



כולל חבת ירושלים לצדקת רבי מאיר בעל הנס זי"ע

KOLEL CHIBAS JERUSALEM RABBI MEYER BAAL HANESS

כ"ק אדמו"ר מסטיטשין זצ"ל, נשיא הכבוד

כ"ק אדמו"ר מבלאזוב זצ"ל, נשיא הכבוד

AMERICAN OFFICE FOUNDED IN 1875

כ"ק אדמו"ר מבאבוב שליט"א, נשיא הכבוד

אמריקאנער אפיס נתיסד בשנת תרל"ה

1282 49TH STREET
BROOKLYN, NY 11219
718-633-7112
718-633-5783

Kislev, 5760

November 25, 1999

EXECUTIVE BOARD

WOLF WEINREB ז"ל
PRESIDENT

SHABSI J. STURM
VICE PRESIDENT

ABISH BRODT
TREASURER

ELMELICH LAUFER
SECRETARY

RABBI NAFTALI Z. HALBERSTAM
RABBI LIPA RUBIN

HONORARY CHAIRMEN

ELIYAHU ABRAMCZYK
SHAYE N. ADEST

LUZER BRODT

CHAIM BRACHFELD

AHRON BORUCH ENGLANDER

MOSHE ENGLANDER

ELI FINK

RABBI AVROHOM FRANKEL

SHMELKE GOLDKLANG

LEIBISH GREENBERG

RABBI ALTER HALBERSTAM

NAFTALI C. HALBERSTAM

RABBI SHMELKE HALBERSTAM

RABBI JOSEPH M. HOROWITZ

MOSHE KLAGSBALD

MOSHE KLEIN

SHMIEL KURTZ

RABBI ASHER LANDAU

SHULEM LANDAU

BERL LANDERER

MOSHE LEMBERGER

ZVI YAKOV LOEWI

YAKOV E. MILLER

AVROHOM REISS

ELY ROSENFELD

SHLOMO SALZMAN

RABBI BERISH SCHAPIRO

AVROHOM Y.H. SCHAPIRO

SHMIEL Z. SCHARF

EFRAIM SCHWARTZ

RABBI YITZCHOK SINGER

CHASKEL STEUER

VOLVI STEUER

BERL STEUER

BERL STURM

RABBI SHMIEL TEITELBAUM

RABBI MENDEL TEITELBAUM

CHASKEL WEINFELD

JACOB M. WEINREB

RABBI BERISH RUBIN

מנהל

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RABBI YECHIEL BABAD

WILLY BEER

MOSHE BRAUNFELD

STANLEY DILLER

LAZAR FASTEN

JACOB I. FRIEDMAN

RABBI JOSEPH GELLMAN

JACOB GOLD

MOSHE GOLDFINGER

BERISH GOLDMAN

RABBI NAFTOLI HALBERSTAM

SHIA HENENBERG

CHAIM HERBST

RABBI HERSH HOROWITZ

LEIB INTRATER

SHIMON KATZ

RABBI YECHIEL KAUFMAN

HERMAN KOENIGSBERG

MOSHE D. KUPPERMAN

BERL RAMBAS

MAHIR REISS

RABBI AVROHOM J. H. RUBIN

RABBI EZRIEL RUBIN

LEON SCHARF

USHER SCHARF

CHAIM SHLAFRIG

DOVID UNGER

LENNY WASSNER

JUDA WEINFELD

Mr. Judah Gribetz Esq
Richards & O'Neil LLP
885 3rd Avenue
New York, NY 10022-4873

Dear Mr. Gribetz, ז"י

We want to introduce to you Kolel Chibas Jerusalem Reb Meyer Baal Haness which historically is one of the great and time-honored "Chesed" organizations in the Jewish world, with a long and remarkable history of doing charitable work extending over a period of one hundred sixty years.

In deciding how money from the Swiss bank settlement should best be dealt with to achieve the maximum good for the benefit of Holocaust Survivors, we ask you to keep us in mind and take into account our history as an organization benefiting holocaust survivors over the fifty four years since the Holocaust.

