

A Guide to Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah at Kerem Shalom



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Introduction

We are excited to help guide each student and their family toward a meaningful Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah experience. We have compiled this handbook to share both philosophical and logistical information regarding this important lifecycle milestone.

As we shape a warm and caring Kerem Shalom community guided by Jewish values and practice, we are committed to imbuing the Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah process, service and celebration with the following values:

- Forming community, supporting each other
- Being inclusive and welcoming
- Experiencing Torah
- Marking the Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah as a beginning
- Honoring Shabbat
- Valuing the unique makeup of each family and the unique spirit of each child.

As your family and the entire 7th grade class embark on the Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah year, we hope that your experience will be full of meaning, joy and the warm embrace of community.

Scheduling the Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah Service

Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah services occur on Saturday mornings, as part of community Shabbat services.

Dates for Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah are assigned at the end of the 5th grade year or during the summer prior to 6th grade. In the spirit of egalitarian treatment, it is Kerem Shalom's policy that students be 13 years or older according to the Gregorian or Hebrew calendar on the date of their Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah. It is traditional for the service to be scheduled close to, but not prior to, the student's 13th birthday. Our Education Director works in collaboration with Rabbi Darby to set these dates. Every effort is made to provide families with their first choice of date, but please bear in mind that this is not always possible.

Please contact the Education Director at learning@keremshalom.org with any questions regarding your student's Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah date.

Preparation & Expectations

Kehilla Kedoshah/Sacred Community

Commitment to Community

Becoming B-Mitzvah is a significant life event that represents a beginning, not an ending. One of the commitments our students make is to continue to be present for each other as a community after their Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah. Each student commits to completing the 7th grade in good standing, irrespective

of the timing of their Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah service. By enrolling your child in 7th grade, you are committing to your child attending Hebrew school at KS for the entire academic year, even if their b-mitzvah occurs during the course of 7th grade year.

Inclusivity

As a welcoming, inclusive and sacred community, Kerem Shalom places great importance on being present for each other. In this spirit, we ask that students make an effort to attend the joyous services of your fellow community members, keeping in mind that some classmates will celebrate their services in the fall of the 8th grade year. We encourage you to invite the entire 7th grade class to your child's b-mitzvah. Invitations are appreciated and strengthen community bonds.

Service to our Community

Another way to foster sacred community is through service to one's own community. We ask our students to give 3 or more hours of their time to Kerem Shalom, helping with childcare, onegs (social gatherings after services), mailings, special event or holiday celebration set-up and/or clean-up. One of these hours should be when school is not in session. Many volunteer opportunities are brief, but all are a great way to meet other community members and to help the congregation.

Usher Family/B'nai Mitzvah Facilitator/Board Member "Ambassador"

One of the ways that 7th grade families support their community is by serving as Ushers for each other's *Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah* services. Parent(s)/Guardian(s)/Caregivers and the *Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah* student serve in this capacity *together*. This is a wonderful opportunity to become familiar with the Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah service and routine in preparation for your own event. Once the Usher family has completed their set-up responsibilities, they attend the Shabbat morning service. The Education Director will assign your family their Usher date. The Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator will be in touch with you to confirm your assignment three weeks prior to the date and will provide you with details regarding these responsibilities. (Specific responsibilities are also outlined in the Addendum). Please respond promptly regarding your Ushering assignment in order to ensure every family has sufficient support on their special day. Any necessary changes to your assignment need to be communicated to the B-Mitzvah Coordinator at least one month prior to your assigned date.

In addition to the Usher Family, Kerem Shalom provides a "B'nai Mitzvah Facilitator" who will manage some of the logistical details for the service (e.g. ensuring a ceremonial challah and kiddush cup, setting up the standard kiddush, setting out refreshments if necessary).

A Kerem Shalom Board Member will also serve as an "Ambassador" for each service. Board member responsibilities are outlined in the Addendum.

Tzedakah/Charity

We are incredibly grateful for each family's dedication of time, energy and financial support to our community. Thank you! In Jewish tradition, there is a custom of giving *tzedakah* at celebratory moments as an expression of gratitude and appreciation. After your joyous day, if you feel moved to do so, please consider making a donation to Kerem Shalom to support our sacred community and/or the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund to support *tikkun olam*. The Rabbi's Discretionary Fund allows the rabbi to provide assistance to individuals, charitable organizations and programs. Your support is a time-honored expression of Jewish tradition and sets a strong example for your child. Many Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah students donate a portion of monetary gifts received to support the synagogue or another worthy organization of their choosing.

Attendance at Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah Workshops

During the 6th and 7th grade years, KS staff or faculty will lead 2-3 workshops designed to guide and support you and your child as your whole family works towards this significant and wonderful life event. These workshops cover many aspects of planning and understanding, including spiritual perspectives, mitzvah project ideas, interfaith issues, and some of the "nuts & bolts" of making the service, the celebration, and the overall process less overwhelming and truly meaningful. You and your child should plan to attend all of these workshops since each has a different and valuable focus. If you *must* miss a workshop, **please connect with the Education Director to review missed information.**

Mitzvah Projects

Upon becoming *Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah*, your child receives adult privileges and assumes responsibilities, one of which is *tikkun olam* (repairing the world). 7th graders engage in *tikkun olam* through their *mitzvah* projects. Your child should choose a cause that they find meaningful, with guidance from the 7th grade teacher and you. Suggestions are available on the Kerem Shalom website under "Worship/Lifecycle Events/*B- Mitzvah*".

While every student and every project is different, the time to start the Mitzvah Project(s) will begin in the fall of 7th grade, following the development of a project plan which should occur in the fall of the 7th grade year. Some students will be anxious to get started right away or will readily have a clear vision of what they would like to do; others will struggle with deciding what to do or will find it hard to find the time to get started. Attending the Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah workshops (noted above) will help you and your child to start considering interests, ideas or actual projects. While all students should be actively working on their projects during 7th grade, projects do not need to be completed prior to the Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah date, but should be well underway. Students will be expected to present their mitzvah projects to the KS community at a Friday night service in the spring.

Please note that it is important not to leave the *mitzvah* project until the last moment as it requires a dedication of time and effort. Monetary donations are a wonderful gesture but donations alone do not constitute a *mitzvah* project. Please feel free to discuss the project with the 7th grade teacher, Education Director or Rabbi.

