



REFORM CONGREGATION KENESETH ISRAEL



Our First Year Membership Incentive provides you the opportunity to determine the amount of your membership contribution



We are committed to maintaining a high level of quality programming and services. We are dependent on the generosity of our members. This generosity allows us to be flexible when members are experiencing hardships without compromising the financial needs of the congregation.



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 700 families. We happily welcome, accept and foster relationships with interfaith and LGBTQ+ families.



**For Information on membership, please contact: Jaimie Shmelzer, Membership Chair
Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel ~ 215-887-8700 ~ jshmelzer@kenesethisrael.org**



For nearly Seventy 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 a Keystone Stars 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. Rudolph Jr. preschool families free membership until their oldest child reaches third grade.**



JQuest is known throughout the country as a leading model of Jewish education.

JQUEST – JQuest is our Jewish educational program for students in grades K-6. At JQuest, 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 meets on Sundays from 9:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

On Tuesdays, fourth to sixth grade students in JQuest meet from 4:45 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. on Zoom expand their understanding of the Hebrew language

- Visit kenesethisrael.org/jquest for more information.

QUEST NOAR – Quest Noar is our teen education program for students in grades 7-10 at KI. We help teens bring Jewish learning to life by offering fun and engaging learning opportunities. On Tuesday evenings, students will take a core class where they are able to focus on practical Jewish knowledge from a more mature perspective than in their previous years of learning. Quest Noar meets from 6:15-7:45 p.m., including social games in our “shuk.” Classes will also include fun electives such as cooking, yoga, current events and leadership. 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. Visit kenesethisrael.org/quest-noar for more information.



Activities Programs & **EVENTS**

KENESETH ISRAEL

*Information about all of our activities is available on our website,
or from our weekly KI Newsletter, eKI.*



Educational and Affinity 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.

C2C – Commitment to Community – Join us for programming designed to engage empty nesters.

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP – Allows families affected by cancer to come together to learn, listen, and help one another. The group is warm, loving and very helpful for families navigating a trying chapter in their lives.

HAMOTZI / SOCIAL ACTION – Keneseth Israel is heavily involved in Social Action. We firmly believe in Tikkun Olam, "Repairing the World." We provide ample opportunity to get involved and make a positive impact, not only within the Jewish community but also within our local, and global communities.

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.

JEWS OF COLOR – This affinity group brings together congregants and their families to discuss what it means to inhabit multiple minority identities at once. We look at texts, discuss, socialize, and build community.

KITCHEN – In *The Kltchen* we are cooking-up wellness with programs to explore mind-body connections, food as medicine and food for the soul. You can pull-up a chair at our Kitchen Table to create community chatting with old friends and making new ones.



Activities
Programs &
EVENTS
KENESETH ISRAEL

Educational and Affinity Groups

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

QUEER KI – Is a wonderful affinity group for LGBTQ congregants and families. It is open to everyone, especially allies. This remarkable group offers support, learning, discussion, socializing and fun.

RABBI'S ROUND TABLE – Born after the October 7th tragedy, is a place for people to process current events with Rabbi David. It is a reliable source of solace, perspective, comfort and community building.

TALMUD CLASS – This monthly gathering, open to all levels, is a place for us to explore age-old texts and apply them to life's messy realities today. The pace is slow and gradual and the group is highly inclusive and supportive.

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.

WRITERS COLLABORATIVE – Is a place for writers and burgeoning writers to come together to help and support each other. We take part in writing exercises, share our work with each other, support each other and grow together.



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 \$5,181,261 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.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENT

We have developed *membership categories* that reflect family structure and stage of life.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENT CATEGORIES**

Couple/Family	\$3,300
Single	\$1,950
Associate Member (pp)*	\$900
Single/Couple 30-35	\$400/\$800
Single/Couple under 30	\$180/\$360
L'Dor V'Dor***	

*Associate membership is for those who live outside the Delaware Valley of PA

**If you are experiencing hardship or financial challenges please contact Brian Rissinger at 215-887-8700 to discuss special membership contribution arrangements.

***L'Dor V'Dor membership is for those young adults (26-29) of our members based on a tiered giving plan.

RABBIS' CIRCLE MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENT

You can additionally choose to be a Rabbis' Circle Member. Please consider a gift that is larger than the regular commitment to help support those in financial need. Rabbi's Circle Members will receive public recognition and be invited to special annual events.

Bracha	\$700
Mitzvah	\$1,500
Tefillah	\$4,500
Ner Tamid	\$7,000

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.

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

ADULT EDUCATION TUITION - \$75 per person

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

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 SUPPORTER - \$36

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

TEMPLE JUDEA MUSEUM FRIEND - \$50 | \$100 | \$200

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.

WOMEN OF KI ANNUAL DUES - \$40

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

**FOR QUESTIONS, CONCERNS, AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
CONTACT PAMELA SALTZBURG, ACCOUNTING & DEVELOPMENT OR
BRIAN RISSINGER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT 215-887-8700.**

JQUEST/QUEST NOAR TUITION

Kindergarten-Third Grade

(1 day a week)

\$500 per year

Fourth-Sixth Grade

(2 days a week)

\$1,120 per year

Seventh-Ninth Grade

(1 day a week and dinner)

\$880 per year

Tenth Grade

(1 day a week and dinner)

\$1,950

**(Includes Confirmation Fee
+ RAC Trip)**



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 – 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 6,000 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 program are all essential parts of the museum experience.



