

***D'var Torah***  
**Abie Elfenbaum**

**My *D'var Torah* is about the Priestly Blessing in Numbers (במדבר) 6:22-27. The Priestly Blessing “The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord deal kindly and graciously with you! The Lord bestow His favor upon you and grant you peace!”**

**I was curious about the meaning of the phrase “and keep you!” In The JPS Torah Commentary I found three explanations to the phrase. The first explanation is by Rabbi Isaac. His explanation is that it means keep you from the evil inclination, in other words to keep you from doing bad things. Another explanation is to keep you from the demons (to protect you). The third explanation is that God will keep the covenant He made.**

**Even though I agree with all these explanations, I still have my opinion. My explanation is that God will keep us by keeping His promise not to destroy the world. Although the story of the ark isn't *Parshat Naso*, it does relate to my explanation. After the flood ended, God made a promise not to destroy the world with water.**

**There are a few ways that we can help God keep His promise. One way is by not doing sins (bad things). We also can listen to God and his commandments (laws). We can take care of the world God created for us. Lastly, we can take care of the animals God created (us included).**

**I'm actually doing exactly that. For my Bar-Mitzvah project, I trained my dog, Ozzy, to be a therapy dog at the Hebrew Home. In the Hebrew Home, the residents need therapy dogs because by them scratching the dog, giving the dog a treat, or caring for the pets, it makes the residents feel needed. My family rescued Ozzy and took him into our home. In this way, I'm taking care of the elderly and taking care of one of God's creatures.**

**Preparing for my Bar Mitzvah required a lot of help from my friends, family and teachers. I would like to thank everyone for helping me to get me ready for this point in my life. I feel very lucky that I have all my grandparents here to celebrate with me. Today is a very special day not just because it is my service of Bar Mitzvah, but it is also my Bubbe's birthday – Happy Birthday Bubbe. Speaking of grandmothers, the *Talit* I'm wearing today**

**was made by my other grandmother, Eleanor Gellernad the *Atara* was stitched by my Great Aunt Susan. Thank you.**

**I would especially like to thank Rabbi Chatinover, and all of the teachers at SSDS for helping me learn Torah and helping me better understand what this parsha means. Thanks to the staff at the Emanuel including Rabbi Small, Moshe Pinchover, Mrs. Fox, Rabbi Lazowski, and Cantor Cohn. I would also like to thank my brother Harry for helping me remember the Torah trope. I would like to thank my sister Sophie as well for leading *Ashrei*. Lastly, I would like to thank all of my friends and family who have come to celebrate this special occasion with me.**