



SINAI TEMPLE

## Venue Options

### ***Ziegler Sanctuary, Torah in the Round & Family Minyan***

**In an attempt to meet personal preferences, we offer three distinct Shabbat morning service options, in which to celebrate your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah.**

1. The service in **Ziegler Sanctuary** usually celebrates two B'nai Mitzvahs and begins at 9:30am, with the option to attend opening prayers in Kohn chapel at 9am. Our new service format is musical, interactive and family-friendly. Parents are called to the bimah 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 of the Tallit and the Torah, reads the Maftir (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 Haftarah (the Prophetic reading of the week) and Haftarah 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, the blessing over the washing of hands, and the blessing over the bread, which is performed at the end of the service. 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 10:00am. 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 Haftarah. 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). The child also delivers a D'var Torah, an English interpretation of the Torah reading, 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 a lay committee, this service begins at 9:30am and is traditional, led mostly by our Family Minyan community members. Do you enjoy a participatory service with lots of singing, teaching and spirited davening? That is Family Minyan!

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 B'nai Mitzvah mentor as to what parts of the service she/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. 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.

**We encourage you and your family to attend the various Sinai Temple services and venues to discover the one that feels most comfortable and best meets your spiritual needs.**

*\*\* Please note that there is an additional \$500 setup/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.*