



ANNA SHPUNT

LVIV, UKRAINE

- ▶ Graduate of PK Mother Daughter Retreat 1996 (starting at age 12!)
- ▶ Leader, Dor Chadash youth group
- ▶ Participant, Mediators Beyond Borders International

“Project Keshet women did a lot for me. Trained me and supported me. Now I want to share with others at least some part of what I received. Do not be afraid to be yourself and do not be afraid of new things.”

GALINA BATARSHINA

POLOTSK, BELARUS

- ▶ Graduate of Project Keshet's Advanced Leadership Program 2003
- ▶ Founder of PK Belarus
- ▶ Director, Chesed (Jewish Community Center) Polotsk
- ▶ Administrator and program facilitator, Mara Schwartz ORT-KeshetNet Center

“My grandmother was observant and I always helped her make matzah on Pesach. Project Keshet helped me deepen my knowledge of Jewish tradition and understand its origin and meaning, so that I could spend the last ten years sharing it with others.”





DR. ELENA FELDMAN

TULA, RUSSIA

- Graduate of Project Keshet's Advanced Leadership Program 1998
- Founder of Mara Schwartz ORT Keshernet Center in Tula, Russia, in 2002
- Member, Tula Jewish Council
- Graduate of Paideia – The European Institute for Jewish Studies
- Communications and Project Management Officer for PK

“Project Keshet opens doors, invigorates, and provides women with new opportunities for growth in different every spheres of life. Through Project Keshet, women reveal their potential and strengthen their Jewish identity. Together, we are a great force. Together, we can do anything.”

ELENA KULEVNICH

MINSK, BELARUS

- ▶ Graduate of Project Keshet's Advanced Leadership Program 2013
- ▶ Former Deputy Head, PK Belarus
- ▶ Current Director, Hillel Minsk
- ▶ Program Chair, Limmud Belarus

“Project Keshet opened new horizons for my activism, and deepened my Jewish knowledge. Project Keshet introduced me to young Jewish activists from Belarus, Georgia, Israel, Moldova, Russia, and Ukraine who share my desire to develop Jewish community, preserve Jewish tradition, and live in peace.”





EUGENIA BARDINA

NIKOLAYEV, UKRAINE

- ▶ Graduate of Project Keshet's Advanced Leadership Program 2012
- ▶ Creator of the Tablecloth of Peace project, implemented across 80 communities across Russia, Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus, Georgia and Israel, reaching more than 16,000 people

“Connecting over simple and ordinary things in a woman’s life, like a tablecloth, can make a dialogue possible. You don’t need a lot of money to change the world. You need a passionate heart and like-minded people next to you.”

REBECCA SAFRONOVA

KISHINEV, MOLDOVA

- ▶ Graduate of Project Keshet's Advanced Leadership Program 2005
- ▶ PK Moldova representative
- ▶ Key Jewish educator in Jewish Cultural Center KEDEM and nationwide

“When I see how women who came to their first meeting only a few years ago become leaders themselves—going from interest in the programs, to conducting their own meetings, to initiating programs, and engaging other women—Watching this process feels like seeing your own child grow and become stronger.”





DARYA YEFIMENKO

RIVNE, UKRAINE

- Graduate of Project Keshet's Advanced Leadership Program 2009
- Coordinator of Community Programs, JCC "Chesed Osher"
- Teacher, Jewish Sunday School project
- Coordinator, Volunteer Community Ukraine
- Carried and placed Torah Scroll through PK's Torah Return Project

“Project Keshet was the first important step on my way to activism, giving me the knowledge, skills and belief that I can do anything! That priceless investment in me bears its fruit. I have a lot to be proud of and to leave after me. Project Keshet helped me discover myself!”

IRINA GUTKINA

YEKATERINBURG AND NIZHNIY TAGIL, RUSSIA

- ▶ Graduate of Project Keshet's Advanced Leadership Program 2009
- ▶ Recipient of two Presidential Awards for Jewish culture and Jewish education
- ▶ Director, JCC "Menorah" Yekaterinburg

“Project Keshet is the best example of how women’s power and energy changes lives for the better. We must share our experiences with each other and not be afraid to learn, act, make mistakes, and try again!”





