הארגון העולמי של יהודים יוצאי זאקרפטיה - טרנסקרפטיה (ע"ר)

Bulletin number 152 – November 2026

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The late Leah Miriam Reuveni – May her memory be a blessing!

On Sunday, October 11, 2026, Leah Miriam HaReuveni—born in 1926 in Irshava—was laid to rest in Haifa. **Leah lit a torch at the 2020 Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremony at Yad Vashem**. Her life story was featured in Newsletter No. 69 (May 2020) and also appears in the "Mishelanu" (From Among Us) collection—under the "Gallery – Books" tab on the association's website, Carpati.org.il. Her message to the younger generation was: **"Do not take the State for granted. You received the State on a silver platter. If we had possessed a place to flee to during the war, so many of our people would not have been exterminated. Take responsibility for yourselves, for your families, and for your friends. Live meaningful lives."** Leah added the name "Miriam" to her own, inspired by the biblical story of the saving of the brother, Moses - just as Leah had saved her own siblings.



Link to the torch-lighting ceremony:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgP3h14I5gM

1. Hanukkah Event

See details in the attachment to the newsletter. The party will take place on December 6, 2026.

2. From the Press [Articles about the individuals B-C documented here appear in the "Mishelanu" collection: Carpati.org.il – Gallery – Books]

A. **Tali Manes-Berkowitz:** Tali became a celebrity against her will...
She is the woman who went to the restroom with her daughter, Nina, on a Flydubai flight, heard shouting from the cockpit, and realized that an extraordinary incident was unfolding during those critical moments. Thanks to her alertness, her husband and the other heroes of the event sprang into action to save the pilot and all the passengers. It turns out that Tali is the daughter of **Irena and Anschel Berkowitz, born in Khust,** who immigrated to Israel in the 1970s and reside in Rishon LeZion.
On Thursday, October 8, 2026, **they received the Presidential Medal for Civilian Bravery** - an honor they are truly worthy of bearing.
"I saw with my own eyes how he was stabbing the pilot": Tali Berkowitz Manes describes the moment she realized an attempt was being made to hijack the plane. Watch the full interview at this link: https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2167932607466134



photo courtesy of the "Pishpashuk" Facebook page

As her mother, Irena, put it: The family name "Manes" embodies the immense miracle [in Hebrew – **ness**] that happened to them - and to the entire people of Israel... How great the miracle is!



Kan website: President Yizhak Herzog and his wife Michal – together with recipients of the "President's Medal for Civilian Bravery".

Tali and her husband, Tzvika, are the couple on the left. Photo: Haim Zach / GPO

B. **Likud announces reserved spot for Elisha Medan, critically wounded in the war** / Moran Azulay, Ynet, September 8, 2026

Elisha Medan is the great-grandson of Rabbi Yissachar Dov (Berish) Weiss-Wertzki [Volovets District]. "The Likud party announced that it has reserved the 11th spot on its list for the 26th Knesset for Elisha Medan—a reservist combat soldier and co-founder of the Avigayil settlement in the Hebron Hills, who **lit a torch at the 77th Independence Day ceremony**. Medan was **critically wounded and lost both legs during an operation in the northern Gaza Strip;** four other soldiers fell in the same incident. The party's statement read: **'The long rehabilitation process Elisha underwent has become a symbol of strength, determination, and faith in the power of life**.' Despite the severe injury and the heavy physical toll he endured, Elisha chose to look ahead—to keep taking action, strengthening others, and instilling hope in many Israelis." We wish him success in his role—and, above all, robust health!

C. **Prof. Hen Kugel reveals evidence of the extermination plan carried out by Hamas | Disturbing content** / Ariela Ayalon, Oren Reis, Ynet, Oct 4, 2026.

Link to the full article: https://www.ynet.co.il/health/article/syonr6d5fe

Prof. Hen Kugel is the grandson of Sarah and Haim Kugel. Sarah was a native of Munkács, and Dr. Haim Kugel was the principal and founder of the Hebrew Gymnasium in Munkács.

From an AI-generated summary of the article:

*"The National Center of Forensic Medicine faced the task of identifying over 900 victims from the events of October 7—a particularly complex undertaking due to the severe condition of the bodies, which necessitated the use of advanced identification techniques.

*Forensic findings revealed **a systematic and premeditated pattern of brutality**. According to Prof. Hen Kugel, the Center's director, these findings point to **a calculated plan of extermination** rather than a spontaneous outburst of violence.

*Despite the challenges, the Institute **achieved an unprecedented 100% positive identification rate** for the bodies brought to it. Additionally, a groundbreaking committee was established to confirm the deaths of 44 hostages whose bodies were not recovered, thereby providing certainty to their families.

*Exposure to these atrocities took a heavy psychological toll on the staff; **Prof. Kugel himself was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder**. At the same time, he points to difficulties in disseminating the findings within the international scientific community—difficulties he attributes to willful ignorance and antisemitism." We wish Prof. Chen Kugel good health and continued success in his profoundly important work!

3. Witnesses in Uniform" – Ruthie Pixler with the Israel Prison Service (IPS) Delegation

In October, I joined an Israel Prison Service (IPS) delegation for the "Witnesses in Uniform" journey, representing the bereaved families of the IPS. My father, Alexander Yeger—born on October 31, 1923, in Kosivska Polyana (Rakhov District) was the first member of the IPS to fall in the line of duty. He was killed during an uprising by security prisoners that broke out at Shatta Prison on July 31, 1958. My mother, Pnina, initiated a six-year legal battle that ultimately resulted in the rights IPS personnel being brought to the same level as those of soldiers and police officers.

In 1997, I visited the death camps in Poland for the first time, accompanying students - as part of my work at a high school in Holon.

In 2024, I returned to Auschwitz - this time with a group of members from the association, representing descendants of people from Carpatorus. Both journeys were deeply moving, though for different reasons: the first was an initial encounter with Jewish history, while the second was a journey alongside fellow association members, all of us bound by a shared destiny. Yet, this recent trip was particularly intense in the range of emotions it evoked. It felt like coming full circle in connection with my father's organization. I was profoundly impressed by the members of the delegation and the values they demonstrated throughout the journey. The delegation's rabbi brought along a shofar and a Torah scroll belonging to the IPS; these accompanied us during every ceremony held at the synagogues we visited.





Majdanek, near the mound of the victims' ashes – with a powerful declaration: Am Israel Khai!

Auschwitz II – Birkenau





At the gates of Birkenau, with an IPS officer



An IPS officer, his shoes stained with blood following a rescue operation that saved over 50 wounded people from the Nova festival

Laying wreaths on the railway tracks at Auschwitz-Birkenau





Telling my father's story



The ceremony at Treblinka

I shall carry the experience of this moving and significant journey with me for as long as I have the strength. We are the bearers of the torch of remembrance, and we are duty-bound to pass it on to future generations!

4. Brigadier General Yifat Yeger-Asher: Head of the Planning and Manpower Management Division



Yilfat Yeger-Asher with Ruthi and Yehuda Fixler

- Full disclosure: Yifat is the daughter of my late cousin, Menachem Yeger, and the granddaughter of my uncle, Shmelke Yeger, born in Kosivska Polyana [Rakhov district].

