

# Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel

**\$360 First-Year Membership for Families**

**\$180 First-Year Membership for Individuals**

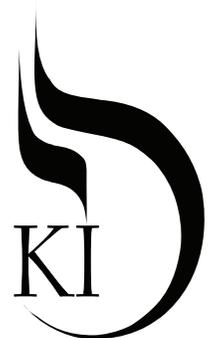
## Join Us Today



We invite you to partake in Keneseth Israel's first-year membership opportunity. Enjoy complimentary first year Brotherhood and Women of KI memberships.

While we embrace many modern traditions, we work hard to keep the core and essence of Jewish practice. Keneseth Israel is a diverse community representing a broad constituency of nearly 1,000 families. We happily welcome, accept and foster relationships with interfaith and LGBTQ families.

For information on membership, please contact:  
Jaimie Shmelzer, Membership Engagement Director  
Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel  
215.887.8700 x 128  
[JShmelzer@KenesethIsrael.org](mailto:JShmelzer@KenesethIsrael.org)



This does not include building fees or JQuest B'Yachad fees.



REFORM CONGREGATION  
KENESETH ISRAEL  
FOUNDED 1847  
ELKINS PARK

Dear Prospective Member,

We are thrilled that you are thinking of joining KI!

By joining, you will be inspired and enlightened as a part of our warm community. We know that you will be able to feel the modern excitement we bring to our historical tradition, and we are confident that we will succeed in our mission to provide an individualized, personal relationship with the Jewish faith. This packet provides a narrative about the wide range of programming that we offer, but ultimately we are about the people that are a part of KI. We create meaningful connections through study, prayer and engagement opportunities.

We are very interested in talking with you about becoming a part of the KI family. Please call the office at (215) 887-8700, or email [briissinger@kenesethisrael.org](mailto:briissinger@kenesethisrael.org) or [jshmelzer@kenesethisrael.org](mailto:jshmelzer@kenesethisrael.org) if you are interested in setting up a tour, or if you have questions.

Welcome to KI!

Brian D. Rissinger  
Executive Director

Jaimie Shmelzer  
Membership Engagement Director

Senior Rabbi  
Lance J. Sussman, Ph.D., D.D.

Cantor  
Amy E. Levy, M.S.M.

Rabbi-Educator  
Stacy Eskovitz Rigler, MAJE

Executive Director  
Brian D. Rissinger

Director of  
Early Childhood Education  
Liz Z. Sussman, M.Ed.

Director of  
Membership Engagement  
Jaimie Abt Shmelzer

President  
Evonne Jonas Kruger

First Vice President  
Janice Schwartz-Donahue

Vice Presidents  
James L. Rosenthal  
Denise Yarnoff Soloff

Secretary  
Donna Bleznak Keller

Assistant Secretary  
Katen Langsfeld

Treasurer  
Robert B. Saltzburg

Associate Treasurer  
Andrew F. Altman

Honorary Presidents  
Joyce Fishbein

Hon. Jan E. DuBois

Miriam Finkel

Connie Kay

E. Harris Baum

Norma Meshkov

Karen L. Sirota

Carey S. Roseman

Andrew J. Flame

Peter J. Soloff

Richard D. Weiss

Arnold B. Meshkov

Rabbi Emeritus  
Simeon J. Maslin, D. Min., D.D.

Cantor Emeritus  
Richard Allen

Executive Director Emeritus  
William Ferstenfeld, F.T.A.



Activities  
Programs &  
**EVENTS**  
KENESETH ISRAEL

Information about all of our activities is available on our website,  
in our monthly Bulletin, Shalom KI, or from our weekly KI Newsletter, eKI.



*Educational and Community Groups*

**ADULT EDUCATION** – From special sermon series to weekly Torah study and discussion groups, KI is a synagogue of intellectual exploration. Our high quality Adult Education program is comprised of over 70 sessions annually.

**ISRAEL** – The Israel Committee, focused on developing support for Israel in our congregation, involves our synagogue in Pro-Israel community events and connects us to national efforts on behalf of the Jewish State.

