



From the
Beit Midrash of
Rav Julius



All Sorts of Bar and Bat Mitzvahs

I am writing this as summer is ebbing into the sunset and, it has been some month so far, and we have not even gotten to the High Holy Days, which strangely enough do not begin until October????!!!

But, with our first Bar Mitzvah at Beth Jacob in more than seven years still ringing in my ears and limbs.... And then witnessing another 'first' for me -- a Bar Mitzvah boy returning so soon to the Sanctuary, and volunteering to lead a service....

And the concept seems to be catching on. First, and this was not a surprise, but after witnessing Jacob's Bar Mitzvah experience, our two other sub-thirteen aged members reaffirmed their desire to engage in this journey -- which is more than two years away! As we began to craft an education program for these young people, it became obvious and practical to include their parents as formal participants in the journey. So, do not be surprised to see a 'class' at Beth Jacob on a Shabbat morning with multiple generations of 'seekers' sitting around a room, learning.

And then another vine of learning growth sprouted from our midst -- a request to have an adult bat mitzvah!

Before I proceed with this request, I must share a secret that we rabbis know but that very few 'Jews in the pews' may be aware: when a Jewish girl or boy reaches the age of 13, or in some communities the age of 12, the child is automatically 'bar/bat mitzvahed'. Just like that, with nothing happening, and of course, nothing for the child to laboriously struggle over. But bingo, they are 'bar-mitzvahed' -- which does not mean that they are entitled to be lavished with a party and gifts. That only comes with the 'laborious' struggle. (Just kidding)

So, what is the 'gift' that you get at this 'automatic Bar Mitzvah'? Well, there is the community's recognition of your 'adulthood' -- "Now, you are a man!" (Does anybody say the corollary to a girl?) And more importantly, the obligation or opportunity to perform the 613 commandments, or the subset of

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PRESIDENT'S BOX OCTOBER

*The Polling Place for District 4, on November 5,
will be Stanton School*

After discussing **Beth Jacob's risk concerns**, the City Election Officials have moved the District 4 polling place to Stanton School.

The City was already concerned about the attention the election would bring to the Synagogue, e.g. political election-airing, political or other protests (possibly). They shared our concern that so many strangers would become aware of our Jewish institution in such an easy to find place. Who knew what "mishagoyim" might be attracted to do damage to us, then, or some time later! I pointed out to them that the \$400 fee the City would pay the synagogue was irrelevant vs the public exposure to so many strangers from "who knows where?"

It is **unlikely** that they will return to us, or to the other 'non-city owned' locations after this year. There is a replacement Registrar of Voters now in charge in City Hall...and she didn't understand 'why' the previous person made these changes?

But the answer is clear: The multiple votes needed this year, was an aberration. In 2024, there were 4 City elections! There was the Feb 29 need for the Referendum vote, never happened before! Then the replacement member of the City Counsel, nobody can remember if that was ever previously required. Then the August Primary....which was never a problem using the schools (on summer vacation).

Now this hot potato of a national and state election; compounded by the ongoing wars, the antisemitism eruption on campuses and elsewhere, the media hyperbole, etc.

IMO, we might well have "dodged a bullet" by being relieved from this commitment. We're better off without it and, many of us demonstrate our Civic participation in many other ways.

B'Shalom,
Marty

BETH JACOB SUPER SHABBAT

THE SOCIAL SHABBAT

EVERY SHABBAT OF THE YEAR

Everyone welcome

400 New London Turnpike - Norwich

Start time: 10AM

End time: 12 Noon



Conservative prayer – easy to follow – about 10 to 11AM

Torah reading with discussion led by Rabbi Julius – always fascinating...

Bring your friends, kids and grandkids

THEN

THE WORLD'S GREATEST KIDDUSH BUFFET – starts at noon



***Hang out with your friends. NOSH as long as you want...
and eat as much as you want. KOSHER***

them that you are qualified to perform. For example, many commandments are dependent upon your living in Israel, or that there be a Temple standing at which you could bring sacrifices. You are 'excused' from them while these disabilities persist. (And I guess the Jew by Choice -- the 'Jewish convert,' experiences this Bar/Bat Mitzvah event on their conversion.)

But all kidding aside, and even for those of us for whom the 'commandments' will probably never reach the level of 'obligation' in the true sense of that word, would we not have wanted a more 'mature' experience in which we were better exposed to what the 'day after' the Bar Mitzvah was to be like for our Jewish journey? Think back to that Sunday afternoon, or perhaps Monday, following your Bar or Bat Mitzvah weekend - were you really prepared for that life of returning to everyday Judaism?

