

The Yizraelite – No 2150 Date: 15.3.24

Kibbutz Yizrael

Edi-torial This week the newsletter was (relatively) brief so I am taking the opportunity to print an article written by Zvi Pantanowitz about his life here on Yizrael. Zvi was a member of the first anglo-saxon garin. He was a writer, poet and journalist for the Jerusalem Post and Kol Yisrael. I am sure you will all find the essay most interesting and moving, whether you knew Zvi or not. Readers will remember that we published the death notice when Zvi passed away a few months ago.

Thank you, Greg Bass, in Durban, South Africa, for the kind words about the interview with Dorit and Bernie. Anyone who has not yet read it, you should really make the effort... and remember, we like to get feedback from our readers!

Congratulations to Maor Persai Barniv

On his re-election to a second term as Finance Director.

186 members participated in the vote, which is 63% of those with the right to vote.

We wish you every success!

Asefa Committee: Shlomo Cohen, Yifat Assaf, Eddie Solow

ASEFA

Monday 18/03/2024

at 20:30

In the moadon + on zoom + on channel 900

Agenda:

- 1. Recommendation of the Staffing Committee for the Coordinator of the Education Committee - Sarit Laviv**
- 2. The management board's proposal for an appeals procedure – See Kehilanet for background material - Asefa Committee.**

Clarification... Maor Persai Barniv.

(Regarding the article from the last newsletter)

The new billing model for the domestic consumption of water will be implemented starting from the March 2024 allowance.

We emphasise that there is no change in the principles according to which the amount of water is allocated to the family. (Downstairs houses get an additional allocation in the summer months – Ed)

The difference from the existing situation is that households that go over their quota will pay more, and a family who uses water sparingly will save more.

Maor Persai Barniv.

The Mortal Sin of Omission Put Right- Monika Brustein



(A dropped Stitch)

Shalom and may we all have a quiet weekend!

It is important for us to add **Dorit Fink's** name to the list of knitting grandmothers.

Health and happiness to all.

Executive Committee Report - 6.3.2024

Present: Jeremy Perling, Avner Alterlevi, Natalie Zinenko, Ron Cohen, Tzachi Tzafadia, Adi Ilan-Goldstein, Yifat Assaf.

Invited - Eddie Solow, for the 2nd subject.

1. Approval of financial reports of the “Local Committee” (Va’ad Mekomi – Ed) - the reports were presented and approved.
2. Preparation of an appeals procedure for the Asefa – Adi Ilan Goldstein presented the proposal. The Management Committee discussed the proposed procedure, and corrections and additions were made.

Decision: the draft of the procedure will be forwarded to the chairmen of the asefa and the kibbutz's legal advisor for review, after which the procedure will be submitted for approval by the asefa.

3. Discussion on the “fringe cases” question. (members who do not use the dining room - Ed) The question arises, whether the executive committee should protect the minority rights, and bring the issue to the asefa on their behalf. The committee considers it part of its duty to act for the minority when it has the impression that wrong has been done. In the specific discussion, a request came from several members regarding the decision of the vote not to provide a solution to the "fringe cases" regarding the food branch. According to them, combining all the issues skewed the result, and they feel hurt by this. They request a repeat discussion at the asefa including regarding a financial solution for extreme cases. This is a matter for the executive committee, both because it is one of the ways to bring an issue back to the asefa, and because it is a matter of principle (providing money for food).

Decision: the group representatives will be invited to a meeting of the management committee. They will present their arguments, and the committee will then decide whether to address the issue of a solution for the extreme cases - for a repeat discussion at the meeting. Then, the committee will also decide what solution to suggest to the Asefa.

Jeremy Perling and Yifat Assaf

Update Regarding Locating a Chairman and Manager of the Reserve Fund - Kinneret Govrin H.R.

We thank Jeremy Perling who managed the fund in an extremely responsible fashion for many years. In order to find a replacement, an ad hoc team was established in February, which included Yitzhak Peleg, Avner Alterlevi, Irit Mor, Maor Persai and Kinneret Govrin.

The team issued a call for candidates, but no requests came from the public and the team on its own initiative turned to **Elad Ilan** to chair the fund. Elad agreed to the team's request and is willing to take on the position.

