



February 2011

Shvat 5771

"ONE HEART" ARAB-JEWISH CHILDREN'S PEACE CHOIR - SINGING TOWARDS SHARED EXISTENCE

The Challenge

While Haifa is considered a tolerant mixed city whose 270,000 Jewish and Arab residents live together in relative harmony and peace, contact is superficial and when war and conflict rear their ugly heads as they so often do in the region, everyone retreats into their cultural corners, leaving tensions to bubble beneath the surface. Israel's Arab and Jewish children grow up with little direct experience or understanding of "the other".

The Response

The Leo Baeck Education Center is absolutely committed to meeting the Jewish State's founding vision, rooted in the values of equality and a shared democratic society. By offering after school activities and programs that bring Arab and Jewish children together within a safe and respectful environment, we believe that change is possible and cross-cultural relationships can develop beyond traditional suspicions, stereotypes and fear.

Bringing Children Together - Music, Song & Dance



The arts are a fundamental component of every nationality's cultural, experience and offer a non-confrontational approach to explore other cultures, roots and customs. This musical troupe of 20 Jewish and 20 Arab children, recruited from the Al Karma Elementary School for the Arts and Leo Baeck's Primary School, where the children rehearse on alternate weeks, gives a voice to their love of music and dreams of performing, and is bridging the gaps between their families and communities.

Leo Baeck is convinced that One Heart, in its modest way, has the power to positively impact the community at large and at its root, convey a message of the hope and possibility of shared existence.

Goal

The real goal of the program is to use the performing arts as a tool to dispel fears and to nurture trust, relationships and equality. *"It's very important to see kids working together,"* says project supervisor Gassan Biromi. *"The Jewish children face their fears about Arabs, and the Arab children see that Jews are not monsters. It's a starting point..."*

The Impact

- Contact and direct experience of the other where there is usually none
- Creating common bonds, dialogue and the chance to develop friendships
- Love of music as a means to learn about one another's culture - together
- Parental involvement and participation
- Arab and Jewish university students mentor, support and help supervise
- Bringing family, friends and community together for public performances
- Empowerment, self-esteem, role models
- Tolerance, respect, insight



The Program – Action Leads to Interaction

1. Auditions
2. 20 Jewish and 20 Arab 5th & 6th graders meet weekly in their own schools and twice monthly for rehearsals
3. Acquiring movement, singing and dance skills through choreography and musical direction
4. Children and parents unite for special workshops during the year
5. Writing and performing at least 6 original songs in Hebrew and Arabic during the year
6. Recording together - a CD of original and existing songs
7. Reconciliation and coexistence - public performances in front of Jewish, Arab and mixed audiences
8. Unity – traveling together, eating together, rehearsing together, trusting one another...

ARAB-JEWISH MUSIC TROUPE BUDGET 2011	NIS
Musical director and choreographer x 10 months	30,000
Transportation NIS 1,000 X 24 meetings	24,000
Parent-children workshops 3 X NIS 2,000	6,000
Production & recording of original CD	5,000
15 Performances including Gala Show	30,000
Publicity & recruitment	20,000
Subtotal	115,000
Overhead 10%	11,500
Total NIS & \$ (\$=3.7 NIS)	126,500 NIS/\$34,189