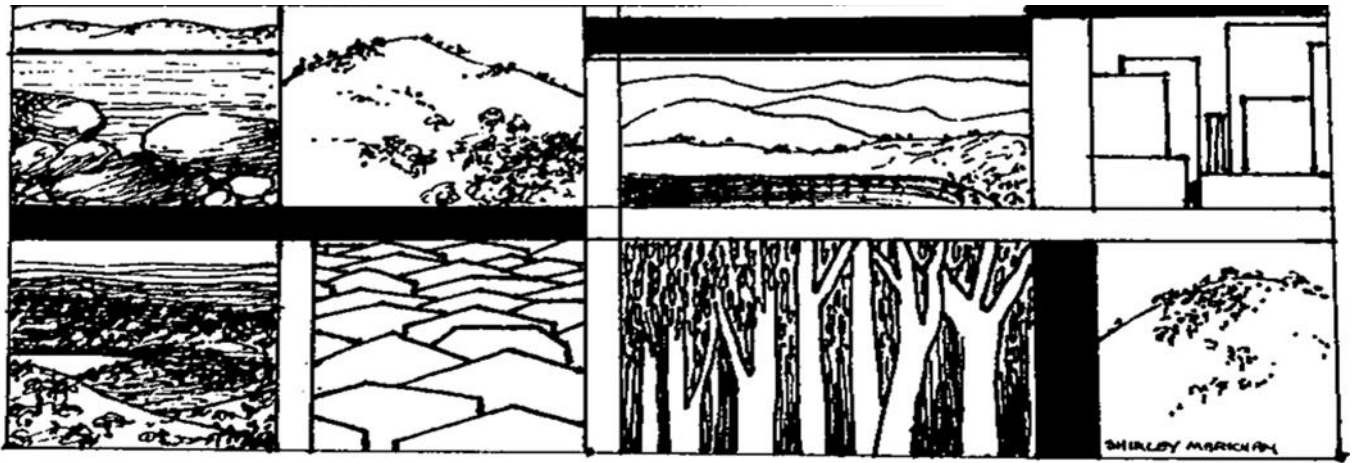




The Yizraelite – No 2229 Date: 24.10.25

Kibbutz Yizrael

Congratulations to Eden and Ben Broadhurst!



On the birth of their baby boy —
Grandson of Neta and Chas, and brother to Kai.
Congratulations to the Broadhurst and Maman families!

**Wishing you an abundance of goodness, joy,
light, health, and endless love!**





Thank You



To the Yizrael Community – From Sarah Einzur (mother of Irit Mor)

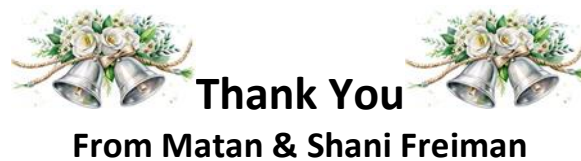
I arrived at Yizrael two years ago with a small bag, planning to stay only “until the storm passed.”

But because of the war that struck Manara so harshly, I ended up remaining for two years...

Now the time has come to return home, and I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude for being a warm and caring home to me throughout this time.

I wish to thank especially my loving family and the Mor family in all its branches, and of course the medical clinic staff for their devoted care, as well as all the community institutions and service branches that assisted me during my stay.

With hope for peaceful and good days for us all,
Sarah Einzur (mother of Irit Mor)



 **Dear Yizrael Community,**

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for the privilege of getting married on your beautiful and beloved kibbutz.

To **Erez**, the community manager — thank you for your blessing and for the honour of being the first couple to marry at the agricultural farm.

To **Nachem Levin**, **Yarin Rosilio**, and the wonderful group of *Shin-Shinim*, thank you for your warm hospitality in the little piece of heaven you nurture, and for your help in preparing the site for the event.

To **Naomi Levin**, **Ofri Sharoni**, **Sigal Hader**, and the amazing Year 12 Project teens — an enormous thank-you for your incredible and hard work in setting up, running, and dismantling the event.

To **Yifat Segal** and **Idit Halevi**, thank you for allowing us to use the Culture Committee's equipment.

To **Yoni Brauman**, a big thank-you for making the Tiyul equipment available.

To **Einan Grosser**, **Yotam Assaf**, and the entire Noi team — thank you for rallying together to prepare the farm for the celebration.

To **Neta Cohen** and the kolbo team, and to **Itzik Shechter** and the food branch team — thank you for the drinks and the delicious pizzas.

To **Alon Reuven** and the electrical team — thank you for your assistance with installing the event lighting.

To **Rachel Piekarsky**, thank you for your warm hospitality at Beit Hashutafut.

And to the entire **Yizrael community**, thank you for your generosity and open-heartedness, which made us feel truly at home and enabled us to fulfil our dream of getting married at the agricultural farm.

May we always share in happy occasions,
Matan and Shani Freiman



In the Kibbutz Sukkah — Under the Open Sky



Under the open sky and amidst the festive decorations, we were blessed with true joy — the joy of the redemption of our hostages — a moment of hope and light.

This year, “the season of our rejoicing” took on a far deeper and more profound meaning, and we extend our

heartfelt thanks to all those who made every effort to bring about this long-awaited moment.

We would also like to thank the many good people who contributed to the success of the festival:

To all the children of the Social Education programme and their team for creating colourful, cheerful decorations for the Sukkah.

To Itzik Shechter and Adi Laviv from the Food Department, for their generosity and readiness to help with every request.

To the sound team, Einan and Itzik Nisani, who worked tirelessly throughout the holiday.

To the dedicated (and overly modest) stage crew who prefer to remain unnamed.

To the noi team who trimmed the branches for the *s’chach*, built, and later dismantled our beautiful sukkah (Einan Grosser, Yotam Asaf, Rotem Agmon, Cnaan Dolinko, and the young workers — Oria Darom, Oren Beutler, Amitai Sadur, Harel Pen, Leshem Cohen-Schwartz, Ido Sharoni, Idan Friedman, and our strong volunteer, Tzachi Tzafadia.

To all who sang, played, wrote, read, and took part in the creative team for the holiday gatherings:

Avigail Shkolnik, Avner Alterlevi, Uri Elon Brustein, Ofir Halevi, Alon Kagan, Eli Friedman, Amir Darom, Guy Perling, Yaniv Lifshitz, Yifat Assaf, Kerem and Nov Cohen-Schwartz, Noam Armoza, Stas Gavrilov, Idit Halevi, and Shachaf Halevi-Sassi.

