



"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

2025/5786





Dear Friends and Partners,

After 26 years of service as CEO and head of the center and approaching the age of 70, I came to the realization that I must end my role and pass it on to those “younger and stronger than me.”

This journey began in 1999 with the establishment of the center, in accordance with the Menachem Begin Memorial Law passed the year before. Then we had a plot of land in an amazing location, a few donations in the fund, and a few more promises but a lot of faith and determination – the Begin Center became my life’s mission.

Everything I had was mobilized to establish the Center, to shape its character, and to create its content.

It was a fascinating and fulfilling journey. Many people took part in it, without whose partnership we would not have reached our lofty goal.

I will always be grateful to Yechiel Kadishai z”l and Harry Hurwitz z”l who approached me and offered me the opportunity I had always dreamed of – to be a partner in establishing from the ground up an educational ideological institution bearing the name of Zionism at its highest level and dedicated to the honor and memory of the most senior students of this school of thought.

I will always remember with love my colleagues, the employees of the center who were partners, friends, and became family members, the members of the Menachem Begin Heritage Foundation, the members of the public councils and the executive committee for generations whose support and backing they have given is immeasurable. And the members of the Begin family who, in their special, unique, and noble way, stepped up and added an important touch to our work.

I see myself continuing to be a loyal servant of the center in every way and will strive for its continued success. I am truly grateful for the special privilege I have received.

With respect and appreciation,

Herzl Makov
President
Menachem Begin Heritage Center



Dear Friends and Partners,

This past year has reminded us that history is not only something we preserve—it is something we live. As events unfold across the Middle East, the mission of the Menachem Begin Heritage Center has never felt more urgent or more relevant.

Our educational work—rooted in the life and legacy of Menachem Begin—continues to serve as a compass for those seeking clarity, courage, and moral leadership in uncertain times. Begin believed that principles must guide policy, and

that the lessons of the past must inform the choices of the present. This belief is at the heart of everything we do.

In recent months, renewed attention has been drawn to the region’s shifting dynamics, particularly in Iran. For many, this has sparked concern. For us, it has also reaffirmed the enduring relevance of the Begin Doctrine—Begin’s clear and courageous stance that no regime threatening Israel’s existence should be allowed to acquire weapons of mass destruction. This doctrine was not born of aggression, but of responsibility. It was a declaration that the Jewish people would never again be passive in the face of existential threats. As Begin said: “if an enemy of our people says he seeks to destroy us, believe him.”

At the same time, we are deeply moved by the resilience and unity of the Israeli people. In moments of uncertainty, we have witnessed communities come together with strength, compassion, and an unshakable sense of purpose. This spirit of solidarity—so central to Begin’s own leadership—reminds us that our greatest strength lies not only in our defense, but in our shared values and collective will. The Begin Center is proud to be part of this national fabric, helping to fortify it through education, remembrance, and civic engagement.

Today, as we witness both peril and possibility in the region, the Begin Center stands as a beacon of education, dialogue, and principled leadership. We are expanding our programming to engage new generations with Begin’s legacy—not as a relic of the past, but as a living framework for navigating the future. Through lectures, publications, youth initiatives, and international partnerships, we are helping shape a conversation about what a new Middle East might look like—one grounded in security, justice, and mutual respect. The Abraham Accords are a sign that anything we imagine can be possible here.

Your support makes all of this possible. It allows us to preserve the historical record, to educate with integrity, and to inspire with purpose. Together, we are not only honoring Menachem Begin’s memory—we are ensuring that his values continue to illuminate the path forward.

I take this opportunity to thank most sincerely Herzl Makov who will be retiring in 2026 for his support and continuous efforts in achieving and helping to advance the aims of the Center.

Wishing you all a happy and meaningful New Year and an enjoyable holiday season,

Basil Gamsu
Chair, Management Committee
Menachem Begin Heritage Foundation

Many Ways to Connect, In Many Languages



"It was truly a pleasure and a privilege to be involved in this event last week, at the close of Yom HaShoah, honoring the career of the great Efraim Zuroff."

In the words of Prof. Michael Berenbaum:

"Nazi hunter was not his occupation but his vocation, a call from the world of darkness to a post-

Holocaust Jew, an act of deep faith not only in the pursuit of justice, but also in its possibility. He has been touched by the call of the victims: 'Do not forget us!'"

The evening honoring the life and work of Efraim Zuroff is only one example of the unique and timely content the Begin Center provides in English. Even with regard to the war with Iran, the Begin Center had three timely lectures on different aspects of the history, the policy, and the current events in context.

As an Israeli institution, the majority of the events are in Hebrew. Our usual Parashat HaShavua weekly Torah lecture and our monthly folk song sing-along with Tzli Biran bring the comfort of normality to the community by continuing with the regularity of an ordinary schedule. Many other events related to Jewish holidays and national commemoration days are marked at the Center along with many interesting cultural events.

