



אהוב שלום ורודף שלום

◊ *Ohev Shalom v'Rodeph Shalom* ◊
Love peace and pursue it (*Pirkei Avot* 1:12)

Saturday *Shabbat* Morning Service

January 17, 2026 | 28 Tevet, 5786

Bar Mitzvah: Alexander Chase Abend

Welcome!

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!

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 17, 2026 | 28 Tevet, 5786

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

Bar Mitzvah: Alexander Chase Abend, son of Gayle Chesley & Nick Abend

Board Representative: Ned Hanover

Alexander Chase Abend, son of Gayle Chesley & Nick Abend and brother of Jack, will become a *Bar Mitzvah* on Saturday, January 17. Alexander is a 7th grader at The Philadelphia School. For his *mitzvah* project, Alexander volunteered at Breaking Bread on Broad at RS where he organized food for community members. He also helped gather donations from his family to help those in need. Alexander says the most meaningful part of his *Bar Mitzvah* journey at Rodeph Shalom has been becoming closer to his religion through studying *Torah*.

Shabbat Morning Torah Reading

Parashat Va'eira: Exodus 6:2-13

6:2 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 וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֶל-מֹשֶׁה וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אָנִי יְהוָה: 3 וְאֶלָּא אֶל-אֱבֹרֶה מֶלֶךְ אֶל-צָהָק וְאֶל-עַזְּחָב בֶּאָל שָׁׂקִי וְשָׁׂמִי יְהוָה לְאָנוֹ נָכוֹן עַתִּי לְהֶם: 4 וְגַם הַקְמָתִי אֶת-בְּרִיתִי אֶתְּךָם לְתַת לְהֶם אֶת-אֶרְץ מִגְּרִיכֶם אֲשֶׁר-גָּרוּ בָּה: 5 וְגַם אָנִי שְׁמַעְתִּי אֶת-נָאָקָת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר מִצְרָיִם מַעֲבָרִים אֶתְּכֶם וְאַזְלָר אֶת-בְּרִיתֵיכֶן: 6 לְכָן אָמָר לְבָנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל אָנִי יְהוָה וְהַצְאָתִי אֶתְּכֶם מִמְּפֹתַח סְכָלַת מִצְרָיִם וְהַצְלָתִי אֶתְּכֶם מִעֲבָדָתֶם וְגַאֲלָתִי אֶתְּכֶם בְּנֹרֹעַ נְטוּיָה וּבְשִׁפְטִים גָּדְלִים: 7 וְלִקְחָתִי אֶתְּכֶם לִלְעָם וְהַנִּיחַת לְכֶם לְאֶלְקָנִים וְיַדְעָתֶם כִּי אָנִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם הַמּוֹצִיא אֶתְּכֶם מִמְּפֹתַח סְכָלַת מִצְרָיִם: 8 וְהַבָּאָתִי אֶתְּכֶם אֶל-הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁאָתִי אֶת-דִּילִי לְתַת אָתָה לְאֱבֹרֶה מִלְּצָקָק וְלִיעָקָב וְנִתְמָתֵּי אֶתְּהֶם לְכֶם מִזְרָשָׁה אָנִי יְהוָה: 9 וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה כֹּן אֶל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְלֹא שָׁמַעוּ אֶל-מֹשֶׁה מִקְּצָר רֹום וּמִעֲבָדָה קָשָׁה: { פ } 10 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה 11 בָּא דָבָר אֶל-פְּרֻעָה אֶל-מֶלֶךְ מִצְרָיִם וַיִּשְׁלַח אֶת-בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל הַן בָּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל לְאֶשְׁמָעוּ אֵלִי וְאֵיךְ יִשְׁמַעַנִּי פְּרֻעָה וְאֶל-שְׁפָתִים: { פ } 13 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה וְאֶל-אֶחָרֶן וְנִצְׁוֹם אֶל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאֶל-פְּרֻעָה מֶלֶךְ מִצְרָיִם לְהַזְכִּיאָה אֶת-בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל מִאֶרְץ מִצְרָיִם: { ס }

Shabbat Morning Haftarah Reading

Ezekiel 28:25 - 29:4

28:25 Thus said the Sovereign GOD: When I have gathered the House of Israel from the peoples among which they have been dispersed, and have shown Myself holy through them in the sight of the nations, they shall settle on their own soil, which I gave to My servant Jacob,

26 and they shall dwell on it in security. They shall build houses and plant vineyards, and shall dwell on it in security, when I have meted out punishment to all those about them who despise them. And they shall know that I the ETERNAL One am their God.

