My Bar/Bat Mitzvah at Temple Isaiah

Version 3.0



Inspiration:

May it be Your will, our God and God of our ancestors, that You lead us in peace and help us reach our destination safely, joyfully and peacefully. May You protect us on our leaving and on our return, and rescue us from any harm, and may You bless the work of our hands, and may our deeds merit honor for You. - Tefillat Haderech

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Shalom!

From the moment your child was born, you began embarking on an incredible life-long journey together. In many ways, this journey was begun many centuries ago and will continue far into the future, as it is written in Talmud, "Whoever teaches their child teaches not only their child, but also their child's child, and so on to the end of generations." For bringing your child thus far into a life of Torah and faithfulness, we celebrate you.

It is important to take the time to read through this handbook and then to keep it for reference throughout the Bar/Bat Mitzvah process. It will help answer many of the questions that may arise. There is a debate as to whether "God is in the details" or "The devil is in the details." Some families become so entangled in the details of planning an elaborate party that the sanctity of the occasion gets lost. Ask people you know what they remember most about their Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Ask children who had them recently, and ask adults. You will likely find that what they remember most is not the food, the DJ, or the "theme." What they remember is love, how proud they feel and personal touches. Homemade *kippot*, a new or old *tallit* passed down with blessings, or crafting meaningful centerpieces, the Rabbi's blessing, a grandparent's hug—these things shine far more brilliantly than anything that can be store-bought or outsourced.

Again, a hearty *mazal tov* for all you have done to raise your child into a life of love, pursuit of wisdom, and good deeds.

Abundant blessings

ZiekkenMiles

Rabbi Zoë Klein Miles

Temple Isaiah Bar/Bat Mitzvah

Our Vision:

A program in which students are inspired and excited about their heritage and their future. A well-nourished community of youth where children feel empowered to think independently and creatively. It is a community where parents are full partners in the nourishment of their children's souls and their own. It is a journey during which our children encounter mystery and are familiar with awe. Our students complete their Bar/Bat Mitzvah with a great sense of being part of something transcendent, much bigger than themselves. They have deep sense of purpose and meaningful connections. They believe in themselves and others. They are motivated to make a difference, to pursue peace and justice, and have the tools to succeed.

Our Mission:

- Empower our Bar/Bat Mitzvah families to embrace their Judaism with joy and newfound maturity.
- Enable deeper relationships between family members, between families and their community, between individuals and God.
- Educate our students in engaging and compelling study of Torah through teacher training and technology.
- Infuse the Bar/Bat Mitzvah process with spirituality.
- Facilitate families connecting social justice projects with their Bar/Bat Mitzvah. "Mitzvah Projects" are completed by students as part of their seventh grade Religious School experience.
- Help our Bar/Bat Mitzvah families feel connected to and cared for by our community and staff throughout the entire process of preparing for this sacred Jewish milestone, including follow-up post-ceremony.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Welcome Meeting

OPENING RITUAL:

We meet today, 6 months before the day of your Bar/Bat Mitzvah, excited and nervous for what lies ahead.

Verses of Torah will be heard repeated again and again – melodies of trope singing in all of our ears.

Words of Torah will be spoken. Questions about the text: What does it mean? Why was it written this way? How are we supposed to relate to it?

A life of Torah will emerge. A life filled with more learning, more Hebrew, and more time focused on Shabbat services. Perhaps more so than at any other time in our lives.

Guide our steps, Adonai, as we walk together down this path towards transformation. Help us to support one another with love, compassion, a good sense of humor, and the knowledge that we do not embark on this journey alone.

For the next 6 months, grant us patience and balance as we encounter new challenges and unexpected obstacles.

Let us not lose sight of our goal: to celebrate a holy moment of transition and

transformation amidst friends, family and community on our most sacred day, Shabbat. And let us all say: Amen.

TEXT STUDY:

[Torah] is like a girl, beautiful and gracious, and much loved, and she is kept closely confined in her palace. She has a special person she loves, unrecognized by any one and concealed. This person, because of the love that he feels for her, passes by the door of her house and looks on every side, and she knows that her love is constantly walking to and fro by the door of her house. What does she do? She opens a tiny door in the secret palace where she lives and shows her face to her love. Then she withdraws at once and is gone. None of those in her love's vicinity sees or understand, but her love alone knows, and his heart and soul and inner being yearn for her, and he knows that it is because of the love that she bears him that she showed herself to him for a moment, in order to awaken love in him.

So it is with the Torah. She reveals herself only to the one she loves. The Torah knows that the wise man walks to and fro every day by the door of her house. What does she do? She shows her face to him from the palace and signals to him, and she withdraws at once to her place and hides herself. None of those who are there knows or understands, but he alone knows, and his heart and soul and inner being yearn for her. And so the Torah is revealed, and then is hidden, and treats the one who loves her lovingly, in order to awaken love in him.

– Zohar II 98b

Important Dates

Welcome Meeting:	
Cantor's Welcome Meeting:	
Midway Evaluation:	
Sermon & Service Preparation:	
Rehearsal:	

If you need to change any of these dates, please contact Julie Moldo at 310-277-2772 x 14 or julie@templeisaiah.com.

Welcome Meeting: Family meets with the officiating rabbi to begin this wonderful journey! (6 months before)

Begin studying with tutor (about 5 months and 2 weeks before)

Please bring all of your study materials with you to your meetings.

Cantor's Welcome Meeting: Family meets with the officiating cantor for about 30 minutes (1 month after tutoring begins)

Midway Evaluation: Family meets with the officiating rabbi and cantor to check-in on progress with Torah and Haftarah studies, *d'var Torah*, and preparations for this special day. (10 weeks before)

Sermon & Service Preparation: Student meets with each the officiating rabbi and the cantor one-on-one to check in and learn together. (one month before)

Rehearsal: Family meets with officiating rabbi in the sanctuary to rehearse for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony. (usually Thursday one week before)

Greeting: Family greets at Friday night Shabbat Services the week before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah. (Friday one week before)

Friday Shabbat Services: The Friday night before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah, student leads the V'ahavta, the Kiddush and HaMotzi. (*This is not a requirement. If you plan to have Friday night dinner at home with family – relax. Enjoy. Don't rush back and forth. You can also invite your guests to Temple on Friday night and bring dinner to our social hall following services. <u>Please contact the Temple Office before you finalize your plans so we can make the appropriate arrangements.</u>)*

Choosing My Torah Portion

What is a Torah Portion?

