

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Monthly Activity



Interview a Relative about a Meaningful Moment in their Lives

Do you ever wonder what it was like when your grandfather had his Bar Mitzvah? Or your great aunt got married so many years ago? Or when your grandmother immigrated to America? We can learn so much from our elderly family members when we take the time to listen to their stories. In addition, we gain a greater sense of what Jewish life was like in years past.

For this activity, choose a family member to learn a bit more about their life. Give them a call and see if they would be willing to speak with you about a lifecycle event. (You can also make a video recording or audio recording of it.) Here are some examples of lifecycle events: weddings, holidays (Passover, Rosh Hashanah, etc), birth of a child, Bar or Bat Mitzvah, moving to a new country, a funeral of a loved one, and more. You can ask a Jewish or non-Jewish member of your family. The goal is simply to learn more about them and the life they lived before you were born!

To give you some structure, we've provided some questions you can ask them. However, please don't feel limited to this list! You can ask them anything that comes to mind. When you're finished with the interview, please write up some thoughts about what you learned.

Sample questions:

1. Tell me about a meaningful lifecycle event in your life.
2. Why does it stick with you throughout the years?
3. What was the Jewish element (if any) in this event? How is it different from a similar event now?
4. Who was at the event?
5. How long did it last?
6. How did people interact during it?
7. Was there special food you ate?
8. Were there special songs, prayers, or dances?
9. What was hard/fun/special/exciting/sad about the event?

Please write a few sentences on the back of this sheet explaining what you learned from your conversation.



Monthly Service Attendance



MACHBERET T'FILLAH: SERVICE JOURNAL *5 Months Before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah*

Attend a Shabbat evening service at Temple Rodef Shalom on the same week in the month that your Bar/Bat Mitzvah will take place. (Example: if your Bar/Bat Mitzvah is on the second Saturday in the month, attend a service on the second Saturday in this month.) Take note: is there anything special that happens during that week's service? What is different from the one you attended 2 months ago? Are you following along in the service?