

Bnai Mitzvah Handbook



CONGREGATION
NEVEH SHALOM

Everything you need to know
(logistics, tutoring, planning, requirements,
& whom to contact with questions)
for your child's upcoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah

Congregation Neveh Shalom
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Portland, Oregon 97239
503-246-8831

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<http://nevehshalom.org/bar-bat-mitzvah/>

Whoever teaches his children teaches not only his children, but also his children's children, and so on to the end of generations.

Talmud Kiddushin 10a

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Glossary

Bar Mitzvah and Bat Mitzvah

--refers to either the person ("We call the Bar Mitzvah to come up to the Torah") or to the occasion ("I went to a lovely Bat Mitzvah last week").

--is not properly used in context as a passive experience ("I was Bar Mitzvahed in 1985") but rather we talk about the transition of this rite of passage ("I became a Bat Mitzvah").

Bnai Mitzvah

--the plural of Bar Mitzvah or Bar and Bat Mitzvah ("The twins will become bnai Mitzvah next year.")

Bnot Mitzvah

--the plural of Bat Mitzvah ("They were the first Bnot Mitzvah at our synagogue")

Simcha

--any joyous occasion ("The last simcha in our family was my sister's wedding")

Bima

--the stage in the sanctuary which the Bar/Bat Mitzvah ascends to lead services or read Torah

Dvar Torah

--literally "a word of Torah". Refers to the short talk (speech) the Bar/Bat Mitzvah delivers to the congregation on Shabbat

Aliyah

--literally "to go up." Refers to coming up to the Torah or bimah for an honor such as blessings before and after a Torah reading or raising (hagbah) and dressing (gelilah) the Torah

Gabbai

--individual who helps facilitate the Torah service and stands on either side of the Torah to assist readers. Plural: gabbaim

Overview of Shabbat Services

Order of Friday Evening Service (6:15-7:15 p.m.)

- Opening prayers or songs
- Tallit (prayer shawl) Presentation (by parents or grandparents to bar/bat mitzvah)
- Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcoming the Sabbath) service
 - L'chu N'ranana
 - Lcha Dodi
 - Tov L'hodot
- Dvar Torah (short sermon) by Rabbi
- Ma'ariv (evening) service
 - Barchu
 - Ahavat Olam
 - Sh'ma
 - V'Shamru
 - Amidah
 - Kiddush
 - Aleinu
 - Mourners Kaddish
 - Yigdal or Adon Olam

Order of Saturday Morning Service (9:00-12:00)

- Psukei D'Zimra (preliminary service)
- Shacharit (Morning service)
 - Barchu
 - Sh'ma
 - Amidah
- Torah service
 - Prayers for taking out the Torah (and Torah procession)
 - Blessings and Chanting of the Torah (7 sections plus Maftir, or last paragraph)
 - Wrap the Torah and put aside
 - Chanting the Haftarah with blessing before and after
 - Prayers while Torah is out (prayer for congregation, for peace, Ashrei)
 - Prayers for replacing the Torah scrolls (Torah procession)
- Bar/Bat Mitzvah's Dvar Torah (addressing the congregation)
- Rabbi presents to Bar/Bat Mitzvah
- Rabbi's Dvar Torah
- Musaf service (final service of Shabbat morning, including Amidah)
- Concluding prayers (Ein Keloheinu, Aleinu, Mourners Kaddish, Adon Olam)
- Kiddush and Hamotzi

Contacts at Neveh Shalom

Rabbi David Kosak
503-246-8831 ext.143
dkosak@nevehshalom.org

Cantor Deborah Bletstein
503-246-8831 ext. 116
dbletstein@nevehshalom.org

Mel Berwin
Director of Congregational Learning
503-293-7306
mberwin@nevehshalom.org

Karen Wilkins
Event Coordinator/Clergy Assistant
503-246-8831 ext. 129
OR 503-293-7308
kwilkins@nevehshalom.org

Office Staff
Brian Rohr (Order of Service bulletin)
503-246-8831 ext. 133
brohr@nevehshalom.org

Allen Levin, In-house Caterer
503.849.2605
centurycatering@msn.com

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Tutors
Cantor Bletstein
Deb Freedberg
Rafi Stern
Eddy Shuldman

Who do I contact about...

Aliyot and Honors in the service	Your tutor or Cantor Bletstein
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Rehearsal	Cantor Bletstein
Catering for Bar/Bat Mitzvah	Allen Levin
Catering Options	Karen Wilkins
Ceremony	Your tutor, or Cantor Bletstein
Date assignment	Karen Wilkins, or Cantor Bletstein
Dvar Torah	Karen Wilkins schedules meetings for Rabbi Kosak
Educational requirements	Mel Berwin
Facility questions	Karen Wilkins
Fees for facilities	Karen Wilkins
Meeting with Rabbi Kosak	Karen Wilkins
Music for Kiddush Luncheon	Cantor Bletstein
Order of Service (programs)	Cantor Bletstein, with office staff
Personalizing the service	Your tutor or Cantor Bletstein
Special Needs	Your tutor or Cantor Bletstein
Torah and Haftarah portions	Your tutor or Cantor Bletstein
Tutor assignment	Cantor Bletstein
Tutoring fees	Mel Berwin or JoAnn Bezodis

What is the history behind Bar/Bat Mitzvah?

Bar/Bat Mitzvah signifies coming of age in the Jewish community, and readiness to take on the obligations (mitzvot, commandments) of Jewish adults. Traditionally this happened automatically for boys at age 13 and girls at age 12. It is still true that a Jewish person is considered a Bar/Bat Mitzvah at that age, whether or not a ceremony or celebration is held.

The earliest record of a specific blessing for Bar Mitzvah is a 5th-century rabbinic text which provides the language for a father thanking God for freeing him from responsibility for the deeds of his child, who is now accountable for his own actions. A 14th-century text mentions a father reciting this blessing in a synagogue when his son has his first aliyah. By the 17th century, boys celebrating this coming of age were also reading from the Torah, chanting the weekly prophetic portion, leading services, and delivering learned talks.

The Bat Mitzvah celebration is an innovation of egalitarian denominations. The first Bat Mitzvah in the United States was Judith Kaplan in 1922. Since then, the Bat Mitzvah has become common in non-Orthodox congregations, and more often than not, the Bat Mitzvah is celebrated at age 13 so that boys and girls in the same cohort can celebrate their Bnai Mitzvah year together.

The privilege of being a ritual adult in a Jewish congregation include being counted in a minyan (ten Jewish adults must be present for some prayers such as Mourners Kaddish to be recited), leading Kiddush and other parts of the service, being called to the Torah as an aliyah (to recite the blessings), and being able to read from the Torah and Haftarah.

Today there are a wide variety of ways for a young person to demonstrate his or her readiness to join the congregation as a ritual adult, and for the community to celebrate this moment with the family.

What does a Bar/Bat Mitzvah mean at Neveh Shalom?

At Neveh Shalom, the Bar/Bat Mitzvah is both a joyous and a momentous occasion for our youth to celebrate their physical maturity, intellectual growth, moral responsibilities, and capacity to sanctify life and time. This occasion is an important milestone in the journey of Jewish learning and ritual practice, but certainly not the end-point.

In our congregation, all young people, both boys and girls, celebrate becoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah after their 13th Hebrew birthday. The preparation includes participating in the academic and social structure of our ALIYAH Jewish Learning Program from the early years through 7th grade, in order to gain a strong background in the foundations of Jewish culture and practice, including solid skills in Hebrew reading and comprehension, celebrating holidays and observances throughout the year, learning about the Jewish life cycle, gaining a foundation in Torah stories, and learning about important mitzvot such as giving tzedakah and helping those in need in our community. Most students also work with a private tutor provided by Neveh Shalom for the year leading up to Bar Mitzvah, to practice the particular prayers they will lead, learn Torah and Haftarah chanting skills, and personalize the service to the needs of their family.

Tutors help to prepare the students, and our Cantor and Rabbi also meet with the family and student during the year leading up to the ceremony. For each Bar/Bat Mitzvah at Neveh Shalom, yes, there is a template, but every celebration ultimately is unique to the child and family. Each young person participates in religious services in a way that demonstrates his or her skills and abilities to function as an adult member of the Jewish community. This generally includes reading from Torah and Haftarah (the Prophets), leading parts of the Shabbat or daily service, and giving a brief Dvar Torah (talk about the Torah portion).

The Bar/Bat Mitzvah is an important milestone not only in the life of a young person and his or her family, but also for the community. We celebrate when a young person steps before the congregation to lead the community in prayer and to teach Torah. The event is not a private family affair, but a rite of passage observed amidst the regular ritualized worship tradition of our community. As such, there will be times when other life cycle events will be acknowledged and celebrated during the worship service, such as aufrufs (when a bride and groom receive an aliyah), baby namings, and the recognition of birthdays and anniversaries.

In addition, our custom at Neveh Shalom is for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah family to invite the entire Bar/Bat Mitzvah class to the service and celebration, and to welcome the congregation to the Kiddush lunch following Shabbat morning services.

What does a Bar/Bat Mitzvah mean in your family?

Although many of us share the “naches” (joy) when a child becomes Bar/Bat Mitzvah, every family has its own story, and every milestone has its own particular meaning in the life of that family. You are encouraged to consider and discuss as a family what that meaning is.

- Who in your family has had Bnai Mitzvah? Who has not?
- What is special about this child’s milestone in your family?
- What does this milestone mean to your child?
- What will change as a result of your child becoming a ritual adult?
- Will your 13 year old take on new responsibilities at synagogue or at home? What will these be?
- What do you as parents want to learn or know for your child’s bar mitzvah? Are there synagogue skills or Torah skills you would like to learn?
- Who are the people in your family that you would like to honor through this ceremony?

