



TEMPLE EMUNAH

9 Piper Road — Lexington, Massachusetts — 02421

Non Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 57433
Boston, MA

TEMPLE EMUNAH

SEFER HAFTAROT PROJECT



THE SEFER HAFTAROT

The *Sefer Haftarah* has been part of Jewish liturgy since Roman times when it was first introduced as a way to counter a Roman decree that forbade the reading of the *Torah* in public assemblies. During the 9th century, the Ben Asher family developed the system of cantillation and punctuation (trope and *k'tiv*). From that time onward it became traditional for the *Haftarah* to be chanted. It was common during the Middle Ages to have scrolls of the prophets in the ark next to the *Torah* scrolls. When it came time to read from the *Haftarah*, a scroll was taken out of the ark and the appropriate *Haftarah* was chanted. *Haftarah* in scroll-form were mentioned as early as talmudic times, but have been almost totally eclipsed by the printing press. The Temple Emunah *Sefer Haftarah* will be used to enhance the spirituality of the reading experience.

(Source: Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs)



TEMPLE
EMUNAH

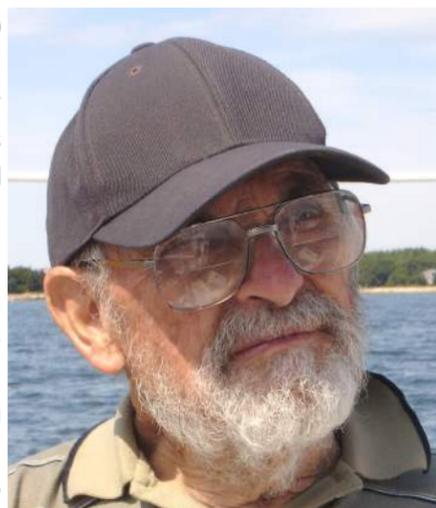
DEDICATED IN HONOR OF LOWELL BENSKY

Lowell Bensky has been a member of Temple Emunah for nearly 50 years. Lowell and his wife, Janet, (z"l), of blessed memory, moved to Lexington in 1966 and joined Temple Emunah almost immediately. Over the years, Lowell has taught over 160 students to *leyn Torah* or to chant *Haftarot*. Among his students are Jill Wollins and Susan Lipson who currently teach our *b'nei mitzvah* students, and Rabbi Annie Tucker (daughter of Marsha Tucker and Ken Tucker, (z"l)).

When Lowell was a young adolescent, he learned his unique trope from a member of his shul named Mr. Bass, a recent immigrant from Hungary. Attending Hebrew School five days a week (including Sundays), Lowell continued improving his *Torah* chanting abilities, and upon joining Temple Emunah, Rabbi Joel Meyers asked him to chant *Torah* for the High Holy Days. Rabbi Meyers was so impressed with the beauty of Lowell's reading, that he asked Lowell to teach others how to chant.

Lowell's dedication to Temple Emunah is manifested in that he continues to tutor students in *Torah* and *Haftarah* trope and his list of former students is still increasing.

We are honored to be able to dedicate Temple Emunah's *Sefer Haftarot* to such a deserving individual.



WHAT IS THE SEFER HAFTAROT?

The *Sefer Haftarot* is a compilation of prophetic texts of striking beauty with a scroll that outwardly resembles the *Sefer Torah*. Carefully hand written by a *Sofer* (or scribe) on parchment, the *Sefer Haftarot* is mounted at both ends on its unique *Etz Hayyim* and then covered in a custom cloth mantle for safe keeping. When not in use, it will be stored in the ark next to our Temple Emunah *Torah* scrolls. It contains all of the *Haftarot* that are recited on Shabbat and holidays. Unlike a *Torah* scroll, the Temple Emunah *Sefer Haftarot* will have vowels and trope markings to make it easier for congregants to read. The Temple Emunah *Sefer Haftarot* will also contain personalized dedications from individuals, families and groups that will appear throughout the *Sefer Haftarot* scroll.



