

The Yizraelite – No 2256 Date: 15.5.26

Kibbutz Yizrael - Cyber Edition


“In the beginning there was the sky,
In the beginning the sea was blue,
In the beginning I had day and night,
Long blue hours.

Eden was a garden without a gate,
Good rain poured down from the heavens,
God was merciful at dawn,
And for safekeeping He gave me you,
You,
You.

In the beginning I had sunshine,
In the beginning the birds sang to me,
In the beginning the fruit ripened by evening,
Strawberries and berries.


I had night,
The winds played (sang) a lullaby
For me and for you.”

The song “Bereshit” (“In the Beginning”) was written by Ehud Manor and performed by Gabi Shushan.

Reut's Editorial:  I began Sunday in a reasonably good mood for a Sunday, thanks to the swim in the pool on Saturday. I started Sunday in a relatively good mood, considering it was Sunday, thanks to the swim in the pool on Saturday. There is no doubt that beginning a new week after water exercise allows for a much more successful start to the week.

But the good feeling in the morning was dwarfed on Sunday evening, after the annual concert of the Academy of Music. The theme this year was “Bereshit - In the Beginning”.

It seemed as though “In the beginning there was the Academy of Music”, and that the world before it is nothing like the world after it. I sometimes meet students of the Academy of Music in the library who are not from Yizrael, because some of them are library subscribers. The boys and girls come in carrying their musical instruments and their sheet music notebooks. Sometimes they have enough time to sit and read quietly for a while, and sometimes only a few minutes to return and borrow books. The afternoon librarians meet the brothers and sisters of the musicians while they wait during the lessons.

To see the children and teenagers on the stage of Beit Tzizling, dressed as befits concert musicians, to hear them playing under the baton of Stas, and the young singers studying voice development, was pure pleasure. I was delighted when I saw the Year 12 graduates, emotional and excited, among them Karin Abramowitz and Michal Zinenko. Natalie Zinenko — pedagogical coordinator at the school and Michal's mother — warmly congratulated the graduates. 



The linking passages by Shlomo Cohen, who hosted the concert this year, enriched the evening. The musical piece composed by Nativ Bliyu, performed before an audience for the first time, was so beautiful that I do not have words to describe it. We had the privilege of hearing it in its world premiere!

“And there was evening and there was morning” — and here, thirty years have passed since its founding, and the Academy of Music continues to grow and improve. Mazal Tov to the Academy of Music on its thirtieth birthday. The kibbutz is truly fortunate and blessed to have the academy.

Shabbat Shalom!



For more photos from this memorable event see the Pictorial supplement at the end of the Cyber Edition – Ed.





Modeling the Future Together.
Meet. speak. listen.



The Social Process

Discussion Meetings in Small and Mixed Groups

The goal of the discussion meetings is to hear from all members how they envision the kibbutz in the future.

The meetings are facilitated by Esti Ashkenazi and will allow for safe and open discussions.

Upcoming meeting dates:

Monday, 25.5 at 18:00

Thursday, 28.5 at 18:00

Friday, 29.5 at 11:00

Thursday, 11.6 at 18:00

Registration on Kehilanet – in the appointment diary.

Many Thanks to Shmulik Hollander - a True Master



Among us is one very special person who, several years ago, decided to take action and go into the school, giving generously of himself, his life experience, and his extraordinary chess talent to our children. Shmulik Hollander volunteers at Emek Harod School, leading a group of curious children through the fascinating world of chess. He gives them interest, purpose, and meaningful social and intergenerational time together, through captivating discussions between check and checkmate, about strategy, respect, and healthy competition.

Thanks to him, a distinguished chess team represented the school and all of us at the Regional Council chess tournament last week. The team included Hadar Shechter, Daniel Americ, Noam Armoza, Moran Ziv, and Kerem Cohen-Schwartz. Two hundred children from Jewish and Arab schools throughout the region took part in this wonderful event, a carefully organised and well-managed tournament filled with excitement and enthusiasm.

At the end of the competition, Kerem won the trophy and was crowned Champion of Champions!

A huge thank you, Shmulik, for the quality time, the personal example, and for creating empowering, educational, and unforgettable experiences. We appreciate it enormously!

Families: Americ, Armoza, Ziv, Cohen-Schwartz, Shechter

Executive Committee Minutes - 04.05.26



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Participants: Jeremy Perling, Eviatar Assaf, Uri Gilad, Adi Ilan, Doron Kagan, Limor Griman, Idan Zelas, Inbal Pezaro.

Agenda

1. Approval of the minutes of Executive Committee meetings, 02.03.26, 08.03.26, and approval of the written minutes from 15.04.26.
2. A principled discussion on the possibility of opening businesses for kibbutz members, registered in their own names

Guests: Maor Parsai, Finance Manager; Rochela Matalon, Manager of the Outside Workers Branch.

Background to the discussion and the request:

Since the outbreak of the war, demand has increased for emotional therapy funded by the Ministry of Defence. The Ministry of Defence does not work directly with kibbutzim, only with private businesses, and therefore therapists who are kibbutz members have difficulty making use of this source of income. The kibbutz attempted to register as a supplier of the Ministry of Defence, but encountered significant bureaucratic difficulties, including requirements for legal affidavits and business licences that the kibbutz could not provide.

The preferred solution currently being considered is the opening of a private business, an authorised dealer, for those members, so that they will be able to receive work from the Ministry of Defence.

