

50 YEARS OF TORAH

A Celebration of Temple Sinai's Scrolls



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*Dedicated to all the congregants whose vision, leadership and
enthusiasm charted the course of Temple Sinai's first 50 years.*

These narratives are derived from historical records, Temple Sinai files, personal correspondence, online research, and numerous interviews and conversations with congregants and other Atlantans who shared their stories and memories.

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50 Years of Torah

A Celebration of Temple Sinai's Scrolls

*“May our eyes sparkle with the light of Torah
and may our ears hear the music of its words.
May the space between each letter in the scrolls
bring warmth and comfort to our souls.”*

*Recited at the L'Shanah Torah Opening Ceremony,
October 28, 2007*

Thanks to the hard work, perseverance and talent of many Temple Sinai congregants who brought these stories to light:

Researchers and Writers: Corey-Jan Albert, Dennis Bates, Joel Deitch, Lillie Janko, Rabbi Philip Kranz, Shirley Michalove, Barbara Schneider, and Berylann Strada.

Torah Photography: Margery Diamond.

Book Design: Corki Bienenfeld.

Seven Sacred Stories

The Torah is the hallowed text of the Jewish people, conveying our earliest understanding of the relationship between God and humankind. Found within each of our scrolls is the basis for Jewish living, holiday observance, and moral and ethical guidelines to help us navigate the complexities of the world in which we live.

It is not unusual for a congregation to have more than one Torah in its possession. Temple Sinai is currently blessed with seven Torah scrolls, each coming to our possession at different points in our history and every one the part of a story of love between the generations. By keeping them in our community and using them at different points throughout the year, we ensure that their story is not complete; rather, it is being written — and lived — by our hands and through our actions.

Contained within these pages is the story of each of our Torah scrolls and the ritual objects with which they are adorned. We invite you to become familiar with this rich narrative and the scrolls that are our most sacred possessions.

Bradley G. Levenberg
Rabbi
Temple Sinai

Temple Sinai's Torah Timeline

- 1968 Lehrman Scroll
- 1970 Smulian Scroll
- 1972 Sephardic Scroll
- 1973 Wynne Scroll
- 1973 Dworetz Scroll
- 1976 Uhrineves Scroll
- 2008 40th Anniversary Scroll



B'reishit – In the Beginning

The Lehrman Scroll

The story of the Lehrman scroll began in late 1967. Two Atlantans with a vision for a new type of Reform Jewish synagogue — Jim Smulian and Alfred Messer (z”l) — met over coffee to discuss the idea of creating a new congregation. Their idea was to bring more ritual and traditional liturgy into the essence of Reform practice, especially the custom of B’nei Mitzvah.

They invited eight others to join them as “founders.” The group grew to 30, and from that planning committee came the framework of the new congregation. Its name, initially The New Northside Reform Congregation, quickly became Temple Sinai.

Early in the planning stages, the young organizers approached Rabbi Jacob Rothschild (z”l), spiritual leader of the Hebrew Benevolent Congregation (The Temple), Atlanta’s long-established Reform congregation. They asked for his blessing to start the new congregation, and they discussed the idea of asking Rabbi Richard J. Lehrman (z”l), then Assistant Rabbi at The Temple, to become their spiritual leader.

Interest in the new congregation was immediate. By July 1968, 140-plus charter members were onboard with financial support, and Rabbi Lehrman became the first rabbi.

At that same time, Temple Sinai received a cherished gift — its first Torah. This scroll was presented by The Temple in honor of Rabbi Lehrman, marking the founding of the congregation in 1968. A resolution, preserved in the archives of The Temple, makes note of this generous gift and the spirit of friendship between congregations that it represents:

“On behalf of The Temple Board, the following resolution was unanimously accepted:

“RESOLVED, by the Trustees of the Hebrew Benevolent Congregation that they do commend the incorporators and original Trustees of Temple Sinai, Atlanta, Georgia for their dedication to the cause of Reform Judaism as evidenced by their organization of a new Congregation in Israel affiliated with the Reform movement, and do pledge their support to Temple Sinai in its organization, extend their hand in friendship to its members and congratulate and commend Temple Sinai, its Trustees and its members upon their selection of Rabbi Richard J. Lehrman as the first spiritual leader of the Congregation, and, by this Resolution, express their friendship, fellowship, and sincere best wishes for the Congregation’s long life, continued growth, and success.

“In honor of Rabbi Lehrman, the new Congregation was presented with a Torah with the congratulations and good wishes of all our members.”

The scroll was officially presented to the congregation and initially used at Sinai’s first Shabbat service on a Friday night in July 1968, at the Birney School. Unlike current tradition, the Torah was read at the Friday night service, because there were no regular Saturday Shabbat services.

“We walked in with such a strong feeling of accomplishment,” reminisced one charter member. “I said to myself, ‘We are going to create a family!’ ”



Ornaments & special features:

On top of the Torah’s wooden eitz is a small dedicatory plate to Rabbi Lehrman stating: “Presented to Temple Sinai in honor of Rabbi Richard J. Lehrman by the Hebrew Benevolent Congregation.”

Breastplate – augments the Torah and is inscribed with the name of Congregation Or VeShalom, the congregation that presented this silver ornament to Temple Sinai on the occasion of its founding. Dated September 1973 – Elul 5733.

Rimonim – donated by Ronald D. Balser and Barbara B. Balser in honor of the B’nei Mitzvah of their sons, Jon David Friedland in 1980 and Robert Jonathan Balser in 1981.

Yad – long and decorated with leaves, punctuated in the center with oval ornamentation of a pomegranate.

Wimpel – blue

Mantle – gold

Stitchers: Sara Deitch, Roz Edelberg, Shirley Michalove and Susan Schwartz

Leadership and Vision

The Smulian Scroll

For many congregants, possibly thousands, who have made Temple Sinai their spiritual home in the last 50 years, the Smulian Torah is simply one of the lovely scrolls that resides in our sanctuary ark. But for the 140-plus families who banded together in 1968 to form a new Reform congregation, the Smulian scroll represents the vision and legacy of the congregation's first president, Jim Smulian.

The Torah was a gift from Jim's parents, Sam and Pearl Smulian, who donated it to Sinai in memory of Jim's grandparents and in honor of Jim and Betty Smulian's role in founding the congregation and Jim's role as the first president.

"Jim was the 'father' of Temple Sinai," said long-time member Shirley Michalove. "He had the vision and determination to set us on sound footing for the future."

Another member recalled, "We were all in our 20's or 30's. Jim was warm and made everyone feel welcome. He didn't just get us started; he had a vision to know where we could go."

Jim knew that a fledgling congregation needed more than a group of eager new members and a passionate young rabbi; it needed a business and organizational framework from which to operate and

grow. "It was his initiative that ensured a rotation of leadership with term limits, a firm financial structure and strong clergy in a free pulpit," Shirley added.

Yet, his father, Sam Smulian, marked the occasion not with a "business" gift, but with a spiritual framework to guide the young congregation — a Torah. Sam purchased the scroll through a yeshiva that he belonged to in Baltimore, MD. It was a newly-commissioned scroll, according to Jim.

In 1970, Sam traveled from Baltimore to Atlanta by train, bringing the Torah to its new home. It was officially presented to the congregation at a Friday Shabbat service in 1970, becoming Temple Sinai's second Torah.

The Smulian Torah is the largest scroll Sinai owns and the third heaviest; it is second in height to the Uhrineves scroll. It is primarily used in the Freeman Family Chapel.

Jim and Betty had the pleasure of watching both sons, John Carter Smulian and Robert Drew Smulian, read from the Torah on the occasion of their B'nei Mitzvah. Also in attendance at both services were Sam and Pearl Smulian, the proud parents and grandparents whose gift of Torah added strength to a young congregation.

"Jim was the 'father' of Temple Sinai," said long-time member Shirley Michalove. "He had the vision and determination to set us on sound footing for the future."

Ornaments & special features:

Atop the wooden eitz, a plaque on the Smulian Torah reads: "Given by Pearl and Samuel Smulian in memory of their parents Shimon and Pesa Smulian and James and Lena Epstein."