On October 11, 2026, a ceremony was held at Tel HaShomer in which Brigadier General Yifat Yeger-Asher was appointed Head of the Planning and Manpower Management Division in the IDF. The division operates under the Manpower Directorate and is responsible for human force development, manpower planning for both regular and reserve service, and IDF human resource policy. Yifat successfully completed a two-year tenure as Commander of Meitav, the unit responsible for all IDF recruitment bases. **She was the first woman to command this unit.**



5. Naum Repkin's Painting Exhibition (Uzhgorod)

In June 2026, I received information from our friend, Zvi Wolf, in Ukrainian (which was, of course, translated), telling about an exhibition of paintings by Naum Repkin, which was opened in Uzhgorod. And here is the information: "On June 17, an exhibition of works by the famous Transcarpathian artist of Jewish origin, Nahum Repkin (1941–2013), opened on the territory of the Consulate General of Hungary in Uzhgorod.

Nahum was born in Chernihiv [northern Ukraine], but has lived in Uzhgorod since 1946.

The exhibition brought together about 30 paintings from the artist's family collection. Some of the exhibited works are being shown to the general public for the first time. The paintings reflect the beauty of Transcarpathia, its nature, its light and its unique atmosphere, which occupied a special place in the artist's work.

The participants of the event were received by the Consul General of Hungary in Uzhgorod, József Bachkai. He emphasized the importance of presenting the creative heritage of Nahum Repkin and thanked the artist's son, Yevgeny Repkin, for preserving and disseminating his father's work, as well as Janos Meshky, who initiated the exhibition.

During the opening, Rabbi Uzhgorod and the Transcarpathian region, Menachem-Mendel Wilhelm, noted that Naum Repkin's landscape paintings are not only works of art, but also a reflection of the artist's deep spiritual search, his desire to understand the beauty of the world and deeper meanings - through art.

The event was also attended by representatives of the Khesed-Arye Foundation - volunteer Arkady Gendler and the Foundation's representative in the Transcarpathian region, Yuri Halpert.

The exhibition became another opportunity to honor the artist's creative heritage and present to a wide audience his contribution to the cultural life of Transcarpathia".

Following the initial information, I found more documentation about the exhibition on the 🎨sakura.news.uzh website and will only add the additional information: "Naum Repkin left a noticeable mark not only in art, but also in the development of Uzhgorod. It was he who headed the Misksvitlo [Ukrainian: Міськсвітло, translated into Hebrew: Light of the City] enterprise and headed

it for more than four decades. At the same time, the artist actively created, exhibited his works in many countries of the world and was engaged in charity.
The participants of the event noted the special warmth and light of his paintings, as well as the documentary value of the urban landscapes, which preserved the architecture and landscapes of ancient Uzhgorod.

The exhibition became not only an artistic event, but also an opportunity to honor the memory of a person, who devoted his whole life to his hometown, creativity and service to the people.

The exhibition will be open for at least a month.
The artist's son, Yevgeny Repkin, summed up the opening of the exhibition. He thanked the Consulate General of Hungary in Uzhgorod for the place it provided and everyone who joined the event. He shared memories of his father, who never wasted time, was devoted to work, art and helping people. According to him, his father left behind a significant creative legacy, and the task of his descendants is to ensure that these works do not remain on the shelves, but interact with the audience. He hopes that the current exhibition will find a response in the community.

Since the rabbi Menachem-Mendel Wilhelm participated in the opening event, I contacted him to get pictures.
The picture in the begging is a self-portrait of the painter, one of the pictures that the rabbi sent me.





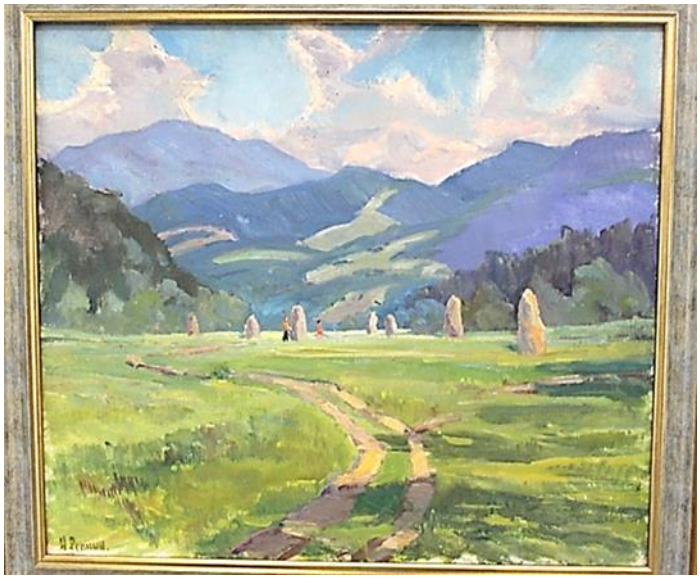
Yevgeny Repkin, Naum's son – second from the right;
Rabbi Menachem- Mendel Wilhelm – second from the left

The honorees at the opening ceremony of the exhibition



Painting of the synagogue in Uzhgorod







Some of Naum Repkin's paintings

The large audience at the exhibition, with the photos in the background.
The guy with the casket is the son, Yevgeny Repkin



And on a personal note: The name Repkin was familiar to me from a story my husband, Yehuda, told me when I wrote the Roots book about his family. In this book it was told about Naum's brother, Syoma; He also knew Naum... I will tell the story about Syoma and Iro, my husband's father:
"A Jewish guy, named Syoma (Semyon) Repkin came to Solotvyno to teach chemistry. Iro was not enthusiastic about renting him a room at first, but on second thought, he thought it was a good idea, since Syoma could help the boys with their homework. In the conversations between Iro and Syoma, they also brought up the importance of money, with Iro noting that despite [Syoma's] high education, his income was so meager, that he walked around in torn socks and worn-out shoes... Syoma replied to Iro: "...but my pillow doesn't shake at night"!

Syoma was about 24 years old and wanted to marry a Jewish girl. But there were no young girls in the Carpathians, who would suit him, since the oldest were born in 1946, that is, about 14 years old. Then, one day, after closing a deal with the gentiles, while raising a toast, the gentiles told Iro about a beautiful girl, also a teacher, who had arrived in the village of Rokosovo [not far from Khust]. Many young men courted her, but when they found out that she was Jewish, they realized that "it was not suitable." Iro "caught" that this was a good time to find a match for Syoma. He picked him up and together they drove in the rickety car of Ayzik Feig, a cousin of Sima, his wife, to see the girl.
On the way, Iro noticed Syoma's shabby socks and shoes and stopped at one of the stores to buy him new clothes and shoes, to replace the worn-out ones. When they arrived in the village, the car had a flat tire. The girl who looked out the window at the group was none other than Lena, the "desired" girl... From there, the relationship was formed and shortly after Syoma and Lena were married.
They rented a room in Khust [at Bella's Fux, our friend] and they had 2 sons.

●In 2007, Itzik [my husband's brother] and Yehuda visited Khust. They wanted to visit Syoma. They told the driver they hired that they wanted to go to Khust the next day. The driver wanted to know if they wanted to see Mr. Repkin. When they confirmed that this was their request, he told them that Syoma had passed away a week or two before"...



