



Our Clergy, Staff, and Lay Leadership Welcome You!

Jill L. Maderer, Senior Rabbi (she/her)

Eli C. Freedman, Rabbi (he/him)

Bradley D. Hyman, Cantor (he/him)

Alan D. Fuchs, Rabbi Emeritus (he/him)

William I. Kuhn, Rabbi Emeritus (he/him)

Jonathan M. Broder, President (he/him)

Jeffrey W. Katz, Executive Director (he/him)

Jennifer D. James, Director of Youth Learning and Engagement (she/her)

Andrea S. Miller, Buerger Early Learning Center Jewish Engagement (she/her)

Shabbat Morning Service

Introduction to the Saturday Morning Service



Often, during our Saturday morning service, we celebrate *b'nai mitzvah*. In Jewish tradition, this is when a young person begins to take on the rights and responsibilities of an adult in the religious community at the age of thirteen. At that age, those who identify as boys become “*bar mitzvah*,” which means a “son of the commandments.” Those who identify as girls become “*bat mitzvah*,” or “daughter of the commandments.” The plural is “*b'nai mitzvah*” – children of the commandments – which also is a term used by some children who identify as non-binary or gender fluid.

The *b'nai mitzvah* ceremony formally marks the occasion when one has the right to take part in leading religious services and the responsibility to perform *mitzvot* (commandments). It is an opportunity to welcome the young person into our congregation as a full spiritual member of the Jewish community.

In its earliest and most basic form, a *b'nai mitzvah* is the celebrant's first *aliyah* (literally “going up”), the honor of saying the blessings before and after the reading of the *Torah* (the handwritten scroll of the 5 books of Moses). The *Torah* is the first part of the Hebrew Bible, also known as the *Tanakh*, which also includes the Prophets (e.g. Jeremiah, Isaiah) and the Writings (e.g. Psalms, Proverbs).

At Rodeph Shalom, a *b'nai mitzvah* student learns and recites the weekly *Torah* portion and the *haftarah* portion (selection from the Prophets) in its traditional chant (*trope*). The celebrant also leads part of the worship service and gives a *d'var Torah* (literally a “word of *Torah*”), which is a teaching that reflects their understanding of their *Torah* portion and how it applies to life today.

B'nai mitzvah generally occurs during 7th or 8th grade. At Rodeph Shalom, Jewish learning continues through 12th grade and culminates in a special community celebration of all that the teens have learned and the relationships they have built.

It is customary to wish a hearty “*mazel tov*” (wish of congratulations) to the *b'nai mitzvah* and their families. Congregation Rodeph Shalom wishes you a *Shabbat Shalom* – a peaceful Sabbath.

Saturday *Shabbat* Morning Service

December 7, 2024

Led by: Rabbi Jill Maderer, Rabbi Eli Freedman,
Cantor Brad Hyman

Bat Mitzvah: Simone Rose Borish,
daughter of Jennifer & Jon Borish

Board Representative: Jordan Marks

Simone Rose Borish, daughter of Jennifer & Jon Borish, granddaughter of Sheryl & Jay Borish and Barbara & Alan Smith and sister of Aya, will become a *Bat Mitzvah* on Saturday, December 7. Simone is a 7th grader at William Penn Charter. For her *mitzvah* project, Simone volunteered at *Mitzvah* Meals, where she helped cook and deliver food to fellow congregants. She also plans to volunteer with Breaking Bread on Broad throughout the year. Simone says the most meaningful part of her *Bat Mitzvah* journey at Rodeph Shalom has been her *mitzvah* project because it has been a great way to connect with congregants.

Shabbat Morning Torah Reading

Parashat Vayeitzei: Genesis 28:10-18

10 Jacob left Beer-sheba, and set out for Haran. 11 He came upon a certain place and stopped there for the night, for the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of that place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. 12 He had a dream; a stairway was set on the ground and its top reached to the sky, and messengers of God were going up and down on it. 13 And standing beside him was *Adonai*, who said, "I am *Adonai*, the God of your father Abraham's [house] and the God of Isaac's [house]: the ground on which you are lying I will assign to you and to your offspring. 14 Your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All the families of the earth shall bless themselves by you and your descendants. 15 Remember, I am with you: I will protect you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." 16 Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely *Adonai* is present in this place, and I did not know it!" 17 Shaken, he said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the abode of God, and that is the gateway to heaven." 18 Early in the morning, Jacob took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on the top of it.

