

HNT Bar and Bat Mitzvah FAQ

Amended Due to Covid-19

December 2020

All of us at Herzl-Ner Tamid are looking forward to your Bar or Bat Mitzvah service! It will be wonderful to share your celebration with you and your family during these very challenging times. Our clergy, educational, and administrative staff are committed to making your celebration as beautiful, inspiring, and meaningful as possible.

Unfortunately, the Coronavirus is still among us and Covid-19 is a real and dangerous threat. Jewish tradition demands, unequivocally, that we protect the health and well-being of our entire community. In this spirit, we want to share with you information about how we celebrate a Bar or Bat Mitzvah during this pandemic way and the protocols that will be maintained for the service. Please understand that these protocols have been established for the sole purpose of protecting the health of your family, your guests, and Herzl-Ner Tamid clergy and staff. These protocols are not negotiable and may not be compromised. As the host family, we are depending on you to notify your guests that we have these of protocols.

What are my options for a Bar or Bat Mitzvah celebration at HNT?

- Friday night will be a remote service with the family celebrating from their home.
- Saturday morning there are three options:
 - Remote
 - On-Site, In-Person / Hybrid
 - On-Site, In-Person / One-way Live Stream
- Remote: Families can celebrate their Bar or Bat Mitzvah remotely from their homes. The broadcast will be done remotely on both Friday night and Saturday morning. HNT will provide a 'Zoom Mashgiach' to make sure attendees are muted and unmuted as needed.
 - This is the safest option as you will be with your household only.
 - You can have multiple participants from around the country and the world.
 - Service will be organized and shared with all relevant family and clergy to best insure a smooth and meaningful celebration.
 - A Torah, prayer books, and ritual items will be delivered to your home or can be picked up at the synagogue by making prior arrangements in advance.

- On-Site, In-Person / Hybrid:
 - Friday evening will be done remotely from your home with a broadcast for the congregation and your family and friends. There is no in-person option for Friday evening at the synagogue.
 - Saturday morning would take place at Herzl-Ner Tamid for the family and their invited guests only (see attached detail on protocols for guests)
 - The Hybrid option allows for outside participation. Honors of aliyot to the Torah may be given to guests not present in the sanctuary. There are no remote or virtual Torah readings when we have an on-sight Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

- On-Site, In-Person / One-way Live Streaming:
 - Friday evening will be done remotely from your home with a remote broadcast for the congregation and your family and friends. There is no in-person option for Friday evening at the synagogue.
 - Saturday morning would take place at Herzl-Ner Tamid for the family and their invited guests only.
 - On-Site, In-Person Live Streaming (via HNT YouTube channel) offers a better picture for the viewer but does not allow for any participation or interaction with people outside of the sanctuary.

In order to appropriately plan, we ask you to notify the Director of Education of your choice of options for the Bar or Bat Mitzvah at least three months prior to your celebration.

What does the typical week of the Bar or Bat Mitzvah look like?

Sunday:

- At 9:00am, the Bar or Bat Mitzvah students have the option of joining the HNT morning service and is encouraged to put on Tefillin at home. Contact the Director of Education for information about obtaining and donning tefillin. Here is the link to the HNT morning minyan:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/814064429?pwd=dGlndXVCSm1Pb3pYSTlQNktSc3BaUT09>

Tuesday:

- If service is remote, Bar or Bat Mitzvah student meets with Cantor Kurland with this link to rehearse at a prearranged time: <https://zoom.us/j/2238595406>
- If service is remote, Bar or Bat Mitzvah student meets with Rabbi Herber with this link at a prearranged time: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4249237519>
- 3:00pm: Whether your celebration will be on-site, in-person or remote, please come to the Synagogue at this time and the Cantor will give you access so the family can take pictures with the Torah. This is optional. Due to Covid-19, the HNT clergy will not be available for photos at this time. When it is safe, at a later date, clergy will be happy to schedule a time for photos with the family.

- 4:00-5:00pm: If your celebration will be on-site, in-person and will be held at the synagogue, an in-person rehearsal will be held.

