



338 WALNUT AVENUE  
CRANFORD NJ 07016  
Paul D. Kerbel, RABBI  
Andrew Feldman & Craig Schwartz, CO-PRESIDENTS  
(908) 276 9231 [www.tbemc.org](http://www.tbemc.org)

June 20, 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 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 recently dedicated our beautiful new scroll at a festive celebration on Erev Shavuot. Over 150 people attended and were enthralled by this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to witness such an event. We will read from our new Torah for the first time on Simchat Torah. We hope you will join us for this significant event.

You can still participate in this project, which is ongoing. Make a donation in honor of a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, special lifecycle event or simply to fulfil the mitzvah of writing a Torah. 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



**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*
- ☐ Biblical Personality
- ☐ B'nei Mitzvah maftir parasha
- ☐ Patriarchs *many available*
- ☐ First or Last verse

**Sofrim (Writers) .....\$360**

- ☐ one verse
- ☐ favorite Mitzvah
- ☐ Torah Poles *multiples available*
- ☐ 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  
338 Walnut Avenue  
Cranford, NJ 07016