

### 3<sup>rd</sup> installment

**The Yizraelite – No 2206 Date: 9.5.25**

### Kibbutz Yizrael

**Please note that the newsletter was not published last week due to the Independence Day holiday**

**Reut's Editorial:** On 11.11.24, Itamar Levin Friedman, Achi's cousin, was killed in Gaza. We travelled to Eilat on the eve of Memorial Day and returned the following evening.

This editorial is dedicated to the things read by Sarah, Achi's aunt, at the "Kidnapped Persons Square" in Eilat at the end of March 2025, and to the things Itamar wrote for the 2024 Memorial Day ceremony at Golda Teacher School, where he taught. They offered him to read a different excerpt, but he requested to write his own. His words were read at the 2024 ceremony by a 12th-grade student, because Itamar had entered Gaza again the night before that Memorial Day.

This year, his words were read by Alma, his wife, at the Memorial Eve ceremony in Eilat.

Words of Sarah, Itamar's mother, read at the "Kidnapped Persons Square" in Eilat on 29.3.25:

\_"Our Itamar was shot to death on 11.11.24 during a battle against terrorists in Jabaliya.

On the Seventh of October, he and his friends from the IDF's Special Forces unit were among the first to arrive in the Gaza envelope. They fought terrorists at the Mivtach junction, saved members of the kibbutz Sufa, fought in the area of the Ago factory's packaging plant, and rescued Thai workers.

After October 7, Itamar was no longer the same Itamar. The sights and experiences he endured on that cursed day left a very heavy mark on him, and he was driven by a goal

to enter Gaza again and again. As he told his wife, Alma, for him, he was fighting the Nazis.

Itamar entered Gaza 7 times. Each time, he left behind an incredible wife and two sweet young children, aged 5 and 3. Itamar was the commander of the snipers' team in Eilat's IDF unit. He told Alma that he would look through the gun's scope and imagine the hostages coming out toward our forces. He would do this with all his heart."

**The words Itamar Levin Friedman wrote for the 2024 Memorial Day ceremony, read this evening by Alma:**

\_"Today I came to tell you about another side of me, about the reservist within me. Me and many others. On October 7, I woke up to that terrible news. When I heard the news, it was clear to me: I am needed, now. There's no time to spare. There are lives to save, and action must be taken immediately. Within a few hours, I was already in the battle which was taking place in the communities of the Gaza envelope. My comrades and I rushed from event to event, fought, and even managed to save several lives. Many ask me: Were you afraid? Did you feel pressured? What did you think about? And I always give the same answer: At that moment, you don't have time to think. All at once, you forget everything—you're no longer a teacher, a carpenter, a CEO, or a taxi driver. You are a fighter in the Israel Defence Forces. The moment they called me, something in my mind changed—I only thought about how to get ready, as quickly as possible, to carry out the mission assigned to us—to stop the enemy who had breached Israel's borders. The thoughts about routine faded—the time for war had come.

This is the life of a reservist. All at once, you get up, leave your family, your job, your life, and go to fight. I left my children at home and went out to save lives even at the risk of my own life. And the cost is heavy. The thought of the children is painful. But we put it aside and continue to forge ahead. That is the price we, as reservists, pay again and again—and perhaps even every day.

We have family, friends, but at the moment of truth, we will leave everything behind and enlist in the war effort.

Do not forget this sacrifice—the price paid by reserve soldiers, regular soldiers, security forces, and especially those who fell. Be worthy of them. They deserve it. Make sure we have a strong, united society where we have respect for one another, a society where everyone can have a happy life. **This is what we are fighting for!"**



## **Seventy years since the passing of Moshe'le Orion**

**Born on 23 Tammuz 5690 (July 19, 1930)**

**Murdered on 25 Adar 5715 (March 19, 1955)**

From the booklet for the thirtieth day

I knew Moshe'le during the months I stayed in Yizrael, before I went into the army, and I would like to show his character as it appeared to me through daily interactions with him.

Moshe'le was a cheerful and lively young man, full of life, willingly bearing the burdens of farming and society. But he was also a young man with a rich inner world. His personality combined the traits of a farmer with those of a person of emotion and reason. He loved classical music and engaged with literature. Once, during a conversation, he expressed his view on reading, by saying: "One needs to know how to read books, learn from them, and use what they contain in life." And indeed, he knew how to do that.

He defined morality as "fear of society" (a definition taken from Oscar Wilde's book), but his behaviour proved otherwise. Moshe'le knew how to be honest with himself and others. His sharp language reflected his straightforwardness and practicality, without evasions or hints, and this trait caused him many inconveniences— as he once told me. He was confident but also thoughtful in his actions.

In conversations and debates, he stood out with his natural and profound thinking. There was always a special vitality to his words. I remember a debate in the shower about Shabbat and holidays and their place in our lives. He then expressed his opinion by saying: "Shabbat is an eternal thing, and everything that is eternal is genius." A short and concise statement that says a lot.

The charming smile that won hearts when he interacted with friends in daily life, and his serious demeanour when speaking at group meetings and various discussions— both will always stay with me. Patchi 1955

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## **Readings from the 2025 Memorial Day Ceremony**

### **Nir Baor – Opening segment**

This year, we chose to focus on reserve soldiers and their families, emphasizing their journey and sacrifices. During the Iron Swords War, reserve soldiers were recruited on a scale not seen since the founding of the state: over 300,000 civilians. Many of those called up were killed or injured during the ongoing war.

Some of the injuries are physical, others are emotional scars and sometimes they are both. The The Iron Swords War that began on October 7th, created a reality unfamiliar to us as a society: a reality where civilians are called to active reserve duty repeatedly for extended periods.

The reservists, who in the past were called up for a short time to decide specific military campaigns or to assist in specific military missions for a defined number of weeks, find themselves living parallel lives to the civilian society and its rhythm. Along with them are family members, spouses, and children in this complex event where anxiety, pain, and loneliness accompany their days and nights. Tonight, we will hear reflections, painful perspectives about the reserve soldiers and their families. We will say thank you and embrace you as a community and as individuals.

### **Words of Sigal Hadar**

My family lost three close relatives in the Iron Swords War:

Yarin Gahali, Gur Kahatí, and Afik Teri of blessed memory.

