



Keren Malki: A Letter to Our Friends

An Update from the Malki Foundation, Jerusalem | September 2005

Making a Difference to Hundreds of Families: An Update on Our Programs for Special-Needs Children

The challenges facing a family with a seriously disabled child are not simple. Neurological disorders, severe illness and developmental problems in childhood change the lives of all concerned: the child, parents, siblings and - in some ways - the society around them.

Experience shows that such families are rarely in a position to stand up to these challenges without sustained, targeted help. In Israel, sadly, the government is part of the problem rather than part of the solution. Which is where our role starts.

The Malki Foundation, now completing its fourth year, was founded in 2001 as a living memorial to a girl who dedicated herself to caring for people with disabilities, among them her own severely disabled sister. The life of Malka Chana Roth,

Measuring Achievements: Dispatches from the Battlefield

Nothing would be more pleasant for us, as an organization that exists on the basis of philanthropy and goodwill, than to provide our donors with happy-ending stories. If we could, we would. But the reality of Keren Malki's work is that almost all of the children cared for by the families we support suffer from chronic, life-long disabilities. Fairy-tale endings are rare. That's reality. The families providing round-the-clock care for these children know that giving is its own, and often the only, reward.

We never ask the families who receive therapy funding or equipment from Keren Malki for letters of thanks or other acknowledgement. Despite this, we are honored to receive a steady and growing stream of letters and emails which attest to how much good can be done. [Go to page 8](#)

who was fifteen when her life was snuffed out by Arab terrorists, is the inspiration for the foundation's work. Her murder is the reason it was created.

Two Programs: Keren Malki's work is channeled into two active programs: one focused on providing specialized equipment in the home, and the other on home-based therapies. In both tracks, the goal is to empower families who want to give their seriously disabled child the best possible care at home.

The innovative Keren Malki *Therapies in the Home* Program started in 2004. It is based on the principle that striving to meet the needs of a seriously disabled child requires all the love and care the family can muster... and as much paramedi-



cal therapy support as they can afford.

The cost of therapies, and finding the money to fund it, is a major factor in the lives of such families. Schools, both special purpose and mainstream, provide some therapies, but never

enough. The message from Keren Malki to parents coping with these major challenges is: *You find the therapists who can best help your child, and we will help you cover the costs.*

But there are conditions: you must first make full use of the therapies to which your child is currently entitled under the law. Once you have worked through the system and obtained what is available there, our role begins.

Keren Malki's founders, Frimet and Arnold Roth, have had their own battles with the public health bureaucracy over the past decade. (The youngest of the Roth children suffers from blindness and other extreme disabilities.)

Their experience is a significant factor in moulding the foundation's direction and policies.

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Update: Keren Malki's Programs for Special-Needs Children

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Most families benefiting from Keren Malki's programs first learn about them by word of mouth: via a social worker or from their child's neurologist or therapist. The number of families admitted to the program currently stands at several hundred; the numbers are growing steadily. Fresh applications arrive at the rate of some thirty a month.

Keren Malki's limited but growing financial resources dictate that we move forward very carefully, taking the trouble to clearly define goals and manage expenditure conservatively.

Therapies in the Home: Applicant families admitted to our *Therapies in the Home* program receive financial support for any one or all of the following: physiotherapy, occupational therapy, therapeutic swimming, speech therapy and therapeutic horse-riding.

To qualify for Keren Malki support, the child needs to be diagnosed as having a significant disability, and must reside in the family home rather than in an institution. This is a fundamental issue for us. Many large and fine institutions for the disabled operate in Israel. The guiding principle in Keren Malki's work, however, is that we support and empower parents who want their child to continue living at home. Unfortunately there are very few Israeli organizations which promote this view, something we hope will change with time.



The first step for families wanting to join the *Therapies in the Home* program is to make contact with an organization called *Keshet**

whose formal name explains what it does: "Keshet: Information, Counseling and Support Center for Families of Children with Special Needs". Founded in 1993, Keshet's experienced team of social workers serves as a clearing house of vital information about families' rights and benefits. Since we established our partnership with them in 2003, Keshet has provided a desk and office facilities for Keren Malki's full-time case-manager. The Keshet team, headed by the indefatigable Maya Goldman who founded the organization, answers calls on Keren Malki's behalf, advises applicant parents on Keren Malki's work and begins the process of qualifying them.

* On the web at www.mrkeshet.org.il

The rules of the *Therapies in the Home* program require that families seeking admission furnish a letter from a medical specialist certifying that the child has a significant disability. A simple questionnaire is filled in by a parent and the modest set of papers is then considered at one of the weekly meetings of Keren Malki's acceptance committee.