Breastplate – donated by the Smulian family in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Jim and Betty's son, Robert Drew Smulian.

Rimonim – classic design with eagles on top; donated in the 1970s by Jan and Warren Epstein and Richard and Elly Henig in memory of Marge Klovil (z"l).

Yad – modern in design, matching the breastplate.

Wimpel – multi-colored and depicts the celebration after crossing the Sea of Reeds; designed by former Sinai member Leslie Coff.

Mantle – blue
Stitchers: Halle Jones, Anna Sidman and Cathy Sinsheimer



Sinai's Spanish Connection

The Sephardic Scroll

The arc of Sephardic Jewish history sweeps southward to the Mediterranean — a world away from the Ashkenazic shtetls of Eastern Europe. It encompasses vast areas from Spain to Greece to North Africa to the Middle East.

Temple Sinai's Sephardic Torah, considered our most collectible scroll, was donated in 1972 by Robert (Bobby) Friedland (z"l) and his then wife Barbara B. Balser. While family members do not recall where it was purchased, they believe that a close friend of Bobby's, who was a member of Congregation Or VeShalom, helped them purchase the scroll; hence, a Sephardic Torah!

What makes a Torah text Sephardic? Ashkenazic and Sephardic calligraphic styles vary somewhat. Sephardic script is noted for having less embellishment. Due to the absence of flourish in our scroll, we can assume it was written by a Sephardic scribe.

Also, in some older Torahs, there could be one letter difference between an Ashkenazic and Sephardic scroll. It comes down to one word — and whether that particular word ends with a silent “aleph” or silent



“heh.” The relevant word is רָכַח, which in some scrolls is written רָכָה. That word, meaning “crushed” or “maimed”, is found in Deuteronomy 23:2. In Temple Sinai's Sephardic scroll, the questionable word is spelled with a “heh.”

Many so-called Sephardic scrolls are not robed in a mantle, but rather in an ornamental case that protects the scroll

and allows for reading while the scroll is in an upright position. Such a protective case is called a “tik” [plural, tikim].

Historically, Sephardic communities from Morocco, Spain, Portugal and the Ottoman Empire — that is, from communities associated with the Spanish diaspora — used mantles to clothe their scrolls. Middle Eastern Jewish communities, such as those in Iran, Iraq, Syria, as well as the Isle of Rhodes and Greece, commonly used the tikim to protect their scrolls. While the origin of our scroll is not known, it came to us without a tik and is, therefore, covered in a traditional cloth mantle.

Ornaments & special features:

Each eitz on our scroll is ornately embellished with rimonim of silver attached at the top as part of the eitz. One of the rimonim includes a sculptured hand grasping it. Each eitz also has a tortoiseshell plate or disk bearing the Hebrew inscription, “*Etz chaim hi lamachazikim bah, v'tom'cheha m'ushar*” — “*It is a Tree of Life for those who hold fast to it, and all its supporters are happy*”, which is part of the inscription on the wall above our ark. This phrase is followed by the Hebrew inscription that translates, “Made in the year 5667 [which is 1907] in the sixth millennium.”

Breastplate – donated in 1973 by Robert Friedland (z"l) and Barbara B. Balser in memory of I.J. Friedland (z"l), Robert's father, shortly after his death. He was described as a handsome, sweet man whose children chose to remember him with an ornament for the Torah scroll they had donated to Temple Sinai the year before.

Yad – long and thin with a Moorish design

Wimpel – white

Mantle – green

Stitchers: Diana Silverman, Cathy Sinsheimer and Beth Sugarman



That's Nana's Torah!

The Wynne Scroll

How does a family honor its matriarch — someone whose life spanned two continents, who transformed family tragedy into triumph, who inspired a deep commitment to Judaism and left an even deeper legacy of love? For the Wynne family in 1972, the answer was to donate a new Torah to Temple Sinai.

Zina Fitelberg Wynne (z"l) emigrated to the United States from Latvia in 1921 at age six, with her father, Isaac Fitelberg (z"l), and three sisters, settling in New York City. The daughter of a tailor, Zina grew up learning the importance of commitment to her family. She married Jacob Weinronk (z"l), who changed his name to Gerald Wynne.

Despite starting their family in Quincy, Florida, a small town with only four Jewish families, they inspired a deep sense of Jewish identity in their children. Stories of Zina's outstanding Jewish cooking — gefilte fish, tzimmes, Russian cabbage soup, derma, all from scratch — flow readily when her children and grandchildren remember her. And the theme that emerges over and over when anyone mentions her name is that of love.

Zina died at the young age of 57, but her influence within her family was so strong that they felt compelled to find some way to express her passion for life, family, and Judaism. "My mom was special. Nothing was as important to us as her, and nothing is as important to a congregation as a Torah," asserted her son, Merrill Wynne. "We wanted to preserve her memory with something sacred that would be used for generations."

Once the Wynnes made the decision to contribute a Torah to Temple Sinai's ark, the next challenge was to make it happen. Rather than purchase an existing scroll, the family wanted to create a new Torah, in memory of how Zina had created a new life for herself in America.

The Wynnes pored over photographs in catalogs, sparking conversations with each other, then with scribes based in New York City, as well as manufacturers of crowns, breastplates, yads and other adornments. They ultimately chose a scribe who would write the text in larger-than-usual letters to make it easier for B'nei Mitzvah to read. They selected decorations that would complement the scroll's large presence, ensuring a Torah that would be as beautiful as it was functional. And then they waited, never seeing the Torah as it was being produced, and treating the entire project as its own leap of faith.

Zina Wynne passed away in 1972. Many exciting but anxious months after its commission, the scroll arrived at Temple Sinai in 1973. The congregation owned a small number of Torah scrolls at the time, and the new addition stood out at its emotional dedication. Since then, all of Merrill and Sheila Wynne's children and grandchildren, save one who became a Bat Mitzvah in Israel, read from "Nana's Torah" for their B'nei Mitzvah ceremonies.

Just as Zina Fitelberg Wynne inspired her family from generation to generation, the Wynne Torah represents Temple Sinai's aim to inspire a love of Jewish heritage in its membership. It stands out today, as it always has, as part of a longstanding legacy of love for family and Jewish identity.



Ornaments & special features:

Breastplate – among our most elaborate; donated by the Wynne family and inscribed: *"In memory of Zina Wynne."*

Rimonim – large and ornate; also gifts from the Wynne family.

Yad – shorter in length; the hand at the end is wearing a ring.

Wimpel – gold

Mantle – green, with a dedicatory patch to Zina Wynne on the inside of the cover. *Stitchers: Julie Rotenstreich and Bette Selfridge*

A Mother's Jewish Commitment

The Dworetz Scroll

It's said that a picture is worth a thousand words; but when can words — 58, to be exact — be worth one picture?

Answer: When those words come from the pen of a devoted daughter whose mission is to paint an exceptional picture of her mom.

A “love and devotion to Judaism.” Those are the words with which long-time member Sandra (Sandy) Dworetz (z”l) chose to describe her mother, Gussie Cooper (z”l), when she and her former husband, Edward Dworetz (z”l), decided to donate a Torah in Gussie’s memory.

The year was 1972, and the young Reform Congregation, Temple Sinai, was preparing to move into its new building in Sandy Springs. The Dworetz family, however, was mourning the passing of their matriarch, Gussie, in September of that year. Sandy reached out to Rabbi Richard Lehrman (z”l) with her thoughts about honoring her mother’s memory. In November 1972, she wrote:

“Dear Rabbi Lehrman,

“Because of her love for family, for people, for charity, and, most meaningfully, her love and devotion to Judaism, Eddie and I have decided to donate in memory of my beloved mother, Gussie Cooper, a Torah to Temple Sinai.

“Mother performed many mitzvahs during her lifetime. We feel her memory, through Torah, is the greatest mitzvah of all.”

Rabbi Lehrman responded with appreciation, emphasizing how meaningful this gift would be in

perpetuating Gussie’s life. He wrote, “A Torah is such a beautiful way to remind all of us of the mitzvahs left for us to fulfill.”

