"Faith in the majesty of man, of the individual, whose freedom and well-being and happiness are the goals and raison d'être of the state."

Menachem Begin



Menachem Begin Heritage Foundation

קרן מורשת מנחם בגין

Warm greetings for the

HIGH HOLIDAYS

2023/5784



Dear Friends,

For Rosh Hashana, the greeting often heard is "May this year end and its curses; may a new year begin and its blessings."

"This was indeed a difficult year: the deepest and longest political crisis in the history of the State of Israel has not yet been resolved and has even worsened, we are standing at the threshold of an election system that will probably not resolve the rift in Israeli society, and in order to have governmental stability and dialogue, the government requires a broad and stable coalition.

This crisis should concern every citizen and every patriot of the State of Israel, but it also has difficult consequences for the operation of the center."

This is what I wrote a year ago on the eve of Rosh Hashanah 2022, and that which we feared transpired. Moreover, Israeli society in the last six months has ruptured in such a way to threaten its integrity and the ability to exist as a functioning state.

One side was not satisfied with the results of the elections and was looking for a reason to express its anger, and the other side enthusiastically provided it with such reasons.

At this time, leadership is needed that knows how to say "until here" and, like Menachem Begin, "civil war never."

Shana Tova Ketiva v'Chatima Tova!

Herzl Makov
President
Menachem Begin Heritage Center



Dear Friends,

As we close the book on 5783 and look forward to 5784, we continue to yearn for peace in these unsettled times.

In 1952, Menachem Begin published a summary of his thoughts and ideas that became Basic Outlines of *Our World View and Our National Outlook*. Even then, seventy years ago, he foresaw the importance of judicial issues in the national fabric, and he laid down as one of his basic principles the Supremacy of the Law.

The Begin Center's mission is to teach the next generation the practice of values-based leadership. Following Begin and his unwavering basic principles, leadership dilemmas must be evaluated and solved with fair and balanced Jewish values. With new technologies, our branch offices, and our Mobile Museum serving the citizens living in the peripheral communities of Israel, we are able to bring the example of Begin's values-driven leadership to a wider and more diverse audience.

We appreciate your active and continued support for this mission and look forward to welcoming you to the Center, greeting you online, or meeting you at our locations in Israel and around the globe.

Shana Tova Ketiva v'Chatima Tova!



Basil Gamsu
Chair, Management Committee

On the Road with the Begin Mobile Museum

This spring we launched the Begin Mobile Museum to bring the Begin Center and its educational activities to peripheral communities in Israel. **This is the first project of its kind in Israel.**

The mobile museum is a 90-minute immersive puzzle-solving experience that engages participants in two rooms. It's a dynamic, interactive, high-tech experience that engages kids and doesn't intimidate or overwhelm adults.

Over Passover, 615 visitors experienced the pilot museum in **Jerusalem** and more than 1,500 visitors came to **Kiryat Ata** (near Haifa) where our northern branch is located. In both cases, the mobile museum was limited to morning hours since our target audience is young people.

From early August to mid-October, the mobile museum will be stationed in **Sderot** (where our southern branch is located). And after Sderot, the mobile museum will move to **Ginosar** (at the Yigal Allon Center on the shores of the Sea of Galilee).



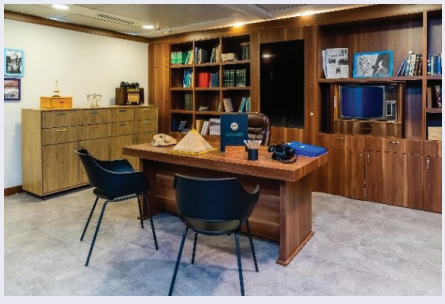


Thus far the mobile museum has been embraced warmly by the community.

> It was very impressive, enjoyable, educational, and fascinating. We had a great time, learned a lot, and discovered things that even us "older folks" didn't know.
>
> The content the students focused on were Menachem Begin's values as a person and as a leader. The students were fascinated. They thoroughly enjoyed the hands-on learning and gained a lot from this experience. They came back knowing more about themselves and their personal values as well as the leader within them.

