



2014 Semi-Annual Report

This year we have extended our activities to reach young Ethiopian-Israeli children as well as young adults, thanks to our partnership with the **Chantal Karei Community Center "Beit Lazarus"**, and the support of **Shikum Schunot Talpiot**.

Art

We have initiated a traditional Ethiopian art class for a group of fifteen Ethiopian-Israeli children at Beit Lazarus. Our teacher, **Michal Avraham**, is herself a talented Ethiopian artist and uses her background in creative techniques to instruct the children in creating traditional Ethiopian art.



As can be seen from the photos above and on the website, their work is spectacular and very authentic, though they themselves were born in Israel. We are planning an exhibit of their work at the **Jerusalem Municipal Gallery** at the end of the year. We hope to initiate a similar group next year including the mothers or fathers. They are in dire need of bonding with their parents in a positive way and what could be better than doing so through the arts.

Dance

After a year in which two of our teens taught a group of fifteen young teens Ethiopian dance, we have opened a professional dance group for teens and young adults. We have eighteen dancers signed up and have held four rehearsals so far.



They are all very talented and are working together with our dance teacher **Tzvika Hizikias**, celebrated as the best Ethiopian dancer and choreographer in the country, to create show-stopping dances combining classic *Eskesta* dance with modern moves. Tzvika, known for his involvement in the famous **Beta Dance Group**, is often approached about performing, so when we are ready we can proudly represent some of the beauty of the Ethiopian-Israeli community. We hope to include a dance program for mothers and daughters next year – another fun and important bonding experience.

Group Encounters

Our **Ethiopian Experience** continues to present programs for groups from abroad. This May a group of eighteen young adults from the U.S. participated through the **Keshet Onward DLD** program. They fell in love with our teens who shared their knowledge of Ethiopian Jewry both in Israel and in Ethiopia. Two of the youth who ran the program may be going to the U.S. this summer to the **Music in Common Youth Summit** in Massachusetts, a program that brings together Arabs and Jews through music. All of these American teens will be counseling in camp nearby and want our teens to join them to speak to their campers about Israel and about the Ethiopian community. Very exciting!!



We have sixty **Rama** kids set up for an Experience in July, and another one for Orthodox women at the **OU** in June. We are spreading the word to other group leaders about this important endeavor, one that provides possibly the most interesting, informative and exciting program in the country about the Ethiopian-Israeli community.

Sayings of the Fathers

Our newest endeavor uses the newest book of traditional Amharic aphorisms to enlist Ethiopian-Israeli kids in presenting the meaning of these famous expressions to their peers in youth groups. We have given out the book and hope to pilot it at camp this summer. The kids will be asked to go home and ask their parents the meaning and significance of the *pigam* (folk saying) and present it to their peers. Having their parents share knowledge with them about their heritage and culture will serve as a way to strengthen their bond and respect for their parents, which is often lacking.

Government Round Table

Tracey, the founder and director of **Malkat Shva**, has been asked to sit at the **Government Round Table** for the Ethiopian-Israeli community, where she hopes to excite the members about her program and encourage them to help her take the lead in spreading the program around Jerusalem and throughout the country.

Tracey was also approached by a newly-formed elementary school in an affluent neighborhood of Tel Aviv, which is interested in weekly studies about the Ethiopian-Jewish community in Israel. Together with **Beru Teshala**, a well known Ethiopian-Israeli comedian and theater teacher in Israel, she has developed a creative curriculum for a weekly program next year. There are no Ethiopian students at this school, yet the staff find it important for these children to learn about this community.

Evening Teen Programs

This summer we plan to run nightly teen programs in art and dance, in addition to forming a team of teens to run what we hope will be a series of **Ethiopian Experiences** this summer and next year. We also are planning a camp for seventy Ethiopian-Israeli children run by the teens similar to our successful camp we ran last year.

Contributions

It is now possible to make U.S. tax-deductible [contributions](#) through our partners, the **Ami Neshama** project. Please designate in the message box that the donation is intended for the **Malkat Shva** project. Thanks for your support!

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