

**The Yizraelite – No 2171 Date: 15.8.24**

**Kibbutz Yizrael**

## **Edi-torial**

And we wait for the outcome of the talks.... Too scared to get our hopes up. Let it be.



# **BRING THEM HOME !**

## **The 76th Anniversary of Kibbutz Yizrael, 9/8/2024**

**Limor Griman, (Incumbent Kibbutz Mazkira)**

Good evening, and happy birthday to our beautiful kibbutz.

This year, the 76th year of Yisrael's existence, was almost entirely marked by war.

Our kibbutz history tells and echoes many of our experiences today.

The Yizrael of 1948 tells us about the necessity to take responsibility for the protection of the home.

The Yizrael of 1973 tells about the many men who were recruited at noon and traveled to a distant front for a long period of time.

Even 1991's Yizrael (the Gulf War, remember?) can tell us something about nerve-wracking waiting periods and sealed-off rooms.

And all the Yizraelis tell us that alongside the difficulty there is a fruitful routine, mutual guarantee and the strength of a group that faces the hardships together.

What will history write about Yizrael in 2024?

It will be an episode about the mobilization of a generation that, at the moment of truth, put itself on the line - about boys and girls who interrupted trips abroad, work routines or studies and went to the front, about family members who left their home, partner and children and went to defend the country.

It will also be a chapter about the people who, amidst the shock and pain, fear and worry, took full responsibility for the security of the kibbutz - managed an emergency system, established an active, equipped and trained emergency response squad almost from scratch, volunteered to guard the gate and fences for many days.

It will also record those who with strength and supreme effort maintained the routine of life and normality - the industries that, despite the lack of workers, increased their productivity, the culture that was preserved and adapted sensitively to the situation, and about those who joined volunteer activities wherever it was needed in the country.

Surely one of the important pieces will talk about the mobilisation of a small kibbutz to welcome into its bosom over 100 people who were evacuated from their homes, people who received their physical needs from us, but more importantly received a warm welcome. All of us contributed our part to the effort, with an open heart and a willing mind.

We were able to do this because we are a community, because we have the power as a group which envelops the individual and does not leave him alone to his fate. I believe that being on the giving side strengthens and empowers us, and as long as this is possible, we must continue to give of ourselves.

The Yizrael, that is celebrating its 76th birthday today, is no longer a child, it has some beautiful wrinkles and white hairs, and it tells us that it has already gone through several difficulties and crises, it was able to overcome obstacles in the past and it will be able to in the future. We will overcome this because there are so many caring and talented people here, who work and contribute their time, on committees and take on responsible positions. There is an exciting multi-generational fabric here, which brings together young people with veterans and creates a home.

I would like to thank on behalf of the members of Yizrael, Yifat Assaf, the secretary of the kibbutz for the past six years, who in her special, sensitive and loving way, and with her constant faith in human nature, made Yizrael an even better place.

I cannot end without remembering and reminding ourselves that even at this time when we are celebrating, there are 115 women, men and children in the Hamas tunnels, and we want and demand their return to their families as soon as possible.

Happy holiday, dear Yizrael,

And may it be that in our 77th year we will be able to dream of peace again.

Limor Griman, 9/8/2024

## **Nir Baor**

The huge gap between the happy anniversary year of the 75th anniversary and the worries that nestle in our hearts tonight, on the 76<sup>th</sup> anniversary, is a gap that is difficult to fathom.

The seventh of October became more than just a date - a war and the loss of lives and hostages on a scale we never thought possible. Our conception of public leadership and personal example collapsed in the face of the conduct of our heads of state. Maytronics shares plunged. We all came to understand that the "Yellow Gates" do not protect us from anxiety or pain, from the direction that extremist elements want to lead the country, from the risky behaviors of teenagers or from the climate crisis that is rapidly raising the question of which of our agricultural crops will survive in the future?

This gap is also felt in our daily lives. Yes, on the one hand there are vegetables and bread and meat in the dining room, in abundance. There is a functioning leadership (good luck to Limor!), there is great freedom for the children, and the swimming pool waters are cool and inviting. The horticulture branch is growing and expanding, the dairy has gone into partnership and grown, Maytronics is working on new developments, the agricultural farm (Chavah) continues to fulfill educational missions all over the valley. The gardens and the service branches do their best to make life pleasant for us both in the public domain and in our homes. Many members go out to volunteer, and even the building permit for the new neighbourhood was finally received. On the other hand, there are Iranians and Houthis, Hezbollah, worry and uncertainty...

These gaps cause us to ask the most basic questions:

Can we really go on living like this here? Is this the fate of our generation, is this the choice of our lives? What kind of society will we leave to our children?

Is it okay to go on vacation when there are hostages in Gaza? What, and who can be trusted? What is important and what is actually valuable to me? Is it even possible to say "Shalom" without feeling uncomfortable? Can I cry? Can I criticize?

Is it permissible and possible at all to ask these questions, in the face of the terrible cost of human life and spirit, and the wounded and maimed in this long war?

Well, yes. It is permissible and necessary to ask these questions because they express humanity and represent the idea that there is value and meaning to the life of every human being. The answers can be different and personal. What I am sure of, is that in the face of these realities and gaps, which also represent a certain helplessness, and anxiety, our community, our kibbutz, has the ability to create a reality of hope. A reality that is based on reaching out and the absence of judgement, on creating togetherness and helping others, on taking financial responsibility, on gratitude, on mutual respect, on acting in the code of friendship.