On the eve of October 7th, we were at my father's house in Kiryat Ekron, which is very close to the Tel Nof Air Base.

There were loud sirens again and again. We watched the chaos on television, but we didn't hear any helicopters taking off, and we understood that something was wrong.

Shai told me that we had to go back home because he would be drafted soon.

And indeed, half an hour after we returned, he packed his belongings and left.

Shai is a vehicle officer in his unit. During the first month, he didn't return at all. I was worried because there were people injured and killed in the Southern Signal Corps. I tried to stay in control, but it wasn't easy — he wasn't always available, even though we agreed that he would update me about his situation.

I tried to stay busy all the time because I understood that this war was going to be long and had no apparent end in sight.

At home, I sometimes felt like a single mother to Ido because Shai was no longer around. It was quite hard, because even when he returned, we weren't always in sync.

I want to emphasize that the families of reserve soldiers experience ongoing and very significant family and couple upheaval.

It requires all of us to be adaptable, and I clearly see that we will have to deal with these changes when Shai returns home permanently.

**Alita's Words:** "I remember the very first moment at the start of the war. Already in the morning, Einan was told to pack a bag and wait for the callup. All day we saw the horrors being perpetrated in the communities surrounding Gaza and the chaos and many casualties. In the evening, Einan was called to report to his infantry battalion. I

told him he had to come back to me, he must. But he went, and I was left alone and shattered.

In the first two weeks, I was in terrible anxiety. I couldn't sleep, couldn't eat, and certainly couldn't work.

I stopped functioning, I was afraid to go out in the dark. I was in existential anxiety about myself and especially about Einan. After two weeks, I flew with the rugby team to Portugal, and there I managed to calm down and ground myself a bit.

Einan's battalion was in Gaza, and I didn't have direct contact with him, but the procedure was that every day the soldiers and their families wrote letters, and the logistics team made sure to deliver them. Alongside the daily worries, the letters from Einan felt like home and gave me a lot of confidence and breath.

Even now, Einan is in reserve duty. This is his fourth stint in Gaza since the start of the war, and I feel a heavy weight because this long enlistment keeps me in constant fear and uncertainty. It's so exhausting, and it seems that some people no longer remember this, and don't understand the hardships. A feel of being abandoned. And on the other hand, a very supportive and loving community has formed among all the families of the soldiers serving with him. The women meet and talk all the time, and this gives me a lot of confidence and mental strength."

**Concluding Words by Gaia Sanker:** What do all those wonderful people, who enlisted to fill the void, teach us? Whether on the front lines or on the home front — sometimes out of necessity.

What do they teach us? Those people who left life as they knew it, their desires, needs, fears — and for 570 days, almost 900,000 minutes, every single minute counts — they still live in October 7th.

Amidst thousands of big and small moments that they didn't speak of — his first night at an improvised base, when everything was tumultuous; her first night without him, the loneliness that grows bigger in the dark; the jokes that cover up the fear; the moments between you and yourself when you're not a soldier but a child asking, "What will happen?" and remaining silent, because everyone is silent. And you, who also remain silent, because he is there.

About the first time going home, "for a few days," and the realization that you're not really here, that he's not really here, because the home kept changing, and normal reality changed form. And about the painful realization — perhaps more than anything — that heroism is not only in battle but also in returning.

What do they teach us, those people who enlisted to fill the ranks?

Looking at them, one by one, each one, I observe the general and personal helplessness that is present, and I realize how much they teach us differently. They

teach us that we too should fill the ranks — with care, compassion, love. Not only during wartime. That we should remember to see.

The ones who go, the ones who return, those who went and didn't return, those who never went but whose hearts have been restless since that day, the children, the parents, women and men.

May we be worthy of them.

May we remember to see them, all of them.

To ask after them, to offer a hand. May we all proudly carry compassion, solidarity — that very same unity in which so many went to the ranks in their name.

So, grant peace, and also give strength to all those we love.


And may they return home safely.



**Community Management Meeting**  
**Sunday, 11/5, 17:30 in the Meeting Room**  
**Agenda:**

1. Approval of the protest fund budget
2. Rules for residents entering/exiting apartments
3. Establishing a process for choosing names for neighbourhoods and streets
4. Guidelines for using public spaces



1.  **Many Thanks from the team who organized Yom HaZikaron, Memorial Day for IDF fallen soldiers and victims of terror.**

Thank you very much to all those who worked so hard. (Names and details in the Hebrew Newsletter – Ed)

Yom HaZikaron team — Nir Baor, Lior Keret, Shimrit Meir, Anat Friman, Adva Lifshitz, and Tamar Sankar.

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## 2. **Thanks from the Independence Day Team:**

**Sometimes, the most moving moments happen precisely when nothing goes according to plan.**

It all started as it should — big ideas, a dedicated stage, a giant screen, neat rows of chairs, and excitement in the air. And then came the wind. Not just a gentle breeze, but a wind that reminded us of the face of the country. Within minutes, the screen flew away, the chairs overturned, and the stage structure began to collapse, and at the last moment, we decided it was better to cancel the ceremony for your safety.

But nothing stopped us. Because there is a tradition, and there are young women and men, and there are girls and boys who prepared like grown-ups.

So, we moved (the following day) to a different location, and although we faced technological surprises there too, at this point we already understood: what truly matters are the people.

And so, when 59 participants came up with 59 pictures of the captives, and the band played, and the singers started to sing — nothing else mattered anymore. Just feeling excited together.

Then came a spectacular youth flag parade, Stas and the musicians who saved the evening, a presentation with our soldiers and reservists, dances slides, which melted hearts, charismatic hosts, inspiring torch lighters — and a powerful closing song, with a communal singing that the entire kibbutz joined.

It wasn't a perfect evening. It was a human evening. One that begins with winds and ends with tears in the eyes.

Thanks to everyone who took part in this evening, behind the scenes and on stage.

**The Independence Day ceremony team, which will only be complete when everyone returns home** 🧡

Naomi Shechter, Anat Friedman, and Daniel Heims-Asaf


Now there is a "Thank-You message to my liking, No Names so no mistakes or apologies... and all heart. Many thanks — Ed)

### 3. **Thank You from the Independence Day Committee**

The 77th Independence Day celebrations have concluded, and we want to sincerely thank everyone who participated — in preparations, execution, and clean-up — for your significant contribution that made the event an exciting, enjoyable, and unifying experience.

