

The Yizraelite – No 2238 Date: 26.12.25

Kibbutz Yizrael

Reut's Editorial: Hanukkah on Kibbutz Yizrael is always a festival filled with activity. It begins with the decorated windows, which gently lift us out of routine, continues with the themed programme, this year a "Jungle", and culminates on the eve of the holiday in the Dining Hall, with the song *Amen*, which moves us every single year. And of course, there is the schnitzel-borscht, which, even when Miriam Davidson is not the one preparing it, still carries her unmistakable presence.

We are fortunate to have been blessed with such a bright and joyful Hanukkah here. Fortunate that, in these times, with the darkest government this country has known, there is still light on the hill.



"Amen" - See on Youtube:

<https://youtu.be/PMZW9ulxbpk?si=p8LQdivyKj7ByeuW>



**Mazal Tov to Ofira and Oz Eisner
on the birth of their grandson, a son to Moran and Doron.**

**Mazal Tov to the whole family.
Wishing you abundance, joy and light, good health,
and lots and lots of love.**

Notice from the Petty Cash Office

During the month of January, **Yitzhak Peleg** will be on leave. Members who require shekels or foreign currency are asked to place their request and collect the money by **06.01**.



Thank you,
Maor Persai-Barniv

Thank You from the Feldmans

Last Friday we celebrated our granddaughter's Bat Mitzvah. It was a large event, involving many participants and no small logistical effort. It was perfect.

All of this was thanks to several factors, all of them very much ours, right here.

Despite the fact that it was a Friday that also fell during Hanukkah, the Food Branch agreed to our request and took on the challenge. The result was wonderful – the guests did not stop admiring and praising it.

Everything ran like clockwork – from arranging the tables and setting up, through the service itself, to the clean-up. Everything was carried out with skill, efficiency, kindness, and great charm by the young people, under the guidance of Nir (the madrich) and Sigal Hadar. Outstanding service. You are the best.

We were fortunate to receive the devoted and caring help of Idit Halevy, who made an orderly and welcoming club available to us, along with professional and very helpful advice.

The ladies of the Kolbo supplied everything that was needed calmly and pleasantly, and helped ease the pressure.

The sound team showed up in their free time and willingly installed everything that was required.

Shlomo Cohen, who does not know the word “no,” lent a professional hand and helped with the screens for the presentation.

We have no words to thank you all.

We tend to take these things for granted because “that’s how it is here,” but it truly is not something to be taken for granted. This is our community, and the members who choose to live in it make it what it is. And how lucky we are to be part of it. We are truly fortunate.

Jules and Nitzan Feldman

 **Hanukkah Thanks 2025** 



Just before we begin with the thanks—and there are many—it is important for us to pause and say thank you for a festive gathering of a living, breathing, creative community.

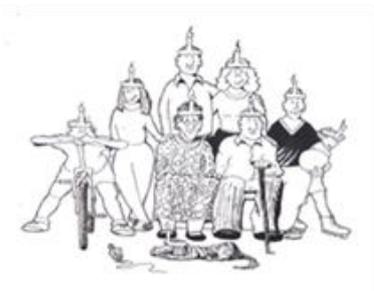
A community with an irreplaceable spirit of action and volunteering. For this, everyone deserves deep appreciation, and we are fortunate indeed.

So, many thanks:

- To **Yoni Brauman, Yaniv Lifshitz, Niv Edelstein, and Shlomo Cohen** for jumping in to help at any time, day or night.
- To **Itzik Shechter and Adi Laviv** from the Food Branch for every bit of organising and transporting.
- To **Itzik Nisani, Itai Nagar, and Ido Sharoni** for excellent sound services.
- To **Maya Shaliv** for help with organising the hanukkiyot.
- To **Tzafnat Mor** for continuous documentation of the holiday.
- To **Albert Rosilio, Milton Kaplan, Cora Baum, and Shmuel Hollander** for lighting the candles in the Dining Hall.
- To **David Sarno and Shlomo Cohen** for frying hot and delicious latkes.
- To **Komuna H’** for a lovely performance and for helping run the stations at the Jungle Evening.

