

The Yizraelite – No 2211 Date: 13.6.25

Kibbutz Yizrael

From Reut's Editorial: Last weekend, soldiers were killed in a building collapse in Khan Yunis. Among them was Tom Rothstein, who was a Youth leader in the Bnei HaMoshavim movement. In this role, he worked with our children and our madrichim. Adi Ilan, who was the coordinator of informal education, said that he was a wonderful guy and the youth were very attached to him.



Congratulations to Miki Touyz

on the marriage of her granddaughter, Orian to Shachar,
Congratulations to Orly and Oded Erez
Best wishes to the **Touyz** family,
the Armoza family, the Erez family, and Shachar's family.
Wishing you, happiness, light, health,
and lots and lots of love



The Annual Yizrael Maize Festival

Thursday 19.6.26

17:00

At the Field Crops Compound

- * Corn on the Cob
- * Hotdogs
- * Cold Beer
- * Music and Good Cheer
- * Surprises for all the Family

Community Management Report - June 8, 2025

Participants: Ilana Peleg, Erez Peleg, Talia Arad, Yifat Segal, Kinneret Govrin, Maor Parsai, Shlomo Levi, Tamir Blass, Lior Griman.

Agenda:

1. Information and Miscellaneous

a. Guests at Holiday Meals

In the wake of Shavuot, many members raised questions regarding the number of guests coming to the kibbutz during holidays. It appears that this causes concern for several reasons: overcrowding and congestion, many unfamiliar faces, and high costs associated with hosting.

Some issues can be addressed by creating meal shifts or adding distribution stations. It was noted that this matter is closely linked to the subject the ad hoc committee is

currently dealing with. Therefore, there is no point in separating the topics; rather, they should be addressed together. This process will take time, and this situation is likely to recur in the near future. It was decided to hold a meeting to summarize the holiday meal with those involved (food branch, Culture cluster, holiday team representative, duty roster representative) to learn the lessons.

b. Purchasing a New Fryer for the Kitchen

The old fryer used in the kitchen for many years has broken and is not worth repairing. The cost of a new, advanced-standard fryer—multipurpose, time-saving, and energy-efficient—is approximately ₪80,000.

Since replacing kitchen equipment was planned as part of the kitchen renovation project funded by the Public Buildings Fund, it was proposed to finance the purchase from Public Buildings Fund sources.

The request was approved without opposition.

2. Budget Allocation for the Protest Headquarters – Reconsideration of the Security Committee's Request

(Participants: Security Committee members - Eyal Tirosh, Lili Rohn, Jordan Naur, Ehud Cohen, Adi Laviv, Tal Habshush)

The Security Committee members requested a reconsideration of the community management's decision to allocate ₪20,000 to the protest headquarters from the funds designated for war expenses.

Their argument is that the war is ongoing, and we don't know what tomorrow will bring; the committee has many ideas for additional security investments.

Discussion points:

- The security budget for this year was set based on security needs presented during budget planning. The security committee has a regular ongoing budget, which also accounts for expenses due to the security situation. Additionally, an investment budget was approved but not yet used.
- The war-budget allocation is not specifically designated for the security committee.
- Most of the money spent on war-related expenses from the beginning was not for security but for other needs, such as hosting evacuees.
- The assembly's decision was to keep the war budget available until the end of June, after which a reconsideration would take place.
- There is justification to extend the period for the allocated funds toward war expenses and treat it as a multi-year fund as long as there is a need.

Decision: The community management stands by its proposal to the assembly to allocate ₪20,000 to the protest headquarters. Since it is already June, the management decided to reserve the remaining amount (₪50,000) as an emergency fund, at least until the end of 2025. **This matter will be brought for approval at the upcoming assembly.** *(Edi-torial comment - In My humble opinion, the Community Management missed the essence of the security committee's position. If you are going to reduce a budget at least consult with the committee and invite them to the discussion... even if you have the final say - Ed)*

3. Use of Public Spaces – Continued Discussion

We aim to regulate the use of public spaces and establish rules for various uses across all areas, to enable members to use them for private needs while preserving the facilities and ensuring appropriate use.

