

HONORS DURING THE SERVICE

During the Shabbat morning service, the B-Mitzvah family will receive a number of honors that can be assigned to family members and friends. Honors are reserved for the families celebrating B-Mitzvahs, as well as for the members of the congregation. Because Beth El is a large and active congregation, no family is given all of the honors at any one service.

The type and total number of honors depends upon the service and whether it is being shared between families. Your selection of honorees should be noted on the B-Mitzvah Ceremony Honors Information Sheet and returned to the B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator at least one month prior to the ceremony. To avoid potentially difficult situations and disappointment, please do not make any commitments about granting honors not listed on the sheet. Questions regarding additional honors should be directed to the rabbi, who will make the final decision regarding service honors.

TORAH HONORS

As is customary in the Conservative movement, please understand that only Jewish individuals may receive Torah honors. Other honors are available for non-Jewish family and friends.

Aliyot

B-Mitzvah families may assign four Aliyot (one is generally for the child and the others assigned to Jewish family and friends that you wish to honor). Up to four people can be given a single Aliyah. Honorees usually include parents/guardians, grandparents, and older siblings; aunts, uncles, cousins, close friends and tutors are also commonly included. The remaining Aliyot are reserved for the congregation. We ask that families ensure their honorees learn the Hebrew blessings in advance of the ceremony. Check the Beth El website for recordings of the Torah Blessings.

Lifting and Tying the Torah

B-Mitzvah families may designate the people who lift (MAGBEAH) and tie (GOLEL) the Torah. The honor of lifting the Torah must be given to a person with the ability and expertise to raise the Torah in the proper manner. An instructional video is available on the Beth El website.

Holding the Torah

B-Mitzvah families may assign a person - often, but not exclusively, a child of 8 to 13 years of age - to sit on the bimah and hold the Torah while the Haftarah is chanted.

Opening/Closing the Ark

B-Mitzvah families may designate people to come to the bimah to OPEN/CLOSE THE ARK before and/or after the Torah service. We ask that no more than 2 people at a time be assigned this honor.

OTHER HONORS

Others whom you wish to honor may be asked to lead the congregation in prayers for the country, Israel, and peace. These honorees may be of any religion.