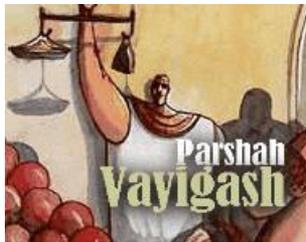




Shabbat Shalom

December 23, 2017
5 Tevet 5778

Welcome to the Bar Mitzvah of
Noah Shrago
Son of Michael & Melissa Shrago
and Lesli Shrago



Torah Reading - Page 222
Haftorah - Page 1143



...to Noah Shrago and his parents Michael and Melissa Shrago and Lesli Shrago on his Bar Mitzvah. Noah's grandparents are Jack and Helene Shrago and step-grandparents are Shelley and Skip Stern.

IN THE WEEK AHEAD

Rabbi Ari will be traveling with the Teen Trip to Israel and will be out of the office December 25 - January 5

Saturday, Dec 23

Shacharit.....	9:00 a.m.
Kiddush Luncheon in honor of Noah Shrago	11:30 a.m.
Insights Into the Weekly Torah Portion.....	3:40 p.m.
Mincha/Seudah Shlishit.....	4:25 p.m.
Havdalah.....	5:46 p.m.

Sunday, Dec 24

Shacharit.....	9:00 a.m.
Bagels & Beit Medrash.....	10:00 a.m.

Monday, Dec 25 - Wednesday, Dec 27

Shacharit.....	9:00 a.m.
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Thursday, Dec 28 - Fast of Tevet

Fast begins.....	6:20 a.m.
Shacharit.....	7:00 a.m.
Fast end.....	5:49 p.m.

Friday, Dec 29

Shacharit.....	7:00 a.m.
Mincha/Candle Lighting.....	4:45 p.m.



...to Michael and Melissa Shrago and Helene and Jack Shrago for sponsoring today's kiddush lunch in honor of Noah's Bar Mitzvah.
 ...the Chanukah Carnival Committee members for the work and planning last Sunday's fabulous event - Sarah Abrahamson, Tippi Denenberg, Faige Jeidel, Yaakov Jeidel, Rabbi Shlomo, Rabbi Ari, and Mary Sue Grossman. Thanks also to the MANY volunteers who helped staff the event.
 ...to Shirley and David Goodman, Maneva and Harold Edelman, and Jack and Helene Shrago for sponsoring the Chanukah Carnival.
 ...to Rabbi Ari and Laura for hosting the Chanukah Grill and Chill for college students.
 ...to Ben Shapiro and Amy Reynolds for their donation of bunk beds and bedding for the shul apartment.

Dear Family and Friends,

We are delighted that you are present to share the joy of our son's Bar Mitzvah. It is an occasion to which we have looked forward with much pride and anticipation. Your presence adds to our joy and enriches our simcha.

This Bar Mitzvah celebration is an important milestone in the life of our son, Noah. Bar Mitzvah means "son of the commandment." The ceremony marks Noah's passage into religious adulthood in Jewish Law. It is celebrated today in the same manner as it has been since the 13th century.

Noah's Bar Mitzvah represents an educational achievement of many years of religious studies in the Friedel Jewish Academy, NCSY, and with his weekly study with Donald Gerber and Rabbi Ari. The years spent by Noah in religious instruction have prepared him for this day and for a lifetime of religious involvement and Jewish identification as well. For all of us it is an occasion of deep religious significance.

A kippah (skull cap) is worn as a sign of reverence. Men wear a tallis (prayer shawl) as instructed in the Torah to wear Tzitzit (fringes). Today as a Bar Mitzvah, Noah will wear a tallis on the bima for the first time.

Noah will lead the majority of the morning service:

- He will lead in "Hotz-at Ha-torah" - the ceremony of taking the Torah from the ark.
- He will read sections of the Torah Portion, found in the Chumash, or Pentateuch.
- He will chant the Haftorah from the Chumash.
- He will lead in the ceremony of returning the Torah to the ark.
- He will lead the congregation in the concluding Musaf service.

