

Venue Options

Torah in the Round, Family Minyan and Ziegler Sanctuary

In an attempt to address your personal needs, **you have three very exciting Shabbat Morning Service options in which to celebrate your Bar/Bat Mitzvah simcha:**

1. The Service in the **Ziegler Sanctuary** is usually with two B'nai Mitzvah and begins at 8:45 am. The parents are called to the Torah for an "*Aliyah*," the honor of being called to the Torah to recite the blessings over the Torah. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah is called to the Torah, recites the blessings on the Tallit, Torah, reads the Maftir portion (the last sentences of the weekly Torah portion) from the Torah, and delivers a D'var Torah – an English interpretation of the Torah reading. He or she also recites the Haftorah (the Prophetic reading of the week) and Haftorah Blessings, receives a charge from the Rabbi, a blessing from the Rabbi and Cantor, leads the congregation in the chanting of the Aleinu and recites the Kiddush, blessing over the washing of the hands, and the blessing over the bread, which is performed at the end of the service. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah may lead the Shacharit Service (the morning service) by participating in the Shacharit Choir and/or P'sukei D'zimrah (the introductory psalms and blessings). The Bar/Bat Mitzvah may also read additional portions of the Torah reading. On Friday night, all of our B'nai Mitzvah lead the congregation in Kiddush and Aleinu.
2. **Torah in the Round** is a single Bar/Bat Mitzvah service that emphasizes participation and spirituality through prayer, instrumental music and discussion. This upbeat and welcoming service begins at 9:30 a.m. in Kohn Chapel. If a larger attendance is anticipated or if the service does not fall on the third Shabbat of the month, the service is in Gold or Barad Hall. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah family and guests are honored with Peticha (opening of the Ark), four Aliyot (recitation of the Torah blessings), Laining (reading from the Torah), Hagbah and Gelilah (lifting and binding of the Torah). Additional honors will be discussed with the presiding rabbi. Parents publicly present their child with a Tallit (prayer shawl) and recite a personal blessing to their child. At the end of the Torah service, parents bless their child with Birkat Kohanim, the Priestly Benediction. The Torah is passed from generation to generation (L'dor v'dor) and dancing ensues around the bimah. The child and guests may chant as many p'sukim (sentences) of the Aliyot (torah reading) as available with a minimum of Maftir and Haftorah. The child may also lead the Shacharit and Musaf services with the rabbi's approval. The child delivers a d'var Torah– English interpretation of the Torah reading (up to three minutes in length) about the parasha (weekly portion). When the Torah is put away, candy is tossed by the guests, followed by more dancing and celebration. The entire family must commit to attending at least six Torah in the Round services prior to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah. At these services the family will be asked to familiarize themselves with Torah in the Round by participating in the service and greeting the community.
3. With **Family Minyan**, you choose not only a venue, but a community to share your simcha. This community will be part of your family before, during and after the ceremony itself. Led by Rabbi Erez Sherman and the lay-coordinating committee, Family Minyan is a traditional service, led mostly by our Family Minyan members.

We meet twice a month, with B'nai mitzvah being scheduled on the 2nd and 4th Shabbatot of the month. Do you enjoy a participatory service with lots of singing and spirited davening? That is us!

Are you searching for a child-friendly community, with toys, games and books available for younger children? That is us!

Family Minyan offers the unique opportunity for our B'nai mitzvah students to participate and lead services during the weeks preceding the actual Bar/Bat Mitzvah day.

Our students are also able to lead all the parts of the Shabbat morning service; shaharit (the Morning service), Torah service, and Musaf (the additional service on Shabbat and Festivals).

Each student creates a plan with Rabbi Sherman and the bnai mitzvah mentor as to what parts of the service s/he will lead. Your family will receive up to 7 aliyot, and you will bless your child with a personal message and a presentation of the Tallit before the start of the Torah service.

You will learn more about these details in your initial meeting with Rabbi Sherman when you receive the Bar/Bat Mitzvah date. You will then meet more regularly during the year leading up to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

Most importantly, the Bar/Bat Mitzvah is not an isolated event in our lives. We celebrate publicly and with community. We expect regular participation and attendance at Family Minyan during the 2 years preceding the Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony by both the student and his/her parents. The expectation is that the family will attend a minimum of 15 Shabbat services during that time. This requirement allows the family to become a part of Family Minyan and for the Family Minyan to get to know you as well.

Family Minyan's home base is Kohn Chapel, which can accommodate up to 230 people. If you expect more than 200 people who are not regular Family Minyan daveners, the service will be held either in Gold or Barad Hall, subject to availability. We look forward to celebrating this important ceremony in your child's and family's life. Please come visit Family Minyan on any Shabbat so you can feel the warmth and spirit of our service.

*** Please note that there is an additional \$500 set-up/break-down fee for the alternate venues of Gold and Barad Hall. Barad Hall is available only if you have contracted a luncheon with our caterers. The clergy establish the room set-up for these alternate spaces to meet ritual criteria.*

We encourage you and your family to attend the various services and discover the one which best meets your needs.