29:1 In the tenth year, on the twelfth day of the tenth month, the word of GOD came to me:

2 O mortal, turn your face against Pharaoh king of Egypt, and prophesy against him and against all Egypt.

3 Speak these words:

Thus said the Sovereign GOD:

I am going to deal with you, O Pharaoh king of Egypt,
Mighty monster, sprawling in your channels,
Who said,
My Nile is my own;
I made it for myself.

4 I will put hooks in your jaws,
And make the fish of your channels
Cling to your scales;
I will haul you up from your channels,
With all the fish of your channels
Clinging to your scales.

28:25 כִּי-הִנֵּה אָמַר יְהוָה בְּקָבֵץ |
אֶת-בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל מִן-הָעָמִים אֲשֶׁר נִפְצָׁו
בָּם וְנִקְרְשָׁתִי בָּם לְעֵינֵי הַגּוֹיִם וַיִּשְׁבַּבּ
עַל-אֶדְמָהָם אֲשֶׁר נִמְתַּפֵּי לְעֵבָר לִנְצָקָבּ:
26 וַיִּשְׁבּוּ עַלְיָקָה לְבָתָה וְבָנו בְּתִים וְגַתְעָו
כְּרָמִים וְיִשְׁכּוּ לְבָטָח בְּעִשּׂוֹת שְׁפָטִים
בְּכָל הַשָּׂעָטִים אַתָּם מִסְבִּיבָתָם וַיִּדְעָו כִּי
אָנָּי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם: {פ}

29:1 בְּשָׁנָה הַעֲשָׂרִית בְּעִשְׂלֵי בְּשָׁנִים
עִשְׁר לְחֶדֶש חֶנְהָה זְבָרִיְהָה אֶלְיָהָר:
2 בְּנוֹ-אָדָם שָׁוִים פְּנֵיךְ עַל-פְּרֻעָה מֶלֶךְ
מִצְרָיִם וְהַנְּבָא עַלְיוֹן וְעַל-מִצְרָיִם כָּלָה:
3 דָּבַר וְאָמַרְתָּ כְּה-אָמַר | אָלָנִי יְהוָה
הַנְּגִי עַלְיָקָה פְּרֻעָה מֶלֶךְ-מִצְרָיִם הַמְּנִים
הַגָּדוֹל הַרְבָּץ בְּתוֹךְ יַאֲרִיו אֲשֶׁר אָמַר לִי
יַאֲרִיו וְאָנִי עֲשִׂיתֶנִי:

4 וְנִמְתַּפֵּי (חַחִים) [חַחִים] בְּלָחִידָה
וְהַקְבִּידָה לְגַת-יַאֲרִיךְ בְּקַשְׁקַשְׁתִּיחָדִיחָה
וְהַעֲלִיתִיחָדִיחָה מִתּוֹךְ יַאֲרִיךְ וְאֶת כְּלִדְגָּתָה
יַאֲרִיךְ בְּקַשְׁקַשְׁתִּיחָדִיחָה תְּדַבֵּק:

In Memoriam: January 11 to January 17, 2026

Yahrzeit (anniversary of death)