- To **Carmi Assaf**, our wonderful DJ.
- To **Eddie Solow, Gil Hillel, Doron Kagan, Derek Davidson, Yaniv Lifshitz, Yaniv Shorer, Niv Edelstein, and Milton Kaplan** for a fantastic dance performance.
- To **Yasmin Fink** for beautiful drawings for the Jungle Evening.
- To **Shachar Levi and the Landscaping Team** for the “Wishes Come True” tree.
- To **Anna Abramovitz, Irit Shemesh, Anat Friedman, Keren Shtamper Kagan, Revital Zils, and the Maytronics team** for wonderful and delicious hosting.
- To **Avishag Sharoni, Dotan Savir, Naomi Shechter, Ofri Ziv, Paul Zilas, and Tzafnat Mor** for inspiring sharing at the “Pouring Light” evening.
- To **Limor Griman, Mali Ba’avur, Nitza Halevy, Nir Segal, Naomi and Itzik Shechter, Naomi Amit, Keren Shtamper Kagan, Rotem Lauden Rosilio, Rachel Hadar, Shlomit Allalouf, Shlomo Cohen, and Tamar Senkar** for excellent, warming soups.
- To **Ofir Halevy, Amir Darom, Gal and Yonatan Witelson, Yaara Habshush Greenshpon, Nov Cohen Schwartz, Nir Baor, and Tamar Sundak**, the pre-service group, for a wonderful festive masque.
- To **Carol Zilas** for packing the chocolate coins.
- To **Esti Mittelberg**, our Hanukkah grandmother.
- To **the Tut girls** for leading a moving artistic dance.
- To **Daniel Heimes Assaf, Liran Penn, Adi Ilan Goldstein, Adi Laviv, Omri Zilas, and Tamir Lavi**, the excellent and impartial judges of Schnitzel-Borscht.
- To **Albert Rosilio** for hosting the Schnitzel-Borscht event.

And once again, heartfelt thanks to everyone—and of course, our apologies if we missed anyone.
May we continue to shine light on the hill!



Hanukkah 2025 Team:

Ilana Peleg, Eli Friedman, David Beutler, Diana Shorer, Dekel Sarno, Tali Brauman, Shira Segal, Shelley Edelstein, and Sarit Laviv.

(🍒🍒 *It seems like half the kibbutz was involved in the preparations. It is very impressive. Next week there is no Alon so they will not be able to apologise for omissions...here's hoping for the best Ed*)

The “Spreading the Light” Evening in the Pub – Peter and Shlomit

On Thursday evening (18/13/2025), we gathered at the Laundry Pub for a truly special event: a soup evening lovingly prepared by members of the community (a big thank-you to everyone who lent a hand!), alongside moving personal stories from members engaged in different forms of volunteering.

The first speaker was **Paul Zelas**, who spoke about an association established in support of the Paediatric Oncology Department at HaEmek Hospital. Paul initiated the organisation following the cancer illness of his son Omri, who was treated with great dedication in the department over many years. Paul highlighted the support and accompaniment provided by members of Yizrael throughout Omri’s illness, as well as the community’s support for the association.

We then heard the deeply moving story of **Ofri Ziv’s** surrogacy journey. Ofri carried a baby girl for a couple who were unable to conceive, and after the birth handed the baby to her biological parents. Ofri has remained in close and meaningful contact with the happy parents .

Avishag Sharoni and **Dotan Savir** told us about their volunteering with a sports association for children (and adults) with special needs. The association focuses on cycling, using both standard bicycles and tandem bikes. They meet once or twice a week for rides and additional sporting activities, usually accompanied by parents (and many volunteers), though sometimes independently. Avishag and Dotan would be delighted to welcome additional volunteers.

Tzafnat Mor shared her experience of a long period of volunteering on Kibbutz Nir Oz. Tzafnat arrived as a volunteer lifeguard at the swimming pool and described the remarkable service provided to soldiers in the area, both before and after their entry into combat in Gaza. Hosting the soldiers included meals and overnight accommodation.

Naomi Shechter, who experienced a stillbirth, shared the painful journey she and her family endured. As part of her interaction with the health system, Naomi encountered a lack of awareness and tools for supporting families after stillbirth. From this, she initiated and created a comprehensive support system for families who have gone through this unbearable loss. Following a long journey of raising awareness, she established a platform now recognised within the healthcare system and continues to nurture and develop the field.

Read and be inspired - **Peter Pezaro** and **Shlomit Alalouf**.

Admission to the Schnitzel Borscht Jury

A Once-in-a-Lifetime Experience - Daniel Heims-Assaf,

After a formal written and verbal application, thorough background checks, and ceremonial handshakes, I was accepted onto the Panel of Judges of the traditional Chanukah Schnitzel Borscht evening. Since I was new to the team, the veteran judges tried to convince me that it is customary for new judges to arrive with a hat, a schnitzel mallet, and an obligation to bake cakes and make coffee for the seniors.

Nice try. I did not fall for it. I left the hat and the mallet at home and prepared only tea.

