



The Yizraelite – No 2260 Date: 12.6.26

Kibbutz Yizrael - Cyber Edition

Reut's Editorial: 

For those of us who went on the trip to the new exhibition at the Ramat Gan Museum of Israeli Art, "**The Movement: The Kibbutz in Israeli Art,**" curated by Yaniv Shapira, was an enjoyable and enriching evening that launched the weekend in the best possible way.



Our comfortable bus ride ended right at the entrance to the museum. After crossing the road and entering the building, Tali Brauman quickly set out refreshments, and we made our way to the much talked-about exhibition, which has already received considerable coverage in both the press and on television.

Yaniv spoke about some of the artists featured in the exhibition and the wide range of works on display as we moved through its various sections. The exhibition is highly impressive, both in its scope and in the diversity of styles and artworks it presents. There is no doubt that it takes a skilled curatorial eye to bring all these works together into a single exhibition that feels contemporary, relevant, and thought-provoking.

Whenever Yaniv guides visitors through an exhibition he has curated, one can sense both his enthusiasm and the depth of his knowledge. It is an uplifting and enriching cultural experience.

Since our visit, we have already experienced air raid sirens and runs to the shelters. Yet, when I think back on the past week, the memory that sticks in my mind is that pleasant evening at the Ramat Gan Museum, rather than the frightening siren that sent me rushing to the shelter on Sunday. Sometimes a single evening of culture and art is enough to leave a lasting impression that remains long after everyday life has once again become unsettled.

Greetings from the Bar Mitzvah Celebration of the Tiltan Group
(Last Saturday evening, 6.6.26, the annual Bar Mitzvah celebration took place. Wow, what a performance! – Ed)



Standing, from right to left: Haren Levi, Yonatan Broadhurst, Tom Beutler, Carmi Assaf, Yael Tzafadia, Ofir Elul.

Seated: Be'eri Levi, Ariel Langberg, Amit Zelas, Ofir Friedman, Maayan Zelas, Yaara Blass, Ofri Tzafadia.

Photograph by: Danielle Hymes-Assaf.



A Greeting from the Kibbutz

Dear Tiltans – Ofir Elul, Ofir Friedman, Ariel Langberg, Be'eri Levi, Haran Levi, Yonatan Broadhurst, Yael Tzafadia, Yaara Blass, Carmi Assaf, Maayan Zelas, Amit Zelas, Ofri Tzafadia, and Tom Beutler,

This evening marks the culmination of a special year that you have experienced both as individuals and as a group.

This is one of Yizrael's most cherished traditions, preserved for generations. Some of your parents went through it just as you have, and even completed many of the very same tasks. It is a year of connections and moments of belonging – to your group, to the kibbutz, to history, and to Israeli society.

Throughout the year, we watched you grow, experience meaningful moments, develop, mature, and transform from children into young adults. Like the clover from which your group takes its name, each of you is unique, yet together you create something strong and beautiful.

Unfortunately, your Bar Mitzvah year has been shaped and intertwined with national events. The second war with Iran, which reached our doorstep both physically and emotionally, did not spare you or the events of your Bar Mitzvah year. Alongside the concerns and fears experienced by all of us, you also faced uncertainty and continual changes to your programme.

Within this complexity, together with the educational staff and your parents, you persevered, remained committed, supported one another, and took another step forward in both your personal and collective growth. You strengthened your sense of belonging, not only to the kibbutz tradition but also to the reality of life in Israel. However complex that reality may be, it is yours, and you are an important part of it.

I wish for you, our young men and women, that as you enter your teenage years, you will appreciate all the blessings you have received – your home, your friends, and your community. None of these should ever be taken for granted.

May you continue to ask questions, remain sensitive and caring, act according to an inner compass of values and responsibility, pay attention to those around you, and also to yourselves. May you find beauty even within uncertainty, preserve hope, and above all, your humanity. May you be good and loyal friends, open-minded and respectful, people who see the good and do good.

Like a clover that takes root in the soil and grows upward, I wish that you will always remain connected to the place from which you came, while at the same time daring to dream, develop, and grow towards the places you wish to reach.

Your home, Yizrael, will continue to accompany you, believe in you, help you, and support you whenever needed. We are privileged that you are here with us and that you are ours.

Congratulations to the proud and excited families celebrating with you today, their hearts filled with love, pride, and hope.

Congratulations and heartfelt thanks to all the parents of the Tiltan Group, who worked together throughout this year to carry out the Bar Mitzvah Year programme. Special thanks to Ofri Ziv, Education Coordinator, and to the Youth Team for the support they provided to the parents throughout the year.

Mazal Tov to you, wonderful Tiltans. May you enjoy success this evening at this festive celebration that is uniquely yours. You have a supportive audience here tonight, so relax and simply enjoy yourselves.

May you continue to flourish together, each in your own way, and always remember that the strength of the clover lies not only in each leaf on its own, but in the connection between them.

Mazal Tov!

Noga Harpaz

Chair, Education Council



A Greeting from the Youth Counsellors' Team

Dear Tiltans,

Tonight we celebrate together the conclusion of your Bar Mitzvah Year, a special, meaningful year filled with experiences. It has been a year of learning, discovery, growing up, giving, friendship, and unforgettable moments.