Our French and Russian events target a much-underserved audience in Israel as well as Jews in French-speaking or Russian-speaking areas around the world. Our statistics show that our online events in French and Russian are viewed as often outside of Israel as they are inside, which suggests that our content is filling a need for more information related to Israel (especially now) in these languages.

Trendsetting in the Education Field



Edu-tainment, the fusion of education and entertainment, transforms traditional learning into engaging, emotionally resonant experiences. By combining storytelling, humor, and immersive design, edu-tainment makes complex ideas more accessible and memorable for diverse audiences. It fosters curiosity and retention, bridging the gap between formal instruction and informal exploration. It's especially effective in environments where traditional methods may fall short in capturing attention or inspiring deeper interest.



The museum, the workshops, the escape boxes (based on the gamified escape room concept modified for COVID-19), the National Begin Quiz, the Cabinet of History, the Asper Youth Knesset, and the mobile museum all use this as their starting point. Our results show engaged and active youths who enjoy the games while also learning deep and important principles and lessons for their future.



National Begin Quiz on the Theme of Jabotinsky

Preparing youths for political pub quizzes begins with the "Begin Quiz" where students compete to answer questions about Menachem Begin and, this year, on the theme of Jabotinsky. (See pictures on page 7).

The Mobile Museum Is Moving

After surviving one of the most intense battles after October 7 in Sderot, the mobile museum, temporarily housed in the Sderot library, was miraculously unscathed although it was stranded there for several months because it was unsafe to move it. Finally, the mobile museum came home to the Begin Center. We've been waiting for the situation to return to some sort of normality so that we can get back to the mobile museum's tour in Israel. It's finally happening!

Unless there is a significant incident, the mobile museum will go to Kibbutz Ginosar on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. During these long months of war, Kibbutz Ginosar sheltered displaced families from the north and could not house the mobile museum. As things are starting to return to normal, we expect to have the mobile museum there from September 2025 to March 2026 to serve youths in the northern communities and teach them about the skills required for leadership and good decision-making. From April 2026, the museum will be in Holon.



"Treasures of the Archives": The Cabinet of History

"Treasures of the Archives" is an innovative educational program at the Begin Center that brings history to life through a unique vintage mobile cabinet filled with replicas of artifacts from Menachem Begin's personal collection. This 45-minute interactive experience serves as either a preparatory or follow-up activity to the main museum visit, allowing participants to engage directly with historical objects including personal letters, photographs, documents, and meaningful items from Begin's life. The cabinet itself becomes a puzzle to be solved, with hidden compartments that open as participants correctly answer questions and complete challenges, creating an element of discovery and excitement.

The program employs a multi-sensory pedagogical approach that combines visual, auditory, and tactile learning experiences to accommodate different learning styles. Through carefully curated items such as Begin's student ID from Warsaw University, family photographs, a vintage radio broadcasting relative searches from the post-Holocaust era, and even a replica of his Nobel Peace Prize medal, participants gain intimate insights into Begin's character, values, and the historical events that shaped his life. The activity successfully bridges the gap between formal museum education and experiential learning, making complex historical narratives accessible and personally meaningful to diverse audiences.

Israel Leadership Fellows: Begin Scholarship Recipients

After the Scholarship, the Work Continues

Shai Dromy received a Menachem Begin Heritage Fellowship scholarship in 2023-2024 and provided an update on his current project, now in its second year, related to preparing Israeli students for life on US campuses.

Shai Dromy, a doctoral candidate in law at the University of Pennsylvania, serves as Director of the Academic Bridge Fellowship, a five-week summer program created in partnership with the University of Pennsylvania and leading Israeli universities. The program aims to connect outstanding early-career Israeli academics with Penn's academic and social community, offering early exposure to the American higher education system and fostering long-term academic and personal ties. Each summer, the program brings 40 exceptional Israeli undergraduate students to join research groups at the University of Pennsylvania, participate in daily academic seminars, and build relationships with faculty, students, and local academic communities. Shai leads the program from start to finish, overseeing academic content and planning, selecting participants, establishing partnerships with Penn faculty, and providing ongoing guidance and support throughout the fellows' experience.



Image by Gerd Altmann from Pixabay

Welcoming New Scholarship Recipients

We are pleased to welcome a new group of scholarship recipients for the 2025–2026 academic year. We look forward to an exciting year of advocacy and bridge-building.

Amit Govrin (to the left) and Guy Kreiss (middle) will both be attending MIT Sloan School of Management. Eden Kaduri (to the right) will be starting her second year at Columbia University.

These three were joined by other young leaders who will attend universities in the UK in a training day at the Begin Center to build the foundations of their advocacy and leadership on campus.