Consider supporting innovations like this one to bring unique content to Israel's peripheral communities!
For more details: ilanab@begincenter.org.il





Menachem Begin Returns to Washington, DC

In June, America's Roundtable screened *Upheaval: The Journey of Menachem Begin* on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, for government officials, members of Congress, and other influential leaders, to celebrate Israel's 75th birthday.















With thanks to our partners at America's Roundtable for the images.

Israel Advocates Taking Menachem Begin's Values to US Campuses

In July 2023, the Begin Center in partnership with the Israel Leadership Foundation launched a scholarship program for Israeli post-graduate students at US universities. In return, these Israeli students will actively advocate for Israel, fight BDS/anti-Semitism/Holocaust denial, and educate their university communities about the realities of Israel.

We are pleased to present the inaugural cohort:



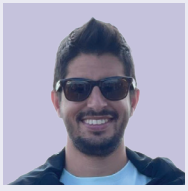
Ella Gal
has been accepted to Islamic Studies at Columbia University (NY) and currently works as a spokesperson for Israel's UN mission.



Amos Atzmon
has been accepted to the LLM program at Columbia University (NY). He was injured during IDF service and completed a law degree in Israel and an MBA in the US.



Shai Dromi
has been accepted to the LLM program at the University of Pennsylvania. He was a legal clerk at Israel's Supreme Court.



Roy Hadar
has been accepted to the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University (IL). He has had a long career in Israel's Air Force and plans to return to the Air Force after completing his degree.

If you are interested in supporting this initiative, please contact: ilanab@begincenter.org.il

Menachem Begin Welcomed by Spanish-Speaking Communities

In May, the documentary film, *Upheaval: The Journey of Menachem Begin,* premiered in Buenos Aires, Montevideo, and Mexico City. Ariel Morali, Director of the Begin Foundation in Israel, introduced two screenings in Argentina, one in Uruguay, and he visited schools and was interviewed on TV – all in Spanish. Rob Schwartz, CEO of the Hidden Light Institute and producer of the film, and his team were in Mexico City. The film was screened nine times, and the team attended events and visited schools. They also had an audience with the Israeli and American ambassadors and the diplomatic corps.



Ariel Morali introducing a screening of Upheaval.

Begin Prize 2022



All the winners with Herzl Makov and Hassia Milo, Menachem Begin's daughter

The Begin Center annually awards the Begin Prize to recognize an individual or a group for their contribution or achievement on behalf of the people of Israel and the State of Israel.

In December 2022 the award given to:

Or Lamishpachot (Light for Families)
association for assistance to bereaved parents to encourage them to cling to life and return to activity after the death of their loved ones.

Major General (res.) David Ivri
for his contribution to strengthening the security of Israel by leading the Air Force in daring operations and in a variety of positions in foreign and security service.

Yosef Haddad
for his work to encourage volunteering for meaningful service in the IDF and engaging as a public speaker in support of the State of Israel, in Israel and around the world.

Scholarships for Excellent Research

This year we awarded scholarships to outstanding students who wrote papers dealing with the history of the Irgun, Ze'ev Jabotinsky's ideas, Menachem Begin's policies, and more.

The scholarships were awarded in memory of David (Dade) Ben Harosh and Israel (Izzy) Asper.



Scholarship winners

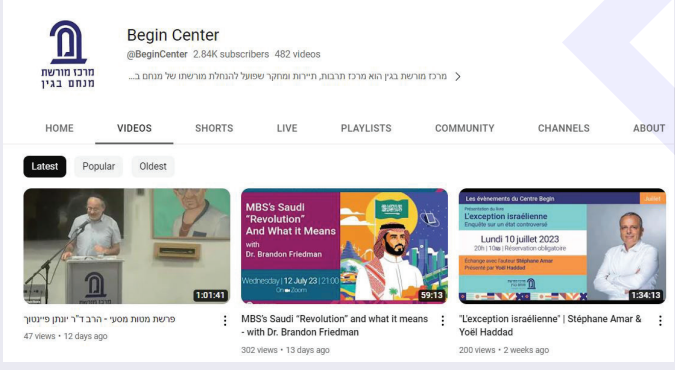
Reaching across the Language Barrier

As an Israeli institute, it's natural that we would have extensive programming in Hebrew. Our primary programs are developed and operated for a Hebrew-speaking audience. Among these are:

