

California, Oakland, San Francisco, Mahane David, Holon, Rishon -Letzion, Hod Hasharon

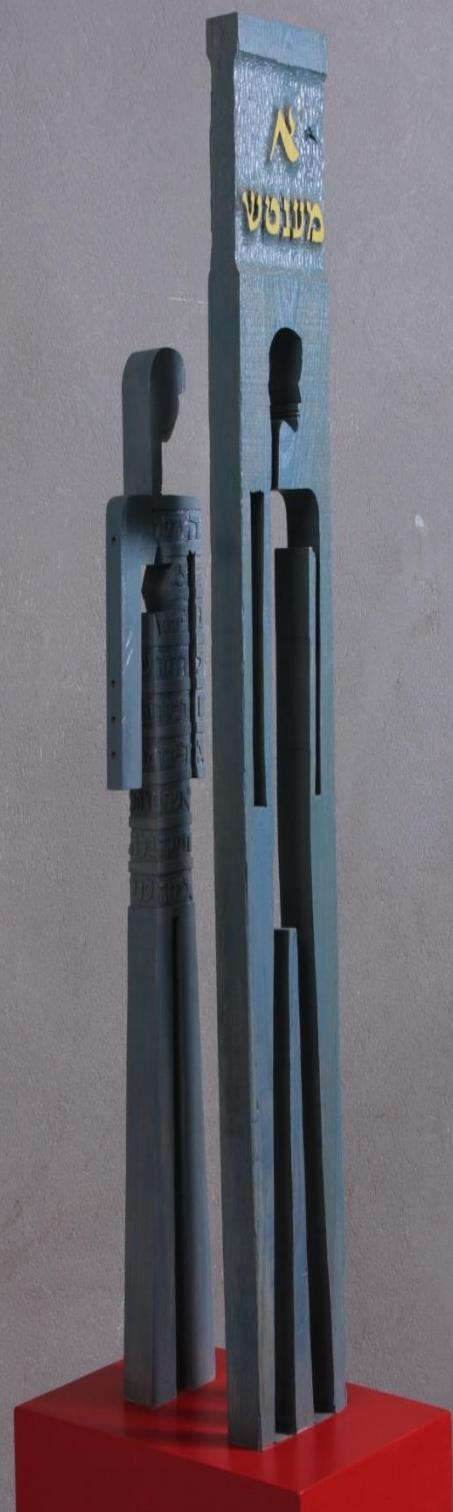
# CARVED MEMORIES



Shaar Alia, Israel, Camp Atlit, Maabara David, Shikun Mahane David, San Luis Obispo,

Tomashow Lubelski, Rawa-Ruska, Lvov, Siberia, Dzambul-Kazachstan, Lodz Polin,

36 names of my relatives  
who were assassinated in  
the holocaust are carved in  
oak wood.  
130 cm. high





Two minutes of silence.

80/69/30 cm.



# Where Art Thou

The promise God made to Abraham "Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river of Euphrates." is carved on the hand straps of the Tefilin.

Genesis 15, 18



27x47x54 cm.  
21" high



וארשתיד לי  
לעולם

This sculpture describes my conflicts as a holocaust survivor. When WWII broke out I was less than 2 years old. A week later the German planes bombed our Shtetl, in south eastern Poland, 10 minutes later a big part of the Jewish quarter of the town laid in ruins, burned, leaving hundreds of dead, wounded and homeless. My parents and other family members, packed their few belongings they could carry and headed east, Russia. We were sent to labor camps in Siberia suffering from hunger, chilling cold, hard work and diseases. Later we moved east and settled in Dzhabul, Kazakhstan. During those years my father undertook any work he could find as long as he can feed his family. The work he could find was devastating to his health which consequently brought his life to an end at the age of 47. In 1946 we returned to Poland only to learn that many of our family were killed in the Belzec extermination camp. Realizing there is no home to return to. In 1950 we made Aliya to Israel. As a child I remember my mother saying in Yiddish "If God could see it and do nothing - then there is no God in heaven" Similarly asks the little Shmuelchi his grandfather in the poem "To the hills of the corpses in the snow" by the great poet Uri Tsvi Greenberg "Zeide, (grandpa) where have all my prayers gone? Where have all your prayers gone? Zeide why didn't you come with all the angels in heaven? Zeide, where is the God of the Jews? So I am left with Shmuelchi's questions and have no answers. I feel something terrible has happened to the people of Israel and God did not do what he had to do as a good father - Save his children - and what can the child do? What do I do with this God? I was born a Jew, I am part of this people, tradition and history flow in my veins. I stretch my protesting arm demanding explanation. Still demanding but in the morning I take my Tales and Tefilin and go to the Shul.



