

What We Do

The Aleph Institute provides welcome relief for Jews who have been virtually forgotten by traditional American Jewish organizations. Aleph battles against the challenging odds of obtaining adequate staff, money, and time to organize a wealth of programs designed to help not only the prisoners themselves, but their families as well. These programs spread the wellsprings of Jewish wisdom, knowledge and understanding to all who request it, regardless of whom they are or their ability to pay.

Mission Statement

Aleph Institute is a not-for-profit Jewish religious, educational, humanitarian organization, serving the Jewish community. We offer a multitude of services to those in Prisons, the Armed Forces, Long term Medical Facilities, and anywhere Jews are isolated from a Jewish community. Emphasizing “no Jew is forgotten” and “no Jew is alone.”

Please visit the Torah Studies website for the latest courses and important information at: ‘www.alephne.org/torah’, or write Devorah Stern at devorahstern@alephne.org or call 412-421-0111 x100 and via snail mail Att. Torah Studies, The Aleph Institute, 5804 Beacon Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15217.

THE ALEPH INSTITUTE

Hyman & Martha Rogal Center
5804 Beacon Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15217
Phone: 412-421-0111
Fax: 412-521-5948
E-mail: info@alephne.org

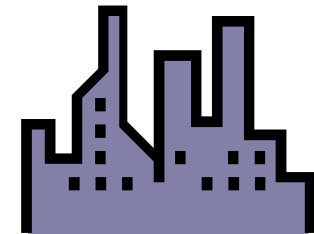
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TORAH STUDIES PROGRAM

No Jew alone

No Jew forgotten



Torah Studies Program

The Torah Studies Program seeks to provide Jewish study material for the Jewish men and women who are otherwise separated from the Jewish community and cannot attend religious study groups or classes.

The Aleph Institute provides the courses for a nominal cost, recognizing that the average inmate in prison has limited financial means. We offer scholarships for the courses and the necessary books for those inmates who are indigent.

If you are interested in joining this program, please contact The Aleph Institute to obtain and submit an application for approval. Applications and all material are available online at www.alephne.org under *Torah Studies Program* or can be mailed from our office.



Upon approval, you may then sign-up for two of the six programs at a time. After every period, an exam is given and proctored by the Rabbi, chaplain, or prison staff. Upon completion, a certificate is awarded.

"Your programs are a G-d send to the Jewish inmates, who otherwise would be without any serious educational material in between Rabbinical visits".

-Rabbi Leibel Itkin, SCI Waymart, PA

Available Courses

CHUMASH LEVEL I

No text book is required for this course. All materials are sent by the Aleph Institute to the student. This course covers each of the five books of Moses (Bereishis through Devarim) and provides a synopsis of each parsha. A basic level of understanding of the weekly Torah is grasped. Once an entire book is completed the student will undergo an exam, upon completion one moves on to the next book.

CHUMASH LEVEL II

This course also covers the five books of Moses on a more advanced level using the Stone Edition Chumash. One must have fully completed Chumash Level I before starting Chumash Level II.

JEWISH HISTORY

Explores the history of Jews including creation, Torah, prophets, kings, building of Holy Temple, the first exile, the Greeks rule in the Land of Israel, the Hasmonean period, the second exile, Jews in Western Europe and Spain, and the end of the "Golden Age" of European Jewry.

KABALLAH

This course emphasizes the study of the Tanya, the classic textbook for the soul. It starts with an overview lasting several chapters that assists in a better understanding of the complex text we are about to study. It then continues then with the text of Likuttei Amarim and Shaar Hayichud.

MOSHIACH

Covers the foundations of Torah and Jewish belief,



developed by Dr. Michael Schulmans. One of Maimonides' famous thirteen principles of faith is belief in the imminent coming of Moshiach, the Messiah, who will take us all home to the Promised Land and usher in an era of true peace. The who, what, where, when and how are covered in this course which reminds us that all of creation has an ultimate goal and we are in its final stages.

HILCHOS BEIS HABECHIRAH

Teaches the laws of the rebuilding of the temple as described by Maimonides in his works, the *Yad Hachazakah*. These laws describe the construction and function of the various rooms in the Holy Temple and the rituals that were performed there.

TEFILLAH

This course uses the 'My Prayer' published by Kehot Publication Society. The course goes through the various daily prayers, expounding on them and explaining their meanings and practice.

TALMUD

Rabbinic discussions pertaining to Jewish law, ethics, customs and history. The Talmud has two components: the Mishnah (c. 200 CE), the first written compendium of Judaism's Oral Law; and the Gemara (c. 500 CE), a discussion of the Mishnah and related Tanaic writings that expounds broadly on the Tanakh and other related topics. The Talmud is the basis for all codes of rabbinic law and is quoted often in rabbinic literature.

