

**SELECTED READINGS IN CELEBRATION
OF THE BAT MITZVAH OF**

kate

כוכבא סלע



Kate Rebecca Kerpen
October 18, 2020 Reconstructionist Synagogue of the North Shore
Rabbi Lee Friedlander Rabbi Jodie Siff Cantor Eric Schulmiller

Reconstructionism

For Reconstructionists, Judaism is more than a religion: it is our history, our literature, art and music, our land and languages, as well as our customs and ritual observances. All of these define Judaism as a religious civilization.

Our sense of belonging to the Jewish people is affirmed through our shared past, our collective values, and our communal experience of worship, study, and celebration. As Reconstructionist Jews, we understand that behaving and believing arise from belonging and are integral to our tradition and to our future.

Tradition, we believe, “has a vote but not a veto”. We are respectful of traditional Jewish practice, but we are also open to new interpretations and forms of religious expression. Our own religious practice- egalitarian, participatory, and inclusive-- is a reflection of our ancestors’ search for meaning, purpose, and value.

Our diverse views of God emphasize ‘godliness’, valuing that power in the universe that infuses all of creation with a sense of transcendence and impels us to improve the world and ourselves.

We will leave to future generations a legacy that is both cultural and spiritual, as the evolution of Judaism continues, and we continue to preserve and shape that legacy, through our particular Reconstructionist approach.

D'var Torah

Our entire family will be interpreting Kate's Torah portion today, through a creative interpretation of the text. You will be asked to "vote" on something via text. If you'd like to participate, we'd ask that you use the Zoom poll to cast your vote!

Supporting Kate's Mitzvah Project

Kate is raising money and collecting clothing for those affected by mental illness. Please visit KateKerpensMitzvahProject.com to learn how you can participate.

Reading One:

I see trees of green, red roses too
I see 'em bloom, for me and you
And I think to myself, what a wonderful world.
I see skies of blue, clouds of white
Bright blessed days, dark sacred nights
And I think to myself, what a wonderful world.
The colors of the rainbow, so pretty in the sky
Are also on the faces, of people going by
I see friends shaking hands, sayin how do you do
They're really sayin', I love you.
I hear babies cry, I watch them grow
They'll learn much more than I'll ever know
And I think to myself, what a wonderful world.
The colors of the rainbow, so pretty in the sky
Are also on the faces, of people going by
I see friends shaking hands, sayin how do you do
They're really sayin', I love you.
I hear babies cry, I watch them grow
They'll learn much more than I'll ever know
Yes I think to myself, what a wonderful world.

What a Wonderful World, Louis Armstrong

Reading Two:

God gave us fingers - Ma says "Use your Fork."
God gave us voices - Ma says "Don't Scream."
Ma says eat broccoli, cereal and carrots.
But God gave us tasteys for maple ice cream.

God gave us fingers - Ma says "Use your hankies"
God gave us puddles - Ma says "Don't splash"
Ma says "Be quiet, your father is sleeping"
But God gave us garbage can covers to crash.

God gave us fingers - Ma says "Put your gloves on"
God gave us raindrops - Ma says "Don't get wet"
Ma says be careful, and don't get too near to
Those lovely strange dogs that God gave us to pet.

God gave us fingers - Ma says "Go wash 'em"
But God gave us coal bins and nice dirty bodies.
And I ain't too smart, but there's one thing for certain -
Either Ma's wrong or else God is.

Ma and God, Shel Silverstein

Reading Three:

(3A)

I asked God if it was okay to be melodramatic
and she said yes
I asked her if it was okay to be short
and she said it sure is
I asked her if I could wear nail polish
or not wear nail polish
and she said honey
she calls me that sometimes
she said you can do just exactly
what you want to
Thanks God I said
And is it even okay if I don't paragraph
my letters
Sweetcakes God said
who knows where she picked that up
what I'm telling you is
Yes Yes Yes

God Says Yes To Me, Kailyn Haught

(3B)

Give your children unconditional love, a love that is not dependent on report cards, clean hands or popularity. Give your children a sense of your wholehearted acceptance, acceptance of their human frailties as well as their abilities and virtues. Give your children your permission to grow up to make their own lives independent of you. Give them a sense of truth, make them aware of themselves as citizens of a universe in which there are many obstacles as well as fulfillments. Bestow upon your child the blessings of your values. These are the law of honoring your son and your daughter as children are committed to honor parents.

