

The Yizraelite – No 2209 Date: 30.5.25

Kibbutz Yizrael

600 DAYS AND THEY ARE STILL THERE!!!!!!



High school children, Amal Emek Harod



Elementary school children, Emek Harod



People from all the settlements in the area on the 600th day at 6:00 AM

Geva-Gidona interchange.

Pool opening hours in June, July, and to mid-August

1/6/25-19/6/25

Weekdays: 08:00-13:00, 15:00-19:00

Fridays: 08:00-13:00, 15:00-19:00

Saturdays: 10:00-19:00

20/6/25-14/8/25

Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays: 08:00-13:00, 15:00-19:00

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays: 08:00-13:00, 15:00-21:00

Saturdays: 10:00-19:00

Report from the Joint Meeting for the Community Management and the Education Council - 25.5.2025

Participants: Yifat Segel, Kinneret Govrin, Maor Parsai, Shlomo Levy, Yael Auster, Ofri Ziv, Avishag Sharoni, Noga Harpaz, Limor Griman.

Presentation of the internal audit report on the activities of the Education Cluster — Early Childhood and Social Education.

(Invited: Uri Greenberg — Internal Auditor, Shai Witelson, Nicole Amarik — Audit Committee, Adi Goldstein-Ilan — Outgoing Social Education Director).

Uri Greenberg, the internal auditor, presented a draft of the audit report conducted on the activities of the Education Cluster.

Questions were asked, and emphasis and clarifications were provided by the managers of the audited systems.

The community leadership approved the submission of the report to the Kibbutz assembly.

Limor Griman



Did you know? -

- The running speed of a cheetah is faster than that of a horse.
- The roar of a male ostrich is even louder than that of a lion.
- A female mackerel fish lays approximately 500,000 eggs each time.
- The number of hairs on the average human head reaches to about 100,000



Yitzchak Peleg

Report from of the H.R. Management Meeting - 25.5.2025

Participants: Irit Shemesh, Peter Pezaro, Eddie Solow, Rochela Matalon, Navot Asaf, Shlomo Cohen, Limor Griman, Ilan Sadur, Kinneret Govrin.

1. Guiding Principles for Professional Ethics in Official Kibbutz Forums

Invited: Members of the Appointment Committee for Committees, members of the role-finding team.

Periodically, there is a need to clarify the issue of ethics in various managements, committees, and work teams, in order to prevent the intrusion of outside considerations and unprofessional conduct. Additionally, the Appointment Committee has sought more formal guidelines on the subject.

The kibbutz is a multi-generational society with a small community, which sometimes makes it difficult to find suitable members to participate and be involved in public activities. This can lead to situations where close relatives or very close friends sit together in the same forum. Due to this, and because of the unique lifestyle of the kibbutz, it is very important to regulate the ethical issue. A formal decision will help the Appointment Committee and the role-finding teams act in accordance with what was agreed upon, uniformly, improving professionalism and public perception. It will also protect relationships within families, which are sometimes strained due to kibbutz issues.

Regulations:

The Cooperative Societies Ordinance contains regulations from the Registrar of Cooperatives regarding the members sitting on the management board and audit committee, which disqualify relatives from sitting together.

- On the management board: siblings, spouses, parents and their children, and their spouses cannot sit together.
- Prohibited on the audit committee: a member of the management board or their relative, a senior officer in the kibbutz or their relatives, a member of the Assembly committee, a person with signing authority in the kibbutz or their relative, or an officeholder or their relatives in kibbutz companies where the kibbutz's audit committee operates.

Audit committee members cannot sit on the management board or in the holdings' board, but in committees it is possible and with discretion.

Given our unique lifestyle, the following proposal was brought for discussion and decision:

1. In management, committees, teams, and various forums in the kibbutz with decision-making authority, first-degree relatives (spouses, parent and child, siblings) cannot sit together on the same committees.
2. Close relatives (brothers-in-law, cousins, etc.) will not sit together in forums with sensitive decision-making.
3. Kibbutz members are expected to act with high ethical standards and to recuse themselves from discussions and decisions involving a family member or close friend (beyond what is explicitly stated in this decision). It is the relevant forum manager's responsibility to ensure this.
4. The role-finding and appointment bodies must aim to involve as many members as possible in decision-making bodies and to avoid multiple roles for one member as much as possible.