It takes a full year, starting with the festival *Simchat Torah* to read the Torah. The Torah is divided into 54 weekly portions (some weeks have double portions). In Hebrew, a weekly portion is called *Parashat HaShavuah*. Each week a new *Parashat HaShavuah* is read and learned. The same Torah portion that you will be chanting at your Bar/Bat Mitzvah will be chanted that same week by Jews all over the world!

Your Torah Portion is probably three or four chapters long, and you will be selecting **10 to 15 verses** out of that portion to chant the Sabbath of your Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Read your Torah portion carefully. Study it together with you family. Consider which section speaks to you the most, and then select 20 verses in a row to chant.

At my Bar/Bat Mitzvah, I will be chanting:

Please have your verses selected for your first meeting with your *tutor*.

What is meant by Torah and what is the Talmud?

Perhaps you have heard someone say:

"We learn from the Torah..." "The Talmud teaches..."

Torah can mean many things. It can mean: A Scroll, The Five Books of Moses, Part of the Bible, History of our People, Jewish Law, Guide for Jewish Life, Commandments from God, A Tree of Life. Torah is all of these things. It is as life-giving as a tree. That is why we call it a tree of life. It is the scroll that we read in synagogue. It is the first part of the Bible – the Five Books of Moses (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy). It is the story of our people, and it contains law, commandments, and values to live by. Torah is the **Written Law**.

However, Torah is something even more. We are taught that at Mount Sinai, Moses received not only the Written Law, but the **Oral Law** as well. Oral Law? What's that? Teachings and traditions that are passed down to us orally – by word of mouth – are called the Oral Law. These teachings and traditions were spoken long ago by our Rabbis and Sages. They have been recorded in a huge book called the **Talmud**. Talmud is also "Torah."

Talmud means "learning." It is a record of the discussions of our Rabbis and Sages over a 500 year period. **Mishnah** and **Gemara** are the two parts of the Talmud. Gemara has two parts. Discussions about law are called **Halachah**. Stories and explanations are called **Aggadah**.

The accomplishments of Jewish leaders who preserved our tradition by making courageous military or political decisions are also sometimes referred to as "Torah."¹

Each of the five books has a name in Greek and Hebrew which corresponds to the first significant word in the book.

Greek	Hebrew
Genesis	<i>B'reishit</i> (In the beginning of)
Exodus	Shemot (Names)
Leviticus	Vayikra (God called)
Numbers	BaMidbar (In the Wilderness)
Deuteronomy	D'varim (Words)

¹ Pass the Torah, Please, by Cheri Ellowitz Silver, ARE Publishing, Denver, Colorado

You will read 3-5 verses of Haftarah chosen with your *tutor*.

The Hebrew Bible is called *TANACH*, which is an acronym for *Torah*, *Neviim*, and *Ketuvim*. Below is a list of the books that are included in each. The *Haftarah* comes from the section called *Neviim*.

TORAH: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy

NEVIIM: Joshua, Judges, Samuel I, Samuel II, Kings I, Kings II, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, (the following are called the "12 minor prophets") Hoseah, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

KETUVIM: Psalms, Proverbs, Job, The Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, Chronicles I, and Chronicles II

After the Torah is read in the synagogue, the congregation hears the *haftarah*, which literally means, "the conclusion." The *haftarah* comes from the *Neviim*, the Prophetic books, the second part of the Hebrew Bible, the *Tanach*.

The Torah is read sequentially, from Creation to the death of Moses. But the *haftarah* is read selectively, from any number of prophetic and historical books. Those *haftarah* passages were chosen because of their thematic connection to the Torah text.²

² Putting God on the Guest List, by Rabbi Jeffrey K. Salkin

MY HEBREW NAME

You will be called to the Torah by your Hebrew name, the name which links you to your ancestors. This name will also appear on your Bar/Bat Mitzvah certificate.

Student's full name: (exactly as it should appear on Bar/Bat Mitzvah Certificate)

Student's Hebrew name:

Father's Hebrew name (if available):

Mother's Hebrew name (if available):

Please submit this form to Julie Moldo NOW, or email the information to julie@templeisaiah.com at least 4 months before your ceremony.

Names have always had powerful associations in the Jewish tradition. God is sometimes called Hashem, which simply means, "The Name," expressing a belief that God's true name is unknowable and unpronounceable, because a name contains the essence, power and unity that is God. When Moses asks God what is God's true name, God says mysteriously, "I am that I am. I was that I was. I will be that I will be."

The founder of the Hasidic movement was called the Baal Shem Tov, the "master of a good name," not simply because he had a reputation for goodness, but because he possessed great wisdom of the power of God's name.

In the Talmud it is written, "The crown of a good name excels all other crowns, including the crown of learning, of priesthood and even of royalty." Parents give their children a significant name, but it is our own responsibility to turn our given name into a *good name*, through our own values and actions.

BAR/BAT MITZVAH JOURNEY QUOTES

Congratulations, you are about to embark on your own unique Bar/Bat Mitzvah journey! As you and your family begin this process, we invite you to choose 1-3 of the quotes from the suggested list below that you would like to use to guide and frame your journey. If none of these quotes speak to you, feel free to find your own! Please notify your officiating cantor of the quote(s) you choose.

SHABBAT:

Shabbat invites all those who need new energy, all those who have been broken by the world of the six days, who need the world of Shabbat to make their brokenness whole again.

- Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach

Shabbat is, quite simply, the dominant holy day in Judaism. Shabbat is celebrated 52 times a year, more days than all the other holidays combined. Thus, more than any other day, Shabbat sets the tone, inculcates the values and teaches the message of Judaism.