A special thanks to the Yizrael community and everyone who worked behind the scenes during the ceremony:

Independence Day Team: Itamar Tzfadia, Alma Brauman, Ariel Sadur, Leah Axelrod, Omer Griman, Ido Sharoni, Reut Mor, David Boitler, Irit Mor, Noam Greensphan, Gai Dashevsky, Niv Edelstein, Niv Segel, Shlomo Cohen-Schwartz, and Keren Stamper Kagan. (Names and details in the Hebrew Newsletter – Ed)

4.  **A big thank you to The Gardens Team**, for your alertness and quick response! You are an example and a model of service and professionalism. We greatly appreciate and thank you.  
Patricia and Oscar Grossman



## **Community Management Meeting Report - 4.5.2025**

**Participants:** Erez Peleg, Talia Arad, Yifat Segal, Kinneret Govrin, Stas Gavrillov, Levi, Tamir Blass, Limor Griman.

**Agenda:**

1. **The planning process for the kitchen and the Kolbo.** Invitees: Food Department - Itzik Shechter and Adi Laviv; Guests: Uri Gilad, Niv Edelstein. The renovation of the kitchen and the Kolbo has been discussed since 2015. Over the years, several plans have been presented to the public. All plans were basic and prepared by a kitchen planning consultant. Now, we have reached a stage where detailed planning is necessary, with an estimated cost of about 850,000 NIS.  
Given our financial situation, two questions arise:
  - Is it appropriate today to proceed with detailed planning at the specified costs?
  - How should the planning process be conducted to accurately meet the needs and capabilities of the kibbutz?



The dilemma involves difficulty in fully financing the project, against the background of the building's condition, which requires urgent attention.

- **Erez presented a proposal for a planning outline.**

2. In discussion:

- There is a need to reassess the program and adapt it to current times.
- The requirement for a building permit should be examined, as it would significantly impact costs.
- The kitchen is in very poor condition and is on the verge of collapse, which could cost us a lot of money. The process cannot be delayed.
- It is appropriate to re-approve the decision to renovate the kitchen and the Kolbo, understanding the project costs.
- Since continuing with the current situation is not feasible, two alternatives should be presented to the public:

1. Detailed planning
2. Necessary repairs without comprehensive planning.

**Decision:** A small team will prepare a discussion for the assembly on the topic of the kitchen and Kolbo rehabilitation and their continued operation.

**2. Summary of the pilot model for Friday meals** (invitees: Itzik Shechter, Tal Darom; Guest: Idit Halevi).

In September and October, the community management discussed Friday meals and the return to holding Kabbalat Shabbat, after nearly a year during which they were held separately from Friday dinners (in the moadon). After teamwork efforts to develop a combined model of Shabbat reception with self-service, it was decided to initiate a pilot for several months.

The pilot started in November 2024, during which about 20 meals were held. The average number of participants in Friday dinners was about 250 diners in the dining hall and about 300 at home (based on registration for cooked and uncooked food).

Data collection shows a slow trend of decline in the number of diners in the dining hall and an increase in those eating at home over time.

A survey was conducted in February.

111 responses were received, mostly kibbutz members. Half of the respondents are under age 50, and 36% have young children.

Survey findings:

- 80% of respondents participated in Friday dinners.
- Among participants, 70% were satisfied or very satisfied with the combined model; 15% were dissatisfied.
- Among the volunteers doing duty shifts in the combined model, 54% were satisfied with the management of the shifts, while 26% were dissatisfied.

Regarding preferences for future continuation:

- 55% prefer to continue with the combined model,
- 21% prefer self-service only,
- 13% prefer to revert to the traditional table-service model,
- 11% gave various other responses.

Based on the data collected and survey results, the team presents to the community management the question of whether to continue the combined model or revert to the self-service format. The team does not recommend splitting the month between different formats.

In discussion:

- Too few members responded to the survey, making decision-making difficult.
- We should take notice of those who responded, as they probably have a special interest in Friday dinners in the dining hall.
- For the Food Department, the self-service model (without Kabbalat Shabbat) is the most convenient, both in terms of work and reducing food waste.
- Holding the Kabbalat Shabbat as part of Friday dinner has significant cultural and educational value for the community.
- Efforts should be made to increase satisfaction among those who choose to attend, to encourage higher participation.
- Ways to continue improving, enhancing, and easing shifts in the combined model should be explored.

**Decision:** Continue operating the combined model while continuing to gather participation data.

#### 4. Defining a budget for the protest.

Due to the late hour, this matter was postponed to the next meeting.

Reported by: Limor Griman

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## Update from the protest headquarters

During the headquarters meeting, several action directions and goals for its work were outlined:

- Connecting members interested in taking part in various protests.
- Creating opportunities for everyone to participate and contribute according to their ability
- Maintaining awareness about the struggle to bring home the hostages
- Ensuring the presence of kibbutz members at protests

In the near future, several events are planned, all on Saturday afternoons:

• **10/5 – Organized trip to the Hostages Square** to show solidarity, setting up the Kibbutz Movement tent and the Be'eri tent, and participating in the protest.

There are still spots on the bus, and joining is possible in coordination with Danit Kirshberg.

- **17/5 – Renewing the yellow flag display at the reservoir combine with a demonstration at our intersection.**
- **24/5 – Preparing a dinner for the hostage families' room located near the Hostages Square.**

Additional details about these activities will be announced later.

Feel free to contact us with any ideas or initiatives.

On behalf of the protest headquarters,  
Limor Griman



**From Erez's Desk**



### **Water Budget for Garden Irrigation**

The water allowance for watering the members' gardens includes 6 months of irrigation. Even after the winter we experienced this year, the six months when the most irrigation is needed are from May to October.

Members will start receiving credits for garden watering from May.

Hoping for wetter years ahead.

### **The Flies and Mosquitoes Season – What Can Be Done?!**

Spring is characterized by an increase in mosquitoes and flies that disturb our peace and can even carry diseases. There are ways to reduce this phenomenon and the suffering it causes through prevention and treatment of the pests' habitats.