Lena and Sioma Repkin, Naum's brother

6. Righteous Among the Nations: Grünfeld - Shenhav Malka [age 4] – Khust* [See the supplement to the information below: Lipcsa, Khust District]

The rescue operation took place in Lipcsa, in the Iza ghetto and in Budapest.

Ferenc Fertitics was a young student living in Budapest. Lea Grünfeld, who was a Jewish girl, living alone, who was a native of Huszt, near his apartment. Ever since her husband had been drafted into a labor-service company, she had lived alone, working to support her three small children. Fertitics became friendly with the family, and was especially fond of Grünfeld's four-year-old daughter, Malka.
At the time of the German occupation of Hungary, Malka was staying in Huszt with her grandparents and uncles. Huszt was in the Carpatho-Ruthenian district where the Jews were concentrated into ghettos in April, and from where, in May, large numbers of Jews began to be deported to Auschwitz. Back in Budapest, Grünfeld was desperate to save her daughter, but as a Jew, she was not allowed to travel out of the city. Fertitics offered his help. He traveled to Huszt by train, and sneaked over to the ghetto, where he passed a note through the fence, saying that he had come to take little Malka Grünfeld to Budapest. Malka's aunt passed the girl over through the fence into Fertitics arms, and he traveled with her on the train to Budapest, where he handed her to her mother. A few days later, all the Jews of Huszt were deported to Auschwitz.
In another attempt to save Jewish children from the ghetto Fertitics was caught. He was arrested, tried, and sentenced to jail, where he remained until the liberation.
After the war, Grünfeld moved to Israel, together with her family. Malka married and had 11 children. All these children, along with the rest of the family, were on hand to greet Fertitics when he came to Israel.
On February 18, 1981, Yad Vashem recognized Ferenc Fertitics as Righteous Among the Nations.



May 27, 1981 – Ceremony at Yad Vashem.



Ferenc Fertitics in the center
Malka First from the right
Ferenc Fertitics



Malka's full name is Esther Malka – as stated on the "Yad Vashem" website.
I overcame a big surprise when I typed the name of the Righteous Among the Nations into Google.
A website of the "Massuah" archive came up and it said: Item number: 13385, Title: Righteous Among the Nations - The Survivor - Grünfeld (Shenhav) Malka, Hungary. The Rescuer - Ferenc Fertitics.
This is how I discovered Malka's last name...
When I Googled her name, another treasure came up: "Ginzach Kiddush Hashem - Institute for Documentation, Research and Commemoration" with the following title: Malka Shenhav - An Angel Who Guarded Mother / The Mother's Miracles of Rescue (Budapest, Hungary) **Including a picture of Malka...**
This is how I learned about the book "Following One Family" - a short documentation of Malka's experiences and a book written by the family.





About the book: Testimony of Chaya-Malka-Esther Shenhav (nee Grünfeld) born in 1940, Budapest, Hungary.
Note: The testimony is based, mainly, on what she knows from her family due to her young age during the war. Parents' home, description of life in her parents' home at the outbreak of the war, the father was drafted, the mother sent the witness to her parents' village in the Carpathian Mountains, they miraculously escaped with the deportation to Kamenitz Podolsk, she escaped a second time in '44, after the German occupation of Hungary, and was returned to Budapest, where she was hidden in the children's home. After the liberation, the parents were reunited and the family moved to several countries, and arrived in France. From there they immigrated to Israel.
1940-41: The father served in the Hungarian army,
1941-43: He was released and was with his family. The blessing of the Rebbe of Belz to his aunt before he left for the labor companies.
The father was also taken to these companies in '43. In '44, she was sent to the village of Lipcha [Huszt district] to live in a nursing home. **Her brother was born in the summer of '44**. The mother searched for a Mohel with devotion: **"If you die, die as a Jew".**
Miracle in '41 - the Hungarians gathered the Jews of Lipcha in the synagogue, the witness and part of the family were miraculously saved and taken out of the community. The grandmother did not want to desecrate the Sabbath and was put on the transport train. The miracle - the deportations were stopped when they reached Kamenitz Poldusek. In the meantime, Lipcha was being looted by the mob. The family returned to Lipcha, the witness lived in Budapest. In '44, she was sent to Lipcha again, and then the German occupation, testimonies from the family about bringing Passover utensils: "Who knows if we will get to use them?" The question: What to do with the witness? They bribed a Hungarian soldier to take her to Budapest, took the money and threw the witness near the synagogue, where the village Jews were gathered, from the Iza ghetto.
From the synagogue, they managed to send a postcard to Budapest; the mother received it. The Providence: she met a priest on the stairs, who was in danger, and with the help of the Judenrat in Iza, they managed to get her out. She does not remember the trip, but describes, based on the priest's testimony, the miracles along the way. She managed to reunite with her mother, the miracles that were in Budapest, the mother in a shelter, the children in a children's home. After the war, they moved to Romania, met with the father, moved to Slovakia - and from there to France. They arrived as part of the Agudat Israel to the kibbutz in Hénonville [the Netzach Yisrael training that took place there, located about 60 km north of Paris]. In 1947, they immigrated to Israel.



The Yad Vashem website has more details about the family.
Leah, the mother, was from the Itzkowitz family, the daughter of Abraham and Fesl.
Fesl was born in 1888 in Lipcsa, Huszt District [not in Huszt].
Abraham, born in 1887 in Narsnitsa [Tyachiv District], lived in Lipcsa and worked as a tailor. The couple had 6 children, one of whom,





Rivka, (pictuered) perished in the Holocaust. Rivka was born in 1913, lived in Budapest and worked as a seamstress. The sister who recorded her, Zipporah, recounted the circumstances of her death: "The Germans shot her because she broke her leg walking from place to place."

Fesl and Abraham Itzkowitz - Leah's parents

Leah was married to Moshe Grünfeld. One of their children is Yosef. He, in fact, wrote the family book. The article I found about him states that they had a brother, **born in the Budapest ghetto**, whose birth is also mentioned in the article above, and Yosef notes that this brother was **one of the youngest Holocaust survivors.**



After immigrating to Israel, his parents opened a well-known fabric store in Givatayim.

I was able to locate Malka Shenhav and her brother Yosef, born in 1942. The brother who was born in the Budapest ghetto in 1944 is David. Malka said that her parents, both born in Lipcha, were second cousins. Leah – born in 1911 and Moshe – born in 1912. The parents had another daughter before Malka's birth, who died – and it is not clear under what circumstances.

Leah paid money to the Hungarian army to transport Malka back to Budapest, but he abandoned her in the compound of the synagogue in Lipcha. When Leah found out about this, she sat on the steps of her building and cried. Fertitics Ferenc, a budding priest, whose father was a great Jew-hater, saw her, and he volunteered to help Leah – that's how Malka was saved.

Malka had 14 children, she lives in Jerusalem; her husband, David, is deceased.

Malka testified that her "tribe" now has 285 family members!

Leah died in May 1989 and is buried in Sgula, Petah Tikva. The tombstone commemorates her parents and sister, who perished in the Holocaust.

