

The Yizraelite – No 2258 Date: 29.5.26

Kibbutz Yizrael - Cyber Edition

Reut's Editorial:  **What a rich Shavuot we had!**

Shavuot always reminds us how important the land is, how important to our lives the plants and livestock are, and how much we gain by living in a rural space surrounded by fields and orchards. The weather, too, was kind to us this year, and it was almost possible to celebrate and enjoy the holiday wholeheartedly.

Although it was a wonderful holiday, the “almost” remained. As long as we continue to see the words “cleared for publication,” and know that what is supposed to protect our soldiers in the outposts along the northern border from the threat of drones is fishing nets, and parents are sending their children on separate buses out of sheer fear, then we too, even here, cannot celebrate wholeheartedly.



Texts from the Shavuot First Fruits Festival in Yizrael

Welcome to all who have come to celebrate the 78th Shavuot Festival here on Kibbutz Yizrael.



Our joy today is mixed with sadness. Since last year's festival all the hostages have returned, yet our country is still going through a difficult and confusing period. The fighting continues, our soldiers are still risking their lives on the borders, and the communities of the north are living in an impossible reality under daily rocket fire. Even today, and especially today, we do not forget the fields that were destroyed and

burned on that terrible Saturday, nor the ongoing harm to Israeli agriculture and the resilience of rural settlement.

We are fortunate that agriculture in Yizrael continues to flourish and bring us great pride.

In today's ceremony we will try to offer optimism and hope for better days, for peace and growth in the communities of the south and north, for sons and daughters to return safely to their homes, and for our country to attain quiet, tranquillity and security, free from threats from within and without.

"AND THOU SHALT OBSERVE THE FEAST OF WEEKS, OF THE FIRST FRUITS OF WHEAT HARVEST."

"SEVEN WEEKS SHALT THOU COUNT UNTO THEE: FROM THE TIME THE SICKLE IS FIRST PUT TO THE STANDING GRAIN SHALT THOU BEGIN TO COUNT SEVEN WEEKS. AND THOU SHALT REJOICE IN THY FEAST!"

"וְחַג שִׁבְעַת תַּעֲשֶׂה לָּךְ, בַּפּוּרֵי קִצִּיר חֲטִיִּם"
— שמות ל"ד:כ"ב

"שִׁבְעָה שָׁבָעִים תִּסְפֹּר לָךְ; מִהַחֵל הָרִמֵּשׁ בַּקֹּמֵה, תֵּחַל לִסְפֹּר שִׁבְעָה שָׁבָעִים. וַעֲשִׂיתָ חַג שִׁבְעוֹת לַה' אֱלֹהֶיךָ... וְשִׂמְחָתָּ
בְּתַנְּךָ"
— דברים ט"ז:ט"א

"הַזֹּרְעִים בְּדַמְעָה, בְּרִנָּה יִקְצְרוּ"

— תהילים קכ"ו: ה'

“Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy.”

The veteran harvesters, Danny Levy and Barry Feldman, will come forward to reap the wheat with scythes, together with the next generation, *Yonatan Assaf and Ami Blass*, on a tractor pulling the old horse plough that once tilled the fields with two horses. Following them will come the **future generation** carrying bundles of wheat stalks.

A picture of past and future in the working of the land.

These are the Seven Species with which our land has been blessed since the days of our forefathers: Wheat, barley, grapevine, fig, pomegranate, olive and date.



The Noi Branch, whose work keeps our surroundings beautiful, green, blooming, welcoming, colourful and always well cared for.

With a local team that throughout the year cultivates here a small piece of paradise.

Just as nature has four seasons, so too does the human heart. The members of the Landscaping Branch will come forward with their first fruits, accompanied by the senior dance troupe, who will dance in their honour to the song “Seasons.”

They were born this year, tender in days, full of hope and life, filling our hearts with joy.

Let the excited parents come forward, together with their sweet new babies:



Guy Levy, son of Michal and Yishai
Nuri Rosilio, son of Rotem and Yarin
Ella Brustein-Eilon, daughter of Karen and Uri
Mikey Broadhurst, son of Eden and Ben
Yoav Levy, son of Bar and Shachar
Ella Assaf-Shapiro, daughter of Tamar and Ron
Kalil Grosser, daughter of Alita and Einan

The Food Branch is the beating heart of the kibbutz, where everything essential takes place, a place of companionship, smiles and meeting, of conversations and impressions shared over a tray, with a dedicated team working tirelessly to provide us with three meals every single day. They prepare delicious food in countless recipes, enriching and brightening our lives. Let the members of the Food Branch come forward with their first fruits!

Shinshinim: Following them will come those who lovingly nurture both plants and children, combining agricultural work with the renewal of our community, creating education, kibbutz life and all that truly matters. Come forward, Shinshinim, with the fruits of your labour and present your abundant harvest to all.

The Academy of Music is yet another source of quality and excellence of which we are deeply proud, with the sounds of Wagner, Tchaikovsky and Bach.

This is the Academy of Music, alive with activity from morning until night, impossible to imagine Yizrael without it.

Enhancing every event, enriching every Shabbat, part of the landscape for every son and daughter of the kibbutz.

It broadens the heart with emotion and joy, a place that is both home and centre of creativity and education.

The Academy of Music was founded in Yizrael in 1995 by Anna and Stas Gavrilov. At the beginning, around 30 young children studied there. Today the Academy is a highly regarded conservatory, among the leading institutions in Israel. This year, 250 students aged two to eighty-eight are studying there, together with another 180 students in the Amadeus programme. Four large orchestras and twelve ensembles are active there, and thirty teachers instruct students in a wide variety of instruments. In the current academic year, the Academy of Music celebrates its 30th anniversary with impressive achievements!

Rugby is part of the local DNA, excelling on an international scale, with a magnificent field and enthusiastic supporters, winning trophies almost every year. Welcome this group of men, all muscle and heart.

The 2025–26 season was once again challenging, another war, more interruptions and uncertainty. Despite the difficulties and changes in players and coaches, the team reached the championship final, which will take place tomorrow in Tel Aviv against Maccabi Tel Aviv. We wish the team every success and hope they will win the championship.

