



**St Kilda Hebrew
Congregation Inc
Bat Mitzvah Ceremony
2012 – 5773**

“Reflections”

**The St Kilda Hebrew
Congregation Annual
Bat Mitzvah programme
is a project of the
St Kilda Hebrew
Congregation Library
Fund**

Programme

11:00am Sunday 25th November 2012

12 Charnwood Grove, St Kilda VIC 3182



Order of Service

B'not Mitzvah processional

Choral Welcome

Welcome & Address by Rabbi Yaakov Glasman

Blessing of the daughters

Presentation by Liora Sher & Amanda Gunn

Musical Interlude by the choir

Presentation by Gal Degen, Olivia Burstin & Nya Gaddie

Musical Interlude by the choir

Presentation by Amanda Slomoi & Leora Pitt

Musical Interlude by the choir

Tribute to our grandparents

Address by Yael Schneier

Presentation by the Ladies Auxiliary

Close by President

Adon Olam

B'not Mitzvah Recessional

L'Chayim in the Adele Southwick Centre hall

Our young ladies



Olivia Burstin



Gal Degen



Nya Gaddie



Amanda Gunn



Leora Pitt



Liora Sher



Amanda Slomoi

Bat Mitzvah girls' reflections

Olivia Burstin
Hello everyone thank-you for joining us on our Bat Mitzvah.

My name is Olivia and my Hebrew name is Talia. Today I am going to start by telling you a story. I think I have a story that no one else here has, well I hope so. It all started at Shabbat many years ago, my cousin Justin was doing his *dorot* or roots project. He was up to the family part, and he needed to know my Hebrew name. He asked mum, and dad. 'Hebrew name?' they said like they had no clue. 'What Hebrew name?' 'You know a Hebrew name' Justin replied. Dad looked at mum, mum looked at dad, the words then came out 'we haven't thought about that' they said. So the night was all about finding me a Hebrew name. What about Talia? Talia's good they both said. Well good enough. I was stuffing my face with food. Nothing's really changed since then. So from that day forward my Hebrew name was Talia. I like the name, I think it suits me because it rhymes with Olivia.

Over my life, I don't think I have ever learned, and let alone witnessed, how to yet burn a honey cake, but have it raw as well, Interesting aye. It was lovely * cough * horrible! That was one of the good memories. We made honey cake so that we could have a sweet new year, even though the cake was not very sweet and had coffee inside. Baking was actually one of the ways we learnt about our religion and that specifically when the new year comes around, we eat lots of sweet things, like honey cake, to ask G-d to bless us with a sweet new year.

I have so many good memories from this past year, but I would like to talk about this particular one. I have really enjoyed about how to become a good Jewish lady. The best experiences were when we went to Solomon's butcher. For all that don't know what Solomon's is, well it's a butcher shop. I found it very calm and interesting how they told you how to kill an animal kosherly. I loved the smell of that place, let alone all butcher shops. Either you people don't know what a good smell is or it is just me. I will let you decide on that. Another was when we went to the Jewish museum. I found it really interesting learning about our history. I loved going on the excursions. The aim of the excursions was to learn about our religion and our history and about being Jewish in a practical way.

The thing I love about Bat Mitzvah class is how Yael, manages to find normal work for us but then turn it into such fun, the most fun it can possibly be! Let me re-phrase that for you. We were often having laughing attacks on the floor. And it wasn't just me. My friends here are really nice. You guys give me so much inspiration. I don't know how I would survive without you guys. Yael, boy you're, I just don't know what to say you're amazing. I absolutely love working with you. You made this year one of the best years of my life. Thank-you, without you no one knows what I could be doing.

Thank-you all for listening to my speech.

Gal Degen

Hello everyone. My name is Gal Degen and my Hebrew name is the same but I am not here to talk to you about my name I am here to talk to you about all about the fun things I have learned in Bat Mitzvah classes with Yael.

This experience was really fun because there were new, different people and a different teacher. We got involved with all the topics we learned about and always DID something whether it was cooking, excursions or scrapbooking.

My favourite thing I learned was that there is a *mikvah*. Before I went to Bat Mitzvah classes I had no idea about it. When we went on the excursion I learned that you would have to sell the Torah to make a *mikvah* if you don't have enough money or if you are poor, I also learned that you have to have at least 40 *se'ah* of ocean water before adding normal water otherwise it is not kosher. The first time you have to go to the *mikvah* is before your wedding. The *mikvah* is special place for women to pray to G-d privately about what they need.