The chairman of the fund is responsible for the fund's complying with the regulations and procedures and the implementation of the policy decided upon by the committee, both in the financial and operational aspects. It is his responsibility to supervise the operation manager of the fund and call meetings of the fund's management and report to the kibbutz asefa. The chairman of the fund or a representative on his behalf from the fund's management is a member of the following forums: the finance committee, the management committee, the economic council, and the management of the mutual aid fund.

The team's recommendation will be presented at the kibbutz asefa, and a vote will be held, as is the custom.

A suitable person will be appointed, who will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the fund.

In addition, the members of the management committee of the reserve fund have also completed their terms of office.

Thanks to Avner Alterlevi, Jeremy Perling and Moran Kuperman.

The staffing committee will handle the replacement of the members of the fund's management.

The position of reserve fund operations manager:

Job tasks:

- Responsible for the daily operation of the fund
- Responsible for preparing managerial, actuarial and audit reports and presenting them to the fund's board of directors
- Responsible for operating the Life Fund

- Contact person with the fund's manager
- Management of the foundation's member register
- Ongoing management of the fund flow and bank accounts
- Conducts personal meetings with fund members regarding the life and pension funds.

Requirements:

- Economic background
- Proficiency in office software, with an emphasis on Excel
- Reliability and discretion

Job scope: 20-40%

Flexible work hours.

Please submit applications for the position by 23.3.24 to Kinneret – H.R.

Closing of the Member Service Committee

The issue of the necessity of a service branches committee has been discussed over the years. It is not clear what its status is, and what authority it has, and whether it is necessary to have such a committee at all...

A review of the most recent definition of the committee, as approved at the mazkirut meeting in January 2018, shows that its main role is to prescribe policy for the work of the branches in the community, accompany, support and back up the coordinators of the branches, address and respond to the public's inquiries, control and supervise the conduct of the service branches (i.e. the work and investment budget). These functions are currently filled by the community manager (Erez) and the community management, which includes representatives of the service branches, the clusters as well as public representatives, who bring the public's needs to the discussion table.

Considering all this, we find that there is no longer any justification for the existence of a member service committee as a separate and parallel body to the management of the community, and therefore the member service committee is ending its role.

We thank the last committee members - Adi Goldstein - Ilan, Inbal Pezaro, Esther Ben Bassat, Idit Halevi, Liora Kamilian, Stas Gavrilov and Hedva Shaharabani.

Erez Peleg - Community Manager, Kinneret Govrin – H.R. Director, Yifat Assaf – Secretary.



Reminder: Private Medical Expenses are at the Member's Expense!

“Private medicine” refers to procedures, consultations, medications, surgeries, etc. that are not performed through Clalit and with doctors on the Clalit list.

We spend about NIS 400,000 a year on Clalit insurance, so it only makes sense to take advantage of the rights within this framework.

There is a wide variety of private doctors and private hospitals throughout the country that work with Clalit Mushlam.

When you choose a doctor who does not work with Clalit, the costs are much higher.

There do exist broader insurance policies in addition to the Clalit, but at this stage, financially it is not viable for the kibbutz (an additional NIS 500,000 per year) -

This year we will look at adding insurance coverage that offers more options.

At this stage, no refunds will be given to the member for services that do not meet the agreement, please do not put us in an unpleasant situation, after you have already outlaid large sums. We will not be able to give refunds!

Different insurances can be purchased privately at the member's expense. This is a choice that everyone can make at their own discretion.

In exceptional cases, such as a serious illness, need or urgency for a certain procedure that is not available through Clalit, we may make an exception, but you must consult the clinic beforehand.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Talia Arad and Liran Penn

Attention all Residents.

At the end of a long and thorough process, the work of **implementing the new residency procedure**, approved by the asefa, was completed.

The process was long and transparent and included regular reports (translated in the Yizraelite – Ed), and an open discussion with the residents, but somehow the new procedure still managed to surprise many. Indeed, as a result of the new procedure, there are changes in the tariff rates. Different residency tracks have been defined and the prices are derived from those tracks. Since the subject is sensitive and complex,

the asefa decided to establish a committee, which will be responsible for the implementation of the procedure and to whom residents can bring their requests and grievances. The committee is in the process of being established.

