


The Yizraelite – No 2207 Date: 16.7.25

Kibbutz Yizrael

I want to sing a song of praise for everything that remains
 here with us — neither leaving nor wandering,
 like the migrating birds.
 Neither fleeing north nor south,
 nor singing "My heart is in the east
 while I am at the edge of the western world".
 I want to sing for the trees,
 which do not shed their leaves, but endure the summer heat and the winter cold,
 and for the children of men who do not cast away their memories,
 and endure more than those who cast off the past.
 But above all, I want to sing a song of praise,
 for lovers who remain together —
 in joy and sorrow, and joy again,
 to make a home, to raise children,
 now and in the other hardships.
 — Yehuda Amichai

Reut's Editorial:  Idan Alexander has been released! When I look at him, with his fleeting, liberated smile, it seems to me there is a complete happiness. Like the happiness felt when picking an orange in the orchard and eating it—right from the tree—or an in-season strawberry just picked, its juice now staining the fingers. This is a basic, very simple pleasure—unadulterated joy.

I ask myself, what hides behind this pure, happy smile of the released hostage, flying in a helicopter to Ichilov hospital? I believe that already in these first moments of happiness, of astonishment at the arrival of this moment, with its overwhelming intensity, there are deep hidden concerns about those left behind, the thoughts of incessant fear of the unknown, the concern about the captors' attitude, the airstrikes, hunger, thirst...

I hope that occasionally, Idan's smile will express pure happiness.

58 are still there. Let's hope that before the end of the counting of the Omer, we will be witness to the smiles of those who are still alive after their release, and that the families waiting for their murdered loved ones will be able to bring them to burial in Israel. 🧡

Summary of the Management Committee Meeting - 28.4.2025

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

1. **Appeal by Esther Ben Bassat regarding a decision on seniority for housing**

(Invitees: Esther Ben Bassat, Ziv Hiyon, Shachaf and Tzach Sassi, Yifat Asaf, Aviva Boitler, Stas Gavrillov, Yitzhak Peleg, Ranit Levy, Attorney Omer Cohen.

The members of the Management Committee were presented with the appeal regarding the decision made by a forum that included the secretary and other officials, which awarded Shachaf Halevi-Sassi two additional seniority points for housing, aiming to correct the oversight in the "Young Generation" procedure concerning those who were absorbed into the community at the time of decision-making on seniority for households.

This decision, made on a personal matter, does not align with the Assembly's resolutions and creates a situation changing the order of housing priority.

Each invitee expressed their position on the matter. The comments addressed both the process of decision-making and the rationale behind the decision.

Attorney Omer Cohen, legal advisor to the kibbutz, provided his opinion regarding decisions by officials that do not conform to procedures or resolutions adopted by the Assembly.

After hearing the various opinions, it was proposed that the Management Committee not decide on this issue in this meeting, and a team from within will work toward finding a mutually acceptable solution.

Decision: To continue discussion on this matter at the next meeting.

2. **Approval of minutes** – 7.4.2025, 20.4.2025.

3. **Election of a Management Committee representative to the Reserve Fund Committee.**

The committee members elected Inbal Pezaro as the representative of the Management Committee of Yizrael on the Reserve Fund Committee.

4. **Approval of changes to the kibbutz's investment policy** (Invitee: Maor Persai, Finance Manager).

The Finance Committee updated the kibbutz's investment policy and requested the Management Committee to bring the matter for discussion and

approval by the Economic Council. The new policy was presented to the committee members.

The Management Committee will bring the matter for discussion and approval to the Economic Council.

5. Approval of opening new bank accounts.

Maor presented a request to open two investment accounts – one at Leumi Bank and the other at HaBank HaBeinleumi (The First International Bank of Israel).

The Management Committee members approved the request and authorized Maor, Limor, and Jeremy to sign all necessary documents.

6. Update on Facebook lawsuit and approval to release information.

Maor updated the Management Committee on the legal process regarding Facebook publications.

A request was received to release information from the kibbutz's data systems.

The Management Committee approved the release of relevant information from the computer systems for investigation purposes.

Summary: Limor Griman and Jeremy Perling.

Summary of the Management Committee Meeting - 12.5.2025

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

Agenda:

1. Appeal of Esther Ben Bassat Regarding the Decision on Seniority for Housing – Continued Discussion

A team representing the Management Committee reviewed the process that took place in the interim with the families involved. The management was informed that a compromise proposal was suggested, but no mutually agreed solution was reached.

After an in-depth discussion, the Management Committee decided to preserve and respect the essence and intent of the officials' decisions, while also maintaining proper management of the kibbutz, which is defined as one of the committee's functions.

The decision:

- a. To cancel the additional points for housing granted to Shachaf Halevi-Sassi.
- b. When allocating apartments in the new housing, priority will be given to the Sassi family over the Matalon family (Saar and Yasmine), as long as their point totals are equal. This decision is valid for four years, including the list to be published in 2029.
- c. If an old apartment becomes available, the Sassi family will have priority (regardless

of point changes) for four years (until the end of 2029) over the Hiyan and Matalon families (Saar and Yasmine).

