

NORTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON ETHIOPIAN JEWRY

LIFELINE

SUMMER 2013

A Crisis in Israel Defused!

NACOEJ, as you know from the many times we've asked you to make phone calls, or send letters or postcards to Israeli consulates and Jewish federations, has always been involved in advocacy for the Ethiopian aliyah. With great success.

We've also advocated with the Israeli government for changes in the way Ethiopian children are educated in Israel. We've successfully presented a model for doing it better.

But such efforts – often involving endless phone calls, meetings, position papers, sometimes demonstrations – can take up a huge amount of time and energy and, of course, have depended on your active and generous help.

Now we're being urged by some of you in our NACOEJ family to expand into other issues of great concern, including saving the government mortgages that enable immigrant Ethiopian families to get their first homes (now threatened by budget cuts), problems in Ethiopian families struggling to adjust to their new lives, incidents of discrimination...

And most recently, the terrifying possibility that the government/Jewish Agency grants that cover tuition for Ethiopian (and other immigrant) college students would be cut in half.

"Terrifying" is not too strong a word. If full tuition grants disappear, so does higher education for almost all Ethiopian-Israeli students.

The NACOEJ Adopt-A-Student stipends that so many of you provide to our college students help them with food, rent, carfare, and other necessities, but do not cover tuition.

So, when the Jewish Agency announced that they would no longer contribute their 50% to the grant fund, and when the government issued a draft budget with no provision to cover that loss, we had to shift into high gear.

And we needed help to do it, because we could not take our small Israel staff away from working on new Limudiah classes and increasing the number of high school students we hope to assist.

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"Titi" with U.S. President Barack Obama and Israeli President Shimon Peres. Photo: Avi Ohayon

Yityish "Titi" Aynaw

What's Different about this Newly Crowned Beauty Queen?

*It's not only that she's black and Jewish...
but that she was an orphan in Africa...
learned to read at the NACOEJ school in Gondar...
immigrated to Israel as a child...
excelled in field and track...
won first place in a national student
film competition...
was a military police commander
responsible for 90 soldiers...
AND NOW SHE'S MISS ISRAEL OF 2013!
Who says Ethiopian Jews aren't making it
in Israel?*



After arrival at Ben-Gurion Airport, new Ethiopian immigrants are sent by bus to absorption centers all over Israel, where relatives wait eagerly to greet them. But some relatives wait in vain – the bus empties out, and their longed-for family members have not arrived.

AS WE GO TO PRESS: Important Aliyah News

As we go to press, there are only about 400 men, women, and children who have been approved for aliyah and are still waiting in Gondar to leave for Israel. If things go smoothly, they should all be in Israel by the end of August. All praise to the State of Israel and the Jewish Agency for their work.

But when you hear (not for the first time) that the Ethiopian aliyah is complete, please be aware that there are still families in Israel who say their relatives in Gondar have been wrongly rejected – or never received a rejection, but just slipped through the cracks, left behind for no known reason.

In the past, we have helped some of these broken and bewildered families in Israel make their case before the Knesset, and when their heartbreaking stories were told, new hearings were held. Usually, the

left-behind relatives were promptly approved and brought to Israel.

But those happy endings came about almost by chance, because NACOEJ – or others – happened to learn about specific cases. That's not good enough. As Meir Shamgar, the greatly respected former head of Israel's Supreme Court, says, an appeals process is needed.

When the Jewish Agency closes up the old NACOEJ Compounds and leaves Gondar, there will be nobody there to liaison with relatives left behind. The Israeli Embassy in Addis Ababa is over 300 mountainous miles away. And many families in Israel haven't been told how or where to present a case for a relative left in Ethiopia. So a practical, clear appeals process known to the community must be put in place.

We don't blame anyone for the errors – in such a mammoth undertaking, mistakes will happen. But that's exactly why it is unthinkable not to have an appeals process.

We'll keep you informed. ■

Thank You, President Peres

At a recent memorial service for Ethiopian Jews who died on their journey to Israel, Israel's President, Shimon Peres, summed up how the aliyah of the Ethiopian Jews benefits Israel:

"The arrival of the Ethiopian community enriched the cultural and social fabric of Israeli society. On Independence Day, I saw this first hand. Amongst the 120 outstanding soldiers at the reception in the President's Residence there was a proportionately higher number of Ethiopians than in society as a whole.

