

# BAR/BAT MITZVAH RESOURCES IN THE TEMPLE ISRAEL LIBRARIES

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## Preparing for Your D'var Torah

### RESOURCES IN THE HODARI FAMILY CHILDREN'S LIBRARY:

**Bach, Alice and Cheryl J. Exum.** *Miriam's Well: Stories About Women in the Bible.* Illus. Diane Dillon.  
New York: Delacorte Press, 1991. HODARI A51 BACH

A retelling of Bible stories focusing on women including Naomi and Ruth, Miriam, Hagar, Judith, Esther, and others.

**Grishaver, Joel Lurie.** *Learning Torah: A Self-Guided Journey Through the Layers of Jewish Learning.*  
New York: UAHC Press, 1990. HODARI A10 GRIS

A study guide for the Torah which can be used for self-study. Includes tests, discovery activities, and worksheets.

**Klein, Joyce.** *The Shabbat Book: A Weekly Guide for the Whole Family.* Israel: Scopus Films, 1997.  
HODARI A12 KLEI

With a colorful page for each week, this guide for families is designed to integrate the weekly Torah portion with the ideas, traditions and customs of Shabbat.

**Loeb, Sorel Goldberg and Barbara Binder Kadden.** *Teaching Torah: A Treasury of Insights and Activities.* Denver: A.R.E. Publishing, 1997. HODARI A12 LOEB

Includes a synopsis of each Torah portion, insights from the tradition, strategies for analyzing the text, other resources, and project ideas.

**Mandel, Scott.** *Wired into teaching Torah: An Internet Companion.* Denver A.R.E. Publishing, 2001.  
HODARI REF MAND

Provides internet resources for every portion of the Torah.

**Peterseil, Gedalia and Rabbi Yaacov, ed.** *Tell It From the Torah (volumes I and II).* New York:  
Pitspopany Press, 1998. HODARI A11 PETE

Each chapter includes a simple exposition of the weekly Torah reading, Rabbinic "pearls of wisdom," a gematria discussion, an explanation of how the Haftarah portion connects to the Torah portion, and short humorous anecdotes that relate to the reading, as well as questions and concepts to think about.

**Plaut, W. Gunther.** *The Torah: A Modern Commentary.* New York: Union of American Hebrew  
Congregations, 1981. HODARI REF PLAU

Includes original Hebrew text and the Jewish Publication Society's English translation of the Pentateuch and of the Haftarah with commentaries by W. Gunther Plaut and Bernard J. Bamberger.

**Prenzlau, Sheryl.** *Genesis.* Cedarhurst, NY: Pitspopany Press, 1996. HODARI A13 PREN  
*Exodus.* Cedarhurst, NY: Pitspopany Press, 1997. HODARI A14 PREN  
*Leviticus.* Cedarhurst, NY: Pitspopany Press, 1999. HODARI A15 PREN  
*Numbers & the Book of Ruth.* Cedarhurst, NY: Pitspopany Press, 1998. HODARI A16 PREN  
*Deuteronomy.* Cedarhurst, NY: Pitspopany Press, 1999. HODARI A17 PREN

Based on the original Hebrew text, this series presents all the major stories from the Torah and the Book of Ruth in simple, easy-to-read prose.

**Rosman, Steven M.** *The Bird of Paradise and Other Sabbath Stories.* Illus. Joel Iskowitz. New York: UAHC Press, 1994. HODARI L20 ROSM

A collection of Jewish stories, including original tales and adaptations from the Midrash, the Talmud, and the chasidic masters, based on the weekly portions from the Torah.

#### WEB RESOURCES:

[www.uahc.org/shabbat/](http://www.uahc.org/shabbat/)

Family Shabbat Table Talk offers home study materials on the weekly Torah portion. A summary of each portion is included, as well as commentaries and discussion questions.

[www.uahc.org/torah/](http://www.uahc.org/torah/)

Search for a Torah portion in TORAT HAYIM web archive for articles written by Rabbis, educators, and scholars.

## Background Information

#### RESOURCES IN THE HODARI FAMILY CHILDREN'S LIBRARY:

**Artson, Bradley Shavit.** *It's A Mitzvah: Step-By-Step to Jewish Living.* West Orange, NJ: Behrman House, 1995. HODARI C101 ARTS

This book identifies hundreds of opportunities to transform daily living into Jewish living, providing background reading to help you prepare for your Mitzvah Project.

