

The Yizraelite – No 2223 Date: 5.9.25 Kibbutz Yizrael

Reut's Editorial: This week two kidnapped victims were brought to burial, Ilan Weiss z"l and Idan Shtivi z"l.

Ilan Weiss was the husband of Tal Darom's cousin, and Idan Shtivi was the cousin of a colleague of mine in the Quality Control Department at Maytronics.

Emergency reserve call-up orders (Tzav 8) are being issued in preparation for the entry into Gaza City. Our fear for the lives of the hostages who are still somewhere in the Gaza Strip, only grows stronger.

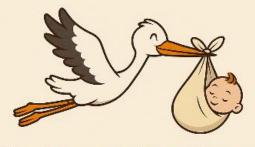
The hostages' parents are doing everything in their power to rally public support, in the hope that sufficient pressure will be placed on the government to force them to reach an agreement for their return. We are in the month of Elul. In Jewish tradition this is a time of preparation for the "Days of Awe".

We have been living in "days of awe" since 7 October 2023, and we will remain with this overwhelming feeling of dread until all the hostages are returned.

We share in the sorrow of Inbal Adler on the passing of her mother:

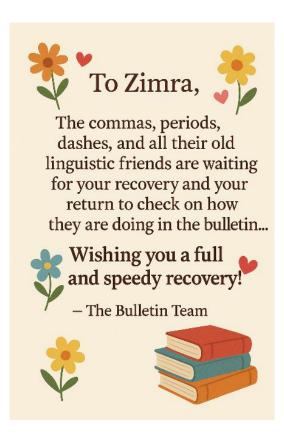
Naama Zuta, of blessed memory

MAZAL TOV!



Mazal Tov to Yarin and Rotem Rozilio on the birth of their son, grandson of Zahava and Albert Rozilio.

Congratulations to the entire Rozilio family, the Lauden family, and the Cohen family.





🐚 Thank You, and also an Invitation



Tal Wolfson-Darom

On Thursday, 28.8.25, after 692 days, the abducted fallen soldier **Ilan Weiss**, my relative, was returned to be buried in the soil of Be'eri.

The funeral, which took place this Monday, stirred mixed emotions in me. On the one hand, of course, it was very sad – it is painful to lose someone who still had half of his life ahead of him. On the other hand, there was also some relief and consolation: now we can close this chapter in our lives and begin to truly mourn.

Many thanks to everyone who, during the very long time since 7.10.23, embraced me and my family with words and deeds.

Thanks also to those who, on the tour of the South six months ago, listened to Ilan's daughters tell the Weiss family's story and visited their home. Every such show of support was deeply meaningful to us.

Heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all those taking part in the struggle to bring the hostages, home.

I ask you: do not give up. Stand by the families until the very last hostage is returned!



- Gil Boyum (my cousin)
- Inbar Boyum (Gil's eldest son)
- Ilan Weiss (my cousin's husband)

I would also like to invite you to visit the "Mitzpor HaShlosha of Be'eri", a lookout established in memory of the three members of our family murdered on 7.10:

The lookout is located near the agricultural lands of Kibbutz Neve Ur. To get there, simply type in *Waze*: "מצפור השלושה מבארי".

There you will find a beautiful view toward Jordan and picnic tables. You are welcome to make coffee or a light meal.

And if you meet **Yaron** (the brother of Gil z"l), who built the lookout, tell him you are from Yizrael and ask him to share his story.







Housing Committee Update

Following the closing of the tender, we are updating that **Paul and Carol Zilas** have received the home of the late **Ruti Becker** in the Lower Tzameret neighbourhood. Congratulations to the family.

Housing Committee

Reported by: Nitzan Weinreich



Economic Council Report

Date: 01.09.25

Participants: 26 council members

Chair: Uri Gilad

Secretary: Shlomo Cohen

Agenda

1. Approval of the Kibbutz, Holdings, and Agriculture Financial Statements for 2024

Presented by: Maor Persai, CFO

Agriculture

- **Dairy partnership transfer:** The dairy herd was transferred mid-2024 into a partnership registered under the kibbutz (As opposed to the "agriculture" sector).
- Equity and profit: Agriculture's equity remained stable; total profit for 2024 was №831,000. Since the dairy generated over №1M in the first half, the Horticulture sector actually posted a loss.
- Investments & cash flow: Major investments in the dairy are expected to pay back within several years. The sector kept positive cash flow (>№4M), but funds are tied up in investments—nothing free to transfer to the kibbutz.

