



# Keren Malki: A Letter to Our Friends

An Update from The Malki Foundation, Jerusalem | September 2004

## Keren Malki Supports Therapeutic Horseback Riding

The Malki Foundation works closely with, and supports, the Israel National Therapeutic Riding Association. Known as INTRA, this is a non-profit organization committed to teaching equine skills and horseback riding to people with a wide variety of disabilities.

INTRA's administrative and therapeutic director – and its founder – is Anita Shkedi. Originally from England, Anita introduced therapeutic riding in Israel in 1985. She is the founder of the Wingate Diploma for Therapeutic Riding instructors and serves as a committee member of the International Paralympic Equestrian Committee. Anita has taught and trained instructors in therapeutic riding in 15 countries.

The INTRA center, located in Neurim on the shores of the Mediterranean, north of Tel Aviv, welcomes mentally and physically challenged adults, children, survivors of terror attacks and injured soldiers.

INTRA riders are drawn from the ranks of Jewish Israelis and Arabs, and come from all walks of life. They range in age from 2 to 70 with disabilities that include brain injuries from trauma as well as cerebral vascular accidents (CVA), multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, autism, behavioral and emotional problems, blindness and deafness.

All students receive individualized, hands-on training from INTRA's team of dedicated and highly skilled staff.

Within weeks of starting INTRA lessons, most riders show dramatic improvement in their ability to face the challenges of their disability.

Volunteering is an integral part of the INTRA program. Volunteers serve as the foundation for INTRA's classes and without their help, many would be unable to ride. Some disabled riders require a



◀INTRA founder Anita Shkedi helps a special-needs child mount her horse. Keren Malki's support for disabled children ensures that a family's limited budget does not prevent them from getting access to the best therapies.

leader and two side walkers to help them remain balanced during the lesson. Volunteers can fulfill both roles; the leader keeps the horse at a safe and even pace while the side-walkers help by either supporting the rider or assisting the instructor. For volunteers who live in free accommodation on-site, free meals are provided at the Neurim school dining room and a small allowance is given for volunteers staying two months or more.

Therapeutic horse-back riding is one of five therapeutic domains supported by Keren Malki. The others are physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and hydro-therapy.

## Therapies In The Home: Progress

The Malki Foundation began receiving the first applications for its "Therapies in the Home" program in September 2003. The program enables paramedical and therapy services for severely disabled children who are being cared for at home.

The first-level locating and screening of families is done on Keren Malki's behalf by professional social workers from Keshet, an independent and respected Israeli social welfare organization. Keshet has been counseling and guiding families with special needs for a decade.

A representative sample of "Therapies in the Home" applicants currently receiving support from Keren Malki includes these children:

**B** is not yet three. A Down Syndrome child living in a Jerusalem neighbourhood, he will benefit from every bit of physical therapy his parents can provide. Like most families coping with a challenge of this kind, their financial means are limited. Keren Malki is starting to provide significant support so that Binyamin can benefit to the greatest extent possible.

**T**, almost four years old, receives intensive speech therapy which is heavily subsidized by Keren Malki. A Down Syndrome child, she is one of several children in the same Jerusalem family with special needs.

**R** is nearly five. His family is raising him and their other children in a small religious moshav (communal settlement) in center of the country. His delayed language development (among other problems) makes it essential that he receive quality speech therapy. Keren Malki is contributing the funds that make this possible.

**N** is four years old. The effects of her progressive retardation are greatly ameliorated by therapeutic horse-riding, funded by Keren Malki.

**O**, aged three, has severe motor development problems and needs intensive occupational therapy. Government budget cut-backs mean that the availability of therapy services in her day-care center are no more than the very basic minimum. Keren Malki ensures she gets far more.

**S**, a smiley 7-year-old from a Jerusalem suburb, has severe developmental disabilities. At this stage, she needs as much speech therapy as possible. Keren Malki provides the means.