Temple Emunah Sefer Haftarot Sponsorship Order Form

Donor(s) Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mobile Phone: (____) _____ - _____ Home Phone: (____) _____ - _____

E-mail: _____

Sponsorship: Please indicate your sponsorship choice below. If you are selecting a *Haftarah* please include the number shown next to it on page 6.

Haftarah Choice 1: # _____ Haftarah Choice 2: # _____

Dedication: Two lines, each no more than 30 characters.

Suggested format --

Line 1: Donor name(s).

Line 2: in honor of _____, in memory of _____, or other inscription of your choice.

Lowell's Bar Mitzvah Haftarah Portion _____

Name of donor(s), to be inscribed in the scroll (no more than 30 characters)

Patron: _____ Sponsor: _____ Verse: _____ Word: _____ Letter: _____

Please note: Because of the high demand for certain sponsorships, if we are unable to honor your request, a member of the committee will contact you to discuss alternate sponsorships.

All payments are tax deductible. Payment Information:

Gifts of \$1,800 or more are payable over three years with one-third due at time of order Please make checks payable to Temple Emunah.

Fax Form to (781) 861-7141, or mail to:

Sefer Haftarot Project
Temple Emunah
9 Piper Road
Lexington, MA 02421

THANK YOU!

Please select from the following *Haftarah* portions and list the numbers corresponding to your first and second choices on the Sponsorship Order Form. If you would like help in selecting a sponsorship, please contact us.

THE FIVE BOOKS (\$3,600 each)

Please select by number

1. GENESIS
2. EXODUS
3. LEVITICUS
4. NUMBERS
5. DEUTERONOMY **(SOLD OUT)**

HIGH HOLIDAY HAFTAROT (\$2,700 each)

Please select by number

6. ROSH HASHANAH — DAY 1
7. ROSH HASHANAH — DAY 2
8. YOM KIPPUR — MORNING
9. YOM KIPPUR — AFTERNOON
10. MAHAR HODESH
11. ROSH HODESH

FESTIVAL AND SPECIAL OCCASION HAFTAROT (\$1,800 each) Please select by number

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 12. SUKKOT — DAY 1 | 19. SH'KALIM | SHABBAT |
| 13. SUKKOT — DAY 2 | 20. ZAKHOR | 27. PESAḤ — DAY 7 |
| 14. SUKKOT — INTERMEDIATE SHABABAT | 21. PARAH | 28. PESAḤ — DAY 8 |
| 15. SH'MINI ATZERET | 22. HAḤODESH | 29. SHAVUOT — DAY 1 |
| 16. SIMḤAT TORAH | 23. HAGADOL | 30. SHAVUOT — DAY 2 |
| 17. HANUKKAH — 1st SHABBAT | 24. PESAḤ — DAY 1 | 31. TISH'AH B'AV — MORNING |
| 18. HANUKKAH — 2nd SHABBAT | 25. PESAḤ — DAY 2 | 32. FAST DAYS — AFTERNOON |
| | 26. PESAḤ INTERMEDIATE | |

WEEKLY HAFTARAH PORTIONS (\$900 each)

Please select by number

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| GENESIS | 51.T'RUMAH | 68.B'HA-ALOT'KHA |
| 33.B'REISHEET (SOLD OUT) | 52.T'TZAVVEH | 69.SH'LAḤ L'KHA |
| 34.NO-AḤ | 53.KI TISSA | 70.KORAH |
| 35.LEKH L'KHA | 54.VA-YAK-HEL | 71.ḤUKKAT |
| 36.VA-YERA | 55.P'KUDEI | 72.BALAK |
| 37.ḤAYYEI SARAH | LEVITICUS | 73.PINḤAS |
| 38.TOL'DOT | 56.VA-YIKRA | 74.MATTOT |
| 39.VA-YETZEI | 57.TZAV | 75.MAS'EI |
| 40.VA-YISHLAḤ | 58.SH'MINI | DEUTERONOMY |
| 41.VA-YEISHEV | 59.TAZRIA | 76.D'VARIM |
| 42.MI-KETZ | 60.M'TZORAH | 77.VA-ETHANNAN |
| 43.VA-YIGGASH | 61.AḤAREI MOT | 78.EIKEV |
| 44.VA-Y'ḤI | 62.K'DOSHIM | 79.R'EIH |
| EXODUS | 63.EMOR | 80.SHOF'TIM |
| 45.SH'MOT | 64.B'HAR | 81.KI TETZEI |
| 46.VA-ERA | 65.B'ḤUKKOTAI | 82.KI TAVO |
| 47.BO | NUMBERS | 83.NITZAVIM |
| 48.B'SHALLAḤ | 66.B'MIDBAR | 84.VA-YEILEKH |
| 49.YITRO | 67.NASO | 85.HA-AZINU |
| 50.MISHPATIM | | |

