



## Bat Mitzvahs



*"Our daughter's Bat Mitzvah at Chabad of Cobb was really very special. Everyone was extremely impressed with the way she led the Bat Mitzvah service and enjoyed the whole experience".*

*Amy and Mitchell Kaye*



*"Having our daughter's Bat Mitzvah at Chabad was the best decision we have made. The warmth, dedication and attention to detail from the staff and the tutors were amazing. The sophisticated in-depth learning and preparing for the service that is designed for the girls makes them feel proud and left such a positive impression on our friends and family who celebrated with us".*

*Liz and Bob Helgesen*



*All our friends and family were extremely impressed with the Bat Mitzvah ceremony at Chabad. It was really a beautiful and inspiring evening. The best thing was that our daughter came away with such a positive feeling about being Jewish and continuing her involvement in Judaism".*

*Don and Lisa Goodman*

## BAT MITZVAH FAQ'S

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### **HOW OLD SHOULD MY DAUGHTER BE AT HER BAT MITZVAH CELEBRATION?**

For the last 3000 years, since the time of the giving of the Torah, a girl became a Bat Mitzvah when she turned 12 years of age. Because of her additional maturity, the Torah states that a girl becomes Bat Mitzvah a full year before a boy becomes Bar Mitzvah (at age 13). Your daughter's celebration should take place any time after she turns 12, but must be before she turns 13. Celebrating a Bat Mitzvah when a girl is 12 years of age expresses her unique feminine qualities!

### **WHAT EXACTLY IS A BAT MITZVAH?**

Bat Mitzvah means a daughter of mitzvos (commandments). This refers to a girl who is 12 years old, and is considered an adult in Jewish law. Judaism teaches that she is now old enough to handle the responsibilities and privileges of Jewish adulthood.

### **WHY DO WE CELEBRATE THIS OCCASION?**

a) We are celebrating the opportunity to be a full-fledged partner with G-d, changing the world by living a life of Judaism. It takes many years of Jewish education both at home and in school to instill this sense of value and love for our heritage.

b) We celebrate going through the process of the Bat Mitzvah in order to inspire a young girl to further and deepen her commitment to Jewish life. The Bat Mitzvah is supposed to be a springboard to becoming more involved in Judaism and spiritual growth. Ideally, the Bat Mitzvah is supposed to be a life changing experience. (When the Bat Mitzvah is the last Jewish experience an adult can recall, one can question whether it was a successful experience.)

### **WHAT IS THE GOAL OF A BAT MITZVAH?**

The success of a Bat Mitzvah is not how nice the party is or how well the girl performed. It is the long term effect the experience will have on your daughter's identity and life as a Jewess. We have to ensure that the Bat Mitzvah is not viewed as a graduation from Judaism but rather the bright beginning of a vibrant Jewish life.

## BAT MITZVAH

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### **A BAT MITZVAH AT CHABAD**

The Bat Mitzvah is based on the philosophy that Chabad has designed a progressive program that is both meaningful for the Bat Mitzvah girl and highly impressive to those participating at the ceremony.

The goals of the program are:

- 1) For the girl to develop a healthy, positive attitude about her identity and role as a Jew, and to understand the relevance of our heritage in the modern world.
- 2) To help the girl grow and make the transition into womanhood with self-confidence, knowledge, sensitivity, spiritual depth, kindness and generosity.

Chabad teaches that as time goes on, the world will continue to recognize and appreciate the leading role of women. We hope to help the girls become the leaders of the next generation.

## THE CEREMONY

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The ceremony culminates many months of study and training. Family and friends will be inspired by the knowledge and presentation of the Torah portion, prayers and insights.

### INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

The Rabbi welcomes the guests and introduces the Bat Mitzvah girl.

### THE WEEKLY TORAH PORTION

The Bat Mitzvah girl will quote a section of the week's Torah portion. She will then explain its meaning and expound on its relevant message, based on her research of the commentaries and Rabbinical sources.

### GIFT PRESENTATION

The Rabbi presents the Bat Mitzvah girl with a siddur (prayer book) or tehillim (Book of Psalms) on behalf of the Chabad of Cobb community, and candlesticks from the Brotherhood and Sisterhood.

### PARENTS' BLESSING

The parents will be called upon to share a few words and to address the Bat Mitzvah girl. In conclusion, they will bless her with the traditional blessing in Hebrew and English.

### TEHILLIM/PSALMS

The Bat Mitzvah girl will read Psalms Chapter 13 in Hebrew and in English, as traditionally read by twelve year olds. She will explain the connection of the Psalm to her Bat Mitzvah.

