



שבת שלום

Shabbat Morning Worship

Vayetze - Genesis 28:10 - 32:3

November 28, 1998

9 Kislev 5759

*Bat Mitzvah of
Allison Dorie Harris*

שושנה דורית

Lakeside Congregation

Rabbi Isaac D. Serotta

The Bat Mitzvah Service

Bat Mitzvah is what a young woman becomes simply by turning thirteen. It is not an event or a ceremony. Bat Mitzvah literally translates to "daughter of the commandment." What this really means is "old enough to be responsible for mitzvot." Mitzvot are the commandments that a Jew must perform in accordance with God's teaching. This makes for a life of holiness.

A child who is younger than thirteen may perform mitzvot as an option. Once she turns thirteen, these options become obligations. The idea of mitzvah implies responsibility and obligation. It connects us to the covenant of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, of Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah, and of all Jews who reached their thirteenth year. It is sacred and joyous. It deserves celebration.

If anything celebrates the diversity of Jewish expression, it is Bat Mitzvah. The reason for this is clear; these are customs with no force of law. A Bat Mitzvah ceremony is a worship service with an opportunity for a young woman to recite the Blessings for the Torah. Reading or chanting that week's Torah portion, and reading the Haftarah is also an option. A Bat Mitzvah speech has become customary. It usually serves as a devar Torah (sermonette on the Scriptural lesson) and as a personal prayer for the occasion.

The Torah scroll contains the five books of Moses (Genesis through Deuteronomy). It takes a full year, starting in the fall, to read the entire Torah. A Bat Mitzvah candidate reads from the specific portion of the Torah designated for that particular week.

After the Torah, the Haftarah is read. Haftarah gives commentary on the Torah portion. The Haftarah comes from the Prophetic books, the second part of the Hebrew bible. While the Torah is read sequentially from week to week, the Haftarah portion is selected because of its thematic connection to the Torah text.

What does it all mean? Bat mitzvah is about ritual maturity. It is about growing up as a Jew. It is about becoming a fuller member of the Jewish community. It is also about moral and ethical responsibility, connecting to Torah, to community and to God.

Adapted from: *Putting God on the Guest List*
by Rabbi Jeffrey K. Salkin

It's pretty great being a kid...
Because it's all there in front of you...
Your life is a long, lazy summer day...
And...

It's only ten o'clock in the morning...
And...

Because...
There is nothing that you're not capable of becoming...
nothing that you still can't do...

It's pretty great being a kid...
Because...
Rainbows are still miracles
Summers are still too short
And questions are still unanswered...

It's pretty great being a kid...
Because...
You still have more pencil than eraser...
You still have more ice cream than stick...
You still have more tomorrows than yesterdays...
You still have the chance to become whatever you want...
to make every dream come true...

R. Panitch

בראשית

וישא יעקב הלוי וילך אלהו בנקת

ויבא והנה באר בשדה והנה שם שכשה עדרו צאן
ועמם עלתה בו מן הבאר הווא יעקב העדרים
והצאן גדלה על פי הבאר והאספו שימה מלהעדרם
וגילו את האבן מעל פי הבאר והעיקו את האבן
והשיבו את הצאן על פי הבאר למוקמה ויאמר
להם יעקב אדני מאין אתם ויאמרו מזרחן אבותנו
ויאמר להם הירעתם את לבן בן נחור ויאמרו דעמי
ויאמר להם השלום לו ויאמרו שלום והנה חלפת
באה עם הצאן ויאמר הן עוד היום גדול לא עדי
האספה המקנה העיקו הצאן ולכו רעו ויאמרו לא
נזכר על אשור יאספו כל העדרים וגילו אתהצאן
מעל פי הבאר והעיקו הצאן עודנו מדבר עמם
והחל באה עם הצאן אשר באביה כי רעה הוא
ויהי כאשר ראה יעקב את רחל בת לבן אחיו
וצה הצאן לבן אחי אמו ויהי יעקב ויהי את האבן
מעל פי הבאר ויעיק את האבן לבן אחי אמו ויעיק
יעקב לרחל וישא אתקלו ויבך ויהי יעקב לרחל
כי אדני אנית האבן בין רבקה הוא ותרץ ותגד
לאביה ויהי כשמוע לבן את שמוע יעקב בן אהוה
וירץ לקראתו ויחבק לו ויעיק לו ויבא אלה אל בית
ויספר לבן את כל הדברים האלה ויאמר לו לבן
אך עשיתי ובשרי אתה וישב עמו חדשי ימים ויאמר
לבן ליעקב הבן אדני אתה ועשרתה וזה הנדדה כי
מה משכרתך וכלבן שתי בנות שים הנדדה לאה
ושם הקטנה רחל ועמי לאה רבות ורחל היתה יפה
האך ויפת מראה ואתה יעקב את רחל ויאמר
אעבוד שבע שנים ברחל בתך הקטנה ויאמר לבן
למה תהי אתה כך מותהי אתה לאש אחי שמה
עמדי ויעבד יעקב ברחל שבע שנים והיה בעיני
בנים אחים וטא אהבה אתה

Jacob resumed his journey and came to the land of the Easterners. There before his eyes was a well in the open. Three flocks of sheep were lying there beside it, for the flocks were watered from that well. The stone on the mouth of the well was large. When all the flocks were gathered there, the stone would be rolled from the mouth of the well and the sheep watered; then the stone would be put back in its place on the mouth of the well. Jacob said to them, "My friends, where are you from?" And they said, "We are from Haran." He said to them, "Do you know Laban the son of Nahor?" And they said, "Yes, we do." He continued, "Is he well?" They answered, "Yes, he is; and there is his daughter Rachel, coming with the flock." He said, "It is still broad daylight, too early to round up the animals; water the flock and take them to pasture." But they said, "We cannot, until all the flocks are rounded up; then the stone is rolled off the mouth of the well and we water the sheep."

