

What else should I know about?

These thoughts can help make the morning a bit easier:

An occasional comment to a friend is acceptable but remember that constant talking or whispering is distracting to people who are sitting near you.

Going in and out of the sanctuary on frequent restroom visits disturbs worshipers. Please limit your trips out to one for the morning.

When the doors to the sanctuary are closed, please remain at your seat (if you're inside) or wait quietly in the corridor (if you're outside).

Don't bring presents to the synagogue.

Smoking and photography are prohibited in the building on the Sabbath.

Wine is served for adults after the service. Grape juice is available for underage children and others who do not drink wine.

Chewing gum during the service is inappropriate.

What happens when the service is over?

After the service we have *kiddush*, a time of fellowship, during which a light luncheon and dessert is usually served.

How do I congratulate my friend who has completed the service?

The traditional words of congratulations are *mazel tov*. It is, of course, always nice to thank your friend's parents for inviting you; they really appreciate that.

We hope you will enjoy your visit to our synagogue and learning about Judaism, the religious faith of your friend. If you or your parents have any questions, please call us at

_____.

You're invited to a Bar Mitzvah!

by Rabbi Paul Drazen and Larry Rafil

We are so pleased to learn that your friend has invited you to share with him in his special day as he becomes a *Bar Mitzvah* and that you will be joining us for a *Shabbat* (Sabbath in Hebrew) Service at our Synagogue.

This brochure will tell you a little of what happens and what to expect on Saturday morning during our religious services. Feel free to bring this brochure with you. If you have any questions before the day of the service, please feel free to call us at Beth El. If any questions come to mind during the service, please ask the rabbi or cantor who will be happy to answer your questions after the service.

What is a *Bar Mitzvah*? When a young man reaches the age of thirteen, he is considered a *Bar Mitzvah*. The name literally means Son (*bar*) of the Commandment (*mitzvah*), but that means, in real English, "coming of age as a responsible Jewish adult." From that point on he is allowed to lead prayer services for the congregation.

To prepare for this responsibility, we teach our young people about our religious heritage. Not only do they learn about the history and culture of the Jewish people, but they also learn the Hebrew language and about Jewish prayers, rituals and customs. The service you will attend is like all our Saturday morning services.

Your friend will be leading portions of the services, chanting a section from the Prophets (called the *haftarah*) and presenting a short talk in English. He has spent many hours making these preparations which are highlights of his special day. Since you are making the effort to come to the service, be sure to remain in the sanctuary for those times.

Some basic questions about our Shabbat Services

How do I get to our synagogue?

We are located at _____

What time should I arrive? How long is the service? When should someone pick me up?

Our services begin at ____ and end around _____. Following the service, we have *kiddush* (a “fellowship hour”) for which most guests remain for about a half-hour. Make arrangements to be picked up around _____. Although you don’t have to be at the Synagogue at _____, we urge you to arrive by _____.

What should I wear?

Appropriate dress for boys is slacks and shirt and tie or sweater. For girls, we suggest a nice dress or skirt, blouse or sweater. Since this is a religious service, strapless or sleeveless dresses and high hemlines are not appropriate. We don’t wear street jackets during our service; there is a coat room for coats and jackets.

Is there anything I need as I enter the sanctuary?

As you enter the hall to the sanctuary, you will be greeted by an usher. Boys are asked to wear a *kippah* (skull cap). You will receive a copy of a *humash*, [a book containing the readings from the *Torah* (the Five Books of Moses) and the *haftarah*] and an announcement and study page, which is used during the service.

Where should I sit?

We ask guests of the Bar Mitzvah to sit at the front of the center sections in the Sanctuary. One of the ushers can direct you to the proper location.

What’s in the sanctuary?

In the book racks at each pew in the sanctuary, you will find a *siddur* (prayer book), a white booklet which transliterates the service (writes the Hebrew words in English letters) and a blue booklet which describes the Shabbat morning service. You will find it easier to understand the nature of the service if you read the blue booklet. Reading along in English, during both the prayer services and the Scriptural readings, will help you better understand what is happening.

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You're invited to a Bat Mitzvah!

by Rabbi Paul Drazen and Larry Rafal

We are so pleased to learn that your friend has invited you to share with her in her special day as she becomes a *Bat Mitzvah* and that you will be joining us for a *Shabbat* (Sabbath in Hebrew) Service at our synagogue.

This brochure will tell you a little of what to expect and what happens on Saturday morning during our religious services. Feel free to bring this brochure with you, and if you have any questions before the day of the service, please feel free to call us at Beth El. If any questions come to mind during the service, please ask the rabbi or cantor who will be happy to answer your questions after the service.

What is a *Bat Mitzvah*? When a young woman reaches the age of thirteen, she is considered a *Bat Mitzvah*. The name literally means Daughter (*bat*) of the Commandment (*mitzvah*), which means in English, "coming of age as a responsible Jewish adult." From that point on she is allowed to lead prayer services for the congregation.

To prepare for this responsibility, we teach our young people about our religious heritage. Not only do they learn about the history and culture of the Jewish people, but they also learn the Hebrew language and about Jewish prayers, rituals and customs. The service you will attend is like all our Saturday morning services.

Your friend will be leading portions of the services, chanting a section from the Prophets (called the *haftarah*) and presenting a short talk in English. She has spent many hours making these preparations which are highlights of her special day. Since you are making the effort to come to the service, be sure to remain in the sanctuary for those times.

Some basic questions about our Shabbat Services

How do I get to the synagogue?

Our congregation is located at ____.

What time should I arrive? How long is the service? When should someone pick me up?

Our services begin at ____ and end around _____. Following the service, we have *kiddush* (a “fellowship hour”) for which most guests remain for about a half-hour. Make arrangements to be picked up around _____. Although you don’t have to be at the Synagogue at _____, we urge you to arrive by _____.

What should I wear?

Appropriate dress for boys is slacks and shirt and tie or sweater. For girls, we suggest a nice dress or skirt, blouse or sweater. Since this is a religious service, strapless or sleeveless dresses and high hemlines are not appropriate. We don’t wear street jackets during our service; there is a coat room for coats and jackets.

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