

April 2, 2005

Dear Friends,

My Bat Mitzvah is coming up on May 21, 2005. I am excited about it, and look forward to sharing the day with you. Being a Bat Mitzvah is very important to me. Some people place too much attention on the party, and lose sight of the event's real importance. It is about becoming a young woman in Jewish society. As a Jewish woman, I have a responsibility to give back to the community.

As part of my Bat Mitzvah, I would like to raise money to help fight a disease called *Neurofibromatosis* (NF). NF is a genetic disorder of the nervous system. The illness causes tumors to form on the nerves anywhere in the body at any time. NF affects people of all races, all ethnic groups, and both sexes equally. Although many people have never heard of the disease, it is one of the more common genetic disorders in the United States, affecting one of every 3000 births. There is no known cure for the disease.

I first learned about NF several years ago when I met a friend who has the illness. People with NF often require painful surgery to remove the tumors, and they sometimes feel embarrassed because the tumors can cause skin discolorations called "café au lait" spots. I believe it is important for people to know more about NF so they might someday be able to find a cure. I would like to raise Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) and will donate the money to Neurofibromatosis, Inc., a non-profit charity that raises money for education, research, and support services for people who are affected by NF and their families.

If you would like to help me with my goal, please write the check to "Neurofibromatosis, Inc." and enclose it with your RSVP card. Thank you very much for helping me achieve an important goal as a Bat Mitzvah.

Love Always,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lena".

Lena Kelly