Following an initial discussion, it was noted that the main issue concerns events at the pool during the summer months. The discussion focused on how to regulate and reduce disproportionate use that interferes with the public use of the facilities.

The idea of charging a fee for non-family private events at the pool was raised, with questions about whether collecting a few hundred shekels per event would effectively reduce the large number of problematic events. Additional proposals were made to limit and regulate these events.

Decisions:

- a. "Public spaces for events" will include: the members' club, the hut, the pool, and the agricultural farm.
- b. All these spaces will allow for private-family events by members, their children, and parents.
- c. Event coordination across all public spaces will be done via a form in the community platform, including a member's commitment to adhere to the rules.
- d. Any event with more than 50 people requires special approval from the community manager.
- e. For events involving external vendors, prior contact with the community's insurance officer is required at least 4 weeks in advance for guidance and assistance. Vendors without insurance approval—confirmed by the community's insurance officer—will not be permitted to provide services on the kibbutz grounds.
- f. The member booking a public space for an event must be present (or have another member representing them) throughout the event.
- g. Pool events that are not private-family events will only take place on weekdays, during morning hours or after pool hours. The event organizer must arrange for lifeguards appropriate for the expected number of participants.

Summary by: Lior Griman

Summary of the Assembly - June 9, 2025

Chair of the Assembly: Shlomo Cohen, **Secretary of the Assembly:** Eddie Solow,

Participants: 38 members in the moadon and via Zoom

Agenda:

1. Nominations

Hedva Shaharabani, coordinator of the committee, presented the candidates for various committees:

- **Young Generation Committee:** The committee proposes to renew the terms of David Beutler and Monika Brustein.
It is also proposed to add as members: Eyal Sharoni, Yarden Naor, Tzachi Tzafadia, Lotem Cohen.
- **Housing Committee:** Ben Kirshberg, Dalia Abadi, Hila Alterlevi, Neta Cohen, Natasha Tchernichovsky, Rotem Agmon.
Noga Harpaz will remain on the committee to support Nitzan Kamilian for the next three months.
- **Vehicle Committee:** The committee suggests renewing the terms of Oscar Grossman, Lilach Harpaz, Shai Hadar.
- **Culture Committee:** Daniel Asaf, Yaniv Lifshitz, Pnina Habshush, Shachaf Sassi, Sheli Edelstein, Sarit Laviv.
- **Outside workers' management:** As a public representative, Peter Pezaro; as an external staff representative, Sagit Beutler.

Hedva thanked the members who have concluded their terms of office on the committees.

The assembly wished success to the new and continuing committee members.

Next, Hedva presented the **candidates for public representatives on the Economic Council:**

Avner Alterlevi, Gil Hillel, Sigal Hadar, Peter Pezaro, Rafi Baum, Shimon Zelas.

Voting will take place on Wednesday-Thursday, June 11-12, where four of the candidates can be elected.

2. Presentation of the Internal Audit Report on the Education System's Activities (Invited: Uri Greenberg, Internal Auditor)

The report covered early childhood education and social-community education, with findings and recommendations for improvement, focusing on management, budget, staffing, and safety in the educational system.

Main Recommendations:

- Organizational Structure and Management:
 - The report found that the education system functions well but requires organizational adjustments.
 - A clear hierarchical order should be implemented, and the responsibilities of the Education Management Forum clarified.