**Flies** – Flies breed in places with organic decay, and thus the dairy is immediately blamed. It is true that the place where most flies are born and breed is the dairy, but it is not the only factor. The manure is regularly treated by a pest control professional throughout the year to greatly reduce fly populations. Other breeding sites include: dog faeces, fallen and rotting fruit on the ground, food scraps, composters, etc. Therefore, to better combat fly populations, each of us bears responsibility to prevent their habitats and reduce their proliferation. The key word is "hygiene." Dispose of dog faeces, collect fallen fruit, cover composters, and generally keep both private and public spaces clean.

**Mosquitoes** – Mosquitoes breed in standing water, even in small containers like plant saucers. To reduce mosquito breeding, locate standing water, big or small, and dry them out. If the cause is leaks in water or sewage pipes, a service call to the building branch, is the answer.

With a joint effort, we can reduce the pests' proliferation and ease the nuisance.

### **Removing Chairs in Bomb Shelters**

During the spring festivals, plastic chairs were removed from the shelters to be used at

cultural events. Unfortunately, the war is not over yet, and the early warning from the Home Front Command provides enough time to reach shelters safely. We purchased chairs for the shelters.

We ask that the chairs placed in the shelters be regarded as safety equipment and not be removed.

### **Renovation of the Kitchen and Kolbo**

(see management report – Ed)

That's all for now,

Erez Peleg



## **Announcement from the Housing Committee**

**Maida Nehushtan** is moving to the house of Aviva Boitler (the mother), in the parents' housing, after the house has been renovated.

**Dalia and Izzy Levitan** will move to the house of the late Gavrush in the Sadot housing.

Sent by: Aviva Boitler



## **H.R. Updates - 27.4.2025**

**Development of Future Kibbutz Leadership.** There is a real need to build and train a collective management reserve of members within the kibbutz to fill central management positions and strengthen the kibbutz over the years, leading it to prosperity. Currently, there is difficulty in finding suitable members who are interested in filling roles within the kibbutz. Additionally, management roles are becoming more professional and require higher standards of skills, greater preparation time, and prior training.

In the HR management meeting held on 30.3.2025, it was decided to promote a process of developing a management reserve to fill management positions in the kibbutz, based on the presented model and with the help of the role-finding team. The model aims to connect candidates to various roles and proposes an individualized process for selected candidates based on several criteria, with the goal of creating a tailored pathway for specific roles that will equip and prepare them as much as possible to serve in the kibbutz. This process may include responsibility and leadership in a certain project within the kibbutz, participation in various forums to get acquainted with the kibbutz and its institutions, dedicated courses, mentoring by a role-holder, leading a committee or team, strengthening personal and interpersonal skills, and more.

It is important to note that we cannot guarantee the position, as the selection method is kibbutz-based, and the ultimate decision will be made by the community, which will choose the most suitable candidate. Nonetheless, this is proactive activity aimed at sowing the seed, motivating members to take on public roles, equipping them with tools, and supporting their personal development within a broad systemic view of the kibbutz's best interests.

In the role-finding team meeting, held on 6.4.2025, the team continued to discuss the complexity and challenges of the process. It was agreed to start with a small number of candidates, proceeding gradually, with continuous monitoring to ensure the process advances in the desired direction and achieves its goals.

A management reserve ensures continuity of leadership, preserves organizational knowledge and memory, and strengthens organizational culture. It allows the organization to better cope with change.

The goal of the process is to identify and develop members to take responsibility in kibbutz management, community, and business sectors, by imparting skills and personal empowerment. The aim is to expand the management layer and ensure that positions are filled on time and by suitable members from within the kibbutz.

The subsidiary objectives include developing human capital, personal empowerment, providing tools and techniques for developing and implementing management and leadership capabilities to a broader range of members, familiarizing members with the kibbutz's organizational structure, committees, and teams, work processes, and the complexities of kibbutz management, strengthening the connection between members and the kibbutz, increasing members' involvement in community and economic activities.

To engage participants in the process, it was emphasized that criteria should be defined to guide their selection. During team discussions, various criteria emerged, such as: adherence to kibbutz decisions, especially fulfilling work obligations, absence of conflicts with the kibbutz, academic education, leadership and management abilities, systemic vision and loyalty, good interpersonal skills and teamwork ability, motivation and drive to serve in public roles, involvement in kibbutz life, and the ability to manage and regulate anger.

Subsequently, personal meetings will be held with candidates, exposing them to various existing management roles within the kibbutz, aiming to encourage them to be actively involved in kibbutz management through the development of a personal plan that provides tools and prepares them to fill a role in the near future.

Success indicators include a list of members interested and committed to the training process, linking candidates to roles, members entering spheres of activity and influence within the kibbutz, and providing management tools and skills to a broad range of members.

The role-finding team: Amir Darom, Hila Alterlevi, Yifat Asaf, Yaniv Shapira, Irit Shemesh, Kinneret Govrin.



## **Update from the Absorption Committee**

The Absorption Committee would like to update you on an improvement we are currently testing, as a pilot for the process of integrating newcomers.

After reviewing the current process, we saw the need for an additional control point during the integration process. Currently, in addition to the votes by members at the end of the absorption year (Year 1) and at the end of the candidacy year (Year 2), we also conduct regular assessments within the committee. In our desire to improve the process and make it more efficient, fair, and professional, we identified the need for an additional control point. Therefore, we decided to add a new survey that will be conducted at the end of the half-year candidacy period (mid-Year 2 - six months before the voting for full membership).

The survey will be anonymous and distributed among 30 kibbutz members (divided equally into 3 age groups, to obtain a representative picture of our community), which constitute about 10% of all members. In addition, members of the Integration Committee will also respond to the survey. It is important to note that a separate team, composed of members from the Committee and the Members Committee, has been established to handle distributing the surveys to the kibbutz members. This step aims to ensure maximum objectivity in the process. This form distribution team will not have access to the survey results.

The survey will be conducted via Google Forms and will include questions about the level of familiarity with the newcomers, as well as additional questions related to integration into the kibbutz norms and society. Responding to the survey takes just a few minutes and can provide us with valuable information about the newcomers, the process, and us – the Integration Committee – moving forward.

