

Dear Parents

Mazal Tov on the upcoming Bar Mitzvah of your son. We are delighted that you will be celebrating your simcha with us at Marais Road Shul.

Celebrating a Bar Mitzvah is a significant milestone in the life of a young Jewish man and his family and requires preparation. We at Marais Road Shul have structured a program that will help prepare your son for his special day and beyond.

Please note policies and requirements below that will help us to ensure that the celebration will be meaningful, memorable and in keeping with the sanctity of this wonderful time.

### **Reception**

In accordance with the ruling of the Beth Din, the catering at the Bar Mitzvah celebration, regardless of venue, must be done by a Beth Din recognized caterer. A full list of the Kosher caterers in Cape Town is available from our office.

It is traditional and we encourage that the family of the Bar Mitzvah sponsor the Kiddush Brocha on the day of the Bar Mitzvah. Please contact Debra Levin at the Shul office for bookings and assistance.

When booking a Bar Mitzvah, please note that during the Sefirah period (approximately April/May) and the Three Weeks of Mourning (July/August) no functions are permitted where music will be played.

### **Appropriate Dress**

Please be aware that Shul is a sacred place and that casual or immodest clothing is inappropriate for the services. The Bar Mitzvah boy should ideally wear a jacket and tie or at the very least, a button-down collared shirt, smart trousers and dress shoes. The family of the Bar Mitzvah should also endeavour to dress in a way befitting the sanctity of the Shul.

### **Tallis and Tefillin Power**

Each Bar Mitzvah boy must own their own set of new Tefillin and their own Tallis. These should be purchased at least 2 months before their Bar Mitzvah date to begin using them when participating in the Shul services stipulated below.

Please be aware that unfortunately there are many unscrupulous people worldwide who sell invalid Tefillin and Talleisim and claim that they are kosher. There are many complicated and intricate details governing the production of these items so that they comply with Jewish Law. Should you require assistance (financial or otherwise) to purchase a set of quality Tefillin or a Tallis, please speak to the Rabbi who will be most happy to point you in the right direction.

### **Shul Attendance**

For two months leading up to the Bar Mitzvah your son will be required to attend the morning minyan at Shul every Sunday morning and during that same period to attend Shul on Shabbat, both on Friday evenings and Shabbat day. This is to familiarize your son with the Shul environment and the services.

**Personal Training**

Each Bar Mitzvah boy will schedule six half hour sessions with Rabbi Hecht in the months leading up to their barmy. These sessions will be used to train the boys to attain proficiency in laying Tefillin and following the Siddur. Time will also be spent learning the meaning and exploring lessons from their barmy portion which will add meaning to the huge efforts applied to learning to read and sing the portion.

**Barmy Army**

Barmy Army is our Shul's enhancement program for boys celebrating their Bar Mitzvah with us. This eight session interactive and fun learning experience focuses on foundational themes in Judaism incorporating activities and outings empowering them to enter the next stage of their life as a proud and confident Jewish young man.

All Bar Mitzvah boys are required to complete the program including sessions scheduled after celebrating their own Bar Mitzvah.

Upon receipt and approval of this application Rabbi Hecht will contact you to confirm dates for this year's Barmy Army and to schedule your son's personal training sessions.

**We have read the above requirements and agree to abide by them as a prerequisite to celebrating our son's Bar Mitzvah at Marais Road Shul**

Signature: Parent/Guardian ..... Date .....

N.B. Once this application has been approved a letter of confirmation will be sent to you