Rabbi Lehrman and Sandy decided to postpone the purchase of the Torah until the congregation had moved into the building. Months went by, the Torah was purchased, and in the summer of 1973, plans were made to dedicate the new scroll.

“We appreciate your thoughtful request for our family to carry the Torah on September 7, 1973, and place it in the ark,” Sandy wrote to Rabbi Lehrman. “Words to describe the deep feeling of this spiritual act are inadequate.”

Sandy herself continued to be an active, committed member of Sinai for the next 35 years, passing away in September 2008 at the age of 70. Like her mother, Sandy was devoted to a Jewish life, attending Shabbat services regularly. She extended her commitment into the community, serving as president of a chapter of Hadassah.

Friends remember her as being loyal, courageous and inspiring, with a great sense of humor. “Above all else, she prided herself on her Jewish living,” says one close friend.

Like mother, like daughter. A beautiful picture, in just four words.

Ornaments & special features:

The Dworetz Torah is a fairly tall scroll, used primarily as a Bar/Bat Mitzvah scroll. The parchment is crisp and white, and the lettering is a clear, large, dark font.

Breastplate – donated by Jim and Betty Smulian and dedicated in honor of their son John Carter Smulian’s Bar Mitzvah, on September 2, 1972.

Rimonim – dedicated in memory of Williams Samuels. Donor unknown.

Yad – long and thin with a half blossoming flower in the middle and a hand wearing a ring.

Wimpel – blue

Mantle – blue
Stitchers: Linda Kaplan, Suzanne Kaplan, Beth Scheuer, Lara Tolchin and Judy Weisberg Thomas



"Do Not Forget" The Uhrineves Scroll

"The world stands on three things: Torah, good works and kindness to others." (1:2) Pirkei Avot

All three attributes came together when, through the efforts of four member couples, Temple Sinai was granted the long-term loan of the over 200-year-old Uhrineves Torah, Number



543, one of the 1,564 Czech scrolls that survived the Holocaust. Its history and survival read like a mystery/adventure interspersed with evil, greed, love and strength in its travels to its new home in Atlanta.

Finchley Reform Synagogue, London, England, is also home to one of the Czech scrolls. That congregation wrote a history of Uhrineves, located about 10 miles from Prague, and its Jewish community. Excerpts from that narrative are reprinted here:

"The Jewish history of Czechoslovakia dates back over 1,000 years. The earliest written records of a Jewish community in Uhrineves date from 1670. During that time, Jews were frequently expelled from different cities and regions. Uhrineves was one of the settlements where Jews of Prague found refuge whenever expelled...In 1848, the Jewish community of Uhrineves was financially strong enough to build a synagogue."

Nearly 100 years later, the Uhrineves synagogue was closed by the Nazis in 1939. Residents were told by the Nazis that their valuables, including religious items, would be stored safely.

"Torah scrolls were a part of the huge collection of Jewish ritual objects sent to the Jewish Museum in Prague from the deserted synagogues across Bohemia, Slovakia and Moravia. The Nazis had approved a proposal from leading Jews to bring these treasures to Prague for safekeeping."

"The Nazis drew up a list of 392 Jews living in Uhrineves and nearby villages. On Rosh Hashanah, 1 Tishrei 5703, (12 September 1942), 210 Jews, including 36 from Uhrineves, were sent by train from Prague on

transport 'Bg' to the Terezin ghetto. From there, over the following months they were sent to Auschwitz, Treblinka or other death camps. Of the original 392, there were only 14 survivors. After the war, the synagogue building became municipal property and in 1995 it was restored to the Prague Jewish community. It is no longer used as a synagogue."

The scrolls and other artifacts stayed in storage for over 20 years, abandoned and forgotten, many deteriorating beyond repair.

The story of the abandoned scrolls was told to a British art dealer visiting Prague in 1963. A benefactor paid \$30,000 to bring the scrolls to London, where they arrived at Westminster Synagogue on February 7, 1964.

How small a world we live in, and an even smaller Jewish one. Four couples, all members of Temple Sinai, were close friends and studied with Rabbi Robert Ichay (z"l), then spiritual leader of Congregation Or VeShalom: Jackie and Gary Metzel (z"l), Sandra and Bernard Palay (z"l), Eleanor and Larry Bogart, and Rosanne and Phillip Diamond (z"l).

"At a party, the Diamonds met Rabbi Albert H. Friedlander of Westminster Synagogue, who was teaching at Emory. He told the Diamonds about the Czech Torahs," Jackie Metzel explained many years later. "The Diamonds told Gary, who was born in Vienna. Gary was eight years old when the Nazis rounded up all the men and boys, including his father, on Kristlenacht, sending them to Dachau. After his father was released, Gary's parents put him on a *kindertrain* and sent him to London. Gary was reunited with his parents in London during the war, and they all made their way to Atlanta, where he grew up."

At the time that he learned about the Torahs, Gary was president of Temple Sinai. He corresponded with Rabbi Friedlander to inquire



Ornaments & special features:

Yad – of Czech origin, long and with a large block design.

Wimpel – a red string, reputedly the same string that bound the Torah when it was rescued.

Mantle – white (the absence of color) with no breastplate or other ornamentation. Embroidered in Hebrew is "Lo TishKach – Do Not Forget."

Stitchers: Stacey Geer, Shirley Michalove, Brenna Serby and Stephanie Wyatt



Gary Metzel and Rabbi Lehrman holding Uhrineves Scroll.

how to obtain one of the Torahs for Temple Sinai. The Torah's repair, shipping, mantle and yad were made possible by the generosity of the four couples.

The Uhrineves Torah was repaired by a British Torah scribe, wrapped in a white sheet, placed in a wooden box, and shipped in 1976 to Atlanta. Upon its arrival, Rabbi Ichay collected it at Customs and placed it in the care of Or VeShalom's Chevrah Kadisha until it was brought to Temple Sinai and placed in the ark in April 1976.

"The Torah is taller than the standard size," Jackie explained. "Its mantle was so deteriorated that it disintegrated when touched. The Diamonds found a 19th Century Czech mantle of standard size in a Judaica shop in New York City," Jackie continued. "Because it was too short, we found matching fabric and had it added to the bottom hem."

On the extension are embroidered the following words in Hebrew:

A harbinger of future brotherhood

Framed and hanging in the hallway of Temple Sinai's education wing is a certificate that accompanied the Uhrineves scroll, when it arrived in 1976.

It reads, in part: "The Torah, which this certificate accompanies, is one of the 1,564 Czech Memorial Safer Torah which constituted

part of the treasures looted by the Nazis during the 1939-1945 war from the desolated Jewish communities of Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia.... Some of the collection remain at Westminster Synagogue, a permanent memorial to the martyrs from whose synagogues they come; many of them are distributed

throughout the world, to be memorials everywhere to the Jewish tragedy, and to spread light as harbingers of future brotherhood on earth; and all of them bear witness to the glory of the holy Name. This scroll from Uhrineves was written at the end of the 19th Century."

"Dedicated again in the city of Atlanta, Georgia in order to remember the six million sacreds who gave their lives in binding. The Jewish People lives on."

Seeing the Czech Torah arrive at Sinai from the ashes of the Holocaust, "Gary didn't show his emotions, but I imagine he really cried on the inside," Jackie said. "The little boy and the memories were always there.

"That's why this Torah meant so much to him. It showed the indomitable will of man conquering evil. I feel gratitude that we were able to participate in preserving our heritage."

In 2008, all of Temple Sinai's Torahs received new mantles. The 19th Century mantle that had clothed the Holocaust Torah is framed and hangs in the education hall along with the Torah's certification.

Today, 1,424 of the Torahs are on permanent loan to synagogues, museums, universities and Jewish retirement centers around the world. The remaining 140 scrolls are in such poor condition that they cannot be restored. The Uhrineves Torah and Temple Sinai are listed at the U.S. Holocaust Museum, along with other congregations that house Holocaust Torahs. Including Sinai's scroll, there are seven known scrolls that came from the synagogue in Uhrineves. Besides Sinai's and Finchley Synagogue's, the others are at Bushley & District Synagogue in England; Beth El Congregation, Fort Worth, TX; Beth Emeth Congregation, Sun City West, AZ; B'nai B'rith Klutznik Exhibition Hall, Washington, DC; and Century Pine Jewish Center, Pembroke Pines, FL.

