

ב"ה כסלו תשפ"א December 2020

Happy Hanukkah!



Just to get that smile makes it all worthwhile !

N. (above) is one of the three young women who studied in the [Tzahali Academy](#) last year, with the financial help of our Committee* (more details can be found in the [Hanukka 2019 Newsletter](#)). All three are now serving in the IDF, so realizing their desire to contribute to Israeli society. The Maccabees would have been proud to see that their struggle for Jewish identity is still relevant in our time, and that there are young people like N. and her friends who are part of a socially mixed generation that want to build a just society based on Jewish values.

Our Committee has the same aims, and we thank all those who have contributed this year and in the past to the integration of this significant sector of Israel's population. In this Newsletter we describe some of our varied activities over the last 12 months. **Please renew your support !** Ways to do so are given on [page 6](#).



* The **tuition fee** was \$3790, of which we were requested to contribute \$1355 for each student. We have paid, so far, \$600 for each student (total **\$1800**).

You are reading the **Hannuka 2019 Newsletter** of **The Committee for Ethiopian Jews in Safed**, now in its 35th year.

Nurses in short supply - what we are doing about it



We are paying for Ms. Esther S. to study for two and a half years at the Safed Hospital Nursing School, to become a **Registered Nurse**. She is a single mother with two small children; here she is with her younger daughter.

To date we have paid out **\$2470** as the first three installments of her tuition fees. The total sum needed for the coming two and a half years is \$7265.

When she qualifies she will have steady employment, and her studies will enable her to give her own children a head start.

From a [2016 report](#):

Israel's health professional shortages, particularly in nursing, are among the most severe in the developed world. Increasing the absolute number of physicians and nurses ... is of utmost importance to solving the shortages.

We are playing our part.

Israel's spiritual health is no less important than its physical health !

Idan T. spent last year studying at the prestigious Merkaz HaRav Yeshiva in Jerusalem, where we subsidized his studies at the rate of \$90 a month. This year he transferred to the Birkat Yosef "[hesder](#)" yeshiva, combining Torah learning with army service, which places a special emphasis on strengthening the bond with the people of Israel, the land of Israel and – needless to say – the Torah.

We pay a **monthly subsidy of \$176**. We were extremely gratified by the generosity of the USY's **Tikun Olam Fund**, which made us a grant of **\$1700** to cover this subsidy for 10 months.

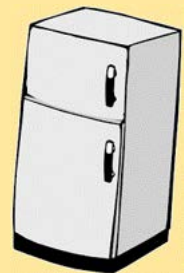


The more possessions, the more anxiety (Ethics of the Fathers / Pirkei Avot 2:7)



When the gas technician told Mrs. Hanna A. that her **cooker** was unrepairable, she had no choice but to buy a new one, costing \$723. Because her sons were unemployed due to Covid-19, she needed our support. We contributed **\$422 (58%)** and she made up the rest.

A new immigrant, Mrs. Maritu B. needed a repair to her **refrigerator**, and this in the middle of the summer; we paid **80% (\$120)**.



Freeing parents to work

We also paid **\$300** for two months in a **day-care center** for Netanel & Avishag W.'s infant son; this enables his parents to go out to work. Because of this arrangement Netanel has started working for an air-conditioners and solar heaters fitter, so that the family are more financially independent. The sum we paid was only 50% of the total they had to pay, which in itself had been reduced thanks to the intervention of the Safed City Welfare Dept.



"Online learning laptops still not provided by Education Ministry"

That's the headline in the Jerusalem Post. [The article](#) continues:

As the coronavirus crisis continues to plague Israel ... with 150,000 laptops still unavailable to students six months after the beginning of the crisis. ... an OECD survey which showed that about 9% of Israeli students have no means of partaking in online learning.

We have provided **laptops** to **nine students** (one in Safed, one in Jerusalem and seven in Ramla – in all cases there was a "Safed connection"), at a total cost of **\$3004**. The photo shows M.B., daughter of a former Safed resident now in Jerusalem, just after receiving her laptop.



