

The Yizraelite – No 2218 Date: 1.8.25

Kibbutz Yizrael

Reut's Editorial: When I was a child, there was a war in Lebanon. For me, it was in the far north. As a teenager, I remember the Lebanese war because of the movie "Two Fingers from Sidon." During the months of the coronavirus pandemic, I wondered what memories, conscious and unconscious, children who saw masked people in public with faces where only their eyes could be seen, would carry with them. Faces expressionless, because of the masks.

Since the October 7 massacre, I wonder what memories children will have, who are growing up in a time where everywhere there are stickers commemorating the victims of the October 7 massacre and the war. A time of yellow flags and pictures of the hostages line the walls of the terminal as they make their way to the plane, to get some relief.

We learned about wars mainly from movies, and they were more distant. Today, wars are very close to home.

On Tuesday, two pillars of Israeli visual culture passed away: actor and artist Alon Abitbul passed away suddenly, and artist and graphic designer, David Tartakover, passed away after a serious illness.





**The Young Generation Committee wish
Dvir an easy and pleasant
callup to the army**

*(Note that the full names of those serving in the army
are not printed for obvious reasons – Ed)*

Gift for Rosh Hashana – Hedva Sharabani

For Community / Yizrael Holdings/ Agriculture / Pensioners

Rosh Hashanah 2025 is approaching, and we are organising the holiday gifts. This year, both gifts and vouchers for various store chains of your choice will be available.

Anyone who, in the previous holidays, chose to receive a credit to their budget (instead of a gift) and wishes to do the same this time – does not need to notify us again; they are already on the list.

Please notify us by Monday, 4/8/25, **only if you wish to change your previous choice.**

Volunteers in the work branches who are not kibbutz members will receive a modest gift.

Outside workers who did not receive a holiday gift from their employers are invited to contact Kinneret – **Human Resources.**

In the coming days, a link from the gift website will be sent via SMS.

For any questions – you are welcome to contact me.

Thank you,
Hedva Sharabani



Update from the Health & Welfare Cluster

The Health Cluster, together with the clinic team, wishes to thank **Michael Amit**, who for six months took on the morning drive to laboratories and pharmacies: delivering blood tests, bringing back medications (and along the way also helping with various personal errands and rides for members).

Michael volunteered to replace **Esther Epstein**, who has been in a rehabilitation period following surgery, and he has done so with dedication and efficiency, five mornings a week, every day, for half a year!

We now release Michael after this long period so that he can return to his leisure activities, and **Dana Alister** will be taking over the route for the summer period.

Many thanks to Michael, best wishes for recovery and good health to Esther, and good luck to Dana.

— The Clinic Team and the Health Cluster



Announcement from the Excellence Fund

As the 5785 (2024–2025) school year comes to an end, the Excellence Fund congratulates all the youth who have successfully completed the school year and activities, shown perseverance and achieved accomplishments.

Looking ahead to the 5786 (2025–2026) school year and activity program, we invite anyone who is interested and meets the criteria to submit an application to the Excellence Fund.

The fund's guidelines and application forms can be found on Kehilanet.

Please note: Members and children who are already supported by the fund must renew their application each year.

For any questions, you may contact Peter (Fund Administration Coordinator).

Message from: **Peter Pizarro**

Human Resources Management (HRM) Committee Report - 27.7.2025

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

1. Semi-Annual Report on Members' and Employees' Work

A semi-annual report was presented regarding the work of kibbutz members and hired employees.

Key points:

- **Improvement in Members' Employment:**
There has been a significant improvement in the employment of members in full-time positions. Currently, only 4 members lack a full-time position (compared to 8 last year). Additionally, there are 2 members "between jobs," compared to 5 last year.
- **Community Employment:**
Positions within the community have been reduced, adhering to staffing standards and budget. Most members are taking jobs off the kibbutz.
- **Outside workers branch - Income:**
Income increased by approximately 1 million NIS compared to last year. The average salary rose by 1,000 NIS (from 2024 to 2025), now averaging 12,000 NIS.
- **Maytronics Workforce:**
There is an ongoing trend of members leaving Maytronics. Those kibbutzniks joining Maytronics are mainly young people, children of members, and new candidates, but with lower wages. The reduction in income from members' work is estimated at about 1 million NIS (including company cars).
- **Agriculture:**
An increase of approximately 40,000 NIS in members' agricultural work income compared to last year.
- **Small Business and start-up Ventures:**
There is an increase of about 150,000 NIS in income from members working in private ventures. Where there is no justification for a full-time job, members complete their quota at an additional workplace.
- **Disability Benefits:**
In 2025, there was an increase in members receiving disability benefits from National Insurance (from 4 to 10) among those who are not working.

