

# Secret Codes Hidden War: An Interview with Dry Bones Cartoonist Yaakov Kirschen

by Jerry Gordon (July 2011)

we have interviewed Danish cartoonist [Kurt Westergaard](#) and Swedish artist [Lars Vilks](#). Both are defiant free thinkers and opponents of Islamic hatred for the Western values of liberty and free expression. We turn to another free thinker and cartoonist, American-Israeli Yaakov Kirschen, creator of The [Dry Bones](#) cartoon with its querulous character, Mr. Shuldig – Yiddish for “guilty.” Brooklyn-born Kirschen began sketching and drawing early in life and took a dual major at Queens College, part of the City University of New York, in Fine Arts and Economics – the latter an attempt at doing something practical. Along the way, he picked up some important computer skills. He gravitated to New York spending time on Manhattan’s Upper West Side involved in the Reform Democratic movement of the 1960’s. Kirschen immigrated to Israel with his family in 1971, hoping to get a job in computer science. Instead he used his art skills and created *Dry Bones*, which first appeared in the *Jerusalem Post* in 1973, as a humorous mirror of Israeli society and its problems, both domestic and international. The readership and followers of Dry Bones has grown over nearly four decades attracting an international audience. The cartoon is now syndicated in more than 40 publications in the US and Canada and on-line via [polticalcartoons.com](http://polticalcartoons.com). Kirschen has established a blog about the Dry Bones cartoon, and has both a Facebook and Twitter page.