



BZBI welcomes the entire spectrum of Center City’s Jewish community: people of all ages, races, ethnicities, and abilities; interfaith families; people who are single and partnered; people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. We are committed to disability justice and universal accessibility. We will do our best to provide accommodation. To request assistance in breaking down barriers to joining our community, please call us at 215-735-5148 or email [templeoffice@bzbi.org](mailto:templeoffice@bzbi.org)

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**Welcome to this overview and timeline for the BZBI Brit Mitzvah process!** Our community thrives on personal interaction. Our goal is to help you create a memorable spiritual and personal event that respects Jewish traditions and embraces modern practices.

**You may not be familiar with the term “Brit Mitzvah”** which literally means “covenant of the commandments (contained in the Torah).” BZBI chose this term as a way to focus on the *obligations* of 13-year olds in joining the Jewish community, rather than referring to the *person* who is becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah (son or daughter of the commandments). We seek to emphasize the significance of the ritual as the start of lifelong learning and commitment to our community and its values.

**You may find additional terminology that is unfamiliar** as you read through the Guide. If so, turn to page 19 where you will find a glossary that will add context to this enduring and meaningful ritual.

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## WELCOME TO AN EXCITING TIME IN YOUR LIFE

*Mazal tov!* Brit Mitzvah is a meaningful time in the life of a family and the entire community. We are thrilled that you will celebrate your *simcha* with BZBI. Your child's Brit Mitzvah marks the time when your child begins to take on the responsibilities of Jewish adulthood and prepares for the next phases of their Jewish education and growth — counting in a *minyan*, leading prayers, reading sacred texts, teaching Torah, and continuing in their learning. The BZBI community shares your pride in watching your child grow up, and we all look forward to celebrating with you.

In Jewish tradition, all significant moments take place in the embrace of community. In order to bring Brit Mitzvah families together, we expect all families to participate in a series of “Brit Mitzvah Cohort” experiences with others celebrating during the same year. These experiences deepen relationships among families in the community, foster meaningful intergenerational conversations, and help us celebrate together!

Your *simcha* is a very special time and many families have questions about the learning process, as well as logistics and planning. We hope the information in this Planning Guide will assist you in your preparations. Stacey Lasky, will be your primary guide throughout this process; please feel free to contact her directly at 215-735-5148 or [education@bzbi.org](mailto:education@bzbi.org) with any questions.

L'shalom,



Rabbi Abe Friedman  
Senior Rabbi



Rabbi Abi Weber  
Assistant Rabbi

## WHO SHOULD I CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS?

<b>Temple Office – Main Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:templeoffice@bzbi.org">templeoffice@bzbi.org</a>	(215) 735-5148
<b>Questions about Religious Preparation, including Tutoring &amp; Mitzvah Projects, the Brit Mitzvah Cohort and Date Assignments</b> Stacey Lasky, Director of Congregational Learning	<a href="mailto:education@bzbi.org">education@bzbi.org</a>	Ext. 101
<b>Questions about Logistics, including Kiddush, Flowers, Room Reservations, Honors, and Sisterhood Gift Shop Appointments</b> Aleksandra Konior, Operations Coordinator	<a href="mailto:akonior@bzbi.org">akonior@bzbi.org</a>	Ext. 105
<b>Questions about Service Details including Ritual Information</b> Rabbi Abe Friedman, Senior Rabbi Rabbi Abi Weber, Associate Rabbi	<a href="mailto:rabbifriedman@bzbi.org">rabbifriedman@bzbi.org</a> <a href="mailto:rabiweber@bzbi.org">rabiweber@bzbi.org</a>	Ext. 100 Ext. 107
<b>Questions about Scheduling Meetings and Communicating with members and guests</b> Julia Pollock, Programming and Outreach Coordinator	<a href="mailto:Communications@bzbi.org">Communications@bzbi.org</a>	Ext. 103
<b>Billing Questions</b> Leslee Schwartz, Human Relations & Account Specialist	<a href="mailto:Bookkeeper@bzbi.org">Bookkeeper@bzbi.org</a>	Ext. 106

## WHAT IS THE BRIT MITZVAH TIMELINE?

Note that all dates are approximate and depend on your family's particular needs.