It is said that the Torah is a tree of life to all who take hold of it, and all its paths are peace. The Uhrineves Torah is a member of Temple Sinai's congregation, a cherished survivor living among us.

In the words of Rabbi Richard Lehrman (z"l), Temple Sinai's founding rabbi, "[This Torah] will not rest but will shed new light on this and future generations of Jews. The message it teaches is that the Jewish people will not die, no matter how much others wish, but will live as an example for mankind."

Right: Uhrineves Torah's original 19th Century mantle now hangs in Sinai's education hall.

Sinai members pay respect to our Torah's first home

Since the Holocaust Torah was placed in our ark, many Sinai members have made pilgrimages to the place of its origin, Uhrineves. It has been a sacred journey for every one of them.

In 1989, Rabbi Emeritus Philip Kranz led a group to Eastern Europe, and several congregants traveled to the small village and located the synagogue. At that time, it was a laundromat. Many other congregants have visited since then.

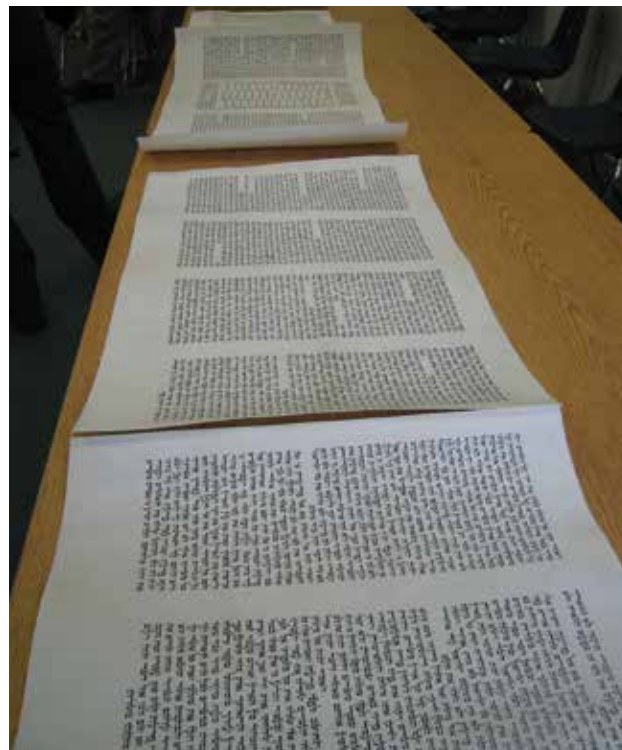
A small rock that was an original piece of the synagogue building is now framed with other artifacts and is displayed in the education hallway.



The Final Commandment 40th Anniversary Scroll

One Hebrew letter. That's all it takes to satisfy the requirement to write a Torah. Writing just one letter fulfills the 613th commandment, because if just one letter is missing among the 304,805 letters in the Torah, then the scroll is incomplete.

On a sunny day in October 2007, Sinai congregants, clergy and guests met in our sanctuary to begin a sacred task. For the first time in our history, and just in time for our 40th anniversary, we began a project of enormous importance and spiritual symbolism — to fulfill the



613th, and final, commandment — to write our own Torah.

Attendees raised their voices to join Rabbi Emeritus Philip Kranz, in a solemn pledge: “We, the family of Temple Sinai, commit ourselves individually and communally, to bringing a new Torah to our congregation and our community.”

And so the agenda was set, and with it, a name: “L’Shanah Torah — The Year of Torah.” Over the next 12 months, under the guidance of a Torah scribe, every congregant and member of our Temple Sinai family was invited to share in the joy and mitzvah of fulfilling the 613th commandment. In addition, a year of educational and spiritual activities was planned to bring community together and add enrichment to the entire experience.

In offering his vision statement for the project, Senior Rabbi Ron Segal shared these thoughts: “We [hope to] better educate our families about Torah in its broadest sense — its creation, its content and its ongoing potential for influence in our lives. To fulfill the mitzvah of writing a Torah scroll is considered a ‘once in a lifetime’ opportunity. In future years, each time the ark is opened, participants will have a special sense knowing that they are spiritually connected to this Torah.”

Another important goal was the establishment of

a Torah Endowment Fund through contributions and donations from L’Shanah Torah participants. “We hope to ensure that our congregational family continues to deepen its educational and spiritual growth in the years to come,” Rabbi Segal said.

Even for the most sacred of tasks, the congregation needed an organization, a process and a framework for accomplishing this complex endeavor. A L’Shanah Torah steering committee was formed, under the leadership of Co-chairs Edward Sugarman and Michael Weiser. Other committee members were:

- **Board Liaison/VP Ritual** – Dennis Bates
- **Events and Weekend Planning** – Shirley Bernes and Berylann Strada
- **Torah Scroll Coordinators** – Warren Jacobs (z”l) and Sandy Schwartz
- **Publicity/Communications** – Arnold Katinsky (z”l)
- **Education** – Larry Baker
- **Sponsorships/Administration** – Warren Zindler
- **Administrator/Scheduler** – Elise Halpern

The committee’s goal was to try to get broad participation of the congregation — for everyone to feel a part of the experience — and to educate members on the many ways Torah touches our lives.

“The Torah project came after the last renovation of the building, which caused us to be off-site for one year,” recalled Michael Weiser. “The impetus was to do something to reunify the spiritual elements of Sinai and to engage as many members as possible in the process.”

The committee identified the initial, and most crucial, step: finding the right scribe to guide the congregation through the process of writing the scroll. Committee members talked to other Reform congregations that had written Torahs, and quickly a name emerged: Neil Yerman, a New York scribe who had begun his career as an artist and calligrapher.

Neil’s interests had led him from book binding to Torah restoration, and finally to apprenticing as a scribe, before becoming a full-fledged “sofer” (a scribe who writes Torahs). Neil met with Sinai members, first in New York, and then in Atlanta, explaining the process,



analyzing logistics and mapping out a timeline.

In the following 12 months, Neil would be Sinai's teacher, mentor, friend and overall "cheerleader." His wisdom, skill and enthusiasm were critical to the success of the project.

Neil explained he would supply the parchment, feather quills and black ink, all of which were organic and kosher and made in accordance with Jewish law.

An important part of the steering committee's responsibilities was to select the style of calligraphy for the new scroll. Other design elements that the committee reviewed were size, weight and eitz design.

"We wanted the Torah to be lightweight, so each Bar and Bat Mitzvah student would be able to carry it," said Sandy Schwartz, a steering committee member. "We looked at several different script styles; some of them were very fancy but hard to read. We selected a script that was simple, classic and elegant, yet easy to read."

Six writing weekends were planned throughout the year, starting in October 2007, when the very first letters of Genesis 1:1, "B'reishit," were written, and finishing in October 2008 with a Dedication Service and the completion of the last word, "Yisrael" (Deut. 34:12).

Families and individuals were invited to sign up for Torah-writing time slots, with as many as 150 congregants scheduled on a given day. Everyone arriving for their time slot met in the library and performed a hand-washing ceremony and blessing, followed by a round-table educational session led by a congregant volunteer. Then the group of writers, anywhere from 4 to 40 people, proceeded to the chapel, where they participated in a teaching session with Neil in preparation for the task ahead.

Finally, the moment arrived, and the writers, by family or individually, ascended to the bimah to join



Sofer Yerman's assistant, Demetrios Vital, pens the Torah scroll, letter by letter.

Neil, who was seated at his writing desk with the blank parchment scroll rolled out before him. Each man, woman and child, one by one, placed his or her hand on top of Neil's right hand. The two hands — one amateur, the other professional — moved as one for the two minutes it took to write out a letter.

Altogether more than 1,200 individuals wrote letters in the Torah over the course of those six weekends.

