

Couple donate torah to Beth Israel in V'land

VINELAND — Beth Israel Congregation members Nella and Myer Glick recently loaned a torah, which survived the ravages of the Holocaust, to the synagogue.

"I have always believed that surviving the Holocaust with both my parents and a sister was truly a miracle," Nella Glick said. "A second miracle that my family experienced was the survival of this beautiful Torah in perfect condition."

When World War II started, her family had to leave their home in Poland, including two torahs. Her father, Solomon Distenfeld, asked a neighbor who was a Catholic priest to take care of the family's religious objects.

"When the war was over, and we came out from hiding in the woods surrounding our village, our home was intact and the religious objects were untouched," Nella Glick said.

Her father gave one of the torahs to a friend who was going to Israel, and the

other torah came to the United States with the family. When they moved to Vineland, her father was one of the founders of Agudath Achim, known as the Main Road Synagogue, and this torah had a place of honor there for many years.

"This is truly a family heirloom, going back several generations," Nella said. "My father's wishes were that it continue in the Glick family for future generations. What is so very special about this torah for me personally, is that my father chanted from it during the Sabbath and holidays for many years, and when I look at it, I can still hear his voice."

Beth Israel Rabbi Alfredo Winter said: "We are grateful to Nella and Myer for this great deed, and honored to have this special torah scroll occupy a place in the Holy Ark of our sanctuary. Its donation at the time of our new year when we begin again the cycle of torah readings makes this all the more special."

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