The next big thing I learnt was what festivals are in each month. The first one is at the end of the month Elul which is Rosh Hashanah, in the month Tishrei is Sukkot, in the month Cheshvan there aren't any festivals, in the month Kislev is Chanukah, in the month Tevet there is a sad day, in the month Shvat there is the new year of the trees, in the month Adar is Purim, in the month Nisan is Pesach, in the month

Iyar is Lag Ba-Omer, in the month Sivan is Shavuot, in the month Tamuz is a day for fasting and in the month Av was when the temple was destroyed. There are 12 months in the Jewish calendar and Adar is my favourite because that is the month of my birthday. My favourite festival is Chanukah because it is the last one of the year, I get to together with my family, light the candles every day for eight days with my parents and eat donuts.

I am going to remember this year because I have learned a lot, seen a whole new world out there that I didn't know about and there is a new chance for me to do things that other people haven't done yet. I have made so many new friends that are funny and well behaved at the same time, I have a teacher Yael who always tries to make our work as fun as possible, I have also learned to be a Bat Mitzvah girl and what chances I have for when I am older.

I would like to thank firstly Yael for making every class a funny memory and all the moments that I could never forget. I would like to thank all the girls in my class Amanda, Amanda, Liora, Liora, Nya and Livi. I would also like to thank my parents for driving me to Bat Mitzvah classes every time and for understanding everything and I would like to thank my grandparents as well as nanny and Mario for still supporting in me even when they aren't here when they wish they could come. Lastly I would like to thank everyone for making this amazing journey possible.

Nya Gaddie
Good-morning everyone and welcome to 2012 girls Batmitzvah ceremony.

To start off my speech I am going to talk about my name. My English name is Nya Gaddie and my Hebrew name is Naomi. My English name, Nya means goal or purpose. My Hebrew name, came from The Book of Ruth, and means pleasant or agreeable.

My Hebrew name, Naomi has significance in the Torah. It is mentioned in the Book of Ruth which we read on Shavuot. This is only one of two books that are named after women. Naomi was the mother in law of Ruth, the great grandmother of King David. Following the death of Naomi's husband and sons, Ruth proclaimed to her that "Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your god my god."

Naomi must have been an amazing woman to have Ruth pay her this type of respect.

On Shavuot as I mentioned before, you read the Book of Ruth. Shavuot is the festival when traditionally we eat lots of dairy foods such as cheese cake and ice cream. Not only is this a yummy tradition, it also has a meaning behind it. On Shavuot the Jews received the Torah. In the Torah it said repeatedly to keep kosher. At the time the Jews had no idea what Kosher was and how to keep it so instead of cooking, they chose the easy option of just eating dairy foods without preparation.

When you think about it, all these stories originated many years back and to be precise, it was about 3,500 years ago. And look at us now, we keep heaps of these traditions from 3,500 years back. To think that it happened so long ago and to this day we are still doing it with no changes. This really shows how strong Judaism and its traditions are. And that's really what makes me so proud about celebrating my Bat Mitzvah today, it officially links me into that story of tradition that will be just as strong 3,500 years from now.

Throughout the year I have met some lovely new friends. With Yael's help we have learned many new aspects to the Jewish life, such as the *mikvah*, Kosher Food, our Jewish names, writing sacred texts and some of the many Jewish Festivals.

One of the best activities we did was to decorate the Shule's Sukkah. We made paper chains, posters and had a great deal of fun together. Sukkot celebrates the happiness of welcoming guests and feeling safe and protected by G-d. By going into a Sukkah we really completely surround ourselves with this. A little bit like this program where we were totally immersed in learning more about our religion and ourselves.

Yael has been an incredible influence on us all. She has been a great and inspiring teacher; she has made our class something to look forward to each week.

Thankyou

Amanda Gunn
Hi and welcome to our Bat Mitzvah ceremony,

My name is Amanda, and my Hebrew name is Ahava. In Batmi classes we were discussing and learning about the meaning of our Hebrew name and why we were named that. My English name: Amanda means lovable, and my Hebrew name: Ahava means love. My parents decided to call me Ahava because it has a very similar meaning to my English name. I got my Hebrew name when my father named me in Shule after I was born.

Yesterday in Shule we read the Parsha; Vayeitzei. We read about the Mothers of Israel giving birth to their children, and starting the next generation. This is a coincidence, as today as we are Bat Mitzvah we also become the new generation of Jewish women.

