



# Hanukka Newsletter

November 2013 - כסלו תשע"ד

Anilewicz 5, 13400 Safed, Israel

## Edyth Geiger 1919-2013 ז"ל



Edyth was a founder member of our Committee, involved in every aspect of its activities. A charismatic woman (see this [video](#)), who meant so much to us and who we all miss; may her memory be blessed.

We recommend you to read this [article](#) (2004) about her:

... the 84-year-old who has been called by local residents a "one-woman help committee for Safed" ...

"The question about Edyth Geiger is not what she does, but what she has not done, for residents of Safed and beyond. ... Edyth's crown jewel is the [library](#), which she founded in her one-bedroom apartment 32 years ago..."



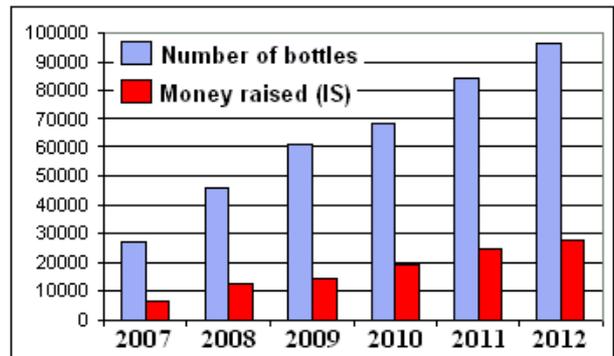
## Committee member goes to prison.. ..

We also raise money by recycling. In 2012: nearly 100,000 cans and bottles, raising almost **\$7400** (IS 28,000), compared to nearly \$34,000 from donations and grants (a further \$11,300 came from loan repayments).



Our sources are mainly Safed snack bars and restaurants, as well as

individual collectors (including several Ethiopian families). One supplier is the **Zalmon Prison**, near Safed. Left: a prison officer helps our Chairman load up his car with the monthly collection of grape juice bottles (used for *kiddush* on Shabbat).



## Coping with bureaucracy

A new immigrant at the Safed Absorption Center, Mr. Sato L., wanted to use the generous mortgage terms offered by the Ministry of Absorption, to acquire an apartment either in Ashkelon or Kiryat Gat where his married daughter lives. However the Ministry had limited him to the more expensive parts of the country. Mr. L.'s reasoning was straightforward: he and his wife have seven children, but with the mortgage offered they could only buy a relatively small apartment in a more central part of the country;

**we wrote to the Deputy Director of the Ministry, and eventually an exception was made for Mr. L., who expressed great appreciation for our efforts on his behalf.**



## A letter of thanks



I am Gevyo Y., resident of Safed, father of 16 children. I came to Israel from Ethiopia in 1990 with my wife Genet and 6 children under 18 years old. My 6 oldest children came on *aliya* by way of Sudan 6 years before we came. Since then, another 4 children were born here. [Genet is Gevyo's second wife, his first having died.]

From when we arrived, you [i.e. the Committee for Ethiopian Jews in Safed] have stood by my family and supported us the whole time, both emotionally

and financially. I try to educate my children in the best possible way: to be self-disciplined, to respect others, to be independent and to give without any thought of recompense. More than anything, I encourage my children to undertake academic studies, so that they will be respected and independent in conducting their own lives, both in modern society in general and in Israeli society in particular. For that, one needs financial means to get through the period of university life.

You [as Chairman of the Committee for Ethiopian Jews in Safed] and others who work with you enabled my children to get through their college days by giving them grants, understanding that I, as their father, could not do so. Thank God my children disappointed neither me nor you, as their supporters, and indeed four have now obtained their degrees, and my daughter Yafit is at present at university and is coping well with her studies, and I am confident that my younger children will follow in their footsteps.

It is true that it has taken a long time for me to write down what was in my heart, but as they say: "Better late than never." I am very grateful for the support you have given my family over the past 20 years, and I want you to know that I am aware of, and value, all the time spent interceding on behalf of my family, and in addition my children love you and are very appreciative of all your efforts.

No-one can repay you, and I pray that God will recompense you and that you will be able to do many more *mizvot*.

Yours sincerely,  
Gevyo Y.

