

OPENING PRAYER

Blessed are you, Eternal One of the Universe, who has given us the gift of Bar and Bat Mitzvah. To witness a child emerge into adulthood, full of hope, wonder, and excitement about their future, is, for a parent, a grandparent, a family, and a community, the experience of majesty.

Shehechyanu in Hebrew and transliteration

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ וְקִיְמָנוּ
וְהַגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, shehecheyanu, v'kiy'manu, v'higiyanu laz'man hazeh.

Blessed are you, Eternal One of the Universe, who guides us, sustains us, and brings us to this season in time.

Rabbi Darren Levine
Tamid New York City

Rabbi Scott Weiner
Tamid Westchester

(page break)

WELCOME

On this great day in your life, we welcome you in *shalom*, peace. At Tamid, *welcome* is a spiritual practice, and while this may be your first experience with Tamid, we consider you part of the Tamid family. We feel blessed to share this moment with you.

The Bar and Bat Mitzvah ceremony is a highlight for a Jewish family and for Tamid. It is a gathering of family and friends to witness the transition of a person from childhood into adulthood. It is the first time when a Jewish person reads from the Torah, the ancient and most sacred book of our people. The Hebrew word “bat” means daughter and the word “bar” means son. A Bar/Bat Mitzvah is a son/daughter of the commandments, which celebrates the young person’s readiness to accept the responsibility of living an ethical life.

During this ceremony, the Bar or Bat Mitzvah student may receive a tallis, the traditional prayer shawl. With their rabbi, they will lead the prayer service, and they will read from the Torah and give a speech which will explicate the themes of their Torah section. Honored guests, elders, and family members will also participate in the ceremony as they usher this beautiful, unique, and blessed child into adulthood.

At Tamid, we place great importance in this life transition. The child you are here to celebrate has been preparing for this day in their lives for a very long time. They have studied the great texts, they know about Jewish holidays, Jewish values, and Jewish ethics. They have been exposed to Jewish history, Israel, Hebrew, and they have traced their own personal Jewish roots back to the Ashkenazim or Sephardim of their family's past. They know the major Jewish prayers, can stand in a minyan, and they understand the importance of participating actively in their Jewish Community.

We are so proud of each of our students and future scholars. Thank you for writing this prayerbook, now as teachers of Judaism. Your interpretations join a chorus of other great Jewish thinkers to bring alive the ancient prayers and give new meaning to how we can understand the creativity of prayer and Jewish life today. We are honored to guide our students to this moment and we join you in celebrating their life and their future.

Mazel tov and congratulations,

Rabbi Darren Levine, D.Min
Rabbi Scott Weiner
Christina Broussard, RJE
Chesney Polis, B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator
Robb Tretter, Va'ad Chairperson

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This cover art was produced by an A.I. image maker with the prompts: "Star of David, Menorah, Jewish, Chagall."

Mazel tov to the talented, creative, mature, and thoughtful contributors to the Tamid B'nai Mitzvah prayer book. We are so proud of you!

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Paige Barr
Wyatt Beyer
Caelin Brosterman
Ori Cunningham
Mayer Cohen
Greyson Davies
Max Dowshen

Jasper Ezer
Jonah Friedman
Beau Glassberg
Shira Globus
Ben Gorelov
Joah Meli
Silas Poulin
George Render
Brett Rosen
Griffin Schwam
Sabine Shulimovich
Jackson Sitten
Samantha Teller
Valentina Van Bokhorst
Wolf Wilchfort

History of the Bar Mitzvah - Jasper Ezer

The Bar Mitzvah is a coming of age ritual. Once a Jewish boy becomes thirteen, they celebrate their adulthood. This is when they become accountable for their lives and their actions. Since this transition only happens once in a lifetime, it is very special. It is very important and cool to celebrate the bar mitzvah in the eyes of the Jewish community and God.

History of the Bat Mitzvah - Valentina Van Bokhorst

The Bat Mitzvah originated in 1922 when Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan decided to have a public ceremony in a synagogue to celebrate his daughter's Bat Mitzvah. While his daughter's ceremony was a simpler event, it evolved into women-led ceremonies. This is special to me because it highlights women being recognized in the Jewish community. Because of Rabbi Kaplan's perseverance, Jewish women across the globe can celebrate their Bat Mitzvahs with the same responsibility to read from the Torah as men.

