

Inside **AMIT**

SPRING 2024 / NISSAN 5784



Battle on the Homefront:
AMIT's Response. Israel's Resilient Spirit.

PRESIDENT

Shari Safra

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Andrew Goldsmith

DIRECTOR GENERAL

Dr. Amnon Eldar

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/Cleveland

847.677.3800

amitchicago@amitchildren.org

SOUTHEAST

Florida

954.922.5100

bruriap@amitchildren.org

WEST COAST

Los Angeles

AMITLA@amitchildren.org

Table of CONTENTS

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|--|
| 01 | President's Message | 20 | The Inbal: A Hotel That Became a Home |
| 02 | Impressions | 22 | Iron Swords War Army Wife Reflections |
| 03 | AMIT Mobilizes After October 7 | 24 | Event Highlights |
| 07 | Remembering AMIT's Fallen Heroes | 29 | Dvar Torah |
| 12 | We Will Not Be Defeated | 30 | Passover Dessert: Fudgy Chocolate Brownies |
| 13 | Reflections from an AMIT Mission to Israel | 31 | Our Donors |
| 14 | Running a School in Wartime | | |



EDITOR'S NOTE: COVER PHOTOS

On March 3, AMIT's schools in Sderot reopened their doors for the first time since the outbreak of the war. Eighty percent of our students (more than 2,000 middle and high school students) and their families returned home to rebuild their lives. AMIT's photographer captured various moments throughout the day, including an emotional raising of our national flag; countless reunions among friends, students, teachers and staff; visits from senior members of Tzahal; and a special "welcome home" address from Sderot Mayor Alon Davidi.

For more updates on the return to Sderot, including how AMIT's Emergency Fund continues to impact their lives, please visit our website at www.amitchildren.org and join our email distribution list.

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

Passover is a time for us to celebrate the Jewish journey from bondage to freedom millennia ago. Just as our ancestors sought liberation from oppression in Egypt, today we continue the fight to safeguard our homeland as a sanctuary for religious freedom, where we can live without fear of persecution. The story of Exodus teaches us that the path to liberation is often filled with challenges and obstacles. Yet, through unwavering faith and collective determination, we can emerge stronger and more united than ever before. Since October 7, AMIT's commitment to its students and faculty has epitomized unwavering determination.

Through initiatives like the Tatzam program, unveiled months ago, we are addressing the profound stress of trauma, displacement, and uncertainty. Originally crafted as a personal and professional growth plan for our faculty and staff, Tatzam's methodology now extends to student support groups. These intimate gatherings provide a safe haven for students to share their stories and emotions, ensuring that AMIT remains steadfast in helping all our students navigate post-traumatic stress and other ongoing stressors.

I was fortunate enough to embark on two powerful trips to Israel with AMIT Missions to witness our work firsthand. In November 2023, alongside members of our Executive Committee, I participated in a Solidarity Mission, immersing ourselves in the lives of AMIT's displaced students and faculty from Sderot. We witnessed firsthand the resilience of these communities, and met with the mayor of Sderot, who expressed profound gratitude for AMIT's efforts in supporting Sderot's residents and establishing vital learning centers in the Dead Sea area and Eilat in the midst of turmoil. A personal highlight of that trip was attending a gathering of 1,500 students from 17 schools at Masada, where despite the challenges they faced, their spirit shone through as they engaged in bonding exercises and joyous singing and dancing.



In early February, I returned to Israel with a group of young women from Florida who are just beginning their journey with AMIT. In addition to visiting AMIT sites, we toured the South and visited wounded soldiers at Tel Hashomer Hospital. The experience brought a new level of empathy as we connected with AMIT families displaced from Sderot, and witnessed the resilience of students at the learning centers in the Dead Sea area.

During another visit to Masada, where the students were enjoying a Yom Kef, their strength of character was once again awe-inspiring. Despite the visible trauma, it was heartening to see them gradually open up and share their experiences. One particularly moving moment occurred when a high school girl, in a display of remarkable selflessness, expressed her concern for the soldiers and their need for better snacks in the army. Her innocence and generosity brought many of us to tears. As we reflected on her selflessness amidst adversity, the profound impact of AMIT's work became even more clear.

Witnessing the transformation of a child's life, from displacement to simply enjoying a day of celebration at Masada, reinforced our commitment to AMIT's mission.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your ongoing support of AMIT. Your generosity is instrumental in driving our mission forward, and none of our accomplishments would be possible without you. Thank you for making a difference. Wishing you a meaningful Pesach.

Shari Safra
Shari Safra
 AMIT President

Impressions

ANDREW GOLDSMITH

We've always touted AMIT as promoting Jewish values. It's part of our mission statement, core to our century-old organizational narrative, and at the end of the day, our *raison d'être*.

But like the term "*tikkun olam*," the term "Jewish values" is greatly overused, and as a result it just does not resonate. At all. In college, I had an English professor (YU's legendary Dr. William Lee) who railed against use of the word "important." "What isn't important?" he'd ask. "It's the most overused word in the English language!"

Is it possible to reenergize words?

A year ago, far before the nightmare war emerged as daily life, I visited Or Akiva. Or Akiva, a rarity in the AMIT Network, is a secular vocational school in a city near Caesarea. Normally an extraordinary place, that's magnified 10 times over in wartime. The school's 150 students are from at-risk backgrounds. The school, knowing that free time is a great danger to these kids' emotional and social welfare, was one of the first to reopen in Israel during the war.

School visits are typically neat, templated events: I meet the administration and teachers, tour the facility, hear their needs, and connect with students and often a representative from the city as well. (Each city/region in Israel has an education director who is a critically important partner—so much so that AMIT will not partner to operate a school unless we have confidence in that professional.) I learn about the uniqueness of the school and make connections, and then my job is to help them by steering funding their way and make them feel appreciated for their work. I have gotten fairly good at that last part, and since Israelis are among the warmest people in the world, friendships often develop.

But not this day. Sigal, the education director for the city, and I... we just did not hit it off. The school very much wanted to open a vocational culinary track and Sigal did not agree. I advocated strongly for it. Sigal and I got into

it a bit. What quickly became apparent was that the proposed program was not the true concern. Sigal was, fairly, doubting AMIT's ability to effectively run a secular school in a secular city. The discussion wheeled around quickly to the assertion that this generation lacks values. "They're interested only in Tik Tok and their iPhone—and what values can AMIT possibly teach?" she posed to me. "And, if so, how do you prove it?"

A heated conversation ensued; let's just say she was not inviting me over for Shabbat dinner when the day ended.



I learn about the uniqueness of the school and make connections, and then my job is to help them by steering funding their way and make them feel appreciated for their work.

Her last question was the real rub: How do you prove that AMIT inculcates our students with Jewish values? What measurable outcomes exist? U.S. organizations use the intermarriage rate, attendance at Jewish day school and camp, synagogue membership, or whichever barometer matches their organizational agenda.

How does this hard measurement happen in Israel? It's not nearly so simple.

But there is one measure that will resonate harshly with all of us: In the current war (as of this writing and please G-d let it be the last) 48 AMIT alumni have died in combat. Almost

every single one was an officer, commander, or member of the most elite combat units—all volunteers because the best units accept only those who want to be there. That is 48 out of a national total of 425 holy souls killed in action—a highly disproportionate number attributable only to their desire to serve the Jewish state at the highest possible level.

At AMIT we teach Jewish values. In what is the most horrific and tragic measurable outcome imaginable, that sometimes means dying for them.

Andy Goldsmith is the executive vice president of AMIT Children and can be reached at andrewg@amitchildren.org.



AMIT MOBILIZES

AFTER OCTOBER 7

BY LINDA GRADSTEIN

All Israelis were affected by the events of October 7. But for the almost 2,000 high school students who studied in AMIT schools in the town of Sderot, located just over a mile from the Gaza border, it was catastrophic.

Dozens of Hamas terrorists rampaged through the streets of Sderot, killing at least 50 civilians and 20 police officers. Most of the students and their parents hid in their safe rooms for more than 24 hours until Israel regained control of the town of 36,000. Israel then ordered the evacuation of all civilians, and like the close to 200,000 Israelis living near the borders of conflict, the residents of Sderot were evacuated to hotels and guest houses around Israel.

Approximately 450 of them were evacuated to Eilat, where AMIT moved quickly to establish new structures of educational support.

“We worked much faster than the government did,” says Tzahalon Siri, who oversees the new AMIT framework in Eilat. “We understood that getting these students into a framework was *hatzalat nefashot*, or saving lives.”

Siri lives in northern Israel, but he willingly took the job, spending Sunday through Thursday in Eilat, and then driving six hours to his home on Moshav Hoshaya in the Galilee.

He says that within two weeks of October 7, they were able to start afternoon classes at two Eilat schools after the regular students had finished their studies. By the end of October, the students had school at least a few hours a day, from 2 to 6 p.m.

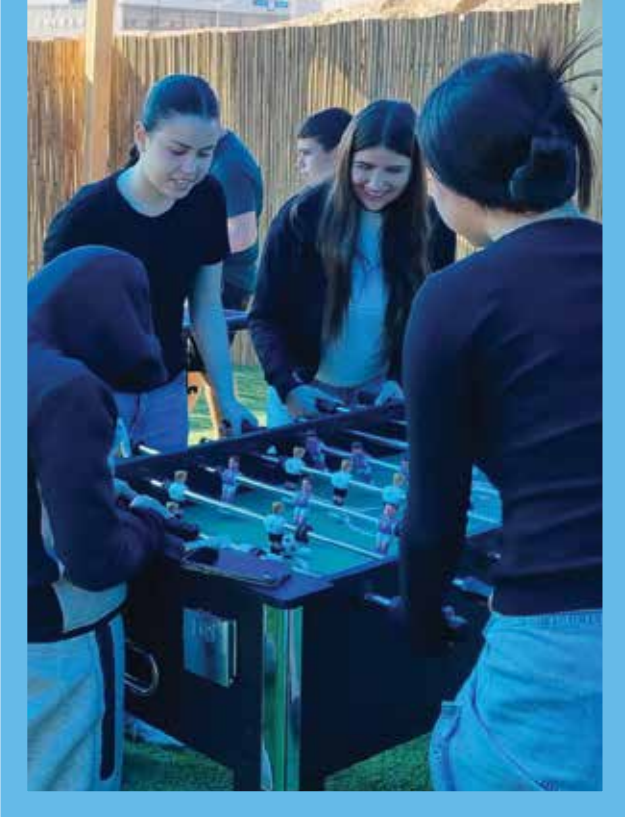
At first the parents were hesitant to send them, he says. Two weeks after the schools opened, there were several rocket alerts—not from Hamas in Gaza, but from pro-Iranian Houthi militants in Yemen. There were no casualties from the missile attacks, but they frightened many of the students and their parents.

“One of the attacks happened when the students were in school, and several of the girls even fainted,” says Siri.

Siri says they also had the initial problem of finding enough teachers. Therefore, the school concentrated more on extracurricular activities like art, music and even dog-training. Alongside the teachers were soldiers from the educational branch of the army, post-high school students doing a year of volunteer work before the army, and retired teachers who volunteered to help out with the students.

“We understood that getting these students into a framework was *hatzalat nefashot*, or saving lives.”





They started with 80 students and today have 300 students. He says AMIT gave him a “blank check” to hire anyone he needed in order to create an effective educational framework.

“The children were spread out among 30 hotels without books, without anything,” he says. “We were actually starting from minus, not even from zero.”

Just before Hanukkah, he says, AMIT opened its own campus called Eshkolot in Eilat with two schools—one religious and one secular. The campus has 15 classrooms, sports facilities and even a Ping-Pong table. He says they are focusing on the core subjects of English, Hebrew language and math, which the students need for their matriculation exams at the end of high school.

The students’ situation is still not back to normal, says Siri. Four months after the war started, they are still living in hotels, which makes it hard to study. They are not with the same students in classes or the same teachers. But, he says, AMIT has worked hard to make life as normal as possible given the difficult and surreal situation.

“Like all of Am Yisrael we woke up on Shabbat morning to sirens in Jerusalem, where we had celebrated Simchat Torah, and to reports of the horrible massacre,” Dr. Amnon Eldar told the Makor Rishon newspaper. “Already that Saturday night I held a meeting of our leadership. Our experience with Covid was very successful. We immediately shifted to emergency mode and we reestablished our war room headed by Yuval Elimelech. Our rule in AMIT is that the community has a superpower. So our schools function as a learning community.”

Dr. Eldar added that AMIT-USA immediately stepped in with major financial assistance that enabled them to function. Along with hiring teachers and staff, they were able to buy laptops for hundreds of students that enabled them to resume their studies.

More than 350,000 Israelis, including hundreds of AMIT teachers and other employees, were

immediately drafted into reserve duty, and many of them are still serving four months later. They were mobilized by means of Order 8, an emergency mobilization order. Yuval Elimelech, deputy director of pedagogy at AMIT headquarters, said AMIT saw the need for an educational Order 8.

“Teachers who were themselves evacuated and at the same time worried about their students and schools that functioned even though their staff was in reserves, this is true educational heroism,” Elimelech told Makor Rishon.

“*Rahat says that his immediate issue was how to deal with the trauma the residents of Sderot all lived through.*”

The school in Eilat is just one example of how AMIT helped the students in Sderot, says Dani Rahat, deputy director of strategic affairs for AMIT. He was the principal of AMIT Sderot 20 years ago when the Qassam rocket attacks from Hamas began, and he knows the city well.



Dani Rahat



AMIT had three schools in Sderot: a secular school; a religious school; and an ulpana, a religious girls' school with a total of 2,000 students. After the evacuation, they were spread around the country, with 450 in Eilat, 200 at the Dead Sea, 200 in Jerusalem, 200 in Tel Aviv, 100 in Netanya, plus an additional 850 scattered around the country.

It is especially important to get high school students back to school, as they have a series of matriculation exams called *bagruyot* in 11th and 12th grades. These exams are necessary for admission to universities. While it is possible to finish them after the army, most students want them taken care of before they begin their mandatory service of two years for women and almost three years for men.

