

CONGREGATION

# KOL HAVERIM

## *B'rit Mitzvah* Handbook for Parents

*A ready-reference guide to your child's B'rit Mitzvah Ceremony*



1079 Hebron Avenue, Glastonbury, Connecticut 06033  
[www.kolhaverim.org](http://www.kolhaverim.org)

Ph: 860- 633-3966  
Fax: 860-657-2799

**Table of Contents**

<b>Introduction and Welcome</b>	<b>3</b>
A History of <i>B'rit Mitzvah</i> Ceremonies	
<i>Mitzvot</i> Related to Becoming <i>B'rit Mitzvah</i>	
<b>What Should We Expect?</b>	<b>5</b>
Scheduling: An Overview	
Religious School Guidelines for Becoming a <i>B'rit Mitzvah</i>	
The <i>Mitzvah</i> Project	
Tutoring	
The Speech	
Honors	
Music	
The <i>Shabbat</i> of your Child's <i>B'rit Mitzvah</i> Service	
<b>Guidelines</b>	<b>10</b>
Invitations	
Order of Worship Booklet	
Presentation of Congregational Gifts	
Audio and Video Recordings	
Photography	
Pulpit Flowers	
Other Customs	
<b>Financial Policies</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>APPENDIX</b>	<b>14</b>
<i>B'rit Mitzvah</i> Checklist	
<i>Aliyah</i> and <i>Torah</i> Reading Grid	
<i>Aliyah</i> Text	
Invitations	
Member Recommendations	
Taylor Rental Coupon	

## **Introduction and Welcome**

Mazel tov on reaching this important milestone!

The *B'rit Mitzvah* is a significant event in your student's educational life. We are hoping to work in partnership with you to create a meaningful experience. This booklet is intended to help you through this process, to provide the information that you might need. I speak for all the staff at Congregation Kol Haverim when I say that we are happy to answer your questions and provide guidance.

*B'rit Mitzvah means "Covenant of the Commandments" and does not specify the gender of the person becoming an adult member of the Jewish community. As such, we will use the term throughout this document rather than Bar/Bat Mitzvah or B'nai Mitzvah. You, of course, are free to choose the term that best reflects the gender identity of your child.*

May this experience become the gateway for your student to a lifetime of scholarship, spirituality, and righteousness.

Rabbi Dr. Kari Tuling

### **A History of *B'rit Mitzvah* Ceremonies**

All societies determine a specific age that separates childhood from adulthood—the age when an individual assumes his or her religious and communal responsibilities to the society in which he or she lives. Like most traditions, the ceremonies connected with becoming a *B'rit Mitzvah* at age thirteen evolved over time. It has always been viewed as one moment in the process of spiritual growth and commitment to the Jewish people.

The establishment of becoming a *Bar Mitzvah* at thirteen years plus one day for boys and a *Bat Mitzvah* at twelve years plus one day for girls has several origins. The Talmud records that during the time of the Second Temple (520 B.C.E.–70 C.E.), it was traditional for Sages to bless a child who had completed his first fast day at the age of twelve or thirteen. In *Pirkei Avot* (Ethics of the Fathers, second century C.E.) it is written, "At thirteen one is ready to do *mitzvot*." By the time the Talmud was completed in the sixth century C.E., boys of thirteen years plus one day had assumed full responsibility for performing the *mitzvot*, hence the term '*Bar Mitzvah*,' "son of the commandment." This custom also had legal ramifications: These boys were now counted in a minyan and could act as witnesses. There was no formal rite, only a public blessing by the father including a statement that he was no longer responsible for the sins of his son.

The earliest *Bar Mitzvah* ceremony consisted of blessing and reading the last section of the weekly portion of the *Torah*, the *maftir* (meaning the extra reading), since the boy was not a *Bar Mitzvah* until after the service, and reading the *haftarah* portion. The most important part of the rite was a

*d'rashah* or *d'var Torah*, a sermonette on the *Torah* or *haftarah* portion. Since the *Bar Mitzvah* was assuming adult religious responsibilities, he was expected to show his understanding of those responsibilities to his family and, more importantly, to the community. Structurally, the *Bar Mitzvah* ceremony is essentially the same as it originally was. It wasn't until the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries that we find records of a *Bar Mitzvah* being invited to lead part of the worship service.

