



Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh

SQUIRREL HILL

5738 Forbes Avenue
Box 81980 • Pittsburgh, PA 15217
(412) 521-8010 • FAX (412) 521-7044

SOUTH HILLS

345 Kane Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15243
(412) 278-1975 • FAX (412) 446-0146

Monday, August 23, 2010
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Cathy Green Samuels
Director of Marketing and Communications
412) 521-8011, ext. 165 • csamuels@jccpgh.org

JCC's 115th Annual Meeting on September 13 includes *Torahs for Our Troops* Project

*"Now, write down this song and teach it to Israel." Deuteronomy (31:19)
From this verse, our sages derived the principle that it is a mitzvah for every Jew to write a Torah scroll. Writing even a single letter fulfills this mitzvah.*

In conjunction with its 115th Annual Meeting on Monday, September 13, 2010, the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh is welcoming the community for a special program for *Torahs for Our Troops*. The goal is for the Jewish community of Pittsburgh to donate a *sefer* (book) of the Torah as part of a national effort to provide portable Torahs for use by Jewish military personnel.

Torahs for Our Troops, a one-of-a-kind project organized by the JCC Association, commissions new lightweight, portable kosher Torah scrolls for Jewish chaplains to ensure that Jewish troops in the United States military services can properly hold Shabbat and holiday services.

The JCC Association, through its JWB Chaplains Council, organizes Jewish chaplains to conduct services and offer comfort to Jewish military personnel domestically and in places such as Iraq and Afghanistan. Currently there are only 60 Torahs available to the more than 10,000 Jewish troops serving throughout the world, and only a few are portable enough to utilize for Jewish troops serving overseas.

Representatives from the JCC Association JWB Chaplains Council and a *sofer*, Torah scribe, will be available from 7 to 9 p.m. to assist any individual who would like to make a contribution to participate in the mitzvah of writing a letter of this special Torah.

The community also is invited to attend a wine and cheese reception from 5 to 6 p.m. and the Annual Meeting at 6 p.m. Sara Stock Mayo, Cantorial Soloist/Chaplain of Temple Sinai, will open the meeting with Hatikvah.

For more information about *Torahs for Our Troops*, please call Cathy Green Samuels at the JCC, (412) 521-8011, ext. 165, or visit www.torahsforourtroops.org.

Contributions to this project may be made on the *Torahs for Our Troops* website, at the event, or by mailing your check, made payable to JWB/Torahs for Our Troops, to:
JCC of Greater Pittsburgh, Attn: Evelyn Fisher
5738 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

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