

שמחה נתניה בת פרץ אברהם ומרים

Shelby Nicole Evans

שמחה נתניה



Bat Mitzvah

בת-מצוה

February 24, 2007

ו' אדר תשס"ז 6 Adar 5767

Parshat Terumah

Congregation Anshai Torah

Plano, Texas

Adapted from "Pink Yesterdays"

How can it be that when
I bent to kiss you good night,
 My daughter,
A beautiful young woman
Lay where only yesterday
 A little girl had been?
When did the barrettes and
 Ponytail ribbons,
Of birthday party days, give way to the
 Styling comb and make-up mirror
 Of hang-outs with friends?
Was it not only yesterday,
Crayons of all colors laid upon the table
Where now bottles of nail polish rest?
How can it be the buggy you filled
 With so many dolls
 Has been pushed aside?
Did you ever know the finger you
Wrapped yourself around was tied right to my heart?
It seems as though the ink has just dried
 On the pages of your baby book
 And here we are laughing over pages
 In your elementary school year book.
How did the ballet slippers of a little girl
Become the high heels of a young woman on her way?
 Such a little while ago you cried,
 "Mommy, I'm scared", and now you whisper,
 "Mom, don't worry I'll be fine."
How can it be the smell of baby powder
Turned instead to the scent of perfume,
 The giggles of a little girl
 Became the tears of a teen,
Wasn't it only yesterday ruffles and tea parties
 Colored my world pink and tomorrow
Graduation, a new address and a good-bye kiss stain my world blue?
 How did it happen so quickly and
When I stop to realize all my golden tomorrows
Will bask in the memories of pink yesterdays.
 Thank you Lord for pink yesterdays.

— Alice Collins

Welcome

Dear Family and Friends,

We welcome everyone to Congregation Anshai Torah and to Shelby's Bat Mitzvah. We are honored and thankful to share this day with our friends and family near and far. Each of you holds a special place in our lives and our hearts.

You are here because you are helping us shape Shelby into the young woman she becomes. You may be a friend who has been there for her to give advice, listen when times are tough, or celebrate the good times. You may be a relative who gives Shelby a grounded sense of the importance of family. You help teach her right from wrong, you take joy in her accomplishments, and you offer her unconditional love. You may be a teacher giving Shelby valuable skills and life lessons.

For whatever reason you came here today, we want to thank you for participating in Shelby's life and sharing this memorable day. Your presence, love, and friendship enrich us all.

Shabbat Shalom.

— Meryl, Paul, Shelby, Lane and Zachary

The Synagogue

Our synagogue, Anshai Torah, which means people of the torah, is a conservative congregation. The conservative movement in Judaism joins modernity with tradition by combining Jewish written and oral law with insights that have developed over thousands of years.

The synagogue is the Jewish house of worship, a building for prayer. Men and boys of all faiths must wear a head covering known as yarmulke or kippah (skullcap) when entering the synagogue. Wearing a head covering shows reverence to G-d. Women may wear hats or lace head coverings, but it's only required when they go on the bimah (pulpit), or raised stage. During the Shabbat service, Jews past the age of bar mitzvah may also wear a tallit, a fringed prayer shawl, to serve as a reminder of the commandments G-d gave to us.

The service is conducted in front of the sanctuary on the bimah. The Aron-Kodesh, the Holy Ark, housing the Torah scrolls is on the synagogue's eastern wall at the back of the bimah, assuring that we pray facing east toward Jerusalem. Each scroll contains the Five Books of Moses, also known as the Bible or Testament, handwritten on parchment in ancient Hebrew script without punctuation or vowels. Above the Ark is the Ner Tamid, the Eternal Light, which symbolizes G-d's eternal presence in the synagogue.

The menorah (candelabra) on the bimah commemorates the seven-branched gold menorah used in the ancient Temple in Jerusalem.

The memorial plaques on the wall of most synagogues list names of departed family members. The light next to a plaque is illuminated every year on the anniversary of the person's passing.