It's true, I don't have control over all circles of life in the country. But if I have friends, I have hope that it will be easier for me to cope even in the reality of uncertainty and ambiguity. Friendship is something that comes from the heart, from a desire to give, from confidence in who I am. Friendship is related but not bound to the strict codes of partnership and the organisational structure, and friendship also invites a response that means love and acceptance.

I want to be a friend (Chaver) and I'm sure I've messed up more than once. It is thanks to our diversity that is us, that we will be able to act in a code of friendship towards one another. Let it be that we can understand, ask for help, support and be supported. I want to be seen and I want to see the needs of others. To me, being a friend means not being cynical, knowing how to consider another's feelings, to sweat together at work, or tie up the dog most of the day, return the car with gas or try to expand the perspectives. I think that if we are friends and care for each other - we will also be able to face the challenges of this time.

**Ehud Manor wrote:**

At the end of the day, at the end of the track,  
the other side of the steep mountain,  
When you pick up the pieces,  
What is actually left? Just a few friends.

Out of the shadow, out of the embarrassment

Your soul and heart find rest again.

And when it seems that the light of day will never return

You suddenly realise what is really important

And you have a will, and you have a reason

already thinking about the next song.

Have a happy holiday. May the war end and the hostages return home as soon as possible!

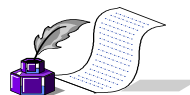
**Nir Baor**

### **Quote from David Grossman (Read by Netta Blass)**

"And it is possible to see hope as a kind of anchor, thrown from a stifled and desperate existence towards a better and freer future. Towards a reality that does not yet exist, much of which is made of heart's desires. From imagination. The anchor is thrown and grabs hold of the ground of the future, and people, and sometimes a whole society, begin to pull themselves towards it. This is an act of optimism, the ability to cast the imaginary anchor beyond the tangible and material circumstances testifies that within the soul of the person who dares to hope, there is still one place that is free. A place that no one has succeeded in crushing, nor in soiling." (David Grossman).



**Reut's Editorial**



**On August 11th, Haim Yelin wrote: "In 57 days, the 7th of October will arrive.**

**In the first month, we could not digest what had occurred. The burnt smell sticks to the body.**

**In the second month, we could not believe how this safe place with our own government, our own army, in our own homes, in our country, turned into a slaughterhouse.**

**In the third month, we started to see people resembling the murdered or kidnapped in the streets and our hearts skipped a beat.**

**In the fourth month, the body ached from sorrow and longing.**

**In the fifth month, we remembered the random encounters that were on the paths, and then we asked why? Why did we not talk more about the children, about the simple life.**

**In the sixth month, half a year from October, we tried to suppress our anger.**

**In the seventh month, questions emerged, that have no answers.**

**In the eighth month, we moved our friends from their temporary graves and buried them in the sands of the Negev, and still we could not believe what has happened.**

**In the ninth month, babies were born who will not recognise their fathers.**

**In the tenth month, ten months of endless pain and longing, crying, hugs, and weeping.**

**Ten months and we have marked the day that 113 kidnapped citizens have languished inside the tunnels, ten months and no one takes responsibility for the 7th of October.**

**"After me" is a phrase that every company commander tells his soldiers in Gaza. It is the distillation of the word "responsibility", which the Israeli government does not take.**

**They talk politics in Jerusalem, we talk values. Where in the world is there a place where people go out to protest for the release of the hostages, instead of the logical situation where politicians lead and set a personal example, and the people show support for them? Where is there a place where the people know every kidnapped and murdered person through faces on posters and on printed shirts?**

**The struggle for the integrity of the State of Israel is not between right and left, not between secular and religious, not between Ashkenazi and Mizrachi. The struggle is between values and politics, between the social solidarity of the people of Israel and the segregation that threatens disaster for the State of Israel.**

**We fight for the release of the kidnapped because part of our people, of our community, of the entire Israeli society is missing, is in Gaza. We will not stop until everyone returns home".**

**Haim Yelin**

**Shabbat Shalom! Reut Shaliv**





## **Gift for Rosh Hashanah - for the community / Yizrael Holdings / Agriculture**

On Monday, 12/8, a link was sent to you in an SMS message from the gifts website - under the name **kibutzyirel**.

You should enter the website where there will be a link to the "gifts". The deadline for choosing your gift is 20/8.

For any questions, you can contact Hedva.

**(N.B.** I have been instructed to tell you **not to change the spelling of the site**. It looks wrong, but that is not our business: **kibutzyirel** is correct. Any attempt to fix the spelling will leave you giftless - Ed).



### **Community Management Meeting Summary - 11/8/2024**

Present: Erez Peleg, Maor Persai, Yifat Segal, Ilana Peleg, Shlomo Levi, Tamir Blass, Ishai Levi, Limor Griman.

#### **1. Reinforced rooms for Members' Homes in the Old Neighbourhoods**

(Invited: Axel Levin - Planning Committee Chairperson, Lilach Ron - Security Committee Chairperson, Eyal Tirosh - Security Committee Member, Guest: Nitzan Rivlin Feldman).

At the Asefa held on 22/7/2024, a question was raised by Nitzan regarding the kibbutz's intention to provide protection for members whose homes do not have a reinforced room (Mamad).

