

Inside **AMIT**

FALL 2023 / TISHREI 5783

New
Beginnings,
Unwavering
Values



AMIT

Building Israel. One Child at a Time.

PRESIDENT

Shari Safra

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Andrew Goldsmith

DIRECTOR GENERAL

Dr. Amnon Eldar

CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER

Shari Weisenberg

Designed by

Bacio Design & Marketing Inc.

AMIT Offices Around the World

NATIONAL OFFICE

New York City

212.477.4720

info@amitchildren.org

www.amitchildren.org

ISRAEL

Kfar Batya Campus

1 Jerusalem Street

Ra'anana

MID-ATLANTIC & NEW ENGLAND

Baltimore/Boston/D.C./Philadelphia

410.484.2223

robbiep@amitchildren.org

MIDWEST

Chicago

847.677.3800

amitchicago@amitchildren.org

Cleveland

216.591.1119

amitcleveland@amitchildren.org

SOUTHEAST

Florida

212.477.5465

genenek@amitchildren.org

WEST COAST

Los Angeles

310.859.4885

amitla@amitchildren.org



Table of **CONTENTS**

- | | | | |
|-----------|---|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| 01 | President's Message | 18 | National Event: Annual Assembly |
| 02 | Meet AMIT's New President | 20 | Regional Event Highlights |
| 03 | Impressions | 23 | Remembering Evelyn Reichenthal, z"l |
| 04 | Training Teachers for 21st-Century Students | 24 | Lessons from a Druze School |
| 10 | Education in Practice, Not by the Book | 26 | Commemorating a Famous Jewish Heroine |
| 12 | A Journey of Resilience and Empowerment | 29 | Pumpkin Soup for Rosh Hashana |
| 14 | AMIT Hosts Groundbreaking Event | 30 | Our Donors |
| 17 | Dvar Torah | | |

AMIT provides an innovative, Jewish, values-based education for 40,000 children in Israel each year. AMIT welcomes every child and levels the playing field for the children of Israel through education.

Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinion of the organization. Reproduction of any material requires permission and attribution.

President's Message

BY SHARI SAFRA

Back-to-school is such an exciting time of year. Growing up in New York's suburbs, I loved being a student, and autumn always meant back-to-school shopping for new notebooks, pens, and stickers. Finding the perfect "first day of school" outfit was a special day with my mom. Now, as a parent, I am preparing my own children for their new school year. This year, we're tackling high school for the first time, which brings a bit more stress. But I'm grateful for the privilege of shopping for clothing and all the necessary supplies.

Ever since I began my involvement with AMIT almost 15 years ago, I have also spent time at the end of summer thinking about our students and faculty in Israel. I cannot ignore the fact that not every child has the advantages I have described. In fact, roughly two-thirds of our students do not have the means to partake in back-to-school shopping, much less fret over outfits. School supplies might be scarce or an impossibility, and their daily life may be filled with food insecurity and other economic or emotional challenges.

This is where the AMIT difference comes into play. Our unwavering dedication to the holistic development of our students, combined with substantial investments in our academic professionals, sets us apart. We are committed to training our staff to be more than sources of information; we train them to be sources of stability and emotional support.

A pioneering initiative called the Tatzam program creates personal and professional growth plans for our educators. Through a process of reflection and evaluation, Tatzam aims to create happier and more effective leaders. The response from our principals and teachers has been overwhelmingly positive. I have personally visited our schools in Israel and heard inspiring stories from individuals who directly benefited from the Tatzam program.

At AMIT, we believe in investing in our education professionals, as they enable us to offer our students far

more than just textbooks and classroom instruction. We provide students with academic, emotional, and material support. We deliver backpacks filled with school supplies for those who cannot obtain them. We help find clothing for more than just the first day of school, and address food insecurity for students and their families. We enable our teachers and principals to create an environment where students can truly thrive and unlock their full

potential. AMIT becomes a second family for many—a place where they feel safe, loved, and empowered.

When I took time off from work to be with my kids, I knew my next step had to be meaningful. Being a commercial litigation attorney was fulfilling, but it lacked the depth I was seeking after becoming a parent. It did not feed my soul. The more involved I became with AMIT, the clearer it became that this was my path. I realized I could have influence in the lives of Israel's children while teaching my own kids the values of kindness and personal responsibility.

There's something indescribable about being in the classroom with our students, witnessing the sheer pride radiating from them as they pour their hearts into their work, achieve a previously impossible goal, and show their love for their schools.

My very first trip to Israel was on an AMIT mission, and it undeniably altered the course of my life. It deepened my commitment to both Israel and AMIT, guiding me toward the position I now hold as president. I invite you to join me and create your own AMIT journey, visit our extraordinary schools on your next trip to Israel, and forge a deep bond with our incredible students. The adventure will touch your heart in ways you never imagined possible.

Shari Safra

Shari Safra
AMIT President

Meet AMIT's New President

Shari Safra, a seasoned attorney and dedicated advocate for education and Jewish causes, is the newly appointed president of AMIT Children. Born and raised in Sayville, New York, Shari completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Pennsylvania before pursuing a legal education at Fordham University School of Law.

Despite growing up in a region where Jewish families were few, Shari embraced her religious heritage, a journey further solidified when she met her husband and connected with his vibrant Jewish community.

Shari first encountered AMIT in 2008, when she was deeply moved by an AMIT graduate's transformative life story. Starting as an attendee at NewGen events, her passion and commitment saw her rise to the role of NewGen chair, advocating for the organization and recruiting new supporters. A mission to Israel in May 2015 was a turning point for Shari; her interactions with the students and faculty deepened her commitment to AMIT and established Israel as a frequent travel destination.

As president, Shari seeks to broaden AMIT's supporter base in the U.S., reaching out to individuals who have yet to find their place in a Jewish community or cause. She is driven by AMIT's expansion to include all of Israeli society, incorporating co-ed secular schools, vocational institutions, and facilities in diverse cities. The groundbreaking of the state-of-the-art Kfar Batya campus in Ra'anana, capable of training thousands of teachers annually, is a project close to Shari's heart, and she looks forward to introducing supporters to the life-changing experiences offered on these campuses.

Shari encourages those interested in joining her journey with AMIT to participate in the U.S.-based



live or virtual events, or to personally visit an AMIT school in Israel. The face-to-face experience is transformative, and Shari is always open to meeting and discussing her experiences with prospective supporters.

Outside of her work with AMIT, Shari is the proud mother of two teenage boys and enjoys family ski trips, cycling, and adventure travel with her husband. Her philanthropic work extends to her board position with the Hebrew Free Burial Association and significant involvement with the University of Pennsylvania's Penn Fund Executive Board and the Undergraduate Financial Aid Leadership Council.

Now residing on Manhattan's Upper East Side, Shari is eager to use her role as AMIT's president to champion the transformative power of education and to enhance the lives of Israel's diverse youth. Her life experiences, professional accomplishments, and deep passion for her heritage are key assets that will help drive AMIT's mission forward in the years to come.

Impressions

ANDREW GOLDSMITH

Printing schedules driven by economics force an exceptionally long lead time for the AMIT magazine—the issue you’re reading now was finalized in June to be in your mailbox by September. On the upside we save considerable expense, but on the downside we always run the risk of publishing outdated information.

One thing I’ll bet on as sure as bagels at a bris: A week before Israeli schools open there will be the threat of the annual Israel teachers’ strike and a critical shortage (probably six thousand or so) of qualified teachers, especially in secondary schools. Israel’s educational system lurches from one crisis to the next; threats of strikes and partial closures are unhappy features of every academic year. The powerful teachers’ union(s) will bemoan low salaries and bad working conditions. They’ll claim it’s all about wages. Don’t be fooled—it’s not.

While the economic argument was true years ago, Israel’s education budget and salaries have grown considerably over the last decade. Even after discounting for inflation, Israel’s spending on education per pupil has been rising steadily since 1990, especially for secondary schools. Starting salaries still aren’t where they need to be (and there are complicated reasons as to why; it’s not simply money), but measurable progress has been made.

There are two organizational reactions to be had: We can throw up our hands, saying, “It is what it is,” and turn the page. Or we can see a national systemic problem and strive to address it. At AMIT, I’m proud to say we chose the latter course.

Israel’s national teacher shortage is about job satisfaction, smooth portals of entry to the profession, and once a rookie teacher joins a school, giving each educator all the professional support critical to be successful, especially in those early years. The national dropout rate among new teachers is horrendous—some

studies peg it as one out of every three teachers drops the profession in the first two years, particularly in the critical subjects of math, science, and English. At AMIT, we recognize complex problems don’t have silver bullet solutions or simple answers. Just like teaching students isn’t simply filling seats and filling minds, successful educators need constant care, mentoring, and training, and we address it on multiple levels by constantly piloting well-considered projects, thorough evaluation, adjustment, and reevaluation, until we get to our QED.



Dubbed Amitim, our new joint Teacher Training program with Bar-Ilan University (see page 4) will recruit, educate, and support the next generation of world-class educators. Our Tatzam program (see page 1) infuses our educational staff with personal and professional development opportunity, preventing staff burnout. Our new Kfar Batya campus (see page 14) will become a national hub to train thousands of teachers from across Israel every year—extending our reach even internationally. It’s a multilayered approach, in a constant and wonderful cycle of programming, evaluation, and adjustment.

Just as important, though, is the development of the changing role of teacher. Our revolutionary educational platform Gogya advanced at light speed—far surpassing even our most optimistic forecasts in terms of student achievement and professional satisfaction, drastically altering the role of teacher. What’s being tested now (dubbed “Meta-Gogya”) and happening next will permanently change the function of teacher, attracting candidates previously unwilling to consider the profession because it was too limiting.