- **Reduction in Hired Staff:**

The number of salaried (non-member) employees in the community decreased by approximately 10 positions, leading to a reduction in expenses of about 540,000 NIS.

- **Agriculture Labor Costs:**

Expenses on hired workers in agriculture increased by about 100,000 NIS due to an expansion of the dairy workforce following the merging of dairies.

- **Reporting and Overseeing:**

Members receive monthly work reports so they can monitor their workdays and absences to avoid deficits by year-end.

Meetings continue to be held with members who lack full-time employment, ensuring enforcement of kibbutz work decisions.

Guiding Principles of HRM:

- Directing members to essential kibbutz jobs or productive outside work.
- Balancing system requirements with individual needs.
- Community jobs allocated according to standards and budget.
- Maximizing each member's earning potential.
- Efficiency and reduction of expenses on hired labour
- Ensuring full-time employment for all members required to work.
- Referring members unable to work to apply for disability benefits.
- Reducing the time members spend "between jobs".

2. Report on Development of a Management Succession Plan

Kinneret updated that the identification team has begun work on this issue and has met with 9 candidates so far.

The meetings were positive; members were pleased to be approached and all expressed willingness to take on roles in the kibbutz. The team has started matching members to roles and planning entry timelines to ensure a pipeline of future role-holders.

In the next stage, depending on the budget, development and training programs will be built for these members.

Summary prepared by: Kinneret Govrin



Duty Assignments (Toranut) for September–October, Including the High Holidays

Next week, I will be arranging the duty schedule for September–October, which will include the High Holidays.

If you already know that you will be away on certain dates or during the holidays, please let me know.

The best way is to submit vacation requests through the app or contact me via WhatsApp message or by email at: toranut@yizrael.com

Thank you! Zohar Assaf



Evening for the Outside Workers held on Sunday 27.7.25

Greeting from the Outside Workers' Committee

Dear Outside Workers of Kibbutz Yizrael,

On behalf of the entire community, I would like to express our deep and sincere appreciation for the dedicated work you do every day.

Thanks to you, the Outside Workers Branch has become not only the largest branch in the kibbutz, but also one of the most significant in terms of its economic contribution to the wellbeing of us all.

Today, the branch numbers around 100 workers, most of them in full-time positions. The contribution to the kibbutz amounts to approximately 1,300,000 NIS per month after expenses. These results are a source of great pride!

We deeply value the effort that each and every one of you invests. It is no small matter to leave every morning to work outside the kibbutz boundaries, to face challenges, to meet expectations and to deliver results. Some of you travel far, sit in traffic, are away from the kibbutz for long hours—sometimes at the expense of family and home. You do not have the option to take a child to the clinic during the day if needed, or to quickly drop into the accounting office to sort out an urgent matter.

It is important to us that each of you feels satisfied with what you do, fulfilled in your work, and at the same time brings an appropriate contribution in accordance with the

kibbutz decisions. Please feel free to approach us on any matter and we will do our utmost to accommodate you.

Thank you for your dedication, your investment, and your tremendous contribution. Continue your blessed work—we are here to support, assist, appreciate and value you in every way.

With love and appreciation, Rochela Matalon.

The Outside Workers' Committee



Update from the Environmental Quality Committee

1. Establishment of the “Bin Trustees” team:

A team called “Bin Trustees,” led by Shahar Levy (head of the landscaping branch) with the committee’s support, has been set up. Its goal is to ensure more effective and efficient recycling processes at the waste bin stations.

2. Project: Establishment of a Composting Centre:

Asael Mor proposed creating a composting centre using leftover food from the dining hall in the chicken coop area. The plan is a gradual process: in the first stage, food leftovers will be collected and spread on the ground in a hidden spot near the upper chicken house. The spreading, together with heat from the sun, will accelerate the composting process, producing compost that can be used in members’ gardens.

If the project succeeds, the future aim is to expand the area to include sorting of cardboard, glass, metal, etc., and even to develop a blooming garden that will also serve as a workplace for teenagers. Work will be carried out entirely on a volunteer basis. This project can be stopped at any time, as it involves no financial investment.

The Environmental Quality Committee welcomes the initiative and the desire to redirect waste for reuse.

The project was approved as a pilot by the food branch and by Erez, the community manager. However, according to Idan Zilas, head of Yizrael Holdings a tenant is scheduled to move into the Chicken House next month, making the location unsuitable.

Unfortunately, for now there is no suitable site for this project and it will be postponed.