"There is nothing more heartwarming than the sight of a young person, a son or daughter of Ethiopian immigrants, excelling in their military service and proudly wearing officer ranks. Or to meet doctors from the Ethiopian community. Or to see outstanding Ethiopian artists on television, or to find them excelling in the technology sector: outstanding members of the Ethiopian-Jewish community and of Israeli society."

Thank you, Mr. President. You spoke from your heart to ours.

New Leadership at AAS

After the death of our beloved Vidal Sassoon, who had lovingly guided the NACOEJ Adopt-A-Student Program that bore his name through two decades, we needed another sponsor to lead our oldest educational program in Israel into the decades ahead.

The immediate choice in all our minds was not one but two sponsors: Barney and Rachel Gottstein, already the sponsors of more than 100 AAS students a year, the originators of Barney's Books as part of the AAS program, the sponsors of the NACOEJ Limudiah Literacy Program – and two of the most caring and committed people we have ever known.

A personal answer by Rachel to every letter from a student – a phone call from Barney when a student's world seems to be crashing – an ever-renewed supply of beautiful children's books for students to take home to their own children or younger siblings – such things have endeared the Gottsteins to the students and to all of us at NACOEJ.

Our only question was, after all they had already done and were continuing to do, would these two gracious and loving people also agree to formal leadership of the entire AAS program now?

To our great happiness, they said yes!

So it is with pride and pleasure that we announce that our AAS Program will now be known as the NACOEJ/Barney and Rachel Landau Gottstein Adopt-A-Student College Sponsorship Program.

CRISIS | CONT. FROM PAGE 1

As for our college students – if we didn't move quickly, they wouldn't be there to help!

So our NACOEJ president, Rabbi Jerry Epstein, found temporary emergency funds, and Avraham Neguse, who had worked closely with us on aliyah, came on board during the crisis.

Everyone worked on it behind the scenes. Avraham organized and galvanized a coalition of organizations representing not only Ethiopians, but other immigrant communities that would also be affected. Shoshana Ben-Dor, our Israel Director, contacted the two new Ethiopian Knesset members, Shimon Solomon (a NACOEJ AAS graduate) and Penina Teman-Sheta. MK Solomon promptly formed a Knesset lobby on higher education

and met with the Treasury Minister. Shoshana also worked closely with our friends at the Israel Association for Ethiopian Jews. NACOEJ Board members alerted important contacts.

And together, we were successful!

A short time ago, Avraham called to say that the next version of the government budget would include full funding for student tuition grants and preserve the Student Authority that administered them. And when the latest budget appeared, the full funds were indeed included. As the Israeli Cabinet had voted unanimously to provide all the money, it looked safe. We could count on it continuing.

Quiet diplomacy, cooperation among many organizations, hard work, and some NACOEJ leadership did the job.