## "The virtue of deeds lies in completing them."

Last year we reported that we had undertaken to pay the dorm fees (\$2050) of Faben A., at the Safed Hospital School of Nursing. **50% of the sum was covered by a generous grant from the USY Tikun Olam Program.** This year we are paying the dorm fees for the last six months of her course, **\$1275**. Faben wrote to us:

12.10.12

.... I wish to thank the Committee for your generous and, as far as I am concerned, extremely significant contribution. The grant helped me pay my dorm fees. Since the pressure of my studies is so great this year, I don't have time to earn money working as well, and only on rare occasions have I been able to travel to my family in Jerusalem. That is because I try to save every penny, for there is no other source from which I can get financial help ... there is no question but that without this help ... my studies this year would have been in jeopardy. So I want to thank you again and again for your generous contribution and may God reward you.

Yours sincerely, Faben A.

## What's the connection ?



Makoryo E. (24) came to Israel last year. In Ethiopia he was a taekwondo instructor, holding a black belt and ranked 2nd Dan. In Israel the sport is also popular, with clubs all over the country. At present Makoryo is teaching taekwondo to the new immigrant children in the absorption center, and as such is himself making a major contribution to their well-being.



*Rabbi Moshe ben Maimon (RAMBAM)*

However he is not allowed to teach anywhere else, until he receives accreditation from the Israeli association. To do this, he had to do a month's training at the [Wingate Sports Institute](#). In view both of his altruism in teaching the children in the absorption center, and the fact that there was this opportunity to enable him to become self-supporting in his own profession in Israel, we were asked to help fund his course at Wingate. The total cost was \$2000 (after receiving a 10% discount), of which Makoryo paid \$570 from his own savings, so we paid the remaining **\$1430**.

### Rambam taught:

The highest level of giving is to assist your fellow man ... by teaching him a trade, or by putting him in the way of business so that he may earn an honest livelihood and not be forced to be dependent on others.

**Now you know the connection !**

## Our faithful supporters:

Many thanks for contributing so generously to our Committee in the course of **2012** and/or **2013** (our apologies if we have inadvertently omitted anyone):

Dr. & Mrs. Emanuel B. Abrams, Los Angeles, CA  
 Dr. Pesach Aceman, Bar Yohai, Israel  
 Mr. & Mrs. David J. Bardin, Washington, DC  
 Mrs. Sara Dvorah Bilerman, Safed, Israel  
 (in honor of Hilary Sivan's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday)  
 Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Benarroch, Jerusalem, Israel  
 Prof. & Mrs. Laurie Blendis, Jerusalem, Israel  
 Prof. David & Mrs. Felicia Citron, Jerusalem, Israel  
 Mr. Chaim & Mrs. Talya Cohen, Jerusalem, Israel  
 Mr. Haim & Mrs. Rivka Cohen, Jerusalem, Israel  
 (in honor of birth of granddaughter, Noga)  
 Mr. Zion Cohen, Safed, Israel  
 Ms. Kitty Deen ב"ר, Netherlands (deceased)  
 Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Eth, Hackensack, NJ  
 Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Flatauer, Safed, Israel  
 Mr. Thomas J. Fleisch, Marmoroneck, NY  
 Mr. Stanley Ganer, Mount Vernon, NY  
 Mr. Jay Glushien, Longmeadow, MA  
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 Mr. & Mrs. Karl Kaplan, E. Brunswick, NJ  
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 Sandra & Mitchell Knisbacher Foundation, Burlington, VT  
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 Mr. Josh Markowitz, Tiberias, Israel  
 Ms. Naomi Markowitz, Jerusalem, Israel  
 Mrs. Rachel Menses, Safed, Israel  
 Dr. John Merey, West Palm Beach, FL  
 Mr. Razak Muballe, Brookline, MA  
 Ms. Aderet Polski, Safed, Israel  
 Mr. Alan Portnoi, Netanya, Israel  
 Mrs. Laurie Rappeport, Safed, Israel  
 Mr. Alan Sacks, Dresher, PA  
 Dr. & Mrs. Benjamin Schuraytz, Valley Village, CA  
 Mr. & Mrs. Dan Seri, Jerusalem, Israel  
 Mr. David Sidi, Scottsdale, AZ / Lymm, UK  
 (in honor of Mrs Vera Sidi's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday [since deceased])  
 Mr. Howard Spielberg, Richmond, VA  
 Mrs. Susan Steinberg, Livermore, CA  
 Mrs. Elizabeth K. Teitelbaum, Brooklyn, NY  
 Prof. Samuel Wineburg, Seattle, WA  
 Mrs. Shoshana Yehudah, Safed, Israel  
 Ms. Hana Zmiri, Jerusalem, Israel  
 Fidelity Charity Gift Fund, Cincinnati, OH  
 (Recommended by the Saltzman Tzedakah Fund, Silver Spring, MD)