We provide very direct and basic benefits to holocaust survivors themselves and thereby furnish some of the most important services needed to keep them alive and in reasonable health.

A detailed account of our history and particulars of activities are enclosed for information and assistance.



כולל חבת ירושלים לצדקת רבי מאיר בעל הנס זי"ע

KOLEL CHIBAS JERUSALEM RABBI MEYER BAAL HANESS

כ"ק אדמו"ר מסטיטשין זצ"ל, נשיא הכבוד

כ"ק אדמו"ר מבלאזוב זצ"ל, נשיא הכבוד

AMERICAN OFFICE FOUNDED IN 1875

כ"ק אדמו"ר מבאבוב שליט"א, נשיא הכבוד

אמריקאנער אפיס נתיסד בשנת תרל"ה

1282 49TH STREET
BROOKLYN, NY 11219
718-633-7112
718-633-5783

If I can be of any further help in the course of your deliberations,
please do not hesitate to contact me.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

WOLF WEINREB ז"ל
PRESIDENT

SHABSI J. STURM
VICE PRESIDENT

ABISH BRODT
TREASURER

ELMELICH LAUFER
SECRETARY

RABBI NAFTALI Z. HALBERSTAM
RABBI LIPA RUBIN
HONORARY CHAIRMEN

ELIYAHU ABRAMCZYK
SHAYE N. ADEST
LUZER BRODT

CHAIM BRACHFELD
AHRON BORUCH ENGLANDER
MOSHE ENGLANDER

ELI FINK
RABBI AVROHOM FRANKEL
SHMELKE GOLDKLANG

LEIBISH GREENBERG
RABBI ALTER HALBERSTAM
NAFTALI C. HALBERSTAM

RABBI SHMELKE HALBERSTAM
RABBI JOSEPH M. HOROWITZ
MOSHE KLAGSBALD

MOSHE KLEIN
SHMUEL KURTZ
RABBI ASHER LANDAU

SHULEM LANDAU
BERL LANDERER
MOSHE LEMBERGER

ZVI YAKOV LOEWI
YAKOV E. MILLER
AVROHOM REISS

ELY ROSENFELD
SHLOMO SALZMAN
RABBI BERISH SCHAPIRO

AVROHOM Y.H. SCHAPIRO
SHMUEL Z. SCHARF
EFRAIM SCHWARTZ

RABBI YITZCHOK SINGER
CHASKEL STEUER
VOLVI STEUER

BERL STEUER
BERL STURM
RABBI SHMUEL TEITELBAUM

RABBI MENDEL TEITELBAUM
CHASKEL WEINFELD
JACOB M. WEINREB

RABBI BERISH RUBIN
מנהל

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RABBI YECHIEL BABAD
WILLY BEER
MOSHE BRAUNFELD

STANLEY DILLER
LAZAR FASTEN
JACOB I. FRIEDMAN

RABBI JOSEPH GELLMAN
JACOB GOLD
MOSHE GOLDFINGER

BERISH GOLDMAN
RABBI NAFTOLI HALBERSTAM
SHIA HENENBERG

CHAIM HERBST
RABBI HERSH HOROWITZ
LEIB INTRATER

SHIMON KATZ
RABBI YECHIEL KAUFMAN
HERMAN KOENIGSBERG

MOSHE D. KUPPERMAN
BERL RAMBAS
MAHIR REISS

RABBI AVROHOM J. H. RUBIN
RABBI EZRIEL RUBIN
LEON SCHARF

USHER SCHARF
CHAIM SHLAFRIG
DOVID UNGER

LENNY WASSNER
JUDA WEINFELD

With many thanks

Sincerely,

Rabbi Berish Rubin
on behalf of
Kolel Chibas Jerusalem





כולל חבת ירושלים לצדקת רבי מאיר בעל הנס זי"ע

KOLEL CHIBAS JERUSALEM RABBI MEYER BAAL HANESS

כ"ק אדמו"ר מסטיטשין זצ"ל, נשיא הכבוד

כ"ק אדמו"ר מבלאזוב זצ"ל, נשיא הכבוד

AMERICAN OFFICE FOUNDED IN 1875

כ"ק אדמו"ר מבאבוב שליט"א, נשיא הכבוד

אממריקאנער אפיס נתיסד בשנת תרל"ה

1282 49TH STREET
BROOKLYN, NY 11219
718-633-7112
718-633-5783

October 28, 1999

Dear Sir,

Kolel Chibath Jerusalem, otherwise known as "the Galicianer Kolel," is one of the oldest and most revered institutions of the Orthodox Jewish world. Before the Holocaust, its purpose was to facilitate the emigration of scholars and devout Jews from the communities of Galicia in southern Poland to the Holy Land and to support them there financially by raising funds among Galician Jews.