WHY IS TEMPLE EMUNAH WRITING ITS OWN SEFER HAFTAROT?

There are several reasons why we have chosen to commission the creation of our own *Sefer Haftarah* at this time in our congregation's history.

First, a *Sefer Haftarah* scroll will enhance our physical and spiritual worship and help us to honor the sacred words that we read each week. As the *Sefer Haftarah* scroll becomes integrated into our services, we will add a new dimension to our prayer experience. Much in the same way that the *Ba'al Koreh* (Torah reader) reads from the Torah scroll while the congregation follows along in the *Humash*, as we read the *haftarah* from a scroll, we will connect at a deeper level with the meaning that the Prophets conveyed when they first recited these prophecies and then when the words were committed to writing in this same format centuries ago. The *Sefer Haftarah* scroll will add a powerful new aspect to our service and put Temple Emunah among the small but growing number of congregations that have made a commitment to enhancing their prayer experiences in this way.

Second, we want to create a special liturgical legacy for current and future generations at Temple Emunah. This *Sefer Haftarah* will serve as a connection between generations past, present and future through the dedication of individual *Haftarah*, verses, words, letters, and more by our members. Through this project, we are enabling the Temple Emunah family to permanently become a part of a significant, new tradition. It is a true *l'dor va'dor* opportunity.

Finally, this project gives us an opportunity to honor Lowell Bensus. As Temple Emunah's *bar mitzvah* tutor of more than 40 years, Lowell has personally worked with over 160 students helping them to prepare their *haftarah* for their *b'nei mitzvah*. In addition, as many of Lowell's students have gone on to tutor others, Lowell has been instrumental in many additional students learning their *Haftarah*. So it is particularly fitting that a *Sefer Haftarah* scroll that will be used in perpetuity by our congregation, especially at our *b'nei mitzvah* celebrations, will honor the legacy of our beloved teacher, Lowell Bensus.

HOW CAN WE PARTICIPATE?

Members and friends have a unique opportunity to dedicate a *Haftarah* in our new *Sefer Haftarah* and to have their inscription written directly in the scroll by the *sofer*. Members can create their own personal legacy that will be part of our greater and ongoing traditions here.

Contributors can commemorate important moments in the new *Sefer Haftarah* for any reason they choose. You may choose to contribute in honor or in memory of a loved one, or for any other meaningful occasion:

- Bar/Bat Mitzvah
- Anniversary of a past Bar/Bat Mitzvah
- Birth of a child or grandchild
- Wedding anniversary
- Graduation
- *Yahrzeit* or other memorial dedication
- Meaningful birthday
- Other significant milestones

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We have created the following options for you and your family or organization to participate in this unprecedented project here at Temple Emunah. Each contribution will receive a certificate specially designed for this project, which is suitable for framing. Sponsorships of \$3,600 and above will be given the opportunity to help complete a letter in the Temple Emunah *Sefer Haftarot* during our dedication event.

All gifts will be acknowledged during our dedication weekend, as well as in a special keepsake that will be created for our synagogue's permanent collection.

[Atzei Hayyim](#) \$5,400 each (SOLD OUT)

The sponsorship of an *Etz Hayyim* (literally: "Tree of Life") provides an opportunity to have one's dedication always in view whenever the *Sefer Haftarot* is in use or on display. The *Atzei Hayyim* are the wooden spindles and handles that hold the parchment in place and are used to carry and roll the scroll. Your dedication will appear on a plate affixed to the *Etz Hayyim*.