It is important to emphasize that the names of the members responding to the survey will remain anonymous. The survey results will be presented to the Integration Committee and the Members Committee which oversees the work of the Integration Committee, as well as to the candidates themselves.

The goal of the survey is to identify points for improvement at a stage where they can still be addressed, and to help the newcomers integrate better into our community. We believe that this change will help us improve the integration process and make it more professional and high-quality, for the benefit of all – both the newcomers and the entire kibbutz.

With regards,  
The Absorption Committee.



## **Summary of the Environmental Quality Committee Meeting (10/4/25):**

**Participants:** Amos Shemi, Ela Cohen Schwartz, Nitzan Feldman, Noga Kendror Shapira, Axel Levin, Tamara Sanker.

### **Updates:**

1. **Recycling Stickers & New Bin:** We obtained stickers for blue paper bins to clarify what can be disposed of. A new purple bin was installed for all glass bottles, except for returnable drink bottles which go to the black barrel for sorting.
2. **Waste Management & Cleanliness:**
  - The green waste bins are collected Mondays and Thursdays.
  - Blue paper bins are collected monthly as needed.
  - Black barrels for bottles are sorted by Paul before disposal.
  - Organic waste and compost is managed twice weekly by the Noi.
  - Cardboard is collected weekly by Noi.
  - Plastic cages emptied every 1.5 months by Paul.
  - Electronic waste and used clothing collection points are available near the drum shelter and the lower gate to Hadarim.
  - Proposal to appoint a waste station monitor to ensure cleanliness, with specific responsibilities assigned to different areas.
3. **Organic Waste & Composting:** Currently there is no budget for processing organic waste from the community, but future plans for home or neighbourhood composters are being explored.
4. **Disposable Items in Public Spaces:**
  - Concerns were raised about extensive use of disposable cups in the moadon, the Founders Hut, and the offices, which is environmentally and economically problematic.

- Decision to investigate costs for permanent glass cups and organize P.R. campaign.
  - Emphasis on reducing disposable items, promoting reusable containers (preferably plastic or glass).
  - We will explain the risks of aluminium use in vegetarian meals, with a move to reduce its use due to health and cost concerns.
5. **Solar Water Heaters:** All permanent homes should have solar water heaters, which are eco-friendly and cost-effective. Temporary units can buy portable solar heaters, which are recommended for larger families.
6. **Signage & Recycling:** The Committee approved a budget of 850 NIS for proper, permanent signage at trash stations to improve sorting and recycling.

The committee wishes everyone peaceful days ahead.

**Prepared by:** Tamara Sanker on behalf of the Environmental Quality Committee

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## Swimming Pool Opening – Summer 2025

### 2025 Schedule

**(To be posted on the refrigerator)**

#### 2025 Pool Opening Hours Schedule

##### May:

The pool is open on Saturdays from 11:00 to 16:00

##### **1/6/25–19/6/25:**

- Weekdays: 08:00–13:00 and 15:00–19:00
- Fridays: 08:00–13:00 and 15:00–19:00
- Saturdays: 10:00 - 19:00

##### **20/6/25–14/8/25:**

- Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays: 08:00–13:00 and 15:00–19:00
- Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays: 08:00–13:00 and 15:00–21:00
- Saturdays: 10:00 - 19:00

##### **31/8/25–15/9/25:**

- Weekdays: 08:00–13:00 and 15:00–19:00
- Fridays: 08:00–13:00 and 15:30–21:00
- Saturdays: 10:00 - 19:00

##### **14/10/25–1/9/25:**

- Saturdays: 11:00–16:00



## **Responsibilities of Pool Staff**

### **Pool Manager Responsibilities:**

Responsibility and supervision of the pool's operational standards in the following areas: order, cleanliness, system functionality, work of the regular lifeguard, and work of the shift lifeguards.

Decision-making regarding opening hours and announcing them, including necessary adjustments based on external conditions such as weather, COVID-19, war and others. Responding to members' requests, comments, and complaints.

### **Responsibilities of Pool Staff:**

**The pool operator** (Barry) ensures the operation of water systems, filters, pumps, etc. Morning cleaning of robots and lane maintenance.

**The lifeguard** is responsible for safety of bathers both in and outside the water, and for cleaning the pool area (water, lawns, kitchenette, and changing rooms).

The various service sectors of the kibbutz are responsible for their areas in the pool—landscaping, electrical, building, metalwork, IT, and duty officers.

They are called upon to provide service by the pool supervisor as needed, and assist with routine maintenance as per agreements made from time to time.

### **Shift Lifeguards:**

During hours when the regular lifeguard is not working and the pool is open to members, a volunteer shift is organized.

Shift lifeguards are responsible for safety, both in and outside the water, for cleaning the pool area (water, lawns, kitchenette, and changing rooms), and for reporting any unusual incidents that occur during their shift or require further attention.

### **Shift Roster Coordinator:**

Maintains ongoing contact before the swimming season begins.

Reports on lifeguards leaving or joining shifts, and handles special requests from shift lifeguards (such as planned trips abroad, reserve duty, etc.).

The shift coordinator needs to receive a schedule of staffing needs from the pool supervisor.

*This schedule may vary slightly during the season.*

### **Event Calendar Management:**

Members or committees wishing to host an event or gathering at the pool must register via the community platform (Kehilanet) in the community calendar.

The date and times will be checked against the pool schedule, and if feasible, approved and recorded in the pool's schedule.

Depending on the size of the event and number of participants, the pool manager will inform the member/committee if additional lifeguards are needed.

Any event requiring the pool to be closed to the public must be approved by the

community manager (Erez).

Members hosting events beyond regular hours are responsible for arranging their own lifeguard.

Multiple members or committees can hold events at the same time unless the pool is officially closed for an event.

#### **Events with Inflatable Devices:**

Only permitted with the approval of the pool supervisor.

Swimmers must avoid the inflatables area.

Supervision from all sides + an additional lifeguard is required.

All electrical cords must be protected to prevent water contact or falling into the water.

The operating company must have special approval, which should be verified.

Any external vendors operating at the pool must inform the insurance coordinator to ensure there is proper insurance coverage.

