



## TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS JOIN FRIENDS OF YEMIN ORDE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-BETHESDA, MD, Dec. 2, 2015:** Friends of Yemin Orde (FYO) is pleased to welcome two new members to its Board of Directors, effective January 1, 2016. The new members were unanimously voted to their volunteer posts during the organization's November 2015 biannual board meeting in New York City. The new Board Members are: **Robert Arogeti (Atlanta) and Harvey Potter (New York City)**. Friends of Yemin Orde is the U.S. fundraising arm of Yemin Orde Youth Village and Yemin Orde Educational Initiatives (YOEI), both located in Israel. The Village provides a home, a safe haven and a quality education to approximately 440 emotionally-fragile immigrant and Israel-born at-risk youth; YOEI is an independent organization created to expand Yemin Orde's successful education methodology, called the Village Way, to other youth villages and schools throughout Israel. Visit [www.yeminorde.org](http://www.yeminorde.org), email [info@yeminorde.org](mailto:info@yeminorde.org) or call 202-237-0286 for more information on Yemin Orde, YOEI or the Village Way education methodology.

The new board members bring many years of involvement as well as fresh perspectives to FYO's important commitment to provide philanthropic support for Israel's fragile youth. Board members serve three-year terms, with a maximum of three terms each.

"Robert and Harvey both offer a wealth of advocacy experience in their communities and for Israel and will make valuable contributions to advance the mission of our organization," said Karen Sallerson, Executive Director, Friends of Yemin Orde. "The Arogeti and Potter families are longtime supporters of Yemin Orde and we are thrilled to welcome them to the Board."

**Robert Arogeti** has supported Yemin Orde for nearly 20 years and has visited the Village in Israel at least a dozen times. He has hosted visiting Yemin Orde youth in his home as well as organized Atlanta community fundraising and informational programs. He recently retired as a partner in the Advisory and Business Services Group of Habif, Arogeti & Wynne, LLP.



"Being at Yemin Orde in June 2014 with my wife and daughters reminded me of a mantra I try to live by: *living life being Jewish every day*. That has been the essence of Yemin Orde since I first visited the Village in the mid-1980s," Arogeti said. "After 30 years of being an advocate, a funder, a believer and a champion of Yemin Orde, I am honored to be asked to serve on the Friends of Yemin Orde board."

Robert is a longtime volunteer in the Atlanta community. He served as board chair and campaign chair of the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta and, on the national level, as a member and regional chairman of Jewish Federation of North America's National Young Leadership Cabinet. Additionally, Robert has been a member of The Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta Planned Giving Advisory

Board. In December 2015, he received the annual Selig Distinguished Service Award from the American Jewish Committee in Atlanta.

Robert received his BA in accounting from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a Master's degree in professional accounting with an emphasis in taxation from the University of Texas, Austin. He and his wife, Amy, have three adult children.

**Harvey Potter** recently completed a two-year term as a Board Observer, which is a program to introduce youth professionals to the work of the Friends of Yemin Orde Board. He and his family have been supporters of Yemin Orde for decades. His father, Bernard, served on the Friends of Yemin Orde board for nearly 20 years.



Harvey first visited Yemin Orde as a teenager while on a family trip to Israel. He was so inspired by the Village's hopeful immigrant youth that he later returned to the Village as a volunteer. As a Board Observer, Harvey took a leadership role in hosting meetings and informational programs for visiting Israeli staff, as well as promoting Yemin Orde to New York's young professional business leaders.

"The role of Yemin Orde is now more critical than ever – changing forever the lives of marginalized youth from Israel and throughout the world," Potter said. "The Village's methodologies are proven and the results are powerful as Yemin Orde transforms children from unfortunate circumstances into leaders of society. I am honored and privileged to be a part of the Board of Directors and even more honored to have been a part of this organization for the past 15 years. There is no better gift than knowing we are giving these children a stake in Israel's future."

Harvey received his BA in politics from Brandeis University and an MBA from the University of Rochester. He and his wife, Talee, have two young children.

### **About Yemin Orde Youth Village and Yemin Orde Educational Initiatives**

At Yemin Orde Youth Village, 440 fragile immigrant and at-risk youth live in a safe and loving home, have a top-rated education and are surrounded by positive role models. The Village operates on a 24/7 basis with exceptional extra-curricular programs and therapeutic services typically not offered at other youth villages and schools in Israel. Its successful educational methodology, called the Village Way, is a model of excellence throughout Israel and offers opportunities for vulnerable children to develop leadership skills, self-esteem, cultural identity and hope for the future. Graduates remain connected to the Village for life.

Yemin Orde Educational Initiatives (YOEI) expands the Yemin Orde methodology throughout Israel thereby, reaching thousands more at-risk children and educators. An estimated 9,650 youth and 1,320 educators have been impacted by YOEI through its workshops, resources and interventions. Today, there are 27 educational communities in Israel that partner with YOEI, including youth villages, residential therapeutic communities and public high schools, including schools in Israeli-Arab communities.

###