In the discussion, it was said:

- We thank the Appointment Committee members for their efforts to involve as many members as possible in committees, and thanks to those volunteers who contribute their time freely.
- The Appointment Committee seeks clear guidelines for appointing members to committees and management.
- The kibbutz has about 35 committees, councils, and managements, and given its small size, it is already difficult to fill these positions. Limiting relatives would make it even harder, so the proposal could be impractical.
- It is sufficient to ensure the process is professional and transparent, and there is no need to codify this ethical guideline in a general procedure. Moreover, it is not necessary to be stricter than the Cooperative Societies Regulations.
- Most of the selection process occurs before public announcement, and it is the responsibility of the Appointment Committee to see the bigger picture, distribute roles among as many members as possible, and prevent conflicts of interest.
- Since proposed committee members are usually accepted by consensus without in-depth discussion at the assembly, it is important to create a prescribed procedure on this topic.
- Because defining "close relative" is difficult, this cannot be enforced as part of the decision.
- The internal auditor notes whenever close relatives sit in the same forum.
- It is not permissible for a committee coordinator to select their own team members; the Appointment Committee is involved in this process.
- On one hand, we trust that managers and committee members will know when to recuse themselves; on the other hand, there are cases where relatives do not recuse themselves from discussions involving their relatives.

During the discussion, there was debate whether to keep these principles as a statement of intent or to make them a binding decision. Also, whether to tighten the regulations according to the Registrar of Cooperatives and whether to apply these decisions to all forums in the kibbutz where decisions are made.

Decision:

1. On managements, committees, teams, and forums with decision-making authority, first-degree relatives (spouses, parent and child, siblings) will not sit together. Exceptional cases will be discussed by the H.R. management before being brought before the assembly – Ed).
2. It is the responsibility of the relevant forum manager to act ethically and ensure recusal from discussions and decisions involving a family member (even beyond what is explicitly stated here).
3. Role-finding and appointment bodies will strive to involve as many members as possible in decision-making and avoid multiple roles for one member.

If no appeal is submitted within a week, this decision will be integrated into the organizational structure document under the section on Committees and the role of the Committee for Appointment of Committees



From the Desk of The Committee for Filling Committee Positions (Iyush Tafkidim)

The Committee is issuing a "call to all members" to submit nominations for:

- Coordinator of the "Sportiyulim" Committee
- Community representative on the Community Management Committee (Hanhalat Kehillah)

Nominations can be submitted by any committee member until June 12, 2025.

Kinneret Govrin, Albert Rosilio, Liran Pen, Navot Asaf, Dotan Savir, Sheli Edelstein,
Hedva Shaharabani

Reported by: Hedva Shaharabani



Summary of the Education Council Meeting 13.5.25

Participants: Noga Harpaz, Ofri Ziv, Sarit Laviv, Avishag Sharoni, Neta Ratzin Blass, Nir Baor, Adi Goldstein Ilan, Gal Peleg Witelson, Yael Auster, Limor Griman.

Updates: The Internal Auditor conducted an audit of the Education Cluster. The audit report will be presented at a joint meeting of the Community Management and the Education Council, and thereafter forwarded to the Assembly.

*** Fencing of the kindergartens under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education:**

Due to the security situation, the department mandates that the kindergartens "Rimon" and "Alon" be fenced. A preferred fencing layout has been prepared from our perspective. After approval by the (regional - Ed?) council, it will be presented to the public. The implementation plan is scheduled for the end of August.

***Management of the Education System During Strikes.** Yael Auster, Head of Early Childhood, presented the sequence of events from the moment the Ministry of Education announced a strike, and the contradictions that arose (support for education staff versus maintaining educational routines). The Kibbutz Movement allows each kibbutz to make independent decisions. Yael outlined all the "clients" of the education system: the community, the system, educational teams, parents, children, and the striking party, each with their own difficulties and needs. *(A discussion was held but no decisions were reached – Ed)*

***Chevra HaBogeret Rooms (Std 9 & 10 - Ed) — Ongoing Discussion:** Adi Goldstein-Ilan, who is leading the process, described what has been done so far: Rounds of discussion were held, involving about 30 youths and 40 members, most of whom have children in the social education system from grades 1-12. The discussions were lively and interesting. It emerged from these discussions that the topic is very important, and that it's not always clear who is responsible for the youths residing in the rooms. Adi presented the strengths and complexities that arose from these discussions. Moving forward, a parent meeting will be held with Simona Aloni-Levi, an organizational and educational consultant, which will include a lecture and a discussion of dilemmas. Adi also presented additional recommendations for the continuation, primarily to extend the decision-making timeline until October 2025, with a deadline of December 2025.

