

The Leo Baeck Education Center



*Season's greetings to our friends across
the world. - Dani Fesler, Dec 2009*

"EDUCATION IS THE KEY..." INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY AT LEO BAECK

Moslem students from the El-Gazali School in Um El Fahem joined Leo Baeck students for International

H u m a n
Rights Day,
organized by
the Leo
Baeck Junior
High School,



Israel's first
Human Rights Friendly School. The
day, which opened with a
candle-lighting ceremony to symbolize
the students' universal longing for a
safer, better world, was devoted to
advancing the implementation of the
Universal Declaration of Human
Rights.

 *Human Dignity*  *Freedom*
 *Brotherhood*  *Equality*
 *Gender Equality*  *Listening*
 *Peace*  *Hope*

HOLIDAY OF HOLIDAYS

COOKING FROM THE HEART

Muslims, Christians and Jews gathered together at the Leo Baeck Community Center for the annual Holiday of Holidays celebration of Chanukah, Christmas and Eid-Al-Adha, featuring shared prayer, lighting of the menorah, multicultural music and the biggest attraction of all - a cookery competition of homemade traditional delicacies.

CELEBRATING THE ARTS

An extraordinary day of talent included the Batsheva Dance Company and the Cameri Theater transforming the Leo Baeck campus into a living tribute to the arts.

AN INSPIRATIONAL MORNING

Surrounded by delighted Elementary School pupils, beloved Leo Baeck friend Lorry Lokey, visiting from California, joined the children for a Shacharit service in the Lokey Auditorium which they wrote and led especially for him. Entertainment was laid on by the Carmelim Troupe and as always, Mr. Lokey set aside special time to meet with High School students.



RABBI OFEK MEIR LEADS SESSIONS AT LIMMUD 2009

Rabbi Ofek Meir will be joining an impressive array of presenters for this 5 day, 800 session event at the University of Warwick. 2,500 people have already signed up for Anglo-Jewry's largest single event, where Ofek will be conducting sessions on Conversion as a Mirror of Our Jewish Identity and the Role of Music in T'filla.

Chanukah Edition 5770

BREAKING DOWN WALLS

To mark the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, 30 East German policemen visited Leo Baeck for an exchange of personal experiences about living in a divided society.



CHILDREN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

4 Junior High School students represented Israel at the Light a Candle International Youth Conference in England. Graciously hosted by the Bello family, the students spoke about Leo Baeck and social justice at the Shabbat service at Northwood & Pinner Liberal Synagogue.

MUSICAL YOUTH AT RUTH

Dreams have come true for Mercaz Ruth youth at risk, who through their own efforts have created and launched an on-site Music Center open to all neighborhood youth, who want to develop their musical abilities. In the words of High School principal Dani Steiner, "Mercaz Ruth connects youth through music, the ultimate art that goes straight to our hearts."



COEXISTENCE UNDER THE BIG TOP!

Circus School is the key to this exciting new coexistence venture for 35 Leo Baeck and 35 Nazareth High School students.

LEO BAECK SHINES AT HEBREW UNION COLLEGE JERUSALEM

Leo Baeck is proud to announce the ordination of Rabbi Dalia Tibon Lagziel and congratulates educators Michal Burstein-Azrieli and Maital Cohen-Sabag for their certificates in Specialization in Pluralistic Jewish Education.

LEO BAECK MOURNS WITH RAMON FAMILY

With the huge outpouring of grief at the tragic death of Asaf Ramon, son of astronaut-hero Ilan Ramon z"l, students compiled a book of condolence letters for the family, and Mercaz Ruth's youth at risk took a Hike of Remembrance to the father and son's gravesides.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU

A fond farewell to German volunteer student Frauke Meinharth. Come back soon.



THE GREEN COUNCIL

The Leo Baeck student body is launching a Green Council to mobilize environmental action at Leo Baeck.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WELCOMES TWO MORE ETHIOPIAN PUPILS



LEO BAECK CHAMPION GYMNAST LEAPS THROUGH HOOPS

11th grader Miriam Lavan, who has been juggling sports, studies and singing since she was 6, came first in Israel's National Rhythmic Gymnastics Championship and won the Gold Medal for Hoop. Miriam's ambition is to become an IDF Sports Instructor.

CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY THROUGH HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

Against the backdrop of the Ghetto Fighters' Museum, 73 gifted Leo Baeck students were immersed in and guided through the history and implications of the Holocaust by a Warsaw Ghetto survivor and a young Arab educator. The 2-day seminar is part of an experimental leadership program.

GILAD SCHALIT - 1263 DAYS



We continue to count the days until Gilad comes safely home

LIGHTING UP LIVES AT THE CONGREGATION OHEL AVRAHAM / APPELBAUM BET T'FILLA

- Musical candlelighting event to raise funds for social outreach.
- A visit to the Haifa Center for the Blind and pre-holiday sale of the Center's crafts.
- "Let Our Children's Jewish Roots Flourish & Grow" - 15 children of new immigrant, mixed-marriage parents have embarked upon their Bar/Bat Mitzvah journey.

TEXAS STATE VISIT

Youth at risk was the topic of discussion when the Texas State Legislative Mission and leaders of the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston visited Leo Baeck in November.

THE TRUTH IS IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

The impact of distorted journalism was the topic of the Europeans for Peace



Program in Mannheim, Germany, which brought 10 Leo Baeck students together with their Jordanian and German counterparts. A mixture of happy, tense and difficult experiences, this program is just the beginning of a relationship that will be continued in Aqaba and Israel in 2010.