Expectations & Preparation

Membership & Educational Expectations

Becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah at Neveh Shalom is a privilege of membership and of participation in our ALIYAH Jewish Learning program. According to Board policy, students are expected to be enrolled from 1st grade through 7th grade unless they have created an alternative arrangement with our Director of Congregational Learning. All Bar/Bat Mitzvah families must be members in good standing in order to begin the Bnai Mitzvah tutoring program. Students whose lack of enrollment or attendance has caused lagging skills in Hebrew reading may incur additional tutoring fees prior to or during the year-long Bnai Mitzvah tutoring process.

Bnai Mitzvah Meeting:

All families in 5th and 6th grades will be invited to our annual Bnai Mitzvah meeting, usually held in October, which allows upcoming Bnai Mitzvah families to share information, meet with the Clergy, and meet other recent Bnai Mitzvah families happy to mentor those new to the planning process.

Synagogue Attendance:

The best preparation for your family's special occasion is to join the community by participating as a family regularly at Shabbat morning, Friday evening, or daily morning minyan services during the years and months leading up to your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Your participation in religious services says something very powerful to your children about the importance of community, tradition, and life-long learning. Also, there is no such thing as "crashing" a Bar/Bat Mitzvah service or Kiddush lunch! Come as a family to as many Bnai Mitzvah as you are able to—it will be a huge help as you discuss what you imagine for your own child's ceremony and celebration.

PJA Families:

Members with children at PJA must be enrolled for the 6th grade Judaics program (Sunday mornings 9-12) and 7th grade Tichon program (Wednesday evenings 6:30-8:30pm).

Special Needs:

We have a commitment to work and celebrate with every family and child. If you have concerns about your child's ability to learn the traditional parts for Bar/Bat Mitzvah, please be in touch with Mel Berwin or Cantor Bletstein to discuss your concerns. Our Bnai Mitzvah tutors are very experienced at working with all types of learners (two are professionally trained in Special Education), and there are a number of alternatives to the traditional Shabbat Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony if you feel that a different environment would be more appropriate.

Scheduling a Date

Bnai Mitzvah at Neveh Shalom are scheduled approximately two years in advance.

- A full year of Bnai Mitzvah are scheduled as a group, and these are by birthdate rather than by grade. For example, in January 2016, all eligible 2018 Bnai Mitzvah families will receive a letter, letting them know that their dates soon will be assigned.
- At this time, families are offered the chance to request a particular date. This is also a good time to let us know if there are any particular concerns you have about your child's or family's special circumstances, whether regarding special needs, date requests that differ from a traditional Shabbat service, a conversion that needs to happen before this occasion, etc.
- Cantor Bletstein, in consultation with other Neveh Shalom staff, assigns dates based on those requests, as well as on Clergy availability, Jewish holiday considerations, and also the best fit for each family (for example, not assigning the longest Haftarah of the year to a child who has difficulty with Hebrew).
- A confirmation letter with your assigned date will be sent to you within a few months. At this point, your date is confirmed on the Neveh Shalom calendar—tell your friends and family to save the date!

ALIYAH: Educational and Social Preparation

K-6th Grade as Preparation for Bnai Mitzvah

While our ALIYAH program's primary aim is to help Jewish kids feel at home in Judaism throughout their lives, there are many aspects of the program that helps prepare kids for Bnai Mitzvah, beginning in Kindergarten. In our Hebrew program, students learn Hebrew language (decoding, fluency, and comprehension) and participate in our youth-led prayer community. We teach how the service is structured, the meaning of the prayers, and the choreography of the service. In addition, our Judaics program provides students with an excellent overall understanding of important Jewish traditions, including holidays, lifecycle rituals, religious concepts, and values such as giving tzedakah and caring for those in need. In short, they learn and experience the value of participating in the Jewish community, so that their Bar/Bat Mitzvah is all the more meaningful as they commit to engaging in Jewish life as a ritual adult.

The 6th Grade Program

The 6th grade curriculum is geared toward Bnai Mitzvah preparation.

- In Hebrew, the students learn the prayers of the Torah Service, including the songs that accompany the taking out and returning of the Torah to the Ark, and the blessings before and after reading from the Torah during an Aliyah.
- The Judaics curriculum focuses on Leadership, from many perspectives: leadership of the synagogue (meeting with the president of the synagogue and the teenage president of our USY group); tzedakah as a form of leadership, and thinking about a tzedakah- or volunteer-focused Bnai Mitzvah project; inclusion as a form of leadership (meeting with Corinne Spiegel from JFCS and Peter Wigmore, whose presentation is a highlight of the year); and their own leadership, as they facilitate the Chanukah, Purim, and Lag BaOmer celebrations for the younger children in ALIYAH.
- 6th grade is also when our PJA students join their classmates if they haven't already, and it is a fun and important bonding year for the class as they head into an exciting year of celebrating together.
- Perhaps most importantly, we host a 6th Grade Family Program, a monthly program for 6th graders and their parents on Sunday mornings designed to bring our pre-Bnai Mitzvah families together for learning, discussion, and social time. These are the families that will attend your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah and we want everyone to have a chance to meet and to become more invested in this important community!

The 7th Grade Program

7th grade is also a required part of the Bnai Mitzvah program. Students have graduated from Sunday mornings and attend only on Wednesday evenings (6:30-8:30pm); many enjoy coming to our optional Wednesday evening dinner (6:00-6:30). This year of gathering continues the teens' learning and growing as a community. The focus of their 7th grade seminar is the many ways that Jews express their commitment to, and involvement in, the Jewish community over time. Thanks to an exciting grant, our 7th graders meet monthly with older adults from our congregation to share stories while engaging in Jewish projects from art to text study to cooking in an intergenerational context.

Bnai Mitzvah Tutoring Program

Students enrolled in our ALIYAH Program with a confirmed Bar/Bat Mitzvah date work with one of our professional tutors in weekly sessions for the year leading up to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah. These one-to-one sessions are scheduled for one half hour per week at a mutually agreed upon time between you and the tutor. If you have a request for your child to work with a specific tutor, or if you would like to tutor your child yourself, please be in touch with Cantor Bletstein.

Our tutors follow a template for the service, but also individualize the experience based on the student's skills and interests. Among the parts of the service that students can learn are:

- Torah tropes and the recitation of their Torah portion
- Haftarah tropes and the recitation of their Haftarah portion
- Blessings before and after the Torah and Haftarah readings
- Shabbat morning Torah service
- Shabbat morning Shacharit or Musaf service
- Other selected prayers such as Ashrei, Ein Keloheinu, and Aleinu
- Kiddush and other Friday night prayers

One month before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah, students transfer to Cantor Bletstein from their prior tutor. Cantor then works with the students through their final rehearsal on the Friday morning of their Bar/Bat Mitzvah weekend.

A Note About Tutoring Fees

The fees for the year-long tutoring program are in addition to annual ALIYAH tuition. The total cost of the tutoring program is \$1200. Families are charged \$600 along with 5th grade tuition and \$600 with 6th grade tuition so that by the Bar/Bat Mitzvah year, the tutoring fees are already taken care of. Requests for a different payment plan can be discussed with Mel Berwin.

A Special Opportunity: Morning Minyan and the Tefillin Program

A generous family in our community has made this offer: any 6th grader who attends a weekday morning minyan (Sunday-Friday morning) on a regular (weekly) basis for a year, is granted a set of tefillin at his or her Bar/Bat Mitzvah. This incentive is meant to encourage our young daveners to join a hidden gem of our congregation—a warm and welcoming community of our most committed prayer participants. Many of these morning “minyanaires” are of an older generation, and the relationships that our young people build with them is priceless. In addition, families who have participated in the tefillin program remark that a weekly service (and maybe breakfast out) before school was cherished quality time for both parent and teen.

Planning the Ceremony—General Information

Meeting with Rabbi Kosak

Rabbi Kosak is looking forward to meeting each and every family, and will do so as you begin your year of intensive Bnai Mitzvah preparation. He will also guide the students through the studying of the Torah portion and writing of their Dvar Torah (short speech teaching a lesson about the portion). Karen Wilkins schedules these appointments.

Friday Morning Rehearsal

The morning of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah weekend, your family should plan to meet with Cantor Bletstein for a final rehearsal, usually scheduled from 10:00-11:30 a.m. Family members reading Torah or coming up for an Aliyah should also plan to attend this rehearsal. Many families also plan to have photographs taken by a professional photographer before or after the rehearsal.

Photography

Flash photography is prohibited on Shabbat (both Friday night and Saturday) and Festivals. This includes the time during our services, your kiddush luncheon, and anytime on the premises before Shabbat is over. Photography without flash is permitted on Shabbat at your kiddush luncheon/reception only. For videotape options, please contact Karen Wilkins. If you plan to use a professional photographer for family photos before Shabbat, please inform Karen so that time in the sanctuary or chapel can be scheduled. Many families schedule a photography session on Friday morning, before or after the rehearsal.

Which Sanctuary Will Our Services Be Held In?

Most services are held in Stampfer Chapel, which holds up to 200 people, or in the Main Sanctuary, which is suited for 200-400 people.

- See Location of Services in the “Resources” section

Bnai Mitzvah are Community Events

Bnai Mitzvah are a very special part of our community, and yet these services still are community events. Other events and celebrations may coincide with your simcha such as baby namings, special synagogue events, or aufrufs (calling a bride and groom to the Torah), and may include honors during the service. Karen Wilkins will inform you in advance if these should occur. When planning your services, expect at least 50 “regular” congregants in addition to your invited guests.

Gifts to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah

During the Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony, your child will receive a certificate of Bar/Bat Mitzvah and a copy of the Tanakh presented by the congregation. Your child will also receive a Kiddush cup, given jointly by the Men’s Club and Sisterhood. It is appropriate for your child to acknowledge the presentation of these gifts with thank you notes.