Rahat says that his immediate issue was how to deal with the trauma the residents of Sderot all lived through.

“

The situation is complicated, but we have a deep commitment to [our students'] learning and development.”

“They spent more than 24 hours in their safe rooms hearing shooting in the streets,” Rahat says. “They were shocked, afraid and panicked. All of them—the students, the parents and the teachers—were in trauma.”

He adds that AMIT moved quickly to establish four educational systems in Eilat, the Dead Sea, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem and to find a solution for all the other students from Sderot who were scattered around the country. He hired someone from AMIT to be in charge of each city and, like Tzahalon Siri, some of them commuted from other areas of Israel. It was complicated by the fact that the teachers themselves had been evacuated and many of them were taking care of young children. In addition, AMIT asked the army for “soldier-teachers,” young women doing their compulsory army service who work as teachers in the army, and he was assigned 75 of them. Rahat put out a call for retired teachers or those on sabbatical and was able to cobble together an educational framework for each student.

In addition, he created mentoring groups in which every student had a personal mentor, whether it was a “soldier-teacher” or a retired teacher. In these small groups the students were able to discuss what happened and process their feelings.

“We feel a deep responsibility to our students,” says Rahat. “The situation is complicated, but we have a deep commitment to their learning and development.” ■

After this article was written, the Israeli government announced that all schools in Sderot would open on March 3. The temporary learning centers that AMIT established in the hotel hubs closed on February 19 to give them enough time to prepare to return to their regular frameworks. The municipal authorities in Sderot reported that more than one-third of the city's 30,000 residents have already returned, and more are coming back every day.

Remembering AMIT'S FALLEN HEROES

BY LIBI MICHELSON



On October 7, the world as we knew it changed forever. In the shadow of a devastating massacre, all of us were forced to confront the depths of hate, witnessing acts of violence that shook our collective conscience. We also witnessed acts of heroism, a united nation who stood up and came to the rescue of their fellow brothers and sisters.

This tragedy touched everyone in some way or another. Unfortunately, the AMIT school system was not excluded from the loss of human life. As many as 55 AMIT alumni, teachers or their relatives have been killed since October 7, many of them in the line of duty, protecting our country. We find ourselves reflecting on their lives, their acts of bravery, and the indelible imprint they have left on our hearts and souls. Each life that was taken represents a unique story, cut tragically short, with dreams unfulfilled and potential never realized.

HERE ARE A FEW OF THOSE STORIES

Corporal Matan Abargil

19, from Haramesh

AMIT HAOFEK HIGH SCHOOL IN OR AKIVA

A shy 19-year-old, Matan was known by his friends and teachers as a quiet but intelligent guy. “This boy had a silence of strength,” describes Einat Rubin, principal of AMIT HaOfek High School in Or Akiva, where Matan attended school.

Matan was a determined student, someone who listened to his teachers and really internalized what they taught him. He was able to finish his matriculation majoring in electrical engineering, a very difficult major. Dima Bullet was his teacher during his time at the high school. “Matan was a very wise, intelligent guy, and it was fun to have conversations with him,” says Dima. “Matan had many interests, like digital currency and the crypto world, which is unusual for students of that age.”

Dima’s class consisted of 10 at-risk youths who had previously experienced violence in their lives. None of the students had any interest in enlisting in the army when they started his class. But through one-on-one conversations, inspirational speakers, and stories from his own army service, Dima noticed a change in their attitudes. He helped his students expunge their criminal records, spoke with the police, got letters of recommendation for them, and supported them throughout the process. “As a physical education teacher, it was important for me to prepare the students for a



meaningful army service, and Matan really liked it,” he says. Dima accompanied Matan through his service, attending his swearing-in ceremony and his Corps Beret ceremony, where he received an “Outstanding Trainee” recognition.

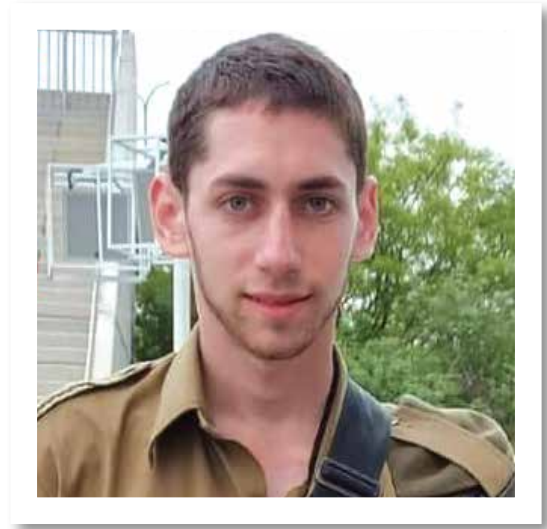
Matan’s strength was on display on October 7, when as a member of the Golani Brigade’s 13th battalion, he found himself and six other soldiers in the heat of battle trapped inside an armored personnel carrier (APC), also known as a Namer by the Israeli army. “That morning, he and his team were on standby,” says Matan’s father, Arik. Matan and his fellow soldiers headed toward the infiltration zone and fought off the attacks coming at them from different directions. At some point near the border, up to 40 terrorists started to shoot at them using rockets, mortar bombs, and anti-tank missiles. One of the rockets hit the top of the APC, permanently damaging the lid and exposing the soldiers. The Golani soldiers took

turns shooting from the opening until they ran out of ammunition. The terrorists took this opportunity to throw a grenade into the opening.

“According to what his friends said,” Arik explains, “Matan recognized the grenade and tried to take it out. He was stuck at some angle of the Namer, and tried to pull the grenade to throw it outside, but it was a matter of two seconds. He saw that he couldn’t get it out, so he jumped to the corner where the grenade was, pressed his chest to it, and absorbed the explosion.”

By this time, many of the soldiers in the Namer were both stunned and injured. As the smoke inside the tiny space cleared out, the medic inside the APC found himself holding Matan in his arms, a result of the force of the explosion. Matan was mortally wounded—but still alive. For seven minutes, he lay in his friend’s arms. With his last breath and ounce of strength, he muttered: “I tried to do everything in order to protect the state and my friends.” His split-second, selfless decision had saved his friends’ lives but claimed his own.

“If they told me to think of a boy in this class who jumped on a grenade to save his friends and they didn’t tell me who the boy was, I would say that it is unequivocally Matan,” says Einat Rubin. “He’s a part of us. I’m still not getting used to this difficult feeling, being a bereaved principal.”



Sergeant Major (res.) Gabriel Blum

27, from Beit Shemesh

**YESHIVAT AMIT NACHSHON
IN MATEH YEHUDA**

Gabriel Blum, a fighter in the divisional engineering team of Division 36, was killed by an explosion that occurred in the area of a strategic tunnel in the center of the Gaza Strip. Blum was a student at AMIT Nachshon Yeshiva, where educators and peers describe him as beloved. “The loss is hard and the grief breaks our hearts,” says Rabbi Itai Weiss, head of the yeshiva. “Blum was a talented student with high abilities who achieved excellence. His teachers, along with the entire yeshiva, participate in the terrible grief of the parents and family members.”

Rabbi Zvi Sonnenshein, one of Blum’s teachers, says that he was a bright student who had “good eyes and a good heart.” Rabbi Sonnenshein continues, “He was loved by his friends and it was important to him to serve in the IDF as a fighter and contribute to the country. Blum had inner strength and a simple joy of life that made him loved by everyone he met.”

And Beit Shemesh’s mayor, Dr. Aliza Bloch, called Blum “a hero of Israel who in his service protected the people and the land.”



Nirel Zini

31, from Moshav Tlamim

AMIT BIENENFELD HAVRUTA YESHIVA
IN KFAR BATYA

Osnat Zini, a 10th grade teacher at the AMIT Kiryat Chamad school in Sderot, and her husband, Amir, lost their son Nirel, a graduate of the AMIT Havruta Yeshiva, and his girlfriend, Niv Raviv. The couple was murdered in Kfar Aza on October 7. Nirel had been planning on surprising Niv with a proposal on October 10, a special anniversary for him. On that day eight years earlier, Nirel was severely injured during an operational activity in Hebron while serving as an officer in the Givati Brigade.

On October 7, Nirel sent his family his last text: "I'll update, they're here. I'm putting the phone down, pray." He held a knife and the door of their secure room while Niv hid under the bed. For a week, their families had no information about what happened to them. Finally on Friday, they got the sad news. The couple's bodies were found amongst the burnt wreckage of the home they shared. Inside the rubble lay the engagement ring with which Nirel was planning on proposing.

Nirel and Niv came from very different backgrounds, but their relationship only grew stronger over the eight years they were together. Nirel came from a religious household in Tlamim and Niv, from a non-religious home in Netanya. They met in the army and fell in love. For both of them, giving to others was their main purpose in life.

Osnat and Amir decided to immortalize Nirel and Niv by commissioning a decorated wedding canopy that will be passed on between couples celebrating their marriages. To date, three Jewish couples have already been married under this canopy; the most recent couple served in Gaza before leaving to start their new lives together. Osnat and Amir hope for many more weddings to come and many more Jewish homes built.

Uriel Segal

19, from Petach Tikva

YESHIVAT AMIT KFAR GANIM HIGH SCHOOL
IN PETACH TIKVA

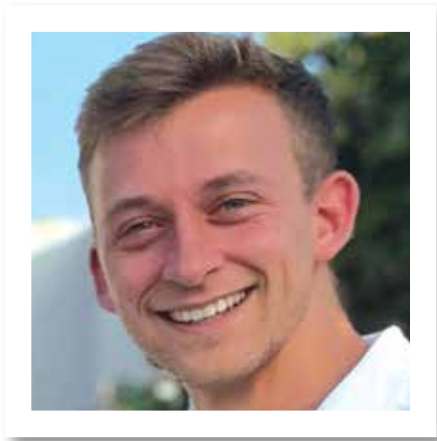
“Uriel was an amazing child, sweet and smiling, a sandwich between two brothers,” says his mother, Naama Segal, lovingly. “He was born on the fifth night of Hanukkah, so we decided to name him Uriel, a name that symbolizes light and joy.”



She continues, “At age two, his hearing began to decline, and then his speech. He studied in specialized language kindergartens and his development was excellent. Despite this, he still had difficulties in hearing and speaking, which he compensated for with his social ability. He started to study at AMIT Kfar Ganim in 7th grade and had a hard time at first. When Rabbi Livni became his educator in 10th grade, everything changed. Thanks to Rabbi Livni, Uriel flourished.”

Uriel was serving on the Kissufim army base in the time leading up to the morning of Simchat Torah. He was already back at the base when the chaos started, and his family started to get concerned when they heard rumors of an infiltration at Kissufim. They contacted everyone they could, with no response. “On Monday at three in the afternoon,” Naama recalls, “there was a knock on the door, and we immediately understood that this was the gospel of Job.” Adi, his father, continues: “We know he died out of heroism. We now know that he was in the shelter with 17 other soldiers and fought fierce battles against the terrorists. They threw grenades at them and Uriel pushed the grenades out. In the end, the terrorists threw a powerful explosive into the shelter, and this killed Uriel and some of his friends.”

Hadas Shamir, director of the school for the learning disabled at the yeshiva, remembers Uriel fondly. “Every friend we meet points out that he was a true friend, loved, dear and a listening ear.” Rabbi Nitzan Berger, head of the yeshiva, was inspired by Uriel. “We know that to finish a course as a warrior in the Golani and to be on the lines in the North and South requires mental strength, bravery, and a lot of internal struggles. It’s clear to me that Uriel gritted his teeth on this matter. He did not give up on himself as he struggled to succeed, he was strong-willed, and all these characterized him very much. He experienced these difficulties throughout his life, and each of his achievements involved a lot of effort. Nothing was taken for granted.”



Major (res.) Dan Weidenbaum

24, from Ra'anana

AMIT GWEN STRAUS HIGH SCHOOL
FOR BOYS IN RA'ANANA

Dan was on a trip to South America and returned to Israel a week before the war, due to start his studies in physiotherapy at the Tel Aviv University School of Medicine. When the massacre of October 7 happened, Dan did not hesitate to join his reserve unit, Battalion 5037 of the Yiftach Brigade. Tragically, Dan fell in the line of duty in Gaza.

"Dan chose meaningful service as a soldier in the IDF out of love and concern for the country and the people," explains Ilanit Yamini, a counselor at the AMIT Gwen Straus High School for Boys. "It is difficult to describe Dan's wonderful personality. He was the 'perfect' one of the group. He was an excellent student loved by friends and teachers, an athlete, easygoing, and always with a charming smile on his face."

Ilanit continues, "Above all, Dan possessed humility accompanied by a powerful calmness. He was a person who brought light to the world with every action, but always with modesty."

First Lt. Yaakov Elian

20, from Ramat Gan

AMIT BAR ILAN TECHNOLOGICAL SCHOOL
IN RAMAT GAN

Yaakov Elian is described by his loved

ones as having had a big heart and grace that contributed to making him a beloved student of the teachers at AMIT Bar Ilan Technological School. Elian studied in the computer science program as he also prepared himself for combat service. As a teenager, he volunteered regularly with the Israel Police.



Upon his enlistment, Elian was a cadet in the Bahad 1 Officers' School's Gefen Battalion. Elian was raised at home on the values of Zionism and love of country, and he wanted to contribute to it as much as he could. He decided to go to the Officers' Training Course. He bravely fought against Hamas in the northern Gaza Strip, but unfortunately he did not return.

Yaakov Shasha, his 12th-grade teacher, says that what characterized Elian was genuine innocence. "His mouth and his heart were always in sync, and his desire to give and contribute was pure and clean," says Shasha. "Giving to others was at the root of his soul, giving to friends, family, and the people. This was reflected in his entire personality. He had a gentle smile. He was always true to himself, knew how to take responsibility, and always wanted to improve, to progress, and not to stand still. His classmates felt privileged to be his friends. He always took care of others before he took care of himself, and was a true and loyal friend."

You can learn more about the rest of AMIT's fallen heroes
at www.amit.org.il/zikaron.