- Rabbi Irving Greenberg

A great pianist was once asked by an ardent admirer: "How do you handle the notes as well as you do?" The artist answered: "The notes I handle no better than many pianists, but the pauses between the notes- ah! That is where the art resides." In great living, as in great music, the art may be in the pauses. Surely one of the enduring contributions which Judaism made to the art of living was the Shabbat, "the pause between the notes." And it is to the Shabbat that we must look if we are to restore to our lives the sense of serenity and sanctity which Shabbat offers in joyous abundance.

- Rabbi Sidney Greenberg

More than the Jewish People have kept the Sabbath, the Sabbath has kept the Jews.

- Ahad Ha'am

JUSTICE/TIKKUN OLAM:

Justice, justice shall you pursue in order that you live and inherit the land that Adonai your God has given you.

- Deuteronomy 16:20

This is the fast I desire: To unlock the fetters of wickedness... to let the oppressed go free... It is to share your bread with the hungry, and to take the wretched poor into your home; when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to ignore your own kin.

- Isaiah 58:6-7

One generation goes and another generation comes; but the Earth remains forever.

- *Kohelet* 1:4

The world stands on three things: Torah, the service of God, and deeds of kindness.

- Pirkei Avot 1:2

Shimon [the son of Rabban Gamliel] says: It is not what one says, but rather what one does, that makes all the difference in the world.

- Pirkei Avot 1:17

Rabbi Tarfon used to say, "You are not required to complete the task, but neither are you free to desist from it."

- Pirkei Avot 2:16

The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference. The opposite of art is not ugliness, it's indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, it's indifference.

- Elie Wiesel

SPIRITUALITY and PRAYER

Surely God was in this place and I did not know it.

- Bereshit 28:17

There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.

- Albert Einstein

Never once in my life did I ask God for success or wisdom or power or fame. I asked for wonder, and he gave it to me.

- Abraham Joshua Heschel

Prayer begins where our power ends.

- Abraham Joshua Heschel

God is to be found less in the 'I' than in the 'We', in the relationships we make, the institutions we fashion, the duties we share, and the moral lives we lead.

- Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks

Judaism begins with the Torah, the scroll that young Jews read as they become Bar and Bat Mitzvah. Ideally, Torah becomes their Sacred Story, the lens through which they view themselves as Jews. These stories have survived because they are timeless.

- Rabbi Jeffrey K. Salkin

When two people sit and words of Torah pass between them, the Divine Presence rests between them.

- Rabbi Chananya ben Teradion

<u>Inspirational Quotes that happen to be from women</u> (most of whom are Jewish)

Anybody who believes in something without reservation believes that this thing is right and should be, has the stamina to meet obstacles and overcome them.

- Golda Meir

There are no problems, only opportunities for growth.

Rebbetzin Dena Weinberg

Leadership is not bullying and leadership is not aggression. Leadership is the expectation that you can use your voice for good. That you can make the world a better place.

- Sheryl Sandberg

Embrace the faith that every challenge surmounted by your energy; every problem solved by your wisdom; every soul stirred by your passion; and every barrier to justice brought down by your determination will ennoble your life, inspire others, serve your country, and explode outward the boundaries of what is achievable on this earth.

- Madeleine Albright

Despite everything, I believe that people are really good at heart

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- Anne Frank
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Don't complain about what you don't have. Use what you've got. To be less than your best is a sin.

- Oprah Winfrey

Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you.

- Ruth Bader Ginsburg

In the life of the spirit there is no ending that is not a beginning.

- Henrietta Szold

When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, 'I used everything you gave me.'

- Erma Bombeck

Every social justice movement that I know of has come out of people sitting in small groups, telling their life stories, and discovering that other people have shared similar experiences.

- Gloria Steinem

What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.

Jane Goodall

We do not need magic to change the world, we carry all the power we need inside ourselves already: we have the power to imagine better.

- J.K. Rowling

The question isn't who is going to let me; it's who is going to stop me.

- Ayn Rand

Parents' Blessing

Your blessing...

is a blessing <u>not</u> a speech. is 200 words or less, per parent. takes place *before* your child has read Torah. is <u>not</u> mandatory. does <u>not</u> have to be original. (see below)

At the Bar/Bat mitzvah, parents have an opportunity to offer a blessing. You may be familiar with the parent *speech*, which are filled with stories and anecdotes. We are asking you to shift that idea to a blessing.

The essence of this holy moment is that this child is stepping through a spiritual gateway toward Jewish adulthood. The celebrant is proclaiming his or her identity as a Jew, a participating member in our community. It is a moment that celebrates and sanctifies the future. We honor this young Jewish adult proudly taking the torch that has been passed down through the generations for thousands of years and marching confidently with it into a new unfolding world. The celebrant will, this day, stand at the Torah table and chant from the ancient, sacred script. Afterwards, the student will share words he or she has composed based on personal insight and in depth study, elucidating Torah text and sacred wisdom. They are words he or she has written to teach and inspire.

A parents' blessing should continue with the celebration of the child's future by focusing on where this young person is going as opposed to where he or she has been. The parents' blessing should in no way compete and overshadow the students' *d'var Torah*. The blessing should be brief, poignant, hopeful, and future oriented. It could even pay homage to the student's wise words by drawing from a similar theme from the Torah portion. **Please limit your blessings to 200 words per parent.**

The rabbis and the cantor are available to help you compose a few verses that maintain the holy essence of this sacred day. If there are wonderful family stories you would like to share as part of this event, please consider sharing them at a Friday night dinner or at the celebration following the ceremony.

God bless the parents of our students who have devotedly worked for and believed in Jewish identity and education, who have nourished these children with love and support, who have given rise to a new light to shine upon Israel. Reward their sacred labor with abundant blessings. Amen.

Examples of Parent Blessings:

Parent Blessing A – 161 words

May your compassion and empathy continue to surround you with true friends, and may the warmth and caring that you share with people be reflected back a thousandfold. Continue to stand up for what you know is right, even when those of us around you may think you're wrong. Remember that you come from a tradition of unforgettable women who can withstand anything and look good while doing it.

The one thing that any of us has got is our true nature. Don't ever let anybody change yours.

A wicked sense of humor complements a kind heart.

Jump first & ask questions later. Laugh often, eat well.

Keep letting your Jewish soul lead you toward discovering your extraordinary wisdom.