The first session behind the judging table was particularly refreshing. As someone who is very competitive, it was strange, and pleasant, not to rush off to solve another riddle, not to feel the pressure of first place, and in general, to relax, even though I have never actually won anyway.

I especially liked the fact that the contestants come to us. Smiling, flattering, making promises. The youth even claimed they would make me coffee, but for some reason only Adi Laviv received his coffee, and I remained thirsty. Noted for the record.

Some especially bizarre answers arrived at the table, and even songs. Yes, songs. It turned out that in one of the riddles the solution involved singing Chanukah songs to the judges, a small detail we had not been informed about in advance. Of course, I filmed everything on video, for historical documentation and future embarrassment.

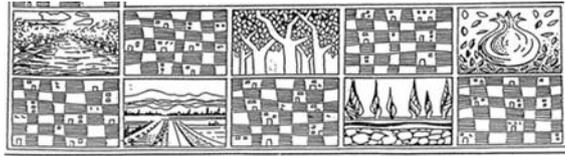
I truly enjoyed being part of the distinguished judging team, which included Omri Zelas, Adi Laviv, Liran Penn, Tamir Lavi, and Adi Ilan Goldstein, and of course the master organisers responsible for all this goodness, Sarit Laviv and Tali Brauman.

Hovering over all of us was the festive spirit of the one who stayed at home and did not come to hear all this noise, but thanks to whom Schnitzel Borscht exists at all, the queen mother, Miriam Davidson.

Somehow, once again, the youth won. In my opinion they are masters of senior judge flattery, but more on that in the next episode. I need to do a bit of checking. In short, an experience. Highly recommended. Next time, maybe I will also get coffee.

See you on the paths,

Daniel Heims-Assaf, junior judge, Schnitzel Borscht, Chanukah 2025

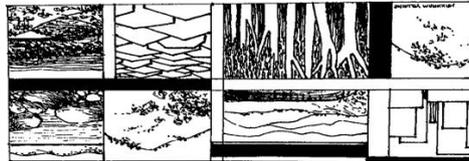


Notice from the Hebrew Newsletter Team

Next week, 02.01.26, the Hebrew newsletter will not be published!
The next newsletter will be published on **09.01.26**.

Material for the newsletter can be sent until **Wednesday, 07.01.26, at 10:00**, and it is always preferable to send it earlier.

Submitted by: **Reut Shaliv**



Notice from the Yizraelite Edi-tor

Next week we will publish a short informative edition. I will take the important information from Kehilanet, which I am sure, will work overtime to compensate for the Alon. Edi-tor.



Summary of the Management Committee Meeting – 22.12.25

Participants: Jeremy Perling, Evyatar Assaf, Uri Gilad, Idan Zelas, Inbal Pezaro, Limor Griman.

Agenda:

1. Approval of the minutes of the Management Committee meeting of 01.12.25.
2. Finance Committee proposal for the 2026 budget. The discussion in the Management Committee focused on the proposal to change the profit distribution key and on the proposal to change the loan policy.

Discussion:

The discussion addressed several issues:

A. Whether to apply the new key only for 2026 or also for the additional two years of the key, 2026 and 2027. This question arises from the uncertainty surrounding 2027. At the same time, the question was raised as to why there should be a return in 2027 to the 2025 key if the new 2026 key is considered more appropriate. It was also noted that in 2027 substantial changes to the budget are expected, as we will already be after completion of Phase B of the Rugby Housing project, but with a significant need to repay loans.

B. The proposal to change the key stemmed, among other things, from the need to cancel bonuses in the lower profit brackets that existed in the key approved in January 2025, which guaranteed bonuses up to a profit level of NIS 21 million. These bonuses were perceived as irresponsible at low profit levels, given the current needs of the kibbutz. Instead, the committee discussed two principal alternatives for the intermediate brackets, above NIS 7 million: distribution of bonuses or repayment of loans. The committee recommended an option that combines addressing ongoing needs, allocation of funds to reserves, and allocation of funds for repayment of excess loans that will be taken in order to complete construction, an additional NIS 4.5 million beyond the original plan.

The Management Committee supports the proposal that prioritises economic stability and debt repayment over early distribution of bonuses.

C. Change in loan policy. Approval in principle of changing the equity to loan ratio for completion of Phase B of the Rugby Housing project from 50:50 to 65:35. A discussion was held as to whether this decision, which is essentially financial in nature, should be taken by the General Assembly or by the Economic Council.

It was agreed that both decisions, the change in the profit distribution key and the change in loan policy, will be brought for approval to the General Assembly.

