



To our dear friend, Mrs. Chella Safra,

As requested, here is an overview of our exciting project – the Kehillot Yisreal Jewish heritage and visitor's center.

The story of the Jewish people is one of a living and thriving culture that has transformed civilization by establishing a fundamental system of ideals and ethics. The Jewish nation has imparted core values of justice and peace as well as contributing greatly to areas such as science, philosophy, literature, art and music. It has developed over the course of 2000 years in thousands of communities scattered throughout the world. It includes an impressive list of personalities who left their mark on humanity in general and on the Jewish people in particular.

In order to transmit the Jewish culture to the general public and bequeath it to the next generation, Kehillot Yisreal has initiated a unique, comprehensive project to establish a modern, world-class heritage and visitor's center. The center, through the latest technology, will present Judaism's cultural heritage through the lens of various Kehillot/communities formed over the centuries in the aftermath of the destruction of Jerusalem and the exile of the Jewish people. Kehillot Yisrael aims to transmit this glorious culture to future generations, not as a mere relic of the past, but rather as a means to engender a live and vibrant connection to Jewish identity and Jewish heritage.

Kehillot Yisrael's focus is to make the center a place of discovery for the visitor. The center will tell the story of Jewish communities spanning the globe, and as the story unfolds, layer after layer of Jewish heritage and culture will be revealed and transmitted to the next generation. Not only will visitors learn of their own individual cultural history; they will be exposed to other Jewish cultures as well, thus creating a deeper understanding of each person's Jewish identity - as an individual, as a community, and as part of the Jewish nation. There will be representation from all Jewish communities, from Rome to Morocco and from Ethiopia to Frankfurt, in order to connect everyone to their heritage and give them an appreciation for the diversity of the Jewish people. Visitors will be shown how Jewish heritage is unique and how it still applies today.

The significance of bolstering Jewish cultural identity, achieving an in-depth awareness of the past for the sake of the future, and the proven abilities of the Kehillot Yisrael's founder and leader Rabbi Yaakov Hillel, led the Jerusalem Municipality to allocate to Kehillot Yisrael the historic building in the Schneller compound in Jerusalem - the heart and soul of the Jewish nation.

Kehillot Yisrael - Jewish Communities Heritage Center | המרכז למורשת העם היהודי - קהילות ישראל



Jerusalem's ethnic landscape reflects the *diversity* of its population, a melting pot of Israeli society and is therefore the ideal place for tourists, soldiers, Taglit visitors, secular Israelis, and religious Jews to unite and learn about their Jewish culture. The center will assist Jews from all walks of life to delve into their cultural heritage on a multitude of levels and explore Judaism's rich heritage in an enduring and unique way.

Kehillot Yisrael Institute has been involved in researching the various branches of Jewish culture for many years. The Institute includes a highly regarded, prominent Jewish studies research institute; an advanced, cutting-edge center for documentation and digitization; a department for research, documentation, and preservation of Jewish cemeteries throughout the world; and a department for research of Jewish customs and liturgy. The center is a direct outgrowth from the departments of the Kehillot Yisrael Institute, and all of these facets will be made available for the use of the public.

The Jewish heritage and visitor's center is in the early stages of construction. We have fortified and stabilized the building and are preserving and restoring the main façade of the building to its original grandeur.

We attach to this letter estimates made by the architect, engineer and design and development team. In addition to some preliminary plans of the various compound divisions.