- It is recommended to redefine the functions of the Education Council to include setting an annual plan and approving the budget in coordination with the community management and assembly.
- The head of the Education Cluster should lead the budget-building process for education sectors.
- The organizational structure of the Education Cluster should be aligned with the 2022 framework, establishing a defined management forum.
- Budget Oversight:
 - Although the system is monitored monthly by the kibbutz accountant, there's a lack of oversight by the Education Council regarding budget activity.
 - It is recommended that the Education Council conduct quarterly or semi-annual budget reviews, considering the approximately five million shekels allocated for education.
 - Income and collections for "outside" children and parent agreements should be well documented.
- Human Resources:
 - It is advised to aim to meet staffing standards according to the guidelines, with planning based on demographic growth.
 - Staffing in social-community education should be adjusted to the number of children, group type, and needs.
 - Job interviews for education staff (caregivers, guides) should be conducted by at least two parties, with written summaries.
 - It's important to have formal employment agreements with external workers **and kibbutz members**, including role definitions and workload.
 - Entry and exit times should be recorded daily for both kibbutz members and external staff to prevent disputes.
- Parent Relations:
 - Proactive feedback (calls or written feedback) with parents is recommended to ensure satisfaction and identify areas for improvement.
- Safety:
 - Strict adherence to safety regulations should be maintained, even if not explicitly mandated by regulations, especially in social-community education not under the Ministry of Education's supervision.
 - The early childhood education system is under the Ministry of Education's supervision, and relevant safety documents have been submitted and approved.
 - The report emphasized the importance of safety in buildings and summer activities, adhering to the highest standards.

The assembly members raised discussion points concerning the report presentation format and monitoring the implementation of recommendations:

- **Display of Audited Responses:** Members expressed a clear desire for future reports to show the responses of the audited bodies on the screen during the assembly, not just in background material. It was explained that due to the report's scope, only recommendations were presented this time, but responses were included in the background material. The internal auditor promised that in future, reports will display these responses as well.
- **Classification and Importance of Recommendations:** A question arose about prioritizing recommendations based on urgency and weight. The auditor explained that most recommendations are important, with safety and staffing issues being critical.
- **Monitoring Implementation:** Concerns were raised about tracking the implementation of recommendations and what happens if they are not adopted. The auditor noted that a follow-up report is usually prepared about a year after the original, addressing whether recommendations were implemented, with explanations provided (If not implemented – Ed).

Overall, the internal auditor stated that despite identified shortcomings, the education system in the kibbutz functions well and most parents are satisfied.

Limor Griman



Economic Council Report - 9.6.25



Chairperson of the Council: Uri Gilad

Secretary of the Council: Shlomo Cohen

Participants: 21 council members

Maor Persai, Financial Manager, presented an update on the investment policy regarding the Kibbutz's financial assets and the Reserve Fund. The main goal was to simplify the existing policy, give portfolio managers more flexibility, and thereby enable better competition and comparison among managers.

The discussion focused on proposed changes to the investment policy, primarily involving increased exposure to equities and easing restrictions on portfolio managers:

Simplification and Flexibility in the Investment Policy:

- The previous policy (from 2021) was too detailed and specific, with many restrictions (e.g., up to 15% investment in equities, 4% in a single stock).

These restrictions complicated management by the portfolio managers and their algorithms, as well as oversight by the kibbutz.

- The proposed change aims to simplify the policy, reduce the number of specific limits, and grant managers more operational freedom. This is expected to facilitate better portfolio management and improve competition among managers.

Increased Equity Exposure:

- The key change is raising the maximum permissible investment in equities from 15% to 25% of the total portfolio and holdings.
- In the Reserve Fund, the maximum stock allocation will also be 25% (with at least 75% in bonds).
- It was emphasized that a 25% exposure to equities is still considered relatively conservative, similar to conservative pension tracks in various funds.
- The new policy allows managers to decide if and when to increase equity exposure based on market conditions.

Risk Diversification and New Restrictions:

- The portfolio will be limited to 3% investment in any single security, except for government bonds or bonds of the five leading Israeli banks.
- Up to 7.5% can be invested in a single issuer (company) as a group of companies.
- Up to 20% exposure to foreign currency (USD and Euro), and up to 10% in mutual funds or managed portfolios, to prevent conflicts of interest.
- Investment in options is prohibited; derivatives may only be used for hedging purposes with prior approval.

Monitoring and Transparency:

- A question was raised regarding oversight of managers' compliance with the policy. It was explained that managers submit monthly reports for review, and the new policy will facilitate oversight.
- Council members requested access to multi-year historical data (10 years) on the kibbutz's investment performance compared to the market to better understand the implications of these changes and enhance transparency. The financial manager agreed to prepare such a report in the future.

