



Elazar

AN OPEN HEART

When I was growing up, the public library was one of my favorite places. The smell of books, the quiet, the endless shelves of untapped adventures just waiting to be cracked open and devoured — something about the library always captured the imagination. Beyond the books, libraries were always the hub of community activity as well; workshops, classes, even puppet shows and other summer activities for children all took place in the local library. But I also had the benefit of growing up in a place with accessible public libraries. Here in Israel, just having a library in your community is an enormous privilege.

The Judean community of Elazar, located at the heart of the Gush Etzion region and along the Biblical Path of the Patriarchs, is built on a foundation of caring and acceptance. So many of the original pioneers of Elazar were new immigrants, and when they came to Israel they needed to create their own families — and Elazar became their family. Elazar's library, home to many of these community activities, should reflect the same openness, warmth, and acceptance that the community itself is known for.

The residents of Elazar are immensely proud of their library, but it's not the library the residents have dreamed of. Unfortunately, the library is not equipped to service every resident — senior citizens and people with handicaps or special needs cannot even enter the building if they are in a wheelchair. The community is turning to you to help them create a space that will be as open as Elazar itself — a library that can cater to every person. Walls need to be lowered, curtains need to be bought and installed over the windows, and adequate seating for senior citizens and for children with special needs must be purchased. The people of Elazar would also like to establish a community archive in the library, to honor the senior citizens among them. They are turning to you to help them make their library attractive, and accessible to everyone and relevant to their lives.

The people of Elazar have always taken care of their own, and are not willing to leave anyone behind as they grow older or require special accommodations. You can help them turn their community library into a space of true openness and accessibility. You can provide the assistance they need to renovate and furnish the library and to establish a community archive. Open your hearts to these accepting Judean pioneers, and bless Elazar with a library fit for all.

COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

- ☆ **Founded:** 1975
- ☆ **Location:** Gush Etzion region, Judea
- ☆ **Origin of Name:** named for Elazar, the brother of Judah the Maccabee, who was killed in battle nearby
- ☆ **Geographical Significance:** located at the very heart of the strategically important Gush Etzion region, along the Biblical Path of the Patriarchs



Being in a wheelchair can limit where you are able to go, Elazar wants to make their library handicapped accessible



You can help Elazar renovate and furnish their community library into a space that is accessible to everyone

ELAZAR LIBRARY

PROJECT BUDGET

Lowering walls.....	\$13,840
Seating and curtains	4,140
Community archive	1,380
TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED	\$19,360

To participate in this project: visit our website at www.cfoic.com/projects
 Or mail a check with the project name in the memo to:
 CFOIC Heartland, 7661 McLaughlin Rd, #255, Falcon, CO 80831 (US & Canada)
 CFOIC Heartland, PO Box 752, Ginot Shomron, Israel (all other countries)