A public ceremony in celebration of a girl becoming a *Bat Mitzvah* (daughter of the commandment) did not come into formal being in North America until 1922. Dr. Judith Kaplan-Eisenstein, the daughter of Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan, the founder of Reconstructionist Judaism, blessed and read the *Torah* portion from a book "at a respectable distance" from the *Torah* scroll. The regular celebration of girls becoming a *Bat Mitzvah* came into prominence in Reform congregations particularly in the second half of the 20th century and is generally identical in form to the celebration of a *Bar Mitzvah*.

It should be noted that the rite of Confirmation originated in the Reform Movement in Germany in 1810 and included girls in 1817. Since it was felt that a thirteen-year-old was too young to understand the precepts of Judaism, the celebration of a boy becoming a *Bar Mitzvah* was dropped in favor of Confirmation, which was held at age sixteen or seventeen because that was deemed a more mature age to assume the responsibilities of Judaism. Today, most Reform congregations hold both ceremonies.

### ***Mitzvot* Related to Becoming *B'rit Mitzvah***

Some of the *mitzvot* (sacred obligations) related to becoming *B'rit Mitzvah*:

- Preparing children for their *B'rit Mitzvah* ceremonies by emphasizing the deep spiritual significance of *aliyah l'Torah*, ascending to the reading and the blessing of the *Torah*.
- Discussing with children the content of their *Torah* portion and *haftarah* (prophetic reading).
- Helping children to understand that they are vital links in an unbroken chain of Jewish men and women who have studied and cherished the *Torah*.
- Selecting a family *tzedakah* or social service project as part of *B'rit Mitzvah* preparation.
- Focusing the attention of the entire family on the primacy of the religious service rather than on whatever celebration is to follow.
- Inviting family, friends, classmates and congregants to a *kiddush* (the blessing of wine and *challah*) following the service.
- Including religious school classmates in the *B'rit Mitzvah* party
- Instructing children in the importance of Jewish education beyond *B'rit Mitzvah* and especially through Confirmation.

- Helping children to understand that, through the group ceremony of Confirmation on the festival of *Shavuot*, they are renewing the covenant entered into by God and the people of Israel on that day at Mount Sinai.
- Emphasizing the concept of lifelong Jewish education for all family members.  
(Taken, in part, from *What We Believe, What We Do...* , UAHC PRESS, © 1993)

## What Should We Expect?

### **Scheduling: An Overview**

This section provides you with an overview of how the process will unfold:

#### **Step 1: Receiving a date (about 2 years prior to the *B'rit Mitzvah*)**

Your student will receive their *B'rit Mitzvah* date during the fifth grade year. During that year, parents will attend a *B'rit Mitzvah Basics* seminar, led by the Rabbi and the Religious School Principal, to review the *B'rit Mitzvah Handbook*. *B'rit Mitzvah Basics* will explore various aspects of the experience and provide a chance to ask questions.

#### **Step 2: Group meeting (prior to your *B'rit Mitzvah* year)**

During the sixth grade year there will be a meeting for all of the families led by the Rabbi and the Religious School Principal. This meeting will explain further details of the process, answer any questions that have arisen for families and give families another chance to connect with their class cohort. At that point in time, your student will choose a *Mitzvah* Project and arrange to start working on it (see the section titled '*Mitzvah* Project' for more details).

#### **Step 3: Tutoring (six to eight months prior)**

The Religious School Principal will contact you about six to eight months prior to your student's service in order to provide you with the tutoring schedule (see the section titled 'Tutoring' for more details).

At this time, you should also email the Temple Administrator Christine Carlson ([office@kolhaverim.org](mailto:office@kolhaverim.org)) a photo of your student along with a three- or four-sentence bio for *The Voice*, our newsletter.

