**BAT MITZVAH SPEECH**

**FOR**

**DANIELLE FORMA**

Hello everyone, and thank you for being with us to share this wonderful moment. We are so proud of Ellie in everything she does, and today she took a **leap**... in many senses of the word, she approached and **mounted** the **beam**..**. I MEAN Bimah**, (**Wait for the laugh**) and really showed us her skills. You **NAILED IT**!!! Daddy and I are so proud of you! (**If you want you can add**) ... Oh... one other thing... Thanks for agreeing to **NOT** wearing a leotard in temple... and thanks for **not “chalking up”** all over the Torah... good choices... (**Wait for the laugh)**.

Ellie, today is a wonderful day in your life.... and it’s equally as great for the entire family. We’re all so proud of who you are and your accomplishments, but even more for how much you **CARE** about all that you do...Just as we all root for you every day, today is even more special.... Grandma and Grandpa, Daddy and I, Pop Pop and Mindy, Marlie, Aunt Shari, (**Name anyone else in the family that is appropriate to name**) are your **greatest, loudest** cheering section in everything you attempt and achieve. Even Pashi and Kippy are grateful you’re their human!! Thanks to all of your practice sessions and gym meets, we’ve all had plenty of chances to rehearse cheering you on!! So here we are!!!

Your Bat Mitzvah is a rite of passage that your dad and I have thought about and pictured since the moment you were born... today is the day you transform into a young woman in the eyes of Judaism, but even though we planned every detail and imagined what this day would be like... and **BELIEVE ME**... we thought we had the **ROUTINE** down... the reality is much greater than even our imaginations could expect. When you were born, you were a wonderful, chill, happy, calm baby. You surprise us every day with your **moves**... your sense of adventure... your willingness to **JUMP** at the chance to try something new. We’re proud of your achievements in school, we’re inspired how, at such a young age you have a social conscience, and we’re **FLOORED** at your interest and skills on the gymnastics mat. And somehow, you make it all look easy!!

I know you don’t love when I sing your praises, but today, just this once... as I stand here in front of all of these people, I want to let everyone know that we have received the ultimate prize. That would be your sister, Marlie and you, and today, it’s your turn To bask in the spotlight.... a little...

As you go forward in life, I know your **focus** will be on the things and people that matter.... your family... your studies... your practice... your friends... your social conscience. You’ve already demonstrated by **leaps and bounds** how much you care about the world around you and I am inspired by the **balance** and ease with which you share your skills, common sense, intelligence, and humanity. Your poise and agility surpass someone your age and that just shows us that your **routine** in life is **anything but**... routine. That’s really all that Daddy and I could ever wish for, and you know we will be there if you ever take a **tumble**... not the **good kind** ... you know... not the kind for points... (**Wait for the laugh**).

So as I prepare to **split** from this vantage point, I want you to keep this in mind... and I hope you don’t **flip**... the only kind of **bars** I will let you hang out with are **parallel**... (**Wait for the laugh**) .... Be good, stay beautiful, and make a difference in this world!!! Congratulations... we love you!!