

8700 Cullen Crescent
Richmond, B.C.
V6Y 2X3

June 5, 1989

Mr. Michael Cohene
President
Temple Sholom
7190 Oak St.
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Michael:

Congratulations on your recent election as Temple President. No doubt you have taken on a big job that will present many challenges. We hate to be first to present you with a problem, but consider this as your first challenge.

As you may know our daughter, Jennifer, will be having her Bat Mitzvah on June 24th. We were very sad to hear that Eve Zilberman will not be participating in the service on that Saturday morning. We understand that this is because of some misunderstandings between Eve and the Board. While we have no idea of the details of this situation, we would urge you to please take immediate action to resolve the issue.

We are relatively new members of the Temple, having only just joined in August of 1988. When we moved here from Hamilton, Ontario, we visited a number of synagogues to determine where we would feel most comfortable. Our first Temple service was Jessica Silver's Bat Mitzvah and I can honestly say that all four of us were moved by the beauty of the service, the synagogue and the feeling of warmth that pervaded the occasion. We felt wonderful about joining the schule and anticipating our own simcha.

That feeling of enthusiasm for the Temple has continued and we have been especially pleased about the educational experiences our children have enjoyed. Jenny has benefitted a great deal from Eve's excellent teaching, and Eve has also been understanding of our son's special needs.

We recognize that the focus of the Bat Mitzvah service is worship and the accomplishment of the young person in being called to the Torah. However, the variety of music in Temple's Bar and Bat Mitzvah service is also very meaningful to us. From that first service, we have considered Eve's singing as a beautiful and integral part of the ceremony. We think of it as particularly special because of the relationships that she shares with each of the Bar and Bat Mitzvah youngsters.

Having recently celebrated your own daughter's Bat Mitzvah, perhaps you will understand our great disappointment in anticipating this occasion without the pleasure of Eve's music, together with that of the Cantor and the Rabbi.

When we discussed this with Linda Zacks, she indicated that we would not be able to ask Eve to make a private arrangement as this is not in keeping with Temple policy. We understand and agree with the reasons for this. However, we are still left out of something special that other families have experienced and we feel unhappy and frustrated.

We ask you again to please do everything you can to resolve the differences with Eve to enable her to participate in Jennifer's Bat Mitzvah. It would mean a great deal to us.

Thank you for your efforts on our behalf, and on behalf of many future Bar and Bat Mitzvah families.

Sincerely,

Judi Potts Lew Potts

Judi, Lew, Jennifer and Benjamin Potts

P.S. I'd appreciate hearing about the progress you've made in resolving the problem. My home phone number is 275-3684, and business 734-1313. Thanks so much. ...Judi

cc. Rabbi Philip Bregman
Linda Zacks
Eve Zilberman