Date	Activity	Description
Early Fall - during the school year, prior to the <i>simcha</i>	<b>Cohort Meeting</b>	An initial family cohort meeting. See below for an explanation. Meetings continue throughout the year.
12 months prior	<b>Family Meeting</b>	The initial family meeting with Stacey Lasky to outline the process, field questions, receive information about your family's schedule and assess the student's learning style. The goal will be to match a tutor with your child and lay out a meeting schedule. This is where your child will share their interests to start brainstorming for a Mitzvah Service Project.
11-12 months prior	<b>Tutoring Sessions</b>	First tutoring session. Students should have approximately 40 half-hour sessions over the course of their Brit Mitzvah preparation based on the needs of the child.
3-5 months prior	<b>Torah Study Meeting</b>	First weekly Torah study/D'var Torah meeting with student and rabbi. A parent should attend the first meeting. Student will have about 8-12 sessions with the rabbis.
One month prior	<b>Submit Photo and Bio; Prepare Booklet</b>	Provide Julia Pollock with a photo of your child(ren) and biographic information that you would like to see on the website and in the e-Cong newsletter. If you want to prepare a booklet for attendees, it should be completed now.
3 weeks prior	<b>Finalize D'var Torah</b>	A Rabbi meets with the student to finalize the D'var Torah
1-2 weeks prior	<b>One-on-One Meeting</b>	Rabbi has a one-on-one meeting with the student on the Wednesday or Thursday before the <i>simcha</i>
2 weeks prior	<b>Honors Form Due</b>	The Honors form is due to Aleksandra Konior in the Temple office
2 weeks prior	<b>Bimah Decorations</b>	Families differ in their desire for Bimah decorations such as flowers, mitzvah baskets, and candy. Your decisions, in coordination with the Temple office, should be complete at this point.
The week of the <i>simcha</i>	<b>Rehearsal</b>	Rehearsal is conducted, with photography if desired. Typically, the rehearsal takes place the Thursday prior to the Brit Mitzvah Shabbat from 4:00 – 6:00 PM.

## WHAT COSTS ARE INVOLVED?

*The fees shown in this section and elsewhere in the guide are accurate as of September 2023, but are subject to change.*

We know that the expense of a Brit Mitzvah is of significant concern to parents. BZBI charges a \$1,000 Brit Mitzvah fee for each event, which includes the cost of facility usage for Kiddush following services, including staff support, security, maintenance, utilities, and other costs, plus the support of the clergy.

An additional \$1,000 is charged for the services of the tutor who meets with the student in the months prior to the Brit Mitzvah. So, for example, twins might have a single event (\$1,000) but need two tutors (\$1,000 x 2) for a total cost of \$3,000.

These figures do not include the cost of flowers or mitzvah baskets, candy, kiddush for the community after the service, family & friends dinners (and the cost of BZBI room rental), the gift of a *tallit* to the child if desired, or other costs not directly associated with the ceremony.

## WHAT IS THE BRIT MITZVAH COHORT?

You will be invited to participate in a Brit Mitzvah Cohort program together with other families celebrating during the academic year. Through a series of cohort events (some for preteens and parents/guardians, and some just for the preteens), the goal will be to build community, help frame the upcoming Brit Mitzvah experience, and create opportunities for you and your family to place the milestone events in context as you prepare for this important moment of transition.

We also hope to facilitate meaningful conversations between parents/guardians and children, and among families, that help build empathy and reflect meaningfully about the transition into adulthood. The BZBI Brit Mitzvah cohort program incorporates the [Moving Traditions B-Mitzvah Curriculum](#), which was developed by a superb team of rabbis, social workers, and psychologists to speak to the realities of 6th and 7th graders and their families. Each cohort meeting will provide opportunities for interactive learning, meaningful conversation, and fun!

## WHAT IS THE MITZVAH PROJECT?

Brit Mitzvah literally means “covenant of the commandments” and designates someone who has reached the age when – according to Jewish tradition – they begin to take on responsibility for their actions, their learning, for our community, and the world. To signify the new levels of responsibility and opportunity that go along with becoming a Brit Mitzvah, BZBI – along with many synagogue communities – asks students to complete a “mitzvah project” during the months leading up to the Shabbat service when they celebrate their Brit Mitzvah and are called to the Torah. A mitzvah project can be any initiative, activity, social justice, or charitable endeavor that a Brit Mitzvah student undertakes to make the world a better place through acts of *chesed* (compassion), *tzedek* (justice), and *tzedakah* (charity).

