

TOUCHING THE LIVES OF ISRAELIS

Strengthening KBY congregations makes progressive Judaism more accessible to the **vast majority of Israelis** who yearn for an alternative to the orthodox approach to Judaism.

STRENGTHENING THE JEWISH STATE

Contributing to KBY makes a positive statement to Israel about the value, validity and authenticity of progressive Judaism by strengthening and empowering the 50+ Reform and Conservative kehillot in Israel.

Why Would You Support an Israeli Congregation? (Page 1)

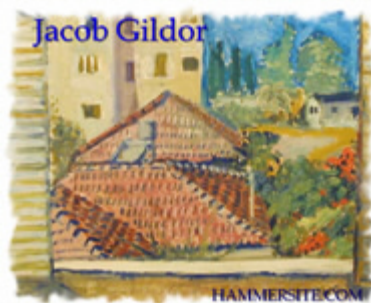
"...we know that ultimately our extended Jewish family is only as strong as its shared religious heritage...Therefore our primary task ...is to support synagogues and to promote religious life wherever Jews are found."

Rabbi Eric Yoffie, President of the Union of Reform Congregations said in the presidential sermon at the 2003 biennial convention.

Who can question that without strong Israeli progressive Jewish movements, our extended family is impacted? Yoffie continued, **"Jewish life cannot be sustained without Israel at its core."** The progressive synagogues in Israel are struggling in an environment that has always been difficult, and sometimes even hostile.

"The State of Israel...will guarantee freedom of religion, language, education and culture.' So promised the founders of the State of Israel in the Declaration of Independence in 1948. Yet, more than 50 years later, hundreds of thousands of Israelis do not have access to rabbis and religious services of their choice." From the Masorti (Conservative) Movement publication.

Progress has been made, but those battling on behalf of our movements are facing an uphill struggle. We need to find an effective way to strengthen their position in Israel and to increase their support among the largely secular and traditional, and mostly unaffiliated, Israeli population.



We are launching Kehillot B'Yahad to materially increase support for progressive congregations from individuals. KBY congregations represent a collective approach to Jewish values and practice that mirrors and makes whole a stream of Judaism that we accept as consistent with our own modern traditions. We want to show our support for pluralistic progressive

Judaism and to make sure those institutions that represent us in Israel have the necessary resources so that they may build a stronger position within Israeli society. This takes time, it takes money, and it takes commitment.