



8.42x25.49	1	עמוד 3	haaretz-front	07/08/2026	98663273-4
בנימין זאב הרצל - בהקשר לציורו - 80790					

: Herzls paternal grandparents are reburied in Jerusalem

Herzl's paternal grandparents are reburied in Jerusalem

Ofer Aderet

Shimon and Rivka Herzl, the grandparents of Zionist visionary Theodor Herzl, were reinterred at Jerusalem's Mount Herzl Wednesday in a ceremony.

President Isaac Herzog said Herzl's will specified that his remains and those of his family be brought to the Jewish state for burial once it was established. "Today we are completing the full realization of this will," Herzog said, adding that "the building of the Jewish state" remained an ongoing mission.

Shimon Herzl died in 1879 and Rivka Herzl in 1888. Their remains were exhumed about a week ago from their grave in Belgrade, Serbia. They were reinterred near Theodor Herzl, his parents, sister, son, daughter and grandson.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called Herzl "our modern Moses," adding that the Zionist leader had "instilled in us the belief that we must take our destiny into our own hands."

"Herzl created the conditions that brought us to the Promised Land," Netanyahu said, praising Herzl's determination and efforts to confront antisemitism and advance the Zionist movement.

The World Zionist Organization, the government and the Israeli military issued statements this week saying the arrival of Herzl's grandparents completed the fulfillment of his wishes.

Herzl's will also called for his parents and children to be buried in Israel. For decades, Israeli governments, the WZO, the Jewish Agency and the Chief Rabbinate did not fulfill that part of Herzl's request. Historian Ariel Feldstein said the family's personal tragedies contributed to the reluctance to highlight their stories in Israel's national narrative. His initial findings were published in Haaretz in 2001.

The Zionist Archives says Herzl remained close to his paternal grandparents

despite distance and differences. Herzl grew up in an urban Jewish family that sought to assimilate into European-Hungarian culture. His grandparents lived in Zemlin, near Serbia, and were observant Jews.

Biographer Amos Elon wrote that Shimon Herzl struggled to reconcile with the lifestyle of his son Jacob, Theodor Herzl's father, and with how Theodor was raised.

Herzl mentioned Shimon once in his diaries. In 1896, after a reception held for him by observant Jews in Sofia, he wrote that an older man wearing a fur hat reminded him of his grandfather.

Theodor Herzl was buried on Mount Herzl in 1949; he died in 1904 and was interred in Vienna.

Two days later, the remains of his parents, Jacob and Jeanette, who had also been buried in Vienna, and his sister Pauline, who had been buried in Budapest, were reburied in Jerusalem.

Herzl's wife, Julie, died in 1907; she suffered from heart disease and mental illnesses. Her body was cremated at her request, and the location of her ashes is unknown.

Herzl's daughter Pauline died in 1930; she, too, suffered from mental illness. His son Hans, who converted to Christianity but returned to Judaism before his death, died by suicide the following day.

In 2006, their remains were exhumed from the Jewish cemetery in Bordeaux, France, and reinterred on Mount Herzl. A memorial plaque was also added for Trude, Herzl's second daughter, who was murdered in the Terezin concentration camp during the Holocaust.

In 2007, the remains of Herzl's only grandson, Stephen Theodore Norman, Trude's son, were reinterred on Mount Herzl. Norman died by suicide in 1946 in Washington, D.C., after learning that his parents had been murdered in the Holocaust.