Holdings Company

- Loss: Unlike previous years, 2024 ended with a loss of №21M.
- Investments & subsidiaries: The value of subsidiaries—mainly Maytronics and Teldor—declined, due to company losses and withdrawals by Holdings.
- **Debt:** Debt to the kibbutz reduced from №21M to №3.3M; however, long-term debt grew to finance investments. Despite losses, operating cash flow remains positive.

Kibbutz

- Operating loss: Routine kibbutz activity ended 2024 with a №14M loss—making it dependent on business income to sustain itself.
- Short-term liabilities (members' budgets): Members withdrew about №11M (~№1M/month).
- **Financial position:** Overall asset value declined due to falling holdings, but fixed assets increased through housing/building projects.

• **Discussion:** Members called this a **financial crisis**, stressing the need for bold steps to avoid banks dictating terms. Preparing a new 2026 budget is essential, as reliance on holdings' profits is no longer viable.

Vote: Financial statements (kibbutz, holdings, agriculture) were approved unanimously – 26 for, 0 against.

2. Agro-Solar Project Proposal (Holdings & Agriculture Boards) Background & nature:

- Agro-solar (agro-voltaic) project combines agriculture with solar power generation on the same land.
- New regulation (Jan 2024) allows selling solar energy at open-market rates if installed above farmland.
- Planned area: 250–500 dunams west of the kibbutz. Requires zoning change and ~2 years for permits.

Execution partner & risks:

- Two companies considered: Doral & Enlight.
- **Chosen:** Enlight, due to financial strength (profit of \$107M in H1 2025) and focus on seasonal field crops (more flexible than orchards).
- Risks noted: rising interest rates may stress Enlight, though the model is viable even at 7% interest. Reference made to previous EDF solar project losses (~₪700K in 2024).

Financial models:

- Lease model: Kibbutz receives №10,300/dunam/year (no partnership).
- Partnership model: Up to 50% ownership, but lower lease payments (๗७,900/dunam; ๗९,100 if kibbutz raises its own equity). Final decision can wait until permits are granted.
- Project cost: №98–120M, funded by 85% bank loans + 15% equity.
- Kibbutz will receive grants of №6.1M over 3–4 years upon reaching milestones.

Alternative proposal (Jeremy Perling): Immediate 50–50 partnership decision, declaring kibbutz commitment to cultivate its land, while retaining option to shift to leasing later.

Votes:

1. Model decision (lease vs. partnership):

- Defer decision until permits 22 for.
- o Immediate 50–50 partnership (Perling's proposal) 4 for.

2. Project approval:

 Approve entry into agreement with Enlight – 22 for, 0 against, 4 abstentions.

3. Legal text approval:

○ Approved – 24 for, 0 against, 2 abstentions.

Summary of Decisions:

- 2024 financial reports approved unanimously.
- Agro-solar project with Enlight approved, with model choice (lease/partnership) deferred until permits are secured



Registration for the Music Conservatory has begun! Don't miss out!!!!





Notes from the Yizrael Gilboa Conservatory

Impressions from a Jazz Evening at the Conservatory

Ofra Shelef: Virtuoso musicians, a one-of-a-kind singer, superb, with a captivating stage performance. Pure escapism—exactly what the heart, mind, and soul need. An electrifying atmosphere.

If you get the chance... go! You don't like jazz? Let go of your prejudices and give yourself this gift.

Milton Kaplan: From time to time, Stas brings artists to the Music House — most of them new immigrants, mainly from the former Soviet Union. Some arrived after living in other places; a few months ago, there was a performance by a pianist who had lived for several years in the U.S. and then decided to make aliyah.

The artists who come to our Music House are of international calibre, and listening to them is an hour to an hour and a half of truly high-level culture. Sometimes it's hard to believe that such performances take place here, with us. But they do!

