



CENTRO SOCIAL, CULTURAL Y DEPORTIVO

Caracas, October 2003.

Shoham-Venezuela: Center to Center project through Partnership 2000

After a visit of Cheryl Kemper and Shahr Ben Ami, Municipal Shoham Head in 2001, to promote Aliyah from Venezuela to Shoham and many conversations and hopes, in June 2002 we received the first visit of a Committee from the Shoham Municipality, to formalize the previous conversations between the Jewish Community of Venezuela and Shoham Municipality. Together with Amir Earon, Ariela Israeli and Hila Oren, we received the Israeli folkdance group from Shoham that participated for the first time in our Kineret Festival.

From then on, our community has been greatly motivated and profoundly changed by the important and relevant contact with Shoham, through different activities that we found together as matching necessities, and programming new projects for the future, always having in mind the importance of Shoham as a reference in Israel that makes more palpable the Zionist targets of our community, and the relation Israeli-Diaspora a clear and objective reality.

The activities that we engaged on and developed during 2002 and 2003 are the following:

June, 2002

1. Visit of Amir Earon, from the Municipality of Shoham, Ariela Israeli Director of the Education Municipality of Shoham and Hila Oren, director of Chamesh in Shoham
2. Encounters of the delegation with:
 - i. The Community Formal Education System: Lili Benaim (Director), Eli Bitan (Jewish studies director), David Bassan (President), Miriam Eisen (member of the Board), Lilian Bentolila and Moty Dayán (primary school)
 - ii. Non Formal Education Departments of CSCD Hebraica: Cultural (with Adriana Meneses and Silvia Cohén), Sports (with Eduardo Lisogorsky), Guil Harach (Andrea Eiberman), Youth and Education (Perla Sananes)
 - iii. Members of the Shutfut Committee of Board of Directors of Hebraica (Simón Sultán and Favel Vaisberg) and Executive Director (Anabella Jaroslavsky) for an evaluation and projection of future activities.
 - iv. Members of Keren Hayesod Board.

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- v. Visit to the Israeli Embassy
 - vi. Visit to the Jewish Medical Center Yolanda Katz
 - vii. Presentation of the Shutfut Program for the Vaad Hakehilot (where all the community decisions are made)
 - viii. Encounter with the Department of Aliá
3. Participation of the Israeli Folkdance in the Kineret Festival and its social activities.
 4. Performance of the group at the schools
 5. Special activity with the youngsters from the folkdance troupe with youngsters from the Jewish School

August, 2002

A delegation of 3 Madrichim and their coordinator (Hagar Sade) was sent from Shoham to Venezuela to participate in the summer day camps organized by Hebraica.

- i. They made a “tzevet” with the local Madrichim and worked together finding new contents and sharing knowledge.
- ii. The group from Israel built an Israeli Center and all the 300 children that were part of the summer camp had the opportunity to participate and have special activities with the Israeli Madrichim.

Sukot 2002

Venezuela sent a Jewish community artist, Irene Pressner, to be part of the Sukot Festival performed in Shoham. She exposed her work and had interaction with the Israeli artists, and also gave a technique workshop.

December 2002

A group of “gananot” of the Formal Education System were in Israel for a training course and were hosted by Shoham, receiving a special training course for Tu Bishvat programs and other education tools. They also visited the facilities in Shoham and established direct contacts.

Note: Finalizing 2002 and beginning of 2003 (till almost March 2003), Venezuela suffered a big political and economical crisis and all the international activities were suspended for security reasons. JAFI, through Shoham and the Shutfut Project, were always in contact with

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our community, offering support and making a movement of the Venezuelans living in Israel to reunite and be aware of the difficulties of our community.

May 2003

The executive Director of Hebraica Venezuela visited Shoham, and had different encounters with professionals, and political authorities, where we assessed the important impact of the project and the growth it had during 2002, projecting the remaining of 2003.

June 2003

The Director of Education and Youth from Hebraica, Perla Sananes and the Director for the Guil Harach Department of Hebraica, Andrea Eiberman, visited Shoham and established new contacts with the youth movements, the work they share with Guil Harach. They worked in the preparation of the next project for the young leaders of the School of Madrichim and Markidim of the Community

August 2003

1. 29 young leaders from the School of Madrichim and Markidim of the Venezuelan Community participated in a special program organized by Shoham, the Education Department of JAFI, and Maccabi World Union. The participants were hosted in local family homes in Israel and shared with local young leaders a comprehensive training program based on "hadrachá".
2. A group of 5 madrichim participated again in the Summer Day Camps in Hebraica enriching all the programs, sharing with the local Madrichim and adding important Zionist and Jewish contents to this central activity of our community.

Sukot 2003

Silvia Cohén, member of the Shutfut Committee, and coordinator of liberal arts in Hebraica, participated as an artist herself, in the Shoham Sukot Festival. She also had the opportunity to become acquainted with artists for new projects in the future. She is still in Israel.

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Novembre 2003

We will send Michael Elberg, a young athlete of our community, to the Bicycle Race that Shoham organizes.

Some of the Progresses and Results:

- ❖ We have a special place in Hebraica, the only community center of the Jewish community in Venezuela, honoring with a plaque the Shutfut between Venezuela and Shoham
- ❖ Some new families that made aliá from Venezuela the last two years, choose Shoham as their city to live in.
- ❖ We have a presence of Shoham in our Web Page: .
www.hebraica-online.com/shoham.htm
- ❖ Regularly our community newspaper reports the advancement of the project.
- ❖ The professionals in formal and non formal education have contacts and share projects.
- ❖ Our young leaders have build real relationships with youth movements, and young leaders in Israel. They now have families they lived with, and we hope this will be a step forward in making Israel nearer to every youngster in Venezuela.

New Projects we hope for:

- ❖ The possibility of sending together youngster and/or Students from Venezuela and Shoham to March of The Living project in 2004.
- ❖ To have an Israeli artist, chosen by the Shutfut Committee to participate at our Second Hebraica Art Exhibit , to be held on May 2004.
- ❖ To receive a group of young leaders in our Community as a continuation of the relations that started with the Hadrachá group in August 2003.
- ❖ Sports tournaments and encounters.
- ❖ Closer relationship with the Formal Education, building a net of communication between the children of Israel and Venezuela.
- ❖ Encounter of professional staff of Hebraica Venezuela with professional Staff of Chamesh in Shoham.
- ❖ An Arts and Music (summer) camps for children (in Israel and Venezuela)
- ❖ To continue with such successful programs as:

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- Israeli folkdance groups participation. Israeli folkdance is an educative tool and a language to share common interests. In Venezuela we have more than 600 people involved in this activity in our community.
- Hadrachá Project of Venezuelan young leaders in Shoham
- The art exchange (Sukot project and others)

We are sure that this project is of great value and importance therefore we hope to continue developing it, and wish express all our recognition and gratitude for the joint effort in building this bridge.

SHALOM

CARLOS CHOCRÓN
Secretary

ELISEO MELAMED
President

ANABELLA JAROSLAVSKY
Executive Director /Member of Committee

ARON WAISMAN
Member of Committee

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