

### Special Thanks To:

- Cheryl Hurwitz, for serving as an Adat Shalom anchor while Rabbi/Cantor Rachel Hersh is away on sabbatical. (And to Rachel, for being a wonderful colleague and offering to connect Gili with a peer facing illness to game with as part of his gaming-for-good *tikkun olam* project.)
- Sabrina Sojourner, Gili's incredible b-mitzvah tutor, for her loving stewardship of Gili's learning, and so much more.
- Rabbi Linda Potemken, our guest rabbi today and an awesome friend and Godmother. Thanks also to fellow Godparents Randy Tiffany (Linda's husband) and Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney.
- Rena Milchberg, Sarah Herman, Marcie Wilson, Carlos Ventura and other Adat Shalom staff who were so helpful in coordinating today's events.
- All the community members, family, and friends who helped in countless ways—including those who ushered; Zoom-gabbai'd; helped Gili's Nana, Jan, take part in the service from afar; and so much more.

### Holding in Our Hearts

We know that there are many who wanted to be here with us but could not. We want to specifically name and honor Gili's grandmother/Nana, Janet Helper, who would be here if she could, and Gili's "original" mother, Michelle, who is home caring for a sick loved one.

### In Loving Memory

We pause to remember those family and friends who are no longer with us, including Gili's maternal grandmother/namesake Gilda Morse; grandfathers Henry Dobb and Walter Morse; and others. We so wish they could have seen this day.

# Welcome to the B'Mitzvah of Gilad (Gili) Scherlinder

March 5, 2022

2 Adar II 5782

Minchah Service—Parashat Vayikra



Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation  
7727 Persimmon Tree Lane  
Bethesda, Maryland

### Our Congregation & Movement

Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation strives to be a progressive, participatory, diverse and inclusive synagogue community.

Reconstructionism is the youngest and smallest of the mainstream Jewish denominations. The movement's founder, Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan, called Judaism the "evolving religious civilization of the Jewish people." As Reconstructionists, we revere Torah and our evolving Jewish tradition, while embracing meaningful innovation in all aspects of communal life. *(Adapted from Adat Shalom's Mission Statement)*

### The Meaning of B'Mitzvah

Since Medieval times, the coming-of-age milestone of *bar mitzvah* ("son of commandment" in Hebrew) has been marked with a Torah honor in services. The first *bat mitzvah* ("daughter of commandment") ceremony was held in a Reconstructionist congregation 100 years ago this very season! Today, in many communities, Jewish children all become "B'Mitzvah" at 13, when they are considered to be adults in the Jewish community. Today, Gili will carry the Torah (the scroll containing the five books of Moses) for the first time in services; be called for an *aliyah* (or "going up") to bless the Torah; and will read from the last lines, or *maftir*, of the weekly Torah *parsha* (portion). Once the scroll is returned to the Ark, he will share his thoughts on the *parsha*.

### Shabbat Services/Customs

Shabbat, celebrated between sundown on Friday and Saturday, allows us to take a deep breath, seek calm, reflect, and gather in community. Those of any age or affiliation are welcome to wear a *kippah*, or head covering, considered a sign of respect in the sanctuary (though traditionally worn by men and boys, in communities like ours it is often worn by others as well, just as some prefer to go without). A *tallit*, or prayer shawl, is worn only by Jewish adults, and is traditionally worn only in morning services, or in any service by those who will be handling the Torah, as Gili will today. Gili's *tallit* was made for him from a baby blanket gifted to him by the community and expanded this year into a prayer shawl. This first Shabbat after his 13<sup>th</sup> birthday is the first time he will be wearing a *tallit* during services.

After we sing a short prayer, today's service will focus on reading and interpreting the Torah (ending with Gili's *d'var Torah*, or word of Torah). The latter part of the service is made up entirely of traditional prayers: the *Amidah* (the central, "standing" set of prayers), *Aleinu* (a utopian vision of the future), and *Kaddish Yatom* (a memorial prayer for those lost recently or at this time in years past). Feel free to follow along, to follow alternative readings in the prayerbook, or to listen to the "meditations of your heart," as you are so moved.

### Readings and Honors

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Parents' Blessing            | Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobb & Minna Scherlinder Morse                           |
| Opening the Ark              | Rabbi Linda Potemken<br>Randy Tiffany<br>Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney                    |
| First Aliyah                 | Gary Helper<br>R. Fred Scherlinder Dobb (reader)                                |
| Second Aliyah                | R. Fred Scherlinder Dobb & Minna Scherlinder Morse<br>Sara Scherlinder (reader) |
| <i>Maftir</i> (final) Aliyah | Gilad Scherlinder<br>Gilad Scherlinder (reader)                                 |
| Hagbah & G'lilah             | Mark & Stephanie Weiskind   |
| Closing the Ark              | Stewart & Carol Weiskind  |
| D'var Torah                  | Gilad Scherlinder   |
| "Praying," Mary Oliver       | Heather Martens & David Morse   |
| "Merger," Judy Chicago       | Anna Morse & Julia Morse  |

*Ashrei – yoshvei – ashrei yoshvei veitecha –  
ashrei yoshvei veitecha, od y'halelucha selah, selah.  
I sing for You – I sing for what is holy and is true –  
I sing for all Creation, for life and liberation –  
Every day anew.*

(Psalm 145, and Aly Halpert)