



B'nai Mitzvah PASSPORT

**“To be a Jew is to travel.
Judaism is a journey,
not a destination.”
-Rabbi Sacks**

When the tasks before you seem daunting, take heart in your family, community, and clergy’s unwavering support. We are with you, and we feel blessed to walk together with you on this path.

If lost, please return this booklet to me!

Contact me at:

PASSPORT TO JEWISH LIFE

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Signature:

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דרכון

PASSPORT

PASSEPORT

PASAPORTE

It is a tree of life to all who hold fast to it; its ways are ways of pleasantness, and all its paths are peace.

Name:

Hebrew Name:

Birthdate:

Hebrew Birthdate:

B'nai Mitzvah Date:

My Parshah:

[paste
photo
here]

Hebrew Birthdate: _____

B'nai Mitzvah Date: _____

My Parashah: _____

YOUR PASSPORT

You are embarking on the journey to becoming B'nai Mitzvah here at Shir Hadash. We pray it is a time filled with learning and growth, where you gain the skills to make your tradition relevant to the world you live in. In many ways, we like to think of it as acquiring a 'passport' to your Jewish culture. This passport will be your guide, helping you navigate the process of learning more about your Jewish tradition, and marking the milestones you achieve along the way.

Throughout this journey, you will delve into the teachings of Torah and our sages, learn the prayers and rituals of Judaism, and discuss the values that shape our identity. This is not just about memorizing texts or performing rituals; it's about feeling at home in Jewish spaces, understanding customs, and building a personal connection to a tradition that works for you! This passport will become a symbol of your progress and accomplishments, a tangible reminder of the steps you have taken and the wisdom you have gained.

As you (and your family) move toward this milestone together, remember that this passport is not just about your B-Mitzvah; it is about preparing yourself for a Jewish future. With each stamp and note, you are preparing yourself to enter Jewish spaces whether at Shir Hadash or anywhere else in the world. All of us are looking forward to learning from you and seeing you grow as you become a Jewish adult in our community.

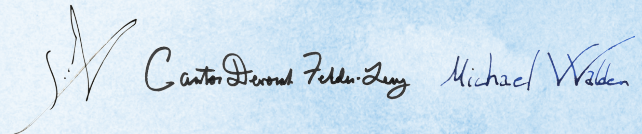
WELCOME FROM YOUR CLERGY

We want to welcome you to the beginning of a remarkable journey - but truth be told, you've likely been on this journey for some time already, and will be on it for the rest of your life. Jewish learning is not about any one achievement, or accomplishment - it's a constant process of growth, one that we acknowledge with the ritual of B-mitzvah. This passport is a symbol of your adventure into the heart of Jewish life and learning, and we hope it will accompany you as you explore, grow, and accomplish wonderful things on your path.

In our tradition, learning is a shared experience. Together, we will study the Torah, uncover the meanings behind our traditions, and work to become interpreters of tradition. In Judaism, the highest goal for any individual is not to become a rabbi, cantor, or even prophet - it is to become a 'talmid chacham,' a wise learner. Each page of this passport represents a step in your journey, a moment of growth, along that path of becoming a constant learner.

We are so excited to study with you, to see the unique contributions you will make and the insights you will share. And we hope this passport will be not just a record of your achievements, but a reminder of the vibrant, supportive community that surrounds you. We are honored to be a part of your journey and look forward to learning and growing together.

Wishing you *Hatzlecha* (success)!

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is 'Cantor Deborah Feldman-Zing' and the second is 'Michael Walden'. The signatures are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shir Hadash Clergy Team



**“More than the Jewish people
kept Shabbat, Shabbat has kept the
Jewish people.” -Ahad Ha’Am**

We take pauses in our life for granted, but in the intentional pause of Shabbat we have the potential to make both our moments of work and our moments of rest better.

FRIDAY SHABBAT SERVICES

ATTENDANCE AT SHIR HADASH

DATE	SOMETHING I NOTICED OR LEARNED	STAMP

FRIDAY SHABBAT SERVICES

ATTENDANCE AT SHIR HADASH

DATE	SOMETHING I NOTICED OR LEARNED	STAMP

“Who is wise? One who learns from everyone.” - Pirkei Avot 4:1

אִיזְהוּ חָכָם, הַלּוֹמֵד מִכָּל אָדָם

It is a mitzvah to study on Shabbat: learning from our Jewish texts, learning from thoughtful discussion with others, and pausing to look inward to learn from ourselves.