Families admitted to the *Therapies* program receive reimbursement of between 75% and 80% of the therapy costs against



▲ Every item of equipment in the Malki Foundation Unit warehouse at Yad Sarah's headquarters, like this special carriage, bears a special label

the receipts which they supply. The therapist providing the service must be a licensed professional in his or her field under Israeli law; and the receipt for payment must comply with the taxation authorities' rules. As a matter of principle, we will not reimburse therapies provided 'off the books' or by unlicensed professionals.

Vital Equipment: In Keren Malki's second program, we provide specialized equipment for the home: items that generally are either unavailable in Israel from any other source, or prohibitively expensive. The goal, as with the *Therapies in the Home* program, is to empower and support families wanting to care for their special-needs child at home, rather than to institutionalize the child.

An Israel-wide network of volunteers aiding disabled, elderly and house-bound people, the Yad Sarah organization has for years been devoted to making home-care an option. It has gained a well-deserved international reputation for the excellence of its performance.

Since establishing our joint venture with Yad Sarah in January 2003, we have had the privilege of providing home-care beds, standers, walkers, bath-inserts, hoists and host of other items to households where a seriously disabled child is cared for. Our warehouse at Yad Sarah has served hundreds of families from all parts of the country and from all demographic segments of Israeli society. More than 450 such equipment items, each bearing the label shown in the picture above, had been delivered to those families by June 2005. All equipment is provided at no charge to the family. Repairs and maintenance are also free.

Steady Growth: When we began supplying equipment for home care, we had a general sense of the kinds of equipment needed, and not much idea of how quickly the demand from families would materialize and grow. Two and a half years later, it is apparent to Yad Sarah's management and volunteers and to Keren Malki – and to anyone who watches the steady flow of expensive equipment being taken home by grateful borrowers – what a valuable service we provide. The faces say it all. Our equipment includes about thirty different classes of item; some are in greater demand than others*. Our specialty focus makes us one of the largest purchasers in the world for certain kinds of aids and therapeutic equipment.

The degree to which the Malki Foundation's work will succeed is directly related to how well we are able to maximize the effectiveness of money raised from donors. This, in turn, requires minimizing our expenditure of time and money on infrastructure and overheads. We have a lean management team – one administrator, and one case manager. We have no other salaried personnel, no fund-raisers who earn commissions or any other payment, no cars, no waste.

A small group of committed volunteers, including Frimet and Arnold Roth, contribute their time without payment, providing all the additional manpower we currently need to do our work including the raising of donation money. We prefer to have no separate office of our own in Israel or anywhere else. Virtually all of Keren Malki's activity is conducted from the premises of our two partners, Yad Sarah and Keshet, and from the kitchen table of Frimet and Arnold Roth.


Keren Malki's financial accounts are professionally prepared and audited, and the organization is registered with the Israeli authorities as a not-for-profit (an Amuta). The donations we raise outside of Israel are channeled via *Friends of Keren Malki* voluntary groups in Germany, the US and Australia, and are transferred to Israel with no deduction and no expenses.


Keren Malki's sharp focus and lean structure should never be confused with amateurism. In our quiet way, we have already reached hundreds of Israeli families, and with your help we will reach hundreds more this year. 🌱

* For instance, on the day these notes are being written, we have a backlog of some forty standers (an apparatus enabling a child who is unable to stand to be upright and bear his or her own weight) which we will fill in the next few weeks through a single major purchase.


Making a Donation to Support Keren Malki's Work

Every cent Keren Malki spends on therapies and therapeutic and home-care equipment comes from donations. We depend absolutely on public support and individual generosity.

United States: Tax-deductible receipts will be issued for donation checks made out to "UJC/Supplemental Giving" or  donated via our on-line credit card facility – visit www.kerenmalki.org/Cards.htm. The mailing address is *American Friends of Keren Malki, 736 Grange Road Teaneck, NJ 07666*. To call our Jerusalem office toll-free from the US, dial 1-866-630-6161 (keep in mind the time difference: 7 hours ahead of east coast time).

Israel: Donations are tax-deductible for Israeli tax-payers if the donation cheque is made out to "*Haruach Hayisraelit*"  (connected to the Keren Hayesod). All other donation cheques can be made out to "*Keren Malki*". No matter how it is made out, the cheque should be mailed to: *Keren Malki, PO Box 23637 Jerusalem 91236*.

Australia: The address for mailing all donations is: *Australian Friends of Keren Malki, Box 16, 393 Wattletree Rd., Malvern East, Vic. 3145*. Donation cheques of A\$200 or more can be made payable to "*UIA RRF*" and will be tax-deductible. All other donations should

 be made payable to "*Australian Friends of Keren Malki*". Phone Joseph Roth 0412 382 935 for more information. Or to leave a voice message that will reach our Jerusalem office, phone 03 9923-6079 in Melbourne.

Our *Friends* organizations in Australia, the United States and Germany operate on a voluntary basis; there are no salaried employees engaged in fund-raising or in any other capacity outside of our Israeli activities.

