



**“TO LEARN AND TO DO”**

**A HANDY GUIDE TO  
BECOMING *BAR/BAT MITZVAH*  
AT TEMPLE KOL AMI**

**VERSION: SPRING 2022**

Dear Friends,

Becoming **Bar** or **Bat Mitzvah**, a person responsible for fulfilling the commandments of Judaism, is a major event in your child's life and in your family's life. Our hope is that it will be both joyful and meaningful for all of you. This manual is intended to provide you with an outline of our requirements for our **B'nai Mitzvah**. We also hope it will answer many of the questions you have about preparing for this special day. We look forward to working with your child, and we know that the seriousness and commitment with which you prepare for this experience will be reflected in your family's celebration. **Mazel Tov** to you, as you begin this wonderfully exciting and important journey of study and preparation!

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Raina Sinclair, *Cantorial Soloist Emeritus*  
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**TODAY I AM A FOUNTAIN PEN!?**  
**OR**  
**WHAT IS THIS *BAR/BAT MITZVAH* REALLY ALL ABOUT?**  
**RABBI JEREMY SCHNEIDER**

**Bar Mitzvah** as we know it today began in the middle ages as a way of recognizing the maturity of 13 year old boys and their responsibility to their family and community. They reached this milestone simply by turning 13. There is no biblical or Talmudic precedence for the service as we have come to know it. Rather, it has developed and evolved over time. The words, **Bar/Bat Mitzvah**, son/daughter of the commandments, emerged only much later as a result of the realization that at a certain point in time, a young person should become responsible for the observance of God's commandments. That being said, what does it mean today?

I always enjoy the mixture of shock and joy, skepticism and relief on the faces of my students and often their parents as I meet with them to explain the details of their upcoming **Bar/Bat Mitzvah**. The confusion lies in the fact that I have just explained to the student that they are not *having* a **Bar/Bat Mitzvah**. Absolutely not.

I explain that something far more significant is going to happen. I explain that each student will become a **Bar/Bat Mitzvah**. I explain that when we say we are having a **Bar Mitzvah** that implies, at least to me, that something was being done to the student or for the student. There are no prayers or blessings that anyone might say that makes a person into a **Bar/Bat Mitzvah**. There is nothing a Rabbi or Cantor or parents can do to change a person into a **Bar/Bat Mitzvah**. It is solely up to the student. They have to want to change into someone who wants to become a son or daughter of the commandments. I am not sure how to make someone want to become a son or daughter of the commandments, but I do know that it is an exciting and challenging title for someone to have.

I remind each of my students that what becoming a **Bar or Bat Mitzvah** is really all about, is their ability to stand in front of God, Torah and Israel, and to declare loudly and clearly, "I am ready to try to be a part of this Jewish community in a new and significant way."

Becoming a **Bar/Bat Mitzvah** is not about only one thing a person can do; it's about seeing yourself obligated to try. At Temple Kol Ami, we have proudly bestowed the title **Bar/Bat Mitzvah** on many people whose ability may have been limited to them standing on the Bima, but whose heart and soul screamed their desire and love of things Jewish. What a thrill it is to see those whose hearts and souls are directed to God and to Judaism. Whatever they must "do" is an extra bonus.

For the vast majority of students, it's what they must do that occupies their minds most, if not all of the time. They understand there are a few parts to the puzzle. They learn to become a **Shaliach Tzibbur** - a service leader on Shabbat; they learn to chant Torah and Haftarah; they study the **parasha**, the Torah portion, in order to deliver a **D'var Torah** – their own teaching about the message and meaning of the Torah portion.

I explain to the students that while all the elements are important, for me the most meaningful moment comes when they assume the role of a Teacher of Torah, when they explain, in their words, what's going on in the portion. While the worship service has undergone dramatic changes in nearly 2000 years, the basic elements have remained intact since the 6<sup>th</sup> century C.E. The Torah portion, read on the particular Shabbat when the student becomes a **Bar/Bat Mitzvah** has been the same for 2000 years. But what has never been heard, in the history of the world, is the teaching the student prepares about the message and meaning of the Torah, **Haftarah** or things Jewish. That they are willing and able to stand up in front of a large group and teach them something about what they think is important about Torah is the most breathtaking, awesome moment. Rightfully so, we stand in awe and pride of their accomplishments. We certainly didn't do it. It was all them.

