



Hanukka Newsletter

December 2014 – כסלו תשע"ד

Anilewicz 5, 13400 Safed, Israel

Nearly 30 years on ...



This photo was taken in Safed in 1985. Wuvit (left) was 10 years old, orphaned of both father and mother, but with wonderfully supportive siblings. Her friend, Avigail, is her friend to this day. The second photo was taken in Safed earlier this month. On the left is Wuvit (white scarf); today she is married with 2 children, and studying for her doctorate at the Hebrew University. Next to her is her sister, Vered, then Vered's daughter (now at Tel Aviv University doing a degree in Oriental Studies). In the middle Yehoshua Sivan, Chairman then and still in the same rôle (also Avigail's father), then their brother Zvika, who has made his career in the army. The young man at the end of the row is Vered's son, who has a Social Work degree. This family is not atypical - many have established themselves both professionally and socially over the past three decades.



...



... and looking forwards



We wrote about Sarit A. (left) in our [Summer Newsletter](#). We are pleased to report that we were able to pay for the **preparatory course**, which she decided to take at the Yezreel Valley College. Of the **\$1390** needed, we received 90% (\$1250) as a generous grant from the [USY Tikun Olam Program](#), who have been supporting us for the past 17 years! On successful completion of the course, Sarit be able to enroll to do a BA in Human Resource Management at Haifa University.

Workanesh A. (26) is enrolled in an Interdisciplinary B.A. program at Bar Ilan University, involving multi-field studies in Social Sciences, X-ray imaging and Life Sciences. She is the only Ethiopian student in her year. While her tuition is paid for (as an ex-soldier), she only gets an extra grant of about \$150 a month to cover all other expenses. She shares an apartment with her sister, and her half share of the rent comes to \$360 a month. She would like to work as well as study, but the University has cut down the period of their studies (but not the material!) so that they are so intensive that she cannot possibly earn any extra at present. In view of her financial straits, we decided to give her a **monthly stipend of \$130** over the current academic year.



Bat-Mitzva celebration - HaAri School

Ziona, the home-room teacher, approached us on behalf of two new immigrant girls in her class. All the parents were going to pay \$130 for their daughters' bat-mitzva celebration, but this was way beyond the means of these two girls' parents. We paid \$115 for each (total **\$230**), the parents making up the difference.



Violin lessons

S. is a 5th grade girl in the same school. Her mother told us that in addition to learning violin at school, her daughter wanted to have extra lessons at the Conservatory; she had started last year, her teacher had said that she was very talented, but she had had to give them up as her parents could not afford them. We have paid **\$655** in 8 monthly instalments to enable S. to have a **weekly violin lesson** at the Conservatory for the whole school year.

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." (Benjamin Franklin)

Mrs. Yael Ben-Abo, the counselor at the [Menachem Begin High School](#), turned to us very concerned about G., a ninth grade boy (whose **school fees** we are subsidizing this year to the tune of **\$510** out of \$730). She had noticed that he seemed very disconnected socially and academically, and in view of his known emotional problems (parents divorced, much-loved older sister died under tragic circumstances), she wanted to provide him with support. At her request we are going paying one of the staff, Ms. Ortal B., **\$40 a week**, until further notice, to sit with him daily for a school hour, on a 1:1 basis, both to help him with his school work and also to try to help him cope with his other problems, so that he will be able to fully integrate into school life, and not become a drop-out.

Safed high-school graduate is "Outstanding Soldier"

Aviv K., graduate of the Amit Religious High School, was awarded the coveted "outstanding soldier" certificate, on finishing his grueling [basic training in the famous Golani Brigade](#). Having subsidized his high school studies in previous years, we feel that we can take some vicarious pride in his achievement. Recently we paid **\$510** to cover part of the **school fees** for his sister, Sara, now at the Amit Ulpanit (girl's Yeshiva High School). In 2013 we spent \$2000 on subsidies for six secondary school children; this year we have paid at least **\$3150** for 7 children. In 2013 education (primary, secondary, tertiary, etc.) accounted for over 25% of our expenses.



