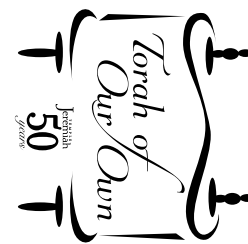




## TEMPLE JEREMIAH'S TORAH SCROLLS

- The first Torah purchased for Temple Jeremiah was in December, 1961 by Burton & Martha Wolff
- One Torah scroll was rescued from a Czech Synagogue, having survived the Holocaust and was brought to Temple Jeremiah in 1967
- Two Torah scrolls are generous gifts from Rabbi Schreibman and his family
- One Torah scroll is a gift from the Weinberg family
- One Torah scroll is generously on loan from the Gerber family



Temple Jeremiah  
987 Happ Road  
PO Box 8209  
Northfield, IL 60093

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## TORAH FACTS

Did you know that every Torah:

- Contains the first five books of the Bible—often called the five books of Moses—*Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy*
- Has 304,805 letters, 245 columns with 42 lines in each column
- Is handwritten in black ink on approximately 62 pieces of parchment
- Contains no vowels or punctuation
- Must be exact and have no errors

## Torah of Our Own

MAKE YOUR MARK AND LEAVE A LEGACY FOR GENERATIONS TO COME





## A TORAH OF OUR OWN

Since Moses received the Torah on Mount Sinai, the Torah has served as the foundation of Jewish tradition and the cornerstone of Jewish learning and living.

As Temple Jeremiah prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary, our congregation has a unique opportunity to come together to write our first Torah scroll, a Torah of Our Own. This once-in-a-lifetime experience will enrich, inspire and enlighten each of us as we continue a ritual that dates back more than three millennia.

## THE MITZVAH OF WRITING TORAH

The 613th and final commandment (Deuteronomy 31:19) is for every Jew to write a Torah during his or her lifetime. There are 304,805 letters in a Sefer Torah, and the Torah is incomplete if even a single letter is missing. In a sense, each letter completes the Torah, thus anyone who writes a letter, writes a Torah. So, in a very real way, this Torah, our Torah, will be incomplete without everyone's participation.

Holding the quill with the aid of a Sofer (Scribe), each of us will be able to write a letter and personally dedicate this Torah to those we love and honor.

## A TEMPLE JEREMIAH FAMILY EXPERIENCE

Just as the Torah has been handed down from generation to generation, L'Dor v'Dor, we will join with family, friends and our Temple Jeremiah community to remember our ancestors and create a legacy for our children who will inherit our Torah. Through learning and participating in the scribing experience, we will create new bonds and memories that celebrate our heritage and our fifty years as a congregation.

## OUR YEAR OF TORAH

Torah of Our Own is about community. Beyond the writing experience, there will be programming throughout the year designed to foster an understanding of Torah's place in our history and in our lives. Topics and forums will reflect the many facets of our diverse congregation. Some planned events include:

- Torah and the Law
- Musical Torah Experience
- Torah, Ethics and Obligation
- Children's Torah Workshop
- Torah and Science
- Strong Women of the Torah
- The Original "Soul" Food- The Role of Food in the Torah
- The Structure and Poetry of Torah Hebrew
- Torah Today: Modern Commentary

## A TRADITION OF GIVING - TERUMAH

In Exodus 25, God, through Moses, instructs the Israelites to come together as a community to build the Mishkan, the portable tabernacle housing the Torah tablets. God invites offerings "from every person whose heart is so moved" to complete this sacred place.

Similarly, our Torah project will find its financial success in the shared commitment of our congregation. As all individual letters combine to form a finished Torah, each individual's generosity will combine to make Torah of Our Own a reality.

## DEDICATION OPPORTUNITIES

There are many levels at which congregants can support Torah of Our Own, and no family will be excluded due to financial considerations. Suggested dedication opportunities are outlined below. If there is a Book or Passage that has special meaning to you, please reserve your scribing session early.

### BOOK (\$18,000)

Dedicate one of the five books of the Torah with family or friends in the intimacy of your own home.

### BIBLICAL NAMES

Moses, Patriarchs and Matriarchs (\$1,080)  
All other biblical names such as; Miriam, Joseph, Adam, Dan, Joshua and others. (\$540)

### PASSAGES (\$5,400)

Select one of the Torah's most meaningful verses, such as the Shema, the Ten Commandments, the Blessing of Ephraim and Menasseh, the Song of the Sea, the Prayer for Healing, and others.

### LETTERS

Extended Family (\$360)  
Immediate Family (\$108)  
Single Person (\$18)

### ADDITIONAL GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Sponsorship of the Torah Dressing;  
Etz Chaim, Breast Plate, Torah Crowns, Yad, Torah cover

### PARASHA (\$3,600)

Choose a specific Torah portion of special significance to you and your family - for instance, the portion chanted by your child as a B'nai Mitzvah.

If you are interested in one of these dedication opportunities, want to sign up for a scribing session, or require any additional information, please call the Temple office at (847) 441-5760 or email [tooproject@templejeremiah.org](mailto:tooproject@templejeremiah.org).

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

We will kick off Torah of Our Own with an opening ceremony for the entire congregation on October 18, 2009. Over the coming months, we will host a series of scribing sessions where each of us can participate in writing Torah. Our journey will culminate in the dedication of our new Torah on May 23, 2010.

- Opening Ceremony (and Scribing): October 18, 2009
- Scribing Sessions: November 22-23, 2009
- Scribing Sessions: January 6-7, 2010
- Scribing Sessions: February 21-22, 2010
- Scribing Sessions: March 9-10, 2010
- Scribing Sessions: March 16-17, 2010
- Scribing Sessions: April 11-12, 2010

## THE EXPERIENCE BEGINS

We invite you to join this cultural and educational journey. We invite you to write a letter and dedicate a part of our new Torah. We invite you to participate in the many Torah-related programs and events that will be happening throughout the year.

## GETTING STARTED IS EASY

- Mark your calendars and attend the Opening Ceremony on Sunday, October 18 at 10:00 a.m.
- Complete and return the enclosed response card to schedule your time with the Sofer .
- Visit the Torah of Our Own link, [www.templejeremiah.org/w/tooproject.php](http://www.templejeremiah.org/w/tooproject.php), to learn about Torah-related events and activities.
- Volunteer in helping make Temple Jeremiah's Torah of Our Own endeavor the best it can be.

Begin planning today for a moving experience that will preserve our Jewish tradition of teaching and life-long learning at Temple Jeremiah.

*Make your mark and leave a legacy for generations to come.*