Planning & Preparing for the Service

T'filah/Prayer

Torah Poster Workshop

At the beginning of the 7th grade year, students and parents will work together on a poster which reflects the student's understanding of his/her Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah parsha (Torah portion). These posters may be on display during the synagogue's Simchat Torah celebration.

Meeting with the Rabbi/Attending Shabbat Morning Services

Rabbi Darby usually begins working with your family and child about 3 months prior to the Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah service. These meetings will be scheduled directly with Rabbi Darby.

Students and their families should plan to attend at least one Shabbat morning service before meeting with the rabbi, ideally more if possible. We expect students to attend Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah services several times during the 6th and 7th grade, both to enhance their sense of community and to become more comfortable with Shabbat morning services in anticipation of their own Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah. This will enable you to bring ideas to the planning process to enhance the meaningfulness of the Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah service. These experiences will also allow you and your child to benefit more fully from 6th & 7th grade classwork, workshops, and tutoring. Through this process you will experience how each family makes the service different and special. Multiple experiences will expand the possibilities for your family – you need not feel that your service should be just like your cousin's family or just like the Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah of your childhood. For interfaith families especially, some of the mystery will dissipate, terminology will become more familiar, and it will become easier to envision how you and your extended family can fully participate and enjoy your event. As noted previously, families will be assigned to serve as Ushers for at least one service during the 7th grade year.

Leading the Service/Tutoring

Your child's participation in their Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah service will be in accordance with their capabilities as collectively determined by the Rabbi, KS Cantor, Education Director, yourselves and your child's tutor.

Families should expect to engage the services of an approved *Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah* tutor, a task with which KS will assist. Typically, tutoring begins 6-7 months prior to the service. Tutors are assigned by the Education Director, or you can choose one of your own. Tutors provide the one-on-one support your child will need to fully prepare for their service, generally in 30-minute sessions. The tutor will support and guide your child in learning to chant their parsha (Torah portion), their Haftorah, and all prayers they will need to lead. Typically, students meet with their tutor online or at KS for a half-hour each week for the 6-7 months prior to their service. The total number of sessions needed varies depending on the needs of each individual student. Your tutor should be able to estimate how many sessions will be needed after meeting with your student a few times. Tutoring sessions and payment is coordinated directly between the family and the tutor.

All students work with their tutor to prepare their **D'var Torah** - the speech in which they teach a lesson from their parsha (Torah portion) at the service. Rabbi Darby meets with each student before the service date to review the near-final draft of this talk.

Honors in the Service

In the spirit of welcoming your personal friends and family to Kerem Shalom, we invite you to offer them meaningful honors and roles in the *Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah* service. See the addendum for the "Kerem Shalom *B- Mitzvah* Honors" document which lists some possible ways your guests can participate in the service. The Rabbi will review the honor sheet in detail with you during your initial meeting.

Continuing the Chain – Post Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah Honors

To enhance the connection to your community after your child's *Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah*, Kerem Shalom will invite every recent *Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah* for the honor of an *aliyah* (recitation of the Torah blessings only) during a Shabbat morning service in the week(s) following their *Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah*. On occasion, another honor may be substituted; please discuss and schedule this honor with the Rabbi.

Financial Obligations

Member in Good Standing

Although B'nai Mitzvah dates are assigned during the 5th grade year, these dates are reserved on the contingency of maintaining your membership in good standing throughout the Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah process. A **member in good standing** is up to date with all dues and fees or has a payment/and or abatement plan in place with the treasurer or deputy treasurer. This must be the case throughout the B'nai Mitzvah process, whether your child celebrates their event in the sixth, seventh or eighth grade year. Please bear in mind that all financial arrangements must be in place by the July 30th preceding your child's 6th, 7th, and 8th grade academic years.

Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah Fees

The Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah fee of \$1200 is split over the 6th and 7th grade years of Hebrew School (\$600 each year). These fees have been a longstanding practice at Kerem Shalom, designed to cover the costs to KS for additional programming, staff activity and use of facilities around the Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah process. We recognize that fees can add up, especially for families with several children approaching their Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah in close succession. We firmly believe that finances should not be an impediment to a wonderful Jewish milestone, so please speak with the Rabbi or Treasurer/Deputy Treasurer directly if financial hardship is an issue. We will work with you to make it possible!

The Day of the Service

Security

Kerem Shalom works closely with the Concord Police Department to ensure the safety of our synagogue. The doors remain locked during the service, and we attempt to secure a Police Officer to remain in the building for each Shabbat morning service. This coverage, however, is subject to the availability of qualified officers. Officers may come from the Concord Police Department or from surrounding towns. Please note, in the event of an emergency, the best way to contact emergency services is by dialing 911 from a cell phone.

Taking a Break from Technology

While we all rely on technology, we also recognize its encroachment in every aspect of our lives. The wisdom of Shabbat is that we need a periodic break from the pressures of the week to renew ourselves by being fully present in community. To this end, we respectfully request that no electronics be used in our sanctuary during services on Shabbat (except for devices used for accessibility). Photographs may be taken until 9:30 a.m. on Shabbat morning and may resume 1/2 hour after the service. The basis for this practice is not *halachah* (traditional Jewish law), but rather our community's desire to fully experience the delight of Shabbat and be wholly present with each other. We hope that you will take the opportunity that Shabbat provides to unplug throughout the day.

Photography/Videography/Hybrid Service

Taking photographs and videography are not allowed during the service. Please arrange for photos to be taken well before or after the service. The Rabbi must be present when pictures are taken with the Torah. Pictures with the Rabbi are taken during the walk-through/rehearsal generally on the Wednesday before the Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah service. Note: photographers may not take pictures of guests entering the building, either outside or inside.

To include family members and/or important guests who may not be able to attend in person, please confer with KS Administrator, Robyn Barabe, about the possibility of a **hybrid service**. We are happy to offer hybrid services pending volunteer availability. Such requests should be made a minimum of 45 days prior to the service.

Programs for the Service (optional)

Providing a program for your service is completely optional. Many families find a personalized program a helpful way to welcome and outline the service for their guests, particularly for those who are not familiar with the Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah service. Families create and fund their own programs which can be elaborate or simple, printed or photocopied, one page or several. Many sample programs are available in the adult library. Please contact the Education Director if you would like to review programs from previous services.