In addition, at the request of Mr. Maru Zaudu, the director of one the Safed Absorption Centers, we paid **\$947** for **17 webcams** and **17 computer network cards** to update their **learning center**.

The Committee to the rescue !

According to the Israeli government plans to promote the integration of Ethiopian Israelis into Israeli society, Ingdau Y. was promised that they would pay all the **tuition fees** for his **Teaching with Advanced Technologies Certificate**, being an additional qualification to his M.A. Suddenly, after he was well into the first semester at the [Gordon College](#), he was informed that they couldn't pay.



Ingdau wrote:

I'm now married with three children; my wife, Tabeva, who – like me – came to Safed as a child, is also studying to become an English teacher. We own our own apartment in Rosh HaAyin, but I continue to be Director of the Municipal Center for Ethiopian absorption in Yavne. I would never have reached so far had it not been for the stipend that the Committee gave me while I was at university [see [September 2011 Newsletter](#), p.4]. Over and above that, I am so grateful for all the support that the Committee has extended to my family in Safed, and to my younger brother Ashato in particular [see [Pesah 2019 Newsletter](#), p.2]: thanks to your help he is a star in his field (social work with drug addiction) and helps many professional colleagues.

We have so many financial responsibilities: mortgage payments, interest-free loan repayments, city rates, school fees for our children, my wife's tuition fees. If I have to stop my studies at the Gordon College, this will put paid to my hopes of getting better paid work and other positions in local government and/or the Ministry of Education.

I debated with myself for a long time before writing to you, I tried to raise the money from other sources, but to no avail.

We decided to pay the outstanding tuition fees (\$3400) in the course of the academic year, after Ingdau undertook to repay at least part after his situation stabilizes. To date we have paid **\$1200**.



Widening horizons

With school hours cut down, on account of Covid-19, four teenage girls were thrilled at the opportunity to have **art lessons** in the Absorption Center. Once a week their teacher, Rivky, gives them an hour and a half session; she enjoys herself as much as they do ! The Absorption Center supplies all the materials, and we pay the **\$90** fee for each lesson.

Our faithful supporters:

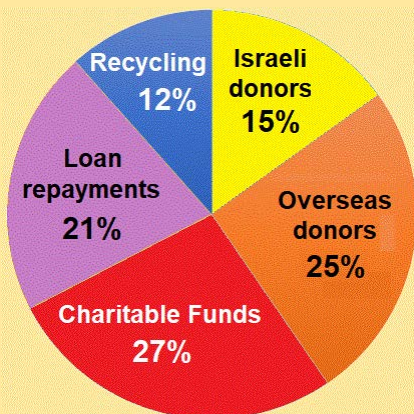
These donations came into our account from the beginning of 2019 and in the course of 2020. Our apologies if we have inadvertently omitted anyone.

Dr. Pesach Aceman, Bar Yohai, Israel
 Ms. Yvonne Akonnor, London, UK
 Anonymous, MD
 Anonymous, USA
 Mr. & Mrs. David J. Bardin, Washington, DC
 Rabbanit Tova Bazak, Safed, Israel
 Mrs. Sara Devorah Bilerman, Safed, Israel
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 Prof. & Mrs. Laurie Blendis, Jerusalem, Israel
 Dr. & Mrs. Robert J. Bloomberg, Tempe, AZ
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 Mr. Haim & Mrs. Rivka Cohen, Jerusalem, Israel
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 Ms. Rivka Coleman, Merkaz Shapiro, Israel
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Danso, Wallington, UK
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 Mr. Daniel Flatauer, Safed, Israel
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 Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Friedman, Miami, FL
 Mr. Shaul Fust, Rosh Pina, Israel
 Ganey Tikva Verein, Bergisch Gladbach, Germany
 Mr. & Mrs. Lee Glassman, Jerusalem, Israel
 (in memory of my grandparents Abraham and Sarah Rubin)
 Mrs. Lillian Goldberg, Sarasota, FL
 Mrs. Rosalind Goldstein & her sons, Robert, Edward &
 Colin, Israel & UK (in memory of Bernard Goldstein)
 The late Mr. Jerome Greenberg, Plainfield, NJ (Legacy)
 Ms. Lisa Haut & Ms. Lynne Byington, Norwalk/ Danbury, CT
 (in memory of their beloved mother Elaine Haut)
 Mr. Barel Hobay, Rehovot, Israel
 Mr. Aron Landy, Geneva, Switzerland
 Barry Landy Charitable Trust, Cambridge, UK