Members of the kibbutz playing on the senior team are Zohar Baum, Ido Hadar, Roi Sadur and Oren Beutler, while the team captain is Yahal Rosilio. Around 100 players participate in the youth and children's teams, 30 of them from the kibbutz. This year we even opened a team for the children of Alon Kindergarten.

The club's teams have won championships in various youth age groups, and the club continues to lead rugby in Israel.

The Dairy, on the holiday when dairy foods take centre stage,
we salute the growers of cow and calf.
Every day of the year, without pause or rest,
they care for the herd around the clock,
achieving outstanding results,
with fine production and an abundance of milk.
An agricultural branch through and through,
come to the stage, hooray for the dairy farmers!

The year 2025 was an excellent one for the Dairy Branch, and in 2026 the Dairy continues to grow and flourish.
Following the merger with Maoz Haim, the Dairy doubled its milk quota to 8 million litres per year.

Since the merger, the Dairy has expanded with new sheds, a new milking parlour, and a larger herd that now includes 580 milking cows.

In 2025 we produced 7.4 million litres of milk, and this year we expect to reach the full annual quota.

The dairy team includes fifteen staff members, kibbutz members, salaried workers, Thai workers, and teenagers.

All the team members work with dedication, around the clock, to ensure that the branch continues to prosper and succeed.

I would like to thank each and every one of them for their hard work and tremendous investment.

We hope to continue growing and succeeding in the coming year as well.
(Idan Zelas read the message from Uri Horovitz, Dairy Branch Manager)

Maytronics: read by Idan Zelas. C.E.O Yizrael Holdings. On Shavuot, we celebrate the fruits of our labour, the journey we travel together, and the belief that even after difficult times, growth can begin again.

Over the past year, Maytronics has faced a particularly challenging period. 2025 ended with significant losses, as well as real concern and uncertainty.

Yet it is precisely in moments like these that the true strength of this company is revealed, its people.

The women and men of Maytronics continued to come to work each morning with commitment, professionalism and faith in the road ahead, continuing to develop, produce, innovate and bring something new to the pool market.

This year, alongside the challenges, we are already seeing encouraging signs. We launched a product line that has been well received by the market, demand for our products is growing stronger again, there is a great deal of activity within the company, and a renewed sense of momentum and return to course.

Maytronics is the story of a kibbutz that dared to dream far, of innovation born from values of partnership, hard work and people who believe that something truly great can be created here.

Behind every product, every development and every success stand the employees, engineers, production, service, development and operations teams who give their heart even in the more difficult times.

This Shavuot, we want to thank you.... For your perseverance, your responsibility, your good spirit, and your belief that even after a hard year, a good harvest will yet come.

Happy Shavuot!

And now to the Field Crops Branch and the land itself, where tradition and innovation come together in a winning combination, lovingly cultivating a wide variety of crops, wheat, cotton, vegetables and many other harvests. Please welcome to centre stage the Field Crops Branch, the people of the soil.

In 2026 we cultivated, and are still cultivating, approximately 6,150 dunams, including double-cropping.

The team is made up of kibbutz members and teenagers, strengthened by several salaried workers and Thai workers who labour day and night. Great credit to the team for their dedication and professionalism.

The variety of crops grown in the field crops branch is extremely wide: onions, broccoli, cauliflower, coriander, parsley, dill, garlic, carrots, beetroot, wheat, corn for both human consumption and cattle feed, chickpeas, watermelons for eating and for seeds, and cotton.

In the orchards, we completed new olive plantings this year, taking another step in implementing the branch's strategy of spreading risk across a broad range of trees. We currently have 465 dunams of almonds, 500 dunams of olives for oil production, 116

dunams of bananas, and at the end of the year we will plant 160 dunams of carob trees.

(Message read by Idan and written by Ohad Ziv, Manager of the Field Crops Branch)

“Forever following the sun, forever following the light,
the sun inscribes my day,
and my heart is a bird.”

Please welcome the motorised dancers,
who have starred in this holiday celebration for many years,
symbolising the enduring bond
between people and the land, between past and future,
and bearing witness to a beautiful comradeship,
between person and person, between person and machine.

“Forever following the sun, forever following the light,”
come, tractors, come to a dance of freedom and liberty.
The furrow of the plough continues on,
may it never come to an end,
with all that is good, that unites, both alike and different.

May it always be our way
to protect the environment and nature.
May we remember and appreciate the work of the land,
that nourishes, comforts, and sustains us warmly and well.
And in a world of technology, renewal and progress,
may we continue to value Mother Earth.

May we continue to rejoice in what we have,
to create and to marvel,
and may we meet again next year at the Bikkurim of Yizrael!



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Greeting for Shavuot from Rafi Ben Ami, CEO of Maytronics

Dear Members of the Kibbutz, Happy Shavuot.

Since stepping into my role at the beginning of the year, I have been getting to know the strength of Maytronics from up close, and every day I am exposed to the dedication of our employees and their commitment to success.

As someone who himself grew up in Degania during his childhood, the kibbutz atmosphere, the people, the encounters with the younger generation along the pathways and in the toddlers' carts, always warm my heart and remind me of the strength of this unique partnership between the kibbutz and its various branches.

The Shavuot holiday is a good opportunity to pause for a moment and share with you a little of what is happening with us.

The global market has changed and continues to change constantly, and it is no secret that this reality requires us to reorganise and refine the course in which we operate. These are days of intensive work, planning and navigating forward, and we are concentrating great efforts and focusing on building our strategy and business model. The goal is clear: to return Maytronics to a path of growth, profitability and future resilience.

The central anchor that enables this momentum is our human capital and our collective strength as a group. The combination of this together with our business and organisational focus is the engine driving us towards our goal.

On this holiday, when we celebrate the first fruits, I hope that the focused and intensive work we are investing now will bear fruit, and bring with it prosperity, stability and success for all of us.



Wishing you and your families a happy Shavuot. Rafi



Congratulations to Hadar and Tamir Lavi on the birth of their twins.



A granddaughter and grandson to Yifat and Kobi Levy, and a great-granddaughter and great-grandson to Bini of blessed memory and Steve Blass.

