

# The Yad LaKashish B'nei Mitzvah Kit



Yad LaKashish (Lifeline for the Old), 14 Shivtei Israel Street, P.O. Box 28, Jerusalem 91000, Israel  
Tel: 972-2-6287829 Fax: 972-2-6273739 E-mail: [lifeline@netvision.net.il](mailto:lifeline@netvision.net.il) Website: [www.lifeline.org.il](http://www.lifeline.org.il)  
**Tax deductible donations in the U.S. may be sent to:**  
Friends of Yad LaKashish / Lifeline for the Old, P.O. Box 494, Englewood, NJ 07631 E-mail: [lifeline@harmstiege.com](mailto:lifeline@harmstiege.com)

# Welcome To The Yad LaKashish (Lifeline for the Old) B'nei Mitzvah Kit



Congratulations on your upcoming Bar or Bat Mitzvah! We at Yad LaKashish in Jerusalem have prepared this kit for you and your family to illustrate the many ways to incorporate Yad LaKashish into your *simcha*.

Becoming B'nei Mitzvah means you are ready to receive the privilege of making *mitzvot*. Yad LaKashish is the perfect partner as you begin your journey of accepting responsibility and meeting a challenge. Yad LaKashish actively seeks to fulfill Rambam's (Maimonides) highest degree of *tzedakah*: to help the needy help themselves. Introducing Yad LaKashish into your *simcha* gives you the opportunity to be a part of the important Jewish values reflected by Yad LaKashish's example, including respect for the elderly, *tzedakah*, *chesed* and *tikkun olam*.

We are delighted to be a part of this very special time in your life. We wish you a lifetime of *mitzvot* and a lifetime of giving. *Mazel Tov!*

## **Included in this B'nei Mitzvah Kit you will find:**

- ❖ Information about Yad LaKashish
- ❖ How to Make Yad LaKashish Your Bar or Bat Mitzvah Theme!
- ❖ Example of Letter Sent by a Bat Mitzvah to Guests
- ❖ Gift Ideas for your Bar or Bat Mitzvah
- ❖ Yad LaKashish Quick FAQ
- ❖ And much more...

**To partner with Yad LaKashish for your simcha or for more information, please contact us:**

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# About Yad LaKashish

**Yad LaKashish (Lifeline for the Old)** is a non-profit organization that offers Jerusalem's needy elderly and disabled the opportunity to remain an integral part of society.

Founded in 1962 by Mrs. Mendilow, Yad LaKashish provides work opportunities, support services, and intergenerational programs to over 250 elderly and disabled, most of whom are new immigrants from the Former Soviet Union, Ethiopia, and South America. Yad LaKashish strives to be a model of the importance of understanding the needs of the aging population, encouraging the elderly to use their capabilities and providing them with a supportive environment in which they can utilize their skills.

***The Workshops*** Five days a week, elderly and disabled come from around Jerusalem to Yad LaKashish where they work in a variety of handicraft workshops, including bookbinding, ceramics, needlework, hand-made paper, silk-painting and metalwork. The craftsmen receive on-the-job training and supervision, producing beautiful, high quality Judaica and craft items. The work environment is adapted to the capacities and limitations of each person, emphasizing acceptance of all individuals, regardless of their difficulties.

***Support Services*** The artisans at Yad LaKashish receive a monthly stipend for their work. In addition, they benefit from a wide range of social and economic services, including transportation, a daily full-course hot meal, dental treatment subsidies, annual allowances for eyeglasses, social work services, a thrift shop and monetary gifts for the holidays.

***Intergenerational Connections*** Thousands of visitors of all ages from around the world come to Yad LaKashish every year to meet the elderly workers and witness *tzedakah* in action. Yad LaKashish endeavors to create a meeting ground for the young and old, where they can interact with and learn from one another. Volunteers, from school children to pensioners, are vital to Yad LaKashish and join the elderly workers and staff year-round.

***Financial Support*** Yad LaKashish receives no governmental assistance. Forty percent of the operating costs are covered by income generated from the sale of handicraft items in the Yad LaKashish Gift Shop. The remaining sixty percent is made up of donations and contributions, mainly by private individuals and partly by foundations and federations.