#### **Step 4: Meetings with the Rabbi (about two months prior)**

During the *B'rit Mitzvah* service, your student will give a speech, called a *D'var Torah*, which will take place after the *Torah* and *Haftarah* readings.

To write the *D'var Torah*, the student and their parent(s) will meet with the Rabbi in her office at least four times (see the section titled, 'The Speech' for more details).

The Rabbi will contact you about two months prior to your student's service in order to set up this series of meetings. You are also welcome to reach out to her if you would like to get started earlier.

This time frame is also when the honors are distributed (see the section titled 'Honors' for more details).

### **Step 5: Rehearsal (sometime during the week prior)**

The rehearsal normally takes place on the Sunday before the *B'rit Mitzvah* (if schedules allow), or in the week prior to the service. The rehearsal takes about two hours total; the student completes the entire service, including the speech. It is possible to have more than one rehearsal if the student is in need of additional practice.

### **Step 6: Drop off supplies! (a day or so prior)**

You will need to provide food for the *Kiddush* after the Saturday morning service, paper goods, and tablecloths. If you have a large group coming to the service on Friday night, you might want to help supplement the usual Friday night *oneg* as well (see the section titled, "Policies Regarding the *Oneg* and Saturday Morning *Kiddush*").

\*\* Contact the Temple office before bringing food into the building as policies are updated to reflect the latest data about COVID.

Please feel free to ask questions of the staff: Rabbi Kari Tuling, Principal Dasha Baker, and/or Temple Administrator Christine Carlson. We are here to help you navigate this life cycle event and will work with you to make it a joyous experience.

### **Religious School Guidelines for Becoming a *B'rit Mitzvah***

All *B'rit Mitzvah* candidates must have satisfactorily met all established requirements of the Education and Ritual Committees. Let us know if you anticipate any difficulties with the completion of these requirements; the Rabbi and/or Religious School Principal would be happy to meet with you.

1. Students must successfully complete a minimum of four consecutive years of Hebrew School (or the equivalent) prior to their *B'rit Mitzvah* service.
2. Students are expected to complete the 7<sup>th</sup> grade year regardless of the actual date of the *B'rit Mitzvah* ceremony.
3. Students are encouraged to take part in the *madrachim* program following their becoming *B'rit Mitzvah*.

In order for *B'rit Mitzvah* students to be familiar and comfortable with the *Shabbat* morning service, we encourage students in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Grades to attend 6 or more Saturday morning services during the school year. We also expect students to honor their classmates by attending their *B'rit*

*Mitzvah* services. We also encourage students to attend *Shabbat* and holiday services. Please note that parents are warmly encouraged to join their children at services! All services are presented in person and online

### **The *Mitzvah* Project**

Ideally, the *Mitzvah* Project should be completed prior to the *B'rit Mitzvah* date, sometime during that year. The student should engage in a total of 18 hours of community volunteer work, preferably at an established venue. We are open to creative ideas; generally we prefer active and engaged pursuits (such as serving food at a soup kitchen) over passive fundraising campaigns (such as leaving a box out for others to donate). For ideas and suggestions, check out the following link: <https://www.kolhaverim.org/bar--bat-mitzvah.html>. Be sure to check with the Rabbi and/or Religious School Principal prior to beginning the project.

We will also schedule an annual *Mitzvah* Project Exchange, where 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will share highlights of their completed *mitzvah* projects with 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders, offering ideas, challenges and successes to the upcoming *B'rit Mitzvah* cohort, as well as the opportunity to adopt a project.

### **Tutoring**

Those students preparing to become *B'rit Mitzvah* will receive individual instruction for 24-30 sessions prior to the ceremony. This instruction is currently provided online. Each week, during this preparatory period, students take part in an individualized program in which they spend 30 minutes with their *Torah/Haftarah* tutor and 15 minutes working on the worship service with a peer tutor.

For students with fall dates, appropriate arrangements will be made to begin their tutoring program in the spring. *B'rit Mitzvah* tutoring takes place during the summer months as well as during the school year.

Practice at home is expected — at least 20 minutes a day during the tutoring period and one hour a day during the four weeks preceding the ceremony. Parents should encourage their student(s) to practice at home on a regular basis.