To David Beutler for hosting the B.B.B. Bingo night.

To Gil Hillel for his thorough research into the world of kites, for building models, and for his professional guidance during the kite workshop — and to Yaniv Shorer for his support of the kite-flying team.

And of course — to the entire community who participated, encouraged, and shared in the joy.

We add our deep thanks to the sensitive and thoughtful team behind the memorial events for the tragedy of 7.10 — who invested much care in creating meaningful, moving, and dignified ceremonies:

Uri Elon Brustein, Yehonatan Witelson, Yifat Assaf, Nitzan Rivlin-Feldman, Adi Goldstein-Ilan, and Shachaf Halevi-Sassi.

May we know better days — of peace and brotherhood.

The Sukkot Festival Team:

Gal Witelson, Tali Brauman, Maayan Matalon, Marnina Gross, Nofer Dolinko, Niv Segal, Inbal Pezaro, and Tamar Sanker.

**Open Discussion – Kibbutz Economic Situation
Monday, 10.11.25 at 20:30**

An open discussion will be held regarding the current economic situation of the kibbutz.

Relevant data and information will be presented.

Message from: **Limor Griman**

Community Management Meeting Summary



Date: 19.10.25

Participants: Erez Peleg, Talia Arad, Yifat Segal, Yishai Levy, Kinneret Govrin, Naomi Amit, Shlomo Levy, Tami Penn, Tamir Blass, Limor Griman.

Agenda

1. Presentation of the 2026 Work Plan and Budget – Electrical Department

Alon Reuven, Head of the Electrical Department, presented the main activities of 2025 and the proposed work plan for 2026.

The plan focuses on ongoing maintenance of the kibbutz's electrical infrastructure and energy control systems.

Compared to 2025, the 2026 plan does not include the periodic maintenance projects that were carried out this year and will not be required next year.

The 2026 plan also reflects income from the sale of electrical appliances .

The required budget for 2026 is approximately **100,000 NIS lower** than the 2025 budget.

2. Presentation of the 2026 Work Plan and Budget – Demography Cluster (TZEMED)

Yishai Levy, Cluster Coordinator, presented the 2025 summary of the cluster's work, detailing the activities of its committees — Young Generation, Absorption, and Housing.

The main objective achieved this year was the completion and approval (by the General Assembly) of a **demographic plan till 2030**.

From a budgetary standpoint, by the end of September, the cluster had used about **70%** of its annual budget, with the aim of closing the year at **75–80% utilisation**.

Yishai presented the main goals for 2026, with a focus on implementing the demographic plan through collaboration and coordination among the three committees.

A discussion took place about housing needs in the coming years, including data indicating the necessity to **complete 30 housing units in the Rugby neighbourhood by the end of 2030**, despite expected vacancies in older neighbourhoods.

Questions were also raised about **education and training tracks for young adults** and how they can be adapted to the times.

A full breakdown of the 2026 goals for each committee will be presented to the public by the cluster toward the end of **December 2025**.

The **budget request for 2026** is approximately **20% lower** than this year's request and aligns with the current year's level of expenditure.

3. Brainstorming Session – Preparation of the 2026 Budget

Given the current economic situation, members of the Community Management were asked to consider ways to **reduce expenses and/or increase income**.

Several ideas were proposed and briefly discussed, without decisions being made at this stage:

- Cancelling paid weekend security and returning to a volunteer guard rotation among members and residents.
- Reducing staffing levels, particularly by merging administrative positions.
- Privatising the laundry service.
- Reconsidering the profit distribution formula for 2026.
- Increasing the per-kilometre rate charged to members for use of kibbutz cars.

The Community Management invites members who have ideas for cost reduction to share them with any member of the management team.

4. Vehicle Department Audit Report

This item was postponed to a later date.

Summary prepared by: Limor Griman

Summary of the General Assembly - 20.10.25



Attendees: 35 members in the Moadon + on Zoom

Chairperson: Shlomo Cohen

Secretary: Limor Griman

Agenda

Assembly and Economic Council Procedure

Background:

Following amendments to the kibbutz charter (Takanon), the Assembly Committee was asked by the Management Committee to prepare a new Assembly Procedure. The committee took the opportunity to refresh and update the procedure with several necessary revisions.

The proposed procedure was discussed and approved by the Management Committee after several changes and additions. According to the kibbutz charter, the Economic Council functions as a “substitute for the Assembly,” and therefore, the proposed procedure applies to both (with the necessary distinctions).

Sections taken directly from the kibbutz bylaws are presented in **black frames**, to clearly distinguish what derives from the charter and what from the procedure. It was explained that this meeting cannot make changes to the charter.

Shlomo Cohen, on behalf of the Assembly Committee, presented the new procedure and, using a “presentation”, highlighted the main changes compared to the previous version—changes stemming from the revised charter and from the integration of accepted practices into the formal procedure.

The full text of the new procedure was sent to members in advance.

After the presentation, a discussion was held:

- **Jules Feldman** argued that the procedure lacks a clear statement that *Assembly decisions can only be changed by another Assembly*.
 - **Shlomo Cohen, the chairperson** responded that this appears in the *Kibbutz Appeals Procedure* and it is unnecessary—and even inappropriate—to repeat it here.
- **Duration of the ballot:** The procedure states that voting may last between **2 and 5 days**, at the discretion of the Assembly Committee. **Tamir Lavi** suggested it should be fixed and not left open to interpretation.
 - **Shlomo** replied that the flexibility is mandated by the kibbutz charter and therefore, it cannot be changed in the Assembly Procedure.
- **Tzach Sassi** asked why the Assembly cannot overturn the Assembly Committee’s decision, ahead of the meeting, that a topic should be put to a ballot.
 - **Nitzan Rivlin Feldman** explained that, as in the previous procedure, there are two safeguards to prevent random or hasty decisions:
 1. One-third of Assembly participants can decide that a topic goes to a ballot.
 2. The Assembly Committee can decide *in advance* that a topic will go to a ballot, and the Assembly cannot reverse this decision.
 - **Eddie Solow** added that the Assembly has the authority to *delegate* certain powers—and in this case, that authority is delegated to the Assembly Committee. The aim is to prevent impulsive decisions and safeguard democracy.
- **Yitzhak Peleg** proposed minor semantic additions, which were accepted and incorporated.