Our responsibility as Rabbi, Cantor, and Educator, parents, family and friends, when we share in that special moment is to celebrate joyously and with our hearts filled. Our hearts will soar as we realize that another young person willingly wants to try to be a part of the Jewish people, adding their voice, their insight and their teaching to the ancient prayers and honored scholars. We will have done our part to plant this seed and then stand with them as they grow into the dependable, connected partner we hope them to be.

Having a **Bar or Bat Mitzvah** may be easy. **Becoming** one is incredible.

# WHAT HAPPENS AND WHEN? THE SEVEN STEPS TO BECOMING A BAR OR BAT MITZVAH

## STEP ONE – PREREQUISITES

Students who wish to become **Bar/Bat Mitzvah** must attend Temple Kol Ami Religious School or be enrolled in an approved religious education program.

All Religious School fees, **Bar/Bat Mitzvah** fees and Temple membership commitment amounts must be current prior to the commencement of **Bar/Bat Mitzvah** training. All fees must also be kept current during training. Financial arrangements should be concluded with Temple Kol Ami's Business Office prior to the initial meeting with the Rabbi, approximately seven-eight months prior to your child becoming a **Bar/Bat Mitzvah**.

### **BAR/BAT MITZVAH FEES:**

These fees cover all materials and training expenses as part of the **Bar/Bat Mitzvah** program. The fee for **Bar/Bat Mitzvah** is \$1400.00, (which includes your reserved date, one-on-one tutoring with the Rabbi and Cantor and the Friday night Oneg). It is payable as follows:

\$700.00 **non-refundable deposit** payable at the time a **Bar/Bat Mitzvah** date is requested.

\$700.00 payable when final tutoring begins, approximately 8-9 months before the **Bar/Bat Mitzvah** date.

If you wish, you may pay the entire fee up front.

The fee is subject to periodic modification by the Board of Trustees of Temple Kol Ami.

## STEP TWO – CHOOSING A DATE

In the spring of the student's fourth grade year, parents will receive a letter from Rabbi Schneider requesting information regarding assignment of a **Bar/Bat Mitzvah** date. There is only one family per weekend and they are assigned on a first-come, first-put-down-deposit basis. Typically, dates are desired as close to the student's 13<sup>th</sup> birthday as possible. This is true for boys and girls. Please bear in mind that we do not assign dates during holidays and the Sanctuary's seating capacity is approximately 250 individuals.

### STEP THREE – **BAR/BAT MITZVAH** ORIENTATION

At a time designated by the Rabbi, families with 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students are invited to join together for an orientation as we answer questions about becoming a **Bar/Bat Mitzvah**. Don't miss this!

### STEP FOUR – ORIENTATION MEETING – LET THE LEARNING BEGIN!

We provide the opportunity for all of our students to become a **Shaliach Tzibbur** - a service leader by learning the English and Hebrew prayers of the morning or afternoon service; a **Baal Koreh** – a Torah reader who is able to chant the blessings before reading the Torah, the assigned verses of the Torah portion, the blessings after the reading of the Torah, as well as the blessing before the reading of the **Haftarah**, the **Haftarah** and the blessing after the reading of the **Haftarah**; and a **Darshan** – a teacher of Torah whose responsibility it is to teach the congregation about the message and the meaning of the Torah portion. In order to facilitate this, the following learning takes place in the following order:

Approximately 8 months prior to your child becoming a **Bar or Bat Mitzvah**, parents and student will meet with the rabbi to not only visit and get to know you and your child, but also to explain what becoming a **Bar or Bat Mitzvah** means, why we are doing this and what is involved. The rabbi will explain, each step in detail, as well as present the student with all of the necessary information, and materials needed for the learning that will take place.

### STEP FIVE – BECOMING THE **SHALIACH TZIBBUR**, THE WORSHIP LEADER

Approximately seven-eight months prior to your child becoming a **Bar or Bat Mitzvah**, your child will meet with Rabbi Schneider, our Cantor, or a **Melamedet**, a Hebrew tutor on a weekly basis. These half-hour sessions are usually on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday afternoons.

All students are provided with links for downloadable recordings of the Temple's Shabbat prayers as well as their particular Torah portion (and Haftarah portion, if appropriate). In addition, there are hard copies of all the texts involved. These written materials will be provided in a folder that must be brought to each tutoring session by the student. The tutors will keep a log of the student's progress that is shared with whichever tutor is assigned to that student in a given week. If problems are identified with the student's progress or study habits, parents will be notified.