Any decision that does not align with the housing procedure was made with the consent of the concerned parties.

This case highlighted the need to carefully define how officials make decisions regarding individual cases, as well as the sensitivity required when the Management Committee or any other body handles such matters.

2. Approval of the 2024 Financial Statements of the Local Committee

The financial statements of the local committee were presented to the Management Committee members and approved by virtue of committee members' approval.

Jeremy Perling, as Chair of the Local Committee, and Maor Persai, Treasurer of the Local Committee, were authorized to sign the statements.

3. Approval of a Bank Guarantee for the Gilboa Regional Council for Building Permits

A request was received from the regional council to open bank guarantees of ₪5,000 for each building permit. After consulting with attorney Gal Einav, it was determined that there is no way to avoid this, and therefore the Management Committee's approval is requested.

The Management Committee members approved that for each current and future building permit, a bank guarantee will be issued to the Gilboa Regional Council.

4. Proposal to Amend Section 4.6 of the Social Security Procedures

Elad Ilan, Chair of the Reserve Fund, presented the requested change, which mainly involves altering the method of calculating the actuarial debt of Reserve Fund members. This pertains to pension completion for any reason. During the discussion, two comments were raised:

- A request to examine whether this could harm the achievement of integration goals.
- A request to maintain uniform calculations between future and current members.

Decision:

The matter is pending further review and responses from the Integration Committee, after which it will return for further discussion. If the decision is to proceed, it will be submitted for approval at the assembly.

Wage Increase for the Cleaners

Due to the cleaners' wage increases, starting from 1.6.2025, the price per hour will be 60 NIS, instead of 55 NIS.

Asefa

On Monday, 19/5/2025, at 8:30 PM

Agenda:

1. External Workers Procedure
2. Work Procedure

Asefa Committee

Message: Erez Peleg

Hanhalat HaKehilah

Summary of the Community Management Meeting - 11.5.2025

Participants: Ilana Peleg, Erez Peleg, Talia Arad, Yifat Segal, Kinneret Govrin, Maor Persai, Shlomo Levy, Tamir Blass, Limor Griman.

Agenda:

1. Budget for Protest Activities

The protest headquarters was established in accordance with the assembly's decision at the beginning of April 2024.

Limor presented the goals set by the headquarters for activities and several planned events.

The entire plan is based on maximum member participation, minimizing costs, and spending only on essential items. The plan is to hold about 3-4 events each month.

It was suggested to allocate 20,000 ILS for the activities.

The proposed funding source is from funds allocated for war expenses, with the remaining amount around 70,000 ILS.

The community management approves the proposal and recommends that the assembly (Asefa) approve it.

2. Use of Public Spaces (Guests: Arnon Matalon – Pool Manager, Idit Halevi – Club Manager)

On Yizrael, there are many inviting public spaces that serve as places for members to gather and use during various community events, including private/family events.

While there is a desire to allow this for all members, parameters and rules for usage are needed to ensure reasonable, fair, and proportionate use, considering the quality of life and routine of all members, and safeguarding community assets.

This definition is especially necessary during the summer season when many events are held at the pool. Last summer, over 30% of the events at the pool were organized by entities outside the community, invited by community members.

The most problematic events are large ones, hosting dozens of people.

A proposal was raised to include a fee for pool use. We stress that only events connected to a community member can take place at the pool, but these are not necessarily private events; they could involve groups from the member's workplace, children's school, hobby groups, etc.

We do charge for the use of other public spaces.

Discussion points:

- Need to define what constitutes a high-participant event, possibly charging only in these cases.
- The pool is part of the members' home, and private and family events should be allowed.
- The suggestion distinguishes between private events and institutional events, which are not private (personal 1st degree family events – Ed) but are organized by the member.
- We should define which events will be considered "contributions to the community" (philanthropy).

Decision: We will proceed with defining criteria for different event types and later present a procedure for approval to the community management.

Until a decision is made, members are asked to refrain from organizing institutional events at the pool.

3. Handling of Moving Between Dwellings

(Guests: Aviva Boitler, Nitzan Kamilian – Housing committee).

The housing committee prepared rules and principles for members entering or leaving a permanent house, which takes into consideration, the year the house was built or extensively renovated.

It was said that additional considerations should be added for members receiving a permanent house for the first time. Whether the house is new or renovated, they should be allowed a partial construction package to influence the house's design.

