



## I Hope You Dance

**By Pam Morris, Early Learning Center director**

This week is quite bittersweet. My first class of Kindergartners graduate from the ELC Kindergarten. This marks the first time that I have been on the educating end of the kindergarten at the Early Learning Center. Many of our kindergartners have been at the EVJCC since infancy; Kol HaKavod!

But on a more personal note, my middle daughter is graduating from high school. She too began at the EVJCC as an infant and I am proud to say that some of the staff have been here since that time. These two milestones provide me with an opportunity to share some true words of wisdom for the graduates and their future using *I Hope You Dance* by LeeAnn Womack as inspiration. A bit of a disclaimer, I hope to record this fully with no tears.

### ***I hope you never lose your sense of wonder***

As you go into the world, closing one door, one chapter in your lives, keep your eyes open. Truly see your place in the universe and how every experience is connected, how it leads to the next. Only then will you understand the importance of every decision you make.

### ***May you never take one single breath for granted***

I truly believe that every moment should be valued and treasured. As a recent graduate, you are young. You have a long, beautiful life ahead of you. But enjoy every moment. I have said it before and I will say it again, **BE PRESENT**. Enjoy your electronics but don't miss out on the clouds in the sky, the birds chirping, the flowers blooming or the grandparents sharing stories. Each moment is precious.

### ***I hope you still feel small when you stand beside the ocean***

And welcome G-d into your life or at the very least a higher power. When you acknowledge that there is something greater than you, you have the freedom to explore and make mistakes. Someone has your back.



***I hope you never fear those mountains in the distance; Never settle for the path of least resistance***

Now, more than ever, stand up for what you believe and who you are. Form a group of people who will support you, walking with you along the way. And learn, study, know the history so maybe you can positively influence someone else to make a good choice, to make a positive difference.

***Livin' might mean takin' chances, but they're worth takin'; Lovin' might be a mistake, but it's worth makin'***

Be social; make new friends; trust when you can; be kind always; help others smile; be someone's support; laugh often; love with all your heart.

***Don't let some hellbent heart leave you bitter  
When you come close to sellin' out, reconsider  
Give the heavens above more than just a passing glance  
And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance***

***I hope you dance***

#Shabbat Shalom.