

# Bar/Bat Mitzvah: What Kind of Service Should I Have?

*Consider the following elements of the service to shape your decision*

## Shabbat Morning Service (10:30 a.m. in the Fifth Avenue Sanctuary)

- ❖ Chant or read Torah
- ❖ Aliyah (limited to grandparents and the bar/bat mitzvah student)
- ❖ Chant or read Haftarah in Hebrew or English
- ❖ Parents' prayer (in English)
- ❖ Sibling's prayer(s) (in English)
  - Yarmulkes (*kipot*) are optional; the Temple will provide as usual.
  - A *tallit* may be worn by the bar/bat mitzvah but is optional.
  - The family sits in front row or on the pulpit.

## Private Service (Beth–El Chapel, Greenwald Chapel or Fifth Avenue Sanctuary)

- ❖ Chant or read Torah
- ❖ Aliyot (3\* maximum, including bar/bat mitzvah student)
- ❖ Devar Torah\* (speech)
- ❖ Passing the Torah from one generation to another\*
- ❖ Hakafah: Carrying the Torah throughout the congregation\*
- ❖ Parents' prayer (in English)
- ❖ Sibling's prayer(s) (in English)
- ❖ Bar/Bat mitzvah may read additional prayers in the service\*
- ❖ Havdalah\* (optional at the evening service)
  - The family sits on the pulpit for the entire ceremony.
  - Yarmulkes (*kipot*) are optional. Please provide them for your guests if you so wish.\*
  - A *tallit* may be presented\* and worn by the bar/bat mitzvah but is optional.

\* At private service only

## For All Students:

**Tutor:** Each student is expected to engage a tutor, ideally one recommended by Rabbi Ehrlich. The tutor will concentrate on teaching the Torah portion and haftarah (Shabbat morning). It is essential that the tutor contact the rabbi to confirm the Torah and to provide regular progress reports. Students begin to meet with the officiating rabbi about eight weeks prior to their ceremony to become comfortable on the pulpit (*bimah*).

**Kol Koren:** *An interactive, computer-assisted Torah trainer*

Cantor Corrsin will record (spoken or sung) a copy of your Torah portion, which may be downloaded to your individual computer, along with a printed copy of the text. It makes a great study break. A registration sheet is included in your packet.

**Oneg Shabbat:** Friday evening, prior to the ceremony, your child will be acknowledged from the pulpit. At the *Oneg Shabbat*, which follows the 5:15 p.m. worship service, each child will be presented with a bar/bat mitzvah certificate and a sterling silver *Kiddush* cup, a gift from the Religious School Parents Organization, Women's Auxiliary and Men's Club. Your extended family and guests are encouraged to worship with you and attend the *oneg*.