Decision:

The Economic Council approved, by a majority of 20 votes with no opposition, the update to the investment policy for the kibbutz's tradable securities portfolios and holdings, as well as the update to the Reserve Fund's investment policy, including the increase in the equity component.



From the Health and Welfare Cluster



The Right to Privacy

We take very seriously the right and desire for privacy.

Medical confidentiality — The clinic staff does not transfer medical information to us, whether light or heavy, about any individual. Therefore, the Health and Senior Citizens Clusters are not always aware if you have undergone surgery, are about to undergo a medical procedure, or are in the midst of a physical or mental crisis. This may be perceived as a lack of sensitivity or concern on our part, but in fact, we do not know the details of your case.

Therefore, if you are preparing for surgery, hospitalization, dealing with a complex illness, a mental health crisis, or any situation where you would like us to be there for you, you must inform us or give the clinic permission to do so.

If you do not do this, the clinic will not transfer information to us, and we may miss important information regarding your situation.

Wishing everyone good health.

Health and Welfare Cluster



Did You Know? Yitzhak Peleg

- Until 1973, whale oil was used to lubricate car gears.
- One in every 500 people has one blue eye and one brown eye.
- Airport security across the United States confiscates an average of six smuggled weapons each day.
- There are currently three golf balls on the moon. (*Tiger Woods did not hit them there! -Ed*)





REMINDER:



In honour of International No Tobacco Day (May 31)

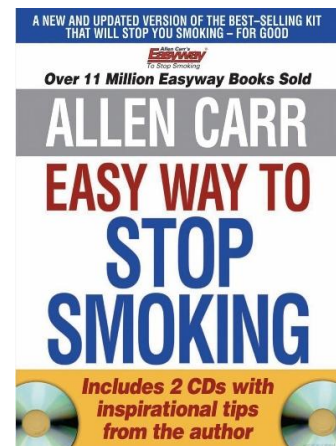


We are reaching out to anyone looking to quit smoking but unsure where to start, or even if it's possible...

The Health Cluster has purchased a limited number of copies of the book "The Easy Way to Stop Smoking" by Allen Carr, which we would be happy to give to members who are considering breaking free from cigarettes. One more copy has been purchased for the library for regular borrowing.

Allen Carr's method does not rely on scare tactics, moral lectures, guilt, or emphasizing the harms of smoking, but rather on a deep understanding of the psychological addiction, which, in his view, is the main factor in cigarette dependence.

Furthermore, we offer a subsidy for a face-to-face smoking cessation workshop by Allen Carr, a workshop that many kibbutz members have successfully used to quit smoking and stay smoke-free. (The subsidy will also apply to other smoking cessation programs). We will reimburse 20% of the workshop cost, up to a maximum of 1,000 NIS. The offer is valid until August 31, 2025, and is also open to teenagers.



Dutch Passport – Yossi Abadi

I found it in an old file
 Its lips glued with sacred dust
 A Dutch passport, fading, rigid.
 The stamp of Turkey on its inner cover,
 Between the pages — my mother's signature,
 Soft, pleading, like a whisper:
 "I have passed through."
 How did a woman born in Izmir
 Come to have a Dutch passport from the land of tulips and water?
 Between its pages—a hidden song of wanderers,
 Of an identity that crossed borders,
 And of a mother who left me a song
 Folded between its pages.

My mother's passport, with my mother's Turkish name, is painfully familiar to me. It bears Turkish stamps—warm, dark—from departure gates. I didn't understand. I couldn't find peace. How can a woman born in Izmir, daughter of Turkey and the sea, hold a passport from the land of spirit and waters, the land of mills and tulips?

Perhaps it's a remnant of an old shelter; perhaps a memory of ancestors who fled Portugal to Amsterdam, where—the shadow of Spanish communities—the name was preserved. Maybe it's just a key that Jews held in order to pass through, to survive, so that the gates of countries wouldn't close in front of them.