FAINA SANEVICH

TULA, RUSSIA

- ▶ Attended PK's First International Conference of Jewish Women in 1994
- ▶ Founder and President of Tula regional Jewish charitable center Chasdei Neshama
- ▶ Founder of Mara Schwartz ORT Keshernet Center in Tula

“The first women’s Passover seder in Tula in 1995 was my very first seder. Everything was new for me. U.S. facilitators taught us everything. Today, I am proud of the amazing team of professionals we have developed in our community, thanks to many years of working with Project Keshet.”

JULIA KRUTOVA

MOSCOW, RUSSIA

- ▶ Graduate of Project Keshet's Advanced Leadership Program 2011
- ▶ Leader of multi-cultural activities in her community and city-wide.
- ▶ Jewish educator for youth and teen groups

“I am at the beginning of my journey as a leader. I am happy I can share my knowledge in our Jewish community, and beyond. Project Keshet is the peaceful space where women can get support and hone their leadership skills.”





GALINA GAVRILINA

LVIV, UKRAINE

- ▶ Graduate of Project Keshet's Advanced Leadership Program 2001
- ▶ Project Keshet Ukraine Coordinative Council member
- ▶ Founder and head of PK's women's group in Lviv; Dor Hadash youth group, and Shalom Bayit, an initiative for at-risk Jewish young women and girls

“Project Keshet taught me to study Torah, the source of knowledge, and to participate in activism with Jewish organizations. We can't be afraid to ask teachers and Rabbis questions to learn something new. We must remember our family traditions.”

DR. OLGA KRASKO

POLOTSK, BELARUS

- ▶ Graduate of Project Keshet's Advanced Leadership Program 2001
- ▶ Director of Project Keshet Leadership Programs since 2005 where she has designed and led more than 100 retreats and webinars for hundreds of PK leaders
- ▶ Founder of Project Keshet Belarus

“I am proud to be a Jewish woman and to represent Project Keshet. I am proud of our activism, outcomes, and partnerships. I am proud to see how our alumnae have grown, personally and in their work developing Jewish communities.”





ALYONA POZHIDAYEVA

POLTAVA, UKRAINE

- ▶ Graduate of Project Keshet's Advanced Leadership Program 2008
- ▶ Project Keshet Ukraine Coordinative Council member
- ▶ Director and actress, Jewish theater, A Yiddisher Mazel
- ▶ Leader, A Yiddishe Lady women's group

“I am proud of every meeting with my women. Each woman contributes to the development of the Jewish community—we have volunteers, actresses, and Jewish professionals. Our group is my pride and joy because it is the only self-sustaining Jewish community program in Poltava.”

JULIA YERSHOVA

KURSK, RUSSIA

- ▶ Graduate of Project Keshar's Advanced Leadership Program 2009
- ▶ Leader, Project Keshar Russia Kursk women's group
- ▶ Project Keshar Russia Regional Leader overseeing 36 communities
- ▶ PK Coordinator, Youth Programs—designing and implementing programs for teens and mothers and daughters

RECIPIENT OF:

- ▶ National Russian Public Service award for the development of interfaith relationships
- ▶ Commendation letter from the governor of Kursk region for peace-building
- ▶ Letter of gratitude from the deputy governor of Kursk region for strengthening multicultural and interfaith cooperation and peace-building in Kursk region

“At one time, my family and I were ordinary community participants. Now, we are community activists. My daughter Asya (a graduate of Project Keshar’s mother/daughter retreats!) teaches in Sunday school and helps conduct holidays. She is a community leader. Project Keshar brought Judaism into my family.”





IRINA GERASIMENYUK

KHMELNYTSKYI, UKRAINE

- Graduate of Project Keshet's Leadership Seminar 2007
- PKU Coordinative Council member
- Logistics Manager, JCC Chesed Besht in Khmelnytskyi
- Administrator, Khmelnytsky Mara Schwartz ORT-Keshernet computer center

“Thanks to PK Project Keshet, I discovered myself as a leader. I learned to say ‘No.’ I’ve become more confident in myself, and I’ve met many friends who have become like my family!”

