

*Towering glaciers, with their magnificent blue tint rest, on the icy waters of Alaska's Glacier Bay. On the shores of Copenhagen, the bronze sculpture, The Little Mermaid lays on an eroding rock, the waves licking at her feet. The sun's gleam reflects on the tall spiraling pillars of the Spilled Blood Church, in St. Petersburg, Russia, giving the church an angelic and spiritual glow. Few thirteen year olds get to travel around the world with their families and learn about the world's diverse cultures and countries. Being this fortunate, I cherish every second of being in a place in none of which the likes I call home. My name is Gabriella Senderov; I am thirteen and on the verge of becoming a Bat Mitzvah. The moments I have shared with my family and friends are full of joy and have sculpted me into who I am today. Becoming a Bat Mitzvah is more than just learning prayers and reading from the Torah; it is expanding the elated circle of family, friends and heritage. To conclude, I want to thank Rabbi Speigel, Hazzan Pablo and all of my teachers for their support and guidance. I'd like to thank Betty Zonshine for helping me excel in my Torah and Haftarah studies. Finally, I want to thank my parents for always being there for me and encouraging me to do my best in everything that I do.*