Credit card donations can be made securely on-line at www.kerenmalki.org/Cards.htm (tax-deductible if you are in the United States). Whichever way you choose, please complete and attach a donor form so we can issue a proper receipt to you (online at www.kerenmalki.org/Donating.htm).

For people with **special philanthropy** and **named bequests** on their minds, please know that we invite such initiatives. We have plenty of creative ideas which we will be more than happy to discuss with you. And thank you for your generous support! 🌱

Honoring Those Who Make Our Activities Possible

GRANTS: Increasingly, foundations and other grant-giving agencies have become central to the success of the Malki Foundation's activity.

► We are privileged to be awarded a prestigious Challenge Grant by **The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation** of Baltimore. The award spans two years, providing Keren Malki with a six-figure dollar sum to match donations raised in our ordinary fund-raising (hence the 'challenge'). We extend our sincere appreciation to the trustees of the Foundation, and to Mr. Yitzhak Shavit and his staff at UJC NY who facilitated this important grant. We extend again our gratitude to Mr. Jeff Kaye and his colleagues at the Jerusalem offices of the **Keren Hayesod** and **Jewish Agency for Israel** for their initiative and ongoing support of Keren Malki's work. Thanks too to the leaders of the United Israel Appeal in Australia for their continuing help.

► Our sincere thanks are expressed to the trustees of several foundations and institutions for their support, including **Abeles Liberman Trust; Bnai Brith Lodge - Frankfurt; Estate of Rose Garfin; Intract Charitable Trust; Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago; Pratt Foundation; Ramaz School, New York; Simon Giving Fund; Voices for Israel; Los Angeles Jewish Fund.**

FAMILY MILESTONES: Our sincere thanks and congratulations to the families in Israel and Australia who chose to associate their personal family celebrations with our work by asking their guests to contribute to the Malki Foundation in lieu of personal gifts. In particular: **Emma Corney and Daniel Sass** – wedding in Jerusalem, April 2005; **Eitan Zelwer** – Bar Mitzvah in Jerusalem, November 2004; **Judy Warren** – 'milestone' birthday in Melbourne; **Peter Frayman** – 'milestone' birthday in Melbourne; **Gitta Steinfeld** – family celebration in Melbourne; **Shelley Grynberg and Danny Pollack** – pre-wedding event in Melbourne; Mr **Max Cooper** – 80th birthday celebration in Melbourne; **Talia Slonim** – 10th birthday in Melbourne; Bar Mitzvah of **Daniel Diamond** in Melbourne; **Michael Sharp** – 'milestone' birthday in Melbourne; **Avigayil Sztokman** – Bat Mitzvah in Melbourne; **Samantha and Jason Kozica** – 18th wedding anniversary in Melbourne.

EVENTS: **Hong Kong's** Jewish Film Festival arranged a special showing of the CNN documentary "*Impact of Terror*" in March 2005. Arnold Roth, who was in the city en route to a personal visit in Australia, spoke after the film screening. All proceeds went to Keren Malki. Our sincere thanks for his help to the Festival's director, Howard Elias.

► *From Toni Thrasher:* "On July 19, 2005, the youth group of **Niedringhaus United Methodist Church** in Granite City, Illinois held a car wash in their parking lot. The money raised will benefit Keren Malki's work. Since October of last year, the church has helped funds for Keren Malki thanks to such activities as a bake sale, a candy sale, and a handmade bracelet sale." We are very grateful to Toni and her friends.

► The **Ezra** youth organization held its "Latet K'Shata Ohev" bazaar in Jerusalem's Ramot neighbourhood on 11th



▲ Scene at the busy Ezra charity bazaar, in Ramot, Jerusalem, 11th July 2005 – held annually in memory of Malki and Michal

July 2005, in memory of two murdered Ezra youth leaders, Michal Raziell and

Malki Roth Z"l. This was the third annual Ezra bazaar. The numbers have grown and the quality of the event has risen each year. All proceeds from this successful, well organized neighborhood event go to Keren Malki and other charities.

► Arnold Roth had the honor of being Israel's sole official representative, and delivering a keynote speech, at **the International Conference of Victims of Terror** in Bogota, Colombia, in February 2005. More than a dozen newspaper articles and TV interviews reported on Keren Malki's work.

► An **Israeli Friends of Keren Malki** group, headed by Thelma Reed, was formed in Maaleh Adumim and is planning its first charity event in the next few months, with all proceeds going to Keren Malki. 🙏

THE CASE FOR KEREN MALKI

Asking someone – whether friend or stranger – to donate to a cause in which you believe is never easy. Worthy causes are never in short supply. How does a person decide which are worth supporting and which not? Even the most generous donors quickly get to the point of exhaustion, impatience and skepticism.

