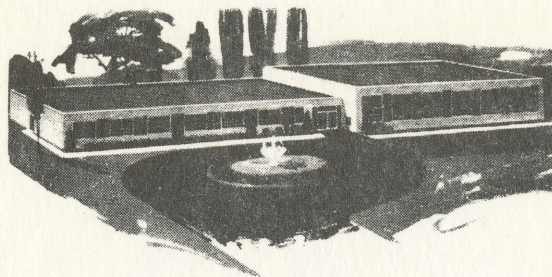


- PRESIDENT -
MR. JONATHAN DUKER

- PAST PRESIDENTS -
DR. JACQUES WEISS
MR. SIDNEY FRIEDLANDER
DR. JOSEPH MARKOWITZ



RABBI M. LEIFER
TELEPHONE 653-0244

STUDY 655-2022
CENTER 655-9806

Beth Israel Center

Post Office Box 10873
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15236

February 20, 1970

Mr. and Mrs. Ely Grossman
5142 Leona Drive
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15227

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Grossman:

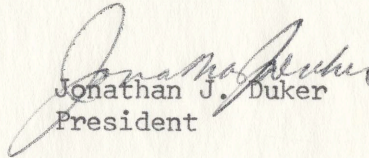
About two years ago, members and friends of Beth Israel Center joined together in a noble and practical effort to obtain the first and only totally Center sponsored Torah. Our commitment to ourselves was partially successful - we obtained our Torah within a reasonable period of time.

The "living symbol" of a "living" Judaism rests in our new Ark and is being used in keeping with the high traditions and practices of Judaism. However, the second part of our commitment to ourselves has not been fulfilled. We have not dedicated the Torah in accordance with Jewish tradition as we pledged ourselves to do. Torah Dedication, then, is the final step in achieving the total objective we set out to accomplish two years ago.

Many of us in the Center are unaware of the specific ritual and honor involved in Torah Dedication. Dedication is a Jewish tradition, accomplished with the dignity and celebration befitting the welcome to our Center of our own living symbol of our own living faith. It is a ceremony which is meaningful to all, particularly to those who have been involved in the affairs of our Community. It is for living - ourselves, our children, our families and our friends. It will be remembered and cherished by all, particularly our young ones, as a happy, moving tribute to the core of Judaism.

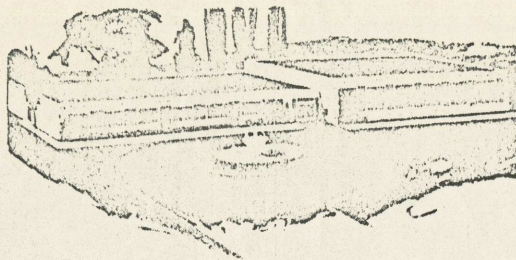
We will give you specific details in the near future as to ritual, honors, and guests involved in our Dedication. The ritual includes many honors (mitzvot) which you have earned and will earn through your past and future efforts on behalf of Beth Israel Center. The date of the Dedication is March 15, 1970. Members of the Dedication Committee have been trying to contact you personally to ascertain names of relatives and friends whom you wish to invite to this most remarkable and significant Center celebration. If you have not been contacted, please let me know immediately those whom you wish to invite to enjoy the honor and celebration of Dedication.

Very truly yours,


Jonathan J. Duker
President

- PRESIDENT -
MR. JONATHAN DUKER

- PAST PRESIDENTS -
DR. JACQUES WEISS
MR. SIDNEY FRIEDLANDER
DR. JOSEPH MARKOWITZ



RABBI M. LEIFER
TELEPHONE 653-0244

STUDY 655-2022
CENTER 655-9806

Beth Israel Center

Post Office Box 10873
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15236

27 February 1970

Mr. and Mrs. Ely Grossman
5142 Leona Drive
Pittsburgh, Penna. 15227

CONFIRMATION AND INVOICE - BETH ISRAEL CENTER TORAH DEDICATION

<u>Name to be Honored</u>	<u>Hebrew Letters</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Y	י	\$ 10.00
L	ל	10.00
A	א	10.00
SH	ש	10.00
F	פ	10.00
	ד	<hr/> \$ 50.00

Letters are \$10/ea., except last sentence (47 letters), which are \$50/ea.