We Will Not Be Defeated

An Update on the Gabel & Straus Campus at Kfar Batya



The October 7 attack, and subsequent Iron Swords War, brought construction in Israel to a standstill and damaged various sectors of the economy. A huge challenge was the mobilization of reserve soldiers and the cessation of the entry of Arab workers from Yehuda and Shomron, who constitute the majority of construction labor. Construction progress on our new Gabel & Straus Campus at Kfar Batya all but came to a halt—until our resilient contractors devised innovative solutions and quick adaptation to the new circumstances.

Thanks to their dedication, we speedily resumed operations and are on track to complete construction as close to our original deadline as possible.

“I’m gratified by this accomplishment, particularly in the context of the ongoing war and in light of the heroism displayed by the younger generation, many of whom are graduates of Israel’s education system and of Reshet AMIT in particular,” declares AMIT Director General Dr. Amnon Eldar. “Our resilience against a formidable adversary is largely attributed to these young people and the educational system that instills a deep love for their people and country.”

As we write these words, significant milestones mark the advancement of the new campus: Foundations are now complete, and retaining walls stand along the entire southern, western, and eastern perimeters of the campus. The new recreation center’s flooring has been laid, and work on beam foundations is underway. Flooring for the Kfar Batya high school building has also been successfully laid.

Simultaneously, the campus’s sports center infrastructure and flooring are currently in progress. Notably, more than 10,000 cubic meters of soil have been meticulously removed. Infrastructure development includes more than 300 meters of sewer lines laid, and the establishment of an electrical connection and a Bezek communication connection on the site. Contractor-related progress involves approving more than 10 subcontractors, encompassing elevators, ventilation,

air conditioning, a professional kitchen for the dining room, aluminum and steel contractors, electrical, plumbing, and fire safety. All of this underscores the magnitude of effort invested in bringing this dream to life.

Dr. Eldar adds, “The new campus will serve as a testament to the heroism and sacrifices of this generation, fostering awareness of the responsibility to protect one’s home. We’ll honor the memory of our esteemed graduates from Kfar Batya who sacrificed their lives in Israel’s wars throughout generations. In doing so, we’ll set a hopeful vision for the future.”

AMIT, like every individual in Israel, has weathered significant upheavals, but our dedication to the future of the State of Israel has never been stronger. We persist in our construction efforts with unwavering determination, an unbroken spirit, and resolute faith in the righteousness of our path. Am Yisrael Chai!



Reflections

FROM AN AMIT MISSION TO ISRAEL

There are so many experiences to digest from AMIT's recent mission to Israel. One in particular was walking into Beit Hayed Children's Home in Jerusalem. After hearing from the director of the home and the head of the therapy department, as well as from various *zugim*, it became immediately apparent how selfless and special they are.

Working at Beit Hayed is a 24/7 job. These special souls worked throughout the pandemic, and now they're working overtime during an unprecedented war. While many are off serving in *miluim* and holding down the fort at home and work, the therapists, teachers, and staff at Beit Hayed are working overtime to ensure that children from traumatic backgrounds continue to live with as much normalcy as they possibly can.

In a post 10/7 world, where we were exposed to the worst of mankind, it's important to remember that there are truly good people out there. Am Yisroel is full of people like that. Israel is full of people like that. Throughout the trip, everyone we met was trying to give of themselves for the sake of Am Yisroel and Eretz Yisroel. But those who have been doing it all along, even before our world was turned upside down, are the biggest inspiration to us all.

- MIRIAM ROSS

Before the mission began, I was nervous that we wouldn't be wanted or welcomed. Every time I've gone to Israel, I've been excited to visit the only place where I truly feel at home. But it felt different this time. Would my Israel look and feel the same? Would I feel safe? Would I be embraced or be considered an outsider who couldn't possibly understand the trauma of October 7?

My fears were assuaged as soon as our plane landed. Whether it was the IDF spokeswoman at Kfar Aza, the wounded soldier at Tel Hashomer hospital, the tired reservists at the army base, or the evacuated AMIT students from Sderot, each person expressed great appreciation that we came from America to a war zone to show our support and solidarity with them and with all of Israel. The same sentiment followed us everywhere we went: We're the ambassadors for the people of Israel and for the students of AMIT. It's our duty to bear witness to what they endured and return to America to ensure their stories are told and not forgotten in the next media cycle. There is devastation and trauma beyond measure, but I'll never forget the words of a soldier we met who lost one of his legs in the war: "Make sure to visit the Israel you remember. Go out and enjoy our country!" Amid highs and lows, one true constant remains: Am Yisroel Chai. The people of Israel will live on.


- AMANDA BRYK



Beautiful. Sad. Fun. Heavy. In short, everything all at once. The AMIT mission provided the opportunity to see Israel, as it is post-October 7, through a focused and specialized lens. We experienced the lowest of lows heavily walking through the rubble and destruction of Kfar Aza on a private tour with an IDF spokesperson. Then we experienced the exalting joy of dancing with *chayalim* and waving the Israeli flag at a private BBQ on the Nahal Oz army base.

Overall, we experienced the gift of hope for Israel and the Jewish people by meeting the children of AMIT. We heard their stories firsthand, and while they bore the weight of memory of that day, they were still joyful, hopeful, and thriving. I'm so thankful to AMIT for the opportunity to visit Israel during these trying times.

- LEORA COHEN



RUNNING A SCHOOL *in Wartime*

BY TOVA COHEN



In all of Miriam Coren's studies and training to become a teacher and then educational administrator, one topic that was never covered was how to run a school during wartime. But now, in her role as principal of the AMIT Bellows Noga School, Miriam is learning on the job.

AMIT Bellows Noga is an award-winning school located in the bustling neighborhood of Ramat Beit Shemesh. It's a city where Jews of all backgrounds, nationalities, and levels of religious observance live together peacefully, reflecting Noga's own identity.

"Our students are very diverse socioeconomically, religiously, and culturally," says Miriam proudly. "It's not a homogenous environment, and I appreciate how our diversity enables our students to appreciate all people and make friends with those who come from very different backgrounds."

"I found out that beyond all the great academic programs that are offered, what's even greater is that Noga doesn't try to force one specific agenda on its students," says Liel Metz, a senior at Noga. "I would get into heated political arguments with some of my best friends and five minutes later we would be laughing about it, and I think that says it all. One of the most important things I got out of my years of learning there is the ability to accept and listen to those who differ from me."



A SCHOOL IN SHOCK

Regardless of their origin or the unique qualities that set them apart from their fellow students, on October 7, everyone experienced a collective sense of fear and sorrow as the nation faced a terrorist attack unprecedented in modern Israeli history. And, suddenly, those charged with caring for and educating children had to somehow learn to manage not only their own emotions, but manage, as well, the shattering uncertainty and grief of children in their charge.

Miriam maintains it's an ongoing process where she and her staff learn something new each day.

"At first, we were shocked like everybody else and nobody knew what was going on that first week," she explains. "But where we were on October 8 is not where we were on November 8, or December 8, and so forth."

Miriam and her staff took that time to sort out the situation of each of their students: who had experienced casualties among their families, and

who had family members called into military service. One student's brother was taken hostage in Gaza.

"In a peak moment," Miriam says, "we had over half of our teachers with spouses or immediate family members actively serving in the army. Some were let out over the ensuing months. But it was definitely overwhelming."

Miriam's own husband has been serving in the army since October 8; another five or six teachers are in the same situation. "A bunch of our Haredi teachers had husbands serving in the army for the first time, who had asked to be called up," notes Miriam. "I find that very special."

It's also indicative of the unique sense of civic duty and resilient spirit that nearly every single Israeli has tapped into in the wake of tragedy. And the staff and students of Noga are no exception.

"We did a lot of things to support our teachers, like set up a rotation of homemade dinners and offer babysitting, and our students have also



volunteered to give back to Israel at large,” says Miriam. “They’ve gone on several agricultural picking trips, worked with refugees from the North and South staying at hotels in Yerushalayim, and packed supplies for the army.”

Also at the forefront of Miriam’s mind was security. “We have nearly 500 students and not enough shelter space, so after two weeks of no school, Zoom lessons began until we could figure out how many students we could host in proportion to the safe spaces we had on campus,” she explains. And even then, sirens rang out regularly.

“You have to realize that most of us in Ramat Beit Shemesh have never experienced a siren in our community,” says Miriam. “For us, it was a big deal. We’re not trained like the people of Sderot are. So we had to consider what to do, what happens when there’s a siren that goes off when students are on a school bus, or girls are in a carpool lane waiting for the buses. There were a lot of different kinds of scary moments.”

Miriam and her staff did a lot of drills and planning, in addition to redesigning the

curriculum to accommodate the staggered schedule of students. They also paid extra close attention to which girls needed more emotional and mental health support during this time of heightened anxiety and uncertainty.

By Hanukkah, all students were back in school full time, and a measure of routine had returned, though echoes of the surreal permeate that veil of normalcy, like the daily *tehillim* students say for one of their own whose brother remains a hostage in Gaza.

“I feel like I’m doing meaningful work, and keeping busy helps keep me focused,” says Ronit Hochster, a *mechanechet* for juniors and the director of the history and social studies departments for each grade. Her son, Yoav, was in the army for three months, during which time she slept very little.

A fourth-generation teacher, Ronit has been at Noga for some 22 years. “I see teaching as *shlichut*, and it’s wonderful to be at Noga where the learning is at such a high level, and values-based,” she says. “Our students learn it’s their

duty to contribute to the state of Israel and the Jewish people, and that's come into sharper focus these past few months since October 7."

Ronit also appreciates the understanding extended to her and her fellow teachers when they can't meet the demands their important jobs require day in and day out. "When Yoav's best friend was killed in action, I just couldn't come to school that day," says Ronit. "And I was given that time, no questions asked."

She continues, "It's really indicative of an AMIT school—they always support their teachers, recognize their achievements, and encourage us to step outside the box and pursue new educational pathways. I've been with this school for almost 22 years in large part because I appreciate how much they want us to succeed and set us up to excel."

From the recreational, like doling out *sufganiyot* on Hanukkah and an annual trip to Eilat for top teachers, to the educational, such as making freely available online courses about the latest educational developments and stocking schools with plenty of computers and other tools of modern learning, Ronit says she and her fellow teachers "feel the backing of AMIT in many ways."

NOGA, NOW

As this magazine is being prepared to print, Israel is still at war, and 132 men, women, and children are being held as hostages somewhere in Gaza. But Israelis are no strangers to resuming a normal life amid surreal circumstances.

Noga students are still actively volunteering, which Miriam says gives them a sense of "moral legitimacy" to be studying math and science in a country still rocked by ongoing war. Miriam also decided to continue doing *tiyulim*—hiking, sightseeing around Israel. "I think it's almost a Zionist act to continue that now," she explains. And students have resumed much of their extracurricular activities, including Shabbatons, though each is evaluated given the times.

Consider an annual program run by seniors for the entire student body:

"We asked seniors, 'What do you think we should do? We didn't choose to be in a war, and you didn't choose to be seniors during this time. What do



I feel like I'm doing meaningful work, and keeping busy helps keep me focused.

- RONIT HOCHSTER





“YOU think we should change or not change about this program?” recounts Miriam.

This degree of autonomy for young women to decide for themselves was empowering for students, who offered a range of responses to the query posed to them by their educators. “They had beautiful opinions, thoughtfully and respectfully expressed, and most importantly, they’re thinking about how to infuse the people around them with strength for what they’re going through,” says Miriam. “Each girl is thinking now: ‘What can I do to respond to this situation with strength and grace, to the best of my abilities?’”

They must have learned it from administrators and teachers.

“As difficult as it is to try and adjust to anything normal, I feel truly blessed that I’m surrounded by people who so selflessly devote themselves to the only country we can call our own, and I hope to soon follow in their footsteps,” says Liel. “More than anything, being a teenager in Israel, especially in times like these, is understanding that you’re part of something bigger, and that you will do anything to ensure a future in the only state you can call home.” ■



“

More than anything, being a teenager in Israel, especially in times like these, is understanding that you’re part of something bigger.”

- LIEL METZ



The Inbal

A HOTEL THAT BECAME A HOME

ILANA GOODMAN

Simchat Torah 5784 was supposed to be one of the happiest days of the Jewish year. After almost a full month of back-to-back holidays, and following a week of living in makeshift sukkahs outside our homes, we once again completed the reading of the entire Torah and we were about to begin the readings of another yearly cycle.

And then came the horrific, shattering news.

“We had about 850 guests staying in The Inbal Hotel, mostly Americans,” recalls Rony Timsit, general manager of The Inbal Jerusalem Hotel. “I got to the hotel about five minutes after the sirens first sounded in Jerusalem. My staff and I immediately moved everyone from the outdoor sukkahs, where they were sitting for the holiday meals, to our halls on floor minus two. But there were many hotel guests who were caught outside the hotel because they had gone to synagogue for the holiday.”

He continues, “Many hotels closed their doors and would not let anyone in. We actually opened our doors, brought more people in and stationed security guards at the doors.” Throughout the early hours of Saturday morning, everyone began to hear pieces of information as they trickled in, bit by bit. Sirens. Missiles. Attacks. South. Gaza. Infiltration. Together, they painted a brutal story: Thousands of Hamas terrorists had



“*When the challenge arises, we are all there for each other.*”

broken the border fence with Israel and invaded Southern communities and army bases, attacking, killing, and more.

In the following hours and days, most foreign guests caught whatever flights they could out of Israel, reluctantly leaving the Israel they love in a state of chaos and emergency, to return to their obligations back home.

“Within about four to five days, the hotel emptied, and my staff and I asked ourselves, ‘So, what are we going to do?’” recalls Rony.

The answer to that compelling question presented itself almost immediately. That first week or two, many Southern communities were evacuated, and following the threat of attacks in the North, many communities on the Israel-Lebanon border were also evacuated. Residents were only able to pick up and carry some basic belongings as they sought shelter in safer places.

Rony knew his hotel could be one of those safe refuges for individuals and families that had to leave almost everything behind. Ten days after the initial attacks, The Inbal made the decision to take in evacuees from the South.

Rony, along with his staff, prepared 40 rooms for evacuees from Kiryat Shmona.