The Executive Committee was required to hold this discussion because it is responsible for upholding the Kibbutz Charter, and specifically in this matter, Section 35 of the Charter: “The member is required to place the full extent of his or her earning capacity at the disposal of the kibbutz and to transfer all income from personal labour.”

The role of the Executive Committee is to ensure that creating a “bypass route” for income through a private business does not erode this commitment. The purpose of the discussion was to examine, in principle, whether it is right to implement this solution on a communal kibbutz, while considering the implications arising from it.

Presentation of the possibility of opening an authorised dealer file for a member on Yizrael:

A model was proposed based on two foundations:

- a. Transfer of all income to the kibbutz.
- b. Income tax reporting as part of the kibbutz’s annual reports, Form 1443.

The tax solution is based on the fact that the kibbutz has reported to the tax authorities as a “renewing kibbutz” since 2017. The use of Form 1443 allows a member to open an independent file, while including his or her income in the kibbutz’s annual report, so that the tax is paid through the kibbutz.

This means that the move is legal from the perspective of the tax authorities.

As part of the model, there will be a clear agreement between the member and the kibbutz, and only after that will the business be opened. The kibbutz will bear the various costs and will manage the accounts with the clients and the business bank account.

In the discussion:

The overall aim is to enable a member to make full use of his or her professional abilities and earn a living from them, while preserving the principles of partnership.

Concern was expressed regarding the kibbutz's ability to supervise business expenses, which could become a personal benefit for the member at the expense of the collective.

It was said that the need or desire to open businesses may expand to additional people in other fields, which would present a management challenge.

It was noted that managing several small businesses would place a workload on the Finance Department and could require the establishment of a new supervisory body.

There is concern that claims against the private business could end up at the kibbutz's door, which requires careful regulation of professional liability insurance.

Concern was raised that a member who establishes a business with the assistance and funding of the kibbutz may leave the kibbutz with an income-generating asset, goodwill, clients, and equipment, in which the kibbutz had invested, without the kibbutz being able to receive compensation for it.

Decision:

It was decided to approve, in principle, the possibility of opening a private business by a kibbutz member, subject to the following conditions:

- a. Community Management is responsible for establishing a small team, including representatives from finance, HR, outside workers, and legal advice, which will formulate a procedure for regulating private businesses on the kibbutz.
- b. The team will examine models on other communal kibbutzim, such as Hatzerim, Mishmar HaEmek and Ramat Yohanan, in order to learn from their successes and failures.
- c. The procedure that is formulated will be brought for approval by Community Management and then for approval by the Assembly, with each member signing an individual agreement adapted to the nature of his or her business.

3. Various reports

- a. The claim against Kibbutz Yizrael as the owner of Ma'agan Eden was cancelled.
- b. The Executive Committee was updated regarding the legal dealings with the Nanikashvili family. **Summarised by:** Limor Griman and Jeremy Perling.

Summary of the Community Management Meeting - 10.05.26



Participants: Erez Peleg, Talia Arad, Yifat Segal, Yishai Levy, Maor Parsai, Shlomo Levy, Tami Penn, Tamir Blass, Limor Griman.

Agenda

1. Long-Term Care Insurance Procedure

(Guests: Oryan Fleisher, actuary from “Tene Mevat”; Adi Ilan and Natasha Chernakhovsky, Reserve Fund)

Background:

The existing long-term care arrangement on the kibbutz was formulated in 2015, during a period when it was still possible to purchase private long-term care insurance policies. At that stage, all members under the age of 55 and children aged 3 to 18 were included in the insurance. At the same time, the Long-Term Care Fund was established, the fund being part of the kibbutz funds and not part of the Reserve Fund, in order to provide support for long-term care cases among members over the age of 55. This arrangement continued until 2019.

In 2019, a crisis occurred in the insurance market when insurance companies stopped selling these policies.

About a year ago, work began with Oryan Fleisher, an actuarial consultant, to review the decisions made on the subject, the condition of the Long-Term Care Fund, its organisational and financial structure, and to examine the need for changes in the procedure.

The actuarial consultant’s work and conclusions:

Oryan presented an in-depth analysis of the actuarial and structural situation of the kibbutz long-term care system.

Insured members:

176 members are insured through private policies with Clal Insurance, providing compensation of approximately 5,560 NIS per month for five years. The remaining members, around 120, namely veterans over the age of 66 or those who entered absorption after it was no longer possible to purchase insurance, rely entirely on the kibbutz Long-Term Care Fund.

Actuarial balance:

The current balance of the fund stands at 4.6 million NIS. The fund is in actuarial deficit. Total liabilities, including premium payments and compensation to members,

amount to approximately 29.6 million NIS, compared with assets, namely the balance in the fund and expected future income, of approximately 13.6 million NIS. The net actuarial debt stands at approximately 16 million NIS, or approximately 10 million NIS if the cost of premiums paid from the Community budget is excluded.

The inability to purchase new insurance policies creates a situation in which the long-term care arrangements of members without private insurance rely solely on the kibbutz Long-Term Care Fund.

Management of the funds:

At present, the fund's money is managed as part of the general kibbutz investment portfolio and does not accumulate interest for the benefit of the fund itself, contributing to its erosion.

