

# New Cracow Friendship Society, Inc.

3905 Arthur Avenue North, Seaford, N.Y. 11783

## CRACOW FRIENDSHIP

A NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW CRACOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY



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## Yizkor



Join us on October 2, 2022  
At Beth Moses Cemetery, Block 30  
Tel Aviv Road  
At 11:30 AM for our Annual Yizkor

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE: [www.newcracow.org](http://www.newcracow.org)

CONTACT US AT: [info@newcracow.org](mailto:info@newcracow.org)

תחי מדינת ישראל ועם ישראל

LONG LIVE THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND THE JEWISH PEOPLE

**NEW CRACOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER**

**President Steven Radwan**

**Editor Bernice Slutzman**

**www.newcracow.org**

**Email: Newsletter@newcracow.org**

**EDITORIAL**

Although summer will not end until September 22, we always think of it as over with the end of the vacation season on Labor Day, or the re-opening of school, whichever comes first. The Board met in August and a calendar for membership activities was created. The Yizkor at Beth Moses will be the first gathering of the 2022-23 season.

As it has always been an outdoor activity, it was not hampered by Covid-19. However, we are now planning indoor events in the hope they will come to fruition in our new “normal.” Another realization for the Society is that we no longer received a subsidy from the Claims Conference for our activities. We are dependent upon donations from our members and may have to charge for certain events which, in the past, were free.

**New Holocaust Documentary** On September 18 at 8 pm on PBS [Chanel 13 in New York] a documentary by Ken Burns will premiere called “The U.S. and the Holocaust”. The acclaimed filmmaker asks the profound question *How can we learn from the past?* In his new documentary.

The three-part, six hour, series directed by Burns, Lynn Novick, and Sarah Botstein, and narrated by Peter Coyote, explores America’s response to one of the greatest humanitarian crises of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Inspired in part by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum’s “Americans and the Holocaust” exhibition, the film examines the rise of Hitler and Nazism in Germany in the context of global anti-semitism and racism, the eugenics movement in the United States, and race laws in the American south—revealing how as the catastrophe of the Holocaust unfolded in Europe, the United States was unwilling to open its doors to more than a fraction of the hundreds of thousands of people seeking refuge.

Through riveting firsthand testimony of witnesses and survivors who endured persecution and violence as their families tried to escape Hitler, the series delves deeply into the tragic human consequences of public indifference, bureaucratic red tape, and restrictive quota laws in America. It tackles questions relevant to our society today, including how racism influences policies related to immigration and refugees, and how governments and people respond to the authoritarian states that manipulate history and facts.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, Charles Lindbergh, Dorothy Thompson, Rabbi Stephen Wise, and Henry Ford are among the historical figures in the film, as well as Anne Frank and her family, who applied for but failed to obtain visas to the U.S. before they went into hiding.

“History cannot be looked at in isolation,” Ken Burns says, “While we rightly celebrate American ideals

of democracy and our history as a nation of immigrants, we must also grapple with the fact that American institutions and policies, like segregation and the brutal treatment of indigenous populations, were influential in Hitler’s Germany. And although we accepted more refugees than any other sovereign nation, America could have done so much more to help the millions of desperate people fleeing Nazi Persecution.”

The series will air on Sunday, September 18 [*The Golden Door (Beginnings –1938)*], Monday, September 19 [*Yearning to Breathe Free (1938-1942)*], and Tuesday, September 20 [*The Homeless, The Tempest-Tossed (1942 -)*] All episodes will begin at 8pm.

**Antisemitism Again in the News** The airing of the documentary is a welcome event. Antisemitism has always been around but within recent years it has become brazenly overt but the cowardice of the individual perpetrators remains. In recent weeks people in Nassau county who live in Jewish neighborhoods found antisemitic literature anonymously dropped on their driveways. All who were the recipients of this were rightfully disturbed but what was even more upsetting is the haphazard way it was done. Non-Jewish homeowners also received these “packages!”