“I was not going to let anyone sleep outside,” explains Rony. “I did not want anyone to feel that they were ‘refugees.’ I wanted them to feel like tourists. That’s the least they should have.”

He continues, “We decided to have only two people per room; any more would feel overcrowded. Families were given rooms with adjoining rooms for the children.”

With the 40 rooms quickly occupied, Rony and his staff began strategizing about making another 40 rooms available. Around this time, in a fortuitous twist, a Jerusalem contractor told Rony that he had just completed the construction of a building and he wanted to enable the evacuees to use the apartments, but he didn’t have any furniture. There was one floor in the hotel that was due for renovations, so a decision was made that this was the right time. The contractor took all the furniture from the rooms and moved them into the apartment building.

By Hanukkah, solidarity missions started arriving from New York, and the hotel was filling up again. The hotel services, swimming pool, gym, and dining rooms were available to the guest missions, as well as to the evacuees, to use.

Rony continues, “Many of our employees had been put on unpaid leave because there were no guests in the hotel. Some of the department heads were also volunteering, but they were gradually called back as the hotel filled up. Many five-star hotels were requested to take in evacuees, and



Rony Timsit

some turned down the request, but we felt that we had to do our part in the national effort.”

This proved to be a wise decision, as ultimately Rony discovered that many solidarity missions that came to Israel asked if they had evacuees staying in the hotel, and when he said yes, they specifically chose to come and stay at The Inbal. “This was very touching. People understood the importance of what we were doing for the evacuees,” says Rony. And in turn, they wanted to support The Inbal.

People came on personal solidarity trips as well. They arrived in Israel with suitcases full of goodies for the soldiers, for children, and more. The hotel had to allocate several rooms just to store their suitcases.

Every story and every case was extremely emotional and uplifting.

There was a family of a lone soldier, where at any given time, one of the parents was in Israel. Even if they didn’t see their soldier regularly, at least one parent was in the country, ready to provide moral support. There were grandparents who came to Israel to stay with a granddaughter and her children while her husband was in Gaza.

Rony set up a WhatsApp group for the evacuees, he says, “so that they could inform us of any specific needs, allowing us to check what they were entitled to from the government, and make sure they were given appropriate assistance,” he explains. “We even coordinated laundry services, private companies that came and picked up the laundry from the evacuees and returned it clean a day later.”

“I was at The Inbal a few weeks into the war, when there were a small handful of guests and the evacuees,” says Andy Goldsmith, executive vice president of AMIT. “When I went for a walk one night, I passed many dark hotels. It turns out many luxury hotels chose to close their doors rather than open themselves up to housing evacuees. The Inbal welcomed them with all possible hospitality and with great sensitivity.”

Rony is modest about The Inbal’s contribution to the national effort. “This was a big project for us, but it is just a small part of everything that was done on behalf of Israel in her time of need,” he says. “Our reward is simply that we were able to give to those who needed it.”

“We always say that Israeli society is sometimes divided, because we’re individualists,” continues Rony, “but when the challenge arises, we are all there for each other.” ■



IRON SWORDS WAR

Army Wife Reflections

BY CHAVI BECKER

Chol Ha'moed Sukkot 2023. We have a babysitter and decide to see a movie—"Golda," the story of the Yom Kippur War. The cinematography and acting are excellent; the topic is heavy and leaves us with many questions and thoughts. We have no idea that mere days later, we will go through something eerily similar.

Growing up in Cleveland, Ohio, my association with the IDF was posing for photos with soldiers while touring Israel. I did not grow up experiencing war, nor have a parent serving in the reserves, wearing a khaki uniform, carrying a gun, and disappearing for extended periods of time.

Simchat Torah. October 7, 2023. Yaacov goes to early minyan so he can then take the kids to dance in shul.

The excitement is palpable as they get dressed and prepare their holiday flags. Suddenly I hear a siren. It takes a moment to register. Jerusalem is usually quiet, and the last siren I heard was of a very different nature on Yom HaZikaron. I quickly gather the three kids and tell them we need to run downstairs to the building's safe room. Our brisk walk down the stairs is peppered with questions. "What's a siren, Mommy?" "What is a *miklat* (shelter)?" "Why do we need to stay there?" "What are all those booms?" While we are still in the safe room for the requisite 10 minutes, Yaacov runs home from shul to make sure we are OK. A succession of sirens follow. Neighbors begin turning on phones; uncertainty and fear grip everyone as we begin to understand that something major is going on down south. We take out special "miklat snacks" for the girls, and try to mitigate the fear while hiding our growing anxiety.

“*And yet, we kept going. First, there was no choice, and it is often in such situations that you discover your deepest strengths.*”

When the fifth siren wails and we are back in the miklat, a neighbor turns to Yaacov and says, “Aren’t you a commander in the reserves? Have you not been called up?”

We run upstairs and Yaacov turns on his phone. He had already received the message, commanding his unit to be on base within an hour and a half. His army gear lies hidden away in the storage room; I don’t think the kids even knew it existed before October 7. He quickly takes off his Shabbat clothing and dons his uniform. We will later learn that this will be the last normal prayer service he attends on Shabbat for 18 long weeks.

Our neighbors watch as we tearfully hug and bid Yaacov farewell. Many of them remember the Yom Kippur War, and the images are jarringly similar. Young children crying, not understanding where their father is going, by car, in the middle of Shabbat, dressed in green. And, just like that, we become a “miluim family,” and I become an army wife.

The rest of the day feels endless. We hear rumors, snippets of information. It is only once Simchat Torah ends that we turn on the news and begin to understand the magnitude of what Israel is going through. Hundreds abducted. Many more killed. The Sderot police station under attack. The Nova party. Slowly, stories start to come together, building a puzzle of horror, dread and fear. By 5 the next morning, my sister, nine months pregnant, has joined us as her husband had been called up; my brother and cousins and almost everyone we know has been called up. Schools are closed, and the future seems scary and unknowable.

Within 24 hours, while we still had no idea how long a haul we were in for, we immediately felt the support and love of our family, neighbors, local community, workplaces, and the global Jewish community. Not used to being on the receiving end, I decided that mobilizing to action would be best for me, and quickly started raising funds and organizing meals for Yaacov’s army unit. People offered help with child care, meals, toys, phone calls checking in, and so much more. Hours turned into days, days into weeks, and weeks into months. We got used to the new normal, as much as possible. With help from many wonderful people, and the ever-supportive AMIT community (both as a workplace and as a second family), we got through each day. However, there were constant reminders

that this is not normal, and we are at war, no matter how happy a face I tried to put on for the kids and how much of a routine we tried to maintain.

The walk home from preschool where my 3-year-old daughter cried the entire way home, asking when Aba would come. The horrific news that a classmate’s parent was killed in action. Having to share with my 5-year-old that her friend’s father had died—and then her understanding that it was in the same war her own father was fighting. Waking up every single morning, after sleepless nights, to scan the list of names in the news while praying that nobody we knew was one of those killed. Not that it mattered—each person killed was an entire universe. A family shattered, a future cut way too short.

And yet, we kept going. First, there was no choice, and it is often in such situations that you discover your deepest strengths. Second, I kept thinking about my great-grandparents, whom I knew well and loved so much. They, along with my grandfather, fled Germany right after Kristallnacht. Refugees for years, they ultimately built wonderful lives for themselves, but had no homeland to run to, no army to protect them. When I wanted to cry and collapse at night, pulling out my many newly gray hairs, I reminded myself that if we don’t do this, nobody else will, and that we are building a future for ourselves and our descendants—and our People.

The unity felt across the country, the sense of mission I heard so clearly in the voices of Yaacov and his fellow soldiers, the vital support I saw AMIT giving to our evacuated students and to our educators and their spouses on the front lines and homefront—these silver linings kept me going.

I recognize that we are the lucky ones. Yaacov is home, healthy in body and mind. Too many lives have been lost. Too many soldiers have been injured; too many families have been affected; too much fear and uncertainty have been instilled in us. And yet, we are a People of belief, of resilience, of hope. We are a People who know that we are fighting, jointly, for justice, freedom, and the ability to live and flourish in our homeland. October 7 reminds us that even in the most difficult circumstances, we rally together and take major risks for something much greater than any one of us—for the timeless Jewish narrative.

When my grandchildren watch a film about the Iron Swords War, they will come home and ask me what we did on October 7 to protect our People. And I know that I will be able to proudly look them in the eye and say—in my American-accented Hebrew that is here to stay—that we said “Hineni,” here we are, playing our role in the history of Medinat Yisrael and Am Yisrael. ■

Chavi Becker is AMIT’s director of the Department of Organizational Strategy and Development.

EVENT *Highlights*

NATIONAL EVENTS



An Evening of Solidarity with the Children of Israel

WITH A SPECIAL MUSICAL TRIBUTE BY IDINA MENZEL

On Monday, November 20, 2023, AMIT's national event, "An Evening of Solidarity with the Children of Israel," was hosted at Sony Hall in New York City. This event took on added significance as attendees stood united with the children of Israel, echoing AMIT's commitment to help rebuild their lives following the October 7 attacks. The evening featured a special musical tribute by Tony Award-winner Idina Menzel and marked the culmination of AMIT tributes in Boston, Chicago, and Philadelphia.

This national event announced the naming of the Gabel & Straus Campus at Kfar Batya. Dedicated by Joyce and Daniel Straus of Englewood, NJ, the state-of-the-art campus honors Stefanie and Jack, z"l, Gabel, parents of Joyce Straus, and Gwendolyn and Joseph Straus, z"l, parents of Daniel Straus. Stefanie and Jack Gabel, Holocaust survivors who resettled in the United States in 1949, rebuilt their family and life in Forest Hills, NY. Gwendolyn and Joseph Straus played a pivotal role in the early Zionist movement in the United States.

The event also recognized the Tiferet Gur Aryeh Junior College, dedicated by Ellen Spitzer-Kronitz and Emanuel Kronitz, and acknowledged the Morris & Rosalind Goodman Family Foundation's AMIT Summer Camp program.

The event was attended by the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations, Ambassador Gilad Erdan. Idina Menzel's tribute included an inspiring duet of "Tomorrow" with AMIT alumna Hadar Amrusi, and a performance of Ms. Menzel's original song "A Tree of Life," written to honor the victims of the antisemitic mass shooting at a Pittsburgh synagogue in 2018.

The event highlighted the resilience of AMIT students and educators, who are finding innovative ways to teach and connect with the land, instilling resilience, unity, and a sense of stability. The event also honored fallen AMIT alumni heroes like Matan Abargil, z"l, who selflessly sacrificed his life to save his comrades.

Boston

AMIT's New England Council/Ra'anana Chapter hosted its annual event, "In Solidarity With the Children of Israel Tribute to the AMIT New England Council/Ra'anana Board of Directors," on Sunday, November 12, 2023, in Boston. Cantor Elias Rosemberg led the anthems and sang the Mi'Sheberach for the IDF soldiers. Cantor Rosemberg and his son, David, then sang *Acheinu Kol Beit Israel*.

AMIT President Shari Safra gave an informative report on the latest events on the ground in Israel, focusing on AMIT's displaced students from Sderot. Rabbi Gershon Segal introduced the esteemed keynote speaker, Rabbi Meir Soloveichik. Rabbi Soloveichik, one of the contemporary Jewish world's foremost scholars and thinkers, spoke about "The Handwritten Hatikvah: How an Anthem's Origin Gives Us Inspiration for Our Time." His compelling and meaningful talk was enjoyed by all.

Finally, Robbie Pearlstein thanked our outstanding board of directors for their leadership and unwavering commitment to AMIT in New England, and their generous support of all our students in Israel.



Lisa Rosenbaum Fisher, Jane Dalezman, Shari Safra



Beverly Bavly, Shirley Saunders



Cleveland

On November 21, AMIT Cleveland hosted an Emergency Fund event at the home of Tikvah and Isaac Lifschutz. Dr. Zev Levy, child psychiatrist and keynote speaker, had just returned from Israel and provided his firsthand perspective working with the children and families from Sderot. His expert understanding of the mental health crisis was highly moving for the entire AMIT Cleveland community.

Event chairs include Ilka Gordon, Aviva Klein, Chagit Ruskin and Wendy Lefko Messeloff.

Philadelphia

AMIT Philadelphia Council/Shira Chapter honored Chai Society members Nancy Isserman and Joel Horwitz in November at the "New Beginnings, Unwavering Values" event at the Hilton in Bala Cynwyd. More than 100 AMIT supporters celebrated Nancy and Joel's long involvement in the Jewish community, including Nancy's participation with the Transcending Trauma Project at Council for Relationships, a community mental health agency.

The Philadelphia tribute dinner was the first AMIT gathering since October 7. Andy Goldsmith, AMIT executive vice president, spoke about AMIT's work with our students who have been displaced from Sderot. We were honored to host Doron ben Abbu, graduate of AMIT Hammer Rehovot and AMIT Tiferet Gur Aryeh Junior College, who spoke about his meaningful AMIT experience and IDF service.



Nancy Isserman, Yaela Baine

REGIONAL EVENTS

Chicago

On November 13, the Midwest Council of AMIT hosted “An Evening of Solidarity” at Skokie Central Congregation. Our three guest speakers highlighted all facets of Israel and AMIT. Cheryl Karesh delivered an AMIT update; Keren Gelfand provided meaningful insight into the current state of Israel; and Malke Goldberg introduced our visiting AMIT alumna Hadar Amrusi, who spoke about how AMIT inspired her ambition to become a doctor.

2023 committee chairs include Cheryl & Steve Karesh and Judy & Albert Milstein.



AMIT alumna Hadar Amrusi describing her educational journey



New Rochelle residents at the babka bake



Meyer Koplow speaking about his beloved wife

Westchester

On October 25, over 100 women gathered in New Rochelle to commemorate Ellen Koplow, z”l, on her 10th yahrzeit, and her legacy, the Ellen’s Kids Program. Kosher baking influencer @Naomi_TGIS led a beautiful babka bake to honor Ellen and her love of baking.