So, friends, please stay tuned and fasten your seat belts—it’s full speed ahead for AMIT as we embark onto 5784.

Andrew Goldsmith
AMIT Executive Vice President

TRAINING TEACHERS *for* 21ST-CENTURY STUDENTS:

New program harnesses strengths
of AMIT and Bar-Ilan University



BY TOVA COHEN



Across the world, the arsenal of qualified teachers who can meaningfully inspire students is shrinking. Globalization, technology, and a rapidly changing economy and society present real challenges to the teaching profession and workforce—and teacher shortages are a crisis we cannot ignore. As AMIT has done for over a century, we’re helping change the narrative of education in Israel—this time, with a revolutionary new teacher training program in partnership with Bar-Ilan University: Amitim.

“For the first time, we’re integrating the ivory tower in academia with the real world in a very real way,” says Dr. Lior Halevi, who was the principal of AMIT Modi’in until he was tapped to head this joint venture.

AMITIM’S SLOGAN:

***“Learn differently
to teach differently.”***



THE ROOT OF THE ISSUE

Like every school principal in Israel, whether in the AMIT Network or not, Halevi faced the teacher shortage crisis in real time. Based on data from Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics, every third high school teacher leaves the system within five years.

"The dream of the Jewish mother has not historically been that her child becomes a teacher over a doctor, lawyer, or high-tech programmer," Halevi explains. "Teaching is challenging work, and kids today have more distractions than ever. University departments in education have been getting smaller, too." Professor Yaacov (Kobi) Yablon, founding dean of the Faculty of Education at Bar-Ilan University (BIU), acknowledges the global nature of this issue but points to Israel-specific challenges.

"You can't take education out of its ecological system, and there are some major educational challenges unique to Israel," says Yablon.

"We have huge gaps in learning between students who live in different areas in Israel. Israel's matriculation exams are not the best way to assess student performance. There are different educational streams in Israel, like the Haredi school system, the Arab school system, and the dati-leumi system. And if you're religious, like AMIT is, how do we educate students in Ahavat Hashem and Keyum Mitzvot?"

Yablon continues, "We looked at the educational challenges in Israel, and AMIT and Bar-Ilan came up with the joint venture we're calling Amitim."

Dr. Amnon Eldar is, of course, the AMIT Network's director general, and one of Israel's most influential educational leaders.

"Together with Bar-Ilan University, we are offering a unique program for the teachers of the future, adapted to new pedagogy. This program will develop new horizons for teachers and give them the possibility of a future filled with more inspiration and



Dr. Lior Halevi,
director of Amitim

satisfaction, and the ability to realize their educational dreams,” says Eldar. “It is clear that teachers with this experience will want to continue learning and developing in the world of education.”

“With this new program, we want to make a better connection between theoretical learning, practical learning, and studying theory within its context—an idea previously championed by Professor Tova Michalsky, head of the teaching and learning master’s degree program at BIU Faculty of Education,” says Yablon. “It’s a unique, nontraditional model, and it requires the resources of two institutions like AMIT and Bar-Ilan.”

A NEW VISION FOR TRAINING TEACHERS

Amitim’s curriculum is structured in a unique way. Students spend three days a week on the Bar-Ilan campus and one day a week visiting the Gogya AMIT campus in Ra’anana, where they receive hands-on experience.

“

*It is clear that
teachers with this
experience will want
to continue learning
and developing in the
world of education.*

- DR. AMNON ELDAR

At the Gogya campus, they interact with students and learn about their real-life struggles in and out of the classroom. Practical experience is emphasized from day one.

Amitim participants also learn what it takes to engage with the students meaningfully. "There's a difference between learning to cook in the kitchen and learning through a recipe book," explains Halevi. At Amitim, students benefit from classroom instruction as well as practical experience.

Students will obtain their bachelor of arts degree, master of arts degree, and teaching certificate in four years instead of six or seven. Courses focus on educational research and hands-on fieldwork, in which students practice from the very beginning the theories they are learning in the classroom. Other key factors of the program include strengthening pedagogical training, providing ongoing professional development, offering field practice within the AMIT school system, and empowering students with a strong research background and skills to support ongoing innovation research and evidence-based practices in education.

There are also learning seminars and regularly scheduled visits to pioneering schools in Israel, where students learn and observe innovative teaching methods, which will also be reviewed in Bar-Ilan University's simulation centers. In addition, a learning seminar abroad will familiarize students with advanced education systems that exist outside Israel, in the hope that a cross-geographical exchange of ideas might occur for the benefit of all students. All of this is happening alongside the emotional and pedagogical mentorship of each student and the creation of a group with a high affinity to the pedagogical and educational principles of AMIT's Network.

Another factor the program will address: teacher isolation.

"Many teachers feel very lonely when they just start working in the school system," explains Yablon. "Teachers walk into their classrooms and close the doors behind them, and they're



We want to give students the ability to enjoy these two worlds together—two worlds that speak the same language.

- PROFESSOR YAACOV
(KOBI) YABLON



Maya Landau, administration director of the Faculty of Education at BIU; Professor Zehavit Gross, dean of the Faculty of Education at BIU; Professor Arie Zaban, president of BIU



by themselves in terms of colleagues—at least until that first phone call from a parent. And in their training at university, they probably didn't get the chance to practice talking to an angry parent."

Yablon says Amitim presents a new vision of how academia and the field can work. "We want to give students the ability to enjoy these two worlds together—two worlds that speak the same language," he declares.

Amitim just welcomed its first cohort of students this fall, and most of the students received substantial scholarships as part of the new partnership.

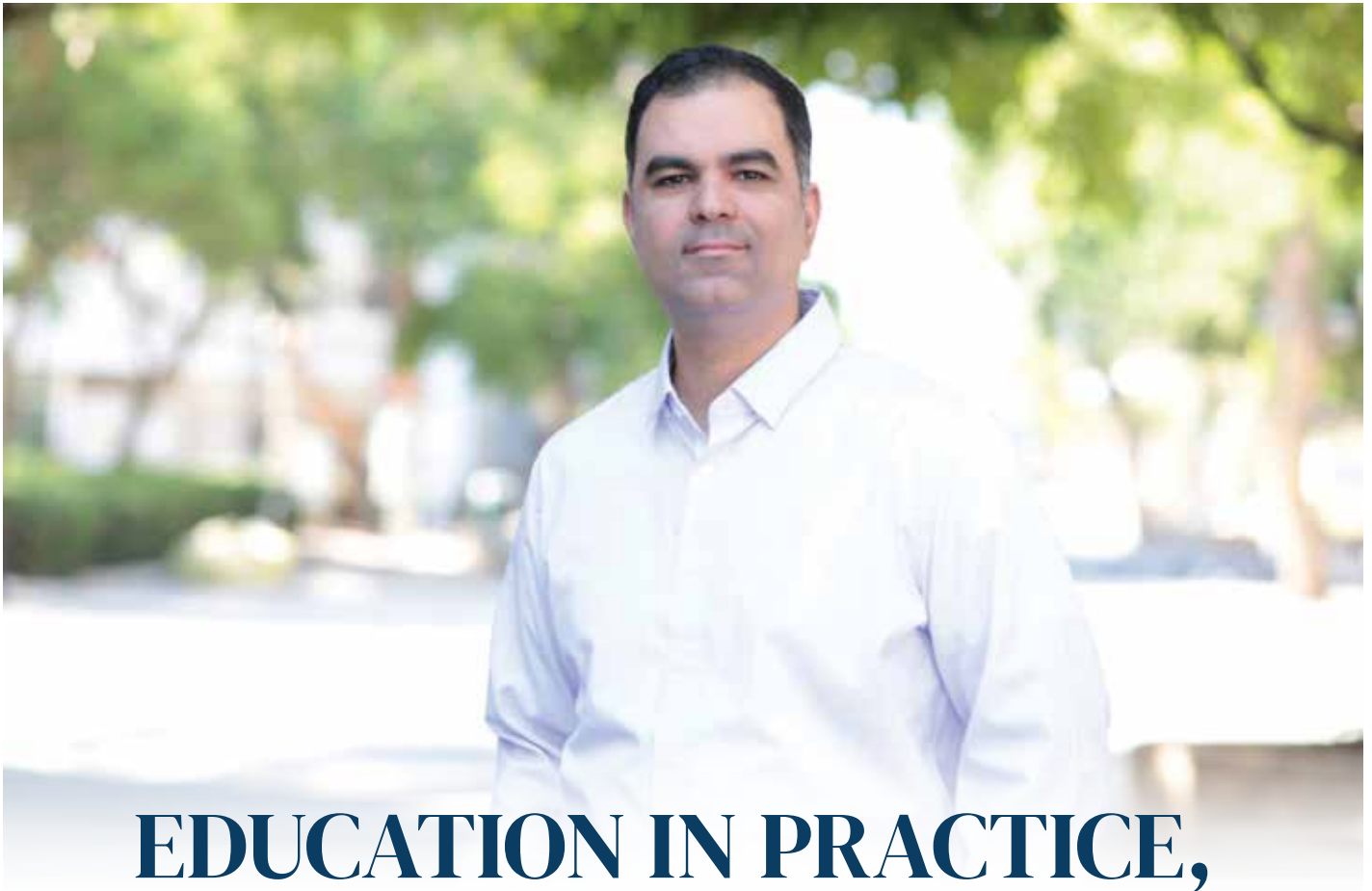
"I believe that teachers who are trained in the new systems—with the goal of serving as mentor of the student and facilitator of the learning process—will have a totally different experience at work, sense greater satisfaction, and have fewer discipline issues," says Eldar.