Parents are also encouraged to touch base with the tutors to monitor their student's progress. Conferences may be held with the family and the Rabbi to discuss a student's progress.

If your child needs additional support, the Rabbi and/or Religious School Principal will work this out with the individual family.

### **The Speech**

Each student and his/her parent(s) will have at least four scheduled meetings with the Rabbi to work on the *D'var Torah* (the *B'rit Mitzvah* speech):

1. The first meeting is scheduled to last about 90 minutes, and involves reading the *Torah* portion together.
2. The second meeting lasts 30 minutes, and the family discusses with the Rabbi the student's list of three things that he/she found interesting about the portion.
3. At the third meeting, also 30 minutes long, the student links each of those three things to situations in his or her life.
4. At the fourth meeting, also 30 minutes long, the speech is finalized.

More meetings can be scheduled as needed. Also, as a part of these meetings, the family will discuss the structure of the service and the honors that will be given to friends and family. This year, as a result of COVID-19, you may want to meet even more frequently to work out the logistics of doing a service involving Zoom and/or streaming.

The Rabbi will also schedule at least one rehearsal prior to the service.

### **Honors**

There are many ways of including family and friends in the *B'rit Mitzvah* service. These may include:

- Presentation of *tallit* by Jewish parent(s), grandparent(s), special family member or friend if desired.
- Psalms 33, 92 or additional creative readings (all readings must be approved by the Rabbi).
- Each family may assign up to seven *aliyot* for the *Torah* reading in addition to that of the *B'rit Mitzvah* child(ren). An *aliyah* is an honor, which includes reading from the *Torah* and/or reading blessings in Hebrew before and after each *Torah* reading. People can come up in groups or couples if desired. A copy of the blessing can be found in the appendix and on the website at <https://www.kolhaverim.org/bar--bat-mitzvah.html>
- An *aliyah* for a *Torah* reading can only be assigned to a Jewish adult (13 or older). In the case of an interfaith *B'rit Mitzvah* family, the Jewish parent is called up for the *aliyah* and the spouse may accompany him/her but not actually recite the blessings. The Hebrew name of each person assigned an *aliyah* should be given to the rabbi prior to the *B'rit Mitzvah*. A form is included in the Appendix.
- *Torah* readers are required for each *aliyah*. Only assign a *Torah* reading to a Jewish person who is skilled in reading *Torah*. If you need *Torah* readers, feel free to ask family members, friends, or classmates who have already become *B'rit Mitzvah*. The *B'rit Mitzvah* family chooses the presenter of the congregational gifts. If there is a class gift, the same presenter will also present the class gift. Please see the Appendix for a guide for the presenter.



- *L'dor va'dor Torah* Passing – Family members and friends who have helped bring your child to this day may be included in the passing of the *Torah* down the generations. The participants do not need to be Jewish to be included.
- Feel free to honor those of any faith with English readings/poems from the prayer book or of your choice. All selections need to be approved by the Rabbi.
- It is possible for a person to do an honor (such as a speaking part) over Zoom. We have had people read *Torah* on Zoom, and chant the blessing for an *aliyah* on Zoom. Talk to the Rabbi if you would like to arrange for a participant in the service to be on Zoom.

Please discuss your choices with the Rabbi before finalizing any honors.

### **Music**

We have engaged Kevin Mack to serve for the 2022-2023 school year. If you have specific song requests, let the Rabbi know and she will work with Kevin to see if we can make it happen.

## **The *Shabbat* of Your *B'rit Mitzvah* Service**

### **Friday Evening**

Family members of the *B'rit Mitzvah* are encouraged to participate in the Friday evening service. The *B'rit Mitzvah* candidate will offer a special prayer in the middle of the worship service. The Friday evening service is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. unless it is the first Friday of the month when the service is held at 6:00 p.m.

### ***Saturday Morning***

Honorees who are chanting an *aliyah* should be familiar with the *Torah* blessings and practice them prior to the service. The text of the Hebrew blessing and its transliteration will be available on the *bimah*. A *tallit* is available on the *bimah* if you or your honorees do not have one. *Tallitot* are also available in the foyer for you and/or your guests.

