BAT MITZVAH SPEECH

FOR

SCOTT STOLLWERK

Hello everyone and thanks for being here with us to celebrate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s Bat Mitzvah. We are so proud of the brilliant, beautiful, funny \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ all the time… today is just the icing on the cake… and what a cake it is!!! All I can say is this- from the day you were born, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, we’ve known this moment would arrive and we wondered what it would be like once the day finally got here. When you were born, back in the “good old days” just past the “turn of the century,” life was so much simpler and so much quainter. I know that the months and months of effort invested in researching, plotting, planning, pinning, tasting, testing, texting, and LOLing has been intense and your mother and I hope you’ve enjoyed every single minute of it….. Well… mostly your mom!! I know that today is one of the most exciting and special days of your life. I also know that you’re probably thinking, “Aw gee Dad…. keep it simple…. my friends are here…” But I’m still going to tell you just how special we think…. we **KNOW** you are, and just how much we love you. I know there will be lots of pictures and videos and **gifs** and **tiffs** to help you remember this day and remind you of the special moments we are all sharing with you, but most of all I want you to try and take in all of this celebration **right now**. Look at me. Look around the room. **Enjoy the view**. Take a deep breath and remember… you mean something to every person in here (**If you want to make a** **joke you can say**) … welll…. maybe not that waiter over in the corner…. (**And wait for the laugh**). You are blossoming into a beautiful and very special young lady. This room is filled with the joy you bring to each one of us (**If you want to push it and there’s a special boy that likes your daughter you can say)** and that includes **YOU**, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! (**And wait for the laugh) .**

**(If you want to make a little joke you can say this if there are flower arrangements around the room**)… and speaking of blossoming, you’ve done an amazing job with your portion of the Haftorah and especially with the **really** tough stuff like selecting your theme and the decorations for this party. I have to tell you… I once overheard two bumblebees talking. They were buzzing around some small but beautiful flower bushes on a neighbor’s front lawn. One bee said to the other… “I know it’s been a rough summer-lots of rain and not many flowers survived. If you’re hungry and you like these flowers, go down the block… I hear there’s a Bat Mitzvah going on and the flower arrangements are really fresh and tasty.” The other bee really was hungry and took advantage of the tip, went down the block, was gone quite a while, and came back dizzy and giddy with fulfillment. The first bee got really curious and asked, “So, how was it?” “Great!” “And what’s that small black circle on your head? I didn’t see it before.” And the second bee replied, “It’s a yarmulke. I didn’t want them to think I was a wasp.” (**Wait for the laugh**). I know sometimes I may do or say things that might embarrass you, but hey-look on the bright side… Liv Tyler has to worry if her father’s pants are too tight!!! (**If this is too racy you can say “Liv Tyler has to worry f her father’s scarves and hair are too long!!”** **You can also change it to Miley Cyrus if she doesn’t know who Liv Tyler is**). Just be thankful I’m me and not a rock star!! (**And wait for the laugh**)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, today is your day, but every day is your day as far as we’re concerned. You’re my little girl and no matter how grown up you get, you will always be that in my eyes, and I will always be your Daddy… One of the joys of my life has been to watch you grow, to see how you become interested in things, to observe your talents and tastes and preferences develop. I will never forget the fun we have had doing so many things…. remember when I taught you how to ride a bicycle? How about when you learned how to surf? Those two activities have something in common and although they are fun sports, you **KNOW** I can always tie in a valuable life lesson to just about any activity…Just ask your friends how much they’ve learned from me (**If you want you can call out a couple of friend’s names and say**), Isn’t that right \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**and wait for the laugh**).

But getting back to what’s really important in life, it’s simple. When we learned how to ride a bicycle and a wave, there were 2 things you needed to find within yourself, and that’s balance and self-confidence, and when you think of it, those are the really important qualities to develop. You also learned how to get back up and continue your journey if you fell… You will go through life and not every day will find you celebrating at a fabulous party like this. There will be days when you will wonder what life is all about and you might question your abilities and the reasons why you do something. If there is one memory from today that I want you to keep with you it’s this: You are wonderful, you are poised. You’re a precious daughter (**Does she have siblings? If so, say**), a super sister, and a great friend. You light up a room, and your curiosity and love of life will take you far. Always remember to find your balance, follow your path, ride that wave, get up and brush yourself off if you should fall, and know that the lessons you’ve learned and the love you’ve received and given will take you far in life.

Soon the world will be yours and it will be your turn to make a difference. Whatever you do, be yourself and spread your very special and unique brand of joy. We love you! Mazel Tov!