



Bar and Bat Mitzvah Celebrations from Abroad

Thank you for your interest in celebrating your child's bar/bat mitzvah with Kehilat Har-El. We see the ceremony both as a meaningful and unique event in the lives of the bar/bat mitzvah and his/her family, as well as an opportunity to strengthen the relationship and mutual commitment between the Israeli and Diaspora communities. Please do not hesitate to be in contact with us at any time throughout the process. We look forward to sharing this important occasion with you.

There are many options open for the celebration of this very special day:



**Bat Mitzvah with Rabbi Ada Zavidov (l)
and Cantor Evan Cohen (r)**

Date and Time

It is possible to hold a Bar or Bat Mitzvah on:

1. *Shabbat mornings*, with the congregation. The service is in Hebrew, and follows the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism prayer book, *Ha'avodah Shebalev*, for which we have an English translation.
2. *Shabbat afternoon (Minchah)*. As the congregation usually does not attend this service, it would be a smaller, more intimate family ceremony, which could be conducted in English and Hebrew.
3. *Weekdays*. Bar and Bat Mitzvah ceremonies on these dates would usually be smaller, private and individual for each family, and can be held at any of the locations listed below.

Venues for the Ceremony and Service

1. Bar and Bat Mitzvah ceremonies can be held at Kehilat Har-El (an old Jerusalem-style building in the center of the City of Jerusalem, with a garden) at any of the above times.
2. Southern Wall of the Temple Mount. This is a quieter venue than the Western Wall, where families may enjoy an egalitarian ceremony (men and women together), which is impossible at the Western Wall. Please note that Israel's rainy season is from Sukkot until Pesach (approximately October-April). In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held at the congregation.
3. Masada. Transportation to and from this archeological site on the Dead Sea is the responsibility of each family (the Rabbi and Cantor arrange their own transportation).
5. Any other sites in the Jerusalem area of the family's choice which would be appropriate for a Bar or Bat Mitzvah ceremony.



PLEASE NOTE WELL:

- A) Bar and Bat Mitzvah ceremonies can be held outside of Har-El at any of the above times EXCEPT SHABBAT OR A HOLIDAY as no traveling with a Torah scroll is done then.
- B) When Bar or Bat Mitzvah ceremonies are not held on a Shabbat or Holiday morning, the family is asked to provide a *minyan* (women are counted in a Reform *minyan*).
- C) We highly recommend that families stay over in Jerusalem the evening before the ceremony.

Study Requirements

As soon as the family and Har-El have agreed upon a definite time and date, the Cantor, if requested, will send a suggested study packet for the Bar or Bat Mitzvah celebrant to prepare. This includes the chanting of the Torah and/or Haftarah and appropriate blessings. In addition, families are welcome to contact the Cantor and consult with him about making changes in what the celebrant will learn for the ceremony.

Har-El follows a modified triennial cycle of Torah reading (one-third of the traditional reading, fully completed in a three-year cycle, while following the traditional order of the Torah portions). In addition, it is important to note that the Torah readings in Israel sometimes differ from those abroad. Therefore, please refer to the Torah portion assigned by the Cantor in the study packet, even if on your calendar a different portion is listed.

For a Bar or Bat Mitzvah on a Shabbat afternoon, or on a Monday or Thursday morning, there is no Haftarah or Maftir reading, so the preparations are shorter. The Bar or Bat Mitzvah instead will read a small section of that week's Torah portion (the first "traditional" aliyah, divided into three aliyot), in addition to his/her being called up to the Torah.

The celebrant is encouraged but not required to learn to lay Tefillin if he or she will be celebrating on a weekday. In addition, if he or she would like to prepare a short sermon in English or Hebrew on his or her understanding of the Torah portion, this is encouraged but not obligatory.

Requirements from the Family

In order to arrange the certificate and gift, and more importantly for the service itself, we need to know as soon as possible:

1. The full English and Hebrew names of the Bar or Bat Mitzvah child, and his or her birth date.
2. The full English and Hebrew names of the child's parents.
3. The number of people that will be in your party.
4. The date of arrival, and the family's address or contact in Israel, with a telephone number.