Link to the Yad Vashem website: https://collections.yadvashem.org/en/righteous/4014812



7. Israelis born in Carpatorus: Itzkovich Zvi – Mayor of Lod (Benedykivtsi)

I happened to find the name of Zvi by raking my distant memory: my parents immigrated to Israel in September 1946 on the illegal immigrant ship "Palmakh"; they were deported to Cyprus after a struggle with the British – and returned to Israel in March 1947.
With them on the ship was another couple from Carpatorus – Etuka (Esther) and Moshe Itzkowitz. The friendship between the couples grew in those days. Etuka was a special woman of valor: she rode a motorcycle, with a "boat", in which I sat with her daughter, Tova. It was an extraordinary experience in the early sixties! Moshe's brother was Zvi, who served as mayor of Lod in those years
I will first upload information from Wikipedia: "Zvi IItzkovich (1926 - January 2009) was mayor of Lod from November 1965 to 1978 [For 13 years!] Zvi was first elected to the Fourth City Council and to the position of mayor in November 1965, on behalf of the Mapai party. In December 1969, he was re-elected mayor on behalf of the Alignment. In February 1974, he managed to be elected for the third time to the position, also this time on behalf of the Alignment. He served until 1977.
As mayor, he established and expanded neighborhoods, such as the Chabad housing in the city. He also had good relations with the Chabad World Rabbinate. During his time, the population that came to the city was no longer a destitute population, like the one that arrived in the 1950s. He had to provide the population with more advanced needs than just a roof over their heads and basic work.
* **His photo from the Lod Municipality website**
Zvi Itzkovich died at the age of 83, after a long illness. He was buried in Rishon LeZion, where he lived in the last years of his life. He left behind a wife and two children."

Lod Mayor Zvi Itzkovich presents a gift to a lone soldier
[Photo: Yad Yad, CC BY 2.5, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=19916579



Supplementary information: A connection was maintained between me and the daughter of Etuka and Moshe Itzkovich [the brother]. That's how I was able to find out where they were all born.
It turns out they were born in the village of Benedikovce, which is located several kilometers from Munkacs. In the 1941 census, there were 138 Jews, about 30 families. That's when I also located the testimony of his brother Moshe (Moses), which was given to Yad Vashem in 2003.
In 2006, Zvi (Herman) also gave his testimony, aged 80 and no longer a healthy man.

●Testimony of Itzkovitz Zvi, born in 1926, Benedikovce (Benedykivtsi, Munkach district), about his experiences in the Mukachevo ghetto, Auschwitz Birkenau, Mauthausen, Ebensee and Gunskirchen
https://collections.yadvashem.org/he/documents/5877208
Summary of the testimony: Son of a Haredi family; studies in a "cheder" and at school; life under Hungarian rule from 1939; activities of the rabbi of the Mukachevo community; deportation to labor camps near Mukachevo; life in the camps including work as couriers; German occupation in 1944; deportation to the Mukachevo ghetto; reaction of neighbors; robbery of property; mother's illness; deportation to Auschwitz; murder of parents and siblings; transfer to Birkenau on Shavuot 1944; transfer to Mauthausen; life in the camp; transfer to Ebensee; transfer to Gunskirchen; Life in the camp, including building bridges; detention in a dungeon for stealing food; helping an uncle; Liberation by the US Army; Immigration to Israel; Exile to Cyprus; Immigration to Israel in 1945; Service as Mayor of Lod in the 1960s.



- **The images are from the film of Zvi Itzkovich's testimony**

In addition to the recorded testimony, Zvi also filled out pages of testimony, in which he documented his family:
Mother: Pearl, born in 1900, née Lisowitz; Father: Meir-Yaakov, 1895, merchant; They had 8-9 children, of whom five survived.
After the war, only Moshe, the eldest, born in 1921, and Zvi remained. Brothers who were murdered: Yosef-Mordechai (1924); Shmuel-Mordechai;
Bella [pictured]
Zvi married Hava in 1953. He first worked as a secretary in a health insurance company for about two years. They had two children: a daughter, Pnina, named after his mother Pearl, and a son, Moshe.
After upon his retirement, Zvi worked for the Craftsmen's Association.



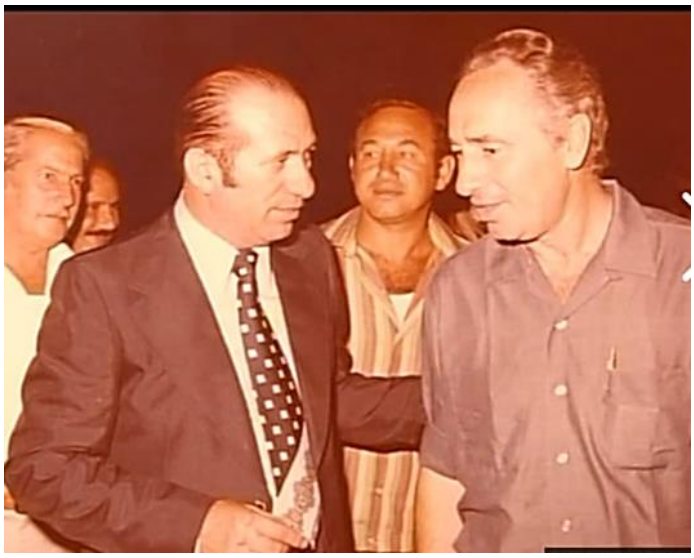
Zvi at a municipal ceremony [Photo: By Yad Yad, CC BY 2.5, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=18316159

Zvi and Hava on their wedding day





Zvi Itzkovich with Pinchas Sapir



Zvi Itzkovich with Shimon Peres



צבי איצקוביץ -ראש העירייה ה-4 בלוד, הלך לעולמ

צבי איצקוביץ, אשר כיהן כראש עיריית לוד במשך למעלה מ- 12 שנים רצופות בין השנים 1965 עד 1978, הלך בשבוע שעבר לעולמו בגיל 83, לאחר מחלה ארוכה.

איצקוביץ נבחר לראשונה למועצת העיר הרביעית ולתפקיד ראש העירייה בנובמבר 1965 מטעם מפא"י ההיסטורית. בדצמבר 1969 נבחר בשנית לראשות העיר מטעם המערך, ובפברואר 1974 הצליח להיבחר בפעם השלישית לתפקיד, גם הפעם מטעם המערך.

צבי איצקוביץ היה ראש עיריית לוד הרביעי במניין, אחרי פסח לב (1950 עד 1959), אלכסנדר קמיל (1959 - 1964), שרגא שוולבה (מפברואר 1964 עד נובמבר 1965).

שינויים רבים עברה לוד במהלך שנות קיומה. בעשור זה השתנו לא רק צורות הדיור ואופי השירותים, אלא גם אופיים של התושבים שהשתקעו במקום, כאשר בעשור הראשון הגיעו ללוד עולים חסרי כול, בעשור השני השתקעו תושבים שנמשכו אליה בזכות המפעלים הגדולים מבוססים יותר מבחינה חומרית. אין ספק שלאיצקוביץ פרק נכבד בדברי ימיה של העיר לוד. כאמור, ביום שישי שבער, נטמן בבית העלמין הישן בראשל"צ, סמוך לבית בו התגורר בשנותיו האחרונות. בהלווייתו של צבי איצקוביץ ז"ל, ייצג את לוד דובר העירייה, יורם בן ארוש,

אשר הניח זר על קברו בשם העיר לוד ועיריית לוד. בדבריו למשפחה ציין בן ארוש כי יו"ר הועדה הממונה, אילן הררי, הנחה לפתוח את ישיבת המועצה הקרובה בדברים לזכרו של צבי, וכי עיריית לוד תפעל להנצחתו בקריאת אחד מרחובות העיר או אתריה על שמו, בטקס אליו יוזמנו בני המשפחה.

