

BAR/BAT MITZVAH

by Rabbi David Klatzker

I loved becoming bar mitzvah. It was the most important thing I had ever done. For the first time, I really felt that I could take on a big challenge and succeed. Everybody in my life who mattered knew how important it was to me and came to celebrate with me. When my rabbi blessed me on the bimah that morning, I truly felt blessed. To tell the truth, I was sorry when it was all over. I wanted to do it again.

I hope that you will have some of the same feelings that I did when you become bar or bat mitzvah at Temple Ner Tamid. Your teachers, the Cantor and I will work closely with you to help you succeed. We will try to make the experience as personal as possible, for we know that you are an individual with your own unique ideas, interests and talents.

We will also try to help you understand what it means to be a Jewish thirteen year old. We will ask some big questions. What does God want and expect of you? What do the Jewish people want and expect from you? Will your actions help your family, your neighbors, your fellow citizens, your fellow human beings, and the creatures who share the world with you?

I'm looking forward to your big day in the synagogue, and hope that you are too!