SHABBAT

We offer thanks to you, Eternal One, for this sacred day which unites us together in hope.
Hope that inspires sacred living
Hope for fellowship, glowing bright today in our lives
Hope for peace, born of family and love and community
We offer thanks and blessing
Amen

Shabbat Introduction - Samantha Teller

Shabbat is the day of rest. In the book of Genesis, God created the world in 6 days. The 7th day, God said, was a day of rest, prayer, and worship. Usually on Shabbat, people don't go to work, they go to synagogue to pray. For Jews, it takes place from Sundown on Friday to Sundown on Saturday. There is usually a lot of food! The fourth commandment is "Remember to keep the Sabbath day holy." There are three prayers that people do to welcome Shabbat: the candle prayer to bless the light, the Kiddush to bless the wine, and the Motzi prayer to bless the challah.

Shabbat Motzi - Max Dowshen

The general meaning of the Motzi is to thank God for the food that we have to eat. Food connects me to my family so I am thankful for all the foods we have.

Shabbat Kiddush - George Render

The kiddush means that we should be thankful for the fruit of the wine. We are thanking God for providing us with the vines that bear fruit. We recognize God on Shabbat night while we drink the wine.

Shalom Aleichem - Alec Andrus

Shalom Aleichem is a prayer that focuses on people. It asks the people around you to bless you with peace and wishes them peace in return. People are considered messengers of peace and this is especially relevant in present times when there is so much chaos in the world.

Modeh/ah Ani - Caleb Cuti

This prayer suggests that souls can be restored in mercy after a night's sleep and to offer thanks to God. It calls on everyone to have mercy on each other and shows that each person deserves a second chance with kindness. This prayer asks us to put our trust in a merciful God who will accept us and not judge us. That is what is beautiful about this prayer.

Mah Yafeh Hayom - Maddie Greenberg

The Mah Yafeh Hayom prayer is about the celebration of Shabbat, a day of rest and relaxation. In modern society, taking a break from busy daily life is necessary. Shabbat grants us the opportunity to focus on the positives in life. Shabbat also allows for time with loved ones, activities that garner happiness, and more. Furthermore, because of our hectic lives, it can be hard to be grateful. Mah Yafeh Hayom reminds us of the importance of practicing gratitude. The words of Mah Yafeh Hayom translate to "How lovely today is, Shabbat Shalom." It is vital to remember, despite the challenges and negatives of everyday life, every day is a blessing.

Throughout my life, I have found that being grateful on days of struggle is difficult. Continuing to be thankful for every new day has helped shape me into a better person.

Hinei Mah Tov - Jackson Sitten

This prayer speaks to the idea of how good and joyful it is for brothers and sisters to dwell together. It is special because it represents that the best thing a person can do is to be grateful to their family members and to cherish the moments you have with people. This prayer is important to me because of the time that I spend with my family and friends. It is all a gift and I am grateful for the gift of my family and community.

Mah Tovu - Silas Poulin

Mah Tovu is Hebrew for “how good it is.” It is a prayer of appreciation and gratitude and to notice how great God’s abode is. I am in awe of everything and this prayer teaches me to enjoy everything in life, to adore what is Jewish, to love all of God’s creations, and to appreciate sacred space.

Elohai N’Shama - Rachel Rothman

The meaning of my prayer is that God gave a piece of soul to all of us that is unique, and individual. The prayer represents the creation and shaping of a pure soul. This prayer also demonstrates individuality between everyone even though a piece of all of us comes from the same place. What is special about this prayer is how it represents that God created something and shaped something for every human. This is also a special prayer because it is saying how God will protect all of our souls. To me, this prayer means that we all have something individual and we all are represented in different, but similar ways. I really like this prayer because I feel like it is very positive and something everyone can probably relate to and understand.