Respecting the Service & Our Space: cell phones, attire, decorum, smoking

- o All cell phones should be off/silenced. Cell phones should not be out or used during the service. Please remind your guests that they will be expected to turn off their cell phones.
- o We are not an overly formal synagogue/community. Nonetheless, the Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah is a religious service that takes place in our religious sanctuary. Guests/participants should dress accordingly. Shoulders should be covered while in the sanctuary.
- o Members and guests should respect our space and the occasion -- young children should not be left unattended. A gentle reminder that running through the synagogue, jumping on furniture, or other unruly behavior is not appropriate.
- o Smoking is not permitted anywhere inside the building.

Flowers

Floral arrangements may be placed in front of the bimah, in the lobby and as centerpieces in the Social Hall.

Deliveries

Please contact B-Mitzvah Coordinator, Inna Petranto, (b-mitzvah@keremshalom.org) to plan all deliveries and pick-ups. All deliveries must be completed at least one half-hour before the start of the service. Delivery vehicles should not block the circle in front of the stairs since this may present difficulty for arriving guests. Any leftover beverages and all rentals must be picked up between 10am and 3pm on the Monday following the service

Bathroom Accessories

Only liquid soap and disposable towels are allowed in the bathrooms. Spray cans are not permitted.

Parking

The parking lot can hold about 80 cars. Parking in the traffic circle in front of the building is strictly prohibited, as this would block emergency vehicles if needed. If you are hosting over 150 guests, please talk with the Administrator about the need for parking lot supervision.

Seudat Mitzvah /Celebration

The meaning of the day extends beyond the conclusion of the service through your entire celebration. As you plan your *seudat mitzvah* (celebration), please keep in mind the values of inclusivity, community, joy, *tzedakah* (charity¹), moderation and focusing on what's most important.

Once you have received the date for the Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah, we encourage you to reserve space at Kerem Shalom for a celebratory event(s) following the service. Please contact B-Mitzvah Coordinator, Inna Petranto to share your plans for this important event. Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah families have first priority for renting either the Lobby or Social Hall for a reception on the date of the service, presuming a reservation is made a minimum of four months prior to the event. You may reserve space up to a year prior to the Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah and you are encouraged to reserve the space with as much notice as possible to ensure no other events are scheduled at that time. B-Mitzvah Coordinator, Inna Petranto, will reach out to you 6 months prior to your service to inquire about your celebratory plans.

Hosting a Celebration at Kerem Shalom

Hosting your celebration (reception, luncheon, dinner or evening party) at KS can be a warm, easy and very reasonably priced option. Families and guests find the ease of attending the service, the kiddush and the celebration all in one place to be one of the greatest advantages of hosting the celebration at KS, their spiritual home.

The familiar Social Hall can be transformed by your individual tastes and your child's preferences -- using balloon bouquets, flowers, creative centerpieces (often mitzvah project themed), plants, and colorful linens are just a few of the ways to personalize your celebration. Many families have incorporated DJs, musicians, dancing, games, prizes, photo booths, fun and delicious food, and creative themes to add to the overall celebratory atmosphere you strive to create for your guests. Any of these options will allow you to truly celebrate the hard work and accomplishments of your child, who has just become a Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah -- an adult in the Jewish community! Should you choose to host your celebration at Kerem Shalom, we will provide a building supervisor for the duration of your event to address any building issues that may arise and to monitor the front door.

Choosing A Caterer

You may use any licensed caterer that you prefer. A list of caterers who have been used by families for previous receptions, and who come recommended by other KS families is included in the Addendum. Any caterer must agree to KS's "Rules for Caterers," which the Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator can provide for you, and which are included in the Addendum of this guide.

¹ *Tzedakah* literally means "righteousness" but the term is used commonly to refer to monetary donations.

Caterer Requirements

Caterers must have their license approved by the Town of Concord Board of Health, and they must carry the necessary insurance. A caterer whose insurance is not approved may not cater at KS. You and your caterer must meet with Inna Petranto, (857) 225-1667 (b-mitzvah@keremshalom.org), Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator, at least two months before your event to discuss the event specifics and menu. Details should be finalized at least one month prior to the event.

Self/Friend as Caterer

The Town of Concord's health code requires that all food be prepared by a licensed caterer and/or prepared by a "Serve-Safe" person(s) or staff (such as the catering department of a grocery store.) The only exception is baked goods, such as cookies, bars and breads. For example, if you were hosting an Extended Kiddush, homemade muffins and banana bread baked by you or your friends may be served, but a fruit platter would need to be ordered from a grocery store or restaurant with a catering department. If you have questions about these rules, please contact the Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator.

Social Hall Capacity

The social hall can accommodate about 130-150 people, seated at tables, depending on whether or not you wish to leave room for dancing. If you wish to have a party that is larger we are able to remove walls, for an additional fee. Please reach out to the Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator to discuss your plans.

Using the Lobby

Because the lobby is visible from the sanctuary, it can be used for a Kiddush or Extended Kiddush (challah, wine/juice, finger foods), but not a meal. The couches, chairs, library tables and one bookcase must remain in the lobby.

If renting the Social Hall for a luncheon, dinner and/or party, you may also rent the lobby to serve hors d'oeuvres, for an additional fee. (See "Rental Rates" in the addendum for specifics). When renting the space for a reception, families may request a specific lobby and/or Social Hall set up.

Serving Alcohol

Our license permits us to serve beer and wine. If you would like to serve hard liquor, it must be served by a licensed bar tender.

Tables & Chairs, Linens and Dishes

For your use, KS has 9 round tables, 60 inches in diameter; 4 rounds, 72 inches in diameter; and 25 rectangular tables, 6 feet x 30 inches and 7 rectangular tables, 8 feet x 30 inches. A rectangular 6 foot table seats 8, and a rectangular 8 ft table seats 10 people. A 60 inch round table comfortably seats 8 (can squeeze in 9). A 72 inch round comfortably seats 8-10 (can squeeze in up to 12). KS has 200 upholstered chairs and 60 folding white chairs. KS has some tablecloths available for use, but linens, dishes, and any additional tables/chairs are usually rented by the family or provided through your caterer. Please be sure to check with the KS office regarding delivery times for all rentals. (You are responsible for laundering any KS tablecloths that you use.)