Babysitting

Babysitting for Saturday morning services is available between 9:30 and noon by reservation only. Reservations must be phoned in to the office (503-246-8831) by Wednesday at noon preceding the Bar/Bat Mitzvah weekend. This service is available at no charge unless the hiring of an additional sitter is necessary for your family and guests. You will be charged for the additional sitter at the rate paid by the synagogue that morning.

Throwing Candy

The tradition of throwing candy after the reading of the Haftarah is a sweet one! If you like this option, the synagogue will provide you with a couple baskets of soft, kosher candy wrapped individually for friends in the front rows to throw gently, and younger kids to come collect and enjoy. Please do not provide candy purchased on your own. The Rabbi or gabbaim will see that the baskets are distributed to the family in advance of the throwing moment.

Friday evening and Shabbat Morning Services

Friday Evening Service

The Bar/Bat Mitzvah is a participant in the Friday evening service, which begins at 6:15 pm. Plan to arrive by 6:00, and leave extra time if the weather or traffic is a concern. The Friday evening service lasts approximately an hour. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah usually leads several prayers including the Kiddush for Erev Shabbat, and the family often presents their child with his or her Tallit during this service.

- Many of the blessings and prayers of the Friday evening service are on our website: (<http://nevehshalom.org/bar-bat-mitzvah/>)
- See sample Friday Order of Service in the “Resources” section

Tallit Presentation

Many families choose to present their child with a Tallit during the Friday evening service. At this time, a short presentation may be given by one or both parents about the significance of this moment in the life of your family, or the Tallit you are presenting. While this is an opportunity for parents to express their pride and love, it is not an occasion to review every detail of the child’s life. Your remarks should be no more than 5 minutes in length.

- See Parents’ Speech and Blessings in the “Resources” section for examples.

Shabbat (Saturday) Morning Service—Overview

Services on Saturday morning begin at 9:00 am and families are requested to arrive on time. Friends and family members who have an aliyah or another honor should arrive no later than 9:30, and sit in the front section so that they can be easily identified. The gabbai (service helper) may need your assistance to identify these individuals. This service includes several parts including the morning service, the Torah service, the Dvar Torah (an explanation by the Bar/Bat Mitzvah of the Torah portion and its personal relevance), and the ending service. The service concludes around noon, and it is traditional that the Bar/Bat Mitzvah family hosts a Kiddush lunch for their guests and congregants following the service.

- See sample Saturday Order of Service in the “Resources” section
- Many of the blessings and prayers of the Saturday morning service are on our website: (<http://nevehshalom.org/bar-bat-mitzvah/>)

Friday Evening Order of Service and Saturday Morning Program

An Order of Service (one-page program) is printed for Friday night and Saturday morning. As the Bar/Bat Mitzvah family for the weekend, you are entitled to honor your family, guests, or friends by including them as participants in our service, and to personalize the program with a design or with your child’s name. Many families use a design similar to their invitations. Our graphic designer will help with this process. There are forms in the Resource Section and templates of the Friday Order of Service and Shabbat Morning Program.

- See the Resource Section for templates and forms for the Order of Service and the Shabbat Morning Program.

Honors

There are several opportunities for your relatives and guests to participate in our Shabbat morning service, and many families consider this a way to honor special people in their child's life. Those friends or family members who will be reciting a blessing or prayer may want to practice with your tutor or may be asked to attend the Friday morning rehearsal. Please let your tutor know of your wishes for any assistance your family members may need in order to fulfill their honor. Karen Wilkins will review the forms with you.

- The blessings for coming up to the Torah as an aliyah are on our website: <http://nevehshalom.org/bar-bat-mitzvah/>
- See the Honors worksheet in the "Resources" section.

Here are some more details on the honors that can be given out for your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah:

Aliyah—coming up to the bimah during the Torah service to recite the blessing before and after one of the 7 Torah readings.

Reading Torah—chanting one of the seven sections of Torah in the traditional trope from the Torah scroll (without vowels or cantillation). This is an honor for those who have learned this skill. Torah readers not from our congregation should make sure to set a phone or in-person meeting with Cantor Bletstein so that she can hear them rehearse the part. As early as you would like, you may contact Cantor to obtain a list of the Torah readings, request photocopies of the text, and/or an mp3 or CD recording. She will help you with the reading assignment and will gladly send the information directly to your friend or family member if you provide her with the names, street and email addresses. *Your complete list of Torah readers must be provided to Cantor no later than two months before your Bar/Bat Mitzvah date.* If there are still Torah readings that have not been assigned, Cantor will confirm with you, then ask one of our regular Torah readers to read the unassigned portion(s).

Sitting on the Bima-- If you plan to use the Main Sanctuary you may ask one family member, most often a parent or grandparent, or sometimes your tutor, to sit with your child. Honoring someone with "sitting on the bima" is not applicable in the Stampfer Chapel due to the configuration of the room.

The Prayer for Peace—This optional prayer is recited responsively in English, and therefore can be an honor for a family member or friend who does not know Hebrew or is not Jewish.

Greeter Honor

On weekends when there is no Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Neveh Shalom makes sure there are one or two Greeters to welcome our community to the synagogue. On Bar/Bat Mitzvah weekends, this is an honor for the family to perform. It is recommended that you ask ONE ADULT FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER to fill this role. Parents of students in your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah class are a good option.

- See "Shabbat Greeters" in the "Resources" section, pg. 34

Participation of non-Jews in Bar/Bat Mitzvah Ceremonies

We welcome with open arms the inclusion and participation of non-Jews in our congregational life. There are several ways in which a non-Jewish parent, grandparent, other relative, or friend can participate in the service. These include the Tallit presentation, sitting on the bimah with the child, leading the Prayer for Peace, and joining the Jewish spouse on the bimah after the Torah blessings have been recited for an Aliyah. The Rabbis or Cantor would be happy to discuss this further.

Attire & Decorum

Proper Attire

It is customary to dress respectfully and modestly when in a sanctuary. Please remember that everyone, *especially the Bar/Bat Mitzvah and anyone else participating in the leadership of the service*, should dress in an appropriate and modest manner when participating in a religious service. Bare shoulders or midriffs are not considered appropriate, nor are short, tight or suggestive clothes. The ideal for all shul-goers is dressier than day-to-day clothes but nothing that calls attention to oneself or one's body.

Kipot and Tallitot

All men must wear a Kipah when entering the sanctuary. These are available in the foyer. Should you choose to purchase personalized Kipot these may be ordered through the Sisterhood Gift Shop or several sites online. Allow six weeks for printing and delivery. Additionally, a talit must be worn by both men and women reading from the Torah or leading parts of the service. Women are encouraged to wear a head covering if they are going to the bimah. Covering our head acknowledges our entrance into a sacred space; the Tallit symbolizes our obligation as Jews to the mitzvot and to each other.

Synagogue Decorum

When you step into the sanctuary on Shabbat, you are stepping out of everyday activities and into a sacred space. It is a time to enjoy the holiness of Shabbat as well as to show respect for the Rabbis, the Bar/Bat Mitzvah family, and the congregation. You will probably be inviting many adults and children who are unfamiliar with our customs and facility. In order to ensure security, decorum and enjoyment for all who come to worship and celebrate, we request that children be supervised at all times. Smoking is prohibited on synagogue premises at all times. Cell phones and other electronic devices should be turned off while at the synagogue. Writing is prohibited on Shabbat and Festivals. Applause is not appropriate at any time during the service. Business attire is appropriate for all worshippers and guests. Many families choose to send a letter to guests before the occasion to explain these rules and also what the guests (especially those unfamiliar with our synagogue services and customs) might expect.

- A sample letter to guests is included in the Resource Section.

Planning the Celebration

Invitations & Chronicle Announcement

Invitations

Invitations can be as formal or informal as your family chooses. Both paper and email invitations are common. Here are some considerations when creating your invitation list:

- It is expected that *all students invite the entire Bar/Bat Mitzvah class to the ceremony and celebration*. Consider wording your invitation so that the families of the class also know they are invited to the ceremony. Some families handle this with a follow up email.
- It is a courtesy when sending invitations to include Rabbi David and Laura Kosak, Rabbi Eve Posen and Mr. Duncan Gilmore, Cantor Deborah Bletstein, and any other Neveh Shalom clergy, staff, or teachers who have been meaningfully involved in your child's education or Bar/Bat Mitzvah process.
- Addresses for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah class and for teachers and staff can be requested from the Education Office. All other member addresses can be obtained from the synagogue directory (online).
- All invitations should indicate when your service begins on Friday at 6:15 pm and 9:00 am on Saturday.
- As mentioned above, some families choose to send an informational letter to guests to explain more of the customs of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah service and our synagogue. A sample can be found in the Resource Section.

CNS Chronicle Announcement

A form will be mailed to you a few months before the Chronicle deadline by our office staff so that you may include information about your child in our synagogue publication. You may include a photo (either black and white or color, any size); names of parents, siblings, grandparents and great-grand parents; school name and grade; hobbies and interests.

- See Resource Section for samples.

Luncheon, Cookie Table, and Challah

The Kiddush Luncheon

The Bar/Bat Mitzvah family traditionally hosts a festive luncheon following the Shabbat morning service in honor of their child. This is held in Birnbach Hall, which can be decorated to fit the occasion. It is strongly recommended that luncheon festivities be kept at the synagogue, to include the congregation and to maintain the Shabbat atmosphere. Allen Levin of Century Catering is the synagogue's in-house kosher caterer and will plan the menu with you. Our kitchen is strictly kosher. No food, other than cookies, may be brought in from the outside. Families are asked to plan on 50 congregants in addition to your count and cost for the luncheon. This communal luncheon is integral to the warmth and hospitality of Shabbat at Neveh Shalom.