As parents, we are thankful to Beth Israel Synagogue for its interest in our son's spiritual growth. We are particularly grateful to his teachers, Donald Gerber and Rabbi Ari, whose devotion and dedication inspired our son to strive to attain a standard of learning of which we are proud. We also gratefully acknowledge the Friedel Jewish Academy for their superb Jewish education from K through sixth grade.

Following the service, please join us in the social hall for the Kiddush luncheon in honor of the Sabbath and the observance of our son Noah's Bar Mitzvah.

Shabbat Shalom,
Michael and Melissa Shrago

To Our Guests,

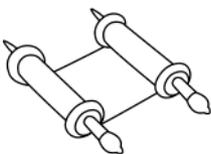
Welcome to Beth Israel Synagogue. The rabbi, officers, and members of Beth Israel are delighted to welcome you to the Sabbath morning service. We hope that you will find the service meaningful and instructive.

Services are conducted by and for the congregation. Although the rabbi officiates, the service is solemnized by the participation of the congregation. The rabbi delivers the sermon, or comments on scriptural readings, and explains the prayers. It remains for the congregation, however, to sanctify this religious assemblage by sharing in the experience.

The following definitions and explanations are offered as an aid in understanding the religious aspects of the service and various symbols.

Bar Mitzvah: When a young man becomes a Bar Mitzvah, he attains religious majority. This brings both added privileges and responsibilities, including being counted for a minyan and eligibility for being called to the Torah. On the occasion of Bar Mitzvah, the celebrant agrees to continue his studies, fulfill mitzvot (commandments) and takes his place in the activities of the Jewish community.

The Holy Ark: The cabinet at the east end (front) of the sanctuary, which is the closest to Jerusalem, is the Holy Ark (also called the Aron Kodesh) and is where the Torah scrolls are kept. Because the Torah is the most special spiritual possession of the Jew, the Ark is holy and is the focal point of every sanctuary. Today's Ark takes the place of the Ark of the Covenant described in the Book of Exodus. Whenever the Ark is open to reveal the Torahs it is customary to stand.



Torah: Torah is the Hebrew word for the bible. A Torah scroll found in the synagogue is the first five books of the bible, Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy) which are handwritten on parchment by a Sofer (scribe). Portions of the Torah are read in the synagogue each

Sabbath, festival and other days, throughout the years. These portions are so divided that each year the reading of the entire Torah is completed. The remaining parts of the Hebrew Bible are the Neviim (the Prophets) and Ketuvim (the Sacred Writings). The Torah, with the Neviim and the Ketuvim are together referred to as Tanach.

Ner Tamid: Ner means “The Eternal Light” and is lamp which burns continually in the sanctuary. It symbolizes the continual presence of G-d.

Mechitazah: As a member congregation of the Orthodox movement, Beth Israel has a mechitah which separates seating for the men and the women. This provides a more spiritual setting to enable men and women to be more mindful of the purpose for which they are present in the sanctuary.

Tallit: (also pronounced as tallis) A Tallit is a prayer shawl worn by adult Jewish males during worship, though not at every service. At morning services it is worn by every male member of the congregation.



Kippah: A kippah (also called yarmulke) is a head covering worn by all males of the synagogue.

Siddur and Chumash: A siddur is the prayer book used during services. More than half of the text is drawn from the Scriptures, the Talmud and other classical sources. The remainder of the liturgy includes devotional prayers and religious poetry. The Chumash is the bible (the first five books of Moses), composed of the Torah and Haftarah readings. Along with Hebrew, there is an English translation and commentary in both the Siddur and the Chumash. The Hebrew text is reads from right to left.

Sabbath: (in Hebrew, Shabbat or Shabbos)

“Remember the Sabbath, Day and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath of the L-rd your G-d.” (Exodus 20:8-10)

Viewed historically, the idea of a workless seventh day was revolutionary. Many ancient peoples scorned the notion. Seneca

referred to the Hebrews as, “This most outrageous people who lose almost a seventh part of their life in inactivity.” In reality, Jews were involved in many activities on Shabbat - different and uplifting activities. A deserved rest, separating the hectic pace of the mundane week from the peace and holiness of Shabbat. Traditional greetings on Shabbat are “Shabbat Shalom” or “Good Shabbos.”