Important Rules for an Extended Kiddush/Party/Luncheon/Dinner

- o Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the building.
- o Please observe KS kashrut (dietary practices) for privately hosted events. No pork, shellfish, peanuts, nuts or nut products may be served or used in centerpieces. Do not combine meat and dairy in one dish or platter and avoid serving meat and dairy on the same table.
- o As noted above, alcoholic beverages may be served. But alcohol may not be sold, and the bartender may not collect tips.
- o Balloon bouquets are welcome in the social hall, but not in the sanctuary or lobby. Loose balloons are not permitted.
- o Gambling may not take place anywhere in the building.
- o Food may not be stored in the refrigerator or freezer until the day of the event -- with the exception of beverages which may be delivered/stored ahead of time.
- o All leftover food must be removed from KS at the conclusion of the event. Your caterer is responsible to collect any trash which will be removed by the KS custodian.

For the safety of all, as well as the preservation of our space:

- o Candles must be enclosed in hurricane lamps or floated in water. No open flames are permitted. Candles used for a candle lighting ceremony are the only exception to this rule.
- o We encourage you to use many creative and fun decorations, but decorations/velcro should not be affixed to walls, doors, ceilings, tables or any other surface, without permission from the office.
- o Glitter, streamers, confetti or similar decorations are not allowed.
- o Popcorn machines, cotton candy machines, chocolate fountains, and hot wax machines are not allowed. Please -- no popcorn, peanuts or gum.
- o Dance floors are not allowed.
- o Please note that classrooms both off the social hall and in the classroom wing as well as the teen lounge are not to be used.

Failure to comply with any of the rules listed herein or elsewhere may result in the withholding of a portion of your security deposit.

Liability

Each Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah family assumes responsibility for any loss or injuries sustained by any person or persons using the congregation's buildings or grounds. Kerem Shalom will not assume any such responsibility. The applicant using the building shall be responsible for any loss of equipment, breakage or damage to equipment and physical property, including trees and plant materials on the grounds and shall be billed for such. The family is solely responsible for the acts of its guests as well as the caterer, florist and others providing services for the reception.

Questions

Please contact Inna Petranto, Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator, (b-mitzvah@keremshalom.org) or Robyn Barabe, Synagogue Administrator (ksadmin@keremshalom.org) with any additional questions.

Addendum

Checklist for Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah

- My membership dues and fees are current.
- My Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah fee is paid.
- My date to USHER at another Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah is set or is being determined.
- My invitations are sent or ordered.
- My programs are prepared and copied.
- I have made arrangements for a photographer.
- Our meeting(s) with Rabbi Darby are scheduled or have occurred, including the "run-through".

IF I AM HAVING AN EXTENDED KIDDUSH OR RECEPTION AT KEREM SHALOM

- My building rental fee and security deposit are paid.
- I have informed the Administrator if we wish to hire security for the afternoon (minimum 2 weeks in advance)
- I have arranged for music or secured a DJ, if desired.
- The Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator (Inna) at Kerem Shalom has been notified of the caterer's name, phone number and place of business. All required forms have been submitted
- I have met with the caterer and the Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator (Inna) at Kerem Shalom. The caterer is aware of the "kashrut" (dietary practices) for private events at KS. I have met with the caterer and the Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator (Inna) at Kerem Shalom.
- If we are serving a meal we have acquired helpers to set up, oversee and assist with clean up.
- All service people know the times for delivery and pick-up.
- Room set-up diagram has been given to Kerem Shalom staff at least **2 WEEKS** before the event.
- I understand that we (or our caterer) are responsible to bag up trash (but not bring outside) pack up and remove leftover food.

Kerem Shalom *Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah* Honors Worksheet

Name of Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah _____ Event Date _____

Please return to KS office **NO LATER THAN 2 WEEKS PRIOR TO EVENT**

| Role | Name(s) | Hebrew name(s) (transliteration) |
|---|---------|-------------------------------------|
| Who is the 7 th Grade Usher Family? | | |
| Ark Opener/Closer | | |
| 1 st <i>Aliyah</i> (blessings before & after Torah is read) (Kerem Shalom Community) | | |
| 2 nd <i>Aliyah</i> - (Family/friend) | | |
| 3 rd <i>Aliyah</i> - (Typically the parents) | | |
| 4 th <i>Aliyah</i> - (Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah) | | |
| Torah Readers for each <i>Aliyah</i> 1 st : 2 nd : 3 rd : 4 th : (Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah) | | |
| <i>Hagbaha</i> (Torah Lifter) | | |
| <i>Gelilah</i> (Torah wrapper) | | |
| English Readings: typically max 3 Options: (or speak with Rabbi) p 53 For the vivid beauty p 91 We are thankful for this new day p 81 Let us love peace and compassion p 100 May it be your will | | |
| Synagogue Gift Presenter (Board Member) | | |
| Sanctuary Set up: Number of guests anticipated at the service: | | |
| Any access needs to be aware of: (ASL interpreters, Mobility, Vision) | | |

REMINDER: Anyone who will speak from the *bimah* (podium) including gift presenters, parent remarks, etc. MUST submit their comments, in writing, to the Rabbi at least one week before the *Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah*.

Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah Tikkun Olam ("Mitzvah Project")

Action Plan

All prospective bar/bat/b'nai mitzvah students will receive a Tikkun Olam "Mitzvah Project" guide booklet with full instructions for completing their Mitzvah project. Once received, they will return this SAMPLE form to the 7th grade teacher.

All Grade 7 Mitzvah Project Posters will be displayed at the "Shabbat of Recognition" in May

"It is not your obligation to complete the task, but neither are you free to desist from it."

Pirkei Avot 2:21

Student's Name: _____ Family Phone: _____

Email(s): _____

Selected values for your *tikkun olam* work:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

WHAT - Describe the specific work you will do. How will you help the organization/individual, how does your work fit in with the values you chose, and what do you hope to learn? (continue on back if needed)

WHO -Name of the organization/contact/person the student will be working with:

Phone number of organization/contact person:

WHERE will you do your work?

WHEN will you begin, and how long do you expect to commit to the project?

Examples of Mitzvah Projects

Pirkei Avot 2:16

“Rabbi Tarfon used to say: It is not your duty to finish the work, but neither are you free to neglect it.”

