



Kedushas Tzion: Chareidi Association for D'rishas Tzion Al Taharas Hakodesh

A Grassroots Organization Devoted to Connecting Chareidi Jews to the Practical Torah-Based Significance of Contemporary Eretz Yisrael

Values

- Love of the Land
- Recognition that Hashem is guiding the modern-day Return to Tzion.
- Recognition that the Torah is inherently nationalistic (i.e. the Torah is our blueprint for functioning as a society on a national level).
- Active participation in the process of bringing Am Yisrael to its national destiny.
- Aliyah of Torah-observant Jews to Eretz Yisrael.

Primary Activities

- Publication and distribution of a Hebrew periodical.
- Annual convention
- Activities to widen and strengthen the network of chareidi activists involved in various projects and initiatives that reflect the core values of Kedushas Tzion.

Additional Activities

- Publication of educational materials
- Periodic emails
- Lectures
- Tours
- Social events

Seeing ourselves as following in the footsteps of those who led the way for the renewed *yishuv* of Eretz Yisrael—*talmidim* of the Baal Shem Tov, *Vilna Gaon*, *Chasam Sofer*, and other great Torah personalities—we also take our inspiration from more recent Torah personalities, such as:

- Rav Akiva Yosef Shlesinger (1838–1922), a zealous warrior against the Maskilim, fearless pioneer, and visionary of a modern Torah State in Eretz Yisrael;
- Rav Yosef Chaim Sonnenfeld (1848–1932), Rav of the Eidah HaChareidis in Yerushalayim, who had a profound love for Eretz Yisrael;
- Rav Dr. Isaac Breuer (1883–1946), a founder of the worldwide Agudas Yisrael, and a deep thinker,

- philosopher, author, and strong proponent of the establishment of a Torah-based State in Eretz Yisrael;
- Rav Yissachar Shlomo Teichtal (1885–1945), author of the monumental *sefer*, *Eim Habanim Semeichah*;
 - Rav Yekusiel Yehuda Halberstam (1905–1994), Sanz-Klausenberger Rebbe, and founder of the chareidi neighborhood and Laniado Hospital in Netanya.

In the *Daas Torah* section of each of our periodicals, an additional contemporary chareidi Gadol is quoted regarding Eretz Yisrael, focusing on one or more of the core values of Kedushas Tzion. We have also included American Gedolim such as Rav Simcha Wasserman (son of Reb Elchonon), Reb Yaakov Kamenetsky, Rav Mordechai Gifter, and Rav Chaim Pinchas Scheinberg.

Background

On the forty-eighth anniversary of the Six-Day War (5775/2015), a group of seventeen chareidi men gathered to commemorate the wondrous miracles Hashem had performed for us in those special times. They felt that the time had come to address the ignorance or indifference (or even antagonism) of the mainstream chareidi public to the unfolding miraculous and historical process Hashem is leading. A suggestion was made to publish an educational pamphlet to counter this indifference. Rav Yehuda Epstein, one of those gathered and an editor by trade, then created the first small four-page pamphlet, which he then sent out to about thirty-five individuals—his email list of acquaintances. This eventually generated a monetary donation that covered the printing cost of several thousand copies that

were then distributed by volunteers in chareidi neighborhoods. The Hebrew-language “Kedushas Tzion” pamphlet and, as an extension thereof, the “Kedushas Tzion” organization, was born.

The Kedushas Tzion organization serves a dual purpose. First, chareidim who identify with the core values of Kedushas Tzion and are exposed to the pamphlets realize that they are not alone, and Kedushas Tzion serves as a support group of some kind for them. Likewise, more and more chareidim who are exposed to the pamphlets, initiate a learning experience and a thought process that brings them to identify with the core values of Kedushas Tzion.

To date (Iyar 5783/ May 2023), seventy-one issues of the Kedushas Tzion pamphlet have been published, mostly on a monthly basis. Circulation is eight thousand to ten thousand printed copies and about two thousand by email subscription. Most of the pamphlets are distributed by an intricate volunteer distribution network to avoid being immediately thrown out at the points of distribution or otherwise destroyed by antagonists. (In any case, many people have been exposed to the organization and have come to identify with its core values, even from being exposed to a shredded pamphlet!)

The first annual convention was held in Yerushalayim in 5777/2017 and has been held every year since (except in 5780/2020 when, due to corona restrictions, a virtual event was held). Every year sees a significant increase in the number of attendees, with the 5782/2022 event hosting several hundred people from across all segments of the chareidi spectrum, including Litvish/Yeshivish, Chassidic, and Sephardic, as well

as a few who identify as Chardal (National Chareidi). This diversity is reflected also in the *rabbanim* who have spoken at the conventions, including among others, Rav Yoel Schwartz, Rav Mordechai Shriki, Rav Shlomo Moshe Amar, Rav Zev Leff, and the Bostoner Rebbe (of Yerushalayim).

Kedushas Tzion arranges tours during *bein hazmanim* (Pesach and Sukkos yeshiva vacation) designed to connect yeshiva boys and others to the land of Eretz Yisrael. Kedushas Tzion has also recently initiated a series of small social events to strengthen the network of activists and supporters and to promote further outreach.

It is only natural that the Kedushas Tzion network includes many chareidim who have themselves immigrated to Eretz Yisrael, as their identification with the values of Kedushas Tzion is, in many cases, a part of what inspired their move.

B'eiras Hashem, there are plans to create educational materials in English as well.

All Kedushas Tzion pamphlets along with additional educational materials can be found on our website.

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