He continues, "In the era of Google and ChatGPT, the focal point of learning shifts from teacher to student. The primary role of teachers will be to truly see their students and serve as mentors to help them maximize their potential, while instilling within them a strong sense of identity and values. Amitim's approach states that teachers should never stop learning and should enthusiastically embrace the goal of engaging in new learning journeys, ensuring that school will remain relevant to the lives of students."

For his part, Halevi is optimistic that Amitim will help combat the ever-present challenge of the national teacher shortage, although he recognizes that change doesn't happen overnight. "It's not a sprint; it's a marathon," he says. "But we're confident this will help us better prepare more teachers for the future."



Dr. Amnon Eldar,
director general
of AMIT;
Dr. Lior Halevi,
director of Amitim



EDUCATION IN PRACTICE, NOT BY THE BOOK

A PROFILE OF AMITIM'S DR. LIOR HALEVI

BY LIBI MICHELSON

The world is changing rapidly and with it, the way we live and learn. Today's children are growing up in an increasingly digital world, and that means educators need to rethink the way they reach these students.

Dr. Lior Halevi has made it his life's mission to do just that.

The head of the new Amitim program, an initiative of AMIT and Bar-Ilan University, Halevi has been active in the field of education for over 22 years as a teacher, lead educator, and school administrator. He has authored two books on education and administration: "Being a Teacher: Chapters in Inspiring Education" and "Managerial

Resilience: To Thrive in the Face of Management Challenges." After serving as an emissary for the Jewish Agency for four years in the United States, Halevi returned to direct the middle school of the AMIT Eliraz Yeshiva and AMIT Setkar, a religious high school in Modi'in.

"I decided to pursue education because it is the most important profession in the world,"

explains Halevi. "There is no other profession that allows you to be a real part of shaping society and shaping the generation in the deepest and truest sense of the word." Halevi credits his interest in teaching to a teacher he had in high school, Dr. David Abuderham, whom he still calls a dear friend today, and who was one of his early employers when he began working as a history teacher after completing his studies.

Halevi is a graduate of the Mandel School for Educational Leadership, a joint venture of the Mandel Foundation and Israel's Ministry of Education, and holds a doctorate in education administration.

"There is a saying that people won't remember what you said, but will never forget how you made them feel," Halevi shares. "The teachers I remember from my past are the ones who made me feel welcome and belonged, who cherished me, respected me, and saw me as an individual." He remembers his third and fourth grade teacher, who showed her love for him by giving him roles to play. He remembers his seventh grade teacher, who accompanied him when his father passed away that year. These examples of kindness toward students have carried through into his work at AMIT and the training he hopes to pass on to his students.

With Amitim, Halevi's goal is to enlighten future teachers about what the education field is really about. He has a deep-seated desire to change the training model and create teachers who have three central and important elements: humane (a mensch), professional (a pedagogue), and inspirational (a role model). "Any teacher who lacks one of these elements is a teacher who lacks a central component of his professional personality," he says.

"It is impossible to teach today the way it was taught in my generation," explains Halevi. "The children live in a different reality, with technology

having changed their ability to focus, but it has also given them exceptional tools. They need teachers who understand their language and know how to direct and guide them to success."

Halevi believes that to reach their students effectively, teachers must continually learn and innovate in their field. And they'll have to: According to Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics, there will be a 30 percent increase in the number of students in Israel in the coming years. This increase in students will require parallel growth in the number of quality teachers dedicating their careers to the youth of Israel.

According to Halevi, both AMIT and Amitim seek to be beacons of innovation: "The goal of the network is to design a model of a teacher from the foundation and also to have constant renewal to improve performance in the field and increase the range of teachers."

Halevi follows his own advice and prioritizes hands-on experience in order to grow. Not only is he overseeing the program, but he also plans to teach a holistic and comprehensive course along with Amitim's other director, Dr. Tamar Chen-Levi, to create opportunities for exceptional teachers to advance their careers within the academy.

There is a lot of work to be done, especially when you're innovating a centuries-old profession. Halevi will never be satisfied with the status quo, and he finds himself surrounded by a group of exceptional professionals and educators who feel the same way. Thanks to their efforts, the future of our children is becoming increasingly promising.

Halevi lives with his wife, Shlomit, and their three daughters in Petach Tikvah. ■



There is no other profession that allows you to be a real part of shaping society and shaping the generation in the deepest and truest sense of the word.

AMIT Graduate Simcha Assarsai:

A JOURNEY OF RESILIENCE AND EMPOWERMENT

Meet Simcha Assarsai, 47, an alumna of AMIT Kfar Blatt Youth Village in Petach Tikvah, and a shining example of the life-changing impact of education and the human spirit's ability to bounce back from adversity.

BY LIBI MICHELSON



“**A**t the age of 16, I joined the AMIT family, and my connection with them lasted for 23 years,” says Simcha.

Now an educated woman, banker, lecturer, mentor to others, and mother of two, Simcha says her success didn't come easy or obviously. It was set in motion by a selfless decision made in a single moment—or perhaps it was set in motion from the very beginning.

SIMCHA'S ROOTS

Simcha was born in the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia. Her parents, with dreams of Israel in their hearts for years, were among the first Ethiopians to immigrate to Israel in 1980. Simcha's family received assistance from the Mossad and the late Ferede Yazezew Aklum, who led them and more than 900 Jews through Sudan by foot. Simcha was only 4 years old.

Initially the family settled in Ofakim, but then they made their way to Beer Sheva, a vibrant city in the Negev Desert and Simcha's hometown to this very day.

Life in Israel brought her family an incredible sense of joy after surviving an arduous journey. But acclimation to a brand-new country is never easy. Simcha remembers that there were more than a few issues that made their first years difficult, including finances and a different language, mentality, and cultural codes. “I don't say ‘cultural gap,’”



Simcha's mother holding her in Ethiopia

Simcha
Assarsai

she explains, “because it’s condescending to assume that immigrant lives are less than the lives of locals.”

The most prominent issue was the status of women. In Ethiopia the women did not work, but in Israel they were expected to be the breadwinners. This was especially hard on Simcha’s family and, after a few years of hardship, her parents got divorced. “My world collapsed,” she says simply.

Simcha’s mom remained the family’s sole earner until her health deteriorated and she was no longer able to carry this weight. At 12 years old, Simcha assumed many household responsibilities, including taking on jobs to supplement their financial needs and caring for her four siblings, including meeting with their teachers.

A CRITICAL DECISION

At 16, Simcha realized that the best way to help her mom financially was to switch the kids’ schools and for her to go to the AMIT Youth Village in Petach Tikvah, where students sleep in dorms and get meals on campus.

At AMIT, Simcha found solace and hope amid the daunting challenges in her young life. The educational haven became the nurturing ground where her ambitions took root and blossomed.

“AMIT gave me financial stability, school supplies, a desk to work at, a clear head that’s open to learning, and assistance through the various educational challenges I had along the way,” explains Simcha. “Most importantly, they gave me a place to dream and aspire.”

Guided by a devoted team of educators and surrounded by a diverse community of fellow students, Simcha discovered a profound sense of belonging and purpose. The AMIT school system’s unwavering commitment to academic achievement and its holistic development allowed her to cultivate her talents, explore her passions, and unleash her true potential in a warm, accepting, and supportive environment.

“The staff and counselors treated everyone equally and tried to develop and maximize everyone’s potential,” she says.

Simcha’s journey through the AMIT Youth Village not only shaped her personal growth, but also ignited a fervent desire to make a difference in the lives of others. There, she vowed to become a beacon of hope for others who face adversity. She went on to proudly serve in the army, and then to earn a bachelor’s degree in economics and business administration as well as a master’s degree. She started working as an economist and college lecturer, and then began working at Bank Hapoalim. She is also an economic consultant for other small businesses.

Simcha remembers well her vow to help others. She lectures and offers financial advice specifically to women because she believes they need to be more involved in this field. She is a member of the Committee on the Status of Women in Beer Sheva and a volunteer and activist for women’s rights and against domestic violence (through Mishmar Achoti, “My Sister’s Guardian”). She even formed a Bar Mitzvah project in which she helps single moms organize a Bar Mitzvah for their kids.

“During my time with AMIT, I received an education that shaped my values and gave me the tools to develop and achieve success,” says Simcha. “AMIT schools truly

Simcha speaking on a
professional panel

bring out the potential in their students and help young people find their strengths and skills.”

Simcha’s remarkable journey exemplifies the transformative power of education and serves as a reminder that with unwavering determination, dreams can be achieved and lives can be forever changed. ■

Left to right: Tamar Benovitz, Sondra Sokal, Randi Gelman, Debbie Moed, Jan Schechter, Yaffi Shmidman, Debbie Isaac, Mayor Chaim Broyde, Dr. Amnon Eldar, Sharon Merkin, outgoing AMIT President Audrey Axelrod Trachtman, Joyce Straus, Rabbi Yoni Berlin, Evan Green, Layla Green



AMIT Hosts Groundbreaking Event

TO DEBUT ISRAEL'S \$70 MILLION EPICENTER OF EDUCATIONAL TRANSFORMATION

This past May, AMIT hosted the official groundbreaking event for its new Kfar Batya campus, marking AMIT's 15-year commitment to the project as well as the generosity of the donors who made it possible. The \$70 million investment in educational transformation is set to open in Ra'anana in 2025.