This was one of the many things we learned about in Batmi classes. We learned a lot about the role of a Jewish woman and all of her responsibilities. We also learned more about some of those responsibilities, in more detail. For example after we learned that a Jewish woman must keep kosher we learned what is and isn't kosher and what makes it kosher. Regarding this subject we also went to Solomon's kosher butcher and the Glick's factory to see this in action. When we went to these places it wasn't only fun, but we got to see things happening in real life which made it

easier to understand how everything happens.

We learned a lot, but we also did many more remarkable activities. I enjoyed scrapbooking about everything we learned. Decorating pretty pages, gluing information we learnt, cutting out shapes... and now that I have finished mine it will be nice to look back on as a reminder of the year. I also relished going on the other excursions to the: *mikvah* and the Jewish Museum, which was also so much fun and very enjoyable.

Another amazing aspect of Batmi classes was making friends with everyone. When I came to Batmi classes on my first time I didn't know anyone. We all became really good friends and all of the girls are really nice, as well as my Batmi teacher Yael, so I'm sure I will keep in touch with all of them.

I really enjoyed the whole year and it is an experience which I will not forget. It was so much fun and I enjoyed every moment of it. I would like to say a huge thank you to my Batmi teacher; Yael for making this whole experience possible. Thank you all for coming and enjoy the rest of your day



Leora Pitt
Hi my name is Leora. My Hebrew name is also Leora. Leora means "light for me" in Hebrew. People say that this name suits me because I'm always happy and have a smile on my face and I light up people's day.

One of the first activities we did in Batmi class, at the beginning of the year, when we were discussing what a bat mitzvah meant, was about what qualities a bat mitzvah girl should have. We all pretended that we were making a cake and putting all the ingredients in. My cake ingredients were 3 cups of intelligence, 2 cups of maturity, 2 cups of responsibility, 1 cup of happiness, 1 cup of care, 1 cup of forgiveness, half a cup of confidence and a sprinkle of sadness.

I think a Bat Mitzvah girls needs specifically these qualities because at the age of Bat Mitzvah, a girl needs lots of intelligence, maturity and responsibility so that she can look after others and herself as she becomes a woman and becomes responsible for herself.

This is only one of the many things we have done in bat mi class. I enjoyed it because it taught me about what qualities need to be in a bat mitzvah girl in a fun way.

Some of my favourite things we have done are scrapbooking, going on excursions and baking. With scrapbooking we would do a different topic every week and in our journals a different page would be allocated to each topic. It was really fun. it was a creative way to put down all we had learned on a piece of paper.

Another one of my favourite things was going on excursions. My favourite by far was the Glick's factory. We got a tour of the factory. We saw where the dough was made,

the big ovens and the freezers. I was really lucky because I got given some dough and was told how to make a platted challah bagel, but of course it did not look like the one you buy in the shop.

Another one of my favourite things we have done is baking. We baked *hamantashen*, cheese cakes and honey cake for the different Yom Tovs. It was so much fun. It taught us about the foods that we eat on those special days in a messy and creative way.

I would just like to say a really big thank you to my amazing bat mitzvah friends in the class as well as my teacher Yael. You have been truly amazing during this experience. You are a wonderful teacher, lovely person and I have really enjoyed this past year of batmi classes.

Thank you all for coming, and listening to my speech.



Amanda Slomoi
Hello everybody welcome to our batmitzvah ceremony 2012.

My Name is Amanda Danielle Ariella Dalia Slomoi.

This year in Batmi class we learned about why we do the thing we do. One of the things that we learned about was our Hebrew names. I always knew what my Hebrew name was, but this year I learned why I had it and what it meant! Ariel means lions of G-d and lions have

courage strength and determination just like me. I was also named Ariella because my mum's late dad Ariel Hebrew name was Ariel. My mum's late dad's name is David and David starts with a D so that's why I am called Dalia.

I have been on so many excursions but the best has to be going to the *mikvah*. I found the *mikvah* so interesting because I found out the *mikvah* is even holier than a shule a *mikvah* is so special it almost takes a year to fill up because you have to wait for the whole tub to be filled up with rain water only that's how important a *mikvah* is. A woman then has to get every speck of dirt off her and only then is she allowed to go in the *mikvah*. Then the *mikvah* lady blesses the woman with a brachah and the lady has to immerse her whole body. Then the woman is left and can say some brochos to herself if she chooses to. Then the woman hops out and the *mikvah* lady touches the woman on her shoulder because the first person a woman should touch when she comes out of the *mikvah* is a woman.

