

A Thought for Shabbat

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Shabbat Shalom

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12 Av 5771



This week's Torah portion, *Devarim*, begins the last book of the Book of Deuteronomy. It is Moses' attempt to ensure the people remember every thing that has taken place as they enter their new land. He insists that they cannot move forward unless they appreciate and understand where they have been and what has made them who they are.

Twice a year, our synagogue hosts a luncheon for all the Holocaust survivors in Orange County. It is an opportunity for us to celebrate them and for them to schmooze with each other. Many tell us it is the highlight of their year. Given that within a decade or so these voices will be no more, we invited our teenagers to join for this last luncheon. The teenagers interviewed each survivor and asked them share a message for the world. In addition, during the luncheon I asked the question, "What do you want these children to remember, to carry forward on your behalf, based off of your experience." Below you will find the link to that experience. It is worth thirteen minutes of your time. Please have your children and everyone else on your email list be exposed to these special people. Unless we appreciate and understand where we have been can we move forward to be who we are suppose to be.

<http://www.shmtemple.org/431322.ihtml>