

The NVHC Worship Committee has adopted the following statement concerning appropriate *bimah* attire:

'We rejoice with your family as your child prepares to become a *Bar* or *Bat Mitzvah* during our congregational Shabbat service. As you know, Shabbat is a day set apart from the rest of the week, and the holiest day in the Jewish calendar. The *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* celebration is both a joyful and sacred experience, one that takes place within the context of a worship service where the Torah is read. To maintain this sense of holiness, we ask you to communicate with all those you invite to participate in the service, as well as your child, to dress appropriately. The Jewish value of *tz'ni-ut*, modesty and restraint in dress and behavior, is one that helps us focus on the sacred dimension of Shabbat and of a very special day in the life of a young person, his/her family, and our community.

With this value in mind, we ask that girls and women wear a dress or skirt of modest length, or dress pants, and that shoulders are covered. Strapless or "spaghetti" strap dresses are not considered appropriate. Neither are plunging necklines or bare midriffs. Please make sure that shoes are comfortable as well. Boys and men may wear a suit or jacket, with a collared shirt and tie, or similar dress attire. Men and women who wish to wear a *kippah* and/or *tallit* (for a Torah service) are encouraged to do so, although they are not required.'

If you have any questions on this matter, please speak with the clergy.