed to the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* family.

BABYSITTING:

During *Shabbat* morning services, adult supervised babysitting is available in the Preschool. We encourage you to make your guests aware of this free service. We also ask that if you are anticipating more than 8 children who will be eligible for babysitting attending the service that you let Edy Israel know so that the synagogue can arrange for additional babysitters.

Helpful Contact Information

Ben Wachstein, Executive Director

**(215) 643-6510 x-105
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Edy Israel, Rabbi Wohlberg's & Rabbi Hollander's Assistant

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**(215) 643-6510 x-121
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Ellen McGrother

**(215) 643-6510 x-122
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Sisterhood Gift Shop

(215) 643-7372