Commentary on: You Shall Teach This To Your Children, Joshua Loth Liebman

Reading Four:

(4A)

The world is a dangerous place to live.
Not because of the people who are evil.
But because of the people who don't do
anything about it.

On Peace In The World, Albert Einstein

(4B)

Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul,
And sings the tune without the words,
And never stops at all,
And sweetest in the gale is heard;
And sore must be the storm
That could abash the little bird
That kept so many warm.
I've heard it in the chillest land,
And on the strangest sea;
Yet, never, in extremity,
It asked a crumb of me.

Hope Is The Thing With Feathers, Emily Dickinson

Reading Five:

(5A)

Each of us carries a measure of the pain of the world. Can we meet it with joy instead of self pity? Can we replace fear, doubt and anger with TRUST? Stay with love and acceptance.

Excerpt from TheeU, Rayni Joan

(5B)

What is a teenager?
I was asked one day
I knew what she was,
But what should I say,
She is noise and confusion
She is silence that's deep
She is sunshine and laughter,
Or a cloud that will weep
She is swift as an arrow
She is a waster of time
She wants to be rich
But she can't save a dime
She is rude and nasty
She is polite as can be
She wants parental guidance
But fights to be free
She is aggressive and bossy
She is timid and shy
She knows all the answers
But still will ask why
She is awkward and clumsy
She is graceful and poised
She is ever changing
But don't be annoyed
What is a teenager?
I was asked one day
She is the future unfolding
Don't stand in her way.

What is a Teenager, Author Unknown

Reading 6:

Little One, whoever you are,
Wherever you are,
There are little ones
Just like you
All over the world.

Their skin may be different from yours,
And their homes may be different from yours.
Their schools may be different from yours,
And their lands may be different from yours.
Their lives may be different from yours,
And their words may be very different from yours.
But inside their hearts are just like yours,
Whoever they are,
Wherever they are,
All over the world.

Their smiles are like yours,
And they laugh just like you.
Their hurts are like yours,
And they cry like you, too,
Whoever they are,
Wherever they are,
All over the world.

Little one,
When you are older and when you are grown,
You may be different,
And they may be different,
Wherever you are,
Wherever they are,
In this big, wide world.

But remember this;
Joys are the same, and love is the same.
Pain is the same,
And blood is the same.
Smiles are the same,
And hearts are just the same-
Wherever they are,
Wherever you are,
Wherever we are,
All over the world.

Whoever You Are, Mem Fox

Reading 7:

At the rising of the sun and in its going down,
we remember them.

At the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,
we remember them.

At the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring,
we remember them.

At the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of summer,
we remember them.

At the beginning of the year and when it ends,
we remember them.

As long as we live, the too will live,
for they are now a part of us,
as we remember them.

When we are lost and sick at heart,
we remember them.

When we have decisions that are difficult to make,
we remember them.

When we have achievements that are based on theirs,
we remember them.

As long as we live, they too will live:
For they are now a part of us, as we remember them.

We Remember Them, Sylvan Kamens and Jack Riemer

We remember with love...

Steven Fisher

Susan Fisher

Frances Fisher

Rayni Joan

Sara Schall

Judy Serlin

Thank You....

To Rabbi Lee, thank you for your guidance and your wisdom. Your warmth and kindness is such a blessing to our family.

To Rabbi Jodie, thank you for being an incredible resource to our family. Your ability to truly understand each of us as unique individuals as well as a collective family is astounding, and we are so appreciative for your encouragement and your friendship.

To Cantor Eric, thank you for your patience, optimism, and enthusiasm in preparing Kate for this incredible moment in her life. You are very special to our entire family, and not just because of our mutual love of the Mets.

To our family and friends, thank you for being here to share in this simcha with us. Today is truly a blessing. Although it is very different from how we originally intended it to be, in many ways, this is exactly how it should be.