It's right here, just a few minutes' walk from our homes, and when it's over, within minutes, we're back home.

Stas makes a great effort to bring top level artists. At the previous evening, friends of mine from Sydney, Australia were my guests. They told me: "We go to all kinds of concerts, and what we heard here was one of the best performances we have ever attended."

At the most recent evening, before the concert began, wine and refreshments were served on the patio of the Music House, which set the mood nicely — and then the jazz evening began. Sofi Chudnokovsky, a singer has an amazing vocal range, from high to low, the brilliant pianist Daniel Kruglov, Narayan Topchiu on double bass playing beautifully, and the outstanding teacher from the Music House — Stas Zilberman on drums.

It was a wonderful experience, as if I had travelled to Tel Aviv, but in fact I was right here.

I wholeheartedly recommend to anyone looking for a delightful evening with a wonderful atmosphere — especially in these times — I recommend you come to the cultural evenings at the Music House - Milton Kaplan



High Holidays 5786 (2025)



Food Branch

Dear all,

Ahead of the Tishrei holidays 5786 (2025) and the many upcoming events and meals, please find below the schedule of the Food Department for the holiday period:

Rosh Hashanah

- Erev Rosh Hashanah Monday, 22.09.25
 Registration for the festive meal closes on Sunday, 14.09.25.
 Distribution of food for those eating at home (first holiday meal) will take place on Monday, 22.09.25.
- Second holiday meal Tuesday, 23.09.25
 Self-service. No distribution and no advance registration required.
- Holiday brunches Tuesday morning and Wednesday morning.

Yom Kippur

- Erev Yom Kippur Wednesday, 01.10.25
 Fasters who wish to join the pre-fast meal must register.
 Registration closes on Sunday, 21.09.25.
- Post-fast meal Thursday, 02.10.25 (for fasters only).
- For non-fasters meals will be self-service with no registration required.

Sukkot & Simchat Torah

- Erev Sukkot Monday, 06.10.25
 Food distribution for the evening meal will take place on the same day.
 Registration closes on Sunday, 28.09.25.
- Sukkot brunch Tuesday, 07.10.25, as usual.
- Erev Simchat Torah Monday, 13.10.25.
- Simchat Torah brunch Tuesday, 14.10.25, as usual.
 Registration for the Simchat Torah festive meal closes on Sunday, 05.10.25.

General Notes

- Everyone is welcome to help set up the holiday tables at 12:00 on the eve of each holiday.
- Lunch on holiday eves will be a light meal, served outside the dining hall.
- The **fresh vegetable market** will be open every Friday morning, 7:00–11:45.

- **Holiday catering distribution** (for those eating at home) will be held 9:30–11:30. Please bring your own containers in advance – do not take dining hall dishes!
- Self-service meals require no prior registration, for both home diners and dining hall diners.
- For your convenience, a detailed schedule is attached perfect for the fridge 😊



Wishing everyone a happy holiday and a good New Year! Food Department



Scan above code to register for High Holidays





Hello, First Grade

Here are a few interesting facts about the "First Graders":

- 3 girls and 5 boys
- 4 are youngest children
- 4 are firstborns
- All 3 girls are firstborns



These 8 amazing children have been split into two classes at school, but every morning they all get on the same yellow bus together – with a song in their hearts.

We wish you, our sons and daughters, that your curiosity will only grow, that you will make new friends, and that you will find joy in learning.

With love and excitement,

The Parents

And a big thank-you to Shimrit, who every year voluntarily photographs the new first-graders, managing to capture their genuine, happy smiles.



R to L - Amit Shorer, Hili Levi, Omer Kirschberg, Eilon Hillel, Boaz Levi, Nevo Brauman, Ari Assaf, Rif Kamilian

From the Early Childhood Yard

This week we said goodbye to the sea and the beach sand – only to return to the sandpit of the kindergarten...

The beginning of the year in early childhood is like starting a new book – filled with curiosity, a little bit of apprehension, and the scent of fresh pages. For us it is always a particularly exciting time, because it touches on one of the most important missions: adaptation and integration.

To make the transition smoother, we begin preparations already at the end of the previous year – the children meet the new figures who will guide them, get to know the kindergarten and the yard, and take their first steps in a familiar space.

