

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Checklist A PARENT Viewpoint

(This document is a compilation of parent thoughts; after you become an 'experienced' parent, please feel free to let us know any additions/subtractions and we will update the document).

- Reserve place/location for the post-service celebration
- Go over menu/catering options
- DJ
- Photographer
- Decorations/Centerpieces
- Candlelighting items, cake (optional)
- Party Favors
- Fun socks for girls to dance in and a bin to hold them in (optional)
- Seat assignments for party (optional)
- Guest List
- Invitations/Thank you notes
- Directions to Temple and party and list of accommodations to mail with invitations
- Stamps for invitations/thank you notes
- Program for Temple (optional)
- Kippot/Yarmulkes for guests
- Kippah/Yarmulke and Talis for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah
- Signing board for party
- Candy/jars for candy bar (if having one at the party)
- Basket for outside sanctuary and at entrance of party to collect gifts
- Hotel/accommodations for out-of-town guests
- Bus transportation for friends of Bar/Bat Mitzvah to the party (optional)
- Meals for out of town guests (ie: dinner night before, brunch day after)
- If the Friday night before is a 6pm Kabbalat Shabbat, it is an easy way to invite your family and friends in the dinner following, just bring enough food/wine to cover your family and guests
- Oneg the night before (will be easier for you if you have a friend host/help take care of this for you). Don't forget to include Challah and wine
- Mitzvah project for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah
- Tzedakah (contribution to a charity/organization)
- Gift for tutor, donation to Temple in honor of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah, donation to Rabbi and Cantor Discretionary Funds (these are optional but nice to do)
- D'var Torah for Bar/Bat Mitzvah
- Parent speeches
- Flowers for bima for the service (optional – Temple has artificial flowers)
- Nice outfits for immediate family members (ie: shoes, dresses, suits, etc...)
- Don't forget to have tips for people that afternoon/evening (ie: DJ, dancers, host, waiter/waitresses--this is optional, depending upon the place, some have waiter/waitress tips already included in their price)

Enjoy this most wonderful and special occasion!!! **Mazel Tov!!**