### FRIDAY NIGHT SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING

The Bat Mitzvah girl will invite her mother and any other women that she wishes to honor to come up and light the Shabbat candles with her.

### SATURDAY NIGHT HAVDALAH CEREMONY

The Bat Mitzvah girl will say a few words about her close family and invite them to be part of the Havdalah ceremony.

### JEWISH HEROINE

The Bat Mitzvah girl will choose a Jewish heroine from the Torah and share lessons and insights about her life.

### THANK YOU SPEECH

The Bat Mitzvah girl will thank guests, parents, her tutor, etc. At the end of the service guests will throw candy and sing Mazel Tov.

## OPTIONAL TIMES FOR THE CEREMONY

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### **Friday Evening Candle Lighting Ceremony:**

- 15 minutes - Shabbat Candle Lighting Service led by the Bat Mitzvah girl
- 45 minutes - Evening Service led by Rabbi Silverman
- 30 minutes - Bat Mitzvah Girl's Presentation

Following the entire service, there are a few options:

1. Families have a small Kiddush over wine and refreshments. (Please refer to the establishments referenced in this packet.)
2. Families have a Shabbat dinner in their own home. (No Kiddush or food at Chabad.)
3. Families invite guests to a full catered Shabbat dinner at Chabad of Cobb. (Please refer to the establishments referenced in this packet. Also, please note that additional rental fees may apply.)

### **Saturday Night Havdalah Service (During Standard Time Only):**

- Thirty minutes after Shabbat has ended.
- The Bat Mitzvah ceremony will be prefaced by the Bat Mitzvah girl's presentation on the meaning of the Havdalah service.
- This service is recommended during Standard Time only, because Shabbos ends very late during Daylight Savings Time.

Please contact the office to find out what time your Bat Mitzvah service begins.

## **BAT MITZVAH GIRL'S STUDIES**

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### **Great Jewish Women in History**

This will be studied with the tutor. The Bat Mitzvah girl will choose one great Jewish heroine from the Torah, and study about her life in depth. She will also learn inspirational lessons from her life.

### **Torah Portion**

Each girl will learn a section of the Torah portion in Hebrew. The length of this section will depend on her Hebrew skills. She will learn about the portion and research commentaries and rabbinical sources for her Bat Mitzvah service.

### **Chapter 13 Psalms**

This chapter will be learned in Hebrew and English. The Bat Mitzvah girl will focus on the powerful message of the famous psalms.

### **Lessons**

Four to six months prior to the Bat Mitzvah, the Bat Mitzvah girl will have private lessons with Musy Wolf. Each lesson is approximately forty minutes. It is essential that the parents are involved in practicing with their daughter during the week.

### **Mitzvah Project**

The Bat Mitzvah girl will start lighting Shabbos candles every Friday night when she begins her training. It is suggested that the Bat Mitzvah girl chooses a mitzvah to do in honor of her Bat Mitzvah. For example, she can visit a senior home and do an activity with the seniors. Another idea is for her to help children that are seriously ill. Chai Lifeline is a Jewish organization that helps sick children. Their contact info is 212.465.1300. We encourage her to make a display with pictures about her mitzvah to be exhibited in the lobby.

We strongly encourage the Bat Mitzvah girl to join the Cobb Tehillim Circle. The Tehillim Circle is a group of women and girls who commit to read a psalm each Saturday. The psalms are recited in the merit of a speedy recovery for people that are ill. This is a beautiful mitzvah to be a part of! If you or your daughter would like to join, please email your contact information to Jodi Kilov, [jodipony@gmail.com](mailto:jodipony@gmail.com) and she will put you on the list to receive the weekly emails.

## **BAT MITZVAH GUIDELINES**

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### **INVITATIONS**

Before printing your invitation, please email a copy of it to Chani Silverman to be reviewed. Invitations should be mailed to every student in your daughter's Hebrew School class so that no one feels excluded. It is also a nice idea to invite the girls in her Bat Mitzvah Club.

### **PROGRAM (Optional)**

The family may want to make a booklet to help guests follow the Bat Mitzvah ceremony. Please speak to Musy Wolf to determine which pages to include.

### **DRESS**

The Bat Mitzvah girl should be modestly dressed, with her skirt to her knees and her shoulders covered.

### **PHOTOGRAPHY**

You may have a photographer or videographer for the Havdalah Ceremony only. On Friday night photography is not allowed, because it is Shabbat. If you wish to have photographs taken before Shabbat begins, you can have the photographer meet you at Chabad, approximately one hour before your event begins. Please contact the office to arrange how to get into the building as the offices are closed already for the day.

### **CANDLE LIGHTING**

If you will be having a Friday night ceremony, we will have a table prepared with candles on the stage for the Bat Mitzvah girl to light, as well as extra candles for close family to light. Single girls light one candle, and married women light two.