The community management approved the building management's proposals:

- a. A member moving into a house, should receive a suitable residence that meets the minimum standards set by the community at the time of construction (e.g., a Nof neighbourhood apartment standard differs from that of cottages or a new neighbourhood).
- b. A member vacating a house must leave a house that meets the same minimum standards.
- c. If a house is returned to community ownership and does not meet the standard, the

cost to repair and bring it up to standard will be borne by the departing member. This does not refer to normal wear and tear but to deliberate damage affecting quality or value. In case of death, costs will be deducted from the life fund.

d. For moves into older neighbourhoods (over 20 years old) that haven't undergone a thorough renovation in the past 20 years, a basic package will be provided for permanent housing.

e. For moves into newly renovated or newly built houses within the past 20 years, the house will be prepared for the new resident, including adaptations for accessibility and family size, according to building management definitions. No budget will be allocated for stylistic or design changes.

f. If the new occupant is a member for whom this is their first permanent residence, in addition to house preparation, a limited renovation package will be provided, prepared by the construction manager.

g. All members moving in will sign an agreement stating that all investments in the house are at their own expense and cannot be later claimed from the community.

4. Deciding on a Name for the Northern Neighbourhood and Streets Across the Community

Ahead of the beginning of housing in the northern neighbourhood, it is time to choose a name.

A request was received from the regional council following a request from the Ministry of the Interior, instructing settlements to assign names to streets and house numbers, mainly for mapping and emergency access.

The need to name streets and number houses is not new, and the Ministry insists on its implementation. (About time! At last, something good from the rulers – Ed)

We aim to unify these needs and conduct a thoughtful, community-involved process for selecting names.

Decision: The planning committee will coordinate and lead the process of choosing the name for the new neighbourhood and will propose a method for numbering houses and naming streets or pathways.

Summary of the General Assembly - 28.04.2025

Chairperson: Eddie Solow. Secretary: Uri Gilad. Participants: 40 members

1. Appointment of Committees: Liran Pen.

- **Housing Committee** – Liran thanked Aviva Boitler for (many) years of leading the Housing Committee and introduced Nitzan Kamilian to lead the committee.
- **Assembly Chairperson** – Shlomo Cohen for another term as Assembly Chairperson.
- **Building Manager** – Rafi Baum for another term as the community representative on the Building Management.
- **Social Involvement Committee** – Adi Goldstein Ilan as the committee

coordinator, and Oren Broadhurst, Gazit Levi, Yifat Asaf, Nitzan Rivlin Feldman, and Tzafnat Mor as members of the committee.

The assembly approved all committee members without objections and wished them success.

2. Demographic Plan for 2026-2030: Yishai Levy, head of the Demography cluster (Tzemed), presented the demographic plan for 2026-2030. The plan was approved by the cluster council and then presented to the community management and the management committee. The full plan with all data was sent as background material for the assembly.

Yishai reviewed three focal points:

- a. The current demographic situation of the kibbutz, including age distribution, working-age members, and number of children.
- b. Parameters and factors influencing the demographic plan.
- c. Models of absorption scales examined during the process, comparing them based on the parameters above: population size, number of working-age members, number of children, and their implications for income and budget.

Based on this process and analysis of various models and their implications, the following absorption plan is proposed:

- Acceptance of 4-6 families annually, in addition to absorption of our own children, subject to meeting acceptance criteria, to achieve the following demographic goals:
 - Youthful population, especially among members
 - Increase the percentage of working-age members.
 - Improve income and raise the percentage of income from work to about 85% of the community's total budget (reducing dependency on assets and dividends)
 - Increase the number of children across age groups to 12 children per year group.
 - Recruit new members who will be socially involved and assume roles and responsibilities

The Tzemed cluster will monitor and control the implementation of the plan, update it according to actual conditions, and present it annually to the assembly.

During the discussion, members praised the serious, thorough, and comprehensive work done by the team in developing the plan (See "English in fun" Parody on Roget's Thesaurus – Ed). Several questions were raised, which Yishai addressed:

- How were the budgetary implications of increasing the population calculated?
 - A detailed review was conducted by our economist, Niv Harmoni, as part of a team working on increasing income sources. He re-examined and confirmed these figures.
- Does setting an ambitious target not compromise the selection process?

- Yishai explained the two-year screening process before new members arrive, involving criteria-based evaluations and decision points to ensure only the most suitable families proceed.
- The acceptance of 4-6 families per year depends on their meeting criteria; if suitable families are not found, acceptance may be lower.
- Can the community produce enough adoptive families?
 - This is now the goal—making recruitment a community-wide goal where everyone contributes. The community's management set this as an immediate goal after plan approval.
- Regarding the acceptance target: some members feel 4 families per year is too ambitious, advocating for the lower limit, while others argue for a higher, more ambitious goal to attract growth and address demographic gaps.
 - The plan includes a monitoring and updating process, with a focus on both the number of members and the growth rate, to be reviewed annually. Once the desired number is reached, the target can be adjusted. The plan extends to 2030 only. (and will be reviewed annually – Ed)
- External family acceptance is highly selective and meets the criteria.
- Acceptance of our own children is more flexible, as they are our own.
- Larger, broader acceptance allows for community diversification and enrichment.