In general, our Shabbat morning service contains traditional prayers in Hebrew and English, a Torah reading comprised of seven aliyot (sections before and

after which guests may be invited to recite blessings in Hebrew), and a Haftarah, to be read by the Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Students will participate in these rituals according to their skill level. For example, one aliya read from the Torah is sufficient to accomplish the Bar/Bat Mitzvah ritual. But if a student can read all seven, they are encouraged to do so.

## **STEP SIX – THE “*D’VAR TORAH*” - BECOMING THE *DARSHAN* – THE TEACHER OF TORAH**

Approximately 6 weeks prior to your child becoming a ***Bar or Bat Mitzvah***, your child will meet with Rabbi Schneider to begin work on preparing what is called a “***D’var Torah***” – the “teaching”, the speech, about the message and the meaning of the Torah portion. This will be in addition to their tutoring time, so please plan on your child’s study time to be an hour at TKA.

## **STEP SEVEN – BIMA PRACTICE – A DETAILED WALK-THROUGH**

The last meeting with Rabbi Schneider will take place in the sanctuary in order that we have a chance to practice the ***Dvar Torah*** and walk-through the choreography of the worship service. For example, the rabbi will explain all the logistics of the service, the timing, who goes where and when, and answer any other related questions. A run through of the service and Torah portion will be done at that time. The list of family members participating in the service should be given to the rabbi immediately prior to this meeting.

## **WHAT WILL MY CHILD BE LEARNING?**

### **THE SERVICE**

It is our strong belief that every child be given the opportunity to maximize their potential and rise to the level to which they are ultimately destined. We therefore aim to provide students with the opportunity to become a ***Shaliach Tzibbur***, a worship leader. To that extent, the student will become proficient, to the best of their ability, in leading the congregation in a Shabbat morning service. The service is a combination of Hebrew and English, and the student is encouraged to lead as much of the service as possible.

### **TORAH**

During the Torah service, your child becomes our, ***Baal Koreh***, our Torah chanter for the day. The Torah verses are grouped together in what is called an ***Aliyah***. An ***Aliyah*** is an honor that is given to someone whose responsibility it is to make a blessing before the Torah is read. Then, typically 3 verses are read, and then a blessing is recited at the conclusion of those verses. That constitutes 1 ***Aliyah***. Typically there are 7 ***Aliyot*** during the service. That

means that, typically, we seek to have our students learn 21 verses of Torah; some do more, some do less. We encourage our students to chant Torah, but it is not required.

## HAFTARAH

In addition to the reading of the Torah, a reading from the book of the Prophets is also **strongly encouraged** for your child to read. The **Haftarah**, or “completion” is the completing element of the Scriptural readings for the day. It comes from selected prophets that have some connection to the Torah portion; either thematically or through a direct reference. Blessings are recited before and after the **Haftarah** is read.

## D'VAR TORAH

An important element of the process of becoming a **Bar or Bat Mitzvah** is the process of coming to understand the message and meaning of the part of the Torah your child will read. By spending at least 4-6 weeks with Rabbi Schneider, your child will not only be able to explain in their own words what is happening in general in the portion, but also to summarize key rabbinic commentaries, as well as explain what the Torah portion means to them. It is an exciting and important part of the process.

## DECORATIONS, DINNERS, LUNCHEES AND ONEGS

Enhancements to the sanctuary and/or social hall may be made by the family for Friday night and/or Shabbat morning services. Flowers are permitted on Shabbat morning, but are not at all necessary. Some families place baskets of food on the pulpit, which they later deliver to area food banks, and some simply leave the candelabra on their stands throughout Shabbat. Our social hall is available for Shabbat evening dinners or for luncheons following the ceremony, with arrangements made through the Temple office. Friday night dinners may be by invitation only, but luncheons in the Temple following services are open to all worshippers. Your bar/bat mitzvah fees **already include** sponsorship of the Oneg Shabbat on the Friday evening. Temple rules, regulations and fees regarding use of the facilities are available through the Temple office.

