

Welcome to Oliver & Isaac's B'nai Mitzvah

Oliver Rudolph Yukica

רְחֵמִים

&

Isaac Nyle Yukica

יְצַחֵק

Are called to the Torah as Bar Mitzvah

10:00am

December 21, 2019

The Roth Center for Jewish Life

Welcome to Kol Ha'emek -- the Upper Valley Jewish Community. We are an unaffiliated, egalitarian congregation under the leadership of Rabbi Mark Melamut. There are numerous denominations of Judaism, the Yukica's roots come from Rebecca's family who are Reform Jews. At Kol Ha'emek there are also Conservative and Orthodox Jews.

If you are new to the synagogue experience, here are a few notes on synagogue etiquette: Because it is the Sabbath, we do not use electronic devices like cameras and phones. Because a b'nai mitzvah (plural for bar mitzvah) is a religious ritual, not a performance, our custom is to refrain from applause. Rather, at the end of the Torah service, we will congratulate Oliver & Isaac and wish them a sweet life. The Hebrew phrase we use is Mazel Tov.

Young children are welcome in the synagogue, and those who do not find the service riveting are permitted to play in the Hebrew School Classroom downstairs. Please tidy up before you leave.

The B'nai Mitzvah Ceremony: The meaning of Bar Mitzvah is "son of the commandments." A Bar Mitzvah is a boy's religious coming of age, representing a public as well as personal commitment to ethical and communal responsibility. A b'nai mitzvah service is no different from any Sabbath morning synagogue service, the heart of which is the reading of the Torah. Today, we give the Bar Mitzvah the honor of being called to the Torah for the first time as well as chanting from it.

The Torah: The Torah is a scroll upon which the Five Books of Moses are written by a scribe in 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 over a year. Because the

Torah is so spiritually valuable, it is not touched by hands as hands' natural oils could harm the parchment.

The contents of the Torah are the foundation of Judaism. It contains our most sacred text. Each week we read and study a section of the Torah, completing the text each year. Oliver and Isaac's parsha (portion) is a section of the story of Joseph.

Tallis: The Tallis (plural tallisim) is a prayer shawl. It 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 G-d in the Torah. Today Oliver & Isaac will wear tallisim for the first time. Their cousins Noah and Lily will present the tallisim, generous gifts from their Aunt Julie and Uncle Jon.

Each week's torah portion is broken up into eight even smaller sections. For each of those eight sections today, a member of the congregation will be called up to sing two blessings, one before and one after the Torah is read. Being called up to sing the blessings is an honor known as an *aliyah* (a "calling up"). One must be 13 years old to receive the honor of an *aliyah*. Today Oliver & Isaac will each have an *aliyah* and will also read from the Torah. This week's portion is called Vayeshev ("and he [Jacob] sat down").

In addition to Oliver & Isaac, many people who are important to our family will be called up to recite the Torah blessings. Their Hebrew names will be called by a person known as a *gabbai*. Kol Ha'Emek's *gabbai* is Sam Zucker.

Kippah: The Kippah (Hebrew), or yarmulke (Yiddish) is a head covering that (generally male) Jews customarily wear as a sign of reverence to G-d. Our Kippot were custom made for this event by Fat Hat Clothing, in Queechee, VT.

Core Elements of The Service:

The service begins with introductory Blessings and Songs of praise
The Main service includes the Shema which expresses the essential creed of Judaism, that there is one G-d.

The Torah Service is when we pay 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 aisle to touch the outer covering of the scroll as a sign of respect.

Ark openers: Lena Rich (cousin) and Eli Yukica (brother).

Before each Torah portion is chanted, honored guests are called for an Aliyah. They will recite a special blessing for the Torah. Oliver and Isaac will be the last ones called to recite the blessing over the Torah, having now been called to read from the Torah for the first time as Jewish Adults.

Aliyah 1: Noah and Lily Rich (Noach Barack and Shoshanna Ora), Cousins

Aliyah 2: Michael and Krista Rich (Mikhail), Uncle and Aunt

Aliyah 3: Jon and Julie Rich (Yitzhak David and Yael), Uncle and Aunt

Aliyah 4: Henry Rich and Sharon McEvoy (Tzvi), Uncle and Great Aunt

Aliyah 5: Donald and Martha Rich (Duvid and Manya), Grandparents

Aliyah 6: Jack and Rebecca Yukica (Rifka), Parents

Aliyah 7: Oliver Yukica (Rachamim)

Maftir: Isaac Yukica (Yitzchak)

Hagbah – The lifting of the Torah, Jon Rich (Uncle)

G'lilah -Torah is dressed by Adrian Rich (cousin) and Ark closes.

The Misheberach is a prayer given to the B'nai Mitzvah for health and happiness and to the congregation for physical and spiritual healing.

Following this, Isaac and then Oliver will read the Haftarah associated with their Torah portion: Amos. Haftarah portions come from the books of Nev'im (Prophets). These books are not part of the Torah scroll; we read them from the red Etz Hayim books that contain both Torah and haftarah texts.

Oliver and Isaac will each give a brief *d'var* (lesson) to the congregation about the portion of the Torah we have just heard.

Following their *d'var*, parents, Rebecca and Jack will offer some personal words to Oliver and Isaac.

After the the Torah service, there will be concluding prayers, followed by a gathering in the hallway to say blessings over wine and challah.

On this joyful day, we remember those who live in our hearts: Betty Yukica, Emily & Jack Rine, Lillian & Rudolph Koslan, Miriam, Gene and Bob Rich, Hilda & Harry Kirsch, Selma & Norman Rudnick.