

Kehilot Yisra'el



Maybe it's the mountain air. Maybe it's the far distance from Tel Aviv. Maybe it's the isolation. Whatever the cause is, the phenomenon itself is growing: Non-religious communities in the Golan Heights and in the Jordan Valley have invited groups of young people to assist them in religious

observance.

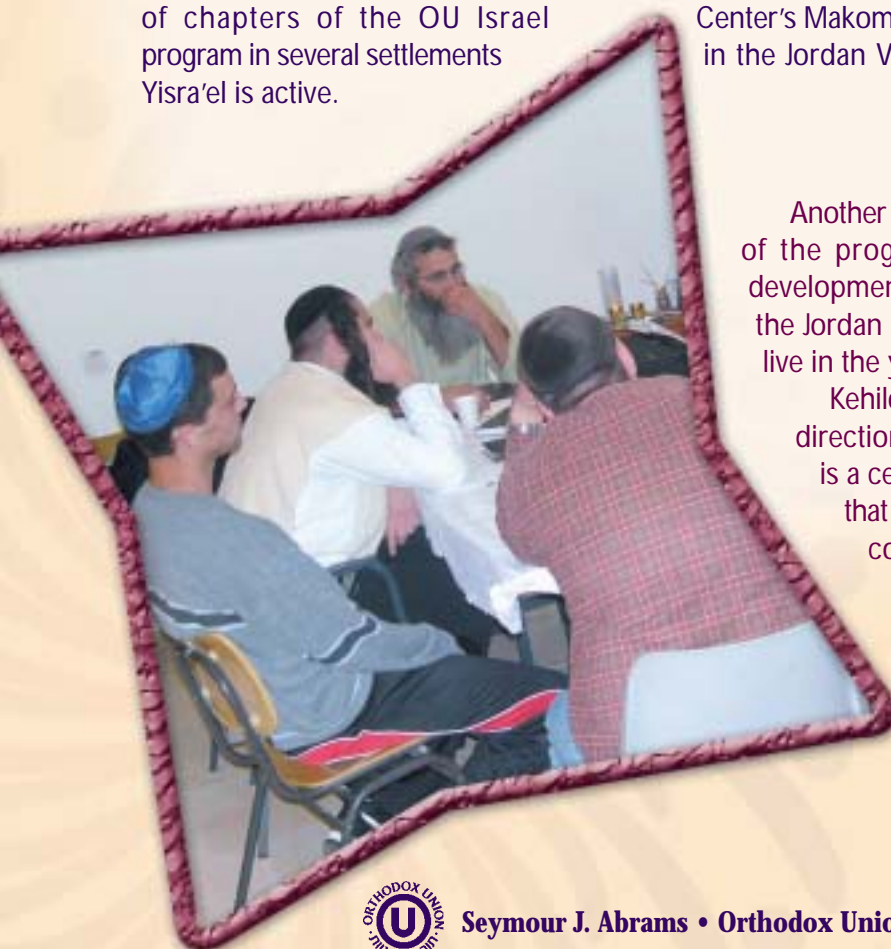
Every week, small groups of Yeshiva students under the aegis of the OU Israel Center - travel to 17 different, small communities to help the residents hold Shabbat prayer services, to lead an Oneg Shabbat program on Friday night and to enjoy a communal Se'udah Shlishit filled with song and words of Torah.

It is important to note that the Kehilot Yisra'el program is built on the initiative and interest of the community residents themselves. The activities are tailored to the desires and needs of each community. Nothing is foisted upon them. Nevertheless, the results have been very dramatic.

The Shabbat programs led to weekday Shi'urim. These classes led to the establishment of a permanent Kollel for working men in the Golan city of Katzrin to serve the needs of a group of communities.

The Shabbat activities that involved of chapters of the OU Israel program in several settlements Yisra'el is active.

whole families led to the establishment Center's Makom BaLev youth group in the Jordan Valley where Kehilot



Another result of these activities, which is also emblematic of the program's success, is a very interesting recent development. Netiv HaGedud, a nonreligious settlement in the Jordan Valley, has begun to attract religious families to live in the yishuv.

Kehilot Yisra'el has already branched out in a different direction. Bayt Tarbut Yehudi (House of Jewish Culture) is a center for classes, field trips and holiday activities that brings purely Jewish culture to a very nonreligious community, the city of Ramat HaSharon. Classes feature topics such as family relations, Living the Bible, Kabbalah, and Shabbat.

In one short year, we have discovered a growing thirst for Torah. And Kehilot Yisra'el is there with the glass of water: Ayn Ma'yim Elah Torah and the water is Torah.