3. Information for members on waste sorting for efficient recycling:

Soon, a clear and user-friendly laminated guide will be distributed to members’ mailboxes for hanging on refrigerators.

4. **Home composters:**

Very few families have ordered home composters. The committee strongly recommends purchasing either a stationary or rotating composter, which provides an excellent solution for food scraps by turning them into high-quality material to enrich home gardens.

5. **Frequent spraying in the cotton fields near the cemetery:**

The meadows and fields are a popular walking and hiking area. According to Ohad Ziv, the crop branch manager, there is currently a severe infestation of the pink bollworm, the primary pest of cotton. This pest has developed significant resistance to various pesticides, making it a regional problem, not just ours. Ohad emphasized that the toxic material is sprayed only on the cotton and not near residential areas. It dissipates within 24 hours, after which it is safe to walk there.

For public health, there will be an official notice in the “Kehilanet” system before each spraying.

6. **Rocket Garden (Gan Hatil):**

This unique project is finally underway, designed by Axl Levin and Shahar Levy, with construction managed by Navot Assaf. The site will be transformed into a blossoming family park, making safe use of the wonderful installations originally built by Michael Shani, which will now become sculptures.

It should be noted that progress will be slow due to lack of budget.

Written by Tamar Sankar, on behalf of the Environmental Quality Committee.



Visit of the Leadership of “Habonim Dror”

Australia and New Zealand



This past Sunday, we hosted, at the Yizrael Library, a group of 12 group leaders from Habonim Dror, coming from the major cities of Australia and New Zealand. All the participants in the group are members of their local leadership teams and play key roles in their movements.

David Mittelberg opened the discussion, which revolved around three main themes:

1. **The core values of Jewish-Zionist and socialist identity** – comparing fifty years ago to today.

2. **The movement's activities within their communities and on university campuses**, particularly during these difficult times following October 7th.
3. **The State of Israel and the vision of the Declaration of Independence**, in the torn and divided reality of Israel's Knesset and society.

Judy Pizarro presented a perspective that reflected the feelings of all of us – and of alumni of the movements in Israel and worldwide – in light of the current ethical and value-related chaos.

The members of the delegation engaged with us in a lively and refreshing discussion, sharing dilemmas they face and asking many questions. Judy and I tried to respond to their questions, bridging fifty years of experience and many changes, and offering as broad a perspective as possible.

It seemed that we were encouraged by the visitors even more than they were by us, but overall, both sides enjoyed and learned from the exchange.

To wrap up the visit, the guests enjoyed a royal meal in the dining hall and then continued on to the movement's house in Tel Aviv.

We would like to thank Reut Shaliv for preparing the library for the meeting, and Itzik Shechter and the dining hall staff for providing the meal.

It was a very pleasant experience, with just the right vibe for holding such a discussion with members of youth movements from around the world in our library.

May there be many more such encounters in the future, and may the kibbutz movement – and Yizrael in particular – return to playing a supportive and leading role for youth movements, which are now going through a global generational crisis.

Written by: **David Mittelberg**

(Currently a member of the Executive Board of Habonim Dror within the Kibbutz Movement, and a former Secretary of World Habonim)



In Memory of Bernice

Words Read at the Second Anniversary of the Passing of

Bernice Kaplan

Bernice was our Metapelet from 1st to 6th grade – the Shaked group. She was a unique woman who left a deep mark on us, an exceptional person who influenced our lives in so many ways. We all remember her as a strong, compassionate woman who knew how to accept us just as we were.

We all remember how she would sit with us at breakfast with a little box of dates and almonds, always mindful of healthy nutrition. She was a living example of the vegetarian lifestyle she chose out of love for nature and for life.

Bernice used to do special hairstyles for us girls. She would sit with us on the floor with amazing flexibility and play pick-up sticks with us. She taught us songs in English and shared her love for music and creativity.

When her mother came to visit from Australia – a gentle woman with tanned skin – she became part of that magic. She would sit with us outside and tell us fascinating stories about Australia, broadening our horizons. It was part of the wider world that Bernice brought to us.

Long before yoga became as popular as it is today, she was already teaching us yoga. Bernice would lay out mats and hold afternoon classes for us in the classroom. She understood the importance of the connection between body and mind, and she believed in the power of living a balanced and healthy life.

Bernice was a dancer at heart. She choreographed our 6th grade graduation performance, and later came back to create the dances for our Bar/Bat Mitzvah year. To us, it felt so natural that she was there, setting the rhythm to the sounds of Stevie Wonder.