צבי הותיר אחריו את רעייתו חווה, שני ילדים, חמישה נכדים ונינה אחת, יבדלו לחיים ארוכים וטובים.

יהי זכרו ברוך.

From the Chabad website:

"The laying of the cornerstone for the housing project took place twice. On 20th Av 1965, the cornerstone was laid to begin construction, and the second time was a major event after the Six-Day War. Rabbi Zusha Wilimovsky worked vigorously on the matter and brought Knesset member Menachem Begin, Post Minister Yisrael Yeshayahu, **and Mayor Zvi Itzkovich also came and gave an emotional speech".**

In issue No. 14 of 'Bekerem Chabad' (Tishrei-Chasvan 1968) appears the headline: "The Golden Key of the City of Lod Was Presented to the Rebbe Shlita." The news item stated, among other things: **"Mr. Zvi Itzkovich, Mayor of Lod, recently visited the Rebbe Shlita's temple and presented him with the gift of the city of Lod: its golden key**. "The key was presented to the Rebbe Shlita as a token of appreciation for his activities for the development of the city, both spiritually and materially. As is known, there is a number of significant of Chabad educational institutions in Lod, and a Chabad housing complex was established there.



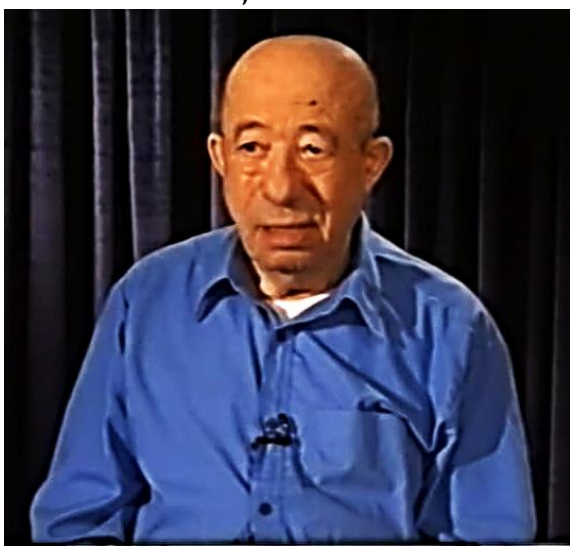
Zvi (right) visiting the Lubavitcher Rebbe

"At a reception **in honor of Mr. Iltzkovich that was held in his honor in the Chabad village**, upon his return from his visit to the United States, he

described the details of his visit and his impressions of his conversation with the Rebbe Shlita on various matters. **"Mr. "Itzkovich solemnly promised the municipality's assistance for the development of Chabad institutions in Lod."**

Testimony of the eldest brother, Itzkovich Moshe, born in 1921, Benedikovce (Benedykivtsi, Munkács district), about his experiences in the labor camps in Hungary, in Schattendorf, in Graz, in Linz, in Mauthausen and more https://collections.yadvashem.org/he/documents/4420772

Moshe Itzkovich, Zvi's eldest brother

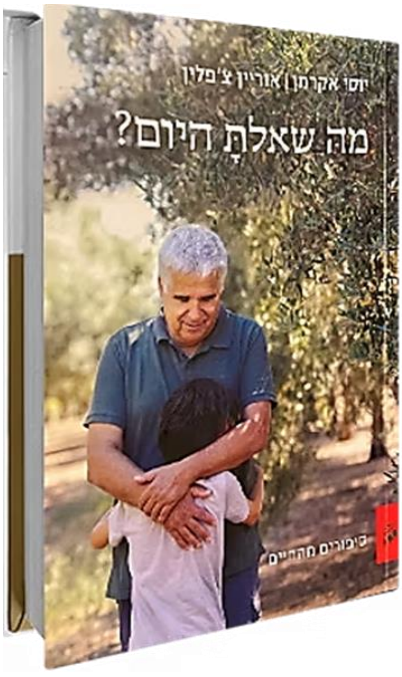


Moshe as a conscript in the labor camps, 1942



Etuka, Moshe's wife





8. Ours: Ackerman Yossi (Tiachiv)



A few months ago, Zeev Milbauer sent me the picture of the book (left), written by Yossi Ackerman, with the initial information referring to Yossi being a second-generation Jew - and his mother being born in Carpatorus.
I immediately started looking for information. It turns out that the roots go straight to Tiachiv... and that Yossi lives in Bethlehem of the Galilee, where his family lived, and is a neighbor of a relative of mine, our friend, Yossi Yeger. The information I read about the book reads:
"At the end of every day, my father would ask me one constant question: **What did you ask today, Yossi?** Only today do I understand the power of this small question, how many messages are folded into it. Education for curiosity, humility and listening to others. I did not know how to ask my father so many questions, and the mystery of his youth pains me." Understanding the importance of intergenerational discourse and unasked

questions, Yossi Ackerman writes in this book stories from his life - from the personal to the business. From close to the earth and the heart to huge deals with distant countries.
Yossi Ackerman was the president of Elbit Systems for 17 years. During his tenure, Elbit grew from a local company to a multinational company, one of the leading and most respected in its field.
Feeling that he had fulfilled his role, he decided to take early retirement and return to being a farmer in the moshav of his childhood and youth, where he planted an olive vineyard and began producing olive oil.
In parallel with his agricultural work, he founded "Open Valley" with Ofir Dubovi, a network of centers for innovation and entrepreneurship.
Married to Irit, father of four, grandfather of 13 grandchildren. A man from Bethlehem of Galilee."
I will return to tell Yossi's story, but let us get to know a little about the story of his mother, Dina, née Edelstein, born in July 1929, from Tiachiv. In this way, we will also learn about the experiences of the Jews of the community during the terrible period of Carpatorus Jewry - and of us, the second generation, who faced Holocaust survivor parents with endless responsibility and dedication.

I will start with the first chapter from his book "What Did You Ask Today"?
"When I think of my mother
Thirty-four kilograms, that was how much my mother weighed when the American army entered the gates of the Salzweidel labor camp in Germany.
Or should I start it differently: **my mother is the heroine of my life.**
For me, the eldest child, **my mother symbolizes the Jewish people, a people that experienced the greatest catastrophe known to humanity, a people that was led to the bottomless pit of history.**
And my own mother, the individual, was there, a young girl torn one morning from a warm family of nine children, who stood naked in the face of unimaginable human evil.
Mother was only fifteen when she was thrown from the train car at the gate of the Auschwitz camp, when she saw with the innocent eyes of a girl how her mother and brothers were taken to the gas chambers, when she clung with all her strength to the woman, who had given her life and was a loving and protective figure for her, and was torn from her at that terrible moment with cries of anguish. When she watched helplessly as her friends, begged for their lives, when she stood in front of Dr. Jozef Mengele, with tearful eyes, she suddenly realized that everything she had up until that moment would never come back. From that day on, Mother had to fight to survive. Her twin sister, Zehava, was always by her side. Together they were housed in [C lager] in barracks number 16, with hundreds of other women and girls, together they fought for every crumb of bread, for every piece of human warmth. Until I visited the Auschwitz-Birkenau site myself as an adult, I could not understand the inferno, I could not imagine what she had experienced, what she had been risen from and built a life for herself, for me, for all of us. From that moment on, when her mother disappeared, everything was bad and black. The cold, the constant hunger, the physical pain, the great fatigue, the terror and the longing. In the midst of all this, one figure emerged that even today, in her old age, she does not forget. This is the image of Anka, the kapo who was in charge of the girls in barracks number 16. Out of the dozens of women, all struggling to survive, she saw my mother when she looked straight into her eyes. Mother always tells how they were given only five minutes to run to the bathroom, dozens of women being pushed together like a herd. Someone chose the time for them and took sadistic pleasure in watching them rush, be pushed, lose their humanity. And in the midst of all this hell, that young kapo, with a quick glance and a quick nod of the head as an agreed sign, would allow my mother, just her, to stay there a little longer, to sit for a moment longer in the stinking, dirty bathroom hut. My mother, weak and thin, would take advantage of these small moments of grace, lean her tired body against the wall of the toilet, and fall asleep.
In this hell, someone saw her, someone allowed her a moment of privacy. And that is what she chooses to remember.