This was not an ordinary year. It took place in the shadow of war, during a period of uncertainty, concern, and challenges for all of us. Yet even within this complexity, you continued to show up, participate, support one another, and preserve both your friendships and your group spirit.

Throughout the year, we watched you grow and develop, take responsibility, cooperate, and face challenges. Through Kabbalat Shabbat, the Torch Relay, A Day in the City, volunteer activities, and many other experiences, you repeatedly demonstrated the strengths, abilities, and goodness that each and every one of you possesses.

Every meeting and every experience you shared became part of the unique journey you travelled this year.

Although the Bar Mitzvah Year has come to an end, it also marks the beginning of a new chapter. Take with you what you have learned, the friendships you have built, the memories you have gathered, and the confidence you have gained in yourselves.

Continue to be curious, courageous, caring, and open to the new opportunities that lie ahead.

Just before the performance begins, we wish you a wonderful evening. Enjoy every moment, be excited, celebrate, and above all, be proud of yourselves. This is your evening, a reminder of the strength that comes from friendship, partnership, and community.

We wish you to continue dreaming, daring, growing, and believing in yourselves, just as you have done throughout this year.

This is also the time to thank all those who accompanied you along the way:

The Youth Movement Counsellors' Team: Ariel (Bella), Yotam, and Adi.

The gap-year volunteers who have accompanied you: Erez and Tamar.

Our thanks also go to the entire education system, the community, the parents who initiated, supported, and carried the programme through, and to our Shira, who accompanied you throughout your Bar Mitzvah Year.

With love,

The Youth Team

Nir Rappaport, Shira Peleg, David Sarno, and Sigal Hadar.



A Greeting from the Parents

Our dear children, you are the children of the winter of 2013!

When you were in Years 2 and 3, you lived through the COVID pandemic. You studied remotely, and they kept sticking swabs up your noses (remember?).

From Year 5 until this very day, you have been living through a war that arrives in waves, bringing alerts, sirens, and safe rooms.

And so, throughout your Bar Mitzvah Year as well, you were called upon to show special strength and a great deal of resourcefulness.

Yet despite everything, here you are this evening, standing at the end of the year after completing many varied tasks and challenges, while we, your parents, look upon you with immense pride.

You embarked on a journey of learning, encountered challenges, faced new tasks, and throughout it all continued to grow, dream, laugh, learn, and be there for one another.

Over the course of the year, we watched you transform from children into young men and women – more confident, more mature, and more grounded in your values.

Tonight, you take the stage with the play you have prepared, and we know how much thought, effort, and hard work has gone into it. The result is not only a wonderful performance, but also a testament to the journey you have travelled together as a group.

We are proud of each and every one of you, and we wish for you to continue growing, believing in yourselves, and preserving the special friendships that have been built here.

Together, we shall bring the dove carrying an olive branch, and we shall always strive for peace, both within our homes and beyond them.

With love,

The Parents.



A Greeting from the Youth

Our beloved Tiltans; It is hard to believe that this special journey is already coming to an end. Throughout the year, we watched you grow, develop, laugh, become excited, and above all, bring your true selves to every activity and experience. We want you to know how proud we are of your friendships, your commitment, and the journey you have travelled together.

Each and every one of you adds a unique colour to the group and helps make it what it is.

We wish you to continue dreaming big, believing in yourselves, and never being afraid to try new things. Perhaps now that you are no longer so busy, we will start seeing more of you at the Youth Centre!

With lots of love,

Yizrael Youth





What a Wonderful and Moving Evening!



Dear Tiltans, we are so proud of you!!!!

You moved us, made us laugh, and brought a local story to life through drama and comedy in a charming, energetic, and clever way. Each and every one of you individually, and all of you together, make up a remarkable, talented, and deeply-loved group.

Now is the time for us, the parents, to say thank you to all those who worked behind the scenes to ensure that this wonderful evening came together so perfectly.

First and foremost, thank you to the wonderful youth leaders, Yotam, Ariel, and Adi, for guiding this evening and accompanying the group throughout the year. Your smiles, your presence, and your spirit of volunteering and giving were felt by everyone.

At the same time, we would like to thank Shira and Erez for their caring and constant support. As youth counsellors representing the educational system, they accompanied the Bar Mitzvah Year throughout the year and continue to support the tasks still ahead. Dear Shira, thank you for your production work, your assistance, and especially for your contribution to this major event.

Thank you to the Youth Team and to Ofri, Coordinator of Social Education, for supporting every request and idea we brought forward. Thank you for your attentiveness, thoughtful guidance, care, and consideration for both the group and each individual.

Our thanks also go to the staff and employees of the Yizrael community: the General Store teams, the sound and lighting crews, the electrical workshop, the costume store, the Moadon, the Hut, and the Gardening Team, for their friendly assistance and creative solutions in every area surrounding this production.

Thank you to the Food Branch for helping satisfy the teenagers' appetites throughout the rehearsals and for organising the meal and café for this evening.

Thank you to the Culture Team and to the parents of the Petel Group for allowing us to relax, knowing that everything was running smoothly and on schedule. Your turn is coming soon!

Thank you to all the cake bakers for the café, for your generosity and kindness.

Our thanks go to A.N. Shor Productions for the sound and lighting, which allowed us to be clearly heard and perfectly illuminated in just the right colours. Thank you to the photographer and the LED screen operator. Thank you to Enan, Rotem Agmon, and Isabel Productions for the video and still photography of this evening.