At the conclusion of the meeting, a **vote was held on Kehilanet** to approve the new Assembly and Economic Council Procedure.

Voting results:

- In favour: 40
- Against: 14
- Abstained: 3

The new procedure will take effect **one week after publication of this summary**. Members may review it in **Kehilanet → Regulations and Procedures → Assembly**.

Reported by: Limor Griman

P.S. The Procedure is in the Kehilanet already Ed.



From Erez's Desk



Security – Gate Opening Hours

Starting this Sunday, the main entrance gates to the kibbutz will remain **open during daytime hours** and **closed from 18:00 to 05:00**, Sunday through Thursday.

On weekends, the gates will remain closed and will be operated **via the PalGate app**.

Preparing the 2026 Community Budget

Work has begun on preparing the 2026 community budget. In the coming weeks, the Community Management will review the work plans of the clusters and service branches.

At the same time, the Management is engaged in exploring ways to reduce community expenses, in order to **allocate larger sums for the construction of the Rugby Neighbourhood**, aimed at advancing the absorption of new families into the kibbutz.

The introduction to this section — reporting on budget preparations — could easily apply to any year. However, this year we face a different challenge: **the community's income sources are no longer sufficient**, and we must take further steps, including various cutbacks, to reduce expenses as much as possible.

In general, the community budget is **not wasteful**. Compared to other cooperative kibbutzim, Kibbutz Yizrael is considered **highly efficient and very restrained** in its per-

member expenditures. In recent years, significant measures have already been taken to streamline and cut costs, including a major reduction in the number of community employees.

So how is it that our income from salaries is still not enough to sustain the community budget?

The reason lies in **two main factors**, both stemming from decisions and practices of the past — which may have been right for their time but whose consequences we now feel:

1. **The halt in new-member absorption** and the resulting **demographic crisis**, (Because of the housing shortage – Ed) reflected in a relatively high proportion of pensioners compared to working-age members.
2. **The Reserve Fund's limited capacity** to transfer pensions to the community at the target level. (those monies are used to fill the fund – Ed)

Had we maintained a balanced demographic profile (a healthier ratio between working-age members and pensioners) and had the Reserve Fund been able to pay pensions according to the target level, the community could have sustained itself on work income alone, without relying on business profits.

So, there is **reason for hope** — but for now, and in the coming years, the community budget will still require **supplemental funding from business sources**, which, in 2026, may not be available at the level we would wish.

What can we do?

1. Further **reduce community expenses** wherever possible.
2. **Take responsibility** – we are estimating that roughly **one million shekels** are wasted on unnecessary use of community services . The time has come to act responsibly and lower costs by:
 - Driving carefully and avoiding damage to kibbutz vehicles.
 - Refraining from taking equipment from the Food Department.
 - Taking food and hosting guests considerately.
 - Using the laundry service wisely – for example, **avoiding sending towels to the laundry after a single use**, and similar measures.

The economic challenge we face demands both **change and adaptation**, along with smarter use of our existing resources. At least for now, solutions can be found that will allow us to continue sustaining our kibbutz life.

Kibbutz Yizrael remains a wonderful place to live, offering a high quality of life and a strong, functional community.

Therefore, it is important not to act hysterically and not to destroy what we have built together over the years, just because of current financial difficulties.

The Management Committee will soon hold **an open discussion** (See invitation on page 4 – Ed) to present the financial situation and the possible paths ahead.

Examining the Use of the Food Department Resources

The team reviewing the kibbutz's use of the Food Department resource is now reaching its final stage. A **survey questionnaire** is currently being prepared and will be distributed within about **two to three weeks**.

Its purpose is to gather as much accurate data as possible to understand the **scope and patterns of use** of the Food Department. To ensure accurate results and enable the formation of informed recommendations for the Community Management, it is **very important that most kibbutz members complete the questionnaire**.

A detailed notice and explanation will be issued prior to its publication.

That's all for now,

Erez Peleg

Summary of the HR Management Meeting - 19.10.2025

Participants: Rochela Matalon, Peter Pezaro, Shlomo Cohen, Eddie Solow, Irit Shemesh, Navot Assaf, Erez Peleg, Limor Griman, Ilan Sador, Kinneret Govrin.

1. HR Goals for 2026

Guest: Yishai Levy

Ahead of HR's 2026 work plan, a joint discussion was held within the management team to define targets for the coming year. Various goals were proposed, such as continuing to promote managerial succession planning, ongoing review of position reductions in businesses and community services to lower labour costs, and **implementing the clause on non-compliance with the work requirement**, including creating appropriate reports for members and as a management tool.

Another significant proposed goal concerns **costing of community positions**, including informing the member himself working in agriculture and in Maytronics, how much he is earning for the kibbutz— information currently not visible to members. This goal has three main objectives:

1. Transparency and accessibility of information to all members.
2. Transition to genuine budget management.

3. Increasing members' income-generating activity.

Of approximately 200 members and candidates of work requirement age, there are about 100 working off the kibbutz, 15 entrepreneurship workers, and around 35 employees of the corporations (agriculture and Yizrael holdings) — all of whom have costed positions. In addition, there are about 60 members working within the community, some part-time, whose positions are not yet costed.

During the discussion, Yishai Levy presented his request to allow transparency regarding all employment terms of kibbutz members working at Maytronics so that each member will have full information about their expenses and income, enabling them to assess whether remaining at Maytronics benefits both themselves and the kibbutz.

Discussion points:

- Salary transparency will give members freedom to choose between jobs, taking into account both pay and contribution to the kibbutz, and may foster personal responsibility and motivation to increase earnings.
- Currently, a Maytronics employee (from the kibbutz) does not know their hourly rate or how absences (such as vacation or sick leave) affect their pay, nor the cost of employer-provided meals or vehicle use. They have no idea how much they generate for the kibbutz or what their work is “worth” .
- Job pricing is primarily an organisational and managerial goal — without it, there is no true economic picture.
- The costing process should be disconnected from lifestyle change, as its purpose is transparency and motivation toward higher productivity.
- The kibbutz's financial situation must now take top priority — every effort should be made to increase income. This does not contradict the cooperative model; on the contrary, higher income strengthens the collective framework.
- In the past, a one-time process of income-and-expense transparency was conducted but not continued.
- The value of members' work within kibbutz sectors, including Maytronics, is more important than its monetary value.
- When sharing data with members, it must be emphasized that Maytronics work carries added value — maintaining the vital connection between the kibbutz and the company.
- It remains essential to integrate kibbutz members into local employment. Costing community jobs could risk losing members who currently work inside the kibbutz, as they might seek better-paying outside jobs, thus potentially undermining the goal of increasing internal productivity.