The evening raised more than \$30,000 and was a wonderful tribute to Ellen, z”l. It was chaired by Aliza Koplow, Jill Ellman, and Barbara Rascoff. Audrey Trachtman spoke about the importance of AMIT’s Sderot campaign to provide trauma therapy and support, which is crucial to our students’ recovery after the horrors of October 7, while Meyer Koplow spoke lovingly of his wife and her incredible legacy.

Five Towns

In early November, AMIT's NewGen babka bake in the Five Towns was a huge success. Attendees had an incredible time making their own delicious babkas with Avital from Haus of Babka in solidarity with the AMIT children in Israel. This event was both fun and meaningful following the tragedy of October 7. The women felt a sense of unity as they prayed for the safety of Israeli soldiers and the return of the hostages.

The event was hosted at the home of Rachel Schlusberg in Old Woodmere, who also co-chaired the event with Rebecca Feuer. AMIT is grateful for their constant hard work and dedication to AMIT, along with the efforts of committee members Dahlia Kantowitz and Esti Goodstein. Board of Directors member Marisa Braunstein gave a beautiful speech about her involvement with AMIT and helped inspire and educate the women at the event of the importance of AMIT's sacred mission.

The following month, on December 4, a sold-out crowd consisting of over 60 women from the Five Towns came together for a cooking demo and tasting with noted cookbook author Rivky Kleiman (who happens to have a recipe in this very issue!).

The event was graciously hosted by Jenny Lent and chaired by Naomi Levenson, Annette Satran and Dee Dee Wilkowski, all of whom have longstanding ties to AMIT. Proceeds went to help heal the children of Sderot. It was a great way to bring the community together in support of the children of Israel, and we're grateful to the hardworking committee for helping to make this event a big success.



Participants at AMIT's NewGen Babka Bake



Rivky Kleiman leading the cooking demo



From l-r: Chair Avi Adelsberg, Ruvin Levavi, Amar'e Stoudemire, Shari Safra, and Daniel Miller

New York City

On September 11, more than 150 men gathered at Manhattan's beautiful Pier 17 to enjoy poker, a full top-shelf bar, steak, and cigars at AMIT's 16th Annual Guys' Night Out. An appearance by surprise guest and former NBA superstar Amar'e Stoudemire made the evening even more special.

Chaired by Avi Adelsberg and Gavriel Kahane, the committee spanned the tristate area and all ages. With their help, more than \$230,000 was raised for AMIT's 40,000 students in Israel. We can't wait to see what next year brings!

REGIONAL EVENTS

Hollywood Men's Night

On January 14, Gabrielle and Avi Kuzniecky opened their home in Hollywood, FL, for a men's night of Izzy's BBQ and Israeli wine tasting. The wine tasting was led by IDF reservist Itzik Stern, who had just returned from the front lines of Gaza. He intertwined stories from the war with stories about the regions where the wine came from. Guests tasted wines featured in the AMIT Wine Club's exclusive Israeli label cases. The economic situation in Israel is in dire need of help, and Israeli wineries have been hit particularly hard. Many thanks to our committee that included Brian Farbman, Eitan Friedman, Josh Gold, Avi Kuzniecky, and Josh Legum.

Support the wine industry and AMIT by ordering a case of Israeli wine for yourself or as a gift: amitchildren.org/wineclub.



L-R: Mati Grauer, Avi Kuzniecky, Sam Cohen, Raviv Jackier, and Brian Farbman



Yossi Rabinowitz introducing AMIT alumnus Doron Ben Abbu at AMIT's Night Under the Stars in Boca Grove.

Boca Raton Night Under the Stars

On November 12, Annie and Yossi Rabinowitz hosted a gathering of AMIT alumni for a wine tasting and BBQ. The guest of honor, alumnus Doron ben Abbu, spoke to the crowd about the importance of supporting our brothers and sisters in Israel after October 7. A graduate of AMIT Hammer Rehovot and AMIT Tiferet Gur Aryeh Junior College, Doron acted as an example and emissary of what supporting AMIT schools can do for an individual. Although attendees' hearts were deeply attuned to the struggle in Israel at that time, fun was had by all, and the evening was a great success.

Boca Raton Men's Night

On February 7, AMIT was honored to host esteemed AMIT alumnus Alon Arvatz as part of his Southeast book tour. Men of all ages enjoyed cigars, BBQ, and a live kumzitz to top off the evening. Alon is an elite unit veteran, cybersecurity expert, and successful entrepreneur. He is also the author of "The Battle for Your Computer," the story of the Israeli cybersecurity ecosystem and its influence around the globe. Alon spoke about cybersecurity's impact on the current war in Israel and the industry's future. He attributes his professional success to his AMIT education and is devoted to giving back to AMIT. With many new faces joining this event, Alon offered the perfect introduction to who and what AMIT stands for. Thank you to our co-chairs: Dr. Gil Bloom, Daniel Miller, and Uri Nachim.



L-R: co-chairs Daniel Miller, Gil Bloom, and Uri Nachim with guest speaker Alon Arvatz.

DVAR TORAH

The Power of Psalms

RABBI MENACHEM PENNER

Countless chapters of *Tehillim* (Psalms) have reverberated since the 7th of October, their timeless verses echoing through the chambers of prayer halls and the sanctuaries of homes around the globe.

Selections from *Tehillim* have long been interwoven into the fabric of our daily prayers, seamlessly blending with our supplications and praises offered unto God. Many Jews maintain the practice of reciting additional chapters, while others devoutly traverse the entirety of this sacred anthology on a regular basis. Yet, since Simchat Torah, a profound shift has occurred within the Jewish soul, and hearts across the world have turned to *Tehillim* to beseech on behalf of their brethren in Israel and to find solace in the embrace of Hashem.

But why turn specifically to the Psalms in moments of crisis?

One would indeed be challenged to pinpoint an early source prescribing the recitation of *Tehillim* as the response to adversity. Undeniably, certain chapters eloquently describe the existential crisis brought on by suffering and fear and the faith that serves as a beacon amidst a storm. Yet, one cannot help but wonder whether a meticulously worded *Mi she-Beirach* for the IDF or the hostages might more precisely meet the exigencies of the hour. Indeed, many of the Psalms we fervently recite seem ostensibly detached from the specific Divine interventions we seek.

R. Shimshon Pincus (*Nefesh Shimshon, Tehillim*), a luminary of Jewish Thought whose untimely passing in 2001 left a void in our religious landscape, suggested that the potency of Psalms emanates from their authorship. While not all chapters can be ascribed to a single author, our tradition attributes the lion's share to the pen of King David himself. The very words we intone today were etched nearly three millennia ago by one of the towering *ma'aminim*—believers in God's role in the unfolding drama of Jewish history.

RABBI MENACHEM PENNER is the incoming Executive Vice President of the Rabbinical Council of America. He is the Dean Emeritus of the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary at Yeshiva University, where he continues to teach and guide the rabbis of tomorrow.



Even the highlight of our daily liturgy, the *Amidah* or *Shemoneh Esreh*, took shape some five centuries after the verses of *Tehillim* were inscribed. The luminaries of the Great Assembly, authors of the *Shemoneh Esreh*, were prophets and sages of profound stature. Yet, in accordance with the principle that greatness wanes with each successive generation, they paled in comparison to David ha-Melech.

R. Pincus fervently asserts that as one recites the ancient songs of David, they not only channel his poetic fervor but conjure his very essence before the Almighty. Thus, when one stands in prayer adorned with the Psalms, King David stands in communion with them, advocating once more on behalf of his people. While one may—and indeed should—pour forth the supplications of their heart, entreating for victory, peace, and the safety of our forces and captives, such prayers, albeit heartfelt, resound as solitary voices in the tumult. Yet, when one utters the verses of *Tehillim*, they not only unite with fellow Jews in communal recitation but stand shoulder to shoulder with King David himself, who is summoned anew to plead the cause of his nation.

Some of the most dramatic scenes of victory in Gaza are the demolition of tunnels and other structures designed for terror activities. Whole brigades are trained to place dynamite strategically in order to reduce structures to ashes. R. Pincus offers a profound analogy: *Tehillim*, he posits, are akin to dynamite, generating immense impact. Within the words of the Psalms lies potential energy of unfathomable measure. One need but tap on the detonator of verbal expression to elicit a dramatic transformation.

As we stand to beseech Hashem on behalf of our brethren, we arm ourselves with the most potent explosive at our disposal—the words of King David, forged amidst his personal and national trials. His steadfast faith, encapsulated in the exquisite verses that have traversed millennia to find haven in our hands, imbues us with unparalleled strength. How powerful our supplications become when the “Great Singer of Israel” emerges from the annals of history to lend his voice to our prayers.

Do the words of *Tehillim* invariably align with our petitions? Perhaps not. Yet, akin to dynamite, they do not necessitate surgical precision to effect impact. When we intone the majestic verses bequeathed to us by our saintly forebear, we march alongside our brethren on the battlefield of faith, fortified by the echoes of generations past.

PASSEOVER DESSERT

FUDGY CHOCOLATE BROWNIES

with Chocolate Sauce

Rivky Kleiman is the author of *Simply* and *Simply Gourmet*, and she believes that Passover should be no exception to gourmet cooking. Below, the popular cookbook author and kosher culinary personality offers up an easy—but showstopping—recipe for a delicious Pesach dessert that would fit right in at any high-end restaurant or Passover program tea room.



INGREDIENTS:

6 oz quality baking chocolate, divided	½ cup (1 stick) margarine, divided
⅔ cup pareve whipping cream (unwhipped) KLP	2 tsp vanilla extract
¾ cup dark brown sugar	2 eggs
¼ cup cocoa powder	½ cup sugar
Pinch of salt	6 tbsp potato starch

OPTIONAL GARNISH:

Ice cream
Hazelnut brittle crunch and topping

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Place 3 oz baking chocolate, pareve whipping cream, brown sugar, cocoa powder, and salt in a medium-sized saucepan over medium heat. Slowly bring to a boil, stirring occasionally. Lower the heat, continue to stir and cook for 5 minutes.
2. Remove from heat. Add 3 additional oz baking chocolate and 3 tbsp margarine. Stir until glossy and smooth. Add vanilla extract. Set aside ⅔ cup of the mixture in the fridge to be used later as your chocolate sauce.
3. Add the remaining 5 tbsp margarine to the remaining sauce. Stir until completely melted. Next, stir in eggs and sugar, followed by the potato starch. Grease 9 ramekins or 10 muffin cups. Place ⅓ cup brownie batter into each ramekin or ¼ cup batter into each muffin cup. Place all ramekins on a baking sheet and bake for 22 minutes.

TO ASSEMBLE:

Place 1 fudgy brownie on the bottom of a cup (or on a dessert plate). Place a scoop of ice cream in the center of each brownie. Drizzle 1 tsp warm chocolate sauce over each ice cream scoop. Top with a sprinkling of hazelnut brittle crunch. For ramekins, place scoop of ice cream in the center of the brownie. Drizzle with chocolate sauce and top with a sprinkle of brittle.

Tip: This dessert can be frozen assembled.



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.

As of February 5, 2024

Anonymous, FL
 Anonymous, MA
 Anonymous, NY
 Anonymous, NY
Anonymous, NY*
 Anonymous, Israel
 Goldie Abers, z"l, CA
 Trudy and Ted, z"l, Abramson, FL
 Raquela and Avi Adelsberg, NY
 Edith H. and Haim Agus, z"l, NY
 Nicole Schreiber Agus and Raanan Agus, NY
 Alisa West Orange-Essex Chapter, NJ
 Aliza Oceanside Chapter, NY
 Randi Schatz and Joseph Allerhand, NY
 Rosalind Alper, z"l, NY
 Joseph Anmuth, z"l, CA
 Ann and Hy, z"l, Arbesfeld, NY
 Asara-Rishona/South Shore Chapter, NY
 Aviva Brooklyn Chapter, NY
 Avivah Chapter, WA
 Ayelet Queens Chapter, NY
 Lolly and Harris, z"l, Bak, NY
Grace, Shua & Jacob Ballas Charitable Trust, Israel*
Mollie and Sam Baller, z"l, FL*
 Rachel, z"l, and Martin Balsam, NY
 Ann and Yale Baron, NJ
 Marcia Baskin, FL
 Beersheva Delray Beach Chapter, FL
 Stella B. Behar-Testa, z"l, NY
 Joan and Shael, z"l, Bellows, IL
 Nina and Sam Bellows, z"l, IL
 Lee and Louis, z"l, Benjamin, FL
 Irving Benveniste Fund, NY
 Beatrice and Harry, z"l, Berger, NJ
 Honey and David Berger, NY
 Thelma and Harvey Berger, z"l, MA
 Zelda and Solomon Berger, NY
 Daisy and Herbert Berman, z"l, NY
 Anne and William Bernstein, z"l, CA
 Benjamin Bernstein, z"l, NY
 Roslyn and Matthew Besdine, z"l, NY
 Beverly Hills Shirah Chapter, CA

Elizabeth Beylin, Citibank N.A. Trusts & Est., NY
 Rosalin Bieber, z"l, MI
Dassie and Marvin Bienenfeld, NY*
 Henry and Helen Bienenfeld Foundation, PA
 Dahlia and Arthur Bilger, CA
 Birah Chapter of Greater Washington D.C., MD
 Evelyn and Isaac Blachor, NY
 Sarah Black, z"l, TX
 Aaron and Marie Blackman Foundation, CA
 Barbara Bloom, MD
 Deborah Stern Blumenthal and Michael Blumenthal, NJ
 Beth and Reuben Blumenthal
 Doris and Marcus, z"l, Blumkin, NY
 Renee Bohm, z"l, MD
 Boro Park and Tova Brooklyn Chapter, NY
 Ethlynn and Stephen Brickman, MA
 Adele and Jules, z"l, Brody, NY
 Beverly Brown, z"l, Israel
 Elaine Brown, z"l, NY
 Adrienne and Leon Brum, FL
 Laurie and Eli Bryk, NY
 Lois and Michael Burak, NY
 Goldie Bursten, z"l, MO
 Canada Foundation, Canada
 Celia Carson, z"l, CA
 Miami Beach Chai Chapter, FL
 Margaret, z"l, and Chaim Charytan, NY
 AMIT Chicago Council, IL
 Vivian and Daniel Chill, NY
 Julia Chosner, z"l, NY
 Barbara and Melvyn Ciment, MD
 Joan and Norman Ciment, FL
 Michael Cleeman, FL
 S. Trina and Paul, z"l, Cleeman, NY
 Greater Cleveland Chapter of AMIT, OH
 Rosa and Isaac Cohanad, CA
 Florence and Melvin Cohen, z"l, NY