**Goldin, Barbara Diamond.** *Bat Mitzvah: A Jewish Girl's Coming of Age.* Illus. Erika Weihs. New York: Viking, 1995. HODARI F33 GOLD

A history and description of the Bat Mitzvah, the ceremony in which a Jewish girl marks her transition to adulthood.

**Kimmel, Eric A.** *Bar Mitzvah: A Jewish Boy's Coming of Age.* Illus. Erika Weihs. New York : Viking, 1995. HODARI F33 KIMM

Provides historical background, explanations of ceremonial objects and rituals, and real-life Bar Mitzvah stories.

**Rossel, Seymour.** *A Spiritual Journey: The Bar Mitzvah and Bat Mitzvah Handbook.* West Orange, NJ: Behrman House, 1993. HODARI F33 ROSS

This handbook answers basic questions about the celebrations of Bar Mitzvah and Bat Mitzvah. Chapters include "Getting Ready," "The Setting," "The Ceremony," "The Celebration," and "Looking Ahead."

**Salkin, Jeffrey K.** *For Kids--Putting God on Your Guest List: How to Claim the Spiritual Meaning of Your Bar or Bat Mitzvah.* Woodstock, VT: Jewish Lights Publishing, 1998. HODARI F33 SALK

A guide to preparing for the bar or bat mitzvah, discussing the history and significance of this rite of passage and putting it in perspective with the core spiritual values of Judaism.

# Bar/Bat Mitzvah Fiction

## IN THE HODARI FAMILY CHILDREN'S LIBRARY:

**Bush, Lawrence.** *Emma Ansky-Levine and Her Mitzvah Machine.* Illus. Iskowitz, Joel. New York: UAHC Press, 1991. HODARI FIC BUSH

For her twelfth birthday, Emma receives a special Mitzvah Machine, helping her discover her Jewish identity and the true meaning of becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

**Cohen, Barbara.** *King of the Seventh Grade.* New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1982. HODARI FIC COHEN

Thirteen-year-old Vic hates Hebrew school and is indifferent to his upcoming Bar Mitzvah, until he is suddenly disallowed from participating in either.

**Curtis, Sandra R.** *Gabriel's Ark.* Los Angeles: Alef Design Group, 1998. HODARI FIC CURTIS

Because thirteen-year-old Gabe is mentally disabled and has special needs, his rabbi and family create an unconventional bar mitzvah for him, one centered around the story of Noah's ark.

**Elsant, Dr. Martin.** *Bar Mitzvah Lessons.* Los Angeles: Alef Design Group, 1993. HODARI FIC ELSANT

David's fear over his approaching Bar Mitzvah causes him to alienate five Rabbis who try to help him, but something surprising happens when he is placed in the hands of the eccentric former teacher Reuven Weiss.

**Goldreich, Gloria.** *Season of Discovery.* Nashville: T. Nelson, 1976. HODARI FIC GOLDREICH

A young Jewish girl, in the year of her Bat Mitzvah, gains an understanding of herself and her people's past.

**Gould, Marilyn.** *The Twelfth of June.* New York: Lippincott, 1986. HODARI FIC GOULD

Twelve-year-old Janis copes with her cerebral palsy and her changing feelings for her good friend Barney as he approaches his bar mitzvah.

**Kaufman, Stephen.** *Does Anyone Here Know the Way to Thirteen?* Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1985. HODARI FIC KAUFMAN

Despite the trials and tribulations that fill the eight months preceding his dreaded Bar Mitzvah, Myron learns a great deal about what it means to be a Jew.

**Martin, Ann M.** *Abby's Lucky Thirteen.* Apple, 1996. HODARI FIC MARTIN

Preparing for her Bat Mitzvah with her twin sister, Abby is falsely accused of cheating on a math test and suspended from school, and she decides to hide the truth about the test and the suspension. (Baby-Sitter's Club #96)

**Pfeffer, Susan Beth.** *Turning Thirteen.* New York: Scholastic Inc., 1988. HODARI FIC PFEFFER

Although initially afraid that she'll lose her best friend unless they prepare for their Bat Mitzvah together, Becky undergoes a change in her thinking that puts much more than her friendship in jeopardy.

**Provost, Gary.** *Good If It Goes.* Scarsdale, NY: Bradbury Press, 1984. HODARI FIC PROVOST

Twelve-year-old David, juggling the demands of Shrimp League basketball and preparations for his upcoming Bar Mitzvah, strives to please Kelly, his dream-girl classmate, as well as his ailing grandfather and traditional parents.

