

November 2016

Tribute to Claude Meyer, Of Blessed Memory

Claude Meyer left us on November 9, 2016, ten years after establishing Negba, an organization to which he devoted all his efforts, even until his last breath.

The announcement of his passing triggered an outpouring of testimonies of sympathy from Negba's friends, some addressed to Claude's family, and others directed to Negba. Here is a sample of some of the sentiments they shared with us.



We also pay tribute to Claude's wife Claudine who continuously supported Claude's efforts on behalf of Negba and who herself took interest in the emotional wellbeing of the mothers of Negba's children. And we acknowledge Claude and Claudine's children Sylvie, Annou and Laurent who did not hesitate to volunteer, following the example of their dear parents.

Claude KADOUCH, *the other "Claude" who co-founded Negba*

On their respective roles in the creation of Negba: ...I did all the important things: create the association, manage the renovations... Claude Meyer all the necessary things: find the funds without which there would have been nothing.

Philippe CREANGE, *Honorary President of the Les Cigognes Association*

...Claude had solicited us for a project which, considered by others, would have been quite utopian...but it was Claude, and in September 2006, he opened the 1st House of Hope in Beersheva...For 10 years I enjoyed the opportunity to be Claude's partner. We were always in harmony; could it be otherwise with him?!...Despite the extraordinary development of Negba, even when Claude was awarded France's Legion of Honor, his great modesty never faded. He often told me that his work for Negba introduced him to men and women of great value, but he forgot that he was an extraordinary man himself...

Deborah SEBBAN, *Personal Assistant of Claude Meyer*

...There are people you meet in life without really realizing it, and then there people who penetrate directly to your heart, who become part of your daily life...Claude Meyer was one of those who, once in your life, are part of it forever...

Colette LE BARON, *Former Consul General of France in Tel Aviv*

...I lost a true and very great friend. He was a great man in the fullest meaning of the expression...

Jacquot GRUNEWALD

...When I happened to present Claude Meyer, I used the title of a section from Reader's Digest: "The most extraordinary man I met." I do not think I ever used this description for anyone else...

Alain et Corinne BAUDRY

...We think of all of you who are in Jerusalem and have worked with Claude in this formidable venture of Negba. We will do our best to help you...

Lucile ASTEL, Harevim Association

...He was a delightful man whom I admired for his ability to maintain and "sell" the Negba project... He was tireless and talented! ...I think very strongly of you and the whole Negba team... It is a great loss, first and foremost on the personal level... We will all miss him...

Henri Cukierman

...Thank you for conveying my condolences to the family of Claude Meyer whom I met only once, but who particularly impressed me with his humanity, intelligence and efficiency...

Maurice LEVY, Publicis Groupe

...He was a man of very high quality who gave so much of himself for Israel and the less fortunate...

Joelle BRENNER, Les Cigognes Association

...We are shocked by the news, and will continue to help in this wonderful program...

Roland BLOCH

...Sad news for Claudine and her family, as well as for Negba, and all the friends of Claude, about whom we will think for a long time...

Freddy SICHEL

...I had great admiration for his work in favor of the children of Negba...

Janine TAILLE

...Our thoughts go out to the family of Claude Meyer, and to the entire Negba family which lost one of its fathers...

Dominique GRIBE

...My sincere condolences to his relatives, to Hanna Geissmann and all those involved with Negba...

Marie-Françoise LUCKER-BABEL

...We met in the Summer of 2005 on the Chemin de Compostelle trail, in Aumont-Aubrac. We went hiking together for a few days, and immediately - this is one of the magical aspects of walking on this trail- very strong bonds of friendship were formed...

Benoit GOLD, Embassy of Israel in Paris

...It is with great sadness and emotion that we learn of the death of Claude Meyer...

Albert AIDAN

...A great man is gone...

Pastor Elisabeth MOULIN, Nice Church of the Annunciation

...He was an exceptional man with noble desires. God allowed him to realize a marvelous one : the Negba organization...On the occasion of the Ohave Israel demonstration on Sunday, given in particular to the benefit of Negba as you know, we would like to pay tribute to him...

Michelle ISRAEL, France-Israel Foundation

...I possess a very beautiful memory because kindness was a part of him...

Danielle et Claude MENDEL

...We will remember him as a wonderful, honest and active man, determined to help the less fortunate...and cherish the strong moments spent in his company in Strasbourg to raise funds for the Israel's children at-risk...

Eric GHOZLAN, Oeuvre de Secours aux Enfants Association (OSE)

...What sad news to learn of the death of Claude Meyer, an exceptional man. My heartfelt sympathies to the entire Negba family...

