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on the go

with
Masha Leon

The Price of Peace

‘When a war is won, there are people in the streets celebrating. Unfortunately, when a peace treaty is signed, there is no one in the streets celebrating,” political pundit and media personality **Leon Charney** said at the September 13 premiere of the documentary film “Back Door Channels: The Price of Peace.” The film is based, in part, on Charney’s 1984 book, “Special Counsel,” about the 1979 Camp David peace treaty. After the screening, **Harry Hunkele**, the film’s director, told me: “The timing of the film’s release, on the heels of 9/11, is right on target.... Four years ago I was inspired by Charney’s book

Who would have thought such a diverse, larger-than-life cast of characters would come together for the peace process? What so impressed me was how deeply devout were the [documentary’s] three main players — **Menachem Begin**, **Anwar Sadat** and **Jimmy Carter**.”

The film starts out with a compressed timeline of the Jews’ history, from pre-biblical times to the modern era, but its main focus is on the Camp David negotiations themselves. The long roster of participants in this drama includes **Wolf Blitzer**, who from 1973 to 1990 served as the Washington correspondent of The Jerusalem Post; **Henry Kissinger**, national security adviser to presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford; **Zbigniew Brzezinski**, national security adviser to President Jimmy Carter, and **Samuel Lewis**, who served as America’s ambassador to Israel from 1977 to 1985.

“We hope we were able to contribute a little to America’s

collective memory about one of the most pivotal moments in her history,” said **Matthew Tollin**, founder of Channel Productions and producer of the film. Among guests at the premiere, held at the Film Society of Lincoln Center’s Elinor Bunin Munroe Film Center, were former New York State governor **David Paterson**, New York City media veteran **Joe Franklin** and Israeli performer **Dudu Fisher**.

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For Masha Leon’s complete coverage of this event and a look back at her meeting with Menachem Begin, visit www.forward.com/sections/on-the-go

In this week’s Forverts

- Jerusalem correspondent Mordkhe Dunitz reports on the upcoming High Holy Days in Jerusalem.
- Itzik Gottesman reviews the exhibit “Deadly Medicine,” at the New York Museum of Jewish Heritage, which tells the story of how the Nazis developed the