

KESHER PROGRAM  
The ALEPH Kallah  
July 2 - July 8, 2007  
University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

KESHER 2007 - Program Information

Kesher is the Hebrew word for connection. Kesher is a program for Kallah participants who are between 20-32 years old. Kesher's mission is to support and nurture a community of young leaders at the ALEPH Kallah, and to challenge and inspire participants in their spiritual explorations and personal vision. Kesher is also designed to foster relationships between Kesherites and Kallah master teachers, and to build bridges to the Jewish renewal community at large. The program also helps Kesherites attend Kallah by providing financial subsidy.

Kesher is also designed to create a safe space for all who are involved with the program. Kesherites will participate in all regular Kallah classes and activities, as well as:

1. Participant-led programming: To enable Kesherites to share ideas, experiences and expertise with peers, Kesher workshops and study sessions will be pre-planned and led by Kesherites. The daily time slot for Kesher programs will not conflict with the main Kallah classes.
2. Kesher Mentorships: Kesherites will be matched up for the week with a Kallah teacher/Mentor of their choice. Each Kesherite will participate in the daily class of this teacher and will meet privately every day for 10-15 minutes of further study or dialogue. Some Kesherites may also shadow or assist their Mentor on additional projects or events that the Mentor is involved with at Kallah.

The list of classes and teachers is in the Kallah catalog and on-line at [www.aleph.org](http://www.aleph.org)

3. Pre-Conference Kesher Day (Sunday, July 1): In order to meet and start building connections within our group before the often overwhelming arrival of the Kallah community at large, Kesherites will gather for the day immediately preceding Kallah. (Please note: The Shabbaton component of the Kesher program costs an additional \$75. We are trying to raise funds to offset some of these costs. If you are unable to attend the Shabbaton please join us Sunday or Monday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>.)
4. Highly visible Kesher workstudy responsibilities: To encourage interaction between Kesherites and other Kallah participants, Kesherites will facilitate the ritual of hand washing before meals and serve as dining room liaisons during meals. In order to prepare for this holy task, there will be an experiential study session and orientation to workstudy during the Shabbaton.

For all questions, please contact:

Stacey Bhaerman

[sbhaerman@gmail.com](mailto:sbhaerman@gmail.com)

Phone: (917) 553-1136 (7 am – 10 pm Eastern)

## KESHER 2007 - Financial Information

Please read all sections carefully:

We heartily welcome Keshet applications from twenty-somethings who are not in need of financial assistance. If you are fortunate enough to be able to afford the entire cost of the Kallah please let us know of additional financial resources or others who would be able to contribute funds to the Keshet program. Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated!!!

Our goal is to enable 20-30 Keshetites to attend the Kallah. ALEPH and the Keshet Steering Committee are currently fundraising for Keshet 2007 and we will know how much is available after all of the applications are in. We are hoping to raise enough money to fully subsidize the Pre-Conference Keshet Shabbaton, as we did in previous years. At the moment, subsidies are available through a combination of two options: Matched Fundraising and Work-study. Matched funds from ALEPH are available only for 20-29 year olds, but all Keshetites (up to age 32) are entitled to workstudy. You can use any combination of these two options. See additional information below.

Matched Fundraising: Each Keshet participant is expected to pursue sponsorships or supplemental funding through your own communities, e.g. synagogues, Jewish organizations, private donors or communities of your own fashioning. ALEPH will match the first \$180 that you raise! (*All checks should be made out to "ALEPH Kallah" and be sent on your behalf to 543 Walnut Street, Newton, MA 02460.*) Any money sent to the Kallah office on your behalf will be applied directly to your registration fees. If you need any assistance with this process (letters of introduction, additional information about the Keshet program, ALEPH or the Kallah), we are happy to help you in any way that we can. To give you an example of what is possible, in previous years, several Keshetites were almost entirely subsidized by their home congregations and/or local donors! Be creative with your fundraising efforts and try to think outside the box.

Workstudy: In addition to fundraising, you can also earn between \$120-300 through workstudy at Kallah. Keshet-specific work study is \$120 for 10 hours for Hand washing and Dining Room Support. If you are interested in additional work study, you can contact Ruth Levy ([ruthlevy@rcn.com](mailto:ruthlevy@rcn.com) <<mailto:ruthlevy@rcn.com>> , 617-926-4219) for an application (or download it from the website). The application must be returned to her by May 15th. Please indicate on the form that you are a Keshet workstudy applicant, and make sure to request Handwashing or Dining Room Support. Please also let her know how many additional hours (over and above the 10) you would like. You may request up to 15 additional workstudy hours at \$12 an hour, resulting in a grand total of \$300.