Elu D’varim - Romi Galai

Elu D’varim represents the things that Jewish people do to be good. The things listed in the prayer are things that all Jewish people should follow. Elu D’varim shows that it’s important to be grateful that we are provided with these things by the Torah and God, and to be grateful for other Jewish people that perform these mitzvot. Something special about this prayer is that it teaches one to not only hear the information from the Torah, but to actually follow it. Elu D’varim asks Jewish people to “engage in deeds of compassion.” This is meaningful to me because I try to show empathy to friends and family and help them through hard times. Elu D’varim shows you ways to be the best person possible for yourself and for others.

P’Sukei D’zimra

"Prayers truly from the heart open all the doors in Heaven."

~ Rebbe Nachman of Bratslav, Chassidic Master

Tallit Blessing - Paige Barr

The tallit blessing is about the mitzvah of wearing the prayer shawl. It is special because when you become a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, you get to wear the tallit for the first time. The tallit has many fringes that represent the commandments. When you wrap it around yourself, it's a symbol of how you will respect and follow the 613 commandments of the Torah. When I become a Bat Mitzvah, I will wear my tallit to represent becoming a "daughter of commandment."

Barchu - Zoe Wood

The Barchu is the call to worship that acknowledges God now and forever. This is a unique prayer, because it is one of the few where we stand together in community and bow and honor one another and God. This prayer means to me that we must care about God and to focus on what is important, and call to mind God in times of need.

Sh'ma - Joah Meli

Shema means, "Listen up, Jewish people." The prayer says that there is only one God. It is one of the most essential prayers in Judaism because it tells us Adonai is our only God. It is also special because it's one of the prayers that comes directly from the Torah. Some Jewish people say the Shema twice a day. This prayer is meaningful because it tells me Adonai is our one and only God.

V'ahavtah - Caelin Brosterman

The V'ahavtah reminds us to always be thankful for family and to treat them like you would do anything for them. It means to have a commitment to what you think and believe. It is special because it reminds us of our commitment to values and to have a clear vision of what you want to do and who you want to be in the future. To me, this prayer means to act as you would want your children to act, to value the things you would want your children to value, like kindness and love, no matter what. It also means to follow the commandments and laws and to choose to do the right thing. It's important to be the best person you can be and to believe this about yourself all the time.

Mi Chamocha - Sidney Klibaner

This prayer is about the People of Israel saying thanks to God. It is a song the Israelites sang after God parted the sea in the Sinai Desert. The Israelites are saying thank you for the miracle that saved them. This prayer is special because it's a song, and not many prayers are a song. This prayer is also special because not many prayers are from the Torah and Mi Chamocha comes from the book of Exodus. The Israelites were relieved because something could have gone really bad, but instead, God and Moses helped and rescued them. There have been moments in my life when I feel relieved because I avoided a bad situation. When they sang "Mi Chamocha" they probably felt happy and loved because of God's miracle. When I'm sleeping

with my cats, I feel happy and loved and grateful for having two cats. We take care of each other, just like how God takes care of the Israelites and they trust and love God.

Shalom Rav - Aden Ganley

Shalom Rav asks for great peace in the world. This prayer asks God to grant peace to all which is important in a world where there is violence. It's important for the Jewish people to have peace, because their world was a tough place to live. Shalom Rav is important to me because you should always try to pursue peace wherever you are.

Amidah - Wolf Wilchfort

The Amidah is said to thank God, ask for forgiveness, and to express gratitude. The Amidah is special because it is the central prayer of any Jewish gathering and has three parts: the introduction, the Avot v'Imahot, and the G'vurot. To me, the Amidah means that you ask for forgiveness and then emerge a better person.

Avot v'Imahot - Shira Globus

This prayer means that we should respect our ancestors. It translates to, "Blessed are you, Adonai our God, God of our Fathers and Mothers." This expresses how important our eternal mothers and fathers are to us and how we should value them. The prayer lists our biblical ancestors and suggests that we should treat everyone with respect and care and kindness. I can personally relate to this prayer because I love my parents and I treat them with respect. I am very grateful for my parents.

G'vurot - Brett Rosen

The general meaning of this prayer is to thank God for life. The prayer says that God sustains life through love, giving life to all and speaks about the power that is in God's hands. In the Winter or the Summer, this prayer is necessary to be a good human being. It says that God is the source of all miracles but God's power is not infinite.