The significance of this decision is that the members of the "Ella" group, entering 11th grade, will move into the rooms in August 2025 as planned, and the decision here or there will not apply to them. Extending the timeline will allow for ongoing dialogue with parents and enable a more informed decision, without the pressure of time. The request to extend the timeline was unanimously approved by the Education Council. Further discussion at the next Education Council will focus on two issues:

- a) The purpose of living in the Chevra HaBogeret Rooms.
- b) The division of responsibility between parents and the education system.

Reported by: Limor Griman



1. Promotion of Community Management Goals in the Food Sector

The community management has set goals for review in the food branch in three areas:

- The manner of distribution and use of the public resource
- Prevention of food waste
- Culinary adaptation to the needs of the majority of the public.

A review team, consisting of Tamir Blass, Noa Armoza, Daniel Asaf, a representative of the food branch, and Erez Peleg, will examine ways for the food sector to address the needs, taking into account the current financial situation and to propose improvement strategies.

The topics will be examined based on economic, service, and public behaviour impact parameters.

The team will gather data, study the current situation in depth, think of ways to improve, and present alternatives to the community management by the end of October 2025.

2. Renovation of the Kolbo and Kitchen The renovation project of the kolbo and kitchen has been discussed for over a decade. The renovation is necessary due to the aging of the structure and the deterioration of the various systems required for its operation. Additionally, the building needs to meet the mandatory standards of the Ministry of Health. We must improve accessibility and expand the kolbo, and enhance working conditions.

Over the years, various alternatives for the kolbo's location were considered, also we discussed the feasibility of relocating the entire food branch. These options were rejected, and it was decided to renovate the building in its current location.

Despite choosing the less expensive option, the financial estimate for the renovation is very high, and at no point in recent years have enough funds been accumulated to carry out the entire project. To address the lack of funds for a full renovation, it was decided to renovate only the parts that directly affect the building's functionality—the

kolbo and kitchen (excluding the dining hall)—and to plan the project as a phased, ongoing process in accordance with the budget limits.

A detailed plan of the project, costing about 800,000 NIS, is included in this year's work plan. However, reality presents us with a dilemma: on one hand, it is correct to perform comprehensive planning to guide the various phases; on the other hand, old systems are failing and require immediate attention to avoid shutting down the kitchen. For example, the dishwasher broke down, forcing us to purchase a new one and renovate the dishwashing room. Similarly, we are facing the collapse of the steam system.

A team has been established to examine needs and options for progressing with the project. The team will submit its recommendations to the community management by the end of June.

Around the kibbutz:

- **Sports Hall Cladding:** Currently, external wall cladding and roof treatment are underway for the sports hall. The goal is to prevent moisture ingress through the walls, which could cause interior damage, and to prevent bird entry through roof openings. This project is part of the annual work plan.



Cladding is the application of one material over another to provide a skin or layer. In construction, cladding is used to provide a degree of thermal insulation and weather resistance, and to improve the appearance of buildings.

Wikipedia will enhance your knowledge!

- **Strengthening Shade Network Poles:** This week, work was carried out to reinforce the poles of the shade nets in Duvdevan Kindergarten. These reinforcement works were required for safety reasons and are included in the annual work plan.
- **Northern Neighbourhood:** Construction work is progressing according to plan. The first apartments will be ready for residents to move in at the beginning of summer. *(And I thought summer was already here? Just goes to show. When the first houses are ready it will be summer. Hope it doesn't snow.... Ed)*

That's all for now. Wishing you a happy Shavuot holiday,

Erez Peleg



Seeking Variety for Friday Night Shabbat Meals – Brief Summary

In response to your requests and our desire to add variety to Friday night Shabbat dinners, we reached out through all our preferred communication channels to the entire community — inviting suggestions for new or refreshing dishes to diversify our Shabbat evenings.

