

**The Yizraelite – No 2220    Date: 15.8.25**

## **Kibbutz Yizrael**

**“Wars end when women and mothers stand up.”**

On Sunday, I travelled to the Jonathan Vermeulen Forest where, for five days, women’s and mothers’ organisations gathered, calling for the return of the hostages and an end to the fighting in Gaza. I arrived only for the opening hours of these days. I took part in the ceremony held at the memorial for the female observers who were killed in Nahal Oz. At the end of the ceremony, the Mothers’ Prayer was recited, which is presented here.

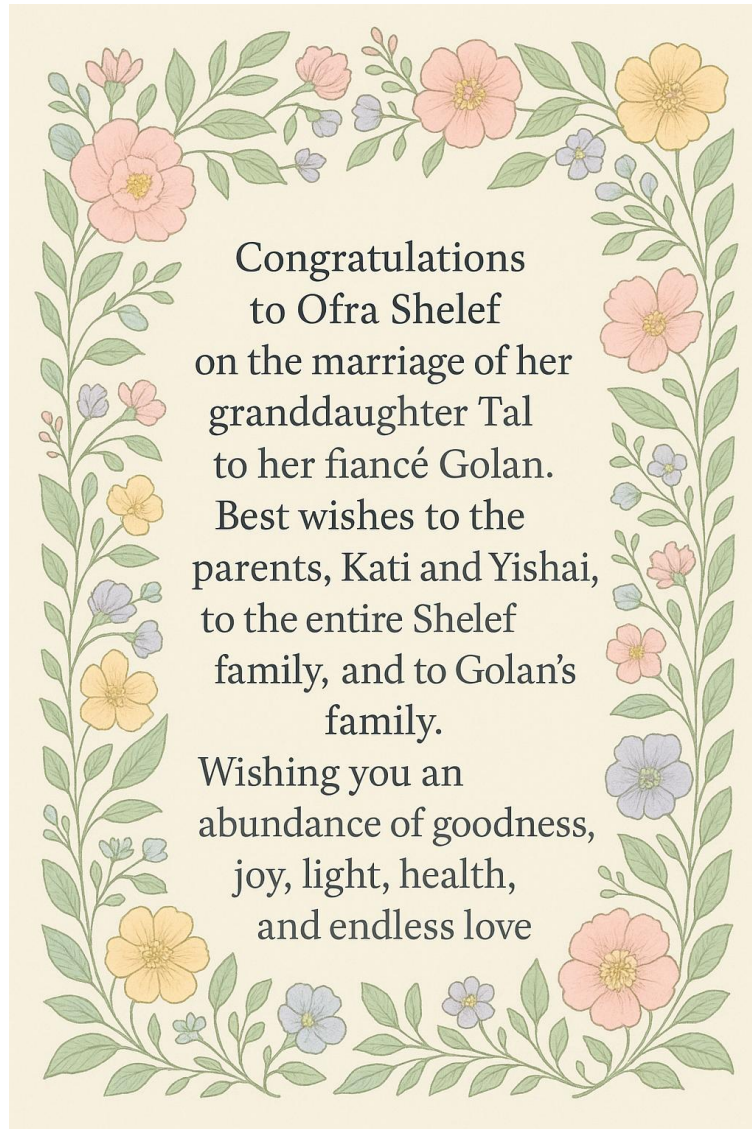
**The Mothers’ Prayer / Nirit Strool**

*Please, my God,  
hear the cry of the mothers,  
hear the desperate beating  
with clenched fists  
and a hoarse throat.*

*Please,  
hear the cry of the mothers  
who try to break through  
the hardness of sealed hearts.*

In this week’s bulletin: addresses from the Bar Mitzvah of the “Narkis” group, farewell words to Shimrit Tzafadia at the end of four years of work with the teens, “Someone on the Hill” – interview with Fay Drezner, an interview with the Serano family, English can be fun ...and more

**We share in the sorrow of Ehud Cohen  
on the passing of his father, Moshe Cohen, of blessed memory.  
May you know no more sorrow.  
Beit Yizrael**



**Reminder from the Partnership House** (Beit Shutfut visitors houses):  
**Orders for Rosh Hashana will close on 20.08.25.**

**From: Rahel and Monica**



**To Ido H**  
**Have an Easy and Pleasant callup**  
**From all the Young Generation**

**681 days have passed since the 7<sup>th</sup> of October !**

**Israel Must Come to a Standstill!**

**Sunday 17.08.2025**



**General Strike!!!**

**This coming Sunday, 17.08.25,**  
**Day of Protest and Shutdown events**  
**calling for the return of the hostages and an end to the war!**

**You can take part in two events in our area:**

- **On Foot** – Everyone is invited to come to the Yizrael Junction for the loudest and biggest demonstration we have held so far!  
 The demonstration will take place between 07:30–09:00.  
 For more information, contact Daniel Hymes-Assaf: 052-4320585
- **Car Convoy** – Departure from the car park at 07:30 with vehicles from the kibbutz, heading to the assembly point at the Zim Centre at the entrance to Beit She'an. From there we will join a convoy from The Amakim, Gilboa, Ma'ayanot

and Afula.

To register for the convoy, message Alita Mor: 052-899-0942

- **Sign-making** – In addition, everyone is invited to prepare signs for both events on Saturday at 17:00 in the moadon.

Bring ideas, creativity, and plenty of motivation!

### **Shutting down the country for the soldiers and the hostages!**

Together we will bring the hostages back, together we will bring back hope! 🟡



## **Chag HaMeshek Thank-Yous**



**With the conclusion of the 77th Chag HaMashek of our dear kibbutz Yizrael, we wish to summarize and say thank you:**

We began on Sunday with the “Between Man and Place” exhibition in the Members’ Moadon, which drew many visitors of all ages. We have certainly changed over the years—some of those photographed are no longer with us—but this melody cannot be stopped...

On Thursday, with great excitement, we inaugurated in the former “Boikiz” hut the “Nogaria” – a delightful carpentry shop created by Noga Harpaz.

On Friday, we enjoyed a royal feast in the dining hall, followed by the splendid Bar Mitzva performance of the wonderful “Narkis” group. We ended the evening with an *electrifying* party at the agricultural farm under a full moon.

On Saturday, we slid together down the Beutler slide, spiked a few volleyballs, swam in our sparkling-clean pool, and enjoyed ice-pops, fruit, and hot-dogs in rolls made from 100% meat.

**Thanks to: all those who helped organise the event** (*Details in the Alon – Ed*)

With hopes for good news,

**Chag HaMeshek 77 Team:**

Ya’ara Habshush, Nachem Levin, Neta Blass, Shimrit Tzfadia, Diana Shorer, Yifat Segal, Uri Ayalon-Brustein, Yaniv Shorer, Meir Mashali, Shira Segal.





## **Thank You from the newly-arrived Shorer Family**



**Dear Yizrael community,**

A month ago, we arrived at the kibbutz, after a two-year journey since 07.10, during which we experienced much uncertainty and countless moves and changes. We are so happy and excited to have arrived here, and above all, deeply grateful that you opened your door to us and are giving us the opportunity to start a new life here in Yizrael.