Please withhold your requests until the committee is established.

We remind you that the price has not been updated in over 10 years, that the price here is very low for what you get, and one of the lowest (probably the lowest) in the entire kibbutz movement.

The new procedure appears in the Kehilanet in the 'Files' folder - 'Regulations and Procedures' - 'Residency' - We recommend you read and familiarise yourself with it.

The updated charges, which were sent to every resident in the mailbox, apply from March 2024, and are the responsibility of Esther Ben Bassat.

Good luck, Maor Persai, Erez Peleg and Yifat Assaf

Updates from the Gardens Branch - 3/24

Half a year has passed since the last update and so much has happened since then. On 7.10, the reservists in the team were mobilised. Despite this, we continued to work and maintain the kibbutz.

Recently there have been some changes in the branch. Those who managed to maintain the functioning of the branch even with the lack of staff, Yahel Rosilio and Yonatan Assaf finished their work and each went his own way. We wish them success. Yotam Assaf volunteered to return to the branch until things returned to normal and it helps us a lot. Eyal Nir (from the pre-army service group) also joined the branch.

Rotem Agmon, Eran Shkolnik, Yuval Hollander and Kamel Shibli continue to work and do their best. Einan Grosser whenever he can, works and helps promote the branch - Shira Yisraeli and Roni Yamin (from the pre-army service group) and all the boys and girls who work in branch- Meron Levin, Talia Gilad, Ido Hadar, Raz Griman, Roi Sadur, Ami Blass, Oren Beutler, Hemda Levin and Idan Friedman. I thank you all and hope your contribution to the branch is appreciated by the kibbutz.

At the beginning of the month, I officially returned to work and continue to coordinate the branch, at least until the next call to the reserves. In time, I will return to the routine, until then I will fill in and settle into reality. Of course, you can contact me on any topic related to gardens.

This season we are mainly busy with gardening maintenance in the kibbutz.

We mainly concentrate on mowing and cutting, following the decision to minimize spraying as much as possible. If necessary, we will use an external contractor.

Later we will focus on pruning young trees throughout the kibbutz. Correct pruning of trees from a young age directs the tree to grow in a healthier way, and in addition, in a way that is more suitable for the space it occupies. By starting to shape the tree when it is young, we will save work in the future when it is mature.

We are in the last stages of a particularly rainy winter, and the ground is saturated with water. Any activity, whether it is walking on the grass, in the garden or grove, damages the vegetation. Even if it is not visible to the eye, just stepping on the surface causes the soil to tighten and harden or kills roots. **The public is asked not to drive on the public gardens with vehicles of any kind.** The areas outside the boundaries of the "private" houses are public property and may not be sprayed. If there is a problem, you can contact me, and we will solve it.

The tree marking project has been launched. We will mark all the trees throughout the kibbutz, in public areas as well as in non-public areas. The purpose of the marking is to allow the branch to follow the treatments required for the tree and to know the number of trees that exist in the kibbutz. The marking is done by placement of a gray metal square, please do not touch these markings.

The project of moving the branch shed is in progress. The shed is ready and currently the work is focused on preparing the container for a staffroom and an office that will suit the needs of the branch. Later we will fence off the area and we can officially move. We will not forget the commitment to look after our current location and clean it after the move, so there will also be work in this area after the move.

Again, I would like to thank all those who contributed to the branch during my absence, for keeping the branch alive and the kibbutz maintained.

Hoping for calmer days and for all the abductees to return to their families.

Shachar Levy, - Gardening Branch Coordinator



Guarding at the Gate

I would like to thank the many volunteers who have guarded the gate since October. Starting this week, we have employed guards to man the gate, but we still need to man the gate on the weekends. Each shift is only two or two and a half hours.

On Friday between 15:00 and 19:30

On Saturday between 06:00 and 15:00

I asked many members to continue volunteering. Some of them answered me in the affirmative and I thank them very much for that.

I would be happy if more would volunteer to guard at the gate during the weekends. Those who agree to volunteer are welcome to contact me or Yarden Naor.

