



WOOD RIVER JEWISH COMMUNITY

"Our mission is to establish a gathering place in the Wood River Valley for the meaningful expression of Jewish identity, values, ideals and fellowship."

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Policy Revised December 2020

Mazel tov on your child's Bar Mitzvah! With many moving parts to get to the big day, Rabbi Robbi, Morah Dana Berntson and Claudie Goldstein have put together this guide to help your family get ready.

Setting the Date:

1. After the readiness of the candidate has been assessed by Rabbi and the student's teachers /tutors, the Bar/Bat Mitzvah date is set in consultation with Claudie and Rabbi Robbi, based on the WRJC calendar.

Financial Considerations:

All B'nai Mitzvah families must be members in good standing of WRJC at least one year before the proposed date of the student's Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

1. Paying tutors for preparation will be the financial responsibility of the family.
2. An additional fee of \$180 will be assessed the year of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah to help offset administrative costs. Please contact Claudie regarding a payment schedule.
3. Family is in charge of all the logistical details for Saturday morning service. If using St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Claudie will help you contact them directly for the use of their space and can guide you regarding flowers on the bimah (alter), etc.
4. Your child's big day is a joyous community event as the WRJC has supported the the candidate and your family during their preparation. If it takes place in the context of a Shabbat service, note that our services are open to the entire congregation. If you choose to have a luncheon or party later, invitations are at your discretion. However, we encourage you to make sure that all members of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah class are invited if there is a celebration for young people.

Educational Expectations: Rabbi Robbi coordinates all the study and preparation of the B/BM candidate in conjunction with tutors and other educators.

1. As we are building a lasting positive Jewish connection for all our kids, B'nai Mitzvah candidates are expected to participate **in all Sunday Bar/Bat Mitzvah classes** and are expected to let their teacher and Rabbi Robbi know if they will not be present. The classes meet twice a month for an hour.
2. Creating Jewish literacy for all WRJC students, B'nai Mitzvah candidates will be required to attend in at least 6 services in the 6 months previous to their Bar/Bat Mitzvah, and will be given opportunities to lead small sections of services to practice what they have learned.
3. Modeling the importance of becoming Jewishly literate is important. Parents are expected to attend services and all holiday celebrations with their B'nai Mitzvah candidate.
4. Family members will be given the opportunity for various honors: aliyot (Blessings before and after a Torah reading), holding & dressing Torah, etc. Please discuss honors with Rabbi Sherwin.
5. We wish to encourage each Bar/Bat Mitzvah family to participate in the Friday service before their simcha. It is a WRJC tradition that the family hosts the Oneg Shabbat (celebration of Shabbat), which consists of at least two challahs, ceremonial wine and light snacks following the Friday night service.

Putting the “Mitzvah” in B’nai Mitzvah:

Each of our candidates will be required to do a “mitzvah project” the year of their B/BM. There are many organizations that could use your help, and this encourages a life-long passion and commitment to help others, which is a major tenant of Judaism. This is a discussion that should take place with Rabbi Robbi when the B/BM date is chosen.

We are honored to work with your family and your child and are looking forward to a wonderful and meaningful experience for all!

Rabbi Robbi Sherwin

Morah Dana Berntson

Claudie Goldstein, Exec. Director

For questions related to **B'nai Mitzvah religious training** or the service: Rabbi Robbi Sherwin: rabbirobbi@wrjc.org

For administrative/financial matters: Executive Director Claudie Goldstein: claudie@wrjc.org

We agree to these terms in order for our child to become Bar or Bat Mitzvah at the WRJC:

Name of candidate:

Date of B’nai Mitzvah:

Parents (s)

Candidate:

The Board of Directors of Wood River Jewish Community

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