B’NOT MITZVAH SPEECH

FOR

JANE BERKOWITZ

Hello everyone and thanks for being here to celebrate this great occasion with us!! Most mothers dream for a lifetime…. or at least about twelve years or so… imagining what it would be like for their children to have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah… we’re so blessed to be sharing our double joy as both Sydney and Ally join forces to make us the proudest parents on the planet!! Today is a day for honoring our daughters and (**if you want to insert a little Yiddish you can say**) **kvelling** over their accomplishments. (**Or you can substitute bursting with pride instead**). And for those of you that thought there was nothing left to discover. … And I hope that would be **no one** in this crowd…. before you got the invitation, how many of you knew what a **B’not** Mitzvah was? You see, live and learn!! And by the way, Ally and Sydney, when you think of it, since there’s an actual Hebrew term for two girls sharing their Bat Mitzvahs, even though you might have been reluctant at the idea in the beginning, today will one of the most unforgettable moments in **BOTH** of your lives and …. not that I want to sound too much like a Jewish mother… **nah**… **I DO**…. someday you’ll both **THANK ME** and your father!! You also may not know this, but there’s and old proverb that teaches us, “ Shared joy is double joy” and that was never more true than it is today, right here and right now!

Sydney and Ally, both of you are so precious to us, each one in your own unique way and I think as you both grow up your special and individual personalities are made even brighter by having the other so close. There may have been a time not so long ago where you may not have **COMPLIMENTED** each other, but you have grown to **COMPLEMENT** each other… I’ll explain it to you later! Sydney, you brightened our lives thirteen years ago. From as early as we can remember you were on the fast track!! You really kept us on our toes… patience was not your strong suit!! Sometimes I would wonder what kind of a demanding duchess you might have been in a past life because from the minute you could express yourself you had us on the go… As a baby in your high chair you directed the preparation of your cereal like a seasoned drill sergeant…. I barely grabbed the cereal box and you were asking for milk… the milk hadn’t even reached the bowl but you were impatient for the spoon…. and today you’re just as feisty, focused, and determined… you come home from school… book bag down! Books out!! Homework tackled!!! And all I can say is that knowing **you** Sydney; all of your thank you notes are already organized just waiting to be mailed on Monday morning!! (**Wait for the laugh**). My advice to all of you is “Watch out world!! Sydney’s coming to get you!! Get ready!!”

And then we have Ally, who thankfully survived Sydney’s boot camp as a baby…. let’s face it, adults couldn’t keep up with her… imagine a toddler!! But Ally was always drawn to her big sister and took the time to learn and watch and soak up the view. Ally, you’re one of the most observant and detail oriented young people that I know. Your sensitivity and compassion inspires all of us to pay more attention and to care more about life and friends and family. The way you notice the little things around you from haircuts to eyeliner… from new shoes or… what’s that scent?!?! … We are astounded by the way you notice even the smallest details…, which really kept us on our toes while we planned this B’not Mitzvah! Ally, I also want to let you know that as well as you act on your compassion with all of the good deeds you do, that kindness is noticed and appreciated and you are loved for every single sweet thing you do, and we thank you for teaching us what it means to be loving and kind.

Ben Franklin may have said, “If a man could have half of his wishes he would double his trouble.” I have to beg to differ and offer **MY** version. “If a woman could have half her wishes she would double her **JOY**.” Believe me, I know. I have been blessed with an amazing family and four incredible children. And (**name your husband**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Sam and Adam would all agree that these two girls bring sugar and spice and **EVERYTHING** to the Berkowitz party!! Not only are they great children, they are terrific sisters, and apparently awesome at making friends… just look at this crowd!! They’re also caring cousins-just ask \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, loving nieces to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and devoted granddaughters to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. You think Sydney was a drill sergeant as a baby and Ally was Eagle Eyed Fleigel? Put them together united in a common goal and it’s impossible to break their mutual determination!! **NO ONE** cares more for their Grandma and Grandpa than these two!! And there’s nothing they love more than being with everyone in the family for holidays and visits and everything in between. And don’t forget (**name your husband’s parents**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. They have a special view watching over both of you from Heaven and they couldn’t be more proud of the young ladies you have become!

This family has been blessed to have such great examples as (**name your** **parents)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and in turn we’ve had an incredible Trifecta of Mitzvahs… Between \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s Bar Mitzvah two weeks ago and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s Bar Mitzvah next week, we all just might have “Horah Withdrawal!!” (**Wait for the laugh**).

So, Sydney and Ally, after all is said and done, someday you may also learn about a famous composer named Irving Berlin, and as you grow up and grow closer and learn to appreciate each other more and more, you’ll also appreciate his words…. “Sisters, sisters, never were there such devoted sisters…and G-d help the mister that comes between me and my sister!!” Mazel Tov!! We love you!!