The idea of creating “a pure race” by eliminating “undesirables” is all too well known by us. The Nazis implemented such a theory with credible efficiency. Please note it says implemented the theory. They did not come up with it. Sometimes one has to ask where did this start. Without going back to the middle ages one can look at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

We don’t have to look far as the term *eugenics* originated in the United Kingdom in 1883. The United States jumped on the bandwagon in 1902 with experimental evolution regarding animals, insects and flowering plants. By 1910 attention turned to humans. At first studies were made as to the genetic traits of certain types of families. As things progressed, eugenic sterilizations followed. [Legalized forced sterilization began earlier in 1907 in Indiana. It focused on sterilizing poor white men who were seen as sexually deviant.] By 1939 funding for eugenics research was withdrawn in the U.S. One would think that it would be the end of forced sterilizations here. Not so. As late as 1973, forced sterilizations continued among poor Black women in the U.S. There is much more to be learned about this. [NYT magazine, 6/12/2022]

The U.S. seems to have many skeletons yet to be exposed. Several cities in this nation seem intent on erasing the Holocaust. Recent examples are the banning of books on the topic—*Maus* and an illustrated version of *The Diary of a Young Girl* from libraries and schools. This sounds all too painfully familiar. Vigilance and action are the answer.

The Editor

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

I hope you all are enjoying a healthy Summer. The Board of Directors has been hard at work, and we are continuing to hold our regular monthly Board Meetings. The Social Committee met on Zoom to create the Society's yearly calendar, which is being published in this Issue of the Newsletter and on our website

Our Society has donated \$500 to our affiliated organization, the JCC Krakow, in support of their tireless Ukrainian Refugee efforts. This year's celebration of Holocaust Survivor Day was held on June 26th. We began honoring our survivor members with postings of their photos on Instagram and our Facebook page a week earlier. Each photo was captioned with a few words regarding their participation in the New Cracow Friendship Society. We also provided a link to the Holocaust Survivor Day Celebration livestreamed from Israel through the JCC Krakow, and other affiliated organizations.

As you all know we changed our By-laws in May to broaden the geographical area from which we can accept new members. I am happy to report that the change is working. While slow, the number of new members has increased. In fact, one of our new members joined us with a gift. She included with her membership a list of family research internet addresses from the "Kraków Research Group." Thank you very much. Adding this list to others that are available is a valuable tool to help us learn about members of our families who perished in the Shoah, as well as finding records of our parents, and grandparents who survived. This list, as well as another list we have found helpful, will be published in this Newsletter and will be part of our website in the future. I, for one, have many gaps in my parents' and grandparents' history, and look forward to using these lists. As a 2G member, I know that many 2G, and 3G members feel the same.

In closing since you will not be receiving the next Society Newsletter until after Rosh Hashana, and possibly Yom Kippur I will take this opportunity to wish all our members a *Shanah Tovah Tikateivu*.

Steven Radwan  
President

President@newcracow.org

## LISTING OF COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Cemetery	Bernice Slutzman brei513@aol.com Leon Hilfstein Leonh74d@gmail.com
Commemoration	Bernice Slutzman brei513@aol.com
Membership	Ida Lewis Membership@newcracow.org
Newsletter	Bernice Slutzman Newsletter@newcracow.org brei513@aol.com
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Social Committee  
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Leon Hilfstein  
leonh74d@gmail.com

Website

Simone Scheumann  
info@newcracow.org

Welfare

Renata Farahnik  
Teacherspet130@hotmail.com

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

### 2022

October 2 Yizkor at Beth Moses  
December 11 General Membership/Chanukah TBD  
Board Meetings by invitation to Zoom  
2022: 9/13, 10/25, 11/8, 12/13  
2023: 1/10, 2/14, 3/14, 4/18, 3/16, 6/13

### 2023

March 12 Commemoration  
May 21 General Membership Meeting

### Days of Remembrance 2023

January 27 International Holocaust Memorial Day  
April 18 Yom Hashoah  
April 26 Yom Haatzmaut  
June 26 Holocaust Survivor Day

## HELP WANTED

As we move forward we are in need of help from individuals who can do any of the following: are proficient in Zoom, can help create content for our social media or create and format email flyers. Any time you are able to donate would be appreciated. Email us at info@newcracow.org if you are interested.