Please let us know a month in advance, the total candles that you will need. We also will provide a table with tea lights in the back of the room for all the guests to light following the Bat mitzvah girls lighting.

### **CATERED SHABBAT DINNER OPTION:**

If you choose to have a full dinner following the service, please be advised that Chabad owns eight rectangular tables and twenty 60 inch round tables which seat eight or nine. They can be arranged buffet style or for a seated dinner, depending on the number of guests. There are a total of 280 chairs available for use. Please note that any chairs used for the services will not be able to be moved for the dinner. If you will need additional tables and chairs, please refer to the list in this booklet for rental information.

For catering please see the list in this booklet of approved establishments. To use the facility beyond the ceremony (for a Friday night dinner, for example) please contact the synagogue office (770.565.4412) for arrangements and

fees. It is important to note that Avenue K leases the kitchens at Chabad of Cobb. Any caterer you choose other than Avenue K must have their own kosher kitchen facilities or arrange to use another kosher kitchen.

### **LINEN**

We have no tablecloths or napkins at the synagogue. You must speak to your caterer directly to arrange who will be providing the tablecloths for the buffet/dinner if you choose that option.

### **CANDY**

The family is responsible to buy the candy that is thrown. The candy represents sweetness and blessings. It is passed around to the guests at the very end of the Bat Mitzvah ceremony. The family should designate in advance who will distribute the candy at the service. Younger siblings or children of friends of the family are often chosen to pass the candy.

**We ask that you order Sunkist Fruit Gems that are individually packaged. These are the only kosher candy that are soft enough to throw. You can find them on amazon or [www.jellybelly.com](http://www.jellybelly.com) (and possibly other places on the internet as well.)**

The candy should be put into baskets and brought to Chabad by the Wednesday before the Bat Mitzvah.

### **BIOGRAPHY**

Parents of the Bat Mitzvah girl are responsible to write a one page biography of their daughter to be used by the Rabbi when introducing the Bat Mitzvah girl. You may want to include her hobbies, awards, etc. The biography must be submitted at the meeting one month prior to the Bat Mitzvah.

### **SHABBOS RESTRICTIONS**

There should be no photography, no use of cell phones, writing nor smoking in the synagogue on Shabbos. There also should not be any deliveries or packages brought to the synagogue once Shabbat begins.

Mazel tov on your upcoming Simcha! We hope these guidelines help to ensure a happy and memorable occasion.

### **REMEMBERING THE SYNAGOGUE**

It is traditional to mark the milestone of a Bar Mitzvah by making a contribution to the synagogue in honor of the occasion. Families have kindly donated items such as prayer books, chumashim, and flowers and shrubs for our property.

Please contact the office to find out about Chabad of Cobb's current with list.

## CATERERS

It is important to note that Avenue K leases the kitchens at Chabad of Cobb. Any caterer you choose other than Avenue K must have their own kosher kitchen facilities.

The following kosher caterers have kosher catering facilities that have been approved by the Atlanta Kashruth Commission:

- Avenue K Catering (in house caterer) – David Covell 770-578-1110
- Broadway Café - Judith: 404-329-0888
- Fuego Mundo – 404-256-4330
- Goodfriend's Grill – 678-812-3994
- A Kosher Touch – 678-447-2085, 770-321-9592 – Sandra Bank
- Hector Sampson of Tropics Catering – 678-964-3574 (Hector does not have a kosher kitchen facility, however he does have access to the Chabad kitchen.)

Liquor must meet the kosher standards of the synagogue.

Kiddush wine is provided by the Synagogue.

## CATERING GUIDELINES

Avenue K leases the kitchens at Chabad of Cobb.  
All caterers other than Avenue K must have their own kosher kitchen facilities  
or arrange to use another kosher kitchen.

**These guidelines are to be given to your caterer, who must sign and return this  
page to Chabad of Cobb by mail, email, or fax to 770.509.9557.**

### Kashrut Guidelines:

1. All meat and poultry must meet Chabad standards. We accept Maarvid, Aaron's/Rabashkin, and David Elliott only.
2. **All baked and cooked items**, i.e. pretzels, crackers, cookies, cakes and breads **must be Pas Yisroel and Bishul Yisroel.**
3. Fish or meat can be served at a Kiddush, not both.
4. Food must be meat or pareve, not dairy.
5. Food deliveries must be made during the following hours to ensure Kashrut standard. Monday- Thursday between 9:00a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and Fridays between 10:00 a.m. and NOON.