So now we have to ask ourselves – should we say "yes" to expanding into

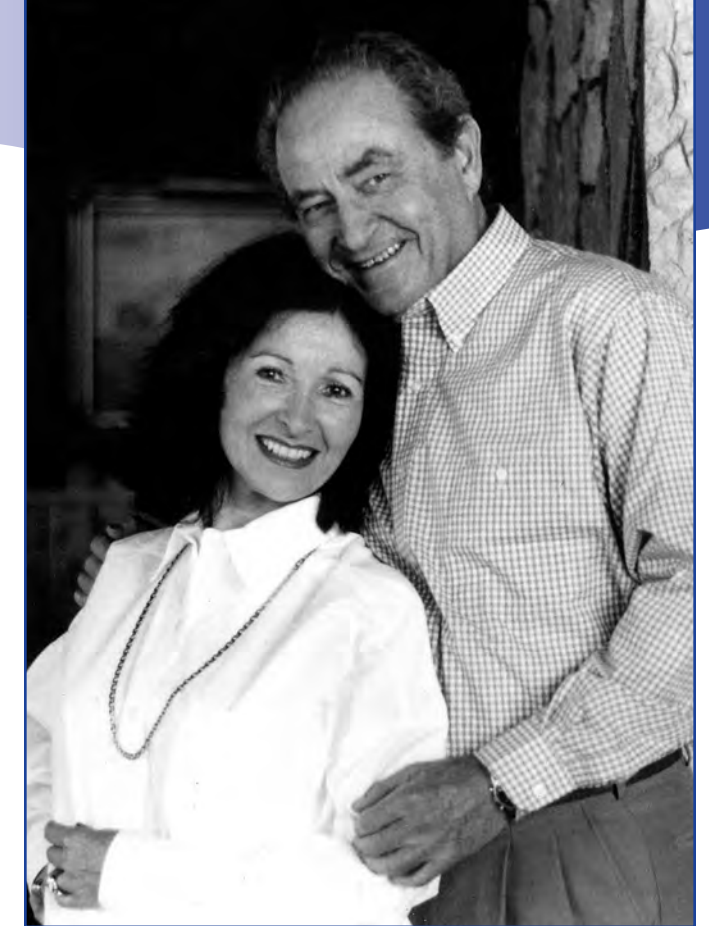
more advocacy, as long as it doesn't interfere with our essential educational work? It will cost something. That's always a problem.

But when you come down to it, some of the areas we might tackle – housing in decent neighborhoods, family crises, discrimination in employment, for example – all directly affect the children, teens, and college students who are all at the heart of our educational work.

With the cooperation of the excellent Ethiopian-Israeli organizations (many led and/or staffed by NACOEJ program graduates) that would work with us, we could hope for more successes.

That's what we're thinking about now.

Barbara



Rachel and Barney Gottstein make their home in Anchorage, Alaska, Barney's home town. They met in Israel where Rachel, a child survivor of the Holocaust, grew up.

We know that Vidal, of blessed memory, would be greatly pleased that his program and his students have been passed along into such good hands. Thank you, Rachel and Barney – together may we add more thousands of Ethiopian-Israeli college graduates to the State of Israel all of us love. ■

SPONSOR A STUDENT IN ISRAEL

Two College Students Urgently Seeking Sponsors



Michal Elazar

Michal Elazar arrived in Israel as a child after an especially harrowing journey to Sudan – during which one of her brothers died – and then a difficult trek all the way back to Ethiopia because her father needed hospital care in Addis Ababa. In 1991, shortly before Operation Solomon, the whole family finally made it to Israel, where Michal's father had life-saving emergency surgery.

Today, Michal is a nursing student, wanting to "give back" the gift of life her father received in Israel. One of nine siblings, Michal is truly a "NACOEJ student". As a child, she was in our Limudiah in the Tachmoni elementary school in Rehovot. Later she had a NACOEJ sponsor to help her as a high school student.

After high school, Michal did national service at Hadassah Ein Kerem Hospital, assisting a dentist. She then studied dental hygiene at the ORT Sinklovski College. But after working as a dental hygiene assistant for several years, she was ready to move on.

"I always wanted to pursue higher education," she says, "I just wanted to be sure of my decision. As a dental assistant, I was exposed to health professionals, and I found that nursing appealed to me most... because I am able to help those who need it."

Now, Michal has started nursing school at the Kaplan Medical Center in Rehovot. She urgently needs an AAS sponsor to help her pay for food and other necessities so she can stay in school and complete her degree.



Amihai Kalev

Amihai Kalev's future parents set out independently for Israel at the ages of 16 and 11. Each walked for two long weeks through dangerous mountainous areas to reach Sudan. Each spent terrible months in a refugee camp there with rotten food and vicious guards. And, all the while, they had to guard the secret that they were Jews.

Both survived, ultimately reached Israel, and met at the immigrant absorption center in Carmiel. After seven years, they married. Amihai was born a year later, the first of their four children.

Amihai has been enabled to go to university before doing his mandatory military service because he is enormously bright, doing university-level studies in high school. After high school he enrolled in a college prep course to further upgrade his matriculation exams, and now he's in Tel Aviv University studying computer science.

When he goes into the Israeli army, Amihai wants to work in high tech and intelligence. He has a great future, but today he needs a caring AAS sponsor to help him buy food, pay rent, and complete his studies.

