

B'nai Mitzvah Policy

- 1) Designated B'nai Mitzvah Teacher for Congregation Har Shalom discusses available dates with Parents and contacts the Education Chair with suggested date. The Education Chair then brings date(s) to the Planning Committee for finalization. Any conflicts may be settled by the Executive Committee.
- 2) Any qualified Jewish person who is able, at the discretion of the Ritual Committee, may conduct the Bar/Bat Mitzvah.
- 3) Preparation and planning meetings with the person who will conduct the B'nai Mitzvah service should be attended by the parents in order to decide what the student will do and regarding who will receive Aliyot, etc.
- 4) If the Parents wish to have a Rabbi conduct the Bar/Bat Mitzvah, they may make arrangements with the Rabbi with the date that has been set for their Bar Mitzvah. If CHS has a regularly scheduled Rabbi visit, and the parents wish for such Rabbi to conduct the event, the only fee to the B'nai Mitzvah parents will be a \$300 donation to the synagogue. No one will be turned away for inability to donate that amount.
- 5) Shabbaton Weekends are planned with attention paid to the benefit of the memberships and their potential attendance on those weekends. CHS will try to accommodate the B'nai Mitzvah Family by scheduling the Rabbi to coincide with their chosen date when able. If the parents wish to have the Rabbi conduct the event on a weekend other than one that is scheduled for the Rabbi, or on a weekend not deemed advantageous for the congregation to bring in the Rabbi (i.e., Memorial Day weekend, Spring Break weekend), it is the financial responsibility of the B'nai Mitzvah parents to the Rabbi for all expenses as well as a \$75 cleaning fee to the synagogue.
- 6) Private Rabbinic Counseling may be scheduled with the Rabbi during a Shabbaton Weekend. If additional counseling is needed/desired, the parents can make arrangements with their Rabbi of choice; remuneration for the counseling will be the financial responsibility of the B'nai Mitzvah parents.
- 7) The Torah portion read for the Saturday of the scheduled Bar/Bat Mitzvah will correspond to the parsha for the Jewish Calendar across the world.
- 8) A Mitzvah Project will be fulfilled by the B'nai Mitzvah Student (before the B'nai Mitzvah) as decided upon by the B'nai Mitzvah teacher and parents.
- 9) The family must belong to the synagogue and the **B'nai Mitzvah must** have been studying for a minimum of two years.

- 10) Minimum requirements to be performed by the B'nai Mitzvah student are:
- Attend B'nai Mitzvah classes (or equivalent) for two years (in no more than a span of 4 years prior to the event).
 - Do a Mitzvah project
 - Attend at least 6 services in the year prior to event
 - Read the Maftir portion if on a Saturday
 - Read the Haftorah portion
 - Lead the Shema and V'ahavta
 - Lead at least 6 other prayers/readings in Hebrew or English
 - The above may be modified to an individual student as deemed appropriate by the B'nai Mitzvah teacher with parental input.

11) Adult B'nai Mitzvot are also welcome at Congregation Har Shalom, and should follow most of the same criteria as set out for children/parents, with financial responsibilities accruing to the B'nai Mitzvah. Study will need to be on an individual basis and the B'nai Mitzvah must make his/her own arrangements. As adult education classes, this policy will be slightly different.

12) The B'nai Mitzvah student must be Jewish by birth or conversion.