Although there are no formal ceremonies for an adult Bar Mitzvah that parallel the child's rituals, they largely resemble each other. The adult is called for an Aliyah to the Torah -- although usually not for the first time. He/she recites the appropriate blessings, possibly reads a portion from the Torah and/or chants the *haftarah*, the prophetic portion. But the prerequisite for these tasks, mastering the phonetics of the Hebrew language at a later age in life, often feels like a major challenge for adults who are acutely conscious that the newly acquired Hebrew will be used in a public ritual before the congregation.

And a realistic understanding of what the 'day after' looks like - calls from various Synagogue committee chairpersons asking you to join. (Again, just kidding)

Adult bar/bat mitzvah, however, involves more than learning ritual skills. It is also making a greater Jewish identification of yourself. During the period of preparation, adults generally explore the Torah and the role it plays in Judaism, the nature of the *siddur*, the format of the synagogue service, and the meaning that Judaism has for them. Beyond this focus on Torah and worship, adult bar/bat mitzvah preparation typically includes study of the basic ideas and practices of Jewish life.

One part of the ceremony that takes on special meaning for adults is the preparation of a dvar Torah, a commentary on the weekly Torah portion. The dvar Torah often serves as an opportunity for these adults to integrate what they have learned into personal statements about Torah and what it means in their lives.

Adult bar mitzvah preparation is clearly more than adult education. It is also preparation for a public ritual act that makes a statement about choice and commitment. The knowledge gained is shared amongst your friends and neighbors, standing before a congregation, and participating in rituals. The knowledge gained through adult bar/bat mitzvah preparation gives meaning to all synagogue services in which you will participate or observe, and to your personal lives as Jews.

This experience can be had in response to an individual request for the experience. Or it can be expanded to a group of adults. And it need not be limited to those who did not have the formal experience in their youth. As explained above, for many of us we were so focused on our performance for that 'special' day that no one prepared us for the 'humdrum' Judaism that would follow the fireworks of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Certainly, no one told me that my 'Jewish life' was going to continue largely unchanged other than my now being counted in the all-holy minyan.

As you sit in the Synagogue's prayer services during the next few weeks, consider the opportunity that life may be giving you, right now, to take a deep dive, maybe your first, maybe not your first. To make the commitment to yourself this year, to serve as a foundation for the repentance, for the *teshuvah*, that never seems to work but maybe, with this assistance, will work this year.

Call or email me and tell me that you would like to discuss this further. And most importantly, we will design a course that makes the most sense to you and not something we just pull off the shelf.

One person has made the 'Nachshon ben Aminadav' (Google him if you don't know him) leap into the Sea, will you join her?

This year you are going to succeed, and to insure your success you will fortify your promise by making this commitment to having your own 'adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah' as a statement to your community, but more importantly, a statement to yourself, that this year 'You Are Going to Change', that this year you are going to address the deficiencies in your Jewish life before it's too late.

Before the doors close....

Shana Tova from Ellen and Rav Julius

Mishebeirach

Beth Camassar	Matthew Young
Betsy Wilson	Michael Clancy
Billy Maynard	Michelle Nash
Emma Fries	Pamela Magliano
Emma Clancy	Cannata
Henry Joseph Hinckley	Tate Campbell
Janet Rasin	Tiffany Gravel
Jenn Rockwell	Tim Menard
Jeremy Federman	Wayne Rosenfield

Candle Light Times

October

October 4	6:08 pm
October 11	5:56 pm
October 18	5:45 pm
October 25	5:35 pm

Ba-rukh atah A-do-nai, e-lo-hay-nu-me-lekh ha-olam, a-sher kid-sha-nu-bemitz-vo-tav ve-tzi-vanu Le-had-lik ner shel Shabbat.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who has sanctified us by Your commandments and has commanded us to kindle the Shabbat lights.



High Holy Day Services

Erev Rosh Hashanah,
Wednesday night, October 2nd-- 6:00 pm

Rosh Hashanah, Day 1,
Thursday October 3rd -- 9:30 am

Rosh Hashanah, Day 2,
Friday October 4th -- 9:30 am

Erev Yom Kippur – Kol Nidre,
Friday October 11th -- 5:30 pm

Yom Kippur, Morning, Shabbat
October 12th -- 9:30 am

Yom Kippur,
Yom Kippur, Afternoon, October 12th -- 4:00 pm
(Torah Study at 4:00 pm, Mincha at 5:00 pm,
Neilah 6:15, and **6:52, Blow the Shofar/Tekiah**
Gedolah -- Fast Ends!