# FROM HOLOCAUST TO REBIRTH



2.10 meters high (84")

# To Them Who did not See, did not Know

We often see memorials to victims of tyranny, victims of oppression, etc' but we never see an act of mentioning those who committed the crimes – the most civilized nation of the western world. I took the liberty of creating such a memorial to those who knew, saw and did nothing. **AND THE WORLD KEPT SILENT**

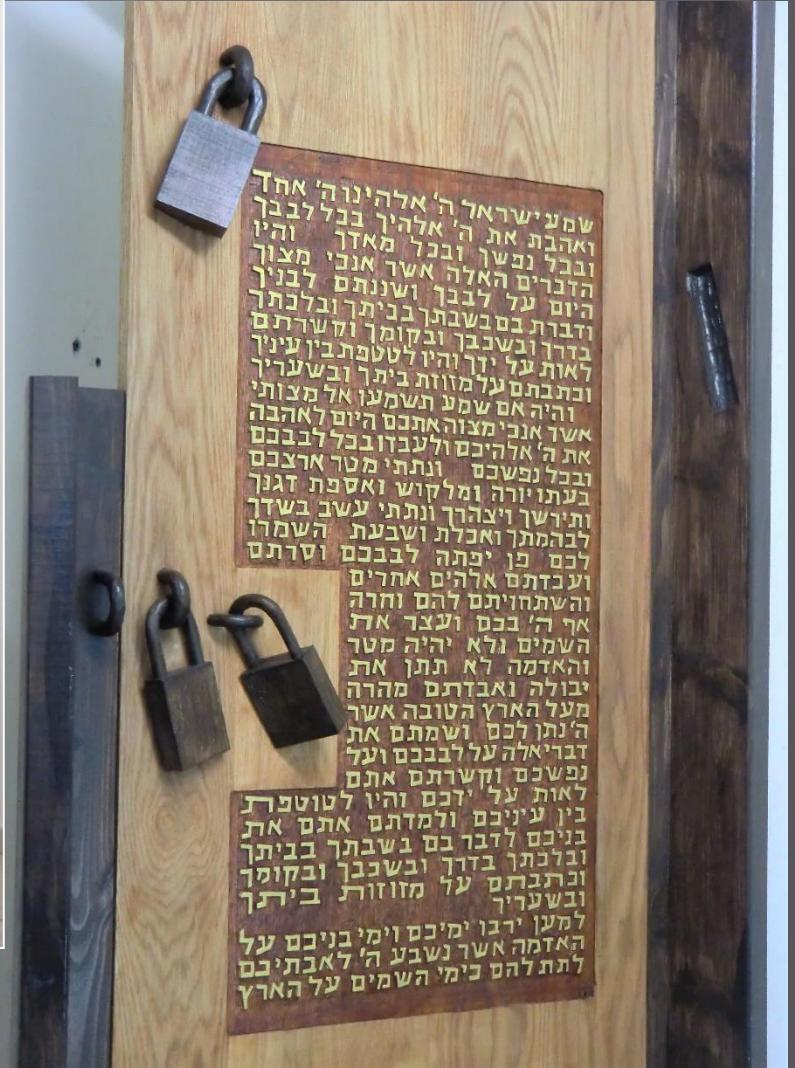


Here are carved the names of cultural pillars of the western civilization.

On the legs are carved precepts of the monotheistic faiths: Truth, Justice, Benevolence, Peace, in ancient Hebrew letters.

# A Mezuzah Uprooted

Whenever I wander through Jewish Ghettos in Europe, the torn out Mezuzas at the doorstep remind me the horrors a Jewish family, once lived here, were subjected to.



# The Wanderer



Carved oak wood. 54 cm. (21") high

Donated to Yad Vashem Museum



# B'RESHIT-B'SHERIT



Eli Wiesel sees in the story of The Binding of Isaac (AKEDAH) a paradigm of the destiny of the Jewish People as a story of survivors. If Isaac dies, all his sufferings and promises have been in vein. But the miracle happens: Isaac is Rescued and Israel was born.

In Wiesel's mind the Nazis aimed to eradicate any Jewish life and any material cultural message they carry. Judaism is the reminder of the Act of Creation (Maase Bereshit), a reminder of the beginning of history.

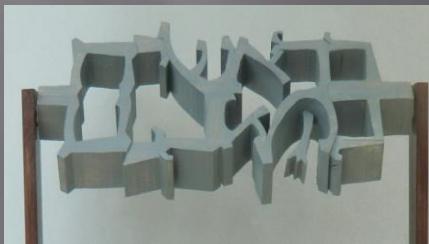
According the Book of Radiance (Sefer HaZohar), among the possible combination of the letters that comprise the Hebrew word "Bereshit" - the word that opens the Torah and the story of Creation, Wiesel offers the word "Besheerit" - "that what remained". God had created the world, for the beginning. He intentionally left it upon the intervention of mankind to partake in its shaping.