## **Guidelines**

### **Invitations**

A sample invitation is included in the Appendix for your reference. You know your friends and family best! Your invitation might also invite your guests to attend Friday evening worship the night before.

A word regarding party invitations: your children have been in religious school with their classmates for many years. Their religious school class is their community. It is *derech erez* (proper Jewish etiquette) and a Kol Haverim Congregation expectation that you will invite *all* of your child's classmates to the celebration.

### **Order of Worship Booklet**

You are welcome to create an Order of Worship Booklet or handout to identify honorees and introduce guests to the order of service. We are happy to provide examples -- but you are entirely responsible for the creation, typesetting, printing, folding and collating of these supplements.

An Order of Worship Booklet might include:

- A cover page including the name of the child, Rabbi, Cantor, Religious School Principal, secular date and Hebrew date, the name of the *Torah* portion and art work e.g. a drawing of the Kol Haverim ark)
- Introductory remarks from the family with a brief explanation of the *B'rit Mitzvah* service
- A listing of the essential sections of the worship service
- A list of *aliyot* and *Torah* readers

- A copy of the *Torah* portion
- A copy of the *Haftarah*
- Any additional readings and/or song selections – these must be approved by the Rabbi
- Special thank you messages
- A brief paragraph in memory of family members who have passed.

Prior to printing the booklet, plan to show the text to the Rabbi ([rabbi@kolhaverim.org](mailto:rabbi@kolhaverim.org)) for approval.

### **Presentation of Congregational Gifts**

The *B'rit Mitzvah* family chooses the presenter of the congregational gifts. The presenter can be a Congregation Kol Haverim Board Trustee, committee member, educational staff or tutor.

Adequate time (1 month) should be given to the presenter in order that they have time to prepare the presentation. The congregational gifts are:

- Candle Sticks and *B'rit Mitzvah* Certificate – Gifts from the Sisterhood
- High Holiday prayer books – A gift from the Board of Trustees
- \$250 Certificate from NFTY - to be used for a peer trip to Israel

### **Audio and Video Recordings**

All services are presented both in-person and online. You will receive a Boxcast link to share in your invitations. The service is recorded; please contact the Rabbi if you would like a copy of the recording.

You may arrange for an additional audio and/or video recording of your student's ceremony. Such recordings should be done in a way that is unobtrusive and does not disturb the sanctity of the worship service. Video cameras must be stationary, on a tripod, in designated areas of the Sanctuary. Hand-held video cameras are not allowed. Additional lighting is not allowed.

### **Photography**

Still photography is only allowed from a single, stationary vantage point in the back of the Sanctuary next to the main doorway. The photographer must be standing in the same place as the videographer. Guests cannot use their own cameras or electronic devices during the service to take videos or photos.

Family pictures may be taken before the service, after the service is concluded, or during the week. You might want to consider family photos after the dress rehearsal preceding the *B'rit Mitzvah*. Please call the Temple Administrator Christine Carlson to make arrangements: for example, the *Torah* scrolls may not be removed from the ark without the presence of a synagogue professional.

### **Pulpit Flowers**

Any family who wishes to sponsor fresh pulpit flowers may do so. Another lovely idea is to provide a food basket arrangement that will later feed a needy local family, a book basket to support the Hartford Jewish Coalition for Literacy, or another social action-oriented arrangement.

Please consult with the Temple Administrator Christine Carlson before making any pulpit arrangements.

### **Other Customs**

1. It is customary to make donations to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, the Music Fund and the Education Fund to honor the efforts of the Rabbi, the soloist and your child's teachers, respectively, to bring your child successfully to his/her ceremony of *B'rit Mitzvah*.
2. In some families, it is customary for the *B'rit Mitzvah* child to be presented with a *tallit* (prayer shawl) by parents, grandparents, other family or friends. Be sure to allow sufficient time if you are considering ordering or making a personalized *tallit*, especially if the *tallit* is arriving from Israel.

