



Scribing and Dedication Opportunities

The Sefer Torah Project: Writing a New Torah Scroll for Our TBS Community

TBS is writing a new Torah scroll! The TBS Sefer Torah Project is a hands-on, community-wide journey on which we will learn, grow, and connect to our sacred text. We will watch as our new Sefer Torah (Torah scroll) comes to life, and we will witness as it is woven into the fabric of our congregation from generation to generation.

Meet Soferet Ariela Housman

Ariela Housman has been working as a calligrapher since 2003. In the summer of 2015, she began training as a Jewish scribe of holy texts (Soferet ST"am). She specializes in the Western Sephardic (Spanish & Portuguese) scribal hand. She has scribed many *mezuzot* and *megillot*; this will be Ariela's first Sefer Torah. Ariela holds a BA in Cultural History from the University of Pennsylvania and is an alumna of the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem.

Fulfilling the 613th Commandment

"And now write this poem for yourselves and teach it to the children of Israel..."
-Deuteronomy 31:19

This passage from Deuteronomy is considered by the Sages to be the 613th and final commandment in the Torah. It was interpreted to mean that it is the responsibility of every Jew to write their own Sefer Torah (Torah scroll) during their lifetime. We are excited to present our community with the extraordinary opportunity to fulfill this personal mitzvah.

Our hope is that every member of our community will take part in this project by dedicating a letter, word, verse, passage, or book. With 62 pages, 245 columns, 79,847 words, and 304,805 letters in the Torah, there are ample opportunities to learn, grow, and connect with this sacred process and be part of creating a Torah that will be read for generations to come.

We invite you to share in the joy of bringing our new Sefer Torah to life!

Scribing Rituals

Participate in the writing of our new Sefer Torah by taking part in a scribing ritual, a memorable opportunity to join Soferet (Torah scribe) Ariela Housman as she completes this sacred work. There are opportunities for rituals that are open to the community as well as private rituals for your invited guests.

Participation in a Community Scribing Ritual • *Any dedication amount (see below)*

Any community member who dedicates a letter, word, name or verse is invited to join Soferet Ariela Housman for a community scribing ritual with other TBS members. During the ritual, you will have the opportunity to learn about the section of Torah that she is writing that day, say a blessing, and watch as she scribes a few words.

Private Scribing Ritual • **\$1,080**

Invite your parents, children, grandchildren, and special friends (up to 10 people) to join you for a private scribing ritual with Soferet Ariela Housman. Your group will participate in ritual hand washing, blessings, preparation, and close connection with Ariela as she scribes a few words. You will also have the opportunity to learn about the section of Torah that she is writing that day.

Private Scribing Ritual with Opportunity to Write a Letter • **\$3,600**

This experience is the same as the private scribing ritual described above, plus the opportunity for each person in your group to take "quill to parchment" by helping to write a letter in the scroll.

please turn over

Dedication Opportunities

Torah dedications are a meaningful way to honor a family member or friend, remember loved ones, celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, or lifecycle moments, or simply participate in this communal celebration of Torah. There are a variety of dedication levels, making it possible for everyone to find a way to participate.

Your gift of a Torah dedication includes a commemorative certificate and the opportunity to participate in a scribing ritual (see above). Your name and dedication will also be inscribed in the TBS Sefer Torah Project Book.

Please note that due to scheduling logistics, the Torah passage that you help to scribe in person will typically not be the same as the section that you have dedicated.

Letter by a child (under age 13) • \$18

Letter by an adult (13 and older) • \$36

Word • \$180

Biblical Name • \$360

Dedicate a name that has meaning to you or your family. Opportunities include: Adam, Eve, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, Rachel, Leah, Joseph, Moses, Miriam, Aaron, and more!

Verse • \$540

Dedicate a verse that is meaningful for you. We are available to help you choose a special verse.

Aliyah • \$1,080

Dedicate a section of a weekly Torah portion. This is a wonderful way to honor or commemorate participation in a B. Mitzvah Torah reading.

Chapter • \$3,600

Dedicate a chapter from a section of the Torah that has meaning for you. We are available to help you choose a special chapter.

Weekly Parasha (Torah Portion) • \$5,400

Dedicate a weekly Torah portion. This is a wonderful way to honor or commemorate a B. Mitzvah.

Prayers and Blessings* • \$9,000

Dedicate a prayer or blessing that appears in Torah. Opportunities include: Shema, V'ahavta, Mi Chamocha, V'shamru, the Priestly Blessings, Ma Tovu, and a Prayer for Healing.

Beloved Passages* • \$18,000

Dedicate a well-known passage. Opportunities include: Story of Creation, The Akeidah (Binding of Isaac), Jacob's Ladder, Burning Bush, Parting of the Sea, Song of the Sea, the Ten Commandments, Building the Mishkan, the Song of Moses, and more!

Book of Torah* • \$36,000

Dedicate one of the Five Books of Moses: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, or Deuteronomy.

Torah Cover • \$54,000

Dedicate a new High Holy Day Torah cover. As part of this project, we will be creating five new Torah covers for the High Holy Days.

Yad (Pointer)* • \$90,000

Dedicate a special yad to be used by those who read from our new Sefer Torah.



**May be dedicated only once.*

The TBS Annual Fund

The TBS Annual Fund ensures the continuity and future of our temple's excellence. Every day, people are moved and inspired by the Jewish community that we create together. Our philanthropic base begins and ends with the families who choose to call Temple Beth Shalom home. We care for one another in times of hardship and join together to celebrate our simchas. Philanthropy supports our exceptional programs and the professionals who make these programs come to life. It also helps to ensure access to membership and learning for all.

All funds raised by Sefer Torah support the TBS Annual Fund and, therefore, all we do at TBS. Learn more about the TBS Annual Fund at www.annualfund.tbsneedham.org.

If you have already made a contribution to the Annual Fund this year, you are invited to participate in the Sefer Torah Project by choosing a dedication opportunity commensurate with your donation. If you would like to participate in the Sefer Torah Project at a higher financial level, you may increase your Annual Fund contribution or make a separate donation. If you have questions about your current Annual Fund contribution, please contact Sue Kost, Staff Accountant (skost@tbsneedham.org or 781-444-0077 x76).

We do not want finances to be a barrier to participation in the TBS Sefer Torah Project. If cost is prohibitive for your household and you would like to participate, please contact us at sefertorah@tbsneedham.org.

Join Us!

To register for a scribing ritual and choose your dedication, please complete our form at <http://t-b-s.me/SeferTorah>.