



# **BAR/BAT MITZVAH HANDBOOK**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome: Bar/Bat Mitzvah Goals and Values .....	3
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Timeline .....	4
Policies and Procedures .....	6
School, Membership and Fee requirements	
Information on location of service, flowers, photography and more	
The Journey to the Big Day! .....	8
Mentor Program	
Speech Tutoring	
Mitzvah Project	
Shabbat Services	
Family Education Programs	
Honors Worksheets	
The Celebration.....	16
Wise Temple Youth.....	17
Wise Events – Celebrate with Creative Cuisine.....	19
Who do I contact?.....	20
Contact information of Rabbis, Cantors, Mentors, Catering and more	

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Journey at Stephen Wise Temple!

This is a very exciting time for the whole family. In the next few years you will have an opportunity to deepen your connection to our community as you move towards your important day. Along the way, your child will study with clergy, mentors and tutors; you will explore this rite of passage as a family; your child will complete a Mitzvah project, attend Shabbat services, and strengthen ties to our Temple community.

Traditionally a child becomes a Bar/Bat Mitzvah on the Shabbat closest to his/her 13<sup>th</sup> birthday. A Bar/Bat Mitzvah service at Stephen Wise Temple is unique in that we offer all families private services. This means that just your child is up on the bima in front of friends and family that you invite, whereas other Temples may have Bar/Bat Mitzvah services during Saturday Shabbat services, or have two children at a time on the bima.

Our goal over the course of the next few years is to create a Bar/Bat Mitzvah experience that raises awareness about what it means to travel towards Jewish adulthood as your child moves into his/her teenage years. There will be several times between setting your date and the day of your child's simcha where we will ask you to join us for learning and informational sessions. We hope you will take advantage of these opportunities in order to deepen the meaning behind the experience of your child becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

We look forward to working with you and your child as you embrace this experience. Please know that the clergy are here to help along the way – to answer your questions, to study with you and your child, and to create a once in a lifetime experience.

