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הסוכנות היהודית לארץ ישראל  
Jewish Agency for Israel

# Village News



United Jewish Federation  
of San Diego County



Sha'ar Hanegev  
Regional Council

Dear Friends,

Many of our programs will soon be culminating- summer is in the air and the freshness of new wafts in its breezes.

Graduates of our Kedma/Ofek program who have resided on Ibim for two and a half years are completing their matriculation examinations. We wish them good luck as they continue their studies or enlist in the IDF. To our lovely families and delightful children who have enlivened the Village this past year, we wish a smooth absorption, successful integration and an entreaty to remember their first home in Israel and to keep in touch.

Throughout the month of June, we expect to see many of you and will be pleased to show you the fruits of our productive partnership. Families from Beit Am and young adults from Birthright - we are waiting for you!

Soni Zinger  
Director,  
Ibim-San Diego Student Village



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*The grounds of Ibim.*

## Kidnapped– A True Story

My name is Kano Mulo. I made aliyah three years ago with my parents and eight siblings. My sister Dasta and I live in the Ibim Absorption Center as participants in the Kedma/Ofek 5 program.

About five years ago, when our younger sister, Yadnu, was twelve years old, my mother asked her to go to the market to buy something; to our horror, she never returned. We tried to believe that she would return, but feared the worst. We had heard about abductions in Gondar, and knew that the authorities did nothing to prevent them.

In the meantime, we received our papers to make aliyah and were faced with a horrible dilemma. My sister had been missing for two years; she was always on our minds, particularly on Shabbat and holidays. Albeit with hard hearts, we decided that we must not miss this opportunity to make aliyah. We kept in close contact with family in Ethiopia always hoping to hear some news. We had paid money to people to look for her, but I knew that after I finished the army, I would look for her myself.

On Tuesday, the 4th of May, I was sitting in my room in Ibim when my mother called Dasta and told her that our sister Yadnu had been found. Dasta began to cry and I began to dance with joy. Through the offices at Ibim, I made contact with her in Ethiopia. She had escaped from her captors and was going to make her way to Israel. We all met her at the airport, not really believing that the day had come when she would be with us again – and in Israel. Now my sister and I speak to her often on the telephone; hardly believing it is just a local call!



*Kano and Dasta Mulo on Ibim.*

## A Deserved Honor

At the annual event honoring outstanding Jewish Agency workers in Jerusalem, none other than Ibim's own Tzion Ben Hanan, was commended for his tireless work at maintaining the facilities and grounds on Ibim. Tzion excelled both in security issues and in logistics of absorbing new immigrants. Whereas Tzion is dedicated, competent and approachable to all, he goes even one step further for the children who had endless hours of pleasure in the petting zoo he set up and maintained for them on the Ibim premises.

## Earth's Bounty

Reveling in the fruits of the earth, Ibim's observance of Shavuot focused on health and nature. The adults and students listened to an explanation of the customs of the holiday while the children made construction paper baskets to fill with fruit.



*Two Kedma/Ofek students methodically trying to decipher a clue in the all-round Ibim Jerusalem Day Quiz.*



## Just Jerusalem

A Jerusalem-themed quiz occupied the young and old on Ibim for Jerusalem Day. All our new immigrants displayed a surprising breadth of knowledge about Israel's capital, but edging into first place at an early stage and keeping its lead until the end were our students from Kedma/Ofek. Congratulations!

For more information about the San Diego-Ibim Student Village, contact Soni Singer, Director: [SoniS@jafi.org](mailto:SoniS@jafi.org) or visit the JAFI Aliyah and Absorption website: [jewishagency.org/aliyah](http://jewishagency.org/aliyah)