Thursday:

- 12:30pm: If the service is remote, families will pick up Torah with Cantor at HNT (and maybe the Ark if there is room in their vehicle). Torah will be in the Upper Foyer at HNT. Cantor will let the family in the building and show them where the Torah is located.
- 3:30pm: Students meets with Cantor with this link in the afternoon with the Torah to practice the remote service: <https://zoom.us/j/2238595406>

Friday:

- 9:00am: Dr. Eliyahu Krigel will drop off the gifts from HNT, donuts, and the portable Ark unless the Ark was already picked up.
- 5:00-5:30pm: The Bar or Bat Mitzvah student has the option of joining the Zoom Noar service. Noar means youth and Zoom Noar is geared towards the FRS community. Use the standard password with this link: <https://zoom.us/j/9750526089>
- 5:45pm: Join the 6:00pm Friday night service at this time.

Saturday:

- 9:45am: If the service is done remotely, family joins the service at this time.
- 9:45am: If service is done on-site, in-person, the family should arrive at HNT by this time. The service steaming will begin at 10:00. Services will conclude approximately at 12:00pm.
- 9:45am: If service is done on-site, in-person, the family will be at HNT at this time and the on-site/one-way live stream will be live and broadcasted at 10:00am with this link: <http://www.h-nt.org/youtube>

What are the links for services?

Friday Night Services:

- HNT will provide you with a link.

Saturday Services:

- Remote: HNT will provide you with a link.
- On-Site, In-Person / Hybrid: HNT will provide you with a link.
- In-Person/On-Site Youtube: <http://www.h-nt.org/youtube>

How will HNT's Covid-19 protocols impact the content of the Bar or Bat Mitzvah service?

- If your service takes place in-person at the synagogue everyone leading or participating in the service – the Rabbi, Cantor, Bar or Bat Mitzvah, Torah readers, etc. – like all others present - must wear a mask if they are not leading a part of the service, chanting from the Torah, or leading the congregation in a prayer.

- Because of Covid-19, candy will not be allowed for throwing nor will we allow any other food in the sanctuary. Drinking fountains will be turned off and water bottles will be provided. Take home meals provided by the family for their guests must be either hekshered or dairy.
- Only the Rabbi or Cantor may open and close the Ark. The clergy will remove the Sefer Torah from the ark and hold it. When the Torah is removed from the Ark there will be no processional, except quickly on the bimah in order to keep everyone safe and socially distanced.
- Those called for an Aliyah to the Torah will be asked to stand no less than 6 ft. from the Torah while their Aliyah is chanted (unless they happen to be chanting their own Aliyah). Masks may only be removed while one is chanting the blessings before and after the Aliyah. They must be worn at all other times.
- People are allowed to receive Aliyot via remote access if you opt to choose this broadcast platform. We ask that those called to the Torah via remote access be present on the screen so the congregation may also see them. If you opt to use remote access to broadcast the service, others may chant Aliyot from their home using either a Sefer Torah or humash. This follows our current Covid-19 Torah reading policy.
- Hagbah (lifting the Torah) and Gelilah (binding the Torah) will be done without actually lifting the Torah and done by the last Torah reader without anyone else's assistance for on-site Bar and Bat Mitzvah.
- Please note there will be no in-person Kiddush luncheon until further notice. Kiddush will be recited from the bimah.
- If the service on Saturday is from the home via remote access, other Torah readers will read from their homes via remote access. The student and any other family members would read from the Torah scroll at home and other congregants would read any remaining aliyot from their Humash at home.

Can we record the service?

- You may request a recording of the service using either the remote option or the YouTube channel by contacting the Director of Education.

What specific honors will be available?

If you opt for the remote only option, the following honors are available:

- 4 Aliyot per family (Please use individuals or married or committed couples only).
- Opening and closing the Ark
- Hagbah (Lifting of the Torah)
- Gelilah (Binding of the Torah)
- Ashrei
- Ein Keloheinu and Aleinu

If you opt for the on-site option, regardless of the platform or the one-way Live Stream, the following honors are available:

- 4 Aliyot per family (Please use individuals or married or committed couples only).
- Aleinu

What are ways to personalize the Bar or Bat Mitzvah?