My mother is the heroine of my life, because she survived and remained human. I remember how she used to tell, time and time again, about the terrible cold and the terrible hunger that prevailed in the camp, how the German soldiers – who brought the pot of soggy soup and the stale bread – would stand and look at the girls who were being pushed and shoved, looking at them with empty, mocking eyes.

One day the soldiers brought the miserable pot, and the girls, all together, stood before them trembling with weakness and announced to the astonished soldiers, **"Today we will not eat, today is Yom Kippur."** Mother always emphasized the astonishment that gripped the Nazi soldiers. "They were really shocked," she said in her melodious voice. She felt great pride that it was precisely in the depths of this terrible abyss that these tormented and hungry women found the strength to challenge, to stand up for themselves. **The human spirit was called into action – and it won**.

From that Yom Kippur to this day, in her old age, she has been observing the commandments of fasting on Yom Kippur.

My mother spent the war days with her twin, Zehava. My mother was smaller and more fragile than her sister. Zehava and my mother are the youngest daughters in their family, but of all her siblings, my mother was the most pampered of her parents.

My mother never stopped missing my grandmother, her mother. Many years have passed and the sound of **the word "mother" still brings tears to her eyes**. Even when a child calls out to his mother around the moshav, something trembles in her and her body contracts.

In the winter of 1945, when the American army marched into the camp, my mother's weight and health were so poor that the doctors decided to send her to the hospital in Budapest. She spent three months in the cramped and miserable facility. She slept most of the time. She finally had her own bed, she could finally store up some strength.

When she was released from the hospital and her sister Zehava with her, the two of them were left alone in the world. Young girls, who didn't know where they were headed.

In my life, I met survivors who talked a lot about the inferno. **Mother said very little**. Once, in one of those rare moments when she spoke in a quiet voice about the war, she said that it was then, in the space that opened up after the hell, the tearing and the loss, that was when they experienced the greatest difficulty. The hostile streets, the feeling of being torn apart by two young girls and lost, with no direction, or a home to return to. My mother was like a released prisoner, thrown into the unknown and threatening space. Out of helplessness and despair, my mother said, the thought of returning to the high fences of the camp occasionally came to her mind. It was hard to grasp, but the camp was familiar and predictable, it was a terror known in advance.

My mother is the heroine of my life, because she managed to dig her way out of hell with her thin arms.

The illegal immigrant ship, Amiram Shohat, brought my mother to the shores of the Land of Israel and from there she was gathered at Kibbutz Machanayim. She soon realized that the tanned and strong sons of the new land wanted to distance themselves from her and her friends. She had to bury her story, hide her past, and perhaps even be ashamed of it. "Well, no one will believe it anyway," she repeated. The refugees and the persecuted, who survived the Holocaust, quickly learned all the piercing questions that had no answers; therefore, like her and others who shared her fate, she chose to keep her mouth shut; it was better not to speak.

When they arrived in Israel, my mother and my aunt found here three brothers and a sister, who also survived. They had a family again, something to hold on to again. Until Zehava died at the age of 80, the sisters were never separated. In their hearts, in their love, and in their shared destiny, they were always together.

My mother is the heroine of my life, because even though she was unable to complete her studies, she acquired a wealth of life wisdom. With the wisdom of a survivor, she knew that she had to get

married as soon as possible, and build a home in the new land, to become a member of the place. She met my father, Israel, in Machanayim. "He was the smartest and most handsome man of all, and he chose me," she repeated, and that was her pride.

They married in a modest wedding. For the first time in many years, she knew a little bit of good. My mother was eighteen and my father was twenty-four. Two years later, I was born, and I was named after her father, Yosef. My parents lived in poverty and modesty, but the small family she built instilled in her strength and purpose.

When we moved to the moshav, she found her place, was socially active, made friends, helped my father on the farm, raised my brother, my sister and me, and looked after us like the apple of her eye.

She was always gifted with a sharp sense of humor, and in her own unique way she looked at the world and classified the people living in it.

Mother abhorred gentility and people who externalized symbols of status and power. "Gentlemen," she would sneer contemptuously. And later, when she wanted to criticize me, she would scold: "Don't be a gentleman, Yossi".

Along with modesty, aesthetics was always important to her. She was meticulous in her clothing, and if someone complimented her on a beautiful outfit, she would quickly remark, accompanied by a characteristic hand gesture, "It didn't cost much." If they praised her for a special dish she had cooked, she would quickly retort, "Really, it wasn't much work." All of this painted her character with special colors, that were part of her. And behind all of this, I thought, there was still that fifteen-year-old girl struggling to survive.

My mother had a special sensitivity to people who had been cruel to fate. "This is a poor woman," she would classify a friend in the moshav, while she would say without hesitation, "This is it, sir!" A person who caused injustice immediately earned the familiar wish: "May the wind take him." About herself, about the fact that she miraculously survived the Holocaust, she always said in her special Hebrew: **"The wind did not take me."** I think that one of the things that was very important to her all these years was to be an equal among equals: not a lady, but not a poor woman either. For her, the real victory is walking in the furrow, to be "like everyone else." The years passed, the farm flourished, the family grew, and it seemed that she was finding her place, and then, just when it seemed to her that she had reached her resting place and her estate, **father felll in reserve service**. One evening he did not return. Mother was 46 at the time. By her side was my brother Yaakov, my little sister Racheli, and there was also a large farm to guard and maintain. One could say that the shot that led to my father's death also killed her soul.

That night I promised her that I would never abandon her. I was discharged from the Air Force and returned home, to the farm. I remember that a few days after the shiva, I was called by my mother; she looked at me with tearful eyes and said: "From now on, Yossi, you are my husband." She needed a stable figure.

If until that moment I was Yossi, her child, from that moment everything changed.

My mother is the heroine of my life, because along with the great sadness that has accompanied her since then, she clung to the family she founded.

Mother, who grew up in a poor home, always said that her childhood dream was to have a "carriage with a doll," the kind she never had. Every time a new grandchild or great-grandchild joined our family, my mother asked me to buy, in her name, a gift in honor of the birth. And every time, as if I had never asked this before, I would ask again: "What to buy, Mom?" I loved hearing her answer, which had the right amount of pride in it: "Buy her a carriage with a doll"!