A passport is not just a document; it's a song sung within yellowed pages. It tells of a complex sense of belonging, of people who lived in the East and dreamed of the West, of crossing borders not only measured in kilometres but in identity, language, and memory.

Today, the passport is silent. It no longer leads to a port, a ship, or a stamp. But it whispers a story, one that guided me on my way to this land. And I listen—and keep it.

—Yossi Abadi

Memorial Service at Zarin Cemetery - Eddie Solow

On Monday, June 9, 2025 – 17th of Iyar, I participated in a moving and special event. About 30 people, mostly young men from the Taanachim settlements, gathered to say Kaddish and to recite Psalms in memory of the anonymous people, buried in the small cemetery of the Zarin ma'abara (transit camp). Most of the identities of those buried there and the dates of death are unknown, and most of the gravestones lack names. It turns out that for five years, people from the neighbouring moshavim have been coming to



this memorial ceremony. none of the attendees are related to the deceased. The rabbi explained that it is a great mitzvah to say Kaddish for the anonymous dead. The prayer does not expect any reward. We, four members and residents of the kibbutz, were present at this special occasion. We were received with honour (and received light refreshment after the prayer). Of course, we blessed the "Borei Pri Haetz" and "Borei Minei M'zonot" in accordance with tradition.

I remembered my early years as a shepherd in Eilon Halevi's sheep pen, when I used to go out to pasture on the hill. The sheep would graze on the grass between the graves. In those days there were two or three gravestones without inscriptions and a number of stones marking additional graves (until Paul Zilas convinced the regional council to fence the site). Over the years, Paul has taken care of the cleanliness and orderliness of

the place. Kudos! See the article below, from the eighth Yizrael Walk, April 2023:

“The Cemetery of the Ma’abara: The cemetery has not yet received official recognition from the state or the local council. Today, it is maintained by the kibbutz members. There are about 20 graves there. Most were marked only by stones, and only 30 years ago did several families build gravestones and a fence was placed around the site.

Fifteen years ago, Itamar, Paul Zelas’s son, visited a settlement in the Lachish region as part of a professional tour. There, he met a man named Avshalom Nachum, who, upon immigrating to Israel, lived in the Zarin transit camp. The settler told Itamar that his niece, Batya, passed away at the age of 8-9 months and was buried in the Zarin cemetery; the family did not know the exact location of her grave. Through Itamar, we coordinated a visit for the family. This was the first time they had been able to visit Batya’s grave since leaving the ma’abara. The elderly couple stood for the first time in front of their daughter’s grave after 50 years — perhaps the last time.

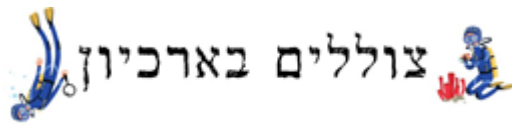
There are additional graves in the cemetery, including that of Yitzhak Yitzhak, who "fell on his guard," and a girl named Sarah Chaim, who was killed in a car accident at Navot junction. The relatives of the deceased live in nearby communities and appreciate the fact that the people of Yizrael respect and care for the site.”



A year ago, a tour guide with a group of friends passed through the site. They contacted Paul Zelas through the regional council. Together with other kibbutz members, the idea arose to restore the cemetery as the last remnant of Zarin. The donation committee agreed to support this, and together with good citizens from the centre of Israel, the site was renovated...

The Ma’abara: On both sides of the road, east of Tel Yizrael, Zarin transit camp was established. The camp housed immigrants between 1950 and 1953. About 200 families, approximately 800 people of Persian, Kurdish, and Iraqi origin, lived there. Conditions were harsh; water was scarce. For a long period, residents lived in tents, and later, in tin shacks. The residents worked in projects of the Jewish National Fund, in the Ein Harod quarry, and on local Kibbutzim, including on Yizrael. When the camp was closed, some residents moved to Taanach settlements, while others went to Afula.