Limor Grimman and Jeremy Perling

Summary of the Open Discussion: Re the Finance Committee Proposal for the 2026 Budget - 15.12.25

The open discussion focused on the Finance Committee's proposal for the 2026 budget, with particular emphasis on changing the profit-distribution key in light of a challenging financial forecast. The proposal was presented by Maor Parsai, Chief Financial Officer.

Principles Underlying the Proposal

The proposal is based on the following principles:

- Maintaining the financial stability of the kibbutz and its businesses.
- Maintaining full liquidity of the Life Fund, the community funds, and the personal allowances.

The aim of the proposal is to present a budget that will allow the kibbutz to continue operating as it does today, without dramatic changes to daily life, while continuing to advance the building and absorption programmes, which have long-term significance.

Sources of Income and Financial Balance

The overall requirement is to balance a budget of approximately NIS 15.5 million.

These funds come from three sources:

1. **Business profits** of up to NIS 7 million. This figure is based on conservative estimates, mainly from management fees and rental income, after repayment of Business Fund loans (according to the financing model). It is considered 90% secured for 2026, even on the assumption that Maytronics does not distribute a dividend.
2. **Transfers from the Reserve Fund**, approximately NIS 4 million in addition to the fixed annual transfer of NIS 5 million. These derive from two sources: increased pensions payable in respect of members, and balances accumulated in the Life Fund (capital gains).
3. **Increased borrowing** of NIS 4.5 million in order to complete the housing project.

The Proposal to Change the Profit-Distribution Key

The current base assumption for business profits is NIS 7 million, rather than NIS 21 million as originally planned in the 2025 plan. Since the previous distribution key did not specify scenarios below NIS 21 million, an updated decision is required.

The central proposal was to refine the key by adding lower tiers beneath the NIS 21 million threshold. The new proposed tiers are: up to NIS 7 million, up to NIS 10 million, and up to NIS 12 million.

Distribution of Business Profits (Base Scenario up to NIS 7 million)

In the base scenario of profits up to NIS 7 million, the distribution would be: 73% to the community and 27% to the Reserve Fund. These percentages are derived from the mandatory amount that must be allocated to the Reserve Fund out of NIS 7 million.

Additional Tiers

If profits reach NIS 10 million, then of the additional NIS 3 million (beyond the initial

NIS 7 million), NIS 1 million would go to the community and NIS 2 million would be allocated to a bonus. The bonus comes into play starting from the second tier.

Key Discussions and Criticism

1. Structure of the Distribution Key and Presentation of Sources

Criticism was raised as to why all amounts (business profits, additional Reserve Fund transfers, and loans) are not combined into a single pool and a distribution key built on the full NIS 15 million. The response was that the decision was to adhere to the previous method, whereby only business profits are included in the distribution key.

2. Loans and Housing

Concerns were raised regarding the need for additional borrowing. The proposal includes a breach of the housing principle by taking an additional loan to complete the neighbourhood, bringing total borrowing to 60% of construction costs, instead of the previously accepted 50%.

Members suggested that if profit income exceeds NIS 7 million, the surplus should be used to repay loans rather than allocated to bonuses.

3. Use of Existing Funds

A proposal was raised to use part of the funds in the Mutual Aid Fund, which holds NIS 3.1 million and has annual utilisation of only about NIS 250,000, in order to reduce the need for loans. This issue requires discussion by the fund's management and approval by the General Assembly to change the ceiling or the Charter.

4. Investment in Agriculture

Questions were raised regarding the continuation of routine investments in agriculture despite the shortage of funds for other needs. The explanation given was that agriculture is a business managed by a board of directors, and that investments are necessary in order to continue generating profits.

Proposed Decision-Making Process

- Two weeks after the discussion, the Community Executive Committee will submit a proposal to the General Assembly, and the Assembly will vote on the changes to the distribution key, which will require approval by 50% of those voting.
- In January, following approval of the key, the consolidated community budget will be submitted for approval by the Economic Council, together with approval of the maintenance budget and the agriculture budget.

Summary: Limor Griman



Invitation to an Asefa

Monday, 29.12.25, at 20:30

The assembly will be broadcast on Channel 900 and via Zoom.

Agenda

1. Staffing of Positions – Search Committee for Office Holders

Recommendation of the Human Resources Management to appoint:

Irit Shemesh, additional term

Amir Darom, extension of term

Arnon Matalon

Voting will take place at the ballot box on Wednesday–Thursday, 31.12–01.01.

2. Finance Team Proposal for the 2026 Budget:

a. Proposal to change the profit distribution key for 2026

Voting will take place at the ballot box on Wednesday–Thursday, 31.12–01.01.

b. Proposal to increase the credit framework to complete Phase B in the Rugby Neighbourhood

Voting will take place at the end of the assembly

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Update from Yizrael Holdings – Idan Zelas

Recently, an enquiry was received from the Gilboa Regional Council regarding the leasing of the offices vacated by Maytronics.