The family of **M**, aged 4, is economically disadvantaged. One of four children, he has cerebral palsy and his family is unable to take full advantage of the modest levels of part-funded occupational and physical therapy which their health fund offers – because they simply can't find the money. At this early stage, Keren Malki is providing the "bridge" payments. In the near future, in consultation with the parents, we hope to be able to enlarge the program of therapies which is available to Moshe.

## Pratt Foundation Grant Enables Expansion of Home-Care Program

A substantial grant by Australia's Pratt Foundation has enabled Keren Malki to significantly expand its "Therapies in the Home" program.

Sam Lipski AM, the Pratt Foundation's chief executive, visited Israel earlier this year and met with Keren Malki's administrative manager, Michael Horesh, and Arnold Roth, chairman of Keren Malki,



Sam Lipski

in Jerusalem. They described the workings of the program which began its pilot phase in September 2003, and their plans for its enlargement.

As a result of the Pratt Foundation's generosity, the scale of the Keren Malki program has grown and its geographic scope expanded beyond the Jerusalem area to include most of Israel over the next two years.

The Pratt Foundation is one of the largest private sources of philanthropy in Australia. Established in Melbourne, Australia in 1978 by Richard and Jeanne Pratt, it has the shared vision of supporting charitable enterprises and adding value to philanthropy.

According to its mission statement, the Pratt Foundation aims "to enrich the lives of our community". The Pratt Foundation works to fulfill this aim in a spirit of "kindness, justice and equity", in the words of the ancient prophet Jeremiah.

## Feedback

*The following letter, unsolicited and unexpected, was received by Keren Malki in May 2004. The writer is the mother of a young child whose special needs call for intensive therapies which, until now, were beyond the ability of the family to provide them.*

“Thank you once again for your continuous support and assistance. Baruch Hashem, Ari [name changed for privacy reasons] has begun to walk. Although he still has a lot of ‘work’ to do, Kupat Holim generally refuses PT services to a child with DS [Down Syndrome] once he is walking.

“Your generosity allows us to work on improving the quality and endurance of his walking as well as starting to work on skills such as walking on an incline, steps, jumping, tricycle riding, etc. all of which are essential parts of a child’s development. In the few weeks since he began being ‘upright’ more often, we have seen an improvement in his social interaction with age-appropriate peers, as well as increased interest in verbal communication.

“We thank you from the bottom of our hearts. May you be blessed. Sincerely, [Ari’s Parents].”

## Making Your Donation Go As Far As Possible

As an organization that emphasizes efficiency and cost-effectiveness, Keren Malki has gone to lengths to avoid wasted outlays on services and facilities that do not contribute directly to its important work.

This is why we so value the help we have gotten from the Jewish Agency and the Keren Hayesod. Officials of both organizations have been tremendously helpful and co-operative in enabling the trustees of the Malki Foundation to structure a cost-effective way of gathering philanthropic support from around the world.

With their invaluable help, we can offer tax-deductible receipts for supporters in Israel, the United States, Australia and Germany.

The details are on our website so that donors can know the special requirements that apply in each place. Please check carefully before making your donation.

Learn more at [www.kerenmalki.org/Donating.htm](http://www.kerenmalki.org/Donating.htm)

## Ezra's Second-Annual “Latet” Bazaar

In Hebrew, the word “Latet” means “to give”. That’s the name that was given to the second annual Ezra charity bazaar in Jerusalem’s Ramot neighbourhood (29th July, 2004) in memory of Michal Raziel and Malki Roth.



- ▲ *In Ramot, Jerusalem, the second-annual Ezra youth movement bazaar was a huge success. The Hebrew sign on the wall reads: “To give when you love: Charity bazaar in memory of Michal Raziel and Malki Roth”*

Founded in the nineteen-thirties, Ezra is a well-established and active Israeli youth organization. Malki Roth ז”ל was a dedicated Ezra youth group leader for the last year of her life, as was her best friend Michal Raziel. Ezra’s branch in Ramot, one of Jerusalem’s northern suburbs, is among the strongest and largest in Israel.