#### **Legal Notice:**

**No events are allowed without a lifeguard present!**

**Written by:** Arnon Matalon

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## **Swimming Pool Regulations - General Conduct**

Please review all the rules and inform your children and guests!

1. Entry to the pool area is not permitted without a lifeguard present!
2. Follow the instructions of the lifeguards and assist them in their role.
3. Obey the warning signs!
4. No running around the pool!
5. Do not jump backwards or do somersaults into the pool.
6. Do not jump into the water after running.
7. Swimming in the small pool is the responsibility of the parents and under their supervision. The lifeguard's eyes are focused on the large pool.
8. Children with floatation devices are allowed only in the shallow area and must be accompanied by an adult in the water.
9. All children with long hair are required to tie their hair back! **(Both sexes – Ed)**
10. Children from Yizrael, 7th grade, aged thirteen, are permitted to come to the pool without adult supervision. Children under this age must be accompanied by a responsible adult over 18.
11. Those suffering from infectious diseases, lice, or pustular wounds are not allowed to enter the water.

12. Parents of infants should ensure their baby is wearing a suitable swim diaper.
13. Parents are asked to accompany their young children to the restroom.
14. Children are not permitted to urinate on the lawns, tree trunks, or bushes.
15. Dogs are not allowed in the pool area.
16. During crowded times, inflatable mattresses are not allowed under the shade net, nor are ball games.
17. No eating or drinking inside or on the edge of the pool.
18. Before leaving the pool, ensure all tools, tables, and chairs are returned to their places, and all trash is collected.
19. It is the responsibility of those using the barbecue area to clean it after use.
20. To book the pool for events, go through Kehilanet - "Services and Reservations" > "Service Calls & Forms" > "Pool Booking for Events." A detailed procedure for booking the pool for events is available in a separate file.
21. Shower before entering the water.
22. Guests at the pool: On weekdays, members wishing to bring a guest without supervision must obtain approval from the pool manager and coordinate with the lifeguard(s). First-degree family guests under 16 must be accompanied by an adult over 18! On Fridays, Saturdays, and holidays, guests who are not first-degree family members must be accompanied by a kibbutz member (member – not a child of a kibbutz member!). This is due to the high number of swimmers and the difficulty for the lifeguard to monitor everyone and recognize all individuals. Hosting groups without the pool manager's approval is not permitted on Friday nights, Saturdays, and holidays, without the accompaniment of a kibbutz member! Lifeguards are instructed to ask guests arriving alone to leave the pool area! A lifeguard's role is not easy. Many members do not even agree to fulfill this role due to the responsibility involved; please help the lifeguards perform their duties. For any questions, comments, or complaints, please contact the pool supervisor.



### **Lifeguards Duty List for the 2025 Season:**

Lifeguard during the week (Sunday to Friday): Knaan Dolinko.

Duty lifeguards: Jeremy Perlman, Eyal Tirosh, Gil Hillel, Tzafnat Mor, Edi Solow, Amir Darom, Ron Granot, Achi Levin, Dotan Savir, Arnon Matalon, Ohad Ziv, Rotem Agmon. Enjoy a safe and pleasant swimming season! Arnon Matalon

## How to Reduce Your Overdraft?

How to Manage with Your Allowance?  
Workshop on Smart Financial Management

Led by Gila Sigal Azulai - Financial Advisor

Tuesday, 20/5, at 20:00 in the Moadon  
Participation requires prior registration.

To register: <https://forms.gle/jsHetrWt4zEmEwWy8>



## Kibbutz Yizrael - Gravel Gilboa Cycling Race



On Saturday, April 26th, we had the honor of hosting a national cycling race with approximately 540 riders. (Finishers or starters – Ed)

When organizing an event for the first time, it's hard to know what to expect. We try to prepare for every situation, aim to communicate as effectively as possible with all parties, recruit a large volunteer team, and hope everything will go smoothly.

**Bottom line – the event was a great success.**



Event organizers and many riders praised the hospitality, production quality, and volunteer spirit, and were impressed by the well-maintained kibbutz, the beautiful view of the valley, the roads, sidewalks, and gardens.

We had the privilege of meeting a special community of incredible athletes and were moved to see wounded soldiers from the "Iron Swords" war, amputees, competing with remarkable courage and determination.

We were very happy to see many families encouraging the competitors across the kibbutz and arriving with bikes at the playground. We are already thinking about how to hold a cycling race for kids, maybe next year!

On "Shuang," Israel's leading platform for endurance sports (running, triathlon, cycling), race winner Lior Zakh Maor wrote the following column:

**"A perfect Yizrael experience: Lior Zakh Maor summarizes Spring Gravel 2025"**  
*(excerpts from the column)*

"... The location is the initial meeting point for participants in the event, and if the location is nice, beautiful, and inviting, you immediately get into a good vibe and a positive mood, even if you're anxious before a race. I might be a bit biased because I live on the outskirts of the valley—and not by chance—but it's hard not to get into a good vibe when driving to Kibbutz Yizrael, with fields at your feet and Gilboa rising above you. The guard at the gate welcomes you, and the arena is the first thing you



encounter upon entry. That's it, everything is good, I feel great, I'm happy, relaxed. From here, things can mostly go to good places; the trend is positive."

"... The area looked tidy and inviting, and slowly the sleeping kibbutz filled with mountain and gravel bike riders, and by start time, everyone was gathered on the

field. There's something special about a green grassy area filled with hundreds of colorful bikes that fills your heart."

"... **In short, Spring Gravel 2026 on Kibbutz Yizrael** – I'm in. Count me in. Not just me, I assume everyone I spoke with enjoyed it and would be happy to return."

So, we want to thank all the volunteers who stepped up and supported the event:  
*(In the best Yizraelite tradition, all names have been omitted – even though I was called "A young parking attendant – Ed) conclusion.*

We hope the event didn't disturb the kibbutz members too much, who woke up early to the sound of bike chains.

Feel free to watch a short video summarizing the event:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yrdo1ZfB64I>

From the production team – Idan Zilas, Gazit Baran, Tamir Blass, and Dotan Savir



## Spring Gravel Gilboa 2025: The Experiences of a Biker

### Dotan Savir

When Idan came to me and said he was going to meet with Arik Feldman and Nimrod Cohen, the organizers of Spring Gravel, about hosting the event on Yizrael, I was very happy and asked to join their meeting.