PET-RELATED PROJECTS

Tz'ar Ba'alei Chayyim- (preventing) “the suffering of animals”

- Sell home-made dog treats or Pet sit / dog walk for neighbors to raise funds for animal welfare organizations, e.g.: Save-A-Dog / Buddy Dog/ Sterling Animal Shelter/ Lowell Humane Society/ NEADS, Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, Jane Goodall Institute, World Wildlife Fund or

HELP THE ENVIRONMENT

Bal Tashkhit – “Do not destroy” (the environment)

- Clean up shorelines of local river- and streambeds, collecting and sorting garbage.
- If you compost, educate neighbors and start a neighborhood composting program

Give comfort and warmth to CHILDREN IN HOSPITALS, EMERGENCY ROOMS, or SHELTERS

Bikkur Cholim – “Visiting the sick”- *Ezrat Cholim*- Helping the sick

- Make no-sew fringed fleece blankets (or knit, crochet blankets) for Project Linus, for children receiving emergency or pediatric medical care. Host blanket making parties and teach your friends about this cause.
- Create cuddle kits for children in Emergency rooms and hospitals: cuddly stuffed animal, toy, book, puzzle, blanket, hand-sewn pillowcase with cheerful designs, etc.
- Collect gently used books for a pediatric hospital wing
- Collect mittens, socks, winter coats, school supplies and more for Cradles to Crayons in Boston

HELP KS'S FOOD INSECURITY FUND PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Hachalat Re'evim – Feeding the Hungry

- Support Open Table
Collect non-perishables from your neighbors and donate to Open Table food pantry in Concord or Maynard
- Donate groceries monthly to JF&CS Family Table Food Pantry in Waltham, help stock the pantry and deliver groceries to client families in the Boston MetroWest area

HELP NEIGHBORS (especially elders) WHO NEED SUPPORT

Gemilut Chasadim – Acts of loving kindness

- Rake leaves / shovel walks/ help prepare landscaping for spring planting, mulching: help neighbors with chores outdoors.
- Bring a neighbor's newspaper and mail up their steps and to their porch every day

BRING CHEER TO SENIORS

Kibbud Zakeynim – Honoring elders at senior centers, assisted living facilities or nursing homes

- GIVE A CONCERT (or several!) for residents
- HELP SENIOR CITIZENS with technology- Hold session(s) to teach them how navigate a smartphone, iPad, etc., how to use facebook, zoom, FaceTime, etc/

Include Mitzvah-centered CENTERPIECES at your celebratory luncheon or dinner: Your collected or hand-made items (blankets, school supplies, canned goods, books, pet toys/treats, etc) make great centerpieces. Stack them, place them in a basket or wrap with cellophane and add helium balloons or a table number... Then Donate! Make blankets—a “Knitzvah” – centerpieces – dog treats, books, non-perishable canned goods, mittens or socks.

[How to Choose a Mitzvah Project for a Bar/Bat Mitzvah – My Jewish Learning](#) provides suggestions and links to assist pre-teens in identifying appropriate projects that link Jewish ritual and social action

Usher Family Tasks for Shabbat Morning Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah Service

- **Arrive between 9:00am and 9:15am.** The building will have been unlocked by the assigned B'nai Mitzvah Facilitator.
- **You will carry the Emergency Alert Button with you at all times. It is located** in the office wing, in the top drawer of the desk outside the Administrator's Office. Be sure to return to this drawer before leaving. **DO NOT REMOVE FROM BUILDING.** The Emergency Alert Button is linked to Empire Alarm Company. If possible, you should also carry a cell phone, which you will have silenced. **In an emergency, if calling 911 is possible, this is the quickest way to reach emergency responders.** Use the emergency alert button if cell phone use is not practical.
- **Introduce yourself to the police officer if there is one present and to the B'nai Mitzvah family.** Ask the b'nai mitzah family if there is anything you can do to assist them. Also, introduce yourself to the representative Board Member. If there is a **caterer**, introduce yourself to the caterer.
- **Make sure the gift envelope basket is on the round table.** If it is not already on the table, you'll find the basket on the left side of the library shelf closest to the kitchen, next to the library telephone.
- **Do a general sweep of the building**, making sure that things are neat, clean and orderly. Consider how you'd like the building to look if it were your family's special day. This can mean fixing anything from trash cans being in odd places to moving (or locating) the flower arrangement in front of the bimah. Check in with facilitator if you discover items out of place to ensure you do not duplicate efforts.
- **Be a warm and welcoming presence** –assist guests who are not familiar with the building or KS customs. When families begin to arrive, welcome them, wish them Shabbat shalom; be available to tell guests where to find the restrooms and coat closet and sanctuary if needed.
- **As the time nears 10:00 am, encourage people to enter the sanctuary.** If a crowd has gathered in the lobby, around 9:50 am you will need to “usher” them into the sanctuary. [“We'd like to have you head into the sanctuary now. The Rabbi will be starting the service in a few minutes.”] At around 10:15 am, the front door should be locked. The Police Officer or b'nai mitzvah facilitator will open the door for late comers. You and your family should join the service when your tasks have been completed.
- **Ensure specific logistics are addressed and things go smoothly.** Use common sense to facilitate a comfortable and safe service. Be on the lookout for unanticipated things that may require your attention, such as: kids doing inappropriate things like playing with the microphones on the bimah immediately after the service. Confirm with the B-Mitzvah Facilitator that logistics are addressed and your further assistance is not needed.
- **Gently guide adults and children to respect the building and use the facility and materials appropriately as needed**
- **In the sanctuary**, following the service, pick up any programs or prayer books, straighten chairs, make sure the sanctuary lights are off and the doors are shut. Be sure to remove the challah and kiddush cup from the bimah and bring them to the kitchen. Remain until about **12:30 pm** after having cleared, cleaned, and returned Standard Kiddush items to the kitchen. If there is no extended kiddush or luncheon following the service, make sure all the lights in the building are off (the atrium and hallway lights are motion sensitive and will turn off on their own). Confirm with the assigned Board Member that they will lock the building. If there is an extended kiddush or luncheon, you may leave after putting away Standard Kiddush items (including those in the sanctuary) as a Building Supervisor will take over at 11:45am.
- **Before leaving**, make sure everything is back where it is usually kept.
- If there is no extended Kiddush or luncheon and all participants (except the Board Member) have left the building, **put the Emergency Alert Button back in the desk drawer.**

Emergency Contact Numbers: Inna Petranto, B'nai Mitzvah Event Coordinator:

857 225 1667, Robyn Barabe, Temple Administrator 508-274-8161



Planning a Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah or Other Joyous Occasion?