- Emphasis must remain on investment, commitment, and working hours.
- More and more members wish to know their pay rates in agriculture and Maytronics — withholding such information is unreasonable.
- A link must be made between the kibbutz's economic situation and daily conduct, with a sense of shared responsibility, even if it means cooperative values take a lower priority.

Conclusion: A follow-up discussion will be held regarding salary transparency and job costing for members.

2. General Updates

Kinneret reported on members' employment status: four members are currently between jobs, three lack full-time positions, and four have recently returned to work after being unemployed. Meetings were held with most outside workers earning below the minimum threshold, as well as those whose vehicle expenses exceed 20% of their incomes. The matter is under review, with some improvement already evident. By year's end, each member must ensure compliance with the work requirement.

Additionally, meetings were held with members holding various personal insurance policies — life, health, and dental — that created duplicate expenses between personal pay slips and kibbutz coverage. The issue is now being resolved, allowing members to choose whether to continue such policies privately or cancel them.

Regarding the **managerial succession development process**, the team met with nine candidates, of whom seven expressed an interest in participating in a leadership training programme. This programme aims to help candidates assess their suitability and motivation for management roles within the kibbutz, understand the meaning, challenges, benefits, and drawbacks of leadership "at home", and later receive practical management tools. Additional members will be added in the near future.

Summary: Kinneret Govrin

From the Desk of the Committee Appointment Committee

The Committee Appointment Committee issues an **open call** to members to submit candidacies (or suggest candidates – Ed) for the following committees:

- **Safety Committee** – one representative
- **Dog Committee** – two representatives

names may be submitted to any member of the committee **by 06.11.2025**:

Kinneret Govrin, Albert Rosilio, Liran Penn, Navot Assaf, Dotan Savir, Sheli Edelstein, Hedva Sharabani

Open Call – Public Representatives for the Search Team

Hila Alterlevi, Irit Shemesh, and Amir Darom are completing four years of service on the Search Team.

Members may submit their candidacies to **Kinneret (HR)** by **06.11.2025**.

The candidates will be discussed by the HR Management and the Asefa. The vote will take place by ballot.

Updates from the Demography Cluster (Tzemed)

Young Generation

- This week, Nir Rappaport moved into one of the Young Generation rooms. She has begun working in our local social-education system.
- Regarding the current housing situation: there are several vacant rooms that need renovation, and two rooms currently rented out for a monthly fee — one to a lone soldier, Yuri Olynyk, and one to Nir Rappaport. The committee is already looking ahead to the summer of 2026, when 13 members of the current 12th grade will need accommodation. To prepare for their arrival (in pairs), the two rooms rented externally will be vacated and the vacant rooms will be renovated for their use.

For that summer, the committee requires enough rooms to ensure that young residents currently sharing a room will not need to be separated, so it was decided not to split the existing pairs and later expect them to return to shared living after eight months. This decision is mainly practical, but also economic — every relocation or split requires work by the Building Branch, and the committee aims to reduce such expenses.

Given these considerations, the committee decided to make short-term use of the available rooms until summer 2026 to provide housing for a lone soldier and for a salaried employee essential to the youth programme. The committee is doing its

utmost to ensure appropriate housing for the kibbutz's young members and will continue to monitor the situation and make adjustments as needed.

Housing

- Renovation will soon begin in the home of Ron Granot in the eastern neighbourhood. Several faults were found in the house that require repair, along with additional maintenance work.
- The committee is currently completing a field review of the ten temporary homes that will soon be vacated as the Rugby Neighbourhood is populated. These visits aim to assess the condition of the homes for a renovation plan for 2026, and to better understand their internal layout in preparation for both new placements in summer 2026 and internal relocations.
- In the near future, the committee will contact a small number of families currently living in temporary housing to offer improved temporary accommodation. Such offers will be made only to families deemed most suitable, in accordance with the "*Temporary Housing Transfer*" clause in the Housing Procedure:

"Transfers between temporary homes shall be determined by the Housing Committee, which will exercise discretion, taking into account the families' needs with respect to the number of household members, children's ages, and years of seniority."

Absorption

- Starting **24.10.25**, the kibbutz will begin the *acquaintance phase* with six families applying for absorption in summer 2026. From now until the end of November, each weekend (Friday–Saturday) one family will visit and stay in the late Dina Buchman's former apartment in the Hod neighbourhood. The visiting family, including children, will experience the kibbutz firsthand and meet both the Absorption Committee and members of the community.

During each visit, the family will meet two host families from the kibbutz: one on Friday evening (17:30–21:30), including a shared Shabbat dinner in the Dining Hall and social time in the Moadon afterwards; and another for Saturday morning brunch in the Dining Hall, followed by time together at home or around the kibbutz. The visit will end on Saturday afternoon.

- **Many thanks** to the families who have already volunteered to host! We still need a few more families willing to participate in this meaningful process — to host a candidate family for a few hours (Friday or Saturday). Please contact **Eviatar or Karen** if you can help. Only through cooperation can we achieve our absorption goals and secure the kibbutz's demographic and social future.

Message from: **Yishai Levy**, on behalf of the **Demography Cluster**



Updates from the Environmental Quality Committee

Tamar Sankar

1. Beach Clean-Up:



In collaboration with the Sportiyulim Committee, a clean-up was held on Friday, 10.10, at Maayan Tzvi Beach. About 25 participants joined in — there was plenty to clean, but we did what we could, and for a moment the beach sparkled... The atmosphere was pleasant and enjoyable. Many thanks to everyone who came and contributed their time and energy to the cause.

2. Kibbutz Clean-Up Day:

A community activity aimed at raising awareness about environmental cleanliness on the kibbutz will take place on **Saturday, 22.11**. The event will include cleaning areas around the kibbutz followed by a festive gathering with **pitot baked in the tabun** at the agricultural farm. We hope to see everyone there!

