



Celebrating A Bat Mitzvah At Congregation Chevra Thilim

In Judaism a Bat Mitzvah marks a transformation of a girl into a young Jewish lady. As a person grows older, she constantly reflects on this momentous occasion as a major part of the maturing process. This is the turning point at which a girl is suddenly transformed into a Jewish adult and feels the pride of being a fully-fledged member of the oldest religion in the world, identifying with their essence in a strong and positive manner.

At Congregation Chevra Thilim, we offer beautiful traditional services bridging together authentic Judaism of our grandparents with a California style. This guide will give you an insight into how to plan a memorable Bat Mitzvah for your family. Our staff of educators and rabbis will always be happy to assist you in planning this very important event for your family. We are proud to present you a variety of options to personalize your service and make this day one to remember for years to come.

Date

Please reserve your date with our office staff as soon as possible. The Bat Mitzvah is usually scheduled close to the child's Hebrew birthday and takes place on either Shabbat or Saturday night, at the conclusion of Shabbat, or Sunday morning. We will be glad to help you determine that date.

Upon receipt of your application and deposit all efforts will be made to accommodate you. If your desired date is available you will receive a letter of confirmation and the date will be posted on the Shul Calendar maintained in the office.

Shabbat Bat Mitzvah

No pictures are to be taken on Saturday, although we welcome you and your photographer for a session on a week day. If you choose a late afternoon service, photographers and music are welcome after Havdalah (after the end of Shabbat). We ask that anything you need to bring to the service be brought prior to sunset on Friday. This includes, flowers, yarmulkes, and anything needed for the service. Naturally smoking and the use of a telephone is not permitted on Shabbat.

Bat Mitzvah Service

The Bat Mitzvah service will typically include the following:

Welcome and introduction

Special prayer and explanation

Rabbi's Comments

Dvar Torah on Parsha or Haftarah by Bat Mitzvah girl (includes readings of selected verse)

Parents' greetings

Blessing of the Bat Mitzvah by Parents

Passing Down Chumash to the Bat Mitzvah

Candy Throw and Congratulations from everyone



Mazal Tov Sung

Reception

Facility

Our beautiful sanctuary has a capacity of 250 people.

Kiddush

A kiddush reception can be arranged for after services. See our website or kiddush brochure for fees for the Kiddush.

Kosher Food Policy

Any food served in the synagogue must be kosher. Food can also be provided by a kosher caterer. It can also be prepared in the synagogue kitchen under the Rabbis supervision.

Bat Mitzvah Reception

The Bat Mitzvah reception is an integral part of the religious ceremony and the laws of Kashrus and Shabbos should be observed. Receptions should not be scheduled on Saturday until the end of Shabbos after dark.

The Rabbis and the Hebrew School staff will not attend any Bat Mitzvah reception that is not certified kosher.

Bat Mitzvah Training: Requirements for Bat Mitzvah

Private tutoring with Mrs. Chani Zarchi begins at least 6 months prior to the Bat Mitzvah. The cost for the full Bat Mitzvah tutoring package is \$650, which includes all preparation for the Bat Mitzvah. This does not include use of the facility for Bat Mitzvah service and Bat Mitzvah Kiddush/party. All fees must be paid one month prior to the Bat Mitzvah. This is a separate fee from the use of the sanctuary. No child will be turned away due to lack of funds. Arrangements can be made with the staff to ensure that each child receives a Bat Mitzvah.

Training

Each Bat Mitzvah student will learn the Thirteen Principles of Faith, which are the basis of Jewish belief, an integral part of Judaism. It will be learned inside using the Hebrew and English text. She will also cover and in-depth learning of her Torah Portion as well as a comprehensive review of the Haftarah. She will learn about famous Biblical Women, Jewish Life Cycles and the 3 Special Mitzvot of Women and their importance to Jewish survival.

After the majority of the studying has been accomplished, the Bat Mitzvah girl and her advisor will prepare a speech and select verses to read and explain from her Torah and Haftarah portions, favorite prayer, and more.

Ceremony Options

FRIDAY NIGHT CANDLE LIGHTING SERVICE

The Bat Mitzvah ceremony (as detailed above) is followed by the Friday night service for all guests to attend, conducted by Rabbi Zarchi. There will be separate seating and a Mechtza during the actual Shabbat service.



In a Friday evening service, the Bat Mitzvah girl leads the women and girls in the candle lighting and blessing. In the winter the candle lighting will be at the very beginning of the ceremony, and in the summer, the candle lighting will be after the Bat Mitzvah ceremony but before the Shabbat evening service. Please remember that videos and cameras are only allowed until the candle lighting service.

After the service, the Kiddush is recited by the Rabbi or father/grandfather of the Bat Mitzvah girl. The family of the Bat Mitzvah girl then hosts either a dinner or dessert reception.

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE

The Bat Mitzvah ceremony (as detailed above) is done after the Torah reading. There will be separate seating and a Mechitza during the actual Shabbat service. The father and grandfathers of the Bat Mitzvah will be called up to the Torah for an aliyah.

After the service, the Kiddush is recited by the Rabbi or father/grandfather of the Bat Mitzvah girl. The family of the Bat Mitzvah girl then hosts either a dinner or dessert reception.

HAVDALAH SERVICE

The service can begin anywhere from one hour after Shabbat ends. The Bat Mitzvah girl welcomes everyone and speaks about the Havdalah ceremony. She honors close family members by having them participate in parts of the service. Havdalah is recited and the Bat Mitzvah girl recites special Saturday night prayers. The ceremony continues as described above. All guests are then invited to the social hall for a reception.

SUNDAY MORNING CEREMONY

A Sunday Bat Mitzvah takes place as described above. The service can be followed by a brunch or a reception hosted by the family.

Attendance

The Bat Mitzvah girl must attend at least 5 Shabbat services (Saturday morning) in the months prior to the celebration.

Speech

A speech based on the weekly Torah portion is to be prepared by the Bat Mitzvah girl to be said at the Bat Mitzvah. We will assist in preparing the presentation.

Chesed Project

Each Bat Mitzvah must do a Chesed project to benefit the Jewish community. This project might be help prepare packages for the holidays, raise money to help Jews in need etc.



B"H

Registration for Bat Mitzvah

Family Name: _____ Date of Bat Mitzvah: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Home Phone: _____ Child's Cell Phone: _____
Child's Name: _____ Child's Hebrew Name: _____
Date of Birth: _____ Hebrew Birthday: _____
Grade: _____ School: _____
Mother's Name: _____ Father's Name: _____
Mother's Cell: _____ Father's Cell: _____
Mother's Email: _____ Father's Email: _____

Ceremony

Bat Mitzvah Ceremony Requested: (may select more than one option)

_____ Friday Night Candle Lighting Service _____ Shabbat Morning Service
_____ Havdalah Service _____ Sunday Morning Ceremony

I have read the Bat Mitzvah Guide and agree to all terms and conditions _____ (signature)

Bat Mitzvah Fees

_____ Chevra membership required
_____ Bat Mitzvah tutoring fees \$650
_____ Kiddush Reception (fees are on the Kiddush brochure)

Payment Schedule:

_____ Full amount now
_____ Eight installments

Method of Payment:

_____ I/We would like to pay by check. Amount enclosed: \$ _____
_____ I/We would like to pay by credit. I authorize Congregation Chevra Thilim to charge my credit card
in the amount of _____

Name as it appears on card: _____

Visa/MasterCard Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ cvv _____ Signature: _____

No one will be turned away due to lack of funds.

Additional Comments:

