



**The Ethiopian
National Project**
הפרויקט הלאומי של עולי אתיופיה
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**December
2010/ Kislev-
Tevet 5771**

Ethiopian National Project (ENP) E-News

Dear Friend,

Though the last candles of Hanukkah have now burned out, the devastation of the Carmel wildfires will remain with all of us for a long time to come. Just one week has passed since they were ignited— now, we all look to see how we can keep the light of hope in those who were tragically affected.

In a visit to Tirat Hacarmel in the fire's aftermath, ENP heard from city representatives, professionals and Ethiopian-Israeli community members what a beacon of hope and light the ENP Youth Outreach Center was for them during its time of greatest darkness. [Read the story below](#) of the incredible impact this one Center made, and more about how ENP's other programs are transforming Israel.

May we continue to make a difference, one by one, for each individual is a light that can shine brightly.

Best wishes,

Dr. Nigist Mengesha
Director-General, ENP

"Syncopa"-Drumming & Performance Workshops in Gedera!

In October 2010, teens from the ENP Youth Outreach Center in Gedera performed their musical and dance talents for a York-Rotary JCC Trip!

[Click here to watch a video clip of their fantastic performance](#)

The "Syncopa" workshops, which involve body drumming, rhythmic use of a variety of instruments and performance, are generously funded by the United Jewish Communities of York. This partnership includes a special connection between the York and Gedera Rotary Clubs, which also support this group.

"Syncopa" complements the range of ENP activities in Gedera, which are generously supported by UJA-Federation of New York.



In This Issue

[Shine Brightly](#)

[Syncopa
Workshops](#)

[Chag Sigd
Celebrations](#)

[Profile of a Leader](#)

[ENP Center Offers
Haven to Fires](#)

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Chag Sigd - Celebrating Ethiopian Jewry's Return to Israel



For members of the Ethiopian-Israeli community, "Chag Sigd" celebrates the giving of the Torah and the return from exile to Jerusalem. The *Sigd* is held each year on the 29th day of the Hebrew month of Heshvan, 50 days after Yom Kippur.

In July 2008, Chag Sigd officially became an Israeli National Holiday and is celebrated by a mass pilgrimage to the Haas Promenade in Jerusalem, which overlooks the old city and the Western Wall.

Sigd Exhibition, ENP Scholastic Assistance Program, Afula

In addition, ENP Scholastic Assistance students set up special exhibitions and lead educational activities at many schools in order to raise awareness of this important festival.

[View and read impressions from this year's festival](#), which took place on November 4th this year.

Profile of a Leader: Nofar Maharat



Nofar was born in Ethiopia in 1982 and reached Israel, with her family, in 1991, on the miraculous Operation Solomon airlift in which some 14,000 Ethiopian Jews were airlifted to Israel in just 36 hours. Today, Nofar is a final-year student on a special program at the Rupin Academic college training to be an Educational and Social Mediator and studying for a BA in Business and Management. The Greater Miami Jewish Federation supports ENP programs in Pardes Channa-Karkur, where Nofar lives and plays an active role in its local leadership group.

Nofar represented ENP, the Ethiopian-Israeli community, and the community of Pardes Channa-Karkur during the recent General Assembly and International Lions of Judah Conferences held in New Orleans.

[Read Nofar's moving and inspiring story.](#)

ENP Center in Tirat Hacarmel Offers Haven to Residents

Young and old, Israeli-born and immigrant alike in the city of Tirat Hacarmel were uprooted by the devastating Carmel forest fires. But for the small community of some 1,000 Ethiopian-Israelis who call Tirat Hacarmel their home, the act of evacuation and fleeing their homes was especially difficult.

For these wildfires rekindled in the Ethiopian-Israeli community feelings of insecurity, uncertainty, and fear. For many of this community, flight was familiar: their last experience of flight was one in which they endured horrific hardships in order to reach Israel in the mid-1980's during Operation Moses. And today, since the vast majority of the Ethiopian-Israeli residents' homes are on the outermost ring of houses adjacent to the woods, the wildfires brought out a new feeling-- one of not knowing whether they would have a home to return to in Israel.

So when the call to evacuate was made and they sought safety, it was the teenagers who led their parents to a place they equate with safety, security and home. These teenagers brought their parents and siblings to the ENP Youth Outreach Center in Tirat Hacarmel.

[Read more](#)

Ethiopian National Project

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