SATURDAY SHABBAT SERVICES

ATTENDANCE AT SHIR HADASH

DATE	SOMETHING I NOTICED OR LEARNED	STAMP

SATURDAY SHABBAT SERVICES

ATTENDANCE AT SHIR HADASH

DATE	SOMETHING I NOTICED OR LEARNED	STAMP

CELEBRATING SHABBAT

Century by century it has been the task of each generation to adapt our ancestors' ancient Shabbat rituals into modern observance. This now becomes your task. How will you observe Shabbat?

Ten ways suggested by the Modern Shabbat Manifesto to observe Shabbat are:

1. Avoid technology - unplug
2. Connect with loved ones
3. Nurture your health
4. Get outside
5. Avoid commerce (buying or selling things)
6. Light candles
7. Drink fruit of the vine (wine or juice)
8. Eat bread
9. Find silence
10. Give back



HOME RITUALS: FRIDAY

DATE	RITUAL LEARNED	STAMP
	Blessing over Candles	
	Blessing over Wine	
	Blessing for Handwashing	
	Blessing over Bread	
	Blessing after Meals (<i>Birkat HaMazon</i>)	

FRIDAY HOME PRACTICE

DATE	WHAT I HELPED LEAD	PARENT SIGNATURE

HAVDALAH - THE BIG IDEA

“Judaism gives us a gift through Havdalah - fostering our connection with time, and enabling us to distinguish the holy from the mundane.”
-Rabbi Michael Walden

Connecting with our five senses, punctuating the separation between the holiness of Shabbat and the rest of the week, the rituals of Havdalah serve as a dramatic reminder of the beauty and emotional power that Judaism brings to us every week.