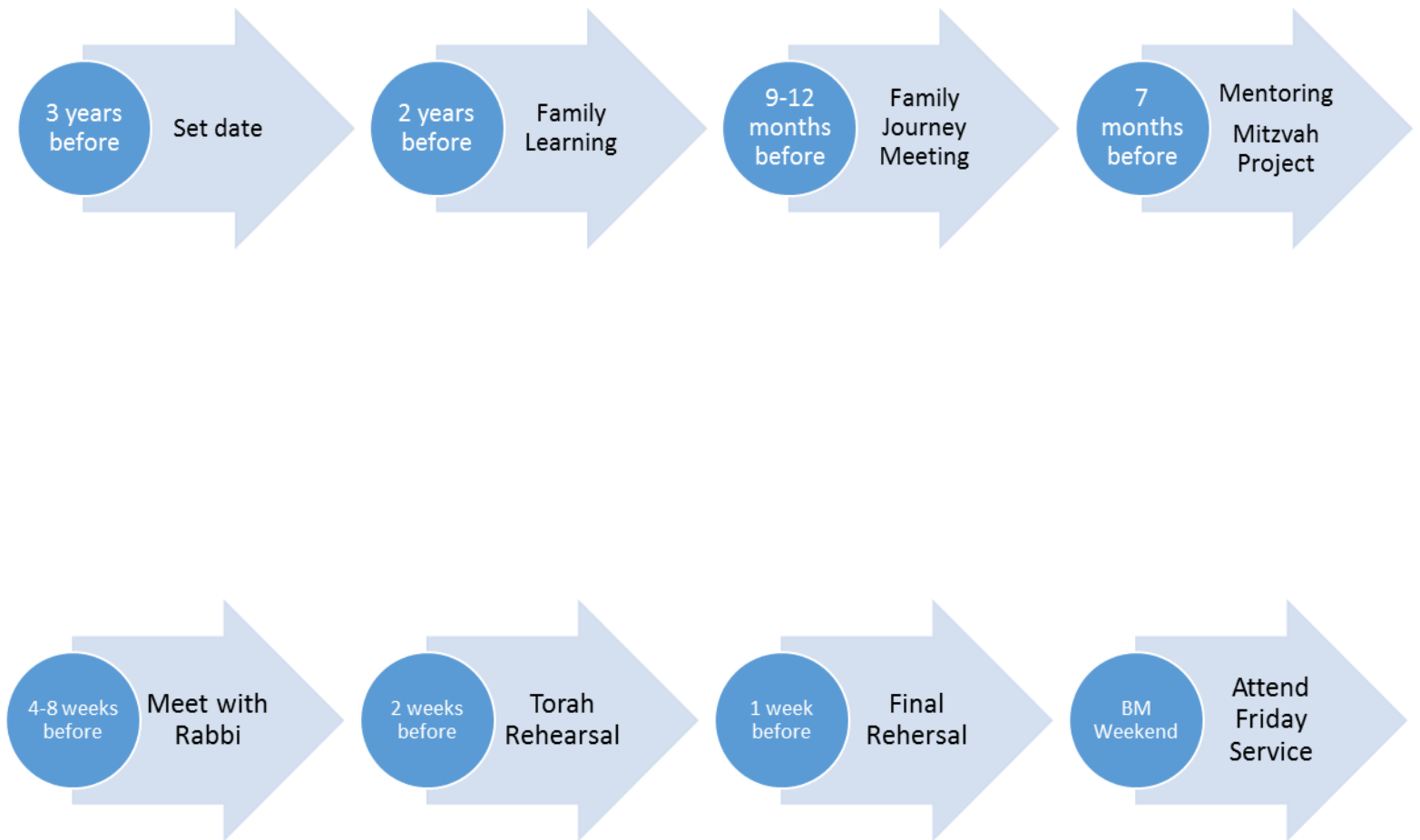
On behalf of all the clergy,

L'shalom,

Melanie Fisher  
B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator

Andrea Gardenhour  
Center for Youth Engagement Director

# BAR/BAT MITZVAH TIMELINE



## BAR/BAT MITZVAH TIMELINE

### **3 years before: Selecting a date**

Members of Wise in grade 4 will receive a letter inviting them to choose a date near their 13<sup>th</sup> birthday. You will have three options of dates and times to request. Once the date is booked, you will submit a deposit with the contract confirming your date.

### **2 years before: Family Learning with the Clergy**

There are several family learning programs focusing on the Bar/Bat Mitzvah experience in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade in the Wise Religious School and Wise Day School. Parents are invited to join their children at school for these special days.

### **9-12 months before: Family Journey Meeting**

In the spring before the grade 7 year, students and their parents come together to learn the details of what to expect for the next year including the mentoring process, mitzvah project, and the grade 7 educational programs.

### **7 months before: Mentoring and Mitzvah Projects**

Each child is assigned a mentor to meet with once per week during the months before his/her *simcha* (28 meetings total) to teach them the blessings, torah portion, and *haftorah*. The mentor will call the parents to set these meetings, which take place on the Temple campus. The mentor will confer weekly with the parents on the progress of the child's learning. You will receive more information on this in the weeks before the process begins.

This is also the time to start working on your Mitzvah Project. Terry Wunder is available to help students develop their mitzvah project.

### **4 to 8 weeks before: Meeting with Officiating Rabbi**

The Rabbi officiating your service will meet with the student and the family to discuss the Bar/Bat Mitzvah service and raise any questions or concerns. At this time the child will also begin his/her D'var Torah (speech) with his/her speech tutor.

### **2 weeks before: Torah Rehearsal with Mentor**

During this time, the child and mentor will practice reading from the Torah and standing on the bima in order to become familiar with the environment.

### **One week before: Final Rehearsal**

Parents and child will meet with a Rabbi to discuss service participation and run through the entire service on the bima.

### **Bar/Bat Mitzvah weekend**

- Friday – it is strongly recommended that the child and parents attend the Shabbat service at the Temple where your child will be called to the bima to help lead the Kiddush.
- Saturday – “The BIG day!”

# **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

## **Educational Requirement**

It is Temple policy that your child must be continually enrolled in a Stephen S. Wise Temple Jewish Educational Program through the grade 7 year in order to secure the bar/bat mitzvah date at Wise. Program options are as follows:

### *Grades 4-6:*

Wise Day School  
Wise Religious School

### *Grade 7:*

Milken Community School  
Wise Temple Youth on Sundays

## **Membership Requirement**

Please note you must be a member in good standing (all dues paid) through the membership year of your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah date in order to hold the service with Stephen Wise Temple. All dues for the membership year of your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah date must be paid in full prior to the service date. If you have any questions regarding accounting, please call the accounting office via the Temple's main line at 310.476.8561.

## **The Bar/Bat Mitzvah Fee**

The Bar/Bat Mitzvah fee covers seven months of private mentoring, sessions with a speech tutor or Rabbi, pulpit flowers, hosting of the Oneg Shabbat, Kiddush and custodial charges. 50% of the fee is due when the Bar/Bat Mitzvah date is scheduled. The balance of the fee will be due no later than one year prior to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Please note that in order for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah to take place, all Temple fees including dues, school fees and Bar/Bat Mitzvah fees must be paid in full prior to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

## **Bar/Bat Mitzvah Date Change Policy**

All requests to change a Bar/Bat Mitzvah date and/or time after it is initially set must be submitted to the B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator in writing (mail or email). Both the initial confirmed date and the desired new date must be included in the letter/email. A letter will then be sent from the CYE office confirming the date change.

