
Appendix I: Gift Presentation Guidelines

Congratulations! You are being accorded the honor of presenting *bar/bat mitzvah* gifts on behalf of the congregation during the Saturday worship service. We have prepared what we hope are helpful guidelines for your presentation. If you're still unsure about something, don't hesitate to call Rabbi Holtz, 631-1770.

When does the presentation occur?

We present the gifts at the end of the service.

What should I wear?

Normal *Shabbat* attire is appropriate: jacket and tie for the men; dress, blouse and skirt or pants suit for the women.

What are the gifts I am presenting?

There are four gifts:

1. **The *Tanach*, (Bible)**, which has been personally inscribed to the student by both the Rabbi and Cantor.
2. ***Kiddush* cup**, engraved with the student's Hebrew name and date of their *bar/bat mitzvah*.
3. **\$250 gift certificate from NFTY** (North American Federation of Temple Youth), good toward travel to Israel during High School or College on one of NFTY's trips.
4. **Membership and Benefits to The Jewish Museum** in New York City.

What should I say?

The most important thing to remember is, "be brief." While this is an important moment, it is not the focal point of the service. **Please keep the entire presentation under two minutes in length.** This is more than enough time to make an effective presentation.

Both your place in the service and the amount of time for the presentation – under 2 minutes – have been carefully allocated to seamlessly fit within the overall service and to propel the service forward. Please keep in mind that most of our *B'nei mitzvah* are doubles requiring two presentations – this is all the more reason to keep your presentation within the time guideline.

You might offer a word or two about your relationship with the *bar/bat mitzvah* child. A personal touch is certainly appropriate and encouraged, but please try to do so in a way that relates to the Temple and the purpose of the gifts.

For instance, you might choose to mention an attribute of the child that relates to his or her involvement in Jewish communal life and tie that into the congregational gifts. It would not be appropriate to talk in the abstract about the child's prowess on the soccer field or ski slopes.

Your personal words should not overshadow the primary purpose of the presentation, which is to present gifts from the congregation.

Say something about each of the gifts. For example, when presenting the *Tanach*, you could say “This book has been the focus of Jewish tradition for centuries. I hope that you will find it meaningful throughout your life.”

Say “*Mazal tov!*” and then a handshake, or hug and kiss are appropriate. Don’t forget to congratulate the parents as well.

That’s all there is to it! Thank you for accepting this honor on behalf of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* and the Temple. Feel free to call with any questions.