

Sefer Torah Standalone, 8.4.25

Dear DC Minyan community,

We are thrilled to share that DC Minyan is welcoming a new *Sefer Torah*! This is a momentous occasion for our community. We are planning a communal celebration, and we are launching a fundraising effort to support this purchase; read on for more details.

The New Sefer Torah

Our new Torah is, in fact, gently used. It came to us via our *soferet*, who acquired it from a shul in New York that closed. It is beautifully written, with clear print and spacing. It also is significantly lighter than our current primary Torah, which will make *hagbah* easier (and less stressful for the rest of us!).

Having another Torah will give us the flexibility to hold smaller minyanim, major holiday davening, parallel leynings, and *b'nai mitzvah* training. It also will give us the security of a full-size backup when one of our *Sifrei Torah* needs repairs.

A new Torah can cost more than \$50,000; we are extremely fortunate to be able to purchase this Torah at a fraction of the typical cost.

Hachnasat Sefer Torah: Sunday, September 7th

Mark your calendars for a *Hachnasat Sefer Torah*, a celebration of our new *Torah*, which will take place on the morning of September 7th, 2025, at the JCC. The *Hachnasa* will feature food, music, dancing, learning, and general merriment. Following the *Hachnasa*, we plan to use our new *Torah* regularly on Shabbat morning.

Please RSVP to the Hachnasa [HERE](#) so we can plan accordingly. We are so excited to celebrate this milestone with you!

Fundraising Effort

In *Parshat Teruma*, the itinerant *B'nei Yisrael* are commanded to build a *Mishkan* (Tent of Meeting) as infrastructure for worship. Every member of B'nei Yisrael was required to contribute *machatzit hashekel* (half a shekel) to fund the building effort.

We are embarking on our first fundraising campaign, aiming to raise \$40,000 to support DC Minyan's current programming and infrastructure needs, and to enable the Minyan's growth over the next several years. In the spirit of *machatzit hashekel*, we are inviting the entire DC Minyan community to contribute some amount—of *any* size—to support this endeavor.

With funds raised, the Board is looking both to support current expense needs not covered by membership dues, and to invest in new areas of programming and support. Expected

investments include:

- Supplies and services for the new *Torah*, including accessories (e.g., covers, *yad*), ark modifications, and ongoing reserves for insurance and repair
- Other ritual objects for weekly davening, including *siddurim* and *chumashim* with transliteration and/or large print, more *tallitot* and *kippot*, *siddurim* and other books and supplies for children's minyanim, and storage for these items
- Meeting more frequently on Shabbat
- Expanding and enhancing popular programs, including our retreat
- Updating our (beloved but outdated) website
- Enhancing support for members after major life events, illness, and loss

We are mindful that people within our community have been significantly affected by changes in the Federal workforce and local economy, and there is no expectation that those experiencing financial strain due to this or other circumstances will be able to contribute. We hope you will contribute what you can. If you cannot, please consider donating your time by volunteering for DCM in any way you can.

The campaign will run from today through the end of October. For those who wish to speak with DCM leadership about how their donation would be used, we invite you to contact strategy@dcminyan.org.

Contributions can be made in tandem with dues renewal or can be made directly on our website, [here](#) (for Type select Donation, and please add "Sefer Torah fundraising" in the notes).

As we prepare for the *haggim* and our annual membership drive, we are so appreciative for this community. Your participation is what makes DC Minyan special. We can't wait to use our new *sefer Torah* together this fall.

With gratitude,

DCM Board of Directors

DCM Fundraising Committee

Rivka Friedman (chair)

Lauren Hoffman

Stephanie Schwartz