The issue of sheltering in the kibbutz was examined close to the outbreak of war, in the face of the threat. It was decided to adhere to the Home Front Command's guidelines regarding the existing level of sheltering, meaning that for those without a Mamad at home, there are two options during a missile alert - to stay in the most protected place in the house or to go to the nearest bomb shelter.

Ten months have passed since then, the war is ongoing, and additional threats from other fronts have emerged, but the level of threat to our area, according to expert assessment, has not changed. In practice, there have been only two false alarms during this period.



There are around 90 unprotected apartments in the kibbutz - 60 members' apartments on the ground floor (most are permanent homes) and 30 temporary apartments on the second floor.

During the discussion, sheltering options for those apartments/neighbourhoods were presented: adding Reinforced rooms to homes, installing bomb shelters in neighbourhoods, or reinforcing existing rooms.

The cost per unit for each sheltering option was presented, including the total cost to protect all required apartments.

It was noted by the planning committee that due to the high density of houses in the old neighbourhoods, it is not feasible to add mamads to all apartments, only to a minority.

The most efficient and practical solution discussed was converting rooms within existing homes, which is theoretically possible in any apartment. The estimated cost for such a solution for all unprotected apartments in the kibbutz is approximately 11 million NIS.

In the discussion:

- Should a comprehensive solution be found for all those without protection, or should solutions be provided on a case-by-case basis?
- Can we prioritize elderly people who have difficulty walking or families with two small children or more?
- Our public spaces are entirely unprotected - schools, dining room, offices, workplaces, clinics. If we are going to protect something, public spaces should be the first priority. Providing sheltering in public spaces will also provide a communal solution for incidents like earthquakes or chemical spills.
- Those discussing the difficulty of choosing who to prioritize should remember that some homes already have mamads while others do not.
- There are also homes with mamads built according to older standards, constructed more than 25 years ago, versus newer homes built to current standards. It is not possible to achieve full equality between them.
- Will I truly feel protected when sheltered in a room at home? Most of the day, I am not at home, and my workplace is not protected.
- We cannot act as if nothing happened on 7/10. Times have changed, and we cannot predict what will happen.

- The threat to the Gaza periphery and the northern border did not begin on 7/10; it has been there for years, and we ignored it. We did not face missile threats before 7/10 or after.
- Providing shelter in all homes in a short timeframe will have significant economic implications that will come at the expense of something else.
- Delay in building the new neighbourhood, canceling bonuses, or something else.
- We can offer members our assistance for reinforcing rooms in their homes, but at their expense. Perhaps in the future, the kibbutz will be able to reimburse the members.
- We can also consider the kibbutz covering 50% of the costs.
- Currently, things are very unclear - a survey needs to be conducted to assess members' preferences for sheltering.
- If a survey is conducted, it is essential for the community management to review it before it is made public.

**Decision:** A survey will be conducted to assess members' preferences on the subject. The wording of the survey will be checked before being sent to the community management at the next meeting.

## **2. Handling of Members with Significant Personal Budget Debts**

In the past year, there has been a significant increase in the number of members in debt (over 20,000₪ ) in the personal allowances. Currently, there are about 20 households in the kibbutz with a total outstanding debt of 1.5 million ₪. In some cases, the debt has been ongoing for years, is not managed, and does not decrease.

This is an unfair situation towards the kibbutz management, damages trust among kibbutz members, and may even jeopardize the kibbutz financially. Distrust between members and towards the kibbutz system, and even among members, could have serious consequences beyond the budgetary issue.

There have been past decisions approved by the secretariat in 2009 that give tools to officeholders to act against debtors.

We request the community management's approval to impose sanctions such as: blocking credit and petrol cards, canceling the option to receive cash from the petty

cash distribution, canceling the option to make bank transfers from the personal allowance.

Before imposing sanctions, debtors will be given an extension until the end of September to settle their debts.

Sanctions will not be imposed without prior notice.

Furthermore, the question arose regarding preventing the possibility of moving to permanent housing for someone who is in debt and not approving leave for studies, and it was agreed to consider this.

**Decision:** The community management approves the proposal to take sanctions against debtors over 20,000 ₪ who do not settle their debts by the end of September 2024. Summarised by: Ilana Peleg and Limor Griman



## **Appointment of Benny Segal as the Representative of Yizrael in the Regional Council**

Finally, Benny Segal's appointment as the representative of Yizrael in the Gilboa regional council was approved.

We thank Benny for his willingness to take on the role and wish him great success!

Jeremy Perling and Limor Griman

## **Public Representative Selection for the Management Committee**

### **August 13, 2024**

Out of approximately 60 members who were nominated for the position of public representative on the management committee, here are the names of the 12 members who are interested in standing for election with their accompanying "I believe" statement. The member who receives the most votes will be selected as the public representative on the management committee. In the event that two or more members receive an equal number of votes that is the highest among the candidates, there will be another round among the candidates who received the most votes.

Best of luck to everyone!

**1. Elul Matan:** (did not submit material)

**2. Gilad Uri:** Throughout my years in the kibbutz, I have combined operational activities (secretariat, absorption committee, economic council, residents committee) with strategic activities (2030 process, Demography cluster, and more). One of the topics that interests me is the demographic field, both in terms of age group distribution in the kibbutz and in sub-topics: employment potential, internal and external work, and human capital development. If I am chosen for the position, I will offer this topic as one of the goals to address, and I will take it upon myself (to promote the issue on the committee). Thank you very much.