Cookies for Your Shabbat Luncheon

A sweet tradition at Neveh Shalom—the Cookie Tables. It is our custom that the Bar/Bat Mitzvah family, friends, and relatives bake sweets at home in advance for the Kiddush Luncheon. While this is not required, friends consider it an honor to bake for your simcha (joyous event), and to help assemble the sweets onto trays on the Friday morning of your weekend. While we understand that this tradition can cause angst among some families, we have found that often there are a couple of parents who volunteer to be “Cookie Captains” for the class and will help to coordinate this part of the celebration with you. Alternatively, or as a supplement to the home-baked items, our caterer can provide treats, or Kosher dessert can be bought from Safeway or other stores that sell kosher cookies.

- See the Neveh Shalom Baking Guidelines located in the “Resources” section.

Challah for Saturday Morning

Challah will be provided by our caterer each week. It can also be baked by family or friends. The Challah is only needed on Saturday at the conclusion of services before the Kiddush luncheon.

Decorations and Music

Flowers for the Bimah (optional)

Flowers for the bimah in the Main Sanctuary may be provided by the family and must be delivered on Friday prior to 4:00 PM. There are also silk floral sprays available for your use. If you choose to use these arrangements, please notify Karen Wilkins. You may not in any way alter the arrangements provided by the synagogue.

The Stampfer Chapel does not have adequate space allowance for large floral sprays so most families opt out.

Should you choose to order fresh flowers, please check with Karen Wilkins before ordering. We attempt to be sensitive to those who may suffer from asthma or allergies. We strongly suggest you refrain from fragrant flowers such as lilies and freesia.

Decorations and Centerpieces for the Kiddush

You are welcome to decorate the tables in Birnbach Hall as part of the celebration of your simcha. Decorations and centerpieces for Shabbat should be in keeping with the spirit of the day. Items that are inappropriate for use on Shabbat and Festivals (cameras, writing implements, money, and candles) should not be used in your theme or décor. When in doubt, check with Karen Wilkins. Mylar confetti may not be used as part of your decorations, upstairs and/or downstairs. Jewish books make beautiful centerpieces for your simcha. After your event, the donated books will get a nameplate honoring your child. This is a lasting way to commemorate a special milestone in your family's life. If you would like more information about this option, please contact the Feldstein Library at 503-246-8831x118 or email Kaiya Goldhammer at kgoldhammer@nevehshalom.org. Fresh cut flowers and kosher candy are also popular choices.

Music at the Kiddush

If the family wishes to have music at the Kiddush luncheon, the music must be Jewish in nature and appropriate to the occasion, such as klezmer or Israeli. Please be in touch with Cantor Bletstein to coordinate these arrangements.

Extending your Celebration & Gift Shop as Resource

Extending your Celebration at Neveh Shalom

Some families choose to host a Friday night dinner for their out of town guests, family, and friends following the service. This is a lovely way to begin your weekend of celebration. The dinner would begin around 7:15pm, shortly after the conclusion of services. Our Atrium is able to accommodate up to 50 people. Larger families might consider using the Birnbach Hall or Stampfer Chapel.

Families often choose to celebrate their Saturday evening party in the Birnbach Hall. The room is extremely versatile and can accommodate smaller or larger crowds with an accordion room divider. It “dresses up” beautifully with the rental of proper lighting, draping, festive balloons or romantic candles. Karen Wilkins can share photos of previous events held in the Birnbach Hall to give you some creative ideas.

Our Stampfer Chapel can be used in any number of ways. Please talk to Karen Wilkins about these options.

Our Gift Shop

Our Sisterhood Gift Shop, located across from the main office, has many items to help you celebrate your Bar/Bat Mitzvah, including tallitot, head coverings, jewelry, personalized Kipot, and beautiful Judaica gift ideas. We have a variety of items in stock and are happy to order for you from our trusted vendors. Call 503-246-8831 ext. 127 for our hours.

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Timelines

CNS Suggested Timeline for Ceremony and Celebration

12-9 MONTHS

Consider where on or off-site celebration will be held (if desired); some locations may need to be reserved up to one year in advance

9-6 MONTHS

Meet with Karen Wilkins (ext. 129) to discuss ceremony and celebration arrangements at the synagogue, including but not limited to:

- Location of your Shabbat morning service
- Order of Service/Program coordinating with Office Staff
- Additional questions and plans at synagogue

Begin working on guest list

Begin working on invitations; may choose to send a “save the date” to out-of-town guests, be sure to get a current class list from the ALIYAH office so all students will be included

Purchase tallit

Contact family and friends if you would like them to read a Torah portion. If so...

Assign family/friends Torah readings directly with Cantor Bletstein and request text/CD/mp3 if appropriate (remember this is optional)

2 MONTHS

Submit information to office staff for **Chronicle**; the office staff will contact you in writing

Order kippot if desired from the Sisterhood Gift Shop or on-line

Send invitations

Consider options for table decorations for Kiddush if desired

4 WEEKS

Submit information for Chronicle and Order of Service handouts to the office staff including names of all honorees for both Friday and Saturday services.

Begin collecting Hebrew names

Purchase or obtain appropriate clothing for Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony and celebration (please refer to Proper Attire section in this Manual)

Finalize plans with caterer AND other services such as florist, photographer, musician(s) if desired

Contact family and friends to help with cookie baking and setup on the Friday morning of your simcha

2 WEEKS

Finalize Saturday Order of Service with synagogue office staff

Submit Aliyah list with the Hebrew names to Karen Wilkins (both of his/her parents' Hebrew names; (e.g. *Baruch ben Moshe v' Sarah*). Remember to keep a copy for yourself

1 WEEK

Finalize Friday Order of Service with Office Staff

Contact caterer with final numbers for Kiddush lunch

Confirm delivery of any items from outside vendors for celebration for Friday morning.

Deliveries **will not** be accepted on Saturday/*Shabbat*

FRIDAY

Plan to be at the synagogue for final rehearsal; time is usually set for 10:00am. Exceptions must be coordinated with Cantor Bletstein

Bring shoes you plan to wear, kippah and tallit, siddur, 3 ring binder of study materials, and large font, well-spaced copy of speech.

Family and friends who are chanting Torah are encouraged to come and practice Friday morning

Parent(s) tray cookies for the weekend

Morning plans may also include meeting with photographer, florist, and musician if you have made arrangements with any of these vendors, AND setting up table decorations for luncheon if you so desire

Steffani's Sample Checklist for Bnai Mitzvah Planning

12 months out

- Book Venue
- Book DJ
- Book Caterer

6-9 months out

- Book hotel block for out of state guests
- Book photographer
- Meet w Karen Wilkins to discuss ceremony & celebration arrangements at synagogue incl. location of Shabbat morning service, Order of Service/Program

4-6 months out

- Finalize guest list – Get current class list
- Assign Torah readers w Cantor Bletstein and request text/CD/mp3
- Order centerpieces and decorations for Sat. night dinner
- Order invitations
- Order yarmulkes
- Order food for Kiddush (Alan Levin)
- Rent linens, dishes, silverware, glassware & other items needed for Sat. night

3 months out

- Make hotel packet for out of towners
- Start clothes shopping
- Assemble invitations and buy postage
- Mail invitations
- Send playbill detail to Judy @ Itcoa (Table tix, centerpieces, Playbill)

2 months out

- Submit information to office staff for Chronicle
- Order centerpieces for Sat. Kiddush
- Make up song list for DJ
- Submit Bar/Bat Mitzvah info to office staff
- Finalize plans with caterer
- Finalize plans with photographer
- Finalize plans with DJ
- Arrange for photo booth for Big Al's

1 month out

- Make hair appointments, manicure, facial etc.
- Alterations for suits, dresses
- Shirts, ties, shoes, socks, stockings for Shabbat
- Schedule Thurs. apptmt for shave/hair for Steve & others
- Choose people for aliyot and honors –Collect Hebrew names
- Arrange guest seating
- Assemble centerpieces
- Write speeches

- Order cake for Big Al's Party
- Assemble marquis lighting
- Finalize Saturday order of service w synagogue office staff
- Submit Aliyah list w Hebrew names to Karen Wilkins
- Contact Big Al's with final numbers
- Contact caterer w final numbers

The month of...

- Finalize Friday Order of Service w Office staff
- Contact Alan Levin w final numbers for Kiddush
- Make cookies for Kiddush
- Order challah, Havdalah for Sat. night
- Welcome baskets for hotel guests
- Arrange transportation
- Pick up Fri. night dinner –Costco & Edelweiss (side salads, pickles, desserts, drinks, paper goods
- Stock bar

Rehearsal Day

- Bring shoes plan to wear, kippah & tallit, siddur, study binder, large font, well-spaced copy of speech
- Family & friends chanting Torah to practice
- Bring cookies for Kiddush
- Photographer for pics
- Set up table decorations for Kiddush

Resources for the Ceremony

Location of Services

Use of the Main Sanctuary/Stampfer Chapel for your Erev Shabbat (Friday Evening)

Service:

ALL Friday night services will occur at 6:15pm and conclude by 7:15pm

ALL Friday evening services will take place in the Stampfer Chapel unless an unusually large crowd is expected OR the room will be used for your Friday night dinner or Saturday luncheon, in which case the service will be in the Main Sanctuary. During the summer months Erev Shabbat services are held in the upper Plaza, weather permitting.

Use of the Main Sanctuary/Stampfer Chapel on Shabbat Morning

There are two factors to consider when making this choice; the first concerns your numbers, the second concerns the location of your luncheon.

1. If you are expecting less than 150 invited guests, you may prefer to have your service in the Stampfer Chapel. Room capacity for the Stampfer Chapel is approximately 200 comfortably; we always plan for at least 50 regular congregants every Shabbat morning. Please know that we **cannot add chairs** during the middle of the service as it would be very disruptive.
2. If you are expecting a larger crowd (over 150), then we will hold services in our Main Sanctuary on Shabbat morning.
3. If you plan to have your Saturday luncheon or Friday night family dinner in the Stampfer Chapel, then services will be held in the Main Sanctuary.
4. Final decisions regarding your use of space at this service must be made within 2 weeks of your simcha and discussed with Karen Wilkins (for scheduling purposes).
The final location decision belongs to our clergy.