\* If you absolutely require financial assistance in order to attend the Kallah, we strongly encourage you to apply for additional general workstudy positions so that you will have other options if you aren't accepted to the Keshet program or if the Keshet subsidies aren't enough.

Deposit: Please enclose a \$100 deposit with your Kallah application. This deposit is fully refundable if you are not accepted to the Keshet program and decide not to attend Kallah. If you are accepted to the Keshet program and decide not to attend the Kallah \$50 of the deposit will not be refunded to you.

For all questions, please contact:

Stacey Bhaerman

[sbhaerman@gmail.com](mailto:sbhaerman@gmail.com)

Phone: (917) 553-1136 (7 am – 10 pm Eastern)

## KESHER 2007- Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail/Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

Please respond to the following questions. Please keep your responses in the range of 100 words per question. If there is one question in particular that interests you most, please answer it in greater detail. Thank-you! Your responses will be kept confidential.

1. Describe your Jewish background.
2. Why are you applying to Keshet?
3. What do you hope to experience/encounter at Kallah?
4. How do you express your Jewishness in terms of identity, culture, community & spirituality?
5. What is your relationship to religious diversity within the Jewish community?
6. What is commitment to social change look like to you?
7. How do you plan to incorporate your Keshet-Kallah experience into your participation and leadership activities in your local Jewish community? How would incorporate your experience into additional communities you are involved in?
8. What topics/issues would you like to see addressed in Keshet sessions? One component of Keshet is participant-led programming. Please describe an activity, discussion or workshop that you would be willing to facilitate for the group.
9. Keshet Mentors Program. With which Kallah master teacher would you like to be matched? It is expected that you will register for the Kallah class of this teacher. Please list three teachers corresponding to the course preferences you listed on your Kallah application. This program is optional but strongly encouraged. (See "Program Information" page for more details.)
10. What is your current "occupation"? (Employed? Student? Full time/part time? Other?)
11. Registration fees: (General Kallah: \$835; Pre-Conference Keshet Program: \$75.) As much as we would like to fund every Keshetite fully, it is unlikely that this will be possible. As well, there are some people with the resources to pay more than others. This would obviously make more subsidy money available to those with limited resources.  
How much can you personally contribute to your Kallah/Keshet registration fees? \_\_\_\_\_  
If needed, how much funding can you count on from your community? \_\_\_\_\_ family? \_\_\_\_\_  
Any experience you might have with seeking sponsorship \_\_\_\_\_  
Will need help in seeking sponsorship? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Are you applying to Keshet with a friend? If yes, who?

**Please submit this application by May 1, 2007** to sbhaerman@gmail.com

E-mail attachments in pdf format, if possible. Thank-you!

Postal mail to: Stacey Bhaerman, 101 Daniel Low Terrace #1J, Staten Island, NY 10301

## APPLICATION CHECKLIST

1. Mail or fax Kallah application  
(With \$100 deposit)

ALEPH Kallah  
543 Walnut Street  
Newton, MA 02460  
<http://aleph.org/kallah.html>  
E-mail: [kallahajr@rcn.com](mailto:kallahajr@rcn.com)  
Phone: 617-795-2636  
Fax: 866-826-3011

2. Get Work-study application from:

Ruth Levy  
64 Evans Street  
Watertown, MA 02472  
E-mail: [ruthlevy@rcn.com](mailto:ruthlevy@rcn.com)  
Phone: (617) 926-4219  
Due date: May 15, 2007

3. E-mail or mail Kesher application:

Stacey Bhaerman  
101 Daniel Low Terr, 1J  
Staten Island, NY 10301  
Phone: 917-553-1136  
E-mail: [sbhaerman@gmail.com](mailto:sbhaerman@gmail.com)  
Due date: May 1, 2007

The ALEPH Kallah catalog is on-line at [www.aleph.org/kallah.html](http://www.aleph.org/kallah.html)  
To request a hard copy of the Kallah catalog, please contact: [kallahajr@rcn.com](mailto:kallahajr@rcn.com)