Some women choose to go to the *mikvah* every month some only go when they get married and some don't go at all. I think it would be a good experience and I hope I can go to the *mikvah* one day because the *mikvah* is one of our special Jewish traditions and when I went to the *mikvah*, I left the *mikvah* and I really felt like I wanted to be a part of such a holy experience. It's incredible that a woman can send a special

opportunity like this to speak directly to G-d.

My mum told me about her experience with the *mikvah* and it sounded really special. This is tradition really unites the women in my family.

Now that I am Bat Mitzvah I am counted as a Jewish woman just like my mother and her mother and her mother dating back thousands of years and that is amazing.

I think it's special to be kosher, not everyone is, but I am and it really makes me feel good.

When we learned about the topic of kashrut in Batmi class I felt happy and proud that I am kosher. That's why I enjoyed going to the Glick's factory and seeing how to make kosher bread. First you have to make the dough and mix the dough then a rabbi has to come check the dough to see that it is kosher. Once the rabbi checks the dough people can make the dough into all different shapes and sizes and then they paint the dough with egg yolk. Then they put the dough into the oven to bake and finally they take the bread out of the oven and send it to Glick's!

I have had so much fun this year and I'm sure I'll never forget what fun I have had.

Thank you Yael and girls for such a good and fun year and thank you mum and dad for sending me to a fun Bat Mitzvah program!

Thank you.

Liora Sher

Hello everyone. My name is Liora.

As 'Liora' is both an English and a Hebrew name, I don't have a different Hebrew name. Liora means 'my light' and I think that my name suits me because, generally speaking, I am a very positive person and I love seeing the lighter/brighter side of things. My mum chose my name based on its meaning and because she always wanted a daughter named Liora. My middle name, Dina, was given to me as I was named in memory of one of my late great-grandmothers.

I have learned many things from my experience in this Bat Mitzvah program. One thing that I've learned this year is what Bat Mitzvah really means. Before this year I always thought Bat Mitzvah was just a name for what 12 year old girls do. Now I know that there's a deeper meaning. Bat Mitzvah means a girl is becoming a young woman who is responsible like an adult. When a girl has her Bat mitzvah, she becomes responsible for all of her decisions and actions.

Another thing that I've learned is about certain traditions and customs we have on the *Chagim*. At school, I learned things like how we dress up and eat *hamentashen* on Purim, that we eat *matzah* and have a Seder on Pesach, how we got the Torah and eat dairy products on Shavuot, and that we have round Challah and eat apples dipped in honey on Rosh Hashanah. These are all basic things that most Jewish schools teach, but throughout this Bat Mitzvah program I've learned *why* we do these things and what the

importance of doing them is. I have gained a far greater appreciation of our customs and traditions and now I understand how they define what being Jewish really means.

One very new aspect of Jewish life I have learned about this year, is going to the *mikvah*. A Jewish woman goes to the *mikvah* before she gets married and every month after that. The reason a Jewish woman goes to the *mikvah* is so that she can become pure. The source of the water in a *mikvah* has to be rain or ocean water because it's water that comes from G-d. I feel that this fact relates to the concept of purity of a Jewish woman as before a woman goes into the *mikvah*, she is not considered to be pure enough, but each time that she goes to the *mikvah*, she is considered to come out purer than she was before.

Some things that I have really enjoyed in this program are scrapbooking and the excursions. The scrapbooking was fun because we got to write what we learned and what we thought about it. The excursions were really interesting and fun, as well as giving a greater meaning to the topics we were currently learning about.

This program has been both fun and educational. I've learned so much and I've made 6 new friends in the process. I'd like to introduce you to my friends, who will all be presenting here today: Amanda Gunn, Amanda Slomoi, Gal Degen, Leora Pitt, Nya Gaddie and Olivia Burstein.

I would like to thank my Bat Mitzvah teacher, Yael, for giving me a greater understanding as to what being a Jewish woman and having a Bat Mitzvah really mean.

Thank You and enjoy the program.

A Tribute to Our Grandparents

In the spirit of “Bnei banim harei hem k’vanim – grandchildren are like own children”,

We, Bnot Mitzvah, give thanks to Hashem for the gift of true Yiddishkeit bestowed on us by our grandparents – those who are with us and those who are not.

Your love is a uniquely special love; and your teaching is a uniquely special teaching that links us back to the very founders of our Jewish people.



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