

Julian, as I stand here ready to hand you the Torah, to pass down, metaphorically, the Jewish tradition that is mine, I am deeply moved. First of all, I did this exact same tradition with my parents and grandparents 20 years ago. So to be here today, passing the Torah to my Jewish son signifies that my love and pride of Judaism is intact. I am moved by your dedication to your Bar Mitzvah training, not only your hard work, but your curiosity and embrace of your religion. Judaism teaches us to be kind, open and respectful to one another. You embody these words and live them everyday. There is one other word that Judaism doesn't really demand our adherence, but one that you have accepted and has served you well, and that is resilience. You are a sweet, loving, giving and now resilient young man. While your life will always have something missing, your father and I are confident that these traits, and your embodiment of Judaism's beliefs, will guide you to becoming a remarkable man.