With precise penmanship,

and with Neil's steady hand, Sinai members charted the creation of heaven and earth, darkness and light. "It was such a meaningful moment for so many families," said Edward Sugarman, who brought over 30 of his own family members up to the bimah to write. "People still consider that experience an important milestone in their Sinai life."

Elise Halpern worked closely with Neil on every aspect of the congregational writing. She recalled, "Sofer Yerman had a contagious energy regarding the Torah. He ushered people of all ages into learning something special about the Torah, the letter they were writing, and the importance of the experience as an individual, shared as a family, and a congregation.

"He wanted us all to be engaged in the act of writing in 'OUR' Torah, as we learned more about the commandments and traditions of writing a Torah."

Reflecting on the experience a decade later, Sinai member Liann Baron said: "As my daughter is approaching her Bat Mitzvah, I am overwhelmed with emotions. I realize how...she is following in my own footsteps by having her Bat Mitzvah at Temple Sinai, just as I did. She was just a baby in my arms 10 years ago, as we wrote in the Torah."

Rachel Mayer, 15-year-old daughter of Robin and Adam Mayer, had a special feeling at her Bat Mitzvah when she read in the Torah and remembered writing the first letter of her Hebrew name in this same scroll

many years ago. "It made my Bat Mitzvah more surreal and meaningful," she said. "It provided me with a 'come full-circle' effect."

Once all the congregants had written their letters, the scroll was taken back to Neil's studio in New York, where he and his talented assistant, Demetrios Vital, wrote the remainder of the Torah, turning lines into pages and pages into columns — 245 to be exact — which were then sewn together into a scroll about 130 feet long. A new scroll must be completed within one year, Neil explained. Another part of his responsibility was to check the scroll, letter by letter, to make sure there were no errors.

To defray the cost of the Torah scroll, a wide range of sponsorship opportunities was created. These included the Books of Torah, special sections or stories, B'nei Mitzvah portions, and biblical verses and names, among many others choices. Adults could sponsor one word, while children could sponsor a letter. In addition, sponsorships were offered for all the ornaments: the rimonom, breastplate, mantle, yad, wimpel and eitzim (rollers). The generosity of many congregants made it possible to engage Neil and his associate for a full year of writing, travel and teaching.

Education and community building were integral parts of L'Shanah Torah — The Year of Torah. Neil held Lunch & Learn sessions for both children and seniors, met with men's and women's groups, and spent time at Sinai's religious school, as well as The Davis Academy.

Throughout the year, social and cultural events with a Torah theme included a Torah-to-Menorah Chanukah family celebration, a women's voices in Torah brunch, an annual scholar-in-residence weekend showcasing the art of Torah, and a fun-filled "night in the desert."

Ultimately, the Year of Torah reached its culmination and stunning moment of realization when a procession of congregants and rabbis carried our six existing Torahs, plus our brand-new seventh scroll, through the sanctuary and up to the bimah, where the writing table, with hand-washing bowl, quill and ink, were placed under a flower-decorated chuppah.

With much fanfare, joy, tears, and gratitude, the final letters of the last word, "Yisrael," were completed by Rabbi Segal and the scribes. Then Rabbi Segal led the congregants in these words of thanks: "We praise You, Adonai, Eternal our God, Sovereign of the Universe. You hallow us with mitzvot and command us to write a Torah scroll. Blessed is the One who teaches our hand to write the letters."



Sofer Neil Yerman





“It was a privilege for our whole family to have the opportunity to participate in this sacred ritual. The experience was even more touching, because it was done with the loving memory of our father and grandfather William A. Schwartz (z”l) in mind. This special community effort will be appreciated for years to come. L’dor v’dor.”

—Temple Sinai member, Cindy Hopkins



One mother's story: Torah bridges time

“At a family workshop held to discuss our children’s upcoming Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, we parents stood in a circle with our sons and daughters and passed the same Torah in which my husband and I had the honor and privilege of writing a letter about 10 years earlier. It was truly a full-circle moment for me, because 10 years ago I was holding Benny in my arms, as we wrote the beginning letters of one of the most well-known lines

in the Torah, ‘Let there be light.’ And now there we were, passing that very same Torah around in a circle with my now 10-year-old son, Benny, to my left, and sharing our feelings about his upcoming Bar Mitzvah. In that moment, I felt such a strong and meaningful connection to my being Jewish and a part of the Temple Sinai congregation.”

— Temple Sinai member, Holley Grisct



Ornaments & special features:

Torah Scroll – donated by Marlene J. Schwartz and family in memory of William A. Schwartz.

Eitzim – donated by Ellen and Sandy Schwartz and family.

Breastplate— fabricated silver pieces containing the symbols for the 12 Tribes of Israel. They are positioned to symbolize the arrangement of the tribes when they were camped in the desert. The symbol for the Tribe of Levi, the priests, is considered to be at the center, while the other symbols are arranged to represent those on the north, south, east and west sides of the Tabernacle. Artist: Thomas Reardon.

Rimonim – each crown has five sides. At the top of each is an enlarged “cap” with cut-outs of the first Hebrew letter from each of the names of the Five Books of Torah. Artist: Thomas Reardon. Donated by Beth and Edward Sugarman, Brenda and David Goldberg, and Richard Sugarman (z”l) in memory of mother Rose Gilner Sugarman (z”l).

Yad – matches the design of the rimonim. Donated by Berylann Strada in memory of those who pointed the way, parents Jacob J. Robbins (z”l) and Freya S. Robbins (z”l).

Wimpel – tan, comprised of woven strips with the “Etz Chayim” prayer embroidered on it: “It is a tree of life to those who take hold of it, and those who support it are happy.” Artist: Janet Bealer Rodie. Donated by Judie and Warren Jacobs (z”l) and Elana and Rebecca in memory of parents and grandparents.

Mantle – gold, with Hebrew writing: “Kitvu lachem et haShira hazot – Write for yourself this song.” (Deut. 31:19). Donated by Lois Blonder, Suzanne and Michael Blonder, and Leslie and Doug Isenberg in memory of Jerry Blonder (z”l).

Stitchers: Frances Bunzl, Stacey Geer, Charlotte Horwitz, Howard Karchmer, Debbie Kurzwell and Esther Ross



40th Anniversary Scroll

A Community of Writers

Thank you to the 1,200-plus scribes who helped write a new Torah, commemorating Temple Sinai's 40th anniversary as a congregation. You have created a legacy for future generations. Here is the original list of participants who penned letters in 2007–2008.

Marshall & Stephanie Abes
Lauren Abes & Jeffrey Levit
Jon, Brantley, Benjamin & Joshua Abrams
Davis & Sandra Abrams
Toni & Joel Adler
Paul, Wendy, George, Zoe & Henry Alexander
Randy, Sari, Chase & Sy Alifeld
Warren & Cheryl Alifeld
Alli, Mitch, Heather, Amanda & Jared Allen
Sonya & Joel Alterman
Amy & Louise Alterman
Peter, Lisa, Rebecca, Jessica & Alexandria Aman
Tom, Lauren, Matthew, Jamie & David Antonino
Erica, Don, Carly & Cassidy Aronin
Amy Emily & Brian Arno
Bonnie, Michael, Ivan, Matthew & Nikki Aronin
Sarah Baker
Larry & Suzanne Baker
Aaron & Niki Baker
Blake, Alexander & Reid Balser
Pat & Jack Balser
Karen & David Balser
Lara & Michael Balser
Andrew & Julia Balser
Rona & Bill Balser
Lisa, Dan, Dori & Ellis Balser
Nancy Banks
Marc, Lainie, Jacob, Julia & Joseph Bardack
Richard & Diane Bardack
Jake Bardack
Temme Barkin-Leeds
Laura, John, Eliana, Whitney, Madison & Danielle Barnard
Nancy & Robbie Baron
Amy, Louis, Zachary, Alexandra & Brody Baron
Liann & Harold Baron
Susan & Jonathan Barry
Gail & Dennis Bates