From the first day, we felt such a warm, loving and embracing welcome. We want to pause and say from the heart—nothing for us is taken for granted.

Thank you to all the neighbours who, during our move, immediately came outside to help us unload everything we brought from the south, even in 40°C heat. For the lovely “Welcome” signs—in the home and in the dining hall. For all the people who gently approached us on the paths, at the pool, and in the dining hall, introducing themselves and greeting us.

Thank you to all the education staff who received our children with such sensitivity and attentiveness, for your dedication and professionalism. To the building and electrical teams who made our home so pleasant to live in. To the laundry for the clean and organized washing - and apologies for the mix-up with the numbers.

Thank you for the delicious meals in the dining hall! To all the office-holders who made time to meet us and explain their roles in the kibbutz. To the dear members of the Absorption Committee, who opened the kibbutz doors to us and planned such an orderly and pleasant welcome process. From our arrival until now, we have been undergoing a very structured, well-planned, and sensitive introduction process.

Thank you to our adopting family, the Sanker family, who received us with open arms, welcomed us into their home and family, and care for us constantly. And a huge thank-you to the one and only Keren Kagan, who has accompanied us hand-in-hand all the time, every day - helping with every little thing, every question, every meeting, and every step of getting to know the kibbutz. You are amazing, sensitive, and truly unique. We are so lucky to have you by our side in this period.

**A huge thank-you!**

Diana, Yaniv, Alma, Yam, and Amit Shorer





## A huge Thank You to the Volunteers who ran the holiday Activities

Video with Adva; Carpentry with Noga and Sarit; AI with Daniel; cycling with Dotan; fitness with Keren.



## Bar Mitzva Greetings

### Narkis Group — right to left by rows:

Top - Leshem Cohen-Schwartz, Amitai Sadur, Uria Darom, Romi Levi, Elia Ziv.

Middle - Gil-li Shechter, Neri Lifshitz, Noam Orozco, Matan Cohen-Tirosh.

Bottom - Noa Halevi, Hila Fink, Timor Nanikashvili





## **Greeting from Limor Griman, the Kibbutz Secretary**

Dear Narkis group – Uria, Elia, Amitai, Gil-li, Hila and Leshem, Matan, Noa and Noam, Neri, Romi and Timor,

This evening marks the end of a special year, which you have experienced both as individuals and as a group – one of Yizrael's most beautiful traditions. Some of your parents went through it exactly as you have, even with the same tasks. It's been a year of strengthening connections and the sense of belonging to the group, to the kibbutz, to our history, and to Israeli society.

We have watched you throughout the year growing, having meaningful experiences, maturing and developing – moving from childhood into adolescence. This has not been an ordinary year. Together, we have been through a time of upheaval. The war with Iran, which reached our very doorstep – both physically and emotionally – touched you as well and affected your Bar/Bat Mitzvah events. Alongside the fears and anxieties, we all shared, you also faced uncertainty and constant changes in preparing for this evening.

Within this complexity, together with the educational team and your parents, you persevered, supported each other, and took another step forward in both personal and group resilience. You deepened your sense of belonging – not only to the kibbutz tradition, but also to the Israeli reality, which, even if complex, is yours, and you are a significant part of it.

My wish for you, our boys and girls, is that, as you enter your teenage years, you will appreciate all the blessings you have – your home, your friends, your community – none of these should be taken for granted.

May you continue to ask questions, be sensitive and caring, act according to your inner compass of values and responsibility, pay attention to those around you – and also to yourselves. May you find beauty even in uncertainty, keep hold of hope – and above all, humanity. May you be good and loyal friends, open and respectful, seeing the good and doing good.

Your home, Kibbutz Yizrael, will continue to accompany you, believe in you, and support you whenever needed. We are honoured to have you here, with us and as part of us. Congratulations to the proud families celebrating with you today, their hearts full of love, pride, and hope.

Special thanks and congratulations to Tzafnat and Matan, your Bar/Bat Mitzvah year instructors, and to the youth counsellors, for an unforgettable year.

Mazel Tov to you, wonderful Narkis group! Enjoy your special evening – you have a warm and supportive audience here tonight, so be calm and just enjoy yourselves...

And to you, dear community, today we also mark the 77th anniversary of Yizrael's founding. A festive day for us in the midst of difficult and complex times in Israel. Our joy and satisfaction in what we have, in our small piece of heaven, is constantly mixed with worry and frustration about what is happening around us.

Our ability to cope with these challenges – and even try to change reality – comes from our community togetherness, our friendship, mutual responsibility, and shared efforts. I wish for us to preserve the beauty and uniqueness within us, to maintain our dialogue and friendships, and to keep our resilience, which has been tested more than once, especially in recent years, so that we can face challenges both from within and from outside.

**I will end with a prayer, hope, expectation, and demand – for the end of the war and the return of all 50 hostages home!**

Mazel Tov to everyone – may we know only peace and tranquility.

**Limor Griman**



## **Greeting from the Parents**

Dear children,

It's not easy to be a teenager in these crazy times: the world has gone mad, the country – well, best not to get into details, since we're here to celebrate – and even the kibbutz is facing challenges after prosperity. And in the middle of all this up in peace: a few friends, some TV, studying... just kidding.



many years of social and economic chaos, you – who simply want to grow TikTok, Instagram... maybe even some

In short – not easy. A **lot** of background noise, and not the good kind. Add to that the rehearsals until the small hours of the night, and it's clear why your attention span has gone somewhere even Ritalin can't help.

So, what do we wish for you – and for us (because we're parents, after all)? We wish for quiet. Quiet to grow, quiet to think, quiet to look around and see that with everything and despite everything, you (and we) are still lucky to live in a strong community that allows each and every one of you to pursue and choose your own right path. So, take this opportunity with both hands. We, for our part, will do our best to give you that space and filter out as much of the background noise as possible. So go for it, make good choices – but know that even when you make mistakes (and you will), we're here to protect and help you. And the hormones? We've got that covered! With love. **The Parents**

Read by: **Yaniv Lifshitz**



## Greeting from the Zachat

Dear Narkis group, today you finish your Bar/Bat Mitzvah year – and you made it through despite all the challenges!

And now, the moment you've been waiting for has arrived – tonight you are the stars. So, our wish for you for tonight: may the microphone not fall on stage, may you not mix up your lines, and most importantly – may you enjoy every second, because this is your moment! *(in English we say "break a leg and leave it at that, so as not to awaken the "Evil Eye" – Ed)*

Best of luck – with love from the Ma'ayan and Shibolim age groups.

Read by: **Itamar Tzafadia, Doron Alul, and Lia Axelrod**



## Greeting from the Youth Counsellors

Dear Narkis group,

It's so moving to see you standing here today. What a journey you've made to reach this moment!