- Dr. Eliyahu Krigel is the contact person for the following four options:
 - Have Ark Will Travel for Remote Services: If the Torah is not picked up on Thursday along with the Ark, we will bring family the Torah and a portable ark for home use during the time of this pandemic. Families are also invited to make an appointment and pick up the Torah and ark for home use for the purposes of using for their Bar or Bat Mitzvah.
 - Drive by Hora for Remote or On-Site Services: The Friday before the Bar or Bat Mitzvah, the Director of Education along with the Rabbi drives by the house and dances the hora around the Bar or Bat Mitzvah student while social distancing. The Director of Education will also bring a dozen of the favorite doughnuts over to the student's house the morning of the drive by.
 - Video Hug: Before the Bar or Bat Mitzvah, a link is sent out to all the b'nai mitzvah students family and friends to provide a "video hug" wishing them many blessings of congratulations. The link can be included in the b'nai mitzvah invitation the family sends out to all their guests before the ceremony.
 - Twinning Program: All seventh-grade students will have the opportunity to be symbolically twinned with a victim of the Holocaust who perished before becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah. Students will work in class guided by their teacher and the Director of Education at FRS by doing research to find their twin through the Yad Vashem database of Holocaust victims.

How will the mitzvah project work?

- If you are interested in planning a drive-by collection drive or Bar and Bat Mitzvah meet and greet at the synagogue, please contact Rebecca at Rebecca@h-nt.org for more information to discuss the options.
- Students will be encouraged to engage in a consistent and meaningful social action project online or in a social distanced and safe way for at least a year once a month prior to the Bar or Bat Mitzvah to positively impact the community. Students will work with their teacher at FRS and the Director of Education to create a meaningful project in the time of Covid-19. Here are some resources regarding the next steps for the mitzvah project:
 - Create an account on Jchoice: <https://www.jchoice.org/>
 - Teen Feed: <https://h-nt.org/calendar/teen-feed-cook-at-home-edition-2/>
 - Areyvut Database: <https://www.aryvut.org/opportunities/>
 - Do it Yourself Volunteering at JFS: <https://www.jfsseattle.org/get-involved/do-it-yourself/>

- Volunteering at Kline Galland in an Online Setting: <https://www.klinegalland.org/get-involved/volunteer/>
- JNF Mitzvah Projects in Israel: <https://www.jnf.org/menu-2/our-work/education-and-advocacy/kindergarten/jnf-bnai-mitzvah-programs>

How do we provide guests with the prayer book and Torah readings?

- The prayer book can be accessed with this link: <https://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/Shabbat%20and%20Festival%20morning%20SIDDUR%20LEV%20SHALEM.pdf>
- Guests can download their own prayer book here along with the Torah portion: <https://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/form-download-e-siddur-0>

Who is my first point of contact at HNT regarding the Bar or Bat Mitzvah experience?

- Dr. Eliyahu Krigel is the Director of Education at HNT. Dr. Krigel is your first point of contact regarding the b'nai mitzvah journey and can be reached at elijahu@h-nt.org or on his cell at 425-559-3739.
- Dr. Krigel will meet with each Bar or Bat Mitzvah family approximately a year from the scheduled date to go over the Bar or Bat Mitzvah process at HNT. After that meeting, which is for parents and the student, Dr. Krigel will follow up with the family monthly to assess progress and assist when needed.

Who do we contact to meet with the clergy at HNT?

- Please contact Ashley Rowland, Administrative Assistant to the Clergy, at Ashley@h-nt.org to make an appointment with Rabbi Herber or Cantor Kurland.
- Rabbi Jacob Herber, our Senior Rabbi, can be contacted at RabbiHerber@h-nt.org.
- Cantor Brad Kurland can be contacted at cantor@h-nt.org or at 206-841-7554 (cell).

Who do we contact regarding use of the building, current policies regarding its use, or to reserve space outside of services for photos etc.?

- Please contact Melanie Miller, Operations Coordinator at HNT, at MelanieM@h-nt.org to schedule time to be in the building or with any questions regarding the HNT facility usage.

***All FAQ Protocols are Non-Negotiable
Thank you for your partnership***