RENTAL RATES FOR B'NAI MITZVAH RECEPTIONS - **Effective 7/1/2025– 6/30/2026**

It's a "Mitzvah" to Party at Kerem Shalom! We welcome your choosing KS for your celebratory event. Your rental of our beautiful space helps support our synagogue community.

Standard KIDDUSH in

Lobby.....No Charge

As part of your Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah fee, every Kerem Shalom family receives our standard Kiddush, which takes place in the lobby, immediately after the service at no additional charge. KS will provide grape juice, wine and 2 challot. Furniture stays in place. Usher Families assist in hosting the event and clearing the area used. The building is generally vacated by 12:45 pm. *An additional challah may be provided upon request if an especially large number of guests is expected (e.g. 150+)*

Extended KIDDUSH in

Lobby.....\$350

Enjoy use of the lobby until 2 p.m. The book cases may be "moved out" to enlarge the space. Your family provides finger foods (e.g. bagels, roll ups, cookies). You will have 1-2 rectangular tables for setting out food and cold drinks. The Kerem Shalom kitchen is not used for food preparation, however the refrigerator and freezer may be used. There is no caterer present and no DJ or other person leading games or other organized activities. Your only clean up responsibility is to remove trash from the tables and pack up and take home any leftover food items. Kerem Shalom will provide a building supervisor and custodial services.

Luncheon/Dinner (any time of day – in Social

Hall).....\$650

Up to 4 hours in length following the service or later in the evening in the Social Hall. Does not include use of lobby for your activities. Your licensed caterer may provide hors d'oeuvres and lunch or dinner and has use of the kitchen. Kerem Shalom provides tables and padded chairs. Tablecloths may be supplied by your caterer or you may use those available at KS with prior arrangement, and your laundering afterwards. No other temple furniture or equipment is available for use in the Social Hall. Family hosts the event, family and/or caterer cleans and clears the area used. **Building is vacated by 4PM for an afternoon party** unless prior arrangements are made with the Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator. The Social Hall can seat approximately 130 people at tables with chairs. For parties with more than 130 people, please contact the Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator to review options. Kerem Shalom provides a Building Supervisor. **Evening events are welcomed. Building must be completely vacated by 11pm (including caterer, family, guests).**

Luncheon/Dinner in Social Hall with Use of Lobby.....\$900

Description as above with the addition of lobby use to serve appetizers, cocktails and drinks.

Classroom Wing, Teen Lounge and Library may not be used. Further Expansion of the Social Hall space is possible - One set of walls may be removed for \$200; two sets of walls removed for twice the open space, is \$400. *Note: this is subject to space availability. A minimum of six (6) weeks notice is required for wall removal.*

If a caterer is present, their liability coverage will be used to indemnify Kerem Shalom. Otherwise the family will provide liability coverage via their homeowner's coverage. *Please note KS kashrut (dietary practices) for privately*

hosted events when planning your meal. In addition to no nuts, shellfish or pork products (including ham and pepperoni), please do not serve dishes combining meat and dairy in the same dish or platter and not at the same buffet table.



Building Use Application for Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah

Applicant's Name: _____

Phone and Email: _____

Address: _____

Date & Time of Function: _____

Estimated Number of Guests: _____

Security Deposit and Rental Information:

At the time of application, one-half of the total rental fee is due as a deposit. This deposit will be refunded only if the event is canceled in writing four months prior to the scheduled event. The balance of the rental fee is due thirty days prior to the event. At that time, a security deposit is also required. This deposit is \$250 for a daytime event or \$500 for an evening event. It must be paid by separate check. This security deposit is deemed refundable only if damages or extra cleaning (as to classrooms or sanctuary) are not incurred from the event at Kerem Shalom. Damages and cleaning will be assessed upon conclusion of the event and security deposits will be adjusted or retained accordingly.

Members must be current in their financial obligations to Kerem Shalom, including membership dues, and other fees, in order to rent the building.

Please read and acknowledge the Terms and Conditions below, sign and date this application, and return it with your initial deposit check to Kerem Shalom. P.O. Box 1646, Concord, MA 01742.

Terms and Conditions:

It is agreed that Kerem Shalom is NOT responsible for any loss of or damage to personal property or any injuries suffered by an person(s) or their guests using the synagogue facilities. I agree to hold Kerem Shalom harmless and indemnified from any claims against Kerem Shalom and its assigns arising out of my rental of the building.

I agree to pay all monies due to Kerem Shalom before the date of my function. Failure to make such payment when due shall entitle Kerem Shalom to cancel my use of the synagogue. I further agree to be governed by the Rules and Regulations of Kerem Shalom's Board of Directors, as set forth in these pages. I have received and read the "Rules for Caterers".

There is no other Agreement or Contract by or between the parties other than as herein set forth.

Acknowledged and Accepted:

Signature: _____ Date: _____



Rental Confirmation

Date:

Name:

Your completed application and non-refundable deposit have been received, and the following date has been secured for your event.

Date:

Hours:

The balance of _____ and the refundable security deposit of _____ will be due on:

As soon as you have contracted with a caterer please contact the office of Kerem Shalom and inform us of the caterer's name, contact person and telephone number.

No later than one month prior to your event, we will meet at Kerem Shalom to discuss your needs. This meeting must include the caterer.

Please call if you have any questions or concerns.

Kerem Shalom Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator:

Phone:

Email:



Caterer's Agreement

This agreement entered into this _____ day of _____ 20____, by and between Kerem Shalom, with a place of worship at 659 Elm St., Concord, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, hereinafter called the "Synagogue," and _____ having a place of business at _____ hereafter called the "Caterer."