Alongside the pedagogical preparations, the physical spaces also go through a facelift – a big thank-you to the Building Branch, led by Guy Arad, who every year mobilises to give the children an inviting environment.

This year, we are also very excited to welcome the new Chair of Education, Noga Harpaz, who is officially stepping into her role and walking with us into a year of shared learning and growth.

When the year begins, we take a deep breath and ease in gradually: accompaniment by a familiar figure in the first days, more flexibility, less "structured content," and a strong emphasis on creating a sense of security and connection.

This excitement doesn't stop at the kindergarten gate – it flows outward to the entire community. You can find it in the smiles of the grandparents, in the kind words of the uncles and aunts, and in the sparkling eyes of members – in the dining hall, at the shop, and in every corner of the kibbutz. We are all partners in the children's small and big moments, and this magic turns the beginning of the year into a full communal celebration.

So, all that's left is to wish everyone the best of luck! May it be a good year!

And one last small note: thank you to Avital, who on 10.9 is completing many years of significant educational work on Yizrael, with best wishes for success on the road ahead!

Yael Oster – Head of Early Childhood.



The Rocket Playground

A little old and new history, through the eyes of a kibbutz child who discovered the magic called the Rocket Playground.

At the beginning of the 1970s, the playground structures were placed in the centre of the kibbutz school (next to the basketball court of the "Tlatonim" group). They were designed and built by Michael Shani, who was a very skilled welder with years of experience.

For at least twenty years, the structures stood in their original location and everyone used to play on them during breaks.

At some point, the structures were moved behind the infants' house, where the playground continued to be active.

Over the years, safety regulations changed, and the playground could no longer meet the requirements. Therefore, we had to dismantle it and put the structures aside, hoping that one day we could rebuild them elsewhere.

After several years, the opportunity arose to bring the structures back to their former location, and since then we have begun a slow, thorough but steady process of restoration. A new and comprehensive plan was drawn up for the Rocket Playground, with the required changes and approvals, alongside the construction of play corners and seating areas.

This is the opportunity to say a big thank you to the ShinShin volunteers, who built two swings and benches for the playground.

Recently, we have begun reinstalling the structures; this time they will be fixed immovably in place, but the main thing is that they are returning home.

In the near future, we will continue positioning them, assembling, painting, arranging, landscaping, and creating a new-old place, different but similar, for the benefit of the whole community.

It is important to note that this process takes time, because everything is being done outside working hours and without a budget.

Navot Assaf, on behalf of the whole team, with the enthusiastic support of the Environmental Quality Committee



In case you doubt the truth of Yitzchak's "Did You Know":

Funeral strippers are exotic dancers, usually young women, who sing and dance and remove clothes at a funeral or in a procession to a funeral as a way to celebrate the life of the deceased and to attract mourners. [1][2] Funeral stripping originated and is most common in Taiwan but it is unknown how the tradition came to be. It spread to rural regions of mainland China but the Chinese government has attempted to end this practise, deeming it offensive and obscene. [3]



Riding in an Electric Flower Car in Taiwan, 2008

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What Do I Have to Do with Dance?

Nitzan Rivlin Feldman writes about her participation in the Israel Arts Festival

"Tell me, who besides me knows that you performed, last week, in the Israel Festival?" a friend asked me this week.

"I don't know. Three, four, maybe five people."

"Why don't you write about it in the bulletin?" she suggested.

"I'm not sure if anyone would be interested, and honestly it embarrasses me a bit to promote myself," I replied.

"Listen, people hear you at meetings, you're on committees, you're active in politics. Wouldn't you want them to also know other sides of you?"

"I don't know," I answered, and the question remained open, even to myself.

So, I held a serious discussion with... myself. We talked about home and life partners, about the private and the public, about how much I'm willing to expose myself and how much I care about what people will say. After a thorough debate it was decided to pick up the gauntlet and share, maybe mainly to send the message that life does not end at sixty, and not at seventy either. On the contrary. This is the time to reinvent ourselves.

So yes, I took part in a dance performance that was staged four times over two days at the Jerusalem Theatre.