## **Contributions may be sent to:**

Yad LaKashish (Lifeline for the Old) P.O. Box 28, Jerusalem 91000, Israel

Tel: 972-2-628-7829 Fax: 972-2-627-3739

E-mail: [lifeline@netvision.net.il](mailto:lifeline@netvision.net.il) Website: [www.lifeline.org.il](http://www.lifeline.org.il)

## **Tax deductible donations in the U.S. may be sent to:**

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Friends of Yad LaKashish: [lifeline@harmstie.com](mailto:lifeline@harmstie.com)

# Make Yad LaKashish Your Theme!



Help us continue the tradition of intergenerational connections by including Yad LaKashish in your Bar or Bat Mitzvah celebration. Yad LaKashish represents important Jewish values such as respect for the elderly, *tzedakah*, *chesed* and *tikkun olam*. At this special time in your life we invite you to include Yad LaKashish in your *simcha*.

## What Can I Do?

### **Invitations!**

Our artisans can produce custom-made invitations and place cards designed especially for you. You can include a personal letter in your invitation explaining Yad LaKashish's message and encouraging guests to make a donation to Yad LaKashish in honor of your celebration. You can also include a link to Yad LaKashish on your *simcha's* website.

### **Tallitot and Kippot!**

Order your Bar or Bat Mitzvah handmade *tallitot* and *kippot* hand-made by elderly artisans.

### **D'var Torah!**

Talk about the *mitzvah* of respect and dignity for the elderly in your *d'var torah*. Discuss the Rambam's levels of *tzedakah*, highlighting the "highest form" - helping others to help themselves. Consider showing our short DVD at your reception explaining the important work being done at Yad LaKashish.

### **Tzedakah Project!**

Consider donating a portion of your gift money. You may also want to organize a fair at your synagogue to sell the hand-crafted items made at Yad LaKashish or hold a garage sale in your neighborhood to raise money for our elderly and disabled artisans.

### **Guest Gifts!**

Order custom-made centerpieces and napkin rings as well as *hamsas*, *challah* covers and other small gifts for your guests. Consider having hand-crafted jewelry, hand-painted silk scarves or other items as dance prize prizes. We will include brochures and literature from our organization to display at your reception.

### **Visit Us!**

Culminate your Bar/Bat Mitzvah experience by visiting our workshops in Jerusalem and meeting the elderly artisans during a private tour with your friends and family.

**To place an order or for more ideas and information, please contact us:**

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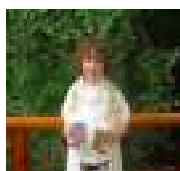
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# Tzedakah Projects with Yad LaKashish

*Tzedakah* is a mitzvah inherent to Judaism, and your Bar or Bat Mitzvah is the ideal time to begin learning about and performing *tzedakah*. Yad LaKashish actively seeks to fulfill what The Rambam (Maimonides) called the highest degree of *tzedakah*: helping the needy to help themselves to ensure a lifetime of accomplishment and ability.

Organizing a *tzedakah* project is one of the most exciting ways to share your *simcha* with Yad LaKashish. Your project can be simple or elaborate. Young adults have been wonderfully creative in incorporating our message into their B'nei Mitzvahs. Here are a few examples of what some generous and imaginative kids have done.



Danny Schroyer and his family asked us to design a *tzedakah* box especially for his *simcha*. Each of Danny's guests received the specialty *tzedakah* box as a gift.

Keren Straus raised money of behalf of Yad LaKashish in honor of her *Opa & Safta*. She then hand-delivered the donation on her Bat Mitzvah trip to Israel. The letter she wrote to her friends and family is on the next page.