Selichot, the non-holiday preceding Rosh Hashanah

As we announced previously, this year we will be observing the 'holiday' of Selichot, on Saturday night, September 28, with Temple Emanu-El (Waterford) and Ahavath Achim (Colchester) **at Temple Emanu-El's Synagogue on 29 Dayton Road, Waterford. We will begin at 6:30** with a short program focused on **Love and Judaism**, that will be accompanied by light refreshments of sandwiches and salad (prepared by our *kiddush-master*), followed by a 'service' that can almost be understood as the Greatest Hits of the High Holy Days!, during which we will be led by Emanu-El's Cantorial Soloist Sheri Barnes, and our own Roz Etra, who are both masters of the Selichot musical selections we have all experienced over the years. And we will also engage in the changing of the mantels for the Torahs to the 'traditional whites.' We hope that you will join us as we get ourselves into the mood for the Days of Awe that will be descending upon us, finally, next week. Rav Julius will be leading a car pool, leaving Beth Jacob about 6:00 pm, and as of this writing, he has three seats left. And if anybody else would like to drive, please let him know and he will disseminate info.



Cemetery Visits

Rav Julius will be available to recite prayers at the grave sites of your loved ones on **Sunday morning October 6. He will begin at 9:30 am** at the cemeteries located on Route 12 near the intersection with Route 2A on the Norwich-Preston border ("Brewster Neck"). Following his completion of prayers at that location, he will proceed to the Norwich Hebrew Benevolent Association nos. 3 and 4, on Middle Road, Preston, **at about 10:00-10:30.** Please be patient for his arrival at that location.

If you need to reach him that morning, please call him at (914) 380-0532.

Sukkot is in the Air

As we turn the pages of the days of the year, depending on your metaphorical tastes, and move beyond the Days of Awe of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we come upon the true Festivals when sacrifices and other good times were had in the Temple precincts in Jerusalem.



But for those of us living in the present, we have more tamped-down opportunities to feel our religious oats and we do so beginning with the holiday of Sukkot. We will observe it on the evening of **Wednesday, October 16 at 6:00 pm in the Chapel** (if a request is made, there will be a ZOOM component), followed by a short kiddush in the Synagogue *sukkah*.

And **the following morning, Thursday October 17, at 10:00 am**, we will have another 'new' experience as Beth Jacob **welcomes Congregation Ahavath Achim from Colchester who will join us in the Sanctuary** (with services on ZOOM, using the same ZOOM link that we use each Shabbat, and which will be re-sent prior to the service) followed by a Kiddush in the *sukkah* (with no ZOOM component), with a view towards reaching a conclusion by about 12:00 Noon.

There will be a Torah learning opportunity to follow the service for those interested.

And for the close of the Sukkot holiday, on **Thursday morning, October 24, beginning at 10:00 am and to end by about 12:00 Noon**, we will have a combination Shemini Atzeret with Yizkor service, and a Simkhat Torah service as we change over the Torah reading cycle for the 5,785th time, followed by a Kiddush.

And, as usual, we will be celebrating the kiddush for the Intermediate Shabbat in the *sukkah* on Friday evening October 18 (about 7:00 pm), and the following morning, October 19 (about Noon), upon the conclusion of the services.



L'SHANAH TOVAH TIKATEVU
THE BETH JACOB COMMUNITY
OUR FATHER OUR KING
5785

Mrs. & Mrs. Seymour Adelman
Mrs. Maria Balaban
Ms. Helen Berke
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Biber
Mr. & Mrs. Marc Bokoff
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Bokoff
Mr. & Mrs. James Brissette
Mrs. Hazel Brown
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Mr. & Mrs. Michael Goldblatt
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Gordon
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Mr. Robert Labb
Mr. Harry Leisner
Ms. Barbara Lewis
Mr. & Mrs. Lorin Lorinsky
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Mendlinger
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Morse
Mr. & Mrs. Jerald Navick
Mr. Murray Navick

Mr. & Mrs. Walter Navick,
In Memorial

Mrs. Mindy Pedersen
Mr. Herbert Plotnick
Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Polinsky
Rav Julius Rabinowitz
& Ms. Ellen Shapiro
Ms. Faye Ringel
Mr. Alan Ruditzky
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Ms. Irene Schienberg
Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Schwell
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Seroussi
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Shapiro
Dr. & Mrs. Dennis Slater
Mr. Gabriel Stern and
Ms. Kathleen McFadden
Mrs. Louis Taylor
Mr. Marvin Weber
Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Weiss
Dr. & Mrs. Eugene Winakor
Mr. & Mrs. Marc Wolf
Dr. Joel Zuckerbraun



Donations

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions to
Beth Jacob Synagogue's Special Funds.