Deborah, Andrew, Evan & Anna Rose Bauman
Glenda Beerman
Bonnie Beerman
Rae Bellman
Michael Berger
Nikki, Joel, Justin & Evan Berger
Chuck & Bonnie Berk
Bernard Berkley
Lesley & Bruce Berman
Debbie, Brooke & Carly Berman
Brad, Brooke & Carly Berman
Steve & Candy Berman
Caryn, Jason, David, Marc & Ben Bernstein
Lauralee & Averie Bernstein
Ann & Mel Berss
Karl & Naomi Blass-Schutz
Lois Blonder
Michael & Suzanne Blonder
Rita Bloom
Leah, Ted, Josh, Abby & Evan Blum
Jenna Blumenthal
Howard, Lori, Molly & Max Borger
Paula & Edward Boze
Scott, Jamie, Ava & Hunter Boze
Karen & Alan Bragman
Steve & David Bram
Greg, Kay, Ainsley & Jared Brown
Toby Brown
Susan, Ira, Eva & Sam Buchwald
Frances Bunzl
Jane, Scott, Jennifer, Amy & Emily Butler
Frank & Debbie Butterfield
Alice, Stephen, Lauren & Caitlin Byrne
Leslie, Russ, Aaron, Benjamin & Isabel Coff
Marc, Anne, Alex & Beth Cohen
Todd, Ellen & Blake Cohen
Stanley & Shirley Cohen
Caren, Reece, Jackson & Dylan Cohen
Robert & Scott Cohen
Ronald & Judy Cohen
Marissa Cohen

Jane & Mark Cohen
Beverly Cohen
Dorothy & Sheldon Cohen
Andrea Cohen
Bruce Cohen
Steven, Naomi, Ari & Simon Cohen
Dena, Mark, Grey & Sidney Cohen
Jerry & Jean Cooper
Cristina, Adam & Aaron Cooper
Sandy, Wendy, Natasha & Liliya Cooper
Beth Cooper
Brad, Michelle, Halley & Matthew Cooper
Evelyn & Milton Crane
Jeffrey, Julie, Tyler & Evan Crow
Robert & Marilyn Crow
Joan Cutler
Claire & Bob D’Agostino
Joshua & Annie D’Agostino
Scott, Liesl, Jack & Finn Dana
Elise Davies & Scott Halpern
Joel Davis
Mitch, Lynn, Keenan, Victoria, Abby & Mordechai Davis
Dana Davis
Dori & Richard De Rossett
David Deitch
Valerie Delman
David & Ronnie Deutchman
Lisa & Barry Diamond
Mark, Shay, Allison & Reed Diamond
Ben & Amanda Dorfman
Lara & Adam Dorfman
David & Renee Dudowitz
Joan, Mark, Zachary & Samuel Durbin
Dale Dyer
Sari, Olen, Aaron & Ava Earl
Roz Edelberg
Sandy Edelman
Carol, Stephen, Josh, Alex & Bradley Edelson
Heather, William, Faye & Samuel Edens
Benjamin & Gregory Egan
Jeffrey, Kelley, Sydney & Jaden Ellman

Lionel & Shirley Eltis
Joel & Suzanne Engel
Ina, Harold & Jordan Enoch
Jana Eplan & Craig Frankel
Gil, Tamir & Tali Eplan-Frankel
Lisa, Dan, Brett, Jordan & Haley Epstein
Marcia Epstein
Jan & Warren Epstein
Kyle & Jordan Epstein
Glen, Linda, Nathan & Jonah Epstein
Mark, Janet, Hannah & Torrie Epstein
Alejandro, Mariana, Ian, Alana & Naya Ergas
Eric & Ashley Estroff
Howard & Sharon Fagin
Craig, Abi, Seth & Liza Fagin
Marla, Bailey, Shelby & Andrew Falls
Susan & Fred Feinberg
Caren Feingold
Joel Feldman
George & Diane Fellows
Jeff, Shari, Tyler, Cameron & Mason Firestone
Tammi, Curtis, Andrew & Lyndsi Fisher
Bonnie, Ned, Jonathan & Samantha Fitch
Patsy Fonts
Ned & Janis Franco
Amy, Aaron, Noah & Lily Frank
Ted & Sidelle Frankel
Bradley & Samantha Freedman
Viki, Paul & Staci Freeman
Oz, Brett, Benjamin & Jack Freidmann
David, Julie, Carolyn, Joelle & Gavin Friedman
Robin, Darrin, Bradley & Steve Friedrich
Rob, Dana, Michael & Lizabeth Frohwein
Betty Furst
Norma Gallow
Amy & Danielle Gatley
Richard & Nancy Gay
Stacey, Ronnie, Jonah & Lindsey Geer
Roger & Corky Gelder
Scott, Jennifer & Ava Geller
Sheila & Joe Gerstein
Howard & Cindy Gibbs
Steve & Riedy Gimpelson
Steve, Lynne, Philip & Jessica Ginsburg
Shirley Glass
Ann Gold
David & Brenda Goldberg
Michael, Stacy, Anna, Kate & Matthew Goldberg
Jeremy, Amy, Stella & Molly Goldberg

Betty & Stan Golden
Maureen, Mark, Matthew & Emma Goldman
Jeff, Connor, Callie & Barrett Goldman
Scott Goldman
Betsey Goldsmith
Stephen & Matthew Goldstein
Rick, Stacey, Noah & Sarah Goldstein
Al, Lisa & Max Goldstein
Max & Jake Goldwasser
Sid Gottler
Cathy, Alan, Jamie & Emily Gottlieb
Diane Green
Mark, Lisa, Haley, Jamie & Noah Greenberg
Wendy, Rachel, Leah & Becky Greenberg
Susan, Marc, Benjamin, Jacob, Sara & Rebecca Greenberg
Jody, Philip, Evan & Cole Greenberg
Billie & Michael Greenberg
Jacob & Sarah Greenberg
Joel & Marjorie Greenberg
Harriet Greenblatt
Barbara & Lenny Greenstein
Keith & Helen Greenstein
David, Lori, Morgan, Lindsay & Corey Greenwald
Holley & Jason Griset
Rob Grossman
Lois & Les Gurvey
Joan Gurvey
Jennifer Gurvey
Andrew Gurvey
Sheryl Gurvey
Dalia Gurvey
Hannah Gurvey
Mia Gurvey
Tricia & Michael Haberman
Alan Halpern
Melanie Halpern
Stan & Michele Halter
Linda Harris
Amy, Paul, Jenna & Amanda Harris
Mary & Frank Hart
Robbie Hart
Francey Hart
Stephen, Barbara, Lee & Whitney Hart
Jennifer, Eric, Jessica, Samantha, Melinda & Ethan Hartz
Guenther & Louise Hecht
Lonnie, Kim, Alex & Nicole Herzog
Arthur Heyman
Terri Heyman

Bonnie, Jeff, Zack & Sarabeth Hoffman
Gary Holsten
Jeremy Holsten
Cindy, Jeff, Jared & William Hopkins
Emil Horesh
Linda & Don Horwitz
Jeff, Emma & Chloe Horwitz
Charlotte & Michael Horwitz
Adam Hubschman
Julie Hubschman
Barbara & Hal Hubschman
Allan, Sarah, Alex & Neil Hytowitz
Leslie, Doug & Ari Isenberg
Betty & Dick Isenberg
Jodie, Steven, Cameron & Sydney Jackson
Warren, Judie, Rebecca & Elana Jacobs
Beth & David Jacobson
Amy & Joshua Jacobson
David Jacobson
Cheryl Jacoby
Warren Jacoby
Ruth, Brandon & Alec Jaffe
Shawn, Angie, Charlie, Jack & Katie Janko
Lillie Janko
Harrison Javery
Jan Jay
David, Jeanne, Sophie & Isaac Jaye
Rochelle & Murray Jaye
Deedie Jessup
Nancy, Steve, Sydney & Haley Joffre
Mike, Halli, Ryan & Marlee Jones
Brian, Sharla, Brooke, Hayley, Erica & Courtney Kahn
Sara & Mark Kanov
Max Kantor
Beth & Gloria Kantor
Suzie, Barry, Ryan & Jonathan Kaplan
Robert, Cathy, Jessica & Blake Kaplan
Marcos & Martha Kaplun
Howard & Renee Karchmer
Arnie & Barbara Katinsky
Joan Kaufman
Dorothy Kenney
Jeff, Candace, Danielle, Jared, Zachary & Eden Kerker
Randi, Bruce, Hailey & Lindsey Kessler
Susan, David, Sydney, Adam & Rachel Kirsch
Betty, Phil, Breanna & Ty Klein
William & Barbara Klineman
Ruth & Ralph Kloppe
Burt & Susan Kolker
Theodore & Ethel Kopkin