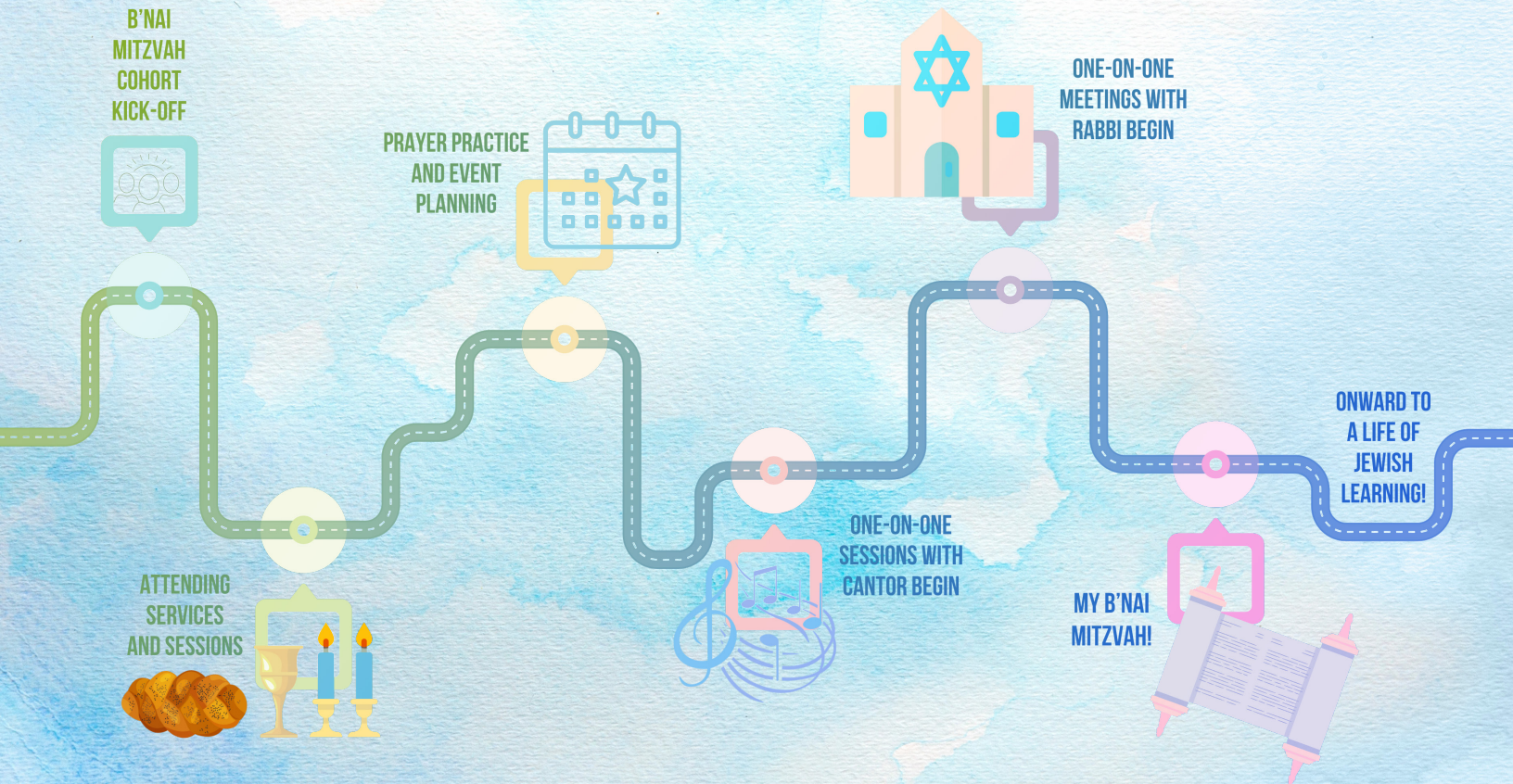
HOME RITUALS: SATURDAY

DATE	RITUAL LEARNED	STAMP
	Blessing over Wine	
	Blessing over Spices	
	Blessing for Fire	
	Blessing of Separation	
	Singing Eliyahu HaNavi	
	Singing Shavuah Tov	

HAVDALAH HOME PRACTICE

DATE	WHAT I HELPED LEAD	PARENT SIGNATURE

B'NAI MITZVAH ROAD MAP



COHORT LEARNING SESSIONS

DATE	LEARNING SESSION	STAMP
	Cohort Kick-Off!	
	Preparing My Heart & Mind	
	My Judaism: Across the Year	
	My Judaism: Shabbat	
	My Judaism: Havdalah	
	Feeling at Home in Judaism	

“When you are asked a question and do not know what to answer, don’t be ashamed to say: I don’t know!” -Mivchar Hapeninim

COHORT SOCIAL SESSIONS

DATE	SOMEONE I MET	STAMP

**“There are three teachers:
parents, instructors, and friends.”
~ Sefer Hasidim**

You’re preparing for your B’nai Mitzvah! Don’t forget to ask questions. Be confident in your ability to express yourself. Be excited to take charge of your learning experience.

T'FILAH LEARNING

BIRCHOT HASHACHAR (MORNING BLESSINGS)

PRAYER	STARTED STAMP	READING STAMP	SING/CHANT STAMP	MASTERED! STAMP
Modeh Ani				
Mah Tov				
Asher Yatzar				
Blessing for Tallit				
Elohai Neshama				
Birchot HaShachar (Daily Miracles)				
Blessing for the Study of Torah				

P'SUKEI D'ZIMRA (MORNING SONGS OF PRAISE)

PRAYER	STARTED STAMP	READING STAMP	SING/CHANT STAMP	MASTERED! STAMP
Blessing for P'sukei D'Zimra				
Mizmor Shir				
Ashrei				
Halleluyah				
Chatzi Kaddish				

“Whenever there rises in your heart a joyous thought, a feeling of happiness, a sense of love for the Torah, that moment is auspicious for prayer.” –Rabbi Zvi Hirsch Kaidanover

What is your *kavanah* (intention) as you pray? As your familiarity grows with each prayer, your comfort with the words and melody enables you to focus on creating an intention for each moment.