**3. Hollander Vicky:** I am honoured to submit my candidacy for the position of public representative on the management committee of Kibbutz Yizrael. I believe that my professional and personal experience, together with my commitment to promoting values of transparency, integrity, and collaboration, make me a suitable candidate for this role. Over the past years, I have gained extensive experience in various areas such as kibbutz real estate management and quality management in construction and infrastructure as an outside worker. In my various roles, I have been exposed to working with public and private entities, and I have come to understand the importance of proper and professional management while collaborating and listening to the needs of the members. I believe that serving as a public representative on the management committee will allow me to contribute from my experience and abilities to advance the kibbutz's goals and improve the services provided to its members. I am committed to acting with full transparency, integrity, and professionalism, and to be a loyal voice for the members and residents of the kibbutz.

**4. Doron Kagan:** I wish to try to present before you the core beliefs that I hold and the path I have walked thus far. I arrived at Kibbutz Yizrael about five years ago together with Keren, and here we chose to establish our home with our three children - Alon, Ella, and Yuval. I was born and raised in Kibbutz Snir in the north of the country. As a child, I had the privilege of experiencing communal kibbutz life for many years, until circumstances led me to part ways with the kibbutz. This experience is deeply ingrained in me to this day, and it was a significant factor in my choice to specifically come to a communal kibbutz, in order to allow my children, the same right that was once mine, a right that is now preserved for very few. I hold a bachelor's degree and master's degree in social work with a focus on organisation and management, and accordingly, I have held several management positions in the field. Today, I serve as a regional manager at the Akim Association for Guardianship, where in my role, I oversee around 140 individuals with special needs. Additionally, I have been involved in establishing a quality management department within the organisation. On the

kibbutz, I coordinate the sexual harassment protection team and also serve on several committees. I bring with me a diverse set of organisational and managerial skills, including but not limited to:

- Ability to observe macro and micro processes.
- Recognition of the importance of a planned and strategic system, not just a reactive one.
- Appreciation for heritage and recognition of its value, appreciation for tradition and history that must be preserved and learned from.
- Willingness and desire to learn, grow, and improve constantly.
- Building processes from a place of partnership, collaboration, and a willingness to accept criticism.

I believe that in order to preserve the kibbutz and its systems as they are today, active and innovative participation is essential. To preserve a unique piece of the world like ours, we must work hard, and it is in this spirit that I offer my candidacy for a position on the management committee.

Thank you for the opportunity.

**5. Laviv Adi:** I believe that the management committee is the strategic engine of our kibbutz. Its role is not only to manage resources, oversee and guide the community's administration, and make strategic decisions, but also to strengthen the connection among us as a community, nurture the values of camaraderie and mutual responsibility upon which the kibbutz was founded, and enhance our partnership as members. I see my role as a member of the management committee as a great privilege and a responsibility to lead our community towards a flourishing future, while preserving the values on which the kibbutz was established and adding my own fresh and interesting perspective. When I think of the future, I envision a community where everyone feels a sense of belonging and equality. A community where we work together to advance shared projects while honouring the diversity and variety within us. I believe that to achieve this vision, we must develop a long-term strategy based on cooperation, open dialogue by listening to all voices in the community. We must also be open to new ideas and changes that are adapted to the current era, while maintaining our unique identity. I bring with me a wide range of management tools from my experience in business organizations such as Israel Bank Discount and Rafael, as well as familiarity with cooperative management systems, having served on committees in the past, as a member of the mazkirut, economic council, operations

manager, and in my current role as the operations manager of the food sector, with all the complexities that this position entails.

**6. Pezaro Inbal:** If I am chosen to sit as a public representative, I will strive to bring to the table an objective view of all layers of the population: I have senior parents in the kibbutz, I am a mother to a young daughter, I am capable of representing the diverse and the need to think outside the box and make adjustments for special cases, but at the same time, I believe in systematic order. This kibbutz and its future are important to me, and that is my main motivation.

**7. Peleg Yitzhak:** When several members approached me to nominate myself for the management committee, I hesitated: on the one hand, I am a retiree who spends time with grandchildren, works part-time, and engages in hobbies. On the other hand, the future of the kibbutz is very important to me, even though my children are not living on Yizrael. I think that I can contribute, with my background of activism and my kibbutz experience. It is right for me to respond to the nomination and thank the proposers.

**8. Feldman Barry:** I have been a kibbutz member since the seventies. I believe in the communal kibbutz. I think it is necessary to preserve the good but also to correct distortions. I believe that all members should be equal, and not that there should be those who are "more equal". In my eyes, everyone should be equal in rights and responsibilities. Many years have passed since I was a member of the mazkirut, and I would be happy to serve again, as a member of the management committee.

**2. Rivlin Feldman Nitzan:** What I can bring with me to the role of public representative in the management committee: my love for Yizrael and its people, and a desire for us to continue to exist as a communal kibbutz with a community that is good for its members to live in and be together. It is important to me that there be a constant process of intellectual and social clarification in our society. In my opinion, the management committee should perform proactively, engage in vision and future planning, lead actions, and not let circumstances manage our lives. Future planning is a kind of dream act, and I, as is known, love dreams, from which the best reality may emerge. I would be happy to be a part of this and a partner in defining our goals. I think we should strive for dialogue and public discourse, with genuine listening to each other and a willingness and effort to reach agreements not only through voting, but more by consensus, without coercion. I am in favor of maximum transparency in all matters related to discussions and decision-making processes in the management

committee, as in other kibbutz institutions. It is important that we know how to distinguish between wheat and chaff.