## **Date and Clergy Request**

You may request a particular Rabbi or Cantor to conduct your service at the time you select a date for your simcha by including that request on your date request form. Alternatively, you can request members of the clergy team at a later date by submitting a clergy request form. We will make every effort to honor requests for both date and officiants. Clergy requests will be confirmed 9-12 months prior to your Bar/Bat Mitzvah date giving you ample time to make any adjustments if necessary. From time to time, unforeseen circumstances arise that require a change in the officiant. While this happens quite rarely, we appreciate in advance your understanding in the event that this occurs.

## **Time of Service for Invitation Purposes**

Stephen Wise Temple often has several B'nai Mitzvah services on any particular date. It is important that you invite your guests at the time your service is scheduled, and not beforehand. If your service is at 9:30 a.m., then we ask that you invite your guests for

that time and include verbiage such as “the service will begin promptly at 9:30 a.m.” Inviting guests earlier than your service time may cause overlap with other services.

### **Photography/Videography**

Please schedule an appointment with the B’nai Mitzvah Coordinator for formal photography sessions. You may take photos the day of your child's service or beforehand, however it is very important to call and reserve the time because of other temple and school events that take place in both Plotkin Chapel and the Main Sanctuary.

Keep in mind that photographs may take longer than expected when involving family members and friends. It is important to schedule your photography session leaving enough time for your service to start at the time scheduled. All video and photo equipment must be completely removed from the sanctuary or chapel floor 10 minutes prior to service start.

Please note that photographers and videographers are not allowed to walk the room during the service – they must take photos and/or video from the photo booth in the back of the room. Absolutely no flash photography (by guests or the hired photographer) is allowed during the ceremony.

Lastly, please make sure that the Torah is not set down anywhere else other than the bima podium, such as on top of the piano, in the pews, on the floor, etc. The Torah is sacred and it should be treated with respect. The parchment paper should never be touched, and it should only be opened on the bima podium. After use, it should be rolled to the same location it was originally opened from and carefully returned to the ark.

### **Bima Flowers**

Bima Flowers for Bar/Bat Mitzvahs are provided by the Temple as a part of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Fee. The flowers are ordered with both Bar & Bat Mitzvahs in mind; therefore, they are neutral in color to accommodate all services. Flowers used in these arrangements are pollen free due to allergies. *Note that no other decorations are permitted.*

If you would like to upgrade the flowers provided, please contact the CYE office at 310.889.2263 who will put you in touch with our vendor to discuss your upgrade and to get a price quote. To ensure that all changes are made within the policy parameters, no other flower vendor is permitted to supply flowers for the bima.

### **Musical Accompaniment**

Musical accompaniment by an organist is included as part of the B’nai Mitzvah Fee. Typically the organ is played but a piano may be requested. To request that a piano be played, please contact the B’nai Mitzvah Coordinator at least one week prior to the B’nai Mitzvah Service.

### **Candy/Food Policy**

Please note that the Temple does not allow guests to throw candy at any time during the Bar/Bat Mitzvah service. In addition to safety concerns, discarded candy also places an unreasonable burden on our custodial staff who must clean the rooms between events. However, if you wish to provide your guests with small candy bags or chocolates at the end of the ceremony, these may be put out in the foyer 30 minutes *after your service has begun*. The family must designate a friend or family member to set these items out

for you, this is not something our Temple staff can do. If you are having an event with Wise Events and Catering following the service - their staff can help with this request. No food or drink is allowed in Plotkin Chapel or the Main Sanctuary during the service.

### **Synagogue Attire**

Kippot and Tallitot, head coverings and prayer shawls, are made available to all guests. Please dress appropriately and in good taste. The Temple is a Makom Kadosh, a holy place. Sneakers and jeans are not proper attire.

### **Use of Plotkin Chapel and Main Sanctuary for Torah Practice**

The last mentor session and week-of Torah Rehearsal will take place in either Plotkin Chapel or the Main Sanctuary. Please note that the times the room is available are reserved by our staff and any extra time you are seeking in these rooms for extra practice to read from the Torah or for photography must be reserved through our B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator.