Some numbers:

- Only 15 community members responded to the survey
- The youngest respondent was just 12 years old! (Bravo!!!!)
- A total of 28 dishes were proposed
- The majority of responses focused on meat dishes only
- Some dishes are not feasible to implement due to various reasons or are too expensive or complex for regular preparation
- We received one particularly humorous and encouraging compliment — thank you to the person who offered it! 😊



Thanks to all who responded. The number of dishes considered for implementation depends on factors such as availability of ingredients, preparation complexity, and scheduling. Some selected dishes will be added to our menu immediately.

Happy holidays, and may we good hear news coming soon, (Preferably **LITERAL** rather than **FIGURATIVE** please, Bibi – Ed)

Food Department

It's rare enough to see flying Carp. But to get a picture of a bird hitching a ride on a flying Carp...one in a gazillion.



A Tip for Every Pocket

Following Gila Azulai's lecture on smart financial management

Last week, a lecture was held for the kibbutz members on smart financial conduct — how to operate within the budget, how to get out of the overdraft if there is one, and how to properly manage household shopping.

The workshop was led by Gila, the daughter of Benny and Philippa.

I asked Gila to publish tools that can help everyone with their financial management, and she chose to focus on the list of rules she uses for household shopping. Gila's article follows. With thanks

Limor Griman

Golden Rules for Shopping at the Supermarket -

Shopping for the home and at the supermarket occupies a very significant place in the family's monthly expenses.

It is possible to manage quite well without compromising your standard of living.

The main challenge in the kibbutz is mainly the availability of the kolbo, the habit of social gatherings after work or other activities or after meals.

So, what can you do about it?

1. The most important and meaningful principle is to **shop once a week** without any "extras"!

When we enter the supermarket or grocery store just for one small item, we almost always leave with a few more things.

For example, if I entered the supermarket to buy milk, I won't leave with a purchase of less than 150-200 shekels because I remembered a few more things and suddenly I want something else. Sounds familiar?

2. **Planning is the key to success:**

First step, check what you have at home—what's in the kitchen cabinets, refrigerator, freezer, bathroom, and laundry cabinets.

Note: We want to focus on what we have, not what is missing.

3. Prepare a smart shopping list:

Create the list based on what is needed for the upcoming week to avoid "extras."

Weekly planning will ensure you have everything needed for the week at home.

And don't forget to stick to the list during shopping.

4. **Set a weekly shopping budget:**

Decide how much money you want to spend at the supermarket each week.

5. **No stock at home!**

Stockpile is money sitting in cabinets instead of in the budget.
We want only what we need for the upcoming week at home.

6. **When you're hungry, you buy more!**

Avoid shopping on the go; come with a prepared list and after checking what you already have at home.

7. **Shopping with children is significantly more expensive:**

It's a great opportunity to teach children financial lessons—decide together when and how much they can buy at the supermarket.

8. **Price comparison:**

It's important to know the prices and to choose the product that suits you at the best price.

9. **Don't forget to check the bill:**

Sometimes discounts are not updated in the system, or products are accidentally scanned twice.

Checking the bill can save you dozens of shekels on each purchase.

Summary:

If until now you haven't checked your shopping cart and entered almost every day for "extras," now is the time to stop and plan your shopping.

Check how much you are spending today—subtract from your budget and credit card statement how much your monthly expenses are—you'll be surprised by the total amount you spend each month.

Then, decide what amount you want to stick to using the rules listed here.

Even if it seems complicated or requires too much time or effort, I promise that if you adopt all the tips listed here, you'll save hundreds of shekels a month.

Even if you adopt only some of the tips—you're guaranteed significant savings!

For those who don't know me:

Nice to meet you, I'm Gila, the daughter of Benny and Philippa.

When I finished my commitments to the kibbutz, I moved to Tel Aviv and started working at a bank.

In 2012, I left the bank and opened a business for coaching and financial consulting, and I've been doing this ever since.

If you have questions about financial management in general, or if you're in the red in your budget and are tired of it and want things to be different, feel free to talk to me, and we'll see how I can help you.

Gila 052-6036414





Notes from the House of Music



Northern Lights (Nordic Music) – This Year's End of Year Concert

All the viewers who attended the Nordic Music concert last week at Beit Tzizling, left at the end of the concert with an elevated feeling and much appreciation for the powerful musical experience they had been privileged to enjoy.