## Financial Policies

1. All members must be current with their financial obligations to the Synagogue prior to the *B'rit Mitzvah* date.
2. Dues must be paid in full in order to secure your *B'rit Mitzvah* date. In the event of financial hardship, it is the family's obligation to work with the Treasurer or the arrangements committee to discuss an alternative payment plan. Be assured, the arrangements committee will be very willing to work with you and all matters of this nature will be held in the strictest confidence.
3. The families of *B'rit Mitzvah* students are assessed an additional *B'rit Mitzvah* year fee during the 7<sup>th</sup> grade year. This fee will be payable quarterly, along with other financial obligations to the synagogue. As with all other charges, the outstanding balance is expected to be paid in full before the *B'rit Mitzvah* date unless special arrangements have been made. The income from this fee is used to pay for *B'rit Mitzvah* tutoring, and to pay the additional expense of preparing the synagogue for the service. Any additional tutoring sessions needed should be discussed with the Rabbi and the tutor. All synagogue dues and fees must be paid in full **one month prior to the *B'rit Mitzvah* service.**

# APPENDIX

## B'rit Mitzvah Checklist

The checklist below is merely a guideline to help you with the process. It is not inclusive of EVERY item!

<u>Event</u>	<u>Recommended Time Frame</u>
Read the <i>B'rit Mitzvah</i> Handbook	Upon receipt
Sign Letter of Agreement	1 year prior
Attend informational meeting with Rabbi	The year prior
Arrange for videographer (optional)	6 months prior
Select family, friends for honors ( <i>Aliyot</i> , <i>Torah</i> readers) <i>Shomrim</i> , English Readers, <i>Hagbah</i> and <i>Galilah</i> )	3-6 months prior
Order invitations	6 months prior
Order <i>Tallit</i>	4 months prior
Organize basket/floral arrangement for <i>bimah</i> (optional)	4 months prior
Determine if you will need Congregational <i>Torah</i> Readers	3 months prior
Request MP3/CDs of <i>Torah</i> portions from tutor if needed	3 months prior
Submit biography and photo to office for Bulletin	3 months prior
Order <i>Kippot</i> (optional)	3 months prior
Complete <i>Aliyah</i> /Torah Reader grid and submit to Rabbi (send electronically).	2 months prior
Be sure to get Hebrew names of people having <i>Aliyot</i> .	
Select presenter of Congregational Gifts	2 months prior
Notify Temple Administrator about arrangements	2 months prior
Arrange any plans for family photographs during the week prior to the service with the Temple Administrator	2 months prior
Submit Order of Worship to the Rabbi for review	6 weeks prior
Print Order of Worship	2 weeks prior

Have a memorable, meaningful and stress-free ceremony!

### List of *Aliyot* and *Torah* Readers

<i>Aliyah</i>	Hebrew Name	Father's Hebrew Name	Mother's Hebrew Name	English Name	<i>Torah</i> Reader (English) and Verse
<i>Sample</i>	<i>Sarah Rivka</i>	<i>Avraham Yitzchak</i>	<i>Leah Rachel</i>	<i>Sarah Levine</i>	<i>David Goldfarb</i>
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					

*Gabbai* (assists with *Torah* reading) \_\_\_\_\_

*Hagbah* (lifts *Torah*) \_\_\_\_\_

Persons Opening Ark Doors

---

### Aliyah Text

#### Before

בְּרַכּוּ אֶת יְיָ הַמְּבֹרָךְ  
בְּרוּךְ יְיָ הַמְּבֹרָךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד {congregation}  
בְּרוּךְ יְיָ הַמְּבֹרָךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד  
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם  
אֲשֶׁר בָּחַר בָּנוּ מִכָּל הָעַמִּים וְנָתַן לָנוּ אֶת תּוֹרַתוֹ  
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ נוֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה

Bar'chu et Adonai ham'vorach.

{Congregation: Baruch Adonai ham'vorach l'olam va-ed.}

Baruch Adonai ham'vorach l'olam va-ed.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech ha-olam,

asher bachar banu mikol ha-amim, v'natan lanu et Torato.

