



NEWSLETTER SPRING 2022

Greetings from Our President



Dear Friends,

Passover is almost here, so first, let me wish you all a wonderful Pesach.

I'd also like to take a moment to express ELEM's solidarity with the people of Ukraine. ELEM is committed to our youth who are of former USSR descent, as well as youth who fled Russia to Israel and might find their way to our programs in the aftermath.

We have so many great things to report from our youth and staff both here and in Israel in this issue.

With that said, I'd like to invite you all to our spring celebration next month. Space is limited, so secure your ticket at your earliest convenience. We promise engaging conversations and some good food. More details are below.

We would love to see you all, but whether or not you can join us, please consider supporting our efforts in Israel by donating today.

Thank you all and Chag Sameach!

Lenore Ruben
President

Events

A Spring Celebration

Please join us and our special speaker Batya Ungar-Sargon, Deputy Opinion Editor at *Newsweek* and former Opinion Editor at the *Forward*, on May 10th for a discussion on **Divisiveness and the Media's Impact on Society**.

In addition, we'll have special guests from our programs in Israel.

The event will be held at a private home on the Upper West Side, with a magnificent view of the Hudson River.

Space is limited. To attend, please email info@elem.org.



Space is Limited!

Marking International Women's Day

On March 8th, ELEM's friends and supporters gathered on Zoom to celebrate International Women's Day.



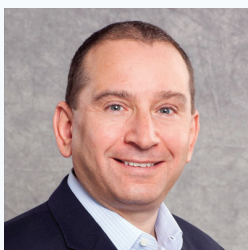
Six-time Tony and Emmy Awards nominee Tovah Feldshuh moderated a fascinating conversation between our very own Avigail Hatzor Sivan, Manager of the Young Mothers at Risk program at ELEM Israel, and Shakeerah A. Riggins, Associate Director of Housing at Covenant House.

The three inspiring women discussed issues of importance to young mothers at risk, a very vulnerable demographic. They also discussed the effect COVID had on these women and providing services to at-risk young fathers.

Young mothers at risk often fall between the cracks, and the welfare services aren't sure how to handle youths at risk who become caretakers themselves. Many of them were the first to lose their jobs when the pandemic started.

To watch the full panel click [here](#)

Donor Spotlight - Todd Patkin



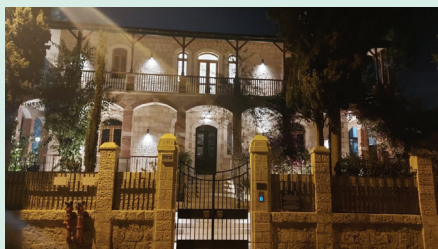
Todd Patkin, ELEM's dear friend and staunch supporter, hosted an event to showcase the critical work of ELEM's *From Dependence to Independence* program. Todd moderated a discussion with ELEM's staff and youth, who shared their insights about this unique two-year mentorship program that helps youth at risk to integrate back into society.

Todd recalled his battle with mental health issues and emphasized the importance of youth having the critical support that ELEM provides. His engaging book, "Finding Happiness," describes his journey.

To show his support, Todd and his wife Yadira matched donations up to \$20,000. We want to thank Todd and Yadira for hosting the event and for their generous gift.

News from Israel

Strength in Numbers



The Comfort Space in Jerusalem

In recent months, we've learned of multiple, especially cruel cases of sexual violence in Israel, often involving minors.

Recently, ELEM created a temporary "Comfort Space" in Jerusalem where victims and allies can meet, share stories, listen, or simply sit in silence, strengthened by each other's presence.

Hundreds of people have visited the space.

"It was hard for me before I got here," said one of the women, "and it'll be hard for me once I leave. But at least we sat here together."

1 out of 10 Israeli Youths Experience Cyber-Bullying

A recent Israeli State Controller report revealed alarming data about youth online. It indicated that a third of the online sexual harassments reports were made by minors. It also pointed out that there is no government policy to protect teens online.

ELEM is acutely aware of the dangers that exist for youth online. Our program, ELEM Digital, operates online - in chats, forums, on social media, and groups, to locate the youth who need assistance and provide them with help.

The pandemic has shown us that online assistance can be lifesaving, and we believe this accessibility will be even more crucial in upcoming years.

Success Stories

Meet Sapir.

Sapir experienced violence at home starting when she was four years old. After she left home as a teenager, the closest person to her, her grandma, who loved her unconditionally, passed away. As a result, Sapir found herself on the streets and indebted to some “shady” people.

But then she found Alma, our center for young women at fatal risk. It took a long time for her to build trust again, to believe someone loved her without wanting anything in return. But eventually, she did. Alma provides an apartment where girls can rest, cook, eat a hot meal and find ELEM staff and volunteers who will listen to them.

Now, Sapir rents an apartment on her own while working in construction. She's paying off her debt, and her dream is to study interior design. She also volunteers at Alma, the program that helped her so much.

Sapir, you're so amazing, and we fully believe in you!



Sapir sharing her story at the most recent ELEM Israel benefit

Mazel Tov Corner

A group of young women from our The Heart/Halev program in Eilat for youth and young people at fatal risk recently completed a scuba diving certification course. The underwater depths provided peace and quiet where the women could find ways to believe in themselves and their abilities.

These classes require a significant time commitment and mental strength, which our women have shown.

Huge congrats to the young women!



Art by Youth



Our youth at Lighthouse/ Migdalor "Mix" center in Holon recently assisted former ELEM youth and graffiti artist Dudi Shoval in creating this beautiful mural. At Mix, youth find a warm, welcoming home, and with this new mural right at the entrance, the space just became even more welcoming!

Support ELEM With A Click Of A Button On AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile is now available in the Amazon Shopping app on iOS and Android mobile phones. AmazonSmile lets you support a non-profit of your choice as you do your regular shopping! For every dollar spent, Amazon contributes to your NGO of choice. You can select ELEM!

Simply follow these instructions to turn on AmazonSmile and start generating donations.

Open the Amazon Shopping app on your device.

Go into the main menu of the Amazon Shopping app and tap into 'Settings'.

Tap 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to complete the process.

If you do not have the latest version of the Amazon Shopping app, update your app.

Join "Friends of ELEM"

We know you love seeing our great work helping Israel's distressed youth. We would be honored if you became a "Friend of ELEM," by becoming a yearly donor of \$1,000 or more. Friends receive "in the know" information, exclusive direct information from Israel, participation in quarterly Zoom calls with Israel and more.

Contact & Follow us:



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Get Involved

Consider making a donation. No amount is too small. Our children greatly appreciate anything you can give. If you want to volunteer in the USA or if you're visiting Israel and want to see us in action, contact us at info@elem.org. Get your child involved in a mitzvah project or create a fund to honor someone special.

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YOUTH IN DISTRESS IN ISRAEL