## APPROPRIATE DRESS

Many families ask about appropriate dress in the sanctuary. Our answer is always: dress modestly and ask the same of your guests. Boys should wear suits and ties, and girls should wear dresses that cover their shoulders and that cannot be considered mini-skirts. Remember, too, that the student carries a Torah scroll through the sanctuary. Heel height can become an issue in this procession. We would hope, too, that those selected for honors during the



ceremony be apprised of our customs, and that no one comes to the bima dressed inappropriately in any manner.

## **THE WEEKEND HAS ARRIVED!**

### **PART 1 – FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES**

It is customary for your family to join with the congregation for services the Friday night before your child becomes a **Bar or Bat Mitzvah**. We invite the mothers of the family to light our **Shabbat** Candles, we invite the dads to recite **Kiddush**, the blessing over the wine, and your child will be called to read from the Torah. We offer this as a way to diminish the anxiety that most students feel prior to their celebration, and it works well!

**Oneg** means to rejoice and is the opportunity we have each week to rejoice with our community in not only the celebration of Shabbat, but the celebration of joyous occasions as well. Your fees already include sponsorship of the oneg. Each Friday there is a 7:00 service, and the **Oneg** begins at approximately 8:00 P.M.

## **THE WEEKEND HAS ARRIVED!**

### **PART 2 – CELEBRATING AT TEMPLE KOL AMI**

Celebrating your child's accomplishment is an important part of the process of becoming a part of the Jewish people. Recognizing that a child has willingly agreed to try to do Jewish things "for real" is a moment of joy and a moment worth celebrating. If you do decide to celebrate at Temple Kol Ami, the following will be helpful in planning and creating a meaningful day.

#### **ARRANGEMENTS FOR USE OF SPACE AT TEMPLE**

At any time prior to the actual date of the **Bar/Bat Mitzvah**, but no later than four months prior to the event date, a contract for rental of space and equipment must be completed. Please be aware that as other families and/or Temple groups may also have interest in using the facility, it is suggested you reserve your space early. Prices are subject to change.

If there are to be celebration parties following services, we hope they will remain low key as is the custom at Kol Ami. We teach our students that Bar/Bat Mitzvah is a serious religious achievement, and not an excuse for a display of extravagant excess. We would hope, too, that if any student is celebrating in a way that involves class mates, that every child in the class be invited, and not just some. Sensitivity toward others is a key element of achieving maturity and a Jewish responsibility.

## FRIDAY EVENING

Some families plan a ***Family Shabbat Dinner*** in the Social Hall at the Temple. This arrangement easily allows all out-of-town guests to join the family, and still be ready to attend the Shabbat evening Service, with less concern and effort to the host family. Your caterer brings dinner, linens, utensils and paper goods to be served at **5:30 pm**, which allows for plenty of time to dine and visit before the **7:00 pm** Service. The cost for rental of the Social Hall, includes set-up and clean-up, tables, chairs and security is **\$399**.

## SATURDAY MORNING

1. The Saturday Morning Shabbat Service will start at **10:30 am** (unless other arrangements have been made with the Rabbi). Families can have pictures and photo opportunities from 9:00 am to 10:00 am. The great benefit of this sequence of events is that the family is assured that all the important principle family members are in place for the 10:30 start of the service, and few will straggle in after the fact. Anytime that morning is also the appropriate time for your luncheon caterer to plan on arriving for set-up.
2. At the end of the Service, there are three options for celebrating at the Temple. A family may choose:
  - a. Kiddush and Motzi – concludes the morning service.
  - b. Kiddush and Motzi – after which everyone is invited to the foyer/hallway where they will find 2-3 tables for refreshments, no sitting space. The price is **\$175**.
  - c. Light/Simple sit-down lunch in the Social Hall. The cost of a luncheon event in the Social Hall is **\$399**. You will need to choose your own caterer, provide linens, tableware, etc.
  - d. Party Lunch in the Social Hall **\$600**. You will need to choose your own caterer, provide linens, tableware, centerpieces, music and associated party activities.

There are an endless variety of choices as to how simple or elaborate a celebration can be. The Temple staff will be happy to assist you in choosing, and/or implementing your chosen plan.

Please remember, the Temple provides challahs, white grape juice for the kiddush and motzi, and a beverage service including: coffee, tea, lemonade and ice water.