## Are there guidelines about what a mitzvah project should look like?

The best mitzvah projects:

- **Are local.** They make an impact on a local community (Jewish or otherwise) or an issue in Philadelphia or Pennsylvania.
- Involve some kind of **active/hands-on service** (visiting elderly residents at a nursing home, organizing a group of friends or family to make and send cards or crafts to lone soldiers in the IDF or children in a hospital, etc).
- **Happen more than once**/are not a one-off day of service.
- **Are not limited to raising money.** While raising money for a good cause is wonderful – and can certainly be a component that you include as part of your mitzvah project – your project should include something more active or hands-on if possible.

## How should we decide what to do for a mitzvah project?

It is important that the mitzvah project is connected to something that the student cares about or is interested in. This is your chance to think about what you are passionate about and use it as inspiration to have a positive impact on the world. Here are some tips to start thinking:

- Make a list of your interests (e.g. sports, writing, politics, theater, reading, etc.)
- Make a list of the types of groups you might want to work with or serve (senior citizens, youth, kids with special needs, communities who lack economic access, etc).
- Combine your interests with the type of group you may want to work with. A person who likes art might want to help teach an art class to senior citizens in a nursing home each month. A person who likes to play soccer might want to volunteer with a special needs sports group. A person who likes to write might write letters to children in the hospital.

## What are some ideas to get started?

- Jewish Relief Agency helps nourish over 6,000 low-income individuals across Philadelphia; offers volunteer opportunities for all ages; they can be reached at <https://jewishrelief.org/volunteer-1>. To ask questions about JRA's Brit Mitzvah Program, email: [volunteering@jewishrelief.org](mailto:volunteering@jewishrelief.org)
- Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia has volunteer opportunities appropriate for a mitzvah project, serving both the Jewish and the wider Philadelphia community. Check out this article: <https://blog.jewishphilly.org/bnai-mitzvah-projects>. And to find current volunteer opportunities, click here: <https://jewishphilly.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

## WHAT WILL MY CHILD LEARN AND LEAD?

We celebrate Brit Mitzvah as a time when children begin their journey toward adulthood, which includes accepting new privileges and responsibilities at BZBI and in the wider Jewish community. These include counting in a *minyan* and leading the community in prayer. In order to acknowledge and celebrate this transition, our Brit Mitzvah students are invited to lead our community as *shlichei tzibur* (prayer leaders) and as Torah/Haftarah readers during the Shabbat morning service.

Below you will find a list of learning objectives for Brit Mitzvah students at BZBI. It is meant to offer a holistic framework that encourages and challenges students to take on as much leadership responsibility as possible, taking into account what is appropriate for that individual. In addition to reading Torah and Haftarah, delivering a *D'var Torah*, and participating in a *mitzvah* project, we hope that each Brit Mitzvah student will learn to lead one complete prayer service.

While most students choose to lead the *Musaf* service (following the Torah reading) other options are available as well. We understand that different students and families have different needs. We are committed to adapting the Brit Mitzvah experience to fit each family. Please do not hesitate to be in touch with Stacey Lasky with any questions at [education@bzbi.org](mailto:education@bzbi.org).

Here are the components of the Shabbat service:

- Reading Torah and Haftarah
  - Blessings before and after the Torah reading
  - *Maftir Aliyah* (the final Torah reading)
  - Additional *Aliyot* (Torah readings) that the Brit Mitzvah student is able to learn in addition to the *Maftir Aliyah*.
  - Blessings before and after the *Haftarah*
  - *Haftarah*
- Living and Teaching Torah
  - Mitzvah Project (Brit Mitzvah students identify a *tzedek*/service project that they engage in during the months leading up to their Brit Mitzvah)
  - *D'var Torah* (each student will work with one of our clergy to write a *D'var Torah* – a sermon or teaching – based on the weekly Torah reading)
- Leading Prayer – options include:
  - Torah Processional (Siddur Sim Shalom P. 139-141) and Recessional (P. 151-154)
  - *Musaf* Service (P. 155-161, 181-184, 187)
  - Friday Night services: *Kabbalat Shabbat* (P. 14-24) and *Maariv* (P. 28-54)
  - Shabbat *Shacharit* Service (P. 105-120)
- Additional Prayer and Ritual Leadership Opportunities
  - Friday Night *Kiddush* in Shul (P. 49)
  - Saturday *Kiddush* (P. 315)