**WOMEN OF KI/SISTERHOOD** – Coming together to serve KI, the women of Sisterhood support our schools and youth groups, host Interfaith programs, run the KI Mitzvah garden and operate the KI Gift Shop and Gallery.

**MEN OF REFORM JUDAISM/BROTHERHOOD** – The Brotherhood engages in projects and activities that provide meaningful service to the congregation, and enables members of Brotherhood to experience greater identity, involvement, and inspiration.

**MEYERS LIBRARY** – Offering the latest fiction books, a rich collection of the Judaica titles for adults and children, and author events and book reviews, Meyers library is accredited by the Association of Jewish Libraries.

**SOCIAL ACTION** – One of KI's seven core values is *Tikkun Olam*, repairing the world. We focus on social justice through programs both within KI and extending them into the broader community, concentrating on food insecurity and education through a variety of community-based, hands-on efforts.



*One of the best parts of KI is its commitment to first-rate Arts and Cultural Events. No where else can you find a synagogue with a museum and sacred and secular music programs of such talent and quality, all right in Elkins Park.*



**SACRED MUSIC PROGRAM** – Under the guidance of our Cantor, sacred music is designed to enhance the religious experience at KI. At the core of worship, our music is respectful of tradition and, at the same time, participatory and heartwarming. Our congregants meet regularly, enhancing our communal worship through adult and children’s choirs.

**MUSIC ARTS PROGRAM** – The Music Arts committee is committed to presenting world-class talent in musical performances that enhance the appreciation of music of all kinds, and that bring the joy of music to our synagogue. Music Arts sponsors several major concerts every year.

**THE TEMPLE JUDEA MUSEUM AT KI** – KI is one of only a few synagogues in this country with a museum. The Temple Judea Museum is led by director/curator Rita Poley. An active, original exhibition schedule showcases both historic and contemporary collections drawn from the more than 4,000 treasured objects in the museum’s permanent collection, as well as from exceptional loaned works. The museum’s Artists’ Collaborative, the new Temple Judea Memorial Judaica showcase, and the pre-school Arts Alive Gallery are all essential parts of the museum experience.



*One of the benefits of membership at KI is the use of our facilities and clergy at life cycle events. Friday night services start at 8:00 PM (7:00 PM third Friday of each month). Weekly Saturday morning Torah study begins at 9:00 AM in the Meyers Library. Worship is at 10:30 AM and is either a Bar/Bat Mitzvah service or a synagogue Minyan.*

## *Life cycle events and services include*

**RECEIVING A JEWISH NAME/BABY BLESSINGS** – Welcome your child into the Judaic tradition by choosing a Hebrew name. Ceremonies can be conducted in your home, at the synagogue, or at another location.

**B'NAI MITZVAH** – We recognize the importance of Bar & Bat Mitzvah as a major family event; we work with each family to create a unique and memorable service.

**CONFIRMATION** – Our students enjoy continuing their Jewish education through 10th grade, when they are confirmed.

**CONVERSION** – Our clergy are eager to meet with individuals who are considering becoming members of the Jewish faith.

**WEDDINGS** – KI is the perfect space for a couple to celebrate their commitment to each other and the Jewish faith. Our clergy provide premarital counseling as well as an individual approach to a traditional Jewish wedding both in or out of the synagogue.

**HOSPITAL VISITS AND PASTORAL CARE** – From broken limbs to broken hearts, KI clergy and the Caring Community organization regularly reach out to members in need. Our cantor supervises all pastoral care including spiritual counseling, visits to the sick, and meals or phone calls to those in need.

**FUNERALS, SHIVA SERVICES AND UNVEILINGS** – At those moments when you need us most, we are here for you. KI clergy help you honor the memory of your loved one while trained lay leaders represent our community to lead shiva services.



*“My house shall be a house of prayer for all People” – Isaiah*  
Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel warmly welcomes all families regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or religious background to be part of our family.



## *Frequently asked Questions*

### **WHO CAN BECOME A MEMBER OF KI? ARE MY CHILDREN CONSIDERED JEWISH?**

Anyone. KI is an inclusive synagogue. Jews and non-Jews alike are welcome to join as members. Children being raised as Jews are accepted as Jewish at KI.

