

(FRONT COVER)

Bar Mitzvah

of

Matthew Alec Lebow

April 28, 2007

10 Iyar 5767

Parshat Acharei Mot-Kedoshim

Oheb Shalom Congregation

South Orange, New Jersey

Rabbi Mark Cooper

Cantor Erica Lippitz

Shabbat Shalom and welcome to Oheb Shalom Congregation, an egalitarian Conservative synagogue. We are delighted to have you join us on this special Shabbat morning as we celebrate Matthew becoming a Bar Mitzvah. We hope that the explanations in this pamphlet will help you to better understand our rituals and customs, and give you an appreciation for the spirit, poetry, and beauty of our service.

Head Coverings and Prayer Shawls

In our congregation, a *kippah* (a head covering) is worn as a sign of respect as we engage in worship. This custom is observed by all males as well as by females who receive an honor on the *bima* (pulpit). Covering the head is optional for other females. *Kippot* and lace head coverings are available at the entrance to the sanctuary. Please feel free to keep one with Matthew's name inside as a memento of this special occasion.

Jewish men and women thirteen years of age and older wear prayer shawls (*Tallit*) to fulfill the commandment in the Torah to wear a fringed garment in order to remind us of all the commandments. Today is the first day that Matthew will wear his *tallit*.

Bar Mitzvah

The term Bar Mitzvah literally means 'son of the commandment.' The Bar Mitzvah marks the moment of passage from childhood into the beginning of Jewish adulthood. Today, Matthew becomes an adult in the Jewish community, and takes on the religious, moral and ethical responsibilities that are expected of all Jews. In

celebration of reaching this important time in his Jewish life, Matthew will read from the Torah, the handwritten parchment scroll containing the first five books of the Bible. Matthew will also chant the Haftarah, a selection from the prophetic writings, and will lead us in prayer. After he chants the Haftarah, we will gently toss candy at him, to shower his life with sweetness and link that sweetness with the joy of studying Torah. He will also share a D'var Torah, literally a "word of teaching" on the meaning of his Torah portion.

The Service

The Shabbat service is divided into several sections. They are: Introductory blessings and psalms; *Shacharit* (the morning service); The Torah Service; *Musaf* (the concluding service); Kiddush and *hamotzi* (the blessings over the wine and *challah*). The prayers may be followed in the blue *Sim Shalom* prayer book.

The Torah Service

The Torah scrolls are kept in the Holy Ark (the *Aron Kodesh*), which is located on the *bima*. Each time the ark is opened, the congregation rises out of respect for the Torah. The reading from the Torah is divided into seven sections; a special honoree recites a Hebrew blessing (*aliyah*) before and after each passage. After the seventh passage is read, a concluding passage, called *Maftir*, is read. This special blessing is reserved for Matthew. The Torah is chanted using an ancient system of cantillation signs (tropes), symbols found above and below the Hebrew words in the printed edition of the Torah.

The actual Torah scroll is handwritten and contains no cantillation signs or vowels, so Matthew and other Torah readers must study diligently to know the signs from memory. The Torah readings (Leviticus 19:15-20:27) and *Haftarah* (Amos 9:7-15) can be followed in the red book, entitled *Etz Chaim Chumash*. At the end of the Torah service, the Torah scroll is carried joyfully around the sanctuary giving the congregation the opportunity to reach out with their prayer books or *tallit* to touch the cover of the scroll as a sign of love and respect.

Kiddush

Every happy Jewish occasion is commemorated with the sharing of wine and bread (*challah*), symbols of the joy of life and hospitality. Matthew's grandparents will join him on the *bima* as he recites the blessings.

We would like to express a special thanks to those who have helped Matthew prepare for this wonderful day, including Rabbi Cooper, Cantor Lippitz, and Jamie Breitman. We are so happy to share our joy with our Oheb Shalom family, friends and relatives who helped us make this occasion so festive.

Shabbat Shalom!

Leslie, Andrew, Laura and Matthew Lebow

Please refrain from using cameras, beepers or cell phones in the synagogue.

(BACK COVER)

Aliyot and Honors

- First** **Blessing: Congregant**
Reader: Sam Blumkin (Friend)
- Second** **Blessing: Sara and Richard Lebow (Aunt and Uncle)**
Reader: Laura Lebow (Sister)
- Third** **Blessing: Congregant**
Reader: Jamie Breitman (Friend and Teacher)
- Fourth** **Blessing: Joyce and Ellis Hoch (Grandparents)**
Reader: Leslie Lebow
- Fifth** **Blessing: Nadine and Lewis Hoch (Aunt and Uncle)**
Reader: Adam Hoch (Cousin)
- Sixth** **Blessing: Cynthia and Lee Brettman (Aunt and Uncle)**
Reader: Ben Hoch (Cousin)
- Seventh** **Blessing: Congregant**
Reader: Maya Bea Schechner (Cousin)
- Eighth Blessing: Leslie and Andrew Lebow**
Reader: Matthew Lebow
- Maftir** **Blessing: Matthew Lebow**
Reader: Matthew Lebow
- Hagba (Lifting of Torah): Ari Brettman (Cousin)**
G'lilah (Dressing of Torah): Shira Brettman (Cousin)
- D'Var Torah and Haftarah: Matthew Lebow**
- Ashrei: Tamar Prince (Friend)**
- Prayer for the State of Israel: Liz and Ken Flatto (Aunt and Uncle)**
- Prayer for our Country: Margot and Stanley Lebow (Grandparents)**