The friends of Malki and Michal chose to remember the lives of the two girls, murdered together in the August 2001 massacre at the Sbarro restaurant in Jerusalem. They did this by holding a bazaar – with the emphasis on individual acts of giving.

The second annual bazaar took place in August 2004 and attracted hundreds of visitors - and especially children - from all over Jerusalem.

In addition to the fun, this lovely event raised several thousand shekels which were presented to the Roth family for Keren Malki by the young organizers, all of them youth leaders in the Ezra organization. Their enthusiasm and energy were simply inspirational.

*Kol hakavod!*

## The Right to Grieve

By FRIMET ROTH / Jerusalem Post

I used to wonder whether our calendar of commemorative dates wasn't rather insensitive. What a struggle bereaved families must face, I thought, as the nation crosses from gloom to jubilation the moment the clock strikes seven on the eve of Yom Ha'atzma'ut.



▲ *Frimet Roth speaks in a September 2003 ceremony on Jerusalem's Jaffa Rd in which a memorial plaque, bearing the names of the fifteen innocent victims including Malki Roth Z"l, was affixed to the outside wall of the site of the Sbarro restaurant.*

Today, from the bereaved side of the fence, I know that no alternative scheduling could have eliminated that struggle. For us, it is always Remembrance Day. The pain, the longing, are full-blown every day of the year. And the holidays are no longer joyous pauses for celebration – regardless of when they take place.

Of course, none of us expects the rest of the Jewish people to share these sentiments. Yet a disturbing attitude toward the fallen has evolved over recent years. As the body-count from this current war rises, empathy seems to be in shorter and shorter supply.

Increasingly, we, the bereaved, are made to feel that our grief ought to be subdued, even submerged.

Some fellow Jews go so far as to blame us for having caused our own losses. They caution that killing our children's murderers is murder itself.

While these views are extreme, they are widely disseminated.

For example, several weeks ago Israeli victims of terrorism took to the streets of The Hague to remind the world of our nearly 1,000 victims. A sizable clique of Haaretz newspaper columnists sounded a collective cry of indignation at this public display. One of them, Yoel Marcus, lambasted the “undignified, cry-baby” performance. It made him feel “so low, so embarrassed, so humiliated.”

The paper's Benny Tzifer saw in the demonstrations a “craving to be miserable”. In a piece entitled “Everyone is for the fence, even the dead”, the Haaretz television critic charged the Foreign Ministry with “transforming every terror victim into government propaganda property and drafting them post-mortem.”

BUT THE prize for self-loathing must go to op-ed writer Tamara Shreiber, whose mother was murdered in a 1994 terror attack on a Jerusalem bus. In her Haaretz tirade, she expressed concern that her mother's name and photo might have been among those shown in The Hague. Her fear was unfounded, and she probably knew it, since only the nearly 1,000 victims of the current conflict were included.

Nevertheless, she whined: “Would she be there too? Could it be they would drag my dead one out of her grave and march her through the streets, a smiling shaheeda, to fight the Israeli government's jihad war?”

Perhaps I am overreacting. Surely these are merely the isolated voices of the fringe Left? The fact is, however, that across the board our society has striven to minimize the gravity of the losses we have suffered in this war. Conscious or not, as a coping mechanism or not, the disheartening trend is clear.

Each year, the Department of Education distributes circulars to school principals regarding Remem-

brance Day school ceremonies. The current guidelines advise honoring only those students who fell as soldiers. They make no mention of those murdered as victims of terror.

My 15-year-old daughter, Malki, killed in the Sbarro bombing of August 2001, has never been mentioned on Remembrance Day in the elementary school she attended for six years, though her younger sister continued to study there. No reminder of Malki's death graces even the tiniest corner of a wall in that school's building.

Two years ago, the Jerusalem municipality first announced plans to erect a central memorial for its victims of terror. It selected a site outside the city already landscaped as a failed park. Since then, whenever the media has queried it about memorializing the victims, the municipality has boasted of that planned memorial.

Yet nothing has ever been done. The site remains smothered in weeds and litter.