Some issues to keep in mind when donating:

- ☑ The Malki Foundation is registered as a not-for-profit association (“*amutah*”) under Israel’s laws, complies with the ‘good accounting’ principles (“*nihul takin*”) of the Registrar of Associations and is a streamlined, efficient, focused, transparent and low-overhead organization.
- ☑ Keren Malki’s founders and their family members draw no salary or any other benefit. No one is ever paid a commission on donations received. Donations go directly in to Keren Malki’s bank account or channeled via the Keren Hayesod which – for donations from Israel, Germany, Canada and the United States – makes no charge for this.
- ☑ As a registered *amutah*, we have an audit committee and external, professional auditors to ensure we comply both with the law, with our own documented goals and with our own constitutional documents.
- ☑ Keren Malki’s activities and programs are firmly directed at a specific segment of Israeli society whose needs we understand well from the founders’ years of personal experience and their passion for memorializing their daughter. Their’s is a long-term commitment.
- ☑ Our programs meet the needs of that segment – families providing home care for their disabled child – in ways which no one else does. Hundreds of Israeli families from every part of the demographic spectrum have already benefited and are benefiting from our programs.
- ☑ It’s unrealistic to set out to change the world, but the Malki Foundation has practical, concrete and realistic targets. And we are achieving them.

A respectful tip: Before committing charity money, it makes sense to look as carefully into the philanthropic organizations and not-for-profits who ask for your support as you would if you were purchasing a substantial item for your home. 🌿

Being Fifteen: An Essay

► *For people who never knew Malki, in whose memory the Malki Foundation exists, we reprint this article written by Arnold Roth and originally published in Aish.com’s online journal, April 2005.*

Most Jewish teenagers growing up in Australia during the 1960s were, like me, children of concentration camp survivors.



Our parents were involved in owning small businesses or were employed. There was hardly a professional among them. At

birth, we lacked even a single grandparent in most cases. Almost all of my friends were named after family members who perished in the Holocaust

It was clear that we were everything to our parents, and no one needed to tell us why. Top of their priorities list was ensuring that we gained the best possible education. It is hardly surprising to know that several of the largest and most successful Jewish schools in the world were started in the tiny Melbourne Jewish community in the years right after World War II. The community’s interest in Israel was unlimited. The occasional Israeli film and Israeli visitor to Australia’s distant shores were memorable events.

The Six Day War between the Arab states and Israel happened when I was 15. The weeks of rising tension leading up to it left an indelible mark on me: the grainy television images of Egyptian and Syrian troops on the march; Nasser’s strident speeches and his unilateral blockade of the sea lanes to Eilat; the massing of Egyptian forces on Israel’s Sinai border and of the Syrian army on the Golan Heights; U Thant’s disgraceful capitulation in removing the UN’s peace-keeping forces from Sinai precisely when they were most needed. And the blood-curdling threats of one after another of the Arab dictators and monarchs: “*The existence of Israel is an error which must be rectified... This is our opportunity to erase the ignominy which has been with us since 1948... Our goal is clear – to wipe Israel off the map.*”

Fifteen marked a turning point in my life. A few months after Israel’s stunning defeat of those forces intending to carry out (once again) the liquidation of the Jews, I enrolled for the first time in a Jewish day-school. My ideas about being a Jew in

Age Fifteen

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the world, about history and how it affects our lives, about the Holocaust and the chain of Jewish life, began taking adult shape.

My mother grew up near Lodz in a town located close enough to the Polish/German frontier to have been overrun by Nazi forces on the first day of the war. Among the men rounded up by the invaders on September day in September was her father, the grandfather whose name I was given. As a father



▲ Malki and her paternal grandmother, Genia Roth, an Auschwitz survivor who lives in Australia

myself, I have to breathe deeply in calling to mind the image of my mother throwing herself at the feet of a German soldier, begging, screaming for her father's life to be spared.

On the day the Nazis marched into Poland and began the process of destroying a

world, trampling a unique culture into the mud, murdering Jews by the millions, my mother had just turned 15.

My awareness of my parents' lives begins, in a certain sense, with the end of the war: their four or five years as displaced persons in post-war Germany, their long journey to Australia as a young couple with no English, no marketable skills and no roots beyond their few personal ties and their very Jewish sense of community.

An unexpected photograph changed this for me a few years ago.

I have a cousin, a kibbutznik. She is the daughter of my father's oldest brother. She was born in Tel Aviv in the 1930s, shortly after her parents fled pre-war Poland. Returning as a tourist to her parent's roots, she traveled to the city of Krakow in 2000, and via a chain of circumstances ended up in possession of four photocopied pages which she shared with me. These were Nazi documents -- census forms which the Germans required the Jews in the Krakow ghetto to complete prior to dispatching them to the death camps.

The first page had been completed in the distinctive handwriting of my father, of blessed memory. A small snapshot attached to the form showed him as I had never seen him before: virile, handsome, young. Two other pages were the

census forms of two of my father's sisters. Their names were known to me from a family tree I had put together years earlier with my father's help, but until that moment they were nothing more than names. Now I gazed at the portraits of two vibrant, attractive young women.