### **Bar/Bar Mitzvah Service location**

All B'nai Mitzvah services at Stephen Wise Temple are scheduled in Plotkin Chapel. Plotkin Chapel holds 250 guests. Families often request the use of the Sanctuary, which holds over 500 guests. While the Sanctuary may be available upon request (see below), it is not recommended if the guest count will be 250 or less.

If contracting an event with Wise Events for your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah reception in Zeldin-Hershenson Hall, you may request that the Bar/Bat Mitzvah service be moved to the Sanctuary for a fee of \$250. This fee covers additional setup and the cost of a sound technician (required for all Sanctuary events). Keep in mind the Sanctuary will not feel as intimate as Plotkin Chapel if the guest count is 250 or less.

If you are not having an event with Wise Events and wish to confirm your service in the Sanctuary, you may do so for a deposit of \$5,000. If no events are booked in Zeldin Hershenson Hall prior to eight (8) weeks before your event, we will refund your \$5,000 deposit. However, if a booking for the Zeldin Hershenson Hall space is requested during this time, we will offer you the first right of refusal at a cost of \$5,000.00.

\*To request that your child's service be moved from Plotkin Chapel to the Sanctuary, please contact Melanie Fisher at [MFisher@WiseLA.org](mailto:MFisher@WiseLA.org) or call 310.889.2203.



# JOURNEY TO THE BIG DAY!

## The Mentor Program

Seven months prior to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah date, students begin weekly meetings with their mentor. The mentor will call and arrange a time for weekly meetings. The student will meet with his/her mentor each week for 25 minutes on the Temple campus. During these meetings, which continue until the Bar/Bat Mitzvah date, the student will learn all blessings, prayers, Torah, Haftarah, and English readings. In addition to the weekly meetings, the Bar/Bat Mitzvah student will receive access to MP3s online and a workbook for daily study throughout the week. All of the Torah portions and prayers are available on our website under the "highlights" section under Worship & Spirituality. Parents are encouraged to attend the weekly sessions with the mentor to keep abreast of their child's progress. This will help parents be involved in the student's preparation and the entire Bar/Bat Mitzvah experience.

It is strongly encouraged that through the mentoring process extra-curricular activities are kept to a minimum. Your child has a Bar/Bat Mitzvah only once in his/her life and it takes many hours to prepare for this day. **The mentoring process continues through school and all vacations.** Bar/Bat Mitzvah training requires an investment of time, effort, and self-study. A child should anticipate spending **30 to 45 minutes daily** to prepare. Parents should take an active role in seeing that the material is studied.

## Speech Tutoring

About two months before the date of your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah she/he will begin working with a speech tutor or Rabbi to prepare the Bar/Bat Mitzvah *D'var Torah* (Torah speech). Each student will have several individual meetings to help him/her work on the speech since a major goal of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah experience is to impart a sense of independence and competence to the young person. It is vital that the speech be a serious effort of his/her own undertaking. Therefore, the Bar/Bat Mitzvah should create a speech that deals with issues that are of primary importance to him/her at this vital time in his/her life. In this way, the young person will be motivated to achieve this task. Therefore, the speech may, but need not be, based upon the *Torah* portion. Other themes, such as family, adolescence, "the meaning of Judaism to me" or any other pertinent idea may serve as the basis of the speech. It is important that parents recognize the speech as part of the growth process that the Bar/Bat Mitzvah facilitates, and provides the young person with room to be original and independent. We do not expect a 13-year-old to write an adult level speech, nor do we expect them to deliver it in a professional manner. Instead, we encourage him/her to speak in his/her own words in the manner that reflects who they are as individuals.

## The Mitzvah Project

A *mitzvah* is a commandment, but it is also an opportunity for people to do something special in their lives, for their own benefit and for the sake of those around them. By fulfilling the Mitzvah Project, a child will be preparing to become a Bar/Bat Mitzvah by actively making *mitzvot* an important part of life. We ask that each child commit to 15-20 hours for their Mitzvah Project, that way they can create a meaningful connection to the work they are doing and are able to tie their experience to their Bar/Bat Mitzvah experience.

### Steps towards choosing a Mitzvah Project...

1. **Pick a project:** find an organization to work with that you feel passionate about! Maybe it's related to your hobbies or interests – or something you have been learning about in school. Or maybe there is an organization that your family always volunteers with? Terry Wunder is happy to meet with you to help put together ideas in order to find a project that suits your interests.
2. **Make a timeline-** Feel free to use the template in this packet. We recommend at least 15-20 hours spent working with the project to gain a good understanding of the work that is being done.
3. **Create a presentation:** Once you have started with your project, make a notebook, photo album, or poster board – anything to document your experience to share with others at your Bar/Bat Mitzvah. This will also help you write about your experience as you prepare your D'var Torah (speech) for the day of your service.
4. **Present your experience:** Include what you have learned in your D'var Torah speech and make a display at your service to share with your guests. Also, schedule a time with Terry Wunder to present your project at WTY on Sundays for other Bar/Bat Mitzvahs and teens in the community.