Parents' Speech and Blessings:

Presenting the Tallit

During the Erev Shabbat (Friday night) service, we invite parents to present their child as a new leader into the community with the symbol of wearing a tallit for the first time. The parents are invited to share a few words expressing their family's joy, reflecting on their pride in their child's accomplishments, and their sincere commitment to passing on the ancient and sacred tradition of becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

We ask that you consider and please follow these guidelines:

- Please write out your speech and practice reading it a few times in advance. This can be a very emotional (as well as stressful) time for you; the more you can prepare yourself, the better you can manage your feelings of deep joy and pride while standing in front of the congregation.
- Do mention your child's educational accomplishments leading up to this precious moment in time. We encourage you to emphasize the qualities of your child's character and Jewish identity.
- Do express words of gratitude and appreciation for family members, the community, and teachers for their presence on this special day.
- Please limit your words to approximately three minutes. This translates to approximately a 250 word, one page, double spaced typed document! If both parents choose to speak, the time remains the same; the three minutes are to be shared.
- Please speak directly into the microphone. We all want to hear your words of pride and praise so speak slowly and clearly directly into the mic. Do not hesitate to make adjustments to the mic before you begin.
- Out of respect for the congregation (other simchas we may be celebrating, Shabbat dinner plans after services) please follow these guidelines.

Your participation and consideration is greatly needed and appreciated!

Writing a Dvar Torah

Prepared by Rabbi David Kosak

Ben Bag Bag says, 'Turn it, Turn it, for all is in it.' (Pirke Avot 5). The beauty of Torah is that we still find meaning in its stories today. The Rabbis said there are 70 faces to Torah. What they meant is that we each discover something unique and special when we read the Torah, because each of us is a unique person unlike any other. If you find something that really speaks to you in your Torah reading, chances are it will be meaningful to someone else.

The sages say in the Talmud that God is like a mirror. The mirror never changes, but everyone who looks at it sees a different face. I think the Torah is like a mirror. Every generation will look into the Torah and find a different truth reflected back at it.

Rabbi Harold Kushner

A successful dvar Torah provides insight into the Torah text and insight into how we live today, in Portland, Oregon, America or the world.

Heads UP

Anyone can give a good dvar Torah, especially you! But like most things in life, it takes real work. Don't expect to write a good dvar Torah in a half an hour. The more time you spend reading your Torah portion and really understanding it, the more you will find interesting things to share with your friends, family and community.

How to Start

Read the Parashah Actively

You will spend a lot of time learning to chant the Torah and Haftorah. That is great, and will be a lifelong skill for you. Developing a lifelong connection to the Torah is equally important. So you have to read your portion in English, at least three times. Reading doesn't mean quickly passing your eyes over the words. It means understanding what you are reading—and if you don't understand what you are reading, then find someone who can help you.

Reading Actively requires that you ask the Torah questions even as you read it. Here are some good questions from the Kolel site. If you have them in mind when you are reading your portion, you will be reading actively.

Context: What is the context to the story or issue in the text?

Characters: Who are the central characters/ Who is missing?

God: How is God involved/or not?

Resolution: How does the text end: what is questioned, learned or resolved?

Alternatives: How else could we read this/what other ways could it have turned out?

Laws: What laws/rituals are derived from the portion?

Principles: What moral/ethical lessons can be learned here?¹

Sometimes you can't understand your parsha unless you know what immediately precedes or follows it.

¹ This "context to principles" section is taken verbatim from the Kolel website where you can find some excellent resources. See http://www.kolel.org/torahstory/dvar_presentation.html.

Example: Immediately after the Akedah (Binding of Isaac) is Chaye Sarah, 'And Sarah died.' Some of our Jewish sources imagine that Sarah died from grief when she learned how her son, Isaac, almost died at the hands of her husband. That idea allows us to really imagine what Abraham and Sarah's family life was really like. So don't be afraid to look before or after.

Problems are Treasures

In Torah study, finding something that you don't understand, or something that bothers you, is a good thing. It means you are engaged, and it may provide you with the subject for your talk. Here are a few problems to look for:

1. Is there a word or phrase you don't understand?
2. Is a story or phrase repeated? Why?
3. Is something ambiguous? Can you understand it in more than one way?
4. Juxtaposition (smichut haparshiot) Do two passages seem like they don't naturally follow one another? Maybe you can learn something from that.

After you've read the parsha using the above guidelines, apply it to our day, and your life.

Making the Connection to Today

There are two good angles to finding something interesting to say. If there is an issue of particular interest to you or your community, you may be able to find a connection to your Torah portion. The other approach is to find something unusual, troubling or interesting in your Torah portion.

- How does this section or law relate to today?
- Do we still practice Judaism in the same way, or has something changed?
- How do you relate to a story or law that conflicts with your values or modern ideas?

Once you've come up with a few questions or issues, pick the one that you find most interesting or compelling.

Getting Help: Commentary

Once you have your question, you need help. Help, in this case, means finding other people who have addressed your questions. We call this commentary. Commentary can be the comments in our Etz Hayim chumash. It can be something you find on the internet. It can be a conversation you have with one of your rabbis. If you are more ambitious, you can probably also find many of the classical medieval commentators (Rashi, Ramban, Ibn Ezra and Sforno) in English at CNS's Feldstein library.

Putting It All Together

The standard bnai mitzvah dvar Torah is several pages long--about 5-7 minutes. While you are welcome to change the structure, a common and effective way to write your dvar is:

1. Give a quick summary of what happens in your parashah.
2. Mention the one point or question that stood out to you, as described above.
3. Explain why it did, and its connection to your life today.
4. Hakarat Hatov: Thank all the people who helped you prepare for your bar/bat mitzvah.

Shabbat Greeters

Being welcomed upon arrival at simcha and having [Shabbat Greeters](#) is a very important part of the Friday night and Saturday morning service for your B'nai Mitzvah. Your synagogue member friends and family at the door are a great way to welcome your out of town guests, child's friends from school and family to the synagogue.

[Coordinate Greeters as you would your cookie bakers.](#) Offer to greet for other families and ask them to greet at your event. This can be a powerful way to feel connected to the families in your child's class.

Here are the responsibilities of the Greeter:

Stack and hand out the Friday night Siddur (blue prayer book) or the Etz Hayim (red prayer book) and Siddur for Saturday, along with a copy of the Order of Service (and any additional hand-outs).

Smile and direct guests to the 'chapel' space we will be using for the service, as well as bathroom locations.

Hand out kippahs and ask all men to wear them inside of the sanctuary.

Check out two videos:

["A Guide for Visitors to Neveh Shalom."](#) Log onto nevehshalom.org to view on the CNS homepage. This video will help orient guests to CNS and our customs.

["Greeter Guide at CNS."](#) Log onto <http://tinyurl.com/shabbatschmoozer> to sign up to greet! This is a Sign Up Genius site. It's easy to use and automatically generates reminders. Next watch the "Greeter Guide" video for all of the best tips for greeting!

Review the written [handouts](#) for more information inside the cupboard (labeled Shabbat Greeters) in the Main Sanctuary (where you will also pick up a [name tag](#)).

Remember, you not only help your b'nai mitzvah class, but also the kehilla (community) by allowing the clergy to focus on the important job of assisting the b'nai mitzvah.

Thank you!

Membership Services Committee
Jennifer Kalenscher, Chair

Letters for your guests/family members receiving Aliyot/Honors

Dear Honoree,

You will be called for an Aliyah to the Torah on an upcoming Shabbat at Congregation Neveh Shalom. We are pleased to include you in our service.

An Aliyah involves the recitation of blessings before and after the Torah reading. If you are unfamiliar with the blessings or are not sure if you remember them, please learn them or review them prior to the event. The text of the blessings will be available at the Torah in large print in both Hebrew and transliteration. Additionally you may find this information printed in Hebrew and English transliteration on our website <http://nevehshalom.org/bar-bat-mitzvah/>. They are also chanted in the mp3 recordings on the same page.

Since traditions differ from synagogue to synagogue we want you to be aware of the customs at Neveh Shalom. Prior to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah the family will collect your Hebrew name, i.e. your name and that of your father and mother (eg. Sarah bat Shmuel v'Malka) by which you will be called to the bimah.

Please arrive at the synagogue by 9:45am, so that you will be here in time for your honor. One of the gabbaim/ushers will hand you an Aliyah card indicating which numbered honor is yours. Men who receive an Aliyah are expected to wear a kippah/head covering and tallit/prayer shawl. Women are expected to wear a kippah and encouraged to wear a tallit.

Prior to your Aliyah, please move toward the front of the sanctuary. When your Hebrew name is called, come to the bimah and stand to the right of the Torah reader, who will point to the spot where s/he is about to begin the reading. With the tzitzit/tallit fringe wrapped around a finger, touch the spot indicated and then kiss the tzitzit. (Women not wearing a Tallit may touch the spot with the edge of a prayer book or the Torah belt.) Kissing the Torah scroll is an indication of our love for the word of God bequeathed to us. Please take hold of the Torah rollers. Recite the first line of the blessing. The congregation will respond. You should repeat that same line then continue with the rest of the blessing. When the reader has concluded the reading s/he will again point to the spot in the text just concluded. Once again touch the spot with the tzitzit and kiss the tzitzit. Then recite the second blessing. Now that the Aliyah is completed, move around to the Torah readers left side and remain at the Torah during the next Aliyah.

As you return to your seat, people will want to shake your hand and will wish you a "Yashir Ko'akh" (May you go with strength). A proper response is "Barukh Tihiyeh" (You will be blessed) for a male or "Brukha Tihiyi" for a female.

If you have any question, please ask one of the gabbaim for assistance. Thank you for taking an active part in our service.