Bobbi Kornblitt
Rabbi Phil & Nancy Kranz
Barbara Krinsky
Howard, Suzanne, Samantha
 & Hannah Krinsky
Fred, Rita, Harley, Erin & Jules Krinsky
Douglas Kuniansky
David Kuniansky
Lois Kuniansky
Michael Kuniansky
Laura, Lucy & Noah Kurlander
David, Debbie, Matthew & Emily Kurzweil
Misty, Jonathan, Aidan & Abby Lacefield
Benjamin Landey
Faye Landey
Michelle, Sara & Jacob Lane
Eric, Anne-Marie, Jacob, Julianne
 & Benjamin Lang
Jeff, Elizabeth, Evan & Rebecca Langfelder
Joseph, Francye, Elianne
 & Jacob Largeman
Adam, Shirley, Scott & David Leaderman
Sandybeck & Eric Lease
Camille, Benjamin, Leah, Jake
 & Frances Lefkowitz
Paige & Cole Lefont
Jane, Barry, Zack & Katie Leitz
Rabbi Brad, Rebecca & Ilana Levenberg
Michelle Levey
Morton Levey
Dana Levey
David, Nori, Jennifer, Ben & Aaron Levine
Evelyn & Stanley Levine
Raphael & Ellen Levine
Kevin, Simone, Andrew & Alex Levingston
Chad & Alisha Levitt
Susan, Jay, Chad & Jared Levitt
Tanner & Harrison Lewis
Sharon, Scott, Eric & Alyssa Lieberman
Jean Lightman
Nancy Loeb
Kimberly Loeb
Paula, Chris & Jaron Longo
Rita & Bill Loventhal
Daniel Loventhal, Rachel Burt
 & Joshua Loventhal
Gary, Michal, Elliana, Talia
 & Mayah Loventhal
Lauren & Mike Mahady
Julie Maisel
Carla, Greg, Rebecca & Eric Malever
Barry, Karen, Abi & Josh Mangel
Charlotte Marcus

Bradley, Pamela, Benjamin & Leah Marcus
Elise, Maury, Caitlyn & Austin Margol
Hedy, Josh, Charlie & Jacob Marks
Lindsey Markwood
Louis, Jennifer, David & Andre Martin
Tony, Robyn & Ava Marzullo
Rob Mayberry
Adam, Robin & Rachel Mayer
Harvey, Julia & Alyson Merlin
Mickie, Mark, Zachary & Raye Merlin
Jackie & Alan Metzel
Shirley Michalove
Adelle Michalove
Amy & Leah Michalove
Shirley Miller
Jody Miller
Ali, Kevin, Max & Marin Lily Mitchell
Holly, Don, Jenna & Marc Mitchell
Sonia & Michael Mitropoulos
Andi, Gordon, Jessica, Carly &
 Madeline Morse
Scott, Leslie, Ryan & Jordan Moscow
Lauren, Mark, Steven & Ashley Moyer
Marlynn & Leroy Moyer
Karen, Andrew, Rachel & Ethan Much
Robert, Paige, Matthew & Daniel Nathan
Florence Nathanson
Randy, Susan, Noah, Asher &
 Kyle Newman
Jim, Cheryl, Bradley, Jason &
 Matthew Niekamp
Benjamin & Beth Nowak
Chris, Jessica, Garrett, Madison &
 Reese Oberkfell
Elinor Oertell
Ronald, Rebecca, Owen & Nate Oertell
Bernard Oling
Sandra & Bernard Palay
Judi & Richard Pawliger
Michael Pechman
Allan, Lori, David, Sarah
 & Joshua Peljovich
Hilda & Bernard Peljovich
Michelle, Ross, David & Sydney Perloe
Rabbi Elana & Craig Perry
Rubin Piha
Alexis Pinsky
Debbie & Richard Pinsky
Beth, David, Aaron & Alyson Pitt
Amy, Sophie & Cassandra Plager
Matt & Anne Isenhower Podowitz
Jill & Myron Polster
Sandra & Herb Porath

Greg, Laine, Zachary & Alexa Posel
Marilyn Posner
Ryan Prussack
Marvin, Paula & Ian Rachelefsky
Boris & Jennifer Rapaport
Brenda & Mark Rappaport
Marni, Jonathan, Diana & Daniel Ratner
Ruth Rauzin
Lynn & Hannah Redd
Ilse Reiner
Elaine Reiner
Penina, Bruce, Nicelle, Marley
 & Alden Richards
Jerry, Margaret, Rebecca &
 Hannah Richman
Inge & George Robbins
Jean Robbins
Harry Robbins
Laurie, Bill, Richard & Steven Robbins
Lori Roberts
Jennie, Webb & Isabel Roberts
Jeff, Wendy, Matt, Jason & Zach Rodencal
Cary & Evelyn Rodin
Alan & Jacalyn Rolnick
Michael, Carol, Adam & Hannah Rolnick
Greg & Kenny Rolnick
Jesse Rolnick
Ron & Maxine Rosen
Neil Rosen
Maurice, Patricia, Allison, Michelle
 & Laura Rosenbaum
Mike, Dana, Jordyn & Alec Rosenberg
Melissa, Michael & Sarah Rosenbloum
Jill, Larry, Tyler & Logan Rosenbluth
Robin, Bert & Elisa Rosenthal
Esther & Leonard Ross
Donna, David & Stephanie Ross
Mickey, Harvey, Sam & Ben Ross
Marvin & Fran Rothenberg
Mark & Anita Rottner
Jay, Ali, Brittany & Evan Rottner
Scott & Allison Rowe
David, Kathy, Sam & Jack Rubenstein
Judy & Arnold Rubenstein
Roy & Mary Rubin
Mitzi & Hayden Rubin
David, Eric & Adam Rubinger
Fred Rueff
David, Jamie, Olivia, Naomi & Leo Sachs
Suzan & Gary Saidman
Adelle Salmenson
Martin, Beth, Josh, Jeremy &
 Brooke Salzman

Linda, Lori, Mark, Rose & Sophia Sanders
Hilary Saperstein
Lynn, Jan, Hilary & Raleigh Saperstein
Adam & Michelle Saslow
Brian, Shelly, Alyson & Jay Satsisky
Peter & Margo Savitz
Kevin, Barbie, Kyle & Joe Schaffer
Michele & George Scheer
Dolcie Scheinman
Rob, Kathie, Grey & Reid Scheinman
David, Jodi, Samantha & Spencer Schiff
Stacie, Darren, Marisa & Sophie Schiff
Barbara & Martin Schneider
Jason, Alison, Adam, Sophie &
 Caroline Schneider
David Schoenberg
Rebecca, David, Max & Claire Schoenfeld
Ellen & Sandy Schwartz
Tami, Marc, Abby & Mia Schwartz
Neil, Lauren, Monica & Sydney Schwartz
Jennifer & Michael Schwartz
Marlene Schwartz
Jonathan, Merav, Zoe & Anna Schwartz
Mike, Paige & Logan Schwartz
Susan & Dale Schwartz
Florence & Sanford Schwartz
Lori, Herman, Jason, Kayla &
 Mollie Schwarz
Muriel Scoler
Rabbi Ron, Jill, Ben & Adam Segal
Allen Segal
Bette Selfridge
Tracy, Craig, Preston &
 Sarah-Anne Seligman
Alan & Brenda Serby
Jolene & Bernie Shapiro
Jill, Michael & Leah Shedrow
Brenda & Jodi Sheffield
Amy & Todd Sherman
Susan, David, Bronson & Ariel Shonk
David, Mindy, Carly, Jordan
 & Casey Shoulberg
Barbara & Bill Shoulberg
Tobyanne & Arnold Sidman
Anna & Sophie Sidman
Emma & Olivia Sidman
Mark, Cara, Selia & Judsen Siegel
Marshall & Marcy Siegel
Valerie Siegel
Adam, Laura, Samuel, Aidan &
 Gracie Sikora
Diana & Mark Silverman