## WHAT DO I NEED TO PREPARE IN ADVANCE OF THE SERVICE?

**Bimah Decorations** - Some families choose to enhance our *bimah* for their celebration with either flowers or Mitzvah Baskets. Please call the Temple office at least 2 weeks prior to your event and we will order your flowers. Mitzvah Baskets are filled with food, which is distributed to the Jewish Federation's *Mitzvah Food Pantry* after your event to serve those in need throughout the greater Philadelphia area. To order Mitzvah Baskets, call the Jewish Federation at (215) 635-4774 between 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM weekdays.

**Booklets** - Some families choose to create special booklets that explain the ceremony to guests as a supplement to the standard Shabbat program. These booklets should be created with the guidance of one of our Rabbis. If you would like to produce a booklet or would like more information about this project, please contact a Rabbi as soon as possible. You are responsible for printing and delivering the booklets to the Temple. Julia Pollock can put the document on our website for electronic download on request.

**BZBI's e-Cong Newsletter** - Our weekly newsletter often publishes photographs and small biographies of our Brit Mitzvah students. To make use of this service, contact Julia Pollock at least one month prior to your *simcha* so that your material for inclusion can be published in a timely manner.

**Candy** - As a wish for a sweet future, it is a tradition at BZBI to shower your child with candy after the *maftir aliyah*. We will provide baskets so that younger siblings, cousins, or friends can distribute the candy near the end of the Torah service. **All candy must be kosher and nut-free.** We recommend a 5-lb bag of soft Sunkist Fruit Gems, available from Nuts to You (215-567-7330). Please do not use hard candy as this presents a safety hazard. If you would like to have candy at your *simcha*, please deliver it to the Temple during office hours and not later than 1:00 PM Friday.

**Kippot** - Many families offer *kippot* with their *simcha*, although you are under no obligation to do so. If you would like to order *kippot*, you may purchase them from any online supplier. The Temple staff will place your *kippot* in the vestibules outside the sanctuary. Keep in mind when ordering that regular congregation attendance is 75 (on average) not including your guests, but not every person will choose to take one.

**Parking** - If you expect a number of guests to be driving to the Temple, you may wish to advise them ahead of time regarding city parking regulations and the limited number of parking spaces available on the street. Subject to Philadelphia Parking Authority, BZBI currently has Parking Authority-authorized placards that allow for expanded street parking during our Shabbat services only, but they are valid only in the immediate vicinity of the Temple and spaces cannot be reserved. There are a number of private parking lots within walking distance of the Temple.

**Photographs:** Some families stage a photography session the week prior to their *simcha*. Typically, photography is scheduled as part of the rehearsal which typically takes place on Thursday from 4:00-6:00 PM prior to the Brit Mitzvah Shabbat. If you would like our clergy in your pictures, please contact the Temple office well in advance.

**Room Rentals** - You may wish to rent the Kahaner Auditorium for a Shabbat family dinner; BZBI members receive a **discounted rate of \$350 for room rentals up to 4 hours, which does not include a mandatory security fee which is billed separately.** All private meals must be catered by a kosher caterer using the caterer's service staff. All fees are accurate as of August 2024, but are subject to change.

**Seudat Mitzvah (Kiddush)** - In celebration of your family's *simcha*, we ask that you sponsor Kiddush for the congregation and your guests. At the end of the guide - on Page 20 - you will find a list of approved caterers and suppliers. We are happy to work with you to find options that are financially comfortable for you. Your *Seudat Mitzvah* (celebratory meal) is a time when the congregation and your guests gather to extend the joy of your family's celebration. Because your child's Brit Mitzvah is an important moment in the life of our whole community, we expect every family to join the congregation for *Kiddush* after services.