Recommendations to Community Management:

Based on the conclusions, the following recommendations were presented:

- **Collection from absorbed members:**

Implement the decision to add to membership acceptance fees a fixed payment of 109 NIS, linked to the consumer price index, for every month from the age of 30 until acceptance into membership.

An absorbed member arriving with private long-term care insurance similar to the policies held by kibbutz members, not a health fund policy, will not be required to complete the amount, and the kibbutz will pay the insurance premium from the date of acceptance into membership.

- **Children's insurance:**

For children who were in the relevant age group during the window of opportunity between 2015 and 2019, the kibbutz purchased private policies through Clal.

Consideration should be given as to whether financing these private policies should continue from the kibbutz budget, or whether responsibility for financing should pass to the parents, while emphasizing that these policies are a highly valuable insurance asset that cannot be obtained today.

- **Health fund insurance:**

Require all members to obtain long-term care insurance through their health fund for their children, providing an additional layer of protection at negligible cost until the age of 18.

- **Management of the Long-Term Care Fund:**

Transfer the long-term care funds into management within the Reserve Fund as an

independent, interest-bearing fund, separating social security from the general kibbutz assets.

• **Increasing the Long-Term Care Fund:**

In order to increase the fund, consideration should be given to having the Long-Term Care Fund pay the Community the gap between the cost of employing a foreign caregiver and the National Insurance payments received for the long-term care allowance when a member is recognised as requiring long-term care.

This recommendation was made about a year ago and has already been implemented in practice beginning in 2025.

It was decided:

1. To update the long-term care insurance procedure in accordance with the recommendations of the actuarial consultant. The updated procedure will be brought for additional approval by Community Management and subsequently for approval by the Assembly.
2. As part of the discussion on the procedure, to examine transferring the Long-Term Care Fund and the Special Needs Fund into the structure of the Reserve Fund, in order to ensure accumulation of returns and protection of the money.
3. To implement the 109 NIS collection mechanism, the completion payment from age 30, for newly absorbed members beginning with the Summer 2027 absorption cycle.

2. Information and miscellaneous matters

Limor updated the meeting regarding a discussion held by the Executive Committee concerning the possibility of opening authorised dealer businesses for members who require this as part of their occupation.

The Executive Committee approved advancing the matter through the establishment of a team headed by the Finance Manager, together with the HR Manager, the Bookkeeper, and legal counsel. The team will examine all the issues and prepare a procedure for opening businesses registered in the name of a member.

The procedure will be brought for approval by Community Management and afterwards by the Assembly.

Summarised by: Limor Griman

Sexual Harassment prevention Team on Yizrael



Emergency Preparedness Team Members

Name	Telephone
Dror Kagan	050-4008095
Tamar Sadur	052-4573401
Dalia Leitan	052-3756071
Alona Granot	052-8990991

You can also contact us by email:
muganut@yizrael.com

- Raising awareness and promoting the topic of emergency preparedness among the Yizrael community, with the aim of creating a safe environment, preventing emergency situations and reducing their impact on the community.
- Explanation and education in the field of health preparedness.
- We are here for you for any concern that Yizrael residents may have regarding anxiety or an emergency situation.

Emergency Preparedness Team
Kibbutz Yizrael

We are here for you in times of routine and emergency.

Notes from the Academy of Music – Shosh Cohen



“Bereshit” The Academy of Music’s Annual Concert at Beit Tzizling



On Sunday evening we drove to Beit Tzizling for the annual concert of the Academy of Music. This year marks thirty years since the Academy was founded, and the annual evening was extremely impressive.

Many different age groups in a variety of musical performances. I was amazed by the high standard that Stas had brought all the participants to. Every time, I find myself astonished anew.

There was multi-generational participation in the various musical pieces. I was surprised by the high standard to which Stas drew all the participants. Each Year, I am amazed and impressed all over again.

The connecting segments by Shlomo Cohen, the films in the background, and the combination of Israeli songs based on biblical stories were wonderful.

The Academy of Music, with its supportive staff and excellent teachers, is a source of pride for the kibbutz!

The evening was a refreshing respite from the heavy Israeli reality. How fortunate we are to have been blessed with Stas and with The Academy of Music, a pleasant place from which performers emerge, giving concerts of a very high standard.

I enjoyed the evening. It was a privilege to be there, and I am happy that my grandchildren are taking part in The Academy of Music's classes. It enriches their lives and gives me much pleasure.



For more photos from this memorable event see the Pictorial supplement at the end of the Cyber Edition – Ed.

Someone on the Hill

Summary of the Interview with Steve Blass

Roots: My Father's Remarkable Journey and Life in South Africa



My family story began far from Port Elizabeth, the city where I was born. My father was born in Poland and immigrated to Eretz Israel (Palestine) in 1923. He was an outstanding craftsman, an expert coppersmith, a skill that was in great demand in the days when all plumbing was made of copper. He lived in Israel for seven years, but fate led him to South Africa under tragic circumstances: his first wife became ill with juvenile diabetes, and in the hope that a long sea voyage would help her condition, they set sail. Through connections with a nephew of the Mufti in Jerusalem, he obtained a British visa for South Africa.

When they arrived in Durban, conditions were difficult. They did not have the required funds to enter the country and were stranded aboard the ship. A Jewish doctor who came aboard saw the condition of my father's wife and raised money for them from the local Jewish community. That is how they eventually reached Port Elizabeth, where my



father opened a small radiator repair shop, a trade he learned simply by observing others. For 25 years he was the only specialist in the area.

