



***“Now write for yourself this song
and teach it to all the children of Israel”
(Deuteronomy 13:19)***

Join us in writing history, the first Torah scroll written by and for our congregation in nearly a century! As we look forward to our 175th anniversary, we cannot think of a more meaningful way to honor our long and proud history, and with joy and confidence, invest in our future.

Every member and friend of Temple Israel will have an opportunity to take a quill in his or her own hand and with the guidance of our sofer (scribe), write a letter in our scroll. In this way, we will all personally have a role in completing our new torah.

By supporting our Torah Project, we will ensure that Jewish learning and Jewish values, and all we cherish about our community, will remain strong and vital for generations to come. Dedications will not only help to cover the costs of our Torah Project but will support our congregation’s ongoing journey.

Everyone is invited to dedicate a letter, word, verse, passage, or book of the Torah that holds special meaning to you – each according to their means. Dedications may be made to honor the memory of a loved one, or to give a special gift of recognition to a family member, friend, or mentor, or in honor of a special milestone in your life. Or you might simply want to recognize the mitzvah you have fulfilled of helping to write a Torah! If you need assistance in making your selection, Rabbi Gwasdoff or Karma will be happy to assist.

All those who make dedications will receive a special certificate and be invited to write a letter in our new scroll. Donors will be recognized on a special plaque in our gallery.

For over 3,000 years, Torah has guided the Jewish people, affirming life and making us a light unto the nations. There is no better way to honor yourself, your loved ones, and our community than with a gift of Torah.

Dedication Guidelines

Due to the logistics of writing a Torah scroll, the letter that you write in the scroll will, most likely, not correspond with your dedication.

If your selection falls into overlapping categories, then the more expensive category will prevail. Exception will be made if a Bar/Bat Mitzvah portion is also a “select” Torah portion.

We do not want finances to be a barrier to participation. If you are unable to make a dedication at this time and would like to write a letter in the scroll, please reach out to Rabbi or Karma.

Dedication Levels

\$18 ~ Child's Letter (age 12 and younger)

\$36 ~ Adult's Letter (without crowns)

Choose your special letter. Maybe it's the first letter of your name, a significant Hebrew word, or the name of your Bar/Bat Mitzvah portion.



\$72 ~ Letters with Crowns

There are seven letters of the alphabet that are always written with crowns: shin, ayin, tet, nun, zayin, gimel and tzadi. They are incredibly beautiful and tradition teaches that they hold lessons from Torah that are yet to be revealed.

\$180 ~ Complete Word

Choose a word that has significance to you. Perhaps it's Israel, shalom, your Hebrew name, a place name, the name of your Bar/Bat Mitzvah portion, or one of the names of G-d.

\$360 ~ One of the 613 Mitzvot

Select a mitzvah that holds a special place in your life. Some examples include:

- Teach them diligently to your children
- Do not cut down fruit trees
- Write them on the doorposts of your house
- Affix fringes to your garment
- Leave the corners of your fields for the poor
- Do not put a stumbling block before the blind
- Write your own Torah

\$540 ~ Pasuk: A Complete Sentence

One sentence of Torah can contain an entire world of ideas, bringing light and wisdom into the world. One sentence can inspire us to lead a fuller life, to dedicate ourselves to a cause, or to remind us of all the gifts that we have received and our obligation to give back to others. Select a sentence that brings you joy or has carried you through a difficult time, a sentence that makes you smile or makes you think, or maybe a sentence that you read at your Bar/Bat Mitzvah that held special meaning for you.

\$1080 ~ Beloved Passages: These beloved passages have inspired our people for thousands of years:

- B'tzelem Elohim - In the Divine image
- It is not good for man to be alone.
- Am I my brother's keeper?
- Love your neighbor as yourself
- G-d was in this place and I did not know it
- Proclaim liberty throughout the land
- Man does not live by bread alone
- Justice, justice shall you pursue
- I have put before you life and death, blessing and curse, choose life
- I make this covenant with those who are standing here today and with those who are not here
- Be strong and of good courage
- A land flowing with milk and honey

\$1800 ~ Aliyah - A section of the weekly portion

The word “aliyah” means ascent. It is used to refer to the honor of being called up to the Torah to recite the blessings and to the section of Torah that is read between the blessings. We ascend to the Torah both as a reminder of the elevated status of Torah and with the hope that our hearts and lives will be elevated by our actions. Aliyah reminds us that we must always strive to reach higher on our journey to creating our best selves. Select a portion of the weekly Torah reading that encourages you to be your best self through kindness to strangers, caring for our world, pursuing justice, helping those in need, or one of the many other values found in Torah.