- Junior Knesset available in Israeli schools (in 2022, 5,000 students, 48 schools)
- Begin Quiz open to Israeli youths
- Torah portion of the week open to community members
- Public lecture series, launched in many Israeli communities
- Workshops on leadership for IDF officers (in 2022, 1,500 participants)
- Israeli folk music sing-alongs at the Center
- seminar of Israeli artists and academics researching Begin's values and philosophies in order to publish as widely as possible

Some programming can be adjusted and translated, but some cultural gaps remain. The Begin Center has developed targeted programming for different language groups. English is the most prominent and wide-reaching. We are building our French and Russian programming as well.

See our Youtube channel to view our content in Hebrew, English, French, and Russian.

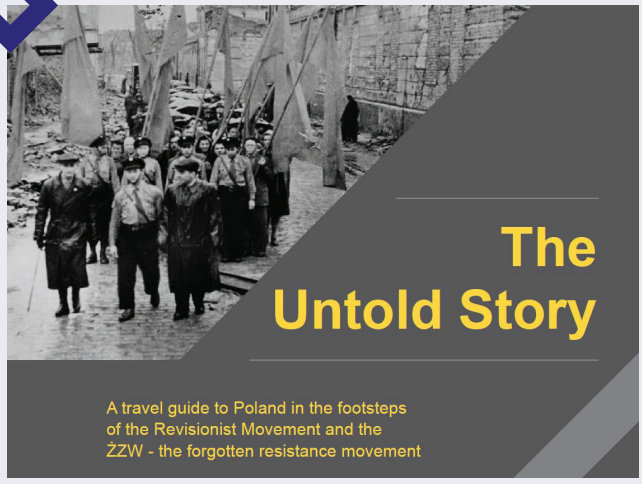


Recent Hebrew, English, and French content available on our YouTube channel

Holocaust Remembrance Delegation

Adi Farkash (Deputy Director of the Begin Center), Yossi Suede (Director of Content), and Ariel Cohen (CFO of the Begin Center) led a group of 20 tour guides on a unique tour to Warsaw. The basis of the trip was the recently published teacher's guide exploring stories of the nearly forgotten Jewish resistance movement based on Revisionist Zionism. Moshe Arens's book, *Flags over the Warsaw* Ghetto, was the first to tell these stories. The teacher's guide presents location-based thematic lessons for use by schoolteachers and specialized tour guides.





This was the first trip of its kind and was a great success. More than 50 guides are now on the waiting list for the next trips.

With thanks to the Asper Foundation, Winnipeg, Canada, for sponsoring the English translation of the guide

New on the Bookshelf: Derech Begin

The Menachem Begin Heritage Center published the book Derech Begin (Begin's way) in Hebrew. The book explores Menachem Begin's nationalist-liberal thought. Utilizing hundreds of his letters, the book reveals Begin's world view on various issues, such as the freedom of the individual, the Land of Israel, the return to Zion, democracy, economy, and society.



Herzl Makov, President of the Begin Center, presenting Derech Begin to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu

The First Station and Meir Feinstein's Bible

Opened in Ottoman times, the "First Station" – the first train station on the line from Jerusalem to Jaffa/Tel Aviv – operated until 1998. Today, it's an open-air entertainment complex near the Begin Center.

In 1946, Meir Feinstein was the getaway driver for the Irgun operation at the First Station to sabotage the rail service. In the confusion of escape, Feinstein's arm was so badly injured, it had to be amputated after his capture.

As Feinstein awaited his execution by hanging in the Jerusalem Central Prison in the Russian Compound (today, it is the Museum of Underground Prisoners), he needed assistance since he only had one arm. Moshe Barazani, a Lehi fighter also sentenced to death, was assigned to help him.

As underground fighters, the two did not want to give the British the satisfaction of simply hanging them. The plan was to smuggle in two grenades disguised as oranges, and they would blow themselves up on the gallows. Unfortunately, one grenade was a dud, and Rabbi Jacob Goldman promised to attend the hanging to support them.