My oldest daughter, Malki, had just completed a family-roots project at school and I knew she would be interested. She glanced at the pages and she said exactly what I had been thinking: that she bore a striking resemblance to my father's beautiful sister Feige.

Unlike my parents, Feige did not survive the Nazi murder machine. Whatever potential her life contained, whatever talents she was developing, whatever gifts she was planning to give the world -- all these were overturned by a massive act of violent, barbaric hatred: the genocidal murder of Europe's Jews by the Nazis.

Some months after we gazed on those extraordinary pictures for the first time, Malki sat down and quietly (without telling us) composed the words and music of an infectiously upbeat song: "You live, breathe and move -- that's a great start!... You'd better start dancing now!"

Living in the land promised to the Jewish people was a source of deep contentment to this grand-daughter of Holocaust survivors. The discovery of Feige's picture enabled Malki, I



▲ Malki (at right) and Feige, the great-aunt she never met who perished in the Holocaust

think, to gain a strengthened sense of her personal role as a link in an ancient chain.

Arafat's intifada war

against Israel's civilian population broke out around the time we received those precious pages. From the diary she kept, it's evident that the almost daily toll of injuries and deaths weighed heavily on Malki's mind. She writes of having to leave her classroom to weep in privacy upon learning of another terror attack... and another and another. We, her parents and siblings, were unaware of the depth of her empathy for the victims of the war raging in her precious land. The turmoil and pain were deeply personal to her. Though born in Australia,

Malki had lived in Jerusalem since age two. She felt deeply connected to Jewish history.

In August 2001, my daughter and her friend Michal interrupted the activities of a busy summer vacation day to grab lunch in a crowded Jerusalem restaurant called Sbarro.

If she had noticed the man with a guitar case on his back striding through the unguarded door and positioning himself next to the counter where she was engrossed in tapping out a text message on her cell phone, would Malki have recognized the hatred, the barbaric ecstasy, on his face before he exploded?

Michal and Malki were buried the next day. The closest of friends since early childhood, they lie side by side forever on a hill near the entrance to Jerusalem. Malki was fifteen.

Her diary is full of questions: How can such terrible things happen to our people? Why is our love for the Land of Israel not better understood by outsiders? What kind of Divine plan calls for teenagers to be injured and killed by people for whom we hold no hatred at all? How can such intense hatred even exist?

The unbearable question marks left behind by my daughter scream at me every day.

Jewish life, viewed from a distance, is an astonishing saga of tragedy, achievement, grandeur, destruction and greatness, played out over millennia. There is a risk we lose this perspective when we are the individuals living it.

Those of us raised in the shadow of the Holocaust, and who have experienced the tragedy of a child's death by hatred, struggle to understand the nature of the Divine role in our lives as individuals and as a people. There are times, according to Jewish wisdom, when you need to know that G-d's hand is at work even when the evidence is difficult to see, even when there are more questions than answers. 🕊



◀ Malki's phone was retrieved from the ruins of the Sbarro restaurant. In her handwriting at the base: 'Asur ledaber lashon hara', meaning 'Speak no ill of other people'

Announcing the Tikvah Project



Contributed by Daniel Bonner*, (pictured at left):

What does Israel mean to you?

To me, the words *Eretz Yisrael* evoke memories of *davening* at the *Kotel*, strolling along Dizengoff Street, soaking in the Dead Sea, and meeting *chayalim* (soldiers) in the

Golan Heights. Israel, the land of our forefathers and our land today, is meaningful in a very unique way to every Jew; we are each inspired by different aspects of the Holy Land.

One feeling that we do share however, despite our many differing political, religious, or cultural backgrounds is a profound, unwavering love and devotion for our homeland. Inspired by the words of ancient heroes like King David and of families like the Roths, those of us who remain steadfast in our support for Israel are always trying to find ways to express our support for the Jewish state. For many adults, the answer is easy: send money to Israel. Donations certainly go a long way in helping great organizations like Keren Malki. For youth, however, donating large sums of money is not an option and we yearn to lend our support through more practical means.

Motivated to support Keren Malki after reading a speech delivered by Arnold Roth at a conference in Europe, I approached him with an idea to involve the Jewish youth of the world in an effort to revitalize support for Israel. To rally young people behind a Jewish state fighting terror on a daily basis, I believed, we needed to utilize their voices, their words. In a world where Palestinian children are used on a daily basis as shields for terrorists when they attack, I reiterated that Jewish children need to also act as shields, for their country, but in a peaceful, inspirational manner. And so, the "Tikvah | What Israel Means" Project was born.

Tikvah in Hebrew means "hope." Malki Roth and the multitudes of other children who were brutally murdered in terrorist attacks were the "hope" of Israel.

* Daniel Bonner, of Dallas, Texas, whose initiative is described in his article, is a high school student, aged fifteen.