TO SPONSOR AN AAS OR HS STUDENT

Please Email Karen Gens at
Education@nacoelj.org
or call 212-233-5200, ext. 230.

Wonderful Words from High School Students to their Sponsors

The very best way to feel the impact of a program is to let the recipients tell you about it. Here are excerpts from recent letters from Ethiopian-Israeli kids graduating from high school to their NACOEJ/Edward G. Victor High School sponsors.

From Rachel Kesu to her sponsor:

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your kind help during these past three years... Now I am finishing school with good grades and a better chance than my parents had... I hope I will someday have the chance to give back what I have so kindly been given."

From Hagit Adisso to her sponsor:

"...high school has been a long and difficult road... in two months' time I will be on my way to being a soldier. I am very proud to be a soldier in the Israeli army. All my brothers and sisters before me have been in the army. I want to thank you very much for all you have done for me. It has helped me very much. I hope that my education will help me be a contributing citizen."

From Sara Chekole to her sponsor:

"...if it weren't for you I would not have been able to take part in the school's diverse activities because of inability to pay... Thank you very much and I wish you years of success and hope that you will continue to help needy children so that they can be happy and be like the rest of their friends. With love and a huge thank you..."

From Daniel Lakau, who hopes to serve in an elite combat unit in the Israel Defense Forces, to his sponsor:

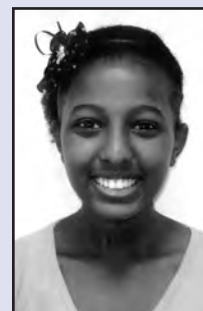
"I want to thank you for your sponsorship. It helped me continue without worrying about money. I think anyone who helps another is a kind person. When my mom found out that I was being sponsored [in high school], she was really appreciative and came to thank the principal and other staff."

From Mazal Avig to her sponsor:

"You helped me to study, but mainly to believe that anything is possible. That is why I'd like to thank you for being so generous and kindhearted. People who give to those they don't know and expect nothing in return are very special. I will always remember your generosity and hope to be able to do the same for others in the future."

Great High School Kids who Need Sponsors

Each year, at least 1,000 Ethiopian-Israeli high school kids are getting essential help from American sponsors through the NACOEJ/Edward G. Victor High School Sponsorship Program, graduating with good grades, and going on to serve their country and enroll in higher education. There are still hundreds on our waiting lists, in urgent need of basic high school necessities their struggling families can't provide. We're presenting just two special kids here in the hope that you will want to sponsor them – or some of the other talented, hard-working, ambitious youngsters hoping for a friend in America.



Yasmin Arka 8th Grade, Yavne, Oren Ginsburg School

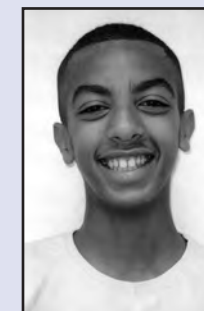
Yasmin Arka is 14, the middle child in a family of nine kids, ranging in age from Zehava, 25, who is currently job hunting and Haim 21, who is a firefighter in the IDF, all the way down to Yair, 4, in kindergarten and Dvir, 2, in day care.

Their father has worked for the famous Tnuva Dairy in Rehovot for more than ten years, and takes on temporary jobs as a mover whenever he can get them.

The hard-working mother of this large family has been employed as a cleaner for a local company for about eight years, and is looking for an additional morning job now that her youngest is in day care.

Yasmin's interests are creative – she loves to read, to draw, and to sing – although she likes math as well as history and English in school. She wants to be a writer when she grows up and has already started writing stories and songs. But her biggest current ambition is to help her family financially because she knows they owe money to a bank.

A sponsor who could cover some of her basic needs for school supplies, books and other simple necessities, would help her help her family.



Lior Wasia, 9th Grade, Yavne, Oren Ginsburg School

How many teenage boys would tell you, "I think of myself as a serious person"?

Lior Wasia is one of them. By "serious" he means that he loves classes in English, Arabic, biology and physics, wants to study and travel when he grows up,

dreams of earning a medical degree and "working with finances" to make enough money to help his struggling parents, as well as raising "a loving family and giving my kids everything they need".