Upon entering the sanctuary, you received a siddur (daily Jewish prayer book). The book opens from right to left because Hebrew is read from right to left. The siddur is used throughout the Shabbat service.

Bat Mitzvah

Bat mitzvah literally translated means daughter of the commandments. Today, Shelby becomes a bat mitzvah. This custom dates to the 12th century and signifies that Shelby publicly accepts the moral and religious obligations of an adult in the Jewish community by following Jewish laws and practices, a turning point in the life of a Jewish child at the age of 13.

Special Thanks

We would like to thank Sherri Massarella, Shelby's tutor, for her patience and Hebrew guidance. She worked with the family's challenging school, work, and sports schedules. We express our gratitude to Rabbi Weinberg for his wisdom, insight into Shabbat services, and guiding Shelby with writing her speeches. To Kay Sykora for keeping us informed and connected. We're grateful to Shelby's Hebrew teachers beginning with Ms. Bev for providing her with an important education.

Thank you to the Torah readers, Farzin Bakhshian for making assignments, and everyone who helped ensure a meaningful service.

We appreciate Helaine Kramsky, Kim Matsil and the kitchen staff for lovingly preparing today's Kiddush luncheon. Special thanks to Al & Karen Kaplan for hosting the luncheon.

We also thank you, Shelby's friends and family, who took the time to share this simcha (joyous occasion) with us. We especially thank those who traveled from Austin, Colorado, Georgia, Michigan, Minnesota, New York and Washington, D.C. to join us. We wish we could list all of your names here ... you're in our hearts and thoughts.

— *Meryl & Paul*

Remembrance

We wish to remember our loved ones who have departed from this earth, and whose spirit and love remain with us today. Their memory is a blessing ...

Shelby's Great Grandparents, Lillian Brachman Raimey and Sidney Nathan Raimey, for whom she was named.

Great Grandparents, Max and Ethel Kaplan

Great Grandmother, Gertrude Kaplan Lander

Great Grandparents, Vernon and Verna Martin

Bat Mitzvah Service (Continued)

Maftir	Shelby Evans
Hagbah (Raise torah)	Lon Werner, cousin
G'lilah (Dress torah)	Laurie Werner, cousin
Haftarah and Speech	Shelby Evans
Ark Opening	Wendy Kaplan, aunt Phyllis Levy, friend
Carry the Torah	Al Kaplan, grandfather

Musaf Concluding Service

Musaf	Warren Rubin, friend
Aleinu Ark Opening	Madlyn Barnett, cousin Bernice Luskey, cousin from Georgia
Adon Olam	Lane & Zachary Evans (brothers), Stephanie Kaplan and Daniel Raimi-Zlatic (cousins)

Please join us for a Kiddush luncheon following the service, hosted with love by Shelby's grandparents Al & Karen Kaplan to honor Shelby and to celebrate her accomplishments and Bat Mitzvah.

Web page with speeches, project and photos:

<http://www.meryl.net/shelby/>

She also raises her commitment to performing charitable deeds, acts of kindness, and community services. For the first time, she is called up to the Bimah for her Aliyah, which is the honor of being called up to read from the sacred Torah scrolls. She also leads the Shabbat service, showing her readiness to accept her link with past generations and continue the tradition and faith of a Jewish adult.

In a Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony, the young person chants the blessings, and the week's Torah portion. The young person also reads the Haftarah portion, readings from the Prophets that correspond with the Torah portion.

Every Torah is inscribed on parchment by hand in Hebrew with no written vowels. Reading it is an exacting procedure requiring much study and practice. The Torah portion is chanted using ancient melodies known as trope.

A different portion of the Torah is read each week so that the entire Torah is read over the course of the year. Every Jewish congregation in the world reads the same portion at the same time, linking Shelby's bat mitzvah service to other Jewish people all over the world. Shelby's Torah portion today comes from Exodus 25:1 - 27:19.