Announcing the Tikvah Project

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They are no longer with us, and the responsibility is left to Jewish youth from around the world to fill their void.

Becoming the hope of Israel by voicing our support for the people of Israel, we must do everything in our power to continue the inspirational lives young people like Malki lead before their lives were taken too early.

Many aspects of the project are being finalized at the moment, but here is a basic synopsis of what the “Tikvah | What Israel Means” Project will entail:

- Students from around the world will participate in an essay contest on the subject “What Israel Means to Me.”
- The top 75 essays received will be published in a book (which will also include entries from various celebrity figures) and sold throughout the world as a tribute to Israel and the Israeli people, as gifts or simply a book to read.
- All proceeds of the project will benefit Keren Malki’s many worthwhile activities.
- Judges for the contest, which will be divided into various age categories to ensure fairness, will be leading writers, journalists, Zionists, and other Jewish leaders.
- Each of the 75 chosen authors will receive prizes for their effort and the winners in each age group will be lauded with rewards in recognition of their achievements.
- In addition, we hope to compile each and every entry into an exhibit to be displayed at different landmarks throughout Israel and Diaspora Jewish communities.

We have begun to develop our website so that information can be distributed as it becomes available: see

www.whatisraelmeans.org. At this time, the most important aspect is enlisting volunteers to handle crucial portions of the project.

Some of these tasks include: developing our website, publicizing the project, and locating judges who are uniquely suited to this project. Anyone, anywhere – from Israel to North America to Europe to Australia – is encouraged to participate in this great effort to express our support for the Israeli people.

The Jewish children of Shushan, a Midrash on the story of Purim tells us, were the only citizens of the land who did not lose hope in the face of the evil and malevolence that surrounded them. Even when others had given up on prayer because they believed it helped little in “real world,” Jewish youth continued to make their voices heard loud and clear, playing a large role in the defeat of Haman.

Today, thousands of years later, through Keren Malki and this project, Jewish youth, from children to college students can make their voices heard once again! Questions, comments, feedback, or requests to volunteer should be directed to Daniel Bonner at nextprez04@hotmail.com. Thank you – we appreciate your support! 🌿

Dispatches from the Battlefield

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE: R was born in 2000 and diagnosed with profound mental retardation. Her parents asked Keren Malki to support therapeutic horse-riding. After a series of such sessions, the family wrote: “*The therapy gives her an*



▲ Children often benefit from more physiotherapy than their medical fund allows. (Stock picture; we generally refrain from publishing pictures of Keren Malki program beneficiaries)

enormous amount, both from the physical and motor element and from the emotional

side... She can now sit alone on the horse... By the end of the lesson, she is a happy smiling child. The class clearly helps her outlook...”

The family of L, a four year-old who is extremely hypotonic (very weak-muscled) and suffers from scoliosis, requested and got Keren Malki’s support for hydrotherapy sessions. They wrote to say that these have had a notably beneficial effect and “...helped her enormously in building up her self confidence. Her teacher told us a month ago that she was having problems in class, but as soon as we started her therapy, we realized that it helped her overcome certain weaknesses that were related to us by the school”.



▲ July 2005: The operations manager of Rifton Equipment, a community-driven U.S. manufacturer of a wide variety of rehabilitation equipment for disabled children, presents an item as a donation to the Keren Malki Unit at Yad Sarah. Standing on his left: Shani Rosenfeld, director of Yad Sarah's Guidance and Resource Center

The family of another 2001 child who receive support for physiotherapy and hydrotherapy believe this has made a great difference to their little boy: *"More normative gait. His endurance has improved tremendously. He can now negotiate inclines. His overall health has improved, most markedly his respiratory system... also affecting his socialization skills."*

The father of another little boy with serious disabilities

wrote: *"...Despite being in a special ed framework, Menachem still needs a multiple of extra help and advice. This is all very expensive. Your contribution is very important and helps us enormously."*

A cluster of eight children (seven Jewish, one Bedouin) aged between 4 and 6 and living in a socially disadvantaged town far from Israel's main urban centers have serious developmental problems and epilepsy. Keren Malki provides the bulk of the funding for their therapeutic horse-riding. The reports we have received focus on the growing self-confidence and the ear-to-ear smiles.

The parents of a 5 year old Jerusalem girl with severe developmental problems and poor speech wrote: *"We just wanted to take a moment to let you know the tremendous appreciation that we feel for you, for all that you have done for our daughter. Without you, we could never afford the therapy that our daughter needs. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for helping us give our daughter the therapy that she needs to help her succeed in life."*

We are privileged to have dozens of letters and reports like these from the hundreds of cases we support every month.

NOT WAITING FOR HAPPY ENDINGS: There are worthy organizations in Israel that can legitimately claim to create happy endings: children who were ill and have made a stunning and complete recovery; children who were blind and now can see. Those are not the cases we see.

