



PROJECT KESHER

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September 19, 2012

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Temple Beth Tzedek

621 Getzville Road

Amherst, NY 14226

Dear Laurence:

Thank you and Temple Beth Tzedek so much for your generous donation of a Torah for Project Keshar's Torah Return Project and upcoming trip to Ukraine.

Over the years, Project Keshar has grown and evolved. When we began this work, most of the women did not have telephones. Today, our leadership training includes a social media component and photos are taken by participants with their cell phones and downloaded on to our Russian language website. The content of our training curriculum has evolved but the basic goals have remained: empowering women to connect meaningfully to Judaism, become leaders in the Jewish community, and improve their own lives while building a more civil and just society. No small order then and now.

As Project Keshar begins to see the emergence of a third generation of women in communities where we first established our presence in the late 1980's, we understand how important building a cadre of young leaders is to our mission. Meeting the needs and interests of this next generation of Russian-speaking leaders is critical to ensure continuity of Jewish life and identity, as well as an ongoing commitment to social justice in the region. I am happy to let you know we are connecting to this group through a new program called Keshar Chadash (new connection) and with a growing network of Project Keshar teen and youth groups throughout the region.

Soviet Jewry is now free. Many Jews have moved to Israel, the United States, and Germany. The next step towards freedom for those who remain is access to Torah, which you have made possible. We thank you for your work and commitment over the past several years to bring this gift of Torah to the Jewish community in Migorod, Ukraine.

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Karyn G. Gershon,
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With Best Regards,

Karyn G. Gershon
Executive Director