**3. Kaufman Moran:** Dear friends, following the announcement that public representatives are needed for the management committee, I choose to run as a candidate. In these days, as a community and as part of the general public, we cannot always choose the events in our lives. I believe that we must explore how we should correctly respond to them. Even in complex situations, we must pay attention and show gratitude for the small things. In the management committee, in issues and matters where it is needed, one of the important questions in my eyes is not whether we have achieved the goal, but what kind of people we have become and the people we will become on the way to the goal. In decisions measured by action I believe that one must prepare, be prepared, and together give of ourselves as one for the sake of our kibbutz.

**4. Rosilio Zehava:** (did not submit material)

**5. Shapira Ofra:** By virtue of being a senior member, I have accumulated years of experience in the Yizrael society. I had many blessed years of activity in the field of education and culture. I am willing to contribute my experience and love for the kibbutz and its people out of the belief that I am given the opportunity to contribute from my experience and understanding of our changing needs.

Reported by: Kinneret Govrin, H.R.

## **The Retirement Process - towards a new phase in a person's life: Kinneret Govrin and Inbal Adler**

*"In the second half of his life, a person wakes up and recognises his powers and talents that have been neglected until now, and a need arises in him to achieve greater completeness of his personality and a deeper understanding of his life... And so he can realise his life, either through fulfilling his dreams or through finding new meaning."*  
(Carl Jung)

In the past year, we met with 24 members of Yizrael who are approaching the crossroads of retiring from work. Some of them are on the threshold of the process of ending their work careers, and they need to plan and make decisions regarding the changes in their role and job scope. There are others who partially or fully retired from work a few years ago and are content with where they are, and there are those interested in rethinking their paths. The purpose of the meetings was to listen to the



members, hear where they are with their lives, and offer guidance and tools for successfully dealing with the new phase of life for those interested.

The meetings were fascinating for us; we met good people who taught us many things about their occupational past and this phase in a person's life. From the meetings, we learned that many members are satisfied and have found balance in their lives, many work either full-time or part-time, or volunteer extensively. Some members still have no thoughts of retirement at all, and others continue to work in a more limited capacity. Some members are undecided, seeking their way and in need of assistance and guidance. For them we will offer a retirement workshop where each can receive tools to help in their personal decisions.

**Moving forward, our intentions are:**

1. To meet annually with members who are approaching their retirement process two years before the official retirement age from work.
2. To hold guidance meetings for managers on how to accompany an employee towards retirement and how to manage the process with the member.

Thank you to the members for their openness in the conversations. Members who are interested in meeting with us on the subject and have not been invited to a meeting are welcome to contact us, and we will be happy to meet.

Inbal Adler - Third Age Coordinator, Kinneret Govrin – H.R.

## **Summary of the Nominations Committee Meeting - July 23, 2024**

Present: Albert Rosilio, Liran Penn, Anat Friedman, Tzach Sassi, and Nir Segal.

Absent: Uri Ayalon

Invited: Ishai Levi from the Demography Cluster.

The committee acknowledges Uri Gilad for his two terms of dedication to the Absorption Committee.

After publishing the job requirements for the Absorption Committee Coordinator and following internal discussions within the demography cluster management, Ishai presented the cluster's plan to split the role of the Absorption Committee Coordinator into two roles. The main reason is the expected workload on the Absorption Committee in the coming years, with one coordinator focusing on pre-absorption and

candidate screening, while the second coordinator will focus on the absorption process and acceptance into the kibbutz (once they are physically here – Ed).

Ishai presented the candidacy of Karin Ayalon-Brustein and Eviatar Assaf, both members of the Absorption Committee, as the candidates. The two will work together in collaboration with the cluster personnel to define the structure and operation of the Absorption Committee. The names will be presented at the upcoming asefa .

Submitted by: Nir Segal

## **Minutes of the Education Committee Meeting - August 6, 2024**

Present: Alita Mor, Peter Pezaro, Philipa Segal, Natalie Zinenko, Revital Zelas, and Sarit Laviv

**Study agreements:** Study agreements for the year 5785 have been updated. A student meeting will be held during the month of September, where study agreements will be distributed and up-to-date information regarding the rights and obligations of students on Yizrael will be provided. The agreement is personal, each student will sign it after reading it at their leisure and will be in contact with a representative appointed by the committee to return it signed. The meeting date will be announced later.

The committee discussed the content of the presentation for the meeting and added significant points such as: the importance of submitting student returns on time to meet the annual budget, fulfilling study obligations successfully, and submitting a completion certificate.

**Teacher's Sabbatical:** A summary of the implementation points of the procedure was presented. After approval by the H.R. administration, the teachers will be informed via Kehilanet and the newsletter.

**Criteria:** Until now, the criterion did not have value, as everyone reached the same number of points. Peter presented an analysis he made in order to calculate the cost of studies in a more balanced way, reflecting the cost so that the criterion can differentiate between different students. After the presentation, it was decided by the committee to use this criterion.

Due to the extensive discussion on the topic, and since there is importance in deciding on enrichment studies and studies for retirees, a small team will convene to finalise the criteria for the working age group (members of the small team: Alita, Natalie, and Sarit). The committee will continue to discuss the topic and will also invite representatives of the Third Age committee to the next discussion.