How did I end up in this adventure? To explain, I need to go back eight years. Thanks to *Meeting at Yizrael* (Affordable Seminar accommodation – Ed), I met Oz Zaluf from the



cultural movement, who invited me to join a group of creators working in Afula – *Local Legend*. I joined and had the privilege of meeting and working with wonderful artists, learning a lot, and tried out different fields of art.

At some point, the movement in Afula established a higher school for the arts. I decided to take a course there in my free time.

I turned to Oz (younger than most of my children), and of all the courses offered, he suggested I join the dance group. My jaw dropped. Except for folk dancing I had never done any dance. What do I have to do with dance? When I recovered from the shock, I

asked why dance of all things, and he said: "To broaden and enrich your artistic toolbox."

"Listen," I told him, "these are young people, probably in their thirties, and I'm nearing seventy. How will that fit?" "Actually, in their twenties," he corrected, and promised to check with the teaching staff. And so, I joined the dancers, and it was a fascinating and, above all, enjoyable experience. Among the teachers were the choreographers Alik Niv and Shaked Mochiach (who will soon return to the story).

Then came the coronavirus, and some of the lessons were held on Zoom. The final assignment was to create a personal dance piece (a solo), with me as my own choreographer. My mentor was Alik Niv.

Later, that same Alik Niv decided he wanted to create a show with older women. He approached participants from *Local Legend*, and that's how I found myself in a fascinating and moving production, which for me was truly therapeutic. The product of this joint work was a dance theatre performance called *Mamo*, with eight women performing. We "ran" with this show across the country for almost three years, performing 30 times — which is considered a lot for this type of production — and we even had a decent waiting list of invitations when the war broke out. The shows stopped, we managed to perform two or three more times, and now it has been a year since we last performed.

In the past year, with *Local Legend*, we worked with Shaked Mochiach and even put on a short performance. When she began working on her project for the Israel Festival, she looked for older women and "pulled out" three from our group, including me. We worked on the performance for four months, travelling twice a week to Tel Aviv and/or Jerusalem.

A little about the performance: its name is *The Voice of the World That Only I Hear*, and it is based on the dreams of the participants. Each of us was recorded telling about dreams we had dreamt.

The performance included ten girls aged 9–12, Jewish and a few Arab, five professional dancers in their twenties and thirties, and five grandmothers — the three of us mentioned earlier plus two Arab women from Jaffa, one Muslim and one Christian.

It was fascinating to follow dreams across different ages, to see how the events in this country are reflected in dreams, in fears and in hopes.

Another unique element of the show is that it does not take place on one stage in one hall. The audience is equipped with headphones and cushions and wanders through

the space, following the dancers. It began outside the theatre, with the audience watching from a bridge at what was happening below, continued to the concrete sculpture in the entrance square, then moved into corridors and halls across different floors of the theatre, and ended in another place outside.

It was not a simple journey, and at times it was frustrating. Meeting a different organisational culture was sometimes challenging. The movement interpretations

given to our dreams did not always please us, and in general — until you see the whole production, it is hard to grasp the connections and breadth.

In the end, I am happy for the experience and deeply grateful for the opportunity.



And one last sentence: life is worthwhile if it has meaning, and if we do not give up on fulfilling at least some of our dreams.

It is worth trying...

Nitzan Rivlin Feldman

(Well done. We are very proud of you, Nitzan – Ed)

Before Judgement Day - Chanan Shaliv

These are difficult, sad, and bitter days for all of us, and especially for those who themselves, or whose family members, have been harmed by the events of recent years. To come now and ask a series of irritating questions that reopen wounds is not exactly the recipe for creating a foundation for cleaning out the stables or for beginning to make things right. But, as a very late lesson from the grave failure of how we emerged from the crisis of 1973, I will nevertheless try to ask a few questions,

which I have been grappling with for some years now—especially after the day of catastrophe.