Some examples include:

**Jewish World Watch:** Education, advocacy and refugee relief to areas around the world experiencing genocide, specifically Darfur. Projects available include the solar cooker project and the backpack project.

16944 Ventura Blvd, Suite 1

Encino, CA 91316

[www.jewishworldwatch.org](http://www.jewishworldwatch.org)

**Save A Child's Heart:** An Israeli based international humanitarian project providing life-saving heart surgeries for children in developing countries.

10050 Chapel Road, Suite 18

Potomac, MD 20854

(301) 785-0720

Contact: David Litwack, Exec. Director

[www.saveachildsheart.org](http://www.saveachildsheart.org)

**KEEN** – Kids Enjoy Exercise Now: A non-profit volunteer organization that provides free sports and recreational activities to children with disabilities.

Elysian Park Therapeutic Recreation Center

929 Academy Road  
Los Angeles, 90012  
213.892.2395  
[www.keenlosangeles.org](http://www.keenlosangeles.org)

**BJE Impact: The Center for Jewish Service Learning**

<http://bjeimpact.org>

This website can help you find quality volunteer opportunities that relate to the kind of service that your child wants to do and offers resources for studying more about how acts of service to others reflect Jewish tradition. You can enter the type of service you are interested in and your specific details such as where you live, when you can volunteer, etc., and the website will filter listings of organizations to get involved with.

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **BAR/BAT MITZVAH DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MITZVAH PROJECT TITLE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Categories of volunteerism: animal care/rights, arts and culture, bullying, caring for the sick, conflict resolution, disaster relief, education, elder care, environment, health/medicine, holocaust, homelessness, hunger/food insecurity, interfaith relations, international support, Israel advocacy, LGBTQ, literacy, mental health, political advocacy, special needs, sports, substance abuse, male/female support service, violence prevention, women and girls, youth and children

Resources:

<http://BJEImpact.org>

<http://volunteermatch.com>

<http://greatnonprofits.org>

<http://www.laworks.com>

What is your Torah portion? \_\_\_\_\_

Themes in your Torah portion:

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Step 1) What kind of volunteerism/social action sounds exciting to you?

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Step 2) What elements/themes of your Torah portion inspire you to act/give back in your own community?

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Step 3) TIMELINE

4 Months Out: Pick a project, plan your volunteerism, and meet with Terry for help!	3 Months Out: Do the work! Take photos! Write about it so you don't forget the experience!	2 Months Out: Plan how you will present this project at your Bar/Bat Mitzvah and to your WTY peers.	1 Month Out: Finish presentation project and schedule presentation at WTY.
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## **Shabbat Service Requirement**

Each Bar/Bat Mitzvah student is **required** to attend six *Shabbat* Services (Friday Night Shabbat services only) prior to their Bar/Bat Mitzvah. This requirement must be completed 8 weeks before his/her Bar/Bat Mitzvah date, prior to the family meeting with the Rabbi. This is an important aspect of spiritual life and will help the family feel more comfortable with the Shabbat Service, giving you and your child a chance to get to know clergy as well. Each student is responsible for having the service card signed each time he/she attends and dropping it in the wooden box outside of the service. Service cards are sent with the invitation to the Family Journey evening, however blank ones are always available on the table to the right of the Sanctuary doors during Friday night services.

## **Family Education Programming**

*For Wise School Families:*

In the fall and spring of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade (4 times total), parents and children are invited to meet with clergy to study together to begin preparation relating to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah experience. Each classroom will have their own meeting with the Rabbi that will take place on a school day morning (invitations will be sent with plenty of notice). We believe that these meetings are a significant part of the preparation process, and while we understand that parents have busy work schedules, we strongly encourage you to make arrangements to attend. Even if your child will not have a Bar/Bat Mitzvah at the Temple, the subject matter will still relate to the overall experience. Should you not want your child to attend these meetings with their class, please contact your child's teacher to make proper arrangements.

During these sessions your child will be introduced to the Torah portion of their particular Bar/Bat Mitzvah date. You will talk about the notion of God, morals and ethics. Together we will take a look at family life and communal life, as well as start to talk about the role of Mitzvah in Bar/Bat Mitzvah as an introduction to the Mitzvah Project.