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Dear Members,

I sincerely hope you are getting the most of your summertime fun.

Sometimes one can only find a number of ways to give over the same message... and then it's done. I found myself in that position this month... so I'll try to keep this to the point.

In reviewing my email Inbox, I was surprised to see how many entries were focused on combatting senseless hatred and antisemitism. It is alarming indeed, as news of recent heinous attacks upon individuals, both locally and globally, is also being reported on a regular basis.

I write this Membership Report during the Nine Days of Av...a yearly commemorated mourning period in Jewish tradition that is part of the Three Weeks, where both are focused on remembering the death and destruction that faced the Jewish People in our collective history. It starts with the story of the spies who were sent out by

Moses to survey the Holy Land and they came back with ill reports. We continue with remembering subsequent accounts of historical oppression and various attempted genocides that followed after the invasions and destruction of our two holy Temples in Jerusalem. That history ultimately reflects the final horrors of the Shoah. Above ground, in Jerusalem, only the Holy Kotel remains... and in recent days it is our reflections on family losses and starting new lives. May we know no more sorrows! The best part of this period is that it always points to better days to come. A unity of the Jewish people will bring good results.

This leads me to remind our members how important it is to be a part of a kindred group... one that shares a common past such as ours. Our Society can only continue to function with your interest, your support and your participation. We welcome your contributions, your personal talents, your dedications, your loyalties to preserving the lessons of the past and your efforts in forging through any cultural adversity to help carve out a secure future for all. If you have a desire to become active in the NCFs, please get in touch with our team by contacting us at [info@newcracow.org](mailto:info@newcracow.org).

In the meantime, please keep your membership current. Remit any unpaid 2022 dues online at [newcracow.org](http://newcracow.org) or send your check covering any present and past dues owed... to me @ 147-17 78th Road, Flushing, NY 11367.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Ida Lewis, Membership Committee Chair  
(718)380-3574  
[membership@newcracow.org](mailto:membership@newcracow.org)

Maria Helfman, Co-chair  
(646)256-2872  
[membership@newcracow.org](mailto:membership@newcracow.org)

## MEMORIAL PLAQUES

We look forward to rolling out our new project soon. A wall of memorial plaques, each dedicated in honor of a loved one, will be incorporated into our website. Every member of our society will have the opportunity to inscribe individual plaques with the names of survivors or others they wish to honor. The cost will be \$18 per plaque. **Other details to follow.**

## SUBMISSIONS WANTED

We need your help in building our digital archive!

We are hoping to collect a library of photographs and documents to preserve the memory of our society and the lives and Jewish communities of Krakow and vicinity. It could be photos of Jewish artifacts belonging to victims or survivors, photos of past society events, any photos showing the lives of our members from before/during/after the war or copies of any documents related to

the Shoah and your family. View the archive at [www.newcracow.org/archive](http://www.newcracow.org/archive)

To contribute, email us at [info@newcracow.org](mailto:info@newcracow.org)

## KRAKÓW GENEALOGY AND RESEARCH RESOURCES KEHILALINKS

**JewishGen KehilaLinks** is a digital project dedicated to the commemoration of the towns where Jews lived. KehilaLinks provides the opportunity for anyone with an interest in a town to view pages about the history of that Jewish community, including Holocaust resources. These web pages may contain information about the town. Resources related to Kraków are listed below.