We hope you are proud of yourselves – at least as much as we are of you. Just yesterday you arrived at the Zachat– little kids, noisy, sweet, sometimes annoying. A group that, like the narcissus flower, opens slowly and in its own time – but eventually blooms with great energy.

And what a year you've had: a day in the city, Masada, an Iranian attack, a change of directors, and many more exciting and challenging events. And now, this whole journey is reaching its peak – in the show you've worked so hard on, day and night – Narkis boys and girls – and we mustn't forget the hard work of your parents too.

We wish you the best of luck – may you remember all your lines, enjoy every moment on stage, and of course, support and encourage one another. We're so excited with and for you, and we love you very much.

**The Counsellors – Naomi Levin and Ofri Sharoni**



## Greeting from the Bar Mitzvah Year Instructors (Madrachim)

Dear Narkis boys and girls,

What a year we've had! It feels like we only started yesterday – and here we are, two years later (give or take – thanks to the Iranians...). We've been privileged to guide you through this challenging and special year – task after task, bonding, maturing, and

even having some fun along the way.

We've come to know each of you – your personal magic – and your magic as a group. There's no doubt that when you decide you're going for something – you are totally in! To get a bit sentimental – you've bloomed like real narcissus flowers, each in your own unique way.

We've seen you overcome obstacles, together and individually, helping and supporting one another, speaking in a mix of invented languages, and between quarrels always remembering to make up.

We won't go on too long – you're probably not really listening anyway...

We wish you to enjoy and make the most of every moment in the show and in this evening – and remember, today is YOUR day!

Don't forget to say Hi when we meet on the paths. **Matan Rabinovitz and Tzafnat Mor**



## **Farewell Messages for Shimrit Tzfadia, parting from the Youth Group after 4 years**

### **Parents' Message**

Dear and beloved Shimrit,

We can't let you go without making sure you know a few things about yourself, and about what we, the parents, have received from you over these four wonderful years... Shimrit, or Shim as we all call you, a true educator from head to toe.

With genuine sensitivity and wisdom, you know how to touch the heart of every child, to contain difficulties, to accept differences, and to be a confidante and counsellor to all. You lead the teams (which tend to change quite often...) with determination, with thought behind every activity, and with endless diligence. Always organised, overseeing everything like an octopus with eight arms... announcing everything in advance via WhatsApp messages, and sending unforgettable photos from numerous, varied and special activities—important events, and also the simply amusing situations.

It's impossible not to notice how much the teens are attached to you, surrounding you at meals in the dining hall and arguing over who gets to sit next to you... It's also impossible not to see how much you truly and sincerely love them.

And because of that, we have been blessed with you. We, the parents, appreciate and

thank you for the investment in education, for setting boundaries when needed, for your love for our children, and for the connection you built with us, too. These have been four years in which we knew they were in good hands.

Shim dear, it's important you know that all this is said and written from the heart. Don't think we say this to just anyone, or that we decided to throw out a few clichés and see what happens. You are the real thing—one of the best educators, if not *the* best.

So now, as you leave, take with you all our thanks, appreciation and love for who you are, and succeed on your new path!

With love and esteem, from all kinds of parents: the anxious worriers, the less involved ones, and those who called every day—even seven times a day...

Read by: Ranit Levy and Adva Lifshitz

### **Team's Message** - Ofri Sharoni & Naomi Levin

Our Shim,

True, you ran from our age group (Schivah) like it was on fire, but how great that our paths finally crossed...

Let's admit it—what would you do without us? After all, you needed a bit of young spirit to balance out your “old-soul” remarks...

So here are a few wishes:

- That you enlarge the font on your phone, because we're tired of watching you hold it far from your face to read.
- That your notebook never gets lost and your pens always work.
- That no one deletes important files and spreadsheets from your computer.
- That your next group of trainees will be *much* less amazing than the current ones—because really, how could they possibly surpass them?
- That you pray and grow stronger on our behalf—Amen. (*Something esoteric here. Don't try and understand. That's what happens in tight knitted groups – Ed*)

And above all—that you enjoy your new path.

Now seriously: it's not easy to part from you—the leader, the mum, the friend you've been to us. Thank you for welcoming us with open arms, for guiding, mentoring, teaching, and leading us. Thank you for always being available for even the silliest

questions, for all the gossip, laughs, nonsense and complaints, and for providing us with so much material to tease you about...

You are an inspiration to us—we've learned so much from you. Shim, see how many people you've touched along your way, and how extraordinary that is. You've reached deep into the heart of every trainee and counsellor in your own unique way. The woman who knows everything about everything, who's always on top of things, and even if something goes a bit wrong along the way—you're always full of creative solutions.

We truly love you so much, appreciate you even more, and we're not really saying goodbye—because we'll keep consulting with you, and we're sure we'll meet again on the paths and at the carts (*Another esoteric reference? – Ed*) for coffee and gossip.

Ofri Sharoni & Naomi Levin



## **The Rimon Group Graduates from School**

Members of the Savion Group: Ofek Granot, Ella Armoza, Gabi Emerick, Dvir Hollander, Talia Mor, Yiftach Cohen, Adi Suliman, Ido Hader, Raz Griman, and Shira Epstein Cohen.



The Rimon Group experienced many challenges during their teenage years. Their Bar/Bat Mitzvah year took a turn with the outbreak of COVID-19, lockdowns, and masks. Later, they faced wars and events that even threatened the completion of Year 12. Despite all the complexities and challenges, the “Rimons” managed to persevere and acquire many tools

and skills along the way. We are very proud of the path they have taken and wish them great success in the challenges that the future holds for them

### **The Team's Message**

Beloved Rimonim,

Twelve years have passed, and now you are finishing 12th grade, standing here “on a hill above all the rest.” Behind you is the baggage you have gathered from school, the kibbutz, and the educational system. Ahead lies the first step in your adult lives – some in a year of service, some in the army. Rimonim – the noisy cohort, the joy, the endless energy, and the huge heart.

A class bursting like a pomegranate (with love, and with an explosive spark), you have gone through every possible upheaval: a bar/bat mitzvah year that vanished because of a certain “small” virus, a war that drove you from your rooms so you could make way for evacuees, and finally, an Iranian attack that hardly left you time to finish properly. It seems there’s always some unexpected challenge waiting just around the corner. But you, Rimonim, can handle anything – overcoming every obstacle and, in the end, even managing to laugh about it all. You were not always a close-knit group, and at times you couldn’t stand each other, but over the years you became a cohort with real togetherness – knowing how to lift each other up, to hug, to laugh, to drive everyone crazy, and to have fun together.

