

## OUR SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER BRIT MITZVAH



**Julia Feldman,  
September 10, 2022**

My name is Julia Molly Feldman. I am 13 years old and going into 8th grade at Rosa International Middle School. I have one younger sister named

Jenna. Our parents are Robyn and Harris Feldman. We have a bunny rabbit named Honey Bunny. After school I love to go to dance. I am on a competitive dance team at ZZ dance. In my spare time I enjoy making string bracelets. Bracelets are not only pretty but fun to make. During quarantine in 2020 my passion began. I would make bracelets for hours for my family and friends. For my Bat Mitzvah project I am selling my bracelets for the National Kidney Foundation. My late Zayda and other family members have kidney disease. They have to go to dialysis multiple times a week for hours. That is why I wanted to raise money to help my Zayda and all the others in the world that suffer. If you would like to donate or purchase a bracelet click this link <https://tkyourway.rallybound.org/JuliasBatMitzvah>

Becoming a Bat Mitzvah means that I am becoming a woman in the Jewish community. I have more responsibilities but more privilege. I am excited for my Bat Mitzvah and hope to raise more money for my Bat Mitzvah project so I can help even more people who have this awful disease.



**Nicole Hammer,  
October 8, 2022**

Hello, my name is Nicole Hammer. My parents are Jaimee and Michael, and I have a younger brother Sean. I love dancing and traveling and spending time with my friends. I am currently in 8th

grade attending Rosa International Middle School. My Bat Mitzvah project is volunteering at the former Temple Emanuel in the religious school program. Becoming a Bat Mitzvah means looking back at what I have done to get here and feeling proud of the accomplishments. It is also a chance to look forward and be excited about the future and the role Judaism will play in my life.

**Drew Lieberman,  
October 15, 2022**

My name is Drew Lieberman and I am in the 7th grade at Beck Middle school. My parents are Caryn



& Larry, and I have a sister, Joey who is 15 yrs. old. My hobbies are playing football, playing basketball, gaming, and traveling. I have been playing tackle football since I was 5 years old. It has taught me so much about grit, determination, teamwork, and sportsmanship. I think every kid should experience being part of a team, if they want to be, no matter what challenges they may face.

In honor of my Bar Mitzvah, I have donated to a charity called Cleats Across America, that provides cleats to ensure all children get a chance to play. It means a lot to me to continue the tradition of becoming a Bar Mitzvah that my parents, grandparents, and family before them experienced.

**Talia Seshasai,  
October 15, 2022**



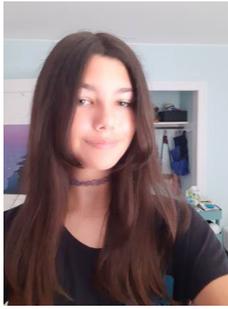
Hi! My name is Talia. I am a 7th grader at Haddonfield Middle School. My family includes my mom, Rebecca, my dad, Satwik, and my 9-year-old brother Ari. I love to read, and I play multiple sports including soccer and basketball. I

also play the clarinet in the school band and am a member of the SeaPerch team at Haddonfield Middle School. The main goal of SeaPerch is to build a remotely operated underwater vehicle that is navigated through a series of obstacles underwater using a tether cable. I have also had the opportunity to attend Space Camp at the US Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama 4 times. Both of these experiences greatly influenced my mitzvah project. For my mitzvah project, I am creating space-themed STEAM kits using common household items to donate to schools in low-income communities. I recognize that there are many people who haven't had the same opportunities that I have had, and my goal is to give them those experiences and get them as excited about STEAM as I am! If you would like to donate, please email me at [taliasesh@gmail.com](mailto:taliasesh@gmail.com).

**Vera Levy, October 22, 2022**

Hi, my name is Vera Levy, and I live with my parents Wendy and Neil. My hobbies include reading, writing, drawing, and spending time with my two cats, Hershel and Trudy. I'm going into eighth

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grade this year. My Bat Mitzvah project is volunteering at our local animal shelter, AWA, something I've pursued and enjoyed since I was ten years old. Becoming a Bat Mitzvah is significant for me because it's a ritual that goes back thousands of years and it's important to me to honor the tradition.

**Jack Adin Sonstein,  
October 22, 2022**

My name is Jack. My family consists of my parents, Amy & Jay Sonstein and my sister, Sydney. My hobbies are playing video games, hanging out with my friends, riding my bike and playing soccer. My favorite subject in school is science. For my Bar Mitzvah project, I collected the most important items a family needs - food. I hosted a food drive to support the Betsy and Peter Fischer Food Pantries from September 9th through October 7th. Becoming a Bar Mitzvah is important to me because I want to continue the long standing tradition of both sides of my family. I am looking forward to chanting Torah and celebrating becoming a Jewish adult. This is the beginning of my adult Jewish life where I can take from what I have learned in school and my parents and add in my own personal choices and practices.



**Samuel Gealt,  
October 29, 2022**

My name is Samuel Logan Gealt, but my friends call me Sammy or Sam. My family consists of my parents, Ellen and Dave Gealt, and my little sister, Lyla. I love playing outside with friends, watching and participating in sports, and I enjoy playing video games. I am a seventh grader at Voorhees Middle School. For my bar mitzvah project, I am collecting used video games and consoles and donating them to children's hospitals through a charity called Gamers Outreach. If you'd like to contribute, you can visit my page here: <https://tiltify.com/@sportsguy09/sammys-mitzvah-project> Becoming a Bar Mitzvah means a lot to me. It will help me transition into an adult and overall help me become a better person.



**Mazal Tov Sophia Toncich, September 17, 2022**



**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: MICHELE ZELDNER**

Kol Ami literally translates to the Voice of my People. What better way to share your voice than doing it at the polls on election day. Michele Zeldner, a long time advocate of Social Action and Tikkun Olam, has been partnering with the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism on their Every Voice, Every Vote Campaign which is a bipartisan effort to ensure that the future of democracy. Through this campaign, Michele has been leading an initiative to send out post cards to encourage voters participate in the upcoming November election.

Michele's current work on social justice issues through the Religious Action Center is her way of making a difference that reflects our Jewish Values and maxes the world a better place. Steve Janove, Vice President of Social Action at Congregation Kol Ami said, "Michelle is a passionate advocate for less fortunate and marginalized citizens, by taking action to make a difference. She is a true leader in Tikkun Olam who looks to persuade by listening and focusing on problem solving."

**About Michele:**

Michele and her husband Ian Wachstein joined Temple Emanuel in 1981 because it's proximity to their home. Michele has 4 children (Jamie, Ben, Jessica, and Matt) who grew up at Temple Emanuel, and 6 grandchildren, with one more on the way. Michele and Ian recently moved to Voorhees, after living in Collingswood for 38 years.



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**What do you look forward to most about the New Year?**

Michele loves the Jewish New Year. She associates the High Holy Days with reflection, but also catching up with friends at the synagogue after services and cooking up a storm for shared holiday meals.

Michele hopes that in the New Year everyone at Congregation Kol Ami will find an opportunity to contribute to a social justice issue that is meaningful to them.

If you are interested in learning more about the Social Action Committee please contact Steve Janove.

