

Greetings from Our President



Happy summer, everyone!

We had an incredibly busy quarter, and we'd love to share some of the highlights with you. We've spent the last few months fulfilling two important promises we made to ourselves and to you, our supporters.

We heard your plea to hear directly from the people on the ground in Israel and in your interest for ELEM USA to work toward becoming part of a bigger community of like-minded organizations. We also heard your request to strengthen our bond with our friends from the Jewish and Israeli communities. I am proud to say that progress has been made in each of these three goals.

We recently met with **Ambassador Asaf Zamir, Consul General of Israel in New York**. The consulate has also invited us to the annual Yom HaZikaron service at **Temple Emmanuel**, which we were honored to attend.

We also visited our friends at **Rodeph Sholom Congregation** to honor **Arnie Bressler** and **Monica Jacobson**, who headed their Israel Committee for over 21 years. This committee supported many causes in Israel, including ELEM's program in Rechovot.

We met with Arab Israelis who spearhead the important organization, **Together Vouch 4 Each Other**, including influencer **Yoseph Haddad**. We also met with representatives from **Strength to Strength**, which supports civilian victims of terrorism. They, like ELEM, deal daily with the severe ramifications of trauma.

For our special spring event, we flew in Yael Kahn, a former ELEM youth from our *A Real Home* program, which serves young women who were sexually abused in their childhood, and Maya Baron, Head of the Extreme Risk Field at ELEM, so that they could share their ELEM stories with us. Plus, **Newsweek's Batya Ungar-Sargon** presented her newest book and led a lively discussion on its topic: is media's digital strategies harming democracy? Yael and Maya spent the week meeting with ELEM supporters and shared their stories once again at a luncheon event graciously hosted by **Oppenheimer Co.** Our deepest gratitude goes out to **Jerry Wolf, Ross Pollock**, and **Matthew Pang** for putting this terrific event together.

We will keep our promise to bring more guests from Israel and continue expanding our reach in our community.

Stay hydrated, stay healthy, and we'll see you in our fall edition!

Lenore Ruben
President

Events

Please save the date for our annual event on **November 3rd!**

We will have Ambassador Asaf Zamir, Consul General in New York, special guests from Israel who'll share their professional and personal experiences, as well as a wonderful speaker (stay tuned!) and great food.

We're looking forward to seeing you all!

Yael and Maya Take New York

Former ELEM youth Yael and Maya, Head of the Extreme Risk Field, joined us from Israel in May for an incredible visit. We're thrilled that so many of you had the chance to meet with them, hear Yael's story, and learn more from Maya about our Extreme Risk Field that serves youth at fatal risk, such as youth in prostitution and homeless youth.

Thank you to everyone who met with our guests and attended the events!



Board spotlight - Omri Amit



This month we'd like to highlight our Board Member and mensch - Omri Amit.

Omri is an Executive Director - Investments at Oppenheimer & Co. Outside of work, Omri is passionate about volunteering within his local community, spending time with family, traveling, skiing and golfing.

"When I grew up in Israel, I personally had not seen any of the issues ELEM tackles daily. The more stories I hear about the issues ELEM is dealing with, the more I feel that ELEM is one of the most critical organizations operating in Israel. In these times of historic polarization, I think it's wonderful to be involved with a cause that transcends it and is universal. The importance of this work cannot be overstated."

Omri was so moved by Yael and Maya during our spring event that he immediately proposed a matching gift.

Thank you, Omri, for your hard work and commitment to helping Israel's at-risk youth!

News from Israel

Return to Mt. Meron



ELEM Staff at Mt. Meron in 2019

Last year, during what should have been a joyous Lag Ba'Omer celebration during the annual pilgrimage to Mt. Meron, 150 men and boys lost their lives, and 45 were injured in what is now known as Israel's deadliest civil disaster.

In the midst of this horrific event, we also witnessed heroism and kindness as people rushed to help. ELEM Outreach Van staff and volunteers were at the scene and assisted scores of victims. Our staff attends the event yearly as part of our *Good People Project*. They ensure that youth are safe, as the celebration can quickly turn into a rave, with drugs and alcohol distributed

to minors. Last year, however, our staff assisted many more people who were injured or in distress.

"A year after the disaster, along with the pain, sadness, and anger, I am hopeful that in spite of everything, we will grow from this experience. I am so glad that ELEM was there on that terrible day and could provide critical emotional and physical help."

-Roy Homri, Head of ELEM's Street Work Field who was at the Mt. Meron disaster

1 out of 3 Israeli Women Will Experience Sexual Violence

Yael and Maya told audiences in New York that one out of three Israeli women will experience sexual violence. Time and again, people were dumbstruck by this grim statistic.

It is important to mention that this is actually a global statistic and that sexual violence runs rampant worldwide. In Israel, the numbers are slightly higher.

