



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

January 18, 2025

Led by: Rabbi Jill Maderer and Cantor Brad Hyman

Bar Mitzvah: Heston Lehman Katzen,
son of Amanda Lehman & Everett Katzen

Board Representative: Ned Hanover

Heston Lehman Katzen, son of Amanda Lehman & Everett Katzen, grandson of David Katzen and Karen & Ken Lehman, godson of Kristina & Jacob Brodie, and brother of Jasper, will become a *Bar Mitzvah* on Saturday, January 18. Heston is a 7th grader at Friends Select School. Heston says the most meaningful part of his *Bar Mitzvah* journey at Rodeph Shalom has been studying for and having his *Bar Mitzvah* at RS, standing right where his grandfather had his *Bar Mitzvah* and where his grandparents were married.

Shabbat Morning Torah Reading

Parashat Va'eira: Exodus 6:2-13

2 God spoke to Moses and said to him, "I am *Adonai*." 3 I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as El Shaddai, but I did not make Myself known to them by My name *Adonai*. 4 I also established My covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners. 5 I have now heard the moaning of the Israelites because the Egyptians are holding them in bondage, and I have remembered My covenant. 6 Say, therefore, to the Israelite people: I am *Adonai*. I will free you from the labors of the Egyptians and deliver you from their bondage. I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and through extraordinary chastisements. 7 And I will take you to be My people, and I will be your God. And you shall know that I, *Adonai*, am your God who freed you from the labors of the Egyptians. 8 I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and I will give it to you for a possession, I *Adonai*." 9 But when Moses told this to the Israelites, they would not listen to Moses, their spirits crushed by cruel bondage. 10 *Adonai* spoke to Moses, saying, 11 "Go and tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the Israelites depart from his land." 12 But Moses appealed to *Adonai* saying, "The Israelites would not listen to me; how then should Pharaoh heed me, me—who gets tongue-tied!" 13 So *Adonai* spoke to both Moses and Aaron in regard to the Israelites and Pharaoh king of Egypt, instructing them to deliver the Israelites from the land of Egypt.

2 וַיְדַבֵּר אֱלֹהִים אֶל־מֹשֶׁה וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אֲנִי
יְהוָה: 3 וְאַתָּה אֶל־אַבְרָהָם אֶל־יִצְחָק
וְאֶל־יַעֲקֹב בְּאֵל שַׁדַּי וּשְׁמִי יְהוָה לֹא נִודַעְתִּי
לָהֶם: 4 וְגַם הִקְמַמְתִּי אֶת־בְּרִיתִל אִתָּם לְתַת
לָהֶם אֶת־אֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן אֶת אֶרֶץ מִגְרֵיהֶם
אֲשֶׁר־גָּרוּ בָּהּ: 5 וְגַם אֲנִי שָׁמַעְתִּי
אֶת־נַאֲקַת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר מִצְרַיִם
מֵעַבְדִּים אִתָּם וְאֲזָכֹר אֶת־בְּרִיתִי: 6 לְכֹן
אָמַר לְבְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲנִי יְהוָה וְהוֹצֵאתִי
אִתְּכֶם מִמִּצְרַיִם וְהִצַּלְתִּי אִתְּכֶם
מֵעַבְדֹתָם וְגִאלְתִּי אִתְּכֶם בְּזְרוּעַ נְטוּיָה
וּבְשִׁפְטִים גְּדֹלִים: 7 וְלִקְחַתִּי אִתְּכֶם לִי לְעָם
וְהָיִיתִי לְכֶם לֵאלֹהִים וַיְדַעְתֶּם כִּי אֲנִי יְהוָה
אֱלֹהֵיכֶם הַמוֹצִיא אִתְּכֶם מִמִּצְרַיִם
מִצְרַיִם: 8 וְהִבֵּאתִי אִתְּכֶם אֶל־הָאֶרֶץ אֲשֶׁר
נִשְׁאַתִּי אֶת־יְדֵי לְתַת אִתָּהּ לְאַבְרָהָם לְיִצְחָק
וְלַיַּעֲקֹב וְנִתַּתִּי אִתָּהּ לְכֶם מִוִּרְשָׁה אֲנִי יְהוָה:
9 וַיְדַבֵּר מֹשֶׁה בֶן אֶל־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְלֹא
שָׁמְעוּ אֶל־מֹשֶׁה מִקְצֹר רוּחַ וּמֵעַבְדָּה
קָשָׁה: {פ} 10 וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה
לֵאמֹר: 11 בְּאֵ דַבַּר אֶל־פַּרְעֹה מֶלֶךְ מִצְרַיִם
וַיִּשְׁלַח אֶת־בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם: 12 וַיְדַבֵּר
מֹשֶׁה לְבְנֵי יְהוָה לֵאמֹר הֵן בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל
לֹא־שָׁמְעוּ אֵלָי וְאִיךָ יִשְׁמְעֵנִי פַרְעֹה וְאֲנִי
עֶרְל שִׁפְתַּיִם: {פ} 13 וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה
אֶל־מֹשֶׁה וְאֶל־אַהֲרֹן וַיִּצְוֶם אֶל־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
וְאֶל־פַּרְעֹה מֶלֶךְ מִצְרַיִם לְהוֹצִיא
אֶת־בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם: {ס}

