



B'nai Mitzvah of  
Ethan, Shane &  
Cameron Miller  
May 25, 2013

## About Bar Mitzvah

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A Bar Mitzvah service is a traditional religious ceremony at which a Jewish 13-year-old is given the honor of reading from the Torah and/or leading the congregation in prayer for the first time. It is a rite of passage to maturity, as the child is then considered an adult in the eyes of Judaism. The term “Bar Mitzvah” is actually a description of the young man, not the service, as it literally means “son of the commandments.” (“Bar” means “son,” and “Mitzvah” means “commandments.”)

Though the Bar Mitzvah ceremony dates back thousands of years, there is no prescription for it in the Torah, only a reference in the Talmud about 13 being the age for observance of the commandments in the Torah. In the days of the Temple in Jerusalem, it was the custom for the father to bring the Bar Mitzvah before the Temple priest or other Elder to receive a blessing and a prayer that ‘he may be granted a portion in the Torah and that he may live a life filled with good deeds.’ The young man was then expected to observe the 613 mitzvot as an adult and to live his life according to the teachings of the Torah.

Today, a Bar Mitzvah ceremony marks the beginning of a child’s journey to adulthood, a time when the young adult begins to make choices for himself. Ethan, Shane and Cameron have already begun that process with their unique approach to this ceremony today. Each of them chose an area of Judaism to study over the past two years – Ethan, Jewish heritage and history; Shane, Jewish music; and Cameron, Jewish law and the 613 Mitzvot – and today they will share what they have learned.



## About This Service

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We have substituted readings and songs for many of the traditional prayers in our service today, choosing text that speaks to us while still following the structure of a Reform service. This is a participatory service; we invite you to sing and share, read and reflect, and most importantly to experience moments of connection, wholeness and peace. Shabbat Shalom!

# Welcome! Shabbat Shalom!

We wish one another 'Shabbat Shalom,' a peaceful day of rest.

## Shabbat Shalom Niggun *by Lisa Silver*

*Yai lai, lai, lai, lai,  
Yai lai, lai, lai, lai,  
Shabbat, Shabbat shalom! (repeat)*

שַׁבַּת שְׁלוֹם

*Shabbat, Shabbat shalom,  
Shabbat shalom! (repeat)*

## Hinei Mah Tov *(folk)*

*Hin-ei mah tov u-ma na-im  
she-vet a-chim gam ya-chad*

הִנֵּה מַה-טוֹב וּמַה-נְּעִים  
שֵׁבֶת אַחִים גַּם-יַחַד.

How good and pleasant it is when we dwell together in unity!

(Psalms 133:1)

## Presentation of the Tallitot

*It is customary to recite this blessing before putting on a tallit. The practice of wearing a tallit comes from the commandment to wear the fringes (tzitzit) that hang from it.*

*The knots in the fringes represent the 613 commandments in the Torah.*

*Baruch Atah Adonai eloheinu melech ha'olam אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַתְעִיף בְּצִיצִית*  
*asher kid'shanu b'mitvotav v'tzivanu*

We give thanks for this day, for our family and friends,  
and for the many blessings that fill our lives.

Grant us the blessings of contentment  
and understanding, love and peace.

And help us uphold the values

of our heritage with our  
words and deeds

every day.



Text on Cameron's tallit from Psalm 133:1:

"Behold, how pleasant for brothers to dwell in unity together."

Text on Shane's tallit from Talmud - Ethics of the Fathers (Pikrei Avot) 1:12:

"Love peace, pursue peace and love humanity."

Text on Ethan's tallit from Talmud - Ethics of the Fathers (Pirkei Avot) 5:24:

"Be strong as the leopard, light as the eagle, swift as the deer, and brave as the lion."

## Bar'chu music by Ben Siegel

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Call to worship

*Bar'chu et Adonai ham'vorach!*  
*Baruch Adonai ham'vorach l'olam vaed!*

בְּרַכּוּ אֶת־יְיָ הַמְּבָרֵךְ!  
בְּרוּךְ יְיָ הַמְּבָרֵךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד!

