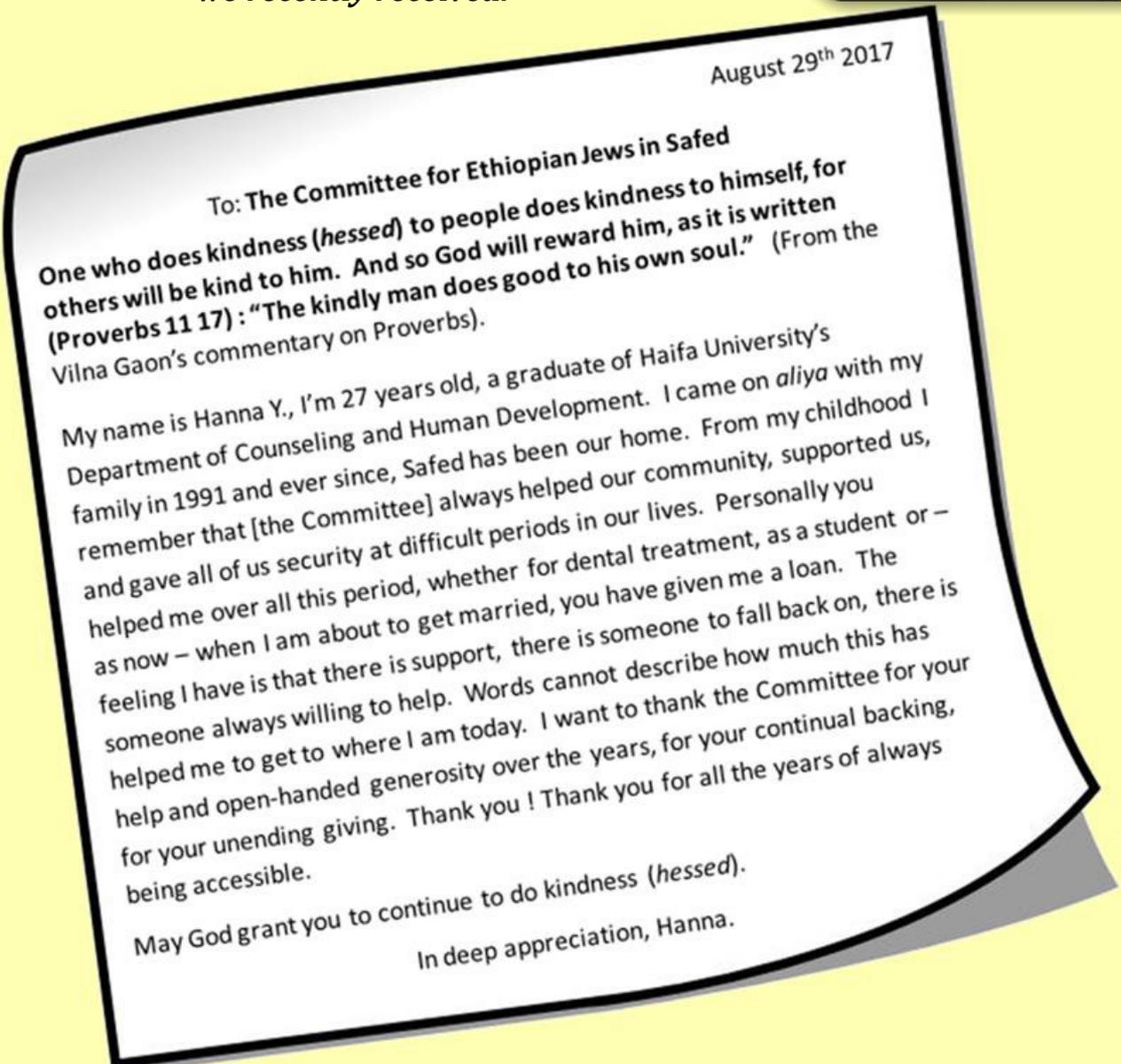




A good New Year ! መልካም አዲስ ዓመት ! שנה טובה



This is a translation of an unsolicited letter that we recently received:



The support that you have given us over the years lies behind the achievement so appreciated by Hanna ! On the following pages you can read about some of our current activities.

Science enrichment program

We subsidized this program at one of the Absorption Centers in Safed. The total cost for 15 ninety minute sessions was \$1230, for 15 children participating. We paid \$1035 (84%), on condition that the children's parents each paid \$13, as we felt that it was essential that they have a stake in the children's attendance.