Congratulations to the entire Lavi, Levy, Blass and Hillel families.

Wishing you abundant goodness, joy, light and health, and endless love.

Community Management Meeting Agenda

Sunday, 31.05, at 17:30

In the meeting room

1. Long-term care insurance policy, continuation of the discussion
2. Summary of the first year of the change in the water system budgeting model
3. Advancing investments from the Public Buildings Fund for the renovation of temporary apartments and young generation rooms



We ask anyone who has white chairs belonging to the Culture Committee to please return them as soon as possible to the chair storeroom next to the moadon.

Yifat Segal and Tali Brauman

WHITE CHAIRS BELONG TO OUR COMMUNITY.

If you have white chairs
belonging to the Community,
please return them as soon
as possible to the
Chair Storeroom
next to the Club.



OUR COMMUNITY.
OUR **RESPONSIBILITY.**



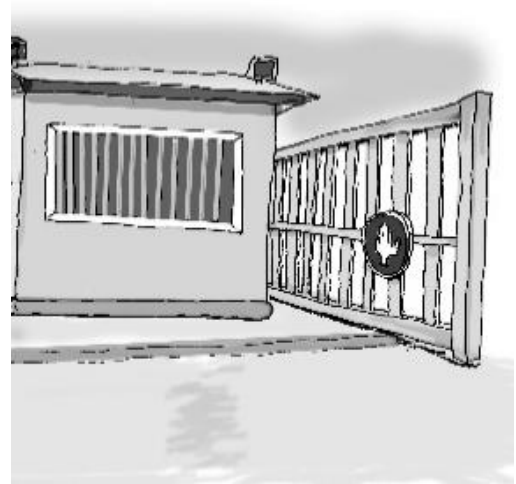


PALGATE EMERGENCIES: Gates / Barriers / Pedestrian Gates – Danit Kirschberg

Below are the telephone numbers for the gates. Add to contact list in phone. History has proved that we will need them again (And again...and again) - Ed

Anyone who has authorisation but whose gate does not open through the app can open it by dialling the telephone number.

| Gate / Barrier / Pedestrian Gate | Phone Number |
|--|---------------------|
| Dining Hall Gate | 050-3817611 |
| Main Car Park Barrier..... | 050-8995372 |
| Musly Barrier..... | 050-6943245 |
| Barrier above the Pool..... | 050-2740367 |
| Barrier above Shikun Sadot | 050-2740368 |
| Sadur Barrier..... | 050-2740365 |
| Dairy–Maytronics Barrier..... | 050-2740361 |
| Shimona Barrier..... | 050-2740362 |
| Cemetery Pedestrian Gate..... | 050-6345273 |
| Field Crops Pedestrian Gate..... | 050-6345020 |
| Western Pedestrian Gate..... | 050-3759419 |
| Main Gate Pedestrian Gate..... | 050-6345019 |
| Gate 1000..... | 050-4092630 |
| Cemetery Gate..... | 050-8282466 |
| Main Exit Gate..... | 050-6416681 |
| Main Entrance Gate..... | 050-4791463 |
| Western Gate (<i>Messiahs only – Ed</i>) | 050-5948564 |
| Field Crops Gate..... | 050-4092635 |
| Almonds Gate..... | 050-3073934 |



The last tractor has already returned to work in the fields, and of all the cheesecakes, mainly crumbs remain.

Our Shavuot team has been working together for almost seven years, but somehow this year the holiday felt even more special. Maybe it was the atmosphere, maybe the people, or maybe simply the amount of cheese consumed here over the last few days.

A huge thank you to everyone who lent a hand, with setting up, taking down, ceremonies, dancing, duties, coffee, decorations and everything in between.

There truly isn't a page big enough to contain everyone who was part of it, but the heart certainly can
♥

A special thank you to the Food Branch team, who accompany us from the idea stage right up to the moment when someone asks, “Is there anything else small to nibble on?”

To our dedicated Kolbo team, always there to help.

To Yifat Assaf, for rhyming texts, because apparently that does not happen by itself.

To Adi Goldstein-Ilan, for the lovely opening of the holiday.

To all the ceremony participants, readers, dancers, those who brought the bikkurim, and everyone who was on stage and behind it.

To Matthew Emerick, Tamir Blass, Alon Reuven and Lilach Ron, who kept us protected and safe.

To Idit Halevi, who makes sure the moadon looks welcoming and festive, and also finds time to wear her “Appearance Team” hat in the renovation of Gan Hatil.

To the champion bakers, 22 cakes reached the Coffee House table... and not one remained to tell the tale.

To Tami Penn, who quietly joined in to lend a hand to the Coffee House team.

To the Environmental Quality Committee and the pub team, for a special, moving and wonderfully childlike Tikkun Leil Shavuot.

To Noam Freiman-Levi, for a photo corner that made us all feel a little more photogenic than usual.

And special thanks to:

Niv Edelstein, Yaniv Shorer, Yoni Brauman, Shachar Levi, Yonatan Assaf, Neve Segal, Shlomo Cohen, Ohad Ziv, Erez Peleg, Gil Hillel, the shinshinim and Shlomo Levi, the hand you extended was especially meaningful.

To our creative youth girls, Goni Lifshitz, Doron Elul, Tama Baor, Naomi Dolinko, Reut Mor and Alma Brauman.

To Omer Griman and Alma Brauman, who built the Tlaton Carmel dance and rehearsed with them sooooo many times, and how beautiful it was.

To Guy Shmueli, from Einan’s garin, for the wonderful photos that captured special moments from a bird’s eye view.

If you enjoyed it, we are really happy.

If you didn’t, you probably didn’t get to the cakes in time 😊

See you at the next holiday!

The Shavuot Holiday Team:

David Serano, Itzik Nissani, Avishag Sharoni, Eviatar Assaf, Yotam Assaf, Navot Assaf, Gali Assaf, Doron Kagan, Tali Brauman, Nagar Haim, Liran Penn, Omer and Ofer Arieli, Ido Sharoni, Idan Friedman, Jules Feldman, Uri Gilad, Yifat Segal.

