



Dear friends,

Happy New Year for those of us who follow the Jewish calendar, and of course for each and every one of us, this is an excellent opportunity to wish for all of us that we continue to dream, to renew, to work together toward a better, more egalitarian, and more just future for all.

I am proud to share with you a taste of the many activities that have taken place at Beit HaGefen since our spring newsletter, this time with the spotlight on our cultural activities.



Years of trial and error and fine tuning have led us to define a number of basic principles in the field of cultural activity, which are consistent with Beit HaGefen's vision of promoting shared life and acting as a cultural home for everyone.

Having defined the path for ourselves as playing a central role in supporting artists from all groups in our community and in Israeli society, I can proudly say that we are reaping the fruits, as can be seen through our cultural events in May-September at Beit HaGefen, which undoubtedly reflect the cultural diversity in Israel, and provide a platform for everyone.

**Here are examples of the extensive activity that took place in recent months, and which will take place in September and October.**



**Arab Cultural Days Festival** – The theme of this year's festival produced by Beit HaGefen was Theater, and as part of that 12 plays were presented over four days at Beit HaGefen and within the city's neighborhoods, among which 3 were original productions.

**Maqluba** – Bilingual book launch by Sri Bashi-Balawi Musician, and Discourse on Love and Conquest

**Loshrik** – Russian-language children's play – by Aleph Theatre

**Independent Book Fair** - two days of an independent book fair held at Beit HaGefen, with cultural events including the launch of Muhammad Ali Taha's book in Hebrew translation and a panel of speakers, musical performances, literary meetings, workshops and more...



**Embroidered Remembrance** – an evening in cooperation with the Ethiopian-Israeli community in Haifa, on the occasion of Memorial Day for the victims of Sudanese-Ethiopian immigrants who died on their journey to Israel. Entrance was free and the hall was full.

**Revisions** – work of actress and musician Limor Yitzchak in a musical clown performance.

**Cooperation with the Haifa Gay History Project**, screening of the English-language film "The Archivists" and meeting with the chief archivist of the Berlin Feminist Archives



**Tea and Harmony** – An evening in cooperation with the CCC China Cultural Center – in which Chinese tea artists, dancers, and Shaolin warriors were hosted at Beit HaGefen. The event took place in the upper studio, admission was free, and at the end of the event, tea, sweets and souvenirs were distributed to the general public.

**Cooperation with the Haifa Welcome Festival** - four days with many events from the various fields of culture and art, all created and curated by local artists.

**Grande Anamura** – Festive Premiere of the New Show of the Haifa Flamenco Company Cantera-Grande Anamura – Haifa artists, dancers, musicians and singers in a sweeping and exciting flamenco show



At the same time, of course, our other departments have also been very active, and between January and August 2023, Beit HaGefen hosted **tours, workshops and trainings** on intercultural competence, pluralistic thinking and tools for working in a multicultural society. About 4,000 visitors joined us representing about 185 groups of all ages, nationalities, religions and ethnic groups living in Israel.

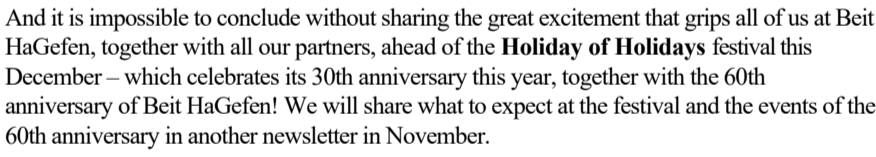
Our relationship with the Ministry of Education as well as leading institutions in Israel, such as the Mandel Institute, the Reform Movement in Israel, and others, are strengthening and increasing.

**The Al Karama theater** is working on two new productions for the newly opened school year, and the library is expanding the range of activities it offers to Arab society in Haifa.

A relatively new department, which emerged this year in cooperation with the **Department of Community Resources and Volunteering** in the Haifa Municipality, promotes civic collaborations and connections between the city's neighborhoods, with an emphasis on shared Jewish-Arab life in Haifa. We have established a team of municipal activists, and there is constant joint thinking in favor of connections and solving common shared problems as residents of the city of Haifa.

**The Jewish-Arab Youth Club**, our all-important project, opens its 12th year of activity. This year, 8 groups will open the club and will offer a variety of activities and meeting and connecting opportunities.

And it is impossible to conclude without sharing the great excitement that grips all of us at Beit HaGefen, together with all our partners, ahead of the **Holiday of Holidays** festival this December – which celebrates its 30th anniversary this year, together with the 60th anniversary of Beit HaGefen! We will share what to expect at the festival and the events of the 60th anniversary in another newsletter in November.



On a personal note, the past year has been one of the most upsetting that Israeli society has experienced since the establishment of the state.

We, who deal with relationships, believe in a liberal and pluralistic society, an egalitarian society, a society that transmits empathy among its members and respects all the stories present in the space, a society that genuinely believes that there is room for everyone and that it is possible to live together – the difficulty is enormous.

And yet, we do not let go, do not lose hope, and continue with full force to spread all the values in which we believe.

If you ask me, there's no other way

We have to believe, and we have to be proactive in order to make an impact, to lead change.

**In order for us to continue to make an impact, we need your help! Please donate and be a partner!**

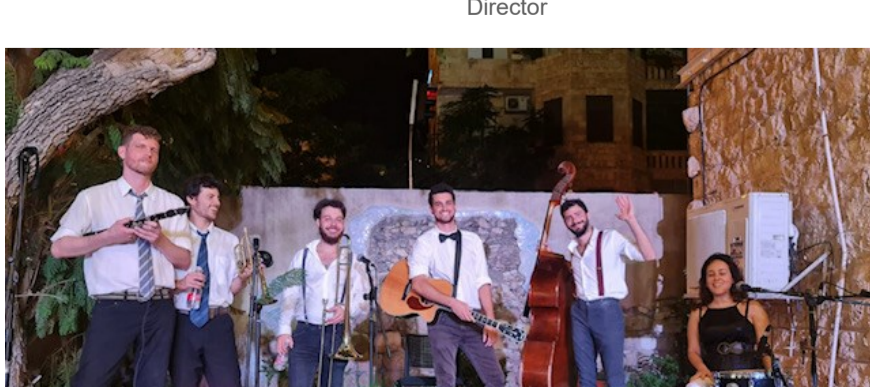
**Support Our Work**



You are welcome to learn more about all the activities offered by Beit HaGefen on our [website](#) and our [Instagram](#). Partner with us and help us expand our work toward shared society in Haifa.

Best Wishes,

**Asaf Ron**  
Director



**Thank You for your continued support.**

