

The Bar Mitzvah of
Seth Montgomery Berg

ישעיהו משה בן שמואל



Parashat Eikev
Deuteronomy 7:12-7:26
Maftir 11:22-11:25
Haftorah Isaiah 49:14-50:10

August 8th, 2020
18 Av 5780

Temple Israel
Portsmouth, NH

Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman

Shalom/Welcome

We are delighted to welcome you today as we celebrate Seth becoming a bar mitzvah, marking the transition from childhood to adulthood in the Jewish community. From now on, he will be expected to take responsibility for keeping Jewish ritual, tradition, and ethics.

The Shabbat Service

Shabbat, the Jewish Sabbath is a day of rest and spiritual renewal that lasts from sundown on Friday night to an hour after sunset on Saturday evening.

The service begins with verses, blessings, and songs of praise to help us focus. It continues with the *Sh'ma*, an affirmation of faith, and the *Amidah*, a time for personal prayer.

The highlight of the morning is the reading of the Torah. Ordinarily on Shabbat we read a *parasha* (portion) of the Torah divided into seven sections plus the *maftir*, with a blessing before and after each section is read. You do not need to be a member of the congregation to be honored with a Torah blessing, but you must be Jewish and of bar or bat mitzvah age. Our Zoom service will contain a modified version of the Torah service. Instead of reading from the Torah directly, we will be chanting from a *humash* – a book containing the Hebrew and English text of the Torah and commentaries. The blessing before each reading will be a different one than usual and there will not be a blessing said afterward.

In honor of becoming a bar mitzvah, Seth will be honored with a special blessing when he is called to chant the *maftir*, which consists of the final verses of today's Torah portion. Seth will then chant the *haftarah*, a selection from the prophetic writings chosen because of its relationship to the themes of today's *parasha*. During the Torah service, Seth will also share some thoughts with us about this week's readings.

After Seth finishes chanting the *haftarah*, our family will shower him with candy, symbolically wishing him a sweet life.

During the Service

The Siddur is the prayer book that contains the prayers and readings for the service. Please follow along in the PDF of the *Sim Shalom siddur*, sing, and participate in the service as much as you feel comfortable.

Prayer Shawl: You will see many men and women, including Seth, wearing a *tallit* (*tallis* in Yiddish). The knotted fringes at the four corners of the tallit remind us of the 613 commandments and our connection to God.

Head Covering: A *kippah* (*yarmulke* in Yiddish) is worn by males and optionally by women. Unlike wearing a *tallit*, wearing a *kippah* or head covering is not a religious act, but simply shows respect for God and for sacred space.

Maintaining Sanctity: We ask all guests and participants to respect the sanctity of Shabbat by setting your phones and other devices to vibrate. If you need to leave the Zoom, please turn off your video and turn it back on when you return. Thank you!

Sitting and Standing: Jewish worship can be very athletic, with frequent instructions to stand and sit. Unlike kneeling, which is a prayer posture filled with religious significance, standing in a Jewish service does not constitute an affirmation of religious belief; it is merely a sign of respect. We invite you to stand with the congregation if you are able.

HONORS

<i>Sh'ma</i>	Sydney Berg (sister)
First Torah Reading	Blessing: Howard Berg (Zeyde) Chanted by Rhea Hewett (cousin)
Second Torah Reading	Blessing: Judy Golden (family friend) Chanted by Sheldon Berg (uncle)
Third Torah Reading	Blessing: Sam and Carole (parents) Chanted by Sam Berg (father)
<i>Maftir</i> (last reading)	Seth
<i>Prayer for Israel</i>	Elian Tackeff (Head of School)
<i>Prayer for Peace</i>	Lawrence and Sonia Kolota (grandparents)
<i>Reading: Quote from Elie Wiesel</i>	Michelle Kolota (aunt)
<i>Adon Olam</i> (concluding hymn)	Seth and Sydney Berg

Thank you to all the friends and family who have joined us today. We would like to offer our sincere thanks to all of Seth's teachers who have helped to support today's milestone. A special thank you to Deborah Hirsch Mayer, Seth's Bar Mitzvah tutor, for her invaluable commitment to Seth's learning. Thank you to Rabba Kaya for her wonderful direction and engaging presence at Temple Israel, and to the leadership of the Temple Board and its committees which have enabled today's event in every way.