My mother came from Warsaw and settled in East London. She was an impressive woman who learned to speak Xhosa, the complex local language with its famous “clicks,” in order to communicate with Black customers in her brother’s shop. After my father’s first wife passed away, a match was arranged between them. They had two daughters, and then I, “the prince,” was born in 1942.

Childhood in the Shadow of Apartheid and Youth Movement Education

I grew up within a strong Jewish community of around a thousand families, though my daily surroundings were Christian. I attended a Christian school where, surprisingly, I also learned Hebrew.



We lived within the complicated reality of apartheid. I clearly remember the siren at 8:45 every evening, signalling that in 15 minutes curfew would begin and no Black person would be permitted on the streets. We had household staff: a cook, a gardener we called the “garden boy” despite his age, and a washerwoman who came every Monday and washed everything by hand. As Jews, we always tried to help Black people financially, but it was impossible to openly oppose the regime.

My life was shaped by three systems: family, school and the youth movement. My sisters took me to the Betar movement when I was four years old, and already by that time I knew the stories of the Altalena and the King David Hotel. One of the highlights of my childhood came in 1952, when Menachem Begin visited our city. Since they could not find a girl to present him with flowers, I was chosen for the task at the age of ten.

At 11 I moved to the Habonim movement. Ours was a deeply Zionist community, and by the age of 14 I already knew I wanted to immigrate to Israel and become a farmer on a kibbutz. My father, however, insisted that I first complete a university degree.

Bini, Studies and Immigration to Yizrael

I met Bini in the youth movement when I was 13 and she was 12. At first, she was a very noisy girl and we drifted apart somewhat. Later, she travelled to Israel for the Machon programme for overseas youth leaders, while I remained in South Africa studying agriculture, as my parents demanded. When she returned, I transferred to a university in her city so that I could be closer to her.



Life took another turn when my father became ill and my brother-in-law asked me to join the family business. I agreed, because it allowed me to marry Bini and become financially established. Eventually my parents accepted our decision to immigrate and even planned to buy an apartment in Israel and divide their time between the two countries.

We arrived in February 1965 with a Habonim garin intended for Kibbutz Yizrael. Bini was already pregnant with Yifat. We decided to skip the ulpan at Kibbutz Tzora and come directly to Yizrael.

When we arrived at our hut late at night, I thought Bini had a strange sense of humour. The ceiling sagged like a “belly,” and the walls were full of holes from shelving left by a previous resident. We lived during the era of children’s communal sleeping arrangements, and only after the Six-Day War did we move into permanent housing near the cowshed.

Military Service and “The Medical Committee” Story

Although I was already 26 years old and the father of two children, I was drafted into the IDF. My sergeant was an 18-year-old boy. I served in anti-aircraft artillery and later in the Air Force, continuing reserve duty until I became a grandfather.

One story remains especially vivid. My battalion commander saw me operating an anti-aircraft gun while wearing a hearing aid. Shocked, he sent me to a medical committee at Rambam Health Care Campus. When I arrived at Room 294, a woman in a white coat asked about the ear surgery I had undergone, a stapedectomy, and immediately lowered my medical profile to 64. When I innocently asked where the medical committee was, she simply replied: “I am the medical committee.”

Three Decades in the Orchard and the Development of the ‘Rotem’ Variety

I began working in the orchard almost by accident. I had the choice between the garage and the orchard, and people warned me that the garage was full of shouting

and arguments. Around that time a kibbutz member was injured in a tractor accident in the orchard, leaving an opening for me there. I stayed for 30 years, serving three terms as orchard manager.

One of the most fascinating moments came with the discovery of a unique mandarin variety. We had ordered Temple mandarin saplings to pollinate pomelos, but one day the children, including my son Tamir, tasted the fruit in November and discovered that it was already ripe and sweet, two months earlier than expected. It turned out the nursery had made a mistake, but the fruit was so successful and delicious that we named it “Rotem,” after my daughter, who was then three years old. To this day, ours is the only place in the country where this variety is grown.



The orchard team in the late 1970s. From right: Amos Shemi, Dan Wolpe (“Wolpe”), Jerry Agmon — Ian Greenberg, and Steve Blass and behind them, Mike Scheidemann,

Roles on the Kibbutz and the Policeman Story



Over the years I filled many roles: I worked in the laundry, managed the steam boiler that heated the entire kibbutz, and served as security coordinator during the First Intifada, a tense period when the Jenin–Nazareth Road was extremely busy and volatile.

For eight years I was the vehicle coordinator. These were the days before mobile phones, and the battles over every car were intense. I remember one amusing story about a kibbutz member who was driving in Tel Aviv at four in the morning. A policeman stopped him for failing to signal. The member, unfamiliar with the Hebrew word for signalling, innocently asked, “What’s that?” When the policeman said “blinker,” the member accidentally turned on the windscreen washers and sprayed water directly at the officer, who simply shouted, “Get out of here!”

Shlichut, Family, Photography and a Message to Future Generations

In 1972 we travelled with Yifat and Adi on shlichut to Port Elizabeth on behalf of Habonim. Our son Tamir was born there, and Yifat set a local swimming record in the 25-metre breaststroke that stood for 50 years.