### For general information about Jewish Kraków:

<https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/krakow/>

### Kraków Birth records:

[https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/Krakow/kra\\_evr\\_births.asp](https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/Krakow/kra_evr_births.asp)

### Kraków Marriage Records:

[https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/krakow/kra\\_evr\\_marriages.asp](https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/krakow/kra_evr_marriages.asp)

### German Jews Registered in the Kraków

#### Ghetto:

[https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/krakow/kra\\_german.htm](https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/krakow/kra_german.htm)

### Yad Vashem Testimonies by Kraków Survivors

[https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/krakow/kra\\_testimony.htm](https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/krakow/kra_testimony.htm)

### Schindler's List

[https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/krakowe/kra\\_schindler/htm](https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/krakowe/kra_schindler/htm)

### Holocaust Orphans

[https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/krakow/kra\\_orphans.htm](https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/krakow/kra_orphans.htm)

## THE DIGITAL ARCHIVE

The Digital Archive of KL Plaszow gathers and provides knowledge about the former Nazi German labor and concentration camp of Plaszow, but above all, it is a token of remembrance for prisoners and victims of the camp. Their names and surnames, sometimes biographies and photographs make up the individual stories and collective history of KL Plaszow.

The archive also contains databases on the camp staff, archives, photographs, and audio-visual materials. The information and documents gathered in the archive are the product of many years of queries, searches, interviews, and the work of scientists and specialists. The archive is open to the public. As new information is collected, its content will be supplemented.

We invite you to use the Archive and cooperate with us in order to expand it. We are trying to document the names of all those who were prisoners in Plaszow. If anyone from your family was at this camp please fill in the following details, including a photo if you have one, and send by email the following address:

[archiwumplaszow@muzeumkrakowa.pl](mailto:archiwumplaszow@muzeumkrakowa.pl)

## PERSONAL DATA

**Surname:**

**Name:**  
**Family name:**  
**Date of birth:**  
**Place of birth:**  
**Date of death:**  
**Place of death:**

**FAMILY**

**Parents:**  
**Spouse:**  
**Siblings:**  
**BIOGRAPHY**

**CAMP**

**Was held in the ghetto - city:**  
**In Plaszow from:**  
**In Plaszow to:**  
**Camp number:**  
**Other camps:**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Shalom,

The Ministry of Culture and Heritage in Poland together with the Municipality of Krakow is working to establish a memorial site on the site of the former German concentration camp - KL Plaszow. I am a member of the Planning Committee. If you would like to publish about this, I'll send you more information or you can find it on the net.

In any case, a database is set up on the memorial site where they want to commemorate the prisoners who were in the camp (about 30,000 Jews and Poles). Are there members of the organization who were or their families were prisoners in the camp? <https://ca.muzeumkrakowa.pl/>.

I would appreciate it if you will publish that information and people will update their details. Anyone who does not know how to do this - will send it to me and I will take care of the update.

**Lili Haber**  
**+366-4436-54-972**

**IF YOU WERE A KRAKOW RESISTANCE FIGHTER, OR THE CHILD OF ONE, PLEASE READ BELOW**

Sheryl Ochayon the Director of the "Echoes and Reflection" program at Yad Vashem has contacted us to see if we can assist them in one of their projects. Sheryl and her team at "Echoes and Reflections" are currently producing a documentary on Justyna (Yustyna), and the Krakow Resistance Movement. If you have any pertinent information that can be used to enhance the Documentaries production. Please contact Sheryl directly at [Sheryl.ochayon@yadvashem.org.il](mailto:Sheryl.ochayon@yadvashem.org.il).

Some of you may remember Sheryl from the time she was one of our panelists for our "Women in the Resistance" Webinar. If you missed it, please go to our website [newcracow.org](http://newcracow.org), and it will be listed in the Power of Our Stories section.

Thank You.

**CLAIMS CONFERENCE NEEDS YOUR HELP**

The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against German (Claims Conference) aims to locate and contact all Jewish survivors of the Holocaust to provide financial compensation. If you know of any survivors who have not received compensation in 2021, have not submitted a form to Claims, or may not be aware of payment through Claims Conference please email [HFSoutreach@claimscon.org](mailto:HFSoutreach@claimscon.org) or call 646 536-9157.

