



The
Simchat Torah
PROJECT

A PROJECT OF  MIZRACHI

Dancing Through Tears

October 7th was Simchat Torah in Israel. Over 1200 people were murdered and hundreds more were taken hostage. The Jewish people suffered our most horrific day since the Holocaust.

This October will mark the first Simchat Torah since the horrific events of October 7th.

Next October will be
the first Simchat Torah
since the horrific events
of October 7th.

Simchat Torah is a day of joy, celebration, and hakafot-we dance – but Simchat Torah 5785 will also mark the first yearzeit of the 1200 victims of October 7th. How do we, the Jewish people, respond? On Simchat Torah, will we dance? Should we dance? How do we commemorate this poignant and difficult anniversary?

King Solomon offers us guidance in Kohelet, which we will read on Sukkot, “There is a time for everything under the Heavens.... a time to mourn and a time to dance.” This Simchat Torah, with tears in our eyes, we will dance.

Synagogues around the world will open their Aron HaKodesh on Simchat Torah night and take out several Torah scrolls. One, will be adorned with a new me'il (Torah cover), designed to mark the first yearzeit of October 7th. This me'il will be identical to the ones which will be created for 1600 synagogues across the world. This beautifully designed me'il will proclaim that this Torah is dedicated in memory of the 1200 souls and the many soldiers and hostages who have since died, Al Kiddush Hashem.

Each Torah me'il will feature the name of one of the kedoshim embroidered onto it. Communities around the world will dance with these Torah scrolls – thousands of communities, with hundreds of thousands if not millions of Jews being connected through this project.

The Jewish world will be unified, knowing that across the globe, Jews are dancing with Torah scrolls that collectively link us all with the events of October 7th, and inspire us to realize that “Am Yisrael Chai.” Synagogues will encourage their members to come and dance with the newly robed scroll, to remember the fallen, by holding their Torah high, so that they can say: “We will not forget what happened on Simchat Torah last year, but we are determined to dispel the darkness with light.”

This project will symbolize the Jewish People's resilience, our ability to find hope in the face of tragedy. Over 1600 communities across the globe will unite for Israel and the Jewish people.

For more details, please contact
www.TheSimchatTorahProject.org



The Plan

The first stage of the project is to create both a promotional video and a dynamic website which will include all details of the project, including a comprehensive FAQ section. We will begin work on the designs for the unity Torah me'il for every Sefer Torah.

The website will be set up in such a way that we can procure full details of every community, including what type of Torah *me'il* size they want, how many they want, and if they need a Sefer Torah as well. We will require the size of their membership, their rabbi's name, the point person for the project. Staff will be brought on to liaise with the communities once the project goes live.

The minimum cost of the project per community will be \$1,800. This will cover a) the cost of one Torah cover b) all ground costs of the two-day conference and global launch in Israel detailed below (except accommodation) c) materials about the person you are remembering, for display on Simchat Torah.

Yom Hazikaron will be the launch date of the project, giving communities from then till Shavuot to sign up and be a part of this monumental idea. We will start, with our team, to link each individual Torah covers with communities and each community will be given the name of a *Kadosh* who was murdered on October 7th. By Tisha B'Av, the Torah *me'ilim* will be finished, and we will begin preparing for the incredible launch events on Rosh Chodesh Elul – Tuesday September 3rd.

There will be multiple events in every place where massacres occurred. The largest ceremony will be at the Nova music festival site. At each event, the communities, who will have come in for an international conference with keynote speakers on Monday 3rd September, will meet the families of the *kedoshim* in a moving ceremony. Emotionally the me'il of their family of the *kadosh* will be handed to the community leaders.

After the event, all the *me'ilim* will be driven in a convoy to Jerusalem. There, all the communities and all the families will come together for a powerful ceremony, broadcasted worldwide, from the Kotel where the 1,600 *Me'ilim* as well as several newly written Sifrei Torah will be on display.

The evening will be in two parts, first the memorial part, the recitation of prayers and appropriate music. Then we will sound the shofar and the families and communities will dance with the sifrei torah accompanied by some of the best singers and musicians in Israel. The evening will symbolise the project's anthem – **A time to cry, a time to dance.**

This special Torah will be brought out in shuls around the world on Yom Kippur as prayers are said for Israel as well during Yizkor on Shmini Atzeret – the actual Yahrzeit of the *kedoshim*.

Throughout this timeline, video footage will be produced documenting the entire process to be played across the world on Chol Hamoed Succot when we will come together via livestreaming. All the communities will unite as one – before each shul begins to prepare for Simchat Torah.