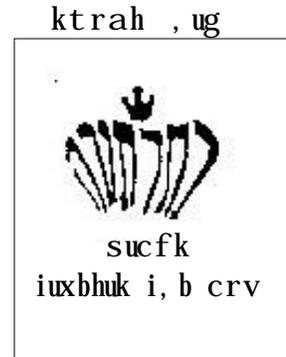


Bayn Gavrah CH #191

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Connecticut Valley Branch

A *Bayn Gavrah* is a cover to place over the Torah between *aliyot* and at the time when *Kaddish* is being recited.

The Creative handcrafts Committee of the Sisterhood of Adath Israel, Middletown, Connecticut, designed and created the *Bayn Gavrah* in honor of our rabbi before he retired. It is used in the small sanctuary where morning services are held. It is hung on the side of the lectern for easy access by the rabbi and where it can also be seen and admired. The cover is 24" square, embroidered on the front in basket weave needlepoint. The back and welting are of velvet.



MATERIALS:

1. For the design itself:

3/4 yard mono canvas, 10 stitches to the inch. Cut a 26" square, which will allow for a 1" seam all around. Do not needlepoint this 1" seam.

Masking tape, to prevent the edges of the canvas from raveling and the wool from snagging.

Yarn -- Persian or Tapestry. Consult a yarn shop for yardage. (Tapestry yarn will wear better.)

Tapestry needles. Consult a yarn shop for size.

1 yard of 60" wide velvet or other material for back and welting.

Cotton cording - 3 1/4 yards to make the welting. You will need 106" of welting (with a seam allowance); x that is, two pieces, each 53" in length, made on the bias, then seamed to make one piece.

Thread to match the material of the back.

3/4 yard of iron-on pellon or Stitch Witchery (or 1½ yards if the width measurement doesn't equal 26")

Waterproof pen for tracing design on canvas.

Needlepoint frame – if desired.

2. For Documentation:

¼ yard hardanger cloth to applique and attach to the back of the cover.

DMC embroidery thread, embroidery needle

3. For hanging the cover to the side of the lectern:

3 gold rings, sewn to the top of the cover

3 gold hooks, screwed into the side of the lectern

DIRECTIONS

Design:

The design, *Keter Torah*, was taken from Creative Handcrafts Packet #2.

1. Tape the edges of the canvas to prevent reeling or snagging.
2. Place the canvas over the design and trace with the waterproof pen.
3. Print the name of the congregation on the top of the canvas (Adath Israel Sisterhood also wrote “In honor of Rabbi Nathan Levinson” at the bottom of the cover). We used Hebrew block form letters 1" high taken from the Women’s League “*Aleph Bet Variations*” booklet.
4. Needlepoint the design in basket weave stitch. We kept the color and design simple and used coordinated colors to match our Torah mantles and the decor of the pulpit. We chose the following colors:
Gold for background
Light blue for *Keter Torah*
Royal blue for crown, lettering and velvet for back
5. When the needlework is completed, have the canvas professionally cleaned and blocked.
6. Line the canvas with iron-on pellon to keep it from shifting out of shape.

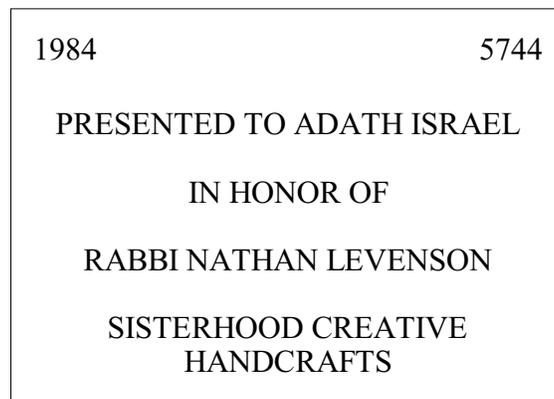
Assembly

1. Place the cord in the center of the bias cut velvet (1½” wide). Fold the velvet over the cord and pin in place. Stitch close to the cord along the length. Seam the two bias strips together to make one strip. There will be two seams in the finished piece.
2. To attach: with the welting facing the front side of the needlepoint, baste the welting *very close* to the edge of the needlepoint.

3. Then, with the right sides together (with the cording in the center), stitch a seam along three sides. Repeat this seam, making sure no canvas is showing from the right side. Make sure that the velvet is sewn close to the welting.
4. Remove the masking tape from the edge of the canvas. Turn the unembroidered margin toward the needlepoint and sew loosely in place with a blunt needle and yarn, making sure not to stitch through to the front.
5. Fold the raw edges of the fourth side opening to the inside and then slip stitch.

Documentation:

On hardanger cloth 8" x 4" , we embroidered the following in backstitch, and then applied it to the velvet on the back:



POSTSCRIPT:

The Creative Handcrafts group of the Sisterhood Adath Israel Synagogue now plans to make two more *Bayn Gavrah* squares for the sanctuary. One will be in white for the High Holy Days and the other for Shabbat services. This dedicated group of women has been meeting weekly for over 20 years. May they continue to flourish and produce beautiful works!