

# RE-Entry Programs

- **Aleph House** Inmates in state institutions cannot be released to parole unless they have a home plan: a place they will live when they exit the prison. Unfortunately, many inmates have no place to call home, and therefore, are required in many cases to spend years and decades incarcerated longer until they provide an address which can be checked out by the parole officer. Aleph House opened in March 2000 with the help of a grant from the Jewish Family Assistance fund. It provides a home for inmates, thus giving them a chance to get out and obtain employment and begin a more productive life. Please contact our office for more information. This program operates on an individual basis.
- **Job Placement Program**  
One of the greatest dilemmas that face Jewish inmates upon release from prison is the uncertainty of where to turn and who will hire them. They leave prison greatly disadvantaged; they are convicted felons and have been out of the work force for months, if not year, and usually begin with nothing but the shirt on their back. Aleph helps these individuals by assisting them to find employment.
- **Religious Counseling**  
Returning to society can be confusing and traumatic. Religious counseling with the ex-inmate on a one to one basis eases their transition from prison to society.
- **Community Transition Program**  
This program works with local Jewish agencies to provide free medical care, counseling services, clothes, and a host of community programs, providing the tools necessary for the individual to become a productive member of society.
- **Anonymous meetings**  
There are weekly AA, NA, and ALANON

meetings held at the Aleph Institute. These meetings have proven a successful re-course for helping the tens of thousands of people afflicted with addictive behavior. For more information about these support groups, please visit their respective website; only they can speak on behalf of their programs. Aleph Institute is proud to host these meetings.

- **Lectures and Meetings**  
Aleph has ongoing lectures and programs to help the ex-inmate or their family's transition into society and find resources available to them during that difficult time. These meetings are open to the public – there is no sign-in process.

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## 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."

'No One Alone - No One Forgotten'

Please find more information at:  
[www.alephne.org](http://www.alephne.org)

In Prison Programs

# Aleph Institute

Re-entry Programs



**ALEPH INSTITUTE**  
No One Alone,  
No One Forgotten.

# 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## Grape Juice and 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.

## 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.

## 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 write your name and e-mail address on the list below.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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. Please inform your Jewish inmates of this service for their families.

## 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

G-d forbid if an inmate should pass away in prison, Aleph Institute will make the necessary arrangements to ensure that the remains are treated in a 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.



## Rabbis - Chaplains

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

## Inmates - Families

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