Please keep in mind that a meeting and rehearsal with both the Rabbi and the Cantor a few days before the ceremony is a prerequisite to holding the Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

The date and time of this meeting should be arranged before the family leaves for Israel. At these meetings with the Rabbi and Cantor, the final form of the service and assignment of readings and other honors to family members and friends will be decided upon.

A registration form is attached at the end of these sheets for your convenience.

**Extras**

We will be happy to supply the names of photographers, although all arrangements and payment will have to be made between the family and the photographer himself. NO PHOTOGRAPHY IS POSSIBLE DURING A SHABBAT MORNING OR HOLIDAY SERVICE, but is allowed before and after these services.

Amenities Offered by Har-El Included with the Fee

Har-El offers the full services of the Rabbi and Cantor, study material (including a CD prepared by the Cantor if requested), the meeting and rehearsal with them, the full Bar or Bat Mitzvah ceremony, transportation for the Rabbi and Cantor (where applicable), a hand-made certificate, and if held at the synagogue, a kiddush and light reception following the service (up to 30 guests, over which number a nominal fee is charged). The use of the premises of Kehilat Har-El are also included in the fee.

Fee

The fee for a Bar or Bat Mitzvah is \$750. As soon as a definite date and time are scheduled, a non-refundable deposit/registration fee of \$150 (to be deducted from the overall fee of \$750) is required. The balance (\$600) may be paid at the convenience of the celebrating family, up until the time of the Bar or Bat Mitzvah itself.

For B'nai and B'not Mitzvah held at **Massada**, the fee is \$1150. It includes transportation for the Rabbi and Cantor but does not include entrance fees, cable car, and chair rental. As above, a deposit/registration fee of \$150 is required, with the balance to be paid at the time of the Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

Feedback from Families

"I will just say that Harlyn's bat mitzvah was truly one of the most meaningful and special times that Les and I have experienced as parents and as individuals. It was a day we will remember always. Listening to Harlyn read from the Torah and chant the blessings - we felt so happy and so proud. Those moments remind us of the importance of doing things in our lives that nurture and strengthen the human spirit and our connection to other people on a spiritual level..."

"Please share this letter...with the Har-El Congregation. We were very touched by the warm welcome we were given and their support of Harlyn on her bat mitzvah day. We were strangers who were embraced like family by your congregation..."

Sandy Tart & Les Croland, Boca Raton, Florida

"Just wanted to thank you (Evan) and Rabbi Ada for making our trip to Israel so meaningful. Moriah's Bat Mitzvah is something that we will remember forever. I think you and Rabbi Ada are very special - It is not so easy to find a Cantor and Rabbi who are so inspiring, interesting and dynamic!

Thanks again for helping to put together Moriah's Bat Mitzvah. We greatly appreciate it and are already looking forward coming back to Israel again someday in the future.

Please keep us updated about all the wonderful things you do at your Synagogue.

P.S. Moriah loves the Bat Mitzvah certificate. We framed it and it looks so beautiful on her wall!

Carrie & Mike Trenk, Scarsdale, NY

קהילת הר-אל (ע"ר)



kehilat har-el

Ada Zavidov - Rabbi ■ Evan Cohen - Cantor ■ Michael Adam - Director ■ Tzvi Rosenthal - Chair
■ Member of the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism

BAR/BAT MITZVAH REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Hebrew _____

Birth Date _____ Hebrew (if known) _____

Date requested: (please circle preference & write the specific date) _____

Shabbat morning

Shabbat afternoon

Holiday

Monday

Thursday

Location: (i.e. Har-El, Southern Wall, Massada) _____

Will you need a recording of the study material (on CD)? Yes No

Parent (1)

Name: English _____ Hebrew _____

Parent (2)

Name: English _____ Hebrew _____

Address

Home _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

In Israel

Date of arrival _____ Date of departure _____

Address in Jerusalem _____

Telephone _____

Number of people in your party _____

Home synagogue & Rabbi _____

*** Please return this form with your deposit to:

Cantor Evan Cohen
Kehilat Har-El
16 Shmuel HaNagid Street
94592 Jerusalem, ISRAEL