



# The Leo Baeck Bulletin

An update of events and activities from the Leo Baeck Education Centre

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Summer 2007

קיץ תשס"ז

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*The Leo Baeck Education Centre is committed to promoting the eternal values of Judaism according to a progressive, humanistic perspective.*

## WIZO-Leo Baeck School for the Arts begins spiritual and physical renovations

The past few months have been full of activity at the new **WIZO-Leo Baeck School for the Arts**. Leo Baeck's Eran Dubovi, the new headmaster of the school, has already begun integrating the Leo Baeck organisational and educational culture with the artistic creativity of the 75-year-old school of the arts. A new atmosphere of academic excellence has imbued the formerly undersubscribed school.

Registration for the new academic year has risen 17% as a result of bringing Leo Baeck's reputation for scholastic excellence to the school. The school has a maximum capacity of 600 students.

WIZO Worldwide has committed to renovating the school building, investing \$1.2 million for the urgent upgrading of classrooms, art studios, dance studios, the library, and administrative facilities.

The WIZO-Leo Baeck school is forming new partnerships with local institutions including University of Haifa's Centre for the Stage Arts, WIZO College for the Arts, and BEAT - the City of Haifa's centre for young musicians.



## New Safe Room on Campus

Leo Baeck is pleased to announce the completion of a new safe room, located underground between the Lokey Academy building and the Offman Sport Centre of UIA Federations Canada.



We are grateful to those who gave to create this shelter, particularly **The Jewish Federation of Greater Houston**, **The Union for Reform Judaism**, and **Students of The Milken Community High School** in Los Angeles.

*We pray that the room will only be used for learning, recreation and children's activities in times of peace.*

# Leo Baeck Community Centre

## Day Camps for Everyone

### Looking Back: One Year Ago

At the Leo Baeck Community Centre four hundred and twenty children are spending their summer days in five different camp tracks. The Leo Baeck campus is alive with the sights and sounds of hundreds of children making noise and having fun.



Exactly one year ago, the Home Front Command of the IDF issued strict orders to suspend all summertime programmes. The children of Haifa and northern Israel were forced to literally go underground. They did not have a summer holiday.

Instead of spending their days in the fresh air at camp, at the pool or at the beach, they spent five weeks fleeing to shelters and safe rooms at the sound of sirens, constantly under threat of attack. Instead of playing with their friends they stayed close to their parents, or were sent away to family or even strangers out of range of the missiles.

There is an underlying sense of joy at being able to host the children for camp this summer - the same youngsters who, just a year ago, played in Leo Baeck's underground parking garage to be out of danger of the missile attacks, are now enjoying normal summer activities.



### Emphasis on Children with Special Needs

- 17 children from special education classes at nearby primary schools are attending Leo Baeck day camp alongside their peers. 3 other children with special needs are also in camp, each with an aide to help them enjoy as many of the activities as possible.
- 13 youth with Pervasive Development Disorders have daily activities on campus and at recreational and educational sites around the country.
- 28 young teens from special education classes at Leo Baeck Junior High School have their own day camp with specialized activities.
- 75 children from the eight municipal developmental kindergarten classes are mainstreamed in programmes designed for them and supervised by Leo Baeck staff.
- 30 children from special kindergartens join the Leo Baeck day camp for special days throughout the summer.



### Summer Fun for Everyone

Fifteen children from Leo Baeck's "Beit Hakehilah" Ethiopian Community and Heritage House do not qualify for free day camp from the Haifa Department of Welfare. And yet their families still cannot afford to send them to camp. These children are attending Leo Baeck day camps paying a subsidised fee of less than 15% of the cost.

### WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Please send your tax deductible contributions to:

Friends of Progressive Judaism in Israel and Europe  
75 Chase Road  
London, N14 4QY

Designation: The British Friends of the Leo Baeck Education Center - Haifa

Charity Registration  
No. 241337



# Leo Baeck Congratulates Lorry Lokey on Receiving Honorary Doctorate from The Technion

On June 11<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Lorry Lokey, friend and patron of the Leo Baeck Education Centre, was awarded an honorary doctorate from The Technion for "his commitment to Israel as a world centre of science and scholarship... and in appreciation of his personal example of leadership in philanthropy; and in tribute to his commitment to education as a primary means to guarantee a better world." Attending the ceremony were Lorry's friends from Leo Baeck: Rabbi Bob Samuels and his wife Annette, Dani Fesler, Dr. Esty Schlier and Aharon Pulver.



