

FOR BAR/BAT MITZVAH FAMILIES: A TRADITION OF FOOD and MITZVOT

To Think About	What You Need to Know	What You Can Do!
<p>What will happen to the leftovers from your <i>simcha</i>?</p> <p>How will you select the businesses that will supply your celebration?</p>	<p>The Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act: http://www.usda.gov/news/pubs/gleaning/appc.htm provides protection from accidental illness caused by the donation of food.</p>	<p>Does your synagogue have a policy regarding the donation of leftovers by caterers that do business in your building?</p> <p>Do your local restaurants and catering halls offer the information to potential clients?</p>
<p>Will you have food at home that might be suitable for donation?</p>	<p>Individuals donating food are protected by the Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act (see above link)</p>	<p>Form a Tikkun Olam Cooperative – in which celebrating families form a group that will deliver food for one another, so that no one has to do it on the morning after their family’s celebration.</p>
<p>When Jews lived in the <i>shtetls</i> of Eastern Europe, they would invite the poor of the community to their celebrations.</p>	<p>MAZON – A Jewish Response to Hunger asks celebrating families to donate 3% of the cost of the celebration to help feed the poor in America and world-wide.</p>	<p>Do it yourself! Calculate 3% of the cost of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebration you are planning. Contact local food programs and find out what they need most and get least. Spend your 3% to fulfill those needs. Shop carefully and comparatively, buying all that you can with your 3%!</p>
<p>What choices will you make about your <i>simcha</i>?</p>	<p>Baskets of staple food items can replace flowers on the <i>bima</i> and be donated to a place of your choosing.</p> <p>Food items can become part of your dinner centerpieces. To beautify the <i>mitzvah</i>, talk to your florist about how the food items can be decorated with flowers, plants or balloons.</p>	<p>Invite your guests to be part of your mitzvah by asking them to bring food items for donation to your bar/bat mitzvah. You can even mail a bag for filling along with your invitation or a personalized label for people to attach to the bag they bring.</p> <p>You might help begin a tradition of decorating your temple’s <i>bima</i> with baskets of staple food items.</p>

A MITZVAH CELEBRATION

“When a person eats and drinks at the festive meal he is obligated to provide food for the stranger, the orphan, and the widow, along with the rest of the poor and despondent. But whoever locks the doors of the courtyard, and eats and drinks with his wife and children, and does not provide food and drink for poor or suffering people, this is not a “mitzvah celebration” (“*simchat mitzvah*”) but a “**celebration of the belly**” (“*simchat kray-so*”)... and this kind of celebration is a disgrace” (Maimonides, Festivals 6:18).

- For the Rambam a mitzvah celebration must contain certain elements. If the Rambam had written the rules what would he have said?

PLANNING A MITZVAH CELEBRATION ...

According to the Rambam and the _____ family!