Zohar Assaf

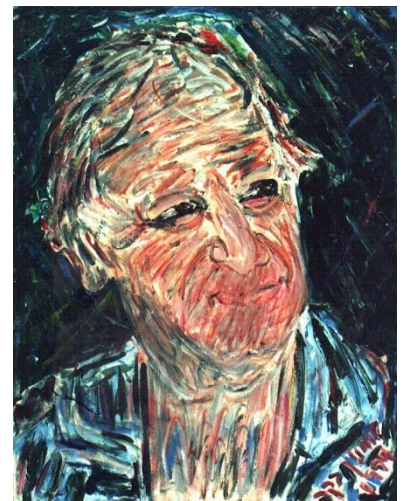
Delving into the Archives

Amen Becker painted Moshe Yuval, (Tiochke), on the door of the Electricity Dept, and also in a portrait.

Tiochke, who died in 1994 at the age of 62, was Yizrael's electrician for decades. He was married to Mirik, and the father of Michal, Gilat, Mulli and Tamar.

Amen and Tiochke were close friends since youth movement days and arrived on Yizrael together from Ma'ayan Baruch. Every morning at 5:00, even on rainy and stormy days, they went for a walk together around the kibbutz.

Jules Feldman



New Energy Prices for the Transition Season - Jeremy Perling.

The transition season prices come into effect as of March 20

Electricity rates until the introduction of summer rates in June:

Sunday to Thursday

Peak - between the hours of 17:00 - 22:00

Intermediate - none

Low - all other hours

On Saturdays and holidays - all hours – low

Low voltage Kw/h prices - not including VAT

Winter - peak: 0.8613 NIS \ low: 0.2742 NIS

Summer - peak: 1.293NIS, \ low: 0.338 NIS

Transition season (Now) - peak: 0.307 NIS \kwh; low: 0.2667 NIS\kwh

Reminder! For those who have a Shabbat Clock to operate the boiler: You are advised to change the hours of operation of the boiler, so it works during the low-rate hours!

The solar boilers will still work with electricity until the end of April.

From the month of May - the solar boilers will work only with solar energy.

For those who feel that the sun heats the water sufficiently - you can turn off the boiler manually. And if needed, you can turn on the boiler manually, for half an hour.

Remember to turn off the electricity after half an hour of heating the water, otherwise you will find out only at the end of the month, when you receive the electricity bill.

As part of the Passover cleaning - don't forget to clean the filters of the air conditioners - change the direction of rotation of the ceiling fans so they push the air downwards

Installing a ceiling fan can save up to 15% of energy costs for cooling / heating!

On Friday, March 24 - we switch to the summertime clock!

At 02:00 on the night, between Thursday and Friday, the clock must be moved forward one hour to 03:00 - you get one hour less sleep.

Daylight Saving Time will end on Sunday, October 29, 2023, at 02:00 AM - then you will get your sleep time back... 219 days of "Daylight Saving" Time

Jeremy Perling, Energy Commissioner

A multi-route trip to Ramot Menashe Park and the Megiddo Trail



Saturday 16.3.2024

230 people signed up for the multi-route trip!! This is a new record. Well done!

The trip will be divided into four options:

1. Short walking route departure at 08:00 led by Zohar Assaf
2. Long walking route departure at 07:30 led by Rochele Matalon
3. Bicycle route - departure at 08:00 led by Dotan and Yotam
4. Bus tour for veterans (No hiking) - departure at 09:30 led by Galia Shemi and guided by Yaniv Shapira.

Please arrive at the parking lot 10 minutes before departure time.

The four routes will meet up in the Sower Forest located at the top of Ramot Menashe Park around 12:30 for a joint picnic. We will spend time there with hot soup, coffee and cake and pita making.

Departure for home at 14:00

Cost per participant - NIS 50. Those who cancel after Thursday will be charged.

Equipment for walking: sandwiches for breakfast until noon, a hat, water - at least one large water bottle per person, closed shoes, (preferably also Shoresh sandals for crossing streams), personal utensils - bowls, plates, glasses, and cutlery.

Equipment for a bicycle trip: sandwiches for breakfast until noon, mountain bike, helmet, personal bag with plenty of water, personal tableware - bowls, plates, cups, and cutlery.

Travel equipment for veterans: sandwiches for breakfast until noon, bowls, plates, cups and cutlery.

