

Aaron, A-A-RON, Turtle - You are incredible. What an amazing job you did! You continue to blow Mom and I away with everything you do. And, what makes this day so much more incredible for you AND for us is that you did this ALL ON YOUR OWN. Perhaps some people don't know this, but we NEVER pressured you into becoming a Bar Mitzvah. This was 100% your idea - and look what you accomplished 2-1/2 years later!

When you came to us in Fourth Grade and told us that you may want to be a Bar Mitzvah, I told you that you didn't have to - you were already so busy with baseball, football, basketball, friends, and school, and, frankly, fitting in Hebrew School would have been very difficult for all of us.

However, I also told you that if you REALLY wanted it, and committed to it 100%, I would find out if you could get a private tutor. Little did I know that I would soon meet Rabbi Amy at Einstein's Bagels and she would ultimately teach ALL of us what it means to be a Jew.

I, for one, cannot thank Amy enough for all she has done for you AND for Mom and me. She is truly a remarkable person - generous with both her time and, most importantly, with her wisdom and guidance. I am positive that my Jewish identity has been impacted greatly by Amy's entry into my life, and I know Mom feels the same way. And this is all because of YOU, so I thank you for that!

Aaron, you are the kindest, sweetest, gentlest person we know. You are obviously your Mom's son! Sorry, Lindsey, but you unfortunately, inherited my loud and obnoxious personality, but we love you for it!

But Aaron, our hope for you is that you NEVER CHANGE. That as you grow older - go to high school and then college, enter the work force, get married, and have kids of your own someday - that you stay the exact same amazing person you

are today. A kind, caring, athletic, happy, extremely bright boy who enjoys every day of life. As your parents, we could not possibly ask for more for you.

We love you! Congratulations!