**The Ballot for the plan took place on 4-5/5/25 with the following wording:
 "Approval of the demographic plan for 2026-2030: Acceptance of 4-6 families annually, in addition to kibbutz children, subject to meeting acceptance criteria."**

- **172 members participated in the vote.**
- **Results: 129 voted in favour, 35 against, 8 abstained.**

Summary by Limor Griman

Summary of the Young Generation Committee Meeting - 8.5.25

Participants: Sivan Dashevski, Rotem Kamilian, Yarin Rosilio, Ranit Levi

Updates:

1. Housing crisis among the young generation – We discussed the housing shortage issue until 2028.
2. The next Young Generation get-together is scheduled for 6.6.25 at the pool ("Chill Pool").
3. At the next meeting, we will begin the process of selecting a representative from the committee for each age group.
4. Warm congratulations:
 - Roi M. has been discharged from the army and will continue working at the boarding school for about two more months.
 - Stav L. Received the "outstanding soldier" award of her army base. Congratulations

Summary by: Ranit Levi

Summary of the H.R. Management Meeting - April 27, 2025

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

1. Outside Workers Procedure

Invited: Outside Workers Management Members - Inbal Pezaro, Rafi Baum, Maor Persai.

Following the community management meeting, an additional discussion took place regarding two main points:

a. Salary Threshold Increase:

Raising the salary threshold from the minimum wage + 30% to the minimum wage + 50% (gross 9375 ILS per month).

b. Employer Vehicle Policy:

Allowing the use of an employer-provided vehicle only when the salary exceeds the national average income— 13,316 ILS.

Discussion Points:

- The proposed threshold is not high enough; an increase is suggested.
- It is appropriate to set a minimum threshold and ensure members do not settle for less when negotiating with the employer.
- The main goal is to maximize income from employment, so the proposed salary shouldn't be decreased.
- Discretion and flexibility will continue to be exercised, especially in professions where the market undervalues work or when the member is at the beginning of their career.
- The definition of a vehicle expense cap at up to 20% of gross salary is a threshold that has been reviewed and is deemed appropriate to maintain from the previous procedure. It serves the purpose and limits the expense to a reasonable level, leaving most of the income with the outside worker.
- Some workers receive employer vehicles for specific work needs, and these are not included in this discussion.
- Having an employer vehicle also provides a positive feeling and motivation to work.
- Economically, it is most beneficial for the kibbutz when members travel using kibbutz owned vehicles, mainly because costs are shared among many people, increasing efficiency.

Decision:

The H.R. and Outside Workers managements support maintaining a minimum salary threshold of minimum wage + 50%.

Regarding employer vehicles, a decision was made to drop the salary cap for receiving an employer vehicle. However, the restriction that vehicle expenses should not exceed

20% of gross salary, remains.

Members who do not meet the threshold will be given time to get organised. **The proposed Outside Workers procedure will be re-published on the community platform (Kehilanet) and submitted for the assembly's approval. (This Monday, 19/5 -Ed)**

2. Work Procedure – Maternity Leave Section

Since in some cases, a six-month maternity leave exceeds the use of 48 days of vacation per year, the H.R. management proposes allowing an exception to using more than the 48 days of annual vacation specifically for maternity leave (if there are accrued vacation days).

Vacation days used in the same calendar year, outside of maternity leave, will be deducted from the extended maternity leave entitlement.

To assist new mothers in that (difficult) year, we propose to allow mothers to register the six days of summer preparation using a special absence code instead of the “vacation days” code, but these days will be deducted from their vacation quota.

The proposed work procedure will be re-published on the Kehilanet and submitted for approval via ballot.

3. Job Postings

Recently, questions have been asked about why a public call is issued for all available positions in the kibbutz. Answer: This policy has been practiced for many years and is also reflected in the work procedure.

Issuing a public call creates equal opportunities and transparency, allowing all members to learn about available positions and to consider applying.

Summary: Kinneret Govrin

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From the Committee for Appointing Committees (Vaadat Iyush Vaadot)

1. **Housing Committee:** The committee recommends, as public representatives, Ben Kirshberg, Dalia Abadi, Hila Alterlevi, Noga Harpaz, Neta Cohen, Natasha Tchernichovsky, and Rotem Agmon.
2. **Young Generation Committee:** The committee proposes to extend the term for David Boitler and Monika Brustein, and suggests adding the following as members: Eyal Sharoni, Yarden Naor, and Tzachi Tzafadia.
3. **Vehicle Committee:** The committee proposes to extend the term for Oskar Grossman, Lilach Harpaz, and Shai Hadar.
4. **Outside Workers Management:** The committee recommends, as a public representative, Peter Pezaro.

5. **Culture Committee:** The committee proposes the following public representatives: Daniel Asaf, Yaniv Lifshitz, Pnina Habshush, Shachaf Sassi, Sheli Edelstein, and Sarit Laviv.