The Shabbat Service

The Shabbat service consists of three major parts. The morning service, called Shacharit, includes introductory prayers, psalms, the Barchu (formal call to prayer), the Shema (the primary affirmation statement of Jewish faith), the Amidah (standing prayer), and Mi Chamocha (part of a song that Moses and the Israelites sung at the shores of the Sea of Reeds). During certain prayers and when the Ark is opened, the Rabbi asks the congregation to rise as a sign of respect.

The second is the Torah portion which begins when the Torah is removed from the Ark and is brought to the congregation in a special procession. The scroll is opened and the weekly Torah portion is read. Shelby chants Terumah (Exodus 25:1 - 27:19), this week's Torah portion. In Terumah, G-d tells Moses to collect gifts from the Israelites to build a Tabernacle so G-d can dwell among the people. G-d also instructs Moses how to build a Dwelling Place (sanctuary). We will honor family members and close friends by calling them up to the

The Shabbat Service (Continued)

Torah to recite the special blessings. These are said before and after the seven parshat (portions) are chanted by the Torah reader. At the end of the Torah reading, someone lifts the Torah for all to see. After the Torah gets its covering back on, Shelby chants the Haftorah portion.

Here Shelby reads a corresponding passage from the Haftorah. The Haftorah text comes from the book of Prophets. It is widely believed that we read from the Haftorah to remember times in our past when the Jews were prohibited from reading the Torah. Religious scholars became resourceful by selecting a portion from the book of Prophets that echoed the meaning of the weekly Torah portion.

Shelby's Haftorah portion is from I Kings 5:26 - 6:13. At the conclusion of the Haftorah, it is customary to gently toss candy at the girl celebrating her bat mitzvah to symbolize the sweet "new life" as Shelby enters adulthood and fulfills her obligations. This custom is extended from that in which the groom is called to the Torah on the Shabbat before he marries. The congregation throws candy to wish him a sweet new life as a married man.

The third and concluding part of the service is the Musaf. The conclusion also consists of singing "Ein Kelohanu" to extol the uniqueness of G-d and Alenu to praise G-d. Members who have lost a loved one within the past year or those who acknowledge the anniversary of a loved one's passing recite the Mourner's Kaddish. The prayer affirms our faith in G-d and in his eternal justice and goodness. The service is concluded with the singing of Adon Olam.

Shabbat Shalom is our greeting and wish for a peaceful Sabbath and a pleasant week ahead.

Shabbat Shalom

* Please make sure that all cell phones and pagers are turned off or set to silent. Photography is not allowed during the service or on Shabbat. Please be considerate and refrain from talking loudly during the service.

Bat Mitzvah Service

P'sukei
Shacharit

Stuart Rosenfield
Matt Kurtzman, friend

Torah Service

Ark Opening
Carry the Torah
Gabbai Rishon
Gabbai Sheini

Kim & Adam Matsil, friends
Paul Evans, father
Sherri Massarella, tutor

Aliyot & Honors

Kohen Aliyah
First Reading
Levi Aliyah
Second Reading
Shlishi Aliyah
Third Reading
Rivii Aliyah
Fourth Reading
Hamishi Aliyah
Fifth Reading
Shishi Aliyah
Sixth Reading
Shivii Aliyah
Seventh Reading

Al Kaplan, grandfather
Michael Kaplan, uncle
Sherri Massarella, tutor
Sheldon Levy, friend
Matt Kurtzman, friend
Karen Kaplan, grandmother
Stephen Kaplan, great uncle from New York
Rachel Massarella
Amnon, Ayala & Ari Nevo, cousins from Colorado
Joel Futterman
Burton Raimi, cousin from Washington, DC
Richard Raimi, cousin from Austin
Stephen Raimi, cousin from Michigan
Farzin Bakhshian
Elisa & Larry Miller, aunt & uncle
Eric Berman
Paul & Meryl Evans, parents
Shelby Evans