Kiddush: After the services we will say Kiddush. Kiddush is a sanctification, a blessing over wine, which is done before partaking of the wine prior to a Sabbath or Festival meal. The Kiddush is a traditional symbol of joy of a festive occasion. The English translation of the blessing is “Blessed art Thou, L-rd our G-d, King of the Universe who creates the fruit of the vine.”

HaMotzi: The HaMotzi is a Hebrew blessing over bread, done before partaking of a meal. The English translation of the blessing is “Blessed art Thou, L-rd our G-d, King of the Universe who brings forth bread from the earth.”

The Service - Order and Honors

Order of Service: The Sabbath service consists of four essential elements:

Shacharit: The Morning Service is recited daily and includes introductory Psalms, the Shema and its accompanying blessings, and the silent Amidah prayer of devotion.

Torah Service: The Torah Service commences with the removal of the sefer Torah (a scroll of the Five Books of Moses) from the Ark. Study of the classical holy works is an important of traditional Jewish worship. Three times weekly (Shabbat, Monday and Thursday), as well as Rosh Chodesh (the New Month) and festivals, the Torah is taken from the Ark and a selection is read publicly. The Torah portion is chanted with traditional melodic patterns known as cantillation, an ancient system of musical notation. The application of these tunes to the text, and the chanting of the portion from the Torah, are skills which require much practice and preparation.



Musaf: The Musaf is the final prayer service of the morning. The Musaf is an extra service that is added to the Sabbath, festivals, and Rosh Chodesh (The New Month) liturgy and consists only of the Amidah and concluding hymns. (The sermon and the rabbi's charge to the Bar Mitzvah celebrant are not part of the Musaf but may be included here.)

Torah Honors: The Torah passage on the Sabbath is divided into a minimum of seven portions, plus an additional one for Maftir. Before each selection is read, a worshipper is called to the Torah for an honor, called Aliyah. He recites a blessing in which he praises G-d for the gift of the Torah to Israel. The verses are read, followed by another blessing, a Beracha, of gratitude. The final honor of this occasion is reserved for the Bar Mitzvah celebrant.

Various rituals occur during services and are referred to as "honors." It is traditional to honor family and friends at a Bar or Bat Mitzvah service.

Peticha: the honor of opening the Ark.

Aliyot: (plural for Aliyah which means "to go up"): a blessing read over certain portions of the Torah. The Torah passage on the Sabbath is divided into a minimum of seven portions, plus an additional one entitled Maftir. Before each selection is read, a worshipper is called to the Torah for an Aliyah. The blessing recited praises G-d for the gift of the Torah to Israel. The verses are read, followed by another blessing (beracha) of gratitude. The first honor is reserved for a Cohen (descendants of Aaron) and the second for Levi (descendants of those designated as the "caretakers" of the Holy temple). The remaining honors are given to Cohen, Levi or any other male member of the Jewish nation.

Hagbah: the raising of the Torah and displaying of the text to the full view of the congregation.



Gelilah: dressing of the Torah in its vestments.

We would like to thank all of our family and friends who took part in today's simcha. Your presence adds to the special significance of this day.



Mazel Tov to Those Celebrating Next Week

Birthdays

Ruth Sandkovsky	Dec 23
Yehodah Beneda	Dec 23
Sima Denenberg	Dec 26
Joel Sandkovsky	Dec 26

Anniversaries

Ed & Anne Joseph	Dec 23
Leon & Dani Shrago	Dec 26
Jake & Susan Besser	Dec 27



Celebrating a special simcha this month? There is still time to be a part of the December Simcha Kiddush next Shabbat, December 30.

Call the office or speak to Bette Kozlen to be included.