GALINA VLASENKO

MELITOPOL, UKRAINE

- ▶ Graduate of Project Keshet's Advanced Leadership Program 2016
- ▶ Leader, Project Keshet Ukraine Melitopol women's group
- ▶ Jewish community teacher
- ▶ Organizer of programs and campaigns on Healthy Aging
- ▶ Leader of Jewish Dance Ensemble Maayan
- ▶ Placed Torah Scroll through PK's Torah Return Project

“My life is forever changed as a result of Project Keshet. Professionally, I am more confident and composed. I participate in conferences and seminars, and am recognized as an expert. Personally, I am now surrounded by strong people, who help me feel like a strong woman, and full of purpose.”





ELENA PYSSINA

CHERKASY, UKRAINE

- ▶ Graduate of Project Keshet's Advanced Leadership Program 2004
- ▶ Joined her aunt in PK programming at age 10
- ▶ Project Keshet Ukraine Coordinator

“Project Keshet taught me management, organization, and communication skills. I have learned to identify my strengths and apply myself on behalf of my community. Project Keshet makes you believe in yourself. I am surrounded by people ready to repair this world with me!”

INNA MOTORNAYA

VOLGOGRAD, RUSSIA

- ▶ Graduate of Project Keshet's Advanced Leadership Program 2005
- ▶ Leader Project Keshet Russia's Volgograd Women's Group
- ▶ Project Keshet Russia Regional Leader overseeing 34 communities
- ▶ Leader of Chabad Jewish Community of Volgograd

RECIPIENT OF:

- ▶ Commendation letters from partner and ethnic organizations, and regional and local authorities and elected officials
- ▶ Commemorative token from Volgograd region governor on the 75th anniversary of Victory in Stalingrad Battle for strengthening multicultural collaboration in Volgograd region

“I am proud of the changes I see in the women in my group. They have started to trust and believe in themselves, and they use the tools they have obtained to build their career and activism. Even their appearance changes—they take better care of themselves, and their health.”





BELLA BATMAN

BORN IN GORKY, RUSSIA, LIVED IN DONETSK UKRAINE,

NOW LIVES IN RISHON LEZION, ISRAEL

- Graduate, Jewish education program, religion and state track
- Graduate, financial literacy program
- Participant, PKI training course in gender violence prevention and support

“Project Keshet started me on my Jewish journey in Ukraine and it continues to be my community and strength in Israel. I am now being trained to support women facing gender violence and I feel so fortunate to have another way to give back to the community and find daily meaning.”

OKSANA MATVIENKO

MYRHOROD, UKRAINE

- ▶ Graduate of Project Keshet's Advanced Leadership Program 2009
- ▶ Project Keshet Ukraine Myrhorod Women's Group Leader
- ▶ JCC Chesed Shachar Community Leader
- ▶ Entrepreneur

“Thanks to the activism of our Project Keshet women's group, the Jewish community of our small city received a Torah scroll. Now, all community members have the opportunity to touch the source of Jewish wisdom, a sacred thing that gives you strength and guides you.”





KATHERINA SHTYKOVA

KOSTROMA, RUSSIA

- Graduate of Mother/Daughter Retreat 2001
- Graduate of Project Keshar's Beit Binah Training Program 2003–2006 with her daughter, now a teacher at Moscow ORT
- Project Keshar Russia Financial Literacy Instructor and Beit Binah Instructor

“I had never held a Torah in my hands before, let alone studied its texts. PK’s Beit Binah project revealed Jewish texts and traditions to me, drew parallels to my life, changing my world view. Project Keshar changed the way I look at life. Because of Project Keshar, I learned to dare and try new things.”

BAT EL (MASHA) GITELMAN

BORN IN GORLOVKA, UKRAINE, LIVING IN CARMIEL, ISRAEL

- ▶ Graduate of Project Keshet's Leadership Training 2016
- ▶ Leader, Get Out the Vote initiative in Israeli Russian-Speaking Community 201

“Through Project Keshet Israel, I am helping Russian-speakers understand that if the Israeli government is not meeting the needs of our community, it is time to vote our values!”





LUDA BERKOVSKY

BORN IN TULA, RUSSIA, LIVING IN ARAD, ISRAEL

- ▶ Graduate of Project Keshet's Leadership Training 2016
- ▶ Former Project Keshet Russia Tula women's group leader
- ▶ Current Project Keshet Israel Arad women's group leader

“At Project Keshet I met smart, self-sufficient women. As the leader of a women's group, I could see how the participants were changing and how much I changed. I am deeply thankful to Project Keshet for surrounding me with wonderful people, new knowledge and a life filled with positivity.”