**NEW KOSHER CAFÉ IN KRAKÓW**



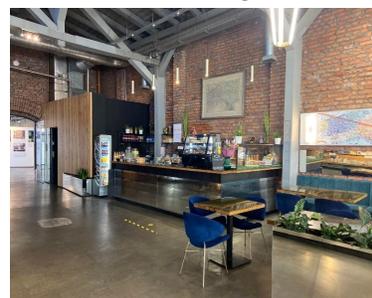
The Galicia Jewish Museum is renowned for its wonderful exhibitions chronicling Jewish life in Krakow. The Galicia Jewish Museum is located in the historic Jewish district of Kazimierz.

The Museum has served as a gathering space for visitors, survivors and those with family roots in Krakow. The Museum houses one of the largest bookshops devoted to Jewish culture and history in Poland, with several thousand titles in Polish, English, German and French. Recently, the Museum expanded the cafe next to the bookstore and created a new Kosher cafe. Its modern and spacious interior seats up to 40 people. The establishment of a Kosher cafe in Krakow was the concept of Ronald Lauder who has been a major supporter and proponent of Polish Jewish culture for almost 40 years. He named the cafe the Lauder-Szancer Kosher Cafe to honor the legacy of the Szancer family for their contributions to the arts and culture in Poland since the 18th century. Elizabeth Szancer is a board member of the NCFS.



The new café is the only one in Kraków that offers kosher products.

Offerings include hot and cold beverages, sweets and snacks. The café is sure to attract a large number of visitors and groups as well as to host evening events, conferences, training sessions and concerts.



Congratulations Elizabeth on this wonderful new accomplishment, we look forward to visiting the café!

## DÉJÀ VU ALL OVER AGAIN

In one of the great Yogi Berraisms of all time, our situation in Israel was described with pinpoint accuracy. Here we go again. Election number five. Another opportunity to sling mud at each other and increase the decibels of divisiveness. Indeed its Déjà vu all over again!

And depending on political preference, you may be hoping that this won't be the last time, or doing the calculations – as if it matters – as to what is best for the country – electing someone you think is bad for the country but having a stable government or reaching a stalemate yet another time but allowing the current prime minister (Lapid) continue heading the transition government with the “Government of Change” still intact?

Here's the bottom line: The only thing that really matters in the upcoming election is whether or not Netanyahu and his right wing/religious block will get the coveted 61<sup>st</sup> mandate. If he achieves in this election what he has not been able to achieve in the last four, Israel will have a government, albeit perhaps the most right wing and religious one in its history. But it will be a homogeneous one and will be able function without the radical differences of ideology that ultimately caused the downfall of the previous government. If it only has 61 seats, it may not be held hostage by diametrically ideologically opposed points of views, but it may be held hostage by any given Member of Knesset, who taking a page from the escapades of several MKs in the outgoing government can basically blackmail the government into giving him/her whatever they want. Or it could come from the Haredi parties who after a year outside the government in the political desert, have an appetite to roll back a bunch of laws and create new ones that may not be appreciated by large portions of Israeli society. Or it could come from the National Religious Party who would threaten to bolt if settlements aren't built or masses of Jews allowed on the Temple Mount.

But leave that as it is. The Netanyahu led opposition made a career out of lambasting the outgoing government for being dependent on the votes of Ra'am (the first ever Arab party to be part of a ruling coalition in Israel). The actual situation won't change much if he gets his 61, just the people on who the government is dependent on for their votes will change. So, while the government may be homogeneous, it won't be stable. And Netanyahu knows it.

In his perfect world from his point of view, parties from the current government (Blue and White, Lieberman's Party, maybe Yesh Atid but I doubt it) would join a government led by Likud and Netanyahu and spare him the nightmare of having to deal with Itamar Ben Gvir as a minister (after he literally paved the way for him into the Knesset in the last election). He will say, with some justification, that the people have spoken and enough to the non-willingness to sit together in a government. He will promise the moon to Benny Gantz and Avigdor Lieberman and if they decline the privilege of sitting in a government led by Netanyahu, the latter will tell the public that he tried, but he has no choice but to sit with Ben Gvir and form his narrow government of 61.