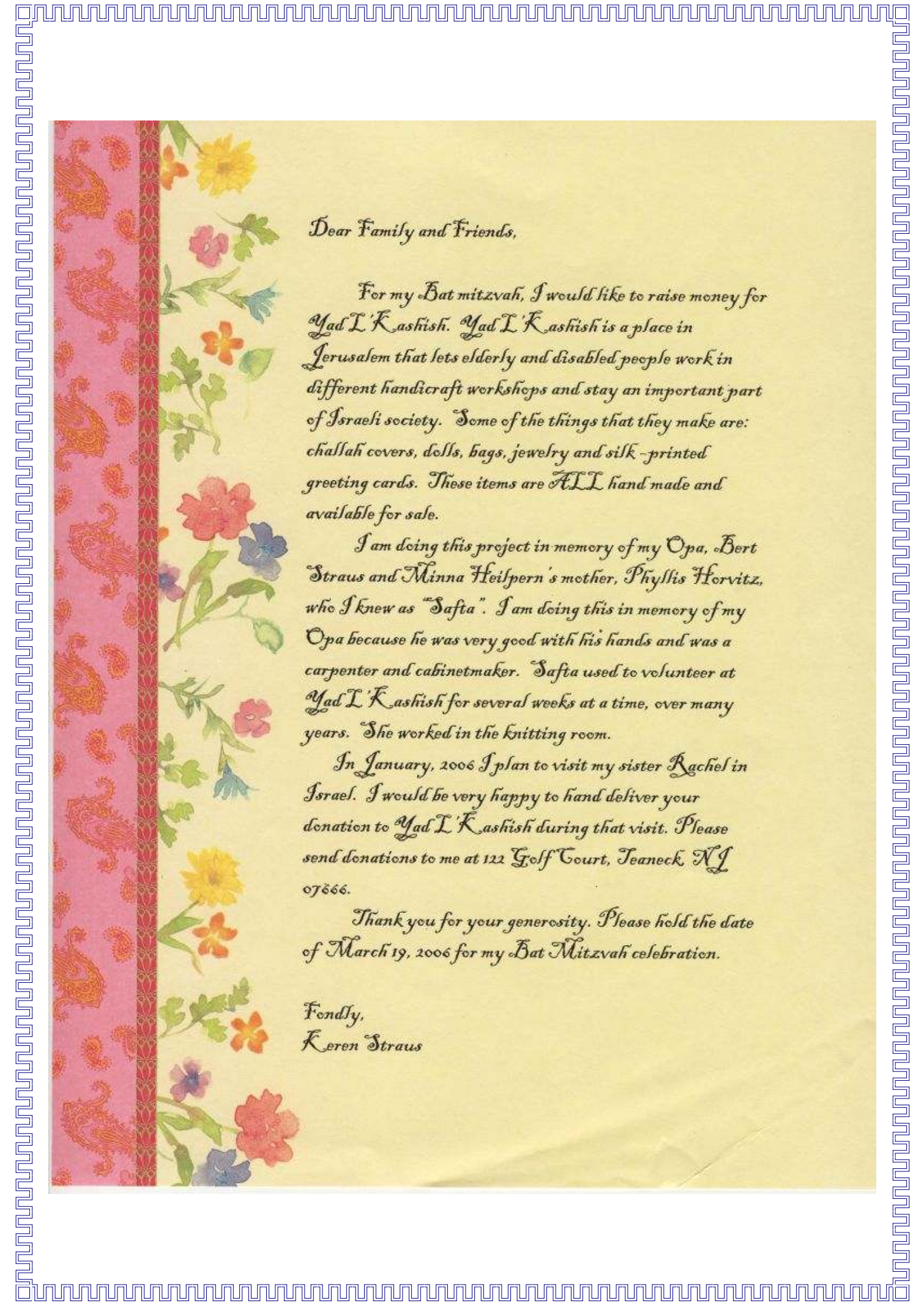
Sami Kapnek asked her friends and family to donate goods such as felt and beads for her Bat Mitzvah. She shipped all of the collected materials to Yad LaKashish for use in our workshops.

Here are some more ideas for how you can design a Yad LaKashish *tzedakah* project.

- ☒ Consider donating a portion of your gift money.
- ☒ Organize a fair at your synagogue or school and sell the handcrafted items made at Yad LaKashish.
- ☒ Hold a garage sale in your neighborhood to raise money for our elderly and disabled artisans.
- ☒ If you have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah website, include a Yad LaKashish link ([www.lifeline.org.il](http://www.lifeline.org.il)).

To start organizing your project, please contact us:

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*Dear Family and Friends,*

*For my Bat mitzvah, I would like to raise money for Yad L'Kashish. Yad L'Kashish is a place in Jerusalem that lets elderly and disabled people work in different handicraft workshops and stay an important part of Israeli society. Some of the things that they make are: challah covers, dolls, bags, jewelry and silk-printed greeting cards. These items are ALL hand made and available for sale.*

