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SWISS BANKS HOLOCAUST



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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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In re:
HOLOCAUST VICTIM ASSETS
LITIGATION
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LEGAL SERVICES

Case No. CV 96-4849 (ERK)(MDG)

Re: REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR ALLOCATION OF POSSIBLE UNCLAIMED
RESIDUAL FUNDS BASED ON RECOMMENDATION BY SPECIAL MASTER
JUDAH GRIBETZ AS CONTAINED IN INTERIM REPORT OF OCTOBER 2, 2003
AS REQUESTED BY THE HONORABLE JUDGE EDWARD R. KORMAN

THE REPORT CALLS FOR ALLOCATION TO "HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE
PROGRAMS". ACCORDINGLY, WE REQUEST AN ALLOCATION(S) FOR THE
FOLLOWING PROGRAM:

*A PROGRAM FOR SURVIVORS, THOSE RETIRED OR OUT OF WORK WHERE
THEY CAN COME FOR A FEW HOURS A DAY AND FEEL THEY ARE BEING
PRODUCTIVE IN THEIR LIVES.*

There is nothing more debilitating than inactivity. Sitting at home with nothing but
banal television shows and often painful memories leads to frank depression. This
depression leads to medical problems, often as a result of failure to attend to basic
needs.

To come to a kind of "basket weaving program" is slightly better than nothing, but the
loss of self-esteem is not mitigated. Participants must feel they are being genuinely
productive, yet fit in a framework that is economically realistic. (We cannot build
them a factory to work in or usually find employment for those in this age group –
particularly in light of the rather high unemployment rate.)

*We do have something that is considered genuinely productive, even esteemed, by
a large portion of Israeli society and requires rather minimal funding considering the
number of those who will be serviced: The*

KOLLEL MUVTALIM
KOLLEL ARTZI L'ZIKUI HARABBIM

As explained on the following page.

KOLLEL MUVTALIM
KOLLEL ARTZI L'ZIKUI HARABBIM
P.O.B. 27312 JERUSALEM 91272
TELEPHONE: (02) 656-5391 FAX: (02) 656-4434

{To illustrate the concept and our proposal, we attach a letter which is sent to rabbis of every Bait Kennest (Jewish House of Worship) on a city by city basis.}

KOLLEL MUVTALIM
 (A place of Jewish study for adults, in this case for those who are unemployed)
 KOLLEL ARTZI L'ZEKUI HARABIM
 (A National Study Program To Bring Merit To The Nation)

L'Kvod Rabbonim – Shlita. (Honored Rabbis)

Though we know that you are very busy with your own projects and Bati Kennesiot (Religious Institutions), we ask your help and offer you an opportunity to participate in the following:

As we all know, the difficult security and economic situation faced by everyone – including your congregants and those in your community at large, can cause anxiety, depression and feeling that "there is nothing we can do". Older Holocaust survivors are particularly vulnerable to feelings of depression and anxiety. People need a constructive outlet for their feelings and a sense there is really is something they can do to improve the situation. As you know and the following quotes show, there is something they can do.

"Even one person of Israel has a tremendous ability to establish and support the entire spiritual foundations of Creation through his learning of Torah (Judaism)". (Nefesh HaChaim Gate 4, section 25).

"We know that the learning of Torah has the strength to protect and save all of us from danger and misfortune" (Chafetz Chaim).

By giving Baal haBattim (lay persons) the understanding that the Torah they learn, even if it is only "Pirke Avos" (Ethics of the Fathers) an hour a day, can make a difference in our situation, you give them a feeling that their really is something that can be done and *they are doing it!*

Furthermore, as you also well know, there are an increasingly large number of those who are out of work. Not just factory workers, but high-tech, office workers, all sectors have been affected. The situation may, Chas Vshalom (G-d Forbid), get worse before it gets better and the number of unemployed may grow.

Not only is being unemployed hard financially, but a man who suddenly finds himself stuck at home, watching TV, often soon feels his self-image crumble. He may start fighting with his wife, yelling at his kids and the situation can deteriorate.

What can we do?

We will offer them the chance to be part of a "Kollel Artzi L'Zchui HaRabbim" (A National Study Program To Bring Merit To The Nation). The man, even those who are not very religious, will go to the local Beit Kennest, for example from 11-1 (and/or 2-4 etc.). The first 30 -40 minutes he may hear a shiur (lesson), the second hour he may learn with a Chevrusa (Study Partner). It can be Chumash, Ein Yakkov (Jewish Texts)– almost anything. Having a set pattern that gets him out of the house, and, more importantly, gives him a feeling that he both growing and being "Mzaka the Rabbim" (Protecting the Nation) will restore his sense of self-worth and save many families. Of course, he will also grow in his knowledge of Torah and will hopefully continue to learn at night and on Shabbat (Sabbath) after he gets a job.

We are planning on publicizing a list of Rabbis and their Bati Kennesiot whom have agreed to host the "Kollel Artzi L'Zchui HaRabbim". It will include their names, place of the Kollel (Place of Study for Adults), times it meets during the day and/or night and ideally a contact number for more details. We plan on publicizing this list throughout the city and in your neighborhood. People will see that the Rav (Rabbi) of the Shul both cares about the "Rabbim" (Public at large) and that he is giving a warm invitation to Baal HaBatim to come to his Shul. The Rav will decide when and if he gives shiur, what is taught, when and where the learning takes place. The main thing is to greet newcomers with a warm welcome and feeling that you are happy they came to your shul, and happy they came to "Lzaka HaRabbim". Providing tea and coffee is also a good idea.

Please send us, as soon as possible, your: Name, address of Bait Kennest or other place of learning, the times you plan on meeting and a contact phone number they can call for more details. We would like to start publicizing this very soon and we would not want someone to be left out.

Thank you very much V 'Kol Tuv V'Chatzlacha! (A Closing blessing).

We estimate the financial requirements of this program to be run throughout Israel to be 1.2 million dollars per year. This will be used to publicize the program and cover part of the expenses each rabbi will incur when hosting this program. If we are allocated a lesser amount we can still run the program – but in a smaller area, or perhaps only in a few cities.

Some 75% of Israelis have an active connection with Judaism (fasting on Yom Kippur, not eating leavened products on Passover etc. – Guttman 1993) so a program that uses a platform of Judaism is quite acceptable and mainstream to the society at large.

Restoring people's self-esteem, feelings of self-worth and giving them a reason to get out of the house is certainly humanitarian assistance in the truest sense of the word. Those who feel good about themselves and see themselves a helping the society at large – will also require less medical and social care.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Adam Winston - Director

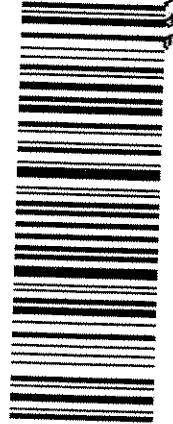
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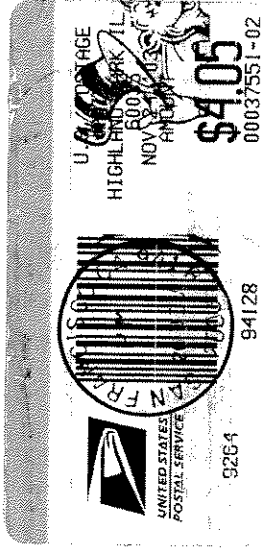
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