Among the many benefits of membership is access to our clergy for your lifecycle events, as well as a myriad of daily activities.

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 – Education for our teens continues beyond Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Our 10th Grade students enjoy exploring what being a Jewish adult means in a Reform Jewish community 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.

PASTORAL CARE AND HOSPITAL VISITS – KI clergy and the Caring Community organization regularly reach out to members in need. The clergy office coordinates 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?

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.

IS KI A WELCOMING PLACE FOR THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY?

Yes, our clergy gladly officiate Jewish ceremonies for the LGBTQ+ community, and the doors to our synagogue, sanctuary and chapel are open for everyone.

DOES KI CLERGY OFFICIATE AT MARRIAGES OF INTERFAITH COUPLES?

Yes, our clergy regularly officiate at Jewish ceremonies for interfaith couples and welcome those families who choose to live a Jewish life.

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?

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 innovations made by our synagogue and their relationship to traditional Judaism.



Membership INFORMATION

KENESETH ISRAEL

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO:

REFORM CONGREGATION KENESETH ISRAEL
8339 OLD YORK ROAD, ELKINS PARK, PA 19027
SCAN TO: CONTACT@KENESETHISRAEL.ORG

VISIT US: WWW.KENESETHISRAEL.ORG

CALL US: 215.887.8700

	ADULT #1	ADULT #2
Title	Mr./Mrs./Ms./Dr.	Mr./Mrs./Ms./Dr
Name	_____	_____
Nickname	_____	_____
Address	_____	_____
Contact Info	(Home) _____ (Cell) _____ (Email) _____	(Home) _____ (Cell) _____ (Email) _____
If Married	Anniversary Date: ____/____/____	
Hebrew Name	_____	_____
Birth Date	_____	_____
Occupation	_____	_____
Employer	_____	_____
Work Phone	_____	_____
Are you a returning member of KI? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, approximate dates: _____		

CHILDREN UNDER AGE 26

	CHILD #1	CHILD #2	CHILD #3
First/Last name	_____	_____	_____
Gender	_____	_____	_____
Hebrew name	_____	_____	_____
Date of birth	_____	_____	_____
Grade	_____	_____	_____
School or University	_____	_____	_____
<i>If applicable:</i>			
Bar/Bat Mitzvah date	_____	_____	_____
Confirmation date	_____	_____	_____

RELIGIOUS HISTORY

Religious Movement in which you were raised; (include name of synagogue if applicable)

ADULT #1

ADULT#2

If not raised in the Jewish Tradition

☐ Jewish by choice/date of conversion

☐ Jewish by choice/date of conversion

☐ Other Religious Affiliation

☐ Other Religious Affiliation

What attracted you to Keneseth Israel?

What will make your experience at KI meaningful?

RELATIVES AFFILIATED WITH KI

Relatives affiliated with KI

YAHRZEIT RECORD

KI reads the names of its member's deceased loved ones on their Yahrzeit. Please list the names to be read annually.

Relative of	Name of deceased	Relationship	Date of death (MM/DD/YY)

Would you like the synagogue to use a ☐ secular or ☐ Hebrew calendar date to memorialize your loved ones?

For questions or an individual appointment to help with this form, contact Brian Rissinger at 215.887.8700.

For office use only:

Date Received: ___/___/___

Employee Initials: _____

Database entry date: ___/___/___

Employee Initials: _____



Annual Membership COMMITMENT

KENESETH ISRAEL

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CALL US: 215.887.8700

PLEASE REFER TO THE ENCLOSED FINANCIAL INFORMATION TO COMPLETE THIS FORM

Membership Contribution \$ _____

Religious School Tuition

Child's name _____ \$ _____

Child's name _____ \$ _____

I/WE WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT THESE AUXILIARY GROUPS

Adult Education Tuition (per person) \$75 _____ \$ _____

Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA) \$50 _____ \$ _____

Holy Day Appeal (at your discretion) \$ _____ \$ _____

JQuest/Quest Noar (Religious School) \$500 _____ \$ _____

King David Harp Society Supporter \$36 _____ \$ _____

Preschool Supporter \$500 _____ \$ _____

Temple Judea Museum Friend \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$200 _____ \$ _____

Women of KI Annual Dues \$40 _____ \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

☐ I/We will pay the full annual commitment now.

☐ I/We will pay 2 equal installments with full payment by June 30th.

☐ I/We will pay in monthly installments with full payment by June 30th.

☐ Enclosed is a check made payable to Keneseth Israel.

☐ For information on payment through Securities Donations, please contact the Executive Director's Office at 215-887-8700.

☐ I/We will be paying with a ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard. And understand there will be a 3% contribution to offset credit card fees.

☐ ACH Withdrawal

Card number _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV2# _____

Name on card _____

☐ I/We authorize my credit card to be billed in accordance with the option selected above.

At any time, a member may ask that the Annual Membership Commitment be modified because of financial challenges. Please contact the Executive Director to make arrangements. All arrangements are confidential.

I/We hereby make application for membership at Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel.

Member Signature _____ Date _____

Welcome to KI!