

ZIONISM IS STILL ALIVE IN KEDUMIM

YOUTH CENTER IN KEDUMIM

in memory of
Shaked Lasker and Reut Feldman
 Murdered on March 30th, 2006
 at the entrance to Kedumim



In 1975, a group of young idealistic pioneers settled on a hilltop in Samaria. There had been seven unsuccessful attempts to settle near Sebastia, the ancient capital of Samaria, until a historic compromise was reached and the community of Kedumim was founded. For the first time in centuries, Jewish life had returned to the ancient mountains in the center of Eretz Israel.

Kedumim is a place 5,000 people call home.

Kedumim is located in the center of Samaria on the road leading from Kfar Saba to Shchem and North of Jerusalem

From Kedumim's Western slopes, there is a clear, uninterrupted view of the entire coastal plain.

There are twelve neighborhoods in Kedumim, spread across its many hilltops and valleys.

Kedumim combines the essence of Zionist idealism with the best of modern life, including superb education, social activities, religious facilities, health services, residential and industrial development.

The first generation of Kedumim residents is particularly proud of the fact that the spirit and faith that brought them to the Shomron in the first place has been passed on to their children. Many of the local youth choose to remain in Kedumim after marrying and their children are now growing up in Kedumim's new neighborhoods and outposts.

While the youth enjoy the usual activities of their peer age – basketball, music, hiking – they can also be counted on in times of need to physically fortify a remote outpost or, as they do regularly during summer vacation, to work in a day camp for physically challenged children. This camp is attended by over 70 children from all parts of Israel and is run solely by young volunteers from Kedumim.

The youth of Kedumim was born into a reality made up of conflict and terror and, unnaturally, while still young, have attended funerals of friends, Rabbis, and neighbors. Nonetheless, they were not weakened by the terror; rather, they were strengthened by the determination to persevere and to remain in the region.

This then is an extract of the new generation in Kedumim. This is what helps us, the founding generation, to overcome physical and emotional difficulties. We know that this new generation, full of faith and action and an abiding belief in God and in the Land of Israel, will continue where we leave off and will build a future based on the values of Judaism and Zionism, so that the next generations will have a better country in which to live.



SKETCH OF PLANNED YOUTH CENTER

Today, there are some 1,000 teenagers in Kedumim and as the number of youth grows, the need for cultural and social facilities has become essential. We have decided to perpetuate the memory of Reut and Shaked who were murdered at the entrance to Kedumim on March 30th, 2006, by building the youth center in their name.

The Municipality of Kedumim has decided to dedicate a sum of \$100,000 toward a new youth center. The total cost of such a center is approximately \$500,000. The center will be built in stages, the cost of the first stage is \$200,000. Our immediate goal is to raise the sum of \$100,000 to match the sum that we have allocated for the Kedumim youth center.

**KEDUMIM MOURNS THE DEATHS OF
RAPHAEL AND HELENA HALEVY, SHAKED LASKER AND REUT FELDMAN
MURDERED BY A TERRORIST WHO BLEW UP THE CAR
IN WHICH THEY TRAVELED, AT THE ENTRANCE TO KEDUMIM.**

March 30th 2006

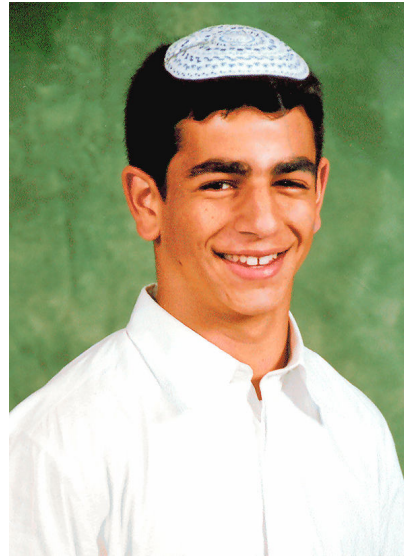
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Reut Feldman, 20, from Herzliya, chose to do her national service in the Security Center of Kedumim for her national service duty. She loved the Land of Israel with a passion and considered going into politics in order to make a change. She joined the fight to save Gush Katif and in Amona demonstrated in one of the homes that was demolished.

All who knew Reut loved her for her goodness and effervescence.

Reut was born and grew up in Herzliya and is survived by parents, three sisters, two grandmothers and a grandfather.



Shaked Lasker, 16, was a lively and good-natured teenager, always the first to offer help to family and friends.

He was particularly sensitive to children with special needs and volunteered readily in organizations catering to these children.

He was a student at the Shomron Yeshiva High School in Karnei Shomron and is survived by his parents, two brothers, a sister, two grandfathers and two grandmothers.



Helena and Raphael Halevy

Helena made aliya from Brazil 40 years ago when she was 18. She worked as a volunteer at Kibbutz Be'erot Yitzchak where she met and married Raphi, a 7th generation Israeli from a family of Talmidai Chachamim from Safed. Raphi and Helena and their four children moved to Kedumim 17 years ago.

Raphi worked for the Security Department of the Municipality of Kedumim and Helena ran the day-care program for school children of working mothers. They shared an intense love for the land and people of Israel and were loved by all. They are survived by 4 children and 3 grandchildren.

The teenagers of Kedumim gathered spontaneously at the site of the terrorist attack almost immediately to say Tehillim for the terror victims and during the shiva put up a tent site there and organized prayers and the study of Mishnayot in their memory.

On Pesach, a few days after the attack, the teenagers organized a march along the final road traveled by Raphi, Helena, Reut and Shaked from Karnei Shomron to Kedumim.

The march was called "March of Faith", tenaciously confirming that this land is our land and these roads are our roads also in times of pain and sorrow. Thousands of people of all ages from the Shomron and other parts of Israel participated and a memorial ceremony was held at the site of the attack joined by the families of those murdered.

We hope you will agree to become our partner in building a strong Kedumim, in *laying the foundations for a strong Israel*, for our sake and for the sake of our children, yours and ours

All contributions made payable to American Friends of Kedumim are tax-deductible under US law.

Dedication requests can be accommodated.

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The March of Faith –Chol Hamoed Pesach 5766