It will be fun! - Sportiyulim Committee

פורים מבוגרות.ים

טארה זונל וזאורי האיווג
מביצות אינוואסופץ מהסרטים

בואו לנוח מהשגרה!

חזיקה
השתה כיד החלכה!
תחרות תחפושות
נושאת פרסים

שישי | 22.3 | במודון

22:00 פתיחת דלתות
בואו, יהיו כינוקים

22:45 תחילת החופע

חוזמים חי"ב ומעלה



Purim for Adults

Music, Free Booze, Prizes for the best fancy dress costumes,

Friday 22.3 in the Moadon

Doors open at 22:00

The show will begin at 22:45



Children's Purim Sunday 24.3

The parade will begin at 16:00 on the Tlatonim Basketball court.

After the parade, the drama group of Tlaton Alon will perform their premiere production: **"Megilat Esther"**

And then....

Redmania presents the show: "Green Drumming."

Beatbox and body drumming.



Art Gallery, Ein Harod

Meir Agassi exhibition: a window to dream of beauty.

Opening: Friday, 29.3.2024

The exhibition, a retrospective in nature, A Window to Dream of Beauty, presents a chronological overview of episodes in Agassi's work, from the mid-seventies to his announcement of the "Meir Agassi Museum" in 1992. It invites you to become acquainted with the autobiographical and representational contents of self-portraiture intertwined in his works alongside the tension between image and text essential to its creation.

Already in Agassi's early works and notes, which will be presented in the exhibition for the first time, it is possible to recognise his preoccupation with the idea of "the display", "the exhibition" and "the museum" which will allude to the museum he would one day build. In 1995 he published the essay "Some Notes Towards the Meir Agassi Museum" and in the same year even dedicated the song "The Mind is a Beautiful Museum" to his fictitious daughter Susan Lipsky. In the spirit of this concept, the exhibition seeks to simulate a kind of "journey inside the artist's head". In a certain sense, it can be seen as a collaboration between two museums - the conceptual one

(Agassi's) and the real one (the Art House); Hosting the art museum within the institutional one or an exhibition in which the "Meir Agassi Museum" presents itself. Yaniv Shapira....Thanks to Zimra Baran

Yizre'el – Zvi Pantanowitz



We lived on kibbutz Yizre'el for less than 3 years—and yet for me, exaggerated as it may sound, it seems a lifetime.

How happy we were when we arrived there. Dream and reality merged.

Everything seemed to fall into place.

For someone trying to escape blind religion, it was as if we were on holy ground and the image of the burning bush rose up within.

This is what I wrote later, in a sudden surge of understanding of what I felt at the time:

Rain in Yizre'el

The first rains in Yizre'el

Came suddenly for me.

Veiling the memory

Of the searing sea

Of summer

In the kibbutz dining hall
Sawdust was spread.
Cushion to
the winter mud.

And I trod gently lest,
My first rain in the Land of Israel
I would ruin it.

And yet, early on, while still there, I wrote a poem in English about the kibbutz, which reflected a different complexity. It was printed in Hebrew translation in the kibbutz magazine "Niv Hakvutza":

The Dew

Why do you weep dry tears Gilboa?
Have you no answer even now?
Does David still conjure up his lament?
And your bowels tremble yet and empty

Speak!

The valley crawls out from beneath your belly.
Smiling green
Coiled echo of your silence
We stand on islands.
And measure
All that goes between
Did you divide the curse?

I forgive you for the rain Gilboa.

But the dew,

the dew!

Yizre'el March 1961)

The poem was given by Avraham Shapira, a fellow member of Yizre'el to Dalia Rabikovich to translate. I never asked "Patchi", as he is known, why he did it. I always thought it was something she couldn't refuse him. But even so I feel grateful that it was she who did it.

The poem was written less than a year after we arrived. In retrospect, also, I think it a chutzpa that already then, I could have had "heretical" thoughts about how the kibbutz was progressing in its dream for equality and a special kind of earthy intimacy, as well as my own place in this wondrous, maddening scheme of things.

I would go about dreaming, wanting to touch everything, everyone, feeling as they say in Yiddish - "di shekhinah likt af zey" - as if the holy spirit was hovering over them.

