

Moshe Shinar Discusses Journey to US, Staying Active Later in Life

Stephen Silver

Moshe Shinar, like the State of Israel where he was born, recently turned 75 years old. Born in Haifa, Shinar immigrated to the United States in 1973.

“I was married to an American girl, we came to visit, and then I decided to stay,” Shinar said in an interview with the *Exponent*, adding that his wife was from Margate.

Shinar attended Israel’s Naval Academy and served seven years in the Israeli Navy, which included participation in a particularly famous moment in Israeli military history: “The Boats of Cherbourg,” the December 1969 operation that involved the seizure of Sa’ar 3-class boats from France.

Shortly after the Six-Day War, Charles de Gaulle’s government had agreed to sell some boats to Israel but had later delayed their delivery due to an arms embargo. So Israel conducted a successful military operation to take possession of the boats.

“One day we took the boats for a trial, and we never came back; we kidnapped them back to Israel,” Shinar said of the operation. “That was one part of my [service.]”

After his move to the U.S. in 1973, Shinar spent his professional life in a few different careers, from hotel management to grocery stores, and eventually went into the real estate business. He’s now mostly retired, although he does still own some properties.

In his hotel career, Shinar worked at Teplitzky’s, which for years was the “Jewish” hotel in Atlantic City. (The Teplitzky’s name was briefly revived, a few years ago, for a coffee shop, in the same building where the hotel was once located.)

“I started as a bellhop at a hotel, then I became one of the food and beverage directors in the hotels, and from there I got a little minimarket in Atlantic City,” he said. “Then I bought two more grocery stores, I sold them eventually, and I became a landlord.” At another point, he managed kosher restaurants in Atlantic City, one of them at Teplitzky’s.

Shinar spent many years mostly dealing with real estate until “about five years ago, I started to slowly, slowly get rid of the properties,” he said, although he has hung on to some.

He does a lot these days to remain active.

“Since I own a few more real estate properties, if I have any problem with the real estate, of course, I have to take care of it,” he said. “Then, I spent five



Moshe Shinar with his grandkids

days a week in the morning, at the JCC in Margate. I take lessons, I do some stretching on the floor, but mostly I take lessons.”

“He’s so positive and he takes two to three group fitness classes Monday through Friday,” Serena Franks of the Marjorie & Lewis Katz JCC told the *Exponent*.

He owns a house in Margate but lives in a high-rise in Ventnor, “overlooking the ocean.”

Shinar has three children and nine grandchildren. His daughters live in Margate and Bucks County, each with their own families, and his son lives in

Israel with four boys, two of whom are currently serving in the IDF. Those sons are never far from his thoughts, with the Gaza war ongoing.

He enjoys traveling and was looking forward, when we spoke, to an upcoming trip to Florida.

Shinar returns to Israel occasionally, most recently a year ago, and plans to visit again in February. And, like most people, he has a lot of opinions about the current situation in Israel, including some sharp criticisms of the ruling Netanyahu government, which he believes has been in power for too long.

And the longtime real estate man also has a



Moshe Shinar

complaint about the cost of buying a home in the country of his birth.

“Buying a property in Israel, it’s absolutely very expensive,” he said. “It’s almost impossible to buy something unless you’re very, very rich.

“Right now, I’m taking it easy,” he continued. “In the summertime, I spend mornings at the JCC. ... I’m exercising as much as I can. Afternoon, I love to be on the beach.”

When the Jack and Mira Trocki Zichron M’Vilna Shul opened in Margate in 2015, Shinar was photographed in *The Press of Atlantic City*, standing next to Rabbi Shalom Ever as he read from the Torah. In 2014, as reported by the *Jewish Community Voice*, he appeared at a pro-Israeli rally at the Margate JCC, around the time of Operation Protective Edge.

“I am sad about all the civilian casualties among Palestinians. So are all Israelis,” he said in the 2014 article. “But when they use women and children as human shields, there is not much Israelis can do. ... I can’t wait to see it over. I am looking forward to peace.”

In our interview, Shinar said that while he worries about rising antisemitism, “here in Margate, we don’t feel anything” of that kind. ■

Stephen Silver is a Broomall-based freelance writer.



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