After the meeting, Arik asked me to help them plan the ride from the kibbutz towards Nahal Harod and the return via the northern gate of the Gadash. I was very glad to help and be part of the event.

I have been mountain biking as a hobby for over 20 years. Five years ago, I completed a cycling instructor course and started working at my hobby.

In the past year, I also started riding gravel bikes.

Gravel bikes are essentially road bikes with slightly wider tires than regular road bikes, and riders use them on wide dirt roads, fields, and similar terrains.



I have already participated in two Spring Gravel events in the south, and the atmosphere at each event is incredible — hundreds of riders coming to enjoy great routes, whether for fun or competition, followed by a festival with beer, hamburgers, prize draws for bike gear, and most importantly, the camaraderie of everyone together.

The occasion held here, in our home, was amazing in every way: an excellent location (because it's at home, no need to wake up at 3 AM and drive for two hours), fantastic routes, and most importantly, the post-ride festival atmosphere.

I met friends who rode and came to tell me how amazing everything was and what a wonderful event it was, praising all the kibbutz members who came, volunteered, and dedicated their time to make it successful.

I enjoyed it very much and am already looking forward to next year's gravel event here with us.

Dotan Savir

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## Phil-osophia



If anyone can swap me out for an upcoming toranut on Saturday morning I'll be very grateful. I don't want to sound too need but my old mate Franky has passed away and I am hoping to make it to the funeral but I definitely need to be there for the aftermath. Some of you may well have known him too - for those of you who are feeling a little lost, Franky (to his friends) is better known as Pope Francis.

No not Papa Francis the owner of the pizza shop in Via Del Lavatore, just around the corner from the Trevi Fountain – the one with the long lines of patrons hoping to buy a slice or two of their famous Buffalo pizzas. I'm referring to the Francis who lives in the Vatican which borders onto the Leonardo de Vinci guest house (around 600 shekels a night but a bit heavy on the brown furnishings).

In any case the last time I had to attend a conclave was in 2013 when Benedict passed away – on the fifth ballot we elected Franky. Those conclaves are a bit of an ordeal especially for me, given that I am the only Jewish cardinal. My kosher food has to be bought in – usually from Ba' Ghetto restaurant. I'm not a big fan of their cervello fritto (fried brains) but their spaghetti alla carbonara is excellent. Just down the road from the restaurant is the Great Synagogue where I attend morning services when I'm visiting the Vatican. No one seems to mind. I think they see me more as a colorfully dressed visiting Rabbi than as a Cardinal from Kibbutz Yizrael.

I will need a new set of ecclesiastical garments which don't come cheap from Raniero Mancinelli (Gammerelli since 1798) – around thirty thousand euros – a major bone of contention with the outside workers committee. The committee has never objected to my five thousand euro a month salary (non-taxable) but just try to get them to cover some reasonable work-related costs. I must remember to insist on summer weight fabrics – the last set I bought were woven from pure New Zealand merino wool. Not a wise choice for our hot Mediterranean summers. But I digress.

I have little hope of being elected as the next Pope. Firstly, because there has only ever been one Pope Philip and he only lasted one day. Secondly being Jewish is a bit of stumbling block – one that no one in the church will ever admit to, but let's just say I have as much chance of succeeding Franky as any black Cardinal. Thirdly the whole Gaza situation has not helped either – the Vatican has been in close contact with "Palestine" since 1948 but only formerly recognized us in 1993 when I was elected as the cardinal of the Gilboae Montibus.

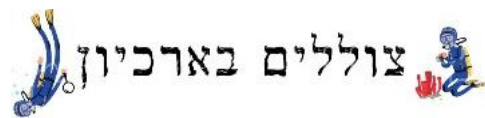


It is a little-known fact that I was the guy who signalled the election of the last Pope. It was my job to clean up after each ballot and to burn the rubbish. Black smoke signals no agreement and white the election of a new Holy Father. Don't tell anybody but Cardinal Scola should have been elected but I accidentally mixed in the cigarette ash from the numerous ashtrays in with the ballot papers. Black smoke billowed from the Vatican chimney! I denied all responsibility for the mistake and luckily for me my colleagues saw it as a sign from God and the following day Benedict got the nod.

If anybody happens to be on holiday in the coming days, feel free to give me a ring. Just ring the Vatican switchboard +39 06 69884857 and ask for me. I should be able to organise some free entry tickets for one of the tours. Certainly, I'll be able to get you a free hat and maybe a cheap T-shirt.

I look forward to the declaration "Habemus Papam" as opposed to Habeas Corpus"

Phil Adler



## Delving in the Archives

Among the first buildings on the kibbutz were the cottages that were built in the 1950s: three structures, each with six units of eighteen square meters. Why were the new buildings called cottages, you ask? Because there was preparation for a second floor that was never built. Above the toilet, there was a wall built at an angle so that, if you were not careful, you would bump your head.

I lived in one of the cottages from 1975 until 1979. After three years of living with roommates in a wooden hut, it was a luxury. At the age of 25, I finally had a room to myself.

Later, a couple of the cottages were used as a barbershop and a cosmetics room.

In 2014, the last of the three buildings was demolished, and after a few years, a new housing complex was built — this time, real cottages.







Both photographs were taken by Iris Shapira.

If anyone has photos of “the cottages” in their heyday, we would be happy to receive them for the archives

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### **A photography exhibition - featuring a photo by Steve Blass**

A photo by Steve Blass is on display at the current photography exhibition at the “Ramat Hanadiv” Gallery. All the photos were taken in the Nadiv Gardens. The theme of the exhibition is "Man in Nature." Out of many images shot for this themed photography contest, only twenty photos were printed and displayed at the exhibition. Ten of these photos were taken by children, and ten by adults. Steve took the photo at the “Ein Zur” spring in the gardens.