K'dushah - Rex Wallach

This prayer praises God and states that Adonai is the only God and that God is Eternal. God also speaks to Moses giving guidelines to being holy, as God is. According to this prayer, being holy involves treating other people well. This is one of the only prayers that come from the Torah. I like the line "do not favor the poor or show deference to the rich." It tells you not to judge others by how much money they have or anything else, rather, they should be judged only by their personality and if they are a good person

V'shamru - Asher Auerbach

This prayer teaches that the People of Israel and those of the Jewish faith shall keep Shabbat. It suggests that Shabbat should be practiced throughout life so that you can keep a connection

to the Jewish community. In six days, God made heaven and earth, and the seventh day, God rested. This prayer reminds me of my summer camp because every Friday, we sit by the lake and take time to reflect. We reflect on the week because time can move fast and we can lose track of time. Finally, this prayer teaches me that I should take time to rest and to relax, an important quality of Shabbat and being a Jew.

Ein Kamocha - Liam Levine

The Ein Kamocha prayer is a show of respect for God. It shows how God is the ruler of all and the creator of everything. This prayer shows us that we should be thankful for what we have. Ein Kamocha is special because it is said when the Ark is opened and the Torah is taken out. This prayer talks about Judaism from generation to generation. When I become a Bar Mitzvah, I will carry on the tradition like my family did before me.

Av Harachamim - Colin Keiffer

The meaning of this prayer is to trust God and ask God to help the Jewish People. It recalls our Jewish history and reminds us of God's help in the past. It is special because this prayer is part of the Torah service. We say this prayer when the Torah gets put back in the ark. When I read from the Torah at my Bar Mitzvah, I will take my place in the Jewish community as an adult.

Sh'ma - Malia Goodman

This prayer is about how Adonai is the best, how Adonai is our only God, and how important God is. This prayer is special because it is about thanking Adonai for everything Adonai has given to us, and feeling happy that we have what we have. It brings people together to read the Torah. Science is the world and so is Adonai. They both have many things in common. Adonai and science both give people answers to profound questions. This prayer helps people see that they have a loving and caring God.

Aliyah Before Reading Torah - Ben Gorelov

The meaning of my prayer is to bless God for creating the Universe and the Torah. We should be grateful to God and for what we have. No matter how much or how little we have, we should be grateful, because life is a blessing.

Aliyah After Reading Torah - Greyson Davies

This prayer teaches that we should be grateful for the Torah, the values of the Torah, and to honor the Torah. The Torah reading is one of the most important parts of the bar mitzvah ceremony and should be recognized as such. It helps me think of how important the Torah is to the Jewish culture. Once my bar mitzvah is complete, I will cherish the memory of reading aloud from the Torah.

Mi Shebeirach - Sabine Shulimovich

The general meaning of my prayer is the wish that the people who are ill or sick will get better. I think that it is a prayer that asks for loved ones who are sick to get better and fight their illness. I think the words “fight their illness” are important because the translation says, “to strengthen him/her” which tells me that people need strength to fight their sickness. This prayer means that it is important to care for others because it is solely for the wellness and health of loved ones.

Blessing Before Reading Haftarah - Ari Burrows

The prayer before the Haftarah reminds the People of Israel to honor God for all that we have been promised, and to not bring harm to the land. It is special because it is one of the only prayers that offers a mindset that we will keep putting faith towards Adonai and that the people will no longer be oppressed. If we put our faith in the Eternal One, the One who commands peace, we will be able to teach our children to maintain and give our faith to God.

Blessing After Reading Haftarah - Zoe Barofsky

This blessing thanks God for Shabbat and for allowing us to reach this milestone. It speaks to God’s holiness and signifies our thankfulness to God for allowing us to celebrate this specific Shabbat day. It calls us to be thankful for the Haftarah and to explore its prophetic teaching. In general, this prayer encourages us to discover more of what we want from our Jewish lives.

Eitz Chayim - Emily Safferstone

Eitz Chayim means the “tree of life” and is another name for the Torah. After the Torah is read, it is returned to the Ark and we sing this song. It teaches that all who embrace the Torah find happiness and peace. This prayer has opened my eyes to the importance of Torah and I hope to find peace and happiness for my entire life.