When we returned, we found a much larger kibbutz than the one we had left behind. Our youngest daughter, Rotem, was born after our return.

Today, three of my children live here on the kibbutz. Yifat works in the kolbo after years in bookkeeping and the factory. Adi, the only one who managed to “escape,” is a clinical psychologist. Tamir has worked at Plasan Sasa for around 14 years as an armour engineer, and Rotem works as a massage therapist. I have ten grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

(Note: since the interview, another grandchild has been born and twins are on the way.)

For Bini and me, the kibbutz was always the ideal place to raise children.

Photography has accompanied me since the age of 13. The first camera my father gave me actually ended up saving my parents’ lives. I asked them to return early from a trip abroad in order to organise my bar mitzvah, and the plane they had originally intended to take was shot down by the Soviets.



Photography still gives me enormous satisfaction today.

My message to the younger generation is simple: this place is paradise, and we must nurture it and work together without quarrelling.

Since Bini, who was the glue that held the family together, passed away, life has changed greatly, but our legacy here on Kibbutz Yizrael continues.

Interviewed by: Nitzan Feldman
Photography and editing: Adva Lifshitz
Final editing: Tzafnat Mor
Transcription: Rochela Matalon

The full interview will be broadcast on the kibbutz home channel on Friday, 15.05.26, and on the kibbutz YouTube site.



Reflections Following the Meetings of the Social Process



We met last Friday, and it was certainly interesting and tasty. Yizrael residents and members took part, ranging in age from infants, Karen Eilon Brustein's daughter, to respected pensioners.

We heard many members who tried to answer the facilitator's questions: how they would like to see Yizrael in 10 years' time, what is important to them to preserve from the reality of our present life, and what, in their view, should be changed. It should be noted that every few years, the Yizrael community goes through this kind of social process, or something very similar, and so on and so forth.

It is important for everyone to understand, at least partially, the general social situation, in order to position themselves accordingly. It is also true that, based on past

experience, it is preferable not to reach various confrontations, and better for all of us to learn and move forward together, with a clear and broadly accepted understanding of the way ahead.

Since the central question that has been posed throughout kibbutz society for decades is whether to “privatise” the existing kibbutz system and move to another organisational model, under names such as “renewing kibbutz”, “community settlement”, or others, it is very reasonable to assume that we too, in one way or another, will need to discuss and decide on the matter.

Therefore, and precisely in light of the social discussion mentioned above, it seems to me that it would be preferable to place this question on the table and decide on it before continuing to move forward along the present path, important as it may be. A decision on this matter would place us all on a clearer direction and path, as to how to fulfil members’ expectations for the future of Yizrael.

In saying this, I am not even hinting which path, cooperative, privatisation, mixed, or otherwise, is preferable, just, or relevant, but rather suggesting a direction for breaking out of the circle of uncertainty and friction into which we find ourselves drawn time and again.

Hanan Shaliv

Philo-Sophia



I have my meeting on the future of the kibbutz set for the end of the month. I was forced into it – my phone was kidnapped and I was signed up by a third party. This got me thinking what are the important things that I would like to talk about. This is a pivotal juncture for all of us. “Our future is in our hands”. We must face the future together bravely and with a sense of shared destiny and with that in mind I present my thoughts and look forward to hearing your vision for the years ahead.

My number one by a long distance would be the serviette holders in the dining room. It's probably easier to break into fort Knox than it is to pry a serviette out of those holders. They are packed in tighter than a G-string and how often can I get away with wiping my hands on a friend's back as I give him (or her) a friendly pat on the back?

It's the sort of thing we find difficult to talk about, I know, but if we are to move forward together, we are going to have to wrestle with the big issues. Just type Funny Serviette Holders on Temu and you'll find some great solutions for next to nothing. In fact, each family could afford to donate one for each table in the dining room.

Number two - which could easily be number one – are the bumps we have scattered along our roads - they are just not high enough. One of my greatest disappointments with new roads is the height of the bumps – they are just too low! Who the hell designed them? Anyone remember the bumps we had either side of the old gate at the entrance to the kibbutz?

I can remember many happy hours on shmira watching members speeding up to see how high and how far they could launch the car into the air. It was a simple pleasure but one undertaken with kibbutz cars only... due to the repair costs, I guess. Occasionally an unsuspecting visitor would slam into one of the bumps and would be thrown around in the car cabin like a cork in a bottle.

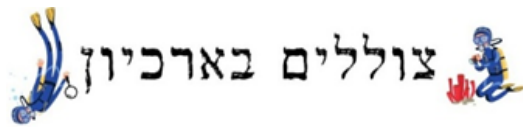
Now and then drivers would miscalculate their takeoff speed and the car would slam into the gate causing months of repairs. Aah, the good old days – yes, kids, we really did have only one gate back then not the choice of two that we have today.

Number three on my list and possibly on yours is... Chinese garlic. I'm not even sure it's really garlic. Its tasteless, colourless, too easy to peel, bleached, has no roots and fertilized in the old-fashioned way. It's time to talk about this – I have been too frightened to take it up with the team in the kol-bo but in the current climate I hope they will be more understanding.

My garlic bread has no zest and the chicken soup lacks zing. Who are we without our traditional foods? Kneidlach at Pessach, gefilte fish, shawarma at Rosh Hashanah and bolognaise and vegetable soup for Sunday lunch. I will be advocating for a campaign to bring back local garlic at my meeting and I am hoping for wide support no matter how much vetek you have. If we succeed, we can hope for a tastier future together.

