

**Welcome** to Kol Ha'emek, an unaffiliated, egalitarian congregation under the leadership of Rabbi Edward Boraz. If you are new to the synagogue experience, here are a few notes on etiquette: because it's the sabbath, we don't use electronic devices like cameras and phones. If you brought yours, please turn it off before the service starts. Because a bat mitzvah is a religious ritual, not a performance, we don't applaud. Rather, we appreciate speakers and chanters with smiles, saying "yasher koach" and singing "siman tov u'mazel tov."

**The Bat Mitzvah Ceremony:** The meaning of Bat Mitzvah is "daughter of the commandments." A Bat Mitzvah is a girl's religious coming of age, representing a public as well as personal commitment to ethical and communal responsibility. We mark the occasion by giving the Bat Mitzvah the honor of reading from the Torah before the community.

**The Torah:** The Torah is the foundation of Judaism and our most sacred text. Each week, we read and study a section of the torah. Miriam's parsha (portion) is a section of the story of the Jews wandering in the Sinai Desert.

Physically, the torah is a scroll upon which the Five Books of Moses are written by a scribe in the original Hebrew. The scroll is made of parchment, and the words must be accurate to the letter. A scribe may work on a Torah for a year or more. Because the Torah is so spiritually valuable, it is not touched by hands, which have natural oils on them that could harm the parchment. Instead, rollers are used to position the scroll to the appropriate section, and a pointer (or *yad* in Hebrew) is used to follow the reading. Miriam's aunt, Beth Silverman, is a metal smith who created the yad Miriam will use today.

**Tallis:** The Tallis is a prayer shawl. It covers the shoulders and has fringes with knots (*tzitzit* in Hebrew) on each of its corners. There are 613 knots to remind us of the 613 commandments (*mitzvot* in Hebrew) given by God in the Torah. Today, Miriam will wear a tallis for the first time. Miriam's grandmother, Jane Herron, will present the tallis.

**Kippah:** The kippah, or yarmulke, is a head covering which Jews customarily wear as a sign of reverence to God.

## CORE ELEMENTS OF THE MINCHA SERVICE

### Introductory Blessings and Songs

The service begins with songs of praise: Ma Tovv and Hallelujah  
Tallis presentation: Jane Herron (grandmother)

### The Shema and V'ahavtah

The Shema (p. 242) expresses the central creed of the Jewish faith: "Hear, O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is One."

### The Amidah

The Amidah, or the "standing prayer," is actually a series of prayers beginning with the *Avot V'Imahot* (remembrances of our ancestors), followed by the *Gevurot* (praise of God's powers), *Kedushat Hashem* (blessing of the name of God) and ending with the *Birkat Hashalom* (blessing for peace). There are several petitionary prayers in between as well. We recite the prayers while standing, with the congregation starting together, and then each person continues silently until the end.

### The Torah Service

This section of the service pays special homage to the Torah. We open the ark, remove the Torah, and parade around the sanctuary before reading it. Congregants may walk to the aisles to touch the outer covering of the scroll as a sign of respect.

Ark openers: Lillian Switkes and Ben & Zach Fisher (cousins)

Before each Torah portion is chanted, honored guests are called for an Aliyah. They will recite a special blessing for the Torah. Miriam will be the final person to recite the blessing over the Torah, having now been called to read from the Torah for the first time as a Jewish adult.

Aliyah 1: Felix Herron and Simon Herron (brothers)

*Israel ben Michael v'Mashe, Shimon ben Michael v'Mashe*

Aliyah 2: Chad and Carly Kastel (cousins)

*Chad ben Jeffrey v'Stacey, Emunah bat Jeffrey v'Stacey*

Aliyah 3: Ellen Switkes (great aunt)

*Sora Else bat Faygel v'Frances*

Aliyah 4: Sofia Herron-Geller (cousin)

*Sivan bat Alana & Shmuel*

Aliyah 5: Michael Switkes and Frances Fisher (cousins)

*Moshe Ben Ooshe v'Sarah, Faygel bat Ooshe v'Sarah*

Aliyah 6: Jane Herron and Richard Herman (grandparents)

*Teresa bat Melvin v'Sylvia, Reuven ben Sheppard v'Eunice*

Aliyah 7: Melissa and Michael

*Mashe bat Shoshanna v'Reuven, Michael ben Teresa v'Reuven*

Maftir: Miriam

*Miriam Devorah bat Mashe v' Michael*

Hagbah: Mark Kastel (cousin)

*Moishe ben Zvi & Joan*

Gilah: Tia Herman and Piper Herman-Alyea (cousin)

Ark closers: Joshua Herman & Elizabeth Herman (cousins)

The *Misheberach* is a prayer given to the Bat Mitzvah for health and happiness and to the congregation for physical and spiritual healing.

Following this, Miriam will read her Haftarah. The Haftarah (which means "selection") is a portion from the Book of Numbers. Lastly, Miriam will give a *d'Var torah*. This is Miriam's interpretation and teaching based on the week's Torah and Haftarah segments. When she's done, we will throw candy at her to wish her a sweet life.

After the *d'var torah*, the following people will give Miriam special blessings: Melissa, Michael, maternal step-grandfather Gary Kofinas, maternal grandfather Richard Herman, Congregation Board Member Rusty Sachs, and Congregation Rabbi Edward Boraz.

The final prayers are Aleynu (prayer of adoration), Mourner's Kaddish (prayer on behalf of loved ones who have died) and final songs. Those we are missing especially today include: Dick Herron (Miriam's paternal grandfather) and Susan Herman (maternal grandmother).

Finally, we will assemble in the foyer for wine and challah with Hamotzi & Kiddush leaders: Tom and Sarah Herman (aunt and uncle)

# Miriam Deborah Herron

is called to the Torah  
as a Bat Mitzvah

4:00pm

June 4, 2016 at

Roth Center for Jewish Life