3. Dish Collection Project:

As part of reducing single-use waste, the committee will collect **Dining Hall dishes** that were taken to members' homes. The goal is to return the items and prevent the need to buy new ones — a cost of thousands of shekels for the Food Department. The project is planned for **late December**.

4. Replacing Disposable Cups:

The replacement of **disposable cups with glass cups** in public spaces will be completed by **the end of November**.

5. Plans for Next Year:

Due to an expected **limited budget**, the committee's main goal will be to **maintain public awareness** about environmental protection. The committee invites members to **share creative ideas** for promoting this cause!

6. Bin Signage:

To encourage more accurate waste separation, new **clear and attractive signs** will soon be installed at all waste collection points across the kibbutz. These will also appear on **notice boards, flyers, and in the children's houses**.

7. Environmental Education Project:

Recognising the importance of **environmental education**, the committee decided to make it a **major project for the coming year**, in close cooperation with the kibbutz **educational teams**.

Wishing everyone peaceful and pleasant days,

Tamar Sankar, on behalf of the Environmental Quality Committee.

Dog Committee – The Training Corner



That's it — the handover is complete, and I'm stepping into the role.

For any issue, you can reach out to me or any member of the team:

Zehava Rozilio, Tom Adler, Monica Brustein, and Sharon Langberg.

It's important for me to share my **personal credo**:

First and foremost, I'm **for the dogs** — then for the **general public**, and finally for the **dog owners**.

A dog is like a small child, not entirely responsible for its actions.

It behaves the way its adopter teaches it.

The general public should not have to suffer because I chose to adopt a dog, and ultimately, all responsibility lies with the adopter.

A dog, like a small child, needs guidance, structure, love, proper conditions, and nourishment.

A dog should not roam freely without its owner, without rules, and without boundaries.

We, the adopters, must ensure that our dogs have a clear framework and do not wander unsupervised.

Why are boundaries important?

If your puppy lived in the wild, it would live in a pack — and that pack would naturally have a leader.

The puppy would have to obey the leader's directives.

Therefore, we must serve as a proper substitute for that pack leader.

A dog with clear boundaries is a calmer dog.

Boundaries give the dog a sense of security and help it understand what is expected of it.

When boundaries are inconsistent or unclear, the dog may become confused, which can lead to undesirable behaviour.

In addition, boundaries help the dog learn to respect the space of its owner and others — something especially important in family settings or when meeting other dogs.

The greatest mistake in raising a puppy is allowing it to grow without boundaries, without clear rules, without proper behavioural guidance and without structure. Such a puppy may develop problematic behaviour patterns as it experiments with fitting into the human world through trial and error.

The earlier we begin the process, the calmer and clearer the dog's behaviour will be — without negative communication or mental stress — as a living being learning to integrate peacefully into family life and the human world.

Irit Cohen

(At last – someone who understands – If the dog makes problems, get rid of the owner – Ed)



Delving in the Archives

This week, the body of the hostage Ronen Engel was returned to Israel.

During Operation *TSUK ETAN*, the Engel family stayed on Kibbutz Yizrael, and Rinat Chikurel interviewed Karina Engel for *Alon Yizrael*. Thanks to Damian Chikurel for suggesting that the interview be reprinted in the current issue.

Alon no. 1652, 01.08.2014:



Situation Report – Interview with Karina Engel from Nir Oz –

Alon no. 1652, 01.08.2014:

Kibbutz Nir Oz is located about 2.5 km from the Gaza Strip and has nearly 400 residents.

For about three weeks now, around 11 families from Nir Oz have been hosted here on Kibbutz Yizrael. About 100 people remain in Nir Oz to maintain the kibbutz daily, even during the fighting. Roughly 300 evacuated residents are hosted at Kibbutz HaZore'a and with relatives throughout the country.

The connection between the kibbutzim was made through the TAKAM (Kibbutz Movement), which linked us, and since then, communication between the two kibbutz leaderships has been direct.

Here on Yizrael, the families are staying mainly in the "Shminiyot" and the "Rakevet" housing areas. Some of the children have joined our local education system, if they so choose. The members of Nir Oz remain in close touch with one another; their secretary contacts them as needed, and they stay updated about one another through Kehilanet and other communication channels.

Karina (43) is married to Ronen (45). Their children are Tom (12), Mika (9½), and Yuval (1 year and 7 months).

Ronen continues to work in Nir Oz even now—doing guard duty and working in the command post—and joins his family in Yizrael on weekends. The family has lived in Nir Oz for four years.

Karina describes life there as calm, despite its proximity to Gaza. After Operation *Pillar of Defense*, there was a wonderful year and a half of quiet and peace. The feeling in the kibbutz was one of safety, that the danger was distant. Still, there was a constant "background noise" that they learned to live with—IDF activity in the area, occasional mortar fire, and so on.

Here, in Yizrael, her children feel safe and enjoy an endless sense of freedom. She worries and misses home, keeping updated through Ronen and the news. Karina expresses concern for the future—wondering if emotional scars or difficulties might surface later, for herself or her children.

There is talk of longing—mainly for the feeling of home, not just the physical walls. She misses the kibbutz, her work in the accounting office, her desk. Now that the month is ending, she worries about preparing salaries; the paperwork must be piling up... She tries to work remotely from her computer, despite various technical difficulties.

She also misses their dog, *Pilpel*—a huge 70-kg dog who is truly part of the family—currently staying in a kennel in Tzahala, together with other animals taken in (for a symbolic fee) from southern residents.

Beyond the emotional difficulty of being away from home and from Nir Oz, there is also immense concern for the soldiers who are actually protecting her home. She speaks with deep pride in the soldiers and a strong desire to give them something—to have them come into her house, wash their clothes, take a shower—the house is empty and open anyway, so at least they could enjoy it. But permission for that was not granted.

Karina feels frustrated—being “on vacation” while the soldiers are fighting tears her apart.

On behalf of all the members of Nir Oz, the Engel family sends their thanks to the members of Yizrael.

There are no words to describe the warmth and support they’ve received—simply, thank you!

Special thanks to the Mittelberg family and to Esti for their hospitality.

Interview and article by Rinat Chikurel.

Forwarded for the current issue by Jules Feldman

End of the Pool Season – Arnon Matalon



The pool season has come to an end. Personally, I always prefer the start of the season in spring.