It is altogether possible this will happen. Polls have been consistently showing the Likud led block inching towards 61. If they aren't there, they aren't far away. But the last four elections have also shown that they haven't got there. And even if they do, and they get to 61, the nightmare won't really go away for the reasons described above.

As I write this, Ayelet Shaked, who now has control of the Yamina party – the one that was led by former Prime Minister Naftali Bennet and whose defectors paved the way for the disbandment of the previous government – has openly stated she would sit under Netanyahu in a future government. The problem for her is that most of her party has already disintegrated with the two defectors (Idit Silman and Amichai Shikli) already promised spots on the Likud list. The remaining members of the party are not keen, maybe the word is hostile to, the idea of sitting with Netanyahu in a government. Others who are flirting with joining Shaked, like Yoaz Hendel and Zvi Hauser who in the last government were with Gideon Saar's Tikvah Hadasha (New Hope) party are also opposed to sitting with Netanyahu. Saar recently merged his party with Benny Gantz's Blue and White party to create a large block of a central right party. I'll touch on that in a second because its important, but to finish the thought, Hendel and Hauser don't want to have anything to do with Netanyahu. So its unclear what Shaked can realistically do in this regard. Her election rhetoric so far parallels that of Gantz and Lapid – the need to form a wide-ranging National Unity Government. I personally very much support that idea and think it is necessary. The National Unity Government they are talking about is not the one we recently had which ranged from Gideon Saar on the right to Meretz and Raam on the left. One can legitimately make the case that it doesn't get more national unity than that. This time they mean Likud with Blue and White, Yamina, Yesh Atid, Labor – in other words, all the main stream centrist parties. What isn't being said is whether they would be willing to sit in such a government with Netanyahu leading it. So far, the thinking is that they wouldn't. And even if Shaked said she would, that may not be a popular enough statement to attract voters to save Yamina from going under the election threshold and disappearing into the bin of political history. If she takes on a more right-wing platform, why vote for her when you have Likud and the National Religious party of Smotrich and Ben Gvir? If she turns left, why vote for her when you have Blue and White and Yesh Atid? And she has been burned on both ends with both left wing and right-wing voters distrusting her. Right wing voters because she is considered a “traitor” for sitting in the previous government with Ra'am, and left-wing voters because she says she'd sit with Netanyahu in a future government. Even money says that she and Yamina don't cross the threshold, and if that happens, it isn't great news for Netanyahu getting closer to 61.

Before we talk about Benny Gantz and Blue and White, two additional things need to be tackled. First, why are people so opposed to sitting with Netanyahu? And second, what would happen if he doesn't reach 61, which is a legitimate possibility.

The answer to the first question is in short, a mirror of the current state of affairs in this country. Today, there is little debate between left and right. The Palestinians haven't gone away, and won't, but the reality of it is that no one, left or right and certainly not anyone on the Palestinian side is talking about reviving a peace process any time soon. There is no support for it anywhere and even the Europeans and the Americans, not to mention most of the Arab world, have reached the conclusion that there are bigger fish to fry than the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Not that the problem will go away. But no one really, is talking about it. At the political level, all the parties shelved the idea for now, including the most left-wing parties who were willing to do so in the name of the recent Government of Change.

