



Community Holocaust Torah Restoration Project of Shalom Institute

- ***Why does our Torah Scroll need to be restored?***

It has suffered wear and tear in the normal course of use over the decades. The type of damage that develops over time includes cracks in the parchment, chipped letters, and worn stitching.

- ***Why do we need to restore a damaged Torah?***

We are stewards of the Torah; it is a sacred responsibility to take care of the Torah. Our Torah scroll is one of 1,564 scrolls recovered in Prague after the Holocaust. It dates back to the early 1800s and comes from the Jewish community in Sdelcany, Czechoslovakia. Currently marred by missing letters and seams that need to be re-sewn, it remains undeniably beautiful. As guardians of these historical and precious scrolls it is our duty to restore them and protect our history for current and future generations.

- ***What does restoring the Torah entail?***

Rabbi Moshe Druin, from *Sofer* (Scribe) on Site, will be the *Sofer* working on our Torah. This work includes eye scanning each book of the Torah, hand stitching where required; hand cleaning without chemicals, scraping and rewriting letters (a part of the process you can choose to be a part of!).

- ***How can I/We participate in the Community Torah Restoration Project of Shalom Institute?***

There are a few ways you and your family can be a part of this experience! You can:

- Donate! There are many sponsorship levels for participation. Donate \$36 or more and you and your family can write a letter of the Torah with Rabbi Druin during one of his community visits.
- Attend one of our community Torah scribing events and educational programs. You will meet Rabbi Druin and see him working on our Torah. If you donate \$36 or more you will get to write a letter with him.
- If you have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah in the coming year, make Shana Torah your Mitzvah Project.
- Share the story of our Torah and our community restoration project.

It is an extraordinary chance to learn about and connect with our sacred texts; the embodiment of our history as a people and a religion.

- ***How much does it cost to sponsor part of the Torah restoration.***

There are many levels of sponsorship. You can sponsor the entire Torah for \$25,000. To learn more about the various giving opportunities, visit www.shalominstitute.com/supportus. Remember, to have the honor of scribing a letter with Rabbi Druin you must donate at least \$36.

- ***When will the Torah Community Scribing and Educational Events take place? Where?***

We are still finalizing plans, but here is what we know as of July 15, 2015: Rabbi Druin will be in town: July 28, 2015 at Camp JCA Shalom, December 5 & December 6 2015, January 31, 2016 at our Tu B'Shvat Nature Festival and May, 1 2016. We will share details, including times and locations of the programs, once we the information.

- ***Whom do I contact for more information?***

Bill Kaplan, Executive Director: bill@shalominstitute.com or 818.889.5500