### Caterer Responsibilities:

1. Caterer is responsible for providing Chabad of Cobb a layout diagram of how the tables are to be set up no later than the Monday prior to the event, otherwise their own catering staff will be responsible for setup.
2. Caterer should arrange with the family directly, what linens, papergoods, etc, they are supplying.
3. Caterer is responsible for cleaning the tables, the buffet and washing dishes, and taking all garbage to the dumpster outside the kitchen.
4. Caterer is responsible to leave the kitchen in the same condition as when they arrived.
5. All caterer accessories, supplies, etc. must be removed by Monday, 3:00 p.m. following the event.

Your adherence to these guidelines will ensure your ability to continue catering events for the Chabad of Cobb community.

Caterer Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Event \_\_\_\_\_

Bat Mitzvah's Family Name \_\_\_\_\_

## FEES & PAYMENTS

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### **Bat Mitzvah Fee**

The Bat Mitzvah fee for having Bat Mitzvahs at Chabad of Cobb is \$500.00 for members and \$850.00 for non-members.

### **Tutoring Fees**

Your daughter will prepare for her Bat Mitzvah with a tutor once a week for approximately four to six months prior to her Bat Mitzvah. The cost for Bat Mitzvah tutoring is \$500.00 for members and non-members.

These fees can be divided into two payments, the first when confirming the date of the Bat Mitzvah and the second three months prior to the Bat Mitzvah.

To schedule a Bat Mitzvah event (i.e. Friday night dinner), please contact Chani Silverman at 770.565.4412 or [chani@chabadofcobb.com](mailto:chani@chabadofcobb.com)

For catering and rental fees refer to the establishments referenced in this handbook.

### **Other Fees**

If you decide to have a private dinner or party at the shul, there are extra fees to rent the room.

|                         |                 |                     |
|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Gallery (up to 2 hours) | \$200 (members) | \$400 (non-members) |
| Gallery (2 to 4 hours)  | \$350           | \$700               |
| Gallery (each add'l hr) | \$75            | \$125               |
| Daily Shul              | \$200           | \$400               |
| Sanctuary               | \$300           | \$600               |

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## BAT MITZVAH CEREMONY

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We have read the entire booklet and our daughter,

(please print name) \_\_\_\_\_

would like to celebrate her Bat Mitzvah at Chabad of Cobb.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bat Mitzvah Girl's Signature

We are requesting the following Bat Mitzvah date \_\_\_\_\_.  
Month/ Day/ Year

We would like our ceremony to be (please check one):

Friday evening  Havdalah

Enclosed is my deposit to hold the date:

payment in full for Bat Mitzvah and lessons

3 installment payments

Please return this sheet and your payment form to Chabad of Cobb, 4450 Lower Roswell Rd, Marietta, GA 30068. Upon receipt, we will contact you to confirm the date of the event and to set up lessons. Lessons are approximately thirty to forty minutes and take place weekly, four to six months prior to the Bat Mitzvah.

## BAT MITZVAH PAYMENT FORM

### PAYMENT BY CHECK:

Enclosed is my check for payment in full:

\_\_\_ \$1,000.00, Chabad of Cobb member  
\_\_\_ \$1,350.00, non-member

Enclosed are 3 installment checks: \_\_\_ \$334 (member) \_\_\_ \$450 (non-member)

First check dated when confirming the Bat Mitzvah \_\_\_\_\_

Second check post-dated three months prior to the Bat Mitzvah \_\_\_\_\_

Third check post-dated one month prior to the Bat Mitzvah \_\_\_\_\_

### PLEASE CHARGE MY CREDIT CARD:

Payment in full:

\_\_\_ \$1,000.00, Chabad of Cobb member  
\_\_\_ \$1,350.00, non-member

Payment in three installments: \_\_\_ \$334 (member) \_\_\_ \$450 (non-member)

First charged when confirming the Bat Mitzvah date \_\_\_\_\_

Second charged three months prior to the Bat Mitzvah \_\_\_\_\_

Third charged one month prior to the Bat Mitzvah \_\_\_\_\_

Am Ex \_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_/\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address (please include zip code) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

For office use only

\_\_\_\_\_ Date given to Judy

## PAYMENT FORM FOR ADDITIONAL FEES

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***This form is only if you decide to rent the facility for a private dinner party. This fee covers maintenance, set up and clean up.***

### Room Rental Fees:

|                         |                     |                         |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Gallery (up to 2 hours) | ___ \$200 (members) | ___ \$400 (non-members) |
| Gallery (2 to 4 hours)  | ___ \$350           | ___ \$700               |
| Gallery (each add'l hr) | ___ \$75            | ___ \$150               |
| Daily Shul              | ___ \$200           | ___ \$400               |
| Sanctuary               | ___ \$300           | ___ \$600               |