WHEREAS the Synagogue desires to provide the catering services to be performed in its building, located at 659 Elm St., Concord, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, and

WHEREAS the Caterer is in the business of performing catering services and desires to perform such service for the Synagogue, or those making use of the Synagogue's facilities,

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants herein contained and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged by both parties to this Agreement, the Synagogue and the Caterer agree as follows:

1. The Synagogue agrees to furnish the building areas and equipment as contracted for by the parties renting said facilities during the hours specified in the rental agreement for each event and to provide heat, light, water and air conditioning when required.
2. The Caterer agrees that in performing catering services for the Synagogue or those making use of the Synagogue's facilities located at the aforesaid address, the conditions stated herein shall apply.
3. The Caterer agrees to provide evidence of its current catering license, to carry Liquor Liability Insurance, Product Liability Insurance and General Liability Insurance at the sole expense of the Caterer with an insurance company or companies and in amounts satisfactory to the Synagogue. In no event shall these be less than \$500,000.00 per individual/\$1,000,000.00 per incident. The Caterer will also furnish to the Synagogue, at least annually, certificates of such insurance, which certificates shall indicate that the Caterer is covered for contractual liability hereunder and naming the Synagogue as the insured party.
4. The Caterer agrees to carry Worker's Compensation Insurance and will provide the Synagogue, at least annually, with certificates of such insurance.
5. The Caterer agrees to file with the Town of Concord all necessary paperwork, including the Town of Concord "Application for Caterers," which is attached hereto.
6. The Caterer agrees to indemnify and save the Synagogue harmless from all loss, liability, damage, and expense, and to pay all sums which the Synagogue shall become legally obligated to pay as damages as a result of unclean, cracked, broken or other defective dishes, glassware, silverware,

utensils, tables, chairs, or equipment of any kind, provided for such occasion by the Caterer or as a result of any other act of the Caterer.

7. The Caterer agrees to pay and indemnify and save the Synagogue harmless from all reasonable attorney's fees and all other expenses incurred by the Synagogue in defending any legal action brought against the Synagogue by reason of the aforesaid.
8. The Caterer agrees to make deliveries to the Synagogue as agreed to with B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator and to pick up on Monday, between 10:00 and 3:00 pm. The Caterer agrees to set up all rental items, to break down all rental items and to store all rental items in the room designated as Classroom 1. Furthermore, for daytime functions following Bar/Bat Mitzvah services, the Caterer agrees not to park any vehicles at the front of the building for any purpose between 9:30 and 10:15 am. Pick up time should be confirmed with the B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator PRIOR to the weekend of the event.
9. The Caterer shall deposit with the Synagogue four weeks prior to each catered event \$200.00, to be held until the conclusion of each catered event, as security against breakage or damage by caterer in the provision of its services. Said sum to be applied, in whole or in part, at the discretion of the Synagogue to pay for breakage or damage which occurs, with the balance to be returned within one week of the conclusion of each catered event or as soon as an accounting of breakage/damage shall be made. Should the deposit be insufficient to cover damage, the Caterer agrees to pay additional costs.
10. The Caterer may not assign or delegate any rights or duties created by or arising under this agreement without written approval of the Synagogue.
11. The Caterer agrees to read and abide by the Synagogue's "Rules for Caterers," a copy of which the Caterer acknowledges reviewing and which is incorporated herein by reference.
12. This agreement shall continue from year to year until cancelled by written notice given by either party to the other.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Kerem Shalom has caused these presents to be executed by its Representative, hereunto duly authorized, and the Caterer has hereunto affixed its signature, all on the day and year first above written, to take effect as a seal document

By _____

Title _____ for Kerem Shalom

By _____

Title _____ for the Caterer

CATERER; Please sign and return within two weeks with current Catering License and Certificates of Insurance to:

Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator: Kerem Shalom, P.O. Box 1646, Concord, MA 01742

Facilities Rental Tracking Sheet

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
The office will be tracking these items

| | |
|---|-------|
| Event Type: | _____ |
| Event Date: | _____ |
| Fee: | _____ |
| Caterer Name & Contact Info | _____ |
| Date/\$ Amount Deposit Received | _____ |
| Date Letter Of Receipt Sent | _____ |
| Date/\$ Amount Balance Received | _____ |
| Date/\$ Amount Security Deposit Received | _____ |
| Date/\$ Amount Security Deposit Returned | _____ |
| Date Caterer's Agreement Received | _____ |
| Date Insurance Certificate Received | _____ |
| Date/\$ Amount Caterer's Security Deposit Received | _____ |
| Date Caterer's Security Deposit Returned | _____ |

Planning Details Re: Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah Services & Receptions

Tracked by the Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator

Student's Name/Date: _____

Family Name(s)/Phone Numbers: _____

Usher Family: _____

Board Representative: _____

Who will unlock/lock the building? _____

Number of Adults/Children Expected: _____

Wine or Juice for Kiddush Cup: _____

Family bringing kippot? _____

Family bringing programs? _____

Gift in Ark? _____

Photographer: _____

| Complete if a reception is being held (extended kiddush or lunch/dinner/party) | |
|---|--|
| Building Supervisor: (name and phone number) | |
| Deliveries: (who & when) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flowers - Linens - Alcohol - Other | |
| Videographer: | |
| DJ: (name, arrival and departure time) | |
| Musicians: (names, arrival and departure time) | |
| Diagram of Room Set Up Provided: | |
| Who is putting out centerpieces/decorations? | |
| Who is supplying tablecloths (KS or rentals?) | |
| Caterer/Arrival Time/Contact Info: <i>Caterer has viewed Classroom 1 and understands available space</i> | |

Event Planner:

Precious Moments by Lauren - 617.564.1150 (call/text)

LaurenPMbL@gmail.com

FB: @PMbLauren

IG: @pmbLauren

www.preciousmomentsbylauren.com

Entertainment:

Eureka! On The Spot - <https://onthespot.eurekapuzzles.com> › bar-bat-mitzvahs
(an alternative to the classic dance party including games and puzzles)

Party Excitement Entertainment - partyexcitement.com (DJ)

978.535.3100

Caterers:

While we at Kerem Shalom have not personally utilized the services of these caterers, other members have, and report positive experiences.