In Memoriam: January 12 to January 18, 2024

Yahrzeit (anniversary of death)

Jane S. Abrahams	Wilhelm Graetz	Florence Packman
Leah W. Abramson	Joseph E. Gross	Julius Panzer
Stanley Altschuler	Joseph N. Grossman	Earl Perloff
Marum Anathan	Saul Gubernick	Frank A. Pfaelzer
Bette Appel	Lore B. Harburger	Ethel C. Polakoff
Ann Barmash	Henrietta Hartz	Harry M. Putzel
Barry Michael Barron	Samuel Herson	Robert Resek
Sandra Greenfield Basicakes	Mary Iacono	Beth Robson
William W. Batoff	Don F. Jay	Raymond Ellis Rosen
Sarah Beck	Sylvia Jenoff	William L. Rosenbluth
Albert Benderson	Philip Kahan	Sadie Jamison Rothman
Herman L. Bloom	Keke Blumberg Kahn	Norman S. Rothschild, Jr.
Yetta Bloomar	Elaine Kaplan	Matilda Rudow
Isadore O. Brick	Rose Kawut	Lewis Sablosky
Miriam Brin	Edward Kessler	Louise Seltzer
Fred Broodno	Ruth Mendel Klaus	Harry Serfer
Herbert C. Bushkoff	Zenia Krause	Mark Shevlin
Ralph N. Cettei	Joseph Krieger	Benjamin Shien
Rabbi Michael Isaac Charney	Morton Lane	Jack G. Silverman
Ray Cohen	Rose Lassin	Flora Silvernail
Carrie Eisman Cohn	Estelle R. Leberman	Helen Snellenburg
Bertha Topkis DeLuca	Julius C. Levi	Leslie Squires
David Harris Dickstein	William A. Levi	Riva Stanley
Boris Drucker	Steven Levy	Edwin Stern
Dennis Duckett	Jack Lieberman	Joseph Straus, Jr.
Matthew S. Ersner	Bertha Hess Liebman	Ruth Sussel
Rachel Bucks Farbish	Jayne Lindsay	William Walther
Samuel Fernberger	Susan G. Lipper	Fannie Rosenthal Weinberg
M. Austin Fine	Robert B. Litman	David Joshua Weisenfeld
Bertha Gerschel	Cecilia Magaziner	Ida Jaffe Weisman
Harry H. Goldberg	Hattie J. Mandel	Edward Weiss
Doris Golden	Jane M. McFarlin	Ruth Shaw Wheatcroft
Perry J. Goldman	Frederick Meisel	Isaac Wolf
Max Goldstein	Jacob Miller	Pauline Binswanger Wolf
Harry Goodman	Madge Marcus Nemir	Esther Schnure Zubow
Alice Shmookler Gouley		

Shloshim (30 days of mourning)

Alexander Freedman Christine Kuruna Rami Seliktar
Irwin Rutenberg Dan Shapira

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

RS Community Events

Open Call for Artists

The Philadelphia Museum of Jewish Art (PMJA) at Rodeph Shalom has a long tradition of art exhibitions. Our intention with this open call is to build on this momentum by inviting artists to reflect upon and give expression to the theme of “*Tikkun Olam*” – our duty to confront the challenges of repairing our world.

We invite artists to submit works that give expression to this concept by February 1.

Click here for submission details:

<https://rodephshalom.org/philadelphia-museum-of-jewish-art/>

Contact Robin Blumenfeld (rswitzenbaum@gmail.com) for more information.

Tu B'Shevat - The New Year of the Trees

The Mother Tree Cantata Music Program

Wednesday, February 12 from 6:30 – 7:15 p.m. at RS

Experience a new choral piece for *Tu B'Shevat* created to engage us in environmental sustainability, by composer Heath Allen.

The world premiere performance is on *Tu B'Shevat*, the Birthday of The Trees. Reception to follow with light refreshments.

This cantata features RS adult and youth choirs, Parkinsingers, and guests John Jarboe (The Bearded Ladies Cabaret) and members of Opera Philadelphia.

Contact Marjorie Samoff (masamoff@aol.com) for more information.

Register here: bit.ly/tubshevatcantata

Electronics Recycling at RS

Friday, Feb. 7- Wednesday, Feb. 12

Dispose of your unwanted electronics in an environmentally friendly way! All data is destroyed (certificate available upon request).

Bring your items to the Rodeph Shalom lobby, except for Sunday during Berkman Mercaz Limud, which will be collected in the parking lot.

Click here for a list of items that can be recycled: bit.ly/4g0ff5V

If you are interested in volunteering for a shift, click here: bit.ly/4ajA9vA

Contact Michelle Brancheau-Fogg (mbfogg@gmail.com).

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.

www.rodephshalom.org 215-627-6747
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Blog: rodephshalom.org/blog