



**Malaria kills. Send a net. Save a life.**

## ***Nothing But Nets* B'nai Mitzvah Guide**

### **Malaria Bites...**

Malaria infects over 200 million people each year and kills more than 600,000. Ninety percent of deaths caused by malaria occur in Africa where the disease is a leading killer of children, killing a child every 60 seconds. Children who are able to survive the disease are faced with physical and mental impairments such as poor growth and development.

Further, every day, millions of pregnant African women risk illness and harm to their unborn children from a malaria infection, potentially causing low birth weight among newborns, which is a leading cause for infant mortality.

Malaria incapacitates people and keeps them from working while they recover or take care of sick children. This inhibits economic growth, costing Africa \$12 billion a year in lost productivity.

*But malaria is preventable.*

### **What is *Nothing But Nets*?**

*Nothing But Nets* is a global campaign to raise awareness and funding to fight malaria in Africa. *Nothing But Nets* provides everyone the opportunity to join the fight against malaria by giving \$10 to send a net to a family in Africa or write a letter to Congress to support anti-malaria initiatives such as the President's Malaria Initiative and the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Every \$10 donation to *Nothing But Nets* goes directly toward the purchase, distribution and education about the proper use of an insecticide-treated bed net. Bed nets work in two ways: first, they stop mosquitoes from biting during the night, which is how they spread the disease, and second, the insecticide on the net kills the mosquitoes when they land on it, stopping them from flying on to their next victim. Areas where bed nets are widely used have reduced their malaria transmission rates by 90 percent.

Further, every letter you help send to Congress lets our elected officials know that saving lives from malaria is a priority for the Reform Jewish movement.

Now, what would happen if you made a commitment to the *Nothing But Nets* campaign and shared your efforts your friends and family for your Bar or Bat Mitzvah? You could inspire others to save lives too – and make an even BIGGER impact.



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It's easy. You can help repair the world, one net at a time, one family at a time, one letter to Congress at a time.

## ...Bite Back!

An important part of becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah is living the values you read about in the Torah by performing acts of *tikkun olam*, or repairing the world. When you take part in *tikkun olam*, you take your celebration to the next level – you improve the world, become a role model for your friends and family and have a good time doing it! Making *Nothing But Nets* a part of your Bar/Bat Mitzvah experience is easy and fun, and will make a BIG difference. Here's how:

### Step 1: Visit [www.rac.org/nets](http://www.rac.org/nets).

- Online you can learn about malaria, about *Nothing But Nets*, check out the online action alert to Congress, and see what other affiliates of our movement are doing and more!

### Step 2: Start a *Netraiser Team* and set a fundraising goal!

- Start a *Netraiser* team online.
- Set a goal – how much can you raise? \$500? \$1,000? \$2,000?

Design your team page and send emails to friends and family.

### Step 3: Come up with some *FUN*draising activities.

- Host a basketball game for you and your friends (or play against your Rabbi!)
- Hold a fundraising breakfast or bake sale at your synagogue or school.
- Be a teacher for the day! Ask your Religious School principal if you can teach the younger grades about the *Nothing But Nets* campaign using the lesson plans available at [rac.org/nets](http://rac.org/nets).

### Step 4: Ask your friends and family to write a letter to their members of Congress through our online action alert to support anti-malaria initiatives.

- Promote the action alert on your social media accounts
- Email your friends and family the link to the action alert and ask them to fill it out
- Include information about the online action alert as an insert in your Bar/Bat Mitzvah invitations

### Step 5: Inspire others! Incorporate your efforts in to your Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

- Include invitations inserts, asking your guests to contribute to your *Netraiser* team.
- Give a speech or *d'var Torah* during your ceremony about *Nothing But Nets* – why did you get involved? How much money did you raise? Why is this project meaningful?



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- Create *nets*-themed door displays or centerpieces for your celebration (basketball, soccer, tennis, butterfly nets, Spiderman, etc.). You could even rent an electronic Pop-a-Shot basketball arcade machine!
- Give away *net*-themed goodies (over-the-door basketball hoops or Buzzkill t-shirts)
- Place *Nothing But Nets* informational brochures and table tents on tables.
- Write an article for your local newspaper or synagogue bulletin.

### **Malaria is a Real *Buzzkill***

Youth have the ability to see visions and build for the future.

By getting involved in *Nothing But Nets*, you can infuse deeper Jewish meaning into your Bar or Bat Mitzvah ceremony, highlighting the importance of performing mitzvot and making a difference in the world.

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[www.rac.org/nets](http://www.rac.org/nets)