My mother is, in my eyes, the epitome of the Jewish people. She knew the Holocaust and also knew the resurrection; my mother is the heroine of my life.

Through the same yard where I played in my childhood, I still walk to her house every morning. I may not call to her, as I used to, "Add water to the pot," but I am still thrilled to find her sitting in the small kitchen and joining her, mother and child.

I no longer bear the honorary titles that life has bestowed upon me, but I proudly bear all the titles that are truly important to me: **husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and yes, I am also Yossi, the son of Dina from Bethlehem**".
Yossi's father was Israel Ackerman, born in Komlos, now Khmil'nyk, in the Irshava district.

On the "Yad Vashem" website from 13.4.2004, I found the following information:
"On Thursday, 15.4.04, a documentation center and museum for the history of the Holocaust will be inaugurated in Budapest, Hungary. President Moshe Katsav and Chairman of the "Yad Vashem" Board, Avner Shalev, were invited to the inauguration ceremony. The museum's inauguration ceremony is a state event in Hungary, and Hungarian President Ferenc Mádl and Hungarian Prime Minister, Peter Medgyessy, will take part. The ceremony will also be attended by French Finance Minister, Nicolas Sarkozy, who is of Hungarian origin. Hungarian state television will broadcast the ceremony live and will even include **an interview from "Yad Vashem" with Holocaust survivor Dina Ackerman. The interview will take place in front of the Hungarian Wall in the Communities Valley at Yad Vashem, with an enlarged image of a photograph from the Auschwitz album in which Ms. Ackerman appears in the background.**
Dina Ackerman (whose maiden name was Margit Edelstein) appears in the Auschwitz album alongside her twin sister, Zehava Avnery. The photos were taken in late May or early June 1944. They document the arrival of a large shipment ("transport") of Jews from the Carpatorus area. The photos were taken directly on the platform ("ramp") inside the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp. These specific photos document the moment of selection, carried out by SS officers and doctors.
Dina and her twin sister, Zehava, were photographed standing in the line of women and girls on the platform, immediately after they got off the dirty and crowded train.
The photo in which Dina Ackerman appears is one of the central photos and the largest in the album. Due to its importance and clarity, it was chosen to be displayed as a giant enlarged image on the "Hungary Wall" in the Communities Valley at Yad Vashem.



Dina at Yad Vashem next to photo T/1337 in which she and her sister Zehava were identified at the Eichmann trial (standing on the right). The photograph was presented by Attorney Gideon Hausner at the Eichmann trial (1961).

From the book "The Wind Did Not Take Me": "So this is how things happened: As soon as they got off the train, the men were separated from the women and children. Dina and Zehava clung to their mother, refusing to say goodbye. ...A Jewish prisoner, who was there, showed resourcefulness and courage and separated the twins from their mother. ...He also pushed them out of line and, unseen, joined the women, who had already passed the selection, were chosen for life - and were marching nearby; in other words, thanks to him they bypassed their first selection. ...They might have, somehow, escaped the fate of the 'Mengele twins' because they were very different from each other and it was impossible to tell from the look in their eyes that they were twins, but his action also saved them from having to meet the monster face to face.

Dina was able to continue her life, for the time being - 'The Wind Did Not Take Me' she says, repeating in Hebrew an expression that, probably, originated in Hungarian.
...Ironically, her photo in the album is one of the few photos Dina has from her youth. Today, the photo is displayed at the Yad Vashem museum, where Dina was surprised to see it when she was invited to the museum's inauguration."
In the book "Ta'pu'akh" [Apple] about the members of the Tyachiv community, it is written about Dina's father: "Avraham-Yosef was born in 1885-86. Details about the words of encouragement he spoke to the Jews during the difficult days of the evil rule - are recorded, but not yet edited."
Their children were: Tova [made aliyah to Israel as a pioneer in the winter of 1934-5], Shoshana [in the USA], Shalom [survived the sinking of the "Patriya"; his wife and daughter drowned], Yehuda-Zvi [survived the forced labor detachments in Bohr, Yugoslavia; Immigrated to Israel], Sasa [died in childhood], Asher/Anshel [survived and immigrated to Israel], the twins Zehava and Dina, Shimshon – were murdered ed in Birkenau.



Dina Ackerman near the Holocaust Memorial in Bethlehem of Galilee, where the family lived

Dina Ackerman (right) and her sister, Zehava, left, getting off the train in Auschwitz 1944
(Photo: Yad Vashem Archives)





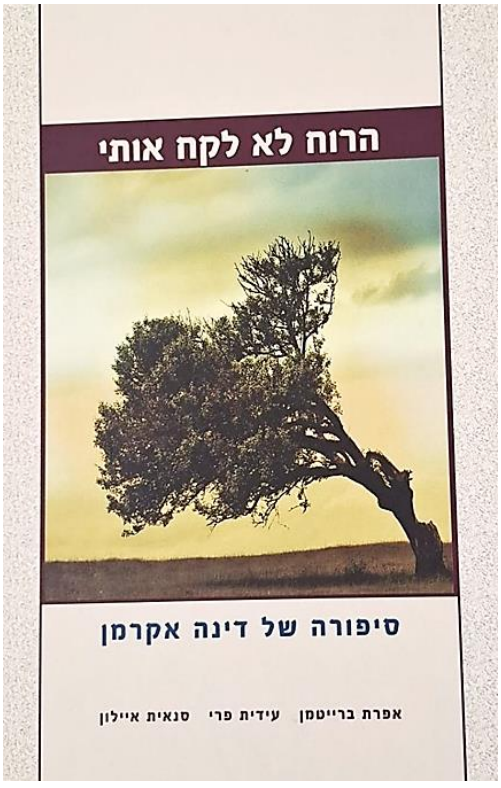
Dina is sitting third from the left; Zehava is second from the right. The photo was sent from Tyachiv to sister Tova, who immigrated to Eretz Israel. Dina and Zahava were 8 or 9-10 years old, born in 1929, so the photo was taken around 1938. The school was Czech and before that – Hungarian.

• A photo from 1938 from the Czech school in Tyachevo.
Perhaps some of you will recognize someone from his family in it?





Dina passed away in July 2018 and left behind 3 children: Yossi, Yaakov and Rachel (Kaplan), grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



The book was published in 2020

Yossi uploaded a recording to his Facebook from July 2019, titled: Dina Ackerman: Our First Holocaust Day Without Her: https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=331272700916700

And now I will return to Yossi Ackerman, to the things listed about his name on Wikipedia, from which I will quote information: "Yossi Ackerman was born in Israel in 1949. He completed high school in electronics at the vocational school in