THE SHEMA AND ITS BLESSINGS

PRAYER	STARTED STAMP	READING STAMP	SING/CHANT STAMP	MASTERED! STAMP
Barchu				
Yotzer Or				
Shema				
V'Ahavta				
Mi Chamocha				

THE AMIDAH (STANDING PRAYERS)

PRAYER	STARTED STAMP	READING STAMP	SING/CHANT STAMP	MASTERED! STAMP
Avot V'Imahot				
G'vurot				
Oseh Shalom				

THE CONCLUSION OF THE SERVICE

PRAYER	STARTED STAMP	READING STAMP	SING/CHANT STAMP	MASTERED! STAMP
Aleinu				
Kaddish Yatom (Mourner's Kaddish)				

BLESSINGS OF THE TORAH SERVICE

PRAYER	STARTED STAMP	READING STAMP	SING/CHANT STAMP	MASTERED! STAMP
Shema of the Torah Service				
Psalm 34 - Gadlu				
Blessing Before the Reading of Torah				
Blessing After the Reading of Torah				
Blessing Before the Reading of Haftarah				
Blessing After the Reading of Haftarah				

MY TORAH PORTION

What is the name of my portion?

What is a brief summary of what happens in my portion?

What is my favorite part of my portion?



TORAH READING PREPARATION

PORTION	STARTED STAMP	GOOD PROGRESS STAMP	MASTERED! STAMP
Reading #1			
Reading #2			
Reading #3 (Maftir)			

“Turn the Torah over and over, for everything is in it. Look into it, grow old and gray with it, and do not depart from it.” -Ben Bag Bag

The work of reading Torah, exploring the meaning, and adding commentary has been passed down for centuries of Jewish tradition.

By adding your interpretation of your portion, you too are joining this ever-unfolding Jewish conversation. As you become acknowledged as a Jewish adult and become counted among the Jewish community members, your ideas and voice are a welcome and important part of our future.

HAFTARAH

"I do not recall a
Jewish home without
a book on the table."
-Elie Wiesel

Our Haftarah is a reading from Prophets that concludes our Torah service with a correlated theme to the ideas in this week's portion. We ponder how the words of the Haftarah are linked. The Haftarah is from a later time in history and enables us to pull in Jewish thoughts from formative moments not just from the time of Mount Sinai but from the era of Kings.



SECTION	STARTED STAMP	GOOD PROGRESS STAMP	MASTERED! STAMP
Haftarah			

"You have been told, O mortal,
what is good, And what God
requires of you: Only to do justice,
And to love goodness, And to
walk modestly with your God."

Micah 6:8

הַגִּיד לָךְ אָדָם מֵהֵטֹב וּמֵהָרָע
דֹּרֶשׁ מִמֶּךָ כִּי אִם־עֲשׂוֹת מִשְׁפָּט
וְאַהֲבַת חֵסֶד וְהִצָּנֶע לִפְנֵי עַם־אֱלֹקֶיךָ:

The prophets are about justice - it is not enough to have laws, it is the spirit and orientation behind the laws that we learn from and try to apply to our lives and our Judaism.

EVENT PLANNING QUIZ

Fill this out in discussion with your family!

POSSIBILITY	MY HOPES	NOTES/THOUGHTS
Celebration All shapes and sizes of celebrations are very normal at Shir Hadash, from very small, low-key, and simple to large and intricate! Each family should do what feels right.	Type of Event: <input type="checkbox"/> Kiddush Lunch <input type="checkbox"/> Evening Event <input type="checkbox"/> At Home Gathering <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ Vibe I hope for at my event: _____ _____	

My Family Brainstorm of Event Ideas:

EVENT PLANNING

CONSIDERATIONS

DETAILS

Rental of Space	Will we want to sign a rental contract for a Shir Hadash room such as Oneg or Sanctuary, or do we want to rent space at an outside venue? Book this 12 to 9 months in advance if you plan to rent space.
Documenting	Will my family want a photographer or videographer?
Food	Will there be food needed (lunch or in evening?) related to my B'nai Mitzvah event? If so, what are my preferences? If using a caterer, it is recommended to book 6+ months in advance. Caterers serving food at Shir Hadash must sign a special agreement about the food and also must provide proof of liability insurance to Shir Hadash.
Decorations	Will I want any decorations at my event (flowers, centerpieces, special linens, Mitzah Project items, etc)?
Materials	Will my family want a handout or "booklet" for the service? If so, who will make this for our family?
Clothing/Tallit	What do I plan to wear for my B'nai Mitzvah? When will I get the outfit? It is recommended to choose something both comfortable and professional, and to decide on the clothing a few months in advance. What Tallit will be given during the B'nai Mitzvah? When will it be purchased and by whom and/or is it an heirloom being passed down?
Invitations	When will my family send out invitations? To whom will the invitations be sent? It is typical to send a save-the-date (digital or physical) from 12 months to 8 months before the event. It is typical to send an invitation from 9 weeks to 6 weeks before the event.