“**T**he construction of the new campus is a testament to AMIT’s commitment to preparing students for the world of tomorrow by imparting 21st-century skills and providing maximum flexibility in learning,” said Chaim Broyde, mayor of Ra’anana.

“The AMIT administration, thousands of teachers, and tens of thousands of students thank AMIT’s many supporters and friends, who had a vision 98 years ago to change and better Israeli society through education, and today are implementing that dream and changing the face of education in Israel,” said Dr. Amnon Eldar, director general of AMIT.

The ceremony began with an official groundbreaking on the future Kfar Batya campus grounds, emceed by Rav Yoni Berlin, principal of AMIT Gwen Straus Junior and Senior High School for Boys, and featuring several speakers, including representatives from the World Zionist Organization and Israel’s Ministry of Education, as well as Debbie Isaac, chair of the AMIT Land Committee and past AMIT president.

A celebratory dinner followed, featuring a torch lighting ceremony with four AMIT graduates representing fields such as entrepreneurship, security/ IDF, finance, and education.

Simcha Assarsai, an AMIT graduate who is now a mother of two (and profiled previously in this magazine), said, “My journey began at the age of 4 when I left Ethiopia on foot. At the age of 16, I joined the AMIT family, and my connection with them lasted for 23 years. I received an education that shaped my values and gave me the tools to develop and achieve success. It was my honor to light a torch for the opening of the new AMIT campus that will provide a home for youth who, like me, need love, values, and hope to dream big.”

The new AMIT Kfar Batya campus will impact the entire education system in Israel. The AMIT Gogya R&D Center for Innovation in Education will service AMIT’s 6,000 teachers from across the country and others from outside the network and will serve as an accelerator of an educational revolution, transitioning schools from traditional 19th-century models to the world of tomorrow.

In 2014, AMIT launched a new methodology called Gogya as a vision to change Israel’s education system through a 21st-century lens focused on preparing today’s students for tomorrow’s economic, technological, and societal shifts. At the heart of this educational approach is the understanding that a teacher must transition from a transmitter of knowledge to a mentor who guides and accompanies the student in goal setting and dreaming, and then realizing those dreams and goals.

“The construction of this campus sends a strong message that innovative education requires a holistic approach,” said Audrey Axelrod Trachtman, outgoing AMIT president. “It can’t only be about teaching methods or content. With the new campus, we will now have a real-life laboratory to evaluate all aspects of learning, including educational architecture.”

The new campus will feature The Evan and Layla Green Family Foundation Gogya Building and Program, the Educators’ Innovation Center, AMIT Headquarters, Community Athletic Complex, the Gwen Straus Junior and Senior High School for Boys, Elementary School, Welcome Center, Memorial Park for Fallen Soldiers, and Outdoor Amphitheater.

To learn more about AMIT Kfar Batya and to donate, visit kfarbatya.org.

Inside AMIT / Fall 2023



Layla and Evan Green



Good Has Gotten **BETTER!**

**HELP SECURE YOUR FUTURE AND
THE FUTURE OF AMIT STUDENTS WITH
A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY.**



Now is a **GREAT time to
establish a charitable gift
annuity with AMIT.**

Establishing a charitable gift annuity (CGA) with AMIT is a sound way to gain financial security for yourself now and help AMIT in the future. And since the fixed interest rates for an AMIT CGA have gone up, you can receive more money now.

For more information and a personalized illustration, please contact **Genene Kaye** at 212.477.5465 or genenek@amitchildren.org.

**The newly increased fixed
rates are for life:**

Age	Rate
60	4.9%
65	5.4%
70	5.9%
75	6.6%
80	7.6%
85	8.7%
90+	9.7%

**Rates are based on one-life payouts and are approved by the American Council on Gift Annuities as of July 1, 2023.*

DVAR TORAH

Creating Your Own Light

BY RAV LEO DEE

How much education do our kids need? Is it a never-ending process?

Do we need to give them every experience in life so they will be able to cope with any potential reality, or is there another way?



When the Torah describes how the Kohanim handled the Menorah, it uses a strange word that means “When they cause [the flame] to rise up,” rather than the much simpler term “When they light.” Rav Sorotzkin explains that the Kohanim did not actually have to light the Menorah; they only had to put the wicks into the oil and wait for them to absorb it. The lighting could be done by any Jew (albeit with a very long match, as they couldn’t enter the precinct that contained the Menorah!).

So what’s the lesson here? The Kohanim, the great role models of the Jewish people, were there to enable the people to create their own light. They didn’t need to do it for them; they just needed to create the conditions under which others’ light could be emitted. And as we, the Jewish people, are “a nation of Kohanim” to the nations, that means we all must help others find their switch to create their own unique light.



Rav Leo Dee and his family

As parents, our role is not to make the light for our kids, but to enable them to make their own light. We do this by giving them a love of learning, so that they will voluntarily pick up a book and learn. We do this by giving them praise for helping around the house or doing kind deeds. We do this by spending quality time with them and inspiring them with stories of acts that we have done for others.

Every soul is a light that can illuminate the whole world with its special task. We, as a nation of Kohanim, are tasked with the responsibility of demonstrating to others the light that only they can shine. Rabbi YY Jacobson brings a brilliant interpretation of the verse from Ashrei, “To make known to the children of men His mighty deeds and the glory of the majesty of His kingdom.” The Lekavich Magid changes the word “His” to the word “his.” In other words, our role is to enable others to see the potential of their mighty deeds and the majesty of their kingdom. Every child and every adult are royalty; all we need to do is switch on our special light. But we also have the task of helping others find their unique switch.

When we appreciate our family’s and friends’ unique roles in our lives, and we show them that appreciation, we can encourage them to switch on their unique light—and that creates the greatest illumination show you have ever seen. We all have the tools to enable others to find their switches and to illuminate our own light (that others, in turn, have helped us find).

It’s a team effort, but we’re the greatest team of all. We’re the Jewish people. Am Yisrael Chai! ■

RAV LEO DEE is a British-Israeli rabbi who lost his wife, Lucy, 48, and his daughters, Maia, 20, and Rina, 15, in a terrorist attack this past April. Maia was a bat sherut at Midreshet AMIT Kama. He has three other children: Keren (a bat sherut from AMIT Frisch Beit Hayaed), Tali, and Yonatan. The Oxford-educated rabbi made global headlines for his response to the tragedy, in which he called on the world to observe April 10 as “Dees Day” to differentiate between good and evil, right and wrong.

EVENT *Highlights*

NATIONAL EVENTS



Left to right: Jacob Safra, Shari Safra, Ambassador Gilad Erdan, Audrey Axelrod Trachtman, Chaim Trachtman

AMIT's 98th Annual Assembly Inaugurates New President Shari Safra

AMIT celebrated a significant milestone this past June when it hosted its 98th Annual Assembly at the Center for Jewish History in Manhattan. The inspiring event also marked the inauguration of incoming President Shari Safra.

The Annual Assembly featured Master of Ceremonies Suzanne Doft and distinguished guest speaker Gilad Erdan, Israeli ambassador to the United Nations. His powerful words reminded attendees of the impactful work AMIT does and the continued relevance of its mission to transform the lives of Israel's children and level the playing field of Israel's underserved.

Audrey Axelrod Trachtman spoke passionately about her time as AMIT's president these past four years. Her leadership has helped AMIT reach unprecedented heights, most recently overseeing the groundbreaking for AMIT's \$70 million Kfar Batya campus in May.

"Over the past four years, AMIT implemented a host of new, innovative programs to improve academic

performance and motivation for our 40,000 students," declared Trachtman. "We expanded our 'break the glass ceiling' programs for disadvantaged students and added a significant number of secular schools to our educational community. We recently broke ground on our flagship campus that will serve as an educational laboratory hub in the center, with spokes reaching all our schools throughout Israel."

Trachtman continued, "We are excited for Shari, as AMIT's new president, to continue to expand our impact in Israel and lead our growth initiatives and cutting-edge programs."

The entire organization will forever be grateful for Audrey's dedicated service and unwavering commitment to AMIT's cause.

Shari Safra shared her vision for the future of AMIT Children, sparking enthusiasm among all attendees for the organization's potential to create even more transformative experiences for the children of Israel.

“Just as when AMIT was founded, it is incumbent on us to be innovative and daring, and we must be relentless in pursuing excellence for our schools, our faculty, and most importantly, our students,” said Safra. “When we see the demographics of Israel changing before our eyes, we must respond in a productive way. We need to harness the brainpower of our research and development teams in Israel who create innovative teaching methods that we can apply nationwide. Already, as a board we have made bold and even brave decisions to move our network into the 21st century. Our leadership must be more formidable and better positioned to carry on this mission long after my term comes to an end, and I invite you to join me on that journey.”

Safra’s tenure officially began this September.

“We’re incredibly grateful to everyone who joined us in celebrating this milestone event,” stated Suzanne Doft. “With the shared dedication of our supporters, volunteers, staff, and leadership, we are confident that we can continue AMIT’s mission and propel it to even greater heights under the stewardship of Shari Safra.”



Shari Safra with Suzanne Doft



Shari Safra, Jacob Safra, Chella Safra



Shari Safra with her parents, Phyllis and Leon Finkelstein



Joyce Straus, Sharon Merkin, Audrey Axelrod Trachtman

This year’s Annual Assembly welcomed new board members and chairs to the AMIT leadership team. Chana Shields is the new chair of the Board of Directors. New board members include Jennifer Bernstein Platt, member at large; Michelle Chrein, chair, Board of Governors; Meyer Koplow, member at large; Daniel Miller, member at large; and Elizabeth Straus Greenspan, member at large.

