

BAR MITZVAH ALIYAH CELEBRATION

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

On behalf of Hamerkaz Shelanu Synagogue, we wish to congratulate you on your upcoming Bar Mitzvah.

We at Hamerkaz will endeavour to make your Bar Mitzvah preparations and the Bar Mitzvah service a truly memorable experience. We will be glad to personally assist you in the lead up to this special occasion.

In order for your Bar Mitzvah and the proposed date to be confirmed, we shall require you to carefully read and fill out the attached Application Form via the links provided.

Should you have any queries, please feel free to contact us. It is our aim to assist you throughout this important journey, hoping to help making the preparations for your Bar Mitzvah and the Bar Mitzvah itself, a most delightful experience.

BAR MITZVAH CALL-UP (ALIYAH) CEREMONY – SERVICE OPTIONS

There are generally two options for the Bar Mitzvah call-up (Aliyah) ceremony: Traditionally celebrated on Shabbat, (a) during the morning Service which begins at 10am, or (b) during afternoon Mincha service, which can be held anytime from around 5pm until approx. 1.5 hours before Shabbat ends. Note: It may also be held on other limited occasions, please contact our office on 9524-7700 or email office@hs.org.au for further information.

BAR MITZVAH PREPARATION

BAR MITZVAH PARSHA TEACHER

The Bar Mitzvah boy will learn to read and chant his Torah Portion (Parsha) and Brachot (Blessings). While he may be able learn it on his own, with the help of an online tutor (such as www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/144321/jewish/Bar-Mitzvah.htm), a private teacher is generally required to guide and assist. It is recommended to contact a teacher at least one year prior to Bar Mitzvah date, and start lessons after the Bar Mitzvah date has been confirmed by Hamerkaz. You can choose any Bar Mitzvah teacher, meet them and then arrange times/fees directly.

Some boys at Hamerkaz have used the following teachers:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>
Gedalya Levin	0430 592 347
David Bareket	9571-3628

MACHON BAR MITZVAH PROGRAM

We offer a Bar Mitzvah Enrichment Program that runs for 5-6 months. The Machon Bar Mitzvah program, designed for 12-year-old boys, will guide the soon-to-be adult through a special Bar Mitzvah journey, exploring the fundamentals of the modern Jewish man of the 21st century. Each class, whilst very informative, is presented in an innovative and fun manner, using fascinating multimedia, games, discussions and exciting excursions. Plus: an unforgettable Shabbaton experience.

REHEARSAL & PICTURES

We welcome the opportunity to hold a rehearsal for your son's Bar Mitzvah. This is usually done during the week or two leading up to the Bar Mitzvah where he can practise the reading from the Torah with his Bar Mitzvah teacher. Many families use this opportunity to photograph and/ or video their child and family – creating precious memories.

ALIYOT HONOURS

On the day of the Aliyah Call-up, you have the option of also honouring some of your relatives and friends with an Aliyah or Honour in the Synagogue. Standard is to include the father and grandfather(s), if present, while for the final Aliyah the Bar-Mitzvah himself is called-up. Four Aliyot is standard for the Shabbat morning service, and three Aliyot at other times. If you require more than the standard Aliyot on Shabbat morning, please make note on the Aliyot form and this will need to be confirmed. All people honoured will be personally guided as to what they should do or say.

For further information, please refer to the Aliyot form (attached) and return to our office completed a week prior to the date.

LOLLIES

After the Bar Mitzvah is called-up, it is customary for the mother and ladies to “throw” on him (Kosher) sweets. If the Service is on Shabbat, please deliver the lollies (preferably in baskets) to Hamerkaz Centre, latest on the Friday before the Bar Mitzvah. **Important note:** Please supply only wrapped, hard (not soft) lollies with a Kosher certification.

KIDDUSH/LUNCHEON/REFRESHMENTS

FOR SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES:

It is an accepted practice for Bar Mitzvah families to host/sponsor a Kiddush following the Service for their guests and the regular synagogue attendees (include approx additional 50+). The duration of the Kiddush is approximately 1 hour.

FOR SERVICES ON ALL OTHER OCCASIONS:

It is optional if you want to serve any food/refreshments – and it would be for your guests only (as it usually is an exclusive event).

VENUE HIRE:

Should you want to host a personal event/party following the Bar Mitzvah Aliyah Call-up, you may consider hiring Hamerkaz Centre's Hall for your simcha. For information regarding options please refer to the Bar Mitzvah Application form. For availability please contact our office on 9524-7700 or email office@hs.org.au.

KOSHER CATERERS:

Please see list below of reputable Kosher caterers that we can recommend. Alternatively, Hamerkaz Centre may organise the catering for you. Please email office@hs.org.au for menus and more information. Private catering not accepted.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>	<i>Email</i>
Kosher Classique Catering (Shoshie)	9555-3255	yael@kosherclassique.com.au
Roquette Catering (Josh)	99393323	roquettecatering.com.au
Eshel (Ben)	9532-9000	ben@eshel.com.au
To Catch a Chef (Annette)	9523-7486	catering@tocatchachef.com.au
Passionate Catering (David)	9523-6207	david@passionatecatering.com.au

Notes to convey to Caterers: Kitchen must be left as found. We have a no nuts policy. Please refrain from food items that leave stains or excessive mess at a stand up function. Please supply Kiddush wine and challah. Delivery, pick up and set up time as well as cool room storage must be confirmed with our office.

COST

The standard cost of Synagogue set-up and cleaning including security covers Services of up to 230 people (inclusive of regular synagogue attendees). The cost also includes the cost of the hall hire for the Shabbat Kiddush. Whilst we can cater for over 500 people, the cost will increase as extra staff and security will be required to accommodate for larger numbers. Hamerkaz Centre reserves the right to charge for any damage to the premises. Please note: The above cost simply assists us in covering the cost of the day, and therefore any additional donation would be greatly appreciated.

INFORMATION FOR INVITATIONS – SAMPLE | *For Shabbat morning Service*

David
will be called up to the Torah
on Shabbat 20/01/2013
Parshat enter name
at Hamerkaz Centre
569 Glenhuntly Road, Elsternwick.
The Service/Tefilah commences at 10am
Call-up at 10:45am
A Kiddush will follow the Service

MEETING WITH THE RABBI

The Rabbi welcomes the opportunity to meet with you and your son prior to the Bar Mitzvah. It would be great to meet at the time (or prior) of booking the date, and again closer to the Ceremony date. In addition, the Rabbi would love to meet with the Bar Mitzvah boy to get to know each other personally and discuss the true meaning of Bar Mitzvah. These meetings will also afford you an opportunity to better understand the process and make the Ceremony more personal and more meaningful. Please email motty@hs.org.au to schedule a meeting. For all Kiddush or financial queries, please contact our office on 9524-7700 or email office@hs.org.au.