



About Temple Kol Emeth's Holocaust Torah

The Torah Scroll at Temple Kol Emeth was one of 1,564 sacred scrolls confiscated by the Nazis in Czechoslovakia during World War II. After the German troops surrendered in Prague at the end of the war, the scrolls lay unused and unattended in an abandoned synagogue for twenty years.

In 1963 while visiting Prague, an art dealer from London was consulted by the Czechoslovakian government regarding the possible preservation of these scrolls which were rapidly deteriorating from disuse, dampness, and lack of care. After determining that the scrolls could be restored, several members of London's Westminster Synagogue created a Memorial Scrolls Exhibit. The synagogue then became the official trustee of all 1,564 scrolls. The entire Jewish community of London became involved in the restoration project.

The second phase of the restoration project required locating scribes to repair those scrolls which could be saved. Soon afterwards, synagogues from around the world began to request a Torah Scroll, thus creating the Westminster Synagogue's permanent loan program.

Temple Kol Emeth applied for a Holocaust Torah Scroll. We were granted a scroll which originated from Lostice, Czechoslovakia. Our scroll is #1282 and was written in the late 18th century. TKE held a dedication ceremony for our scroll on April 15, 1988. The scroll stands as a loving remembrance of a once vibrant Jewish community which was devastated by Nazi terror. We take great pride in providing the Lostice Torah a home, where we are free to nurture the memories of our ancestors and pass this great legacy on to our children.



Figure 1 The Memorial Scrolls Tag on the inside of our scroll showing #1282



Figure 2 A picture of the inside of the scroll. This shows the end of the book of Leviticus and the start of the book of Numbers.