Special thanks for their volunteer spirit to the wonderful participants in the videos and the play, including Ariel Brin-Dolinko, Hedva Sharabani, Idan Zelas, and Eli Friedman.

Thank you to Danielle Hymes-Assaf for the beautiful family greetings video.

Thank you to the Broadhurst family – Chazz, Gali, and Nimrod – for creating the wonderful stage scenery.

A big thank you to the A-Team for ensuring that all props and scenery were in place exactly when needed, and heartfelt thanks to the teenagers who guarded the equipment overnight.

Many thanks to our costume and makeup team: Yifat Segal, Noga Ken Dror-Shapira, Nofar, and Naomi Brin-Dolinko. Thank you for your spontaneity, your willingness to stay up late, and for making sure the children were organised, prepared, and ready on time.

Thank you to Tzafnat for editing the Bar Mitzvah Year mission slideshow and creating the video art that accompanied the performance. Thank you for the time, thought, positive energy, and creativity you invested.

Thank you to Shlomi Dado for the recordings and editing of the songs and performances, and to Tomer the photographer for the long filming days, carried out with patience and warmth. Thank you for your precise and thoughtful editing.

Many thanks to the one and only Maayan Siboni for her brilliant choreography, for her patience with every step of the process, and for always finding a way to help despite the many other commitments on her plate. Thank you – you are amazing!

And finally...

A huge thank you and an enormous hug to our wonderful director, Maya. Thank you for your wisdom and sensitivity, for the gentleness and determination with which you guided the children, recognised their strengths, and embraced their challenges.

We, the parents, are deeply grateful for your ability to take this diverse group and transform it into an ensemble that speaks, connects, and dances on stage as themselves and for themselves.

You are truly exceptional.

To all of us, we wish a pleasant remainder of the evening and a wonderful week ahead.

On behalf of the parents,

Written by: Neta Blass. Read by: Nofar Elul

(Editorial Note: Next week we will try feature the official bar mitzvah photographs – Ed)

Message from the Mazkira

Between 07.06.26 and 25.06.26, I will be on leave and will not be on Kibbutz. If necessary, please contact Erez Peleg, Community Manager.

Limor Greman

Management Committee Report - 08.06.26



Participants: Jeremy Perling, Eviatar Assaf, Uri Gilad, Elad Ilan, Idan Zelas, Inbal Pezaro.

1. Engagement with Enlight through a Memorandum of Understanding for a feasibility study regarding the establishment of a data centre campus on Yizrael.

Background to the Discussion

Idan presented the main points of the Memorandum of Understanding with Enlight concerning the establishment of a data centre campus in the kibbutz industrial zone.

Memorandum of Understanding for a Feasibility Study – Establishment of a Data Centre Campus on Yizrael

- **Strategic objective:** To generate stable, long term and significant income for Kibbutz Yizrael with low risk, while making use of existing resources.
- **The project:** Establishment of a data centre campus within the new zoning plan area of the industrial zone.
- **The partner:** Enlight, with whom Yizrael is already engaged in the development of an agrivoltaics project.
- **The primary challenge:** Obtaining statutory approvals from the Israel Electric Corporation and relevant government authorities for the project ("feasibility assessment").
- **The proposed solution:** A non-binding Memorandum of Understanding allowing Enlight to conduct a feasibility assessment with all relevant authorities over a one-year period.
- **Yizrael's commitment:** Not to advance any alternative transaction during the assessment period that could interfere with the potential project.

Key Points of the Memorandum of Understanding

- Enlight will have one year to carry out all required studies and obtain the approvals necessary for establishing the data centre campus.
- During the assessment period, Yizrael will not advance another project on the land, except for projects already known and approved.
- Maximum project size: 33 dunams, representing the available building allocation in the industrial zone under the approved zoning plan.

- If the feasibility assessment receives a positive outcome, the kibbutz and Enlight will conduct negotiations for four months to formulate a detailed agreement for establishing the project, subject to approval by the kibbutz institutions.
- If the negotiations do not result in an agreement, Yizrael will have the right to purchase the project approvals at the cost of the feasibility studies.
- The detailed agreement will also define the land use arrangement between the kibbutz and the project corporation, as well as the kibbutz's ownership share in the corporation established for the project.
- The detailed agreement will examine all environmental and community implications of establishing a data centre campus in the designated area.
- Yizrael will not be required to bear any costs or provide guarantees, collateral or securities for the feasibility assessment.
- The Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated immediately by notice.

Discussion

Committee members emphasised the importance of bringing the matter for public discussion and approval by the Assefa if and when the project progresses beyond the feasibility assessment stage.

Decision

It was unanimously resolved to approve the engagement in a “memorandum of understanding” with Enlight ,for a feasibility study regarding the establishment of a data centre campus in the industrial zone.

1. Various reports.

The Management Committee was updated on the ongoing legal proceedings involving the Nanikashvili family.

Minutes prepared by: Jeremy Perling and Idan Zelas.



a) Parking Around the Kibbutz 2: Parking throughout the kibbutz is permitted only in designated and marked parking areas. We continue to encounter cases of parking that endangers public safety. Examples include parking on pavements or pathways in a manner that obstructs pedestrians and forces them onto the road or vehicle paths, as well as parking that blocks traffic routes.

