MY BAR MITZVAH

A STORY
FOR
AARON BERCOVICH
WHAT IS A BAR MITZVAH?

A Bar Mitzvah is a part of growing up.

It is the passage of a young person from Jewish child to Jewish adult.

Bar Mitzvah literally means “son of the commandments”
This change from child to adult is celebrated with the Bar Mitzvah ceremony.

We celebrate this occasion with our family and friends.

Who are some family and friends who might come to this ceremony?
This is the invitation that my mom made for my Bar Mitzvah. We will mail these out to our family and my friends. There will be lots of people who will come to celebrate my Bar Mitzvah with me.
Bar Mitzvah Ceremony

On the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah, Aaron will take great pride in learning parts of the service and chanting these prayers in Hebrew in the synagogue.

Aaron’s Mom, Dad and other people will be there too. They will also be very proud of Aaron.
Because this is a very special celebration, people will dress in very nice clothes.

People will also wear special items. Everyone will wear a kepah. And the men will wear a Tallit.

For Aaron’s Bar Mitzvah, his mom and dad will give him a Tallit that he will wear on the day of his Bar Mitzvah. Aaron will only wear this while in the Shul saying his prayers.
There are many special things in Shul that Aaron will use while participating in the services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Torah</th>
<th>Ark</th>
<th>Yad</th>
<th>Kipah</th>
<th>Siddur</th>
<th>Kiddush</th>
<th>Cup</th>
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**Definitions**

**Torah**: the Holy scrolls containing Jewish laws and teachings

**Ark**: a cabinet on the wall where the Torah scrolls are kept. The Ark is also called the Aron Kodesh ("holy cabinet")

**Yad**: hand shaped pointer used while reading from the Torah

**Kipah**: head covering worn by men and women

**Siddur**: prayer book

**Kiddush Cup**: cup used while saying the prayers over the wine
Match the word to the right picture.

1. Torah  
2. Ark  
3. Yad  
4. Kipah  
5. Siddur  
6. Kiddush Cup
Mitzvah

• The word *mitzvah* means *commandment* and includes all of God’s commandments that are written in the Torah.

• Some of these are: *observing the Sabbath, keeping the dietary laws (kashrut) and providing for sick people, elderly people and children in need*

• In Judaism, *mitzvah* also means *doing things that are good deeds for others*. This can include things like:
  - Gathering winter coats for people who need them
  - Sending stuffed animals to children in hospitals
  - Visiting older people living in nursing homes
Aaron’s Mitzvah Project

Animals sometimes need our help too. Many people have pets and then realize that they can’t take care of them properly. There is a place called the *Edmonton Humane Society* that takes in animals that people can’t keep.

They have many different kinds of animals there: dogs, cats, bunny rabbits, and guinea pigs are just some of them.
They need lots of volunteers (people who offer to help) to take care of all the different animals.

**Walk and Groom Program** – you would take a dog for a walk and play with them. A dog that is walked and interacts with people will be healthier, happy and may find a new home faster.

**Cat & Critter Cuddlers & Bunny Buddies** – you would play, groom and give them lots of hugs and cuddles.

Which one would Aaron like to do for his Mitzvah project?
My Bar Mitzvah Weekend
May 19 - 21, 2007

There are going to be many things happening for my Bar Mitzvah.

My aunts, uncles and cousins are all coming to Edmonton to celebrate by Bar Mitzvah with me.

Some of the special things we will do are:

Thursday, May 17th:  Practice Prayers at Synagogue

Friday, May 18th:    Relax and hang out at home

Saturday, May 19th:  Go to Aaron Friedland’s Bar Mitzvah in the morning.
                     Dinner at Auntie Frances house with family.
Sunday, May 20th: Practice our prayers, swimming at the YMCA, Tim Horton’s for lunch.

Dinner at the Royal Glenora Club. There will be lots of people at dinner. There will be lots of things I like and can play with there.

Monday, May 21st: My Bar Mitzvah Day! Going to Shul and saying my prayers.

Lunch after in the social hall.