Even after she was no longer our metapelet, we turned to her when we felt the need. – even when we moved up to the older group. We remember the night we woke up to find our beds full of the disgusting mess prepared for us by the older children as an initiation. We were upset and angry – and where did we go? To Bernice. We knew that with her we would find a safe place. She was there for us, with a warm hug and genuine help.

Bernice was a special woman – beautiful and graceful, always with a warm smile, always taking an interest in us whenever we met her around the kibbutz. The

connection with her lasted through the years. We all felt her love and care for us; we always felt very close to her.

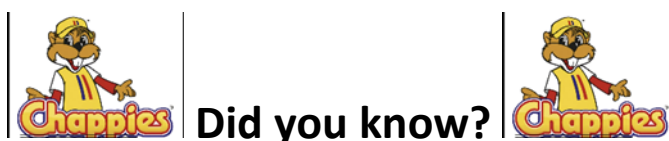
Bernice, you were one of the strongest women we have ever known.

Thank you for everything you gave us. You will always remain in our hearts.

Read on behalf of the Shaked group:

Noa Armoza and Lilach Harpaz-Ron





- A bat leaving its cave will always turn to the right.
- The ancient Egyptians slept on stone pillows.
- A medium to large horse eats in a year seven times its own body weight.
- Lions mate more than fifty times a day.

Message: Yitzhak Peleg

Did You Know why the Chipmunk is our “Did You Know” Logo?

Chappies bubble-gum, a South African Favorite, is known for its "Did You Know?" facts printed on the inside of its wrappers. The gum was created by Arthur Ginsberg at the Chapelat Sweet Factory and became popular for its affordability, initially selling two pieces for a penny, versus one piece for other brands. The "Did You Know?" facts, sourced from the radio show "The Three Wise Men" and later from Wits University academics, contributed to its popularity and widespread recognition.

Here are some "Did You Know?" facts from the wrappers::

- Chameleons can move their eyes in two different directions at the same time.
- Bananas are slightly radioactive due to their potassium content.
- A normal human head sheds 100 to 150 hairs per day.
- A watermelon consists of 92% water.
- An octopus has three hearts.
- A chameleon changes colour depending on its mood, not its surroundings.
- The Eiffel Tower was originally meant to be a temporary structure.



Delving into the Archives

Diving into – “The Sex Evening”

I would like to thank **Galia Shemi**, who took upon herself the task of scanning hundreds of albums for the archives and identifying the people in the photos. In identifying these faces, Galia was assisted by many members, especially the regulars at Or BaGiv’a.

Thank you all for your cooperation!

Last week, Galia scanned a particularly special album.

On January 17, 1992, a unique cultural event was held: **“A Sex Evening.”**

Hedva organized the evening, Albert was the M.C., and Shimona stole the show.

Shimonah burst into the dining hall riding a motorcycle and performed a brilliant impersonation of the elderly sex guru, Dr. Ruth Westheimer.

Sharabani recalls that in preparation for the event, he and Marianne went around Tel Aviv’s sex shops and bought props and magazines for the evening.

Some members came dressed in daring outfits.

For privacy reasons, we will not be publishing the photos—even though 33 years have passed since then.

It was one of the most successful cultural evenings we ever had.

In those years, when the economic situation was dire, there were quite a few self-produced cultural evenings.



Culture builds community:

For cultural evenings such as the “Shlonsky Evening”, the “Alterman Evening” and “Alexander Penn Evening”, dozens of people volunteered to perform in song, music, recitation, dance, or to assist with production.

Looking back, we can be proud and nostalgic—and wonder: where has it all gone?

Written by: Jules Feldman

*(Was that the evening they brought a stripper from Afula who danced fully naked with the horny men? Ever since, I have felt guilty about cooperating with the sexist idea and even worse about enjoying it. Times **have** changed (For the better too Jules – Ed).*

Grandchildren’s Day Camp – A New and Renewed Initiative

In mid-August, we are planning to hold a special day camp for grandchildren who do not live on the kibbutz.

The goal is to enable grandparents to enjoy quality time with their grandchildren, precisely during the period when schools and kindergartens are closed.

The camp will take place with grandparents accompanying their grandchildren and will include shared activities for both.

These activities will be separate from the regular educational programs for Yizrael children and will all be led by volunteer kibbutz members, in a spirit of community and sharing.

The camp will be held on **17–19 August 2025** (three days, Sunday to Tuesday, from 09:00 to 12:00).

It is intended for children from kindergarten age (5 years old) through 4th grade.

This is our first trial, so we are opening **preliminary registration** to check feasibility. Registration is not binding but will help us make decisions.