And now, as you leave the nest, we wish for you to remember to embrace the challenges ahead: take with you your love, sensitivity, strength, and values, and set out on your new path. Believe in yourselves and trust your instincts, don’t be afraid to ask for help, seek meaning in the things you do, and always remember that we are here for you. May your journey be filled with endless opportunities, laughter, joy, enjoyment, and success! Keep bursting into life – we trust you, we are proud of you, excited for you, and yes, even a little sad. Love. Zohar, Ofri, Naomi, and Shimrit





## Ofek Granot



- **Specialisation:** Art and Social Sciences
- **Favourite subject:** Art
- **Significant teacher:** Chen Aloni

**Memorable school experience:**  
Finishing school.

**Best memory from the youth programme:**

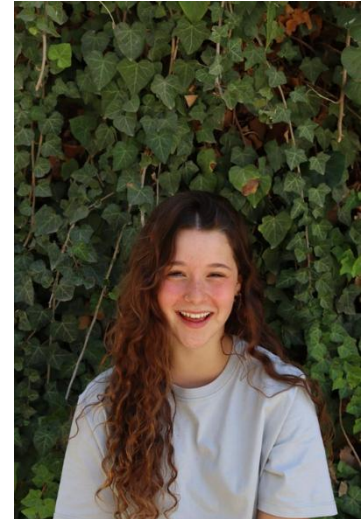
All the trips and retreats over all my years in the youth group.

**Message to those who follow:**

Start seeing the world in an optimistic way and remember that everything will always be alright.

**Plans for the coming years:**

Next year I will do a year of service at "Gal Sheli". I don't yet know about the army, and afterwards I plan to work and go travelling around the world



## Ella Armoza



**Specialisation:** Art, Arabic  
**Favourite subject:** History  
**Significant teacher:** Ronit Keshi

**Memorable school experience:**  
Volunteering in Nitzana at the beginning of the war.

**Best memory from the youth programme:**  
The Annual trips.

**Message to those who follow:**

Enjoy your high school years and make the most of them with your friends.

**Plans for the coming years:**

A year of service at the "Tuvia" boarding school for youth at risk.



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## Gabi Emerick



**Specialisation:** Dog Handling  
**Favourite subject:** Library Science  
**Significant teacher:** Mai

**Memorable school experience:**  
The bus rides home from school.

**Best memory from the youth programme:**  
That no one asks me questions.

**Message to those who follow:**

Matriculation exams are not what will guarantee you a good life.

**Plans for the coming years:**

Finish writing my film ✨



## Dvir Hollander



**Extended Subjects:** Physics and Computer Science  
**Favourite Subject:** History  
**Significant Teacher:** Adar, the Mathematics teacher  
**Memorable Experience from School:** Annual trips

**Memorable Experience from Social Education:** Annual Trips (Tiyulim)

**Message to Those Who Come After:**

Teacher services –

a once-in-a-lifetime experience



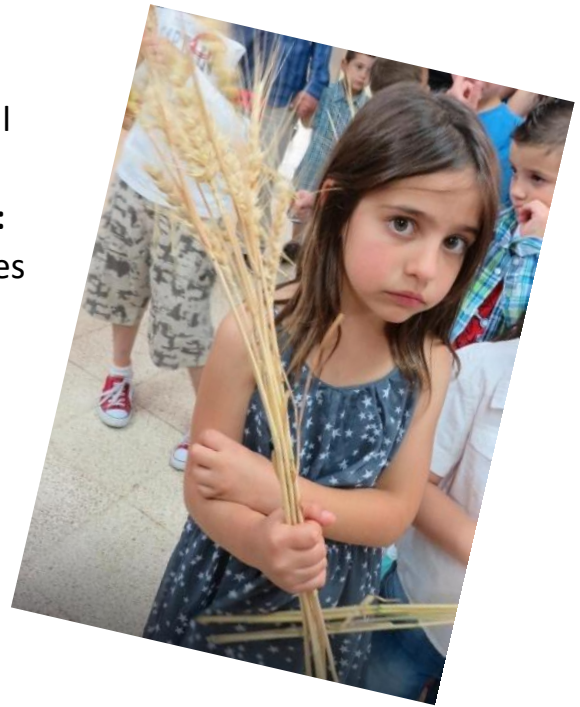
## Talia Mor



**Extended Subject:** Social Sciences

**Memorable Experience:** Summer holiday activities in the Tlaton

**Future Plans:** Living and playing football in Tel Aviv



## Yiftach Cohen



**Extended Subject:** Mechatronics

**Favourite Subject:** Physical Education

**Significant Teacher:** My homeroom teacher, Shikma

**Memorable Experience from School:** Volunteering at Nitzana

**Memorable Experience from Social Education:** The Annual trip to Ma'agan Michael

**Message to Those Who Come After:** The matriculation exams are not as hard as they say

**Plans for the Coming Years:** A year of public service.





## Adi Sloman

**Extended Subject:** Physical Education

**Favourite Subject:** Physical Education

**Favourite Teacher:** Rachel, my homeroom teacher from 7th to 12th grade

**Memorable Experience from Social Education:** Trip to Eilat



**Message to Those Who Come After:**

Don't smoke or drink – it ruins your body 😬



## Ido Hadar



**Extended Subject:** Information Technology

**Favourite Subject:** English

**Significant Teacher:** Kobi Deitch

**Memorable Experience from School:** Graduation celebration

**Memorable Experience from Social**

**Education:** Trip to Elifaz

**Message to Those Who Come After:** It goes by so fast you don't even feel it

**Plans for the Coming Years:** To develop in rugby



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## Raz Griman



**Extended Subjects:** Mechatronics and History

**Favourite Subject:** History

**Significant Teacher:** Chen Abramovich

**Memorable Experience from School:** Graduation celebration

**Memorable Experience from Social Education:** Raft-building trip

**Message to Those Who Come After:** Come work in the dairy



## Shira Epstein



**Extended Subjects:** Chemistry and Theatre

**Favourite Subject:** Theatre

**Significant Teacher:** Ronit Keshi (English)

**Memorable Experience from School:** They allowed us to have our final performance despite the Iranians.

**Memorable Experience from Social Education:** Grade 6–7 duet

**Message to Those**

**Who Come After:** Be good people and don't get stuck in the past 🙄

**Plans for the Coming Years:** Chilling out in Sinai.



## Updates from the Demography Cluster – Yishai Levi

### Young Generation

- Congratulations and best wishes to Dvir, Maayan, and Ido on their enlistment into the IDF. We wish you much success on your new path!
- We remind all young members who have large overdrafts in their accounts that they must act immediately to close the deficit. At the end of the calendar year, the overdrafts of young members will automatically be transferred to their parents' accounts, (but this is not a good solution). We ask you, the young members, to take personal responsibility and act quickly to cover the debt.
- On Friday, 29.08.25, we will hold a summer party for the young generation at the community farm.
- A warm welcome to Yuri Olenik, who has come to live here in the kibbutz. Yuri is a lone soldier who immigrated from Ukraine. He serves as an active athlete and plays rugby on our team. Yuri will live in the Young Generation housing. Host family – Anna and Brent Abramovich. Committee liaison – David Beutler. We wish you an easy and pleasant integration here in the kibbutz.
- Welcome back to the Matalon family – Alon, Maayan, and Yarden – who are returning to the kibbutz. The family will join the Young Generation track and will live in the housing (below Naomi's).  
Alon works as a mechanical engineer at the “Tzur On” factory in Ma’agan Michael. Maayan is completing her master’s degree in developmental psychology, and in October will begin an internship in the field in Afula at a half-time position. At the start of the school year, Maayan will also begin working half-time as an employee at Talton Tavor (together making a full-time job). Their daughter, Yarden, will start in the Petel nursery at the beginning of September. Our and the couple’s aspiration is to begin the absorption process in the coming months, after completing all stages and receiving approval from the Absorption Committee. We wish you a pleasant integration and much success!