### **DOES KI CLERGY OFFICIATE AT MARRIAGES OF INTERFAITH COUPLES?**

Yes, our clergy welcomes interfaith couples who choose to live a Jewish life into our synagogue, and regularly officiate at Jewish ceremonies for interfaith couples.

### **CAN MY NON-JEWISH FAMILY MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN A BAR OR BAT MITZVAH SERVICE AT KI?**

Yes, all family members can participate in our life cycle events, including Bar and Bat Mitzvah. Non-Jewish family members are invited to participate on the Bimah with their child/grandchild. We have a number of English readings and honors for non-Jewish family members.

### **I WAS RAISED IN A MORE TRADITIONAL SYNAGOGUE WILL I BE COMFORTABLE AT KI?**

Yes, while we embrace many modern traditions we work hard to keep the core and essence of Jewish practice. We welcome you to speak with our clergy about the innovations made by our synagogue and their relationship with traditional Judaism.

### **IS KI A WELCOMING PLACE FOR THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY?**

Yes, our clergy gladly officiates Jewish ceremonies for the LGBTQ community, and opens the doors to our synagogue, sanctuary and chapel for everyone.





# Financial INFORMATION

KENESETH ISRAEL

“In Ein Kemach...Ein Torah”

Without sustenance there can be no Torah – The Talmud

Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel relies on the support and generosity of its members to keep our synagogue strong.



## WHY DOES IT COST SO MUCH TO BELONG TO A SYNAGOGUE?

KI has an annual budget of \$2,866,226 devoted to the preschool, religious school, building and maintenance, administration, Union for Reform Judaism dues, and compensation for staff. We work hard to minimize our costs without diminishing the services we provide. Still we spend \$3,372 annually per household and \$1,566 annual per student in our religious school and rely on our members generosity to support our budget.

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENT

We have developed *membership categories* that reflect family structure and stage of life. You can also choose to be a Rabbi’s Circle Member.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	REGULAR MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENT	RABBI’S CIRCLE MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENT —					
	Annual Donation	OR Please consider a gift that is larger than the regular commitment to help support those in financial need. Rabbi Circle Members will receive public recognition and be invited to annual events.					
		Bracha	Shalom	Mitzvah	Keter	Tefillah	Ner Tamid
Couple/Family	\$2,975	\$3,450	\$3,850	\$4,350	\$5,250	\$7,500	\$10,000
Couple/Family 30-35	\$800	\$925	\$1,025	\$1,175	\$1,400	\$2,000	\$2,700
Couple under 30	\$500	\$600	\$650	\$750	\$880	\$1,250	\$1,500
Single	\$1,800	\$2,325	\$2,625	\$3,200	\$4,300	\$4,600	\$6,050
Single 30-35	\$600	\$700	\$775	\$875	\$1,050	\$1,500	\$2,000
Single Under 30	\$250	\$300	\$325	\$375	\$450	\$650	\$850
Associate Couple	\$1,500	\$1,750	\$1,950	\$2,200	\$2,650	\$3,800	\$5,000
Associate Single	\$875	\$1,000	\$1,125	\$1,275	\$1,540	\$2,200	\$3,000

# Additional Contributions, Tuition Fees & Payment Options

**JQUEST/QUEST NOAR (RELIGIOUS SCHOOL)** - Tuition helps to offset the cost of our education program for grades k-10.

## JQUEST/QUEST NOAR TUITION

### Kindergarten

*(1 day a week)*

**\$485 per year**

### First Grade

*(1 day a week)*

**\$725 per year**

### Second-Sixth Grades

*(2 days a week)*

**\$1000 per year**

### Seventh-Tenth Grades

*(1 day a week and dinner)*

**\$760 per year**

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE** — Financial assistance is available upon request in a confidential manner. KI is committed to providing a spiritual home for all, regardless of income. Please contact the administrative office at 215-887-8700 for more information.

## VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

### **MEN OF REFORM JUDAISM - \$40**

Providing Shabbat folders, gifts to B'nai Mitzvah, and ongoing renovation of the Rose Garden

### **WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM - \$40**

Providing Shabbat flowers, gifts to B'nai Mitzvah, our community garden and the KI gift shop

### **ASSOCIATION OF REFORM ZIONISTS OF AMERICA (ARZA) - \$50**

Providing support to the Reform Movement in Israel and advocating for worldwide Reform Judaism

### **KING DAVID HARP SOCIETY - \$36**

Your dues/contributions to the KDHS help support KI's legacy of Jewish music and our musical programming.

### **TEMPLE JUDEA MUSEUM - \$36 | \$90 | \$180**

Contributions by Friends of the Museum support the exhibits and Museum programs throughout the year. Friends of the Museum are invited to special opening receptions for each exhibit.

### **ADULT EDUCATION - \$60**

Tuition payment covers admission to all Adult Education opportunities during the year.

**FOR QUESTIONS, CONCERNS, AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
CONTACT HELENE WAGMAN, ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE OR  
BRIAN RISSINGER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT 215-887-8700 .**



*For over fifty years, Keneseth Israel's preschool and infant center have been preparing toddlers for Kindergarten and beyond. Our wonderful community not only instills a love of learning from an early age, but also good values, from Tikkum Olam (Repairing the World) to Chesed (Loving Kindness), which filter from school into adulthood.*

## *Richard E. Rudolph Jr. Preschool*

The Richard E. Rudolph, Jr., Preschool is a synagogue-based program which was named in memory of the son of its original benefactor. We are committed to providing quality early childhood education, both Judaic and secular. Our mission is to promote self esteem while enhancing emotional, social and cognitive development in a safe, fun, nurturing and respectful environment. In addition, an important role of the preschool is to facilitate a close and supportive community of families, teachers and Rabbinic staff as we embrace Jewish traditions and values.

The PA State licensed Richard E. Rudolph Jr. Preschool provides care from infants to pre-K aged children. Our inclusive teaching style is hands-on, child-centered, and experiential. Our qualified teaching staff understands the importance of meeting the PA Learning Standards, but also recognizes that each child has an individual learning style with varied interests. We ensure that each child feels loved, confident and safe while in a class that is stimulating and developmentally appropriate.

The Richard E. Rudolph Jr. Preschool and Infant Center is the only facility in the area with an outdoor learning classroom and a natural Playscape that is accessible year round, regardless of weather. On a weekly basis, children learn through play, music, cooking, reading, drama and much more.

We are currently a Keystone Stars 3 school which means we participate in this state initiative of the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) to improve, support, and recognize the continuous quality improvement efforts of early learning programs in Pennsylvania. Our Center is licensed by the Department of Public Welfare.

**\*\***In recognition of the financial support our preschool families give to the synagogue we are delighted to offer Richard E. Rudolf Jr. preschool families free membership until their oldest child reaches third grade.



Education  
**INFORMATION**  
KENESETH ISRAEL

*JQuest B'Yachad is known throughout the country as a leading model of Jewish education.*

**JQUEST B'YACHAD** – JQuest B'Yachad is our Jewish educational program for students in grades K-6. At JQuest B'Yachad kids bring Jewish learning to life! The learning is student centered encouraging students to go on a Quest to learn about their Jewish identities. The program features:

- Hands-on projects that teach about Jewish history, culture and values
- Hebrew taught through technology and movement
- Concepts of God and Spirituality taught through the arts
- A focus on fun, friendship and community
- K-6 students meet Sundays from 9:15 a.m. to noon

On Tuesdays, second to sixth grade students in JQuest B'Yachad meet with our neighboring synagogues, Adath Jeshurun and Beth Sholom, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to expand their circle of friends and their understanding of the larger Jewish community.

**QUEST NOAR** – Quest Noar is our teen education program. We help teens bring Jewish learning to life by offering electives, such as cooking, yoga, current events and leadership classes, where teens experience living as a Jewish adult. The second half of the evening our teens take a core class where they are able to focus on practical Jewish knowledge from a more mature perspective. Classes are “seminar style” featuring discussions, debates, media clips, and online research. In Quest Noar we help teens on their quest to live Jewishly while providing them with a space where trusted Jewish adults will spend time listening to them, caring about them, and supporting them.