Lior has reasons to think about making money. His father is disabled and cannot work, his mother holds two jobs, and Lior and his parents share their apartment with two older brothers and one sister. Money is very tight, living space is cramped – but there is nothing stifled about Lior's dreams.

Here's a surprise: what Lior really wants to be professionally is not a doctor, nor a banker – but "a successful actor"! Lior says, "I believe I will succeed." With a little help from a sponsor to pay for the books, school fees and supplies he needs now, we believe it can happen.

Special Students, Special Sponsor

Diana Yacobi of Englewood, New Jersey, doesn't like having a fuss made about her. "Focus on the students," she says.

But we located her when she dropped by the AMIT Comprehensive High School in Kiryat Malachi, where she had been sponsoring ten students through the NACOEJ/Edward G. Victor High School Sponsorship Program and had just donated a computer lab to the whole student body. (She had also recently donated an electronics lab to the school.)

The visit was a surprise, so eight of her sponsored students were away, attending special math classes in preparation for the Bagrut (matriculation) exam the next day. But two 11th-grade students, Ephraim

Solomon, who had already taken the exam, and Vered Temiat, who felt ready for the exam, were delighted to meet and thank her.

Ephraim expects to graduate with a prestigious Electronic Technician Diploma in addition to a good showing on the Bagrut. Vered is busy making a movie with other students in the school's award-winning Communications track. Both students have paid summer jobs helping to set up the new computer lab.

All of us – from Program sponsor Ed Victor in California to staffers Leah Barkai in Jerusalem and Karen Gens in New York, and the many sponsors who are helping over 1,000 Ethiopian-Israeli teens get good



Diana Yacobi with her husband Abraham and two of their sponsored students, Ephraim and Vered, at the AMIT Comprehensive High School in Kiryat Malachi.

high school educations this year – want to add our thanks to Diana and her family for helping to prepare our students for higher education, good jobs, good families and good lives.

If you haven't yet adopted a high school student, please see above. These students need you, too. ■

Photos by NACOEJ/Israel staff Yehudit Abramson and Leah Barkai



From left: Moshe's Uncle Rafi, Shoshana Ben-Dor (NACOEJ Israel Director), Moshe Wonde, Yosef and Shimit Abergil (Moshe's "adoptive" Israeli family), and Moshe's mother, Btadg Rivka Aleme.

Moshe Wasihun Wonde: Israel's "Librarian of the Year"!

When a NACOEJ mission to Ethiopia many years ago found Moshe Wonde, then called Wasihun, he was a very fragile little boy. Polio had left him unable to walk and there was no hope for a future in his impoverished, isolated village.

NACOEJ found a way to bring him to Israel. There he received the medical care he needed and he flourished, making friends, studying hard, and getting around easily, with a walker and a scooter. Today, he drives a car with special controls.

Moshe graduated with a degree in Library Science from Bar-Ilan University, helped by NACOEJ AAS sponsors Laura Gold, and Faye and Mike Lieman (Faye is the NACOEJ Chairperson and Mike organized and led NACOEJ missions to Ethiopia).

Moshe was just named "Librarian of the Year" by the Israel Center for Libraries and Librarianship!

This prestigious award (accompanied by a Certificate of Excellence from the Ministry of Education) cited not only Moshe's outstanding skills as a librarian, but also his exceptional ability to digitize material and teach other librarians to undertake this modern necessity.

We are so very proud of Moshe, and gratified to have played a part in his success. ■

Generations without a Gap

Tsega Melaku was sponsored as an undergraduate college student by Devorah and Bob Brooks in the NACOEJ AAS Program.

Tsega went on to get her master's degree, and is planning on a doctorate as well. In the meantime, she heads a TV channel and hosts a call-in radio show in Amharic.

Equally important, Tsega is the single (divorced) mother of two brilliant sons, Immanuel and Yonatan, who have both had NACOEJ sponsors – Immanuel in both high school and college, and Yonatan now in high school. No generation gaps here as this family progresses!