**Satten, Sandra C. *In the Thirteenth Year.* Los Angeles: Alef Design Group, 1998.**

**HODARI FIC SATTEN**

Every Bar Mitzvah boy feels a bit like an alien, but Isaac is afraid he might be turning into one!

**Waysman, Dvora. *Back Of Beyond: A Bar Mitzvah Journey.* New York: Pitspopany Press, 1996.**

**HODARI FIC WAYSMAN**

Danny is Jewish and about to celebrate Bar Mitzvah. Muri is Aborigine and about to initiate Danny into his manhood ceremony.

**Wolff, Ferida. *Pink Slippers, Bat Mitzvah Blues.* Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 1989.**

**HODARI FIC WOLFF**

Thirteen-year-old Alyssa tries to balance the conflicting demands of ballet training with finding her place as a Jew in today's world.

## Resources for Parents

### IN THE WEINBERG FAMILY LIBRARY:

**Danan, Julie H. *The Jewish Parents' Almanac.* Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson, 1997.**

**WEINBERG F61 DANA**

Includes chapters on parenting, spirituality, child development, holidays, education, family mitzvah projects, Israel, fertility issues, death, and more.

**Davis, Judith. *Whose Bar/Bat Mitzvah Is This, Anyway? A Guide for Parents Through a Family Rite of Passage.* New York: St. Martin's Griffin, 1998. WEINBERG F33 DAVI**

Focusing on the psychological and developmental issues of the bar/bat mitzvah year, Dr. Davis shows how to create magic and meaning for the whole family.

**Gordis, Daniel, Rabbi. *Becoming a Jewish Parent: How to Explore Spirituality and Tradition With Your Children.* New York: Harmony Books, 1999. WEINBERG F61 GORD**

An invaluable guide for parents who are interested in introducing Judaism into their homes so that their children can grow up loving, understanding, and cherishing their heritage.

**Greenberg, Gail Anthony. *Mitzvah Chic.* Elkins Park, PA: Mitzvah Chic, LLC, 2003.**

**WEINBERG F33 GREE**

Provides a "new approach to hosting a Bar or Bat Mitzvah that is meaningful, hip, relevant, fun, and drop-dead gorgeous."

**Leneman, Cantor Helen. *Bar/Bat Mitzvah Basics: A Practical Family Guide to Coming of Age Together.* Woodstock, VT: Jewish Lights Publishing, 2001. WEINBERG F33 LENE**

A practical guide for parents providing the necessary information to navigate the bar/bat mitzvah process and grow as a family.

**Lewit, Jane. *The Bar/Bat Mitzvah Planbook.* Scarborough House, 1996. WEINBERG F33 LEWI**

A complete guide to planning a bar or bat mitzvah covers every phase of this important Jewish ceremony, from planning a party and discussions of etiquette to preparing a child for the ceremony and understanding the synagogue service.

**Moskovitz, Patti. *The Complete Bar/Bat Mitzvah Book: Everything You Need to Plan A Meaningful Celebration.* Career Press, 2000. WEINBERG F33 MOSK**

A practical and friendly guide to help students and parents plan a meaningful celebration both in the service and the reception.

**Reisfeld, Randi. *The Bar/Bat Mitzvah Survival Guide.* Bridgewater, N.J.: Replica Books, 1999. WEINBERG F33 REIS**

Explains the meaning and significance of the bar/bat mitzvah service, discusses how parents can help children prepare for the event, and offers practical advice on planning a celebration.

**Salkin, Jeffrey K. *Putting God on the Guest List: How to Reclaim the Spiritual Meaning of Your Child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah.* Woodstock, VT: Jewish Light Publishing, 1992. WEINBERG F33 SALK**

In a joining of explanation, instruction, and inspiration, Rabbi Salkin helps both parent and child feel more comfortable with the Bar/Bat Mitzvah and experience it more joyfully. The appendix includes “What Non-Jews Should Know about the Bar and Bat Mitzvah Service,” “A List of Places for Your Tzedakah,” and “Resources for Jewish Parents.”

**Washofsky, Mark. *Jewish Living: A Guide to Contemporary Reform Practice.* New York: UAHC Press, 1999. WEINBERG C24 WASH**

This definitive guide for Reform Jewish practice is a complete source for those who wish to understand the whole of Jewish life including the bar/bat mitzvah.

WEB RESOURCES:

**[www.jewishfamily.com](http://www.jewishfamily.com)**

Go to the “Jewish Celebrations” section and click on “Lifecycle Events” for information and articles about planning your child’s Bar/Bat Mitzvah.