



Summer Newsletter



"The Quiet Weight Israeli Children Are Carrying"

FEATURED IN THE
THE TIMES OF ISRAEL

By Stephen Bisk

In one Beit Shemesh classroom supported by JOIN Israel, an elementary school student tried to explain what the war years had felt like.

"There was a war," he said softly. "And I got scared...a little bit. It was hard. And frightening. And there were a number of sirens... one after the other."

Later, reflecting on those months, he added quietly: "My friends were all sometimes sad too, I think."

The children interviewed for this article were in first through fourth grades at a Beit Shemesh school whose educational and emotional-support programs are supported by JOIN Israel. Some had lived through months of repeated missile sirens. Two had lost their homes and were living in small rentals.

Elroy, six years old, was living in the town of Eshtaol when a missile struck. His family had left to go to a park, "I convinced them to go," he said. When the siren came they found a bomb shelter, but Elroy saw the missile strike his home. The house he had left was destroyed.

"It's scary, those bombs," he said quietly.

Another 4th grader, David's family had been shopping when a missile struck next door to their home in Beit Shemesh. Nine people were killed in the very bomb shelter, that was normally their place of safety. The school sat one street away. Windows shattered. The force of the blast blew open the school's main entrance door.

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JOIN Day Camp is just around the corner

Together, we can send 2,000 children to camp in 13 Israeli cities!

While many look forward to summer vacation, for families facing financial hardship, the long break often brings added stress. Parents who must work are left without affordable childcare, and traditional camps are often out of reach, leaving children at home with limited supervision.

JOIN Day Camp meets this need by providing an accessible, enriching summer program for children from low-income families. Parents pay only a minimal fee, ensuring the camp remains within reach while allowing them to work with peace of mind knowing their children are safe.

Serving children from kindergarten through sixth grade, the camp blends academics, creativity, and sports, led by teachers and supported by teen volunteers.

With just two weeks left, we need your support to reach our goal. Through JOIN Israel's partnership model, The Power of &™, **your gift of just \$125 sponsors an at-risk child** for an unforgettable **summer at JOIN Day Camp.**





Finding Their Voice: Broadway Stars Unite to Support Israel's Youth

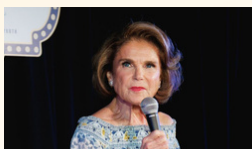
On Monday, June 15, 2026 — JOIN Israel hosted a fundraiser at The Jerry Orbach Theater, bringing together Broadway performers, industry professionals, and community leaders in support of **trauma-informed mental health services for children in Israel**.

Guests were welcomed with a reception sponsored by **Tulip Winery**, followed by a cabaret featuring songs by Jewish writers and composers, celebrating Jewish-themed Broadway musicals as well as Jewish culture and resilience.

Tovah Feldshuh (*Funny Girl*, *Pippin*) was honored with JOIN Israel's *Spirit of Israel Award* in recognition of her philanthropy and contributions to the Jewish community, before delivering a headline performance that captivated the audience with her signature talent and wit.

The program featured an extraordinary lineup of Broadway talent, including **Steven Skybell** (*Fiddler on the Roof*, *Wicked*), **Zal Owen** (*Harmony*, *The Bands Visit*)...

[SEE MORE PHOTOS AND READ MORE HERE](#)



Strong Jew

Led by certified coach **Daniel Braun**, a dedicated group met weekly in Jersey City for a 9-week strength training course. Their goals were simple: 1. Get STRONG 2. Build Community 3. Tzedakah. Participants trained weekly in a supervised & supportive environment focused on both personal growth and collective impact. All proceeds supported a **STEM Education** program for at-risk middle school students in Israel.



Last Crumbs! Young Leadership

75+ young philanthropists joined together for a pre-Passover dessert reception in March on Manhattan's Upper East Side in a private townhome. Guests enjoyed a full dessert buffet and live music from Israeli artists while raising funds for JOIN Israel's **Jerusalem Soup Kitchen** to provide holiday food packages to food-insecure families.



Vodka & Latke

JOIN Israel transformed Tribeca's art scene into a reimagined Hanukkah celebration, where art, music, and purpose came together to honor light in all its forms — while raising vital funds for **JOIN Lifeline**. The gallery came alive with a captivating performance by acclaimed singer **Israel Portnoy**, alongside acrobatic and visual art that transformed the evening into a living, immersive canvas.

Meet Samantha Hymanson, Development Assistant



Samantha joined us back in January with a diverse background in non-profit work, administration, and retail sales. She holds a Master of Arts degree from the Academy of Art University in San Francisco and a Bachelor of Art degree from the University of Arizona. Outside of work, Samantha enjoys running in Central Park, exploring NYC's vibrant culture, and reading a wide range of book.

WAYS TO DONATE

Credit card:

www.joinisrael.org

Check:

135 Rockaway Turnpike, Suite 101
Lawrence, NY 11559

Stock & other donations:

Contact FJC (212) 714-0001
or fjc@fjc.org

EIN Tax ID: 13-3643245

For Zelle, Venmo, or PayPal
email info@joinisrael.org



Welcome Judah Akerman to the Young Leadership Board

Judah holds a BBA from Touro University, is recently married, and is the proud owner of The Tribe of Judah, "where fashion meets spirituality to create a unique blend of apparel that transcends the ordinary. Each piece carries a narrative, a message that speaks to the heart and soul." Judah is excited to bring that same passion and creativity to his role on the Young Leadership Board.



Too many suffering
Israelis are slipping
through the cracks.

JOIN Israel | The Power of &™

United effort.
Real change.
More lives reached.