Eddie Solow



Delving into the Archives

The Abandoned Pergola: When you go up from the dining room towards the mazkirut, turn left towards the Language Centre, pass the “Basinim”, and arrive at the “Rashim” neighbourhood. On your left, you will see the abandoned pergola, from which there is a wonderful view of our beautiful valley. *(Jules, when you were young, there **WAS** a wonderful view. Now houses and trees block the view – Ed)*

Once, in the 1960s and 1970s, the pergola was one of the cherished gems of the kibbutz. It was the gathering place of the neighbourhood, where people would meet in the afternoon for a cup of coffee. Several couples got married there, including Bernice of blessed memory and Milton Kaplan. *(And... Dani and Edi-tor Solow - Ed)*



The pergola was built with a donation from the Rosen family, in memory of their son Sol. In 1957, Sol Rosen was at a training farm in Sharpton, Australia, with a group that later joined Ylzael. The group went hiking in Mount Butler, where Sol was killed in a sudden avalanche. Sol was only 20 years old.

A few years ago, Sol's sister visited Ylzael and wanted to see the pergola. The member who took her there did not expect to find such neglect. To say the least: it was awkward!

In Ylzael of the 1960s and 1970s, the economic situation was difficult, and we knew how to appreciate such a gift.

I am issuing a call: just as we renovated and preserved the Founders' hut, let's renew the pergola and restore it to its former beauty!

I searched but couldn't find a photograph of the pergola in its glory days. If there are such photos, we would be happy to receive them for the archive.

Jules Feldman



Beacon on the Hill

Activity plan from June 15 to June 19, 2025

Every day from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM: Coffee, cake, conversation and board games

Day and Date | Activity

Sunday 15.6.25

9:10 AM – Zoom Dorot B'Gilboa: Seeing the World

7:00 PM – The Best Film Club "Speak to Her" - Almodóvar

Monday 16.6.25

9:00 AM – Sweet from the Oven with Monica and Noa

8:00 AM – Pedicure with Limor Moalem (appointment required)

9:30 AM – Painting Art with Chas Broadhurst

Tuesday 17.6.25

9:00 AM – Holistic Treatment with Shulamit Fink – please coordinate arrival with Shulamit

10:00 AM – Movie with Galia Shemi

Wednesday 18.6.25

9:30 AM – Blooming Nature with Hamutal

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM – Open Ceramic Room guided by Mickey Tovis

Thursday 19.6.25

9:30 AM – Flora

10:00 AM – Documentary Film

ENGLISH IS FUN with Rahel

PUNS

I'm going to stand outside, so if anyone asks, I'm out-standing.

What do you call a snobbish criminal going down the stairs?

A condescending con descending.

Why did the noun and verb go to therapy?

They had a tense relationship.

Is there a word that uses all the vowels? Including Y?
Unquestionably.

CAN FEBRUARY MARCH?
NO, BUT APRIL MAY.

What's the difference between a literalist and a kleptomaniac?
A literalist takes things literally.
A kleptomaniac takes things, literally.

BAD SPELLING MAKES ME (SIC).

Parallel lines have so much in common.
It's a shame they'll never meet.

OXYMORON

An oxymoron is a figure of speech in which two terms appear to contradict each other.

deafening silence	doing nothing
day dreams	random pattern
act naturally	small crowd
dress shirt	new classic
almost limitless	pretty bad
going nowhere	feeling numb
genuine imitation	all alone
fresh frozen	climb down
minor miracle	crash landing
new used car	awfully nice
inside out	

ZAPPA'S LAW & OTHER FACTS OF LIFE

Murphy's Law: If something can go wrong, it will.

Zappa's Law: There are two things on Earth that are universal: hydrogen and stupidity.

Lowe's Law: Success always occur in private, and failure in full public view.

Todd' Law: All things being equal, you lose.

Thompson's Theorem: When the going gets weird, the weird turn pro.

Vac's Conundrum: When you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal.

The Unspeakable Law: As soon as you mention something...

- if it's good, it goes away
- if it' bad, it happens

The Queue Principle: The longer you wait in line, the greater the likelihood that you are standing in the wrong line.

Issawi's Law of Progress: A shortcut is the longest distance between two points.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.