

**Mekor Habracha/Center City Synagogue**  
**Hachnasat Sefer Torah ~ Sunday October 14, 2008**  
**Rabbi Eliezer Hirsch**

I want to welcome everyone to our dedication ceremony.

First, I'd like to thank all the donors who made it possible for our shul to acquire our 2<sup>nd</sup> Torah. You will find their names in your Hachnasat program, and they will be highlighted in the original artwork that will be displayed in our sanctuary. In particular, I'd like to thank Debora & Oscar Chemerinski, Rachel & Mark Mann, Julia Rafsky, Patty & Charles Leve, Jackie & Michael Estreicher and their family, Rebekah & Sylvan Garfunkel, Marie Risman & Ed Letzer, Miriam & David Morley, Sunnie & Ken Rosenstein, Leeyat Slyper, and an anonymous donor for their generosity.

I'd also like to express my appreciation to Rabbi Katkovsky for finding and fixing the Torah for us and for the other arrangements needed for the torah. Our acquisition of this sefer Torah is a milestone for our shul. Thanks to Rabbi Katkovsky's finishing it in a timely manner, we've been using the Torah for a few months now. But we waited until we moved into our new home before holding our celebration, because this Torah beautifully represents how our shul has grown and how prominent we've become in the Center City Jewish community. When we first founded Mekor 10 years ago, everyone counted us out, but we persevered. This brings to mind Noach -- as I explained in my sermon on Friday night. when everyone gave up on the cursed earth, Noach still believed in its possibilities. We were the underdog, but like Rocky, and the Philadelphia Eagles, and Philadelphia itself, God willing we'll continue to defy the odds and continue to flourish. Mazal tov.