All candidates listed in items 1-5 will be presented at the upcoming Kibbutz assembly.
(Mon 9/5 – Ed)

6. **Economic Council:** The candidates for public representatives are Avner Alterlevi, Gil Hillel, Sigal Hadar, Peter Pezaro, Rafi Baum, and Shimon Zelas.

The election of candidates for the Economic Council will take place at the ballot box. Four candidates will be chosen from the list of six.

You are invited to contact any of the members of the Committee for Appointing Committees — Kinneret Govrin, Albert Rosilio, Liran Pen, Navot Asaf, Dotan Savir, Sheli Edelstein, Hadvah Sheharbani



Environmental Quality Committee – Single-Use Items in All Public Spaces

Background

*Disposable utensils become waste after one use, causing significant harm to the environment and impacting human and animal health. The waste accumulates in landfills, increases clean-up and disposal costs, and pollutes public spaces, the sea, and open areas.

*Plastic affects human health

*Toxic chemicals seep from plastic and are found in our blood and tissues almost constantly.

*Two broad categories of chemicals associated with plastic pose critical health risks:

- Bisphenol A (BPA)
- Phthalates — chemical compounds found in cleaning products, hygiene items, and plastic packaging.

Studies have identified these substances as causes of health problems.

According to KKL (JNF) data (JNF website, 26.4.22), Israel uses approximately 70,000 tons of single-use items annually.

The Environmental Quality Committee discussed this issue and set two main objectives:

1. Raising awareness of public health risks.

2. Increasing economic awareness — the significant costs associated with



purchasing large quantities of single-use items.

Our recommendation is to stop using single-use items and to promote public awareness and personal responsibility for maintaining environmental quality. We are working toward ending the use disposable plastics in public spaces such as the moadon, Founders' Hut, conference rooms, and more.

Personal responsibility for protecting the environment will start in practice on June 1, 2025. (I wonder what that means? – Ed)

Submitted by Noga Kan Dror Shapira and the Environmental Quality Committee team

Update from the Absorption Committee



The Absorption Committee is pleased to announce that Anja Lutjens (wife of Liron and mother of Yari and Len), joined the absorption process (Klita) at the beginning of May. Anja continues her work at Maytronics as a Marketing Specialist in the Business Department in the Germany region.

Family accompanying her – Alita and Einan Grosser.

Liaison on behalf of the Absorption Committee – Nofar Brin-Dolinko.

Wishing her a successful and meaningful absorption!

International Nurses Day on Yizrael



This week, we celebrated International Nurses Day at the clinic. We were pleased to see over 100 Members, residents and children who came to express their appreciation to our health care workers—past and present.

International Nurses Day is observed to honour the work and contributions of nurses, a profession that is primarily a calling.

On Yizrael, we have 10 nurses, of whom 7 have worked in the past and/or currently work at the Clinic.

Galya Shemi, Carol Zelas, Margalit Levy, Yossi Mor, Liran Pen, Naomi Shechter, Marian Arad, Nitzan Weinreich Kamilian, Shira Segel, Shlomit Allaluf.

And of course, Rachma, who has been with us for over five years.

Talia Arad





Living in the Chevra Bogeret

Lecture and Discussion over Coffee

Under the Guidance of Simona Aloni-Levi

Sunday 25.5.25

20:00 – in the Moadon

In Memory of those of our murdered dear ones In the cruel attack on Kibbutz Beeri



From the display in the Beeri Memorial tent

Hostages Square - Daniel Hames-Asaf

"One Square, One Voice – For the Kidnapped"

Last Saturday, a group from the kibbutz went out to the Kidnapped Square in Tel Aviv, initiated by the Yizrael Protest Headquarters and led by Danit. We travelled to strengthen, support, and raise a clear voice – to bring the hostages back **now**. We started by setting up the tent of the Kibbutz Movement in the square. Our presence as a community was part of the struggle to bring home the hostages. During these hours, many visitors entered the tent, looked at photos, read the written words, paused – and made space in their hearts and minds for those who still haven't returned home.

Later, we joined the main protest rally, where the families' members spoke – Herut, the mother of Tamir Nimrodi; Michel, the father of Gai Eluz; Hagit and Robbie, the

parents of Itai Chen; Daniel Rosenbaum, the partner of a reservist fighter; Udi Goren, Tali Haimi's cousin; and Ilan, the father of Gai Gilboa Dalal.

The speeches were difficult and powerful. Herut Nimrodi, Tamir's mother, said painfully: "Tamir was abducted cruelly, scared, helpless – but alive. Every day is accompanied by anxiety, struggle. Every day is an attempt to hold on to 'maybe.' The discussion about statuses is irrelevant – **there is only one status: "hostages!"**. Each one of them needs to return home now."