The Council's intention is to vacate its existing office building at the Tel Yosef junction and transfer parts of its activities to Yizrael.

Such a move has wide-ranging implications – economic, social, and communal – all of which are currently under review.

Should the process move forward, a detailed update will be provided to the community. Idan Zelas

Updates from the Health and Welfare Cluster

Adult Mental Health – 2026 Update



The purpose of this procedure update is to provide a more appropriate response to members' needs, while remaining within the Cluster's budget framework. At present, there are four reimbursement tiers, which creates confusion for members and makes registration and follow-up technically difficult. In addition, the current reimbursements are insufficient and place a financial burden on members, or lead to avoidance of treatment for financial reasons.

Proposed changes

1. The basket will be reduced to two reimbursement tiers only.
2. The reimbursement per treatment hour will increase in both tiers.

Reimbursement amount (NIS) | Number of sessions

330 ₪ | 1–40

270 ₪ | 41–70

3. The total basket will be reduced from 80 sessions to a total of 70 sessions.

All other terms of the procedure remain unchanged.

The change will take effect on 01.01.26. *(Unless someone contests the decision – Ed)*

In any case where a member has completed their treatment quota and is in an emotional state that requires continued treatment, they should contact the team coordinator for an individual response and an examination of the available options.

Email address for communication on adult counselling:

yeutz@yizrael.com

Health Professions (Physiotherapy only)

The update to reimbursement rates is intended to better reflect the cost of external treatments, while remaining within the Cluster's budget and taking into account reimbursements received from Clalit Mushlam.

Current eligibility policy for private physiotherapy treatments (not at Clalit physiotherapy institutes)

- Physiotherapy with Alita Mor – the kibbutz reimburses the full cost (up to 300 ₪ for a double session, 150 ₪ for a single session), until reaching the Clalit Mushlam quota.

- Physiotherapy with an external physiotherapist (Clalit Mushlam) – the kibbutz reimburses 250 ₪ for a double session or 125 ₪ for a single session, until reaching the Clalit Mushlam basket quota.

Proposed change

- Reimbursement of 150 ₪ for a single session (instead of 125 ₪).
- Reimbursement of 300 ₪ for a double session (instead of 250 ₪).

This applies with any physiotherapist licensed by the Ministry of Health, up to the Clalit Mushlam basket quota (12 double sessions or 24 single sessions per calendar year).

All other terms of the health procedure remain unchanged (available for review on Kehilanet).

The change will take effect on 01.01.26. *(Unless someone contests the decision – Ed)*

New English Books in the Library

- Highly Illogical Behaviour / John Corey Whale - For Teenagers •
- The Cuckoo's Calling / Robert Galbraith
- The Silkworm / Robert Galbraith
- Reservoir 13 / Jon McGregor
- Made You Up / Francesca Zappia - For Teenagers







Merry Christmas to all the caregivers on Kibbutz Yizrael!

Ian, Anand, Connie, Avida, Rima, Joby, Girly, Danny, Maria, Mariza, Susie, Cha, Chanda.

The workers celebrated together and were pleasantly surprised by a special visit from Santa Beutler.

🍒 Many thanks to Noa Armoza, who supports and looks after the wellbeing of the workers throughout the year, with activities, treats, gatherings, and much more. 🍒



My Second Nature – Rotem Agmon

Several species of birds follow a daily movement route that passes over the kibbutz. In the morning, they travel from their roosting areas to feeding grounds, and in the late afternoon they return in the opposite direction.

If you lift your eyes to the sky in the early morning hours (07:00–08:00), you can see long lines of birds flying in V-shaped formations, moving from east to west. Black birds (when the belly is lighter, these are juveniles) that are not the great cormorant, move in their hundreds every single winter day. You can also spot flocks of feral pigeons flying in the opposite direction in the morning, Armenian gulls, and great white pelicans.

The pelicans can be observed in the late afternoon, when they return to roost at the Barak Reservoir (in Ta'anakh), passing overhead at low altitude.

It is hard to miss the largest bird in our region, with a wingspan of more than three metres.

Shabbat Shalom,
Rotem Agmon



Dog Committee Meeting – 10.12.25



Present: Tom Adler, Yarden Naor, Tal Habshush, Sharon Langberg, Smadar Agmon, Irit Cohen.

Apologies: Zehava Rosilio, Monica Brustein.