Parking along kibbutz roads, outside designated parking areas, also creates a safety hazard for pedestrians and other vehicles using the road. About a month ago, I reported that police enforcement would take place. This enforcement is not a one-time measure and will continue from time to time. Please ensure that you park only in designated parking areas.

On Yizrael, parking is permitted only in authorised parking spaces!

b) Kitchen Renovation Works: Renovation work in the kitchen has begun in accordance with the annual work plan. The first stage includes upgrading the electrical supply to the building and adding electric cooking equipment. This will allow us to decommission the old steam system, which is at risk of failure at any time.

Later in the year, subject to budget availability, we plan to replace the old extraction hoods and repair the kitchen floor in order to prevent slipping hazards and leaks, which are particularly noticeable in the kolbo.

As part of the electrical upgrade project, a deep trench was dug and four large electrical cables have been laid, connecting Electrical Substation B to the Food Services and Grocery buildings. The cables will be connected to a new electrical panel, significantly increasing the building's electrical capacity.

At this stage, the work is not expected to cause any significant disruption to the kitchen's operation.

c) Upgrading the Irrigation System on the Lawn Below the Moadon: The noi is taking advantage of the excavation work currently being carried out on the lawn below the Moadon and is joining the effort by restoring the ageing irrigation system serving this area. This project is also part of the annual work plan.

In addition to upgrading the irrigation system, rock borders are being installed to define areas where lawn is less necessary. The aim is to reduce the overall lawn area and the amount of water required for irrigation.

d) The Orange Recycling Bins Are Finally Coming to Yizrael: The Regional Council has reached an agreement with Tamir Recycling Corporation to introduce the orange-bin recycling programme in selected communities throughout the council area, as is already common practice in most municipalities.

On 21.06.26, the bottle collection cages will be removed and orange recycling bins will be placed at the waste collection centres. These bins are intended for recyclable packaging. The range of packaging that can be disposed of in the orange bins is broad

and will allow for a significant reduction in the amount of waste placed in the green bins and ultimately sent to landfill rather than recycling.

During the next two weeks, we will publish further details about the changes to the kibbutz recycling system. It is very important that everyone follows the guidelines and becomes accustomed to recycling at a higher level.

e) Regional Council Transport Programme: Beginning in September, a free transport programme will operate throughout the Regional Council area, enabling both children and adults to travel to activity centres and extracurricular classes.

This is an ambitious and welcome initiative that will greatly improve connectivity between the council's communities and reduce the need for parents to drive children to activities and classes.

An explanatory video can be viewed here or on the regional council website.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IA1E1wKgEzM&t=54s>

Please take this into account when planning activities for the coming school year.

That is all for now,

Erez Peleg



Summary of Human Resources Committee Meeting 07.06.26

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

1. Authorised Business Registration (עוסק מורשה)

Guests: Maor Parsai, Finance Manager; Vicky Hollander, Initiatives Manager

Following requests from several therapists to be employed by the Ministry of Defence, which requires opening an authorised business (עוסק מורשה), the Community Management Committee discussed the matter and decided to allow kibbutz members to open authorised businesses (*in their own names – Ed*). Since the issue relates to employment and the expectation is that the Human Resources Committee will

implement the procedure, the proposed policy, prepared by Maor Parsai, was presented to the committee.

Points raised during the discussion:

- Opinions differed regarding where the discussion should have begun. In any case, the Human Resources Committee should have been involved from the outset.
- The Community Management Committee's decision is unclear regarding candidates. Further discussion and a proposal are required.
- It should be examined whether a special arrangement can be reached with the Ministry of Defence not requiring the change and, if not, whether all therapists can operate under a single authorised business.
- Monitoring expenses will be challenging.
- The procedure should specify which kibbutz decisions and obligations a member must comply with in order to receive approval to open an authorised business.
- The kibbutz must remain an authorised signatory. (in the case of the death for instance – Ed)
- The procedure lacks reference to expense limits, reporting schedules to the kibbutz, and the minimum profit threshold. It was stated that the income threshold would be the one defined in the External Workers Policy.
- It is unclear how authorised-business status would be considered (or refused – Ed) in cases where a member does not fulfil their work obligations.
- It is unclear whether a dedicated "Authorised Business committee" will be established.
- A question was raised as to whether requests from only a few members justify introducing this arrangement.

Summary:

The Human Resources Committee's comments will be forwarded to Maor Parsai for further examination and handling.

2. Allocation of Study Days and Their Cost

Guest: Sarit Laviv, Coordinator of the Higher Education Committee

One of the Human Resources Committee's objectives for this year is to review the formula used to allocate study days for members. This issue has not been examined and has remained unchanged for more than 20 years.

Each year, the Higher Education Committee allocates up to 2.5% of the actual workdays performed by members subject to the work obligation during the previous year for study purposes.

Until now, there has been no formal rationale behind this calculation beyond the community's trust in members' educational and personal development. The expectation is that education may increase future income and not serve solely as a personal benefit.

The Higher Education Committee believes the current arrangement should remain in place because it allows a reasonable number of members to study each year while maintaining continuity and stability in this area.

Points raised during the discussion:

- Given the kibbutz's economic situation and budget reductions, consideration should be given to reducing the percentage of days allocated to study in order to increase work-related income.
- The aspiration is to maintain a learning community that enables members to acquire education, develop professionally, and broaden their horizons.
- The discussion should focus on refining the criteria and giving greater weight to factors such as studies in income-generating fields and the potential for increased earnings.