The Temple Service Staff is very efficient, helpful, and conscientious, and will be available to set up before and clean up at the end of the affair. They can provide assistance to the caterer as needed during the luncheon. The caterer will be expected to clean **all** areas they have utilized for the preparation of your event. If you require added serving staff, please arrange with your caterer in advance. (It is customary to tip the Temple service staff at the end of your event)

3. Should you choose to host an evening event at the Temple, the cost will be **\$1000** which includes security, tables and chairs, set-up and clean-up. You will need to make similar arrangements as described for a luncheon event. Please note that all evening events need to conclude no later than 10:00 pm.

### **GENERAL EVENT PLANNING INFORMATION**

1. The Temple has:
  - 9 round 60” tables, seating 8 (72 place settings, total)
  - 10 round 72” tables, seating 11-12 (111-120 place settings, total)
  - 30 rectangular 6’ tables, also seating 8 (240 place settings, total)
  - Folding chairs (Plenty of...)
2. Weather permitting, seating can be both inside the social hall and outside on the patio.
3. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah family always has first rights of refusal for use of the Social Hall.
4. Please plan a Kosher-style menu. (no shell fish or pork, please!) And we are nut-free Temple. If you have a questions or concerns, review the menu with the Rabbi prior to your event.
5. We request you submit a short bio, a description of his/her chosen Mitzvah Project and a photo of your child to be included in the Temple Kol Ami VOICE feature and/or weekly eBlast: “Who is Becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah”. Send the materials to: [rabbi@templekolami.org](mailto:rabbi@templekolami.org) eight weeks prior to the month in which the Bar/Bat Mitzvah is scheduled.
6. To send an announcement in the Jewish News, go to: **jewishaz.com** and click on the: **“contact us”** tab on the top left. A drop down box will identify an **“announcements”** tab. When you click that tab, you will be allowed to access the **“Bar/Bat Mitzvah”** tab. Enter all the information and upload a photo of your child for publication. (This is free.)

7. Please make an appointment to meet with the Rabbi to discuss and finalize your plans at least six weeks prior to the date. Thorough planning will ensure a wonderful week-end for you to enjoy with your family and friends.

## **PHOTOGRAPHY**

Photographs may be taken only by a photographer designated by the family either prior to or following the conclusion of the Shabbat Service. **NO** flash pictures may be taken during the service. Still and Video cameras must remain stationary (mounted on a tripod) during the service in order to maintain proper decorum. No artificial lighting may be used.

## **SERVICE PROGRAM**

TKA will prepare a program which explains aspects of the service to be handed out with the prayer books. You and your family may personalize the inside pages of the program. You may provide card stock for printing or the Temple will print on colored paper of your choice.

## **TZEDAKAH**

Becoming a ***Bar/Bat Mitzvah*** is the opportune moment for young adults to assume responsibility for others. We strongly encourage the ***Bar/Bat Mitzvah*** family to contribute 3% of the cost of their ***Bar/Bat Mitzvah*** celebration and/or 3% of their monetary gifts to MAZON, a Jewish organization which funds programs that fight hunger throughout the world. Ask Rabbi Schneider about MAZON and other worthwhile charities. There are many funds at Temple Kol Ami to which individuals may choose to make contributions in honor of teachers, the Rabbi, Cantor or family members.

## **MITZVAH PROJECTS**

We believe that the moment of your child assuming responsibility for doing Jewish things is an important occasion. Some families choose to mark this moment of being responsible by choosing to become involved in a project that helps others or helps an institution. These projects can center on any area, from collecting food, helping out at a senior citizen center, or collecting toys for distribution. These and many other options help keep the 'mitzvah' in the ceremony. Whatever mitzvah project selected, together with other information about the student, such as family names of parents and grandparents, can be placed in the Temple's VOICE, and in the Phoenix Jewish News as an announcement. The Temple office can help with this. We encourage families to consider such a project and the Rabbi and Cantor can assist in any direction you may need. The Bnai Tzedek Program at the Jewish Community Foundation is another great resource: 480-699-1717

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. ***Under what conditions will you recommend additional tutoring for my child?***

We believe that the allotted sessions will prepare your child with confidence for the **Bar/Bat Mitzvah**. If parents are more comfortable with additional tutoring sessions, they may be scheduled and purchased directly from a tutor. Please ask Rabbi Schneider for a recommendation of tutors. If your child has a particular learning difference or disability that necessitates additional tutoring, the Rabbi and Cantor will determine and assign additional sessions.