**To view the exhibition photos, search on Google: "Nature. Man | Final Photography Exhibition of the 'Click with Nature' Contest"**





**Respect to our Nurses**

**Israeli Nurses Day**

**Yizrael Salutes our Nurses**

**Sunday 11.5.25**

**16:00-17:30**

**Outside the clinic**

**Coffee and cake and surprises for children**

**All the Kibbutz is invited**



# The “House of Music” Invites YOU!

**Preparations are underway — and you're invited to join the experience!**

The Yizrael House of Music invites you to the main event for the year 5785:

## **The Northern Lights - Nordic Music**

A spectacular show featuring students and teachers from the Music House — with orchestras, ensembles, live singing and playing.

Sunday | 18.05.2025 Beit Tzizeling, Ein Harod Meuhad

6:00 PM - Amadeus Show

8:00 PM - The Main Event

Ticket price: 40 ₪

Reserve your tickets online at the Music House website:

<https://www.bmusic-yizrael.com>

**Come and be captivated by magical Nordic music, with original arrangements and stunning performances.**

**See you there!**



**Luna Park Lunacy – Yizrael celebrates Independence Day**



### **Programme for 11-16 May**

**Daily from 08:30 - 12:00 you can enjoy, coffee, cake, lively conversation, and board games**

#### **Sunday 11 May**

09:10 Zoom from Dorot B'Gilboa - Events and Current Affairs with Dr Moshe Elad

#### **Monday 12 May**

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

09:00 Sweet from the oven with Monica and Noa

10:00 Brain games and trivia with Galia Shemi

16:30 Questions and answers related to Bituach Leumi with Inbal Adler

#### **Tuesday 13 May**

09:00 Holistic treatments with Shlomit Fink – by arrangement with Shlomit

10:00 Movie screening with Galia Shemi

#### **Wednesday 14 May**

09:30 A visit to "Shaveh L'Hatzitz" (our 2<sup>nd</sup> hand shop)

10:00-12:00 The ceramics studio is open for work with instruction from Miki Toyuz

#### **Thursday 15 May – Erev Lag B'Omer**

09:30 HaNogariah – woodcraft with Noga Harpaz

09:30 Flora

10:00 "Special Artists" with Noa

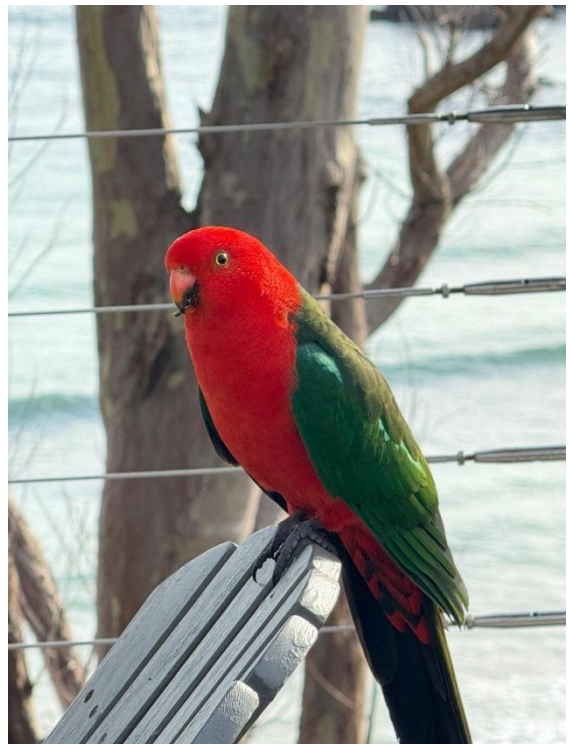
17:15 Chair exercises with Michal Sha'anani



## Thanks to our proofreaders

A great deal of work goes on so that the Yizraelite can come out on time. I would like to thank **Biff** for all her hard work. Biff is enjoying a well-deserved holiday in Australasia. (See following Photos)

Thanks to **Chazz** who is covering for Biff. Correcting 32 pages of this Edi-tor's mistakes is no mean achievement!



## ENGLISH IS FUN with Rahel

Subject: An ode to Roget

### **Roget's Thesaurus**

In order to grow, expand widen  
his lexicological corpus,  
Roget bought, acquired, purchased  
a synonymopedia, a thesaurus.

Soon, presently, without delay,  
he no longer ran out of things to say,  
speak, utter, express, articulate  
give voice to, pronounce, communicate

This was all very well, fine, great,  
wonderful, super, terrific,  
but his friends, mates, pals thought him  
boring, tedious, dull, soporific.

So let this be a warning,  
an omen, a sign, a premonition.  
It's all very well to show learning,  
education, knowledge, erudition,  
but here's a top tip  
a suggestion, some advice  
don't ever let it stop you  
from being concise,

brief, short, clear, pithy,  
succinct, compendious, to the point  
Breviloquent.

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Some interesting facts about books...

- Iceland tops the world in per capita book reading.
- In Brazilian prisons, reading a book can reduce a sentence by four days.

- People who read books are less likely to develop Alzheimer's disease.
- Virginia Woolf wrote all her books while standing.
- The most stolen book is the Bible.
- Theodore Roosevelt read an average of one book each day.
- There are over 20,000 books about chess.
- Victor Hugo's "*Les Miserables*" contains a sentence with 823 words.
- Words like "hurry" and "addition" were invented by Shakespeare.
- If all the books in the New York Public Library were lined up, they would stretch eight miles.
- Leo Tolstoy's wife hand-copied the manuscript of "*War and Peace*".
- Noah Webster took 36 years to write his first dictionary.
- The Mahabharata is the only book or epic in the world with over 1,200 characters.

.....more next week

## **Credits:**

**Editor of Hebrew Newsletter: Reut Shaliv**

Translated and edited by: Eddie Solow

Proofread by: Chazz Broadhurst

Printed by: Danit Duvdevani Kirshberg and Hedva Shahrabani

**Disclaimer 1:** 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! Not all the material published in the Hebrew newsletter appears in “The Yizraelite”. Considerations of length, readers’ interest and the Editor’s ability to grapple with the subject matter, determine what is included.

**Disclaimer 2: “English is Fun”:** At the request of the author, this column is not proofread or edited in any way. Content and format are at the discretion of the author.

**Note:** The readers are encouraged to submit for inclusion “letters to the editor”, photos and material that does not appear in the Hebrew Alon.