## Technion Teaching Leo Baeck Students

Accompanying Mr. Lokey's honour is a growing partnership between the Leo Baeck Education Centre and the Technion, which began during this past school year with a lecture series presented to Leo Baeck High School students by leading Technion faculty including Nobel Laureate Prof. Aaron Ciechanover, Dr. Marcel Mahluf, Dr. Dror Seliktor, Dr. Gitti Frey, and Prof. Peretz Lavie.

Prof. Ciechanover is mentoring in his laboratory a group of science students from Leo Baeck's gifted class, providing a truly unique opportunity for some of Haifa's brightest youth. These youngsters were also invited to the Technion for a scientific forum on interdisciplinary studies entitled, "Biological Networks: From Single Cells to Organisms." In the coming school year, all Leo Baeck students studying chemistry, biology, biotechnology, and physics will take part in classroom and laboratory hours at the Technion.

Leo Baeck is proud to have been chosen by the Technion as their partner for these programmes, giving our students a unique opportunity to learn from the most renowned experts in the field of science and technology.

Technion President Prof. Yitzhak Apeloig and Nobel laureate Prof. Aaron Ciechanover present Lorry Lokey with a certificate at the dedication of the Lokey Interdisciplinary Centre for Life Sciences and Engineering in Lokey Park at the Technion

## TIME BANK

Leo Baeck has taken another step in strengthening its "community of communities" by opening Haifa's first Time Bank. The Time Banks website puts it simply:

### Time Banks Weave Community One Hour at a Time

For every hour you spend doing something for someone in your community, you earn one Time Dollar. Then you have a Time Dollar to spend on having someone do something for you. It's that simple. Yet it also has profound effects. Time Banks change neighborhoods and whole communities. Time Banking is a social change movement in 22 countries and six continents. [www.timebanks.co.uk](http://www.timebanks.co.uk)

Leo Baeck's Time Bank already has 75 members who have registered their abilities and their needs, and another 50 in the process, ranging in age from teens to seniors. Some of the services being offered include ironing, cooking, language tutoring, computer training, and home maintenance.

The mission of the Time Bank movement, to strengthen communities through reciprocity, mirrors the Leo Baeck vision of creating a community sensitive to the needs of Israeli society and the needs of the individual.



Leo Baeck's Time Bank holds a swap meet for services.



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## Under the Huppah

On a warm *Erev Shabbat* in May, the family of the late Rabbi Hugo Gryn, together with friends from the United Kingdom and the Leo Baeck community, dedicated the new Wedding Corner of the Hugo Gryn Outdoor Synagogue and Gardens. Rabbi Bob Samuels conducted a moving ceremony in which he thanked the primary donors, Mr. and Mrs. James Leek of the UK, and other couples married by the late Rabbi Gryn.



The dedication ceremony was part of "The Hugo Gryn Experience," a weekend of hands-on Tikkun Olam for the Leo Baeck community and friends from the UK. The ceremony, held under the *huppah*, was followed by a lovely Kabbalat Shabbat service in the outdoor synagogue as the sun set over the Mediterranean Sea.



## NATE at Leo Baeck

Leo Baeck is pleased to host the National Association of Temple Educators Conference in Israel. Over forty educators from temples and schools across the US have spent the past two weeks under the tutelage of the Lokey International Academy of Jewish Studies in a training programme entitled *Achrayut: From Response to Responsibility*, based on the

understanding that a strong Diaspora Jewish community and a strong Israeli Jewish community are vital one to the other.

Key conference elements:

- *Shir shel Yom*: opening each day introducing a key theme through Jewish text, Israeli music and Hebrew language
- *Walking Batei Midrash*: creative text study 'on site'
- **Keynotes**: lectures by prominent Israeli educators and thinkers
- *Chavurot*: intimate processing and reflection groups.
- *Tefillot*: each day begins with an option of *Shacharit* or *Chavrutah* study
- *Divrei Torah*: communal meals begin with a *Devar Torah* by a conference participant or staff



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## 1,200 Attend All-Night Shavuot Learning Experience

Ohel Avraham Synagogue and the Lokey Academy joined forces with the Alma Centre for Hebrew Culture to create a night of learning and culture for the Shavuot holiday. The night held 21 events in five different venues, ranging from lectures to discussions to films and live musical performances.

Haifa residents, mostly secular or unaffiliated Jews, were hungry for this unique opportunity to partake in Jewish learning in a liberal framework that began at 9:30 p.m. and continued until sunrise.



*Ohel Avraham Congregation reads and sings Midrash  
"From Receiving the Torah through Harvest"*