**Tallit** - As a Conservative Temple, BZBI expects each of our Brit Mitzvah students to wear a *tallit* (prayer shawl) and some form of head covering during the service. We also strongly encourage parents and any older siblings to do the same. Many families take this opportunity to present their child with a *tallit* that will be theirs throughout life. The BZBI Sisterhood Gift Shop offers an array of these and other ritual objects, and will also assist with the ordering of custom-designed articles in a variety of styles and price ranges. To make an appointment with one of our gift shop volunteers, call the Temple office. *Gift certificates are also available.*

## WHAT HONORS CAN I GIVE TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS?

An important part of the Brit Mitzvah experience is honoring relatives, friends, and loved ones by asking them to participate in the service. Please review the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) as an overview of your role in this significant process. A sample honors sheet also appears below. Please request your unique honors sheet from the Temple office before assigning honors to ensure you have the most up-to-date version. A Rabbi will review the completed form with you approximately five weeks before the event.

### About the Honors Sheet

We use the form to collect and organize information about the people you select to participate in your *simcha*. If you have questions or would like assistance in assigning honors, please discuss this with the rabbis. Other friends or members of your family may wish to participate in the *simcha* by sponsoring flowers and/or Kiddush rather than taking an honor. We invite joint sponsorships. For example, aunts and uncles may jointly sponsor flowers, or grandparents may sponsor Kiddush, or share the sponsorship with you. The names of sponsors are listed in our Shabbat bulletin. **Please return the completed honors sheet by email to Aleksandra Konior (akonior@bzbi.org) no later than two weeks before the Brit Mitzvah.**

### Who can receive an honor?

Any adult Jewish person is eligible for an honor at BZBI. We welcome family members of other faiths to accompany the person receiving the honor and stand in witness to the sacred moment. We also welcome people of other faiths to open the ark and lead the Prayer for Justice and Liberty (see below).

We welcome children (defined as those who have not yet reached the age of Brit Mitzvah) to pass out candy for the “shower of sweets” after the *maftir aliyah*. Younger siblings or family members can also lead *Ein Keloheinu*, *Ashrei*, and/or *Adon Olam*. Please discuss the participation of any children (other than candy distribution) with a rabbi.

### What is the “Prayer for Justice and Liberty?”

Because the Prayer for Our Country that appears in Siddur Sim Shalom speaks in explicitly Jewish terms, BZBI’s practice is to substitute the non-sectarian Prayer for Justice and Liberty when the person leading that prayer is not Jewish.

The text for the Prayer of Our Country is as follows:

#### *A prayer for our country*

Our God and God of our ancestors: We ask Your blessings for our country — for its government, for its leaders and advisors, and for all who exercise just and rightful authority. Teach them insights from Your Torah, that they may administer all affairs of state fairly, that peace and security, happiness and prosperity, justice and freedom may forever abide in our midst.

Creator of all flesh, bless all the inhabitants of our country with Your spirit. May citizens of all races and creeds forge a common bond in true harmony, to banish hatred and bigotry, and to safeguard the ideals and free institutions that are the pride and glory of our country.

May this land, under Your providence, be an influence for good throughout the world, uniting all people in peace and freedom — helping them to fulfill the vision of Your prophet: “Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they experience war any more.” And let us say: Amen.

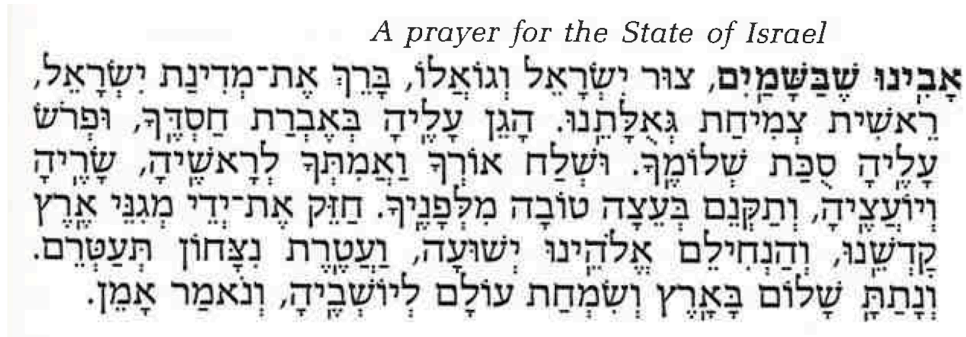
The text of the Prayer for Justice and Liberty is as follows:

*On this Day of Rest, we ask blessing for the United States of America, its citizens, residents, and all who seek refuge in this land of liberty. May our President, members of Congress, Justices, and all government officials be granted compassion, wisdom, and courage to ensure our country remains one which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance.*

*“Let the ideals of justice and equality on which our nation was founded continue to grow and flourish, and may the lamp beside the Golden Door ever burn bright. Amen.*

### Do the people receiving honors need to know Hebrew?

Anyone taking an *aliyah* to the Torah will need to recite the blessing in Hebrew. The rabbis can help those selected for the honor if it is their first time performing this ritual or if they do so infrequently. BZBI's practice is to recite the Prayer for our Country in English and the Prayer for the State of Israel in Hebrew. Any Jewish person who is comfortable reading Hebrew is welcome to lead this prayer.



