

What Do We Do?

The Aleph Institute provides welcome relief for incarcerated Jewish men and women, their families, and those re-entering society from prisons.

Jewish prisoners and their families have traditionally been forgotten by society at large and especially neglected by the Jewish community where the number of incarcerated is significantly smaller than the jailed portion of the main-stream population.

The Aleph Institute advocates for the imprisoned Jewish population, believing that they too are an integral part of the Jewish community.

Aleph provides a holistic approach to caring for men and women during and post incarceration and working with their families.

Rabbis - Chaplains

Please be our eyes and ears in the prisons. Keep the inmates informed of the programs and services available and please have them complete an application form so they can be added to our mailings.

Inmates - Families

Please contact our office for an application form and take advantage of the programs and services we offer.
We are here to help you.

Mission Statement

The Aleph Institute is a not-for-profit Jewish religious, educational, and humanitarian organization serving the Jewish community.

We offer a multitude of services to confined Jewish men and women and their families, focused on the premise that *“no Jew is forgotten”* and that *“no Jew is alone.”*

THE ALEPH INSTITUTE

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**ALEPH
INSTITUTE**

**No One Alone,
No One Forgotten.**

IN PRISON PROGRAMS

www.alephne.org

IN-PRISON PROGRAMS

Aleph Library

We understand that prisoners may have little or no money. Religious books are expensive and most prisoners cannot afford them. The Aleph Institute library allows prisoners access to these texts for religious studies after they have been approved by the Rabbis.

Books and Religious Materials

This program is similar to the Aleph Library program in that religious texts are provided to the inmates for religious studies. The difference is that these texts are completely free and distributed en masse. This program includes Jewish calendars, Jewish handbooks, etc.

Grape Juice & Matzo for Shabbat

Aleph will supply the grape juice and matzo so that Jewish inmates can make the necessary and required blessings every Friday night or Saturday (during the day). To do this, the chaplain must schedule a fifteen minute period of time when the Jewish inmates can gather at the chapel for the prayer and make the blessing. This program is in effect at SCI Fayette and has been at SCI Mercer for a few years without problems.

Weekly Magazine

The Aleph Institute publishes a weekly magazine with appropriate messages, lessons and instructions for the Jewish inmates. If you would like to receive the weekly magazine, please contact our office.

Chesed Mentoring Program

Prison is not a friendly place and prisoners need visitors to help keep their hopes up. The Chesed program provides volunteer visits, correspondence, emotional support and encouragement to inmates both prior to and upon their release from jail. If you know of an inmate who needs a mentor, please contact our office.

Torah Studies Program

This program seeks to provide Jewish study material for the Jewish men and women who are otherwise separated from the Jewish community and cannot attend study groups or classes. We provide the courses at a nominal cost, recognizing that the average inmate in prison earns no more than eleven cents an hour. We offer scholarships for the courses and the necessary books for those inmates who are indigent. These courses seek to take otherwise "dead" time and transform it into a time of spiritual growth and advancement.

Holiday Food

With the high prices of kosher food and the lack of availability near all the prisons, Aleph can supply food for the holidays at nominal cost to the inmates (i.e., a 96 oz. bottle of kosher grape juice is \$1.00!). Forms are sent to the FCPD through the central office and the Rabbis. If you do not receive a form, please contact our office and we will get a form to you for the holidays.

In-Prison Outreach

This program ensures that a Rabbi visits each prison every two weeks. Especially as the number of Jewish inmates at a facility is small and therefore the cries of few may be overlooked.

Family Counseling

We provide trained and experienced professionals who counsel the families of inmates, and give them the tools to cope with the nightmarish experience we know they must endure. In addition, we can secure emergency funds to help the families get through the experience.

Holiday Based Programs

The holidays of Judaism should be practiced everywhere, regardless of the conditions. Aleph allows Jewish prisoners without Jewish surroundings, to practice their religion. Also, the families of prisoners are afforded the opportunity to observe the holidays.

Torah Leadership Programs

Furlough programs work with the authorities to take select non-violent inmates out of the prison environment to a spiritual sanctuary, allowing them to learn and study and bring back Jewish leadership skills to the other inmates in their respective communities.

Jewish Burial

If, G-d forbid, an inmate should pass away in prison, Aleph Institute will make the necessary arrangements to ensure that the remains are treated in the most respectable way, in accordance with Jewish law. Aleph has sent out a car to pick up the remains and takes care of the burial in a Jewish cemetery and arranged for a respectable tomb stone etc. Inmates should discuss this issue with the Rabbi and arrange that Aleph should be able to have possession of the remains.