After the deluge it is left to the "Sheerit", the survivors to undertake the continuum of history. It is the Beginning, the "Bereshit" of a new adventure that relies upon the "Besheerit" ,, the survivors, to embark on a new beginning.

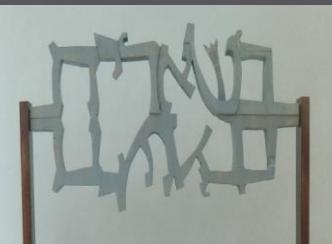
Isaac is Rescued and Israel was born.

"Besheerit" of the Diaspora Israel was born

B'RESHIT



B'SHEETIT



# GOLA - GEULA



In the Kabbalah every letter of the Hebrew alphabet has its magical meaning and their interconnections are endless. Alef, the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet, entered the Agada, while being immersed in an aura of humility, has challenged God for 26 generations demanding that the Ten Commandments shall open with the letter Alef. As we know, God conceded.

For centuries scholars have adorned the Alef with many titles: Sublime Head, The Shining Letter - The Ancient Light, the letter that everything stems from her.

In this work the Alef symbolizes Light, Love, Faith, Erets Israel (In Hebrew all these words begin with the letter Alef). When this Ancient Light (Alef) descends to the Gola (Diaspora) then we merit the Geula (redemption)

The image displays two views of a tall, slender wooden sculpture. The sculpture consists of a long, light-colored wooden pole with a hand carved into its upper section, gripping a dark wooden crossbar. From this crossbar, a fan-like structure of seven curved wooden strips extends upwards. The pole is decorated with red and white diagonal stripes. At the base, a red metal stand with four legs supports the pole. The background is a plain, light gray wall.

The Jewish Statue of Liberty

180 cm. (72") high

# SHALOM KELNER SCULPTURES

Born in Poland on 11.11.1937.

During WW II after the Nazi invasion to Poland my family escaped into Russia. We survived the war years enduring famine and cold in the labor camps in Siberia settling finally in Dzhambul, Kazakhstan and returning to Poland when the war was over in January 1946.

Our home town in Poland was completely devastated – nothing remained of the Jewish homes and life that once was. We moved on and settled in Lodz.

1947 – 1950 attending the art studio of Alexander Bogin in Lodz, Poland.

1950 Immigrate to Israel.

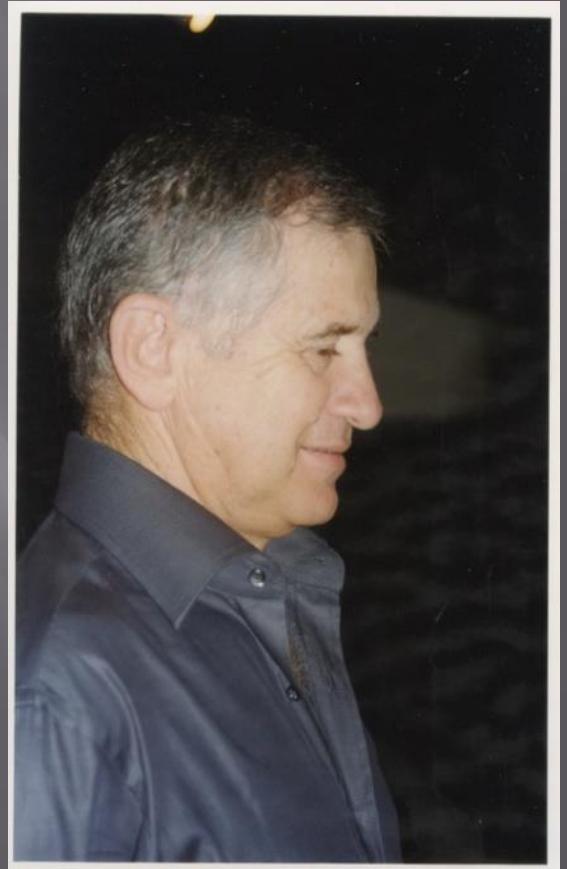
1962-1967 Graduated with a degree in architecture from California State Polytechnic University.

(While in Calif. Attending art classes)

1978 - 1980 Obtaining a Masters degree in architecture and town planning from the Technion, Haifa.

From 1967 – today: practicing architecture in Israel and abroad.

Parallel to my architecture practice I have my art studio at home where I was engaged in various venues of artwork: on paper, iron, stone, but mainly in wood. Some of the sculptures were cast in bronze.



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