Of course, it's easy now to say I was obtusely sentimental about it all. But in those early heady days, all seemed to have been touched by the rain.

For the first time in my life, I began to write a little – mostly messy, inchoate stuff. But now and again something took form and gave me pleasure and a measure of understanding.

My work there began with an almost mesmerising courtship: The dream of the city dweller to commune with the land, and to do something earthy and "real".

It had its funny moments too. In the first week, after taking the sheep flock for dipping to Geva, a nearby kibbutz, I was charged with what seemed to me the important task of bringing them home by myself.

“It’s easy, they know the way home”, the veterans assured me “you won’t have any trouble.”

It was something like 3-4 kilometers away. Once they crossed the main valley road, and Yizre’el beckoned on the hill-top, they made a dash for it: me after them, shouting, sweating, cursing them all the way.

How ridiculous I must have looked—especially to myself—and what a far cry it was from the pastoral image I was setting up for myself. Nothing happened of course, the sheep ran back to the area of the pens, and I had had my lesson on the idyll.

I never “learned” also to kill a sheep or to shear its wool. I did learn to milk, first on the machines, and then under pressure, how to do it by hand. You had to be fast enough to keep up with the two machine milk hands.

And when I did so, I let out a shout of sheer pleasure and triumph. No similar, academic, or professional test ever gave me that feeling again. So maybe I wasn’t the descendant of a family of action, (despite my diffidence) for nothing.



But underneath something was seething, gathering momentum.

I wrote a short story about a shepherd, who goes his way gently about his tasks and contacts, and then, just before nudging the sheep home from pasture, corners the lead sheep, and proceeds to stone her, slowly, methodically to death.

I was horrified recently to re-read it. But it's there, and there it was at the time.

But, in all, I floated around Yizre'el. Yishai was born, giving instant and total pleasure. But the birth time was accompanied by an act of shame and cowardice on my part.

Dorothy had broken her leg, late in the pregnancy. I was on a mid-month, night milking, shift. On the 15th of every month, we would weigh each sheep's milk output. A laborious process which required almost double the work and time.

Sometime later someone came to tell me that Dorothy was in labour and had been taken by the kibbutz driver to hospital. I finished the milking, cleaned up and prepared to go.

It was too late. The drivers were in bed asleep; I had no one to turn to. And the baby was born without me.

True, in those days, husbands were not allowed into the delivery room. But I was in the wrong place, at the wrong time, and I hurt Dorothy deeply.

The next morning, I hurried there. And all turned to smiles at the sight of the miracle.



I asked Dot about his feet. But it was impossible to know then. Yishai is a big lad now, and grew up gracefully, with fire in his heart, and compassion and confidence, without my presence that night. But I had to live with that fundamental mistake thereafter. My only defense, poor as it was, is that I thought I would be placing an unbearable extra load on my work colleagues, and in those early years work was almost inviolate. Of course there was nothing I could have *done* at the hospital; but all that is a moot consideration, even now, nearly 50 years after.



After the birth, D's intense affair with the kibbutz, for good or ill, began to wane.

She could not bear to hear Yishai crying as she passed the children's house where he was nurtured until four every day, and then again, at night.

We had him for 3-4 precious hours a day, and on weekends, and he developed quickly. I can still see him, at 8 months, cooing and waving his hands and feet frenetically whenever he heard a tractor pass by; but the delicate weaving of the relationship, which is created, especially at night, was not there. And D was very unhappy.

I had found another niche. The sheep pen was an exacting job in some ways: You got up at 3 to milk or worked late into the evening on the

afternoon shift. Constantly tired, I wasn't much of a companion, never mind friend, and it took its toll on our relationship. The seeds of the decision to leave were growing.

I smashed my knee in a Shabbat call to help bring in the wheat harvest. So, I was forced to change jobs in any case.

I worked as the farm janitor (chatzran) for a while-- bad for my self-image and belief, but an easier workload and less tiredness from basic farm work.

I would span in the horse in the morning (Attach the horse to the wagon – Ed), thinking often of my father and grandfather, and that alone was a full circle spur to my new life.

