BAR MITZVAH SPEECH

FOR

DANA MUTKOSKI

Hello everyone!!! On behalf of the entire Mutkoski clan I want to thank all of you for being here and sharing this happy occasion with us. Of course it might not have been too happy for all of those hours that Dylan had to study his Haftorah, but Hey… Dylan…. it paid off!!! You did a great job!! The hard work is done, the pressure is off, and it’s time to party!! It’s also a great opportunity for me to get up in front of all of you… friends… family… distinguished guests… waiters and waitresses… (**Wait for the laugh**) and take a moment to publicly **KVELL** (**If you don’t want to “go Yiddish” you can say “gush” instead**) about our terrific son, our Bar Mitzvah boy, Dylan. Now I must confess that I **KNOW** that the age thirteen signals several milestones in a young person’s rite of passage. For instance, we celebrate the coming of age and the introduction into the practice of Judaism as an adult, we learn about inheriting responsibilities and heritage of our faith, and let’s face it…. it sort of also signifies the **official** cut off point where a mother can **publicly** gush about her kid without him rolling his eyeballs and shutting her down **STAT**!! (**Wait for the laugh**). So if it’s all the same to you Dylan, I’m gonna use these last few moments of your “childhood” to tell the world what I think of you and how much we all love you…

I don’t want to brag but I do have to say that when \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**name your husband**) made babies, we hit the **TRIFECTA**. We have our gorgeous, sophisticated, older son Matthew, our precious, adorable princess (**angel? Use a word you would naturally use to describe her**) Siena, and then right in the middle we have Dylan. Dylan has been unique, special, and exceptionally enthusiastic literally since the moment he was born. I will **NEVER** forget that day. He came out so fast that he actually dislocated his shoulders and truth be told his face looked like he went ten rounds with Mike Tyson **BEFORE** the anger management sessions… Mike’s not Dylan’s!!! (**Wait for the laugh**) … It was as if to say **HEY**!!! I’m here!!! **SUP?** What’s next??? And he hasn’t stopped since. From that first demonstration of his eagerness I knew in my heart that he would be a tough kid that would not let anyone or anything hold him back from experiencing life and all that it has to offer. And every day I observe him and learn what it means to be in love with life. He wakes up each morning with an eager and positive attitude… thank goodness he doesn’t get so enthusiastic that he dislocates his shoulders every day… we have that part under control (**Wait for the laugh**)… but his spirit and energy are infectious. He’s kind and smart, athletic and sometimes a bit mischievous… just ask his sister Siena….. We all know how much Dylan **really** loves her… that torture stuff is really for **YOU**, Siena… it builds character…. just kidding … Just don’t dislocate **HER** shoulders…(**Wait for the laugh**). Dylan’s also a great athlete and is an incredible ice hockey, lacrosse and basketball player… fortunately all of that cuts down on the “Siena torture time”… Kidding!!! Again!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Dylan is competitive… mostly with himself and in a **good** way, always strives to improve his “game” whether it’s sports, excelling at school, or being with his tons of friends (**If you want to start a little ruckus you can say…)** **Let’s hear it for Dylan’s friends** (**And let them cheer a little**), and he loves to look up to his big brother Matthew for tips, tricks and a fresh perspective on life. I’ve heard of magnetic personalities, but in Dylan’s case it’s true. People really **ARE** drawn to him and he loves people.

Dylan, everyone speaks of “the Middle Child Syndrome.” Books have been written, theses have been discussed, excuses have been made, but I am not sure how it has or will affect you, as you are the light of our lives… at least for tonight…. then we have to make room for our other lights…Matthew and Siena again (**Wait for the laugh**)…. and by the way, I really apologize for letting August 12th pass without acknowledgement… I just found out that’s **National Middle Child Day**. (**As an aside you can say**) I think I just opened my mouth… I better put an alert into my iCal! (**And wait for the laugh**). We do know that every child is unique, but did you know that middle children are known to have **TONS** of friends and travel in many social circles, they’re the best negotiators, they’re funny, nice, and 52% of US presidents have been middle children? Most middle children also may be subjected to living with hand-me-downs but considering the source, you could have done **MUCH** worse!! (**Use this if it’s that true he got stuff from Matthew and wait for the laugh…. and note… I remember that your oldest son is quite the sharp dresser. ;D ….Helene**)

So Dylan, as you celebrate your Bar Mitzvah, remember…. and this is the last thing I will say and then you can roll your eyeballs … as an “almost” adult… You will **ALWAYS** be **my baby**… You will always inspire your father and me and Matthew and Siena, and of course \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**do you also want to mention your pets? It might be cute**) and we will **ALWAYS** be proud of you!!! **Mazel Tov!! We love you!!**