“One of most important factors in AMIT’s organizational success is that every four years, new lay talent are given the opportunity to lead,” explained Andy Goldsmith, AMIT’s executive vice president. “We’re very excited by our new board members and the skill set they offer to the AMIT community.”

Further details about the Annual Assembly are available on AMIT Children’s website:
www.amitchildren.org.

REGIONAL EVENTS

AMIT's Art Tour

AMIT's Art Tour was back this year with three exciting stops. First, attendees visited the New-York Historical Society's exhibit on American delicatessens, "I'll Have What She's Having." Next, guests stopped in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood, a major art hub, to view some fascinating modern collections. Finally, participants toured the vibrant street art of Madison Avenue, best known for its high-end boutiques, but also home to the Upper East Side's premier art galleries.



AMIT donors enjoying this year's Art Tour with three stops across New York



Phyllis Goldberg, an event chair, speaking at the Sabra Book Club's biannual event

Sabra Book Club

On May 2, 100 Sabra Book Club members met for their biannual event. Phyllis Goldberg gave a fascinating talk on the World War II-era novel "Code Name Sapphire" by Pam Jenoff. She was followed by Genene Kaye, AMIT's chief development officer, who updated the audience on how AMIT is truly a 24/7 network of schools. The event was chaired by Phyllis Goldberg, Sylvia Hammer, Brenda Kalter, and Barbara Nordlicht.



Monte Carlo Night

AMIT of Greater Teaneck's Monte Carlo Night was a huge success, bringing together more than 175 supporters and raising more than \$50,000 to benefit our students in Israel. The stakes were high as guests competed in blackjack, craps, roulette, and poker. The winners' circle included Dani Secemski, Avi Moses, and Debra Korbluh. Participants were treated to a wonderful Israeli wine tasting program and had the opportunity to bid on Israeli art in a silent auction.

The event was graciously hosted by Chayah and Yoel Fuld and chaired by Annie and Yale Baron, Abby and Elad Cnaan, Rachel and Shawn Langer, Chana and Dan Shields, and Meital and Howie Teitelman. We're grateful to the hardworking committee for helping ensure a fantastic event.



Left to right: Daniel Miller, Lisa Gulich, Ira Zlotnick, Ari Korman, Dan Shields



Event chairs, hosts, and committee members from left to right: Howie Teitelman, Meital Teitelman, Rachel Langer, Chana Shields, Chayah Fuld, Yoel Fuld, Eli Fuld, Elad Cnaan, Abby Cnaan



Left to right: Mark Dresdner, Michael Katz, Reuven Mohl, Brian Katz, Hanna Katz, Esther Perl, Harold Perl



On behalf of herself and co-chair Jennifer Bernstein Platt, Raquela Adelsberg welcomes women to AMIT's NewGen Tea.

NYC NewGen Tea

On June 1, New York City women came together on a stunning rooftop overlooking the East Side to drink tea, create their own personal tea blend, and enjoy classic tea fare. Chaired by Raquela Adelsberg and Jennifer Bernstein Platt, this NewGen Tea Party was a fresh take on your grandmother's "Parlor Meeting." Attendees learned about AMIT and how their support for this event would benefit AMIT's 24/7 After-School Empowerment program, which provides tutoring, support, and a safe space for students in our most impoverished neighborhoods.

AMIT Baltimore's Mother in Israel Event

AMIT Baltimore hosted its first in-person Mother in Israel event, honoring Sondra Willner and Ruth Shane at the home of Rena Langermann on May 17. Ruth and Sondra spoke powerfully about the importance of AMIT's work in Israel. Ruth's mother, Sarah Shane, a past national president, set the stage for Ruth's passion for AMIT's children. Ruth grew up learning about and understanding AMIT's important work firsthand. Sondra's longtime involvement spans over 50 years and plays an integral role in her life. The event also featured Jill Apperson, owner of Encore Event Designs, who spoke about the art of floral design. Beautiful prearranged bouquets by Jill were distributed to all.



Pam Weissman,
Rena Langermann,
and friend



Ruth Shane
and her son,
Josef Brandriss



Eleanor Chiger addresses the crowd at the Jay Kaplowitz, z"l, Memorial BBQ in Florida.

Jay Kaplowitz, z"l, Memorial BBQ

Jay Kaplowitz, z"l, was AMIT in Boynton Beach, Florida, and the glue that kept the Yocheved Chapter going strong. His annual barbecue was the talk of the town and enjoyed by locals and former New Yorkers alike. Jay, originally from West Hempstead, New York, passed away in August 2021. In his honor, a memorial barbecue was held on March 5 near the Morikami Museum in Delray Beach and attended by more than 150 people. His beloved wife, Eleanor Chiger, recalled Jay's generosity and his love for AMIT's work helping the children of Israel.

Remembering

EVELYN REICHENTHAL, Z"l

Evelyn Reichenthal, z"l, was born in 1924 in Houston, Texas, to Max and Florence (Frimet) Moore, immigrants from Poland. Evelyn grew up in a traditional home that emphasized commitment to the Jewish people, wherever they were—whether in Europe, Israel, or Houston. It's a commitment that led her family to AMIT, a dedication that endured over many decades.

In the early 1940s, Florence started the Houston chapter of Mizrahi Women, which later became known as AMIT. Evelyn joined as a junior member; she was active in AMIT until she passed away in January 2023.

Evelyn married Sidney Reichenthal in 1949 and they had three children: Ellen, Sandy, and Max.

"When we were kids, if Mom wasn't home when we got home from school, we knew she was at a Mizrahi event," says Sandy. "She didn't care about being president, or any honors for herself. She was only concerned about raising money for the children of Israel."

A passionate and compelling speaker, Evelyn spoke often at Mizrahi/AMIT events, helping bring in additional gifts after the main program with her personal appeal. She spent countless hours on huge undertakings to benefit AMIT, chairing many projects that included innovative ways to raise money, like rummage sales.

"Mom would ask friends in real estate if they had a vacant shopping strip space for a month that they could donate to AMIT. She would then solicit donations of clothing, dishes, and accessories; get overstocked goods; and manage a cadre of volunteers who spent hours organizing and pricing those mounds of goods," recalls Sandy. "It was a treasure hunter's heaven. Hundreds of people of all ages and backgrounds would shop to find their bargains, and AMIT raised tens of thousands of dollars each year there was a rummage sale."

Evelyn also sold personalized purses and AMIT Purim cards at AMIT events. When customers would defer and say they didn't have time to address a card, Evelyn would offer to write the card and address, stamp, and

mail it for them—for an extra \$1 that went to AMIT, of course. She wasn't going to lose a customer.

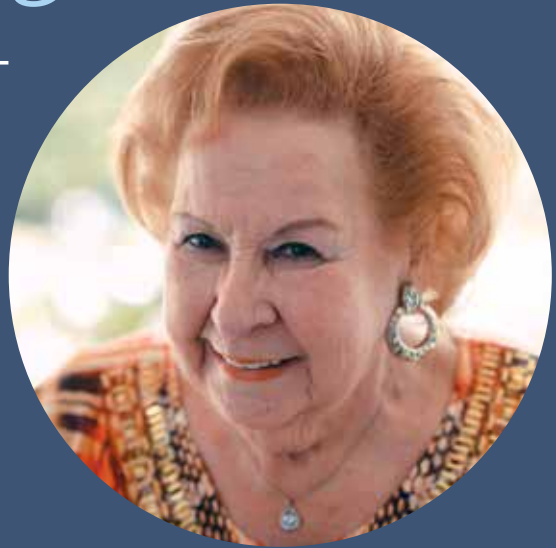
"One of her loyal 'customers' would often joke when my mother entered a social affair: 'Hold on to your wallets; Evelyn just came in,'" says Sandy.

Evelyn was also a resolutely dedicated mother; her eldest daughter, Ellen, was born with intellectual disabilities, and Evelyn pursued every therapy and educational method available at the time to help Ellen reach her potential. Today, Ellen leads a semi-independent lifestyle. At AMIT Nechalim, a facility for teenagers with special needs, there is a therapy room dedicated to Ellen.

Sandy is married to Myron and they have three children and 13 grandchildren; Max is married to Susan, and they have three children.

When Sandy's daughter Naomi was born in 1981, Sandy and Myron swung by an AMIT meeting on the way home from the hospital to introduce their daughter to Evelyn (where else would she have been?!). "Mom came out to see us, and went back into the meeting and said, 'I'm making my first granddaughter a Life Member!'" laughs Sandy. "And that's the story of how Naomi became a lifetime member of AMIT at 2 days old."

Evelyn was 98 ½ when she passed away, still an avid Rummikub and Boggle player—and as fierce a loyalist and supporter of AMIT as she ever was in her extraordinary lifetime. ■





LESSONS *from a* DRUZE SCHOOL

BY CHAIM TRACHTMAN

Imagine you're the head of an educational network of schools in Israel. It's time for the annual budget review; much to your surprise, there's a surplus. I know this never happens in real life, but stick with the thought experiment. You approach the board with a plan to add another school to the roster. You might suggest a school for children with disabilities, or for children living in immigrant communities, or even one for children gifted in the arts. Regardless of the specifics, I'm quite sure that all the proposals would include Jewish children in their target population.

The AMIT Network defied the common perception of how a religious educational system would act when it recently entered into a partnership with the Druze community in Rameh.

Each year, AMIT considers offers from schools of all types: religious, secular, Haredi, and vocational. After careful review, it enters into partnerships with the community and assumes the management



of specific schools. When AMIT was introduced to the energetic mayor of Rameh, AMIT considered the village's populations: Druze, Christian Arabs, and Muslim Arabs. These are three distinct communities, each with its own culture, language, and calendar. The residents of Rameh are all Israeli citizens, but there is not a single adult Jew living in the village, or even one Jewish student attending the middle or high school.

