

Gaby, I can remember that two years ago you could not read a single word in Hebrew. After your performance yesterday, the only thing I can say is Wow!

You did an amazing job with your Maftir, Haftarah, prayers and speech yesterday. One of guests yesterday mentioned to me that Chazzan Pablo is now worried about losing his job. As you know, I am always very proud of your various accomplishments, but your performance yesterday was simply outstanding. I have never been so proud of you.

I would like to thank everyone for being here with us to celebrate Gaby's Bat Mitzvah; I hope everyone is having a fantastic time.

Fred Rodgers once said, **"Anyone who does anything to help a child in his life is a hero to me."**

With that being said, I would like to thank Gaby's teachers for inspiring her and for sharing their knowledge and wisdom; all of you are my heroes.

Also, I would like to thank my brothers Gil and Gideon, my sisters in law Karen & Lee. My nephews Yonatan and David. My Uncle & aunt Pinchas and Erika. My cousins Jonathan, Raizy, Benjie, Lisa, Daphna, and Ben for being here.

Next, I would like to extend my gratitude to Natasha who came from New York and to Safta Larisa and aunt Anat who came all the way from Israel to celebrate Gaby's Bat Mitzvah with us.

Finally, I would like to thank my best friend, my wife Marina. You worked so hard to make this event so special. You spent countless of hours designing these gorgeous centerpieces, place cards, invitations, candy buffet, candle lighting, finding this beautiful venue, taking Gaby, Mia and Kyra to all of their activities: Bat Mitzvah tutoring, Hebrew school, fencing, dancing, painting, and play dates just to name a few. All of this while having a tight deadline working on your magazine every month and remembering to laugh at my not so funny jokes.

I am a very lucky guy. I couldn't ask for a better partner in life, you are such a wonderful wife and mother and I love you very much.