Decision:

The allocation will remain at **2.5% of the total workdays of members.**

Regarding the cost of study days, there is currently no direct budgeting of study days, only recognition of lost income. If study days are formally costed, an increase in the Higher Education Committee's budget would be required.

Additional points raised:

- There is currently no clear picture of the Higher Education Committee's true expenditure because study days are not costed.

- A question was raised regarding whether the hourly rate should be based on the standard community work value or on each member's individual earning capacity.
- Education is a long-term investment. However, it does not always lead to higher income, and members do not always work in the field they studied.

Decision:

The current approach will remain unchanged, and study days will continue to be viewed as lost income rather than a direct budgetary expense.

At the same time, the committee will be responsible for conducting an annual review of the cost of study days in order to maintain responsible management of the education field on Yizrael.

2. Approval of the List of Students for the 5787 Academic Year

Guest: Sarit Laviv, Coordinator of the Higher Education Committee

The Higher Education Committee prepared the list of applicants for the 5787 academic year according to clear and well-established criteria. Of the nine applications received, one withdrew at the last moment, and seven were recommended for approval.

Decision:

The Human Resources Committee approves the Higher Education Committee's recommendation regarding the list of students for the 5787 academic year.

Recorded by: Kinneret Govrin.

**Someone on the Hill – Interview with
Amos and Galia Shemi**



Childhood and Roots: Between Kfar Ata and the Ural Mountains

Amos:

I was born in 1943 in Kfar Ata. My parents immigrated from Romania in 1935 and built their home there. I attended the local primary school and later studied at Basmat in Haifa, the Technion's vocational high school. I have one brother, five years younger than me, who still lives in Kfar Ata.

As a child, my family, especially my cousins, had earmarked me for Hashomer Hatzair and even prepared a membership booklet for me. However, all my friends joined the Tnu'a Meuhedet youth movement, and I decided to follow them. That decision shaped the course of my life.

Galia:



My story is far more complicated and begins with escape. I was born in Russia, in the town of Orsk in the Ural Mountains, between Asia and Europe, during the Second World War. My socialist parents fled Vilna together with my uncle, a young doctor. They got visas because they had professions that were considered essential: my father was a mathematician, and my mother was a bookkeeper.

My father joined the Red Army, and my mother worked in a tractor rental business. We were the only Jews in the town. We did not celebrate Jewish holidays, and until second grade I had no idea what Rosh Hashanah or Passover were.



When the war ended and I was two and a half years old, we heard on a radio programme for locating relatives that my grandmother and my mother's sisters were in Łódź, Poland. We packed everything, travelled by train for months, and there I met my mother's family for the first time.

The Journey to Israel and Life in Haifa

Galia:

From Germany we moved to the Bergen-Belsen displaced person's camp. To travel between the different occupation zones in Europe, we had to pretend to be deaf-mute Greeks. Since I was a child and nobody knew whether I could remain silent, my name was changed to "Jadwiga," and they constantly tested whether I would respond to it, even in my sleep.

At Bergen-Belsen, my grandmother insisted that my parents be married under a Jewish wedding canopy, because when they fled Vilna, they had simply begun living together. I remember sitting on a balcony, swinging my legs and watching my parents' wedding.

In October 1948 we arrived in Israel aboard the ship *Pan York*, whose Hebrew name was *Kibbutz Galuyot* ("Ingathering of the Exiles"). Years later we discovered that our fellow kibbutz member, Michael Shani, had been on the same ship.

We were housed in Wadi Salib in downtown Haifa. It was a very difficult neighbourhood, and there was genuine fear of going out into the street. My brother, who later became a well-known painter, was born there.

I attended Aleph Primary School. My father spent much of his time in military service. Once, after not seeing him for a year, he returned wearing a uniform, with a beard and a plaster cast, and I simply could not believe it was him.

I later attended the New High School in Bat Galim, an experience that felt very much like a kibbutz, with studies by the sea and friendships that continue to this day.

My birth name was Galina Romanovna Voitshik, and I suffered greatly from teachers who could not pronounce it. Before starting high school, I decided to change it. Together with my parents, we changed the surname Voitshik to Yatziv. On the first day of school, the teacher called out "Yatziv, Galia," then immediately asked, "Wait, aren't you Voitshik's daughter?" It was a very embarrassing moment.

I was active in the Hanoar Haoved v'Lomed Youth movement and joined my gar'in in Nahal service at Ein Gev.

The Gar'in, the Army and the Injury that Changed Everything

Amos:

I belonged to the Tzameret Gar'in of the United Movement. We competed with another gar'in over settlement on Hamadia. In the end we came to Yizrael.

I served in the Paratroop Nahal Brigade Battalion 50 and worked in the orchard during my service periods on the kibbutz.

During the Six-Day War we were supposed to parachute into El Arish, but the operation was cancelled and we were sent instead to Jerusalem under heavy Jordanian shelling.

What saved my life was a request I had made a few months earlier to postpone reserve duty so that I could attend an instructors' seminar at Beit Berl. Because of that postponement, I was transferred to Battalion 71, while my original platoon in Battalion 66 suffered devastating losses at Ammunition Hill. Out of 28 men, only eight came through unscathed.