Speeches and presentations by: Mom and Dad and friends.

Home to play!
Morning: We need to be at synagogue at 9:00. Aaron will dress in his special clothes for synagogue. Mom and Dad will wear their dress clothes too. Daddy will even wear a tie!

The services on Aaron’s Bar Mitzvah day are a little bit different from the ones we heard on the Saturdays that we went to Shul.

On this day, Aaron’s Bar Mitzvah day, Aaron will participate in the services – saying the prayers that he has been practicing. Sometimes Aaron will be on the Bimah and using the mike so that everyone in the synagogue can hear him. When other people are speaking or singing, Aaron will sit with Mom and Dad.

There will be other people taking part in the service:

Rabbi Kunin, Mom and Dad, Baba Annette, Baba Sara, and many of Aaron’s aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.
We have a special prayer book that will be used for Aaron’s Bar Mitzvah. Inside is list of the order that things will take place and all the prayers that will be read.

Aaron’s special copy is this book. It will help Aaron keep track when he needs to take his turn on the Bimah.

Aaron Lorne Bercovich
Bar Mitzvah
May 21, 2007

Parashat Naso
4 Sivan 5767

Tallit Presentation
Marvin & Marilyn
**Torah Service**

**Ark Opening**
- Annette Krygier
- Sara Bercovich

**Aliyot**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kohen</th>
<th>Levi</th>
<th>Shlishi</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Kohn</td>
<td>Marilyn &amp; Marvin</td>
<td>Aaron</td>
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</tbody>
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**Torah Reader**

- Lisa Fainsinger
- Elan Hollander
- Joshua Bensimon

**Hagbah**
- Wayne Krygier

**Glilah**
- Carol Hollander

**Ark Opening**
- Shirley & Aubrey Hyman

**Dvar Torah**
- Tali Hyman

**Remarks**
- Aaron

**Ark Opening**
- Blake Minuk, Hayley Minuk

**Beth Shalom Presentation**

**Adon Olam**
- Aaron & Friends

**Presentations at Kiddush Luncheon**

**Talmud Torah**
- Natalie Soroka

**Aaron’s Friends**
- Ricki Besney
- Zev Macklin

**Aaron’s Parents**
- Marilyn & Marvin

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Rabbi Kunin: Please remember to announce that when Aaron is chanting, even on prayers where the congregation usually joins in, if
they could not do so, it would be appreciated to help Aaron feel most at ease.

Pg. 6 - 32: Rabbi Kunin will read these.
Aaron will be sitting with Tim on the Bimah.

Pg. 33: Aaron will go up to the stand with the mike
Tim will be upon the Bimah with Aaron.
Aaron will say the שמע ה'vrecha prayer:

After Aaron says this, he will go back and sit with Tim in the big chairs.
Pg. 34 - 64:  Aaron will listen quietly while the service continues.

**Tallit Presentation:**

Aaron, Mom and Dad will all go up to the Bimah. Mom and Dad will read a prayer in English and Hebrew.

**Mom and Dad say:**  We give thanks for this day, and for the years of growth and learning that have preceded it. Now as our child steps forth to affirm his commitment to the ideals and Mitzvot of our faith, our soul is joyful, our mind is at peace.

\[\text{בְּרָכָה אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי לְפָנֵי שָרָאֹלֶת שִׁמְחַת שֵׁה לָמֶנָּה לְפָנְי נָה} \]

\[\text{Ba-ruch-a-ta Adonai, Eh-lo-hei-nu meh-lech ha-o-lam, sheh-heh-che-ya-nu, v’ki-y’ma-nu, v’higi-a-nu la-z’man ha-zeh.} \]

**Dad**

We praise You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the universe, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this season.

**Mom**

O God, make each of us a worthy example to our children. Let nothing estrange us from them and from You. Help us, too, again and again to renew our attachment to the Covenant of Israel, to walk hand in hand with our child in the ways of righteousness and truth. Amen.