Safed Youth Soccer team

City Councillor Ms. Vicki Alkabetz, (herself an ex-footballer!) asked us to subsidize membership of the city Football Club so that Aviv Y. (No. 1 in photo) and Lior F. (No. 2) could take part in the youth team. Every family has to pay \$205, and their families could not afford this sum. We undertook to pay 75%, total **\$305** for the two boys.

Our faithful supporters:

Many thanks for contributing so generously to our Committee in the course of **2013** and/or **2014** (our apologies if we have inadvertently omitted anyone):

Abuhav Synagogue (Mr, Meir Carsenti), Safed, Israel
 Ms. Yvonne Akonnor, London, UK
 Mr. David Attia, Washington, DC
 Mr. & Mrs. David J. Bardin, Washington, DC
 Ms. Deborah Bentum, Dartford, UK
 Ms. Yael Ban, Har Haluz, Israel
 Mrs. Sara Dvorah Bilerman, Safed, Israel
 Prof. & Mrs. Laurie Blendis, Jerusalem, Israel
 Dr. & Mrs. Robert J. Bloomberg, Tempe, AZ
 Prof. David & Mrs. Felicia Citron, Jerusalem, Israel
 Mr. Chaim & Mrs. Talya Cohen, Jerusalem, Israel
 Mr. Haim & Mrs. Rivka Cohen, Jerusalem, Israel
 Mr. Moshe & Mrs. Ruth Cohn, Jerusalem, Israel
 Mr. Zion Cohen, Safed, Israel
 Mr. Richard Danso, Carshalton, UK
 Mrs. Samantha Danso, Carshalton, UK
 Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Eth, Hackensack, NJ
 Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Flatauer, Safed, Israel
 Mr. Thomas J. Fleisch, Mamaroneck, NY
 Mrs. Anna Folberg, Rosh Pina, Israel
 Ms. Kayla Friedman, Miami, FL
 Mr. Shaul Fust, Rosh Pina, Israel
 Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Fuks, Moshav Shuva, Israel
 Mr. Jay Glushien, Springfield, MA
 Mr. Jerome Greenberg, Watchung, NJ
 Mr. Paul J. Isaac, Larchmont, NY

Mr. & Mrs. Robert P. Klein, Silver Spring, MD
 Sandra & Mitchell Knisbacher Foundation, Burlington, VT
 Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Knoppow, W. Bloomfield, MI
 Mrs. Rita Krosney, Scarsdale, NY
 Mr. & Mrs. David Landy, London, UK
 Dr. Allan & Dr. Alicia Levine, Valley Village, CA
 Mr. Haim Liksenberg, Safed, Israel
 Mrs. Miriam Lindenberg, Safed, Israel
 Mr. & Mrs. Avraham Loewenthal, Safed, Israel
 Ms. Naomi Markowitz, Jerusalem, Israel
 Mrs. Rachel Menses, Safed, Israel
 Dr. John Merey, West Palm Beach, FL
 Mr. Alan Portnoi, Netanya, Israel
 Mrs. Laurie Rappeport, Safed, Israel
 Mr. Alan Sacks, Dresher, PA
 Saltzman Tzedaka Fund, Silver Spring, MD
 Dr. & Mrs. Benjamin Schuraytz, Valley Village, CA
 Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Sher, Jerusalem, Israel
 Mr. & Mrs. Dan Seri, Jerusalem, Israel
 Mr. David Sidi, Scottsdale, AZ / Lymm, UK
 Mr. Howard Spielberg, Richmond, VA
 Mrs. Susan Steinberg, Livermore, CA
 Mrs. Elizabeth K. Teitelbaum, Brooklyn, NY
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Trabelsi, Safed, Israel
 Lady Lira Winston, London, UK
 Mr. Yosef Zarum, Jerusalem, Israel
 Ms. Hana Zmiri, Jerusalem, Israel

A few statistics **for 2014 only** (we hope there will be more donations before the end of the year !):

	Up to \$100	\$101 - \$1000	\$1001 - \$10,000
US & UK donors	3	7	5
Israeli donors	13	8	-
Total (approx.)	\$650	\$3900	\$19,100

The figures are approximate, as they do not include commissions to donor agencies such as [IsraelGives](#) or [UK Toremet](#), and the conversion from Israeli shekel donations to US\$ are based on the current (December 2014) exchange rate.

