

MATANEL FOUNDATION

ACTIVITY REPORT

Program: *Raise Your Spirits Theatre (2019 production: JUDGE! Song of Deborah)*

Year: 2019

Please present your activity report according to the following lines. The whole rapport will not exceed 2 or 3 pages (as word document).

Name of the Program: **Raise Your Spirits Theatre (2019 production: JUDGE! Song of Deborah)**

Year of activity: **2019**

Name of the report's writer: **Toby Klein Greenwald**

Function of the report's writer: **Artistic director (Also co-author of show, and co-producer in 2019)**

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Website / Facebook address of the organization: **www.RaiseYourSpirits.org**

Number of active participants in the program: **70 cast, crew and support staff**

Estimated number of impacted participants: **Approximately 2100 including audience members, cast and crew. There were also many more who were reached through the audio or film version.**

Give the actually state of the program (where the program stands at the date of the activity report, no more than ten lines): **We have successfully completed the performances of JUDGE! Song of Deborah (Shofetet, Shirat Devora in Hebrew), and are currently completing the writing, and are in the middle of the composing, of the next production, Rebecca, Mother of Two Empires, to be performed toward the end of 2020.**

The main achievements during the last year of activity (main achievements, number of events, number of participants, etc.): **We performed six times, three times in the community center of Gush Etzion and three times in the Shalva Center in Jerusalem, thereby also benefitting the work of the Shalva Center. We did one show in partnership with Emunah to help benefit special needs students. We brought together a cast and crew ranging in age from 10 years old to 70, including talented professionals who performed as volunteers, and including girls and women with difficult life challenges (included in our cast an autistic girl, and a woman who is disabled.) Our cast included both native-born Israelis and Anglos, from Gush Etzion, Jerusalem, Petah Tikva and elsewhere. The cast and crew bonded on the personal**

level in addition to developing their performing skills. Mothers and daughters, sisters and even grandmothers perform together with their granddaughters, and similar groupings sit together in the audience, so in addition to putting on a great show, we bring them together, in intergenerational bonding.

The evaluation (methodology, results, comparisons with the precedent year, conclusions for the future...): **This was the first time we performed in Hebrew and it was an extremely successful venture. We learned from this that we will continue to perform sometimes in English, sometimes in Hebrew. We reached new participants who were not previously involved in Raise Your Spirits, and perhaps more importantly, reached many new audience members. As always, we conditioned the participation of girls ranging in age from 10 (the youngest age we accepted) to 12 with the participation also of a parent in the project. This led to a deeper connection with the parents who in turn passed on their experiences to the wider community.**

Provisional guide lines for the advancement of the program in the next year: **We plan to begin auditions and rehearsals for our next production in the summer and are grateful to the Matanel Foundation for enabling us to move forward with new original music, new costumes and new props and scenery. Ticket sales can never cover the cost of producing a show, due to expenses and discounts to special groups (families in financial crisis, and families who lost loved ones to terror or soldiers in the line of duty), therefore funding from sponsors is crucial and we are very thankful for the assistance of the Matanel Foundation.**

Please join the Evaluation Report, the Financial Report and the list of the participants to the program (as **PDF documents**)

Please join photos – as **JPG files** – and any link or any other document connected to the program which will seem to you relevant – as **PDF document**.

Please join a 5 minutes movie which presents your institution and the particular project supported by the Matanel Foundation. The movie should be accessible to the philanthropic world and to other potential donors.