ALLA LANTSMAN

BORN IN CHERNIGOV, UKRAINE, LIVING IN HOLON, ISRAEL

- ▶ Graduate of Project Keshar's Advanced Leadership Training Program 2010
- ▶ Active in PK since 1998
- ▶ One of the founders of Project Keshar Israel
- ▶ Founder of Netanya and Kfar Saba women's groups
- ▶ Member of Project Keshar Israel Coordinative forum and Alice Shalvi Jewish Learning Program

"I am proud to be one of the founders of Project Keshar Israel (PKI). Thanks to PKI, I learned about Judaism, and I was empowered as a leader. PKI changed my view on so many issues. I now know that it is important to hear as many points of view as possible."





RIMMA GUTKIN

BORN IN TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN, LIVING IN ASHDOD, ISRAEL

- Graduate of Project Keshet Leadership Training 2016
- Coordinator and Jewish educator, Ashdod women's group
- Participant, Alice Shalvi Jewish Learning Program, inter-cultural meetings and State and Religion training

“For me, Project Keshet Israel is a place where I learn thrilling, new fields—Jewish education and state and religion. This is an opportunity for me to share my knowledge with other women, to take part in civic activism and to feel part of a community.”

MARGARITA SLAVKIN

BORN IN DONETSK, UKRAINE, LIVING IN PETACH TIKVA, ISRAEL

- ▶ Graduate of Project Keshet Israel Leadership Program 2016
- ▶ M.A. in machine engineering; Head of the engineering department at Israeli Aerospace Industries
- ▶ Leading activist promoting women in engineering and business
- ▶ After graduating from Project Keshet Israel (PKI) leadership training, Margarita became very active, visiting the Knesset with PKI and decided to run for local office in October 2018. Today, she is a Petah Tikva Municipality council woman, chairing the municipality's committee on immigration and integration

“Thanks to my PKI training I feel empowered. I understood I could do everything I dreamed of. I feel empowered as a woman, as a professional, and as a civic activist.”





SVETLANA TSIVIN

BORN IN ALUPKA (CRIMEA); LIVED IN MINSK, BELARUS.

- ▶ Graduated from Project Keshet Leadership Training 2015.
- ▶ Graduated from PKI courses on Jewish Education, State and Religion, and Financial Literacy
- ▶ Graduated from PKI bloggers course

LIVING IN NAZARETH ILLIT, ISRAEL

“When I came to Project Keshet Israel (PKI), I didn’t know it was OK to ask for help. Thanks to PKI, my family received professional support and now we see the glass as half full. Thanks to PKI, I feel like an empowered, active member of Israeli society.”

EVELINA SHUBINSKAYA

TULA, UKRAINE

- ▶ Graduate of Project Keshet's Advanced Leadership Program 2002
- ▶ Graduate of Kolot Breaking the Silence pilot program
- ▶ Trained by PK in domestic violence intervention and prevention training in the US under USAID grant in 2004
- ▶ Current Director of the state-run Women's Crisis Center, the largest of its kind in the Tula Region of Russia

"I continue the activism and apply the knowledge and skills I learned in Project Keshet as I implement governmental programs that improve the status of women, families and children. When united, women can do anything."





YULIA SHINDEL

BORN IN TALLINN, ESTONIA, LIVING IN KFAR YONA, ISRAEL

- ▶ Graduate of Project Keshar Israel Leadership Seminar 2016
- ▶ PKI activist in the field of gender violence prevention

“At Project Keshar Israel (PKI), I met many outstanding activists with whom I have had the privilege to attend Knesset committees on the status of women and immigrants, and gender violence prevention. I march against gender violence holding signs in Russian to raise awareness in the community.”

IRINA SKLYANKINA

TULA, RUSSIA

- ▶ Graduate of Project Keshet's Advanced Leadership Program 2000
- ▶ Graduate of Paideia—European Institute for Jewish Studies (Sweden)
- ▶ Current Head of PK Jewish Education Programs
- ▶ Trained and organized to combat bullying in schools

“Beit Binah influenced me and grounded me. I was divorced with a baby and no job. The teachers broadened my horizons. I made lifelong friends. I found work in the Jewish community. I met my husband at a Project Keshet retreat and together we raise three beautiful children.”