Finally, I know who killed Kennedy but I have no idea how much each one of our entrepreneurs make annually with their small business initiatives... which I find strange given that I am a part owner.

Phil Adler



Delving into the archives

This week's column is dedicated to Jerusalem Day, and the two pieces presented here were originally published in the newsletter on 22.05.20.

The first piece is the story of the late Yossi Tzidkoni, who was a member of Yizrael from 1964 to 1971. Yossi, who passed away in 2023, was married to Yochi, Zimra's sister.

The second piece is by Haim Guri, the uncle of Nitzan Rivlin Feldman.

Jules Feldman – *(Jules is our man in charge of the archives... and he is doing a fine job – Ed)*

My name is Yossi (Tzidkoni), though people also call me Grandpa Yossi. I am married to Yochi, and we are the parents of four daughters and eight grandchildren.

In our story we return to 1967, to one night, on one hill in the heart of Jerusalem. There, in the fury of battle, a pit opened inside me. Ever since, it has drawn into it the fragments of memory, the fear, the smell of death and the feelings of guilt.

There, in one terrible night, I lost my closest friends and the innocence I once had, and ever since I have dreamed the same dreams that give no rest, while only time perhaps heals.

... On 7 April 1967, a "day of battle" began between the IDF and the Syrian army. In an air battle, six Syrian MiG aircraft were shot down and Syrian tanks and positions were hit. On 16 May, Nasser expelled the UN force and poured troops into Sinai, armour, artillery and aircraft. On 22 May, Nasser closed the Straits of Tiran: "The Jews threaten war, and we say to them ahlan wa-sahlan, we are ready."

In Israel there was a feeling of siege.

... On 28 May, Prime Minister Levi Eshkol delivered a speech. There was anxiety among the public. On 1 June, a National Unity Government was formed, and Moshe Dayan was appointed Minister of Defence.

In Sinai, the Egyptians concentrated a massive army. But we had a secret weapon: "The mountain air is clear as wine, and the scent of pines carried on the evening breeze with the sound of bells..." Naomi Shemer had written the song only weeks before the war...

What can I tell you? It was our finest and darkest hour. We were young, beautiful and above all, convinced we were right.

... I was securing the rear. Suddenly a Jordanian approached me. He saw me and kept advancing. He was so close that I could see his face. He was wearing glasses. He looked just like a child. We stood facing each other, both terrified. We both raised our weapons. I fired first. He lifted into the air, just like in the films, in slow motion, and fell.

At the same moment, Dardashti went in to clear a position, took a bullet to the chest and sat down. Suddenly a wounded Jordanian came over and sat beside him. Then the Jordanian asked: "Inta عربي?" and Dardashti answered: "Aiwa, aiwa." And so, the two of them sat there, maybe for a minute, maybe an eternity. Then Dardashti slowly bent down, picked up his weapon and killed the Jordanian.

Now we were six men, plus two from another platoon...

The Jordanians fired first. Yoram was hit and fell... Bodies lay stretched in the trenches, a silence of death. We could not look each other in the eyes. I did not want to move...

Tzvika, Gadi and Viki led the way and we followed behind them, advancing through black smoke, unable to see a thing. In a short time, we lost them. We were four. Where do we advance? Where are the others? The firing in the trench did not stop...

Jojo entered to clear a position, and Vida shouted: "Grenade!" I was hit by ricochets, but it was only blood, everything was intact. "Shit." I went back and took a carbine rifle from a dead Jordanian. I returned to the trench. "Jojo! Jojo!" Silence. I went inside and found him sitting there, dead.

I returned to the trench. I was alone.

I had one grenade left. I moved forward. "Is anyone there?" ...

I advanced a few more metres and then heard voices speaking Hebrew. I reached men from the company...

Ahead of us was a large bunker full of Jordanians constantly firing at us. The bunker was fortified with a double wall. There were dead men everywhere. Tzvika, the platoon commander, tried to advance toward the bunker and was killed...

Suddenly David Shalom, Ofer Penninger and Yehuda Kendel arrived...

Ofer ran and brought sacks of explosives, and Viki threw them to David Shalom. There was a tremendous explosion... Cries came from inside the bunker. The men stormed in. Another burst of fire and everything fell silent.

It was 5:15 in the morning. I began evacuating the wounded...

Slowly the Jordanians who had survived started emerging from the tunnels with their hands raised...

An immense exhaustion came over me.

Micha was dead. Yoram. Jojo dead. Tzvika dead. Uri Feibel. Melmudi.

Seven of us remained.

We sat in silence. We were all covered in blood. It was still dangerous.

Suddenly someone shouted: "A Jordanian is approaching outside the trench!"

I jumped onto the embankment. He was right in front of me. I shot him and he fell while running.

"I killed him!" I shouted.

At that very second Ofer stood up to see what was happening. A shot rang out. Ofer was hit in the chest and fell into the trench...

He died in our hands. Enough...

The battle was over.

That evening, when we came down from that cursed hill, each of us took several stones and built a memorial cairn. Someone placed a punctured steel helmet on top.

It was twilight. 6 June 1967.

More than seventy Jordanian soldiers and officers were killed here that night. Ninety of our wounded were taken down from the hill. Twenty-four of my friends, with whom only hours earlier we had laughed and spoken, remained here forever young.