While he was still speaking with them, Rachel came with her father's flock; for she was a shepherdess. And when Jacob saw Rachel, the daughter of his uncle Laban, and the flock of his uncle Laban, Jacob went up and rolled the stone off the mouth of the well, and watered the flock of his uncle Laban. Then Jacob kissed Rachel, and broke into tears. Jacob told Rachel that he was her father's kinsman, that he was Rebekah's son; and she ran and told her father. On hearing the news of his sister's son Jacob, Laban ran to greet him; he embraced him and kissed him, and took him into his house. He told Laban all that had happened, and Laban said to him, "You are truly my bone and flesh."

When he had stayed with him a month's time, Laban said to Jacob, "Just because you are my kinsman, should you serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older one was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah had weak eyes; Rachel was shapely and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he answered, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "Better that I give her to you than that I should give her to an outsider. Stay with me." So Jacob served seven years for Rachel and they seemed to him but a few days because of his love for her.

Mah yafeh hayom

Mah yafeh hayom, Shabbat shalom. (2)

Shabbat, Shabbat shalom (3)

Shabbat shalom.

A Woman of Valor - Eishet Chayil

Ei-shet cha-yil mi yim-tsa,

A woman of valor who can find,

v'-ra-chok mip-ni-nim mich-rah,

her precious life is like a jewel.

A mother, a wife, bless this woman all of her life.

A mother, a wife, bless this woman all of her life.

Mi Shebeirach

Mi she-bei-rach a-vo-tei-nu, m'kor ha-bra-cha l'i-mo-tei-nu,

May the source of strength who blessed the ones before us,

help us find the courage to make our lives a blessing,

and let us say, Amen.

Mi she-bei-rach i-mo-tei-nu, m'kor ha-bra-cha l'a-vo-tei-nu,

Bless those in need of healing with r'-fu-a sh'-lei-ma,

the renewal of body, the renewal of spirit,

and let us say, A-men.

L'chi Lach

L'chi lach, to a land that I will show you.

Leich l'cha, to a place you do not know.

L'chi lach, on your journey I will bless you,

And (you shall be a blessing) (3x) l'chi lach.

L'chi lach, and I shall make your name great.

Leich l'cha, and all shall praise your name.

L'chi lach, to the place that I will show you.

L'sim-chat cha-yim (3x) l'chi lach.

Participants in today's service...

Debbie & David Harris

Lori Harris

Phyllis & Ronald Harris

Steven Harris

Arlyn Handler

Jordan Shapiro

Mitch Darin

Denise Goldberg

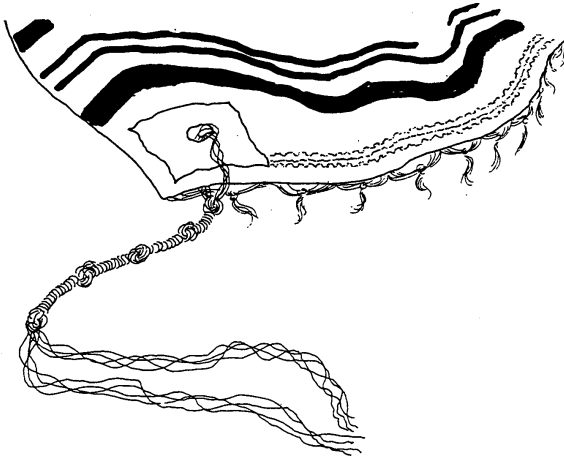
Joni Mandel

Sue Nadel

Richard Shandross

Michelle Halle Stern & David Stern

Shauna, Harlan, Hannah & Victoria Weil



The toys and games on the bimah and the school supply centerpieces will be donated to A Safe Place Shelter in Waukegan, Illinois

Thank you...

To all our friends and family, thank you so much for joining us in worship today. Thank you to so many of you who have travelled on a holiday weekend to be here. To the snowbirds from Florida, California and Arizona - we appreciate you braving a Chicago November and hope it hasn't been too hard on you! To the returning college students - Jackie, Stacy, Meredith and Amy - we are so touched you took time out of your Thanksgiving holiday to be here for Lori's "little sister." A huge thanks to so many of you who baked for today (and to Joni and Eva for shlepping baked goods from Sarasota!). To Mitch - our utmost gratitude for meeting with Deb for so many Thursdays. Not only did you organize the luncheon, but you probably saved our marriage as well. And, of course, Arturo - thank you so much for graciously saying, "No problem" to every request.

Thank you to Warren Fremling, Cara Chowning and the members of the Lakeside choir, not only for your presence here today, but for the years of laughter interspersed with "a little music."

Our deepest appreciation to our teachers: Vanessa Ehrlich for years of friendship and leadership; Rachel Mather for making good on a seemingly nonchalant promise made so long ago to tutor Allison in trop. And Rabbi Serotta - you have only been here a short time, but the impact you have had on our congregational family is already quite significant.

Finally to Lori and Allison - thank you for providing a constant reminder of why we do this. To see you both grow into such responsible, mature and caring women makes the years of shlepping, worrying, paying and even laughing worth it all. We cherish you.

*Debbie and David
November 28, 1998*