The show included a variety of pieces: from Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg, to a song by the band ABBA, classical to modern music from the Nordic countries, all accompanied by video clips in the background on the stage. The performers were the students of the Music House along with their instructors, all under the baton of Stass Gavrillov. At the end, we listened a large orchestra that filled the entire stage.

Many in the audience were the parents and families of the students who worked hard throughout the year, practiced, and attended numerous rehearsals to elevate the quality of the performance. Besides the families, the audience included residents from the area and music lovers, who already knew from past experiences about the spectacular musical experience awaiting them. This year, the production excited beyond all expectations. Following the concert, messages arrived to Stass and the Music House with thanks from many parents who appreciate the education their children receive at the Music House and the immense contribution to their development as young artists and as individuals.

I don't have children or grandchildren studying at the Music House, unfortunately, and I arrived with expectations based on my knowledge of the wonderful activities happening there. But I left at the end of the show, amazed and excited. Like others, I enjoyed it enormously and am grateful that there are teachers and students nearby dedicating their time and efforts to be part of this wonderful orchestra and to bring us such a perfect evening, all under Stass's direction.

There are still echoes of the concert on the wind, and soon you will be able to watch it on YouTube – to enjoy it once again or see what you missed. In conclusion, it's always worth staying updated on the activities of the Music House and making sure to attend. Every time anew, you will be filled with pride and joy.

Meida Nechustan, on behalf of the volunteers at the Music House

(I was fortunate enough to be at that concert. I was in a state of WOW all evening. I try to go every year. I always come away with a personal feeling of fulfilment...even though I know I had nothing personally to do with the success. Well done, Stass,

teachers, students, volunteers and parents. See you next year and at as many concerts as I can, in the interim. You should too!!! – Edi-tor)



Energy – The summer season is long and expensive!



Major changes in tariffs! Summer begins in June, continues through July - August, and only ends at the end of September. Beware!

Children!! Remember to turn off the air conditioners when leaving the house! Same for parents...!!!!

Summer tariffs and electricity rates, until autumn rates in November:

Sunday to Thursday

Peak – from 17:00 to 23:00

(THERE IS NO INTERMEDIATE RATE ANY MORE!)

Off-peak – all other hours

On Friday nights and holidays – all hours – off-peak

On Saturdays and holidays – all hours – off-peak

Cost per kWh high voltage without VAT:

Winter – Peak: ₴0.8613 \ Off-peak: ₴0.2742

Summer – Peak: ₴1.2973, \ Off-peak: ₴0.3223

Transition season – Peak: ₴0.3070 \ Off-peak: ₴0.2667

The cost of electricity during peak hours is almost 4 times higher than in the previous season! Beware!

Reminder!

For those with “Shabbat clocks” operating the water heater, you need to change the heater's operating hours according to off-peak hours. Make sure the time is updated!

Solar water heaters work solely on solar panels until October!

For those who have enough hot water– excellent! For those who don't, you can turn on the electric heater manually. **Remember to turn it off after half an hour!**

Otherwise... you'll find out you forgot only at the end of the month when you receive the electricity bill...

New! For those with solar water heaters which don't provide enough hot water for the morning shower, there's a new plan providing electricity for an hour early in the morning – leave a message in the electricity department, and it will be arranged.

Don't forget to clean the air conditioner filters every two weeks. Check for drips from the drain pipe to prevent flooding inside the unit. Set the air conditioner to 24°C or higher; every degree lower increase electricity consumption by 5%.

Adjust the air vents upward – cold air sinks... downward! *(The Bold font is for my wife – Ed)* Change the direction of the ceiling fans to blow trapped air from the ceiling area downward.

Remember to close windows and doors for more efficient cooling. Remember to turn off the air conditioner when leaving home or the office –

How much does it cost to run an air conditioner per hour?

<u>Air Conditioner</u> <u>Type</u>	<u>Horsepower</u>	<u>Cost per Hour at</u> <u>Peak (17:00-23:00)</u>	<u>Cost per Hour at</u> <u>Off-Peak</u>
Wall-mounted AC	1	0.97	0.24
Floor-standing AC	1.5	1.46	0.36
Wall-mounted AC	2	1.95	0.48
Wall-mounted AC	3	2.92	0.73
Mini-central AC	4	3.89	0.97

<u>Air Conditioner</u> <u>Type</u>	<u>Horsepower</u>	<u>Cost per Hour at</u> <u>Peak (17:00-23:00)</u>	<u>Cost per Hour at</u> <u>Off-Peak</u>
Mini-central AC	5	4.86	1.21
Central AC	6	5.84	1.45

Note: 80% of the household electricity consumption on average during summer is due to air conditioning! The children are at home – remind them too! *(or send them to Safta – Ed)*

So, what do we do between 17:00 and 23:00?