Knowing all this, AMIT still assembled a team of talented and sensitive educators and drafted a multidimensional curriculum built on AMIT's own values, but entirely geared to the needs of the community. It has been greeted warmly by the residents. Within a year, they have watched their children surpass their previous accomplishments, achieve higher scores in the *bagrut* examinations, and advance to higher levels of education—all while maintaining fidelity to the values of the village.

Why would AMIT make this decision and invest time and resources to mentor a school in this off-the-beaten-path location? The clear answer is that AMIT has viewed this kind of work as integral to its mission since its inception. AMIT was founded in 1925 by Bessie Gotsfeld, who had a prophetic sense of obligation to address the special needs of children who have been raised in the periphery.

At its core, AMIT is religious, but its definition confounds the prevailing notion of what the word means. Instead of sectarian division, AMIT stands for inclusive humanistic Torah values. It aims to offer every student the tools and the opportunity to achieve success. AMIT knows that this is more likely to happen if the outsiders are brought into the mainstream and given the chance to avail themselves of all the resources in the state. Most importantly, it sees the children in Rameh on the margins of society as part of the Israeli social web—as children who stand to benefit as much from a high-quality education as any other child, and who will then give back to the country. This is definitely not standard operating procedure.

AMIT distinguishes itself with initiatives like this. The school in Rameh provides a test case for expanding mentorship support in a rapidly growing sector of Israel. It attempts to quell unrest within the Druze community, whose members have been among the most loyal Israeli citizens, but who have felt neglected and abandoned by the state in recent years.

Innovative initiatives like the AMIT school in Rameh are especially noteworthy given the events of the last six months, when the many divides in Israeli society came into even sharper focus. There is certainly ample room for argument about how to address the questions being raised by the present government and the protestors in the street. But no matter what, extremism and polarization will not facilitate the identification of workable solutions. There is an urgent need to uproot doctrines of hatred and exclusion, and to plant ideas of commonality and shared values.

The Druze and Arab communities in Rameh exemplify the feared Other in Israel. They can fall victim to xenophobic mischaracterization of their goals and aspirations. Those who are working to improve their lot in society are subjected to prejudicial criticism of their motives and commitment to national security. These dynamics are playing out along all the fault lines in Israeli society.

Schools represent an opportunity to create a public space in which young people from vastly different backgrounds can learn how to talk to one another and learn from each other, and learn with the Other. Building bridges between different communities—religious to secular, Haredi to modern Orthodox, Jewish to Arab—should be a priority for a religious network. It may be too late for the adults, but AMIT is banking on the premise that the time has not passed for the children and adolescents who attend their elementary and high schools. Success in the village of Rameh could provide a model for how to creatively address the problems in Israel by husbanding the strengths and potential from every person living within its borders.

I learned about the school in Rameh during the AMIT mission this past May, and I felt as if I was getting schooled in the full potential of education in the modern world. It is a lesson that would benefit us all.



CHAIM TRACHTMAN is a pediatric nephrologist, adjunct professor of pediatrics at the University of Michigan, and founder of RenalStrategies LLC. He is a board member of Yeshivat Maharat and Darkhei Noam. His wife, Audrey, is the outgoing president of AMIT; they have three daughters and six grandchildren.

Commemorating a Jewish Heroine:

THE ANNA SZENES HOUSE

BY ILANA GOODMAN

The Anna Szenes House, located south of Haifa in Kibbutz Sdot Yam, commemorates the life of the famous poet, parachutist, and Jewish heroine. Anna Szenes was a member of Kibbutz Sdot Yam before she risked—and ultimately lost—her life to save Jews in Europe during World War II.

A visit to the site offers a glimpse into Szenes' extraordinary existence. The carefully crafted exhibition includes poems, quotes from her diary in her own handwriting, photographs, authentic objects, songs, and interactive displays. The exhibition also honors members of the Paratroopers' Delegation, including the seven paratroopers who did not return: Anna Szenes, Haviva Reich, Abba Berdiczew, Zvi Ben-Yaakov, Enzo Sireni, Rafi Ries, and Peretz Goldstein.



Anna Szenes



Anna Szenes' enlistment card to the Haganah

WHO WAS ANNA SZENES?

Anna (Chanah) Szenes was born on July 17, 1921, to an assimilated Jewish family in Budapest, Hungary. Despite having studied in a Protestant private school for girls, when she realized that the situation of the Jews in Hungary was becoming increasingly uncertain, Szenes decided to embrace Zionism. She joined Maccabea, a Hungarian Zionist youth movement, and learned Hebrew.

In 1939, Szenes emigrated to the British Mandate for Palestine to study in the Girls' Agricultural School at Nahalal. In 1941, she joined Kibbutz Sdot Yam and then the Haganah, the paramilitary group that laid the foundation of the Israel Defense Forces. In 1943, she enlisted in the British Women's Auxiliary Air Force; later the same year, she was sent to Egypt for parachute training.

On March 14, 1944, Szenes and two others were parachuted into Yugoslavia, but were arrested by Hungarian gendarmes. She was interrogated, tortured, and finally tried for treason in October. Anna Szenes was executed by a firing squad on November 7, 1944. Her remains were brought to Israel in 1950 and buried in the cemetery on Mount Herzl, Jerusalem. Her tombstone was brought to Israel in November 2007 and placed in Sdot Yam.

After Szenes' death, her diaries, poems, and letters were discovered, revealing an exceptional literary talent and unique personality, and serving as a fascinating documentation of the significant period in which she

lived. Szenes also wrote several folk songs that are still popular today: “Eli, she lo yigamer leolam” (“My God, may it never end”), “Ashrei Hagafrur” (“Blessed is the match”), “Kol kara vehalachti” (“A voice called and I went”), and others.

WHAT'S NEW AT THE MUSEUM?

The Anna Szenes House was renovated and upgraded in 2020, with a permanent new exhibition designed by Tachana L'itzuv and a 98-seat modern auditorium in which a short film telling Szenes' story is projected on a large screen. The auditorium is suitable for screening movies and holding conferences, lectures, and other cultural activities.

In the southern part of the building, a stage is open for events and performances, including a photo exhibition of the history of Kibbutz Sdot Yam. A public area of green grass and benches features the original tombstone that was on Szenes' grave in Budapest and brought to Sdot Yam in 2007.

The museum is open for private visits and offers guided tours for groups; private visitors must contact the museum for reservations. A study center offers workshops for groups of at least 15 children (recommended for fifth graders and older).

Note that the texts in the Anna Szenes House are currently presented only in Hebrew, but it will soon be possible to view the exhibition in English with the help of an app. Guided tours are in Hebrew and English. And the entire museum, including the auditorium and exhibition, is wheelchair accessible.

Margalit Frydman, veteran tour guide and CEO of Parashat Derech, has visited the museum many times with adults, Bat Mitzvah groups, Israelis, and tourists, and highly recommends a visit. “The museum has many artifacts that bring the story to life,” she says. “In some ways, it's a story about a very dedicated young woman who grew to be a hero, but we can identify with her as a normal young woman. It is also interesting to see the way the State of Israel remembers her and how she became an icon.”



Anna Szenes
and members of
Kibbutz Sdot Yam



JERUSALEM MISSES YOU TOO.



parazar

IT'S TIME TO ENJOY AN AUTHENTIC
JERUSALEM EXPERIENCE, AT THE INBAL

5-Star-Deluxe hospitality | Extra-mile service | Central location | Culinary pleasure
Pool & Spa | Incredible hotel rooms and suites overlooking the Old City

Reservations: +972 2 675 66 69 | www.inbalhotel.com | reservations@inbalhotel.com

★★★★★
"Five-Star Plus" Rating

Liberty Bell Park, 3 Jabotinsky St., Jerusalem, Israel



THE INBAL
JERUSALEM

ROSH HASHANA FIRST COURSE

PUMPKIN SOUP

Move over, apples: This Rosh Hashana, keep the symbolism but refresh your holiday table with delicious pumpkin soup.

In truth, many Sephardic Jews have long incorporated pumpkin into their holiday meals for several reasons, including a belief that pumpkins' thick skins protect from harm and that their cheery golden color heralds happiness and abundance for the year ahead. Historically, Sephardic Jews in Arab nations called pumpkins by the Arabic word *qara*, which sounds like *likroa* in Hebrew, or "to rip or tear." This led to a beautiful custom of eating pumpkin on Rosh Hashana and reciting a brief prayer asking for God to "tear up" any evil decree against us.

The health benefits are pretty sweet, too: Dietary fiber and beta carotene help maximize our skin, vision, and immune system.

So this holiday, keep the apples and honey company with this pumpkin soup—delicious hot or cold—thanks to our friends in the culinary track at AMIT Ramle Technological High School.



INGREDIENTS:

600 grams of pumpkin	Juice from 2 oranges
400 grams of carrots	5 grams of turmeric powder
1 onion	Salt
Fresh turmeric root	Pepper
15 grams of olive oil	

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Begin by peeling and cutting the pumpkin, carrots, onion, and turmeric root. In a pot, lightly fry the onion using the olive oil. Once the onion is softened, add the remaining cut vegetables (pumpkin, carrots, and turmeric root).
2. Pour enough water into the pot to fully cover the vegetables, and bring it to a boil. Let it simmer for approximately 10 minutes or until the vegetables are tender. Once the vegetables are cooked, add the orange juice to the pot.
3. Using a blender or immersion blender, puree the soup until it reaches a smooth consistency.
4. Season the soup with salt, pepper, and turmeric powder to taste. The soup can be served hot or chilled, depending on your preference. Garnish with a sprinkle of turmeric powder or fresh herbs, if desired.



