



338 WALNUT AVE
CRANFORD NJ 07016
Paul D. Kerbel, RABBI
Andrew Feldman & Craig Schwartz, CO-PRESIDENTS
(908) 276 9231 tbemc.org

April 11, 2025

Dear Congregants,

Last fall, because of a generous initial donation from Mark and Debbie Kaplan, our synagogue began a fundraising effort to acquire a beautiful new Torah scroll. The writing of this new Torah was necessary because, through decades of loving use, our sacred scrolls have fallen into disrepair. Many words have faded, which deemed the scrolls unkosher by a distinguished Sofer.

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."

Twice since January of this year, a Torah scribe has visited our shul. During both visits, more than 150 of us were able to observe and participate in the mitzvah of writing part of the Torah. It was a meaningful and moving experience, regardless of our own personal levels of observance.

There remain 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. A list of participation opportunities is part of this mailing. Please consider making a dedication at whatever level you feel comfortable. Please note that this is TBEMC's only major fundraiser this year!

We are dedicating our beautiful new scroll at a festive celebration on Erev Shavuot (Sunday, June 1st) where we will recognize all supporters who participated in the fundraising effort! The entire congregation will be invited to attend. Our new Torah will be read aloud for the first time on Simchat Torah this fall.

By participating in this project, we ensure that Temple Beth-El Mekor Chayim remains the spiritual home for all, and that our sacred Torah is available and accessible for many more generations. As we continue the 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,

BJ Solomon, Vice President of Fundraising

David Springer & Laura Cohen, Honorary Co-Chairs



THE YEAR OF THE TORAH

Participation Opportunities

- Amudei HaTorah (Pillars of the Torah).....\$10,000**
- Dedicate a book of the Torah *1 of 5 available*
 - Dedicate a Day of Learning with the Scribe
 - Sponsor a Scholar-in-Residence
- Hiddur Mitzvah (Beautify the Torah).....\$7,500**
- Torah Cover and Yad – *taken*
 - Full restoration of a current Torah
- Zichron HaTorah (Remembrance of the Torah).....\$5,000**
- High Holy Day Torah Readings
 - Partial restoration of a current Torah
- Shomrim (Guardian).....\$3,600**
- Shma *taken*
 - Birkat Kohanim
 - Ten Commandments *taken*
 - Holiness Code (Love Your Neighbor as Yourself)
- Mishpachat HaTorah (Family of the Torah).....\$2,500**
- Sponsors of the Family Torah Celebration
- Chogegim HaTorah (Festivals of the Torah).....\$1,800**
- Sukkot *taken*
 - Simchat Torah *taken*
 - Shmini Atzeret
 - Hanukkah
 - Passover
 - Shavuot
- Bonei Ha-Torah (Builders of the Torah).....\$1,000**
- Dedicate a full Parasha of the Week
- Madrichim (Guiders).....\$540**
- The Matriarchs *many available*
 - Patriarchs *many available*
 - Biblical Personality
 - First or Last verse
 - B'nei Mitzvah maftir parasha
- Sofrim (Writers).....\$360**
- one verse
 - Torah Poles *multiples available*
 - favorite Mitzvah
 - 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.



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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.

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

Temple Beth-El Mekor Chayim
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Cranford, NJ 07016