

THE KOL SHOFAR
TORAH

A Sacred Commitment

**TORAH IS A
PILLAR OF STRENGTH
SOURCES OF COMFORT
INSPIRATION
AND PEACE**

THE TORAH

is so much a part of our soul that every Jew is commanded to write a Torah scroll in his or her lifetime.

The sage Maimonides teaches that if one does not possess the knowledge to inscribe a Torah oneself, a person should be engaged who is able to write a Sefer Torah and “by this act (you) will fulfill the commandment.”

To generations of Jews who have come to the Torah, danced with it and prayed before it, Torah is the center.

Torah reflects the deep relationships that we build as a community. Our Torah will represent the promise of a continued sacred commitment for years to come — our legacy and gift to present and future generations at Congregation Kol Shofar.

The Joy of a Mitzvah

מצות עשה על כל איש ואיש מישראל
לכתוב ספר תורה לעצמו

“It is a positive commandment
that each and every Jew
must write a Sefer Torah. . .”

— *Maimonides' Mishneh Torah*

UNIQUE MOMENT IN TIME

Each and every one of us is being offered a unique moment in our personal Jewish history — the opportunity to write this scroll. Together we will share in God's most precious of mitzvot; we will join as one in creating our very own Torah.

YOUR PERSONAL CONNECTION

During the coming year, special events will enable members and friends of Congregation Kol Shofar to become involved in writing our Torah scroll. As we invest in our Torah and participate in this celebration, we engage with the Torah of our parents and grandparents, but we can claim it as our own.

Torah of the ages past will be woven with our new stories and teachings to pass on to future generations. You will have an opportunity to keep your own personal journal of your experiences through this process and to share some of them.

When our Torah is complete we will celebrate — with a NEW living Torah in our vibrant community.

WE WELCOME OUR NEW TORAH

Torah, refers to the Five Books of Moses — Genesis, Exodus, Numbers, Leviticus and Deuteronomy. Torah is so all-encompassing that it has come to refer to all of Judaism's spiritual texts. A Sefer Torah, or Torah scroll, is a copy of the Torah written on parchment with ink and quill, by a specially trained scribe (sofer), according to Jewish law.

Torah is Judaism's way to connect to God in our spiritual tradition. A sign of God's love for us, Torah embraces us. We place our scrolls in a holy ark and adorn them with beautiful covers, crowns and ornaments. Torah is the ultimate value, shaping all we do in community with each other.

We enter a beit kneset (a synagogue), see the sifrei Torah (Torah scrolls) lovingly placed in the ark, and literally taste Torah in our midst. When the ark is opened, we delight in seeing beautiful Torahs, a tangible sign of our covenant with God. When a community owns and cares for multiple sifrei Torah, it is a great honor and demonstration of Jewish values. Multiple scrolls enable the community to offer portals for different services occurring at the same time, but serving different sectors of our pluralistic community. A communal peak in the liturgical calendar, such as celebrating the new month (Rosh Hodesh) or the chanting of Kol Nidrei on Erev Yom Kippur, is honored by our multiple Torah scrolls.

WE PRESERVE OUR TORAHS

Torahs do not last forever. As we welcome a new Torah into our community, we bid farewell to two Torahs which are no longer fit for ritual use. One, while no longer fit for public reading, will be a valuable tool for our children as they learn Torah here at Kol Shofar.

The second Torah, rescued from an Eastern European community during the Holocaust, found its final home at Kol Shofar. The "Holocaust" Torah served our community for years and will be memorialized in a beautiful work of art that will be a part of our synagogue. It will be a living testimony to those who perished among the millions and honor those that survived. We will create our own memorial at Kol Shofar and a Book of Remembrance listing the names of relatives of congregants who perished in the Holocaust.

A YEAR OF TORAH IN OUR LEARNING CONGREGATION

For more than 3000 years, the Jewish people have preserved the Torah and the Torah has preserved us. Generations have carefully copied each of the 304,805 letters with quill on parchment to hand down to the next generation. Congregation Kol Shofar has enlisted the expertise of Rav Baruch Shorter, a Torah Scribe(sofer) and Zerach Greenfield, and Rabbi Stuart Kelman, Torah Educators, to help us fulfill this mitzvah, reconnect with our sacred traditions, and share our rich heritage with the larger community.

We kicked-off a year of experiential and scholarly learning about Torah on Erev Simhat Torah — Thursday, September 26 — with a wonderful service, and celebration with music and dancing

Throughout the year, there will be opportunities for learning together, special skype sessions with our sofer in Israel, and many classes and activities for different age group as well as intergenerational experiences. We will celebrate the completion of our new Torah in May 2014.

The schedule of activities is enclosed.

SUSTAINING US

Our Torah project will benefit the entire community and is the focus of our 2013 High Holy Day campaign.

Congregation Kol Shofar has been blessed with leadership gifts from Nana Meyer and from generous contributions to the New Torah fund from Kol Shofar congregants and by the Zack Family children who chose to encourage friends and family to support the New Torah Fund in honor of their becoming B'nei Mitzvah.

SUPPORT the vision of a Jewish life around the teachings of the Torah — one that will help our children grow Jewishly, and build and enhance our own relationships and spirit as we worship, learn from, and participate in our community

ENHANCE the established New Torah Fund for the care of our ritual objects and prayer spaces.

PRESERVE our historical Kol Shofar Holocaust Torah and memorialize the names of family members who perished in the Holocaust.



DEDICATING OUR TORAHS

Through our unique Torah project, you have an opportunity to dedicate a portion of our new Torah and to support the preservation of the Holocaust Torah.

Dedications are a meaningful way to honor a friend or relative, memorialize loved ones, remember life-cycle events such as a wedding, bat/bat mitzvah, birth, anniversary or bris/baby naming or to honor special people in your life. Parents, grandparents, neighbors can find a portion of the Torah that is expressive of a moment or feeling.

If you desire assistance in a choice of dedication, Rabbi Leider or Rabbi Levy would be happy to help you.

New Torah Dedications

The Five Books

Beresheet (Genesis); Shemot (Exodus);
Vayikra (Leviticus); Bemidbar (Numbers);
Devreem (Deuteronomy)

Special Themes and Values

Golden Rule, Ten Commandments, Shema,
The Holiness Code, The Priestly Blessing

Holidays

Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Shavuot,
Passover

Stories or Events

Noah's Ark, Abraham and Isaac, Jacob's Ladder,
Joseph's Dream, Parting of the Sea of Reeds

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Portion, Parashah or Sedra

Each book is divided into units called parashiot
or sidrot. In all there are 54 parashiot.

Aliya — Several sentences or a paragraph

Verse — 5846 dedications

Names/People, Places

Joshua, Moses, Rachel, Sarah, Beth El, Mount Sinai

Word — 79,976 dedications

Letter — 304,805

Mantel (cover) and Ornaments

Holocaust Memorial Torah Dedications

Sponsorship

Kol Shofar Holocaust Torah Memorial
(preservation exhibit)

Names

Memorialize family members who
perished in the Holocaust
(written in our Memorial Book)

Please use the enclosed
reply card and envelope to
complete your dedication
or contact
Nancy Drapin
415.388.1818, ext. 103
ndrapin@kolshofar.org









עץ-חיים היא למחזיקים בה

Etz hayyim he l'mahazikim ba...

**IT IS A TREE OF LIFE
TO THEM THAT
HOLD FAST TO IT**

Proverbs 3:17-18

שופר KOL SHOFAR

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