

Shabbat Shalom and Welcome

We are honored that you are here today to celebrate with us as Yonah becomes a bar mitzvah. Bar Mitzvah means “Son of the Commandments” and marks Yonah’s passage into Jewish adulthood, carrying with it new responsibilities and privileges.

In keeping with tradition, all men are asked to wear a *kippah* as a sign of respect and reverence to God. The *tallit* (prayer shawl), worn by many members of the congregation, have knotted fringes which are a reminder of God’s *mitzvot* (commandments). In our synagogue, women are invited to wear *kippot* and *tallitot*.

Shul (Synagogue)

“Beth El,” which means “House of God,” is a Conservative congregation. Our sanctuary, like all Jewish houses of worship, faces towards Jerusalem. It was built in 1968 to represent the “Tent of Meeting” (*Ohel Mo’ed*) that accompanied the Children of Israel throughout their desert wanderings. The stained glass window depicts a vision of the prophet Isaiah, who said: “A day will come when all shall beat their swords into plowshares, their spears into pruning knives; when nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war anymore.” Below the stained glass window is the *Ner Tamid* (eternal light), which symbolizes God’s eternal presence. Symbolically, the *Ner Tamid* is in the shape of the world and is sustained by three Hebrew words below it: *Emet* (Truth), *Din* (Justice) and *Shalom* (Peace). On the left side of the *bimah* (pulpit) is a menorah whose stem spells out the Hebrew words “Beth El”. On the right side of the *bimah* is a burning bush with the Hebrew quotation “And the bush was not consumed,” symbolizing over 3500 years of Jewish survival.

Tefilot (Prayer Services)

The Shabbat morning service is divided into three sections. The first section—*Shacharit*—consists of psalms and prayers expressing gratitude for the new day and for Shabbat.

In the second section—the Torah service—we chant from the Torah (the Five Books of Moses). Prior to the Torah service, Yonah will give a *D’var Torah* offering insights into his *parasha*. During the Torah service, members of our family and others from the congregation will be called to the Torah for an *aliyah*, thanking God for the gift of the Torah.

The third and concluding section of the service—*Musaf*—consists of additional prayers emphasizing the uniqueness of Shabbat. At the end of tefilot, Yonah will recite *kiddush* and *hamotzi* (blessings over wine and hallah) in anticipation of the festive meal we will share.

For a fuller explanation and transliteration of the service, follow along in *Sha’ar LaSiddur* found in the pews.

Simcha shel Mitzvah (Mitzvah Project)

Yonah will be celebrating his bar mitzvah with a mitzvah project party. Together with recent bar mitzvah Anthony David, their friends and families will be packing after-school snacks for homeless and highly mobile Minneapolis public school students in conjunction with NCJW’s Stuff for Schools Program. This will help provide some stability for kids who don’t always know from where their next meal is coming.

Todah Rabbah (Thank you)

Thank you to all those who helped Yonah study and prepare for his bar mitzvah. We recognize Rabbi Avi Olitzky, Cantor Audrey Abrams, Mary Baumgarten, Jenny Hage, all of the TaRBuT and Sunday morning teachers, Yonah’s teachers at HMJDS and the entire Beth El community with much gratitude for sharing your knowledge and love, and for being our “village.”

On this important day in Yonah’s life, we remember family and friends who are no longer with us physically, but whom we hold in our hearts. While we miss them and know they would be proud of Yonah, we are blessed to have many family members and friends who have come from far and near to celebrate with us. Thank you also to those who sweetened our celebration by baking. We are so very fortunate to be a part of this community!

Esther, Alexander, Yonah, Koby, Micah and Amichai

Honors

Family is honored by participating in the Torah Service.

P'ticha (Ark Opening and Closing)

Anna Davis & Scott Weinrobe Aunt & Uncle
Rachel Goldberg Aunt

Hotza'ah (Remove the Torah from the Ark)

Aaron Goldberg Uncle

Aliyot (Blessings over the Torah)

Reena & Stuart Davis Grandparents
Barry Goldberg & Michele Bresler Grandparents
Esther & Alexander Parents

Family Torah Readers

Ira Goldberg Uncle
Ellen Rodin Cousin
Sarah Rodin Cousin

G'lilah (Tie and Dress the Torah)

Sophie Davis-Rittenberg Cousin

P'ticha (Open and Close Ark)

Elizabeth Davis & Rob Jacobs Aunt & Uncle
Max Marcus & Ira Goldberg Aunt & Uncle

Hakhnassah (Return Torah to the Ark)

Elizabeth Davis Aunt

Adon Olam

Yonah's cousins

Cover paper cut art by Yonah Davis.



Bar Mitzvah of Yonah Davis

יונה שי

בן הרב אלכסנדר הכהן ואסתר מרים

Parashat Bamidbar ❖ פרשת במדבר

May 24, 2014

כ"ד אייר תשע"ד ❖ 24 Iyar 5774

Beth El Synagogue