From the Food Branch Manager's Desk



It has been a long time since we last wrote a little about what is happening in the Food Branch, and we have set ourselves the goal of sharing more of what goes on behind the scenes, what is happening and what is cooking. *(All I know is that since the last report, I have put on six kilograms 😊 – Ed)*

We will begin with an update: together with the Building Manager and the relevant branch managers, we are working on refining the work plans ahead of the minimal renovation required in the branch. We will provide more details when the project is more fully developed and before it is carried out.

In recent months, we have marked several holidays in different formats, from Passover at home because of the war, through Independence Day as it should be celebrated, and culminating in Shavuot, which was slightly different from previous years, in accordance with the kibbutz's decisions.

Preparing for major holidays is always challenging for the Food Branch, and usually begins three to four months before the holiday itself, from planning the menu, through negotiations with dozens of our suppliers to obtain the best prices and products, right up to serving the food at the table. In recent years, and even more so since the beginning of the Swords of Iron War, we have been working according to two, and sometimes three, different work plans, trying to be prepared for every eventuality, may it never come: eating at home, eating in the dining room, eating in capsules, and so on.

We are very happy to see everyone enjoying the produce of the Food Branch, whether eating together in the dining room or preferring the warmth of family at home. Our social and economic strength is clearly expressed in our everyday routine, and even more so during the holidays. It is pleasant to see this and be reminded of it each time anew.

Once again, we must emphasise and ask everyone not to remove dishes of any kind from the dining room, even with the intention of "returning them the very next day." The Food Branch spends about NIS 50,000 in a calendar year on replacing crockery and cutlery, and we estimate that more than half of this amount is spent on items that were not returned.

We will also take this opportunity to remind you that we work according to methods that differ from those used in the past, for example in everything relating to stock management. We place orders for supplies according to the weekly or fortnightly plan,

and therefore we do not always have surplus stock for spontaneous needs that arise among members.

A reminder: the branch refrigerators are out of bounds. The variety of foods and supplies that may be taken home is available to the whole community during the long opening hours in the dining room area only. We ask that people stop completely taking supplies such as cartons of milk, bottles of yoghurt, vegetables that are not from the vegetable market, and so on. This harms the quality of service and causes shortages and unpleasant situations for the rest of the community.

It is important to remember that we live in a community, and when one person takes excessively, someone else goes without.

Without meaning to, this turned out rather long 😊

Adi Laviv and Itzik Schechter
Food Branch

Modeling the Future Together.

Meet. speak. listen.



The first stage of the social process is nearing its conclusion.
The final meeting will take place on Thursday, 11.6 at 18:00.
Registration is via Kehilanet, in the appointments diary.

The Social Education Department Invites You!

Sunday 7.6.26 – In the Moadon

Lectures dealing with the connection between smartphones, screens, children and youth, with practical tools to help manage and guide children in a responsible, healthy and positive way.

16:00 – Youth

Grades 7–12

Guided by counsellors

17:30 – Teenagers

Children and parents

Without counsellors

Following the lecture, there will be a discussion and shared circles

20:00 – Parents of Grades 3–6

Parents, please bring

smartphones and tablets

Lecture open to the community

Come and Understand It All!

Hysteria or real danger?

Dror Krikon, PhD

Researcher and Lecturer in Psychology and Technology

Young Generation Committee Meeting Summary - 20.05.26

Present: Shimrit Tzafadia, Yarden Naor, Ben Broadhurst, Rotem Kamilian, Sivan Dashevski, Eyal Sharoni, Yishai Levy and Keren Shtemper-Kagan

Apologies: Yarin Rosilio, Adi Goldstein-Ilan, Monica Brustein, Lotem Cohen, Ranit Levy

Division of Roles in the Committee and Areas of Responsibility

Demography Cluster Head: Yishai Levy

Committee Coordinator: Keren Shtemper-Kagan

Responsibility for rooms, events and gifts (Year 12 graduation, entry into Young Generation, holidays): Ranit Levy

Coordinator of studies (not a committee member): Inbal Pezaro

Age Group Coordinators

Ages 18–24: Shimrit Tzafadia

Ages 25–30: Adi Goldstein-Ilan

Until now, contact with the young people was conducted within a single age group covering ages 18–30.

We are now embarking on a new approach, which will be reviewed and updated along the way according to emerging needs. The aim of the new structure is to enable more precise guidance, contact and support for each age group. We desire to better

understand the unique needs of each stage and to reach every young man and woman in a more meaningful, personal and tailored way.

Track Coordinators

Pre-service, military service, and Year of Service: Shimrit Tzafadia

Lone soldiers: David Witelson

Landing phase + preparation of Year 12 for transition to Young Generation: Sivan Dashevski and Rotem Kamilian

Study track: Monica Brustein

Working within the kibbutz allowance system + spouses of kibbutz members living on Kibbutz Yizrael: Yarden Naor

Employee track in kibbutz corporations and community branches: Eyal Sharoni

Financial independence on Kibbutz Yizrael: Lotem Cohen and Yarin Rosilio

Financial independence outside Kibbutz Yizrael: Lotem Cohen and Ben Broadhurst

Committee members serving as track coordinators will study in depth the track for which they are responsible and will be able to provide young people with professional guidance, relevant information and supportive accompaniment throughout the process of choosing and integrating into the most suitable track.

Committee Goals for the Coming Year

1. Rethinking the study track.
2. Recruitment efforts, appearance of residential areas, contribution to the community.
3. Preparation meetings for the job market, reinstating the meetings in cooperation with Maytronics Human Resources.
4. Reinstating preparation meetings for the transition from Year 12 to Young Generation.
5. Increasing the percentage of Young Generation representatives participating in kibbutz holiday teams.

Full cooperation between the young men and women and the committee members will assist in achieving these goals. The process will progress gradually, carefully and responsibly, alongside determination and perseverance throughout the way.

Young Generation Participation in the Social Process

Following discussion on the subject, it was decided that there is room for a social process discussion format adapted to the Young Generation. Sivan Dashevski will lead

the discussion and take responsibility for thinking through how it should be carried out.