Aleinu - Beau Glassberg

This prayer says that God is the center of the universe. It also says that Adonai is the only God. However, the prayer also talks about how God will rule the world by repairing it. This prayer is special because it is said at the end of every service, but it used to be chanted only on Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. It was connected to the blowing of shofar. The message of “repairing the world,” and peace and kindness for all, made this prayer extra important so we began saying it at the end of every service.

Mourner’s Kaddish

It is not enough for me to ask questions; I want to know how to answer the one question that seems to encompass everything I face: What am I here for?

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel (1907-1972)

Introduction to Havdalah - Ori Cunningham

Havdalah means separation and this prayer blesses the time that separates Shabbat from the rest of the week. In my opinion, Havdalah encourages us to have the strength to face the week ahead. Adonai our God is like a dose of hope to provide confidence for everything that is ahead.

Havdalah Blessing for Wine - Eli Knepper

This prayer is sung at the end of Shabbat. It is also about what you hope for the week to come. It is telling you that Shabbat is a time for perfect peace. It is about reflection. It talks about drinks, but has a different meaning than just drinks. A raised cup is symbolic of gratitude to God. It sets the tone for the next week. This prayer is a good reminder to reflect and take a pause. It tells me to take the feeling of peace in times that are not filled with work into times that are. It also is a reminder to cherish Shabbat. It is a time to spend with family.

Havdalah Blessing for Spices - Oscar Berman

The meaning of the spices is to remind us of the balance of nature. It reminds us of the separation between Shabbat and the work week. This prayer is special because the spices symbolize the sweetness of the sacred day of Shabbat, and to carry the tones into the week ahead. It's very optimistic and orients us to the future, which is an important part of being Jewish.

Havdalah Blessing for Light - Gabriella Layne

The Havdalah Light is a prayer that teaches about life. It says "see the light and awaken us." The Havdalah Light is special because it shines a light on life and how special life is. The Havdalah Light means to me to take care of life. The prayer is about life and how to enjoy the little things. The Havdalah Light to me is about life and to share a little light with others.

Hatikvah - Mayer Cohen

HaTikvah means hope for the Jewish community, for the Jewish People to have a safe homeland that is 2000 years old. A land where Jews can live in freedom. The heart of a dream, to have land. This is the national anthem of the Jewish People. It is the song that unites us together. It represents the hope and union between us and our ancestry. It shows something we both want: a safe place for peace. For two thousand years, we have hoped and prayed for a land of our own.

Oseh Shalom - Jonah Friedman

The general meaning of Oseh Shalom is about seeking peace and having courage in yourself. It is also about being confident in yourself and thanking people who make peace. It is special because we are meant to have peace in our lifetime. The Hebrew translates as, "May the One who makes peace in the high heavens, make peace of us for everyone." In hard times, peace

should be helpful and available for everyone. My hope is that the world becomes more peaceful in my adult lifetime.

Adon Olam - Jacob Moldavsky

The Adon Olam prayer is about God always being there, watching over us from when we are young to when we get old. Whether in good times or bad times, God's presence will always be there. This prayer demonstrates the relationship between God and the Jewish people. When you put your trust in God, God will be with you, as we are all interconnected. The relationship Jewish People have with God is similar to what I have with my family because my family is my benefactor. If I'm ever in need of something or if I'm ever in trouble they will always be there.

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STUDENT CONTRIBUTORS

Alec Andrus

Alec attends Hunter College High School and will be celebrating his bar mitzvah on May 2, 2026. He is attuned to small artistry and working creatively with his hands. He's into speedcubing, origami, and robotics and aspires to be a biomimicist in the future, the innovative engineering and design approach that draws inspiration from nature's forms and processes to solve human challenges. Mazel tov and congratulations to his parents, Dena and Eric, and his sister, Marly.

Asher Auerbach

Asher attends MS 104, the Simon Baruch Middle School and will be celebrating his bar mitzvah on June 5th, 2026. Asher has many interests, including: upright bass, electric guitar, swimming, running, flag football, and hanging out with friends and family. He aspires to be a professional pilot. Mazel tov and congratulations to his parents, Anna and Phillip, and his sister, Sophie.