The Kolel's goals have always been both philanthropic and academic. The following is an excerpt from the Kolel's mission statement issued in 1931 (copy attached):

The Kolel is incorporated with the Palestine government under No. 3939/60 and is managed by a Board of Directors duly elected. Doles and expenses are issued under strict supervision of the Board in accordance with the rules of the Kolel. The Kolel gives monthly doles of support to Rabbis, Talmudic Scholars, who are dedicated to Torah study and have no other occupation, and also to poor aged [people], dependent on the Kolel.

In 1939, Kolel Chibath Jerusalem maintained a large disbursement office in Jerusalem and five major Diaspora offices, which conducted fundraising activities among the Jewish communities of Galicia and among, expatriate Galician Jews in other lands. People contributed generously on a yearly basis, considering it an honor and a privilege, the fulfillment of a hallowed family tradition.

The Kolel's offices were located in the Galician cities of Krakow, Drhubyecz and Boryslav, in Berlin and in New York. In addition, there were small branch offices in England, Belgium and the Netherlands and, of course, in every Polish city and town. The headquarters were in the Boryslav office.

Funds sent to Jerusalem from the Diaspora offices were distributed among Torah scholars who studied, taught, authored scholarly works and otherwise contributed to the academic development of the Torah community of Jerusalem. Tradesmen originating from Galicia who were unable to support their families could also apply to the Kolel for financial relief. As of 1939, the Kolel supported 450 families.

A Galician Jew who decided to immigrate to Palestine and needed assistance would contact one of the Kolel offices. After his credentials were verified, the Kolel assisted him with the paperwork and other logistical issues. His name was

EXECUTIVE BOARD

WOLF WEINREB ז"ל
PRESIDENT

SHABSI J. STURM
VICE PRESIDENT

ABISH BRODT
TREASURER

ELMELICH LAUFER
SECRETARY

RABBI NAFTALI Z. HALBERSTAM
RABBI LIPA RUBIN
HONORARY CHAIRMEN

ELIYAHU ABRAMCZYK
SHAYE N. ADEST
LUZER BRODT

CHAIM BRACHFELD
AHRON BORUCH ENGLANDER
MOSHE ENGLANDER

ELI FINK
RABBI AVROHOM FRANKEL

SHMELKE GOLDKLANG
LEIBISH GREENBERG

RABBI ALTER HALBERSTAM
NAFTALI C. HALBERSTAM

RABBI SHMELKE HALBERSTAM
RABBI JOSEPH M. HOROWITZ

MOSHE KLAGSBALD
MOSHE KLEIN

SHMIEL KURTZ
RABBI ASHER LANDAU

SHULEM LANDAU
BERL LANDERER

MOSHE LEMBERGER
ZVI YAKOV LOEWI

YAKOV E. MILLER
AVROHOM REISS

ELY ROSENFELD
SHLOMO SALZMAN

RABBI BERISH SCHAPIRO
AVROHOM Y.H. SCHAPIRO

SHMIEL Z. SCHARF
EFRAIM SCHWARTZ

RABBI YITZCHOK SINGER
CHASKEL STEUER

VOLVI STEUER
BERL STEUER

BERL STURM
RABBI SHMIEL TEITELBAUM

RABBI MENDEL TEITELBAUM
CHASKEL WEINFELD

JACOB M. WEINREB
RABBI BERISH RUBIN

מנהל

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RABBI YECHIEL BABAD
WILLY BEER