Liora's Catering - <http://www.liorascatering.com> or email Liora at liorascatering@gmail.com

Swartz Catering - <http://swartzcatering.com/> or email Sue Shapiro at sue@swartzcatering.com

Baker's Best - <http://www.bakersbestcatering.com/>

East Meets West - <http://eastmeetswestcatering.com/>

Peppers - www.peppersartfulevents.com

Beaujolaiscatering.com

Roche Bros (you will need to pick up and set up the food)

Donelan's (you will need to pick up and set up the food)

Mamala's- mamalehs.com/catering (they will deliver for a fee; you will need to set up the food))

Tova's Catering - tovascatering.com (kosher caterer)

Please note when planning your menu that the **kashrut (dietary practices) for privately hosted meals** at Kerem Shalom oblige members to not combine meat and dairy in the same dish or platter and not at the same table. And of course, no nuts, shellfish or pork (including ham and pepperoni).

Role of Kerem Shalom Board Member

A Kerem Shalom Board Member will serve as an “Ambassador” at your service. Their role is to support Kerem Shalom as a warm and welcoming community. In that capacity they will perform the following functions:

- 1-2 weeks before the event:**
 - o Introduce themselves by e-mail to [Inna Petrano](#), who coordinates logistics for all b’nai mitzvah
 - o Introduce themselves to the b'nai mitzvah family and be available if they need help. (This is in the spirit of community building)
- **Day of the event -- 9:15 am**
 - o Connect with the Police Officer on duty as the Board Representative and primary contact in case of emergency if they have a question (e.g. who is welcome to attend services)
 - o Connect with the staff person (B’nai Mitzvah Facilitator) helping to set up the ritual items (usually either Inna or Leighton.)
 - o Greet the Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah student and their family.
 - Be a visible, comforting and warm presence.
 - o Introduce themselves to the 7th grade Usher family,
 - Use familiarity with the building to guide and help them.
 - o If this is a hybrid service,
 - Say hello and touch base with the volunteer running the Zoom feed.
 - o Once all of the above has been completed, they will
 - Station themselves in the Atrium near the front door
- **9:30 am -- As guests arrive**
 - o Greet them cheerfully.
 - (E.g. "Shabbat Shalom!" "Welcome." "Good morning" etc.)
 - o Be available for any questions
 - About KS, where the bathroom is, etc.
- **9:50 am - Just before services begin**
 - o Move to the lobby (i.e. the space outside the sanctuary)
 - o Help the Usher family
 - Invite guests to enter the sanctuary.
 - Hand out prayerbooks and any handouts
 - Remind folks cell phones should be silenced/off in the sanctuary.
 - Remind folks no pictures during services
- **A little after 10:00am-join services**
 - o Once services begin and latecomers are seated,
 - attend and participate in services.
 - Be a model for those unfamiliar with Judaism or our services
- **Around 11 am: When the time for the Torah reading comes,**
 - o Help the Usher family hand out copies of the Tanakh

- **Around 11:30 am: Present the Kiddush cup,**
 - After the student's d'var and Rabbi's remarks and blessing

- **12:05 pm: After the service**
 - Help the usher family
 - reset the sanctuary,
 - put books away,
 - pick up stray handouts and other items,
 - straighten the seats, etc.
 - Be available to answer any questions about Kerem Shalom
 - Have a bite to eat and something to drink

- **Around 12:15 pm:**
 - If there is an extended kiddush (e.g. a lunch or extensive spread),
 - check in with the building supervisor before leaving,
 - If there isn't an extended kiddush (i.e. a standard Kiddush of challah, juice/wine),
 - wait for most people to leave
 - confirm with Inna or Leighton that they will lock up, or lock up the building themselves.
 - Enjoy the rest of Shabbat!

Who's Who at Kerem Shalom

Rabbi Darby Leigh rabbidarby@keremshalom.org

Rabbi Darby works directly with families on the spiritual aspects of their event and on planning the service itself. Typically, this individualized process begins about 3-5 months prior to the event and includes individualized meetings with the family and student several times prior to the Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah, including a "run through" usually during the week of the service. Rabbi Darby leads all Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah services.

Cantorial Soloist Molly Bajgot

In addition to teaching music in HSR, Molly Bajgot leads the musical aspects of all services, including bar/bat/b'nai mitzvah. Molly works closely with Rabbi Darby to create a momentous and meaningful service for each bar/bat/b'nai mitzvah.

Mindy Harris, Interim Education Director learning@keremshalom.org

The Education Director oversees Kerem Shalom's youth educational programs. The ED collaborates with Rabbi Darby to set bar/bat/b'nai mitzvah dates and expectations.

Inna Petranto, B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator, at b-mitzvah@keremshalom.org

Robyn Barabe Synagogue Administrator, ksadmin@keremshalom.org

As the Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator, Inna can answer many questions about hosting a celebratory event at KS. It is recommended that you contact either Inna or Robyn early-on in your planning to help you get started or to better understand your options for hosting a kiddush, luncheon, dinner and/or party to celebrate with your at KS.

Occasionally families have unique requests that may require consultation with the KS Board. Under such circumstances, we will do our best to obtain an answer as quickly as possible. Inna & Robyn also assist in scheduling rentals and deliveries for temple events and are available to answer questions about parking and other building issues.

As the Synagogue Administrator, Robyn Barabe is knowledgeable about KS daily operations and is a great source of information for any questions you may have. If she doesn't know the answer, she will find the person who does!

Rosalie Gerut, Director of Adult Programs, KS Cantor Emerita

Rosalie coordinates adult programming offerings and leads several groups and events such as the Friday morning Shabbat Shalom group for members and the monthly zoom service, Shabbat Around the Table. Rosalie also provides pastoral support in the form of leading/co-leading shiva minyanim and funerals, as needed.



Directions to Kerem Shalom

659 Elm Street
Concord, MA 01742
978-369-1223

From Route 95(128) North or South:

Exit 45B to Route 2 West (Acton/Fitchburg). Follow Route 2 West for 5.2 miles, past Emerson Hospital on the left and past the traffic light at Rt 62. At 5.2 miles, take a right onto Elm St. Continue right at end of ramp, which is still Elm Street. Take an immediate right into the Kerem Shalom parking lot opposite the gas station.

From Route 495 North or South

Exit 78A to Route 2 East (towards Boston). Stay on Route 2 approximately 5 miles to the rotary. Proceed halfway around the rotary and continue on Route 2 East. Get in the left lane after the rotary and at the first traffic light take a left onto Elm Street. Take the next right, which is still Elm Street, toward Concord Center and take an immediate right into the Kerem Shalom parking lot opposite the gas station.