

## *Something To Consider.....*

When you are about one year away from your child, becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah; we begin the formal process of study that will engage your child in connecting to Jewish community, study, and spirituality. This journey takes several steps, so please take the time to read and plan for the experience ahead. Note: throughout Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparations, students continue with their Religious School classes as well. Explore our B'nei Mitzvah webpage to learn more details: <http://www.templejudea.com/welcome-to-bnei-mitzvah/>

### **TRAINING PATHWAY OPTIONS**

#### ***PATHWAY 1: B'NEI MITZVAH SEMINARS***

Most of our students take advantage of our ***B'nei Mitzvah Seminars***, one of our preferred paths toward becoming Bar/Bat mitzvah. This innovative program has enhanced the lives of our students and families in the last several years and has met with great success. The seminars all meet on **Wednesdays, from 4:30-5:30, or from 5:45-6:45**. Your child may attend either time slot each week, with no need to commit to a specific one. Seminars are taught by our Cantorial Team, and contain small groups of students, who inspire and engage each other in the learning process. This has been very successful in connecting our students to their Jewish identity and community.

**PRAYER SEMINAR:** Students begin their training path with *Prayer Seminar*. In this class, students review and solidify their knowledge of the prayers and blessings, your child will lead at the Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony.

**TORAH SEMINAR:** Following the Prayer Seminar, students proceed to Rabbi Cantor Wissot's *Torah Seminar*, in which they learn to chant their maftir (concluding segment of Torah, reserved for the person of honor in any service) as well as discussing the narrative of their Torah portion. They also gain skills for learning other segments of Torah, which they will go on to do later in this process.

**HAFTARAH SEMINAR:** Following the Torah Seminar, students attend Cantor Kliger's *Haftarah Seminar*, and they learn to chant and understand their Haftarah portion.

**MENTORING:** After that, your child will receive 8 private 30 minute lessons with our Cantorial Tutoring staff, scheduled at your convenience, where they will continue to work on their Torah chanting as well as any other materials.

**MEETINGS WITH RABBI AND CANTOR:** This leads you up to the final weeks before your child's big day! In those last few weeks, there will be final rehearsals with the officiating cantor and rabbi, and you will be contacted individually with those dates.

***PATHWAY 2: Independent Tutoring***

Some students either need more individualized attention or cannot attend classes on Wednesdays. Your child will be privately tutored at the campus of Temple Judea, and will not be attending the Bar/Bat Mitzvah seminars. The tutor will be assigned by our clergy and will follow the appropriate curriculum to prepare your child for becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah. An additional small fee will be added to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah service fee currently in place for the year of your child's ceremony. If for some reason you think your child cannot be a part of the seminars, please talk with Rabbi Cantor Wissot or Cantor Kliger.

***PATHWAY 3: Private Tutoring***

Your child will not attend the Bar/Bat Mitzvah seminars & will be privately tutored at your home, on the date/time mutually agreed upon. The tutor will be assigned by our clergy and will follow the appropriate curriculum to prepare your child for becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah. There is a much more substantial fee for private tutoring, which is in addition to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah service fee currently in place for the year of your child's ceremony.

Again, we hope this overview is helpful. We at Temple Judea are here to assist you and your child in making this a sacred and fulfilling experience.

**Materials that will be needed for seminars:**

*Please have your child bring a 1" 3-ring binder of their choice to their first class and a pair of headphones, along with a phone, ipad or laptop on which to listen to the recorded materials.*

Warmly,

Rabbi Cantor Alison Wissot, Cantor Yonah Kliger  
& Stacey Rutstein, B'nei Mitzvah Coordinator