

March 31, 2017

Dear Friends,

On February 24, 1966, I was born. Instantly, I was a daughter, sister, granddaughter, niece and cousin. As the years went by, I became a wife, sister-in-law and aunt. I have cherished each of these roles in my life and have strived to fulfill them to the best of my ability, with unwavering loyalty, devotion, and love.

On March 25, 2017, I became a mother-in-law! Typically the brunt of the joke, a mother-in-law is not routinely viewed in the most positive light. Luckily but also purposefully, Barrie's new husband, David, and I share a fantastic relationship. Open and honest from the very beginning of their courtship, Dave and I have shared many private and meaningful thoughts. We have experienced great joy together and made special memories of our own. I hope never to be over-bearing or intrusive, and I will be mindful of this always.

This is new and exciting territory to have to navigate! And with this wonderful union comes one more new familial position for me...machatainista. Saul and I enjoy a great relationship with David's parents, our *machatunim*. There is no English equivalent to this word, which means "the parents of my child's spouse." *Machatunim* is derived from *chatan*, which means groom or son-in-law. *Chatunah* is the Hebrew word for wedding. The verb *chatan*, means to tie, connect or covenant. We can see from this etymology the sense of a marriage being, not just a holy covenant between two people, but also an alliance between two families, a meaning that is preserved in the endurance of the word *machatunim* today.

Together with our *machatunim*, Carol and Andy Levy, Saul and I wish Barrie and David life long happiness, health and love!

B'Shalom,
Grace