



HIGHLIGHTS

Bar Mitzvah Reflections: The Matsons

When we met for Sam's initial Bar Mitzvah meeting in 2019, I never could have imagined all that would transpire over the next two years. The date seemed quite far off at the time, even though I knew the amount of work that was ahead. The first task was for Sam to choose his Torah portion. Prior to his departure, Rav Sam offered his guidance with dividing up potential portions from which Sam could choose. Once Sam selected his exact portion, then he was supported by several members of the Betenu community.

Sonia worked with Sam during his Hebrew class, Elsa met with Sam to review prayers, and Sheryl checked in often with both Sam and me regarding rituals and practices for the service. It was exciting as Sam developed an idea for his Bar Mitzvah project, and he enjoyed connecting the project to his Torah portion. It was a smooth transition to Rav Dena, and she met with Sam monthly last year. We were very fortunate, and relieved, to learn that Dena agreed to officiate at Sam's Bar Mitzvah even though her internship at Betenu had ended. It was even sweeter when Howard offered his beautiful voice during the Bar Mitzvah as well!

Planning Sam's Bar Mitzvah against the backdrop of COVID obviously presented another unique set of challenges. Despite the uncertainty and stress, I frequently reminded myself that ultimately the day was about Sam as his chance to show off his hard work and join the Jewish community as an adult. It was very meaningful when Sheryl encouraged Sam to assist during virtual Shabbat services as the day approached. These mini "rehearsals" made Sam more confident for the real thing!

It was wonderful to see so many Betenu members join on Zoom to watch Sam lead Shabbat Services on Friday evening before his Bar Mitzvah. Our family felt the love and support from the Betenu community. I am so proud of Sam and very appreciative for the encouragement and collaboration along the way.

Amy Matson

November 2021 Cheshvan/Kislev 5782

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 Lay-led service, 7:30 pm on Zoom	6 <i>Toldot</i>
7 Sunday School, 9 am	8	9	10	11	12 Rav Giulia led ser- vice, 7:30 pm, hybrid	13 <i>Vayetzi</i>
14 Sunday School, 9 am Adult Education, 1 pm	15 Board Meeting, 5 pm	16	17	18	19 Lay-led family friendly service, 7 pm, hybrid	20 <i>Vayishlach</i>
21 Sunday School, 9 am	22	23	24	25	26 NO SERVICE	27 <i>Vayashev</i>
28 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL Chanukah begins at sunset	29 Chanukah	30 Chanukah				