Spend more hours at the pool, cool the house before 17:00, then raise the thermostat to 26°C to keep it cool, and eat in the dining room...

There is also some good news with the new tariff: all daytime hours and weekends are off-peak, so you can enjoy a cooled home at reasonable costs. It wasn't like that with the old tariff.

Wishing us all a pleasant and happy summer – and most importantly, let peace reign and all the hostages come home.

Jeremy Perling, Energy Commissioner



MAZEL TOV

Shimona Celebrates 90

Last Saturday, we celebrated our mother/grandmother Shimona's 90th birthday with family at the Kibbutz moadon.

After enjoying a variety of delicious foods (thanks to the kitchen staff, Haim's bakery, Idit Halevi, and our family),

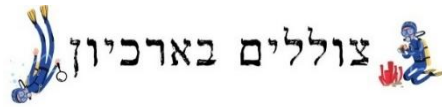
we prepared a program called "In Shimona's Living Room," where we hosted family members who shared stories about key moments in her life—childhood, Jerusalem, the kibbutz, Eliyahu of blessed memory, children, grandchildren, travels, learning, culture, and cooking.

The event was intimate and emotional.

This is an opportunity to wish Simona a long life, clarity of mind, good health, peace, and satisfaction with what is happening in the world, in the country, in the kibbutz, and within the family.

With love, Arnon, Rochela, and all the Matalon family





Delving into the Archives



This year, once again, we will hold the Bikkurim Ceremony and continue the tradition of the beginning of Yizrael. Nitza Halevi and Zimra Baram, Malka Dror and Yona Eshet appear in the photo **on the left**, early 1960s.

And on the right in the photograph are Eliyahu Matalon (z"l), Roni Matalon (z"l), Eli Tzifroni, Zimra Baran, and Efrat Agmon...and more. In the photograph, six scythes can be seen. Only a few of us remain who are still capable of working with a scythe. Can you identify any other people in the pictures?



New English Books in our Library

The Plot / Jean Hanff Korelitz

The Life I stole / Nikola Scott

Sea of Memories / Fiona Valpy

Library during the Festival of Shavuot: On Sunday, the library will be open from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM. On Monday, the library will be closed.



In honour of International No Tobacco Day (May 31)



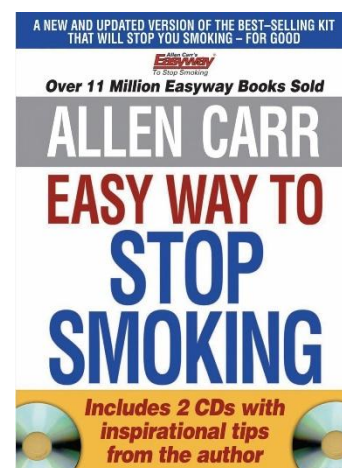
We are reaching out to anyone looking to quit smoking but unsure where to start, or even if it's possible...

The Health Cluster has purchased a limited number of copies of the book "The Easy Way to Stop Smoking" by Allen Carr, which we would be happy to give to members who are considering breaking free from cigarettes. One more copy has been purchased for the library for regular borrowing.

Allen Carr's method does not rely on scare tactics, moral lectures, guilt, or emphasizing the harms of smoking, but rather on a deep understanding of the psychological addiction, which, in his view, is the main factor in cigarette dependence.

Furthermore, we offer a subsidy for a face-to-face smoking cessation workshop by Allen Carr, a workshop that many kibbutz members have successfully used to quit smoking and stay smoke-free. (The subsidy will also apply to other smoking cessation programs). We will reimburse 20% of the workshop cost, up to a maximum of 1,000 NIS. The offer is valid until August 31, 2025, and is also open to teenagers.