Here the great pit in my life was opened. Here the innocence within me was buried.

Two days later, we entered through the Lions' Gate in the wall of the Old City and saw the Israeli flag flying proudly above the Temple Mount. Jerusalem had been liberated.

More than fifty years have passed. I lived a beautiful family life. We raised four wonderful daughters... Yochi and I live on Kibbutz Ein Gev. We both retired from our professions, Yochi as a physical education teacher and I as a film teacher and secondary-school educator. We initiated a workshop for building wooden toys for children, which we have lovingly operated for more than thirteen years.

I have told you about the war, about my heritage, about my friends. I have told you about a terrible night of sacrifice and heroism. About fear and death. War, every war, is cruel.

But it is important that we all know, as our parents knew before us: this is our only corner on earth. This is our country, in heart and body. We must protect it, it is in our hands... We have no other land.

A Piece by Haim Guri from the Book "Jerusalem Pages"

The book was published in 1968 and brings together pieces that Haim Gouri wrote for the newspaper *Lamerhav* on Jerusalem during the 1950s. Although Guri was born in Tel Aviv, he chose to live in Jerusalem, and indeed remained in love with the city all his life...

The piece reproduced here was written in 1966... During the Six-Day War he commanded a company fighting in Jerusalem, not far from the Police School. From 1967 onward he would walk to the Old City almost every day.

Nitzan Rivlin Feldman

Visions of Jerusalem

... From time to time, toward evening, I walk to the "demilitarised zone" near Government House to look at Jerusalem. The mountainous city stands before me in all her singular splendour, bathed in deep golden light. A moment of prayer.

From time to time at this hour I stand and gaze upon Jerusalem, a city that does not know that it is two, that one half is enemy to the other.

I see Mount Scopus, the beautiful spires of the western ridge, and Augusta Victoria upon its dark pine groves. I see the Mount of Olives and the ancient and distinguished Jewish cemetery. I see our Israeli enclave on Mount Scopus, the university buildings, "alma mater", intended to be the spiritual centre upon these mountaintops, and the Hadassah buildings and the French Hill.

Here is Silwan and the Valley of Hinnom and Absalom's Tomb in the rock, and the Russian Church, and there the southern and eastern walls, beside them the

magnificent Dome of the Rock crowned in gold, and next to it Al-Aqsa Mosque, and further left, the Jewish Quarter, and beyond it, deeper still, the Temple Mount and the Western Wall, not visible from here yet existing as a mighty wall of stone fashioned from time and tears, among the stone domes and market alleys that surround it.

And further left, the tower of Saint George's Church and beyond it the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. From Notre Dame onward, Hebrew Jerusalem rises westward.

This mighty symphony seems now to soar upward in the evening light, clinging to the oppressive lilac sky above it. Suddenly, for the thousandth time, you know that you stand at the gates of the oldest and most wondrous of the cities of the world, that you belong to a people four thousand years old and to a state only eighteen...

A hot day, the scent of resin evaporating in the heat of the ripe summer, and all of Jerusalem before my eyes, the Jerusalem of then, before line and border, the days of our youth, the days of "In Thy Covenant". Journeys of salt and thirst across the expanses of the homeland, and distant 1948, somewhere, like the future.

And all of Jerusalem before my eyes, and all that deceptive tranquillity around it, as though in a dream.



Another Great Rugby Saturday!



On Saturday, 02.05.26, we hosted our first rugby tournament since the war ended, after about two months without competitive activity.

To our great joy, around 20 teams from all over the country took part. It was very moving to see all the young players return to competition after two months of uncertainty, bringing with them a large crowd that cheered them on throughout the day.

It was a long, fun, action-packed day of rugby, with an atmosphere that is truly hard to describe in words.

We began with the youngest teams from Yizrael and Ramat Tzvi, who played on the inflatable pitch to the sound of cheering families. The young players played wonderfully, and Ramat Tzvi finished with two wins.



Playing wonderfully for Yizrael were Yuval Kagan, Peleg Elul, Amit Shorer, Peleg Dashevsky, Ziv Witelson and Rif Kamilian.

Under 10: Yizrael's talented team beat the teams from Emek Hefer and Maghar, and won the tournament. Outstanding players included Moran Ziv, Geva Dashevsky, Yam Shorer, Matan Friedman and Michael Witelson.

Under 12: Both Yizrael teams reached the final, with the turquoise team beating the blue team in a thrilling final. The outstanding Under 12 players were Romi Gabbai from Afula and Omer Hendurger from HaYogev.

Under 14: Both Yizrael teams reached the final and displayed fast, physical rugby at a high level. Yizrael's outstanding player was Noam Orozco.

Under 16: A tense tournament, in which three teams finished with two wins and one loss. Yizrael won the tournament thanks to a better points difference. The outstanding player of the tournament was Oriya Blass.



Under 18: Yizrael won a practice match against the Barbarians team.

The senior team beat Maghar 76–5 in a fast, high-quality match.