Other things on the kibbutz also enveloped you like a warm coat on a winter's night, real sights of the land that you could not mistake for the cheaply sentimental, waking up early on an autumn morning, to see the valley stretching away from our hilltop to Bet Shean, all covered in a silvery white mist, rolling back as the sun rose. There was the wonderful Passover Seder, mixing the traditional with songs reflecting spring, and the newly felt closeness to the land. Purim, where uncounted glasses of wine allowed you to dance on tables in a wild feeling of abandon.



And there were the people. With all our foibles, idiosyncrasies and sometimes harsh actions and reactions—this was the ultimate justification it seemed for sharing and mutual responsibility. From birth to grave you

had, and would have, support and friendship to lean on, and protect. There were Tollie and Grace fierce in their love and instinct for what was right, “Volpe” a bundle of passion and concern.

There was Nitza’s gentle voice, and Arnei’s special mix of humour and integrity, Zimra’s boisterous ways and smile, Mikki’s warmth and talent and love of beauty, Gerry an unshakable bastion of concern for the kibbutz, Efrat, his wife to be, a passionate defender of the green and growing, and D’s bosom friend Ziva Sela from the kibbutz of her birth to Yizre’el brought with her a different kind of sensibility, Amen’s renaissance genius, Bernie who came as were leaving and stayed to carve a special place from himself in the hard rock of the country, including the monumental entrance to Yad Vashem. And scores more.



Bernie's Bull- an early work- and a favourite for us

Some came, stayed fleetingly and went, but left an indelible mark on our minds, people like Judy and Shaz and Shaul.

About Volpe, I once wrote:

וּלְפָה

Once I saw how

On his wedding day

He came out,

Shoes in hand.

Brushed and brushed till

The shine

Blinded me,

Enfolded him.



Work and your attitude to it was a major factor in your status. What a far cry from the current feeling in Israeli society, even among the secular. Take Amen, bursting with talent -- writing poems, stories, songs, and painting (a late development), who went day after day to the carpentry shed where he immersed his art in making his woodwork beautiful and right and in his secret places found passion for the genius and terror of prophecy.



Some chaverim we were in awe of, like Amen, and Danny, a member of the founding garin.

It would be doing them an injustice to idealise them since they were made of flesh and blood, and though loyal in the main to kibbutz, were no namby-pamby angels.

They loved, fought, cursed and were angry. D told how Zohar, the gruff kibbutz driver, once roared at her and Nava for the way in which his omelette sandwich was made. Bentzi, a lovable, tall member, who suffered from a variety of ailments including an early ulcer, once climbed the hill from an orchard in the valley, and stormed breathless into the dining hall to shout at D and Nava about the wrong “diet” breakfast he was given.

Tiochke, another lovable figure on the kibbutz landscape, was full of smiles, but as an electrician, the wags said, he was an expert in finding the longest link between 2 points. On his circuitous way, he would find time to have a cup of coffee, chat up the girls and gossip about everything all spiced with a joke or two.

We were young, everything seemed charged with the sounds and scents of the land and the light, and the greening of the fields and gardens. All around us seeds were filling and bursting open with an indefinable energy, and relationships were close and warm.

But it was a human stream ebbing and flowing with all sorts of tributaries, material and otherwise. The dreams, in time, were dashed by the inability

of people to sustain this intensity. Old timers on Yizre'el say they have worn out their energies for all this early passion. Friendships have thinned out, loved ones have gone away, and age has taken its toll on mind and body.

The younger generation, fired less by rainbow dreams, were looking to better their physical and material situation and money began to play an ever-bigger role. I remember how we laughed when, in one of the allocations, we were given three shoes a year! Meaning three pairs every two years...

Many kibbutzim were denied the support of left-wing governments as the right became entrenched after years in the political wilderness, tried to maintain their standards by taking loans, and lost huge investments in markets abroad.

The age of the kibbutz is over. Now there is a more realistic reassessment. privatisation has moved in, with the blight (especially for older members), of differential salaries. Some kibbutzim, the more successful it seems, have kept to their earlier beliefs, and are run, and look, like kibbutzim of old.