Provided by: Talya Arad



Shavuot on Yizrael

Festival Program:

1.6.25 - Self-Service Dinner

Traditional Agricultural Games

2.6.25 – 17:45 First Fruits Ceremony

(next to the rugby field)



ENGLISH IS FUN with Rahel

Extract from: "Crazy English" book by Richard Lederer

SOUND and SENSE (continued)

Listen now to the sounds of vowels in the middle of words:

What happens to the pattern of internal vowels in strong irregular verbs: *sing, sang, ring, rang, rung*? Place your thumb and forefinger on your Adam's apple as you say these words aloud and you will notice that, as the verbs move backwards in time (today I sing, yesterday I sang, for years I have sung) the vowels themselves echo the process by travelling back in the throat.

Consider the short *i* vowel in words like *little, kid, slim, thin, skinny, imp, shrimp, midget, pygmy and piddling*. What do these words have in common? They all denote smallness or slightness. Why? Perhaps because, when we pronounce the short *i*, we tighten our lips together and make our mouths small.

Now that you are opening your ears to sound and sense, consider these questions about a few sounds that come at the end of words.

Why is it that many words ending with *-ing* echo with metallic resonance: *bong, boing, gong, ping, ring, clang* and *ding-dong*?

Why is it that the final voiceless stops *p, t* and *k* come at the end of quick-action words, like *pop, clip, snip, snap, rap, tap, slap, whip, pat, cut, slit, hit, dart, flit, crack, click, flick, smack, whack, strike* and *peck*? Robert Browning put this pattern to sensitive use in "Meeting at Night."

A tap at the pane, the quick sharp scratch
And blue spurt of a lighted match.

Why are almost all words that end with *-unk* unpleasant in their suggestions: *clunk, junk, punk, drunk, dunk, skunk, flunk, bunk, funk* and *gunk*?

Why do so many words ending in *-ush* have to do with water: *flush, gush, lush, mush, rush, slush* and (orange) *crush*?

Why does the following cluster of *-allow* words convey qualities that indicate a lack of something? A *callow* youth lacks experience, a *fallow* field lacks use, a *sallow* complexion lacks colour and a *shallow* mind lacks depth.

As a final example, why do so many words ending in *-ump* suggest a round mass: *clump, rump, lump, bump, mumps, plump, stump* and... **Trump**

No wonder the great wordsmith and creator of children's stories, Lewis Carroll, named his rotund egg *Humpty Dumpty*. Now there's a writer who could really hear and feel the sounds of English words.

Mark Twain plunked the following description into the middle of his "Double-Barreled Detective Story". Read the passage and reflect on the power of beautiful English words:

"It was a crisp and spicy morning in early October. The lilacs and laburnums, lit with the glory-fires of autumn, hung burning and flashing in the upper air, a fairy bridge provided by kind Nature for the wingless wild things that have their homes in the tree-tops and would visit together; the larch and the pomegranate flung their purple and yellow flame in brilliant broad splashes along the slanting sweep of the wood-land; the sensuous fragrance of innumerable....."

Now that you have read several dozen words that are considered to be the most beautiful in our language, is it possible that we find these words to be lovely just as much for their meanings and associations as for their sounds?

Clearly the impact that words have on us is baffling. Sound and meaning work their dual magic upon us in ways that ear and mind alone cannot always analyse....

Consider, for example, the foreign couple who decided to name their first daughter with the most beautiful English word they had ever heard.

They named the child Diarrhoea..... more next week





Activity Plan – Beacon on the hill. June 1 to May 5, 2025

Every day from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM: Coffee, cake, conversation, and board games

Day and Date | Activity

Sunday and Monday, 1.6.25 and 2.6.25 | Happy Shavuot Holiday

Tuesday, 3.6.25 |

9:00 AM - Gathering with coffee, cake, conversation, and board games

Holistic treatment with Shulamit Fink – please coordinate arrival with Shulamit

10:00 AM - Movie with Galia Shemi

Wednesday, 4.6.25 |

9:00 AM - Gathering with coffee, cake, conversation, and board games

9:30 AM - Blooming Nature with Hamutal

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM - Open ceramics room guided by Miki Touz

Thursday, 5.6.25 |

9:00 AM - Gathering with coffee, cake, conversation, and board games

9:30 AM - "Carpentry" with Noga Harpaz

9:30 AM - Flora

10:00 AM - Ganon Rimon visit (Rimon Kindergarten)

5:15 PM - Chair exercises with Michal Shaanan

Credits:

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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.

