

# Our Year of Living Torah

## Frequently Asked Questions

### ***Why are we restoring our Czech Memorial Torah?***

We have embarked on a year long process to clean, repair and restore this Torah so that it can remain Kosher and can be read from without further compromising it's condition. This Torah was rescued from the Holocaust and connects us directly with Jewish communities lost. It's town of origin is Pribram, Czechoslovakia and it is thought to be over 200 years old and contain a unique combination of Ashkenazi, Sephardi and Kabbalistic characteristics. With the help of a seed gift from the family of Alex Stein, we have engaged Sofer Neil Yerman to restore our Czech Memorial Torah.

### ***Why sign up to write a letter with the Sofer?***

The Torah teaches us that it is the responsibility of every Jew to personally write a Sefer Torah. This is interpreted by our sages as the 613<sup>th</sup> mitzvah. Tradition teaches us that one who writes even one letter in the Torah or who causes one to be written through their support, fulfills this commandment. It is very rare to have the opportunity to write a letter in a Torah, and this Scroll has such historic and spiritual significance, we wanted to open the opportunity to everyone.

### ***How can I schedule a time to write a letter with the Sofer?***

Sofer Yerman will visit CBB and bring the Torah back for letter writing sessions on October 30 & 31, 2011, February 8-12, 2012 and April 17-19, 2012. Sign up at [cbbsb.org](http://cbbsb.org) or by contacting Kara Hochner at [kara@cbbsb.org](mailto:kara@cbbsb.org) or call 967-6619.

### ***How do the sessions work?***

Sessions are held in intimate groups of 20-25 writers and last approximately 90 minutes. Groups will gather in the small chapel and then after a ceremonial hand-washing, will move to the Sanctuary for the session. Our Sofer will prepare you for this sacred experience engage the group in a discussion about the section of the Torah you will be writing in. Then, as you hold the quill, he will guide you through the process of re-inking a Hebrew letter.

### ***Who can write a letter?***

Anyone who has a desire to write a letter, may do so. Writers can be any age, and regardless of ability, the Sofer will accommodate. You may invite friends, family and associates and we encourage you to schedule your sessions together. We may also be able to accommodate group sessions on request. Contact Elizabeth Gaynes at [egaynes@yahoo.com](mailto:egaynes@yahoo.com) if you would like to arrange a group appointment.

### ***Does it cost anything to write in the Torah?***

To help fund Our Year of Living Torah and the restoration process, we are requesting a suggested minimum donation of \$36 per letter.