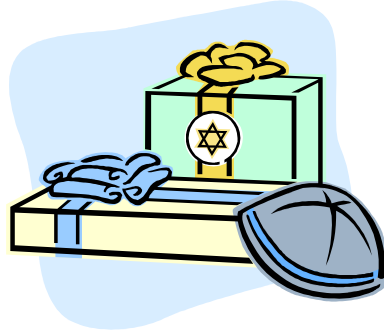
*I am doing this project in memory of my Opa, Bert Straus and Minna Heisperm's mother, Phyllis Horvitz, who I knew as "Safta". I am doing this in memory of my Opa because he was very good with his hands and was a carpenter and cabinetmaker. Safta used to volunteer at Yad L'Kashish for several weeks at a time, over many years. She worked in the knitting room.*

*In January, 2006 I plan to visit my sister Rachel in Israel. I would be very happy to hand deliver your donation to Yad L'Kashish during that visit. Please send donations to me at 122 Golf Court, Teaneck NJ 07666.*

*Thank you for your generosity. Please hold the date of March 19, 2006 for my Bat Mitzvah celebration.*

*Fondly,  
Keren Straus*

# Gifts for your Bar or Bat Mitzvah at Yad LaKashish



From our Workshops to our Gift Shop, Yad LaKashish has plenty of handmade items just right for your Bar or Bat Mitzvah. Here are some suggestions:

## For the Hosts!

- ❖ *Kippot*
- ❖ *Tallitot*
- ❖ *Torah Pointers*
- ❖ *Stationary*
- ❖ *Thank You Notes*

## For the party!

- ❖ *Invitations*
- ❖ *Place cards*
- ❖ *Placemats*
- ❖ *Napkin Rings*
- ❖ *Centerpieces*

## For the Guests!

- ❖ *Challah covers*
- ❖ *Tzedakah Boxes*
- ❖ *Menorahs*
- ❖ *Hamsas*
- ❖ *Mezzuzot*
- ❖ *Candlesticks*
- ❖ *Handmade Jewelry*
- ❖ *Silk Scarves*
- ❖ *Knit Purses*
- ❖ *Business Card Holders*

and much, much more...

To place an order or for more information, contact us:

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# Yad LaKashish Quick FAQ

## About Yad LaKashish

### **When did it start?**

Yad LaKashish was established in 1962 by a schoolteacher named Mrs. Mendilow. The first workshop was the bookbindery, where they bound books for schoolchildren.

### **What values does Yad LaKashish promote?**

Yad LaKashish strives to empower the needy elderly and disabled through providing employment and social interaction. We are also dedicated to advocacy through intergenerational connections and teaching the young about the old. Yad LaKashish promotes *tikkun olam*, *chesed* and *tzedakah*, especially what the Rambam (Maimonides) referred to as "the highest form of *tzedakah*:" helping the needy help themselves.

### **Where does the funding come from?**

Our gift shop generates 40% of Yad LaKashish's annual expenses. The remaining funds come from generous contributions from individuals and organizations.

## About the Artisans

### **What are the ages of the artisans?**

The average age is 80, with artisans ranging from 60 to their 90's. We also have younger physically and mentally disabled artisans in the *shikum* (rehabilitation) workshop.

### **Where are they from?**

80% of the elderly are *olim* (immigrants).

### **How do the elderly find out about Yad LaKashish?**

Through word of mouth our artisans learn of and come to Yad LaKashish.

### **What services are provided for the artisans?**

Services include:

- Monthly stipends and transportation costs
- Social services, payment of dental costs and annual eyeglass allowance
- Full-course hot meals daily and thrift shop
- Holiday celebrations, trips and cultural activities and monetary gifts

### **Where do the artisans live?**

Some live with their families, others live in homes for the aged or alone.

### **Where do they work?**

The artisans at our workshops produce beautiful handmade crafts in the following on-site workshops:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| ▪ bookbindery & handmade paper               | ▪ ceramics                                |
| ▪ cartilage, silkscreen printing & decoupage | ▪ silk painting                           |
| ▪ metalwork                                  | ▪ needlework & embroidery                 |
|  | ▪ <i>shikum</i> workshop for the disabled |

**Please Visit Us:** Tours of Workshops are available to visitors from 8:30am -11:30am Sunday –Thursday.  
Our Gift Shop is open 9 - 4 Sunday –Thursday and 9 -1 Friday.

**For more information:** E-mail: [lifeline@netvision.net.il](mailto:lifeline@netvision.net.il) Website: [www.lifeline.org.il](http://www.lifeline.org.il)  
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