Young Generation Summer Gathering

A gathering of all Young Generation members will take place, with the highlight of the event being the formal welcoming of the Year 12 group into the Young Generation framework. Rotem, Shimrit and Sivan took responsibility for leading the event. There is importance in involving and engaging the young people themselves so that they will be part of the thinking, planning and actual implementation process of the event. A date for the event should be set as soon as possible. A budget framework for the event will be provided by Keren.

Young Generation Involvement in the Upcoming Chag Hameshek (Anniversary celebration)

There is great importance in the participation of Young Generation members in the kibbutz holiday teams. Yarden Naor will coordinate with the Culture Committee regarding the recruitment of Young Generation members to the Chag HaMeshek team, particularly their involvement in organising the party.

Duty Rotations for Spouses

The issue of duty rotations for spouses of kibbutz members living on the kibbutz was discussed. According to the existing procedure, spouses living on the kibbutz are required to perform duty rotations after six months of residence. The young people requested that the issue be re-examined and that the possibility of cancelling the duty requirement for spouses be considered. During the discussion, several ideas and possibilities were raised. It was agreed that the issue would continue to be examined and brought back for further discussion and consideration within the committee.

Transition from Year 12 to Young Generation

It was updated that a meeting has been scheduled with the parents and teenagers of the "Tut" group (Year 12), to take place on 15.06.26. Committee members are invited to join.

Recorded by: Keren Shtemper-Kagan



Notes from the Academy of Music Interview with Marina Kanevsky, Cello Teacher



Ilana Peleg



Born in Ukraine, then part of the Soviet Union, Marina Kanevsky received her musical education in her homeland before immigrating to Israel at the age of 32 together with her husband and two children.

The family first settled in Ashdod, and after six months were accepted as guests on Kibbutz Gazit, with the intention of joining the kibbutz. Shortly afterwards, Marina heard that the Kibbutz Chamber Orchestra was searching for a cellist.

“Since I had been practising intensively in Ashdod, I immediately jumped at the opportunity,” she recalls. She credits much of that early encouragement to the late Gila Porat of Gazit, a pianist who accompanied many of the kibbutz musicians. “She accompanied me as well and gave me tremendous support in taking my first steps with the orchestra.”

Music entered Marina’s life at a very early age. “My parents used to take me to the Philharmonic Orchestra concerts, and that was where I fell in love with the sound of the orchestra.”

She began learning piano at the age of five, as a compulsory instrument, and at the age of nine added cello studies, the instrument that would later become central to her life and career.

One of her strongest memories from her early years in Israel was teaching her very first student here. “I mainly remember feeling helpless,” she says honestly, “because of the new language and the very different mentality of the children.”

Asked about the composers closest to her heart, Marina mentions two immediately. “Shostakovich touches something very deep inside me emotionally, while Brahms represents a beautiful balance between Romanticism and Classicism.”

Marina arrived at The Academy of Music through her connection with Anna Gavrilov, who introduced her to the school. At the time, Stas was searching for a cello teacher in order to establish a cello class.

“I was accepted with enormous excitement and joy,” she says.

In Israel, Marina also expanded her professional training beyond performance and instrumental teaching. She studied music therapy combined with movement at the Lewinsky Seminar and later worked in kindergartens for autistic children, as well as with children from disadvantaged families at a boarding school in Afula.

“These studies were extremely meaningful for me,” she explains. “They completely changed my approach to teaching cello.”

Alongside teaching, Marina has continued performing over the years. In the past she played in a quartet consisting of two violins, viola and cello, and today she still occasionally performs with a pianist friend.

When asked what makes The Academy of Music special compared to other places where she has worked, her answer is immediate.

“There is a true feeling of home here. You can genuinely feel the love for both the students and the teachers. That is why, even when I had other opportunities, whenever I had the freedom to choose, I chose to teach here.”

Interviewed by: Ilana Peleg



Energy, the summer season is long and expensive!



There has been a major change in the Time-of-Use electricity tariff!

Israel Electric Corp Summer now begins in June, continues through July and August, and ends only at the end of September, consider yourselves warned!

The summer season is beginning: hot, hotter, very hot, including electricity rates.

Children, remember to turn off the air conditioners when you leave the house. Parents too.

Summer Time-of-Use hours and electricity rates, until the autumn rates begin in October

Sunday to Thursday

Peak: 17:00–23:00

Off-peak: all other hours

Friday evenings and holiday eves

All hours: off-peak

Saturdays and holidays

All hours: off-peak

Cost per kWh, high voltage, excluding VAT

Winter: Peak, ₪0.8628. Off-peak, ₪0.3040

Summer: Peak, ₪1.3313. Off-peak, ₪0.3367

Transition season: Peak, ₪0.3304. Off-peak, ₪0.2965

The cost of electricity during peak hours is almost four times higher than in the previous season. Consider yourselves warned!

Reminder

Anyone with Shabbat timers operating their boiler should change the boiler's operating hours according to the off-peak hours. Check that the time is updated.

A solar boiler works by solar power only until October.

For those whose water is not heated enough by the sun, the boiler can be turned on manually. Remember to switch it off after half an hour. Otherwise, you may only realise you forgot at the end of the month, when the electricity bill arrives.

For those who have a solar boiler but do not have enough hot water for a morning shower, there is a new programme that provides electricity for one hour before dawn. Leave a message at the electricity workshop and it will be taken care of.

Do not forget to clean the air-conditioner filters every two weeks. Check that water is dripping from the drainage pipe, to prevent flooding inside the air conditioner.

Set the air conditioner to 24 degrees, or higher. Each degree lower increases electricity consumption by 5%. In the past, I once recommended setting the air conditioner to 25 degrees, but newer air conditioners are more efficient, so the optimal temperature has dropped by one degree.

The air vents should be directed upwards, cold air sinks. Change the direction of the fans so that they push the air trapped near the ceiling downwards.

Remember to turn off the air conditioner when leaving the house or office, and to close windows and doors.

On average, 80% of household electricity consumption in summer is from air conditioning. If your children are at home, remind them too.

There is some good news too. All daytime hours and weekends are off-peak, so you can enjoy a cooled home at reasonable cost, which was not the case under the old Time-of-Use tariff.

Jeremy's Advice: So, what should we do between 17:00 and 23:00?