\$3600 ~ Special Prayers & Blessings

Words of depth and meaning and that have touched the hearts of our people in every generation.

- Birkat Cohanim (Priestly Benediction) - May G-d bless you and keep you...
- V'Ahavta - And you shall love Adonai, your G-d with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might
- Mi Chamocha - Our song of freedom
- V'shamru - Keep Shabbat throughout the generations
- Ma Tovu - How goodly are your tents O Jacob, your dwelling places O Israel
- Adonai Adonai - G-d full of compassion and mercy
- El Na Refa Na La - The first Prayer for Healing offered by Moses on behalf of his sister, Miriam*
Though they share the same intent, please note the prayer for healing found in Torah is not the Mi Sheberach prayer that we offer during Shabbat services.

\$5400 ~ Torah Portions & Holyday Readings

Dedicate an entire Torah portion or the special portion connected to one of our holydays.

- Rosh HaShanah Reading - The Binding of Isaac
- Yom Kippur Morning Reading - Choose Life
- Yom Kippur Afternoon Reading - The Holiness Code
- Sukkot Reading - The Golden Calf and a New Set of Tablets
- Noah - The Great Flood and the Rainbow Covenant
- Lech L'cha - G-d's Call to Abraham
- Vayetze - Jacob's Ladder
- Vayishlach - Jacob wrestles with a man/angel and his name is changed to Israel
- Vayeshev - Joseph's Multi-colored Coat
- Vayechi - Jacob blesses his grandsons, Ephraim and Menashe
- Shemot - The Burning Bush
- Beshallah - The Splitting of the Sea of Reeds, The Song of the Sea, and Manna in the wilderness
- Nitzavim - All those present and those not present stand at the foot of Mt. Sinai
- Bar/Bat Mitzvah portion*

**If you don't remember which portion was read, but you know the secular date that the Bar/Bat Mitzvah was celebrated, we can find it for you!*

\$7200 ~ Select Torah Portions

- Bereshit - Literally “in a beginning” - The first portion in the Torah in which the world and all it contains comes into being
- V'zot HaBracha - Literally “and this is the blessing” - Moses's final words to the children of Israel and the final portion of our Torah
- V'etchanan - This portion contains the words of the Sh'ma and V'Ahavta



\$10,800 ~ The Ten Commandments

The Aseret HaDibrot (literally “the ten words”) are initially found in the Torah portion Yitro. These ten commandments contain the fundamental principles of Judaism and the foundation of ethical monotheism.

\$18,000 ~ A Complete Book

The Torah is often called the “Five Books of Moses.” Each of the five books has amazing lessons to be learned and insights to guide us through life. Select one of the five books as your dedication.

- Bereshit - Genesis
- Sh’mot - Exodus
- Vayikra - Leviticus
- Bamidbar - Numbers
- Devarim - Deuteronomy

Hadrat Kodesh ~ The Beauty of Holiness

“Give to Adonai the glory due to The Name; worship Adonai in the beauty of holiness” (Psalms 29:2). Art in Judaism always has a spiritual purpose: to make us aware of the universe as a work of art, testifying to the supreme Artist, the Source of All Creation.

To fulfill a mitzvah in the most beautiful way possible is a sign of love, respect, and devotion. We demonstrate our love of Torah by adorning our scrolls with beautiful finials called rimonim and by dressing them in beautiful covers.

If you are able, please consider dedicating new rimonim or covers for our Torah scrolls.

\$36,000 ~ Rimonim (Torah Crowns)

In Hebrew, a rimon is a pomegranate, one of the seven species named in Torah. Pomegranates represent fertility and love. Tradition teaches that a rimon has 613 seeds, just as the Torah has 613 commandments.

\$54,000 ~ Five New Torah Covers

As the Torah is lovingly wrapped in garments of beauty and meaning, so may we be lovingly wrapped in the words of Torah.

Dedicating Your Selection of Torah

Dedications of \$1080 or more may be paid over an 18 month period. Pledge forms may be found on the “giving” page of our website at templeisraelstockton.com and hardcopies are available through a link in our weekly email or by contacting the office at 209.477.9306. Please contact Rabbi, Karma, Lindy, or a member of our Board of Directors if you have questions about your dedication.

Thank you for being a part of our Temple Family and thank you for being a part of our Torah Project.