Freda Cohen, z"l, CT
 Joseph and Claire, z"l, Cohen, NY
 Sherry and Neil Cohen, NY
 Shevi and Milton Cohen, NY
 Diane and Howard Cole, NY
 Jone and Allen Dalezman, MA
 Darchey Noam Long Beach Chapter, NY
 Lisa and Ephraim Dardashti, Israel
 Daroma Long Beach Chapter, NY
 Yolande and Ernest, z"l, Dauber, TX
 Lila Denker, z"l, FL
 Irmgard and Joseph Deutsch, z"l, FL
 Dimona Boca Raton Chapter, FL
 Suzanne and Jacob Doft, NY
 Adina and Marc Dolfman, NY
 Irene and Murray, z"l, Dorit, CA
 Florence and Albert Dreisinger, z"l, NY
 Hattie and Arthur Dubroff, NJ
 Dvora Shalom Chapter, FL
 Adena and Ezra Dyckman, NY
 Dina and Moses Dyckman, z"l, NY
 Selma and Jacob Dyckman, NY
 Jewel and Theodore Edelman, NY
 Susan Ederson, z"l, NY
 Gina and Graham Edwards, England
 Linda and Barry Eichler, NY
 Carole and Gary Eisen, NY
 Laura and David Eisenberg, MA
 Ike, Molly and Steven Elias Foundation, NY
 Danielle and Ronald Ellis, Israel
 Gail and Martin Elsan, NY
 Emek Hanahar Bronx Chapter, NY
 Dorthy and William, z"l, Engel, CA
 Esther Ben David Chapter, NY
 Esther Chapter, MA
 Esther Queens Chapter, NY
Selma and Irving Ettenberg, z"l, FL*
 Ruth and Gene Fax, MA
 Frances Feder, z"l, NY
 Lillian Feketis, z"l, FL
 Chaiki and Ziel Feldman, NY
 Sheila and Kenneth Fields, NJ

*Million-dollar donors



FOUNDERS' CIRCLE

Suri and David Kufeld, NY
 Sarah Kupchik, z"l, FL
 Arlene and Moshe Kupietzky, CA
 Ann and David, z"l, Kupperman, NY
 Celia Kurr, z"l, FL
 Bertha and Irving, z"l, Kutoff, MN
 Dena Ladin, FL
 Greta Landis, z"l, NY
 Esther and Stanley Landsman, NY
 Sylvia Lansky, z"l, NY
 Francine and Alvin Lashinsky, z"l, NY
 Donna and Jeffrey Lawrence, MD
 Erna Lazard, z"l, FL
 Agatha I. Leifer, z"l, NY
 Miriam and Louis Leifer, z"l, NY
 Sheila, z"l, and Elihu Leifer, MD
 Ria and Tim Levart, NJ
 Alice Levi, z"l, NY
 Norman & Sylvia Levine, z"l
 Gerald Levy, z"l, NY
 Suzanne Levy, z"l, Israel
 Dorothy, z"l, and Robert Lewis, FL
 Linda and Alan Lewis, FL
 Ruth and Robert, z"l, Lewis, NY
Minnie Lieberman, z"l, NY*
 Mindy and Seymour Liebman, NY
 Rose Lippin, z"l, NY
 Lela London, z"l, NY
 Long Island Council, NY
 Audrey and Haskel Lookstein, NY
 Los Angeles Council, CA
 Rita Lourie-Galena, NY
 Bernice and Mitchell Macks, z"l, IL
 Gershona Maden, z"l, NY
 Maera Chapter, NY
 Millie and Lawrence Magid, NJ
 Manhattan Council Chapter, NY
 Mae Manney, z"l, NY
 Zipporah and Arnold, z"l, Marans, NY
 Etella and Tivadar Marcovici, NY
 Ilse Marcus, z"l, NY
 Margate Chapter, NJ
 Margolit Queens Chapter, NJ
 Matanel, Israel
 Meira and Solomon, z"l, Max, NY
 Benay and Ira Meisels, NY
 Sema and Moshe Menora, z"l, IL
 Sharon and Solomon Merkin, NJ
Shirley Mesirow, z"l, IL*
The Joan S. and Leon Meyers Foundation, NY*
 Lisa and Leon Meyers, NY
 The Dorothy Phillips Michaud Charitable
 Trust, CA
 Leon, z"l, and Gloria, Edward, Sari and
 Howard Miller, NY

Jack Fink, z"l, NY
 Myrna and Eli Fishbein, z"l, NJ
 Lisa Rosenbaum and Ron Fisher, MA
 Theresa and Michael, z"l, Foley, NY
 Ruth Friedlander, z"l, NY
 Clara T. Friedman, z"l, NY
 Jacqueline and Zev Friedman, NY
 Lilly and Alfred, z"l, Friedman, NY
 Rosalyn and Ira Friedman, NJ
 Sylvia K. Friedman, NY
 Florence Furedi, z"l, FL
 Marisa and Andrew Gadlin, NY
 Galil-Moorings-Simcha Chapter, FL
 Galila Chapter of Chicago, IL
 Rose Garfin, z"l, FL
Gayl Shechter Chapter, NY*
 The Gazit-Globe, Israel
 Rita Geller and Howard, z"l, Geller, IL
 Clara Gero, z"l, Israel
 Geshet Tzion-Atlanta Chapter, GA
 Geula-Shalvah Miami Beach Chapter, FL
 Lea Gilon, NY
Dorric and Harry Ginsburg, z"l, AZ*
 Leelah and Joseph Gitler, NJ
 Miriam and Felix Glaubach, NY
 Gloria Sheer Bronx Chapter, NY
 Golda Meir Chapter, FL
 Golda Meir Staten Island Chapter, NY
 Evalyn R. Goldberg, z"l, IN
 Gertrude Goldberg, z"l, NY
 Paulette & Max, z"l, Goldberg, NY
 Mildred and Hyman, z"l, Golden, NY
 Esther and Jack, z"l, Goldman, NY
 David Goldman Charitable Trust, Israel
 N & L Goldsmith Foundation, NY
 Harold Goldstein, FL
 Tamar and Eric Goldstein, NY
 Helen Goldyk, FL
 Anne and Sheldon Golombeck, NY
 Harvey Goodstein Foundation, NY
 Lois Selevan Goodstein, z"l, NY
 Pnina and Jacob Graff, CA
 Adele Gray, z"l, FL
 Bertha K. Green Chapter, NY
Evan & Layla Green Family Foundation, CA*
 Morris L. Green, z"l, NY
 Paula and Arlin Green, PA
Helen and Jacob Greenfield, z"l, NY*
 Hilda Gross, z"l, FL
 Sharon and Melvin Gross, NY
 Julius Guggenheimer, z"l, NY
 Olga Guttmann, z"l, FL
 Amy, z"l, and James Haber, NY
 Hagudah Lekidim Hachinuch, Israel
 Lillian and Elliot, z"l, Hahn, FL
 Phyllis Hammer, MA
 Milton and Miriam Handler Foundation, NY
 Felicia Hanfling, z"l, NY
 Hanita Brooklyn Chapter, NY
 Debra and Robert Hartman, IL
 Harwit Charitable Trust, CA
 Havtacha Chapter, NJ
 Debbie and Eddie Herbst, CA

Laura and Jonathan Heller, NY
 Mildred, z"l, and Alvin Hellerstein, NY
 Russell Jay Hendel, MD
 Pearl and Martin Herskovitz, Israel
 Barbara Hirschhorn, z"l, MD
 Marcia and Philip Holzer, z"l, NJ
 Norma and Emanuel, z"l, Holzer, NY
 Max and Sunny Howard Memorial
 Foundation, NY
 Ima Hollywood Chapter, FL
 Peggy and Robert Insel, NY
 Debbie and David Isaac, NY
 Israeli Brooklyn Chapter, NY
 Ithaca Area United Jewish
 Community, NY
 Elaine and Robert Jacobs, NY
 Michele and Ben-Zion Jacobs, NY
 Suzanne and Norman Javitt, NY
 New Jersey Council, NJ
 Kadimah Chapter, CT
 Connie Kadish, NJ
 Eva and Joseph Kahn, z"l, NY
 Robin and Simon Kahn, Israel
 Sara Liron and Sheldon Kahn, CA
 Hannah and Hermann Kaiser, z"l, NJ
 Brenda and Albert, z"l, Kalter, NY
 Ruth and Jerome Kameron, FL
 Miriam and Sol Kanarek, NY
 Kansas City Nitzanim Chapter, MO
 Ruth and William, z"l, Kantrowitz, NY
 Ida and Gustave Kaplan, z"l, FL
 Marilyn and Edward Kaplan, FL
 M. Karasick/Deborah Chapter, CA
 Shirley Z. Kaufman, z"l, FL
 Laurie Kayden Foundation, NY
 Ruth and Hillel Kellerman, CA
 Rona and Ira Kellman, NY
Rena Kent, z"l, NY*
 Michael Kessel, NJ
 Amy and Todd Kesselman, NY
 Dora Kesten, z"l, NY
 Rochelle Stern Kevelson, NY
 Kfar Boca Chapter, FL
 Kirkland & Ellis LLP, IL
 Kislev Tuvla Veschar Inc., Israel
 Kivunim Foundation, Israel
 Susan Alter Klaperman and
 Gilbert, z"l, Klaperman, NY
 Jane Klitsner, NY
 Kolatch Family Foundation, NJ
Ellen, z"l, and Meyer Koplou, NY*
 Gitta and Richard Koppel, Israel
 Laurie and Robert Koppel, NY
 Zlata Korman, z"l, FL
 Sylvia and Leon Korngold, z"l, NY
 Barbara and Fred Kort Foundation, CA
 Joel Koschitzky, Israel
 Sarena and David Koschitzky, Canada
 Ruth and Daniel Krasner, NY
 Rochelle and Sy, z"l, Kraut, NJ
 Kravitz Family, z"l, CA
 Dorothy Kreiselman, NY
 Ellen and Emanuel Kronitz, Israel

*Million-dollar donors

Judy and Albert Milstein, IL
 Marilyn E. Mitnick, z"l, NY
 Myra and Samuel Mitzner, z"l, NY
 Mizrahi East Chapter, NY
 Debbie and Sam Moed, NJ
 Marilyn and Leon Moed, NY
 Naomi Chapter, NY
 Negba Foundation, Israel
 Robert Neiman, z"l, KY
 Celia and David Neuman, MD
 Miriam and Bernard Neuman, IL
 Miriam Neustadter, NY
 New England Council/Ra'anana Chapter, MA
Barbara and Jules, z"l, Nordlicht, NY*
 Dahlia Kalter Nordlicht and
 Mark Nordlicht, NY
 Isidore Okun, z"l
 Minette and Nate Olick, CA
 Rose Orloff, z"l, FL
 Linda and Ira Panzier, NY
 Paul S. Pariser, MT
 Pearl Schwartz - Houston Chapter, TX
 Thelma Pearlman, z"l, FL
 Tama and Emanuel Penstein, z"l, NY
 Regina and Pincus Peterseil, z"l, NY
 Ingebord Petranker, z"l, CA
 Bea & Irwin, z"l, Peyser, NY
 Suzanne and Paul Peyser, NY
 The Philadelphia Council, PA
 Marilyn Phillips, z"l, NY
 Eve and Stuart L. Pinkert, IL
 Esther, z"l, and Donald Press, NY
 Lauren S. and Mitchell Presser, NY
 Judith and Jerry, z"l, Pressner, NY
 The Prospect Park Aviva Chapter, NY
 The Queens Council, NY
 Jane and Bill Quint, z"l, CA
 Bethia Straus and Paul Quintas, IL
The Raanana California Chapter, CA*
 The Raanana Channah Chapter, NY
 The Rae Koenigsberg Chapter, MD
 Roman Rakover, z"l, CA
 Barbara and Joel, z"l, Rascoff, NY
 Joyce and Stanley Raskas, NY
 Marc and Micheline Ratzersdorfer, z"l, Israel
 Evelyn and Sidney Reichenthal, z"l, TX
 Susan and Max Reichenthal, TX
 Blanche Katz Renov and
 Joseph Renov, z"l, Israel
 The Rishona Chapter, FL
 Norman and Bettina Roberts
 Foundation, NJ
 Fritzie and Sheldon, z"l, Robinson, IL
 Rochlin Foundation, Israel
 Ellen Rogoff, z"l, NY
 Sandra and Evan Roklen, CA
 Vivian and Solomon, z"l, Rosen, FL
 Miriam and Howard Rosenblum, NJ
 Jennie and Avi Rothner, IL
 Lottie Rothschild, z"l, CA
 Etta Rubin, NY
 Herbert and Augusta, z"l, Rudnick, NY
 Shirley and Milton Sabin, FL

