



*Congregation L'Dor V'Dor-Oakland*

*Ben Menchell*

Ben Menchell is a senior at Great Neck South High School and a member of Congregation L'Dor V'Dor in Little Neck, NY. Ben is a caring and compassionate young man who is a leader well liked, and respected by his peers.

In the years following his celebration of becoming a Bar Mitzvah, Ben has sustained his commitment to his Jewish identity and to his synagogue. For two years, Ben participated actively in Conversations with the Cantor together with his peers whom he encouraged to attend. Ben was always the first to offer his insightful perspective on the various topics that were up for discussion. In connection with the community observance of Yom HaShoah in 2017, Ben volunteered and conducted an extensive interview with Holocaust survivors. On the basis of this interview, he wrote and delivered an honorary introduction as the survivors were called to the honor of lighting a memorial candle. Over the years, Ben has enthusiastically responded to his rabbi's call to help make a Shivah Minyan and at the 2018 Community Interfaith Thanksgiving service, Ben agreed to share his thoughts of thankfulness with the community.

Ben is always thinking of the needs of others. When his school ran a food drive for the victims of Hurricane Harvey, one afternoon, Ben walked to the grocery store, filled up a grocery cart with cans of food that he bought with his own resources, and proudly made his contribution the next day. Aware that there are some students at school who often sit alone at the lunch table, Ben created Full Table, a social action club whose members seek out students who are sitting alone and remedy that situation. He enjoys singing, playing golf and making people laugh. He is looking forward to all that the future has in store and the opportunities that he will have to contribute his share to the goodness of our world.