



November, 2020

Our Family Celebrates

by Gary Colman (345)

On 18th October, our younger son, Asher, celebrated his Bar Mitzvah. "Bar Mitzvah" (literally "Son of the Commandment") is simply the milestone of a Jewish boy turning 13 years old and thus being considered an adult, and consequently being liable for the precepts and commandments incumbent upon every adult Jewish male. Many consider a large celebration to *be* the Bar Mitzvah itself, but this is *absolutely not* necessary - and of course, the current COVID situation necessitates otherwise. We did not hold a party, but were fortunate to find a large open space to host a very small number of close friends (masked and spaced significantly apart) to observe Asher reading from the Torah, now that he is eligible.

Since our family was unable to travel to join us, we broadcast the ceremony over Zoom. Ironically, this allowed us to share this special occasion around the world with so many more people than we normally would have, bringing us all closer together during these isolating times.



Asher Colman reads from the Torah

Status of Covid-19

(*Italics represent BI's opinion*)

The San Mateo County Health website (<https://www.smchealth.org/coronavirus-county-data-dashboard>) shows that Foster City now has 174 confirmed cases, up from 145, 122, and 67 cases in previous three months. *That's a near-tripling in 3 months. Small numbers can get out of hand if they're on an exponential growth path.*

Our county stands at 13,707 cases, up from 11,341, 9,785, and 8,000 cases the preceding three months.

Some changes were made to the website in late November, and this text was added recently: "San Mateo County is experiencing among the highest level of cases we have seen since the pandemic's beginning and the epidemiological curve you will see on the dashboard clearly shows a third wave of cases for which all our collective actions are necessary."

Aaron's Answers

Question: There are petroglyphs around the U.S. What do we know about them - where are they, who created them and why?

Aaron's Answer (A'sA): Petroglyphs are carvings made in stone in caves typically in the desert to depict events or stories. Unlike most carvings, petroglyphs aren't made by chipping away at the stone or by coloring the stone with dyes or colorful rocks, but by scraping away the black colored desert varnish with a hammer and a chisel to reveal the light-colored rock on the inside.

Petroglyphs were mostly made in New Mexico and northern Mexico by the Pueblo people. Most of the petroglyphs were carved between 1300 and all the way to the 1680s.

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