

To complete your *B'nei Mitzvah Mitzvah* Project requirement, you must complete the required activities and one elected activity from each of the three types of projects: *Torah* (Study), *Avodah* (Worship), and *G'milut Chasadim* (Acts of Lovingkindness). When you have chosen the projects that you will work on, turn in "The Breet Sheet" to Rabbi Bellows. When you have completed all of the requirements of your *Mitzvah* Projects (at least three weeks before your service), turn in the "I Did It!" sheet with all reports, pictures, etc. to Rabbi Bellows.

THE MITZVAH OF TORAH – STUDY

Required Activities

1. Study your *Torah* and *Haftarah* portions with your family and Rabbi Bellows, and write a *D'var Torah* on the importance of your Torah portion, and what it might mean to us today.
2. Complete Prayer Proficiency Class (Sunday mornings with Morah Dickson and at Hebrew School)
3. Study with your tutor to prepare your *Torah* and *Haftarah* portions, and the leading of the service.

Elective Activities (Choose at least 1)

1. Start your own Jewish library. Add a book of Jewish content to your personal collection. Read it and write a brief report.
2. Write a report on any(!) Jewish subject that interests you.
3. Study something from Jewish culture. For example, learn to play a piece of Jewish music or create a piece of Jewish artwork, cook a Jewish recipe, etc., and write a brief report about the experience.
4. Write a report on a famous Jewish person.
5. Write a report on an important event in Jewish history.
6. Video an interview with a Jewish grandparent or Jewish senior citizen/relative about Jewish life when they were younger. Write a report about the similarities and differences between your life and theirs.
7. Write a detailed report on the customs and traditions involved in a Jewish life cycle event.
8. A name often reflects something about one's personal history. Find out the meaning of your Hebrew name and why your parent(s) gave you this name. Write a brief report on your name and its history in your family.
9. Bake a *challah* from scratch and share it with your family on *Shabbat*. Write a report on your experience baking the *challah* and on your family's *Shabbat* experience (was it different because you baked the *challah*?)
10. Holocaust remembrance projects:
 - a. Remember the Holocaust, etc. – research a person who perished during this terrible time in our people's history, a young person who did not have a Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Honor their memory in this way.
 - b. Read a book pertaining to the Holocaust and write a report on what you learned: (Possible choices include *Number the Stars*; *The Book Thief*; *The Golems of Gotham*; *Second Hand Smoke*; *The Diary of Anne Frank*; *I Never Saw Another Butterfly* (poetry of children of Terezin); *Night*)
 - c. Watch a movie about the Holocaust (*Life is Beautiful*; *Schindler's List*; *The Devil's Arithmetic*, etc.) and write a report about it.

THE MITZVAH OF AVODAH – WORSHIP

Required Activities

1. Attend at least 10 Saturday morning *Shabbat* worship services with your family (including 3-5 B. Mitzvah services at Beth Am).
2. Lead the congregation in prayer on the day of your *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* worship service.
3. Attend the 10 Friday night *Shabbat* services.

Elective Activities (Choose at least 1)

1. Observe a full *Shabbat* meal at home with your family. Light candles, lead your family in *Kiddush*, *HaMotzi*. Write a report on your experience and on your family's *Shabbat* experience (Was it more than you usually observe? Was it different because you led the prayers?)
2. Recite the *Sh'ma* in Hebrew every night before going to bed for at least two weeks. Write a report on your experience (Did this have any effect on your days? Your nights?)
3. Write a creative prayer for a sick friend or relative. Turn in a copy of what you write.
4. Participate in *Tashlich*, *casting of sins into the water* on *Rosh HaShanah*. Write a report on how this added to your experience in observing the holiday.
5. Help build a *sukkah* at your home, a friend's home, or at Beth Am. Write a report on the rules for building a *sukkah* and how helping to build one added to your experience in observing the holiday.
6. On *Sukkot* we invite *ushpizin*, symbolic biblical guests (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Aaron, and David) into our *sukkah*. Which of these would you most like to invite to your *sukkah* and why? If you could talk to them, what would you ask them?
7. Design and build your own *chanukiya* (*Chanukah* menorah). You can make it out of clay, or any other non-flammable material. Use it at home for the 8 nights of *Chanukah*. Write a report on how this added to your experience in observing the holiday. Turn in the report with a photo of your lit *chanukiya*.
8. Write your own parody *Purim* song that tells the story of at least one of the characters from the *Purim Megilla*. Who knows? We may even include it in next year's *Purim Shpiel*!
9. Bake matza from scratch and share it with your family on *Pesach*. Write a report on the rules for making matza, your experience baking the matza, and on your family's *seder* experience (Was it different because you baked it?)
10. Lead your family *seder* this *Pesach*. Go around the table asking everyone to comment about what it means to be free. Write a report on how it felt to be the person conducting the *seder*.

THE MITZVAH OF G'MILUT CHASADIM – ACTS OF LOVINGKINDNESS

Elective Activities (Choose at least 1)

1. Feed the poor: Volunteer at the Beth Am Food Pantry packing and sorting food for distribution or helping at the distribution on the second and the last Sunday of the month. You may also volunteer at a soup kitchen, PADS shelter, The Uptown Café, or another Food Pantry. Write a report on how this experience affected you.
2. Give *Tzedakah*: Use a *tzedakah* box at home for at least 4-6 months. Donate money at least once each week to the temple's *tzedakah* box. Decide where to send the money collected. Write a report on where you chose to send the money and why you chose this charity.
3. Organize a *Tzedakah* drive. Choose an organization that needs supplies (i.e. school supplies, books, sports equipment, etc.). Make posters and send letters to advertise your drive, collect donated supplies, and donate all donations to your chosen organization. Write a report (include photos) on how this experience affected you and how your donation helped this organization.
4. Help the Elderly: Adopt a “grandparent” at Symphony of Buffalo Grove, Lexington, or another nursing home (call first so the staff can help you choose a good match). Visit at least 6 times, read aloud, send cards, bring small gifts, but mostly just spend time together. You can also adopt an older adult in your neighborhood- visit them, help with yard work, housework, shopping, and small errands. Write a report (include photos) on how this experience affected you and your adopted friend.
5. Comfort the Mourner: Visit a family who is sitting *shiva* after a loss. Participate in the *shiva minyan* worship. Bring food to their home. Send a card of condolence. Make a donation in memory of their loved one. Write a report on how this experience affected you.
6. Pick an issue of concern to our community and the world. Write to elected officials, write letters to the editor of your local newspaper, organize a letter-writing campaign, make posters to educate people in your neighborhood and your school. Write a report on how this experience affected you, and tell of your successes. Include photos and copies of letters.
7. Volunteer for a camp or organization that works with kids with various abilities (i.e. Buddy Baseball, Keshet, etc.). Write a report on how this experience affected you and the children you worked with.
8. Think of your own project and get approval from Rabbi Bellows. You can also find ideas from www.juf.org/tov, the Jewish United Fund Tikun Olam Volunteer Network website.