Several very pressing issues were raised at the meeting:

- There are several dogs on the kibbutz that bark excessively and for long hours, disturbing their neighbours' daily lives. What can be done? We will try to speak with the owners of these dogs and present possible ways of addressing the problem.
- **Dog Park:** The sign is broken. Few people use this park due to its location, access, and overall convenience (pleasant seating areas, lighting, etc.). We decided not to replace the sign at this stage and to examine what improvements might be possible.

- There are several members whose dogs roam freely around the kibbutz. Some of these dogs also cause damage and are very likely leaving their droppings around the area. *(They are. Trust me. I regularly step on them – Ed)* We have already spoken with some of the owners and will speak with them again, but so far this has not solved the problem. A question was raised within the committee: are we, in effect, acting as police officers? If this is our main function, there is no need for a full committee. This is an important and principled question, and we need to think seriously about what can realistically be done so that we are not policing, and so that the problem is actually resolved.
- The question was raised as to whether all dogs are vaccinated against rabies (and I would add deworming, especially for roaming dogs whose droppings remain in various places). This is a very important issue, and we will begin checking the status of all dogs on the kibbutz.
- Once again, many dogs and dog owners were observed leaving dog droppings on the lawns at Maytronics. Please collect after your dogs there, and everywhere else as well. *(I reckon that the first step is to toilet train the owners – Ed)*



Thank you,
Dog Committee
 Reported by: Irit Cohen



I care - On Dogs, People, and Fines – Orit Sloman

I am a person who loves animals, and my dog is an inseparable part of my home and family. I invested a considerable sum of money in building a fence, yet unfortunately she manages to jump over it. When I am not at home, she is kept inside. When I am home, she is free to move around a little near the house, to get some air and relieve herself. She causes no damage, poses no threat, and always returns home.

The General Assembly did indeed authorise the Dog Committee to impose fines on owners of “wandering” dogs, but the committee is empowered to exercise discretion regarding the manner, extent, and circumstances of enforcement.

In most cases, the documentation that leads to a fine is photographic, often taken by people who are afraid of dogs, dislike animals, or see themselves as guardians of order. But when committee members themselves are the ones taking the photographs, a

deeper question arises: is the committee acting simultaneously as accuser, prosecutor, judge, and enforcer?

If so, who remains to look after the welfare of the dog and its owner?

To the best of my knowledge, this is the only committee on the kibbutz that imposes actual monetary fines, not the withdrawal of a benefit, but a direct demand for payment.

I expect the committee to hold a broader discussion, to act with flexibility and sensitivity, and to examine creative solutions that do not rely solely on immediate punishment. A kibbutz is, first and foremost, a community, and it would be fitting if dogs (and their owners) were treated in a way that respects that.

MeDogToo,
Orit Sloman

Letter Regarding the Pilot on the Privatisation of the Clothing Branch – Eddie Solow



To Jeremy, Erez and Limor,

In the Community Management report from last week, it was stated that the Community Management approved the implementation of a pilot study concerning the privatisation of the clothing branch.

Unfortunately, the discussion in the report was presented very briefly, without sufficient detail to allow me, or the wider

membership, to consider whether to appeal the decision or not.

It was not explained how the projected savings from privatising the branch were calculated, nor was it clarified how the pilot itself is intended to be carried out. It is unclear whether all the entire community is included in the pilot, or whether it involves a limited sample of members, as is usually the case when pilots are conducted.

In this situation, I am unable to consider my next steps in an informed and responsible manner following the decision. At the same time, it seems clear to me that approving a pilot for the privatisation of a service branch is a fundamental and principled move. As such, approval should be granted by the General Assembly, and not be based solely on a decision of the Community Management.

In light of this, I ask the Community Management to reconsider, and even to reopen the discussion, on whether the matter should be brought for discussion and approval

by the General Assembly prior to implementing the pilot. In addition, I request that the implementation of the pilot be suspended until this question is clarified.

In conclusion, I ask that I be given the opportunity to submit an appeal against the decision after receiving the necessary details, and that a renewed discussion take place within the Community Management on whether the issue should be brought for approval by the Kibbutz Assembly.

Sincerely,
Eddie Solow

Response from the Community Management – Limor Griman

The discussion regarding the possibility of moving to a laundry budgeting model was held twice in the Community Management and was also reported to the public in detail.

Between the two discussions, a limited pilot was conducted, involving the weighing of laundry for several families who volunteered to participate. This was done in order to assess a reasonable amount of laundry per person, taking into account families of different ages.

After receiving the results of this limited pilot, it became clear that a decision could not be made without conducting a broad pilot involving all users of the clothing branch.

Before the broad pilot begins, it will be necessary to develop an operational plan for the clothing branch, including the component of weighing the laundry.