## Sh'ma music by Tzvika Pik

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In the Torah, the word "Sh'ma" ends with an oversized ayin, and the word "Echad" ends with an oversized dalet. Taken together these two letters spell "Ed," meaning "witness". Whenever we recite the Sh'ma, we bear witness to our awareness of God's presence. (Deuteronomy 6:4)

The best and most beautiful things cannot be seen or touched  
-they must be felt with the heart.

*(Helen Keller)*

*Sh'ma Yisrael Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai Echad.* שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ. יְיָ אֶחָד.  
*Baruch sheim k'vod mal'chuto l'olam vaed.* בְּרוּךְ שֵׁם כְּבוֹד מְלָכוּתוֹ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.

Hear, O Israel: the Eternal One is our God, the Eternal God alone!  
Blessed is God's glorious majesty for ever and ever!

## V'ahavta

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*We are commanded to teach our traditions to our children.*  
*(Deuteronomy 6:5-9; Numbers 15:40-41)*

There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children.  
One of these is roots; the other is wings.

*(Hodding Carter)*

## Advice to the B'nai Mitzvah

- Be strong enough to lead when you should.
- Be wise enough to know that you cannot do everything alone.
- Be willing to share your joys generously.
- Be willing to share the sorrows of others.
- Be a leader when you see a path others have missed.
- Be a follower when others show the way.
- Be understanding of your enemies.
- Be loyal to your friends.
- Take time to read - reading gives knowledge and perspective.
- Take time to reflect - reflection gives strength in times of trouble.
- Take time to love - love and friendship make life worthwhile.
- Take time to laugh - laughter is the music of the soul.
- Take time to think - thoughts are the source of wisdom.
- Take time to play - play renews the spirit.
- Above all, take time to know yourself.

## Mi Chamocha music by Debbie Friedman

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*The Passover story is such a pivotal part of our history that at every service we sing the song that Moses and Miriam sang after crossing the sea to freedom. (Exodus 15:11) It is a reminder to be mindful of and rejoice in the miracles that surround us every day.*

### Salutation to the Dawn by Kalidasa

Look to this day!  
For it is life, the very life of life.  
In its brief course lie all the verities  
and realities of your existence:  
the bliss of growth, the glory of action,  
the splendor of beauty.  
For yesterday is but a dream,  
and tomorrow is only a vision,  
but today well-lived  
makes every yesterday a dream of happiness,  
and every tomorrow a vision of hope.  
Look well, therefore, to this day!  
Such is the Salutation to the Dawn.

*Mi chamocha ba'eilim Adonai?*  
*Mi-kamocha ne'dar bakodesh,*  
*Nora t'hilot, oseh feleh?*

מִי־כַמְכָּה בְּאֵלִים. יִי?  
מִי כַמְכָּה. נֶאֱדָר בְּקֹדֶשׁ.  
נֹרָא תְהִילַת. עֹשֶׂה פְּלֵא?



## V'shamru

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*The people of Israel shall keep the Sabbath. (Exodus 31:16-17)*

### Renewing Our Vision by Mordechai Kaplan

An artist cannot be continually wielding a brush.

At times, every artist must stop painting to freshen his vision of the object, the meaning of which the artist wishes to express on the canvas.

Living is also an art. . . .

Shabbat represents those moments when we pause in our brushwork to renew our vision.

## Adonai S'fatai *music by Craig Taubman*

*May our words express all that is in our hearts. (Psalms 51:17).*

A na na na na na na A-do-nai,  
A na na na na na na s'fa-tai tif-tach,  
A na na na na na na u-fi ya-gid,  
U-fi ya-gid t'hi-la-te-e-cha (repeat 3x)

אֲדֹנָי  
שִׁפְתַי תִּפְתַּח.  
וּפִי יַגִּיד  
תְּהִלָּתְךָ:

## Avot V'imahot

*Remembering our ancestors: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah*

Jewish tradition is an evolving living thing that must adapt with each generation; a golden thread that connects us to our ancestors, but unfurls as we pass on to the next generation, while we witness the direction they take it.  
*(Bronfman)*

Our hearts are high with hopes for the future. Just as we have loved our children, each as someone special, so do we hope that our children come to respect themselves and develop a sense of their own worth. May they explore many paths, that they may become better able to choose the path that is right for them. May they grow from competence to confidence, from knowledge to understanding.

