

The Bat Mitzvah of Ava Hannah Siegel

Parashat Vayeitzei

November 28, 2020

12 Kislev 5781

Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman

Shalom/Welcome

We are delighted to welcome you to as we celebrate Ava becoming a bat mitzvah, marking the transition from childhood to adulthood in the Jewish community. From now on, she 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 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 and after each reading will be a different one than usual.

In honor of becoming a bat mitzvah, Ava will be honored with a special blessing when she is called to chant the *maftir*, which consists of the final verses of today's Torah portion. Ava will then chant the *haftarah*, a selection from the prophetic writings. Ava's *haftarah* was originally assigned to her before the pandemic which caused us to change her original Bat Mitzvah date. Ava will therefore be chanting a *haftarah* connected to a different portion of the Torah. During the Torah service, Ava will also share some thoughts with us about this week's readings.

After Ava finishes chanting the *haftarah*, our family will shower her with candy, symbolically wishing her 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 Ava, 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. Ava will be wearing a tallit, which she was gifted by her grandmother, Hynda for this occasion.

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

First Torah Reading.....Blessing: David and Barbara Siegel (grandparents)
Chanted by Rabba Kaya

Second Torah Reading.....Blessing: Hynda and Tom Storm (grandparents)
Chanted by Rabba Kaya

Third Torah Reading.....Blessing: Solomon Siegel and Cara Siegel (parents)
Chanted by Rabba Kaya

Maftir.....Chanted by Ava Siegel

Haftarat Korach (I Samuel 11:14 – 12:22).....Chanted by Ava Siegel

Prayer for our Country.....Laura, Brian, Addie, Connor Freeman (aunt, uncle, cousins)

Prayer for Israel.....Tony DeVecchio and Jane Burke (grandparents)

Prayer for Peace.....Mary DeVecchio (grandmother)

Elie Wiesel Reading.....Kaleigh Knapp and Wesley Knapp (step-siblings)

Adon Olam (concluding hymn).....Ava Siegel & Sam Siegel (brother)

Thank you for celebrating with us on this special day! We would like to thank Ava's tutor, Ellen McQueeney and Rabba Kaya for their flexibility, patience, and guidance throughout this journey.

Thanks also to Miles Borne for offering technical support for us today. In our abridged service, we are unable to honor as many friends and family as we would ordinarily, including many of our extended family.