

Yonatan Zeigen on his mother, Vivian Silver: translation from the Vivian Silver award ceremony in Israel in 2024:

"Our effort is to create beneficent ideals of devotion to life, of fair and equitable resource distribution, of recognizing the other until he turns from stranger into someone familiar, until we are no longer willing to kill and be killed.

My mother dedicated her life to these simple understandings. She took to the streets, established organizations, and sat on committees and councils. She spoke on every stage, raised funds, and whispered in the ears of statesmen. She built partnerships friendships and bridges.

None of her works was ever limited. There was no limit to her determination, and she didn't recognize the border that separates, distinguishes or compartmentalizes people. Now, against my will, the torch has been passed on to me. I bear it humbly, but also with determination and commitment. May it be extinguished on my watch, so I don't have to pass it on to my children."

From Yonatan's article in The Guardian:

The attack of 7 October didn't start time. It happened in a context of prolonged occupation and conflict, of an ongoing process of dehumanisation of both sides. It didn't start time, but it changed the course of my life. It has woken me from what I call my political coma, from the fantasy that we can lead normal lives in a place where life itself isn't sustainable.