MOSHE BRAUNFELD
STANLEY DILLER

LAZAR FASTEN
JACOB I. FRIEDMAN

RABBI JOSEPH GELLMAN
JACOB GOLD

MOSHE GOLDFINGER
BERISH GOLDMAN

RABBI NAFTOLI HALBERSTAM
SHIA HENENBERG

CHAIM HERBST
RABBI HERSH HOROWITZ

LEIB INTRATER
SHIMON KATZ

RABBI YECHIEL KAUFMAN
HERMAN KOENIGSBERG

MOSHE D. KUPPERMAN
BERL RAMBAS

MAHIR REISS
RABBI AVROHOM J. H. RUBIN

RABBI EZRIEL RUBIN
LEON SCHARF

USHER SCHARF
CHAIM SHLAFRIG

DOVID UNGER
LENNY WASSNER

JUDA WEINFELD

registered, the number of people in his immediate family was recorded, and the information was forwarded to Jerusalem. When he arrived in Jerusalem, the disbursements began.

History. Kolel Chibath Jerusalem is a venerable institution whose history follows the contours of the Jewish experience in Europe and the Holy Land over the past two centuries.

Jewish communities in the Diaspora have been supporting Torah scholars in the Holy Land for centuries. Such donations were given high priority among Jews throughout the Diaspora, because financial support was, and is, considered a form of participation. In 1750, the Vaad Arba Haaratzos (the Council of the Four Lands) of Poland made it mandatory for European Jewish communities to send contributions to Jewish scholars of European extraction in the Holy Land.

In 1767, a group of early Hassidic masters, under the leadership of Rabbi Mendel of Vitebsk and Rabbi Avraham of Kalisk, emigrated from the Ukraine to the Holy Land. These sages, dedicated to Torah study and religious devotions, were supported by the contributions of the Jewish communities of Europe. The great Hassidic leaders of Poland, including the Chozeh of Lublin, the Maggid of Kozhenitz, Rabbi Levi Yitzchak of Berditchev, Rabbi Mordechai of Neshchiz and Rabbi Ephraim Zalman Margulies, all publicly supported fundraising efforts on behalf of the group. Thus was established the original Kolel Hassidim. Its purpose was to assist qualified emigrants with relocation and to support them once they reached the Holy Land.

Under the guidelines of the Kolel, funds were provided for needy scholars and their families. Supplementary stipends were given to those who devoted all their time to Torah study and had no involvement in any craft or enterprise. This set the historical precedent for the dual nature of the Kolel's endeavors. On the one hand, it was a benevolent association alleviating the poverty of indigent families. At the same time, it was an academic institution promoting the advancement of Torah scholarship at the very highest levels.

Over the years, groups of emigrants from different regions in Europe joined the existing Kolel. Once they became established, these groups very often went on to form their own Kolel to concentrate on fundraising in and facilitating emigration from their own places of origin. In 1830, a separate organization was formed for the benefit of emigrants from Galicia in southern Poland. It was called Kolel Chibath Jerusalem, otherwise known as "the Galicianer Kolel."

The presidents of Kolel Chibath Jerusalem since its inception were all distinguished people drawn from the highest strata of the Orthodox community. The first president of Kolel Chibath Jerusalem was Rabbi Mordechai Zev Ettinger. A notable scholar in his own right, he was also the brother-in-law of Rabbi Yosef Shaul Nathanson, the greatest rabbinical authority of his time. When he died in 1863, he was succeeded by his son Rabbi Yitzchak Aharon Ettinger, a prominent rabbinical figure whose efforts were enthusiastically supported by the illustrious Rabbi Chaim Halberstam of Sanz, the foremost Hassidic luminary of his time. The younger Rabbi Ettinger passed away in 1891 and was succeeded by Rabbi Yitzchak Leib Sofer, the grandson of the Chasam Sofer, the world leader of Orthodox Jewry. He was succeeded by his son, Rabbi David Schreiber, who filled the office of the presidency until the

Holocaust.