The Ritual Committee

Letter for Hagbah and Gelilah

Dear Honoree,

You will be called to lift or dress the Torah/Hagbah (lifter) and Gelilah (dresser) at an upcoming Shabbat service at Congregation Neveh Shalom. We are pleased to include you in our service.

Since traditions differ from synagogue to synagogue we want you to be aware of the customs at Neveh Shalom. Prior to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah the family will collect your Hebrew name, i.e. your name and that of your father and mother (eg. Sarah bat Shmuel v'Malka) by which you will be called to the Bimah. Please arrive at the synagogue by 9:45am. One of the gabbai'im/ushers will hand you an Aliyah card indicating your honor as Hagbah/lifter or Gelilah/dresser. Men who receive an Aliyah are expected to wear a kippah/head covering and tallit/prayer shawl. Women are expected to wear a kippah and are encouraged to wear a tallit.

When your Hebrew name is called come to the bimah. The Hagbah should pull the Torah scroll a few inches toward him/her and open the Torah so a bit of the text is showing. Bend your knees and push down on the Atzei Khayim/handles, so that the Torah lifts straight up. The congregation will stand and begin singing. With Torah lifted and balanced turn around so that the congregation can view the text. Then sit in the chair indicated by the gabbai. At this point the Gelilah will grab the top Torah holders and roll them closed. The Gelilah will place the Khagurah/belt on the Torah with the clasp toward the opening. Place the Torah cover over the scroll with the front facing the opening as well. Hang the Yad/pointer over the holders and place the crowns on top.

As you return to your seat, people will want to shake your hand and will wish you a "Yashir Ko'akh" (May you go with strength). A proper response is "Barukh Tihiyeh" (You will be blessed) for a male or "Brukha Tihiyi" for a female.

If you have any question, please feel free to ask one of the gabbaim for assistance.

Thank you for taking an active part in our service.

The Ritual Committee

The Honor of Opening and Closing the Ark

Dear Honoree,

You will be called to open the ark before and after the Torah reading at an upcoming Shabbat service at Congregation Neveh Shalom. We are pleased to include you in our service.

Since traditions differ from synagogue to synagogue we want you to be aware of the customs at Neveh Shalom. Please arrive at the synagogue by 9:45am in order to be on time when we remove the Torah from the ark. One of the gabbaim/ushers will hand you an Aliyah card indicating your honor as an ark opener. Men who receive an Aliyah are expected to wear a kippah/head covering and tallit/prayer shawl. Women and children are expected to wear a kippah and encouraged to wear a tallit.

When we are ready to begin the Torah service the gabbaim will motion to the ark openers to approach the Bimah. They should stand on either side of the ark and wait for the indication from the gabbaim as to when the ark should be opened. They should remain standing at the ark until the gabbaim indicate that the doors should be shut. Then the ark openers may be seated.

When we are ready to return the Torah to the ark the gabbaim will motion to the ark openers to return to the bimah. They should stand on either side of the ark and wait for the gabbaim to indicate when the doors should be opened. Remain at the ark until the gabbaim indicate the doors should be shut.

As you return to your seat, people will want to shake your hand and will wish you a “Yashir Ko’akh” (May you go with strength). A proper response is “Barukh Tihiyeh” (You will be blessed) for a male or “Brukha Tihiyi” for a female.

If you have any question, please feel free to ask one of the gabbaim for assistance.

Thank you for taking an active part in our service.

The Ritual Committee

Program information & Honors List (sample list of requested information):

Bar/Bat Mitzvah English Name:

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Hebrew* Name:

*HEBREW NAME EXAMPLE: name should include both father and mothers names if possible - *Miriam Rachel bat Yitzhak v'Deena*

Date of Bar/Bat Mitzvah:

Parents English Names:

Parents phone number:

Parent E-mail(s):

Friday

Candle Lighting Participants:

Tallit Presentation by:

Ark Openers:

Sitting on Bimah (ONLY if in Main Sanctuary, one person only):

Adon Olam:

Greeters:

How many guests are you estimating to have on Friday?

Saturday

Greeters:

Sitting on Bimah (ONLY if in Main Sanctuary, one person only):

Special Prayers:

Adon Olam:

Candy Throwing? (We will Provide), indicate Yes/No:

Names of Ark Openers (Beginning of Service):

Names of Ark Openers (End of Service):

Hagbah (Lifting the Torah), English Name:

Hebrew Name:

Gelilah (Dressing the Torah), English Name:

Hebrew Name:

HONORS/ALIYOT - FOUR MAXIMUM per family unless approved by Rabbi. TWO PEOPLE MAXIMUM per aliyah. For Hebrew Names, see example above with *.

1. English Name:

Hebrew Name:

English Name:

Hebrew Name:

2. English Name:
Hebrew Name:

English Name:
Hebrew Name:

3. English Name:
Hebrew Name:

English Name:
Hebrew Name:

4. English Name:
Hebrew Name:

English Name:
Hebrew Name:

For the Program

We only need the “About” and “Thank you” part of the program. The rest of the program may only edited by clergy request.

Cover: Graphics or photos should be in digital format. You may also give Brian a copy of the bar/bat mitzvah invite to scan and convert into a matching hand-out cover (we print in color). If you don't have an idea of what you want on the cover, let Brian know and I will send you link with options. The cover is vertical (portrait) - please keep that in mind.

About - Please write a paragraph about your child to include in the Program, or we can use the same wording used in the Chronicle announcement:

Thank You, (Please write a thank you paragraph to include in the program):

Chronicle Announcement— Sample email from Brian Rohr

Congratulations on (child’s name) upcoming Bar/t Mitzvah! This is a wonderful, exciting and very busy time.

I am attaching a check list to help you gather the necessary information for the Chronicle announcement and a sample of a typical announcement. Please submit the announcement as text in an email, or attach as a separate word processing document, and return it to Brian Rohr who oversees the publication of the Chronicle, at brohr@nevehshalom.org. The photo you submit should be a head shot only (school picture, formal portrait, etc. no glamour shots please!)

Please or give Brian a call if you have any questions 503.246-8831 ext. 133.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Chronicle Check List and Announcement Sample

- _____ Name of Bar/Bat Mitzvah student
- _____ Date(s) of Event
- _____ Names of Parents
- _____ Names of Siblings
- _____ Names of Grandparents
- _____ Name of School & Grade
- _____ Hobbies/Interest of Bar/Bat Mitzvah student

Photograph (remember, no glamour shots)

If you would like to email the photo, please make sure it is in “tif” format, and that it is a grayscale image. Email the file to: brohr@nevehshalom.org. If you submit a copyrighted professional photograph, please obtain written permission from the photographer for its publication in the Chronicle.

Sample Announcement

Mazel Tov to Aaron Stein who will become a Bar Mitzvah on March 15th and 16th. He is the son of Jerry and Alice Stein, brother to Sarah and Alex, and grandson to Nathan and Carol Stein of Portland and Tom and Dana Weinberg of Los Angeles. Aaron is a 7th grader at Whitford Middle School and enjoys playing basketball, the trumpet, reading, and hanging out with friends.

Sample Letter to Guests about Bar/Bat Mitzvah

#1 Jenn's Letter to Family & Friends

Hello family and friends,

We're so glad you're considering joining us for Hayley's bat mitzvah!

This letter attempts to answer many questions and/or provide information about the bat mitzvah/Shabbat service about which you may not know. Here is my preemptive effort, and please be in touch if you need/want greater clarity. **503-452-0219.**

First, Hayley's invitation says the bat mitzvah starts at 9 a.m. That's only sorta true. On every Shabbat (which is every Saturday of the calendar year), synagogues conduct a Shabbat service. In the case of a bar or bat mitzvah, it's mainly the child—rather than the clergy—who leads the second and third parts of a three-part service. (The ceremony for a boy is called a “bar mitzvah”; for a girl it is a “bat mitzvah.” “Bar” in Hebrew means boy, and “bat” means girl. “Bat” is pronounced “baht.”) The first part of the service which starts at 9 a.m. consists of preliminary prayers that are conducted by a lay leader and are nearly entirely in Hebrew. Most people arrive closer to 9:30 a.m. or 9:45 a.m., when the core of the service – the Torah service – begins.

“The Torah service” means the congregation observes Hayley taking the Torah (Hebrew Bible) from the Ark (in which it is stored) and carrying it throughout the synagogue. (Ever seen a “Torah parade”? This is your chance!) This ritual gives congregants an opportunity to touch a garment to the Torah – considered the words of God as expressed to Moses – and then to their lips. *This is not a ritual done by everyone!* Indeed, many regular congregants simply stand by and observe this act, which symbolizes the Torah's importance and that a portion of it will be read momentarily.

Once the parade returns to the pulpit (or *bimah*, pronounced “bee-mah”), the Torah readings commence; eight different people will chant short portions from the scroll (which has no vowels nor punctuation); the final two portions are chanted by Hayley. She'll then chant what's called the *HafTarah* (pronounced “Hof'Tar'ah”), which is a portion from the Prophets. If you'd like to read in advance what Hayley will be chanting in Hebrew, her Shabbat morning Torah portion will be from Deuteronomy 24:14-25:19; her *HafTarah* will be from Isaiah 54:1-10, 54:11-55:5. (There are similar themes between a week's Torah portion and its coincident *HafTarah*.) Upon Hayley concluding the *HafTarah*, kids get to (gently) throw candy at her (provided by the synagogue), symbolizing the sweet conclusion of the hardest part of the entire service. Yes, you can eat whatever Hayley doesn't catch!

Hayley then comments (all in English!) on her readings and gives thanks (we hope) to those who've helped prepare her to conduct this service. Following her comments and then the rabbi's, the third and final section of the service gets underway. The Torah is returned to the Ark (after another “Torah parade”) and then there is a series of prayers that conclude rather rapidly. It will be about 11:45 a.m. before the service wraps up.