Create life every day from a blank canvas - it's a work of art.

Open yourself to love and your life will be filled with beautiful, heartfelt music.

Use your superpowers for good. And when all else fails...dance.

Te amo mucho, Mamitza

Parent Blessing B – 205 words

Jon, as we look at you on the Bima today we have so much to say to you.

Mom and I pray that you will be blessed with a long and healthy life. Without your health, nothing else will matter, so take good care of yourself.

We pray that you will continue to work hard and secure a good education, so you will have a solid foundation for your future.

We pray that you will continue your Jewish education, and embrace the Jewish faith. As you know, your Great, and Great-Great Grandparents sacrificed everything to come to this country so their families could continue to be Jews, and have Religious Freedom.

We pray that you will always be kind and loving to your brother and sister, they will always be there for you, and look after you.

We pray that you will seize opportunities and fight through challenges with courage and composure as they come your way.

Most importantly, we pray that you will chase your dreams and ambitions, and never give up on yourself. You must believe!

May your life be long, may your dreams come true, and remember this day as just the beginning of many good mitzvahs to come your way. Amen

Parent Blessing C - 199 words

My darling Zoe... As I watched you study for your Bat Mitzvah, I realized that your preparation was not only for Torah but was a preparation for life and things to come. I saw triumph when your studies went well and frustration when they didn't.

Throughout life you will experience triumphs and frustrations. And, just as you are surrounded by family and friends today, know that you will always be surrounded by your family and friends to share not only your happiness, but your sorrows as well.

Today marks the beginning of the journey of the next chapter of your life. Cherish every moment, and every triumph. Learn from your disappointments. Cherish your friends. Love your family.

May you hold on to your childhood world of curiosity, enthusiasm and energy and at the same time, begin to embrace the responsibilities of adulthood. May your eyes shine as bright as the heavens above and may you see all of your visions come true.

May you be blessed with understanding, patience and tolerance. May you remain true to yourself and true to your beliefs.

May you always love your family and friends as they love you... I love you! Mazel Tov!

Blessings to Borrow

Blessing Talmud, Berachot 17a

May you live to see your world fulfilled May your destiny be for worlds still to come, And may you trust in generations past and yet to be. May your heart be filled with intuition and your words be filled with insight. May the songs of praise ever be upon your tongue and you vision be on a straight path before you. May your eyes shine with the light of holy words and your face reflect the brightness of the heavens.

What I Wish Rabbi Sandy Eisenberg Sasso

What I wish for my daughter, I wish for all our children. I wish for you to be a person of character strong but not tough, gentle but not weak.

I wish for you to be righteous but not self-righteous honest but not unforgiving.

Wherever you journey, may your steps be firm and may you walk in just paths and not be afraid.

Whenever you speak, may your words be words of wisdom and friendship.

May your hands build and your heart preserve what is good and beautiful in our world.

May the voices of the generations of our people move through you and may the God of our ancestors be your God as well.

May you know that there is a people, a rich heritage, to which you belong and from that sacred place you are connected to all who dwell on the earth.

May the stories of our people be upon your heart and the grace of the Torah rhythm dance in your soul.

A Parent's Perspective Rabbi Harold M. Schulweis

You are not today as you were yesterday Nor are we. Something has occurred.

We sit with the congregation You stand alone on the Bimah You lead the congregation We follow You sing, pray, speak We listen.

You are not an echo of our sand You have your own words. The still, small voice of conscience stands alone Stronger in you now than ever before A blessed distance between us You are ours but also your own.

When you were called to the Torah, Your name and our names interwoven, You are not us We are not you But we are inseparable.

I Hope You Dance Leanne Womack

I hope you never lose your sense of wonder, Get your fill to eat and always keep that hunger. May you never take one single breath for granted, God forbid love ever leave you empty-handed.

I hope you still feel small when you stand beside the ocean. Whenever one door closes I hope one more opens. Promise me that you give faith a fighting chance and when you get the choice to sit it out or dance... I hope you dance.

May you never fear those mountains in the distance. Never settle for the path of least resistance. Living might mean taking chances but they're worth taking, Loving might be a mistake but it's worth making.

I hope a helping heart never leaves you bitter. When you come close to selling out, reconsider. Give the heavens above more than just a passing glance and when you get the choice to sit it out or dance...

I hope you dance.

I hope you still feel small when you stand beside the ocean. Whenever one door closes I hope one more opens. I hope that you give faith a fighting chance and if you get the choice to sit it out or dance... Dance!

BAR/BAT MITZVAH HONORS

This form will help you plan your service. You should have it completed by the time of your rehearsal. Questions? Ask your rabbi or talk to Julie Moldo.

GREETERS:		
TALLIT PRESENTATION Person(s) presenting Tallit:		
PARENT(S) BLESSING(S) TO CHILD Words of blessing given by:		
OPENING THE ARK (1st time): This honor may be given to one person, two people (one person per side) or a small group.		
PASSING THE TORAH THROUGH THE GENERATIONS:		
1)		
2)		
3)		
ALIYOT: Please list names and relationship to your family. For twins, list additional aliyot on the back of this form. Must be age 13 or older.		
1) NAME(S):		
2) NAME(S):		
3) NAME(S):		
4) NAME(S):		
5) Bar/Bat Mitzvah's Hebrew Name:		
AFTER THE READING OF TORAH: It is traditional to lift the Torah scroll to show the community the columns of Hebrew that have been read by the Bar/Bat Mitzvah and then to dress the Torah.		
Hagba (lifting the Torah – one person):		
Galila (dressing the Torah – one or more):		
OPENING THE ARK (2nd time): One person, two people or a small group.		

