

Temple Beth Israel Centennial Geniza

As we move to using the new machzor (high holiday prayerbook), we must respectfully dispose of the countless copies of Gates of Repentance that we have as a congregation used for the past 35 years.



Bring your Gates of
Repentance and participate in
the Temple Beth Israel
Centennial Geniza!

Date: Sunday,
September 17, 2017

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Temple Beth Israel

What goes into a Geniza?

- ◇ Old PrayerBooks
- ◇ Haggadot (Passover Haggadahs)
- ◇ Torah Scrolls
- ◇ Scrolls from mezuot
- ◇ Posters or Signs with G-d's name

What does NOT go into a Geniza?

- ◇ Old homework
- ◇ Keppot (Yarmulkes)
- ◇ Newspapers



Temple Beth Israel
3601 W Dempster Ave
Skokie, IL 60076
847.675.0951



Geniza FAQ

Question: What is a Geniza?

A Geniza is a repository designated for the storage of worn-out, no longer usable, Hebrew language books and papers containing the written Name of God or on religious topics. This is in keeping with a long-standing Jewish prohibition against simply discarding writings containing the name of God.

Question: What is Jewish custom for a Geniza?

The Talmud (Shabbat 115a) stipulates that all sacred writings (scrolls of Torah, Prophets, and Writings, Prayerbooks, etc.), should be preserved in a place where they cannot be destroyed. Though this idea was originally closely tied to a prohibition from ever erasing God's name, Maimonides ruled that holy books, such as the Talmud and midrash, should be retired to the genizah as well, even though they may not contain God's name. (Mishneh Torah, Hilhot Yesodei HaTorah 6:8)

Question: Why are we doing this Geniza?

As we move to using the new machzor (high holiday prayerbook), we must respectfully dispose of the countless copies of Gates of Repentance that we have as a congregation used for the past 35 years. The last Geniza our community had was in 1990, to bury the Torah scrolls and sacred books that were destroyed in the flood that devastated our building in December 1989.

Question: Where will the Geniza be?

For many years, we have taken our sacred books that required burial up to our camp, Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute, in Oconomowoc where there is a geniza that is opened once every summer for the addition of more materials. Now we will be creating our own TBI geniza on the grounds of our Temple property to give proper burial to our sacred books that will no longer be used.