Spend more time at the swimming pool, cool the house before 17:00 and then raise the thermostat to 26 degrees to maintain the cool air, eat in the dining hall...

Ed adds... holiday in Australia or New Zealand... its winter there 😊 - Ed

Wishing us all a pleasant and happy summer, and most importantly, may peace come and everyone return home safely.

Jeremy Perling,
Energy Supervisor

Edi-tor's Note: In the Hebrew Alon there is a table with the estimated running cost of the various types of A.C. This is what chat has to say about the subject:

The table shows just how expensive it can be to run an air conditioner during summer peak hours (17:00–23:00).

For example:

- A small 1 HP air conditioner costs about ₪1 per hour during peak hours.
- A 2 HP unit costs about ₪2 per hour.
- A large central air conditioner can cost ₪4–6 per hour.

Running a large air conditioner every evening throughout the summer can add hundreds or even thousands of shekels to the electricity bill.

So, what can help?

- Cool the house before 17:00, then raise the thermostat to 26°C to maintain the cool air.
- Spend more time at the swimming pool or outdoors during the cooler evening hours.
- Use ceiling fans or standing fans, they consume far less electricity than air conditioners.
- Eat in the dining hall instead of cooling the house during peak hours.
- Close shutters and curtains during the afternoon to reduce heat entering the house.
- Close off unused rooms and switch off unnecessary appliances.
- Remember: weekends and holidays are all off-peak, a good time for laundry, baking, dishwashers and long air-conditioner use.

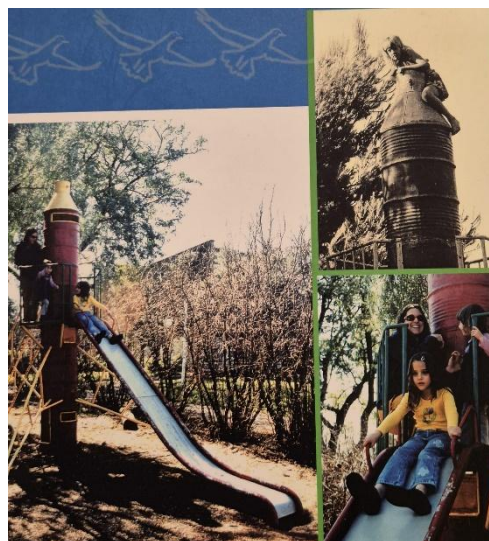
Tikkun Leil Shavuot in the Missile Garden



A thank you from Ilana Shani: I was deeply moved to arrive on Shavuot evening and be part of the blessed experience of restoring the Missile Garden. It was emotional to watch young and older hands sanding, painting and gradually bringing back to life the play structures built by my late husband, Michael, which so many of us used to visit and enjoy. The atmosphere was energetic and wonderful.

Many thanks to everyone who took part in this important project!

With love,
Ilana Shani and the entire family.



Above.... Once upon a time on Yizrael

The Missile Garden play structures, built by the late Michael Shani, served the children of Yizrael for some twenty years, and after being moved behind the infants' houses, continued to be used for many more years. When safety regulations changed, the



structures were dismantled and forgotten for a long time, until about a year ago, when a modest plan was formed to bring the Missile Garden back to life.

Since then, a careful and steady process of rebuilding the garden has been moving forward, with the assistance of the Planning Committee, including a sensory path, play corners and seating areas.

On Shavuot evening, the Shavuot Committee and the Environmental Quality Committee joined forces for a special “Tikkun Leil Shavuot” project in the Missile Garden.

From Shlomo Cohen we learned that Tikkun Leil Shavuot is connected to acts of repair and renewal through gathering together for learning, listening and discussion around values, spirit and meaning. It is a night that expresses community connection around a positive shared idea. From Ilana Shani we heard about the tremendous work Michael invested, almost entirely on his own, mainly during the evenings and late at night.

And so, through teamwork and in a warm atmosphere, with lively music in the background alongside beer and snacks, all the garden structures were lovingly painted.

The work is not yet complete. More repairs, planting and additional improvements are still needed, but at least now the structures stand proudly and happily once again.



Heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated and contributed their time!

Thanks also to the pub team for the beer, to Itzik Nisani for the music, and special thanks to Idit Halevi for the tremendous effort and investment in organising the paints. Navot Assaf, Shlomo Cohen, Doron Kagan and Tamar Sanker.

(P.S. The “dangerous” playground equipment will not be in use but will stand as a monument to days gone by when our children spent happy hours together long before the screens ruined everything. I already have seen kids climbing all over them and enjoying themselves... in relative safety. The battering ram and Juggernaut are welded fast)

Experiences from the Chakla'ida - Tal Levi (Freiman)

This year was the first time I truly experienced the Chakla'ida activities, thanks to my daughter, who is now old enough to enjoy them.

I was amazed to see how much the children enjoyed such simple games and activities, without gimmicks and without screens. Children of all ages and sizes found endless joy together on the water-and-soap slide. Each child could wander through the space, discover a new game, join children they knew, or did not know, and create a unique and enjoyable shared experience.

It made me happy to see how, through these activities, our children were brought back to the natural basics: water, earth and wood. There was no fire, but that is fine... They were encouraged not only to enjoy themselves, but also to think and create.

I am also happy that Noam, my partner, contributed her talent and designed the beautiful photo corner. I hope you had your family photo taken there, as an unforgettable keepsake.

I would also like to express my admiration for the thought, imagination and creativity invested in developing the games and activities. Thank you to the team that made it happen, led by Eviatar Assaf, who devoted so much time and thought to it.

It is clear how important it is to preserve such a special and characteristic tradition of Kibbutz Yizrael.

And of course, thank you for the delicious cakes, each with the taste, history and uniqueness of a different home.

May we have many more such holidays and beautiful, unifying days, reminding us that even in difficult times, it is still possible to enjoy ourselves and rejoice.



This week I met hope. Nitzan Rivlin Feldman.



Her name is Sumaya Bashir, and she believes, and proves, that another reality is possible. She was here this week, on Yizrael.

It is possible to live together, Jews and Arabs, and cooperate. It is possible to change reality. It is possible to be a Muslim woman, religious, feminist, independent and an activist. And she believes there are things we must not do, and things we must:

We must not surrender to a bad reality, we must rebel against it.