In Jerusalem, municipal policy dictates that memorial plaques bearing the victims' names must be erected within one year at the attack site. The owner of the building where my Malki and 14 others perished objected to this "defacement" of his property. Only after two years of pressure on city officials by the victims' families was the owner cajoled into granting approval.

Even renowned psychiatrist Dr. Yoram Yovell, keeper of the national psyche, does not seem to get it. In a 2003 interview in the Post, he discussed the effects of long-term exposure to terror attacks and threats on Israeli society.

"The price in the long run is that you become less sensitive to suffering in general. You can see it, for example, in that we are totally oblivious to the suffering of children on the other side. We've stopped caring about the deaths of Palestinian children."

And what of our own children?

But perhaps this is the only way to maintain equilibrium. Perhaps if Israelis did not distance themselves from the tragedies surrounding them they would lose their grip on normality.

But my guess is this would not happen. While we risk rocking the boat by confronting our losses, we are paying too high a price by blocking them out.

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*This article by Frimet Roth was originally published as an op-ed in The Jerusalem Post on 25th April 2004, Israel's Memorial Day – Yom Hazikaron. In August 2004, Frimet was a key speaker at a Ministry of Education seminar for educational guidance counselors from all over Israel. The theme of the seminar: helping Israeli school students cope with the trauma of the death of a loved one.*

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## Supporting the Malki Foundation

The Malki Foundation is registered as a not-for-profit association under the laws of Israel, and complies with the good-accounting principles ("nihil takin") of the Registrar of Associations. 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. The founders of Keren Malki are unpaid volunteers.

**United States:** Tax-deductible receipts will be issued for donation checks made out to "UJC/Sup-



plemental Giving" or donated via our on-line credit card facility – visit

[www.kerenmalki.org/Cards.htm](http://www.kerenmalki.org/Cards.htm). Our

mailing address is American Friends of KM, 736 Grange Road Teaneck, NJ 07666. To call our Jerusalem office toll-free from the US, dial 1-866-630-6161

**Israel:** PO Box 23637 Jerusalem 91236. Dona-



tions over 600 shekels will be tax-deductible for Israeli tax-payers if

made out to “Haruach Hayisraelit”. All other donations can be made out to “Keren Malki”.

**Australia:** Tax-deductible receipts issued for donations made out to “UIA RRF Keren Malki”



should be sent to Australian Friends of KM, Box 16, 393 Wattletree Rd., Malvern East 3145, Victoria. For more information, phone Joe 0412 382 935. Or to leave a voice message in Melbourne that will automatically reach our Jerusalem office, call this Melbourne number: 03 9923-6079

**Credit card** donations (tax-deductible if you are in the United States) can be made securely on-line at [www.kerenmalki.org/Cards.htm](http://www.kerenmalki.org/Cards.htm)

Whichever way you choose, please don't forget to send us a completed donor form (available on the website at [www.kerenmalki.org/Donating.htm](http://www.kerenmalki.org/Donating.htm)) so we can issue a proper receipt to you.

For people with **special philanthropy** and named bequests on their minds, please know that we invite such initiatives and, in addition, have plenty of creative ideas which we will be more than happy to discuss with you.

And thank you for your generous support!

## A Warehouse Story

Raising a child with serious disabilities at home is a challenge few families can cope with successfully on their own.

Obviously internal family adjustments are called for. Reservoirs of patience and understanding that are never in over-abundance under the best of circumstances become essential to the task. No one in the family is exempt.

But at a practical level, there is a critical need for equipment. Few families can absorb the financial burden of special chairs, hoists, bath inserts and so on without at least pausing to consider where the funds are going to come from.

Israeli law provides a supportive framework for families confronting these challenges. Equipment is made available via various ministries, and adjustments to the physical properties of the home are funded to enable accessibility.

The reality however is that there is a great deal of waiting and no small measure of disappointment and frustration. In brief, what's promised under the law and what is delivered in practice are two very different things.