In Memoriam

Beth Israel extends condolences and wishes of comfort to community members who have recently lost loved ones.



Regina "Ginger" Rothenberg

Reva Rimmerman Oruch

Phillip "Phil" Patterson

Milton Glazer

Ha'makom yinachem etkhem betokh she'aravelei Tziyon vi'Yerushalayim

From Mechitza to the Marriage Canopy

Sundays, January 14 & 21, 10-11:15 a.m.

Rabbi Ari Dembitzer

The roles and responsibilities of men and women in Judaism are often discussed.

Is there gender equality? Is there a difference between separate and equal?

Some commandments are exclusively for one gender or the other – why?

If one is exempt from a mitzvah, is that a prohibition? On Sunday, January 14 and 21 Rabbi Ari Dembitzer will explore gender roles and focus on three key areas during his class,

From the Mechitza to the Marriage Canopy. Classes will meet from 10-11:15 am at Beth Israel Synagogue. The class is open to the community, free of charge. Registration is requested, on-line or by calling the office.



Todah Rabah for making the ***Beth Israel Chanukah Toy Drive for Chai Lifeline*** such a great success! Gifts will be delivered to the Chai Lifeline office in Chicago for distribution to patients and their siblings throughout the year. Drop off still available through Tuesday.



It's a Shabbat Experience with Students from Sharei Prozdur
January 18-21

Based in Long Island, NY and run by Rabbi Elly Merenstein, Sharei Prozdur (gates of the palace) is a newly opened Yeshiva with just 26 boys, all of whom are in the 9th grade. From Thursday, January 18 to Sunday, January 21, they will be visiting Beth Israel for an amazing experience. They will be here to learn from a community that differs from what they are used to, but also to have an impact on Beth Israel as well. More details coming soon.



Remember to like us on Facebook to keep up with all the Beth Israel updates! Don't miss out on frequently posted videos, event pictures and more.

Shopping on Amazon? Start by clicking the Amazon link on Beth Israel's home page at orthodoxomaha.org. Every purchase you make



on Amazon that begins on the Beth Israel website returns a percentage of the purchase to the synagogue. Link found in the right column of the synagogue's home page at orthodoxomaha.org



Shabbat & Holidays

9 a.m. through end of morning services
Baby-sitting for ages 6 months - 6 years

SHABBAT PROGRAMMING

10:30-11:15 a.m.

Class times may vary slightly - please confirm with the teacher. All classes may not be held each week

- 3-6 years - *Middot Class* with Dr. Gendelman
- 7-11 years - *Parsha Pearls* with Mr. Gerber
- 12-17 years - *Shmooz' n Torah* with Faige Jeidel
- 12-17 years - *Matmidim* with Mr. Shrago
- Approx 12pm, *Teen Class* with Rabbi Ari

Tot Shabbat

10:40-11 a.m. - For 3-6 year olds

Dec 16, Jan 20

Led by teens with Faige Jeidel

SUNDAY PROGRAMMING

10-11:30 a.m. - For K-6th Grades

Dec 24 - *Talmud Torah*

Dec 31 - *Jewish Calendar / Hebrew Birthday*

JYE BI/P.J. Library

10:30-11:30a.m. - Infants - 6 years

Jan 7 - **SPECIAL COMMUNITY EVENT! PJ**

Library Day of Caring - 10-11:30am, Friedel Jewish Academy



OTHER PROGRAMMING

Jan 2 - *BBQ and Learn* - 7-8pm

Jan 15 - *West Lane Bowling* - 6:30-8pm

Jan 29 - *Hot Soup and Learn* - 7-8pm

Questions on JYE BI? See Faige, Rabbi Shlomo, Rabbi Ari or Yaakov

MIDWEST NCSY UPCOMING EVENTS

February 9-11 - Regional Yarchei Kallah, Zion, IL

May 3-6 - Jr. Spring Regional, Camp Nageela

May 24-28 - Sr. Spring Regional, Camp Chi

Parsha Vayigash

Source: www.torah.org
Rabbi Aron Tendler

1st Aliya: The year is 2229 and Yoseph has been in prison for 12 years. Pharaoh has two similar dreams and demands their interpretation. The wine steward remembers Yoseph and his gift for dream interpretation, and Yoseph is rushed into Pharaoh's presence.

