

Ohel Yakov

Organizzazione Profughi Ebrei in Italia

הנהלת אהל יעקב
ע"פ משרד הפליטים בארץ ישראל
ב"ח

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B"H

In 1945, immediately after the war, Mr. Adolfo Zippel and his three brothers founded the Ohel Yaakov Center and Synagogue in Milan, at Via Cellini 2. The Ohel Yaakov Center became a central place of study and prayer, as well as a temporary refuge for the many Jews who were trying to start their lives anew while keeping their traditions.

Ohel Yaakov quickly became a vital 'port of call' to the thousands of Jews who had been displaced after the most tragic persecution of all times. There they found a warm and caring hand which gave them the assistance they needed, helping them begin anew, whether in Milan itself or on other shores. It also was a landmark must-stop-over location for the many travellers who passed by Milan, whether for business purposes or otherwise - at Ohel Yaakov they always found a helping hand.

Now - after nearly 60 years, the Ohel Yaakov center is still vibrant and continues to play an important role for world Jewry: prayer, study, assistance and warmth have remained its primary activities, passed on by the founding fathers to their sons and grandsons.

For the past 60 years, every morning, afternoon and evening, tens of people have met and meet at Ohel Yaakov to pray. At the end of each prayer, the 6 million Jews who were killed during the Holocaust are remembered with the study of Mishna and the recitation of Kaddish. Those shul-goers who are needy, are then offered a free lunch or dinner.

The Ohel Yaakov center was self-financed throughout its nearly 60 years of operation, through the generosity of its founders initially and subsequently by its congregants. However recent economic difficulties, the inflation, a general increase of price in real estate and the costs for security, which have become crucial these past three years, have imperilled our chance at self-financing. There is also urgent need to redo the restrooms, the electrical and aeration system.

The Ohel Yaakov center would like to continue to maintain and expand its existing

Social and Humanitarian programs:

- social services for the elderly including home delivered meals to those too elderly or infirm to come to the kitchen.
- Delivery of kosher meals to the hospitals and prisons, as well as legal and medical assistance when necessary.
- Giving out Mishloach Manot on Purim and Matzot on Pesach, also organizing Seders in distant and almost forgotten Italian communities.
- Legal and logistical assistance to immigrants and/or travellers who need immediate help in resolving their status.
- Burial assistance is provided and expenses are covered for those who cannot afford to cover the costs, the emotional and social needs of living relatives are also taken care of.

Another one of the many projects in the plans is the founding of an:

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Educational and Memorial Project

Some survivors would like to bring a long-dreamt of project to fruition, namely: to memorialize one of the many tragic events which occurred during the war: 90 young Jewish girls were selected because of their looks to provide certain services to the German Gestapo troops. When the girls realized what was going to happen to them, they decided to kill themselves rather than disgrace their religion and themselves.

In everlasting memory of these 90 Jewish girls, the survivors would like to give a chance to 90 Jewish girls to study Torah, by establishing a foundation here in Milan which would finance this initiative, thus perpetuating the important Jewish traditions which are the secret to our survival as a People.

In order to make this project happen, we'd need a location as well as financial assistance.

We are sure that whatever financial support the Ohel Yaakov Center will receive, will be an everlasting testimony to those who understand the importance of this institution which has pursued civil, cultural and humane values since 1945.

In the attachment:

*Estimated balance sheet: 5764/2003-2004
5765/2004-2005*

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Estimated Budgets

	Year 5764 (2003-2004) Euro	Year 5765 (2004-2005) Euro
Rent (650 sqm)	32.000,00	32.000,00
Administrative Expences-Heating-Garbadge diposal Tax	12.500,00	15.000,00
Electricity-Gas-Telephone	7.500,00	9.500,00
Rabbi Total Salary	40.000,00	52.000,00
Secretariat-Variou-Maintenance Expences	18.000,00	24.000,00
Upkeep of sacred objects and decor	3.500,00	3.500,00
Meals-Assistance-Charity-Funeral Services	15.000,00	85.000,00
Religious Books	2.500,00	2.500,00
Cleaning	6.000,00	8.000,00
Security	21.000,00	21.000,00
Miscellaneous	6.000,00	8.000,00
	164.000,00	260.500,00
<i>Extra Expences and Renovations</i>		
Electrical system		7.000,00
Acreation system		10.000,00
Restrooms		2.500,00
		19.500,00

Background: In pre-war Europe one woman with a profound sense of what was necessary for the survival of the Jewish nation, singlehandedly founded the Bais Yakov movement, which, for the first time in history, was exclusively dedicated to educating Jewish girls.

Her ideals were so deeply inculcated in these girls that even during the most crushing of times they were able to maintain their enviable moral heights. To the extent that when they heard that they were being prepared for the pleasure of the Nazi soldiers, they chose voluntarily suicide rather than to be defiled.

When, after the war, the world became aware of their heroic behavior, on the one hand we were devastated. On the other hand, we felt impelled not to permit this act to be in vain.

Problem:

Fortunately, in the past 60 years since the war, the Jewish communities throughout Europe have been growing by leaps and bounds, but the educational institutions necessary to cater to them haven't kept pace.

In answer to this situation we feel compelled to create a Teacher's Seminary that would prepare girls to be the teachers in these various communities. Despite the fact that there are a few seminaries in Europe they don't begin to answer the need.

Solution:

And so we have decided to open a Teacher's Seminary dedicated to the memory of these heroic 90 girls. The scope of our endeavor is not only to broaden the knowledge of these girls, but to instill in them the spirit and the high moral standards of our people. To this end, along with a Torah-rich curriculum, we would immerse them in Jewish European history by planning various excursions to pre-war synagogues, museums, communities, etc., and by inviting guest lecturers.

Short Term Plan:

- ** For the first year, we plan to have one class of between 20-30 students.
 - ** We also plan to have contemporaneously a learning division for local women, where we will offer university-level courses on jewish and secular topics.
 - ** The students will live in a dormitory with 3-4 girls per room and sufficient facilities.
 - ** At least 2 classrooms, a lunch room that will function also as recreational center, and a kitchen .
 - ** The girls' school day will be comprised of at least 8 hours of formal learning for 5 days a week.
 - ** In the second half of the semester the girls will have on the job training by giving model lessons in the local school.
 - ** The women's division will be comprised of 3 hours 4 times a week.
 - ** Once a month we plan to bring guest lecturers for long week ends from Israel England and America.
 - ** Three to four major excursions plus various day trips.
 - ** Salary for Director, administrator and supervisor
 - ** A full time supervisor will be on the premises 24 hours a day.
 - ** A cook and a helper for the kitchen, plus a cleaning staff.
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Our long term aim is a five year program

All our efforts during the first year will be geared to establishing ourselves as a warm and inspiring institution, conducive to forming valuable teachers and dedicated members of the community .

Aiming for at least 20 to 30 girls each year, we hope to graduate enough girls in the 5 year span to reach our goal of at least 90 teachers.

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	Monthly	Annual expenses
Monthly teachers' wages	8.000	80.000
Women's division	2.200	22.000
Staff	9.000	90.000
Cooks and help	7.000	70.000
Trips	11.000	110.000
Driver and upkeep bus	3.000	30.000
Guest each month	2.000	20.000
Miscellaneous	1.000	10.000
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	43.200	432.000

Premises: Donated by the city of Milan.