We hope that our children learn that we do not live by mind alone. May their hearts grow in warmth and compassion; warmth for those who are near and dear to them, compassion for people of every race and creed. May they find the inner security that will enable them to reach out to others in concern and care.

May our children have the strength to face reality. Let them not try to find escapes from the struggle that must accompany all growth. May they and we go forward into the future with courage and with joy.

## L'dor Vador *by Josh Nelson*

*We are gifts, and we are blessings, we are history in song;  
We are hope, we are healing, we are learning to be strong;  
We are words, and we are stories, we are pictures of the past;  
We are carriers of wisdom, not the first and not the last...*

L'dor vador nagid gad'lecha,  
L'dor vador, we protect this chain;  
From generation to generation,  
L'dor vador, these lips will praise your name. *(song continues next page)*

לְדוֹר וָדוֹר נִגִּיד גָּדְלְךָ

*Looking back on the journey that we carry in our heart,  
From the shadow of the mountains to water that would part;  
We are blessed and we are holy, we are children of your way;  
And the words that us healing, we will have the strength to say...*

## **Modim Anachnu Lach** music by David Lefkovich

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Thanksgiving

### **We Offer Thanks**

For the gift of life, wonder beyond words;  
For the awareness of soul, our light within;  
For the world around us, so filled with beauty;  
For the richness of the earth which day by day sustains us,  
For all these and more, we offer thanks.

*Modim anachnu lach; Modim anachnu lach;  
Modim anachnu la-a-a-ach; Modim anachnu lach.*

מודים אֲנַחְנוּ לָךְ

*For all our families, our friends and our loved ones,  
For all the love and joy that we share...*



A Chasidic legend teaches about Rabbi Zusya:  
Before he died, Rabbi Zusya said, "In the world-to-come,  
they will not ask me, 'Why were you not Moses?'  
They will ask me, 'Why were you not Zusya?'"

We do not have to be perfect.  
We do not even have to strive to be great  
in the ways that others are great.  
But we have to be our best selves.  
One purpose of prayer is to remind us  
of this difficult task and to inspire us to achieve it.



*We pause for a moment for silent reflection.*

## Shalom – Peace

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### Oseh Shalom by Nurit Hirsch

Oseh shalom bim'romav,  
hu ya'aseh shalom aleinu  
v'al kol Yisrael v'imru: Amen.

עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמְרוֹמָיו  
הוּא יַעֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ  
וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן:

### Peace in Our World

May we find peace with those we love;  
May we be at peace within ourselves;  
May we render peace in our world.



## Presentations by Ethan, Shane and Cameron

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1. *The History of Jewish Music by Shane...* Jewish history is rich with music and song. I have researched the history of Jewish Music and its impact on Jewish culture. I will share with you the importance of Jewish music today.
2. *Jewish Tradition and Mitzvot by Cameron...* The Talmud says that there are 613 commandments in the Torah. I will share with you my opinion of their relevance to today's world, and how they are important and affect me as I become a Bar Mitzvah.
3. *Jewish History by Ethan...* Many historical events have shaped the lives of the Jewish people over the past 2,000 years. I will share with you several major events that I feel have had the most significant impact and influence.

### Shehecheyanu by Tzvika Pik

Baruch Atah Adonai eloheinu  
melech ha'olam,  
shehecheyanu v'kimanu v'higianu  
laz'man hazeh.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ  
מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ וְקִיְמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ  
לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה:

*We give thanks for having reached this day!*

## Aleinu

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As we come to the end of our service, we ask with all our hearts: Let there be no more fighting and violence and war. Let the time come soon when people will be kind to each other, when no one will be hungry or homeless, when everyone will be free.

### **Blowin' in the Wind** *by Bob Dylan*

*How many roads must a man walk down before you can call him a man?  
How many seas must a white dove sail before she can sleep in the sand?  
Yes, and how many times must the cannonballs fly, before they're forever banned?  
The answer, my friend, is blowing in the wind, the answer is blowing in the wind.*

*How many times must a man look up before he can see the sky?  
How many ears must one man have before he can hear people cry?  
Yes, and how many deaths will it take till he knows that too many people have died?  
The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind, the answer is blowin' in the wind.*