In the photo, the teacher, Yuval, was introducing the children to simple research as to factors affecting plant



growth; each child had to construct a closed system where the plant's water supply and air supply was guaranteed. It is essential to encourage enquiry and curiosity, and we hope that this program will be significant in preparing the children for life.

The lady on the left, Mrs. Ilanit Chokol, is herself a teacher in one of the Safed primary schools, and is employed here as a translator and facilitator. It is also important that these and other children should see that a member of the teaching staff is herself Ethiopian; she acts as a rôle model.

“Identity and Judaism “ program for teen-age girls – Jerusalem seminar

The “Meron” Absorption Center organized a year-long program “Identity & Judaism” for a group of 14 teen-age girls. The high point was a long week-end in Jerusalem, accompanied by (amongst others) Yerus, their soldier teacher (khaki skirt and white scarf in the photo) and their Bnei Akiva counselor, Tama. Bnei Akiva paid for the Jerusalem part of the program: on Friday a guided tour of the City of David, the Siloam Tunnel, the Old City and the Western Wall. On Shabbat they had a rich program, including prayers at the Great Synagogue and an activity involving a veteran immigrant who had been through the absorption process and who had faced the identity problems that these girls have (left, with the blue scarf). All the girls said how much this event had meant to them, some emphasising the wonderful Friday night prayers together, others the visit to the Western Wall, but all the feeling of unity and empowerment that it gave them.



We received a very warm letter of appreciation from the Director of the Absorption Center, Ms. Moran Yannai, for our part in the event: the **hire of the bus** to and from Jerusalem (\$970), **food** for the journey and **treats** (\$250), and a small pair of Shabbat candlesticks as a **memento** for each girl (\$100).



Dental treatment

It seems to be a universal problem: **dentists' fees** !

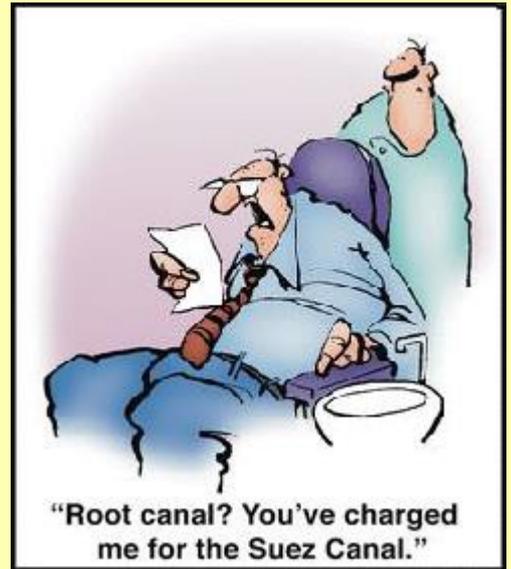
In Israel "...half of the working poor give up vital care, such as dental treatments, in favor of basic necessities..."

Year in, year out, our Committee is called on to help with dental treatment, where possible with interest-free loans, but not everyone is in a position to repay.



Destau K. (left) is a stalwart of the Ethiopian Jewish community in Safed, always ready to help others, volunteering all through the year to collect and sort bottles for recycling, and currently repaying a loan out of his meagre salary. Recently he had to have surgery on his lower jaw, paid for out of his Health Insurance,

but the **dental restoration** needed as a result was way beyond his means. We paid **\$940** for the treatment.



Yehuda C. is a 12 year old boy, with severe **orthodontic problems** not covered by his Health Insurance. His parents, although working, have many other commitments, and after thorough enquiries, we decided to pay for the whole treatment: **\$2550**, payable in ten installments.

As described in our **2016 Rosh HaShana Newsletter**, we continue to pay (as a **loan**) for major dental treatment (**\$5300**, at the rate of **\$370 a month**) for Batel T. (right); she is paying back the whole sum in small monthly payments.



Miri A. (left) was faced with a dentist's bill for **\$2130**, which was far more than she could pay out of her monthly earnings, but by taking an **interest-free loan** for this sum, from the Committee, she can pay back \$100 a month.

This is **not** an exhaustive list of the help we give in the course of the year !

Over 32 years of involvement !



Daniel Flatauer (left), one of Safed's **best-known and most artistic craftsmen**, has been involved with our Committee almost from day one. In the photo on the right, from 1985, he was unloading the first kiln, funded by the **American Association for Ethiopian Jews**, with which we started a pottery enterprise in the Absorption Center. To this day he makes a monthly contribution to our funds – **you are invited to emulate him** !



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

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