### What honors are available for me to assign?

BZBI reserves the first three *aliyot* for members of the community. The remaining four *aliyot* are assigned by the family, in addition to the *maftir aliyah* (which is given to the Brit Mitzvah student if they are reading the Haftarah; if they are not reading the Haftarah, the student typically takes the 7th *aliyah*). It is a tradition for the parents to take the *aliyah* immediately before *maftir*. No more than 3 people should be called up to the Torah for one *aliyah*.

In addition to the four *aliyot*, the following honors are available for assignment:

- Open the ark before the Torah service◆
- Carry the Torah before the Torah service\*
- Lift the Torah\*
- Wrap the Torah
- Prayer for Justice and Liberty◆ or Prayer for Our Country
- Prayer for the State of Israel♣
- Carry the Torah after the Torah service\*
- Open the ark after the Torah service◆
- Distribute candy for the “Shower of Sweets”◆
  - ◆ These honors may be given to any person, regardless of age or religious practice.
  - \* These honors require physical strength, as our Torah scrolls are very heavy.
  - ♣ This prayer must be read in Hebrew.

### When should the candy be passed around?

The candy is thrown right after the *maftir* (final) *aliyah*, to bless your child with sweetness. Those distributing candy should start at the beginning of the seventh *aliyah* (taken by the parents).

## WHAT IS THE HONORS SHEET?

Below you will find a three-page sample honors sheet. Note that if your *simcha* falls on a Jewish holiday such as *Pesach* or *Hanukkah*, or on a day when additional prayers and readings are added such as *Rosh Hodesh*, a special sheet will be prepared which includes the additional honors. Please request your Honors Sheet from the Temple office before assigning honors to ensure you have the most up-to-date version.

*Please return the completed honors sheet by email to Aleksandra Konior (akonior@bzbi.org) no later than two weeks before the bar/bat mitzvah.*

### Service Honors Sheet (Single Torah)

Brit Mitzvah of: *Angelika Drechsler- Cappellini*

Date: *November 5, 2022*

Portion: *Parashat Lech-Lecha*

#### Torah Service Honors

Ark Opening Before Torah Service (can be 2 people):

*Doreen Krueger*

*Petra Nussbaum*

Carry Torah Before Torah Service (must be able to carry Torah):

*Steffen Freeh*

Ark Opening After Torah Service (can be 2 people):

*Lena Drechsler*

Carry Torah After Torah Service (must be able to carry Torah):

*Steffen Freeh*

Hagbah – Lift Torah:

*Jana Klug*

Gelilah – Wrap Torah:

*Birgit Engel*

**Prayer Readings**

Prayer for Our Country **or** Prayer for Justice and Liberty (English)

*Dirk Konig*

Is this person Jewish? [Yes \_\_\_] [No X]

Prayer for the State of Israel (Must be read in Hebrew)

*Eric Abt*

**Torah Aliyot**

Revi'i (Fourth Aliyah) (No more than 3 people; Add lines for additional names)

English Name(s)
<i>Yoram Mizrahi</i>

Hebrew Name	Ben/Bat	Parent(s)'s Hebrew Name(s)
<i>Yoram</i>	<i>ben</i>	<i>Avraham ve-Rachel</i>

Hamishi (Fifth Aliyah) (No more than 3 people; Add lines for additional names)

English Name(s)
<i>Claudia and Annette Drechsler-Osterhagen</i>

Hebrew Name	Ben/Bat	Parent(s)'s Hebrew Name(s)
<i>Chaya</i>	<i>bat</i>	<i>Raisel ve-Yehudah HaLevi</i>
<i>Aviva</i>	<i>bat</i>	<i>Jacov ve-Yehudit, Cohen</i>