### Housing

- Niv and Shira Segal will soon move into a 54 m<sup>2</sup> apartment in the Lower Tzameret neighbourhood, above Nitzan and Rotem Kamilian.
- The apartment of the late Ruti Becker is now open for tender as a permanent residence. The apartment is 110 m<sup>2</sup> (it will not be enlarged beyond this) and has no protected space (Mamad). Internal renovations will be carried out as needed, taking into account the requests of the incoming tenant. The apartment is open for those interested to visit. Applications should be submitted in writing to Nitzan Kamilian, Housing Committee Coordinator, by 29.08.25.

## Absorption

**Pre-Absorption** – We are working simultaneously with two future absorption cycles:

1. **Summer 2026 Absorption Cycle** – About 10 families remain in the process, from which 6 will be selected to join in the summer. We are now in the stage of home visits, with committee representatives visiting each candidate family in their home.
2. **Summer 2027 Absorption Cycle** – We have completed the candidate collection stage. Fourteen families have registered for the pre-process, and have now been sent for external evaluation.

## Absorption Process

1. About two weeks ago, an absorption seminar was held in the Members' Club, dealing with the topic "Decision-Making in the Kibbutz." Many thanks to Shlomo Cohen, who facilitated and led the seminar.
2. The committee reviewed the results of the anonymous surveys conducted among the candidates. Significant insights emerged, helping the committee improve the guidance and support for newcomers. We thank the members who took part in the survey.
3. On Sunday, 17.08.25, at 17:00, a meeting will take place at Or B'Giv'ah, where families nearing the end of the absorption process will meet veteran members of the kibbutz for an introductory conversation.

Message: Yishai Levi, on behalf of the Demography Cluster



## Discussion for Parents of Grades 1–6

**From the Committee for the prevention of Sexual Harassment and the Social Education Team.**

On Tuesday, 05.08.25, a meeting for parents of Grades 1–6 was held at the Members' Club with Irit Luzia, Director of the Afula branch of Elem.



The meeting was held in collaboration with the Gilboa Welfare Department, and the social education team with the aim of providing parents with in-depth information on the following topics:

- Developmental characteristics for different ages (6–12) and distinguishing between behaviour appropriate or inappropriate to the stage.
- How to reduce risk-taking behaviours.
- The internet as a source of exposure to harmful content.
- Warning signs to be aware of.
- Tools for talking to our children about sexuality.
- Familiarity with treatment resources available for consultation, guidance and therapy.

At the end of the meeting, time was given for questions and concerns raised by parents.

We hope this meeting contributed to and enriched participants' knowledge in the field.

Thank you to all the parents who found the time to attend.

**Message from:**

Doron Kagan – on behalf of the committee.

Ofri Ziv – on behalf of the Social Education Team

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## **Official Opening of “The Nogaria”**



**Noga, hard at work**

## Welcome to “The Nogaria” – Our Carpentry Workshop - Noga Harpaz



How exciting it is to stand here today, in this hut – a place full of stories, which has changed its function many times over the years.

It all started with one simple discussion. I was sitting with Kinneret, Head of HR, and Inbal, Head of the Third Age committee, ahead of my retirement.

I shared my dream – to do carpentry. Something I had always enjoyed with Benny

Segal on weekends, and whenever I had free time. Without hesitation, Inbal said: *“I have a room for you in the Or B’Givah building!”*

And so, the dream began to take shape. I started a small morning workshop for the seniors, and from there things just happened. More and more women of all ages joined.

**The Nogaria** became a place for creativity, workshops, classes, and social gatherings in a warm and welcoming atmosphere, with the scent of wood and soul.

The hut where we stand today began its life as a rugby hut, built from the wood of another hut dismantled in the Young Generation area. It served as a changing room for the players, and then in 2006 underwent further renovation by many members, on a minimal budget, and became a pub called *“The Boikiz”*.

It was a meeting place not only for rugby fans but for all members of Yizrael – with lots of music, gatherings, drinks, and barbecues. Later it was used as an equipment storeroom, and there was even talk of dismantling it – but then, thanks to good people, the hut got a new life.

Today, about 30 women are part of the journey. We have children’s classes, group workshops, creative projects, and making connections between people. You can see an exhibition of work, a children’s creative corner, refreshments, drinks – and lots of heart.

A deep thank you to everyone who contributed, believed, volunteered, and helped. We chose to thank you with a small flower planter – a symbol of growth and creation.

And a big thank you to all the women for the beautiful works, the efforts, the preparations, the help, the baking, and the organising. Without you, this would not have been the same. Your hearts and hands have made this event what it is.

**The Nogaria** was born from a small dream – and became a place of great belonging for all of us. *Written by: Noga Harpaz*

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## Someone on the Hill – An Interview with Fay Drezner



### Childhood and Family



I was born in Melbourne, Australia. My parents came from Poland in 1938 with my older sisters, who were then five years old, just before the outbreak of the war. They were immigrants who arrived with nothing, worked very hard, and opened a small shop selling cigarettes and tobacco. The customers were simple working-class people, many of whom could only afford to buy two or three cigarettes at a time. Gradually, the shop grew, and so our situation improved. At home, we spoke Yiddish, and on Sunday mornings I attended Yiddish school, where I learned to read and write Yiddish. Later, my younger brother was born, making us four children in the family.

### Meeting Aryeh and Aliyah to Israel

I met Aryeh at the age of nine in the Habonim youth movement. We were together both in high school and in the movement – first as participants, later as counsellors (Madrachim) – and at sixteen we began dating. At eighteen, he went to the Institute for Overseas Youth Leaders in Jerusalem (Machon) and returned full of enthusiasm for



Israel. I was studying at a teachers' college in Australia. At the age of 20–21, we married.



Next step was agricultural training at a place called “The Jewish Farm,” with two cows and a pear orchard. We learned a little farming and a lot of cooking. From there, we set out on our journey to immigrate to Israel: we sailed from Melbourne to Naples over four weeks, stopping in India and at the Suez Canal. From there, we travelled for three months in Europe and arrived in Israel with another couple. We reached Haifa in the middle of the night – and from there to Yizrael. The housing lottery determined that we would receive a small hut without indoor toilets or a shower. It was a big shock for me, coming from orderly Australia, but the warm and welcoming young community in the kibbutz made the adjustment easier.