The camp schedule follows.

Please register at the following link:

<https://forms.gle/JL55sHoAyksdiE3f9>

Sun 17.8

Place: Tlaton Carmel

9:00 - Creative activities and board games

10:00 - Science activities with Genadi

11:00 - Baking with Haim Nagar in the bakery.

Mon 18.8

9:00 - Fitness with Keren Cagan in the “Movement Room” (Cheder Tnua)

10:00 – Board Games in the Moadon

11:00 – Musical activities with Gal Witelson in the Moadon

Tue 19.8

9:00 – Games with wood. Sarit Laviv

10:00 – Bingo with Monika

11:00 – “Kahoot” interactive quiz with Rochela Matalon



Visit to Nir Oz at Carmei Gat

On Fri 15.8 we are travelling to meet with the members of Nir Oz at Carmei Gat.

9:00 – We will stand with them and join their demand for the release of the Hostages.

10:00 - We will meet with Silvia Kunio whose sons are still hostages in the hands of the Hamas **after 660 DAYS**

A tour of Kibbutz Nir Oz will follow

Departure from Yizrael - 6:00

Return Home by 15:30

Please join us and support them!

Register on the noticeboard or speak to Rochela Matalon or Tamar Sanker



You are hereby invited to take part in a discussion on

“Israel, The Future and Optimism”

with Major Yaya Fink, reserve general, founder of the Liberal Reservists’ Forum.

Tuesday | 19.8 | 21:00 | The Laundry Pub, Kibbutz Yizrael

For more details: Nitzan – 052-3756153

Another Reminder!

Save the Date!

A Weekend of Community Rejoicing

Next Friday 8.8.25 – Barmitzvah Play + Dance Party

Saturday 9.8.25 – Kibbutz Anniversary + Happy Pool Event

Let's Celebrate together!

Save The Date!



Programme for 3/08/25– 7/08/25

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

Sunday 3 August

09:30 Rummikub tournament with prizes worth playing for

Monday 4 August

08:00 Pedicure with Limor Mualem – appointments by arrangement

09:00 Sweet and cold with Monica and Noa

09:30 Sport Documentary – Agnes Keleti – Beating Time

Tuesday 5 August

09:30 The Art of Drawing with Chas

Wednesday 6 August

09:30 A visit to the Ta'asukon

10:30 Pool exercises with Eyal Tirosh

Thursday 7 August

10:00 Movie screening with Galia

10:00 Ceramics studio is open with instruction from Ziv Ben-Bassat

17:15 Chair exercises with Michal Sha'anani

ENGLISH IS FUN with Rahel

WILDE ABOUT OSCAR

Wit and wisdom from Oscar Wilde, one of the most popular and controversial writers of the 19th century.

"When people agree with me, I always feel that I must be wrong."

"I never put off till tomorrow what I possibly can do the day after."

"I sometimes think that God in creating man, somewhat overestimated His ability."

"As long as a woman can look 10 years younger than her own daughter, she is perfectly happy."

"Women are meant to be loved, not understood."

"After a good dinner one can forgive anybody, even one's own relations."

"I like men who have a future, and women with a past."

"Women give to men the very gold of their lives, but they invariably want it back in small change."

"Nowadays people know the price of everything and the value of nothing."

"The Americans are certainly great hero-worshippers, and always take their heroes from the criminal classes."

"No great artist sees things as they really are. If he did, he would cease to be an artist."

"In this world there are only two tragedies. One is not getting what one wants and the other is getting it."

"Experience is the name everyone gives to their mistakes."

"A gentleman is one who never hurts anyone's feelings unintentionally."

"The one duty we owe to history is to rewrite it."

"The basis of action is lack of imagination. It is the last resource of those who know not how to dream."

HIS NAME IS MY NAME TOO

"Say hello to Frank J. Manibusan and his brother, Frank, both of Alameda, California. And their brother, Frank. And their

other brothers, Frank and Frank, Frank, Frank and Frank. And, of course there are children, Frank, Frank, Frank and Frank. There are 12 Franks in all, at the moment - 13 if you count Frank, the patriarch, 58-year-old Francisco.

Their sons and grandsons all have middle initials: J., J., J., J., J., J., and J.

"Of course, the advantages definitely outweigh the detriments, they explain. Can't do jury duty? Not to worry. Which Frank are the authorities going to chastise? And if one brother is out of cash, who cares? He need only tear out a cheque from the wallet of one of his siblings.

'We don't leave no cheques lying around,' explained Frank Joe, No. 2 son, while his brothers and father nodded in agreement."

.....more next week

Credits:

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

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

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