Submitted by: Sarit Laviv

## **Isabel on Chag Hameshek**

Finally, my birthday has arrived. Apologies, the birthday of my beloved kibbutz. This year, I decided to join the team so I could supervise closely, and to our joy, we decided to mark the festival in a slightly different way in the light of the situation.

So, what did we do? Here's a quick summary: we volunteered at the logistics centre of the kibbutz movement, an amazing place with dear people with big hearts; we helped them pack "heavy blankets" for post-trauma victims, and as someone with such a blanket at home, I was very moved by the collaboration with the NATAL organisation (terror trauma victims).

In the afternoon, many good people gathered to make bracelets for the "Yellow Bracelet" project, and a very respectable sum was raised for the families of missing and captured persons. On Friday morning, I woke up early, really, really early, and went with a select group of volunteers to Kidmat-Zvi in southern Ramat HaGolan, (I thought it was much too late – Ed) where we picked pears with great enthusiasm! At least half an orchard, approximately.

In the evening, on the main stage, a ceremony was held to celebrate the 76<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and let's say, luckily there isn't synchronised singing in the Olympics, because that's where we are a bit weak; but all credit to the brave singers and musicians and the diverse audience that cooperated with them (as best as it could – Ed).

This brought us to my bubbly poolside event – a celebration in my honour at the pool! I apologise for the confusion; I meant of course the food and businesses fair (food and wares stalls to support badly affected businesses from the from the North of Israel – Ed). I want to thank the team of champions and rare individuals - Gazit Baran-Levi, Danit Kirschberg and Yifat Segal - who organised a wonderful event. We decided to invite members from a displaced kibbutz, Elon, and we were delighted for the opportunity to give them some light respite.

It's hard for me to describe how excited I was to see the crowds of people from near and far, including long-lost kibbutz children, who came and enjoyed the pool and basketball court, strolled among the various stands, showed interest, and even, bless them, bought a thing or two. Of course, it's not a Yizraeli event if food isn't involved. There was a large, tasty variety from which to choose. I was moved by the vendors' response to the event, and the knowledge that we could help them a bit during this difficult and challenging time.

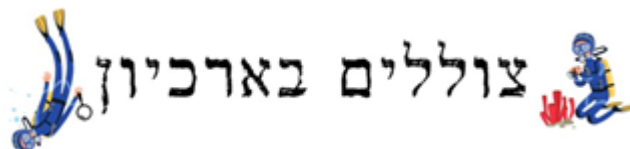
In the meantime, I managed to take a brief break for an equally important national task - our artistic gymnastics team made it to the finals in a fierce competition in Paris, and they were simply amazing! So amazing, that even the judges had no choice but to give them high scores that led to a particularly emotional silver medal!

So why should I keep their silver medal win to myself? Of course, I shared it with all those present, and indeed there was much joy and applause.

Thus, once again, we received a very important reminder that we should focus on sports played on Shabbat, preferably without shoes... There's no doubt that kibbutzim came up with this idea before everyone else, and now the whole country knows about it.

The evening came to an end, the event finished, and the next day the Olympics also came to a close, and we were forced to return to reality. The Iranians may arrive riding on ballistic missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles such as drones and others, or maybe not... The Prime Minister and his unruly gang will continue to argue about the Temple Mount and whether there is permission to make a deal or not; after all, it's not as if human lives depend on this decision, only Bibi's chair matters.

**In conclusion** – congratulations dear kibbutz, may we always be on the giving side and may this cursed war finally end. And today I wish for the swift return of our brothers and sisters from Hamas (may they be forever cursed) captivity.



## **Delving into the Archives**

Micah and Ar'ela Sheni were among the founding members of Yizrael. Micah hailed from Kibbutz Ramat Yohanan and was one of the founders. Ar'ela arrived in Yizrael from Kibbutz Tel Gezer. They left in 1957. In her memoirs, Ar'ela writes that the first 13 births in Yizrael were all girls. It was said that this was due to the water from the Yizrael spring.

For the sake of history, I (Jules) requested a list of the 13. Dafna, Moshiko Sinai's daughter, sent me this response:

One of the mothers says: Not 13 but 12.

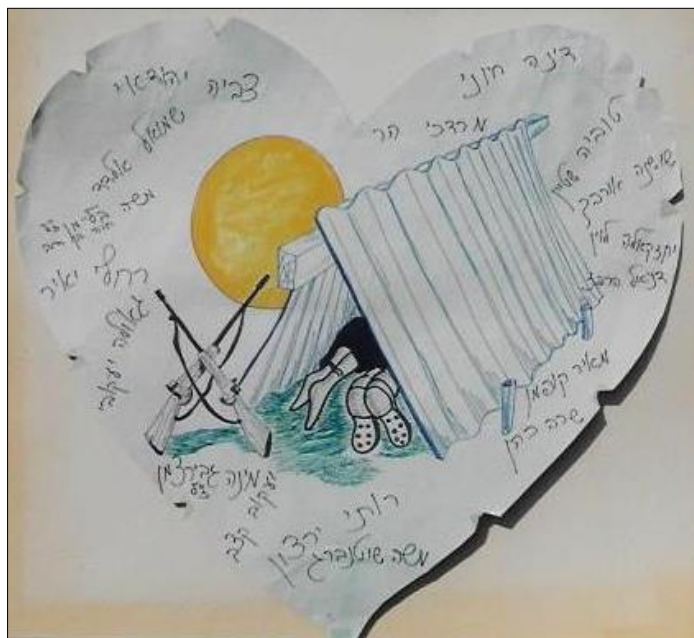
The first boy was born in 1954, and his name is Ra'anana, the son of Aviva. The second is Eitan, the son of Ziva and Yehuda Bir.

