

## THE TORAH SCROLL

The Torah scroll is Judaism's most sacred religious object. Our sages meticulously prescribed the specific materials used in the creation of a Torah scroll, exactly how it should be written, and the dignity with which it must be handled. Jews, throughout the ages, have risked their lives to save a Torah scroll from danger.

## PROTECTING TORAHS

The loss of even a single Torah is much more than just a monetary sacrifice — it is a traumatic experience for an entire congregation. Unfortunately, there are those who value Torahs for their resale value rather than their religious significance. *The Universal Torah Registry, Inc.* was founded at the request of law enforcement agencies almost two decades ago in order to help them to safeguard the Jewish people's most treasured possession. By registering their Torah scrolls, owners take an important step in their protection.

## WHO WE ARE

The *Universal Torah Registry*, an independent, not-for-profit organization, was founded by the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York to seek a halachically acceptable and secure method to uniquely identify and register each Torah scroll.

Two years of painstaking research, involving the world's top security specialists, led to the development of an inexpensive system approved by the foremost rabbinical authorities of our generation.

## A SUCCESS STORY

With the inception of the *Universal Torah Registry* the steady flow of stolen Torahs was reduced to a trickle — from two hundred in a year to a handful. More importantly, law enforcement agencies have been able to return stolen Torahs to their congregations.

## HOW IT WORKS

Registering a Torah scroll is a simple and inexpensive procedure. Upon application to the *Universal Torah Registry*, your congregation will receive a registration kit containing all necessary materials. It includes a form with which to record various characteristics of the Torah scroll. You also will receive a specially coded template. Using a superfine needle, a special code of micro-perforations is applied to strategic places in the scroll. The code and a record of the special characteristics of each Torah are maintained in a computerized data bank at the *Universal Torah Registry*. A secure Certificate of Registration is provided for each registered Torah.

## WHAT IF YOUR TORAH IS MISSING?

The *Universal Torah Registry* works closely with local, national and international law enforcement agencies. Often, detectives call for assistance before a congregation does. In the event of loss, call the emergency number of the Universal Torah Registry at 212-983-4800 ext. 127.

## A WORD OF CAUTION

Always be sure to purchase a Torah scroll only from a reliable and reputable scribe or religious articles merchant. Try to independently confirm the Torah's origin. Be sure that every Torah and megilah in your congregation is registered. When purchasing, always demand a Certificate of Registration.

**“I paid for my synagogue's registration out of my own pocket because I know how important Torah registration can be.”**

**Det. Mordecai Dzikansky**  
Torah Task Force  
New York City Police Department

## A Safer Torah Is Up To You

**UNIVERSAL TORAH REGISTRY, INC.**  
c/o Jewish Community Relations Council  
70 West 36th Street Suite 700  
New York, NY 10018  
(212) 983-4800 ext. 127  
(212) 983-4084 (fax)

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PLEASE CLIP AND MAIL

**Universal Torah Registry, Inc.**  
70 West 36th Street, Suite 700  
New York, NY 10018

Please send me a registration form for our Torah scrolls



Congregation		Representative	
Name	Name	Tel. (Res.)	
Address	Address	Tel. (Bus.)	
City/State/Zip Code	City/State/Zip Code	Tel. (Res.)	
Telephone	Telephone	Tel. (Res.)	

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**Silversmith Admits He Stored Stolen Torahs**  
By JOHN KELLY ON  
A Jewish silversmith from Manhattan, Brooklyn, has admitted to storing stolen Torah scrolls in his home for years.

**Synagogues in Manhattan, Brooklyn have lost Torahs**  
A Jewish silversmith from Manhattan, Brooklyn, has admitted to storing stolen Torah scrolls in his home for years.

**Stolen Torah scrolls could end up on black market**  
By JAMES KISTEN

# DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN TO YOUR TORAH!

**Torah Registry**

**Indictment in fencing of stolen scrolls**  
Police Lt. George Papp, Waukegan, Ill. Sheriff Raymond and police Sgt. Debra...  
A case involving the loss, recovery and sale of stolen scrolls and a ring leader.

**Torah thefts put synagogues on guard**  
Burglary in Waukegan spotlights security