The evening before they were to be hanged, the two fighters asked the British guard – who they dubbed "the good jailer" – to give them some privacy to pray. Feinstein, knowing it was his last night, gave Thomas Henry Goodwin his Tanakh with the following inscription:

> In the shadow of the gallows, 21.4.47. To the British soldier as you stand guard. Before we go to the gallows, accept this Bible as a souvenir and remember that we stood in dignity. It is better to die with a weapon in your hands than to live with hands raised. Meir Feinstein

Feinstein and Barazani put the single live grenade between them, hugged each other, and ended their lives in their cell.

This story always moved Menachem Begin. He said, in his famous speech in 1981:

> Feinstein was from European origins. What's it called? Ashkenazi. Moshe Barazani was Sephardic from Iraq. In the night, after they were sentenced to death, they were due to be taken to the gallows

in the early morning, the Rabbi insisted that he would come to accompany them and they didn't want to harm the Rabbi. They held close to their hearts a hand grenade – they squeezed... Ashkenazi? Iraqi? Jews! Brothers! Fighters!

The only note Begin wrote regarding his wishes for burial said:

Dear Yechiel,
When the day comes, please read this request to everyone I love, friends and comrades alike. I ask to be buried on the Mount of Olives, next to Meir Feinstein and Moshe Barazani, and I am grateful to you and to anyone else who carries this wish into effect.
Yours with love,
Menachem Begin

The story doesn't end there!

In 2007, Thomas Henry Goodwin, "the good jailer," passed away, and his son, Dennis, found the Bible among his belongings. Dennis recalled that his father wanted to return it to the Feinstein family, so he reached out to then Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's office.

The Begin Center organized a ceremony in the exercise yard at the Underground Prisoner's Museum to allow Dennis to return the Bible to the Feinstein family.

Along with the Feinstein and Barazani families, most of the white-haired attendees had been imprisoned in this very jail during their time in the underground and in wonder commented that it was smaller than they remembered.

From the First Station, to the Central Prison, to England, and finally home to Eretz Israel – Feinstein's Bible is the stuff of legend.

Neighborhood Stories

The Archeology Garden in Our Backyard

In 1979, archeologist Gaby Barkai excavated Ketef Hinnom and found a direct link between the Biblical text and the Jewish presence in Israel for 3,500 years.

Among the series of collapsed caves was an elaborate, well-maintained burial site that helped to clarify burial practices during the First Temple period. Other finds on the site included evidence of the location where stones for the Second Temple were quarried, Roman coins from 10th Legion that laid siege to the Old City in 70 CE, a mosaic from a Byzantine Church, and Ottoman weapons and munitions.

After thinking that the excavation was complete, a series of coincidences revealed the greatest treasures of the site hidden for 3,500 years in the main burial cave. Among the pottery shards, lamps, jewels and bones, were two small silver amulet scrolls. The engraved writing dated to the First Temple Period, and the text said:

> Hashem bless thee, and keep thee; Hashem cause His face to shine upon thee peace. (Numbers 6:24–26)

In other words, it was the Birkat HaCohanim (Priestly Blessing).

*We are grateful to Al Reich z''l of Pecksville, PA, and JNF of France for assistance in improving and maintaining the site.



Friends of the Menachem Begin Heritage Center in the United States


Bernard Hasten


Simon Schwartz

We are pleased to announce that **Bernard Hasten**, former chairman of the Hidden Light Institute responsible for the film Upheaval, has transitioned his leadership to be the new President of the Friends of the Menachem Begin Heritage Center (FMBHC). "We are very excited about continuing the momentum of Begin awareness following the film," stated Hasten. **Simon Schwartz**, Executive Director of FMBHC, and Hasten along with other US leaders are spearheading two major initiatives in the coming months.

Israel Advocacy Tour - South Florida, USA - October 16-19, 2023

FMBHC is proud to announce its debut series of events with Begin Prize recipient **Yoseph Haddad**. The Israel Advocacy Tour, October 16 - 19, 2023, in South Florida, will be an event that focuses on the tools Zionists and Jews in the Diaspora can use to successfully advocate for Israel. Along with Haddad, **Herzl Makov**, and journalist **Emily Schrader** will join the event. Topics include Begin's leadership and impact, successful tactics to shutting down BDS, and Israel as a stage for Human Rights.

