

February 24, 2017

Dear BQLI Region Friends,

Happy Birthday to me!! Yes...today is my 51<sup>st</sup> birthday and, as with ALL my "special days," I am ready to celebrate!! This Shabbat is especially meaningful to me since I am happily sharing the festivities with my daughter, Barrie, and David on the occasion of THEIR Aufruf.

Traditionally, an Aufruf is held to bestow the honor of an aliyah on the Hatan (groom) but, with the egalitarian movement influencing Conservative Judaism, the Kallah (bride) is now included in a multitude of blessings along with her beloved. Together, they will be called to the Torah, to receive their aliyah, and to receive the blessings from our Rabbis at Midway Jewish Center. Our family, friends, and fellow congregants will shower the Barrie and David with candy, symbolizing the sweet life we hope they will share as a married couple.

I can think of no better birthday present than knowing we are celebrating this exciting beginning! I wish you all a joyful and meaningful Shabbat!

B'Shalom,  
Grace