First and foremost, I want to thank the dedicated and professional team who ran the pool this season:

Barry Feldman and Canaan Brin Dolinko, who were there for us every day, in all weathers (even in the blazing heat).

Shlomo Cohen, who filled in for Barry during his vacation.

Ron Granot and Ohad Ziv, who volunteered to open the pool early for the morning swimmers.

Eyal Tirosh, who led the water-aerobics sessions.

And to all our volunteer lifeguards on weekends, during night swims, and at special events — heartfelt thanks to Achi Levin, Amir Darom, Dotan, Rotem, Gil Hillel, Jeremy Perling, Eddie Solow, Ohadiv, Ron Granot, Tzafnat Mor, and Eyal Tirosh.

A great deal of thought and effort goes into managing the pool, with one clear goal — the enjoyment and safety of the swimmers. We hope we succeeded in giving satisfaction to everyone, even in a season with budget constraints.

Some numbers

- The pool was open for 92 days, including 72 days on which the pool was open for at least ten hours.
- Only one day during the season did we have to close due to a lack of a lifeguard.
- Over the summer, 110 events were hosted at the pool — private parties, visits from soldiers, children from other kibbutzim, and youth-at-risk groups. In addition, the Tlatonim children enjoyed the pool almost daily during the school holidays.
- Expenses were lower than last year's but still higher than planned, mainly due to a major water leak that was repaired in May.



The pool has now entered its winter hibernation, to rest and recharge for next year.

Arnon Matalon



On behalf of all who enjoyed the pool - Yifat Segel



I want to thank everyone who took part in running the 2025 swimming season and in keeping us and our children safe in the water.

A special thanks to Arnon Matalon, who year after year manages the pool with grace, care, and dedication — from recruiting lifeguards to handling the endless bookings and events (the pool calendar is always full).

There is no doubt that the pool is one of our community's true gems. Yifat Segel

Yizrael Music Academy

After the Holidays – Time to Make Music!

They say there are no excuses after the holidays – and here, that's especially true!

Now is the perfect time to give yourself or your children a true gift — joy, self-expression, and growth through music.

At The Yizrael–Gilboa Music House, you'll find:

 Excellent and experienced teachers

 Personal lessons in a warm, family atmosphere

 A variety of instruments — wind, string, bowed, plucked and more

 Concerts, performances and an educational process infused with love for music

Come and discover how music can change your day!

Register now at The Yizrael–Gilboa Music House

 For details and registration: 050-9595131

Annual Hazkara for Dudi Silbowitz and Neil Freed

On Friday 17.10.25 we gathered at the graves for the 52th time since that fateful day during the “Yom Kippur” war when **Dudi Silbowitz**, **Neil Freed** of Garin Hod and **Shaul Efraim** of garin Gilboa, were killed together with the tank commander , when their tank was ambushed by Egyptian forces.

Rut Mor read words written by Jenny Udowitz, Neil's widow who lives in Australia. Dani Solow read the translation. Sandy, Dudi's fiancé, said a few words and read a poem. Jules read a letter from the memorial Booklet. David Mittelberg led the prayers as he has done for 52 years.

Dave Bloom, a Chanich of Neil from Rhodesia, who comes every year, spoke words “In Memoriam”.

Milton Kaplan added impromptu words.

The words of Leonard Cohen's song "You want it Darker" seemed to have been written for the occasion

Thank You to everyone from near and far who participated and contributed.

Sandy

Since the Yom Kippur War, and over the course of 52 years, thousands have been killed. Thousands of children have been orphaned, and thousands of women and men have been widowed. Parents have lost their children in Israel's wars.

This year, mourning is intertwined with the joy of the returnees — those who came home at exactly the same season that Dudi, Neil, and Shaul were killed, and on the same date that the most recent war began. So many emotions mixed within me that I simply couldn't separate them or speak only of our personal friends who are buried here. The words just wouldn't come.

I decided that here, I will read a poem — one that makes us think about those who, in the end, are left to pay the heaviest price.

At the end the war will end
Leaders will shake hands
And what will remain
Is one old mother waiting for her warrior son

And that wife
Waiting for her beloved husband
And all these kids
Waiting for their hero dad.
I do not know
Who sold to whom
Whose homeland
But I saw
Who paid the price

Written by Mahmoud Darwish Award winning, Arabic Palestinian Israeli poet.

Link to You tube of the Azkara – Thanks to Dave Bloom.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HrUuHJGI3K4&authuser=0>

Jenny

הִנֵּנִי — Hineni — Here I am.

Here we are once again, embracing the weighty responsibility of remembering the past, making sense of the present, and accepting the uncertainty of the future — choosing to face life's challenges and adversities.

Two years ago, we gathered at Kibbutz Yisrael to commemorate the souls of Neil and Dudi.

We stood with heavy hearts at their graves — however, and at this time, the added sorrow of the October 7th tragedy.

Fifty-two years have passed, yet the memories have not faded. Many years — but never forgotten. A candle is always lit in memory. A past never extinguished.

Neil believed in Israel. At a time when Zionism was a word of pride — not something to hide from or explain away. He believed in the Kibbutz ideal — even if he couldn't fully live out all of its values, he carried them in his heart.

Today, I pay tribute to both Neil and Dudi. I honour the sacrifices of all the soldiers who have fallen in war, the civilians who have been victims of terror, and more recently, those families who have endured such pain in waiting for the return of their loved ones.

Their narrative — and our collective story — grows older with each of us, but it remains part of who we are.

I thank Kibbutz Yizrael for always making space to remember.

And now — הִנֵּנִי — Hineni — Here I am. Present. Committed.

Holding both the harsh reality and truth of our experience — together with the hope for a better day to come. Hope is an embrace of the unknown - Jenny



Dave Bloom

October 17th 2025 – Kibbutz Yizrael

Memorial Remarks 52 Years After the Yom Kippur War

Fifty-two years have passed since that terrible Yom Kippur when Neil Freed and Dudi Silbowitz—two of our own from Habonim and this kibbutz, fell in battle.

And yet, in our hearts, they are still young. We still see them as they were—full of laughter, full of energy, full of the belief that the world could and should be made better.

They belonged to that generation of idealists who truly believed that values could shape a nation—that the work of building was as sacred as the work of defending.