On the first night of fighting in Sheikh Jarrah, amid confusion, inadequate briefings and a lack of aerial photographs, I was wounded in the lung by shrapnel or a bullet fragment that penetrated a stone wall. Those fragments remain in my lung to this day and prevent me from undergoing MRI scans.

Meeting in Hospital and Starting a Family

Galia:

When the war broke out, I was a nursing student at Hadassah Ein Kerem. I was called in to assist in surgery and casualty.

Amos arrived as a wounded soldier. I remember a defining moment when he confronted Israeli wounded soldiers who wanted to interfere with the IV drips of Jordanian prisoners lying beside them. It was there, within the walls of the hospital, that our love story began.

Amos:

We were married on Yizrael 58 years ago. It was a wonderful wedding. Friends from the gar'in held the wedding canopy, and there was even a play about "the wounded soldier and the nurse."



Galia's parents were delighted that their daughter was living on a kibbutz.

After the wedding we remained in Jerusalem for another year because Galia was required to complete an additional year of service at Hadassah. When we returned to Yizrael, our eldest son, Itai, was only eight days old.

We moved into the "cottages" — a tiny single room that served every purpose, with no telephone and only a small shelf beside the toilet functioning as a kitchen.

"We never knew we were poor," we always say, because we were very happy.

Life on the Kibbutz: Nurse, Orchard Worker and Another War

Galia:

For ten years I served as the kibbutz nurse. It was a 24-hour-a-day job, without telephones or mobility scooters. People knocked on the door in the middle of the night.

I felt like a sheriff. Everything was my responsibility, from critical medical decisions to accompanying women in labour.

When a Hepatitis A outbreak struck the kibbutz, we established a small "hospital" in the old bakery. On Saturdays we also treated residents of the Ta'anach villages, who arrived by tractor because they had no accessible clinic.

Amos:

I worked in the orchard and in the amaryllis and held public positions including Work manager and Head of the Security Committee.

During the Yom Kippur War I was mobilized again and crossed the Suez Canal in a rubber boat under fire.

While I was at war, the children of Gan Zamir sent me a package of drawings. I wrote them a heartfelt reply, and someone at Oranim College decided the letter was actually a poem. That is how I became "the poet of one poem."

Studies, Careers and Turns of Fate

Galia:

After ten years as a nurse, I went back to study. I specialised in public health, continued to an academic degree and later earned a doctorate, at a time when nurses with advanced degrees were rare.

I became one of the first kibbutz members to work outside the kibbutz, serving in nursing administration at HaEmek Hospital and later at the University of Haifa.

Amos:

I completed both my bachelor's and master's degrees in agriculture within three and a half years, despite having my studies interrupted by war.



I worked in the almond branch until a serious accident that occurred on our wedding anniversary. I was involved in paragliding and crashed, together with Gilad Nehushtan, during a flight over Magen Shaul.

Despite the injury, I remain active.

Within the family I am known as "Google" because of the geographical and general knowledge I have accumulated from atlases and National Geographic books. For the past five years I have been studying Arabic to keep my mind sharp and help guard against dementia.

Our Family

Itai was born at Hadassah Hospital in 1968. Fifteen months later Deganit was born. Six years after that came Haggai.

The two older children grew up in the children's houses. Itai studied economics and was recruited directly to the United States, where he works in high-tech in Silicon Valley. He and his wife have three



daughters. His wife, Tali, is an art teacher from Givat Haim. Their eldest daughter, Idan, made aliyah four years ago and lives in Tel Aviv. Their second daughter, Gal, is pursuing

a doctorate in mathematics. Their youngest daughter, Lia, is a ballerina and has just completed twelfth grade.

Deganit, the scholar of the family, studied fine arts and later completed another degree in movement at the Academy of Music. She is a choreographer and has won awards. She moved to New York when her husband pursued a doctorate in brain research. Their daughter Lir was born there. Their son Noam was born three years later and is now completing twelfth grade. Today they live in Tivon. Deganit works as a social worker in the children's psychiatric department at Ziv Medical Centre in Safed.

Haggai served as an officer in the Givati Brigade. He managed an agricultural farm in the Caribbean and remained there for thirteen years. Mika, now 22, was born in Israel. Noga, 16, and Roi, 12, were born in the Caribbean. Haggai trained as an ultralight pilot and now teaches flying. He continues to perform extensive reserve duty and lives in Ram On.

Looking Ahead and Pride in Yizrael

Galia:

Today I volunteer in the kibbutz archives, organising photo albums that document community life and the many volunteers who have passed through Yizrael over the years.

I am very proud of Yizrael, of its people, and of the remarkable mutual support that exists here. The kibbutz has changed, and that is natural. We built a guest unit in our home and host evacuated families from both northern and southern Israel, which brings us great joy.

Amos:

A kibbutz is not a religion. It should become whatever the younger generation decides it should be.

Life belongs to the young, and we are proud to see our children finding their own paths, even when they live far away.

My advice to the next generation is simple: keep living, keep creating, and preserve this place as close as possible to its original spirit.

Interview: Inbal Adler

Photography: Einan Grosser

Video Editing: Adva Lifshitz

Final Editing and Subtitles: Tzafnat Mor

Submitted to the Bulletin by: Rochela Matalon



Notes from the Academy of Music



Dagan Zeira Finds a Home in Music

For **Dagan Zeira**, music has been a lifelong companion. Today he teaches trombone at the Yizrael–Gilboa Music Conservatory, performs with orchestras and ensembles across Israel, and inspires a new generation of young musicians. His journey began in a small kibbutz in the Jordan Valley.



