קשר רב דורי – העלייה מאתיופיה – סיפורה של חוה אליאס (באנגלית)

By: Chava Elias  
Country of Birth: Ethiopia

The longing and difficulties until the immigration to Israel:

I was born in 1942 in Ethiopia, in the city of Tigray. I started my studies only when I already had 3 children and I managed to finish 7 years of study. Before that there was no awareness of studies. I really wanted to study, but my father did not send us to study because there was a law that forbade girls to study. Later we moved to another city. I did not get to experience what it's like to be a student as a child and that makes me very sad. I corrected this mistake by having all my children sent to study and they are now all in important positions.   
A memory from the aliya: My husband Yaakov immigrated to Israel and left me in Ethiopia with our three children during my 6th month of pregnancy. After I gave birth, I sent my three children to Israel and stayed with my two-month-old baby, my sister and her daughter.   
My husband sent plane tickets for our son and I, and at the same time people from the Jewish Agency came to our town and said that they wanted to bring 10 people with them to Israel. I told them that I already had plane tickets and asked them to take my sister and her daughter, but they refused and said that they were willing to take only my sister's daughter but not her. They also said that if I did not want to immigrate to Israel, I would have to sign documents. Of course I did not agree to sign any document, and gave my sister and her daughter the plane tickets. I stayed in Ethiopia. 4 months later my husband sent me plane tickets again. When I saw the plane before boarding on it I was very scared, and asked not to board it. On the other hand, I was afraid that the authorities would catch me. After about an hour I overcame my fear and boarded the plane. At night we stopped in Athens and in the morning we continued flying until we arrived in Israel. I was extremely happy to reunite with my family!

What Shirel learned from Chava:

I learned from Chava a lot! I enjoyed listening to her stories about her childhood, her family, her parents and children, her immigration to the Land of Israel and in general I enjoyed listening to all of the stories she was telling. She told them in an interesting way and I was intrigued to hear stories from her. I am very happy that I was chosen to work with Chava, the work between us was wonderful, we cooperated, she listened patiently to all my explanations while working on the computer and I listened patiently to all the beautiful stories she told me. Chava is an amazing woman of course is the best out of everyone in the class when it comes to working on the computer!  
Our relationship is like a grandmother and granddaughter's relationship, and we're both very connected to Israel.   
This process lead us to having a good relationship and I am glad that I participated in the program, because I got to meet someone new and it's fun that I got to pass my knowledge to someone else. The most fun part was Chava's stories, and there's no arguing on that!