

## Liz Hirsh Naftali Bio

Liz Hirsh Naftali is a dedicated humanitarian and advocate for hostages, driven by her personal connection as the great-aunt of Abigail Mor Edan, a three-year-old who was held captive in Gaza for 51 days. Abigail was abducted by Hamas on October 7, 2023, from Kfar Aza, Israel, after her parents were killed. Following this tragedy, Naftali became a tireless advocate for the release of hostages, continuing her efforts even after Abigail's release on November 26, 2023, to support those still in captivity.

In September 2024, Naftali published *Saving Abigail*, a book recounting her family's ordeal, with all proceeds supporting her family in Israel and their advocacy for hostage release.

Over the past 18 months, Naftali has traveled globally, engaging with world leaders, including U.S. Presidents Joe Biden and Donald Trump, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, and Qatari and Israeli prime ministers. She has appeared on major U.S. and international media platforms and spoken at the White House, conferences, and universities worldwide, including in London, Israel, Costa Rica, Australia, Canada, and 20 U.S. states. Her talks focus on the events of October 7, hostage advocacy for Abigail and all of the hostages' release, ceasefire efforts, humanitarian aid for Gaza, and addressing the rise of antisemitism.

Beyond advocacy, Naftali is a businesswoman and the creator of *The Capitol Coffee Connection* podcast, where she hosts diverse leaders to discuss shared human experiences, fostering unity beyond politics. Raised in Los Angeles in a Jewish family, Naftali was shaped by the values of *Tzedakah* (charity) and *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world). Her father, Stanley Hirsh, was a prominent Jewish community leader, and her mother, Anita Hirsh, championed Soviet Jewry and Jewish Family Service.

Naftali, a mother of five, has lived between Israel and the U.S. since 1992, remaining committed to humanitarian causes and global dialogue.