**English Name**

**Hebrew Name**

Gregorian date

Hebrew Date

Parashat (example)Vayak’heil

Exodus 35:1 – 38.20

Haftarah: (example)I Kings 7:40 – 7:50

Congregation Shalom

North Chelmsford, Massachusetts

Rabbi Shoshana Perry

Cantorial Soloist: Add Name

**Welcome to Congregation Shalom**

 Welcome family and friends. It is with great pride and joy that we invite you to share and participate in the ceremony and celebration of Name becoming a B’ / Bat / Bar Mitzvah.

**B’ Mitzvah Ceremony**

Most Jewish children, upon reaching the age of thirteen, are called to the Torah as a B’Mitzvah. This formal ceremony celebrates this rite of passage and is marked by giving the young person the honor of reading from the Torah for the first time. Also, at this ceremony, parents pass the Torah down to their child, symbolizing the linkage to his or her Jewish heritage.

**About the Service**

**Holy Ark**

As the central focus of any synagogue, the Holy Ark (Aron Hakodesh) is a repository for one or more Torah scrolls and is on the wall facing Jerusalem. According to Jewish tradition, the original Ark of the Covenant was built by the Israelites to hold the Ten Commandments that Moses brought down from Mount Sinai. An Eternal Light (Ner Tamid) burns above the Ark signifying the everlasting presence of God and the permanence of the Torah.

**Prayer Books**

Prayer books (siddurim) are provided for all to participate in the worship service. The Hebrew language is red from right to left. Please feel free to join us in reading the English words whenever they are written in italics

**The Kippah and the Talit**

On Shabbat, as well as every time that one enters the synagogue, men, and now many women, may wear a kippah (yarmulke in Yiddish). It is a head covering worn as a sign of reverence for God.

Jewish adults may also wear a tallit, or prayer shawl. The tallit has Tzizit or fringes, which are knotted and are attached to the four corners. The Tzizit symbolize the 613 Mitzvot (Commandments) of the Torah. It can be said that when we wear our Tallit we are “wrapping ourselves” in our sacred responsibilities.

**Shema and its Blessings**

The Shema begins with the Barchu or “call to worship”. The Shema itself is the central tenet of Jewish faith: “Hear O Israel, the Eternal One is our God, the Eternal God alone! Blessed is God’s glorious majesty for ever and ever.” (Deut 6:4)

**Tefillah**

Also known as the Amidah (standing prayer), the Tefillah is a series of prayers and benedictions beginning with the Avot (remembrance of our ancestors), Gevurot (praise of God’s power), and Kedushat Hashem (blessing of God’s name). It concludes with a prayer for peace.

**Aliyot**

Before the reading of each Torah portion, one or more honored guests are called up on the bima (platform) for an aliyah (literally “a going up”). The group or the individual chants or recites special blessings praising God for the gift of the Torah. These prayers affirm the individual’s covenantal relationship with God.

**Haftarah**

 The TaNakh which is an acronym for the Jewish bible is comprised of the Torah, Prophets and Writings. The Haftarah reading comes from the Prophets or the Writings. The selected readings of the Haftarah, meaning “completion”, were originally assigned by the rabbis nearly 1800 years ago to match or expand upon the themes of the Torah reading.

**D’var Torah**

Literally “a word of Torah”, the D’var provides commentary on the weekly portion and hopefully some food for thought. In our synagogue it is customary for the B’ Mitzvah to have this responsibility on the day he or she is called to the Torah.

**Closing Prayers**

These prayers include the Aleinu (prayer for adoration), followed by the Mourner’s Kaddish (in memory of loved ones who have died). At Congregation Shalom, the Kiddush (blessing over the wine) and Motzi (blessing over the Sabbath bread known as the Challah), are recited following our closing song.

**Torah**

The Torah is the handwritten Hebrew scroll containing the five books of Moses: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. The most precious possession of the Jewish people, it refers to all the laws and teachings of the Jewish scriptures. Each week every congregation in the Jewish world reads the identical portion from the Torah, taking one year to read the entire scroll. Every year on the holiday of Simchat Torah the Torah is completed by reading the last words of Deuteronomy and started again by reading the first verses of Genesis. The Torah service is the heart of the Shabbat morning service.

**Aliyot**

**First Aliyah**

**Name**

**Second Aliyah**

**Name**

**Third Aliyah**

**Name**

**Readings**

**Add text here**

**Thank You**

**Add text here**