Baruch atah, Adonai, notein haTorah.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### After

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם  
אֲשֶׁר נָתַן לָנוּ תּוֹרַת אֱמֶת וְחַיֵּי עוֹלָם נִטַּע בְּתוֹכֵנוּ  
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ נוֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech ha-olam,



asher natan lanu Torat emet, v'chayei olam nata b'tocheinu.

Baruch atah, Adonai, notein haTorah.

**THE B'RIT MITZVAH INVITATION**

The following is an example of an appropriate *B'rit Mitzvah* invitation text. Feel free to use it as a model for yours. Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to call the Rabbi. She can also provide you with other useful information, such as the Hebrew date or name of the *Torah* portion.

(parents' name(s) here)

cordially invite you to join them

at Sabbath worship

during which their son/daughter

(student's name here)

will be called to the pulpit

to lead us in worship and Torah study

as a B'rit Mitzvah

on Saturday, the (Day) of (Month)

Two Thousand and \_\_\_\_\_

at 10:00 o'clock in the morning

at

Congregation Kol Haverim

1079 Hebron Avenue

Glastonbury, Connecticut

[Zoom/Streaming link]

## **Recommended Inserts in Invitations**

Information for xxxx Friends

The worship service begins at 10:00 a.m. and xxxx will be leading the entire service. Please be respectful and quiet during the worship service.

Masks are required of everyone attending the service in person.

Cell phones are not allowed to be used in the service for any reason including texting and photos. Please be sure to shut off your phone or put on vibrate prior to entering the Sanctuary.

The worship service is both in English and Hebrew and the service books open “backwards” because Hebrew is written right to left, the opposite of English.

The worship service will end around 12:30 p.m. and [insert pick up/party details]

If you have any questions or require transportation, please feel free to call B'rit Mitzvah parent at xxx-xxxx.

## **Renting Space at Kol Haverim**

Contact Christine in the Temple office at [office@kolhaverim.org](mailto:office@kolhaverim.org) or 860-633-3966 for forms and information about renting Kol Haverim spaces.

## Kol Haverim Member Recommendation Page - Vendors

Below are lists of some recommended vendors. The vendors below are not endorsed or approved by the Congregation. The vendors appear on this page solely at the recommendation of a member of our Congregation. You should undertake your own due diligence in selecting vendors. If you would like to add a vendor to the “Kol Haverim Member Recommendations Page,” please contact Temple Administrator Christine Carlson at [office@kolhaverim.org](mailto:office@kolhaverim.org).

### Tablecloth Rentals

Taylor Rental, Manchester

860-467-0758

A discount for CKH members has been arranged. Please bring the certificate at the back of the appendix to Taylor Rental to receive your discount.

Sunshine Laundry

860-247-3264

### Kosher Caterers

The Crown Market/Crown Caterers

860-236-1965

The Whisk Caterers (also does non-kosher)

860-233-2088

Joy of Food (Paul Bettan)

860-231-1861

### Non-Kosher Caterers

Patty Cakes

860-633-2601

### Kippot

Jlowy.com

Kippah.com

Alljudaica.com

### Order of Worship – Design and layout

Geri Denyer, Denyer Designs

860-558-9958

### Order of Worship – Printing

PMS Printing Copy & Design

860-563-1676

### B'rit Mitzvah Gifts

#### Tallit

Kol Haverim Gift Shop, in addition to gifts, is now selling *tallit* – Some in stock and some can be specially ordered.

Contact Jennifer Lachnicht for an appointment

860-205-9913

[jlachnicht831@gmail.com](mailto:jlachnicht831@gmail.com)

## Taylor Rental Certificate

**Taylor Rental**  
***Congregation Kol Haverim***  
***10% Linen Rental Certificate***

Bring this certificate in to Taylor Rental, Manchester to receive a 10% price accommodation for your linen rentals for any special event held at your temple

860-643-2496  
274 Broad Street  
Manchester, CT 06040  
Taylorrentalpartyplusct.com  
info@taylorrentalpartyplusct.com