When the leaders of Kolel Chibath Jerusalem began construction of a new synagogue in Jerusalem, they appealed successfully to the Austrian consulate for protection from harassment and persecution by the Turkish authorities; at this time, Galicia was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the Holy Land was part of the Ottoman Empire. Years later, Rabbi Elazar Kahane Shapiro, the administrator of Kolel Chibath Jerusalem, was among the dignitaries who greeted Emperor Franz Josef when he visited Jerusalem. The Kolel also established a special fund for poor brides in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of the Emperor's reign.

During the First World War, the flow of funds to the Kolel was interrupted, and the Galician community in Jerusalem, which numbered three thousand souls, was on the point of starvation. The Kolel appealed to the Austrian consulate, and in response, the Austrian government conducted a fundraising campaign in the Jewish communities of Galicia and forwarded the funds to Jerusalem.

Pre-War Activities. The scope of the Kolel activities encompassed many aspects of the everyday lives of Galician Jew in the Holy Land. The Kolel distributed regular stipends to Torah scholars and to needy families. The Kolel also established a special fund called Ezer Nisuin, which helped defray wedding costs for Torah scholars and other Kolel members. There was also another fund called Ezer Yoledes, which helped defray newborn expenses. In addition, there was a substantial Free Loan Fund which was available to Galician Jews.

All of these activities were supported by funds raised among Galician Jews in the Diaspora. The Kolel office in Jerusalem has a large archive of meticulously kept records and documents dating back many years. Let us take a brief look at the Kolel's income for the years 1930-1939. Income figures are in British pounds sterling. One pound, at that time, was equivalent to US\$5, which was a substantial sum when adjusted for inflation.

1930	7110	1935	6427
1931	5797	1936	4894
1932	8106	1937	6362
1933	7066	1938	1638
1934	6752	1939	3617

The figures tell the story. In 1936, there was a sharp drop in revenues. This coincided with the closing of the Berlin office by the Gestapo in January of 1936 (see attached documents). In 1937, revenues rebounded somewhat, but in 1938, when Nazi Germany was swallowing up Czechoslovakia, revenues were off 74% from the year before. In 1939, there was a moderate increase but the total was still substantially below the average revenues for the rest of the decade. In 1940, revenues were almost nil.

In one document (copy attached), dated December, 1939 (Kislev 5700), the administrators of the Kolel in Jerusalem write:

Welfare work of Colel "Hibath Jerusholaim"

This Colel was founded 90 years ago by the early settlers, prominent Rabbis, the promoters of Jewish Palestine.

The Colel is incorporated with the Palestine Government under No. 3939/60 and is managed by a Board of Directors duly elected.

Doles and expenses are issued under strict supervision of the Board in accordance with the rules of the Colel.

The Colel gives monthly doles of support to Rabbis, Talmudic Scholars, who are dedicated to Torah study and have no other occupation, and also to poor aged, dependant on the Colel.

The Colel extends aid to sick persons, with doctors, medicine etc. Poor maternity owman and poor brides receive special aid.

The Colel extends material and moral support to small business men, artisans etc., who are in strait & circumstances, by granting them interest-free loans etc.

The Colel is active and takes keen interest in the welfare of its dependants and contemplates the plan of erecting residential dwellings for the poor, by contributions ~~from~~ made by generous brethren and sisters who will thus perpetuate their names in the Holy City.

The Central Committee of the Colel & Hibath Jerusholaim, and has its branches in Safad/ and Tiberias, receving from the head offices in Jerusalem the monthly support for the poor.