### **Life and Work in the Kibbutz**

My first job was with a group of babies – four children: Bat Shachar Omer, Omri Fink, Oded Marcus, and Guy Shelef. I had no previous experience with infants, but Marnina and Rosa guided me. I cared for them from infancy until kindergarten age, for three years. The group was called *Zamir*. When they moved on to the newly built



kindergarten, the name moved with them (Gan Zamir)

Later, I moved on to teaching English – a profession I worked in for about 45 years. I taught both in Australia and here, at the Emek Harod school. I trained new teachers, and in recent years worked in remedial teaching with 2–3 children at a time. This was work I particularly loved

and found deeply rewarding.

Aryeh began in field crops, a job he greatly enjoyed, and later was among the founders of “Yizrael Electronics.” He worked in the building branch and served as Coordinator (Merakez). His great hobby was carpentry – he learned from his uncle, worked in the

carpentry shop on Saturdays, and fixed anything needed in the kibbutz. He also taught friends the trade.

### **Starting a Family**

I was unable to conceive, and this was especially hard in a young kibbutz full of families with children. We decided to adopt, and after six months we received a baby – Yair – directly from the hospital in Haifa. Everything was ready at home: a crib, blankets, clothes, and nappies. Yair was ten days old.

We felt we had to give all our love to another child, and soon after we adopted a baby girl – Nira – when she was 22 days old. Seven years later, to our surprise, I became



pregnant and David was born.

Today, Yair is married to Michal , a father of two sons, lives in Hod Hasharon, and works in importing jewellery from Thailand. Nira married Tamir and they live in Afula. Nira is a kindergarten teacher, and mother of four. David lives in Melbourne, owns a moving company, is married to an Australian girl, Taylor and has two sons.

### **Kibbutz Life and Social Involvement**

I was active in many committees – Education, Personal Members Committee, Housing, and Health. When the lower housing complex (The “Hod” Neighbourhood) was built, I was coordinator of the housing committee, and we held a lottery for house locations – it was not an easy time.

I remember the early years – the austerity period – when only pregnant women received pasteurised milk and extra fruit, while everyone else received milk directly from the cowshed. Despite the hardships, the social atmosphere was good, we celebrated holidays in style, and there was a genuine sense of partnership.

In the 1980s, during the economic crisis, many people left, but we decided to stay.

### **Hobbies and Day-to-Day Life Today**

I’m not creative in art or painting, but I greatly enjoyed the stained-glass classes, which I attended for several years. Today, I work two days a week in the bakery – an old connection from summer holiday work, when I was a teacher. I also go to Pilates, classes, work out in the gym, and spend time with my daughter Nira, who lives nearby and takes good care of me.

## **What I Love About the Kibbutz**

For me, the kibbutz is like living in paradise – a beautiful and well-kept place, with a sense of safety, care, and support. We have a warm and close-knit community.

## **Looking Back and a Message to the Next Generation**

When I look back at my life, I have no regrets – I have a wonderful family, work I loved, and good friends. There are moments of loneliness in the afternoons, but I remain optimistic.

My message to the next generation: family is very important. And I wish us all quiet and peace in the country.

*Interview: Inbal Adler*

*Transcription: Daniel Assaf & Rochela Matalon*



## **Pleased to Meet You!**

**Interview with the Serano family: Dekel, David, and the children – Yuval, Omer, and Rotem.**





Hello Dekel and David, let's start, from the beginning. Tell us a bit about your childhood – where did you grow up?

**Dekel:** I was born in the Krayot, and when I was five we moved to Mitzpe Adi. I studied in Nahalal all through school.

**David:** I was born in Guatemala and only immigrated at the age of 20.

**How did your family get to Guatemala?**

My mother's family got on the wrong ship – they intended to go to America but didn't understand which "America" ... and my father's family was from Spain and moved to Guatemala.

**Is there a large Jewish community there?**

No. It's like a kibbutz – in my school year we were only about ten Jewish kids.

**Why did you decide to emigrate to Israel?**

Israel was always part of our home. My mother was in Israel when she was 18 – she lived in Kiriyat Shmona and loved it, so for her Israel was always *the* place to live. We always talked about Israel and what was happening here. I was in the "Maccabi HaTzair" youth movement, where we spoke about fulfilment and joining the army. My sister also lives in Israel, in Kibbutz HaHotrim, and the rest of the family stayed in Guatemala.

**So how and where did you meet?**

We both worked at Plasson in Ma'agan Michael in a "preferred job" for discharged soldiers, but we actually met on the beach there...

**And after Ma'agan Michael, where did you live?**

**David:** I always wanted to study at Sapir College, so I moved to the Gaza Envelope area, I joined the Ayalim Association, and lived in Ofakim. We kept in touch.

**Dekel:** I stayed at Ma'agan Michael to make some money then travelled to India, and when I returned, I joined David in Ofakim and studied mechanical engineering at the college in Be'er Sheva.

**Tell us about the Ayalim Association.**

It's an association that builds student villages in towns in the periphery, aiming to bring students from major colleges and universities out of the big cities into the periphery. For example, instead of living in Be'er Sheva, they live in Ofakim or Sderot and help develop the city. It's about social and community involvement. Students in their first year are treated like "seeds that need to sprout" – they must volunteer in the city, and in the second year they take on more responsibility and join village committees. The

goal is that after four years of study, students form a connection to the city and move there permanently, or form settlement groups that move to other peripheral towns.

We were in the Ofakim group and were supposed to move to Ein HaShlosa, but decided that the Gaza border area wasn't the right place for us to raise children. Still, it was important for us to live in a cooperative kibbutz.

**Do you still have connections with friends from the Ein HaShlosa group?**

Absolutely. We have very close friends there who were badly affected by 7 October. Many terrorists entered the kibbutz, and our friends fought them fiercely. One friend gave birth to a baby on 6 October, and her mother, who came to visit, was murdered there.

**So how did you hear about Yizrael?**

We started an absorption process in Yotvata, but then COVID came, and all the new members were sent home. We don't like living in the centre of the country – we always look for the periphery – so we decided to head north. We returned to Mitzpe Adi. My mother-in-law (David speaking) visited "Neomi's" and was very impressed by the kibbutz. My mother (Dekel speaking) is a friend of Noga Shapira, but we didn't tell her about the pre-absorption process until we arrived at the kibbutz. At the same time, we began a process with Kibbutz Bar'am. Then there was a Zoom call with Uri Gilad and many interested people. During the call, many people dropped off when they heard it was a cooperative kibbutz, but we stayed on, listening eagerly. That's how we came here – with Yuval and Omer. Rotem was born on Yizrael.

**What's your first memory of Yizrael?**

We arrived on 31.08 (two years ago) in the afternoon, sweaty and exhausted. We were very impressed with the dining hall. A month later, the war broke out – a very traumatic day, with our friends in Ein HaShlosa, in Ofakim, and my aunt in Be'eri, with whom we lost contact in the afternoon. The people here helped us – the Laviv family is our adoptive family, and we were with them. It was a very difficult day. The kibbutz absorbed many evacuated families from the south and north, and many members thought we were evacuees too.

**Where do you live?**

Above the Chikorel family.

**How do you manage in a small apartment with three children?**

For us, it's big enough. We know how to organise the house. We spend a lot of time outdoors with the kids, who are thrilled with everything in the kibbutz.