About the prayer book: Hebrew reads from right to left, as opposed to English, read from left to right. Therefore the prayer book "opens backward," as does the Bible (which is a thick red book called "Etz Hayim," which means "a tree of life") in which you can follow along in English during the Torah service. Hebrew's "backwardness" can be hard to get used to and includes a lot of paper-shuffling. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT AT ALL!!!

In the prayer book, you'll find that the right-hand pages are entirely in Hebrew, and that the left-hand pages have everything translated word-for-word into English. Sometimes, key prayers also are "transliterated," which means, for example, the Hebrew word "שמע" will have this on the opposite page: "sh'em'a." If you'd like to get a visual, a page in the prayer book might look like:



Regarding clothing: As long as you dress "nicely," you're appropriate for synagogue! The only "rules" are the following: Girls and women are expected to dress "modestly," which means no cleavage; no bare shoulders or midriff; no skirts too high above the knee; and

men and boys are expected to cover their heads. Girls and women most certainly can wear pants. There always are myriad *kippot* (head coverings/skull caps/yarmulkes) available in a container outside the sanctuary for anyone to don. Women can cover their heads if they'd like, but there is no requirement or expectation. For example, Hayley will be wearing a *kippah* (skull cap), as it's proper to do so while reading from the Torah. Jenn chooses to cover her head in synagogue, too; she wears a hair band that's about 3" thick. Some women wear scarves, hats, and even doily-like items. Many Jewish folks wear a prayer shawl called a *tallit*; Jenn chooses to wear one; Jenn's dad does not. You will not stick out if you're not wearing one. They look like this:



Please note that because the service is long, people get up, use the restroom, wander around the hallways or the back of the sanctuary... it's never, ever looked upon as rude! Rather, it's expected. Even the rabbi and cantor (who leads the chanting) will do that; it's just what you do in longer services. (Some kids bring their "pleasure reading books"; doing so also is not rude. Anything to keep the natives not restless.)

However, the following are not allowed anywhere in the synagogue on Shabbat:

- Cell phones (keep them in your purses/pockets in “off” or “vibrate” mode)
- Taking pictures
- Writing/drawing
- Placing the prayer books on the floor (there are little cubbies either in front of your seat or beneath the seat in front of you in which to place them)

Following the service, there will be a *kiddush* lunch (“kee-doosh”), the shared, celebratory meal following Shabbat services. It’s for all who attend the bat mitzvah and takes place elsewhere in the synagogue. It usually runs from about noon to 1 p.m.

Our best,

Jenn and David/Charley

For even more about what to expect upon entering a synagogue, there’s a rather funny video the synagogue produced for visitors just like you. You can access it here, and enjoy:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n50Dlyd2E08>

Sample Letter to Guests about Bar/Bat Mitzvah

#2 Mel's Letter to Family & Friends

Dear Friends,

We trust that you have received the invitation to Lev's bar mitzvah, and we thank you for your responses! Here are a few more details about the bar mitzvah weekend that might help you plan:

Friday evening:

Friday evening Lev will help lead the service starting at 6:15. All are welcome for this service, but if you want to prioritize one, come on Saturday morning.

Saturday:

The Saturday service starts at 9:00 a.m. Lev will start leading at 9:45 a.m. and you do not need to arrive prior to that unless you want to.

The service ends around 12:00 and the lunch that follows will last for an hour or so.

Customs at Neveh Shalom:

The dress code at Neveh Shalom is anything from business-casual to dressy. Lev will be wearing a shirt and tie but no jacket; a polo shirt and khakis is perfectly acceptable for men. Most women wear skirts or dresses but nothing immodest—shoulders and midribs should be covered— and nice pants are also fine.

All men are requested to wear a head covering and kipot (yarmulkes) are provided for this purpose. Women are welcome to wear a head covering but are not required to. Jewish men and women are welcome (but not required) to wear a tallit. If you are coming up to the *bimah* for an honor, please do plan to wear a kippah and tallit if you have one.

All electronics are turned off at our synagogue for the duration of Shabbat (Sabbath—from Friday at sundown to Saturday after sundown). Please plan not to bring (or be responsible about turning off) your phone or camera while in the synagogue.

What is a bar mitzvah, anyway?

A bar mitzvah (bat mitzvah for a girl) is the ritual that announces the coming-of-age of a Jewish child. Traditionally at age 13 for a boy and age 12 for a girl, the bar mitzvah leads certain rituals that show his readiness to be part of the adult Jewish community, including taking on responsibility for the commandments that apply to Jewish adults. (For a longer explanation:

http://www.myjewishlearning.com/life/Life_Events/BarBat_Mitzvah/BarBat_Mitzvah_101.shtml)

For Lev, bar mitzvah does mean taking on new responsibilities as a Jewish adult. It also means demonstrating the learning he has engaged in through ten years of education at Neveh Shalom and honoring the community that has been so important to him. Lev will be presented with a Tallit (a prayer shawl worn by Jewish adults and by prayer leaders) by his parents, and he will lead some of the Friday service and most of the Saturday service (all in Hebrew), as well as chant Torah (the portion from "Yitro" which was read the week he was born) and Haftarah (a section from the Prophets)—both of which have their own ancient

tunes – and the blessings that accompany the reading of scripture. He will give a short “Dvar Torah”, literally “a word of Torah”, explaining the passages he read and their relevance today.

All of you who have known Lev for a while know that this bar mitzvah represents a very long path of growth and accomplishment for him. We couldn't be happier to celebrate this joyous event with him—and with you.

--Mel & Michael

Resources for the Celebration

Location of Luncheon

All Bar/Bat Mitzvah luncheons will occur in the Birnbach Hall.* We thrive to provide a warm, welcome and comfortable environment for everyone while celebrating this joyous occasion with you. **See Facility Fee Schedule for additional information.**

Use of the Birnbach Hall

Our Birnbach Hall can accommodate anywhere from 100 – 300+ guests seated at tables. The large room offers great flexibility and setup options; it can be divided in two with our accordion curtains for smaller crowds and left opened for larger parties. The stage works well for bands and DJ's. The wood floor is perfect for dancing! You and the catering staff can decide which setup works best for your event.

*- Major Synagogue events may preclude this option

Other spaces that can be considered for extending your “simcha”

Stampfer Chapel

This space, designed to be a multi-purpose room, can also be used for a larger family Shabbat dinner, your Saturday Kiddush luncheon, or your Saturday evening affair. Please note however, that a great amount of time (average 6 hours) must be allowed to transition the room which may impact where you hold your services. Please talk to Karen Wilkins if this option is one you would like to consider. Additional fees will occur.

The Atrium

A lovely space to consider holding a family Shabbat dinner after services Friday night. Seating space is limited; 45-50 guest maximum depending on setup. Additional fees will occur.

Outside Upper Plaza (weather permitting)

Our Upper Plaza is a wonderful option to use if you are fortunate enough to have pleasant Pacific NW weather and blue skies on your side! If interested, talk to Karen Wilkins about details. Additional fees will occur.

Kiddush Luncheon Facility Fees

for a Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebration at Congregation Neveh Shalom

It is our intent to provide a cost-effective and comfortable environment for our families, guests, and regular worshippers who attend both the Shabbat morning service and the Kiddush luncheon following. To that end, our luncheons will all take place in the downstairs Birnbach Hall after every Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebration (unless a synagogue event precludes this such as the Auction). Seating at tables will conveniently be provided for all.

Fees***USE OF THE FRONT OF THE HALL ONLY****Plan 1:**

We will provide FULL seating for up to and not exceeding 100 of your family's guests and approximately 50 of our regular congregants for a total of 150. Buffet, cookie and drink tables are included in the setup

\$360.00

USE OF BOTH THE FRONT AND BACK OF HALL**Plan 2:**

This option must be used if your guest count exceeds 100. Seating will be provided for all guests and 50 congregants. There is no limit to your numbers. Buffet, cookie and drink tables are included in the setup

\$450.00

Additional Spaces and Fees***Atrium / Foyer**

Up to 30 guests	\$175.00
30-50 guests (max. 50)	\$225.00
Stand up Only	\$125.00

Stampfer Chapel

Up to 70 guests	\$750.00
70-150 guests	\$900.00

Birnbach Hall (for events other than Bar/Bat Mitzvah luncheon)

Up to 99 guests	\$500.00
100-200 guests	\$600.00
200-300 guests	\$700.00
300-400 guests	\$800.00

***Fees do not include linens, catering fees, additional time or security if needed after hours. Please talk to Karen Wilkins about details.**



CONGREGATION

NEVEH SHALOM

Facility Charge Agreement
Sample form from Karen Wilkins

Event: Bar/Bat Mitzvah Wedding Other/Specify _____

Name: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

I have read and understand the charges for sponsoring an event at Neveh Shalom. I also understand, if I am sponsoring an event at Neveh Shalom, a reservation deposit of 50% is required at time of reservation and the balance due upon billing.

Non-members must pay remaining rental fee in full 30 days prior to the event.

Room Rental Fee(s): _____ \$ _____
 _____ \$ _____
 _____ \$ _____

Security Fee: _____ \$ _____

Kitchen Fee _____ \$ _____

Linens _____ \$ _____

AV Equipment _____ \$ _____

Other _____ \$ _____

TOTAL CHARGES _____ \$ _____

50% Deposit _____ \$ _____

Balance Due _____ \$ _____

Payment Methods:

Cash Check Credit Card (Visa MC)

Credit Card # _____

Expiration Date: _____ CCV2: _____ (3 digit code)

Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Signature: _____

Catering your simcha at CNS

This includes Bar/t Mitzvah, weddings, baby namings, private rentals, evening parties and anything that is NOT a synagogue sponsored event or program.