GLOSSARY

ALIYOT: (plural form of aliyah) the honor of being called up to the Torah in synagogue to recite Hebrew blessings before and after the Torah reading. Aliyot may be given to individuals or to a group of people. The blessings are written in both Hebrew and English transliteration, and they can be found in our siddur (prayer book). We recommend sending a copy to your honorees ahead of time so they can become familiar with the text. Parents often take the 4th aliyah so that they are at the Torah when their child reads the 5th and final blessing. **Please note: with the exception of non-Jewish parents, aliyot are to be given as honors to Jews or those who have converted to Judaism.**

HAGBA: The Hagba will lift the Torah into the air and turn 180 degrees (back facing congregation) in order to show the congregation the verses read. After a few seconds, the Hagba will walk to the front row and sit down with the Torah. **Please note: lifting the Torah is an honor to be given to Jews or those who have converted to Judaism.**

GALILA: The Galila will help to dress the Torah with its belt/sash, outer covering and silver yad (reading pointer). Clergy will be close by to assist. **The Galila can be any age and does not need to be Jewish.**

ARK OPENERS & CLOSERS: This honor may be given to two people (one person per side) or to a small group. Honorees will be called up to open the ark at the beginning of the Torah service and at its conclusion. If desired, you may use the same set of ark openers for both honors. **Ark openers and closers may be any age and do not need to be Jewish.**

PASSING THE TORAH: Judaism is a living, breathing tradition kept alive by the transmission of Torah from one generation to the next. As the Torah is taken out of the ark, we invite grandparents, parents and children to stand on our bimah, according to age, and to ritually pass the Torah through the generations until it rests in the arms of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah. This ritual can be performed in many ways: with great aunts and uncles, only parents and children or inclusive of special mentors/teachers. **Please note: with the exception of non-Jewish parents, passing the Torah is an honor to be given to Jews or those who have converted to Judaism.**

TALLIT PRESENTATION: Family members or special teachers/mentors may choose to present the Bar/Bat Mitzvah with a tallit (prayer shawl) at the beginning of the service. The presenter(s) will stand next to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah and read a small paragraph in English before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah recites the blessing for wearing a tallit. You may choose to say a few words about the origin of the tallit and its symbolism. (e.g. This was your grandfather's prayer shawl, given to him on the day of his Bar Mitzvah.)

PARENT(S) BLESSING TO CHILD: This is an opportunity to bless your child with words of love, support, and recognition as s/he accepts responsibility for becoming a Jewish adult. We strongly recommend writing out the entire blessing so that your child will have a record of your words (it's a big day, and it's easy to be distracted!) and so that you words will be poignant, concise and thoughtful.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Timeline

	Twelve (12) months prior:	Notes
•	Inform Temple of your intention to use the Social Hall following service.	
	Six (6) months prior:	
•	In addition to being a member in good standing, payment of Bar/Bat Mitzvah Fee.	
•	Student and family will meet with officiating rabbi for Welcome Meeting (1 hour)	
-	1. Receive Bar/Bat Mitzvah Handbook with all details	
	2. Receive Bar/Bat Mitzvah Folder with Torah booklet, CD of prayers and	
	blessings and all study materials	
	3. Child's correct Hebrew and English names for certificates now	
	4. Photo of child for both Isaian and Facebook Mazel Tov post now	
	5. Dinner in social hall Friday night before? Number of guests	
•	Begin individual training with a tutor for about 5½ months (22x)	
	1. Choose Torah and Haftarah portions	
	2. Write d'var Torah	
•	Begin attending Shabbat Services with your family (minimum of 8)	
•	Some of the information below will be different for a B'yachad Bar/Bat Mitzvah	
	One (1) month after tutoring begins	
•	Student and family meet with officiating cantor for Welcome Meeting (30 minutes)	
L	1. Student will choose Bar/Bat Mitzvah Journey Quote(s)	
	Ten (10) weeks prior:	
•	Family's Midway Evaluation with Rabbi and Cantor (about 1 hour) - d'var Torah,	
	Torah and Haftarah portions, blessings and prayers	
•	Signed Photographer and/or Videographer Agreements	
•	Start on list of Honors and Aliyot	
•	Only for caterers not on approved list: Signed Caterer's Agreement, proof of	
	insurance & refundable \$500 damage deposit + refundable \$250 room deposit	
•	Signed Musician/DJ Agreement	
•	Initial payment of Room Rental Fee (50% due now) to reserve social hall	
	One (1) month prior:	
•	Sermon & Service Preparation Meeting with Rabbi and Cantor (1 hour) - d'var Torah,	
	blessings and prayers	
•	Alphabetized guest list of all invitees for our security guards is due now	
•	Time you expect to arrive before service (photos?)	
	At least two (2) weeks prior:	
•	Inform the Temple about sanctuary decorations (delivery & pick-up)	
•	Provide the following information to the Temple now:	
	1. Number of guests for the service	
	2. Will you have a bus or limo to transport guests after the service?	
	3. Will you need handicapped parking spaces reserved in garage? (up to 6)	
	4. Completed Set-Up Sheet if your event will be in the Social Hall	
	5. Any special arrangements (Vendors? Video equipment? Extension cords?	
	Storage? Microphones? Centerpieces? Displays?)	
	6. Final payment of Room Rental Fee if reserving social hall	
	Usually Thursday – one week prior:	
•	Rehearsal with rabbi: bring list of Honors and Aliyot with you; leave list with B'nai	
	Mitzvah coordinator after rehearsal	
	Friday – one week prior:	
•	Family greets at Friday night Shabbat Services	
	Friday – night before:	
•	Student participates in Erev Shabbat services: V'ahavta, Kiddush & HaMotzi	

Additional Information

PHOTOS

A photo of each Bar/Bat Mitzvah student will be featured in the *Isaian*, our monthly newspaper. **THE BAR/BAT MITZVAH PHOTOGRAPH NEEDS TO BE TURNED IN AT LEAST THREE MONTHS PRIOR TO THE BAR/BAT MITZVAH DATE.** A small black and white or color school photo will do, or you can send the photo to us electronically. Please do not expect that we will "crop" it to fit in the allotted space. Please write your child's name on the back or name the digital image with your child's name.

INVITATIONS

The invitation your guests receive is their first introduction to the tone and significance of this moment in the life of your family. Therefore, your choice of style and the wording of your invitation should reflect what is important to you about your child becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Be sure to include the correct starting time on the invitations and no earlier. **Please remember that it would be a nice gesture to invite all of your child's Religious School classmates.** Since they have been studying together, they will surely want to share in each other's celebration.