No, its not about ideology. Its not even about the economy. Israel too is reeling from inflation due to the War in Ukraine, just like everywhere else in the world. Anyone who is fair with themselves knows it is not the fault of the current government, though the situation will be used and abused in the upcoming election campaign. Its about one thing and one thing only – Bibi or not Bibi. Either you are a groupie or blind supporter or you are the exact opposite. The Groupie type is the type who make sculptures of the leader or wear medallions with his image and the Israeli flag – both of these actions done by Likud activists were roundly denounced publicly and by Netanyahu himself who understands that this just feeds the anti-Bibi narrative. The Groupie type is about the famous picture of all the Likud ministers standing behind Netanyahu (at the time with masks due to COVID) while the then Prime Minister denounced the justice system, the police, the attorney general and the courts for having the audacity to indict him and try him on three counts of bribery and breach of faith. I have no idea how these trials will pan out, it will take years, but it is no secret that over the last four elections, and now the fifth, the mantra of the Likud was that if they get into power they will overhaul the justice system, pass laws for the Knesset to override the involvement of the Supreme Court, have the government appoint judges, pass the “French Law” which delays the trial of the head of state until after he is out of power and countless other laws designed to have Netanyahu avoid the verdicts of the courts. 50% of the public stands behind Netanyahu as those Likud Ministers did in that famous picture on that famous day at the court and 50% of the public is the exact opposite – they will do anything to make sure that the scenario above does not take place, that Netanyahu does not return to power. Call it the anybody but Bibi camp.

There is no middle ground.

And the Likud members of Knesset and activists aren't helping the cause of their leader who wants to get reelected. Like the Groupie's they are, some make statements like the ones from Dudi Amsalem who promised on national radio that when the Likud comes back to power, they will “break the bones” democratically (of course, democratically) of the left and avenge what happened over the course of the last year with the previous government. Or the likes of Yoav Kish and Shlomo Kari who openly threatened to fire the Attorney General when

Likud comes back to power. Plenty of people listening to this (I admit, me too) would prefer these guys don't come back to power to do what they promise they will.

That is why Israel has been in a stalemate these past years. Because its no longer about policy and ideology. Its about whether Netanyahu should continue to lead.

So, lets finish up with Benny Gantz because in many ways, he is the key here. Among the reasons why a lot of people don't want to see Netanyahu back (beyond all the reasons stated above, beyond his legal issues or the moral/public character of what he is accused of, even if ultimately, he is acquitted of committing a crime) it is also personal. Almost every one of the party leaders who doesn't want to sit with Netanyahu has been burned by him the past. The personal animosity is high. No one believes a word he says. There is zero trust. And no where is that truer than with Benny Gantz.

After all, after election #4, Benny Gantz put all his political capital on the line, and for the sake of the country and to avoid a fifth election, decided to sit with Netanyahu in a government based on a rotation. His actions, which many supported (as did I), were met with hostility from his former allies and Blue and White split with Yesh Atid and (current prime minister) Yair Lapid going to the opposition. Lapid never forgave Gantz for that move and to this day, though they were together in the previous government and continue to serve together in the transition government, there is bad blood between them. But Gantz learned the lesson the hard way.

When asked on public TV if he would honor the rotation agreement, Netanyahu looked into the camera and promised a skeptical public that there would be “No Tricks or Shticks.” Well, I didn't believe him then and neither did most people (the polls always clearly showed that few believed he would fulfill his promise and Gantz would ever be the Prime Minister due to the rotation). Unfortunately, I didn't bet on it, because Netanyahu didn't disappoint. Rather than allow Gantz to become Prime Minister under the rotation agreement, Netanyahu would not allow the state budget to pass. That ultimately brought the government down and forced new elections. In those elections, Naftali Bennet would go on to form the government and then do what Netanyahu never did, transfer the power to Yair Lapid, in accordance with the rotation agreement -bringing back a semblance of honor and “Presidential-ness” if there is such a word. In Hebrew we say “Mamlachti.” And that word is starring in the upcoming election.

Gantz was burned and I think it safe to say that his trust in Netanyahu is below zero. Should a situation arise where another rotation government be a possibility, I will put my money that there is no chance that he will agree to it unless he goes first. And everyone knows it. Especially the Haredi parties who “guaranteed” the previous rotation agreement but could not enforce it and who have openly said the fact that Netanyahu took down the government rather than honor that agreement was a mistake we are all still paying for.