Paige Barr

Paige Barr is a student at Riverdale Country School. She will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah on January, 18th 2026. Her interests include: dance, tennis, and volleyball. In the future, she aspires to be an entrepreneur who makes her own business. Mazel Tov and congratulations to her parents, Jasmine and Michael, and her sisters Cameron and Olivia.

Wyatt Beyer

Wyatt attends The Green Vale School and will celebrate his bar mitzvah on November 6, 2026. He enjoys the arts (jewellery making, engraving), skateboarding, motorcycle

riding, and skeet shooting. In the future Wyatt aspires to take over the family business, successfully do a backflip, and go bungee jumping. Mazel tov and congratulations to his parents Lauren and Phillip, his brother Blake, and his bearded dragon Quincy and his dog Shadow.

Caelin Brosterman

Caelin is a student at IS 289, The Hudson River Middle School, and she will celebrate her bat mitzvah on May 30th, 2026. Caelin enjoys reading books, hanging out with friends, and swimming. In the future, she aspires to be rich, to be a lawyer, to make a positive impact in the world, and to have a dog that is very fluffy, cute, and small. Mazel tov and congratulations to her parents, Megan and Michael, and to her sister, Anna.

Mayer Cohen

Mayer attends the Spruce Street School and will be celebrating his bar mitzvah in 2027. In his own words, "I love to play baseball during the week and I love to hang out with my friends on the weekends." He likes to read and loves candy. In the future, he would like to do something in real estate or baseball. Mazel tov and congratulations to his parents, Stacy and Michael, and his siblings Jackson and Odi (pet dog).

Ori Cunningham

Ori attends LREI in Lower Manhattan and will be celebrating his bar mitzvah on March 14, 2026. He likes to cook and play volleyball. Ori is keeping his many options open in the future but he does like glassblowing. Mazel tov and congratulations to his parents, Adayit and John, and his sister, Leah.

Jasper Ezer

Jasper is a student at Basis Independent School of Brooklyn and will celebrate his bar mitzvah on May 9, 2026. His hobbies include baseball, soccer, and playing a lot of video games (especially FIFA). When asked about what he hopes for the future, his response was, "I aspire to be happy." Mazel tov and congratulations to his parents, Michelle and Jonathan, and his brother, Quinn.

Greyson Davies

Greyson attends Columbia Grammar and Prep School and will be celebrating his bar mitzvah on April 25, 2026. He loves to play basketball and aspires to be a professional athlete. Mazel tov and congratulations to his parents, Richelle and Justin, and his brother, Cooper.

Maxwell Dowshen

Max attends the Churchill School and will be celebrating his bar mitzvah on May 16, 2026. In the Winter, Max is on the mountains ski racing. He also loves to cook and eat Korean BBQ. He loves his dog, Bokatan, and in the future, he would like to be a chef, a pro ski racer, and a world traveller. Mazel tov and congratulations to his parents, Alice and Matt, and his sister, Neve.

Jonah Friedman

Jonah attends the Clinton School and will celebrate his bar mitzvah on June 5, 2027. He plays basketball, soccer, and baseball, and can be found playing video games on weekends and watching a lot of television. He aspires to attend a good college, get a good job, and “bring in bank.” Mazel tov and congrats to his parents, Ariela and Jason, and his brother, Eli.

Beau Glassberg

Beau is a student at Lab Middle School. He will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah in 2026. His hobbies include: soccer, piano, reading, and basketball. In the future he aspires to be extremely successful. Mazel tov and congratulations to his mom Lauren!

Shira Globus

Shira is a student at IS 276, the Battery Park City school and her bat mitzvah celebration will be October 3rd, 2026. Shira enjoys dancing, hanging out with friends, and watching Gossip Grl. In the future, she aspires to be a lawyer and to have a robust friendship circle. Mazel tov and congratulations to her parents, Justin and Cassie.

Ben Gorelov

Ben attends the Clinton School and will celebrate his bar mitzvah in 2027. His athletic pursuits include soccer, baseball, football, and ping pong. He likes video games, eating Asian food, and “hanging out with friends.” In the future, he wants to make money as an athlete. Mazel tov and congratulations to his parents, Lauren and Yoni, his brother Noah, and his dog Zeke.