Dagan was born on Kibbutz Sha'ar HaGolan and attended the local Mool Gilad school. When he was in eighth grade, his family moved to Toronto, Canada, where he spent four formative years and completed high school. Upon returning to Israel, he volunteered for military service and served in the Artillery Corps.

His path then led to Jerusalem, where he completed both bachelor's and master's degrees in musical performance, specialising in the trombone. He also earned a teaching



certificate, laying the foundations for a career that would combine performance and education.

Ironically, the trombone was not Dagan's first choice. As a child, he dreamed of learning the keyboard. However, the director of the conservatory recognised his potential and encouraged him to take on a more challenging instrument. The decision proved a successful one. Dagan began studying the trombone at the age of nine and, for many years, was the conservatory's only trombone player.

His first teacher was the legendary Maurice Babani from Kibbutz Gesher. Years later, life has come full circle, and Dagan now teaches alongside the man who first introduced him to the instrument.

Music entered his life even before he picked up a trombone. One of his earliest musical memories is listening repeatedly to Gidi Gov's album *Ein Od Yom* at his grandmother's house. The music, the record player and even the room itself remain vivid in his memory.

Teaching became part of his life at a young age. At 22, while still developing as a musician, he was invited to teach in the music ensembles at Beit Yerach School. Since then, he has taught at numerous educational institutions throughout Israel while maintaining an active performing career with symphony orchestras and a wide variety of musical ensembles.

When asked which musician has had the greatest influence on him, Dagan does not hesitate. He speaks with admiration about Gustav Mahler, whose First Symphony was the first major symphonic work he experienced as an orchestral performer. If stranded on a deserted island, however, he would choose to take Tchaikovsky's Sixth Symphony with him, especially its deeply emotional final movement.

Like many musicians, Dagan learned some of his most valuable lessons through difficult experiences. One story from his student days remains unforgettable. Called at short notice to substitute in the Israel Broadcasting Authority Orchestra, he was assigned the second trombone part in Tchaikovsky's Sixth Symphony. Feeling overly confident, he arrived without properly preparing the score, trusting his musical instincts to carry him through.

Then disaster struck. The principal trombonist had been injured in a motorcycle accident, and suddenly Dagan found himself carrying far more responsibility than expected. Standing exposed before an experienced symphony orchestra, he quickly realised how unprepared he was. The embarrassment was profound, but so was the lesson: never arrive at a performance without thorough preparation.

Away from formal performances, Dagan enjoys the freedom of open stages and jam sessions, where improvisation takes centre stage and creativity can flourish.

At home, music is already becoming a family affair. Dagan and his wife are raising their two-year-old daughter, Libi, who eagerly attends the academy's pre-instrument programme and looks forward to her weekly sessions.

When asked whom he would invite to a dream dinner party, Dagan's answer reveals the breadth of his interests. Alongside his family, he would welcome developmental psychologist Howard Gardner, known for his theory of multiple intelligences; historian and author Yuval Noah Harari; and Stas Gavrilov, an educator whom Dagan regards as an important professional role model.

And what keeps him travelling 45 minutes each way to teach at the Music House?

His answer is simple.

"This place feels like home. I come here because I enjoy being here. The atmosphere, the people and the sense of belonging make it worth every minute of the journey."

For Dagan Zeira, music is far more than a profession. It is a lifelong journey of learning, performing, teaching and belonging—and at the Yizrael Academy, he has found a place where all those elements come together.

Interview by Ilana Peleg

Impressions from the Visit to the Exhibition "The Movement" Curated by Yaniv Shapira - Judy Pezaro, Jenny Zelas

The Movement Goes to Ramat Gan!

On Thursday, we boarded a bus to Ramat Gan, and more than 40 kibbutznikim had the privilege of visiting the exhibition, a product of our own Yaniv's vision and creativity. It was an honour to be part of an exhibition that represents the kibbutz in Israeli art.

Yaniv guided us through the exhibition, explaining the meaning behind the works, as well as how and when they were created. His insights gave us a deeper understanding of the artists and their creations, and left us with a profound appreciation for the diverse works on display.

Thank you to Yaniv and the Culture Committee for making it possible for us to enjoy this enriching and inspiring experience.

Judy Pezaro and Jenny Zelas



Impressions from a Visit to the Exhibition "The Movement"

Sarit Laviv

On Thursday afternoon, with the traffic surprisingly on our side, a group of about 40 participants set out for the Ramat Gan Museum to visit *The Movement*, an exhibition curated by Yaniv Shapira. The exhibition raises thought-provoking questions: What is the place of the kibbutz movement, both in the past and today? Is art considered work? And where do kibbutz artists stand socially – at the centre of society or on its margins? Yaniv shared that the idea for the exhibition emerged in the aftermath of 7 October, inspired by the public discussion surrounding the place of kibbutzim in Israeli society following the devastating events many communities experienced on that tragic day.

The exhibition presents works in a wide range of media and materials. Behind each piece stands the personal story of an artist whose common denominator is life on a kibbutz. It was fascinating to listen to Yaniv, whose deep familiarity with every work

and every artist enriched the experience. He wove captivating anecdotes and insights into his explanations, holding our attention throughout.