At Keren Malki, our mission is to stay focused on children who will probably need care all of their lives, and whose families have made the courageous decision to care for the child in the one place where love and warmth are a given – *at home*. As difficult as this is, we can lighten the load somewhat.

By giving these families the means to provide as much paramedical therapy as their child can benefit from, we empower them to do the best for their child. We understand that no one has the right to take this prerogative from a loving parent.

Many of these families will always have to struggle against the apathy and the inadequacy of a cash-strapped and often unresponsive system. Our role is not to sprinkle fairy dust but to stay focused on practical solutions. That was our plan at the outset. Four years later, we're pleased to say that that is just how things are working out. 🌸

► Before going to press, we received a letter of thanks from the parents of S, who has cerebral palsy and whose physiotherapy is funded by Keren Malki. Attaching this picture of their child with her therapist, they wrote: *"Please use this photo with our permission. Our daughter's smile is sent to you with joy and gratitude."* So, although our policy is not to show the faces or reveal the identities of the families or children we help, we are making an exception this time.



Nine Reasons to Remember the Ninth of August

By FRIMET ROTH

Sometimes wisdom can be gained from one's enemy.

Four years ago today, the terror organization Hamas taught the world some valuable lessons. On August 9, 2001, it dispatched a suicide bomber to the center of Jerusalem where my family and I live. The 10 kg bomb laden with nails, screws and bolts maimed, wounded and murdered about 150 people at the Sbarro restaurant. Fifteen innocents died, most of them women and children and a young mother remains comatose. My precious fifteen year old daughter, Malki, was one of the dead.

The Sbarro massacre shattered the following myths about terrorism and how to thwart it.

First, conventional wisdom holds that terrorists are deprived individuals, desperate and with nothing to lose. But my daughter's murderer was a privileged university student, the son of a prosperous land-owning restaurateur, and a newly-religious Moslem who lacked for nothing. So much for that myth.

Next: members of terror organizations are frequently depicted as fringe elements, unsupported by the establishment. But the father of my daughter's murderer, speaking in a May interview on NBC, freely admitted he has been receiving compensation payments since the massacre. He was instructed, he said, to go to his local Arab Bank branch where he found an account with a substantial cash gift. Similar monthly sums have been deposited there over the past four years. NBC noted that the bank branch is festooned with posters glorifying suicide bombers. Arab Bank steadfastly denies what it calls "awareness of the existence of an

organized program to fund terrorism," insisting it considers suicide bombings "an abomination." But these empty pronouncements do not convince everyone: Arab Bank, dominant in Jordan, operates extensively in the United States and is finally under criminal investigation by the FBI.

Third, Israel's policy of security roadblocks draws bitter rebuke from critics who term the checks pointless violations of Palestinian human rights. They were especially vocal in 2004 when soldiers at an Israeli checkpoint ordered a Palestinian to play his violin before allowing him to pass through. My daughter's murderer carried a guitar case full of explosives over his shoulder yet managed to cross Israeli lines into Jerusalem and on to Sbarro. Had his instrument been subjected to a thorough check, my Malki would be alive today.

Fourth, Israel's responses to terror attacks are frequently criticized by the media as excessive and unwarranted. TIME magazine's report of the bloody attack at Sbarro, for instance, opened with a graphic account of Israel's raid on the PLO's offices in East Jerusalem, calling it a "retaliation": "Before seven Palestinian guards knew it, [the Israelis] had overrun Orient House, an elegant mansion that has served for a decade as the Palestine Liberation Organization's office in East Jerusalem. Border police raised the Israeli flag." The reporter, evidently a mind-reader, noted that Israeli officers had "felt intensely frustrated" but now "felt relief that at least some action had been taken in response, however symbolic."



▲ Sbarro, Jerusalem: 9th August 2001

While I am an involved party, I fail to see how shutting down an illegal and hostile office amounts to a "retaliation" for the massacre of children. Israel's response by any standards was token, restrained and measured.

Fifth: The channeling of government money to institutions that support terrorism is illegal under US law. But enforcement has been strikingly lax. Case in point: in September 2001, a replica of the bombed Sbarro premises was constructed on the grounds of Al-Najah University in Nablus. The display was visited by streams of Palestinians including children, paying homage to the perpetrators of the atrocity. Meticulously accurate down to the "kosher" sign in English and Hebrew on its wall, it included, according to Associated Press, an array of fake "body parts and pizza slices strewn around the room".

Palestinian Media Watch, a respected critic of Arab media, reported to the US Congress in June 2005 that the US Agency for International Development has been funding Palestinian universities including Al-Najah to the tune of \$41 million. Five of these, Al-Najah included, have on-campus Hamas and Islamic Jihad chapters. Despite being avowed terrorist organizations, they receive USAID funds as student organizations. A USAID spokeswoman stated that "procedures are in place to make

Nine Reasons

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sure that [those] in-kind donations... are not diverted to terrorism.” Fortunately, Capital Hill didn’t buy that line and has recently summoned USAID to respond to the findings.