Once a detailed plan for the weighing pilot (without charging) is prepared, it will be published to the public, and only then will the pilot commence.

After a trial period of several months, during which the clothing branch will operate under the new model, data will be collected on the amount of laundry per family, and members will receive information about their individual laundry quantities. At that stage, the full plan will be brought for approval by the Community Management. This plan will include, at that point, both a proposal for budgeting a monthly laundry allowance per person and the cost per kilogram of laundry.

If the Community Management approves the full plan, including budgeting and charging, it will then be brought for approval by the General Assembly.

Reported by: **Limor Griman**



An Open Letter to Erez, Limor, and the Members of the Community Executive Committee – Eddie Solow

Regarding the Survey relating to the food branch: I understand the purpose of the survey you recently circulated regarding meals in

the dining hall. However, after reviewing it, I have reached the conclusion that the survey may be misleading and is also unnecessary. I have therefore decided not to complete it, and I would like to explain my reasons.

First, and perhaps most importantly, the survey is anonymous and not limited in the number of times it can be completed. This means there is no way to know who has responded and who may have responded more than once. It is possible that all participants are honest and acting in good faith, but it is also possible that one person could sit and complete the survey twenty times, and you would have no way of knowing. Similarly, there is no way to know whether a family has completed the survey twice.

In my view, the survey responses are influenced by each respondent's position regarding its underlying, unspoken aim: whether or not to privatise the dining hall. Someone who wishes to preserve the current situation may, naturally and without any ill intent, exaggerate the number of times they eat in the dining hall. Conversely, someone who supports privatisation may understate that number. I have personally been present in conversations between spouses where even they themselves did not agree on how many times they "eat" in the dining hall on Friday evenings and holidays, together.

In my opinion, the information you are seeking is already in your possession. Members register for Friday meals and holiday evenings, both for taking food home and for eating in the dining hall. It also seems to me that anyone can reasonably estimate how many members eat breakfast, lunch, and dinner in the dining hall. It would have been far more appropriate to station someone there for several days and count the diners in practice, or even to document this photographically. I am sure there are also applications that could do this in an orderly and reliable manner.

Therefore, before publishing the results, I suggest pausing to examine whether they truly reflect reality, or whether they may be misleading. Otherwise, we may find ourselves arguing about the reliability of the results instead of discussing the issue itself. Best of luck to us all,

Eddie Solow



Those Who Register – Influence our Future

Anyone interested in registering through a centralised process is invited to get in touch in the coming days (until 29.12), preferably via WhatsApp, and send all the required details (see below) to: **052-3756153**.

The membership fee will be charged to your personal allowance. It is important to read the registration procedure carefully.

As stated, I will also be happy to assist anyone who chooses to register independently using a credit card.

Coordinated Registration Procedure for Kibbutzim (2025)

This procedure describes the fastest and easiest way for kibbutz members to register with the Democrats Party for 2025.

1. Purpose and timeframe: register now. This is the moment.

- What do we do? Carry out a coordinated registration – all interested members register together through a single representative, with payment made via one cheque (or bank transfer).
- When? We have two months only: from November until the end of December 2025. Anyone who does not register through this procedure by 31.12 will need to register independently in 2026.
- Anyone who registers now will be able to vote and stand in the primaries that will take place during 2026, without paying again.

2. Registration fees for 2025:

72 NIS:

- a. Young people up to age 25
- b. Women over age 62
- c. Men over age 67

98 NIS for everyone else

3. Who is eligible to be included in the coordinated registration procedure?

- a. Anyone living on a kibbutz who has a personal account.
- b. Also members of the community association.

Please note: all registrants' data is kept in an organised and secure manner by the party.

4. Required details

In order for us to register on your behalf, we only need the most basic information:

1. Full name (first and last)
2. ID number
3. Phone number
4. Email address
5. Gender
6. Date of birth
7. Address (same as everyone else)
8. Signature

5. From 2026 onwards you will no longer be able to register through the kibbutz 🙅

Only at the end of 2026 will the Political Department again organise a coordinated registration.

- Where? On the party website: <https://f.democrats.org.il/joinkibbutzim>
- How? Using a personal credit card.

Therefore, make use of the convenient group procedure available in 2025!

The Political Department Coordinators,
The Kibbutz Movement



Invitation to a New Year's Party

Fri 2.1.26

Details to Follow

The Culture Committee invites you:

On Thursday, 08.01.26, at 20:30, in the Moadon,

A fascinating and deeply inspiring lecture about the daily choice to rise from tragedy, to face the impossible, and still find the light.



