

CONGREGATION BETH AM USEFUL THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT PREPARING FOR THE “BIG DAY”

Even though the Bar/Bat Mitzvah candidate has been preparing for years, you and your family will begin working hard in preparation for your “Big Day”. There are always questions that arise about things from *kippot* to pictures to the *Kiddush*, etc. What follows are details regarding some of these issues. If you have any other questions, please give us a call and we will attempt to answer them to your satisfaction.

SERVICE LEAFLETS

A standard Service Leaflet is done through Beth Am for your service. This leaflet style booklet includes the Order of Worship and the Torah and Haftarah portions in Hebrew and English, a page of definitions and explanations, and has space for a personalized letter, memorials and service honors.

OPTIONAL READINGS

Each family may include up to three (3) optional readings in the service. A binder of optional readings is available in the office for your research. If a family chooses to provide a reading that is not found in the synagogue resource book, approval must be obtained. Please turn these readings in to the office at least one month before your *simcha*

If family or guests choose to create their own reading, it must be of a meditative nature having to do with the child coming of age or becoming an adult Jew. **Please do not include personal praise/accomplishments in your readings, as they will not be approved.**

PHOTOGRAPHY

Please make arrangements with Marcy admin@congregation-betham.org

SECURITY

Congregation Beth Am requires security to assist at each service. Security is arranged through Beth Am.

HELPING FAMILIES—on hold because of COVID Mitigations

Each and every family is required to assist at two (2) services prior to their own. On your assigned day you will be serving as ushers and greeters to our guests who are celebrating with us. Your role as a helping family is essential and insures that our services are welcoming and friendly. We are depending on all of our families to help each other on their special day. This provides your family an opportunity to experience the mechanics of a Bar/Bat Mitzvah service prior to their *simcha*. The Helping Family Policy and Instructions are included at the end of this section, and the following information will also help to explain the parameters of the program.

KIPPOT

Black *kippot* (*Yarmulkies*) are available from the congregation. Some families choose to provide *kippot* for the occasion. This is only an option, and each family can decide whether they want to supply *kippot* or not. If the decision is to provide *kippot*, the families do not have to choose the same color, nor do they have to engrave the child's name on the inside of each *kippah*. *Kippot* can be purchased at any Jewish gift store of your choosing. *Kippot* left over after the service can be collected by the B'nei Mitzvah family or donated to the Education Department.

Kiddush/Oneg—please see Marcy Chez for latest COVID Mitigation procedures regarding worship and oneg.

All families are asked to sponsor the Friday night “oneg” on the Friday prior to their *simcha*. There will be challah and juice provided immediately following your 10am or 4 pm service on Saturday as well. Families are encouraged to come to services on Friday night to celebrate Shabbat. Those who attend will be invited to the Bimah for a service honor such as lighting the Shabbat candles.