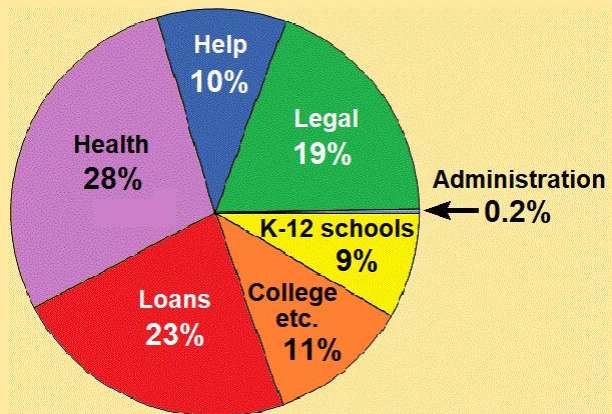
Mr. & Mrs. David Landy, London, UK
 Dr. Allan & Dr. Alicia Levine, Valley Village, CA
 Mr. & Mrs. Avraham Loewenthal, Safed, Israel
 Ms. Naomi Markowitz, Jerusalem, Israel
 Dr. John & Dr. Daisy Merey, West Palm Beach, FL
 Ms. Jennifer Mkwayaya, Aldan, PA
 Ms. Caroline Morganti, New York, NY
 Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Newman, London, UK
 Ms. Miriam Newman & Mr. Michael Pinnolis, Newton
 Center, MA (in memory of Josh [Yehuda] Markovitz)
 Mr. Antwan Nichols, St. Louis, MO
 Mr. & Mrs. Martin Olevitch, St. Louis, MO
 Ms. Mayan Rahat & friends, Safed, Israel
 Mrs. Laurie Rappeport, Safed, Israel
 Ms. Samotta Richardson (Wiggins), Arlington, TX
 Mr. Alan Sacks, Dresher, PA
 Mr. & Mrs. Harold E. Saltzman, Silver Springs, MD
 Mr. & Mrs. Haim Zvi Schechter, Safed, Israel
 Ms. Claire Schwartz, Atlanta, GA
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 Mr. Adam Tamir Shem-Tov, Israel
 Mr. & Mrs. Dan Seri, Jerusalem, Israel
 Mr. Malachi Shriki, Safed, Israel
 Ms. Avital Sivan, Safed, Israel
 Mr. & Mrs. Howard Spielberg, Richmond, VA
 Dr. & Mrs. Yitzhak Stern, Safed, Israel
 Mr. Michael Trabelsi, Safed, Israel
 Mrs. Hananya Van den Berg, Milan, Italy
 Mr. Jay Wax, Toronto, Canada
 Prof. Samuel Wineburg, Seattle, WA
 Mr. and Mrs. Rob (Zelig & Heidi) Wolf, Clifton, NJ
 (in memory of Libby Wolf)
 Rabbi & Mrs. Shmuel Zivan, Safed, Israel
 Ms. Hana Zmiri, Jerusalem, Israel

Several people made more than one contribution, but they have been considered as one combined donation.