The photo below was taken when Tsega was in the U.S. recently, as part of an Israeli women's leadership delegation. When the diverse Israeli women, with Tsega representing the Ethiopian community, reached Baltimore during their travels, Tsega met with the Brooks family. And in New York, she had Shabbat dinner with Barbara Ribakove Gordon.

Tsega is as concerned about women's positions in Israel as she is about the Ethiopian community there. "When people look at me now, they see an Ethiopian," she says. "I want them to see a woman first." ■



Tsega Melaku with NACOEJ Advisory Board member Devorah Brooks and husband Bob Brooks in Baltimore.

BREAKING NEWS: What's Happened to the Little Kids Who Got Bussed?

We've been following the progress of Ethiopian-Israeli kids who were bussed from the suddenly closed, "too Ethiopian" Rashbi elementary school in Be'er Ya'akov, to the better-integrated, better-achieving, better-supplied Yeshurun School in Rishon LeZion. Yeshurun has a NACOEJ Limudiah, but we still worried about how the new kids would integrate with kids in their classes who had much better skills.

There's good news. After a school year with a warm welcome from the school, good teachers in homerooms, and Limudiah after-school classes to help them catch up, here are two end-of-school comments from the children:

Fifth-grader Tigist Fanta:

"At the beginning of the year I wasn't good at all in what the teacher taught. The teacher helped and supported me the whole way and invested in me. Then I improved my grades. I was really happy and my parents were proud of me. I got a Certificate of Excellence!"

Sixth-grader Yaffa Ashbir, writing in the form of a poem:

"It was sad to leave Rashbi School. But when I got here I knew it was the school for me, With friends and teachers who like me And a principal who appreciates and makes order."

Wow! For many of the children, coming as they did from a low-standards

school, their dramatic, one-year improvement meant going up 20 or 30 points, from under-achievement to average achievement. We're very proud of them, and if they continue to improve at that rate, they'll soon be top-of-the class. Two of the older children are already outstanding!

The first-graders, starting right out with a better school and a Limudiah, did very well. We are so delighted, and so grateful to you who make their Limudiah possible.

Now Rishon LeZion wants us to start a new Limudiah in their Sinai School – which we hope to open this fall, with your help! – and has also urged us to start a special catch-up program in the Micha Reiser Middle School for 12 Ethiopian children who came to Israel only recently and are about to enter seventh grade. They need us desperately because some of them only have fourth-grade skills. If they don't get help, then humiliation, failure and disaster may lie ahead.

So we certainly want to start a special program in seventh grade for them – the first we've ever done at a middle school – to help them catch up. ■

Editor's note: As we went to press, Marion Seidemann, one of our wonderful volunteers, told us that her husband, Hans, had come into some extra money, and wanted to give it to us for our most urgent need. "What is it?", she asked.

"Saving the seventh-graders," we said – and just like that, we had our first funds for our first-ever NACOEJ seventh-grade program. The grant will cover several months. But funding the program for the whole school year will require more help. We hope you will tell us that we can go ahead.

Update on Tigist

We want to thank our compassionate NACOEJ family for your support of Tigist Bitau, our young Israeli running star, whose leg was so badly injured when a man drove into her.

Special thanks to Paul Grayson of Maryland and Rochelle Henner of New Jersey for their especially generous gifts toward professional tutors in math and English to help Tigist make up the many months she missed in high school. The tutors have already started working with Tigist in her home in Nes Ziona.

Tigist is also continuing her arduous schedule of physical therapy, four sessions a week, all out of town, necessitating costly transportation which her struggling family can't afford. Thanks to all of you, so far we've been able to help with that, too. If we at NACOEJ can keep helping and hoping, Tigist's dream of running for Israel in the Olympics may yet come true. ■

A Huge Surprise!

When we opened a batch of mail a short time ago, we were astonished to learn that the will of a late donor, Dorothy Isaacsohn, made NACOEJ the beneficiary of a large IRA.

This modest lady had made small gifts to NACOEJ over the years. Now she was helping to secure the future for many Ethiopian-Israelis through her caring and generosity.

Securing ongoing education as long as necessary for this special community of Jews, some of whom are still arriving in Israel, is vital to their future. As you continue your very important ongoing support, please also consider a bequest to

NACOEJ in your will. It will carry your dedication and concern past your lifetime and help ensure that the educational programs you support today will be there for tomorrow's immigrant Ethiopian-Israeli children.