Shishi (Sixth Aliyah) (No more than 3 people; Add lines for additional names)

English Name(s)
<i>Jeremy Drechsler</i>

Hebrew Name	Ben/Bat	Parent(s)'s Hebrew Name(s)
<i>Yoel</i>	<i>ben</i>	<i>Yoram ve-Raisel</i>

Shevi'i (Seventh Aliyah) (No more than 3 people; usually parents)

English Name(s)
<i>Margo Drechsler</i>
<i>Marco Cappelini</i>

Hebrew Name	Ben/Bat	Parent(s)'s Hebrew Name(s)
<i>Yael</i>	<i>bat</i>	<i>Yoram ve-Raisel</i>
<i>Meir</i>	<i>ben</i>	<i>Avraham ve-Sarah</i>

Maftir Aliyah (Brit Mitzvah)

English Name(s)
<i>Angelika Drechsler-Cappelini</i>

Hebrew Name	Ben/Bat	Parent(s)'s Hebrew Name(s)
<i>Geela Esther</i>	<i>bat</i>	<i>Meir ve-Yael</i>

### Distributing Candy for the “Shower of Sweets”

It helps to have 2-3 children distribute the candy:

<i>Kahil Hakimi</i>
<i>Aliyyah Sayegh</i>

## HOW CAN I BE SENSITIVE TO DIVERSE NEEDS?

This content is adapted from [RespectAbility's](#) Guide to the High Holiday by Rabbi Darby Jared Leigh and Rabbi Lauren Tuchman.

Judaism teaches us that we are all created *b'Tzelem Elokim* - in the Image of The Divine. That doesn't mean only some of us, it's all of us. According to the U.S. Census:

- 1-in-5 Americans have a physical, sensory, cognitive, mental health or other disability (66 million people)
- Twenty percent of people in the U.S. are Deaf/Hard of Hearing (48 million Americans)
- Another 40 million Americans have a learning disability
- More than 1 million people in the U.S. are blind and more than 12 million have low vision.

BZBI is stronger because we live up to our values – we are welcoming, diverse, moral, and respectful of each other. We want everyone to fully participate in our community because that will make us the strongest community we can be. Please let us know what we can do to help you and those you know feel welcome here.

You may want to ask in your invitations whether your guests require accommodation of any kind, which will allow us to find the solution that best meets their needs. For example, BZBI has an infrared listening system in the sanctuary. We also use the captioning app on Zoom. BZBI makes available large print, Braille, and phonetic (transliterated) prayer books.

Examples of other requests that we can support include but are not limited to:

- Setting up an accessible section in the sanctuary with additional space
- Providing services for guests whose first language is not English
- Post materials for download from the website, for example text that can be used with a screen reader



Sensitivity to the needs of others includes accommodating those not familiar with our service. The Brit Mitzvah service offers a unique opportunity to help others understand and appreciate Jewish liturgy and messages. It's a tradition of sorts to include basic information on the Brit Mitzvah service for guests who may not be familiar with Jewish ritual observance. We do not prepare this information, but are happy to help you edit, disseminate and improve access to it.

## WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT MULTI-ACCESS SERVICES?

Beginning in the fall of 2021, BZBI moved to a multi-access model for Shabbat and more recently Kabbalat Shabbat and weekday services. This means that your guests can join the in-person service or watch the live stream over Zoom. In this way, participants who are unable to attend the service due to age, distance or disability can still participate.

### **Is the live stream recorded?**

BZBI records all Zoom events for security.

### **How do I invite people to join remotely?**

If you would like a Zoom link to share with friends or family, please email our Programming & Outreach Coordinator, Julia Pollock ([communications@bzbi.org](mailto:communications@bzbi.org)).

This may change over time due to security concerns. We require registration to track attendance. Zoom sends a confirmation email with a unique meeting ID for BZBI religious services. Within limits, the message can be customized with instructions or a personal message.

### **Is it okay to use Zoom on Shabbat?**

We encourage you to [read the letter from Senior Rabbi Abe Friedman](#) that describes the *Halakhic* considerations behind BZBI's decision to live stream services.

### **What else should we know about participating via Zoom?**

- By participating in our service, users consent to have their image recorded. Events involving children may be recorded for security, but are never shared except with permission of parent or guardian.
- Our clergy and staff observe *Halakhic* restrictions on communication during the holidays. Zoom chat is disabled, and they will not respond to a text, email, or phone call until after the holiday ends.

