QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

"Va'e'escha le'goy gadol va'avarechecha va'agdela shemecha, veheyeh bracha" — "I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, and you shall be a blessing" (Genesis 12:2, from Parashat Lech Lecha, read this Shabbat: Abraham sets out for the land he will be shown, with the promise that he will be a blessing.)

- This Shabbat we read Lech Lecha, Abraham's call to set out for the land that will be shown to him. A fitting backdrop for a week of big bets on Israel's future, from a record university gift to a multibillion-dollar deal.
- American investor John Paulson announced a $250 million gift to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem on Saturday night at the university's Board of Governors gala, the largest donation in its history. The money will fund a new Faculty of Engineering, expanded medical and biomedical research, research into trauma and post-traumatic stress, and a think tank linking academia with public needs, and the Mount Scopus campus will be renamed the Alina and John Paulson Campus. Paulson said the gift was meant to strengthen the university and show international support for Israel.
- On the business pages, Proofpoint, owned by Thoma Bravo, has agreed to buy Israeli-founded cybersecurity company Varonis for $49.75 per share in cash, valuing it at about $6.3 billion, a 52% premium to its price before sale rumours surfaced in June. Varonis, led since its founding by co-founder and CEO Yaki Faitelson and with a major research centre in Herzliya, is the latest multibillion-dollar Israeli cyber exit, following CyberArk and Wiz.
- In the lab, Weizmann Institute researchers led by Prof. Uri Alon have shown in *Nature Medicine* that menopause is less a slow glide than a "physiological cliff." Analysing more than 300 million lab results from over a million women in Israel and the United States, the team found that in the US data 52 of 90 types of test shifted abruptly, including measures of bone, liver and kidney function and blood fats, with no comparable jump in men of the same age. Hormonal changes begin more than a decade before the final period, earlier than previously thought. Changes looked smaller in women on hormone therapy, though the authors stress the data is observational and needs clinical trials.
- In healthcare, Sheba Medical Center rose three places to sixth in Newsweek and Statista's World's Best Smart Hospitals 2027 ranking, with the Mayo Clinic in first place. Sheba was cited for its work in AI and robotics, including a clinical AI platform developed with OpenAI, research with NVIDIA and the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai on AI and genomics, and SmartER, a tool that turns doctor-patient conversations into clinical notes for physicians to review.
- In sport, Olympic champion Artem Dolgopyat qualified third, with 14.300, for the men's floor final at the World Gymnastics Championships in Rotterdam, and teammate Noam Berkovich, on 14.033, also made the eight-man final, which takes place on Saturday.
- And for something lighter: Kibbutz Be'eri, on the Gaza border, has opened a new bike park built around a world-class pump track. It was funded by philanthropist Sylvan Adams in partnership with the Israel Cycling Academy, is aimed mainly at children from Be'eri and nearby communities, and is expected to host Israel's national pump track championship. Resident Aya Meidan called it "a path toward recovery and a future."
- A record gift, a multibillion-dollar exit, a hospital climbing the world rankings and a new place to ride in Be'eri: a week with plenty to build on.



In Loving Memory

GN Israel is proudly brought to you by Joe, Barry and Adi Cohen, in loving memory of Mark Cohen z"l, who founded this newsletter and ran it until 2011.
With the support of Anglo-Saxon Ra'anana and The Blue Agency.

Have we missed any Good News? Do you have any comments? Please let us know at joe@angloraanana.com.

Disclaimer of Liability: While Good News strives to report the news accurately and faithfully, we cannot accept responsibility for errors in, misinterpretations of, or omissions from the material printed in The Good News Digest above, nor are we responsible for the application of the information contained herein to your personal or business situation.