Robert, Lori, Carly, Julia
 & Marc Silverman
Rubin & Edith Silverstein
Steven, Amy, Carly & Sydney Silverstein
Michael & Kyle Simon
Leah, Emily & Sami Sinsheimer
Robert & Cathy Sinsheimer
Johanna, David & Isabelle Skid
Hilary, Maria & Lauren Slavin
Merle & Myron Smith
James & Betty Smulian
Barbara Snow
Darrell, Alexis & Henry Solomon
Sandra Solow
Gloria & Ken Southerland
Lauren & Robert Spector
Julie, Morris, Jordan & Madelyn Srochi
Jon, Beth, Samantha, Julia &
 Isabella Stahlman
Marlon, Becky, Michael & Shelby Starr
Margie & George Stern
Adam & Stephanie Stine
Stacey, Bill, Ryan & Blake Stoddard
Mary, Morgan & Merrill Stovroff
Berylann & Al Strada
Amy Strada & Aaron & Camille Brenner
Jennifer Strada & Ken Sherman
Melissa Strada
Marvin Sugarman
Edward & Beth Sugarman
Pam Sugarman & Tom & Daniel
 Rosenberg
Jeffrey, Shannon & Rose Sugarman
Rabbi Alvin & Barbara Sugarman
Richard Sugarman
Rebecca Sugarman
Sarah Sugarman
Gabrielle & Michael Sussman
Sylvia & Doug Talley
Robyn, Martin, Alec, Katie
 & Ruthie Tanenbaum
Arlene & Morton Tauber
Arlene & David Taylor
Judy, Jim, Sera & Leah Thomas
Susan & Marty Throne
Josh, Lara, Zachary & Sarah Tolchin
Bob & Edrea Triff
Arlene & Bruce Turry
Andrea, Paul, Adam & Suzanne Turry
Cynthia Tyler
Julie, Lukas & Lily Valderrama
Leslie & Steve Walden
Carolyn, Nathan, Miles & Cleo Wallace

Christy & David Waller
Earl, Susan, David, Samantha
 & Alex Wasserman
Frances Wasserman
Danyse, Larry & Alex Weinberg
Laura & Larry Weiner
Richard Weiner
Irv & Joan Weiner
Bob Weinstein & Gene Morgan
Jay & Renee Weinstein
Michael, Donna, Joshua &
 Nicole Weinstock
Phyllis & Michael Weiser
Sandra & Mel Weiss
Daniel, Tracy & Mason Weiss
Michael Weiss
Jay, Vicki, Sam, Becca & Abby White
Daniel, Angie, Max & Charlie Wildstein
Phyllis & Ray Wilenzick
Stephanie & Gabriela Wilk
Suzy Wilner
Ronald & Marilynn Winston
Stephen, Nichele, Hailey
 & Maxwell Winter
Claudia, Joshua & Jacob Wojtowicz
Barbara Wolff
Brad, Betsy, Kelsey & Sam Wolff
Mike Wolff
Kevin, Stacy, Emeline, Alexandra
 & Natalie Wolff
Honey & Howard Workman
Stephanie, Justin, Sloan & Andrew Wyatt
Merrill & Sheila Wynne
Paula Wynne
Diane Yenawine
Rick, Michelle, Avi, Max & Noa Young
Cathy, Gady, Jessica & Melanie Zeewy
Debi, Steve & Josh Zeiontz
Lori, Sam, Sophie & Joelle Zelony
Terri & Ron Zieve
Ellyse & Warren Zindler
Jennifer, Dean & Levi Zindler
Kim Zitter
Beverly & Morris Zoblotsky
Melanie, Scott, Drew & Jack Zucker
Bill Zuspan
Lori, Mark, Haley, Lindsey
 & Mitchell Zwecker
Renee & Steven Zweigel

The Torah Mantles

The seven Torah mantles embody the beauty of nature and the strong, yet subtle shapes of Jerusalem's domes, as reflected in our sanctuary ark doors.

The mantle colors of soft green, blue and gold receive their inspiration from the trees, leaves and sky that are glimpsed through the unadorned windows. The needlepoint strips re-enforce the Jerusalem motif with golds and pinks, as well as reinterpreting the shapes of domed roofs, rectangular buildings and circular windows that are captured in the ark doors' design.

The Uhrineves Torah, a survivor of the Holocaust, is covered in a white mantle, conveying the absence of color. Its needlepoint border uses shades of whites and grays, to set it apart from the other scrolls.

Atlanta artist Flora Rosefsky, who was selected by the Temple Sinai Fine Arts Committee to design the mantles and their needlepoint borders, said that she sat for two hours in the sanctuary — just to capture the essence of the experience and the place.

"I had the feeling of nature and a spiritual, understated elegance. I wanted to bring that feeling into the design," Flora explained. "The doors are magnificent. I took that motif to create the shapes in the borders."

Howard Karchmer, Fine Arts Committee Co-chair at the time, coordinated the entire project. "We considered several artists," he said. "Flora was a great decision."

The original drawings were created with colored pencils. Flora took the templates to Atlanta Needlepoint Etc. in Sandy Springs, where owner Nancy Jefferson transferred each design onto canvas. She then picked out colored yarn to match Flora's colors and selected all of the stitches to be used.

The committee solicited volunteers to create the needlepoint borders. Altogether, 24 congregants



Artist Flora Rosefsky's original drawings, created with colored pencils, became design templates for the needlepoint borders.

stitched the borders, with some needlepointers working on more than one border. (The names of the stitchers are embroidered on the inside lining of the mantle they worked on.)

As the stitchers were being selected, Howard decided that if he really wanted to understand the process he was overseeing, then he had to do it himself: So Howard became a mantle stitcher.

"I had never done it before, and I've never done it since," he laughed. "I spent time practicing, and I sat in the shop with all the ladies and learned how to do it. It was fun; I'm glad I did it!"

Additional accessories:

There are two crowns, one large and the other smaller, in the sanctuary ark, which were both gifts of Rubin (z"l) and Edith Silverstein. Both were given in honor of the B'nei Mitzvah of their sons, Sam Silverstein and Steven Silverstein.

A Final Reflection

Gazing upon our Torah scrolls, it is impossible not to appreciate their beautiful adornments: the ornaments on top (*rimonim*), the yad for reading, and the majestic silver breastplate centered over the heart of the scroll, fashioned after the breastpiece (*chosben*) worn by the priests in the ancient Temple. The breastplate served as a constant reminder to the priest that he carried the prayers and petitions of the entire community with him during his sacred service.

How many personal words of thanksgiving, heartfelt wishes for healing and renewal, and sincere expressions of hope and praise, have been silently offered over the years each time the Torah has been carried past? How many tallit fringes, fingers and

prayer book spines have ritually and lovingly reached out to touch the Torah's mantle and ornaments with an innate desire to emotionally link ourselves to the chain of Jewish tradition?


Just as with the priests of old, spiritually embedded within each scroll in our Ark are also the prayers and petitions of our entire community — members of our Temple Sinai family past and present, and those who are still to come. As we reflect upon the centrality of Torah in the life of our community, may we continue to lift to the heavens every prayer, every aspiration and every hope.

Ronald M. Segal
Senior Rabbi
Temple Sinai



“Let us resolve on this day to look at each one of the scrolls that Temple Sinai so proudly possesses. Let us imagine every person who has read or touched or simply gazed upon that scroll.”

*Philip N. Kranz, Rabbi
50 Years of Torah Shavuot Service, May 2018*

Two Torah scrolls are shown against a black background. The scrolls are made of light-colored parchment and are held by dark wooden handles. The central portion of the scrolls is unrolled, revealing Hebrew text. A white rectangular box is superimposed over the text in the center.

עץ חיים היא למחזיקים בָּהּ.

*“It is a Tree of Life
to all who hold it fast.”*