

## CLASS GIFTS FEE:

### B'MITZVAH CLASS GIFT TO AAC & GIFTS FROM THE CLASS TO EACH B'MITZVAH STUDENT

The two different gifts were instituted a number of years ago. Among others, they reflect our communal values of *kavod*, respect, *kehillah*, community, and *tzedakah*, both doing what is just and contributing to the betterment of world and community. These two components, which are explained below, have been combined into one fee for convenience's sake.

**GIFTS FROM THE CLASS TO EACH B'MITZVAH STUDENT**- The Gifts from the Class to each B'Mitzvah was instituted many years ago to enable each person in the class to give a gift to their classmates. Rather than individual gifts, a donation of \$54 is made to a charity of the student's choice on behalf of the entire class. This system was designed to replace the tradition of individual gift-giving among families. While you are certainly welcome to give a gift if you choose, it is neither expected nor required. The clergy assistant will contact each family to inquire about the organization chosen and where funds should be directed.

**CLASS GIFT TO AAC**- The B'Mitzvah Class Gift is a way for the entire b'mitzvah class to contribute to the community that they are about to join as responsible adults. \$50 of the Class Gift Fee contributed by each student will be pooled together. The B'Mitzvah class, in consultation with the Rabbi, Hazzan and Executive Director, will choose a gift, such as a ritual object or set of books, to present to the Agudas Achim community. The Gift will be presented by the class to AAC at a special shabbat service.

**TIMING**- Each b'mitzvah student's family is billed \$104 for the Class Gifts at the same time as they are billed for the B'Mitzvah Fee (usually at the start of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Religious School year). The B'Mitzvah fee and the Class Gifts fee are billed separately for your benefit, since the Class Gift fee is tax deductible, unlike the B'Mitzvah Fee that pays for services and therefore is not deductible.

Since the gift is intended for each b'mitzvah, families are asked to contribute for each child in the class having their b'mitzvah. (Families that have more than one child having their b'mitzvah in the same year, will be asked to contribute for each child.)

As always, Agudas Achim Congregation ensures that finances are not a barrier for a family to celebrate this milestone within the AAC community. Please contact our [Executive Director](#), if the Class Gift Fee presents a financial hardship.