FOUNDERS' CIRCLE

AMIT's Founders' Circle recognizes devoted supporters who have a cumulative giving history of \$100,000 or more. Over the years, this elite group of donors fills a critical role standing shoulder to shoulder with Israel's children. Their partnership in AMIT's mission provides the foundation for AMIT's continued expansion and excellence. Becoming a member of our Founders' Circle makes a strong statement; you are an integral part of the AMIT family—a distinctive group of leaders who understand the value of an excellent, Jewish, values-based education. Our Founders' Circle members are invested in meeting the needs of Israeli children from diverse geographic, socioeconomic, and religious backgrounds, ensuring that Israel will remain a strong and self-reliant nation.

We thank the following donors who have recently joined our Founders' Circle.

New members as of June 14, 2023

Anonymous, NY*
Raquela and Avi Adelsberg, NY
Henry and Helen Bienenfeld Foundation, PA
Adrianne and Leon Brum, FL
Vivian and Daniel Chill, NY
Barbara and Melvyn Ciment, MD
Lisa and Ephraim Dardashti, Israel
Susan Ederson, z"l, NY
Laura and David Eisenberg, MA

Danielle and Ronald Ellis, Israel
Lisa Rosenbaum and Ron Fisher, MA
Eddie and Debbie Herbst, CA
Peggy and Robert Insel, FL
Connie Kadish, NJ
Rochelle Stern Kevelson, NY
Donna and Jeffrey Lawrence, MD
Rita Lourie-Galena, NY
Judith Pressner, NY

Jennie and Avi Rothner, IL
Samis Foundation, WA
Mor and Alphonse Soued, NJ
Edith Sussman, z"l, MD
Marguerite, z"l, and Ronald Werrin, PA
Robert Zeldin, FL
Pauline Zonon, z"l, NY

**Million-dollar donors*

2022-23



AMIT's Ambassadors' Club members are an elite group of visionary leaders whose support of AMIT helps us build a stronger and more vibrant Israel.

\$1,000,000 +

Anonymous, NY
Anonymous, NY
Evan and Layla Green Family Foundation, CA
Ellen, z"l, and Meyer Koplow, NY
Sarena and David Koschitzky, Mira and
Saul Koschitzky, Tamar and Eric Goldstein,
and Joel Koschitzky, US, Canada, and Israel
Edward Miller, NY
The Lewis and Wolkoff Family Legacy, CO
The Moise Y. Safra Foundation, NY
Ellen and Stanley Wasserman, NY

\$250,000 - \$999,999

Shari and Jacob M. Safra, NY
Ethel and Lester, z"l, Sutker, IL

\$100,000 - \$249,999

Lee and Lou, z"l, Benjamin, FL
Ellen and Emanuel Kronitz, Israel
Harold Neustadter and Family, Israel
Samis Foundation, WA
Joyce and Daniel Straus, NJ
Edith Sussman, z"l, MD
Harry and Jeanette Weinberg
Foundation, MD

\$75,000 - \$99,999

Hermann Kaiser, z"l, NJ
Keren Yerushalayim, Israel

\$50,000 - \$74,999

Anonymous, FL
Hanna Abrams, Israel
Hadassah and Marvin Bienenfeld, NY
Canada Foundation, Israel
Michael Cleeman, FL
Suzanne and Jacob Doft, NY
Mark Alvin Elyn, z"l, WA
Harvey Goodstein Foundation, PA
Sharon and Michael Kessel, NJ
The Kolatch Family Foundation, NJ
Migdal Hevra LeBituach, Israel
Ria and Tim Levart, NJ
Norman and Sylvia Levine, z"l, FL
Minnie Lieberman, z"l, NY
Robert and Honey, z"l, Low, VA
Barbara and Jules, z"l, Nordlicht, NY
Tishrei Transport, Israel
Audrey Axelrod Trachtman and
Chaim Trachtman, NY
Raizy and Berry Weiss, NY

President's Circle



AMIT's President's Circle members help sustain AMIT's programming to nurture Israel's children, instill strong values, and promote academic excellence, while ensuring Israel's future.

\$36,000 - \$49,999

Marcia Baskin, FL
Ike, Molly and Steven Elias Foundation, NY
Estate of Susan Goldman, Israel
Pearl and Martin Herskovitz, Israel
Kibbutz Mishmar Haemak, Israel
Elaine Mintzes, z"l, MD
Daniella Moffson Foundation, NY
Villar Group, Israel

\$25,000 - \$35,999

Anonymous, FL
Anonymous, MA
Anonymous, NY
Raquela and Avi Adelsberg, NY
Ann and Hy, z"l, Arbesfeld, NY
Evelyn and Isaac Blachor, FL
Michael Cleeman, FL
Rosa and Isaac Cohanzad, CA
Jewel and Ted Edelman, NY
Gazit-Globe, Israel
Harwit Charitable Trust, CA
Mildred, z"l, and Alvin Hellerstein, NY
Russell Jay Hendel, MD
Norma and Emanuel, z"l, Holzer, NY
Max and Sunny Howard Memorial Foundation, NY
Brenda and Albert, z"l, Kalter, NY
Lauren Kayden Foundation, NY
Gitta and Richard Koppel, Israel
Keren Magi, Israel
The Joan S. and Leon Meyers Foundation, NY
Elana and Daniel Miller, NJ
Yitzchak Or, Israel
Norman and Bettina Roberts Foundation, NJ
Harriet and Heshe Seif, NJ
Robyn Price Stonehill and David Stonehill, NY
Zahava and Moshael Straus, NJ
Sylvia and Morris Trachten, z"l, Family Foundation, Israel
Zeldin Family, FL

\$18,000 - \$24,999

Anonymous, NY
Anonymous, NY
Grace, Shua & Jacob Ballas Charitable Trust
Ann and Yale Baron, NJ
Aaron and Marie Blackman Foundation, CA
CD Foundation, NY
Pnina and Jacob, z"l, Graff, CA
Amy, z"l, and James Haber, NY
Sarah Liron and Sheldon Kahn, CA
Margaret Mann, z"l, NY
Matan Community Investors, Israel
Sharon and Solomon Merkin, NJ
Mizrahi Car Dealership, Israel
Debbie and Samuel Moed, NJ
Drorit and Michael Ratzker, NJ
Yosef Haim Roth Holdings, Israel
Jennie and Avi Rothner, IL
Lisa and Jonathan Schechter, NJ
Seligsohn Foundation, PA
Rawazi Torpiashvili, Israel
Ina and David Tropper, NY

\$10,000 - \$17,999

Anonymous, CA
Anonymous, MA
Bess Abel, z"l, NJ
Trudy and Ted, z"l, Abramson, FL
Gary Alter, CA
Bader Philanthropies, Israel
Tzahala Ben Asher, Israel
Tamar and Ethan Benovitz, Israel
Zelda and Solomon Berger, NY
Daisy Berman, z"l, NY
Debra Berman, NY
Helen and Henry Bienenfeld Foundation, PA
Barbara and Leonard, z"l, Bloom, MD
Deborah Stern Blumenthal and Michael Blumenthal, NJ
Ethlynn and Stephen Brickman, MA
Herman and Kate Caro Foundation, NY
Vanessa and Raymond Chalme, NY
Michelle Chrein, NY
Christian Friends of Yesha Communities, Israel
Diane and Howard Cole, NY
Karen and David Cole, FL
Jones and Allen Dalezman, MA
Lisa and Ephraim Dardashti, PA
Audrey and Eliot Davidowitz, NY
Adena and Ezra Dyckman, NY
Sheera and Kenneth Eckstein, NY
Maureen and Larry Eisenberg, CA
Danielle and Ronald Ellis, Israel
Ruth and Gene Fax, MA

Lisa Rosenbaum and Ronald Fisher, MA
Debra Jakubovitz Fletcher and Tim Fletcher, CA
Roselyn and Ira Friedman, NJ
Eleanor and Jule Vaki Fung, Israel
Marisa and Andrew Gadlin, NY
Randi and Alan Gelman, Israel
Ari and Abby Glass, NY
Anne and Sheldon Golombeck, NY
Paula Yudenfriend and Arlin Green, PA
Haruach Halsraeli (The Israel Spirit), Israel
Laura and Jonathan Heller, NY
Chanie and Barry Holzer, NY
Debbie and David Isaac, NY
Ithaca United Jewish Community, NY
Edith and Herman Itzkowitz, PA
Malky and Bezalel Jacobs, NY
Suzanne and Norman Javitt, NY
Connie and Alan Kadish, NJ
Elissa and Michael Katz, NJ
Ruth and Hillel Kellerman, CA
Ruth and Daniel Krasner, NY
Rochelle and Seymour, z"l, Kraut, NJ
Ruth and Abba Krieger, PA
Arlene Kupietzky, CA
Ruth and Robert, z"l, Lewis, NY
Audrey and Haskel Lookstein, NY
Mandel Chesed Foundation, Israel
Judith Mantel, Luxembourg
Zipporah and Rabbi Arnold, z"l, Marans, NY
Etella and Haim Marcovici, NY
Judy and Albert Milstein, IL
Elana and Shami Minkove, NY
Mischcon Family Charitable Trust, Israel
Marilyn and Leon Moed, NY
Ruth and David Musher, NY
Lauren and Mitchell Presser, NY
Barbara and Joel, z"l, Rascoff, NY
Edith Rieder, z"l, FL
Yosef Haim Roth Holdings, Israel
Shirley and Milton Sabin, FL
Rita and Eugene, z"l, Schwalb, FL
Amnon Segal, Israel
Avital and Yair Segal, Israel
Shemesh Foundation, Israel
Chana and Daniel Shields, NJ
Marilyn and Herbert, z"l, Smilowitz, NJ
Sondra and Myron Sokal, NY
Francine and Aaron Stein, NJ
Naomi and Gary Stein, NY
Ravazi Turfiashvili, Israel
United Israel Appeal, Israel
LLC Vision and Beyond, Israel
Elaine and Michael Weinberger, z"l, NY
Judy and Morry Weiss/Sapirstein-Stone-Weiss Foundation, OH
Tamar and Benjamin Zeltser, NY
Helene and Gerald, z"l, Zisholtz, NY

