

D'var Torah Written by Sarah Pitman

Our portion of *Kedoshim* talks about leaving the edges of your fields and the fallen fruit in your vineyards for the poor and the stranger. Sharing a little of what you have is an important teaching in Judaism, and something that I have always felt strongly about. In this portion the fruit of your harvest is specifically identified, but there are many other ways of sharing with those in need. Donating time or talents are ways that even those who don't feel they have tangible items to share can feel the glow of touching someone with kindness.

One aspect of being a part of the CBI community that I have particularly appreciated are the many opportunities provided for sharing with the community around us. From Mitzvah Day, to *tzedakah* collection in the religious school classes, to support for our neighbors in The NW Towers, and the Funds for Food drive, all members have an opportunity to see, and be inspired by, a tremendous outreach effort. Through their B'nei Mitzvah projects, our younger members get a taste of how sweet it is to make a difference by giving of their time and effort. And even though I didn't realize it from the beginning, I suppose I've created my own little Mitzvah Project by bringing back Blood Drives to CBI. The Clergy and staff here have been incredibly supportive of my desire to create an opportunity for blood donation at CBI, and as a result, we have hosted several successful drives over the past few years. Most of us have a little extra blood to share, and by donating it we are certainly helping the stranger. I hope you will consider joining us for our next blood drive when our campus re-opens!

This has been an extraordinary year, and people are experiencing extraordinary needs. The High Holidays present us with the perfect time to dig a little deeper, and think a little harder about the ways in which we can share with those who need us most. May we all identify the gleanings of our own crops, and make sure we find a way to share them.