If you have questions, or special arrangements you wish to make, please contact your lawyer, accountant or financial advisor. For questions about NACOEJ programs, please contact Danielle Ben-Jehuda at Donors@nacoej.org or phone 212-233-5200, ext. 227.

Also, on the enclosed reply card, you will find a special box indicating that you are making provision for a bequest to NACOEJ. We hope many of you will check it! Thank you. ■



"Cry of the Giraffe": A Riveting Tale

With your donation to this *Lifeline*, we can send you not only a choice of great embroideries, but a most remarkable book.

"Cry of the Giraffe" starts with a child, but it is not a children's book. It is a beautifully written tale, closely based on the true story of a girl growing up in a vividly depicted Jewish village in Ethiopia, separated from her family on the dangerous trek to Sudan, and then cruelly enslaved for years in Ethiopia – until she was rescued by a non-Ethiopian Israeli. She is now in Israel, where she gave the author, her rescuer, permission to tell her story.

We can send you this unforgettable paperback book alone or with an embroidery. Please see the enclosed reply card for details. ■

A Special Email Opportunity

Do you enjoy our *Lifeline* newsletters but wish you could also get more news, more often?

If you'd like more frequent news and updates, with vividly colored photographs, please check the box on the enclosed reply card and provide your Email address.

You'll still receive your print version, of course. ■

Congratulations to...

- **Dr. Steve Kutner** on his return to the NACOEJ Board. An early mission to Ethiopia and Israel with NACOEJ changed Steve's life, and he eventually gave up his practice as an ophthalmologist in Atlanta, and his place on the NACOEJ Board, to found and direct Project Vision (eye care for Ethiopians and others in Israel) and Jewish Health Care International (medical care all over the world). Now Steve has rejoined NACOEJ and is exploring the possibility of screening Limudiah children for eye and ear problems that affect their education.
- NACOEJ volunteer **Marion Seidemann** and husband Hans on the highly competitive scholarship awarded to grandson Matthew Hochberg by the Hearing Loss Association of America. Born with profound bilateral hearing loss, Matthew is an outstanding student at NYC's high-level Stuyvesant High School, where he wrote his winning essay on meeting the challenges of hearing loss. He will attend college at the University of Rochester.
- **Eric Garcetti**, on his election as Mayor of Los Angeles. As a teenager, Eric went on a NACOEJ mission to Ethiopia and was memorable for his sensitivity and effectiveness. We wish him equal success as Mayor of one of America's most important cities.
- **The Reut Elementary School in Nes Ziona**, a small Israeli town, on winning the Ministry of Education's prestigious Regional Prize for Excellence. Principal Yehudit Dell attributes a good part of the school's success to the NACOEJ Limudiah after-school classes that help the Ethiopian pupils from immigrant homes catch up to – and often surpass – their sabra classmates. We're delighted to help.

Condolences to...

- NACOEJ past president **Dr. Judy Wolf** on the loss of her beloved husband, Bob. Our deepest apologies for the belated announcement of this sad passing, mourned by all of us at NACOEJ. Our thoughts are with Judy and her family and we pray that they are comforted by the wonderful memories they have of Bob.
- NACOEJ Board member **Barbara Gaffin** on the passing of her beloved father, Stan "Mickey" Gaffin, an outstanding member and volunteer in the Boston Jewish community. Our hearts go out to Barbara and the family, as well as to the many young people "Mickey" mentored as part of the Big Brother/Big Sister Association for a record 37 years.
- NACOEJ Advisory Board member **Rabbi Alan Schwartz** on the passing of his beloved mother, Rose Schwartz. Our thoughts are with Rabbi Schwartz, his wife Miriam, their children, grandchildren and the entire family. May they be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.
- NACOEJ Advisory Board member **Beth Wohlgelernter** on the passing of her beloved father, Rabbi Maurice Wohlgelernter ("The Reb"). Our hearts go out to Beth, one of the earliest members of the NACOEJ Board, her mother Esther, and their family and friends.

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NORTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON ETHIOPIAN JEWRY

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