The 2019 sources of funds:



The use of funds in 2019 (see Financial Report overleaf):



The Committee for Ethiopian Jews in Safed

Registration No. 58-008-783-1

Financial Report 1.1.2019 - 31.12.2019 (all figures in \$US)

		31/12/18	31/12/19
Opening cash balance		6277	4310*
Closing cash balance		4367*	1382
Donations			
	From Israeli contributors	9629	12128
	From contributors abroad (mainly P.E.F.)	16163	20367
	From P.E.F. special grants	10000	10000
	From the Sobell Foundation (UK)	0	6657
	From the Tikun Olam Fund (USCJ)	690	0
	From the Clore Israel Foundation (for dental treatment)	7000	5000
Loan repayments		11088	16931
Recycling		9613	9284
<u>Total income</u>		<u>64183</u>	<u>80367</u>
Expenditure			
	Grants to university & college students (6)	5095	8367
	Professional training (2)	3682	930
	Subsidies & enrichment for secondary school children (6)	1541	1613
	Extra tuition for secondary school children (1)	856	845
	Subsidies for primary school children	771	311
	Extra tuition for primary school children (2)	0	406
	School trips, extra-curricular activities (20)	2620	1565
	Subsidies for nursery & pre-nursery school children (3)	0	2064
	Religious needs (Purim, bar-mizva)	1099	282
	Interest-free loans (22)	16282	18810
	Help for the needy (11)	5368	7458
	Home repairs, replacement of appliances, etc. (3)	1718	1071
	Dental treatment (12)	18741	17915
	Other health needs (1)	2819	282
	Assistance for the elderly (1)	5252	5240
	Legal aid (lawyer's fees etc. for claim against employer)	0	15934
	Postage, office supplies and fund-raising	69	50
	Bank charges	180	152
<u>Total expenditure</u>		<u>66093</u>	<u>83295</u>
<u>Income – expenditure</u>		<u>-1910</u>	<u>-2928</u>

* The closing cash balance for 2018 and the opening cash balance for 2019 were in fact identical, when expressed in Israeli currency. However, dollar values have been calculated on an average rate of exchange for the year and these were not identical for 2018 and 2019.

US donors

- can make an [online donation direct to P.E.F.](#) (**no commission**) or
- can send a check to P.E.F. [using the form below](#) (**no commission**) or
- can make an on-line [PayPal donation](#) (**a commission is taken**)

UK donors

- can make an [online donation via Myisrael](#)* (**no commission**), in which case it is essential that you fill in the bottom left-hand space as follows:

Please give more details below (Max 50 characters)

For The Committee for Ethiopian Jews in Safed

Note the **Gift Aid** provision at the foot of the page.

- can make a **bank transfer** to:

Account name: Myisrael

Bank: Natwest Streamline

Account: 29057663

Sort code: 560036

in which case it is **essential** that you add a note that it is **for The Committee for Ethiopian Jews in Safed.**

- can make an on-line [PayPal donation](#) (**a commission is taken**)

* We are very grateful to Ms. Danni Franks, Founder and CEO of [Myisrael](#), who graciously agreed to receive £ donations on our behalf, and forward them with **no charge** (as against the alternative avenues which took either 5-7% or 11-12% commission). We also thank the Goldstein family, who – apart from very generously donating to the Committee themselves – arranged the "shidduch" with Myisrael.

Israel donors

- can send a check to us by post (address given in [P.E.F. form below](#)), or
- can make a **bank transfer** or **deposit a check directly** (preferred by us as they involve minimum handling) to our account: **Bank Leumi (10), Branch 975, a/c 2814303.** Please notify us that a payment has been made ! or
- can make an on-line [PayPal donation](#) (**a commission is taken**)

If you have any queries or comments, you can write to us at ysivan@hotmail.com

This form can be printed out separately (please distribute extra copies to potential donors !):

To: P.E.F. Israel Endowment Funds, Inc.
630 Third Avenue, #1501
New York, NY 10017

Date: _____

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____ * with a recommendation to your trustees that it be used for **The Committee for Ethiopian Jews in Safed, Anilewicz 5, 1340003 Safed, Israel** (Registration no. **58-008-783-1**)

* Gifts are US tax deductible if of at least \$25 and made payable to **P.E.F. Israel Endowment Funds, Inc.**

Name: _____ Address: _____ Zip code: _____