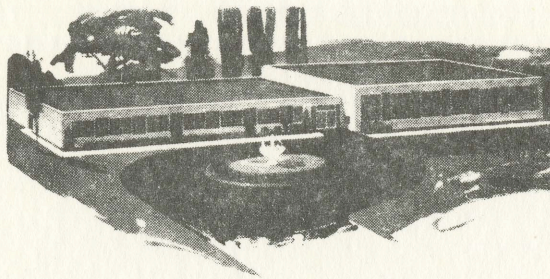
*Denotes one of last 47 letters of Torah.

Note: The listed Hebrew letters have been reserved for you. Please remit your payment by 8 March 1970. Make checks payable to BIC Torah Fund and mail to: Financial Secretary, Beth Israel Center.

In the event you are unable to attend the Dedication the selected letters will be inscribed by the Rabbi.

- PRESIDENT -
MR. JONATHAN DUKER

- PAST PRESIDENTS -
DR. JACQUES WEISS
MR. SIDNEY FRIEDLANDER
DR. JOSEPH MARKOWITZ



RABBI M. LEIFER
TELEPHONE 653-0244

STUDY 655-2022
CENTER 655-9806

Beth Israel Center

Post Office Box 10873
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15236

4 March 1970

Mr. and Mrs. Ely Grossman
5142 Leona Drive
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15227

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Grossman:

We told you in our last letter something of our plans for the Torah Dedication, to be held on Sunday, March 15, 1970 at the Center. This letter will acquaint you with more details of the ceremonies.

The Torahs, including the one to be dedicated, will be removed from the Ark and carried, in dignified procession, to the Rabbi's house. Subsequently, the new Torah will be carried, by a succession of those to be accorded honors, back to the Center, beneath a Chupah borne by four participants. It will be carried to the Bima and set on the Reader's Table, in preparation for the symbolic inscription of the final letters.

The final 200-odd letters of the Torah, in the last chapter of Deuteronomy, are now to be completed by a Sofer, a ritual Scribe, in the presence of the Congregation. Each member or guest desiring to inscribe one or more of these letters comes forward, touches the Scribe's pen, after which the Scribe formally inserts the letter or letters (actually, the letters have already been inscribed; they are only embellished now with tiny decorative marks during the Ceremony). It is customary to choose letters corresponding to the Hebrew initials of their names or those of members of their families; however, we should stress that this practice is not essential. Further, it is improper to honor the memory of the departed in this way; the Torah is a living document and is to be dedicated to and by the living. The Ceremony continues until the final letter has been inserted.

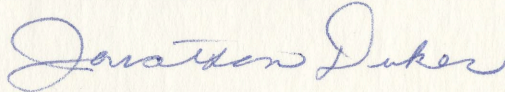
The program accompanying this inscription ceremony will include speakers, cantorial renditions and selections by a Children's Choir. Our Rabbi Meier Leifer will be the Presiding Rabbi; Rabbi Bernard Poupko will be the featured Guest Speaker; Rabbi Aaron Ilson will be Honorary Guest Speaker; Cantor Murray Gold will be the Cantor. To keep the program

length within reasonable limits, the bulk of the 200-odd letters will be inscribed in the presence of the subscribers choosing them in the early afternoon of Dedication Day; only the final 47 letters, the last sentence, will be inscribed during the formal afternoon program.

The inscription of a letter in the Torah is our modern counterpart of the ancient Talmudic directive that each Jew during his lifetime is obliged to copy the Torah in its entirety so that its law and majesty are spread and perpetuated forever. Thus, the inscription of a letter is a religious duty and honor far exceeding those we are able to perform or receive more often. To be called to the Torah for a reading is an opportunity you may have several times each year; you may never have another chance to complete a Torah in your lifetime.

Finally, to have oneself symbolically made part of a living Torah, to join with generations of Jews of the past and, more important, of the future in the perpetuation of our Peoplehood, represents a spiritual experience that all of us should be eager to share.

Very truly yours,



Jonathan Duker
President

Enclosure