*How many years can a mountain exist before it's washed to the sea?  
How many years can some people exist before they're allowed to be free?  
Yes, and how many times can a man turn his head, pretending he just doesn't see?  
The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind, the answer is blowin' in the wind.*



## Mourner's Kaddish

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*Memorial prayer*

### **We Remember Them** *by Sylvia Kamens and Jack Riemer*

In the rising of the sun and in its going down, we remember them.  
In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter, we remember them.  
In the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring, we remember them.  
In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer, we remember them.  
In the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of autumn, we remember them.  
In the beginning of the year and when it ends, we remember them.  
When we are weary and in need of strength, we remember them.  
When we have joys we yearn to share, we remember them.  
So long as we live, they too shall live, for they are now a part of us  
as we remember them.

## Havdalah

The Havdalah ceremony marks the separation between the Sabbath day of rest, and the rest of the week.

The name 'havdalah' comes from the Hebrew word *l'havdeel*, which means to distinguish or separate.

We mark this separation with blessings over wine, spices, and light.

Just as we begin Shabbat by lighting candles, so we end Shabbat by lighting this special braided candle. The light of the candle expresses our hope for a week of brightness and joy, and it is a powerful symbol of the balancing of separation and unity. The strands of the candle are separate. Each can burn on its own and provide light. But look how much stronger the light is when the strands are combined together. This is exactly how we are as individuals and as a community. We each can and do shed a beautiful, unique light. But together, look how much stronger and brighter the light is!

### Birchot Havdalah *by Debbie Friedman*

*Yai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai (3x) lai lai lai lai lai lai lai*



We usher in the new week by saying a blessing over a full cup of wine. The wine represents joy, and the full cup marks our appreciation of the bounty with which we are blessed.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם. בורא פרי הגפן:

*Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha-olam, borei p'ri hagafen.*

*Yai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai (3x) lai lai lai lai lai lai lai*



As we smell the spices, their aroma reminds us of the sweetness of Shabbat, and our hope for a sweet week to come.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם. בורא מיני בשמים:

*Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha-olam, borei minei v'samim.*

*Yai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai (3x) lai lai lai lai lai lai lai*



As we sing this blessing over the light, we extend our hands towards the candle with our palms facing us, observing the reflection of the light in our fingernails and the shadow upon our hands. As we curl our fingers towards us, we hold onto a little bit of the light, and a little bit of Shabbat.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם. בורא מאורי האש:

*Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha-olam, borei m'orei ha'eish.*

*Yai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai (3x) lai lai lai lai lai lai lai*

The candle's multiple wicks remind us that we are all connected. As we experience the separation between Shabbat and the new week that lies ahead, we hope that our actions in the coming week will have a positive impact upon the world around us.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם. המבדיל בין קדש לחול:

*Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha-olam, hamavdil bein kodesh l'chol.*

*Yai lai lai lai lai lai lai (3x) lai lai lai lai lai lai*

As we make the transition back to our week, we hope for a time when the world will be at peace. The prophet Elijah signifies our hope for a better future, but we know that our work in the world is needed to bring it about.

אלהינו הנביא, אלהינו התשבי, אלהינו הגלעדי:

במהרה בימינו, יבא אלינו, עם משיח בן דוד, עם משיח בן דוד:

*Eliyahu hanavi, Eliyahu hatishbi, Eliyahu, Eliyahu, Eliyahu hagiladi.*

*Bim'heira v'yameinu, yavo eileinu; im mashiach ben David, im mashiach ben David.*

Shabbat has now ended. We wish one another, "Shavua tov, a good week!"

שבוע טוב, שבוע טוב, שבוע טוב...

*Shavua tov, shavua tov, shavua tov, shavua tov (2x)*

*A good week, a week of peace, may gladness reign and joy increase! (2x)*

### A Blessing for Shalom by Jeff Klepper

*It's a blessing for you, it's a blessing for me,  
A blessing for each member of our family,  
A blessing for everyone here in our home,  
A blessing for shalom.*

*Y'varechecha Adonai v'yishmerecha,  
May you be blessed with health and happiness.*

*Yaeir Adonai panav eilecha v'kunecha,  
May you be content with yourself just the way you are.*

*Yisa Ado-nai panav eilecha v'yaseim l'cha shalom.  
May you be filled with peace.*



# *Shavua Tov!*