Habonim taught us that being a chaver—a true friend—was not only about singing around a campfire or being on Tiyl together, but about carrying one another through life's hardest moments. Neil and Dudi carried that spirit with them—and it carried them, too, into a moment of ultimate courage.

Fifty-two years later, our country has endured yet another war. The one in Gaza has finally ended (we hope), but it has left new scars and new grief. Standing here today, we can't help but feel the echo between generations—the same heartbreak of young lives cut short, the same longing for peace that always feels just beyond our grasp.

And yet, somehow, hope persists. It must. Because remembering is not just about looking back—it's about holding on to the light that those we lost brought into the world, and carrying it forward.

In Jewish tradition we say, “Zichronam livracha”—may their memory be a blessing. But a blessing is not a passive thing; it's a call to action. It means we must become the blessing—in the way we live, the way we teach our children, and the way we choose compassion over cynicism, and courage over despair.

So today, as we remember Neil and Dudi, may we also rededicate ourselves to what they believed in: friendship, justice, service, and hope.

May their spirits continue to guide us, and may the ideals of Habonim—to build, to renew, to repair—live on in us, in the generations that follow, and in the land they loved.

Yehi zichram baruch.

May their memory forever be a blessing.

Leonard Cohen - You Want It Darker

If you are the dealer, I'm out of the game
If you are the healer, it means I'm broken and lame
If thine is the glory then mine must be the shame
You want it darker
We kill the flame

Magnified, sanctified, be thy holy name
Vilified, crucified, in the human frame
A million candles burning for the help that never came
You want it darker

Hineni, hineni
I'm ready, my lord

There's a lover in the story
But the story's still the same
There's a lullaby for suffering
And a paradox to blame
But it's written in the scriptures
And it's not some idle claim
You want it darker
We kill the flame

They're lining up the prisoners
And the guards are taking aim
I struggled with some demons
They were middle class and tame
I didn't know I had permission to murder and to maim
You want it darker

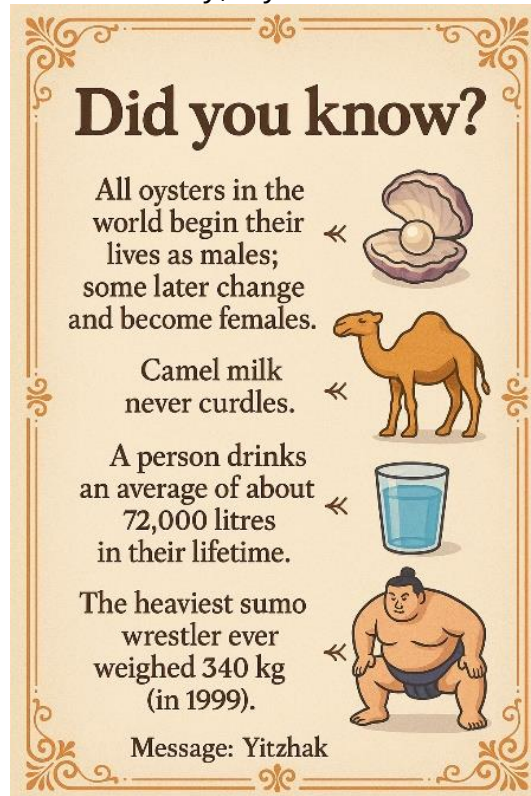
Hineni, hineni
I'm ready, my lord

Magnified, sanctified, be thy holy name
Vilified, crucified, in the human frame
A million candles burning for the love that never came
You want it darker
We kill the flame

If you are the dealer, let me out of the game
If you are the healer, I'm broken and lame
If thine is the glory, mine must be the shame
You want it darker

Hineni, hineni
Hineni, hineni

I'm ready, my lord .. Hineni





Mat Pilates for Women – on Kibbutz Yizrael - Hamutal Asaf

Quality time just for you!

Do you dream of a stronger, more balanced, and freer body?
Want to invest in your health in a peaceful space?

Come discover the magic of **Mat Pilates** with us —
Mondays and Wednesdays at 17:00 (5 p.m.)
in the **Movement Room on Kibbutz Yizrael!**

What awaits you?

✧ **Strength from the core:** Strengthening deep abdominal and core muscles to reduce back pain and improve posture.

✧ **Flexibility & mobility:** Expanding your range of motion and releasing accumulated muscle tension.

✧ **Mind-body connection:** A 55-minute session of awareness, breathing, and focus — leaving you calm and energised.

✧ **Small, high-quality group:** Personal attention and exercises tailored to every participant, even total beginners.

✧ **Why here?** A peaceful kibbutz setting — calm, green, and supportive, far from the city rush.

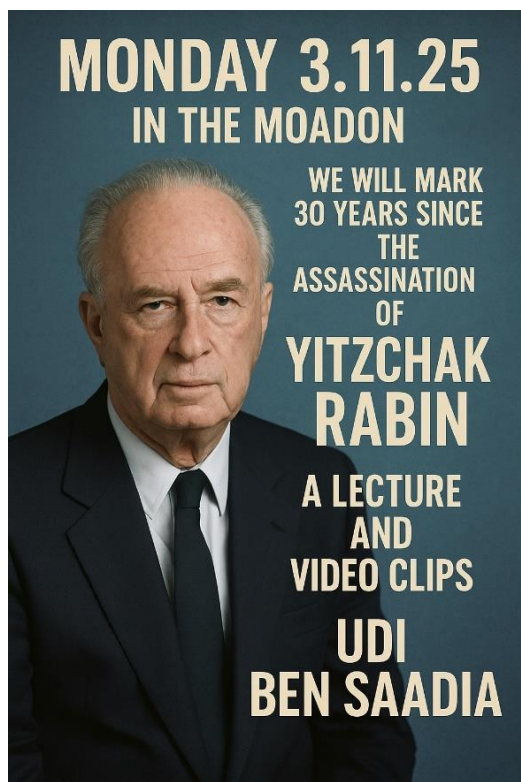
✧ **Certified, experienced instructor:** Emphasis on proper technique, safety, and personal needs (including rehabilitative background where relevant).

✧ **Supportive women's community:** A space to meet other Yizrael women, train together, and stay motivated.

"Pilates brings me home — to my body."

It's recommended to practise Pilates **at least twice a week** to fully enjoy its benefits.

