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לונני  
הנני

July 30, 1985 Sabbath Vaethanan

NAHAMU

מזל טוב

Dear Lonny,

Since you have decided to make your Bar Mitzvah a perennial event, I am not going to spend a buck for a fancy greeting card. Instead, I am sending you the dollar. You can buy your own fountain pen or cuff links. I recall that we both to Rebbi Leavitt's Heaar, and I was subjected to the ordeal of listening to you prepare your Haftorah.....even then you did not have the singing voice of a choir boy tenor....and you have not improved with age. All kidding aside, may you and yours be blessed with good health to enjoy many many more Bar Mitzvahs.

In Friendship,

Henry

Rabbi Schonberger.....The Berson Family.....Friends

I have a dual purpose for being here this morning.....to honor Lonny on his 63rd Bar Mitzvah.....and pay tribute to his optimism and courage in the face of physical adversity.....I am quite sure you share my sentiments. Lonny and I attended Rebbi Leavitt's Hedar.....and I was often subjected to the ordeal of having to listen to him practice his HAFTORAH. He didn't have the voice of a choir boy tenor then.....and he hasn't improved with age.

There is a note of mysticism that NACHAMU was destined to be Lonny's HAFTORAH. This occasion merits a Heshechyonu.

This Sabbath is the beginning of a series of seven Sabbaths..... all of them reflecting the high note of SOLACE and ENCOURAGEMENT.... and CONSOLATION. They follow the 3 weeks of sorrow and lament.....reaching their climax in the great dark day of Tisha B'AV..... that occurred a week ago. No sooner have we finished marking that day of disaster.....a day of sorrow and tragic reminiscence..... then immediately we usher in the Sabbath of CONSOLATION.....Sabbath NACHAMU.....the Sabbath of HOPE.....the Sabbath of Renewed Faith..... the Sabbath when courage is returned to our spirit.....

.....~~this~~ Lonny Berson's Sabbath.

For Lonny in his personal life embodies these two contrasting notes.....the sorrow of physical disability....and that of life's hope and joy. One one side is the awareness that sometimes life can cripple with its many inexpressible and indescribable forms of suffering.....the awareness that life can overwhelm us with its agony.....and can convulse us with pain.

But side by side with this recognition of the possibility of anguish.....we have the Sabbath of CONSOLATION.....AND COURAGE .....AND HOPE. THIS HAS BEEN LONNY BERSON'S SABBATH for the past

63 years.....and may it be his SABBATH for many many more years  
to come.

.....The survival of Judaism and Congregation Beth Israel  
will not be carried on by lukewarm.....smug.....indifferent Jews....  
Jews whose souls are on fire.....whose zeal is great....whose  
enthusiasm is genuine.....will preserve our heritage.

LONNY BERSON IS IN THE VANGUARD OF THAT SELEBT GROUP

.....Lonny....Sylvia.....may you be blessed with good health,  
and continue to derive NACHES from your children and grandchildren.

....May we all be spared to attend yet another of Lonny's Bar Mitzvahs.

Henry H. Segal

Del. at Beth Israel  
Sat. Aug. 3, 1985