Those same Haredi parties are also saying this. They are squarely in the right wing -religious block headed

by Netanyahu. And they fervently hope they will reach the coveted 61. But if they don't, if this election should turn out to be a fifth edition of the past four, or as we've already said – Déjà vu All Over Again, they will no longer see themselves beholden to Netanyahu or willing to be dragged into a sixth, seventh.... election on his behalf. No, they will turn to Benny Gantz and offer him to be the first in a rotation agreement with Netanyahu.

Will this happen? Would Netanyahu agree to it? Well, if he doesn't get 61, he won't have a choice. Either that or his career will end. It is accepted wisdom that anyone else from the Likud would have been able to form a government a long time ago with Gantz and Saar and Shaked and Lieberman, all of whom are (moderate) right wingers at heart.

All of this will come down to a swing vote of 3-4 seats – composed of moderate right-wing voters who will either be swayed to let Netanyahu finally head his record breaking sixth government, or will deny it to him opening the way for Gantz or by a longer shot Lapid, to form one, with or without the Likud. Time will tell. It is certainly going to be a long, exciting and ugly four months leading up to the November 1 Election Day.

Did I say, Déjà vu All Over Again?

Barry Spielman  
Oranit, Israel  
July 21, 2022

## SUNSHINE COMMITTEE REPORT

### HAPPY EVENTS

#### Anniversaries

##### July

Mr. & Mrs. Steven Blumenfrucht 37  
Mr. & Mrs. Abe Krieger

Mr. & Ms. Leon Hilfstein 48

##### August

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Berkowsky 42  
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Blumenstyk 39  
Mr. & Mrs. William Huppert  
Mr. & Mrs. Ira Kantor

Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Marks 41  
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Steiner Myers 40  
Mr., & Mrs. Howard Shapiro 46

#### Grandparents

Elizabeth Szancer and Tom Zoufaly are happy to announce the birth of our granddaughter, Hannah Jean Winnick. Congratulations to the parents, Stephanie Kujawski and Kyle Winnick, and to big sister Ava.

Mazal tov to all.

Please inform us of your anniversary dates, and any other smachot (births, bar/bat mitzvah, engagements, weddings, graduations, etc.) so we can congratulate you in our future Newsletters. We love to share good news.

#### Refuah Sheleima

Jack Gingold, recovering from a severe animal bite.

Continued blessings are extended to any members recovering from Covid, other maladies or ailments. Please inform us of any members who would appreciate their names being mentioned for healing thoughts and prayers.

#### DONATIONS

Susan Krul Caren, on the occasion of the Jahrzeit of her beloved father, Eli Krul, \$36

Annette Insdorf, on the occasion of the 37<sup>th</sup> Jahrzeit of her beloved father, Michael Insdorf and the 12<sup>th</sup> Jahrzeit of her adored mother, Dr. Cecile Insdorf, \$200

Simone & Lee Scheumann wishing a speedy recovery to Jack Gingold, \$250, Happy First Birthday to granddaughter Roberta, \$100 and daughter Anna on her shared birthday with Roberta, \$100.

Bernice Slutzman, on the occasions of the Jahrzeiten of her beloved Ciocia Lusie (Rachel Wald, 19 Av) and father, Roman Weingarten (9 Elul) \$72

Please keep your support of the NEW CRACOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY flowing with your thoughtful Tzedaka. You can make a donation in memory of a family member's Jahrzeit, a GET WELL blessing, a celebration of a simcha... or simply for the mitzvah of "giving Tzedaka" Please send your contributions to me at the address below. Donations can also be made online through PayPal on our website.... [www:newcracow.org](http://www:newcracow.org) Be sure to mention what your donation is for.

\*\*\* Please send us your good news, i.e. births, bar & bat mitzvahs, engagements, weddings, anniversary dates, graduations, etc. We love to share good news with our members.

Wishing everyone a happy end of summer.

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