



**Bar Mitzvah of
Sacha Ninburg**

עקיבא ששזן בן מיכאל זלילי

**Akiva Sasson ben Michael v'Lily
June 19, 2021
9 Tamuz 5781**

Parashat Chukat

Dear friends,

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

When Sacha becomes a Bar Mitzvah, he is considered an adult in the Jewish community, and therefore is responsible for his actions and beliefs. As an adult, he 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 Sacha will wear a *tallit* for the first time. We will present it to him.

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 with 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 first 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 *Chukat*, from the Book of Numbers. There will be a total of six *aliyot*. The first three will be chanted by Sacha's aunt and uncles. The remaining three will be chanted by Sacha. Before each *Aliyah* is chanted, a blessing is said, expressing gratitude for the gift of learning from the Torah. When Sacha chants the blessing over his third *Aliyah*, he officially becomes a Bar Mitzvah! After that, he will share his *D'var Torah*, teaching us something that he learned from studying this portion.

It is customary at a *simcha* (joyous event) such as a Bar Mitzvah, to shower the young person with candy. Candy symbolizes the sweetness of the occasion. We invite you to join in our simcha by showering each other with candy (in honor of Sacha!) when the rabbi tells you to do so. It will add to our joy!

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, Sacha will say a few words to Avery Zimmer, who is next in line to become Bat Mitzvah. Sacha 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 Sacha becoming a Bar 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 Simon's special day. We are grateful for your presence in her life, and in ours.

Lily and Michael Ninburg

Participants in Service:

Readings:

Shannon Ninburg, "There are Days"

Greg Thompson, "Somewhere Out of Time"

Finley Dresang, "It is Good to Give Thanks"

Torah Service:

Passing of the Torah through the Generations:

Parents Lily and Michael Ninburg and Sacha Ninburg

Dressing/Undressing Torah:

Theo Ninburg

Holding Torah during D'var Torah:

Nathaniel Ninburg

סדר קריאת התורה

Torah Service

Aliyah #1: Numbers 19: 5-7

Torah Blessing: Pat Ninburg

Torah Reader: Pat Ninburg

Aliyah #2: Numbers 19: 8-10

Torah Blessing: Rebecca Ninburg

Torah Reader: Rebecca Ninburg

Aliyah #3: Numbers 19:11-13

Torah Blessing: David Kadosh

Torah Reader: David Kadosh

Aliyah #4: Numbers 19:14-16

Torah Blessing: Naomi Ninburg

Torah Reader: Sacha Ninburg

Aliyah #5: Numbers 19: 17-19

Torah Blessing: Lily and Michael Ninburg

Torah Reader: Sacha Ninburg

Aliyah #6: Numbers 19: 20-22

Torah Blessing: Sacha Ninburg

Torah Reader: Sacha Ninburg

Beit Din:

Marilyn Meyer, Margot Cohen, Nathaniel Ninburg, Naomi Ninburg

