

B'nai Mitzvah Memories

The following is a sampling of possible B'nai Mitzvah celebrations.

A simple kiddush or luncheon at the synagogue immediately following the service.

A party for the friends of the B'nai Mitzvah.

An afternoon or evening party just for the friends of the B'nai Mitzvah. This can take many forms, you are only limited by your imagination and your pocketbook!

A reception following the service or an evening reception.

A celebration with all the guests, young and old alike, at the temple or at a different location.

Using This Manual

This workbook enables you to record and organize, choose what is relevant for your situation and bypass the rest. Each page addresses a possible situation that you may encounter while planning.

As you start to use this workbook you will notice it is color coded to enable quick maneuvering from one subject to the next. The first few pages provide projected budget, tips and a timeline. There are some very simple ways to economize without compromising the quality or outcome of the event. Refer back to the tips pages from time to time, as you move along in the planning process.

Because we live in a time when many families have relatives scattered around the globe it is challenging to gather the whole family in one location. For some families this may be a time to encourage a family reunion. This gives the children an opportunity to see themselves within the context of their extended family. If your family and friends need to travel a great distance it is helpful to plan accordingly. You can help make their trip as comfortable as possible, by arranging hotels, as well as providing information about local amenities that would make their stay more enjoyable. Therefore this workbook contains pages devoted to the needs of your out of town guests as well as planning auxiliary events, such as a Friday night dinner or a Sunday brunch.

This book is meant to be used. Write, scribble and doodle.

keep in mind...

Planning a successful party is a creative process and as with any creative endeavor, each seed planted grows and expands exponentially.

**By giving yourself the time to develop these ideas,
the process can be joyful, and the
results a gift to your child.**

B'nai Mitzvah Memories

There are moments in our lives and the lives of those we love that define who we are and who we hope to become. We acknowledge, honor and celebrate birth, marriage, anniversaries and our culture's history as milestones during our life's journey. You and your family are about to embark on the planning of one of the most precious of these moments...your child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah. Mazel Tov!

Jews historically celebrate the coming of adolescence as a joyful, significant step in their child's development. In addition to being the ceremonial occasion that marks the time when a young person is recognized as an adult in the Jewish community, it is also an opportunity for families to reunite and spend time together.

It is an opportunity for you to create meaningful memories that last a lifetime.

Though this celebration is a time of great happiness, it can also be a time of increased stress, and it is important that the joy and meaning of this special occasion not be lost in the numerous details of planning such a major event.

This workbook was written to help you simplify the planning of your child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah. By using these guidelines, you and your family can move forward knowing that all the details that go into creating a successful party and a memorable occasion will be addressed. Most of the major decisions should be made well in advance of the event. If unexpected roadblocks arise there will be enough time to adjust your plans. No matter how organized you are, leave room for the unexpected.

- Expect the unexpected -

**If plans don't work out exactly to your expectations,
just remember...
your guests don't know what your expectations were!**

How you choose to celebrate this milestone in your child's life depends on many factors, including your background, religious denomination, economic situation, location, and family dynamics.

B'nai Mitzvah celebrations can range from a simple kiddush after the service, to a multi-day celebration; from a special event for a few select friends to a trip (perhaps to Israel) for just the family. Some will have a traditional feel, while others might be more contemporary. Only you and your family can decide what will make this a memorable and meaningful event.

**As you plan this celebration remember why
you are doing this and for whom!
Take time to enjoy and recognize the moments of growth
and the accomplishments of your child.**