*For Religious School Families:*

Each year students in the Religious School will have the have a couple of opportunities to share educational experiences with their parents. The programs offered are enriching and exciting, and give the parents a snap shot of the curriculum their child engages in throughout the year.

The Family Education Programs are designed to:

- Stimulate the adult and student learner
- Cultivate relationship between the parents, faculty, and Temple clergy
- Foster community and bring families closer together
- Help students understand that their learning is meaningful and important to their parents
- Offer parents the rare and special opportunity to observe their children learning

**Bar/Bat Mitzvah Honors Worksheet**

Below are the honors that you may assign to friends and family. Optional honors are indicated and need not be assigned. Please bring this form to your family meeting if you have questions, otherwise make sure to have it filled out and bring it to your rehearsal.

**Presentation of Tallit:** (Parents may either read the text on page 3/42 or offer brief comments to their children as they present girls and boys with a tallit.)

*What will your family do?* \_\_\_\_\_

**The Parents' Blessing:** (Parents read this passage before the passing of the Torah p. 27/59)?

*What will your family do?* \_\_\_\_\_

**Generation to Generation:** (The Torah is passed through the generations of Jews in the child's family. Usually, (great)grandparents to parents.)

*Please list the names and relationships to your child of the people that will be passing the Torah.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Remove Torah Ornaments:** (After the Torah is carried around the chapel these people remove the ornaments. Can be one or two people)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Hagbah and G'lilah:** (After the Torah is read, these two people redress the Torah. OPTIONAL)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Ark Openers:** (Optional for additional honors, especially for younger siblings. Two sets of two people. OPTIONAL)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Parents Speaking:** (After the Bar/Bat Mitzvah speaks the parents may speak briefly as well. The use of notes or a prepared text is **highly** recommended.)

*What will your family do?* \_\_\_\_\_

**Yizkor:** (Remembrances of significant individuals who have died in the past years)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are you doing your own booklet? \_\_\_\_\_

Special requests/considerations:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Complete this chart for Aliyot to the Torah (Honorees called to Bless the Torah). Please find out the Hebrew names of those people that you would like to honor with an Aliyah. The Hebrew name form is: *(the individual's name) son/daughter of (the individual's mother) and (the individual's father)*. If there is only a "Jewish" or Yiddish name for the person, this will work as well. \*Note these individuals must be Jewish to come up for an Aliyah, and over the age of 13\*

	<b>English Name</b>	<b>Hebrew Name</b> <i>Individual ben/bat mother and father</i>	Relationship to child
<b>#1</b>			
<b>#2</b>			
<b>#3</b>			
<b>#4</b>			
<b>#5</b>			
<b>#6</b>			
Bar/ Bat			

BLESSINGS AT THE READING OF THE TORAH - בְּרָכוֹת הַתּוֹרָה

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*Before the reading of the Torah*

בְּרָכוּ אֶת־יְיָ הַמְּבָרֵךְ.  
בְּרוּךְ יְיָ הַמְּבָרֵךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
אֲשֶׁר בָּחַר בָּנוּ מִכָּל־הָעַמִּים,  
וְנָתַן לָנו אֶת־תּוֹרָתוֹ,  
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, נוֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה.

You chant :

Barchu et Ado-nai ha-m'vorach

Congregation chants, then you chant:

Baruch Ado-nai ha-m'vorach l'olam va-ed.

Baruch ata Ado-nai, Elo-heinu Melech ha'olam,  
asher bachar banu mi-kol ha-amim, v'natan lanu et torato,  
Baruch ata Ado-nai, notain ha-torah.

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*After the reading of the Torah*

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
אֲשֶׁר נָתַן לָנו תּוֹרַת אֱמֶת,  
וְחַיִּי עוֹלָם נָטַע בְּתוֹכֵנוּ,  
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, נוֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה.

Baruch ata Ado-nai, Elo-heinu Melech ha'olam,  
asher natan lanu torat emet, v'cha-yei olam nata b'to-chei-nu.  
Baruch ata Ado-nai, notain ha-torah.

## THE CELEBRATION

***A few years ago a young boy was asked, "What is the theme of your Bar Mitzvah?" His reply was, "I'm not having a 'theme'! I'm having a Bar Mitzvah!"***

The celebration is a joyous and significant part of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* experience. It is important to keep the spiritual dimension of this *simcha* in the party. Remember, the "theme" of the day is the "*Bar/Bat Mitzvah*" - a commitment to Judaism.

Over the years the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* parties have become more and more elaborate, detracting from the essential meaning of *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*. Families are encouraged to make their decisions wisely when planning their parties and reflect on how the party characterizes their own values and ideals as a Jewish family.