Building Fund

In Memory of Daniel Deutsch

Paul & Diane Deutsch

In Memory of Saul Mindel

Saul & Clara Mindel Family

Harry Bokoff Ritual Fund

In Memory of Harry Bokoff

Marc & Roz Bokoff

October Birthdays

October 3

Steven Morse

October 7

Michael Gordon

October 12

Jane Katzoff

October 14

Pepi Green

October 16

Kathleen McFadden

Martin Rutchik

Arlene Dressler

Evert Gawendo

October 19

Clara Kalnitsky

October 20

Anita Jainchill

October 24

Robert Labb

October 29

Joel Zuckerbraun

October 31

Kenn Fischburg

October Anniversaries

October 14

Gabe Stern & Kathleen McFadden



October 7th 
Marking One Year 

Date: Monday, October 7
Time: 7:10 PM

Register Now at
www.jfec.com





OCTOBER 2024 YAHRZEITS



October 1 28 Elul

Samuel Sadinsky
 Max Goldstein
 Diana Schwartz —
Grandmother of Harriet Burchman
 Philip Chasen
 Helene Liebenau —
Grandmother of Joel Zuckerbraun

October 2 29 Elul

Isaac Buck

October 3 1 Tishri

Annie Rutchik —
Mother of Martin Rutchik
 Marcia Buck
 Henry Drobiarz —
Father of Rosa Goldblatt
 Sol Berke —
Father of Helen Berke
 Joseph Goldblatt —
Brother of Michael Goldblatt and Ellen DeeLeon
 Clara Wolfman

October 4 2 Tishri

Isaac Kenig
 Howard Glick —
Husband of Helen Glick
 Walter F. Lehman

October 5 3 Tishri

Max Strachman
 Lena Weishaus

October 7 5 Tishri

Laura Steinman
 Sigfried Seligman

October 8 6 Tishri

Rebecca Greene
 Robert Welling
 Lena Markoff Saget
 Albert Elbaum
 Pauline Israelite
 Abraham Schneider

October 9 7 Tishri

Fannie Rubin
 Jyman Schwartz
 Charlotte Hopfer
 Judy Katzoff —
Mother of Norman Katzoff

October 11 9 Tishri

Samuel Rutchik
 Florence Werman
 Helen Kanter

October 12 10 Tishri

Freda Burchman —
Mother of Brian Burchman
 Lillian Goodman —
Grandmother of Stacy Gould
 Solomon Strauss
 Dr. Andrew Neuger

Bluma Pasnik

October 14 12 Tishri

Rose Pogolowitz

October 17 15 Tishri

Annette Kashar —
Mother of Marc Kashar
 Harry L. Klein
 Shmilek Goldabiter

October 18 16 Tishri

Leon Gordon — *Father of Gail Navick and Glenn Gordon*

Rebecca Goldfine

October 19 17 Tishri

Phillip Gould

October 20 18 Tishri

Neal Kaplan —
Brother of Jane Katzoff
 Meyer Himmelstein —
Father of Roslyn Etra

David Kaminski

Samuel Gold

October 21 19 Tishri

Frances Nelkin
 Harold Soloff

October 22 20 Tishri

Mildred Kaplan —
Mother of Arlene Dressler
 Samuel Mandell
 Israel Chait
 Sylvia Blinderman

October 23 21 Tishri

Ron Brauman —
Father of Stacy Gould
 Donald Sakowitz
 Milton Kalnitsky —
Father-in-Law of Clara Kalnitsky

October 25 23 Tishri

Sander Golub
 Salomon Seroussi —
Father of Michael Seroussi
 Florence Kenig Swett

October 26 24 Tishri

Nachman Swtazburg
 Abraham Levine
 Rose Cooper —
Mother of Harriet Burchman

October 27 25 Tishri

Jerome Mopsik
 Lazar Abraham
 Molly Rachel Steinman
 Leon Bruckner
 Charlotte Rosenthal
 Benjamin Simon

October 28 26 Tishri

Bessie Deutsch
 Louis Navick — *Grandfather of Jerald and Murray Navick; Kay Winakor*
 Harry Schatz

A. Charles Rosen

October 29 27 Tishri

Rebecca Fertman
 Kuna Libo
 Beatrice Baker

October 30 28 Tishri

Rose Ringel —
Grandmother of Faye Ringel
 Samuel Pearson
 Anna Israelit
 Akiva Weisman—*Uncle of Jerald and Murray Navick; Kay Winakor*

October 31 29 Tishri

Betty Schwartz
 Samuel Tashman
 Benjamin Lahn
 Isadore Selkowitz