There are three options available to our congregants. They are:

1. **The “Basic Kiddush”**- This option provides a basic lunch for guests plus 50 congregants, and is provided by our in-house caterer. The Basic Kiddush includes bagels, cream cheese, tuna salad, fresh fruit platters, hot drinks, cold drinks, all paper goods, linens and labor/service for a set number of people, and a set price, which includes 50 congregants. There may be no modifications/ supplementing to this menu. The synagogue will bill the family separately for the use of the facility which includes banquet room space and kitchen use, in addition to the cost of the luncheon.
2. The family may select to engage in a **private contract with our in-house caterer**, Allen Levin of Century Catering. The synagogue bills the family separately for the use of the facility which includes banquet room space and kitchen use.
3. The family may choose to use a **caterer who has been approved by CNS and has a licensed business (including a food handlers license) outside of Neveh Shalom**. There is a separate contract for both the family and the caterer which specifically addresses details such notifying staff, arrangement of kitchen space, and additional fees for the privilege of using our facility. Please contact Karen Wilkins for details.
4. NO FOOD, with the exception of home baked goods, may be brought into the facility for serving at a simcha-based event. Self- catering is not permissible.

In the event the occasional off-site luncheon is also scheduled, the family must plan to provide the “Basic kiddush” (see #1) at a minimum. The family should inform their guests and plan to spend 15-20 minutes at the synagogue after services with the Neveh Shalom community prior to departing.

Baking Guidelines for Cookie Bakers

Dear Home Baker,

Thank you for being part of our synagogue's tradition. Congregation Neveh Shalom has a long history of active participation by its members, family and friends in contributing baked goods they have lovingly created at home for various events. As Neveh Shalom maintains a strictly kosher kitchen, all food served at congregational events must be kosher and prepared according to the dictates of Halachah (Jewish Law).

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide you with the information you need to follow to enable you to bring baked goods to Neveh Shalom.

UTENSILS

These guidelines apply to ordinary utensils, pots, and pans; serving dishes, and anything else which touches the food you bring to the synagogue.

- In a non-kosher home, it is ideal to use disposable utensils or glass (not Pyrex), or special utensils, which you have bought for, and use only for, preparing baked goods to bring to the synagogue.
- It is also acceptable to use metal or glass utensils by washing them very thoroughly and then rinsing by pouring boiling water over them. This must be done each time you prepare baked goods to bring to the synagogue. Wood and plastic utensils cannot be koshered in this way.
- It is also acceptable to cover utensils with aluminum foil in such a way that the food you prepare does not touch the utensil.

INGREDIENTS

- Fresh fruit, vegetables, and nuts are kosher. **If you use nuts please label your cookies as having nuts for people with nut allergies to avoid.**
- Basic ingredients, such as flour, sugar, spices, corn starch, baking soda and baking powder are kosher
- Use only shortenings and cooking oils that are 100% vegetable; use margarine or butter with a kosher mark.
- Eggs are Kosher only if they do not contain a blood spot. Break eggs, one at a time, into a separate container. If you see a blood spot discard the egg and discontinue using the container.
- All other purchased/processed ingredients for baking, such as fruit filling, gelatin, chocolate, cocoa, marshmallows and baking mixes must be in a package with the kosher mark such as the K or U.

PURCHASED BAKED GOODS

If you run out of time and decide to purchase your cookies, it is best to purchase them from Safeway on Barbur Blvd. Their Bakery has kosher items. Trader Jo's also has kosher items. When purchasing baked goods, make sure there is a K, a U in a circle, or a U in a triangle. Many bakeries, like Elephants, are not kosher. Ask before purchasing.

Thank you for taking the time to bake and we look forward to sharing your delicious cookies at Neveh Shalom.

Sample Order of Service: Friday Evening

ORDER OF SERVICE
FRIDAY EVENING, JUNE 26, 2015
BAR MITZVAH OF ELI BRENNER
RABBI DANIEL ISAAK CANTOR DEBORAH BLETSTEIN

Candle Lighting	16	Shalom Alayhem	Monica Brenner, Denise Rotman and Gail Brenner		
Tallit Presentation	22	L'hu N'ranena	Monica Brenner and Jon Henrichsen		
	25	Psalm 96 (Responsively)			
	36	Mizmor L'David			
	40	L'ha Dodee			
	44	Condolence Prayer -			
		<i>Roger Wasserman (z"l), Robert Weinstein(z"l)</i>			
	46	Mizmor Shir			
	48	Tsadik Katamar			
Dvar Torah		Rabbi Daniel Isaak			
	54	Barhu			
	56	Ahavat Olam			
	60	Sh'ma Yisrael / V'ahavta			
	64	Mi Hamoha			
	67	Hashkiveinu			
	68	V'shamru			
	72	Hatsi-Kaddish			
	76-86	Amida			
	86	Ose Shalom			
	90	Magen Avot			
	94	Kaddish Shaleim			
	98	Kiddush			
	104	Alaynu			
	114	Mourner's Kaddish			
	130	Adon Olam - Eli Brenner			

Tonight we recall our dearly beloved whose
Yahrzeit is observed this Shabbat Eve:

Anna Aigner Marika Aigner Shirley Artin Albrecht Bacharach~ Gaby Barde~ Judith Berdichevsky~ Ben Brenner~ Edith "Libby" Cassidy Louis Cohen Douglass Decherd Morris Drogin Ethel Ehrlich~ MayBeth Rosenberg Antick Frank Irwin Freedberg Manay Genesina Hana German Sam Gladstein	Michael Moscow~ Irving Olian Esther (Mrs. Morris)Platt Tobias Rosenbluth Jeanne Saltman Rebecca Schaeffer Solomon Smith Moritz Spiegel Sarah Stern~ Zelda Stolyar Hildegard Strauss Iosif Talal~ Mark Taskar Marcia Weinsoft Sam Wollinsky Jerome Zeffren
Jack Goldstein Mary Gordon Ethel Greenberg~ Elsa Hart Samuel Honeo Beatrice Horowitz Harry Jackson~ Nat W. Jackson Harry Jaffe Ray Kabaker Marguerite Lazar Rosey Joyce Levenstein David B. Lieberman~ Judge Mose Lindau~ Ben J. Lowenthal~ Aron Mad	

Those names followed by an ~ are memorialized in the Sanctuary

Welcome to Congregation Neveh Shalom

The following reminders are offered to enhance your enjoyment of the service and ensure that certain protocols supporting the holiness of Shabbat are observed. It is our tradition for all men to wear a kippah (head covering). Tallit (prayer shawls) are worn by Jewish men. Jewish women are encouraged to observe these traditions. The Rabbi will ask the congregation to stand several times during the service. This punctuates the important portions of the service and shows respect for the Torah. These practices are not consistent with the sanctity of Shabbat:

- * Putting prayer books on the floor
- * Smoking, taking photos, applauding or writing
- * Having an electronic device on in the sanctuary unless it is for health reasons

Thank you for your consideration. Shabbat Shalom!

Weekend's Schedule

Sat, June 27

- 9:00am Shabbat Services, Stampfer Chapel
- 9:30am Downstairs Minyan, Zidell Chapel
- 3:00pm Young Families Hike at Tryon Creek (weather depending)

Sun, June 28

- 9:00am Morning Minyan, Zidell Chapel
- 11:00am Storytime with Rabbi Posen, Hillsdale Farmers Market

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Hillsdale Farmers Market/Story time with Rabbi Eve

Sundays, 11am June 28/July 19/August 2, 9
Join Rabbi Eve at the Reike playground at the Hillsdale Farmer's Market for a story and playtime with your friends from Neveh Shalom. Enjoy the delicious treats of the farmer's market, then join Rabbi Eve at 11am at the playground. Open to all!

Men's Club summer hike, Sunday, July 12th, 10:00am - Everyone is invited for a spectacular hike this summer led by Peter Bedrick and Joe Goodman! Drive up the Columbia Gorge to the closest large waterfalls, Lower and Upper Latourelle Falls. It's a beautiful 2.4 mile loop with a total of 500' elevation change, and we can get really close to the falls. We'll keep a leisurely pace to really enjoy the scenery along the creek. Dogs on leashes are welcome. Bring lunch to eat on the way. Those who wish may drive up the road afterwards for a peek at Multnomah Falls and some ice cream. Meet up at Neveh Shalom to carpool at 10:00 AM or you can meet us at the trailhead at 10:45. Contact Peter Bedrick (peter@bedrick.org) to RSVP or if you want additional information.

Book Talk @Neveh: Bee Season by Myla Goldberg - July 19th at 7:30pm at the home of Carolyn and Gary. If the weather is fair, our discussion will take place on their beautiful patio. Read Bee Season and then join other literary minded folks for this special summer gathering. RSVP to kgoldhammer@nevehshalom.org for their home address.

Neveh Shalom goes to the Thorns! Wednesday, July 22, 7pm

Cheer the Thorns as they take on the Seattle Reign. Sit with your Neveh Shalom friends, old and new, in the goal reserved zone. Carpool from CNS available. Tickets only \$10, RSVP by July 1. Questions? jgreenberg@nevehshalom.org

Back to Shul ALL COMMUNITY BBQ, Sunday, August 30th 12 pm – 2:00 pm

Join us for our Annual Community BBQ! Grab your shave ice and load up a hot dog with all the fix'ins and come say hi to our new Rabbi, **Rabbi David Kosak**, and his family. Please RSVP at <http://tinyurl.com/backtoshul2015>



Congregation Neveh Shalom www.nevehshalom.org
2900 SW Peaceful Lane, Portland, OR, 97239 503.246.8831
Find us: [facebook.com/CongregationNevehShalom](https://www.facebook.com/CongregationNevehShalom)
[instagram.com/nevehshalom/](https://www.instagram.com/nevehshalom/)



Bar Mitzvah of
Elijah Brenner
June 26, 2015
10 Tammuz 5775

Sample Order of Service: Shabbat Morning

(see sample handouts available in synagogue office)