At the age of 20, a knock on the door tore **Malki's** world apart, the knock no one ever wants to hear: the news that her beloved, **Erez Ashkenazi**, had been killed. Life shattered, but Malki did not give up.

From the fragments, she built a new chapter. She met **Lt. Col. Eli Ginsberg**, married him, brought four children into the world, and returned to life.

But on **07.10.23**, the same knock came again. Once more, the world froze. This time it was **Eli**, the hero of her life, who fell in battle **on Kibbutz Be'eri**.

In a powerful and moving lecture, Malki shares the stories of her two heroes, and her own story: confronting the impossible, and the daily choice to get up, to breathe, and to find the light.

“Cry and charge forward” was Eli’s motto, and it is the legacy that has accompanied Malki ever since, because “there are moments when tears must be allowed to fall, but always, always, one must keep charging forward into life”

We're up and running! (From Kehilanet)



Dear parents, you're invited to come, have a look, and refresh your wardrobes at the new community children's clothing initiative that has just opened.

On the last row of shelves in the clothing store (machsán begadim), you'll find clearly marked sections with children's clothes in excellent condition, for everyone to take.

Many thanks to Liora and the Clothing Store for the cooperation, and to everyone who has already donated clothes they no longer use.

A few requests:

- Please leave the space tidy after you
- Please erase the number written on any clothes you take
- Have clothes you'd like to pass on to the store? Please don't leave them on the floor in the clothing store, contact us :)

Thank you very much for your cooperation,
Ya'ara and Inbal



Beacon on the Hill Activity Program

Sunday 28.12.25

07:00 Walk with Shlomit and Peter

16:00 Birthday celebrations for November and December – a new tradition

Monday 29.12.25

09:00 Sweet treats with Noa and Monica

08:00 Pedicure with Limor Muallim (appointment required)

10:00 Work day

Tuesday 30.12.25

09:30 Lecture: The Art of Painting with Chas Broadhurst

Wednesday 31.12.25

10:00 Summary of 2025

Thursday 01.01.26

09:30 Film with Galia Shemi

10:00 Open ceramics studio, guided by Ziv Ben Bassat

17:15 Chair exercise with Michal Shaanan

ENGLISH IS FUN with Rahel

WORDS ABOUT WORDS

"Give me a lever long enough and a prop strong enough," wrote Archimedes, "and I can single-handed move the world." Riposted Joseph Conrad more than two thousand years later, "Do not talk to me about Archimedes' lever. He was an absent-minded person with a mathematical imagination. Give me the right word and the right accent, and I WILL move the world."

A persuasive testimonial to the miracle of language is that, for at least three millennia, so many people have talked and written about it. Innumerable men and women, whether serious students of the language or not, have turned phrases about language, praising its power or bemoaning its abuse, genuflecting to its glory or tweaking its peculiarities.

Thinkers about language don't always agree. "O wondrous power of words!" exults William Wordsworth. "Fine words butter no parsnips," observes an English proverb with less enthusiasm. "How long a time lies one little word." Shakespeare rejoices. "Words mean one thing on Monday and another on Tuesday," counters Franklin P. Adams. "Language, I think belongs to two groups only; gifted individuals everywhere, who use it imaginatively and the fellowship of men and women, wherever they are, without being particularly inventive, nevertheless endeavour to speak and write correctly.

Benjamin Disraeli: "Those who never quote, in return, are never quoted."
George Bernard Shaw: "I often quote myself. It adds spice to my conversation."

"By words the mind is excited and the spirit elated." ARISTOPHANES

"A man's command of the language is most important. Next to kissing, it's the most exciting form of communication mankind has evolved." OREN ARNOLD

"A word after a word after a word is power." MARGARET ATWOOD

"I cannot speak well enough to be unintelligible" JANE AUSTEN

“The ill and unfitting choice of words wonderfully obstructs the understanding.”
FRANCIS BACON

“The root function of language is to control the universe by describing it.” JAMES
BALDWIN

“Language like the weather, is a popular topic; everybody’s got something to say
about it. And like the weather, where is language, there is also change.” DENNIS
BARON

“Plain English” – everyone loves it, demands it – from the other fellow.”
JACQUES BARZUN

“Words are as vital to life as food and drink and sex, but on the whole, we don’t
show as much interest in language as we do in the other – more obvious –
pleasures.” GYLES BRANDRETH

“Standard English is a convenient abstraction, like the average man.” G.L.
BROOK

“The magic of the tongue is the most dangerous of all spells.” EDWARD
BULWER-DYTTON

“A very great part of the mischiefs in this world arises from words.”
EDMOND BURKEMORE NEXT WEEK

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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.

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

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

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