The Begin Conference - Miami, Florida, USA - February 25, 2024

Preparations are underway for a full-day (in-person) conference at the Miami Design District's **Paradise Plaza** in South Florida. The event is focused on Israel's security, Jewish security, and overall economic security of the land and its people.

If you wish to support these initiatives and more, please be in touch.

Friends of the Menachem Begin Heritage Center

c/o Simon Schwartz, Executive Director
3467 South Chester Court
Denver, CO 80231
sschwartz@fmbhc.org

Why Is the Begin Center Important?

The Begin Center is unique in the landscape of heritage sites in Israel because of its content, information, and celebration of the heritage of Menachem Begin, who perhaps more than any other leader in Israel represented the combination of national pride and concern for freedom and individual well-being.

What need does it fulfill?

The center is a source of pride for our history and heritage. The Begin Center meets the need for research, culture, commemoration, and education of the unique concepts and values embraced by Menachem Begin and the national movement. This content cannot be obtained elsewhere.

The Center's field of activity is consistently expanding, and it is well-known for teaching values-based leadership in Israeli society through innovative means and thinking "outside the box." It is considered one of the foremost heritage sites in Israel. In addition, the Center engages with Revisionist history, which is mostly ignored by the Israeli mainstream. We strive to elevate those neglected issues to the national consciousness.

Our mission

The main mission is making the legacy of Menachem Begin and the national movement accessible to the general public and highlighting their uniqueness in the political landscape: for example, nationalism, which sees the integrity of the homeland and the right to security as a basic condition for ensuring the existence of the people of Israel, in contrast to liberalism, which sees human choice as the first condition for ensuring the existence of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state.

This analysis – which reconciles national values alongside liberal values of freedom, reforming society, the rule of law, parliamentary democracy – is of great importance today and has the ability to provide answers or, at a minimum, introduce new and interesting lines of thought to the questions and dilemmas that Israeli society is facing.

Our goal

The ultimate goal of the Begin Center is to continue to be relevant and reach as many people as possible and to produce high quality and significant content.

Our vision

Our vision is passing on the memory and legacy of Menachem Begin as a trailblazing leader and shaper of reality and a leader with a proud Jewish identity, with an uncompromising democratic outlook and personal qualities and virtues that are a model for leaders in Israel and the world.

Our vision is to shape the discourse in Israel by instilling the values of the national-liberal concept as the only way to ensure a stable existence of the State of Israel as the nation-state of the Jewish people, along with strengthening the liberal elements of civil rights, with an emphasis on minorities and disadvantaged groups.

We are proud that the Begin Center exists as a state body connecting with audiences from the entire political spectrum.

Help us to continue strengthening and instilling Menachem Begin's values as we constantly search for the best ways to enter the hearts of the public and inspire future generations.



Courtesy of Alon Reininger

Menachem Begin Heritage Foundation

קרן מורשת מנחם בגין

Protect the legacy and heritage of Menachem Begin for future generations!

The Menachem Begin Heritage Foundation Contact Details:

Israel

Menachem Begin Heritage Foundation
6. S.U. Nahon Street
Jerusalem, 9411014
Tel: +972 2 565 2008
Email: ilanab@begincenter.org.il
(Amuta # 580230001)

United States

Friends of the Menachem Begin Heritage Center
3467 South Chester Court
Denver, CO 80231
Email: sschwartz@fmbhc.org
(EIN: 88-3708124)

Canada

President: Shoel Silver
Canadian Friends of the Menachem Begin Heritage Foundation
Suite 601, One Yorkdale Road
North York, ON, M6A 3A1
Email: cfmbhf@gmail.com
(Tax exemption # 1007004-21)

United Kingdom

UK Friends of the Menachem Begin Heritage Foundation
45/46- Bond Street
London, WIS 25F
(Charity # 1049229)

Contribute to the Begin Center activities online:
www.begincenter.org.il