

Wexner Foundation – Solidarity Trip January 15-17, 2024

Day 1: Monday, January 15, 2024

ARRIVAL AND INTRODUCTIONS

- 3:00 pm Introduction and opening program with **Rabbi Jay Moses and Angie Atkins**.
4:00 pm Depart for Hostage Square.
4:30 pm Visit **Hostage Square**, with Wexner Alum **Michal Lebenthal**, who volunteers with the Hostage Family Forum, including a conversation with a member of a hostage family.

Michal Lebenthal Andreson, WSL 2015 Michal is a design manager & the co-founder and CEO of Think Creative. She previously served as the Deputy Legal Advisor at the Ministry of Aliya and Integration. Born in the USA, she migrated to Israel at 19, making a multicultural perspective an inherent part of her. She is Israeli Bar Certified, and has a BA and MA from the Hebrew University in Political Science, and a M.Des from Bezalel. Michal applies a multidisciplinary approach to complex challenges. Her toolbox includes years of legal advisory and policy, alongside experience in implementable strategy, design thinking, and systems learning, accelerating innovation and startup ecosystems. Michal likes to enter new fields with an open mind and a whiteboard. She enjoys working in diverse team settings, where complexity reigns, and creating a new common mutual language as a basis for interaction among the participants.

DONATE: <https://stories.bringthemhomenow.net/donate>

- Return to the hotel.
- 7:15 pm Dinner at the hotel.
8:15 pm *My Story and What October 7th Means for the Future of Israel* with Wexner Alum, Gen. (res.) **Noam Tibon**, one of the retired Israeli generals who went into combat zone on October 7 and saved lives.

Noam Tibon, WIF, Class 13 Noam Tibon is retired from the IDF from his last position as the Head of the IDF's West Bank Divisions. Prior to this, he was the Nachal Brigade Commander in the IDF holding the rank of Colonel. Among his military distinctions, he was the Hebron Area Brigade Commander and a paratroop battalion commander. He received a B.A. in History from Haifa University and graduated as a distinguished student from the Marines corps Command and Staff College in Quantico, Virginia. He holds a Master in Public Administration from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government as a Wexner Israel Fellow. Link to [NYT article](#) on his heroic actions on October 7, 2023.

Overnight: Royal Beach Hotel, Tel Aviv

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Day 2: Tuesday, January 16, 2024

THE WESTERN NEGEV- HAOTEF

- Breakfast at the hotel.

8:00 am Depart for the Western Negev and visit to Kibbutz Be'eri, one of the Kibbutzim that was brutally attacked in the Hamas onslaught, in conjunction with the IDF and residents.

DONATE: <https://my.israelgives.org/en/fundme/Kibbutzbeerj>

9:30 am Begin the visit to Be'eri with volunteering time in their agricultural fields and continue to the Kibbutz for a firsthand account of the horrific attacks on October

- Drive to Sderot.

1:00 pm Lunch in Sderot, followed by a visit to the city, which has become a symbol of Israel's longstanding conflict with Hamas – drive through the town, stopping at the once famous police station, which was demolished in the aftermath of the attack, with a police officer who was involved in defending the station.

DONATE: <https://sderotfoundation.org/donation/>

3:00 pm Depart for Rahat.

3:30 pm Visit the **Jewish Arab Hamal** in Rahat, a Jewish-Arab community service and volunteer center.

DONATE:

<https://secure.nif.org/onlineactions/Mz6TpJeV1Eer0cPmdi0gow2?ms=top%20donate%20main%20nav>

- Return to Tel Aviv.
- Dinner on your own and free evening in Tel Aviv.