**Some ideas to enhance the spiritual aspect of the party are the following:**

**Centerpieces** - Use your imagination and think of centerpieces that can be used by others after your party is over.

- Books nicely arranged can be donated afterward to the Temple library.
- Baskets of food are a lovely decoration which can be given to SOVA.
- Athletic equipment creatively wrapped and decorated can be donated to our Schools.

***Hamotzi and Birkat Hamazon*** - *Hamotzi* is a blessing thanking God for the opportunity to have a wonderful meal. The *Birkat Hamazon* is the concluding blessing reminding us to be thankful when we are finished eating and feel satisfied.

***Havdalah*** - You can begin your party with a *Havdalah* ceremony. This ceremony involves using a candle, spices, and wine which brings the *Sabbath* to a conclusion and begins a new week with the hope that we carry with us the sweetness and light of *Shabbat*.

**Themes** - Many *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* parties have themes which are not appropriate for the occasion. If you do choose a theme for your party, think about a Jewish one. Some examples are:

- Great Jewish heroes and personalities.
- Geographical places in Israel.
- Events in Jewish history.
- Jewish expressions, poems, and songs.

**Honors at the party** - You might want to honor those who have influenced the life of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* child. The student may speak of teachers or other family members who have been important in his/her life. This is a good opportunity for the parents to give a longer speech to their child and for other relatives and friends to say a few words.



## WISE TEMPLE YOUTH – GRADES 7 - 12

### Jewish Educational Program for B'nai Mitzvah and Beyond

Wise Temple Youth (WTY) brings teens together and helps them find their social and spiritual niche, while creating experiences that are relevant and meaningful to them throughout their middle and high school experience. WTY is run by the Center for Youth Engagement, (CYE).

**Students studying for their bar/bat mitzvah at Wise are required to be part of a Jewish educational program throughout their seventh grade year, which reiterates the Temple's dedication to continued Jewish social and educational involvement. WTY on Sundays, which meets twice a month throughout the academic year, fulfills this requirement and offers a safe social space and a creative learning environment.**

#### **New For Grade 7: *B'nai Mitzvah* Boot Camp!**

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WTY on Sundays now offers an optional *B'nai mitzvah* Boot Camp after dinner (6 p.m.-7 p.m.) for Grade 7. Temple Rabbinic interns, CYE Director Andrea Gardenhour, and others will lead *B'nai Mitzvah* preparation, Hebrew practice, *D'var Torah* writing, and more! This special class will provide teens an edge in their Hebrew and a deeper understanding of their *Parsha*. After your *B'nai Mitzvah* the teen will join the rest of WTY's community hour programming.

#### **When and Where**

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WTY on Sundays meets twice a month on Sunday evenings from 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. from September to June.

5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	<b>Dinner</b> in Hershenson Hall
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	<b>Community Hour/<i>B'nai Mitzvah</i> Boot Camp/Mitzvah Project Planning</b>
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<b>Choices:</b> Every student chooses one class for the year (classes range from gender specific groups to project based learning groups to social action groups)

#### **WTY Opportunities for Teens**

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WTY on Sundays participants have the opportunity to have bar/bat mitzvah related help (Hebrew tutoring, Mitzvah project planning assistance, regular meeting time with other teens preparing for their own bar/bat mitzvah) as well as being welcomed into a community of 7-12 grade teens who value community, friendship, Jewish life, and are committed to keeping teens involved at the Temple. WTY teens also have the opportunity to attend events planned by the WTY Student Board like Teen Shabbat, NFTY 7<sup>th</sup> grade retreats with 7<sup>th</sup> graders from across Southern California, Mitzvah Day, and more.

We are proud that over one hundred WTY teens are finding their place in Stephen Wise Temple life through our many WTY opportunities including:

- Rosh Hodesh: *It's a Girls Thing* (grades 7-11 at WTY on Sundays)
- Shevet Achim: *The Brotherhood* (grade 7 at WTY on Sundays)
- *Madrichim* program (grade 9-12 teacher's assistants in the Religious School)
- Leaders-in-Training and Co-Counselors (grades 10-12) at Camp Wise
- Freedom School servant leader interns (grades 9-12)
- NFTY retreat participants (grade 9-12 national Jewish youth group)
- WTY Student Board (grade 7-12)
- TALAVI Israel and Lithuania travel program (grade 9)

# WISE EVENTS

Situated atop Mulholland, on over 30 acres, Stephen Wise Temple can host your event, no matter what the size. With lush landscaping, breathtaking views, and spacious indoor/outdoor facilities, you will find just what you're looking for to create an incredibly memorable event. Whether it's your son or daughter's wedding, a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, your husband's 80th birthday, or a business-launching cocktail reception, Wise Events can take care of it all for you!