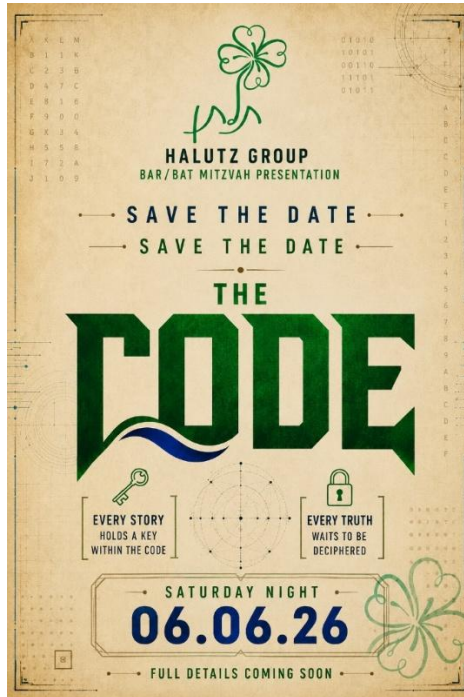
Idan Zilas

SHAVUOT FESTIVAL 2026

THURSDAY 21.5	Festive holiday dinner and a short ceremony 21:00 – Practical Tikkun Leil Shavuot
FRIDAY 22.5	Shavuot Bikurim ceremony in the fields
SATURDAY 23.5	Agricultural activities, stalls, and coffee

HAPPY SHAVUOT

Bar Mitzva Play SAVE THE DATE!



DID YOU KNOW?



- 

1 According to experts, **gardening** is considered one of the best forms of exercise for maintaining healthy bones.


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2 Tug of war was an Olympic sport from 1900 to 1920.
- 

3 Believe it or not, the **electric chair** was invented by a dentist.


- 

4 Sound travels about **15 times faster** through iron than through air.

Submitted by: *Yitzhak Peleg*



Beacon on the Hill

Activity Programme from 17–20.05.26
 Every day from 08:30–12:00
 Coffee, cake, conversation, and board games

Day and Date	Time	Activity
Sunday, 17.05.26	07:00	Walk with Shlomit and Peter
	09:00	Gathering with coffee, cake, conversation, and board games
	10:00	Seeing the World
	16:30	Veterans' gathering with Ilana and Yitzhak Peleg
Monday, 18.05.26	08:00	Pedicure with Limor Moualem (appointments required)
	10:00	Working Together and Picnic
Tuesday, 19.05.26	09:00	Gathering with coffee, cake, conversation, and board games
	09:30	Lecture: The Art of Painting with Chas Broadhurst
Wednesday, 20.05.26	09:00	Gathering with coffee, cake, conversation, and board games
	10:00	Greek Mythology Through the Lens of Art, lecturer: Dr Efi Ziv
	17:15	Chair Exercises with Michal Shaanan
Thursday, 21.05.26		Shavuot Holiday Evening – no activities

ENGLISH IS FUN - with Rahel

THE WORLD ACCORDING TO STUDENT BLOOPERS

France was in a very serious state. The French Revolution was accomplished before it happened catapulted into Napoleon. During the Napoleonic Wars, the crowned heads of Europe were trembling in their shoes.

Then the Spanish gorillas came down from the hills and nipped at Napoleon's flanks. Napoleon became ill with bladder problems and was very tense and unrestrained. He wanted an heir to inherit his power, but since Josephine was a baroness, she couldn't have any children.

The sun never set on the British Empire because the British Empire is in the East and the sun sets in the West. Queen Victoria was the longest queen. She sat on a thorn for 63 years. She was a moral woman who practiced virtue.

Her reclining years and finally the end of her life was exemplary of a great personality. Her death was the final event which ended her reign.

The nineteenth century was a time of a great many thoughts and inventions. People stopped reproducing by hand and started reproducing by machine.

The invention of the steam boat caused a network of rivers to spring up. Cyrus McCormick invented the McCormick reaper, which did the work of one hundred men.

Samuel Morse invented a code of telegraphy. Louis Pasteur discovered a cure for rabies. Charles Darwin was a naturalist who wrote the *Organ of the Species*. Madame Curie discovered radio.

And Karl Marx became one of the Marx brothers.

The First World War, caused by the assassination of the Arch-Duke by an anarchist, ushered in a new error in the annals of human history.

REFERENCES WANTED

Croesus, the last king of Lydia, decided in 546 B.C. to make war on Persia. Being a careful man, Croesus sought advice from the oracle at Delphi. Should he invade Persia, or not? According to legend, the oracle answered, "If you cross the river Halys, you will destroy a mighty empire."

Croesus interpreted the sentence as a good omen and proceeded to attack Persia.

+ King Croesus was a victim of an ambiguous reference. In the oracle's prophecy, the phrase "a mighty empire" could have referred to either Lydia or to Persia. Because Croesus failed to analyze the grammar of the sentence, his kingdom of Lydia ceased to exist.

Most reference problems are caused by the ambiguous use of pronouns:

+ Guilt, vengeance and bitterness can be emotionally destructive to you and your children. You must get rid of them. (Is it guilt, vengeance and bitterness or children that must be gotten rid of?)

+ Anti-nuclear protestors released live cockroaches inside the White House on Friday, These were arrested when they left and blocked a security gate.

+ Great care must always be exercised in tethering horses to trees as they are apt to bark.

+ Two cycles belonging to girls that had been left leaning against lamp posts were badly damaged.

...more next week

Pictorial Supplement for Cyber Edition

Photographer: Guy Golan























I am already looking Forward to next Year's concert!!!! - Ed

Credits and More:

Editor of Hebrew Newsletter: Reut Shaliv

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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.

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