A few clarifications before the questions:

A. I do not intend to anger anyone. This is simply an invitation to personal reflection—interesting and challenging.

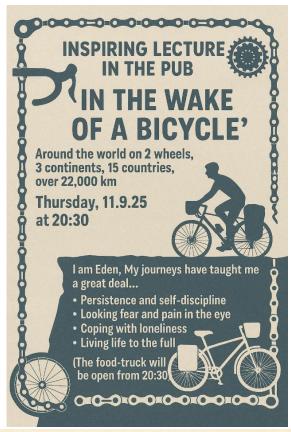
B. Of course, there are countless other questions and doubts, and even more serious ones. Here I present only a small handful of examples.

C. There is no general or personal judgemental intent here.

The questions are as follows:

- 1. Is the basic Zionist idea, which argued (rightly or wrongly) "a people without a land for a land without a people," still relevant?
- 2. How true is the statement that the State of Israel is "a villa in the jungle"?
- 3. Israel was once considered the ultimate security refuge for any Jew anywhere. Is this claim still valid today, after the events of October 2023?
- 4. Is there something morally binding in our very being Zionists in the State of Israel?
- 5. We all grew up on the slogan: "It is good to die for our country." Was our mind washed, and is this really how the state was built—or simply how we became accustomed to think?
- 6. Are we fighting enough for the democratic character of the state and for human rights (especially for women and minorities) in Israel, or is almost all our energy devoted to matters of security and nationalism?
- 7. Israel is supposed to serve as a focal point for Judaism in general, and especially for a renewal of Jewish ideas (not necessarily religious). Are we dealing, even in the slightest, with this challenge?
- 8. The fabric of connections with Jewish communities abroad never really received a clear definition or the creation of agreed frameworks. Have we not thereby harmed one of the most important purposes of the State of Israel?

In the days after the shock that the Israeli public suffered as a result of the events of the Yom Kippur War, public pressure gradually grew, leading to many changes—primarily in political and ideological spheres, but also to significant cultural and sociological changes. Phenomena such as "Gush Emunim" and "religionisation" on the one hand, and "pig capitalism" on the other, as well as many others, were the result of those reactions. Therefore, it is very important that already now, "towards the days ahead," we think about our practical and actionable responses for the path forward.







Or B'Givah - Weekly Program

Every Day

● 08:30–12:00 – Coffee, cake & conversation

Sunday 07.09.25

- 🞉 Upside Down Day the first one!!!
- 09:00–11:30 Open for coffee
- 15:00–18:00 Coffee, cake, games & conversations

Monday 08.09.25

- 08:00 Pedicure with Limor Moalem (by appointment)
- 9 09:00 Sweet Morning with Noa and Monica
- 10:00 − Lecture on Burning Man with Galia Shemi, followed by:
- Thinking games & trivia with Galia Shemi

Tuesday 09.09.25

10:00 – On the Paths of the Kibbutz: Visit to the library & meeting with Reut Shaliv

Wednesday 10.09.25

10:00 – Preparing New Year's greetings with Noga Shapira

Thursday 11.09.25

10:00 - Film with Galia Shemi

🕴 10:00 – Open ceramics room with Ziv Ben-Basat

17:15 – Chair exercises with Michal Shaanan

ENGLISH IS FUN with Rahel

As native speakers of English we have a natural advantage over those who aren't:

- we know how to use wear, where or we're
- to, two, or too
- the various meanings of ough, and augh
- much or many
- there or their or they're
- etc. etc.

This is an interesting tidbit recently shared. It purports that native English speaker subconsciously order adjectives without even realizing they're doing it.

A Japanese student translated: "A brown big cat." She was corrected.

However, for those learning English as a second language, this order is often taught and explained. Adjectives in English absolutely have to be in this order:

Opinion-size-age-shape-colour-origin-material-purpose-noun

So, you have a lovely little old rectangular green French silver whittling knife. But, if you mess with that word order in the slightest, you will sound like a maniac. It's an odd thing that every English speaker uses that list, but almost none of us could write it out.

And if size comes before colour, green great dragons can't exist.

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

deafening silence doing nothing daydreams

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

social distancing

THE DEFINITION THAT POPS UP WHEN YOU GOOGLE "pleonasms"

pleonasm is the additional and extra use of added spare unnecessary redundant (superfluous or surplus) unneeded and uncalled for words in addition to and on top of what is necessary or essential or required or obligatory or vital or requisite or crucial......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.

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.

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