

## ***Nitzavim***

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Shabbat Shalom! Today I will be reading from the Torah portion *Nitzavim*. *Nitzavim* is about the Jewish Community coming together and entering a covenant with God. This covenant was given to our founding fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This covenant won't be between just God and me, but God and all of us. This agreement states that God will be our God as long as we will be his people. The fact that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob made this same covenant with God shows that every generation is responsible to pass down what they know and believe.

Also new things are being learned and taught by every generation. To me this means that God cares and wants to be our God forever. So, God continues to renew this covenant and succeed in keeping the relationship alive. He also is the source of intelligence that is being passed onto me by previous generations. There is a saying "When I pray, I talk to God. When I study Torah, God talks to me." I think that this applies to me because I give to God and God gives back to me.

My *mitzvah* project is a continuous project that has been going on for four years now. I have been volunteering at the Hebrew Home and Hospital since the third grade. I go there every Wednesday and I help out on the 4-south Alzheimer's unit. I have made very many friends and people recognize me there. In addition to my ongoing *mitzvah* project, I will be throwing a party in honor of my Bat Mitzvah for the 4-south unit. I am proud to say that I will continue volunteering after this and hopefully for many years after because I have learned to love the people who live there. When I am there, I know that someone is always looking out for me. The people who live in the Hebrew Home teach me things and pass on their knowledge to me. My *parashah* says that people pass things on from generation to generation. I feel that I learn so much just by listening to the residents and what they have to say. A great Rabbi, Abraham

Joshua Heschel once said "We have to have more than text books, we need text people." I feel that the residents are text people to me.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped me along my journey. I would also like to give a special thank you to Rhonda Holtman, Rabbi Small, Cantor Cohn, and Mrs. Fox. I would finally like to thank my parents who have helped me, encouraged me, and made this day possible. Thank you and please turn to page 1,165 in the Big Red Book