Whatever has happened, and will still happen, nothing can take away from the kibbutz its place in history as a fascinating experiment to change the age-old approach to life and living—with diminishing success, and with little left except a nostalgic call to the past. But it was an amazing attempt to change the face of human society and the excesses and cruelty of capitalist laissez-faire.

It failed, but nobly. And I feel privileged to have been part of it.

Quite a few people who were once members say they would like to be buried there, as would I.

Yizre'el, in my mind, remains home to me, but I think it a cheek not to live there, yet want to lie there in its rich brown earth. Sweet memories and homage are all I can ask for.



Programme for 17/03/24 – 21/03/24.

Daily 08:30 – 12:00 – coffee, cake, chats, board games

Sunday 17/03

Opening the week with Monica.

09:10 Zoom Lecture – Nessia Shechter – From Croatia to Montenegro / Serbia

10:30 Ceramics room open with instruction from Ziv Ben Bassat

Monday 18/03

08:00 Pedicure with Limor Mualem (by appointment only)

09:30 Armchair lecture – Renaissance Art

Handicrafts with Rachel Grossman

Tuesday 19/03

10:00 Baking hamantaschen with Rachel Hadar

10:30 Ceramics room open with instruction from Ziv Ben Bassat

16:00 Explanation re the new cable TV arrangement – “HOT / YES” – Maor Parsai

17:00 Biodance with Dganit Hadar Zinger

Wednesday 20/03

09:30 Nature is Blooming with Hammutal

14:00 Ceramics room open with instruction from Ziv Ben Bassat

17:15 Exercises on chairs with Michal Sha'anana (note change of day)

Thursday 21/03

07:00 Pedicure with Na'ama Baum (by appointment only)

10:00 Baking hamentaschen

18:00 Veterans meeting in moadon– lecture – Giora Baran

English is Fun - with Rahel

YOU ARE HERE

In the age of space travel, we all know the earth is “round”. But ancient civilizations had no way of measuring the size and shape of the Earth. So, they came up with their own imaginative explanations:

- In the Cherokee nation, people believed that mud rose from under the waters and formed an island with four corners – the Earth. The sun went underneath the island at night and rose again the next day.
- Ancient Babylonians thought the Earth was inside a hollow mountain, floating on the sea. Everything – the sun, moon, sky, stars, and water – was inside this mountain.
- Ancient Egyptians believed the whole Earth was part of their god, Keb. The stars were the jewels of the goddess in the sky and their god of air held her aloft.

- Polynesian creation stories set the Earth is a basket with a lid. A hole cut in the top by a god lets in the light. The woven grass at night lets light peek through in the form of stars.

THE GREEKS KNEW

Many people believe that Columbus was the first to realize that the world is round. Actually, the round-Earth concept has been with us since ancient Greece.

The very early Greeks thought Earth was a flat disc floating on water. But in about 540 B.C., the renowned mathematician, Pythagoras Proposed the theory that the world was a sphere. This concept had many supporters, including Aristotle.

ALL'S WELL

In about 250 B.C., Eratosthenes, librarian at the Library of Alexandria, even came up with a calculation of the Earth's spherical size.

IN FOURTEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-TWO...

Fifteen hundred years later, Christopher Columbus came along, trying to make his now-famous voyage to Asia, by going west. The decision of whether to fund his trip came down to analyzing the accumulation of estimates that had gathered over the centuries.

King Ferdinand believed that Columbus' fleet could never make it all the way to Asia; it was simply too far.

Columbus used a ploy common in modern-day politics, marketing, and engineering. If the numbers don't support your conclusion, find some numbers that do. He found another estimate by Ptolemy dating from about 150 A.D. It was completely erroneous but estimated that the Earth was about half its true size – so Queen Isabella agreed to support the voyage.

Luckily for Columbus, America got in his way, or he never would have reached India or anywhere else. Crossing both the Atlantic and the Pacific combined would have been an impossible feat with the ships and supplies he had.

..... more next week

Credits:

Translated and edited by: Eddie Solow

Proofread by: Biff Markham Oren

Printed by: Zohar Assaf and Hedva Sharabani

Disclaimer: The Editor and translator does his best to provide an accurate reflection of the Hebrew Alon. Please be warned that it is not a direct translation. the original Hebrew text is the official version. This is of particular importance when it comes to decisions and procedures!!!