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Anonymous, CO
 Anonymous, FL
 Anonymous, IL
 Anonymous, Israel
 Anonymous, MA
 Anonymous, NY
 Anonymous, TX
 Sally Aaron, IL
 Hannah Abrams, Israel
 Renee and Steve Adelsberg, NY
 S. Adelsberg & Co, NY
 Marilyn and Greg Adler, NY
 Sarah and Maurice Aghion, MA
 Nicole and Raanan Agus, NY
 Allie Alperovich and Jeremy Simon, NY
 Beth and Bradley Alter, IL
 Apex, Israel
 Lolly and Harris, z"l, Bak, NY
 Rachel, z"l, and Martin Balsam, NY
 Amy and Ephraim Bassan, Israel
 Tamar and Ethan Benovitz, Israel
 Phyllis and Edward Berkowitz, NY
 Andrea and Bryan Bier, NJ
 Sarah Black, z"l, TX
 Beth and Reuben Blumenthal, NY
 Freda and Elliot Braha, NJ
 Marisa Braunstein, NY
 Sari and Stuart Braunstein, NY
 Adrienne and Leon Brum, FL
 Ruth Burian, NY
 Margaret, z"l, and Chaim Charytan, NY
 Barbara and Melvyn Ciment, MD
 Trina and Paul, z"l, Cleeman, NY
 Florence Cohen, z"l, NY
 Shevi and Milton Cohen, NY
 Dixel Factory, Israel
 Michael and Elizabeth Dimond, NY
 Renee and Harvey Douglan, Israel
 DSJ Management, NY
 Elaine and Lewis Dubroff, NY
 Hattie and Arthur Dubroff, NJ
 Linda and Barry Eichler, PA & NY
 Sherry and Aaron Eidelman, NY
 Ester Eisenberg, z"l, CA
 Phyllis and Joseph Eisenman, NJ
 Fanny and Dov Elefant, NJ
 Gail and Martin Elsant, Israel
 Sheila and Kenneth Fields, NJ
 Amy Fisher, Israel
 Frances Frankel, z"l, NY
 Robbie and Adam Fried, NJ
 Lilly and Alfred, z"l, Friedman, NY
 Michelle and Leonard Fuld, NJ
 Vanessa and Joseph Gad, NY
 Judith Isaac and Walter Gadlin, NY
 Linda and Norman Garfield, PA
 Barbara and Steven Geller, IL
 Rita Geller, IL
 Caron and Steven Gelles, NY
 Lea Gilon, z"l, NY

Shari and Maurice Gluckstadt, NY
 Paulette and Max, z"l, Goldberg, NY
 Esther and Jack, z"l, Goldman, NY
 Shira and Gadi Goldress, NY
 Larry and Ita Golzman, NY
 Sandra E. Goodstein and
 Arthur Rosenblatt, PA
 Gorlin Family Foundation, MD
 The Gottesman Fund, NY
 Sara and Ronald Gottlieb, FL
 Robert and Cindy, z"l, Grosberg, NJ
 Sharon and Melvin Gross, NY
 Myrna Haas, NJ
 Phyllis Hammer, MA
 Debbie and Robert Hartman, IL
 Howard Heller, MA
 Debbie and Eddie Herbst, CA
 Sylvia Holder, z"l, NJ
 Shulamit and Avram Holzer, NJ
 Aviva Hoschander-Sulzberger and
 Vernon Sulzberger, NY
 Howard Hughes Corp., NY
 Peggy and Robert Insel, NY
 Sandra and Richard Jackson, TX
 Yael and Evan Jerome, NY
 Robin and Simon Kahn, Israel
 Ruth and Jerome Kamerman, NY
 Ruth and William, z"l, Kantrowitz, NY
 Harriet and Joel Kaplan, NY
 Ruth and Hillel Kellerman, CA
 Rona and Ira Kellman, NY
 Keren Asor, Israel
 Diane and Barry Kirschenbaum, FL
 Sydelle and Robert Kleiman, NY
 Chani and Steven Klein, NY
 Jane Klitsner, Israel
 Laurie and Robert Koppel, NY
 Ruth and Ethan Kra, NJ
 Evelyn and Lawrence Kraut, NJ
 Jason Kuflik, NY
 Edy and Jacob Kupietzky, IL
 Aharon Lanin, Israel
 Donna and Jeffrey Lawrence, MD
 Astrid and Mordy Leifer, NY
 Sara Leifer, NY
 Diane and David Lent, NY
 Rami Levi, Israel
 Kari and Joshua Levine, NY
 Dorothy, z"l, and Robert Lewis, NY
 Mindy and Seymour Liebman, NY
 Kylie Eisman Lifschitz, Israel
 Sesil Lissberger, NY
 Rita Lourie-Galena, PA & NY
 Pearl and Jerome Mann, NY
 Meira and Solomon, z"l, Max, NY
 Manette and Louis Mayberg, MD
 Benay and Ira Meisels, NY
 Caroline and Marcelo Messer, NY
 Lisa and Leon Meyers, NY
 Grace and Martin Miller, FL
 Michael Moore, TX
 Miriam and Bernard Neuman, IL

Gloria and Burton Nusbacher, NY
 Bea and Irwin, z"l, Peyser, NY
 Suzy and Paul, z"l, Peyser, NY
 Adama Pitronot Lehakluyt, Israel
 Vicki and Gerald Platt, NY
 Esther, z"l, and Donald Press, NY
 Tzippi and Ira Press, NJ
 Judy and Jerry, z"l, Pressner, NY
 Raam Technologies, Israel
 Joyce and Stanley Raskas, NY
 Tovah and Daniel Reich, NJ
 Evelyn Reichenenthal, z"l, TX
 Reut Foundation, Israel
 Fritzie and Sheldon, z"l, Robinson, IL
 Sandra and Evan Roklen, CA
 Vivian and Solomon Rosen, z"l, FL
 Ellen and Erik Roskes, MD
 Gale, z"l, and Eric Rothner, IL
 Elizabeth and Gidon Rothstein, NY
 Leah and Arnold Rotter, Israel
 Idelle Rudman, NY
 Hedda Rudoff, NY
 Jan and Sheldon Schechter, NY
 Tunie and David Schorr, Israel
 Keryn and David Schreiber, IL
 Esther and William Schulder, NJ
 Ruth Shane, Israel
 Deanne and Leonard Shapiro, Israel
 Ruth and Irwin, z"l, Shapiro, NY
 Jane Shiff, NJ
 Mark Sibilia, Canada
 Mollie Siegel, NJ
 Karen and Roy Simon, NY
 Rosalyn and Richard Slifka, MA
 Tamar and Eran Smilowitz, Israel
 Sara and Gabriel Solomon, MD
 Mahla and Hilton Soniker, NY
 Marsha and Jan Spector, GA
 Phyllis and Mark Speiser, NY
 Rena and Bruce Spinowitz, NY
 MA Stern, Israel
 Adina Straus, NY
 Blimie and Joel Strauss, NJ
 Mindy Suchinsky, MD
 Nechama and Howard Taber, NY
 Hope and David Taragin, MD
 Judy and Mark Teitelbaum, MD
 Lilly Tempelsman, z"l, NY
 UJIA, Israel
 Audrey and Max Wagner, NY
 Marilyn and Lee, z"l, Wallach, NJ
 Paula and Leslie Walter, NY
 Anne and Mark Wasserman, NY
 Marion and William Weiss, NJ
 Linda and Stanley Weissbrot, IL
 Roselyn and Walter, z"l, Weitzner, NY
 Susan and Mark Wiesen, NJ
 Noah Wolff, IL
 Stella and Samy Ymar, MD
 Esther and Dov Zeidman, NY
 Eva Zilz, NY
 Mindy and Barry Zisholtz, GA



BACK *to* SCHOOL

- 2023 CAMPAIGN -

Back to School is a **defining** moment in breaking Israel's poverty cycle.

Help AMIT offset the personal challenges and difficult circumstances our children face by giving to AMIT's 2023 Back to School Campaign.

Your generous donations enable our AMIT educators and staff to:

GIVE

each child a backpack filled with school supplies.

SUPPORT

individual student tutoring and counseling.

ENABLE

all children to dream of a brighter future.



www.amitchildren.org/school2023



AMIT KFAR BATYA

Israel Has Your Heart. Now Make it Your Legacy.

We welcome you to become an essential part of AMIT's new educational campus in the heart of Ra'anana, Israel.


AMIT
Building Israel. One Child at a Time.
49 W. 37th Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10018



Secure an indelible place
in Israel's history today.

www.kfarbatya.org



AMIT
Building Israel. One Child at a Time.

212.477.4720

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
Paid
New York, NY
Permit No. 2522