LI Sabra Massada Chapters, NY
Shari and Jacob M. Safra, NY*
The Moise Y. Safra Foundation, NY*
 Samis Foundation, WA
 Sam Samson, z"l, CA
 The Sarah Kronovet Chapter, NY
 The Sarah Ribakow-Tikvah Chapter, MD
 The Savannah Chapter, GA
 Jan and Sheldon Schechter, NY
 Ellen and David Scheinfeld, z"l, NY
 Janet Schiff, z"l, FL
**Mae Liebson and Gertrude
 Schneider, z"l, FL***
 Charlotte Schneierson, NY
 Daniela and Laurence Schreiber, NJ
 Elaine and Saul Schreiber, Israel
 Shirley and Paul Schulder, z"l, NY
 Alice Schuster, z"l, NY
 Rita and Eugene, z"l, Schwalb, FL
 Carmi Schwartz, z"l, Israel
 Diana Schiowitz and Paul Schwartz,
 Israel
 Pari and Henry Schwartz, NY
 Dorothy Sebulsky, z"l, CA
 Seed the Dream Foundation, PA
Harriet and Herbert Seif, NJ*
 Alan Selevan, z"l, NY
 Bashie R. and Irwin Selevan, z"l, NY
 Esther, z"l, and Jacques Semmelman, NJ
 Reb. Sema Shaffer, MD
 Shalhevet Great Neck Chapter, NY
 Shalva Chai Englewood Chapter, NJ
 Dianne and Leonard Shapiro, NY
 The Margaret Rose Shapiro Chapter, FL
 Rose M. Shapiro, z"l, FL
 The Sharona Chapter, CA
 Judy and Isaac Sherman, NY
 Chana and Daniel Shields, NY
 Deena and Adam Shiff, NY
 The Shira Chapter, PA
 The Shoshana Hempstead Chapter, NY
 Mollie and Israel, z"l, Siegel, NJ
 Harry Sigal, z"l
Deborah Silberman, NY*
 Roselle Silberstein, z"l, NY
 Silbert Charitable Fund, NY
 Elaine and Walter Silver, z"l, FL
 Samuel Silverman, z"l, FL
 Renee, z"l, and Gerald Silverstein, NJ
 Ruth and Hyman Simon, z"l, NY
 Marc Singer, Israel
Harold Skolnick, z"l, CA*
 Marsha Slavitt, z"l, CA
 Marilyn and Herbert, z"l, Smilowitz, NJ
 Sondra and Myron Sokal, NY
 Arthur Solomon, z"l, NY
 William Solomon, z"l, NY
 Mor & Alphonse Soued, NJ
 Francine and Aaron Stein, NJ
 Hilda and Arthur Stern, z"l, NY
 Sandra and Harold Sternburg, z"l, ME
**Robyn Price Stonehill and
 David Stonehill, NY***

Ruth and Meyer Strassfeld, z"l, FL
 Adina Straus, NY
 Gwen and Joseph Straus, z"l, NY
Joyce and Daniel Straus, NJ*
 Zahava and Moshael Straus, NJ
 Aviva Hoschander-Sulzberger and
 Vernon Sulzberger, NY
 Edith Sussman, z"l, MD
Ethel and Lester, z"l, Sutker, IL*
 Rosalee Swerdloff, z"l, FL
 Marion Talansky, Israel
 Rose Tapp, z"l, IL
 Marvin Walter Tasem, z"l, MN
 Anna Teich, z"l, FL
 Lilly Tempelman, z"l, NY
 Sandra, z"l, and Max Thurm, NY
 Sara, z"l, and Leo Thurm, NY
 The Tikvah-B'noth Zion Chapter, CA
 Morris and Sylvia Trachten, z"l,
 Family Foundation, CO
 Audrey Axelrod Trachtman and
 Chaim Trachtman, NY
 Ina and David Tropper, NY
 The Trump Foundation, Israel
 Bertie, z"l, and Fred Tryfus, NY
 Audrey and Max Wagner, NY
Ellen and Stanley Wasserman, NY*
 Ida Wax, IL
**Harry & Jeanette Weinberg
 Foundation Inc., MD***
 Marcia and Lee Weinblatt, NJ
 Hindy Weinstock Geula Teaneck
 Chapter, NJ
 Bronka Weintraub, z"l, NY
 Judy and Morry Weiss, OH
 Marion and William Weiss, NJ
 Marguerite, z"l, and Ronald Werrin, PA
 Susan Waxner, NY
 The Maurice and Vivienne Wohl
 Foundation, England
 Sylvia and William Wolff, NY
 Yedidut Toronto, Israel
 The Yefthah NPO, Israel
 The Yonkers/North Riverdale Chapter, NY
 The Yoreinu Foundation, Israel
 Jacob Zarembor, AZ
 Hilde and Benjamin Zauderer, z"l, NY
Gloria and Henry Zeisel, z"l, NY*
 Robert Zeldin, FL
 Tamar and Benjamin Zeltser, NY
 Herbert M. Ziff, NY
 The Zionah Chapter, NY
 Helene and Gerald, z"l, Zisholtz, NY
 Mrs. Pauline Zonon, z"l, NY
 Molly and Jack Zwanziger, IL

*Million-dollar donors

2023-24



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
Evan and Layla Green Family Foundation, CA
Ellen, z"l, and Meyer Koplou, NY
The Lewis and Wolkoff Family Legacy, CO
Edward Miller, NY
The Moise Y. Safra Foundation, NY
Joyce and Daniel Straus, NJ
Ellen and Stanley Wasserman, NY

\$250,000 - \$999,999

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

\$100,000 - \$249,999

Lee and Lou, z"l, Benjamin, FL
Sarena and David Koschitzky, Mira and Saul Koschitzky, Tamar and Eric Goldstein, and Joel Koschitzky, US, Canada and Israel

Ellen and Emanuel Kronitz, Israel
Suzanne Levy, Israel
Irene Morris, z"l, NY
Harold Neustadter and Family, Israel
Rabbi Sacks Legacy Foundation, Israel
Samis Foundation, WA
Edith Sussman, z"l, MD
Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, MD

\$75,000 - \$99,999

Anonymous, NY
Aaron and Marie Blackman Foundation, CA
Keren Yerushalayim, Israel

\$50,000 - \$74,999

Anonymous, FL
Hanna Abrams, Israel
Marcia Baskin, FL

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
Laurie Kayden Foundation, NY
Keren Shituf Tormim, Israel
Sharon and Michael Kessel, NJ
The Kolatch Family Foundation, NJ
Ria and Tim Levart, NJ
Norman and Sylvia Levine, z"l, FL
Minnie Lieberman, z"l, NY
Robert and Honey, z"l, Low, VA
Migdal Hevra LeBituach, Israel
Barbara and Jules, z"l, Nordlicht, NY
Evelyn Reichenenthal, z"l, TX
Tishrei Transport, Israel
Audrey Axelrod Trachtman and Chaim Trachtman, NY
Jessica Tuchinsky, NY

2023-24

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

Ike, Molly and Steven Elias Foundation, NY
Estate of Susan Goldman, Israel
Pearl and Martin Herskovitz, Israel
Keren DM (Glencor), Israel
Kibbutz Mishmar Haemak, Israel
Villar Group, Israel

\$25,000 - \$35,999

Anonymous, FL
Anonymous, MA
Anonymous, NY
Raquela and Avi Adelsberg, NY
Ann and Hyman, 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
Orit and Seth Gribetz, NJ
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
Gitta and Richard Koppel, Israel
Keren Magi, Israel
Sharon and Solomon Merkin, NJ
The Joan S. and Leon Meyers Foundation, NY
Elana and Daniel Miller, NJ
Yitzchak Or, Israel
Esther, z"l, and Donald Press, NY
Tovah and Daniel Reich, NJ
Norman and Bettina Roberts Foundation, NJ
Harriet and Heshe Seif, NJ
Harry Sigal, z"l, Israel
Blimie Spiro, NY

Robyn Price Stonehill and David Stonehill, NY
Zahava and Moshael Straus, NJ
Esther and Henry Swieca, NY
Sylvia and Morris Trachten, z"l, Family Foundation, Israel
Zeldin Family, FL

\$18,000 - \$24,999

Anonymous, NY
Grace, Shua & Jacob Ballas Charitable Trust
Ann and Yale Baron, NJ
Aaron and Marie Blackman Foundation, CA
Adrienne and Leon Brum, FL
CD Foundation, NY
Congregation Ahavath Torah, NJ
Pnina and Jacob, z"l, Graff, CA
Eli Haddad, FL
Debbie and David Isaac, NY
Sarah Liron and Sheldon Kahn, CA
Margaret Mann, z"l, NY
Matan Community Investors, Israel
Judy and Albert Milstein, IL
Mizrahi Car Dealership, Israel
Debbie and Samuel Moed, NJ
Jennifer and Jay Nadelbach, NY
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, MA
 Bess Abel, z"l, NJ
 Trudy and Ted, z"l, Abramson, FL
 Bader Philanthropies, Israel
 Joan Bellows, IL
 Tzahala Ben Asher, Israel
 Tamar and Ethan Benovitz, Israel
 Zelda and Solomon Berger, NY
 Daisy Berman, z"l, NY
 Debra Berman, NY
 Moshe Berman, z"l, NY
 Helen and Henry Bienenfeld
 Foundation, PA
 Barbara and Leonard, z"l, Bloom, MD
 Ethlynn and Stephen Brickman, MA
 Vanessa and Raymond Chalme, NY
 Michelle Chrein, NY
 Diane and Howard Cole, NY
 Karen and David Cole, FL
 Jone and Allen Dalezman, MA
 Lisa and Ephraim Dardashti, PA
 Audrey and Eliot Davidowitz, NY
 Adena and Ezra Dyckman, NY
 Selma and Jacob 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
 Rosalyn and Ira Friedman, NJ
 Eleanor and Jule Vaki Fung, Israel
 Binyamin Gabbai, Israel
 Marisa and Andrew Gadlin, NY
 Leonid Gandelman, CT
 Randi and Alan Gelman, Israel
 Ari and Abby Glass, NY
 Anne and Sheldon Golombeck, NY
 Paula Yudenfriend and
 Arlin Green, PA
 Lizzie Straus Greenspan and
 Michael Greenspan, NY
 Amy, z"l, and James Haber, NY
 Haruach Halsraeli (The Israel Spirit), Israel
 Chanie and Barry Holzer, 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
 Gloria Kaylie, NY
 Ruth and Hillel Kellerman, CA
 Keren Trachtman (Ruach Yisrael), Israel
 Kibbutz Mishmar HaEmek, Israel
 Ruth and Daniel Krasner, NY
 Rochelle and Seymour, z"l, Kraut, NJ
 Ruth and Abba Krieger, PA
 Arlene Kupietzky, CA
 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
 Elana and Shami Minkove, NY
 Mischcon Family Charitable Trust, Israel
 Kibbutz Mishmar Haemak, Israel
 Marilyn and Leon Moed, NY
 Daniella Moffson Foundation, NY
 Evan Charles Neuman, Israel
 Vicki and Gerald Platt, NY
 Tzippi and Ira Press, NJ
 Lauren and Mitchell Presser, NY
 Barbara and Joel, z"l, Rascoff, NY
 Yosef Haim Roth Holdings, Israel
 Shirley and Milton Sabin, FL
 Lisa and Jonathan Schechter, NJ
 Rita and Eugene, z"l, Schwalb, FL
 Amnon Segal, Israel
 Avital and Yair Segal, Israel
 Anat Ramaty Shashua, 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, NY
 Naomi and Gary Stein, NY
 Adina Straus, NY
 Ravazi Turfiashvili, Israel
 United Israel Appeal, Israel
 Utopia Jewish Center, NY
 LLC Vision and Beyond, Israel
 Elaine and Michael Weinberger, z"l, NY
 Judy and Morry Weiss/Sapirstein-
 Stone-Weiss Foundation, OH
 Susan and Mark Wiesen, NJ
 Robin Zerkowitz, NJ
 Tamar and Benjamin Zeltser, NY
 Helene and Gerald, z"l, Zisholtz, NY

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Anonymous, CO
 Anonymous, Israel
 Anonymous, TX
 Sally Aaron, IL
 Hannah Abrams, Israel
 Ronald Abramson, NY
 Jocelyn and David Adelsberg, NY
 Renee and Steve Adelsberg, NY
 S. Adelsberg & Co, NY
 Marilyn and Greg Adler, NY
 Sarah and Maurice Aghion, MA
 Allie Alperovich and Jeremy Simon, NY
 Beth and Bradley Alter, IL
 Apex, Israel
 Rachel, z"l, and Martin Balsam, NY
 Diane and Noah Berkowitz, NY
 Phyllis and Edward, z"l, Berkowitz, NY
 Ellen and Morris Bienenfeld, NJ
 Andrea and Bryan Bier, NJ
 Sarah Black, z"l, TX
 Beth and Reuben Blumenthal, NY
 Deborah Stern Blumenthal and
 Michael Blumenthal, NJ
 Freda and Elliot Braha, NJ
 Marisa Braunstein, NY
 Sari and Stuart Braunstein, NY

Adrienne and Leon Brum, FL
 Ruth Burian, 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
 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
 Evelyn Ellenbogen, FL
 Danielle and Ronald Ellis, Israel
 Kay and Benjamin Fialkoff, NJ
 Sheila and Kenneth Fields, NJ
 Amy Fisher, Israel
 Sharon and Jeffrey Fishman, CA
 Debra Jakubovitz Fletcher and
 Tim Fletcher, CA
 Etan Fraiman, NY
 Frances Frankel, z"l, NY
 Beth and Harry Fried, NJ
 Robbie and Adam Fried, NJ
 Sharon and Jeffrey Frieling, NY
 Judith Isaac and Walter Gadlin, NY
 Leonid Gandelman, CT
 Linda and Norman Garfield, PA
 Barbara and Steven Geller, IL
 Debbi and Marc 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
 Sandra E. Goodstein and
 Arthur Rosenblatt, PA
 Ari & No'a Gorlin, Israel
 Gorlin Family Foundation, MD
 The Gottesman Fund, NY
 Sara and Ronald Gottlieb, FL
 Robert and Cindy, z"l, Grosberg, NJ
 Green Street Power Partners, CT
 Suzanne and Barry Gurvich, NY
 Myrna Haas, NJ
 Phyllis Hammer, MA
 Debbie and Robert Hartman, IL
 Debbie and Eddie Herbst, CA
 Tiffany Herlands and Ronny Barnea, NY
 Sylvia Holder, z"l, NJ
 Shulamit and Avram Holzer, NJ
 Nancy Isserman Horwitz and
 Joel Horwitz, PA
 Aviva Hoschander-Sulzberger and
 Vernon Sulzberger, NY
 Howard Hughes Corp., NY
 Peggy and Robert Insel, NY
 Yael and Evan Jerome, NY
 Michal and David Kahan, NJ
 Tirza and Sam Kahan, IL
 Alexandra and Gavriel Kahane, NY
 Robin and Simon Kahn, Israel
 Carol and Steven Kallet, NY