Special Events at the Begin Center

On January 8, 2025, the Begin Center was proud to host one of the first screenings of the documentary film *Centered: Joe Lieberman* in the presence of the outgoing US Ambassador to Israel Jack Lew. It was also a chance for us to thank Rob Schwartz for all the excellent work he has done and continues to do on behalf of the Begin Center, Israel, and Am Israel.



In the presence of Minister Yisrael Katz, the Begin Center commemorated 33 years since Menachem Begin passed away with an exemplary program honoring the life and accomplishments of Menachem Begin.



For the first time ever in Israel, Arthur Szyk's powerful and historically significant artwork was shown in different exhibit spaces in Israel and completed its tour at the Begin Center. The Begin Center, in partnership with the Polish Institute, was honored to host a few talks by Irvin Unger, foremost expert on the work of Arthur Szyk. Unger's deep and detailed knowledge of almost every brushstroke of Szyk's work added to the enjoyment of the political, unapologetic, freedom-loving, and Zionist artwork of an artist nearly forgotten by history.



A second screening of *Centered: Joe Lieberman* was held on April 28, just after the Passover holiday. Hadassah Lieberman, Joe's widow, and Hani Lowenstein, Joe's daughter, were able to attend and took the opportunity to honor his memory around the one year anniversary of his death.

An Unveiling Ceremony, Interrupted



On June 15, 2025, the Begin Center prepared a special unveiling ceremony to reveal a new sign to honor The Asper Foundation for their commitment to the work of the Begin Center in the form of the renamed Asper Youth Knesset.

Unfortunately, Friday, June 13, 2025, changed everyone's plans.

We await the next opportunity to properly unveil this sign



In Memoriam

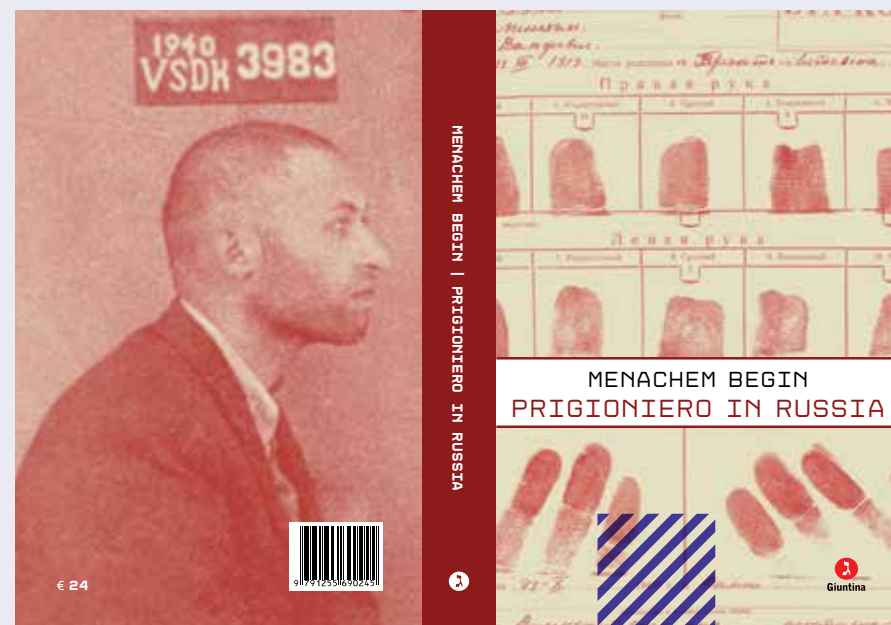
Rita Berger z"l of Long Beach, New York, passed away in August 2025. She was preceded in death by her husband Simon z"l. We join Mark, Susan, Ellen, and their families and friends in mourning Rita. Her kind, loving spirit and the example she set with her inspirational life will be missed. May her memory be a blessing to all who knew her.



White Nights in Italian

The Begin Center was pleased to receive the news that Giuntina Publishing of Florence, Italy, undertook to publish an Italian translation of Menachem Begin's book *White Nights: The Story of a Prisoner in Russia*. Prof. Massimo Longo Adorno translated the text and the preface was written by Ze'ev Benjamin Begin, Menachem Begin's son. As seen on the cover, the translation utilized the NKVD files released by the Soviet archives related to Menachem Begin's arrest in 1940.

Giuntina Publishing is a unique publishing house in that it proudly specializes in books related to Jewish tradition, culture, history, and literature, opening this world to Italian speakers.





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

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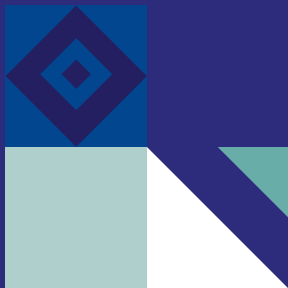
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