



338 WALNUT AVE
CRANFORD NJ 07016
Paul D. Kerbel, RABBI
Andrew Feldman & Craig Schwartz, CO-PRESIDENTS

December 9, 2024

Dear Congregants,

"The Lord has sent us into Beth-El." This quote, engraved on the front of our building, refers to Genesis 35:1 where G-d tells Jacob to go to Beth-El, settle there, and to build an altar to G-d, therefore making it a spiritual home.

The original founders of our shul named us Temple Beth-El, our House of G-d, and erected our building to be a spiritual home for our community. Within these walls, we have celebrated life's richest moments together and supported each other through our darkest times. During all these life cycle events, we turned to our Torahs to teach and to guide us, reading from them at ours, and our children's B'nei Mitzvah and learning from them when the road forward seemed impossible.

Through decades of loving use, our sacred scrolls have fallen into disrepair. The words are fading, which has deemed them unkosher by a distinguished Sofer and has made them inaccessible to large sections of the generations that comprise our community.

A generous donation from Mark and Debbie Kaplan has ignited the process of acquiring a new Torah. **We are thrilled to announce that we will be getting a brand-new Torah, one that is being written specifically for our congregation.** Moses Maimonides, in his magnificent work *Sefer HaMitzvot*, lists the writing of the Torah as one of the 613 commandments of the Torah. He taught: "Every person is to have a Scroll of the Law for himself. If he writes it with his own hand, he is greatly praised but if he cannot write it himself, a Jew is obliged to purchase one or, hire a scribe who will write it for him."

We're inviting our entire congregation to participate in this once-in-a-generation opportunity and assist us in bringing our new Torah home. We have created a multitude of opportunities for you and your family to dedicate books, portions, verses, selected readings, and other items. Dedicating a portion of our new Torah leaves a lasting impression on our community for decades to come while remembering the momentous events your family has shared with us.

We anticipate our beautiful new scroll will be brought home and dedicated on Erev Shavuot (June 1st) and read aloud for the first time on Simchat Torah. However, the celebrations begin soon! On January 26th, we will welcome our Sofer (scribe) to Cranford for a day of learning, and you will be able to join the Sofer to write a brief portion in our new Torah.

Through your participation, we will ensure that Temple Beth-El Mekor Chayim remains the spiritual home for all and that our sacred Torah is available for many more generations. We hope that you will look over the enclosed documents describing the many ways you can participate in this exciting event.

As we celebrate this Year of the Torah, may you be blessed by its teachings and ensure the transmission of its sacred words – l'dor va'dor – from generation to generation.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Rabbi Paul David Kerbel

Craig Schwartz, Co-President

Andrew Feldman, Co-President

BJ Solomon, Vice President

David Springer & Laura Cohen, Honorary Co-Chairs



Amudei HaTorah (Pillars of the Torah)	\$10,000
<input type="radio"/> Dedicate a book of the Torah <i>3 of 5 available</i> <input type="radio"/> Dedicate a Day of Learning with the Scribe <input type="radio"/> Sponsor a Scholar-in-Residence	
Hiddur Mitzvah (Beautify the Torah)	\$7,500
<input type="radio"/> Torah Cover and Yad <input type="radio"/> Restoration of a current Torah	
Zichron HaTorah (Remembrance of the Torah)	\$5,000
<input type="radio"/> High Holy Day Torah Readings	
Shomrim (Guardian)	\$3,600
<input type="radio"/> Shma <input type="radio"/> Ten Commandments <input type="radio"/> Birkat Kohanim <input type="radio"/> Holiness Code (Love Your Neighbor as Yourself)	
Mishpachat HaTorah (Family of the Torah)	\$2,500
<input type="radio"/> Sponsor the Family Torah Celebration	
Chogegim HaTorah (Festivals of the Torah)	\$1,800
<input type="radio"/> Sukkot <input type="radio"/> Shmini Atzeret <input type="radio"/> Simchat Torah <input type="radio"/> Hanukkah <input type="radio"/> Passover <input type="radio"/> Shavuot	
Bonei Ha-Torah (Builders of the Torah)	\$1,000
Dedicate a Parasha of the Week	
Madrichim (Guiders)	\$540
<input type="radio"/> The Matriarchs <input type="radio"/> Patriarchs <input type="radio"/> Biblical Personality <input type="radio"/> First or Last verse	
Sofrim (Writers)	\$360
<input type="radio"/> one verse <input type="radio"/> favorite Mitzvah <input type="radio"/> Torah Poles <input type="radio"/> first, middle, or last word	
Chaverim (Friends)	\$180
Dedicate any word of the Torah (except the first, middle, or last)	

If you need help picking verses or sections of the Torah to dedicate or have any questions about these opportunities, please call Allison in the synagogue office. She will arrange a time for you to speak with Rabbi Kerbel or Laura Cohen to review your questions and assist you in making a meaningful decision.



338 WALNUT AVE
CRANFORD NJ 07016
Paul D. Kerbel, RABBI
Andrew Feldman & Craig Schwartz, CO-PRESIDENTS

Name _____

Total Pledge \$ _____

Please indicate how you would like the gift to be recognized or if you would like to remain anonymous.

(e.g. The Goldberg Family or your names) _____

____ Please send a pledge reminder

____ I am enclosing payment.

Please make checks payable to Temple Beth-El Mekor Chaim and note “**Year of the Torah**” in the memo section.
Please mail with this form with your check to:

Temple Beth-El Mekor Chaim
338 Walnut Avenue
Cranford, NJ 07016