We must not give up in advance, we must struggle for our vision and beliefs.

We must not isolate ourselves, we must cooperate with everyone who shares our values and vision.

We must not remain shackled to the traumas of the past, we must move forward.

We must not erase any identity, we must respect the diversity and uniqueness of every part of Israeli society, this richly varied Israeli mosaic – Jews and Arabs, secular and ultra-Orthodox and everyone in between, Mizrahim and Ashkenazim, right and left, and so much more.

Sumaya was born and lives in Jatt, in a religious family. Her grandfather was a mufti. She is the mother of five children. She dared to cancel an engagement after a single jealous outburst, divorced the father of three of her children because of violence, remarried and had two more children.

She is a music therapist, and through her work with Holocaust survivors she came to understand that the past cannot and must not be erased. The Holocaust is part of our history. We must neither forget nor deny it. The Holocaust, with all its traumas and lessons, must continue to accompany us. The same is true of the Nakba. For Arab citizens of Israel, the Nakba is part of their history, with all that this entails.

Sumaya believes that remembering is essential, but that we must not remain imprisoned within trauma, because trauma prevents us from moving forward. We must shape our future – personal, national and shared – in ways that improve our lives.

“The word Zionism carries a negative meaning for Palestinians. It symbolises erasure and the creation of new lives upon their graves. But as I mixed more and integrated into Jewish society, I came to understand that true Zionism is love of the land, love of the people and recognition of the other. All my Jewish friends are Zionists, and they

think I am a Zionist because I want to protect the State of Israel and its security. I also believe that the State of Israel must protect me.”

After the 2022 shooting attack in Hadera, in which two Border Police officers were murdered and five others wounded by two young men from Um-el-Fahem, she understood that such acts, even when committed by individuals, stain Arab society as a whole and endanger her as well. She gathered 22 women and men from Arab communities.

“We spoke there about what it means for us to live in the State of Israel, about the fact that we have no other country, and neither do the Jews, and that we must learn to live together. We spoke about the fact that we are not only Arabs, but Israeli Arabs, and that this means we are not guests here but citizens. It means we have rights, but also responsibilities. We spoke about our national identity and our civic identity. About the fact that we must contribute and volunteer in society in order to be part of it, and that our civic identity does not cancel our national identity, and that integration into society does not mean uprooting our national roots.”

At the end of that evening she founded the group “We Have No Other Country”, dedicated to promoting Jewish-Arab cooperation. Today the group has 80,000 members.

Sumaya joined The Democrats and decided to run in the upcoming primaries for a place on the party’s Knesset list.

Why the Democrats?

In her view, the Arab parties – which she calls “sectorial” – isolate Arab society from the state and have failed to advance it or secure its rights over the years. “We are part of this country, and the more involved we are, the more we will improve our own situation.”

If elected to the Knesset, she hopes to serve on the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee and the Education Committee.

The seventh of October only deepened her sense of belonging to the country and of a shared destiny. She neither wants nor is able to live anywhere else in the world. At the same time, she cannot ignore what is happening in Gaza. There is much that needs repairing here, and so she rolls up her sleeves and works towards repair. She is active in ‘Women Wage Peace’ and coordinates its work in Arab society.

She strongly encourages national service among Arab youth and says that statistically she already sees major success in this field. She believes that if she reaches the top ten on the Democrats' Knesset list, she can bring a very large number of votes to the party, more than an entire mandate, because many in the Arab sector know her work, her determination to repair and change reality, and her achievements. They will see her as an authentic representative who will work together with the party for their rights and against the Nation-State Law.

That is only the briefest summary. She asks for our support and our votes in the upcoming Democrats primaries. I will certainly give her mine.

So, if any of you would like to support her, now is the time, and it is still possible, to join The Democrats.

Listened, deeply impressed, and summarised by Nitzan Rivlin Feldman.

In Praise of Plaster – Thoughts on the Social Process – Hanan Shaliv

Modeling the Future Together.
Meet. speak. listen.



“Not to fear inherent tensions, but to learn how to use them.” This quotation from an article in last Friday’s edition of [The Marker](#) perfectly encapsulates my proposal for a successful “social process” in our own community.

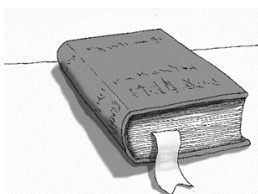
It seems appropriate here to add a completely free paraphrase of a statement attributed to none other than Albert Einstein, who supposedly said: “Anyone who repeats the same experiment over and over under the same conditions, using the same tools, components and energy, while expecting different results, is probably not being rational.”

By this I mean that in recent years we have held at least four or five “social processes” on subjects such as cars, the Food Branch, core values, Yizrael and Israeli society, and more. The results were that, generally speaking, no significant moves or changes followed them. As a result, part of the public, which had greatly hoped for further and further change, was disappointed by the outcomes of these discussions and processes.

We have also held mediation processes, understanding discussions, and brainstorming sessions aimed at improving the service branches and committees. There was goodwill, and usually listening and understanding as well, yet we still did not achieve the results we had hoped for. And now we are once again being called upon to repeat the same process.

I have proposed trying a different approach, one that is unequivocally based at its core on reaching a dichotomous outcome, but which nevertheless allows, and perhaps even requires, embarking upon a continued process of dialogue. The current situation, in which the process circumvents decision-making and, in the well-known case of the cars, became a process of enforcing a decision at the expense of the democratic choice of the Yizrael community, obliges us to consider additional possibilities. Especially since this same dichotomous question has been on our communal table for a very long time, and one way or another we contend with it every single day.

Hanan Shaliv



New ENGLISH books in our library



The Cuckoo's Calling — Robert Galbraith

When supermodel Lula Landry falls to her death from a snowy London balcony, the police rule it suicide. But her brother refuses to believe it and hires private detective Cormoran Strike to investigate. Strike, a wounded war veteran struggling financially and emotionally, begins uncovering the hidden lives behind celebrity glamour.