# The Committee for Ethiopian Jews in Safed

Registration No. 58-008-783-1

## Financial Report 1.1.2012 - 31.12.2012 (all figures in \$US)

|                                    |  | 31/12/11            | 31/12/12            |
|------------------------------------|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| Opening cash balance               |  | 12063               | *2895               |
| Closing cash balance               |  | *2934               | 10987               |
| <i>Donations</i>                   |  |                     |                     |
|                                    | From Israeli contributors  | 5172                | 6903                |
|                                    | From contributors abroad (mainly P.E.F.)                           | 28330               | 16017               |
|                                    | From P.E.F. special grants   | 0                   | 10000               |
|                                    | From Tikun Olam Fund (USCJ)  | 1000                | 1062                |
| Loan repayments                    |  | 8480                | 11278               |
| Recycling                          |  | 6636                | 7393                |
| <b><u>Total income</u></b>         |  | <b><u>49618</u></b> | <b><u>52653</u></b> |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                 |  |                     |                     |
|                                    | Grants to university & college students (6)                        | 2688                | 3599                |
|                                    | Subsidies & enrichment for secondary school children (8)           | 1310                | 2692                |
|                                    | Subsidies for primary school children (8)                          | 946                 | 718                 |
|                                    | Primary school trips, extra-curricular activities (19)             | 379                 | 1481                |
|                                    | Subsidies for nursery & pre-nursery school children (4)            | 1794                | 540                 |
|                                    | Educational assessment   | 1145                | 535                 |
|                                    | Equipment for pre-nursery school                                   | 501                 | 0                   |
|                                    | Religious needs (bat mizva, memorial service)                      | 992                 | 193                 |
|                                    | Loans (11)   | 23959               | 14016               |
|                                    | Repayment of loan made to Committee in 2003                        | 4735                | 0                   |
|                                    | Help for the needy (30)  | 4938                | 9281                |
|                                    | Subsidy for bringing mother from Ethiopia to see daughter's family | 2234                | 0                   |
|                                    | Home repairs, replacement of appliances, etc. (7)                  | 1301                | 2755                |
|                                    | <b>Dental treatment (6)</b>  | 7632                | <b>4706</b>         |
|                                    | Other health needs (7)   | 3573                | 2728                |
|                                    | Professional training (3)  | 0                   | 971                 |
|                                    | Postage, office supplies and fund-raising                          | 322                 | 41                  |
|                                    | Bank charges   | 297                 | 304                 |
| <b><u>Total expenditure</u></b>    |  | <b><u>58746</u></b> | <b><u>44560</u></b> |
| <b><u>Income – expenditure</u></b> |  | <b><u>-9128</u></b> | <b><u>8092</u></b>  |

\* The closing cash balance for 2011 and the opening cash balance for 2012 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 2011 and 2012.

### She's smiling - but we're not !

She looks as though she has perfect teeth – but all too many Ethiopian immigrants have seen their dental condition deteriorate drastically over the years, with the change in diet. At present we are paying **\$163 a month (over 12 months)**, for Mrs. G.Y.'s treatment; **\$207 a month (over 12 months)**, for Sharon T.'s treatment; **\$142 a month (over 10 months)**, for Israelit F.'s treatment; we



have two other people begging us to help them pay for their dental treatment. This is, as you can see above, a major demand on our funds – please contribute !

Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> - STOP PRESS !!! Just received grant of \$1500 from USY Tikun Olam Program for dental treatment !

**USA donors**

- can send a check to P.E.F. using [the form below](#) (this way there are no commissions or charges), *or*
- can make an on-line donation at [Israel Gives](#).

**UK donors**

- can make an on-line donation at [UK Toremet](#):

**Israel donors**

- can send a check to us by post (address given in [P.E.F. form below](#)), *or*
- can deposit a check directly in 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 donation at [Israel Gives](#).

We are very anxious to widen our list of supporters, so if you have family, friends or acquaintances who you think would like to share in this great *mizva*, then **please recruit them !** Similarly, if you know of synagogue or community funds which might be available, please let us know and we will apply to the trustees.

*Our e-mail address is [ysivan@hotmail.com](mailto:ysivan@hotmail.com) – what is yours ?*

*We are trying to cut down on overheads by sending our Newsletters and other information online – please help us !*

*We thank LaurieRappeport for putting together [our Internet site](#).*

This form can be printed out separately:

To: P.E.F. Israel Endowment Funds, Inc.  
317 Madison Avenue, #607  
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, 13400 Safed, Israel**.

\* 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: \_\_\_\_\_