**Where do you work?**

**David:** I manage the entire education system on Heftziba, from birth to 12th grade. In early childhood age group, there's a good team. With the older kids, I'm responsible for everything – administration, training, staff psychologist... whatever is needed.

**Challenging?** Yes, but I love it. I love working with people. I couldn't work in a factory or a closed place. I enjoy the complexity of working with both parents and children. I have strong support from the Education Committee and the community director. They let me run with my ideas. I've been in this role for quite a while. Apparently, there was no staff stability before I started.

**Dekel:** I work at Maytronics as a production engineer and enjoy every moment. I really like going to work. Even in these complicated times at Maytronics, I feel people truly care. There are changes, which aren't easy, but I'm optimistic – I believe we can get through it with patience and I see the light at the end of the tunnel. We just need to hold on and breathe deeply. I believe we will get through this.

**What do you like to do in your free time?**

Right now, we're in the race of life – work, kids – so not much free time, but we enjoy it. We love running around with the kids, playing with them, travelling, and playing frisbee.

**You have a huge, beautiful dog – what's his name?**

"Baloo". He's 5 years old. He arrived when Omer was born. We adopted him from a shelter in Sderot – he had been with a child with special needs who used to climb on him and pull his hair, and the dog never moved. Eventually, his sister had to return him to the shelter. We arrived exactly at that time, saw how sad she was, and both said: "There's no way this dog stays here even one night." He's been with us ever since.

**He seems really sweet.**

Yes, Baloo – just like Baloo the Bear. He's part of the family.

**What do you connect to most in Yizrael?**

The holidays in Yizrael are very moving. We've been in other kibbutzim, but the feeling here is something else. We especially remember Hanukkah – I (Dekel) was on the Hanukkah team, and seeing the children's faces in the dining hall when all the lights went out... Yuval felt like he was in a play at Habima Theatre. It was truly powerful. Also, Shavuot – the children talked about the holidays long afterwards. It's a real sense of community.

And the freedom for the kids to roam around the kibbutz – they go everywhere, barefoot, in the mud, among the cows and thorns, riding their bikes – it's exactly the childhood we wanted for them. And the general atmosphere – the human warmth and

acceptance of newcomers – we haven't experienced this anywhere else. We know other kibbutzim, but here we got a real embrace. Even in the dining hall – if I'm busy, someone clears my plates. We're not used to that and have had to learn to accept the help.

### **Anything to add?**

We want to say that we've been blessed with a wonderful adoptive family – the Lavivs. They're really like grandparents to the kids. They've been with us through every moment. These two years have been very complex, with both the war and the new place, and we truly love them. And in general, thanks to everyone for the warmest, most genuine welcome.

Thank you – it's been very interesting, and lovely to hear the good things about Yizrael. Wishing you the best of luck!

**Interviewer:** Zohar Assaf



## **Jezebel in the Chocolate Kingdom**



It was a stormy, exciting and emotional week, especially for the Narkis group and their amazing parents. After we had to postpone the Bar Mitzvah end of year performance because of the war with Iran, the long-awaited moment finally arrived, and on Friday, in great splendour and glory, we celebrated together with the kibbutz, guests and families– the play *“Narkis in the Chocolate Kingdom”*!

Without a doubt, it was a wonderful performance, and the Narkisim were amazing! (And I'm not biased at all...)

The Narkis group began their magical journey to the Chocolate Kingdom, where they met Willy Wonka himself and his loyal helpers – the Oompa-Loompas. On their way, they had to complete tasks and adventures, boarded the magical Chocolate Train, danced, sang, and devoured plenty of delicious chocolates.

In the end, they received the coveted key to the kingdom, but to Willy Wonka's disappointment, the Narkis group decided there's no place like home on the kibbutz, and they bid farewell to the kingdom, to Willy, and to the friendly Oompa-Loompas with songs and dances.

The moving evening concluded at the pool, with pizzas and a perfect chocolate cake, made by Naomi Shechter.

Thus, came to an end another Bar Mitzvah year, and this is the opportunity to thank all the many people who took part in this year in one way or another –without them it

wouldn't have been such a successful year at all.



I came home exhausted and happy, trying to gather new strength for another challenging week in the surreal reality called the State of Israel.

Jezebel... Written by: Tzafnat Mor

Photography: Ofri Ziv



## Meeting with Yaya Fink – 19.08.25, in The Pub

This coming Tuesday, we will host Yaya Fink for a discussion about hope and the current situation. At the organisers' request, a list has been posted on the bulletin board. If you plan to attend, please register. If there are not enough registrations, the meeting will need to be cancelled.

For those unfamiliar with him – here is some information about the man and his work, taken from Wikipedia:

Yair (Yaya) Fink, born in 1984, is a social and political activist. He is one of the leaders of the campaign for equality in sharing the national burden and currently serves as head of the Social Justice faction and department in the Histadrut (General Federation of Labour). He was born in Jerusalem, educated at the Religious Kibbutz Yeshiva in Ma'ale Gilboa, and completed his military service as an officer in the Paratroopers Brigade.

### Public Activity

He managed the field headquarters of the Tag Meir Association. In 2014–2015, he was one of the founders of the "Ofek" credit union. In 2015, he founded the lobbying initiative Lobby 99, which he led until 2019. In 2016, he was chosen as one of *The Marker's* 100 most influential people, and in 2017, together with Linor Deutsch, was listed among *Calcalist's* promising young people.

Between 2020 and 2022, he served as CEO of the “Darkenu” movement, during which he established the independent media channel DemocratTV. As head of the Social Justice Department, he also works to educate the younger generation, is active in advancing LGBT workers’ rights, and campaigns for the rights of reservists in the workplace.

In 2019, ahead of the 21st Knesset elections, he ran in the Labour Party primaries, winning the 8th slot, but did not enter the Knesset. Ahead of the 25th Knesset elections, he ran again in the party primaries, won 6th place, but once more did not enter. In that campaign, he established the Religious Zionism headquarters within the party.

In 2023, with the start of the 25th Knesset term, he became one of the leaders of the protest against the judicial overhaul. He established the “Liberal Consumer Headquarters” in response to boycotts by right-wing activists against businesses supporting the protest and initiated the “Liberal Tag” which unites such businesses.

Crowdfunding projects he initiated or took part in include: The rehabilitation of Kibbutz Be’eri



## **Cut and Keep – Energy Reminder:**

### **Summer Season is Long and Expensive!**

#### **Big change in TOU (Time of Use) electricity rates!**

Summer began in June, continues through July–August, and only ends at the end of September.

#### **You have been warned!**

Summer is still here... hot, hotter, very hot... also in terms of electricity rates.

**Kids!** Remember to turn off the air conditioners when you leave the house! Parents too...

#### **TOU Hours and Electricity Rates in Summer**

Valid until the autumn rates in October.

#### **Reminder!**

If you have Shabbat timers operating your water heater, you must adjust the operating



hours according to off-peak times. Check that the clock is set correctly!

