

Best Wishes to Our Neighbors
and Friends

Ira, Debbie, Rachel, Joshua, Leah
and Jacob Zimmerman

Mazel Tov from

Shirley & Norman
Horwitz

בס"ד

Rabbi Balk,

Golf Manor and the Cincinnati Jewish
Community have thrived and flourished under
your leadership. Thank you for being our
beloved Rabbi, teacher and leader.

Mazel Tov to the entire Balk family on the
occasion of this wonderful milestone. May you
go from strength to strength!

ישר כחך
Lisa Jacoby

*It's wonderful having
the Balks here*

Bill and Shirley Kaiser

לז ישר כחכם
Rabbi Hanan and Barbara Balk

Who in such a short time have
taken a place of prominence in our
community.

Rose Mayers

*In appreciation for Rabbi Balk's
exemplary contributions to Jewish learning*

Nancy & Jerry Klein

Susan & Rabbi Howard Ruben

Wishing you much happiness
and success

Kathi and Bill Rosenberg

Few people in the world these days take the opportunity to change the world. As the Gemara tells us, he who saves one life saves the entire world. Hazal also tells us that when giving Tzedaka, one should first begin with the needy in their community, then those in the larger communities around them.

Rabbi Balk and Barbara are truly halachic people of integrity in both respects. When we first met, Rabbi Balk saw in us something which we didn't find in ourselves. He saw two Jews who were in search of meaning in their lives and a connection with the Jewish People. He approached us with the task of fulfilling the concepts of Hazal as mentioned.

To bring us to the path of Torah and Mitzvot was a life-saving mission for him, in the most personal sense of the word. He saved us from a life barren of Torah, with a kind and gentle manner, allowing us to develop fully to our potential. In saving our spiritual lives, we feel that he truly "saved the world" as Hazal states.

The personal relationship he and Barbara established with us can be phrased no more accurately than "Tzedaka" and "Hesed". In the true spirit of the halachot regarding Hesed, he first took us into his home and treated us as extended family, looking after our every need. Then, when he felt we were prepared, he brought us into the community. There was never an hour too late or a subject too sensitive for which he didn't offer his kind heart and great knowledge.

It was by the zchut of Rabbi Balk and Barbara that my wife and I became "Halachic Jews", and eventually felt the burning need to make our connection with the Jewish People even stronger by moving to Israel. In his parting words to the Synagogue upon our leaving for Israel he said, "Meir and Shoshi have outgrown the community, and must now seek their way in the land of our fathers". In fact, we did not outgrow the community, but rather became integrally part of the community. Leaving was not an easy choice, and this was due primarily to the love we received from Rabbi Balk and Barbara, and just as much so from the wonderful community of which we were part.

We'll never forget the personal involvement the Rabbi and Barbara took in changing our lives, and making us part of their family. He is both my teacher, and my dearest friend. This is not something that I take lightly in saying, nor is it something which happens in the world very often in these hectic times.

Cincinnati is truly an "Ir haQodesh" with the Rabbi presiding over its spiritual needs, and we want everyone to know how truly blessed they are to have him in their midst.

With love and endless respect,
The Lehrer Family,
Meir, Shoshana, Tikva, Ezra, Zeev and Devora
Hashmonaim, Israel