

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Rabbi's Classes and Special Programs

Taught by Rabbi Susan Grossman

The Rabbi leads a series of special trips, programs and Sunday morning classes for B'nai Mitzvah students and their parents. Attendance for both Beth Shalom Religious School and Jewish Day School students is mandatory. At least one parent is required to attend all of these sessions below to provide a richer B'nai Mitzvah experience for the students. All dates are on Sunday unless otherwise noted.

Students should be prepared with the items requested (under "Do") for each session. Reading materials will be distributed in a student folder and work book prior to the Shabbaton.

February 5, 2017 -- Tallit and Tefillin Workshop For Parents and Students (10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.).

Do: Bring your Tallit and Tefillin if you have a pair, and your blue student workbook. (Ordering information for inexpensive Tefillin can be found in the Misc. section of your Parent Handbook.).

Do: If you have one, bring a special Tallit from a parent or any family member and be prepared to explain who used it and how.

Friday March 17 – Saturday March 18, 2017 – B'nai Mitzvah Shabbaton For Students and Parent Chaperones (from 5:30 pm Friday- 6:30 pm Saturday)

Do: Pack your bags and drop them off to the office before Shabbat. Parent volunteers will help make Friday night dinner at Rabbi's home, breakfast and lunch for the students the next day at synagogue and third meal at Rabbi Grossman's, help chaperone throughout the weekend, and coordinate student pick up after Havdallah at the Rabbi's home. The entire family is invited to dinner, Shabbat Services and Havdallah. More details will be provided later in the year.

Do: Leave your electronic devices at home.

This wonderful Shabbaton helps our students bond with each other and with Rabbi Grossman as well as experience Shabbat. They will eat meals together, lead services Friday and Saturday, sleep over in synagogue, enjoy identity games, free time, and lots of food and snacks, and help Rabbi Grossman lead Havdallah to end the weekend.

April 2, 2017 -- Preparing for Your D'var Torah For Parents and Students (10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

Read: The top left section (the translation) of Genesis, Chapter 18: verses 1 through 15; all of Chapters 21 and 22 and Chapter 23: verses 1 and 2.

Do: Be able to tell the story in your own words including who did what to whom when.

Do: With your parents, make a list of at least five things that trouble you or inspire you in these stories and be prepared to explain why. Be specific. You may include questions about the motives or actions of the individuals involved, about God, about events in the story or about specific wording in the text. What does this story teach you?

May 7, 2017 – Torah Etiquette with Dr. Nagel For Parents and Students (10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

What to do and say when called to the Torah for an aliyah, gollel (dressing the Torah), Hagbah (lifting the Torah) and reading the Torah. Includes background information on how a

Torah is made, symbolism of the items in which a Torah is wrapped, and significant numbers in the Torah.

The Following Sessions will take place during the 7th grade year and are subject to change and revision. Dates will be assigned to these programs prior to the 2017-18 school year.

**Bar/Bat Mitzvah: Family Orientation Program
For Parents and Students (10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)**

Do: Bring this Parents Handbook.

Do: Bring your student folder and workbook

God, Can You Hear Me?

For Parents and Students (10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

Read: Why Be Different? Pages 12-21

Do: Write a letter to God as if you could receive an answer. Include the questions you would like God to answer. The letter should be at least one page long, typed and double spaced.

Torah on Trial

Parents and Grade parents Welcome to Observe (10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

Read: The top left section (translation) of Exodus, Chapters 7-12 paying special attention to details about the plagues.

Do: Be prepared to answer the following: What is believable or unbelievable in these chapters and why? Can something be important even if it cannot be proven? Even if the story could not be proven historically or scientifically, what lessons may we learn from it?

Trip to US Holocaust Museum

For Students and Parent Chaperones: (9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.)

Students and parents will be in for a treat with this personally guided tour of the Museum and its exhibits with Rabbi Grossman, who was involved in the original planning of the Museum as head of Holocaust programming for a national Jewish organization at that time. This trip culminates the student's seventh grade Holocaust curriculum.

B'nai Mitzvah Siyum – Final day of Religious School (June 3rd, 2018, barring snow make- up – subject to change)

For Students (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.); For Parents and Guests (10:15 – 11:00 a.m. tentative)

Sium traditionally marks the completion of course of study. Students will celebrate the completion of their Bnai Mitzvah year program and entire elementary Religious School education. (Day School students will be included in the program.)