



TEMPLE ALIYAH

CREATING COMMUNITY • CELEBRATING TRADITION

Welcome to Temple Aliyah's Israel Keshet Committee



Photo: "View from Masada – Israel Flag" by Randall Niles

Keshet Means Connection

ברוכים הבאים ל"קשר"

Why Israel Keshet?

Keshet means Connection.

In the early 2000s, a group of Temple Aliyah members established the Israel Keshet Committee to help hundreds of Argentinian families who made *aliyah* with few assets to their names. Keshet connected with Israeli clothing manufacturers and arranged for the companies to donate clothing to the free shop in Kiryat Bialik.

A short time later, Israel Keshet focused its efforts on helping survivors and families of victims of the many acts of terror occurring in the Haifa at the time by collecting funds to send directly to the families. Building upon these successes, Keshet expanded its mission, developing a financial assistance program for individuals in need and small, grassroots Israeli organizations whose mission is in accordance with the values of Temple Aliyah. Since then, Israel Keshet has fostered unique opportunities for members of the Temple Aliyah community to connect with Israel, Israelis, and Israeli culture.

Keshet means Philanthropy.

Since its early days, Keshet has connected with and supported Israelis and Israeli communities in need. To support individuals in need in Israel, Keshet collects and contributes funds to social impact organizations that help those less fortunate. Keshet vets all recipients (generally through an on-site visit by members of the committee) and provides financial support to organizations whose principles are in general accord with the values of Temple Aliyah.

Keshet means Engagement.

Keshet hosts lectures, educational series, and cultural exchange events to help our congregation engage with contemporary Israel in multiple and varied ways.

Keshet means You!

Please come to Keshet events, help host an event, join the Keshet Committee, and support Keshet's mission by [making a contribution](#) designated for Israel Keshet.

Kesher Appeal

Kesher relies exclusively on donations from members of our community - YOU – for the money it donates to small, often struggling, organizations that seek to help those less fortunate in Israel and beyond. [To donate, go to the community page on the Temple Aliyah website.](#) And, please feel free to suggest any organizations that we should support.

Donating to Social Justice Organizations



[Ahava Children and Youth Village](#) **אהבה** Ahava is a residential program for children removed from dysfunctional homes, where children live in “family units” with adults who act like “parents”. Kesher has donated to their numerous after school programs, and has assisted with Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparations through Masorti Kehila in Kiryat Bialik.



[Erim b'Laila](#) **ערים בלילה** Translated as “Awake at Night”, this organization serves individuals suffering from post-traumatic stress from war and other causes, addressing their medical needs and providing emotional support with individual and group sessions and outings throughout the year.

[Jeremy's Circle](#) Providing support programs to families with a member suffering from cancer, Jeremy's Circle plans outings and get-togethers, along with mentoring, for children who are learning to cope with cancer in their immediate families.



[Jordan River Village](#) Based on the model of Paul Newman's Hole in the Wall Camps, JRV enriches the lives of hundreds of children suffering from serious illnesses by giving them memorable, medically sound, and safe camping experiences at no charge.





Leket Israel This unique food recovery program serves as Israel's most prominent food Bank, supplying food to over 195 charitable organizations throughout Israel and servicing thousands of Israelis. Leket

coordinates over 52,000 volunteers who pick produce at participating farms, collect surplus food from manufacturers, collect hot meals from corporate dining facilities, and distribute the food all over Israel. Volunteers also prepare sandwiches for school children from low-income homes, deliver food to soup kitchens, and assemble monthly food packages to lone soldiers (i.e., those with no family in Israel) who are serving in the IDF.

New England Friends of the IDF IMPACT! Scholarship.

Kesher has sponsored several Impact Scholars over the years who are former IDF combat soldiers from low-income families. These



four-year scholarships help support the Scholars as they attend institutions of higher education. All IMPACT! Scholars keep in touch with Temple Aliyah throughout the year outlining their family situation, their studies, and where they are volunteering.

Muzot High School of the Arts. Established in September 2005 in

Old Jaffa, Tel-Aviv. The school provides a unique learning environment for youth at risk. Through its arts-focused curriculum,

Muzot offers students who have had struggles adjusting to other



schools the chance to develop their individual abilities and gain the confidence they need to flourish. Muzot's safe and supportive environment ensures that each student is ready, not only for the matriculation exams, but for a successful future beyond the classroom.

Donating to Masorti-Sponsored Social Work

Masorti is Israel's Branch of the Conservative Movement and, like in the United States, each synagogue is responsible for its own fundraising.

Masorti Congregations Netzach Israel. Ashkelon and Eshel Avraham, Beersheva. Keshet donated funds for safety projects: to create indoor facilities and shatter proof windows for their preschool programs.

Masorti Congregation of Chemdat Yamim, Kiryat Bialik. Keshet donated funds for educating boys and girls from Ahava Children's Village in honor and preparation for their B'nei Mitzvah.

Masorti Congregation of Havurat Tel Aviv. Keshet donated funds to support a small, developing egalitarian minyan in Tel Aviv.

NOAM. An acronym for No'ar Masorti, Masorti Youth, Noam is a nation-wide Israeli Masorti youth movement that unites 10 to 18 year olds from the Masorti movement with children from Orthodox, Reform, and secular homes. At NOAM's 16 branches, some 2,500 young Israelis experience and learn the meaning of pluralism and tolerance through a wide array of special programming. Funds were donated to their summer camp programs throughout Israel.

Donating and Helping Families Who Were Victims of Terror

The Israel Keshet Committee continues to maintain “keshet” (connection) with our “adopted” individuals and families who are victims of terror, ensuring that they know Temple Aliyah continues to care about them.

HAIFA FAMILY WHO LOST A FAMILY MEMBER IN 2003 BUS BOMBING. Maintaining contact with the family of 20-year-old Meital who was murdered in a Haifa bus bombing in April 2003.

HAIFA FAMILY WHO LOST TWO FAMILY MEMBERS IN 2002 RESTAURANT BOMBING. Maintaining contact with a family whose members Shimon (age 53) and Adi (age 17) were murdered at the horrific bombing at the Matza Restaurant on March 31, 2002.

Planning a Visit to Israel?



Kesher can help you! Make your trip more meaningful by visiting one of the organizations we support. We can even help you plan a volunteer opportunity.

Want to Get Involved?

Join our Kesher committee or contribute! Give us your thoughts! For more information, contact one of the co-chairs, Karen Shapiro, karenshapiro50@yahoo.com or Lior Barnoon, lior.barnoon@templealiyah.com.