

Our Friend Amos Slyper

By Nurit Israeli

Last Friday during a trip to the Golan Heights, surrounded by friends with whom he enjoyed hiking for many years, among the landscapes that he so loved, at the age of sixty and at the peak of his strength and personal and professional activities – Amos' heart stopped beating prematurely.

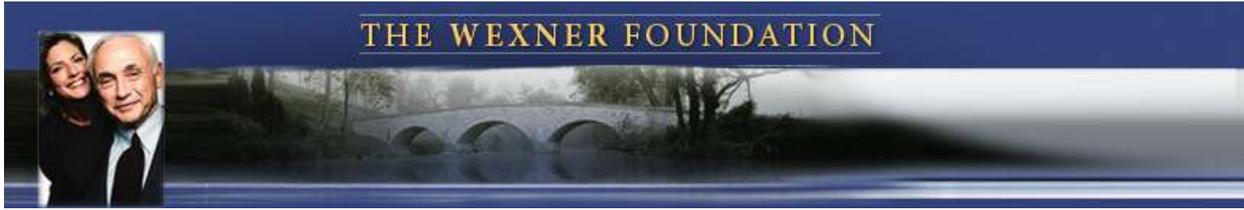
I first came to know Amos through The Wexner Foundation in Israel. He was an alumnus of the first class of Fellows (1989-90), and I was in the second class. We were active together in the Alumni Committee and eventually in the *Amuta*, and we both served on its Oversight Committee. Amos stood out for his wisdom, his pleasantness, and for the positive atmosphere he always created. He was an active member of the alumni community of The Wexner Foundation, volunteered for various tasks and positions and carried them out responsibly, effectively and with discretion. He was able to bridge differences of opinion, spicing his conversation with jokes and wise observations.

It was my privilege to work with Amos over the last seven and a half years, at the State Comptroller's Office of Israel, where Amos was the Deputy Director-General and Director of several Divisions within the Office where I am the Legal Adviser. Amos was an outstanding and central figure at our office. As a manager and leader he was characterized by his wisdom and wide experience, his diverse educational background, and his broad and deep knowledge. Beyond his official duties, he volunteered for additional tasks, such as serving as the head of the Tenders Committee and of other committees relating to sensitive and complicated issues. In each one of these capacities, he played a meaningful and important role, and contributed much by promoting issues relevant to the Office.

His approach to both senior and junior workers was friendly. His considerations were always mission-oriented and value-driven. On a daily basis, but also during hard times and crises, he always kept up a good spirit, a good sense of humor and a sense of proportion. Amos always had a good joke, a wise saying or a story with a moral, in order to improve the atmosphere and calm the waters. He spoke briefly and to the point: never raised his voice, never got swept away, and approached everything with openness, ease, and modesty. His leadership was based on wisdom, responsibility, goodness of heart and personal example.

In the audit profession, there is liable to be a certain tension between the auditor and the auditee. Amos was always able to create positive professional relationships and mutual respect with the auditees. They valued his integrity and professional authority, and they accepted the necessity of rectifying the shortcomings he pointed out in his audit.

Amos regarded his work in the State Comptroller's Office as a kind of sacred mission. During the 34 years in which he worked in the Office, Amos participated in and directed a tremendous amount of audits, in which he combined his deep knowledge of Israel's public sector, a multi-disciplinary professional approach based on his studies in psychology and business administration in Israel and studies of public administration at Harvard in the framework of the Wexner program. Amos combined all of the knowledge



that he garnered in these learning contexts and applied it to his professional work. His work had an impact on many areas of Israel's public sector, both on a particular and normative level. Amos was responsible, among other things, for auditing central government and economic organizations: the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education, the Knesset, institutions of higher education, the National Insurance Institute, the religious councils, some of the largest government corporations and sports organizations. The reports that he prepared contributed significantly to proper administration, moral integrity in government, and to the battle against corruption.

Amos was a good friend, a wonderful companion and a loving and faithful family man. He was privileged, together with his wife Ilana, to raise a lovely family. He was a great father to his children Danny, Ronnie and Dafna; and in recent years became a grandfather, which he so enjoyed.

Along with his dedication to work and family, Amos tended his garden in Har Adar and devoted time to his antique car – his old Ford, to his special fountain pen and to his special hobby of hiking around Israel.

Amos' death is a great loss for all of us: his family, his friends, the Har Adar community, co-workers in the State Comptroller's Office and in the Israeli public sector. Amos will be missed by all of us in the alumni community of the Wexner Israel Fellowship.

Amos was a good friend and close colleague. I will miss him deeply.

May his memory be blessed!