Aaron will then put his Tallit on. Aaron will wear it while he says the rest of his prayers.
ARK OPENING: Baba Annette and Baba Sara will come up and open the Ark doors.

Aaron will say his prayer:

יהיה הבשן ערה רואמה מנשה:

כמו الجمعة שבת וא浊ך,يجשים משנאותה ומקדה.

כפי מחין חכמה תורה ודבר יהוה מירונשלים.

ברוך שבתון תורה לעום ישראל بكדשה.

The Torah is taken out of the Ark and Aaron will hold the Torah and say his prayer facing the ark.

גברת ליהוה אנתן,器官מקה שם indent.

Aaron will now carry the Torah around the benches while everyone says the rest of the prayers for taking the Torah out of the Ark.

Aaron will walk back up onto the Bimah and place the Torah down on the table. Now Aaron can sit down beside Tim again.
Now we will read the Torah “parasha” or portion for this day.

One person will say the blessings before and after the reading of the Torah. Another person will read from the Torah.

1 Uncle Willie will say the blessing before the reading
2 Lisa Fainsinger will do the first Torah reading
3 Uncle Willie will say the blessing after the reading
4 Mom and Dad will do the blessing before the reading
5 Elan will do the second Torah reading
6 Mom and Dad will say the blessing after the reading

Aaron will now come up to the microphone and say the prayer before the Torah reading:

ברוך אתה金华 המבורך.
Everyone in the synagogue replies:
ברוך金华 המבורך לעלמים עדים.

Aaron continues:

ברוך金华 המבורך לעלמים עדים.
ברוך金华 אתה金华 אלהינו מלך הุงמים, איש ברו.
בע מקול金华 הוא ינתי לו金华 התורה.
ברוך金华 אתה金华 נ capacitémaktadır.
Aaron will stand quietly while Mr. Ben Simon reads the final Torah reading.

Aaron will then say the blessing after the Torah reading:

ברוך אתה יהוה אלהינו מלך העולם, אשר נתן
לנו תורה אתמה, וחיי עולמו חעש ברוחנו.
ברוך אתה יהוה נינו חתוננו.

Aaron can sit down with Tim.

Pg 71: Rabbi Kunin will say the Hatzi Kaddish
Uncle Wayne will lift the Torah and Auntie Carol will put the cover back on the Torah.

Aaron says the prayer for returning the Torah to the Ark:

יהללו את-שם יהוה כי נשבוב שם לברד
הנה על ארץ ישפם. נברט כור ליעם, יהללה
לכל-חסידי, לבני ישראל Ис קרב, יהללה.

Aaron will follow Auntie Frances who will carry the Torah around the benches. Mom and Dad will follow behind Aaron too.
Aaron will go back up onto the Bimah.

Pg. 77: Auntie Shirley and Uncle Aubrey will open the Ark and the Torah will be put back into the Ark.

Aaron will stand facing the Ark and say the Eitz Chaim prayer:

עֲשָׂה חֵי הָא לְמַהְיוֹקִים בָּהוּ, וְהָיְתָכֵן מַאֲשָׁר.

רַכְכֵה זֲדֶה-נְעָם, וְאַל-נֵתיוֹתָה שֶלום.

הָשִּׁיבָנָה וְהוּא אֲלֵיהָ נַשָּׁבָה, וּדְחָשׁ נַמְיָוָה מְכָשָׁא.

Aaron can sit down with Tim.

Tali will now come up to the Bimah and explain the Torah reading while everyone sits quietly and listens.

After Tali is finished, Aaron will go to the microphone and read his speech. After Aaron is finished he can sit down with Mom and Dad again.

Pg 78 - 82: Rabbi Kunin will lead these prayers.
Blake and Hayley will come up and open the Ark. Rabbi Kunin will continue with the prayers.

Aaron will go up to the Bimah to receive a gift from the Synagogue.

Then Aaron will sing the Adon Olam with his friends:
Now **Aaron** and everyone will go into the other room for lunch.

**Aaron** you did a fantastic job saying all your prayers. **Mom and Dad** are very very proud of you! **Mazel Tov!**