Several donors made more than one contribution during the year, but they have been considered - for the sake of the table above - as one combined donation from that donor.

Fundraising from recycling:

In 2013 recycling provided us with about 18% of our income. The photo shows Yossi Kedma, our recycling team member who volunteers **every week**, in the company of Moshe Elbaz in the village of [Kadita](#), from whose center we collect a couple of times a year. Our work not only benefits us, but is the inspiration for others, as the following [quotation](#) attests:

*Editor's note: For some decades [Livnot](#) chevre have been recycling their beer cans by donating them to **The Committee for Ethiopian Jews in Safed**. They fund college scholarships, children's school supplies, dental care, and other essential services for Ethiopian immigrants in our city. We thank them for the inspiration to make a renewed effort of ensuring that we reduce, reuse, recycle as much as possible throughout the program, even - and especially - when we are not on campus.*



The Committee for Ethiopian Jews in Safed

Registration No. 58-008-783-1

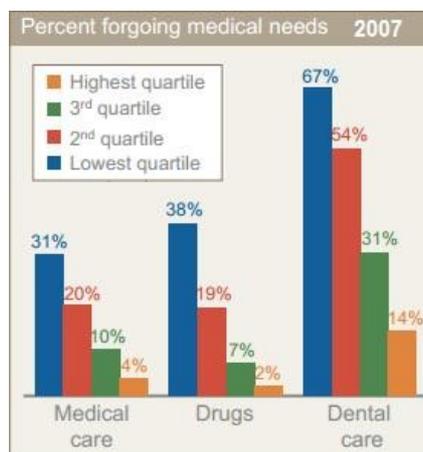
Financial Report 1.1.2013 - 31.12.2013 (all figures in \$US)

		31/12/12	31/12/13
Opening cash balance		2895	*11542
Closing cash balance		10987	1708
<i>Donations</i>	From Israeli contributors	6903	2666
	From contributors abroad (mainly P.E.F.)	16017	10171
	From P.E.F. special grants	10000	10000
	From Tikun Olam Fund (USCJ)	1062	1500
Loan repayments		11278	7197
Recycling		7393	7278
<u>Total income</u>		<u>52653</u>	<u>38812</u>
Expenditure	Grants to university & college students (5)	3599	3801
	Professional training (8)	971	5049
	Subsidies & enrichment for secondary school children (6)	2692	1999
	Subsidies for primary school children (5)	718	902
	Primary school trips, extra-curricular activities (3)	1481	772
	Subsidies for nursery & pre-nursery school children	540	843
	Educational assessment	535	407
	Religious needs (help with funeral expenses)	193	478
	Loans (8)	14016	11899
	Help for the needy (20)	9281	11469
	Family reunification from Ethiopia	0	1770
	Home repairs, replacement of appliances, etc. (2)	2755	1545
	Dental treatment (7)	4706	6475
	Other health needs (2)	2728	761
	Postage, office supplies and fund-raising	41	112
	Bank charges	304	364
<u>Total expenditure</u>		<u>44560</u>	<u>48646</u>
<u>Income – expenditure</u>		<u>8092</u>	<u>-9834</u>

* The closing cash balance for 2012 and the opening cash balance for 2013 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 2012 and 2013.



A dental postscript



It is no secret that most of the Ethiopian Jewish community in Israel, including Safed, is in the lowest income quartile. As the data on the left show (admittedly from 2007, but the situation has not changed for the better since then), two thirds of this population forgo dental treatment.

So far this year we have paid out almost **\$9800** for 11 beneficiaries, and we are still paying. One such is A.L. in Bet Shean (he used to live in Safed). We sent post-dated checks to his dentist, but saw that he hadn't started his treatment. It turned out that he couldn't afford to pay for a panoramic X-ray, so we sent him the extra \$50 needed, to enable him to start.

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 – what is yours ?

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

These forms can be printed out separately:

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**.

* 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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