The novel is less about shocking twists and more about atmosphere, observation and character. London feels vividly alive, and the developing partnership between Strike and his temporary secretary Robin Ellacott becomes one of the book's greatest strengths. The investigation unfolds methodically, with interviews, contradictions and gradual revelations rather than nonstop action.

The writing is intelligent and confident, clearly inspired by classic British detective fiction. Readers who enjoy careful plotting and strong character work will appreciate the slow build. Those looking for fast-paced thrills may find it leisurely at times.

A thoughtful, satisfying mystery with memorable characters and an engaging sense of place.

Traitor's Gate — Jeffrey Archer

This fast-moving thriller centres on the theft of the Crown Jewels and a dangerous international conspiracy. Former detective William Warwick becomes involved in a race against time involving organised crime, intelligence agencies and political intrigue.

Jeffrey Archer writes with enormous readability. Chapters are short, scenes move quickly, and the plot constantly shifts between London and international locations. The book is designed to entertain rather than probe deeply into psychology, and it succeeds well at that task.

The characters are clear and engaging, even if somewhat larger than life. Archer's talent lies in maintaining momentum and keeping readers eager for the next chapter. The dialogue is crisp, and the story often feels cinematic.

Not every twist is entirely realistic, but realism is not really the point. The novel delivers suspense, action and polished storytelling in a very accessible form.

An enjoyable page-turner that is ideal for readers wanting pure entertainment.

Tell No One — Harlan Coben

Eight years after his wife Elizabeth was murdered, Dr David Beck receives a mysterious email suggesting she may still be alive. Suddenly the past reopens, and Beck finds himself pursued by both the police and unknown enemies while desperately searching for the truth.

The novel's greatest strength is momentum. Harlan Coben creates tension almost immediately and rarely allows it to relax. Each chapter introduces a new question, danger or revelation, making the book extremely difficult to put down.

The emotional centre works surprisingly well because Beck's grief and confusion feel genuine. At the same time, the plot becomes increasingly complicated, with hidden identities, conspiracies and dramatic twists arriving rapidly.

Some readers may feel the story occasionally stretches credibility, but Coben's skill keeps the suspense compelling enough that most will gladly continue along for the ride.

A gripping thriller driven by emotion, mystery and relentless suspense.

One Plus One — Jojo Moyes

Jess Thomas is a struggling single mother trying to hold together an unconventional family while working multiple jobs. Her daughter is a gifted mathematician, her stepson is bullied, and money is constantly short. When an awkward but wealthy man named Ed Nicholls enters their lives, an unexpected journey begins.

Jojo Moyes combines humour, warmth and emotional honesty with great skill. The characters feel flawed and human, and the family relationships are portrayed with affection and realism. The novel balances romance with broader themes of class, loneliness and resilience.

The road-trip structure allows the relationships to develop naturally, and much of the book's charm comes from the conversations and small emotional moments between the characters.

Certain developments are predictable, and some readers may find the sentimentality strong in places. Still, the emotional sincerity gives the novel its appeal.

A compassionate and uplifting story about ordinary people trying to survive difficult circumstances.

Just Mercy — Bryan Stevenson

In this powerful memoir, lawyer Bryan Stevenson recounts his work defending poor prisoners and death-row inmates in the American justice system. The book focuses particularly on the case of Walter McMillian, a Black man wrongly convicted of murder in Alabama.

Stevenson writes with clarity, compassion and moral conviction. Rather than presenting abstract arguments, he tells deeply human stories about injustice, poverty, racism and mercy. The cases described are often heartbreaking, but the book avoids bitterness and remains grounded in hope and dignity. The writing is direct and accessible, making complicated legal issues understandable without oversimplifying them. Stevenson's empathy for even deeply flawed individuals becomes one of the book's defining qualities.

This is not light reading, but it is deeply rewarding. The book challenges readers to think seriously about punishment, fairness and humanity.

An important and emotionally powerful work of nonfiction.

June is almost here, the month that plays tricks with time, when Book Week somehow stretches across an entire month...

Get ready, get ready!

The annual exhibition will open in the course of the month, and also:
“Blind Date with a Book” ...



ENGLISH IS FUN - with Rahel

Accidental Bloopers

The following statements are collected from insurance forms in which drivers were asked to explain their disasters in the fewest words possible.

In these cases, driving skills and writing abilities seem to go together.
(continued and concluded)

My car was legally parked as I backed into the other vehicle.

I was thrown from my car as it left the road. I was later found in a ditch by some stray cows.

I told the police that I was not injured, but on removing my hat, found that I had fractured my skull.

The accident was entirely due to the road bending.

The accident was due to the other man's narrowly missing me.

The accident happened when the right front door of a car came around the corner without giving a signal.

The other car collided with mine without giving warning of its intentions.

No one was to blame for the accident, but it never would have happened if the other driver had been alert.

Suddenly she saw me, lost her head, and we met.

I misjudged a lady crossing the street.

I heard a horn blow and was struck violently in the back. Evidently a lady was trying to pass me.

One wheel went into the ditch. My foot jumped from brake to accelerator, leaped across the road to the other side, and jumped into the trunk of a tree.

The accident occurred when I was attempting to bring my car out of a skid by steering it into the other vehicle.

I had been driving for about 40 years, when I fell asleep at the wheel and had an accident.

A cow wandered into my car. I was later informed that the unfortunate cow was half-witted.

The other man changed his mind, and I had to run into him.

I was backing my car out of the driveway in the usual manner, when it was struck by the other car in the same place it had been struck several times before.

My car sustained no damage whatsoever, and the other car somewhat less.

I was on my way to the doctor with rear end trouble when my universal joint gave way, causing me to have an accident.more next week

Credits and More:

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Disclaimer: 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.

Two editions of the Yizraelite. We publish two editions. **The cyber edition** includes more colour photos and occasionally additional long articles. The hard copy is printed in black and white, and therefore there is no point in printing colour photos. We are also limited in length because of printing costs. The hard copy is distributed at the beginning of the following week; therefore, adverts for events that have already taken place over the previous weekend do not appear in the hard copy. Even if you prefer reading the hard copy, we encourage you to scroll through the internet version over the weekend.

Please take into account that we use AI when translating. We proofread, fact-check, and correct the text, but errors may still be overlooked. Be warned.