Before Ra'anana the following girls were born:

- Irit, daughter of Chava and Moshe Efron
- After her, two daughters who left along with their families immediately after their births:
- Ofra, daughter of Micah and Ar'ela Sheni
- Anat, daughter of Shmuel and Shulamit Melitz
- Yifat, daughter of Rachel Amir
- Iris, daughter of Chaya'la and Dudik Kushnir
- Yael, daughter of Efrat and Isser Arad
- Hila, daughter of Hezi and Dani Harpaz.

**Three more are missing. Is there anyone who can provide additional details?**

**Were there 12 or 13? Who else is on the list?**



In the picture: Copy of an illustration titled "Couples in Yizre'el" from a series of drawings created by Moshiko Sinai from the Dani Harpaz collection.

## **Anonymous Letter to the Edi-Tor**

(So, in the end... WHO BROUGHT THE DOLPHIN TO YIZRAEL – Ed)

Regarding this comment of yours in a previous issue, please put this in as a response. Like George Washington said: I cannot tell a lie. It was I....."Anonymous"

### **"A Small Story about Forgotten Childhood and Love that Still Remembers..." Hadas Matalon Friedman**

An old road, a tree, and a house... Dad here, Mum there... what we once were, a long time ago...

"Chag HaMeshek" falls in the middle of August. Hidden threads tie me and so many others to Yizrael. The kibbutz is the cradle of our youth...

This week I traveled to visit my mother on the Kibbutz. At dinner in the dining room (yes, there is still something called a "dining room", and a "kibbutz"....), I had a flashback - 45 years before, to the seventies, to the "old" kibbutz dining room.

It turns out that the old dishwashing machine in the current "new" dining room broke down. The kitchen is undergoing renovation.

Therefore, we eat with disposable utensils (but you can bring plastic utensils from home for those who have ecology in your soul), and in the corner stand giant "trolleys" - giant rolling carts, where for about a month now, the dirty trays and cutlery are stashed to be washed somewhere in the kitchen.

And I went back in an instant to that "old" dining room. A mythological structure crumbling next to the factory parking lot. Overlooking the valley, before the trees hid it...

To the giant sinks that stood between the dining room and the kitchen, and to a girl about a metre and a bit tall, entering the holy of holies, while her father stands and dips his hands in the rising foam. And another plate, and another pot, and the wet floor, and the leftover sponges that remained at the end, scattered on the black and brown speckled floor, and hot-hot-hot, even in winter, after the "second shift" of the festive Friday meal.

There were also the tiny little feet, bare, trying not to slip. And the hands that dipped in soapy water which turned them into "duck skin", and the shirt that was already

soaked, on the way to small jumps down the stairs, to the big lawn and childhood games...

It was back then, when in Yizrael dishes were washed in the dining room by hand and not in the fancy machine that arrived at the "new" dining room in 1980...

Forgotten childhood. Love remembers...

From Hadas Matalon Friedman's Facebook.

(This story brought tears of nostalgia to my eyes. Thank you Hadas – Ed)

Thank you to Zimra for sending the post to the newsletter.



**English is Fun - with Rahel**

NEWFIE MEDICAL DICTIONARY:

Fester                      quicker than someone else



Fibula	a small lie
Impotent	distinguished, well known
Labour pain	getting hurt at work
Medical staff	a doctor's cane
Morbid	a higher offer
Nitrates	cheaper than day rates
Node	I knew it
Outpatient	a person who has fainted
Pelvis	second cousin to Elvis
Post operative	a letter carrier
Recovery room	place to do upholstery
Rectum	nearly killed him
Secretion	hiding something
Seizure	Roman emperor
Tablet	a small table
Terminal illness	getting sick at the airport
Tumour	one plus one more
Urine	opposite of you're out

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In Italy, James Bond is known as "Mr. Kiss-Kiss-Bang-Bang"

*The most costumes ever used for one film: 32,000 - for Quo Vadis in 1951.*

Shirley Temple won an honorary Oscar in 1934, when she was only 5 years old.

The only rock that floats in water? Pumice

The most widely used surname in the world is Li. About 87 million people have it.

*Most makes of lipstick contain fish scales as an ingredient.*

The average lightning bolt is only one inch in diameter.

.....more next week



**Programme for 18/08/24 – 22/08/24**

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

### **Sunday 18 August**

Opening the week with Monica.