We are excited to offer new and exciting catering options with a wide selection of styles, pricing, and service to ensure your event at is exactly what you have dreamed of! All three companies are passionate about catering, innovative in their approach, and know that events at Wise are an important service to our community!

- **Tarte: Ruth Hurvitz (President)**
  - 818-400-4655
  - [ruth@tartecatering.com](mailto:ruth@tartecatering.com)
  - [www.tartecatering.com](http://www.tartecatering.com)
  
- **The Kitchen for Exploring Foods: Jenn Fairbank (Catering Coordinator)**
  - 626-793-7218
  - [jenn@thekitchen.net](mailto:jenn@thekitchen.net)
  - [www.thekitchen.net](http://www.thekitchen.net)
  
- **Wolfgang Puck: Barbara Brass (Vice President of Catering Sales)**
  - 323-491-1258
  - [barbara.brass@wolfgangpuck.com](mailto:barbara.brass@wolfgangpuck.com)
  - [www.wolfgangpuck.com](http://www.wolfgangpuck.com)

**To book a room for your kiddush, luncheon, reception, or other event at Stephen Wise or for any questions regarding events and catering, please contact:**

**Stacey Rosenthal**  
**310.889.2247**  
**[SRosenthal@WiseLA.org](mailto:SRosenthal@WiseLA.org)**  
**[www.WiseLA.org/WiseEvents](http://www.WiseLA.org/WiseEvents)**

## Helpful Phone Numbers & Emails

<b>Melanie Fisher</b> <i>B'nai Mitzvah Program Coordinator – for all your Bar/Bat Mitzvah needs!</i>	<b>310.889.2203</b> <b><u><a href="mailto:MFisher@WiseLA.org">MFisher@WiseLA.org</a></u></b>
<b>Rabbi Yoshi Zweiback</b> <b><i>Assistant: Joshua Berg</i></b>	<b>310.889.2282</b> <b><u><a href="mailto:RabbiYoshi@WiseLA.org">RabbiYoshi@WiseLA.org</a></u></b>
<b>Rabbi Ron Stern</b> <b><i>Assistant: Joshua Berg</i></b>	<b>310.889.2269</b> <b><u><a href="mailto:RStern@WiseLA.org">RStern@WiseLA.org</a></u></b>
<b>Rabbi David Woznica</b> <b><i>Assistant: Debbie Gordon</i></b>	<b>310.889.2200</b> <b><u><a href="mailto:DWoznica@WiseLA.org">DWoznica@WiseLA.org</a></u></b>
<b>Cantor Nathan Lam</b> <b><i>Assistant: Debbie Gordon</i></b>	<b>310.889.2228</b> <b><u><a href="mailto:NLam@WiseLA.org">NLam@WiseLA.org</a></u></b>
<b>Jeremy Goldstein – Membership Director</b> <b><i>Assistant: Zuley Velasquez</i></b>	<b>310.889.2230</b> <b><u><a href="mailto:JGoldstein@WiseLA.org">JGoldstein@WiseLA.org</a></u></b>
<b>Andrea Gardenhour</b> <b><i>Director of the Center for Youth Engagement</i></b>	<b>310.889.2229</b> <b><u><a href="mailto:AGardenhour@WiseLA.org">AGardenhour@WiseLA.org</a></u></b>
<b>Terry Wunder</b> <b><i>Youth Programs Coordinator</i></b>	<b>310.889.2381</b> <b><u><a href="mailto:TWunder@WiseLA.org">TWunder@WiseLA.org</a></u></b>
<b>Elizabeth Broberg</b> <b><i>CYE Programs Manager</i></b>	<b>310.889.2263</b> <b><u><a href="mailto:EBroberg@WiseLA.org">EBroberg@WiseLA.org</a></u></b>
To reach <b><i>B'nai Mitzvah Mentors</i></b> <b>(if you don't have their direct #):</b> <b>Cantor Paul Dorman</b> <b>Ilene Kaufman</b>	<b>310.889.2228</b> <b><u><a href="mailto:BMentors@WiseLA.org">BMentors@WiseLA.org</a></u></b>
<b>Stacey Rosenthal</b> <b>Wise Events (Catering)</b>	<b>310.889.2247</b> <b><u><a href="mailto:SRosenthal@WiseLA.org">SRosenthal@WiseLA.org</a></u></b>
<b>Terri Silva</b> <b>Accounting</b>	<b>310.889.2278</b> <b><u><a href="mailto:TSilva@WiseLA.org">TSilva@WiseLA.org</a></u></b>