Adding a personal touch, he spontaneously invited several members of our group to contribute. Noga Harpaz spoke about the “Junkyard Playground” in connection with the work of artist Yair Garbuz, who sadly passed away the day before the exhibition opened. Bernie shared reflections on the work *Cosmic Seeds*, and Uri Gilad spoke about a piece created on Kibbutz Mesilot.

Beyond the exhibition itself, it was deeply moving to see Yaniv speak with such passion and enthusiasm. There is something inspiring about watching someone engage so wholeheartedly with a subject they love. His excitement was infectious and drew all of us into the experience.



The bus journey felt like a school outing of friends who remain young at heart. Special thanks go to Tali Brauman, who accompanied the visit on behalf of the Culture Committee, organised refreshments, coordinated with the driver, and helped create a warm, enjoyable, and memorable experience for everyone.

Leon Bor–Batlash: Impressions from a Pride Month Culture Evening - Irit Cohen



means?”

Tuesday, 20:30. The Agricultural Farm was lit up and decorated, beer and arak flowed freely, and the smell of popcorn filled the air. Everything felt magical, and then suddenly a handsome guy in sparkling trousers jumped onto the stage and asked, “Who knows what Batlash

Leon Bor is a Batlash, a “former daughter.” Leon is transgender, and for Pride Month he came to explain and share with us: what it means, why it happens, and how it feels. When we get to know someone up close, it brings us closer.

Leon was born female and always felt male. With a great deal of humour, and plenty of colourful language, he spoke about the process he went through in order to look like a

man, and indeed a very good-looking one, about his army service as an unusual soldier, and about his unique life.

In a very gentle translation of his words: “What matters is how you feel, not which body parts you have.”

Leon feels whole and happy. The audience asked many questions, and Leon answered them all with amazing openness and humour. It was clear that the people asking were more embarrassed than the person answering.

Leon explained that his parents were busy with his autistic brother, so they did not pay too much attention to everything he did and said. He described them as slightly crazy parents who support anything, and said that if he had told them he wanted to become an alien, they would have asked whether he needed help buying a spaceship.

And here, on a personal note, I would like to add that Leon’s parents are not crazy. They are the normal ones. I believe parents should support their children, no matter what they want to do or be.

May we know how to accept others with humility and inclusion, including those who do not think like us, do not look like us, or do not share our colour, and may we live with love for all.

Thank you to the Culture Committee for a wonderful evening, and to everyone who made sure we enjoyed it!

Asaf Solomon, Aerial Photographer

A View from Mount Hermon to the Negev

Monday, 15.06.26 20:30 - In the Moadon



ENGLISH IS FUN - with Rahel

DISORDER IN THE COURT!

Q. Officer, what led you to believe the defendant was under the influence?

A. Because he was argumentary, and he couldn't pronounce his words.

Q. What happened then?

A. He told me, he says, "I have to kill you because you can identify me."

Q. Did he kill you?

A. No.

Q. Mrs. Jones, is your appearance this morning pursuant to a deposition notice which I sent to your attorney?

A. No. This is how I dress when I go to work.

Q. Have you ever been arrested?

A. Yes.

Q. What for?

A. Aggravating a female.

Q. You say you are innocent, yet five people swore they saw you steal a watch.

A. Your Honor, I can produce 500 people who didn't see me steal it.

JUDGE: Well, gentlemen of the jury, are you unanimous?

FOREMAN: Yes, Your Honor. We are all alike – temporarily insane.

Q. When he went, had you gone and had she, if she wanted to and were able, for the time being, excluding all the restraints on her not to go also, would he have brought you, meaning you and she, with him to the station?

A. MR. BROOKS: Objection. That question should be taken out and shot.

THE COURT: Now, as we begin, I must ask you to banish all present information and prejudice from your minds, if you have any.

Q. At the time you first saw Dr. McCerty, had you ever seen him prior to that time?

JUDGE: I rarely do so, but for whatever purpose it may serve, I will indicate for the record that I approached this case with a completely open mind.

Q. Did the lady standing in the driveway subsequently identify herself to you?

A. Yes, she did.

Q. Who did she say she was?

A. She said she was the owner of the dog's wife.

Q. I understand, you're Bernie Davis's mother.

A. Yes.

Q. How long have you known him?

Q. Now I'm going to show you what has been marked as State's Exhibit No. 2 and ask if you recognize the picture.

A. John Fletcher.

Q. That is you?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And you were present when that picture was taken, right?

.....more next week



Credits and More:

Editor of Hebrew Newsletter: Reut Shaliv

Translator and editor of The Yizraelite: Eddie Solow (Edi-tor)

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Disclaimer: 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.

Two editions of the Yizraelite. We publish two editions. **The cyber edition** includes more colour photos and occasionally additional long articles. The hard copy is printed in black and white, and therefore there is no point in printing colour photos. We are also limited in length because of printing costs. The hard copy is distributed at the beginning of the following week; therefore, adverts for events that have already taken place over the previous weekend do not appear in the hard copy. Even if you prefer reading the hard copy, we encourage you to scroll through the internet version over the weekend.

Please take into account that we use AI when translating. We proofread, fact-check, and correct the text, but errors may still be overlooked. Be warned.