I travelled with Karmi, who is only 12 years old. It wasn't easy to listen to the speeches, and I checked with her from time to time to see if she was okay, but I felt it was important. Important to be there, to see, to listen, not to turn away. For me, and for her. We will continue to act, remember, and strengthen – until everyone is home.

Writing and photos: Daniel Hames-Asaf



To: My Friends on Yizrael

Subject: Thank You!

The Kibbutz Movement has been working since the beginning of the war to fight for the return of all the hostages to their homes.

Among the various actions we are taking, we have set up a tent in the Hostages Square, which serves for awareness, guidance, and a cry for help

Bring everyone home now. The tent is operated voluntarily by members of kibbutzim from across the country.



We would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the collective kibbutz effort. Members of your kibbutz came to the Square last Saturday evening in the spirit of solidarity and giving wholeheartedly.

We would appreciate it if you could publish this letter in one of the kibbutz media channels.

If you see fit to organize another visit, please contact us — until the last hostage is home, we will be in the square!

To set a date — Danito: 052-395989

Lior Simcha - General Secretary (Takam)

Hagar Reuveni - General Manager (Takam)



In Memory of the Nova Massacre



Kibbutz Ylzael is preparing a homemade dinner for the families of the hostages - Next Shabbat, 24.5.25

At the hostage square in Tel Aviv, inside the Beit Ariella Library, there is a "Family Room."

The room is intended for the families of the hostages and returnees, for various gatherings. Among other things, it hosts meetings every Saturday evening before and after the rally at the square.

At the end of the rally, a dinner is served there for the families, with each week's food organized by a different group of volunteers (communities, companies, organizations, etc.).

As part of the Ylzael protest headquarters activities, we, the Ylzael community, also volunteered to organize a meal on Saturday, 24.5.25.

So, what are we asking from you?

Prepare one (vegetarian) dish for a family size, and join us in support and embrace of the hostage families.

Clarifications and additional details:

- A family-sized dish — enough for 8 people (or more).
- Ready to serve, in disposable containers, packed for travel — well wrapped or with a lid.
- Registration will be posted on the notice board in the dining room this coming Shabat. To see the variety of dishes. Please register.
- What can you prepare? Casserole, salad, sandwiches, pasta, soup, hot vegetable dish, vegetable platter, fruit, cake, cookies, and similar items...
- The prepared dish should be brought on Saturday afternoon to the collection point on the kibbutz — exact location and hours will be announced later.
- Feel free to include a short note with words of support for the families.

- To reach the required number of dishes, we need the effort of about 40 cooks (of course, more are welcome!).

For questions and additional details, you can contact Alita Mor at 052-8990942 or Tal Darom at 052-3754326

Alita Mor

The Yizrael Protest Headquarters

Notice Regarding the Stall!

The Stall, run by volunteers, will be open at the gas station during the following hours:

15:00 – 18:00

We would be happy to have more volunteers to staff the booth on Saturdays.

Anna Gavrilov on a billboard in Haifa

One day during the week, when Anna was on her way to work, she saw, to her surprise, a billboard hanging in the city streets, featuring her playing the flute. It turns out that throughout the city, there are billboards with pictures of musicians from the Philharmonic Orchestra.

The Haifa Philharmonic Orchestra is Anna's main workplace. She plays the flute in the orchestra and also heads the young talent division. Anna also teaches at the House of Music on Yizrael, at the Conservatory in Afula, and at the Yizrael Valley Conservatory.



Zimra's Column

I read a Facebook post by Gil Hilel — I thought it would be nice to sweeten the day a bit with some honey...

And here are his words: "My grandfather, Shimon Tshuva, was among the first to support Bibi (Benjamin Netanyahu), and that drove the family crazy. My grandfather, Shimon Tshuva, was a Holocaust survivor from the Jewish community in Libya. A significant part of his family perished in the Holocaust."

"My grandfather, Shimon Tshuva, was a beekeeper. In his last days, Grandpa Shimon reluctantly agreed to say that maybe Bibi causes more harm than good.... **"but there is no leader who comes close to his level, he added."**

"The recent period in the country, with Bibi's attempt to turn Israel into a dictatorship, the war, the hostages, and the collapsing economy, make me think of my grandfather in two ways — his bees and his political opinions."

"I think we can find some hope in the bees —

When the hive loses its queen, who alone is able to give life to the colony and maintain order in a perfectly organized society, all seems lost. The life of the hive slows down. Without new eggs, the future is lost. In a few weeks, the colony may be doomed. But the bees do not panic. Nor do they expect salvation from outside. Demonstrating extraordinary collective intelligence and profound instincts, they trigger spectacular emergency procedures, almost unimaginable in a world dominated by insects.

The transformation begins with a simple but essential choice

The worker bees choose common larvae - those who would normally be mere workers. They are nothing special. They are not born different. But their fate changes completely.

They are chosen to receive a special food: royal jelly. A rare substance, produced by healthy bees, rich in proteins, vitamins and bioactive compounds. This is royal food in the purest sense of the word.