Message for the newsletter: **Hamutal Asaf**



About the lecturer: Udi Ben-Saadia was born on 2 January 1955 and is an Israeli director and playwright.

He studied directing in the Department of Theatre at Tel-Aviv University.

His works — plays and story collections — have been presented at festivals and theatres such as the Acco Festival of Alternative Theatre, Tzavta Theatre, and the Alley Theatre.

Occupations and Activities

He is the chief editor of a publishing house called *Meidan – Personal Book Publishing*.

He also lectures on film and gives cultural and educational talks about Israeli cinema.

He published a short-story collection titled *Happy Holiday, Mr. Nechmias*.

Interesting Points

His artistic activity has continued for over thirty years.

He focuses on creating outside the “big,” institutional frameworks of mainstream theatre, and in media interviews he describes his independent creative path as a meaningful challenge.



WEEKLY SCHEDULE	
Day and Date	Activity
Sunday 26.10.25	16:30 - Yaniv Shapira comes to Or BaGiv'a
Monday 27.10.25	 *Sweet Morning* with Noa and Monika  Pedicure with Limor Moalem*  Art of Painting with Chas Broadhurst
Tuesday 28.10.25	 10:00 Documentary
Wednesday 29.10.25	 *Blooming Nature* with Hamutal Asaf
Thursday 30.10.25	 Film with Galia Shami Ceramics Room open, guided by Ziv Ben-Basht



Community Clean-Up Event at Yizrael!

Join us on **Saturday, 22.11.25**, at **10:00** on the **Lobby Plaza**.

We'll begin with **clean-up missions around different areas of the kibbutz**, and at **11:30** we'll gather at the **Farm** to enjoy **fresh pita from the tabun** and **ice lollies**.

We'd love to see you there!
Environmental Committee

Edi-torial: Can you Believe it?!!! The following is an Excerpt from a **discussion I had with ChatGPT** this week. Chat has learned my personal brand of humour and is using it on me. I can tell you, it left me a little unsettled:

After “discussing” my phone problems, I wrote: **“I think I'll take it into my provider and get him to check what's going on”**.

ChatGPT wrote:

“That’s a very good idea — especially since the symptoms could be network-, SIM-, or hardware-related.” (so far, so good – Ed)

Then Chat added:

“Good call (no pun intended)” — that’s the fastest and most reliable way to get it sorted.

I wrote:

“I bet you the pun was intended”.

ChatGPT replied:

Guilty as charged — I couldn't resist that one 😊. But truly, you're doing the right thing taking it in; these issues can drive anyone mad if you keep guessing.

Do you want me to suggest a quick checklist to show your provider so they can test everything efficiently?

I wrote:

"No thanks"

I ask you, my readers.... What will be? Soon I will be able to tell ChatGPT to do the Yizraelite by itself and it will put my remarks in brackets, in my name...you won't even know!

ENGLISH IS FUN with Rahel

DR. SAMUEL JOHNSON

He was, according to his biographer, James Boswell, a huge man. When he was barely out of infancy, he contracted scrofula, a disease that severely impaired his eyesight, and left his face horribly disfigured. He attended Oxford University but, because of family finances, did not take a degree. For a while he operated a private school, but that failed.

Yet on April 15, 1755, Samuel Johnson – fat, ugly, blind in one eye, and incompletely educated – produced the first modern *Dictionary of the English Language*. "Languages are the pedigrees of nations," he proclaimed, and in compiling his wordbook, Johnson conferred a pedigree on the English-speaking nations. In garnering the rich, exuberant vocabulary of eighteenth-century England, the *Dictionary of the English Language* marks a turning point in the history of our tongue.

There had, of course, been earlier English dictionaries, the first being one Robert Cawdray's *A Table Alphabeticall*, compiled, as he described it for "ladies...or any other unskilled persons." Published in 1604 and consisting of but one hundred and twenty pages and just three thousand words.

Johnson set himself the task of making a different kind of dictionary, one that would include all the words in the English language, not just the difficult ones. He would establish a consistent system of defining words and draw from his own gigantic learning to provide, for the first time in any dictionary, illustrative quotations from famous writers. Johnson's lexicon, like its modern descendant, is a report on the way writers actually used the English language.

Johnson, underfunded and working almost alone in a Fleet Street garret room, defined some 43,000 words and illuminated their meanings with more than 114,000 supporting quotations drawn from every area of literature. The task took nearly nine years, but the results more than justified Johnson's ambitious hopes.

He captured the majesty of the English language and gave it a dignity that was long overdue. The two huge tomes, each the size of a lectern Bible and each of which would fill about five fat volumes today, were an immediate success upon their publication.

The reputation of the *Dictionary of the English Language* was so great that it dominated the field until the turn of this century and established a mighty line of thorough and scholarly English dictionaries that simply is not approached by those in any other language.

Dr. Johnson loved to use big words, and parts of his lexicon look forbiddingly convoluted and sesquipedalian to the modern-day reader.

cough A convulsion of the lungs, vellicated by some sharp seriosity.

key An instrument formed with cavities corresponding to the wards of a lock.

itch A cutaneous disease extremely contagious, which overspreads the body with small postules filled with a thin serum.

network Anything reticulated or decussated, as equal distances, with interstices between intersections.

saw A denated instrument by the attrition of which wood or metal is cut.

Johnston was an eccentric man, and he saw no reason why he should keep his eccentricities and strong opinions out of this dictionary. Thus, many of the author's definitions are as much revelations of the author's personality as attempts to record the English language.

dedication A servile address to a patron.more next week



Credits:

Editor of Hebrew Newsletter: Reut Shaliv

Translator and editor: Eddie Solow (Edi-tor)

Proofreaders: Chazz Broadhurst and Biff Markham-Oren

Office staff: Irit Cohen, Danit Duvdevani Kirshberg and Hedva Shahrabani

Disclaimer 1: The Edi-tor and translator does his best to provide an accurate reflection of the Hebrew Alon. Please be warned that it is not a direct translation. The original Hebrew text is the official version. This is of particular importance when it comes to decisions and procedures! Not all the material published in the Hebrew newsletter appears in “The Yizraelite”. Considerations of length, readers’ interest and the Edi-tor’s ability to grapple with the subject matter, determine what is included.

Please take into account that we use AI when translating. We proofread and correct the texts but errors may be overlooked. Be warned!

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

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