## WHAT DO THESE HEBREW WORDS & PHRASES MEAN?

<i>Adon Olam</i>	One of the last prayers in the Shabbat service, sung by <i>Shaliach tzibur</i> ; children are invited to come to the Bimah
<i>Ashrei</i>	A prayer that can be read silently or by responsive reading. It is one of the first prayers learned by students and often they are called upon to lead the prayer.
<i>Aliyah (plural: Aliyot)</i>	An honor before the Torah
<i>Bimah</i>	Raised area around the ark where the Torah is stored
<i>b'Tzelem Elokim</i>	In the image of the divine
<i>D'var Torah</i>	A short speech with a thoughtful discussion of the week's Torah reading
<i>Ein Keloheinu</i>	One of the last prayers in the Shabbat service, sung by <i>Shaliach tzibur</i> ;
<i>Geliliah</i>	The honor of wrapping the Torah after it is lifted
<i>Haftarah</i>	A reading from the Prophets ( <i>Nevi'im</i> ) that adds perspective to the Torah reading
<i>Hagbah</i>	The honor of lifting the Torah for all to see after the reading ends
<i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i>	Friday night service for welcoming Shabbat
<i>Hanukkah</i>	The eight-day winter holiday that celebrates a Hebrew victory over occupying forces and includes lighting of candles each night.
<i>Kiddush</i>	Prayer over wine following the service, often accompanied by food
<i>Kippa (plural: kippot)</i>	A head covering that reminds us of God's continued presence over us
<i>Minyan</i>	A group of 10 or more Jewish adults gathered to pray
<i>Maftir</i>	The last <i>Aliyah</i> before the Torah reading ends
<i>Musaf</i>	Additional service on Shabbat following the Torah reading
<i>Pesach</i>	The Jewish holiday that celebrates release from slavery in Egypt
<i>Rosh Hodesh</i>	The first day (or days) of each new month in the Jewish lunar calendar

<i>Shtender</i>	Podium used for reading by the prayer leader
<i>Seudat Mitzvah</i>	Kiddush; a celebratory meal
<i>Shaliach tzibur (plural: shlichei tzibur)</i>	Prayer leader
<i>Simcha</i>	Happy occasion
<i>Shacharit</i>	Morning service
<i>Shul</i>	Colloquial name for the Temple
<i>Tallit (plural: tallitot)</i>	Prayer shawl
<i>Tzedakah</i>	Charitable collection

## WHAT KOSHER CATERERS ARE APPROVED TO SERVE KIDDUSH?

Accurate as of September 2023

**All deliveries must be made no later than 1:00 PM on the Friday before your event.**

If you are not using a full-service caterer for your *Seudat Mitzvah* (celebratory meal) please arrange to hire service personnel who will serve the meal, as our staff cannot purchase, prepare or serve food. We recommend contacting Joy Edelman at Party Helpers: 215-473-6667 or [partyhelpers@comcast.net](mailto:partyhelpers@comcast.net)

### Approved Full-Service Kosher Caterers

- Boscovs, 610-370-3718
- Food Designs by Jannette: 215-843-2292
- My Kosher Caterer, 215-244-9700 or 215-237-2530
- Panache by Foodarama, 215-633-7100
- Prestige Caterers (New York), toll free 877-255-4049
- Daniel Israel 267-475-0078

### Approved Catering Services

You must hire service personnel as described above if you use one of these vendors.

- Acme Kosher Experience in Narberth, PA, 610-668-1738
- Goldie's, 267-239-0777
- House of Kosher, 215-677-8100
- Magical Sweet Shop, 856-309-1100 (desserts and dairy fare)
- New York Bagel, 215-878-8080
- Rolings Bakery, 215-635-5524
- ShopRite Kosher Experience in Cherry Hill, NJ, 856-910-2300
- Star of David, 267-606-6942

*This list represents those caterers whose kosher certification is considered valid at BZBI as of the date at the top of this page. No further endorsement or recommendation of any service provider is implied by inclusion on this list. The list may be changed or updated at any time. If you would like to use a certified Kosher caterer not on this list, please call the Temple office at 215-735-5148 to discuss.*