Overnight: Royal Beach Hotel, Tel Aviv

THE WEXNER FOUNDATION

Day 3: Wednesday, January 17, 2024

OCTOBER 7TH: THE AFTERMATH AND LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- 9:00 am Begin the day with a meeting with members of **Moshav Netiv Haasara**, displaced to the Royal Beach Hotel, to listen to and engage with people who have been away from their homes for over three months of the Tel Aviv Municipality.
DONATE: <https://www.btbisrael.co.il/netiv10-donation-english/>
- 11:00 am Drive to Gilot to the headquarters of the **Ahim Laneshek** – Brother and Sisters in Arms – Community Coordination Center, which become one of the main sources of communal support and problem for Israelis throughout the country.
DONATE: <https://www.ahimlaneshk.org/donate-2023>
- Lunch at the **Greko Restaurant** in Tel Aviv.
- 2:00 pm Meet with Gen (res.), Wexner Alum and former MK, **Yair Golan**, a retired Israeli general who went into the Nova Party combat zone to save lives and is viewed as a possible next leader of the Israeli Zionist left.
- Yair Golan, WIF Class 14** Yair Golan is a general in the Israel Defense Forces and currently the Deputy Chief of General Staff. Was the commander of the Northern Front Command and before that the Commander of the IDF's Home Front Command. Prior to this appointment, he was the Judea and Samaria Division Commander. Mr. Golan is a career officer for the IDF holding the rank of Major-General. Since his commissioning in 1982 Mr. Golan served in a variety of command and staff assignments. In the years 1983–1986 he commanded a paratroop platoon and company. He was appointed deputy battalion commander in 1988 and a G3 officer for the 35th paratroop brigade in 1991. During the years 1992–1993 he commanded the 890-paratroop battalion and then an infantry officer course. In the years 1994–1995 he served as G3 officer for Judea and Samaria Headquarters and in 1996 he was appointed as a territorial brigade commander in the eastern sector of the security zone of southern Lebanon. In 2000 Mr. Golan was appointed as the commander of the Nahal brigade and led it until July 2002. In July 2003 he became commander of the Galilee Division. Mr. Golan graduated from the IDF Command and Staff College and the U.S. Army War College in Pennsylvania, and holds a B.A. degree in Political Science from Tel-Aviv University. He holds a Master in Public Administration from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government as a Wexner Israel Fellow.
- On October 7, 2023, the same day that the October 2023 Gaza–Israel conflict began, Golan has put on his uniform and arrived in his private vehicle to the Gaza envelope, which was subject to a surprise attack on Israel, and rescued survivors in the area of the massacre at the Nature Festival near Re'im. He described what he saw as very difficult scenes and claimed that the battle of that day was the worst defeat of the State of Israel ever.

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4:30 pm *Israel's Challenges in a Post October 7th Region*, with General (Ret) **Eitan Dangot**, former Coordinator of Government Affairs in the Territories, and Military Secretary to three Ministers of Defense.

Major General Eitan Dangot was born in Tel Aviv in 1960 and began his service in the IDF in 1978 in the artillery corps. He served in a number of command positions, including during the First Lebanese War, and rose up the ranks. After serving as the IDF attaché in the Netherlands, Dangot returned to the artillery corps, filling two of the most senior positions in the corps.

In 1999 he was transferred to the General Staff, and in 2002 he received the rank of Brigadier General and was appointed Chief of Staff of the Home Front Command. In this capacity he led a number of rescue team delegations to disaster areas (both natural and terror inflicted) in various countries around the world.

In 2004 he became the Military Secretary to the Minister of Defense and served in this position for three ministers, Shaul Mofaz (toward the end of the Second Intifada), Amir Peretz (during the Second Lebanese War) and Ehud Barak (during Cast Lead in Gaza).

In 2009 he was promoted to the rank of Major General and the position of Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories, a position he filled for five years until January 2014.

Major General Dangot has a Bachelor's degree in computer science and economics and an MBA, both from Bar Ilan University. He is married to Orna and has five children.

5:45 pm Depart for the Goshen restaurant on Nachalat Binyamin St.

6:00 pm Dinner at the Goshen Restaurant.

7:30 pm **Wrap up Conversation.**

8:30 pm Depart for Ben Gurion Airport.

Overnight: Flight