MORNING AND AFTERNOON SERVICES

The morning service begins at 10:30 A.M., and the afternoon service begins at 5:00 P.M. The service lasts about ninety minutes. The temple provides a Kiddush table (challah, wine, candles, cups and tablecloths) as an integral part of the morning service only. Havdallah will follow the afternoon service only when it is dark outside—that is, during the season when we follow Standard Time (November through March).

CATERING

We encourage you to hold your event (extended Kiddush, luncheon or dinner party) in our Social Hall, either in the afternoon or evening. This handbook contains a list of caterers who have been approved by Temple Isaiah. If you prefer to use one that is not listed, please call the Temple Office.

We do **not** maintain a kosher kitchen. However, pork and shellfish products are **not** allowed in the Temple. If you have additional questions regarding caterers, please contact the Temple Office.

Please contact the Temple office for more information regarding catering.

Each Bar/Bat Mitzvah family has the right of first refusal to use our Social Hall immediately following their ceremony. If your service is scheduled for 10:30 in the morning, you can use the Social Hall until 3:00 PM, and, if your service is scheduled for 5:00 in the afternoon, you can use the Social Hall in the evening after your service until

11:00 PM (See following pages for more comprehensive information.) In order to insure your right to use the Social Hall for your event following the service, the Temple requires notification one year in advance. If such notification is not received, it is possible that the Social Hall will not be available.

PLEASE NOTE: as a general rule, the Social Hall is *not* available for morning ceremony events (i.e., extended Kiddush or luncheon) on the third Saturday of the month from October through June.

If your family and guests will be joining us for dinner after services on the Friday night before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah and bringing your owns meals, please let us know if you would like tables reserved or if you have any other requirements.

SPECIAL EQUIPMENT

Unfortunately, Temple Isaiah does not rent or loan audio/visual equipment, including, but not limited to, computers, projectors, microphones, cables, screens, DVD players or sound equipment.

DECORATIONS

Decorations on the bimah are always welcome. Flowers should be no higher than 3 feet and no wider than 2¹/₂ feet, and there should be **no** ribbons. *NO FRAGRANT FLOWERS ARE PERMITTED; above all else, this means NO LILIES, NO ROSES, NO LILACS, NO FREESIAS, etc.* They should be delivered to the Temple on the Friday afternoon prior to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah between 12:30 P.M. and 2:00 P.M.

In lieu of flowers, you may wish to provide appropriate arrangements of fruit and/or foods which can later be donated to a non-profit organization. (Please see Suggested Additional Resources.)

When you think about decorating the Social Hall, please consider creating centerpieces that reflect your family's ethical concerns. A centerpiece of packaged food can feed the hungry, and a centerpiece of school supplies can be donated to a local school. Please note: **NOTHING MAY BE AFFIXED TO THE WALLS.**

PHOTOGRAPHERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

Flash photography is **not** permitted during the service. Please schedule Sanctuary photo sessions earlier in the day, to be completed by 10:00 A.M., or after the service. To schedule a photo session, please contact the Temple Office.

Photos may be taken during the service without a flash, as long as the photographer does not move up and down the aisles during the service. No other photography is permitted. If you would like the Rabbi or Cantor to appear in your photos, you will need to arrange this in advance. If the Torah is to be included in your photographs, a Rabbi, Cantor or Temple Representative must be present to handle it. The Temple Coordinator will show photographers and videographers where they are allowed to position themselves during the service. (See Policies Regarding Photographers and Videographers on page 41 of this handbook for more comprehensive information.) **Connections to the Temple sound system are prohibited.**

MUSIC/NOISE

In consideration of our neighbors, music, whether live or recorded, is **not** permitted after 11:00 P.M. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS**. As a courtesy to our neighbors, we ask that you encourage your guests to keep the noise in the garage and the outdoor areas of the Temple to a minimum. **Sound in the Social Hall can be no louder than 90 decibels**. **Amplified music and/or singing are not allowed on the Vollmer Deck at any time.** Any loading of equipment or supplies taking place in the evening must be done **only** via the Pico Boulevard entrance to the Temple.

CUSTODIAL AND SECURITY SERVICES

The safety and security of your family and guests is of the utmost importance. Temple Custodians and Security Guards are required to be on duty at the Temple for the duration of your event, beginning with the first person scheduled to arrive (guest or sub-contractor) and the last person (guest or sub-contractor) to leave. Therefore, you must let the Temple know when your first set-up people or guests plan to arrive. Otherwise, there may not be anyone here to let them in. It also is expected that you, your guests and your service provider(s) leave the Temple by midnight.

TEMPLE COORDINATOR

This person represents Temple Isaiah and is the go-to person for any issues that may arise during your event. All guests and hired staff are expected to adhere to any requests or directions that the Temple Coordinator may make during your service or event.

GREETERS

Most Bar/Bat Mitzvah families will have selected relatives or friends to greet their guests during the service. (See Greeters' Guidelines on page 36 for more information.)

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

If you have any special requirements to accommodate your guests, please advise the Temple Office in advance of your event. Examples might be the need for a babysitting area or the storage of personal items and/or medical supplies, etc.

APPROVED CATERERS LIST

CIELO CATERING + EVENTS

ATTN: Marcy Feldman (818) 522-4994 marcy@cielocateringevents.com

CORNUCOPIA CATERERS

16011 Arminta Street Van Nuys, CA 91406 (818) 909-0075

DELICACIES FINE CATERING FACTOR'S FAMOUS DELI ATTN: Debbie Ullman

9420 West Pico Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90035 (310) 278-9175 (Restaurant) (310) 277-3100 (Debbie) (310) 278-9196 (Fax)

GOURMET FETISHES

ATTN: Dale Greenblatt (310) 838-0500

LOUISE'S CITY CATERERS

ATTN: Corey Lawson 10645 West Pico Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90064 (310) 475-5575 (Office)

(310) 597-3537 (Cell)

PARTIES AT YOUR DOOR ATTN: Scott Roysner (818) 347-3044 (818) 347-7319 (Fax)

SHAMSHIRI GRILL

ATTN: Hamid Mosavi 1712 Westwood Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90024 (310) 474-1410

