

## B'nei Mitzvah at Agudath Achim

Rabbi Eliezer said: A person needs to cling to his child until he is thirteen years old. From then on, he needs to say, "Blessed is the One who freed me from the responsibility of this one."

~B'reishit Rabba

### Questions to Consider

- What is a bar or bat mitzvah?
- Why have a bar or bat mitzvah ceremony?
- What are your goals for your or your child's bat mitzvah?

### Essential Priorities

- **Haftarah and Its Blessings:** A portion from one of the books of Prophets and the blessings that come before and after that reading.
- **Maftir and Aliyah Blessings:** The last aliyah of the week's Torah reading, with the blessings before and after the reading.
- **Torah Service:** You will lead the part of our Shabbat morning service in which the congregation stands up to hear the Torah read.
- **Mitzvah Project:** Either find somewhere to volunteer or create a way to raise money for your favorite cause. Part of your bar or bat mitzvah will be to tell us why you care about the people you're supporting and what you learned while doing your mitzvah project.
- **D'var Torah:** You will study your Torah portion and teach your friends and family what you can learn from that portion.
- **Honors:** With the help of your parents, you will write up who in your family will come up for different *aliyot*, open the ark, dress and lift the Torah, and say certain English readings. We can always find more roles for friends and relatives, if you would like others to take part in the service!
- **Thank Yous:** For your guests to read on the day of your bar or bat mitzvah, you'll write a thank you note to everyone who helped you to get to this incredible day.
- Attend at least one Shabbat service, morning or evening, per month at Agudath Achim during the time of b'nai mitzvah study.

### Wonderful Opportunities

- Lead our Friday night service, if applicable.
- Lead even more of our Saturday morning Shabbat service.
- Learn what your Haftarah is all about, and write a summary, poem, or even create a piece of art to tell or show us what we can learn from your Haftarah.
- If you have other ideas for how to make your day meaningful, please share them!