Dr. Jean ROTMAN

...He introduced us to the Houses of Hope, whose progress and development we regularly followed...We will treasure the fond memories...

Valerie et Christophe BIGOT, Former Ambassador of France to Israel

...A man of great generosity, passionate about his mission, always enthusiastic, curious, and extremely dignified...A great man has left us...But Negba, whose colors he wore, will perpetuate his memory. We are absolutely sure of that...

Patricia SITRUK, Oeuvre de Secours aux Enfants Association (OSE)

...Each time we met was a warm and fruitful moment to discuss the needs of young people and teenagers in France and Israel...

Eric de ROTHSCILD, CASIP Foundation

...We have lost a man of dedication and duty...

Patricia LEVY *daughter of Sylviane and Gerard Levy, fervent admirers of Claude*

...Trying to encapsulate the qualities of Mr. Claude Meyer is as impossible as counting the grains of sand in the desert...May God help his family, children and all the children of Negba to overcome this loss...His charisma was one of the main factors donors contributed...I pray that respect for his memory will be an additional lever for the development of Negba...

Margot KAHN

...What will become of Negba? ...His kindness, his energy to do good and his warm smile belonged to him...Please do continue to keep in touch...my best to the entire Negba team.

Danièle BIDERMAN

...I had the opportunity to meet Claude Meyer and I could appreciate the high quality of this committed and always courteous man...

Daniel KAHN

...The last time I saw him, it was in Paris a few months ago, we had an appointment to talk about Negba. He came running, and left for his next appointment, running. That was Claude...

Francine JOCHIMEK

...I will cherish the memory of a wonderful, passionate man whom I had the pleasure to meet on several occasions in Paris and Israel. He inspired us with his enthusiasm for the growth of Negba...

Nelly TROCME-HEWETT

...We had been in contact since the beginning of Negba, and I know the extraordinary work he has done for children-at-risk. I know that you and your team will continue this remarkable work...The Trocme family will always be grateful to Claude for creating the Daniel Trocme Wall...Daniel also devoted himself to protecting children during WWII. He lost his life in Majdanek.

Emma MREJEN

...I had the pleasure of meeting him for the first time at a general meeting of Negba, where I was able to listen to Claude and all these women and men whom he inspired, motivated and convinced to join Negba and work at his side with passion...

Raymond WEILL

...I met him in Israel, usually in Beersheva...I will naturally continue my support for Negba...I appreciated and admired him...I share my sadness with the entire Negba team...

Patrick MAISONNAVE, *Former Ambassador of France to Israel*

...I had admiration for the personality and commitments of Claude, notably at the Negba organization. I remember with great emotion the many opportunities that enabled me to know and appreciate Claude, as well as the evening when I had the privilege of attending- an evening prepared by Negba's children, the Shabbat meal with his family and friends...Back in Paris after serving three years in Israel, Claude obviously had his place among my dearest memories. I will remember a faithful, warm, generous man, and, as you rightly point out, a humanist, committed and determined...

Pastor Gerald FRUHINSHOLZ, *Shalom Israel Association*

...This is what I retain of Claude, his tenacity to want people to see in him the best of him- not just his Judaism-by showing the younger generations in Israel who know nothing but conflict that there is always hope, that we must continue to believe in peace and reconciliation, and do everything possible to bring it, with the help of God...In the name of the Shalom Israel Association, we convey to the family of Claude Meyer, his wife Claudine, all our affection.

Tribute to Claude Meyer

Raphael BENSIMON, Rashi Foundation

...I knew Claude since he was President of the United Appeal in Strasbourg. It was a pleasure to know him as President of Negba...I will remember him as a man of great heart, generous, devoted, and an ear for the most disadvantaged...

Tammy Friedman, Principal of Jerusalem's Reshit School, in which a Negba House of Hope operates

...We are full of gratitude and admiration for all of Claude's work for the children of Israel...We have been fortunate to know him and to be inspired by a great man of faith and intuition who views education with love and devotion the essential part of his vocation and mission...

Jean-François GUTHMANN, Oeuvre de Secours aux Enfants Association (OSE)

...Claude was an oak that was believed to be unshakeable: his infectious enthusiasm, his eternal optimism, his faith in a balanced view of Judaism, his unbridled love of the Jewish people, his dual French and Israeli patriotism, his commitment to social issues...were a model for all of us. He entered the next world of the great ones of Israel, joining two of our common friends: Emeric and Benno...

**May the memory of Claude Meyer and these testimonies inspire us
 to act on behalf of Israel's children and teens at-risk,
 a population Claude so closely cherished.**

יהיה זכרו ברוך

Ilan COHEN
Chairman

Hanna GEISSMANN
Chief Executive Officer

Jean BISSELICHES
Founding Administrator