The larvae fed exclusively with this substance no longer follow the normal path. Within a few days, their bodies develop differently. The ovaries become active. The body grows larger, stronger. Life span multiplied by almost twenty.

She will not work. She will command. She will not follow a routine. She will give life. The queen is not chosen based on her genes. She is created.

What makes this process so fascinating is that worker bees and queens share the same genetic code. DNA does not determine destiny. It is nutrition. Attention. The decisions of the hive.

It is as if, in a humane society, you could take an ordinary child and, by giving them the necessary care, environment and support, make them an extraordinary leader. Without genetic intervention. Without fireworks. Just with support and vision.

A leader is born out of a crisis

This metamorphosis does not just save the larvae. It saves the entire colony.

Once the new queen is ready, she takes over the hive, begins to lay eggs, restores order and begins a new cycle of collective life. Threatened with extinction, the colony is reborn stronger, more organized, more balanced.

A silent but profound lesson

The bee shows us, without words, that in times of great crisis, despair is not a gamble, but clarity. A plan. The right choice. Attention and direction.

In their world, a queen is not born. She is supported. Fed. Guided.

And perhaps, as in the Hive, in life, it is not what you start out with that matters, but what you receive, how you are treated, and the decisions others make in difficult times.

Because sometimes it is in the most difficult times that the strongest leaders are born. Not by chance. But by crisis, vision, and transformation.

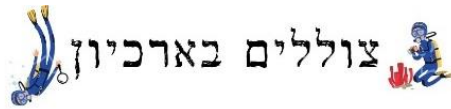
If there were elections today, I would vote for a new leader, who has grown stronger during this difficult period. I want to shout my support for **Yair Golan**, who is emerging as a truly worthy leader."

"The time has come for us to once again, taste a spoon of honey..."

Gil Hilel

With love,
Zimra





Delving into the Archives

Building a Collection of Bird Photographs and a Collection of Dog Photographs in the Archive

On April 13th, Steve photographed an owl chick sitting on a branch of a tree near the Stone Garden. Rotem Agmon mentions that over 500 species of birds have been observed in Israel, with more than 180 of them also spotted on Yizrael. We want to compile a collection of bird photographs taken on Yizrael and ask you to send your photos to the archives. If possible, please include the date and the location taken



Not only people and birds live on Yizrael, dogs too. You are invited to send dog photographs, and if possible, specify who the dog belonged to, the years it was here, and if it was a breed — which breed.

The largest dog that lived in Yizrael was "Shluch," the Great Dane owned by Yehuda Bir. When Shluch stood on four legs, he was taller than most children up to age 10, and when he stood on his hind legs, there were few people taller than him. Shluch was a gentle and calm dog and did not try to harm anyone, but when a child stood behind Shluch when and he wagged his tail, the child would be pushed aside. When he saw Yehuda, Shluch would jump onto his hind legs and place his front paws on Yehuda's shoulders. He did this once when Yehuda was riding a bicycle, and Yehuda broke his leg. With great sadness, Yehuda transferred Shluch to another home. Does anyone have a photograph of Shluch?

Please send the bird and dog photos to the archive email: archion@yizrael.com

Written by: Jules Feldman (And what about the Katz ????? – Edi-tor... proofreader please note – that was not a spelling mistake!!!! Please do not correct)



Edi-tor's contribution: Tuesday 13.5.25. 05:45. Parents Neighbourhood

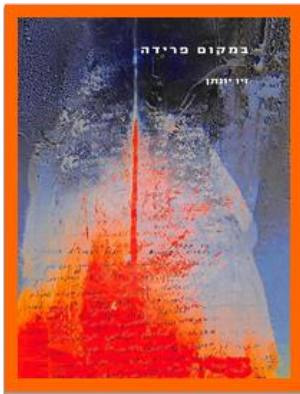
May in the library

The Book Week events begin before everywhere else...

Starting from May, the library has subscribed to the "Epoch" magazine. When the first issue arrives, it will be catalogued and available for borrowing in the library. The main fairs in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem will open on 9/6/25.

I am preparing a list of books to purchase for the library. If you have received a recommendation for a book that was published after the last Book Week, or a series that children love and you've heard another book has been released, please send an email to the library: Sifriayizrael@gmail.com.

Please do not write to me on WhatsApp, as I am most likely to forget...



Meeting with Ziv Yonatan about his book "Bimkom Prayda" (In Place of Farewell)

Thursday, 29.5.25

At 20:00 (8:00 PM)

In the library

Ziv's Special Book "In Place of Farewell"

Written following ten books that Natan Yonatan bequeathed to his son in the final weeks of his life.

It is a captivating drama between "this man" — Natan, "that man" — Yonatan, and the son who connects both of them.

The rich artistic dialogue taking place in the book is also emphasized in the video creation: "**Seven Pictures**", where Ziv reads excerpts from his letters to his father, accompanied by music by Daniel Solomon, and video works edited by Lily Ratuk.