Six: I used to think that in a democracy, we citizens are empowered to make decisions about our own safety. August 9, 2001 taught me otherwise. That morning, Israeli secret intelligence informed the government that a terrorist was loose on Jerusalem’s streets. Police and soldiers combed the capital while government officials pleaded with Arafat for his assistance – all in vain. The capital’s residents went about their usual business unaware that they were sitting ducks. The Israeli government’s failure to share this intelligence with us is a gross violation of our right to be informed when our lives and our children’s are endangered. We are entitled to decide when to worry and when to continue with our daily routine. The Sbarro attack was a turning point. Heightened security alerts are now regularly publicized. Ignorance is rarely bliss. Often, it brings grief.

Seven: Many Israelis think the best way to cope with terror and its aftermath is to put it behind us and move on. This approach underlies a decision taken in Israel about a documentary film called “Impact of Terror”. Produced in 2004 by an Emmy Award-winning Canadian film-maker, it focuses on a single terror attack in the current intifada – the one at Sbarro. It was snapped up by CNN which aired it six times. The film was also offered to all of Israel’s television networks at a low price but all of them rejected it. Most Israelis, consequently, have not seen it and probably never will.

Burying the painful memories of terrorism makes it harder to summon the strength to fight it. That lesson has not yet been learned here.

Eight: It is sometimes asserted that terror can only be tackled with all-out war. The day after the Sbarro attack, restaurants, cafes and supermarkets throughout Israel began stationing private armed guards at their entrances. Within a week, unsecured entrances – like Sbarro’s – were a thing of the past. Inspections of every customer are now routine. Suicide bombers keep trying to gain entrance but, by and large, have been forced to settle for outdoor attacks and casualty figures have dropped commensurately. So much for the “big guns” approach to fighting terrorism. Four years and numerous terror attacks later on their own soil, Europe and the U.S. have yet to implement this effective “small gun”.

Nine: Choosing the right way to honor the memory of the victims is a serious challenge with no simple answers. But in the last four years we have seen some disturbing examples of what not to do.

Here are two.

After rebuilding its incinerated Jerusalem store, the Sbarro chain announced a gala re-opening that coincided with the thirtieth day after the massacre. In Jewish mourning tradition that day – the *Shloshim* – is extremely significant. Sbarro placed a full-page advertisement for the celebration featuring a large heart-shaped pizza slice and in bold print: “*For You, The Very Best!*” In addition to a 50% discount, it promised the attendance of a list of dignitaries. But no mention that the VIPs were actually coming only to mark the *Shloshim*. No mention, indeed, of why the branch was rebuilt. And not one word about the fifteen who had perished there.

Two years later, we encountered another candidate for the Most Callous award. Jerusalem’s municipality has a policy of marking the sites of terror attacks with plaques engraved with the victims’ names within a year of the deaths. But the Sbarro building owner, apparently unwilling to see his property “defaced” in this way, withheld permission. It took two year’s of pressure exerted by the victim families on the authorities before a plaque engraved with the names of the dead was mounted on the Sbarro building’s Jaffa Street frontage.

I want to believe that these two incidents are isolated; that Israeli society has come some way since then. Hopefully there is now acknowledgement of the need to remember the terror attacks, their lessons and their victims.

When both Pope Benedict XVI and Tony Blair, the British Prime Minister, recently recalled the countries that had suffered from terror attacks, each of them omitted Israel. Many here were outraged. But, in all fairness, Israel can only demand she be included among the victims if she herself remembers and honors her own victims.

► **STAYING IN TOUCH:** Periodically we email updates to our friends and supporters. These report on the work of Keren Malki as well as occasional press articles published by Frimet and Arnold Roth. The [Friends of Keren Malki Email List](#) is a low-intensity, hosted list. All you need to do to join is send a blank email to malkifoundation-subscribe@topica.com. On receipt of your email, Topica, which hosts the service, will send you a confirmation message. When you reply to that, you are on the list and can leave at any time. Your email address is never made available to anyone.





Malki: Remembering the Beauty of Her Life

Keren Malki needs your help to expand its vital work of assisting Israeli families caring at home for a severely disabled child. Please show your commitment, while remembering and honoring the memory of a precious life that was lost to a senseless act of terror. **To make a donation**, please fill-out this page and send it to the address that appears below.

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May we send you occasional email updates about the work of Keren Malki? Yes/No



Malka Chana Roth מ"ר

Born in Melbourne
27th November 1985.

Died *Al Kiddush Hashem* in
Jerusalem
9th August 2001
(20th Av, 5761)

May her precious memory be a blessing

Please send this entire page and your cheque by mail to:

▶ Australia	▶ Israel	▶ United States of America
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