

## Parent Checklist

- LIMUD**  
*Teaching*
- Your son has made a mature commitment to remembrance. Request a *customized* four-page booklet that honors his decision. It explains to your bar mitzvah guests the vital role that remembrance plays in Jewish life, and your child's willing acceptance of this legacy. Please order one month in advance. Suggested donation: \$36 per 100.
- TZEDAKAH**  
*Righteous giving*
- In honor of your own child's bar mitzvah, bring this practice of remembrance to another Jewish child. Make a gift to the Remember Us Project. It is a mitzvah your family can do to establish this practice as an enduring Jewish ritual.
- KAVOD**  
*Honoring*
- Request a certificate that acknowledges your son's new role as a guardian of Jewish memory. The certificate will include his name, the name of the remembered child, and the date and place of the bar mitzvah.

Bar mitzvah's name			
Date of bar mitzvah			
Congregation name			
Remembered child's name			
Mailing Information		Suggested Donation	
Name		Customized Pamphlets Qty ____ x \$36 per 100	\$
Street address		Tzedakah All amounts welcome	\$
City/State/Zip		Certificate All amounts welcome	\$
Email		<b>Total donation</b>	\$
Phone		Make check payable to Remember Us Project	

Mail to: **Remember Us Project**, 2777 Yulupa Avenue #273, Santa Rosa, CA 95405-8584



# Remember Us

The Holocaust Bnai Mitzvah Project

## PARENT GUIDE

## Invitation to parents

MEMORY IS THE LIVING CORE OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE. The Hebrew root word for memory occurs more than any other word in the Torah. Your support as your son prepares for bar mitzvah is—in itself—the transmission of Jewish memory to the next generation.

**Remember Us: The Holocaust Bnai Mitzvah Project** is a simple program to deepen your child's experience of Jewish memory, and to take on a meaningful role in perpetuating it.

With your permission, your son is invited to remember a child who died in the Holocaust before having the opportunity to be called to the Torah. Your child is requested to keep the lost child in mind during his own study, and to remember the name and memory of the child from the bimah during the bar mitzvah.

By this simple act of remembrance, your family helps to utterly defeat the fate that had been planned against us. Your son is the source of this quiet triumph by simply bearing witness to a lost life. He takes his place as **a significant vessel of Jewish memory** and as an active participant in the redemption of the Jewish past.

## Your role in the program

First, be assured that this program does not make additional work for you or your child. We recognize that the children (and parents) have already committed to extensive preparation. Here's how the program works:

- 1 Read over this Parent Guide, then give the rabbi, cantor, or teacher your permission for your son to participate.
- 2 He will receive the name of a lost child and a written invitation to participate.
- 3 Your child is invited to keep the remembered child in mind however he chooses. Support this intention by encouraging web research, library visits, and family conversations. Creating a context helps develop meaning.
- 4 When your son does a mitzvah, it is an opportunity to do it *b'shem* — in the name of — the child whose memory he is carrying. You can help by reminding him about this connection.
- 5 We recommend that he speaks the name and memory of the remembered child when standing on the bimah, in whatever way that he chooses. Help him with preparation of his remarks. It is a significant moment when your child stands as a model for Jewish memory.

- 6 Help your son develop an on-going commitment to the memory of the remembered child. One way is to undertake future study in the name of the child. Another is to make a binding commitment to remembrance annually. Good days each year would be Yom Hashoah (the day Jews everywhere remember the Holocaust), or Yom Kippur, or the anniversary of the bar mitzvah.

## Benefits to your child

Through these simple acts, done in the normal course of bar mitzvah preparation, your son will be helping to redeem the life of a lost Jewish child. He will benefit in deep ways.

- Participation in **Remember Us: The Holocaust Bnai Mitzvah Project** provides an opportunity for each one to learn that he has a significant role to play in the preservation and transmission of Jewish memory.
- Your child is welcomed to a meaningful, age-appropriate Jewish task: the tikkun of remembering. This capacity to remember blossoms when it is nurtured—it is a gift to be cultivated.
- Your son is endowed with new stature in the community through the public act of remembering from the bimah, becoming one who remembers.
- Participating in **Remember Us** is a life-affirming way for your child and family to relate to the Holocaust, with care and positive action.
- By participating, your son has the opportunity to *grow from a learning experience to Jewish commitment*.

## What to do now

This practice of remembrance is designed to be as simple as possible. The heart of the matter is encouraging your child to remember and honor the memory of a lost child. You can also use this as a moment for teaching and action. Take a minute now to fill out the next page. There are three suggestions connected to the bar mitzvah: Limud (teaching), Tzedekah (righteous giving), and Kavod (honoring). If you would like to act on any or all of these suggestions, mail the form to the Remember Us Project. Thank you for partnering with us for this practice of Jewish transmission and redemption.

**Remember Us: The Holocaust Bnai Mitzvah Project** is supported by family foundation grants and voluntary donations from families like yours.