2nd Aliya: Yoseph interprets Pharaoh's dream and suggests to him how to best administrate the seven years of plenty and the seven years of famine. (The extent of Yoseph's brilliance will first be revealed in next week's Parsha.)

3rd Aliya: Yoseph is appointed viceroy over Egypt, and puts into effect the plan that he had outlined to Pharaoh. He marries the daughter of Potiphar (the daughter of Dina) and has two sons, Menashe and Ephrayim.

4th Aliya: The seven years of famine begin, and the only food available is in Mitzrayim. Yoseph, unrecognized by his brothers, recognizes them when they come to buy food. He accuses them of treachery and imprisons them for three days.

5th Aliya: Yoseph demands that Binyamin be brought to Egypt and keeps Shimon as a hostage. The brothers relate their adventure to Yakov who refuses to send Binyamin. The increasing famine forces Yakov to concede to Yehuda's guarantee that Binyamin will be safe, and the brothers return to Egypt.

6th Aliya: The brothers are reunited with Shimon and invited to eat at the table of Yoseph. All appears to be forgiven and Yoseph sees Binyamin for the first time in 22 years.

7th Aliya: Yoseph hatches his final plot against his brothers. His famed chalice is planted in the Binyamin's saddlebag forcing the brothers to return to Mitzrayim and a confrontation with Yoseph. The year is 2238.

Parsha Questions

1. Yosef tells his brothers not to be angry with themselves for having sold him into slavery. What is his reasoning?
2. What did Yosef give the brothers for the trip back to Canaan? What did he give to Binyamin that was different?
3. How many of Yaakov's family went on the trip down to Egypt, including Yosef and his family?
4. Pharaoh asked Yaakov his age. What did Yaakov reply?



WELCOME TO BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

We are delighted to welcome you to Beth Israel Synagogue. A passage from Deuteronomy 30:11-14 inspired the art work in the sanctuary. "For this commandment that I command you today - it is not hidden from you and it is not distant. It is not in heaven, [for you] to say, 'Who can go to the heaven and take it for us so that we can listen to it and perform it? Nor is it across the seas, [for you] to say, 'Who can cross to the other side of the sea for us and take it for us, so that we can listen to it and perform it?' Rather, the matter is very near to you - in your mouth and your heart - to perform it." Mitzvot are obtainable.

- ◆ The focal point of the sanctuary is the Menorah Window, which frames the Ark and is shaped in the form of the six branched candelabrum. To the right, brilliantly colored window has forms that reflect the heavens, while the left side depicts the seas.
- ◆ The message is completed in a frieze, the horizontal painting on wood mounted on the wall. The background of the frieze symbolically and abstractly represents the relationship between G-d and the people of Israel through the Covenant. The perochet, or curtain over the Ark, completes the symbolic composition, with an expression that intertwines the Torah and the letter Aleph, the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet, of the Ten Commandments, and of G-d's name in Hebrew.
- ◆ As is traditional, the sanctuary has 12 windows, representing the 12 tribes of Israel. These windows contain the name of each tribe in flowing, organic letters. The windows are located above the continued frieze, which includes two central texts of the revelation at Sinai - "If you will keep my Covenant, you shall be precious to me," and "You shall be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." This composition expresses the unity of Israel as the people stood together at Sinai and accepted the Torah.

Beth Israel Synagogue strives to perpetuate the legacy of Torah Judaism in the modern world. Beth Israel welcomes all persons of the Jewish faith to join and accepts the diversity of practice and thought among its members.

Rabbi Ari Dembitzer, Senior Rabbi

Toba Cohen-Dunning, President

Mary Sue Grossman, Executive Director

Rabbi Shlomo Abramovich, Visiting Scholar

Leo Fettman, Cantor Emeritus

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