A solar water heater works from solar heat alone until October.

- If the sun heats the water sufficiently – great!
- If not – you can turn on the electric water heater manually. Remember to switch it off after half an hour! Otherwise... you might only notice when the electricity bill arrives at the end of the month.
- If you have a solar water heater but not enough hot water for a morning shower, there's a new programme that supplies electricity for one hour early in the morning – leave a message at the electricity office and it will be handled.

#### **Air conditioner maintenance tips:**

- Clean the filters every two weeks.
- Check that there's drainage from the outlet pipe to prevent water from backing up into the unit.
- Set the air conditioner to 24°C or higher – every degree lower increases consumption by 5%.
- Adjust the vents upwards – cold air sinks!
- Reverse the fan rotation so that air trapped near the ceiling is pushed downwards.
- **Always turn off the air conditioner when leaving home or the office – close windows and doors!**

#### **Approximate cost of running air conditioners**

*(Prices in shekels – per hour during peak/off-peak, and monthly cost for continuous 24/7 operation at different temperatures)*

Type of AC	HP	kW	Cooling Capacity	Cost/hr Peak (17–22)	Cost/hr Off-Peak	Monthly Cost 20°C	22°C	24°C
Wall-mounted	1	0.75	9,000 BTU	0.98	0.26	₪152	₪137	₪123
Floor-standing	1.5	1.13	15,000 BTU	1.47	0.39	₪229	₪206	₪185
Wall-mounted	2	1.5	18,000 BTU	1.95	0.52	₪305	₪274	₪247
Wall-mounted	3	2.25	30,000 BTU	2.93	0.78	₪457	₪412	₪370

Type of AC	HP	kW	Cooling Capacity	Cost/hr Peak (17–22)	Cost/hr Off-Peak	Monthly Cost 20°C	22°C	24°C
Mini central	4	3	35,000 BTU	3.91	1.04	₪610	₪549	₪494
Mini central	5	3.75	45,000 BTU	4.89	1.29	₪762	₪686	₪617
Central	6	4.5	55,000 BTU	5.86	1.55	₪915	₪823	₪741

On average, **80% of summer household electricity consumption costs** comes from air conditioning! With the kids at home – remind them too!

#### What to do between 17:00 and 23:00 (peak hours):

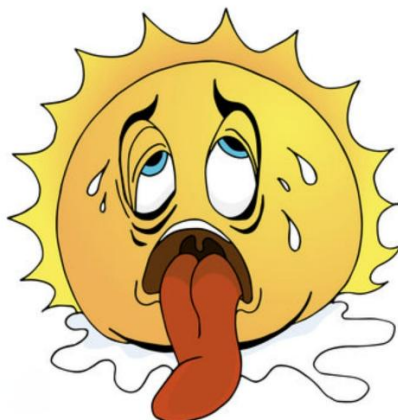
- Spend more time at the pool.
- Cool the house before 17:00, then raise the thermostat to 26°C to maintain the chill.
- Eat in the communal dining hall.

#### The good news in the new TOU:

All daytime hours and weekends are off-peak, so you can enjoy a cooled home at reasonable costs – this was not the case in the old TOU system.

**Wishing us all a pleasant and happy summer – and above all, that peace will come and everyone will return home.**

*Jeremy Perling, Energy Supervisor*





## Or B'Giva

### Activity Schedule – 17–21 August 2025

Every day from 08:30 to 12:00 – Coffee, cake, discussion, and table games

Day & Date	Activity
<b>Sunday 17.08.25</b>	09:30 – <i>Documentary Lecture Series: Mysteries of the World – The Holy Grail</i> 17:00 – <i>Meeting between veteran members and newcomers</i>
<b>Monday 18.08.25</b>	09:00 – <i>Sweet and Cold with Monica</i> 08:00 – <i>Pedicure with Limor Moalem (appointment required)</i> 10:00 – <i>Lesson with Gal Witelson</i> 10:30 – <i>Water exercise with Eyal Tirosh</i>
<b>Tuesday 19.08.25</b>	09:00 – <i>Arrival of the Grandchildren's Summer Camp</i> 10:00 – <i>Bingo with the grandparents' children</i> 11:00 – <i>Arts &amp; crafts / games...</i>
<b>Wednesday 20.08.25</b>	09:30 – <i>Lecture with Rochela Matalon</i> 10:30 – <i>Water exercise with Eyal Tirosh</i> 10:00 – <i>Film with Galia Shami</i>
<b>Thursday 21.08.25</b>	10:00 – <i>Open ceramics room with guidance from Ziv Ben Bashet</i> 17:15 – <i>Chair exercises with Michal Shaanan</i>
<b>Sunday 24.08.25 – Thursday 28.08.25 – <u>Summer break</u></b>	



**THE WICKED WIT OF WINSTON CHURCHILL**

While campaigning in 1900, it is said that the young Churchill was doing a spot of canvassing when one of those he approached exclaimed, "Vote for you? I would rather vote for the Devil." Churchill answered, "I understand, but in case your friend is not running, may I count on your support?"

"I see it is said that leaders should keep their ears to the ground. All I can say is that the British nation will find it very hard to look up to the leaders who are detected in that somewhat ungainly posture."

"When I am abroad, I always make it a rule never to criticize or attack the government of my own country. I make up for lost time when I get home."

"The inherent vice of capitalism is the unequal sharing of blessings; the inherent virtue of socialism is the equal sharing of miseries."

"Trying to maintain good relations with a Communist is like wooing a crocodile. You do not know whether to tickle it under the chin or beat it over the head. When it opens its mouth, you cannot tell whether it is trying to smile, or preparing to eat you up."

Asked in 1952 by a Labour MP if he, the Prime Minister, was aware of the deep concern felt by the British over the question of the Korean conflict, WSC answered, "I am fully aware of the deep concern felt by the Honourable Member in many matters above his comprehension."

"Politics is like waking up in the morning. You never know whose head you'll find on the pillow."

During his long life, Churchill - as a boy noted for failing exams - received many honorary degrees. In 1946, at the University of Miami, on being awarded his doctorate of law, he remarked, with a neat allusion to a famous



line he had uttered some six years before: "Perhaps no one has ever passed so few examinations and received so many degrees."

In one of the many documents that came his way, a civil servant had gone out of his way to be grammatically correct, and had clumsily averted ending a sentence with a preposition. Churchill scribbled in the margin, "This is the sort of English up with which I shall not put."

An American general once asked Churchill to look over the draft of an address he had written. It was returned with the comment, "Too many passives and too many zeds." The general asked him what he meant, and was told: "Too many Latinate polysyllables like "systemize", "prioritize" and "finalize". And then the passives.

What if I had said, instead of "We shall fight on the beaches", "Hostilities will be engaged with our adversary on the coastal perimeter



### **Credits:**

**Editor of Hebrew Newsletter: Reut Shaliv**

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Proofread by: Chazz Broadhurst

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**Disclaimer 1:** The Edi-tor 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 Edi-tor'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.***