AMIT

Ruth and Jerome Kamerman, NY
Ruth and William, z"l, Kantrowitz, NJ
Harriet and Joel Kaplan, NY
Genene and Marc Kaye, NJ
Ruth and Hillel Kellerman, CA
Rona and Ira Kellman, NY
Keren Asor, Israel
Keset, Israel
Rochelle Stern Kevelson, NY
Katherine and Benjamin Kialkoff, NJ
Diane and Barry Kirschenbaum, FL
Victoria and Arnold Kisch, Israel
Chani and Steven Klein, NY
Jordana and Sam Klein, NY
Jane Klitsner, Israel
Laurie and Robert Koppel, NY
Ruth and Ethan Kra, NJ
Debbi and Lee Krantzow, NJ
Evelyn and Lawrence Kraut, NJ
Jason Kuflik, NY
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
Rita Lourie-Galena, PA & NY
Diana and David Makkahi, CA
Pearl and Jerome Mann, NY

Meira and Solomon, z"l, Max, NY
Manette and Louis Mayberg, MD
Benay and Ira Meisels, NY
Lisa and Leon Meyers, NY
Grace and Martin Miller, FL
Michael Moore, TX
Gloria and Burton Nusbacher, NY
Pearlman Family, MD
Bea and Irwin, z"l, Peyser, NY
Suzy and Paul, z"l, Peyser, NY
Adama Pitronot Lehakluyt, Israel
Jennifer Bernstein Platt and Geoffrey Platt, NY
Judy and Jerry, z"l, Pressner, NY
Raam Technologies, Israel
Joyce and Stanley Raskas, NY
Reut Foundation, Israel
Fritzie and Sheldon, z"l, Robinson, IL
Sandra and Evan Roklen, CA
Ilse and Herbert Rosenbaum, CA
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
SAR Academy, NY
Jan and Sheldon Schechter, NY
Tunie and David Schorr, Israel
Keryn and David Schreiber, IL
Esther and William Schulder, NJ
Mali and Steven Schwartz, 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
Rosalyn and Richard Slifka, MA
Tamar and Eran Smilowitz, Israel
David Sokol, NY
Sara and Gabriel Solomon, MD
Marsha and Jan Spector, GA
Phyllis and Mark Speiser, NY
Rena and Bruce Spinowitz, NY
MA Stern, Israel
Blimie and Joel Strauss, NJ
Mindy Suchinsky, MD
Naomi and Ira Sved, PA
Nechama and Howard Taber, NY
Hope and David Taragin, MD
Judy and Mark Teitelbaum, MD
UJIA, Israel
Audrey and Max Wagner, NY
Marilyn and Lee, z"l, Wallach, NJ
Paula and Leslie Walter, NY
Anne and Mark Wasserman, NY
Shirley Weinstein, Israel
Marion and William Weiss, NJ
Linda and Stanley Weissbrot, IL
Roselyn and Walter, z"l, Weitzner, NY
Stella and Samy Ymar, MD
Benco Zad Inc., CA
Esther and Dov Zeidman, NY
Eva Zilz, NY
Mindy and Barry Zisholtz, GA

*As of February 8, 2024

Chai Society

2023-24

Anonymous, FL
Anonymous, NY
Elise Abadie, NJ
Judy and Cyrus Abbe, NY
Merryll and Jonathan Abrahams, NJ
Elizabeth and Howard Abramowitz, CA
Stephanie and David Abramowitz, VA
Nora Abramson, DC
Daniella and Sam Adelsberg, NY
Ellen and Irwin Adelsberg, NY
Zeva and Noah Adelsberg, NJ
Leah and Jonathan Adler, NJ
Daphna & Michael Atar, England
Gary Alter, CA
Sally Applebaum, MN
Roberta and Alan Aronoff, NY
Seth Aronson, NY
Betty Atlas-Rumelt and Owen Rumelt, NY
Joyce and Eric Austein, NY
Yoliarman and Guy Bachar, CA
Yaela and Neil Baine, PA
Rachel Barton Klein and Avi Klein, NJ
Julia and David Baruch, NJ

AMIT's Chai Society is a devoted group of supporters whose yearly commitment of \$1,800 to \$4,999 enables AMIT to empower the next generation of Israeli students by giving them a cutting-edge, Jewish, values-based education.

Philip Baskin, OH
Amy and Ephraim Bassan, FL
Leon Benarroch, FL
Deborah and Barry Berg, NY
Beatrice Berger, NJ
David Berger, NY
Beth and Samuel Bernstein, NJ
Maxine Bernstein, FL
Chanah and David Bickel, NJ
Lois Blumenfeld and Norman Sohn, NJ
Adam Blumenthal and Elana Sinensky, NY
Doris Blumkin, NY
Brauser Maimonides Academy, FL
Jordan Brinn, MD
Perl and Harry Brown, FL
Paula and Marc Bruh, NY
Debbie and Michael Burack, NJ
Alice M. Burstein, NY
Adam Bush, CA
Dina and Lawrence Caroline, PA
Irian & Herbert Caskey, PA
Charlotte and David Chasan, NJ
Beth Chiger, NY

Hillarie Clein, GA
Abby and Elad Cnaan, NJ
Barbara Cohen, NJ
Diana and Daniel Cohen, GA
Hedy and Morris Cohen, PA
Joseph Cohen, NY
Wendy and Sanford Cohen, FL
Marla Cornejo, NY
Judy and Michael Daniels, IL
Peggy and Philip Danishefsky, NJ
Eva Deutsch, NY
Ilana Ressler & Jared Dinkes, NY
Stan Dorman, MD
Jerry Draluck, GA
Tova Dreyfus, MD
Susan Fishbein and Philip Druck, NJ
Amy and Myron Eagle, NY
Suzanne Eisenstat, NY
Barbara Epstein, NY
Amy and Daniel Erlbaum, PA
Elliot Feinerman, FL
Sherry and Mark Fessel, NY
Louise and Libo Fineberg, FL

Jeanne Finkelstein, FL
 Tanya and David Fischer, MA
 Amy Fistel, MA
 Shani and Sam Frank, NY
 Adina and Dovid Frankel, NY
 Judith and Mark Frankel, NY
 Reva and Mark Friedman, Israel
 Chanee and Eli C. Fuld, NJ
 Vivian Sue and Joseph Fuller, NY
 Karen and Dror Futter, NJ
 Debby and Steven Gage, NY
 Kenneth Gainer, NY
 Barbara and Benjamin I. Geller, CO
 Barbara and Steven Geller, IL
 Sharon and Seymour Gertz, FL
 Janet and Gilad Gevaryahu, PA
 Sherri and Martin Ghodsi, NY
 Sharon and Roei Gigi, FL
 Cory and Jonathan Glaubach, NY
 Elaine and Herbert Glick, NY
 Dawn and Steven Godwin Reich, NY
 Aliza and Joshua Goldberg, NY
 Deborah and Charles Goldberg, NY
 Ilana and Stuart Goldberg, NJ
 Jonathan Goldberg, NY
 Laura and Joseph Goldman, MD
 Stacey and Amir Goldman, PA
 Sorie Goldstein, Israel
 Susan and Steven Goldstein, NY
 Caryn and Avi Golombeck, NY
 Daniela and Zev Gontownik, NJ
 Aviva and Justin Gordon, IL
 Toni and Nick Gordon, NY
 Eudice Greenfield, IL
 Gross and Company LLC, NY
 Linda Grossman, GA
 Felice and Michael Grunberger, MD
 Marina and Andy Gutwein, NJ
 Reginetta Haboucha, NY
 Arie Halpern, z"l, NJ
 Barbara and George Hanus, IL
 Doug Hauer, MA
 Haves, Pine and Seligman, NY
 Robert Heidenberg, NJ
 Elin & Sam Heilman, Israel
 Ralph Herzka, NY
 Donna and Robert Hoenig, NJ
 Robin and Mark Hoenig, NJ
 Linda Hoffman Brown, MA
 Ann Holstein and Edwin Altman, PA
 Ann Hornblass and Alan Jacobs, NY
 Robyn Horowitz and Yehoshua Grossman, NJ
 Shulamit and Joakim Isaacs, Israel
 Susie Julius, CA
 Deborah and David Kahn, NJ
 Karen Kaplan, IL
 Stephanie Karger, MA
 Batsheva and Sheldon Kasdan, CA
 Rebecca and Avi Katz, NJ
 Daniel and Laura Kaufthal, NY
 David Kay, CA
 Joia and Joshua Kazam, NY
 Judy and Abraham Keehn, NY
 Jessica and Jeremy Kirschner, NY
 Anna and Steven Kirshblum, NJ
 Cara Kleiman and Kalman Major, NY
 Sue and Jordan Klein, IL
 Anne Beverly Kogut, TX

Deborah Peacock & Nate Koran, NM
 Susan and Saul Koss, MD
 Rebecca and Emilio Krausz, CT
 Naomi and Michael Kraut, MD
 Sara and Alan Kravitz, NY
 Rochelle and Stanley Kroll, IL
 Suri and David Kufeld, NY
 Daniel Kuflik, NY
 Natasha and Kevin Lalezarian, NY
 Paula and Irwin Lancer, NY
 Cheryl and Lee Lasher, NJ
 Laurie and Bernard Laulich Hasten, IL
 Carole and Emanuel Lax, FL
 Arlene and Zvi Lefkovitz, NY
 Terry and Michael Lefkowitz, FL
 Astrid and Mordy Leifer, NY
 Marlon Lerer, NJ
 Ruvim Levavi, NY
 Joel Levine, CA
 Rachel Levy, Canada
 Aviva and Nathan Lichtenstein, IL
 Shari and Nathan Lindenbaum, NJ
 Helen Linder, NJ
 Aviva and Rafi Lipschitz, NY
 Sesil Lissberger, NY
 Sharona and Michael Loeffler, FL
 Ineke and Marcel Loewenberg, Israel
 Betsy and Benjamin Lopata, NY
 Naomi and Carl Lopkin, MA
 Melvin Lubin, NJ
 Rachel Lurie, NY
 Allie and Alexander Luxenberg, NY
 Sherry and Phil Magid, IL
 Iris and Shalom Maidenbaum, NY
 Rita and Jerry Malin, MD
 Caryn Gordon Malitzky, NY
 Mindy Mark, NJ
 Frances Mauer, IL
 Meira Max, NY
 Naomi and Israel Max, NY
 Pegi and Gerard Medioni, CA
 Anita and Michael Melnick, CA
 Caroline and Marcelo Messer, NY
 Jenny Michael, NY
 Howard Miller, NJ
 Stephanie and Daniel Mishkin, MA
 Thea and Bernard Monderer, CA
 Michael Moore, TX
 Vera and Robert, z"l, Moreen, PA
 Arlene Moriber, NY
 Shahina and Ari Moses, NJ
 Miriam Muskin, OH
 Miriam & Bernard Neuman, IL
 Bernice Novick, IL
 Bobbie and Jerry Nussbaum, IL
 Grace and Scott Offen, MA
 Sarah Okon, MA
 Olshan Frome Wolosky LLP, NY
 Careena and Drew Parker, NJ
 Hedy and Paul, z"l, Peyser, MD
 Vicki and Gary Phillips, IL
 Roni and Robert Pick, NY
 Elisa and Alan Pines, NJ
 Michael Pinewski, NJ
 Ahava and Theodore Podhorcer, NJ
 Bruria Pool, FL
 Judith and Michael Poretzsky, FL
 Talee and Harvey Potter, NY

Power Forward Group, NY
 Karen Presser, MD
 Saritte Rapkin, MA
 Daphna and Daniel Raskas, MD
 Daphne & Joshua Rawson, NY
 Ronni and Elliott Robinson, IL
 Roseman Foundation, NC
 Marcia and Philip Rosen, NJ
 Sondra and Arnold Rosen, NY
 Miriam and Howard Rosenblum, NJ
 Judith and Lawrence Rosman, NY
 Sarah and Jeff Rosner, PA
 Naomi and Yechiel Rotblat, NJ
 Rhoda and Stephen Sand, PA
 Leslie Schapira, CA
 Phyllis and Jay Schapira, CA
 Shirley and Matthew Schein, Israel
 Debra Scheller, MD
 Stephen Schoenbaum, FL
 David Schreiber, NY
 Elaine and Saul Schreiber, Israel
 Mordy Schron, NJ
 Naftali Schuss, NY
 Karen, z"l, and Sheldon Schwartz, NY
 Dena and Howard Seif, FL
 Myra Selesny, MI
 Jacques Semmelman, NJ
 Yaffi and Yoseph Shmidman, Israel
 Shorashim Yisrael Fund, Israel
 Helene Shrago, NE
 Francine and Marc Sicklick, NY
 Judah Siegal, NY
 Judy Silberberg, NY
 Tessa and Daniel Simon, WA
 Barry and Joy Sklar, NJ
 Phyllis and Mark Speiser, NY
 Sydelle Spero, Israel
 Debra G. Speyer, PA
 Adam Stein, NY
 Joanne and Robert Stein, NJ
 Michael Stern, NY
 Nancy and Franklin Strong, PA
 Edith Sussman, z"l, MD
 Pia and Stuart Sussman Pollack, NJ
 Celia Szajman, Brazil
 Leah Tarter, NY
 Charles Taub, FL
 Miriam and Jamshid Tehrani, PA
 Lilly Tempelsman, z"l, NY
 Sylvia and Avi Tuchman, MA
 Joy and Michael Volk, CA
 Rivka Wakslak, NY
 Hindy Walfish, Israel
 Stuart and Suzanne Weilgus, FL
 Lillian and Sherwyn Weiss, FL
 Baila and Stanley Weiss, NY
 Barbara and Michael Weiss, NY
 Elaine and Mark Weitzman, NY
 Jeanette and Neil Wermuth, NJ
 Sharon and Joseph Wiesel, NY
 Sondra Willner, MD
 Young Israel of Woodmere, NY



49 W. 37th Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10018

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

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.



Secure an indelible place
in Israel's history today.
www.kfarbatya.org



212.477.4720