

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR A COMMUNITY TO AFFILIATE WITH ALEPH?

Affiliation with ALEPH entails the following:

- Each individual member of an affiliated community becomes a full member of ALEPH receiving our Kol ALEPH newsletter three times per year, member discounts and access to members-only services such as participation in the ALEPH members' listserv, an on-line Jewish Renewal community.
- Communities pay dues on a per capita basis directly to ALEPH, according to the **Fee Schedule and Process** described below.
- The ALEPH Board Communities Committee represents the interests of communities and works on initiatives supporting community development.
- Individual members and communities as a whole benefit from the programs, services and discounts described below under **Benefits of Affiliation for Communities** and **Benefits of Membership for Individuals**.
- Two members of the Communities Committee serve on the ALEPH Board ensuring full institutional representation of community interests.

BENEFITS OF AFFILIATION FOR COMMUNITIES

ALEPH PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING SERVICES TO JEWISH RENEWAL COMMUNITIES IN GENERAL

- Ordains the Rabbis who serve Renewal communities;
- Sponsors Ohalah, Association of Rabbis for Jewish Renewal, a growing organization of Renewal-oriented rabbis, cantors and students from across a wide spectrum of Jewish life, particularly those who serve renewal-oriented communities;
- Holds a biennial gathering, the Kallah, which serves as the world-wide gathering of Jewish Renewal teachers, leaders, activists and seekers;
- Produces the resources that Renewal communities use. For details please visit our on-line ReSources Catalog;
- Provides educational and outreach programs such as the ALEPH Caravan;
- Develops community leadership and cultivates personal spiritual deepening through affiliated programs such as the Keshet Program, Sage-ing Project, and C-DEEP retreats;
- Constructs avenues for community renewal and tikkun olam;
- Provides expertise to communities through the central ALEPH leadership.

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO ALEPH AFFILIATED COMMUNITIES ONLY

- Information about congregational or havurah management, tips on conducting a rabbinic search, sample organizational by-laws, statements of principles, personnel manual, professional ethics code, rabbinic contracts;
- ALEPH Staff Consultations and Training conferences on fundraising, conflict resolution, board development, membership building, volunteer activation, leadership development, event creation and management, etc.
- Participation on an e-list for communities;
- Publication of local community reports the Kol ALEPH Newsletter;
- Opportunities for gathering at the ALEPH Kallah and other retreats;
- Discounts on bulk orders of ALEPH materials; discounts for the Kallah, discounts on other ALEPH events
- First priority in booking the ALEPH Caravan for a discounted fee (\$1,000 off!);
- Member and community conference calls;
- Outreach--referral of individuals traveling or moving to communities; presence on our web site, visibility for you in our materials
- ALEPH assistance in recruiting rabbinic leadership.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP FOR INDIVIDUALS/HOUSEHOLDS WITHIN ALEPH AFFILIATED COMMUNITIES

- Subscription to ALEPH's newsletter, Kol ALEPH;
- Participation in ALEPH members-only discussion list;
- Eligibility to write about your community for Kol ALEPH as well as the ALEPH News Service which issues press releases to over 80 Jewish media outlets;

- Eligibility to participate in community members-only advisory meetings with the ALEPH Board, community relations committee and staff at the ALEPH Kallah;
- Eligibility to be elected to the Board of Directors or to serve on one of the Board committees;
- Eligibility to participate in ALEPH distance learning programs;
- Discounts on other specified ALEPH programs and resources including ads on our Jewish Renewal authors, artists and performers web pages;
- Savings of \$54 per individual and \$72 per household for Kallah attendance.

FEE SCHEDULE AND PROCESS

Once your community has opted to affiliate, our member services staff person will contact you to determine your payment plan. Annual payments are preferred, but accommodations can be made for semi-annual or quarterly payments.

You will also be asked identify the person or persons in your community who keep the community checkbook and membership mailing list. These will be the people responsible for sending in the dues check(s) and updated mailing list each year.

Annual dues are \$18 per household for the first year of affiliation. For every year thereafter, annual dues are \$36 per household. (See below for special rates for low-income members, new or dually affiliating communities and communities outside the US). Your treasurer or other responsible person sends a check for your entire community (calculating the per household dues times the number of households) payable to ALEPH. Note "Community dues for (name of community) in the memo line and mail to ALEPH at 7000 Lincoln Drive #B2, Philadelphia, PA 19119.

WHAT IF SOME OF OUR MEMBERS ARE ALREADY MEMBERS OF ALEPH?

When your community first enrolls, if you have households who are already members of ALEPH, and who do NOT want to make an extra donation, you will get credit for their membership. Simply deduct their per-household dues from your community total dues and let us know who they are. When we get your membership list (see below) we will check to make sure nobody is paying twice unless they have chosen to make an additional donation. After the first year, we assume that they will give more if they want to, but will otherwise have

their membership through your community and we will no longer deduct individual donations from your total obligation.

ENROLLING YOUR MEMBERS FOR BENEFITS

In September or October of each year (depending on the date of the holidays) after you have updated your mailing list with all paid-up members, the appropriate person will transmit your community mailing list to us. Lists can be emailed to communities@aleph.org. The list will be entered into our database, providing all your member households with full ALEPH benefits including our newsletter, Kol ALEPH, discounts on catalog items, access to on-line services, etc.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS, AND NEW OR LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES

While we cannot provide services if we don't have funds, ALEPH is committed to making membership accessible to all regardless of ability to pay. If there are members of your community who are exempted from paying community dues because of hardship, these members will not count toward your per-household assessment. If you feel that your community as a whole needs special consideration, we will be happy to discuss this with you. Please contact Debra Kolodny, DebraRuth@mac.com to begin the conversation.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR NEWLY FORMED COMMUNITIES

Communities that have formed in the year they seek to affiliate, or the year prior to that, get a special rate. They are charged only \$12 per household in the first year, \$18 in the second and \$36 in the third.

DUAL AFFILIATION

Communities that are affiliated with a denomination can affiliate for only \$18 per member household.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR COMMUNITIES OUTSIDE THE US

Acknowledging that, due to economic circumstances and exchange rates, payment in US dollars can be a burden on some communities outside the US, we will continue the policy we have established in the past of translating the dues payments of Canadian individuals and communities into Canadian dollars. Communities in other countries should let us know if this is a concern and we can resolve it on a case by case basis.

10% DISCOUNT INCENTIVE

As an incentive to get dues in timely, ALEPH will give a 10% discount to any community that pays its dues in full before Yom Kippur of any given year. This

discount may be used to extend free memberships to new or low-income community members.

SUBSEQUENT YEARS

The same procedures will be followed in subsequent years. Please inform us if your community liaison person changes.