SILVER SPOONS

ATTN: Scott Tessler or Faith P. O. Box 570699 Tarzana, CA 91357 (818) 996-2911 (818) 996-2709 (Fax)

SOMEONE'S IN THE KITCHEN

ATTN: JoAnn Roth 5973 Reseda Boulevard Tarzana, CA 91356 (818) 343-5151 (818) 343-1140 (Fax)

TENDER GREENS

ATTN: Heidi Wahl 2633 Fairfax Avenue Culver City, CA 90232 (323) 244-6976

SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Flowers

Sonny Alexander Flowers 8008 W. Third Street Los Angeles, CA 90048 (310) 777-0356

Lily Lodge

(specializes in organic and pesticide-free flowers whenever possible) 644 N. Robertson Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90069 (310) 360-9400

Apropos Jody Nankin

9119 West Olympic Blvd. Beverly Hills, CA 90212 (310) 271-3332

Invitations

Jewish National Fund (Each invitation plants a tree in Israel) (800) 700-1312 www.jnf.org/simcha

Balloons

Any Occasion Balloons Carol 12002 West Pico Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90064 (310) 473-9963

Party Coordinator/Helper

Elisa Geller (310) 920-8143 <u>elisageller@yahoo.com</u>

Fruit & Food Displays

Community Action, Inc. (fruit) (donates to Westside Food Bank) Bruce Rosen P. O. Box 1063 Pacific Palisades, CA 90272 (310) 459-2818

Baskets of Hope (food) SOVA Maxine Meyer (818) 988-7682 ext. 116 <u>MMeyer@jfsla.org</u>

Photographers

Eddie Barron Photography (310) 652-8034

Tracey Landworth Photography (310) 839-8866 www.traceylandworthphotography.com

Dennis Trantham (temple member) (310) 479-8119 dennis@westsidestudio.net

jan birch photography (temple member) (310) 877-5422 www.janbirch.com

Suzanne Landis (temple member) (310) 614-7628

Cat and Adi Benner (temple members) Next Exit Photography (310) 474-7871 www.nextexitphotography.com/mitzvahs

POLICIES REGARDING PHOTOGRAPHERS & VIDEOGRAPHERS

The following are Temple Isaiah's policies which apply to all photographers and videographers who have been hired in conjunction with events at Temple Isaiah.

Photography and/or videography during a service in the Sanctuary are permitted. However, no additional lights or flash lighting may be used. The photographer/videographer must stand only in the spot at the center back of the room designated by the Temple Coordinator and cannot move about during the service.

To receive sound through Temple Isaiah's sound system, you may plug your equipment into the output labelled REC OUT at the back of the room.

Please do not rearrange flowers or furniture in the Sanctuary. If you need something moved, please ask a Temple Custodian for assistance.

Torah scrolls are not to be removed from the Ark without permission from the clergy or the Temple office. Either the Custodian or the Temple Coordinator will assist you with the appropriate Torah and how to handle it.

If you open the Ark to take pictures, please be sure that you close it when you are finished.

Because there are so many events scheduled in the Temple on any given day, you must make an appointment in advance with the Temple office if you wish to take pictures in the Sanctuary. This also applies to the time intervals immediately preceding and following your event.

At the conclusion of any evening event, you must load equipment through the Temple's Pico Blvd. entrance.

Please follow any directions given by the Temple Coordinator, the Custodian or Security Guard while you are working at the Temple.

I agree with the above guidelines

Name of Photographer/Videographer _(circle one)		
Signed		
Telephone Number	Date of Event	
Name of Temple Family		

POLICIES REGARDING MUSICIANS & DJs

The following are policies regarding musicians and/or DJs hired for entertainment at Temple Isaiah by congregants or others.

- 1. Music, whether live or recorded, **cannot continue past 11:00 p.m.** for any event on any day of the week. **There are no exceptions**. The Los Angeles Municipal Code has restrictions on sound. Temple Isaiah is not soundproof, and all necessary steps must be taken to comply with the law. **Sound in the Social Hall can be no louder than 90 decibels**.
- 2. Please do not rearrange furniture or other Temple property. Ask the Temple Custodian for assistance.
- 3. Please be mindful of trailing cords and any other devices that may cause safety hazards.
- 4. At the conclusion of any event which takes place in the evening, all loading of equipment must be done only via the entrance on Pico Blvd.
- 5. Please adhere to any directions or requests made by the Temple Coordinator, the Custodians or Security Guard during your event.

I agree with the above guidelines

Name of Musical Group	
Person in charge	
Signed	
Telephone Number	Date of Event
Name of Temple Family	

DAY OF BAR/BAT MITZVAH CHECKLIST

THE NIGHT BEFORE

- □ charge your cell phone
- □ confirm delivery of gift baskets to hotel for out-of-town guests
- □ put signs (HOLD FOR SAM'S BAR MITZVAH) on anything left at temple

DAY OF EVENT

- arrive well in advance of service start time, especially if taking photos
- \square bring speech(es), special readings, hard copy of *d'var Torah*
- □ coordinate with temple coordinator on special arrangements (e.g., handicapped guests, deliveries, rabbi/cantor for photos, bus or limo, changes in honors & aliyot, etc.)
- designate someone to deal with late arrivals, deliveries, bus or limo, clean-up, etc. (if needed)
- bring bar/bar mitzvah folder and all study materials
- bring extra cards/maps that give directions to the off-site party location
- bring extra copy of seating chart for lunch/dinner tables
- □ bring guest book and pens
- bring tallit/tallitot, kippot (optional)
- □ bring outstanding payments for vendors cash, checks
- □ bring list of vendors' cell phone numbers
- bring emergency kit (sewing kit, headache medicine, medication)
- bring light snacks, water bottles
- bring light sweater or shawl, comfortable shoes change of clothing?
- bring handicapped parking permit
- take sanctuary displays or centerpieces from temple to party or home

AFTER EVENT

- thank vendors who did a great job
- □ make a record of all gifts
- have your child write thank you notes
- \square send thank you notes to the rabbi, cantor and tutor even better if your child writes
- a contribution to the rabbi's and cantor's discretionary funds is optional/customary

GREETERS' GUIDELINES

We join the family celebrating its Bar or Bat Mitzvah today in thanking you for agreeing to greet guests. We hope the following information will be useful to you. We suggest you arrive at least 45 minutes prior to the beginning of the service.

