

# Bar Mitzvah Boy Turns Gifts to Israel Mitzvah

When does a boy become a man? Joel Berez became Bar Mitzvah last Saturday, and became a man every Jew can be proud of, particularly in this difficult hour for Israel.

Joel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest S. Berez, 5810 Aylesboro Ave., was so moved by Rabbi Moshe V. Goldblum's sermon at the Bar Mitzvah at Beth Shalom Synagogue, that the youngster decided to endorse all of his gift checks to the State of Israel — and with this money purchased a \$500 Israel Bond to help Israel and his share of Israel's burden during the present crisis.

As Joel says, "I feel that Israel needs the money more than I do, and I hope that others will do everything they can to assist Israel now, when she needs our support so urgently."

Joel's family, too, are doing their part by cashing in company bonds they own, to purchase Israel Bonds. The boy's father is vice president of Associated Hardware Supply Company.

Included in Rabbi Goldblum's sermon was a letter from friends of the Harry Starks in Braddock, which deeply moved the entire congregation.

When Joel added up his

*[Editor's Note: The following is the letter from Israel to the Harry Starks of Braddock which*

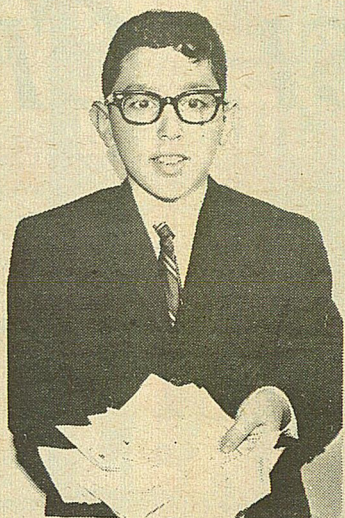
My Dearest Julia & Harry:

Possibilities are that this letter will be a last one for a long and difficult time. Therefore, I am rushing while the opportunity presents itself that I can still let you know that we are alive. I am sure that all of you are living in this time of anxiety. Although the geographic situation is far from you, you suffermentally, we physically and mentally.

We live now with an extremely bad situation. However, morally we are not complaining at all. We are ready for the worst possible situation to come but our motto is "the whole border, one front, the whole nation, one army." Dear Julia and Harry, it is impossible to describe the sacrifices that our nation is going through now and yet we are facing the facts with courage and determination.

Man and woman, young and old are not waiting for a mobilization card, but they are there in the places where they are needed without being called. Children are bringing their mobilization cards to their fathers with enthusiasm and pride without crying or complaining. Thousands upon thousands of men, women and children are lying down on the streets and offer their blood to the blood bank.

My oldest daughter was called in already; my youngest one is in the front in a Kibbutz in an army school. As old as I am, I am reaching 70, I and my friends from the Hagana will be



**JOEL BEREZ**

*A man in deed.*

checks, he was just a bit short of the \$500, so his mother made up the difference — \$18 — significantly "Chai", which the Berez family hopes will mean "long life to Israel".

Joel attended Hillel Academy for eight years and is now in the seventh grade at Taylor Alderdice School.

*Rabbi Goldblum read to the Congregation. Translated from Yiddish.]*

there if things should happen. I believe there isn't a nation in the world who knows what we know will happen and we are ready. We know that the whole war agitation is manipulated by Russia because the Arabs themselves wouldn't dare.

Although we want to hope, maybe, maybe God will see to it that there should not be anymore war. But if it is God's will, we will give of ourselves but we will win, no question. Everyone of us will take on 30 to 1 if necessary, we will take 30 to 1 or more. But the question is how dear will the price of our youngsters, of our people, of our nation.

Until you get this letter, I hope that things will change for the better. Therefore, I say to you my loved ones and to your children and grandchildren good-bye not forever, because I hope to live and see you yet in our Holy Land. Shalom my brethren in the country of the free. Good-bye, good luck and God speed.

## Keep It Short

Please keep all organizational news and meeting notices as concise as possible during the current emergency in the Middle-East. Because of the demand for space in The Chronicle to focus on the Middle-East news, we must trim all local organizational copy. Please, however, continue to send the material—but, keep it short.