Hebrew Book Week is one of the most prominent events in the Israeli cultural landscape, nearly a hundred years old.

Hebrew Book Week attracts about 150,000 visitors annually, for two main events in Tel Aviv (Sharona complex) and Jerusalem.

The event is managed by the Federation of Israeli Book Publishers, the umbrella organization of publishers.

Hebrew Book Week is a unique event that, in addition to offering an enjoyable festival with live performances, activities for children, and more, has distinctive characteristics:

- The fairs promote, in a balanced and pluralistic manner, Israeli book culture. It is a national consensus display involving all social strata and age groups.
- It is the only place where the entire literary culture harvest can be showcased on a massive scale, including participation by about 120 publishers.
- The event provides an annual opportunity for the public to enjoy a wide range of genres and books, including many titles no longer available in stores.
- It is the only place and time during the year when a huge number of visitors can meet directly with dozens of authors, editors, and publishers.
- Book Week encourages local creators and allows them to display their works on a broad scale. <https://sfarim.org.il>

How to Reduce Your Overdraft?



**How to Manage with Your Budget?
Workshop on Smart Financial Management**

Led by Gila Sigal Azulai - Financial Advisor

**Tuesday, 20/5, at 20:00 in the Moadon
Participation requires prior registration.**

To register: <https://forms.gle/jsHetrWt4zEmEwWy8>



From Kehilanet

Opening of the pool on Fridays in May

**During the month of May, the pool will be open on Fridays
from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.
Lifeguard: Canaan Dolinko**



The “House of Music” Invites YOU!

Preparations are underway — and you're invited to join the experience!

The Yizrael House of Music invites you to the main event for the year 5785:

The Northern Lights - Nordic Music

A spectacular show featuring students and teachers of the Music House — with orchestras, ensembles, live singing, and playing.

Sunday | 18.05.2025 Beit Tzizling, Ein Harod Meuhad

6:00 PM - Amadeus Show

8:00 PM - The Main Event

Ticket price: 40 ₪

Reserve your tickets online at the Music House website:

<https://www.bmusic-yizrael.com>

Come and be captivated by magical Nordic music, with original arrangements and stunning performances.

See you there!



ENGLISH IS FUN with Rahel

Interesting:

A GIFT from the ARABS

At the close of the first millennium CE, the greatest and most cultured city in western Europe was not Rome, Paris or London. It was Cordoba, the capital of Arab Andalusia, in what is now southern Spain.

There were parks, palaces, paved roads, oil lamps to light the streets, seven hundred mosques, three hundred public baths, and extensive drainage and sewage systems.

Perhaps most impressive of all was the public library, completed around 970 CE and containing nearly half a million books - more books than any other European library, or indeed most European countries. And it was merely the

largest of seventy libraries in the city. No wonder Hroswitha, a tenth-century German chronicler, described Cordoba as "the jewel of the world."

Subject: Expressions

We probably use tons of expressions, idioms, proverbs and slang phrases every day that don't make literal sense. If you ever thought long and hard enough you could probably make a guess. However, some English expressions are so unusual that it is impossible to guess where on earth they originated from:

BITE THE BULLET

Meaning: To accept something difficult or unpleasant.

Origin: In the olden days, when doctors were short on anesthesia or time, during a battle, they would ask the patient to bite down on a bullet to distract from the pain.

The first recorded use of the phrase was in 1891.

BREAK THE ICE

Meaning: To break off a conflict or commence a friendship.

Origin: back when road transportation was not developed, ships would be the only transportation and means of trade. At times, ships would get stuck during the winter because of ice formation. The receiving country would send small ships to "break the ice" to clear a way for the trade ships. This gesture showed affiliation and understanding between two territories.

BUTTER SOMEONE UP

Meaning: to impress someone with flattery.

Origin: This was a customary religious act in ancient India. The devout would throw butter balls at the statues of their gods to seek favour and forgiveness.

MAD AS A HATTER

Meaning: To be completely crazy.

Origin: (No, it didn't originate from Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland) In 17th century France, poisoning occurred among hat makers who used mercury for the hat felt.

"Mad Hatter Disease" was marked by shyness, irritability and tremors that would make the person appear "mad".

BURY THE HATCHET

Meaning: to stop a conflict and make peace.

Origin: This one dates back to early times North America, when the Puritans were in conflict with the Native Americans. When negotiating peace, the Native Americans would bury their hatchets, knives, clubs and tomahawks. Weapons were literally buried and made inaccessible.

TO TURN A BLIND EYE

Meaning: To ignore situations, facts or reality.

Origin: The British Naval hero, Admiral Horatio Nelson, had one blind eye. Once, when the British Forces signaled for him to stop attacking a fleet of Danish ships, he held up a telescope to his blind eye, and said, "I do not see a signal." He was attacked, nevertheless, and was victorious.

.....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.