Jane S. Abrahams	Alice Shmookler Gouley	William L. Rosenbluth
Leah W. Abramson	Wilhelm Graetz	Sadie Jamison Rothman
Marum Anathan	Joseph E. Gross	Norman S. Rothschild, Jr.
Bette Appel	Samuel Herson	Matilda Rudow
Nathan Auritt	Keke Blumberg Kahn	Lewis Sablosky
Melba Basickes Axelrod	Elaine Kaplan	Maurice G. Sanders
Ann Barmash	Bernard Katz	Harriet Rosewater Sax
Barry Michael Barron	Zenia Krause	Milton S. Selig
William W. Batoff	Joseph Krieger	Louise Seltzer
Sarah Beck	Joseph Kuh	Harry Serfer
Albert Benderson	Rose Lassin	Francis S. Sheerr
Yetta Bloomar	Estelle R. Leberman	Seymour Shelton
Bertram Blumenthal	Julius C. Levi	Mark Shevlin
Carrie Blumenthal	Belle Levinson	Benjamin Shien
Isadore O. Brick	Jack Lieberman	Jack G. Silverman
Miriam Brin	Bertha Hess Liebman	Flora Silvernail
Ray Cohen	Susan G. Lipper	Helen Snellenburg
Carrie Eisman Cohn	Robert B. Litman	Leslie Squires
Diana Currie	Scott Lustig	Riva Stanley
Eleanor Braun Danaher	Cecilia Magaziner	Philip Sterling
John C. Danaher	Hattie J. Mandel	May Stiffman
Bertha Topkis DeLuca	Jane M. McFarlin	Joseph Straus, Jr.
David Harris Dickstein	Zippa Mesirov	Ruth Sussel
Boris Drucker	Jacob Miller	Samuel Tassman
Dennis Duckett	Muriel Mittelman	Esther E. Vendig
Matthew S. Ersner	Madge Marcus Nemir	William Walther
Samuel Fernberger	Florence Packman	Fannie Rosenthal Weinberg
M. Austin Fine	Julius Panzer	David Joshua Weisenfeld
Harriet Finn	Earl Perloff	Ida Jaffe Weisman
Benedict Freud	Frank A. Pfaelzer	Edward Weiss
Bertha Gerschel	Ethel C. Polakoff	Ruth Shaw Wheatcroft
Harry H. Goldberg	Harry M. Putzel	Floyd Whellan
Doris Golden	Yetta Reber	Isaac Wolf
Perry J. Goldman	Robert Resek	Pauline Binswanger Wolf
Max Goldstein	Raymond Ellis Rosen	Esther Schnure Zubow
Harry Goodman		

Shloshim (30 days of mourning)

Horace Barsh John R. Bilodeau Beverly A. Hopkins

Jeffrey Margolis Carl Schneider Daniel Segal Joan Sundheim

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

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.

Our Clergy, Staff, and Lay Leadership Welcome You!

Senior Rabbi
JILL L. MADERER (she/her)

Rabbi
ELI C. FREEDMAN (he/him)

Cantor
BRADLEY D. HYMAN (he/him)

Executive Director
JOSH LASTER (he/him)

Director of Youth Learning and Engagement
JENNIFER D. JAMES (she/her)

Director of Operations
RENEE CARL (she/her)

Buerger ELC Jewish Engagement
ANDREA S. MILLER (she/her)

Rabbis Emeriti
ALAN D. FUCHS (he/him)
WILLIAM I. KUHN (he/him)

Communications Manager
ALYSSA S. GELLER (she/her)

Clergy Assistant
SOPHIA SCHWAB (she/her)

Director of Membership and Community Engagement
STEVEN B. SHARE (he/him)

Philanthropy Director
NEIL D. WISE (he/him)

Membership & Philanthropy Assistant
MICHAEL SAKS (he/him)

After School Program Director
HADASAH YAQOB-JOHNSON (she/we)

Youth Engagement Coordinator
JEM OSHINS (they/them)

Education Assistant
AKIVA WOODS (he/him)

Controller
ERIKA CRUZ (she/her)

Staff Accountant
LETTY NORTH (she/her)

Administrative Assistant
ADAM COHEN (he/him)

President
JONATHAN M. BRODER (he/him)

Immediate Past President
HENRY B. BERNSTEIN (he/him)

President Elect
MARSHA WEINRAUB (she/her)

Vice Presidents
MICHELLE BRANCHEAU-FOGG (she/her)
LAUREL GLASER (she/her)
KATHERINE H. YULMAN (she/her)

Treasurer
TERRY D. SILVER (he/him)

Assistant Treasurer
DAVID STIFFMAN (he/him)

Secretary
SUSAN R. BEHR (she/her)

Board of Directors
EMILY COLLIER (she/her)
NED HANOVER (he/him)
LISA KAGEL (she/her)
HOLLY LENTZ KLEEMAN (she/her)
DAVID S. MANDELL (he/him)
MICHAEL A. RICCARDI (he/him)



We would like to hear from you! Please contact:

Steven Share, Director of Membership & Community Engagement (he/him),
via email at sshare@rodephshalom.org.

www.rodephshalom.org 215-627-6747
[Facebook.com/CongregationRodephShalom](https://www.facebook.com/CongregationRodephShalom)