09:30 Armchair Lecture with Galia Shemi

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

### **Monday 19 August**

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

10:00 Trivia and thinking games with Galia

16:00 Or B'Givah is open for coffee and lively conversation

### **Tuesday 20 August**

10:00 Lecture – Rochele Matalon

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

11:00 Pool exercises with Eyal Tirosh

### **Wednesday 21 August**

09:30 Noga's carpentry workshop – "HaNogariah"

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

### **Thursday 22 August**

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

09:00 Movie screening – "Titanic"

11:00 Pool exercises with Eyal Tirosh

17:15 Exercises on chairs with Michal Sha'anani

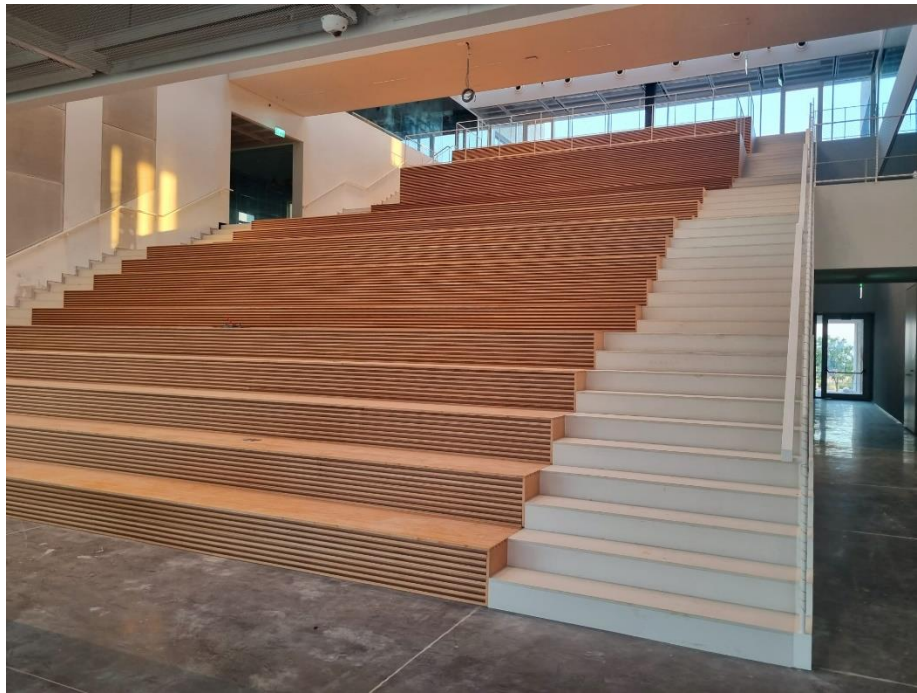
## **The Yizraelite Photo Op**

**New to the Yizraelite – every week we plan to publish readers' (or Editor's) photos**

### **The Maytronics Campus Project Nears Completion**



### **The New Administration Building (Photo-Ed)**



**Tiered Amphitheatre in the Admin Building (Photo-Ed)**

**(Hope the Kibbutz can use it occasionally – Ed)**



**Water Technologies Building**



## **The Third Age Trip to the Aqueduct Beach, Caesarea**



**Photo - Lulu Kahn**

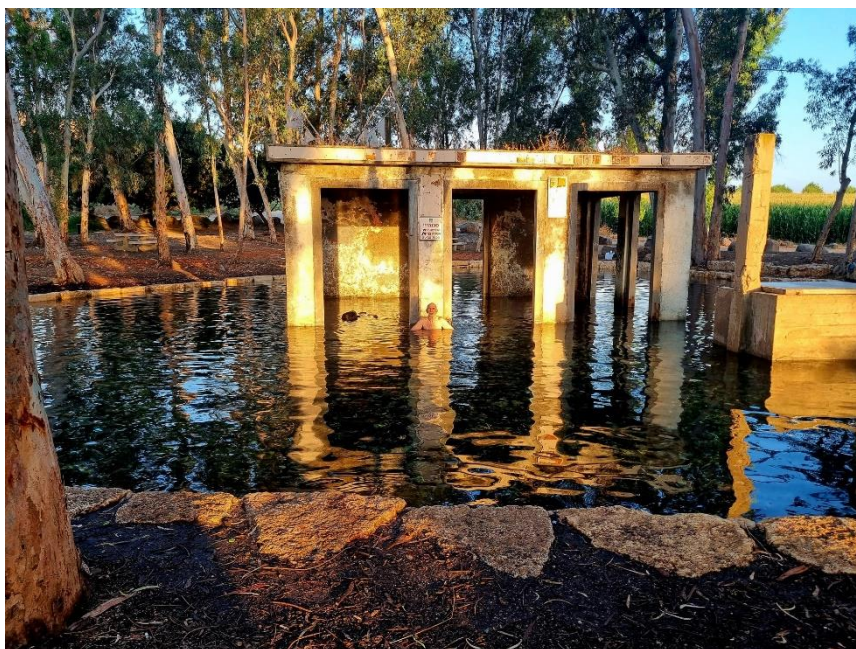


**Photo - Steve Blass**

**Readers are welcome to submit photos for publication**

We have more than a few experts among our readers

Hard copy readers can only see the photos on their phone or computer



Early Morning Dip at the Yizrael Spring (Photo-Ed)

## Credits

**Editor of Hebrew Newsletter: Reut Shaliv**

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Proofread by: Biff Markham Oren

Printed by: Zohar Assaf and Hedva Shahrabani

**Disclaimer:** The Editor and translator does his best to provide an accurate reflection of the Hebrew Alon. Please be warned that it is not a direct translation. The original Hebrew text is the official version. This is of particular importance when it comes to committee reports, decisions and procedures! Not all the material published in the Hebrew newsletter appears in “The Yizraelite”. Considerations of length, readers’ interest and the Editor’s ability to grapple with the subject matter, determine what is included.

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