▲ *Yad Sarah warehouse manager prepares a special chair for delivery from the Keren Malki Unit inventory to an applicant Jerusalem family.*

Starting in January 2003, the Malki Foundation began to provide practical help to such families through its partnership with the Yad Sarah Organization. Since its launch, the Keren Malki Unit of Yad Sarah has provided high-cost equipment on a long-term loan basis to families from all over

Israel. These are not gifts – the family which receives the equipment is responsible for its safe-keeping and the transaction is accounted as a loan, with the intention that the item will be returned to the warehouse when the need has passed or when the agreed term has ended.

Naturally there are situations where the length of the loan turns out to be longer than both sides anticipated. Under those circumstances, Keren Malki – in consultation with Yad Sarah management and in accordance with policies worked out by a special committee of Keren Malki – has developed a procedure which provides the families with a helpful resolution while preserving the principle of loan-not-gift.

What kind of equipment is available within the framework of the Keren Malki Unit? The range is limited but covers many of the most pressing and difficult needs: Movable bed hoists; standing aids (amidonim); bath inserts; electric wheelchairs; vestibular platters for home-play; reverse-wheeled walkers; child-sized hospital beds; ‘Major’ buggies; orthopedic aids for support in bed, and others.

Yad Sarah’s well-managed and mature infrastructure imposes a helpful discipline on the work of the Keren Malki Unit. For instance, any equipment which is accepted into the roster of Keren Malki has to be capable of being maintained and serviced for a period of multiple years, and once returned to base it has to be capable of being renewed in-house and sent back out for another cycle of use. This means that some classes of equipment that might otherwise appear on our ‘shopping’ list have to be left off.

A special Malki Foundation ‘exceptions’ committee, which includes prominent volunteer consultants from the world of Israeli public health, considers those applications to the Keren Malki Unit

that require non-standard equipment – items which were not in the standard inventory.

Where justified, and by agreement with Yad Sarah, such non-standard items are purchased at Keren Malki’s expense and (if necessary) imported into Israel by Yad Sarah which has a sizeable equipment-import facility and great experience in this field. They are then provided to the applicant family. No charge is made to the families for this service. They are dealing with large enough burdens already.



▲ *The Keren Malki Unit warehouse inside Jerusalem’s Yad Sarah Centre holds a range of expensive and useful items that can positively change the way a family cares for its disabled child.*

The rate of applications to the Keren Malki Unit has grown quickly from its inception in January 2003. For the present, we have been conservative in the way we have publicized our work; our means are still very modest – far smaller than the need we have tapped into.

Most people who come to Keren Malki do so because of word-of-mouth. While hundreds of families have already benefited, based on what we understand their needs to be, there are thousands and tens of thousands who need to be helped.

With the help of our generous friends and supporters, there still remains a great deal of good to be done.



## Malki: Remembering the Beauty of Her Life

Keren Malki needs your help to expand its vital work of assisting Israeli families with a severely disabled child. Please show your commitment, while remembering 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 mailing address that appears below.

- Donation (the amount and the currency please):

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- Donor's Name (the receipt will be made out to this name):

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- Special instructions to Keren Malki?

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*Malka Chana Roth 1985-2001*

Would you like us to send you occasional email updates about the work of Keren Malki? Yes/No

Please send this form and your cheque by mail to:

Australia	Israel	United States of America
Australian Friends of Keren Malki, Box 16, 393 Wattletree Road Malvern East 3145, Victoria Australia	Keren Malki PO Box 23637 Jerusalem 91236 Israel	American Friends of Keren Malki 736 Grange Road Teaneck NJ 07666 USA
Payable to: UIA RRF	Payable to: Haruach Hayisraelit	Payable to: UJC/Supplemental Giving

It's important to ensure that your cheque is made payable to the right entity, so that we can provide you with a tax-deductible receipt under law. (Please note that cheques made out in any other way cannot be assured of a tax deductible receipt.) For Australian donors, by arrangement with the Keren Hayesod-United Israel Appeal, funds donated to the Malki Foundation via the UIA are primarily allocated to disabled children who are immigrants to Israel from countries of distress.