

## Holocaust Memorial Scroll Keeps Spirit of Torah Alive

Beth El has the privilege of having a Holocaust Memorial Torah Scroll from the Czech Memorial Scrolls Trust in our collection. Hand-carried to the synagogue from London in 1980 by Judith and Roger Leff, the Scroll is on display in the Jack and Mildred Cohen Religious School wing. A brochure sits in a side pocket of the case, telling the history of the Scroll and its community.

Before being confiscated by the Nazis during World War II, our Torah Scroll was revered by the town of Prossnitz in Slovakia. There were three synagogues in the town and our Scroll was written in the 1800s, used in the synagogue for several hundred years.

As part of our loan agreement with the Trust, our scroll was examined last year by Rabbi Yochanan Salanter from Sofer On Site, Miami, who was pleased with its current condition. Although our Scroll is not kosher because of its excessive torn and damaged parchment, it is taken out on Simchat Torah as part of our celebration. In addition, it serves as a teaching tool for our religious school students.

The Czech Memorial Scrolls Trust just celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the rescue of the Scrolls in 1964. For more information about the Holocaust Torah Scrolls, visit the Czech Memorial Scrolls Centre in London, England. <http://www.memorialscrollstrust.org>.

