

***Building Community at Keshet Israel  
Congregation***

**Introducing Rabbi Elisha Friedman**



Rabbi Elisha Friedman at Keshet Israel Congregation,  
Harrisburg, PA

**Keshet Israel is delighted to introduce its new spiritual leader, Rabbi Elisha Friedman, who arrived here just two weeks ago with his wife, Yamit Remz Friedman. The Friedmans are thrilled to be in Harrisburg, and the shul and broader community have been extremely welcoming and friendly to them. Rabbi Friedman has gotten to know many of our members and the community has been eager to connect with our latest addition to the KI family.**

**The son of a rabbi, Rabbi Friedman knew from an early age that his aspirations were to serve the Jewish community, and he has pursued that goal ever since. After a number of years studying in yeshivot, he received his semicha from Yeshiva University's Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary. He is also completing a PhD in Modern Jewish Philosophy at YU's**

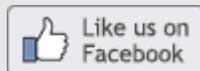
**Bernard Revel Graduate School for Jewish Studies. He uses his philosophical training and knowledge in his rabbinic work, to lend greater depth to his sermons and shiurim and to help him formulate ideas with greater meaning.**

**Growing up in Durham, NC and Linden, NJ gave Rabbi Friedman an appreciation for small town Jewish life and the opportunities individuals have to contribute in a smaller community. "Each person is valued in a unique way here," he observes. "In our community whatever you want to be involved with you can do. If you're a handy type, you're welcome to help maintain the Eruv; for artistic people we have projects that tap into their skillset; musical people help layn and daven. Every person here is valued and no one is lost in the crowd."**

**Over the course of the summer a few young members have joined our community and together with our new young Rabbi and Rebbetzin there's a vibrant energy in the KI halls. Rabbi Friedman hopes over the coming months to get to know the KI community better and to be able to sit down with each of our members and find out how the shul can serve them better. Additionally, he looks forward to working with our lay leadership and friends throughout the world to get out word about the wonderful Jewish community we have in Harrisburg.**

**The Friedmans hope to build on the amazing work Rabbi Akiva and Layala Males did over the past 9 years in getting our shul into such a strong place. Rabbi Males has been so helpful and instrumental throughout the entire transition process and Rabbi Friedman continues to call on him for advice. KI and the Harrisburg community are excited about the talents and vision the Friedmans brings to KI and we look forward to working with them to take our already wonderful shul to even greater heights!**

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