10 ויצא יעקב מבאר שבע וילך חרנה:
11 ויפגוע במקום וילן שם כִּי-בא
השמש ויקח מאבני המקום וישם
מראשתיו וישכב במקום ההוא: 12
ויחלם ויהיה סלם מצב ארצה וראשו
מגיע השמימה והנה מלאכי אלהים
עלים וירדים בו: 13 והנה יהוה נצב
עליו ויאמר אני יהוה אלהי אברהם
אביך ואלהי יצחק הארץ אשר אתה
שכב עליה לך אתנגדה ולרעה: 14 והנה
זרעה כעפר הארץ ופרצת ימה וקדמה
וצפנה ונגבה ונברכו בך כל-משפחת
האדמה וברעה: 15 והנה אנכי עמך
וישמרתך בכל אשר-תלך והשבתיך
אל-האדמה הזאת כי לא אעזבך עד
אשר אם-עשיתי את אשר-דברתי לך:
16 וייקץ יעקב מעקב משנתו ויאמר אכן יש
יהוה במקום הגה ואנכי לא ידעתי: 17
ויירא ויאמר מה-נורא המקום הגה אין
זה כי אם-בית אלהים וזה שער השמים:
18 וישכם יעקב בבקר ויקח את-האבן
אשר-שם מראשתיו וישם אתה מצבה
ויצק שמן על-ראשה:

Shabbat Morning Haftarah Reading

Hosea 13:1-4

1 When Ephraim spoke piety,
He was exalted in Israel;
But he incurred guilt through Baal,
And so he died.

2 And now they go on sinning;
They have made them molten images,
Idols, by their skill, from their silver,
Wholly the work of artisans.
Yet for these they appoint people to sacrifice;
They are wont to kiss calves!

3 Assuredly,
They shall be like morning clouds,
Like dew so early gone;
Like chaff whirled away from the threshing
floor.
And like smoke from a lattice.

4 Only I the ETERNAL One have been your
God
Ever since the land of Egypt;
You have never known a [true] God but Me,
You have never had a helper other than Me.

1 כְּדַבֵּר אֶפְרַיִם רִחַם וַנִּשָּׂא הוּא בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל
וַיֵּאֱשֶׁם בַּבַּעַל וַיָּמָת:

2 וְעַתָּה | יוֹסִפוּ לַחֲטֹא וַיַּעֲשׂוּ לָהֶם מִסֻּכֹּת
מִכֶּסֶפֶם כְּתִבּוּנָם עֲצָבִים מַעֲשֵׂה חָרָשִׁים
כִּלְאֵה לָהֶם הֵם אֲמָרִים זִבְחֵי אֲדָם עֲגֻלִים
יִשְׁקֹוּ:

3 לָכֵן יִהְיוּ כַעֲנַן-בֹּקֵר וְכִטְל מִשָּׁקִים הַלֵּךְ
כַּמִּזְ יִסָּעַר מִגֶּרֶן וּכְעָשָׂן מֵאֲרָבָה:

4 וְאַנְכִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם
וְאֱלֹהִים זֹלָתִי לֹא תִדְעַ וּמוֹשִׁיעַ אִין בְּלִתִּי:

In Memoriam: December 1 to December 7, 2024

Yahrzeit (anniversary of death)