What can be done? Offer better information and education, offer early prevention (as ELEM does), protect women (and men) through legislation, and offer more services for victims.

As Yael taught us all, supporting ELEM and additional NGOs in your area can go a long way.

Staff Member Spotlight - Maya Baron

Maya was receiving emergency phone calls about young homeless women even as we were sitting in a NY taxi going from one meeting to another. As the Head of the Extreme Risk Field, there was no break, even though she was an ocean away. She was here to provide emotional support for Yael and share with us some of the most severe cases of youth at extreme risk. It was difficult to hear but so important.

Maya, we're so happy we got to share this time with you and deepen our knowledge about your important work!



Mazel Tov Corner



Of course, Yael is our success story! She had to overcome so much to come to New York City. Read what she said about the trip.

"With shaky legs and a brave heart, I flew to the United States in May. I went to share my journey with ELEM and A Real Home and the daily dealings with complex PTSD due to the sexual abuse I experienced as a child.

I shared from my life's journey, right from the soul, straight from the heart, in a foreign language, and I did so with excitement and while choking on tears.

With Maya by my side and the ELEM US staff that accompanied me throughout the week, I was surrounded by warmth, love, concern, and care.

I met people who strive to give and want to hear my story, and I was privileged because they wanted to hear it, and I got to tell it."

Yael, mazel tov! We're so proud of you!

[A Message From Yael](#)

We would like to honor Dr. Simcha Githon, one of ELEM's founders, who was chosen to light one of the 12 torches during the Israel Independence Day Torch Lighting Ceremony in Jerusalem on Israel's Independence Day.

Dr. Githon managed the multicultural field at ELEM for 22 years and is now the Head of the Ethiopian Jews Heritage Center.

Githon, who immigrated from Ethiopia, was honored for her relentless work to integrate and promote marginalized populations in Israel.

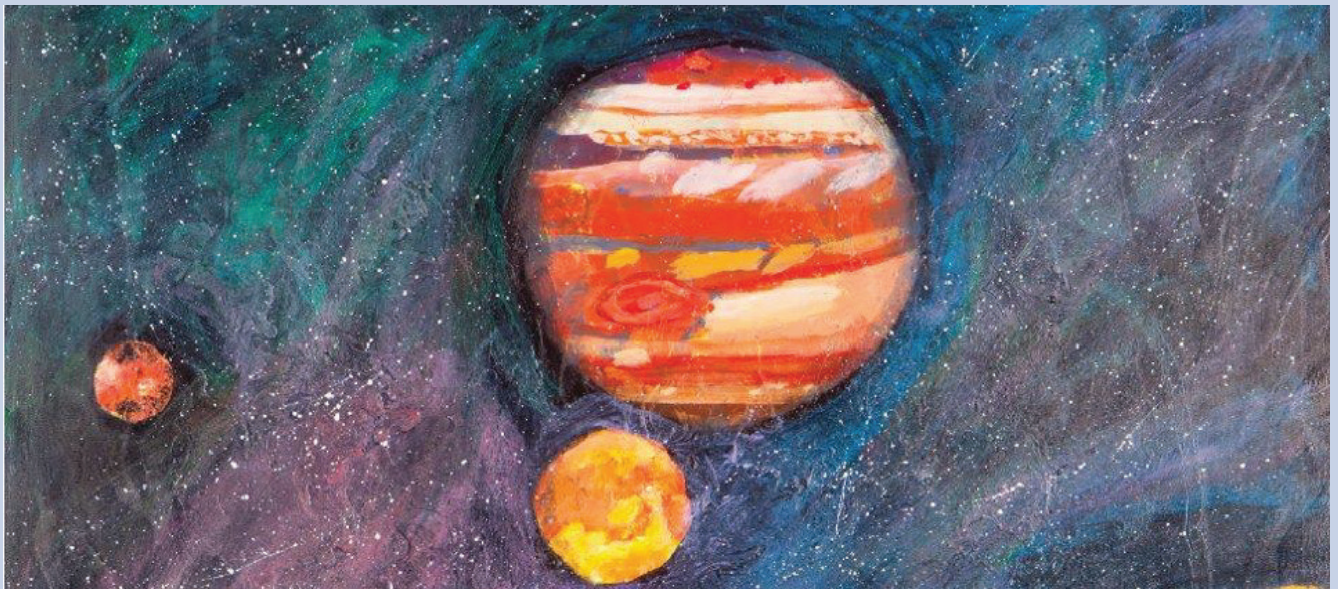
We want to congratulate Dr. Githon for this immense honor and for her incredible work with ELEM and beyond.



Simcha Githon (left) lighting the torch

Art by Youth

Our youth at the Lighthouse/Migdalor center in Petach Tikva know that the sky isn't the limit, which is why they've drawn space!



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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.

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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