**BAR BAT MITZVAH SPEECH**

**FOR**

**NISA ZAP**

Hello everyone.... (**Name your husband**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I want to thank all of you for being here, for sharing our family’s excitement and joy, for celebrating this **doubly delightful** Bar and Bat Mitzvah for two of the best kids I know.... okay... maybe I’m a **LITTLE** biased ... (**Wait for the laugh**)... it’s been just about thirteen years since Savannah and Aidan made their dynamic entrance into this world, and every day since then has proved to give infinite best reasons to be proud and to honor and celebrate their lives, their growth, and their coming of age. Today we hit the second of, hopefully, many, incredible and defining life events... let’s **DO** this!!!

Yes... it’s true... and although the Haftarah is a tough act to follow ... (**Wait for the laugh**) I’ve had thirteen years to prep for this moment... thirteen years of observations.... thirteen years of watching our family grow and evolve and learn... about each other .... and about life.... thirteen years of studying, practicing, and learning from two incredible teachers... at “**The School of Mom**...”. And **WOW**!!! Did they make things interesting!!!

Over the years, while learning more and more about what it’s like to be a mother, I had two great teachers... we observed that while Savannah and Aidan share DNA, they are two uniquely, fantastically, individual beings.... To paraphrase the documentarian, Michael Apted, “Give me the child .... and I will show you the adult.” These two have grown and developed and have remained true to themselves.... and may they continue to do just that. Savannah has been a force of nature since day one.... it’s inspiring to observe her strength and determination.... her creative, artistic abilities.... her love of music... her fascination with dance... her compassion and caring when it comes to her love of animals.... even the ones that may not technically have been real... I remember how she would carry around a bag filled with squishy, cuddly stuffed animals. She would pay attention to them and care for them and they would accompany her wherever she went. It was great to see Savannah show how much she cared... and that caring and creativity has evolved as she continues to grown up and learn more and more about life.

...and Aidan? Well... **anyone** that knows him.... that includes **all** of **you**... (**Wait for the laugh**), knows what it means to have a selfless nature... to be smart **AND** handsome... while being devoted to tennis and all things Disneyland... while we’re pretty sure Walt Disney must be looking down and **kvelling** (**do you feel comfortable using this word? If not, you can say beaming**), what his father and I are so proud of is the **interest** he takes.... the **focus** on research... name a YouTube video on Disneyland that Aidan **HASN’T** seen!!!

... And together, they’re **DYNAMITE**... We’re both pretty sure that both of these kids will be forces to be reckoned with!!! Sometimes it’s the simplest of moments that really hit me.... that remind me how blessed we are to be “raised by these two wonderful humans.... even if they’re sitting quietly... together... weaving rainbow loom bracelets ... for hours on end... or traveling with us on vacation... to Mexico... Hawaii.... and beyond... our lives are filled to the brim with love and joy because of Aidan and Savannah. In a way, this Bar and Bat Mitzvah signifies the end of an era.... that being childhood... it heralds the dawn of adulthood.... and while they will go off and continue to discover and develop their independence, they will always be my babies... I will continue to hold each precious memory in my heart.... and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I will always be present to love, guide, and cheer them on.

So much has been said about having kids... I once read that “Parenting is a lot like folding a fitted sheet... no one really knows how the hell to do it... “ (**Wait for the laugh**), but one thing I know for sure.... we must be doing **SOMETHING** right... I could not be more proud.... Savannah... Aidan... Daddy and I want to wish you the biggest **MAZEL** **TOV** in the world... May you both go forth and make your mark as decent, compassionate, smart adults of integrity... Here’s to the world being a better place because you’re both here. We love you!! Thank you all!!