Haifa. As part of his academic reserve, he received a bachelor's degree in aeronautical engineering from the Technion in Haifa.
He served in the Air Force as an engineer at the Flight Test Center.
Following the death of his father, he completed his service in 1975 with the rank of Major, in order to manage his father's agricultural farm in Moshav Bethlehem HaGlilit.
In 1982, he joined Elbit Systems and served in management positions, including Senior Vice President and CEO of the Defense Systems Division, CEO of the EFW subsidiary in the United States, Senior Vice President of the Operations Division, and Vice President of the Advanced Combat Systems Division starting in 1989.
In 1996, he was appointed **President and CEO of Elbit Systems**, and also served as Chairman of the Elisra Group (which was acquired by Elbit Systems) and Chairman and Director of the Boards of Directors of additional companies in the Elbit Systems Group. During his tenure, he led the acquisition of many companies by Elbit Systems.
In August 2012, he announced his intention to retire from his position at the end of March 2013. Mickey Federman, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Elbit Systems, emphasized Ackerman's contribution to the company: **'Under his leadership, the company increased its revenues dozens of times and grew from a primarily local company to a global leader in the field of defense activities. Yossi played a large part in this achievement thanks to his strategic vision, management qualities and business understanding'.**
Ackerman grew up and lives in Moshav Bethlehem HaGalilit, is married and has four children.
He served, on a voluntary basis, as Chairman of "Partnership 2000" - an organization established by the Jewish Agency and the Jewish community in Detroit, to support projects in the Galilee.
In 2009, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from the Technion.
In May 2014, he was appointed a member of the Defense Budget Review Committee ("Locker Committee").
In May 2023, he co-founded the social enterprise "The Shared Story," which aims to unite the divisions in Israeli society.

Article in Ynet from 3.10.2020, / Yael Werzer, from whom I will provide information: "The CEO who returned to agriculture: Israel is not a startup nation, it is a startup city Tel Aviv. Yossi Ackerman, former CEO of Elbit, replaced managing 10,000 Elbit employees with growing 3,000 olive trees in Bethlehem of the Galilee: "The state is abusing agriculture." He opened a network of work complexes in the north: "The high-tech people's passion is to move to Tel Aviv"
Ackerman, the eldest of three children, was born in Tel Aviv, and from 1956 to the present day has lived in a moshav in the north of the country. He is married to an Irit, who has been his neighbor since childhood, and their four children and 13 grandchildren live nearby. His parents, he says, came to Bethlehem in the Galilee after his father saw an ad for a teacher training program in Frontier settlements, and he arrived there as a teacher. "My parents' dream was to be farmers. When a farm became available, they bought it and raised turkeys, vegetables and fruit orchards. I grew up into this reality and was educated in these values".
In 1975, Ackerman's father, who was also a Holocaust survivor fell when he was 52 years old, during reserve service. It was clear to Yossi, the eldest son, at the time a major in the Air Force, that he would continue the farm. He was released, took the reins, and with his brother made the farm advanced and profitable.



Yossi Ackerman on NASDAQ (Photo: Elbit)

***How does a farmer become the president and CEO of a company that develops and manufactures weapons and electronics for the defense industry?**
"Friends convinced me to take a part-time job at Elbit, on the Lavi project," he replies with a smile. "At first, I divided my time between the two jobs: at the farm in the morning, and then I come to Elbit.
After a few months, I realized that I had to choose, I handed over the farm, and I stayed at Elbit until retirement." Under Ackerman's management, the company soared.


Yossi Ackerman and Shimon Peres, as part of his role at Elbit (Photo: Elbit)

During that period, Elbit acquired about 50 companies, among other things, and increased its workforce from 1,200 (the number at the beginning of Ackerman's tenure) to over 10,000.
***With such success figures, why leave?**
"When I turned 60, I realized that, together with a wonderful team, we had completely transformed Elbit. I had wanted to turn it into an international technology company, that would contribute to the Israeli economy - and that is exactly what happened. At the same time, I realized there were other things I wanted to do, and that the time had come. I decided it was time for me to contribute to Israel's North, to agriculture, which is being destroyed, to my family, to write a book, and to contribute to the country in another way. For three years I planned my retirement, and at the age of 63 I retired. They threw me a nice party, and I was happy that I was leaving while they still wanted me to stay. I also took care of the replacement, Bezalel Mechlis, who is not worse than me. It was clear to me that after retirement I would return to the farm."
***Easy transition?** "Not easy. I returned to the moshav after a demanding job at Elbit, and I saw things I had not seen before. I realized that we were harming one of our main strengths: the land on which we sit. The easiest way to preserve the country is through agriculture, after all, the country belongs to those, who step on it and cultivate it. Unfortunately, the country abuses agriculture and farmers. I have many friends, who are farmers, their average age is 70. Parents advise their children against becoming farmers. I wanted to help restore dignity and a viable livelihood to farmers and the agricultural sector.
We went on to plant 3,000 olive trees and traveled abroad to learn from the best about proper olive grove cultivation and high-quality olive oil production. Upon my return, I opened an olive

press where the whole family works. We don't make huge profits from it, but the work itself is deeply fulfilling".



Yossi Ackerman at the family's olive press in Bethlehem of Galilee (Photo: Adi Helman)

***Aside from planting olives, it seems that the high-tech bug doesn't leave you. Together with entrepreneur and investor Ofir Dubovi, you founded the OpenValley network.**

"That's right. This network provides workspaces for entrepreneurs, startups, and innovation leaders in Yokneam, Ramat Yishai, Caesarea, Ashdod, and the Upper Galilee, supporting them through collaboration, networking, mentoring, and assistance with funding and business development.

Some companies came to us with just an idea, lacking organizational and financial capabilities and have since grown into large, promising enterprises. We opened it in the north, because everyone is talking about Israel being a Startup Nation, only for the sake of accuracy, to say that Israel is a Startup City Tel Aviv. 90% or more of the high-tech is in Ramat HaKhayal or Herzliya Pituach. The dream of high-tech people is to move to Tel Aviv. I wanted to leave entrepreneurs and good minds in the north, to work here, and to stay and live in Afula, in the kibbutzim and moshavim in the north. As of today, about 130 companies are already operating in OpenValley, and we have prevented negative migration from the north to Tel Aviv. There are people, who came to me four years ago and had nothing to eat, and today they are successful and happy."



The Ackerman family at the olive farm (Photo: Adi Hellman)

Link to article on Ynet: https://www.ynet.co.il/economy/article/B1kIZnZ8P



Yossi's other activity is in the **"HaShomer Hadashad"** organization, where he is one of the members of the executive committee. On their website, they define their identity and role: "The New Watchman organization operates with a deep mission to strengthen Israel's agricultural-community home front for the challenges of Zionism of our generation. We initiate, lead, and operate large-scale initiatives throughout the country: from strengthening agriculture and ensuring food security, through creating a civilian presence in the field and protecting the nation's lands, to developing educational frameworks that nurture the next generation of Israeli leadership.

Our activities range from the agricultural field to the ethical field:

From working alongside farmers and protecting land and pastures to building communities, establishing leadership programs, establishing settlements and Nahal nuclei, preparatory schools, years of service programs, and more, which instill responsibility, Zionism, and mutual guarantee.

We work day and night to strengthen Israel and the periphery, to strengthen and support farmers in times of crisis and in routine, and to raise a young generation that is ready to take responsibility and act for the State of Israel".

Iris Yogev hosts Yossi Ackerman on the podcast, whom she defines as "the star of the north." You are invited to listen at the link:

https://www.irisyogev.co.il/%D7%A4%D7%A8%D7%A7-14-%D7%9B%D7%95%D7%9B%D7%91-%D7%94%D7%A6%D7%A4%D7%95%D7%9F-%D7%99%D7%95%D7%A1%D7%99-%D7%90%D7%A7%D7%A8%D7%9E%D7%9F/

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