Ida Alsher	Henry Garson	Fannie Deshure Malmud
Lewis Amsterdam	Louis Gerstley, Jr.	Rebecca Teller Mayer
Tillie Beck Balis	Rea Samson Goberman	Sallie Weiss Mezey
Jacob Batt	Anne Goldberg	Rose Millman
Josephine Bauer	Cecelia Metzger Goldschild	George A. Mostert
Glenn Becker	Blanche R. Greenberg	Samuel Moyerman
Rose Buschel Berger	Joseph Gritz	Sharon Newman
Martin G. Bergman	Eleanor Gross	Elias Nusbaum
Albert Berkowitz	Rebecca L. Gross	Lena Magaziner Pincus
Sylvain K. Bernstein, Jr.	Tillie Gutterman	Howard Reses
Robert Blumenthal	Leonard Jubelirer	Philip B. Robinson
Joan Buono	Lucien Katzenberg, Sr.	C. Williard Robinson
Miriam Butler	Jacob Katzenstein	Mathilde Frankel Rose
Benjamin Butler	Robert J. Klein	Harry Rosenthal
Joel Claster	Fannie Manko Kuhn	Bertha Rosskam
Sylvia Clyman	Gus David Kuhn, Sr.	Louis Saller
Bernard Cowitz	Beatrice Lazarus Sickles Lam	Simon Sandberg
Stella Sacks Cravis	Mildred Goldschild Lax	Max Schultz
Miriam Joan Dintenfass	Lee Lazarus	Fred Schwarz
Brenda Edelman	Bernard Leibowitz	Joseph "Joey" Michael Siegel
Rose Smith Ehrlich	Luis Levy	Nathan Spells
Simon Epstein	Elizabeth L. Lieberman	Rose Cooper Wice
Amelia Mayer Feldenheimer	Rose Serfer Lindsay	Benjamin "Ben" Wolf II
Bruce Fendell	Samuel A. Loewenberg	Matilda Weber Portner Wollman
Robert Freed	Sigfried Loewenthal	Lester Herbert Wurtele, Sr.
Bertha Lax Frisco	Stanley Lupowitz	Martin Zapletal
Edith J. Garfield	Mae Dein Magen	Richard Zeitlin
Samuel "Sonny" Garfield		

Shloshim (30 days of mourning)

Umar Ahmad William Coleman, III Paul Epstein
Anthony Hines Shirley Lashner Sandy Mozes Peter Emil Steiner

May the source of peace send peace to all who mourn and comfort to all who are bereaved

Discover the Rodeph Shalom Vision Statement

◆ Immersed in Jewish time ◆ Guided by enduring values ◆ Compelled to moral action

We create profound connections

Immersed in Jewish time

Sustained by the sacred rhythms of the Jewish year, pivotal moments of the Jewish life cycle, and generations of Jewish history, we are part of something greater than ourselves. Living in Jewish time teaches us how to express meaning in the everyday, to gather as a community, and to walk with each other through the joys and sorrows of our lives.

Guided by enduring values

The timeless wisdom of our tradition inspires our intentional quest for truth, righteousness, and purpose amid the uncertainties we face in our world. We dedicate ourselves to Judaism's ethical messages to treat each other with loving-kindness. The faithful, the skeptic—and those who perceive God in different ways—wrestle to renew the teachings of Torah for our present and for the future of the Jewish people.

Compelled to moral action

In a broken world, we commit to be a voice of conscience and to engage in the work of social justice. From our doorstep to our neighborhood and beyond, we welcome the stranger and embrace our responsibility to connect with and learn from others.

We create profound connections

We seek meaning in shared experiences and cherish our diverse perspectives. We who are new to synagogue life or have extensive Jewish backgrounds; we who are Jewish or who share our lives with Jews; we who live within different family constellations, who are of all abilities, gender identities, sexual orientations, races, and generations: we enter the synagogue to celebrate, to learn, to laugh, to heal, to pray, to challenge ourselves, and to connect with others about the deepest questions of our lives.

Welcome to Congregation Rodeph Shalom

Who belongs here at Congregation Rodeph Shalom?

Whether you are...

- Black, brown, white, Latinx, Asian, Indigenous, or multi-racial
- Queer, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning, or straight
- Three days old, 30 years old, or 103 years old
- Single, married, with/without kids, divorced, widowed, or partnered
- Living in Philadelphia, the suburbs, or elsewhere
- Struggling with addictions or know someone in that position
- A student, looking for a job, or gainfully employed
- Disabled, able-bodied, or a person of differing abilities
- Neurodiverse or neurotypical
- New to Judaism or a lifelong member
- Seeking your path, Jewish or not

You belong here at Rodeph Shalom!

Where equity, inclusion, and diversity are our congregational values!

We would like to hear from you! Please contact:
Steven Share, Senior Membership & Community Engagement Manager (he/him)
via email at sshare@rodephshalom.org.

Thank you to our EID (Equity, Inclusion, Diversity) Task Force for its ongoing leadership, crafting the above message, and helping to pursue our congregational vision.

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