

# How a Torah Changed My Life Forever

with Sheila Pallay

## Thurs., May 2

### 8:30 PM

### on Zoom

To receive the Zoom link, please register by 3 PM on May 2

<https://www.hpct-cae.org/how-a-torah-changed-my-life-forever/>



## A CZECH TORAH

Rescued from the Shoah and now 250 years old, a Czech Torah sat before her. As she reached out to touch that Torah, Sheila felt a sudden, unanticipated and intense personal connection with generations past. Those who had held in their hands that very Torah. Chanted from it. Kissed it. And carried it around their synagogue with great pride. It was this seminal event that changed her life forever.

Sheila spent 3 1/2 months in the Czech Republic visiting synagogues that once housed the Holocaust Torahs now housed in our synagogues and photographing what is left Judaically after the Shoah. She will share some of her photographs with us.

### The HPCT-CAE Czech Torah Czech Memorial Scroll # MST#854

Our Temple is honored to have in its possession one of the sacred Czech Torah scrolls that was plundered by the Nazis. Our special Torah was acquired by Congregation Anshe Emeth in 1992 and was prominently displayed there until its merger with the Highland Park Conservative Temple and Center in 2006. It is now kept in the Aron Kodesh as a permanent symbol of remembrance within the sanctuary, thus making a symbolic statement that each time the Ark is opened that the memory of the victims is connected to the living Jewish community.

The Czech Memorial Scroll is used only three times during the year. Once during the Torah procession of Kol Nidre, the holiest night of the year, a second time at Yom Hashoa Services during the recitation of congregant's relatives who perished during the Shoah, and a third time during the Sixth Hakafah on Simchat Torah, which the Temple dedicates each year to preserving the memory of the victims. In this way we link the legacy of the first owners of this Torah, a destroyed community of Bohemia and Moravia, to our community, and to the future of the Jewish people symbolized by our congregation.

