



**Bat Mitzvah of
Ava Gem Anderson**

אָוה בַּת חַיָּה וּבִירֵן

Avah bat Chayah v'Byron

November 21, 2020

5 Kislev 5781

Parashat Toldot

Dear friends,

We are so delighted that you will be able to celebrate with us as Ava Gem becomes a Bat Mitzvah. Although we cannot be together physically, we are grateful that modern technology allows us to be together in spirit, as we witness Ava Gem coming of age as a Bat Mitzvah—a daughter of the mitzvot (commandments, or sacred obligations). Thank you for being a part of our circle of family, friends, and community.

When Ava Gem becomes a Bat Mitzvah, she is considered an adult in the Jewish community, and therefore is responsible for her actions and beliefs. As an adult, she takes on the responsibility of fulfilling the moral and ethical commandments of Judaism.

Following are a few things about our service that might be helpful:

Jewish Ritual Items

During the service, many people wear a prayer shawl. The fringes on the *tallit* remind us of the *mitzvot* (commandments or sacred obligations) in Judaism. Today Ava Gem will wear a *tallit* for the first time. We will present it to her.

Many people may also wear a *kippah* or *yarmulke* (Hebrew or Yiddish for head covering). It is a sign of humility - reminding us that there is Something Greater (in other words, God) than humans.

Because we will not be together physically, we will share on the screen prayers from our Siddur, or prayer book. The *Shabbat* (Sabbath) morning service begins with opening blessings appreciating the gift of life, followed by *Barechu*, the call to worship, *Yotzer Or*, a blessing thanking God for the act of creation and then the *Shema*, Judaism's central prayer affirming our faith in one God. We celebrate our freedom and pledge to work for the freedom of everyone who is enslaved as we sing *Mi Chamocho*—the song our ancestors sang after they crossed the Sea of Reeds. The service then continues with the *Amidah*, which begins with a blessing connecting us to our ancestors. Then we join in a prayer that affirms and appreciates the ways that God can be a source of strength in our lives. We continue with a prayer that reflects how we can live lives of holiness, and then we bring this section to a close with a prayer for peace.

Our service continues with the Torah service. The *Torah* is made up of the five books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. It contains the wisdom, ideas, customs, and laws of the Jewish people. The words are hand-written in Hebrew on a scroll made of parchment.

Each week Jews read from a specific portion of the *Torah*. The portion from which we read this Shabbat is *Toldot*, from the Book of Genesis. There will be a total of three *aliyot*: all three will be chanted by Ava Gem. Before each *aliyah* is chanted, a blessing is said, expressing gratitude for the gift of learning from the Torah. When Ava Gem chants the blessing over her third Aliyah, she officially becomes a Bar Mitzvah! After that, she will share her *Dvar Torah*, teaching us something that she learned from studying this portion.

Before we conclude the Torah service, we will sing a prayer for healing, the *MiShebeirach*. It is customary to share the names of those who are in need of physical, emotional or spiritual healing, in the hope that our prayers will raise their spirits and be a source of uplift for those who love and care for them. We invite you to share names out loud or type them in the chat feature.

Our service nears its end with the *Mourner's Kaddish*, a prayer remembering those who have died. At the conclusion of the service, Ava Gem will say a few words to Ellie Fryer, who is next in line to become Bat Mitzvah. As is the custom in KHN, Ava Gem will give Ellie a Kiddush cup as a gift. Ava Gem will then lead us in blessings over wine and bread, thanking God for food that sustains our bodies and souls.

Finally, please know that even though our service will be held over Zoom and livestreamed, we are all an integral part of the experience. Therefore, we encourage you to participate in whatever way feels most authentic and comfortable for you--by praying or reading the translations or beautiful interpretations of the prayers out loud, or simply by sitting quietly and listening to prayers as they are said. We are grateful that you are able to help create our virtual *kahal*, or congregation!

Many people choose to honor a significant moment in a person's life, such as a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, by making a donation in that person's honor. We welcome your donation to KHN in honor of Ava Gem becoming a Bat Mitzvah, if that is meaningful to you. Our address is found at the end of the booklet.

Thank you for being with us to share in Ava Gem's special day. We are grateful for your presence in his life, and in ours.

Cari and Byron Anderson

Participants in Service:

Readings:

Aunt Randi Mayon: May the Door

Uncle Mitch Mayon Life Without Integrity

Cousins Hannah and Leah Sweeney The Good in Us

Passing of the Torah through the Generations: Cari, Byron and Ava Gem Anderson

סדר קריאת התורה

Torah Service

Aliyah #1: Genesis 27: 5-7

Blessing: Diana Brement and Larry Katz

Torah Reader: Ava Gem Anderson

And Rebekah heard when Isaac spoke to Esau his son. And Esau went to the field to hunt for venison, and to bring it. And Rebekah spoke to Jacob her son, saying, Behold, I heard your father speak to Esau your brother, saying, bring me venison, and make me savory food, that I may eat, and bless you before the Lord before my death.

Aliyah #2: Genesis 27: 8-12

Blessing: Cari and Byron Anderson

Torah Reader: Ava Gem Anderson

Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to that which I command you. Go now to the flock, and fetch me from there two good kids of the goats; and I will make them into savory food for your father, such as he loves; And you shall bring it to your father, that he may eat, and that he may bless you before his death. And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, Behold, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth man; My father perhaps will feel me, and I shall seem to him as a deceiver; and I shall bring a curse upon me, and not a blessing.

Aliyah #3: Genesis 27:13-17

Blessing: Ava Gem Anderson: Avah bat Chayah v'Byron

Torah reader: Ava Gem Anderson

And his mother said to him, Upon me be your curse, my son; only obey my voice, and go fetch me them. And he went, and fetched, and brought them to his mother; and his mother made savory food, such as his father loved. And Rebekah took the best garments of her eldest son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son; And she put the skins of the kids of the goats upon his hands, and upon the smooth of his neck; And she gave the savory food and the bread, which she had prepared, to the hand of her son Jacob.

Beit Din: Fredda Jaffe, Brooke Perham, Renee Marroquin



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