[Sefer Haftarot Books](#) \$3,600 each (4 available)

The *Sefer Haftarot* is organized into the five Books of the *Torah*. Each of these books is then divided into individual *Haftarot*. Sponsoring an entire book allows you to underwrite a more significant portion of the project. You will be allowed a personalized dedication space (subject to limits determined by the *sofer*) that will be featured at the start of the book you sponsor.

[Four High Holy Day Haftarot](#) \$2,700 each

There are four high holiday *Haftarot* read during *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur*. These special selections hold great meaning and are especially treasured. Your dedication will appear adjacent to these revered *Haftarah* portions.

[Festival and Special Occasion Haftarot](#) \$1800 each (four available per Haftarah)

On festival and special occasion days, the *Haftarah* consists of a reading appropriate to that day. These *Haftarah* portions commemorate important events on the Jewish calendar and are available in limited numbers. Dedications will appear in the scroll adjacent to the selected *Haftarah*. We will be happy to work together with you to make the appropriate selection.

[Weekly Haftarah Portions](#) \$900 each (four available for each weekly portion)

This is a great way to mark events that are meaningful to you. We will be glad to help you research your own *Bar/Bat Mitzvah portion* – or that of any other family member. This is also a wonderful way to start a new tradition within your own family. Your dedication will appear in the *Sefer Haftarot* adjacent to the portion you choose. You can honor children and grandchildren as they celebrate their *b'nei Mitzvah* or remember your own *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* or those of loved ones.

ADDITIONAL WAYS TO HONOR LOWELL AND BENEFIT THE SEFER HAFTAROT FUND

[Co-Sponsor Lowell's Bar Mitzvah Haftarah](#) \$540 each (unlimited availability)

Lowell's *bar mitzvah* portion was *Va-era*. Taken from the prophet Ezekiel, Lowell's *Haftarah* concludes with the theme of endowing the House of Israel with strength. May this *Sefer Haftarot* endow Temple Emunah with strength for generations.

We are offering this special opportunity to join others in a one of a kind *sofer*-written section that will be inserted into the *Sefer Haftarot*. Your name will be included among those who are honoring Lowell.

[Regular Mantle](#) \$3,600 each (SOLD OUT)

[High Holy Day Mantle](#) \$3,600 each (SOLD OUT)

Our *Sefer Haftarot* will have two permanent mantles that will cover the *Sefer Haftarot* when it is not being read. Each mantle represents a unique naming opportunity for a sponsor and will carry your name and serve as a reminder of your support for Temple Emunah.

[Yad](#) \$3,600 (SOLD OUT)

[High Holy Day Yad](#) \$3,600 (SOLD OUT)

Our *Sefer Haftarot* will have its own everyday *Yad* and a High Holy Day *Yad* that will be draped from the *Etz Hayyim* and used by the reader. Each *Yad* represents a unique naming opportunity for one sponsor and will carry your name and serve as a reminder of your support for Temple Emunah.

[Patron listing](#) \$360 each (unlimited availability)

[Sponsor listing](#) \$180 each (unlimited availability)

[Verse](#) \$180 each (unlimited availability)

[Word](#) \$108 each (unlimited availability)

[Letter](#) \$54 each (unlimited availability)

We know that many people will want to make a donation in support of the *Sefer Haftarot* Fund in other amounts. The Patron, Sponsor, Verse, Word, and Letter levels provide you with that opportunity. There are 5 categories of participation and this level that enable you to participate in the purchase of the *Sefer Haftarot*. All those contributing in this manner will have their gifts acknowledged in our dedication ceremony.

TEMPLE EMUNAH SEFER HAFTAROT FUND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

David Abelman & Marilyn Weil-Abelman

Arnie Miller

Alan & Leslie Sherman

Mark Druy

Marcy Lidman (Dedication co-chair)

Marsha Tucker (Dedication co-chair)

Buzz Hausner

Howard Reubenstein

David & Lori Schechner

Barbara Posnick

Scott Lerman

Contact any committee member with your questions or e-mail us at office@templeemunah.org