

YOUTH & FAMILY

***Kehillah Kedoshah* — A Holy Community!**

By Rebecca Goodman, RJE; Director of Education

One week after we celebrate Rabbi Gottlieb's installation, YAFE students and their parents will ponder ideas such as: What does it take to be a community? What does it take to be a religious community? A social community? A caring community? In connection to our theme last year: What does it take to be a **just** community? Finally, in keeping with our theme this year, what does it take to be a **holy** community, a *Kehillah Kedoshah*? The faculty and I are looking forward to our first Family Education day on the topic of *Kehillah Kedoshah*. It will take place on Sunday, November 20.

Dan Nichols wrote a song titled *Kehillah Kedoshah*; I want to share his lyrics with you:

If you are *atem*,
Then we're *nitzavim*.
We stand here today,
And remember the dream.
Kehillah Kedoshah!

Each one of us must play a part,
Each one of us must heed the call,
Each one of us must seek the truth,
Each one of us is a part of it all,
Each one of us must remember the pain,
Each one of us must find the joy,
Each one of us, each one of us...
Kehillah Kedoshah!

Each one of us must start to hear,
Each one of us must sing the song,
Each one of us must do the work,
Each one of us must right the wrong,
Each one of us must build the home,
Each one of us must hold the hope,
Each one of us, each one of us...
Kehillah Kedoshah!

It's how we help.
It's how we give.
It's how we pray.
It's how we heal.
It's how we live.
If you are *atem*,
Then we're *nitzavim*.
We stand here today,
And remember the dream.
Kehillah Kedoshah!



From the album "My Heart is in the East"
Words: Dan Nichols & Rabbi Michael Moskowitz
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Atem, the first of two Hebrew words at the beginning of the song means "you" while *nitzavim* is the name of one of the final parshiot of Deuteronomy. The parsha begins, "*Atem nitzavim*," — "You stand this day, all of you, before Adonai your God...to enter into the covenant of Adonai your God."

In Hebrew we often use the word *omed* to mean "stand." Therefore, there must be more to the meaning of *nitzavim*. The latter is more like "be present," almost like stand up for something. Rashi links *nitzavim* to the similar word in Hebrew for monument. In other words, stand up, be a monument to your faith and to God.

Kehillah Kedoshah, we must work together, each one of us and do our part for the covenant, for the world, and for each other. Please share your ideas about holy people, holy places or monuments, and holy times with others in our BIJ community. Determine how you can help be a part of our *Kehillah Kedoshah* and then join us!

Don't forget to check out our website for the most up-to-date information: <http://www.sites.google.com/site/bijyafe/>

Rebecca Goodman