SERVICE READINGS

HONOR	CHOICE	HONOR GIVEN TO
Reading #1	<input type="checkbox"/> pg 184, "Each of us.." <input type="checkbox"/> pg 185, "May the door.."	
Reading #2 (optional)	<input type="checkbox"/> pg 231, "Once or twice..." <input type="checkbox"/> pg 231, "Love your neighbor..."	
Blessing for Country (optional)		
Blessing for Israel		
Board Representative		

"Who is honored? One who honors others." -Ben Zoma

SERVICE HONORS

HONOR	
Aliyah #1	This honor is for the parent(s) of the next B'nai Mitzvah after yours, which for me will be:
Aliyah #2	
Aliyah #3	
Aliyah #4	You! The fourth Aliyah is given to the B'nai Mitzvah student.
Opening the Ark	
<i>Gellilah</i> : Undressing the Torah	
<i>Hagbah</i> : Lifting the Torah*	*It's very heavy! Choose someone who is strong.
<i>Gellilah</i> : Dressing the Torah	

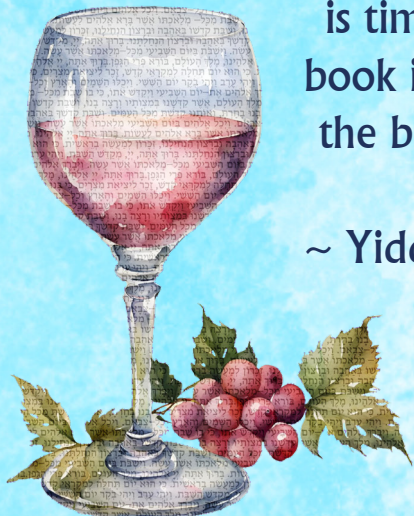
MY REHEARSAL

Rehearsal Date: _____

Rehearsal Time: _____

**“The best rabbi is
the human heart;
the best teacher
is time; the best
book is the world;
the best friend is
God.”**

~ Yiddish Proverb



REHEARSAL TIPS

Come prepared:

- Print Drash
- Read Drash in front of a mirror
- Bring copy of my Drash and bring my Siddur (prayerbook) with notations

Invite family and extended family with honors to the rehearsal, remembering to remind them of the rehearsal date and time.

Take deep breaths and put on your game face!

**“Example isn’t another
way to teach, it is the only
way to teach.”**

~ Albert Einstein

KEY CONCEPTS

REFLECTIONS ON MY JOURNEY

What does it mean to come of age?

What does it mean to be "commanded" as a Jew?

"I became wiser from
every teacher."
~ Psalms (Tehillim) 119:99

KEY CONCEPTS

REFLECTIONS ON MY JOURNEY

"And this is what Rabbi Hanina
said: I have learned much from my
teachers, even more from my friends,
but from my students I have learned
most of all." -Bavli Taanit 7a

Why do I "do" Jewish?

Why is Oral (spoken) Torah the center of our Judaism?

KEY CONCEPTS

REFLECTIONS ON MY JOURNEY

What are the next steps on my Jewish Journey?

What does "*na'aseh v'nishma*" (we will do and we will hear/understand) mean to me?

**"Do not say: I will learn
when I will have leisure; you
may never have it."
-Avot 2:5**

KEY CONCEPTS

REFLECTIONS ON MY JOURNEY

**"The day you were born was the
day God decided the universe
could no longer exist without
you." -Nachman of Breslev**

What do I bring to the Jewish community?

What is my relationship to my community?

MESSAGES FROM FAMILY

MAZEL TOV!

MESSAGES FROM SHIR HADASH

MAZEL TOV!

