

## Introduction Letter

I would like to introduce myself. I am Lois Sobel and Mary Joan Mandel has asked me to be the new Torah Fund chair for Beth El. This is not a new experience for me, as I was Torah Fund chair at our former synagogue in Massachusetts. I believe in its mission to help students at the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) in New York and those around the world. Not having to worry about housing, knowing that there is support behind you, makes the task at hand much easier.

For those of you who do not know what Torah Fund is, let me explain. Many years ago, it was started to support housing for the rabbinical students at the JTS in NY. We work together to strengthen Jewish education and scholarship at Conservative seminaries around the world. The gifts you contribute go towards financial aid, programming and housing aid for all arms of the Seminary. These institutions are the training grounds not only for Conservative rabbis and *chazanim*, but also teachers, scholars and researchers. We do this not just for us, but for future generations to ensure the vitality and vibrancy of all arms of the Seminary. You do not need to be a Sisterhood member to support this noble cause.

How YOU be a part:

- ❖ Write a check in any amount payable to Torah Fund and mail it to me at the address below.
- ❖ Become a Benefactor for \$180, which can be paid in full or in 4 installments. Each year you'll receive a beautiful Benefactors pin that you can wear with pride. You will receive a packet of 5 cards as part of being a Benefactor.
- ❖ Purchase Torah Fund cards. There are cards for every occasion. They are sold separately for \$5 each, or packets of 5 for \$20. I can also send a card on your behalf at a cost of \$5.



This year's pin is *CHESED*, meaning kindness done without reward. Biblical examples include Abraham and Sarah welcoming three strangers, Rebecca offering water to Abraham's servant, and Ruth showing loyalty and kindness to Naomi. This year's pin (it was last year's as well) shows the heart of kindness, enacted to ever-widening circles of generosity from family to the greater world. "May we built a world of kindness"

Lois Sobel

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