Joah Meli

Joah attends the Breck School and will celebrate his bar mitzvah on May 1, 2027. His interests include playing basketball and listening to music. In the future, he wants to be a professional basketball player. Mazel tov and congratulations to his parents, Jessica and Joe, his siblings, Jackson, Julian, and Jude, and his dog Hugo.

Silas Poulin

Silas is a student at the Spruce Street School and will celebrate his bar mitzvah on June 5, 2027. An aspiring athlete, Silas plays soccer, football, basketball, and swims. He’s

“into video games.” His future aspirations are still evolving but he will continue being a mentch in his family’s tradition. Mazel tov and congratulations to his parents, Kathryn and Stephen, his brother, Asher, and his pet dogs, Toby and Izzy.

George Render

George attends Grace Church School and will be celebrating his bar mitzvah in 2027. George likes to play the piano, play baseball, and ride skateboards. He likes dogs and loves to eat and make tacos. He aspires to be kind to others in his life, give charity, and play professional baseball. Mazel tov and congratulations to his parents, Zoe and Eric and his sister, June.

Brett Rosen

Brett attends the Poly Prep School and will celebrate his bar mitzvah on May 30, 2026. His many interests include: skiing, basketball, squash, soccer, history, science, and reading books. In the future, he aspires to be exceptional and to excel in everything that he does, starting with saving the world. Mazel tov and congratulations to his parents, Jennifer and Lucas, and his sister, Eva.

Griffin Schwam

Griffin attends New Fairfield Middle School and will celebrate his bar mitzvah on June 6, 2026. Mazel tov and congratulations to his parents, Jillian and Matthew, and his siblings Gavin and Grace.

Sabine Shulimovich

Sabine is a student at Hannah Senesh. She will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah on January 31, 2026. Her hobbies include acting and volleyball. In the future she aspires to be an actress. Mazel tov and congratulations to her parents Maxim and Yevgeniya and her besties Piper and Amelia.

Jackson Sitten

Jackson attends St. Lukes and will be celebrating his bar mitzvah on June 6, 2026. He loves playing Forza Horizon 5 and is a car fanatic. He loves to play soccer and to be with his family and to get food with his friends. In his own language, Jackson wants to “make bank,” when he is older. Mazel tov and congratulations to his parents, Erin and Drew, and to his brother, Sawyer.

Samantha Teller

Samantha is a student at The Brearley School. She will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah on May 1, 2026. Her interests include horseback riding, tennis, French, Mandarin, Hebrew, violin, and piano. In the future she aspires to be an entrepreneur and create a business

and consumer products that take off in the first year and make billions of dollars. Mazel tov and congratulations to her parents Erica and Jonathan, her dog Lychee and her cat Tofu.

Valentina van Bokhorst

Valentina is a student at Riverdale Country School. She will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah on April 11, 2026. Her interests include: animals, marine biology, tennis, and skiing. In the future she aspires to work in marine biology or fashion. Mazel tov and congratulations to her parents Marisa and Robin, her brother Nico, and her dog Woody.

Wolf Wilchfort

Wolf attends Basis Independent Brooklyn School and will be celebrating his bar mitzvah on May 2, 2026. He enjoys running, reading books, and aspires to be successful in the future. Mazel tov and congratulations to his parents, Stephanie and Benjamin, and to his brothers, Leo and Max.

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ABOUT TAMID

The first Tamid started in 2012 in Lower Manhattan and a new branch was opened in Westchester in 2021. We have a vision to create a 21st Century synagogue focused on the positive Jewish identity development of children and families. With a relationship based focus, Tamid uses art, music, and digital experiences to create fun, memorable, and exciting gatherings, programs, and events for families, couples, and individuals. We believe that youth are at the heart of our congregation and we believe that study, prayer, and action lead to a more peaceful world.

If there is anything that Tamid can do to support you or your family, please let us know. We feel blessed to serve people and to honor Jewish traditions of all types.

Rabbi Darren Levine, D.Min
Rabbi Scott Weiner
Christina Broussard, RJE
Chesney Polis, B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator
Robb Tretter, Va'ad Chairperson

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