2. ***How many services are my child expected to attend in advance of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah?***

Since there is no mid-week Hebrew school, it is imperative that your child be exposed to as many worship services at Temple Kol Ami. We know you recognize the importance of being familiar with the service and attendance at services will facilitate this. Starting in fourth grade, we recommend that you make a commitment to attend services once a month as a family. We hope you will continue this practice after the event. In addition, attending other bar/bat mitzvah ceremonies is critical and helpful. I always say, “you may not be invited to the party, but anyone/everyone is invited to services!” The more your kid watches a bar/bat mitzvah at TKA, the more they will imagine themselves leading the service.

3. ***Does my child have the option not to chant the Torah and Haftarah?***

Chanting is a method of helping children learn their Torah and Haftarah portions, which also adds beauty to the Bar Mitzvah service. It is not a requirement to chant in the service, but we encourage our students to do so.

4. ***Are tallit and yarmulkes available for our guests?***

Yes.

5. ***Who schedules meetings?***

The Cantor or the Rabbi will be in contact with you to schedule all tutoring sessions with your child 8-9 months before your scheduled date.

6. ***What’s my role as parent(s)?***

Parents need to join their child(ren) in preparing for Bar/Bat Mitzvah. We encourage students to spend a minimum of thirty minutes a day practicing, and we further encourage them to do this on a daily basis, preferably in the

evening. Daily repetition is of the utmost importance in achieving high skill levels. If you know Hebrew or even if you don't, please work with them, listening to their practice sessions, encouraging their progress, and congratulating their successes. At some point nearer to the ceremony, you can ask your child about his/her thoughts for the d'var Torah. Parental input is encouraged by the tutoring staff, so please feel free to help. And if you are coming to the Torah for an aliyah during your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah, you can practice too! Learn the Hebrew blessings well so you can at least appear to be as accomplished as your child

**7. *My child is enrolled in TKA's Religious School and participates in the mid-week eBrew program. Does that stop when they begin b'nai mitzvah tutoring?***

Thank you for allowing your child to learn with Kol Ami! Your child will continue their eBrew sessions for the school year. B'nai mitzvah tutoring is completely separate so there may be a period of time where students are getting multiple tutoring sessions during the week. We recommend using that time to their advantage to get as comfortable with Hebrew/prayers as possible. Students may be working on different things between their eBrew sessions and their b'nai mitzvah tutoring. This is okay. It's all connected and working towards the same goal.

**8. *What happens after the Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony?***

It is our further hope that we agree to the student's continuing education at Temple, with on-going participation in the seventh and eighth grade and the Temple Youth Group (KATY) throughout high school. These organizations and the events they offer allow for developing appropriate socialization skills, leadership skills, and a broad variety of educational and travel experiences. These opportunities become the next level of Jewish education, creating a solid foundation for the years ahead.

**We are as excited about this adventure as you are, and we look forward to partnering with you in the days to come. We are all a part of the Temple family, and are ready to help you in any way we can!**

## GLOSSARY

<b>Aliyah</b>	Hebrew for "going up", refers to the honor of blessing the Torah
<b>Bar/Bat Mitzvah</b>	Hebrew for "son or daughter of the commandment"
<b>B'nai Mitzvah</b>	Plural, "children of the commandment"
<b>Bima</b>	Hebrew for pulpit
<b>Hakafa</b>	Torah procession
<b>Havdalah</b>	The brief service that ends Shabbat on Saturday evening
<b>Kiddush</b>	The prayer over the Sabbath and/or festival wine
<b>Kiddush Luncheon</b>	The meal following Shabbat morning service
<b>Kippah</b>	Hebrew name for head covering worn traditionally by men.
<b>Kosher</b>	Hebrew meaning "proper" referring to food fit for consumption
<b>Mazel Tov</b>	Commonly meaning congratulations, Hebrew for "good luck"
<b>Mensch</b>	Yiddish word for an honorable or decent person
<b>Mitzvah</b>	Commandment, a religious responsibility
<b>Motzi</b>	Blessing over bread
<b>Oneg</b>	Refreshments served after services
<b>Simcha</b>	A joyous occasion
<b>Tallit</b>	Fringed prayer shawl
<b>Torah</b>	The Five Books of Moses
<b>Trope</b>	Musical notations for chanting Torah and Haftarah
<b>Tzedakah</b>	Acts of Righteousness