People who arrive on time generally do not have difficulty finding their own seats. However, you can be helpful to latecomers by directing them to available seats and, if necessary, asking people to slide down the pew so newcomers can be seated more easily.

You might suggest that parents bringing small children into the service sit on the aisle, so it will be less disruptive to everyone if they need to leave the Sanctuary during the service.

If you are asked, the men's and women's restrooms are on the same level as the Sanctuary: off the lobby, behind the Judaic Gift Shop windows.

Please do not allow anyone to bring food or beverages into the Sanctuary.

Please stay aware of any activity in the lobby and on the deck to assure that noise does not filter into the Sanctuary. Similarly, don't hesitate to tactfully ask disruptive or noisy people in the Sanctuary to please be quiet.

If you need any special assistance, please ask the Temple Coordinator or Custodian.

If you see any suspicious activity, or if there is a medical or other emergency, please contact one of the Security Guards immediately or call 911. The closest Guard to the Sanctuary will be just outside the front door at the Pico Boulevard entrance.

SUMMARY OF FEES

B'NAI MITZVAH FEE

INCLUDES:

- Individual training with a B'nai Mitzvah tutor for about 5½ months (twenty-two meetings)
- Clergy officiation and accompanist during service
- Materials (Torah booklet and B'nai Mitzvah folder) and special tutoring during the school year (if needed)
- Use of the Sanctuary and temple personnel on Saturday
- Juice and challah Kiddush for morning service only
- Oneg Shabbat for Friday night service

ROOM RENTAL:

To discuss use of the Social Hall and fees for extended Kiddush, afternoon and evening Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebrations and B'yachad extended events, please contact the Temple office at (310) 277-2772.

- Extended Kiddush 2 hours
- Luncheon: Room usage from 12:00–3:00pm. Up to 165 guests (approx. 16 tables)
- Dinner: Room usage from 6:30–11:00pm. Up to 165 guests (approx. 16 tables)

NOTE: There is an additional fee for linens or coffee set-up if supplied by Temple Isaiah.

All above fees are to be paid by the family hosting the event.

Please remember that all Temple dues and fees need to be paid or current at least six months prior to Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

(These rates are subject to change without notification)

THESE FEES WILL BE BILLED AND MUST BE PAID PRIOR TO THE EVENT.

\$1,800.00

Ceremony for Presenting the Tallit

Insert Name Here, today you will be able to wrap yourself in the Tallit, or prayer shawl, for the first time. The Tallit welcomes you to your new world as a Jewish adult.

As you put on your Tallit, hear the voices of the generations who came before you. Feel the call of your ancestors as you begin your journey. Their wisdom, faith, courage and devotion are links in the chain of tradition of which you are now a part. May your words and deeds carry you into a future which is creative and alive.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Reads Aloud:

בָּרוּדְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהַינוּ מָלֶדְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ לְהִתְעַיֵּף בַּצִּיצִת.

Blessed is Adonai our God Ruler of the Universe, who hallows us with Mitzvot and teaches us to wrap ourselves in the fringed Tallit.

Recalling the generations, I wrap myself in the Tallit. May my mind be clear, my spirit open, as I surround myself in prayer.

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# ַבִּרוּדְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהַינוּ מֶלֶדְ הָעוֹלָם,שֶׁהֶחֶיָנוּ וְקִיְמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לַזְּמַן הַזֶּה.

Blessed is Adonai, our God, Ruler of the Universe for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this day of joy.

# **BEFORE THE TORAH READING**

# **Congregant sings:**

: בְּרְכוּ אֶת יְיָ הַמְּבוֹרָדְ Ba-r'chu et Adonai ha-m'vorach!

Community responds. Congregant does <u>not</u> sing.

בִּרוּךְ יְיָ הַמְּבוּרָךְ לְעוּלָם וָעֶר:

Ba-ruch Adonai ha-m'vo-rach l'o-lam va-ed!

# **Congregant sings:**

בְּרוּדְ יְיָ הַמְבוֹרָדְ לְעוֹלָם בָּרוּדְ יִיָ הַמְבוֹרָדְ לְעוֹלָם וְעָד וּבְּרוּדְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהָינוּ וֹעָד וּבְּרוּדְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהָינוּ מֶלֶדְ הָעוֹלָם, אָשֶׁר בְּחַר בְּנוּ מִכָּל הְעַמִים אָשֶׁר בְּחַר בְּנוּ מִכָּל הְעַמִים אָשֶׁר בְּחַר בְנוּ מִכָּל הְעַמִים אַתָּה יְיָ, נוֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה: בְּרוּדְ אַתָּה יְיָ, נוֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה. Ba-ruch Adonai ha-m'vo-rach l'o-lam va-ed! Ba-ruch A-ta Adonai, Eh-lo-hei-nu Meh-lech ha-o-lam, a-sher ba-char ba-nu mi-kol ha-a-mim, v'na-tan lanu et Torah-to. Ba-ruch A-ta Adonai, no-tein ha-Torah.

Praise the One to whom our praise is due! Praised be the One to whom our praise is due, now and forever! We praise You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the universe: You have called us to Your service by giving us the Torah. We praise You, O God, Giver of the Torah.

# AFTER THE TORAH READING

# **Congregant sings:**

בָּרוּדְ אַתָּה יְיָ אָּלֹהָינוּ מֶלֶדְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשָׁער נָתַן לָנוּ תּוֹרַת אֶמֶת, וְחַיֵּי עוֹלָם נָטַע בְּתוֹכָנוּ:בָּרוּדְ אַתָּה יְיָ, נוֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה:

Ba-ruch A-ta Adonai, Eh-lohei-nu meh-lech ha-o-lam, asher na-tan la-nu To-rat eh-met, v'cha-yei o-lam na-ta b'to-chei-nu. Baruch A-ta Adonai, no-tein ha-Torah.

We praise You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the Universe: You have given us a Torah of truth, implanting within us eternal life. We praise You, O God, Giver of the Torah.