

The Yizraelite – No 2149 Date: 8.3.24

Kibbutz Yizrael

Edi-torial

This week I have adopted the subject of Reut Shaliv's editorial. Many thanks to Reut.

The counting of days continues, and more than 150 days have already passed since the citizens of our country and migrant workers were kidnapped on Saturday morning, 7.10.23. As well as the 134 abductees who remain in captivity, we are concerned about the fate of 9-year-old Haymanut Kasao, a young Ethiopian migrant girl from the absorption centre in Tsfat, who disappeared over two weeks ago, without a trace.

The abundant spring beauty of the almond trees, whose bright green leaves are already visible, the mustard flowers in the meadow and the tulips in the gardens, are painful in their beauty, while the expectation and hope is shattered anew, every day. The hope for an agreement that will lead to the return of the kidnapped men, women and children.

This week in the newsletter, another interview with veterans. This week we are featuring an epic interview with Dorit and Berny Fink. Don't miss it!!! The interviews that Zohar Assaf conducts, warm our hearts and souls. Even if we have known the interviewees for years, many interesting stories emerge in the interviews. Thanks to Zohar for these interviews with all the work involved. Kudos to Zohar!



Thank You from the Omer Family

To everyone on Yizrael,

At the end of the Shiva, we wanted to say thank you from the bottom of our hearts:

To Yitzhak Peleg, to Doron Kagan and the mourning committee, to the gardens team, to David Mittelberg and the worshippers, to Yifat Asaf and to all those involved in writing and documentation, to all those "toranim", volunteers, bakers, cooks, visitors and more.

Your enveloping hug, kind words and concern for all the details, comforted and warmed our hearts! Thanks so much.

And a special thanks to Liran Penn, for her endless patience, to the clinic staff, to the third age workers and to the health committee, who accompanied us throughout all these months with great professionalism, humanity, sensitivity and close support!

Thanks!

From the entire Omer family



Thank You for Knitting Me a Hat



Following on from the thanks regarding the hats, we want to thank the knitting grandmothers who, led by Galia Shemi, continue to provide hats for the soldiers.

Proud of everyone!!! Thanks to the soldiers for defending us!!

15 grandmothers who knit with dedication and enthusiasm are: Rahel Piekarski, Rachel Grossman, Rochele Matalon, Maida Nechushtan, Ita Penn, Mikki Touz, Jenny Zelas, Dalia Levitan, Michal Sha'anan, Shoshana Rosenblum, Mavis Kaplan, Ilana Peleg, Hammutal Assaf, Faye Drezner, Galia Shemi.

Reported by - Monica Brustein



Let's start with a few words from a 6-page summary, written by our instructor, Or Ochaiyon (Lieutenant Colonel in the Home Front Command):

The subject - summary of the emergency team exercise Kibbutz Yizrael

1. On February 28, 2024, an exercise was held for the emergency preparedness team, of Kibbutz Yizrael.

2. Hedva Shaharabani, and officials of the team, the neighbourhood coordinators and the residents themselves, took part in it.

3. The exercise was defined as a learning simulation and was planned to be a multiple deployment exercise at different stages of a war scenario – missile firing / hostile aircraft.

4. I would like to thank each, and every member of the team working on emergency preparedness and thank you for the opportunity to accompany the kibbutz's learning and practice processes.

5. Below is a summary and recommendations for further action: -

A. The team is very committed and dedicated. The responsiveness and attendance at the exercise was impressive, as was everyone's desire to learn and become more professional.

B. We conducted training for the team in December '23 and it is clear that the learning curve is significant and very good.

C. The team built a neighbourhood response setup and the exercise was an opportunity to check the flow of information and the mapping of the situation.

And hence - there is both positive and negative feedback, as may be expected.

I, (Lilach) of course, want to thank the team I'm working with. Or Ochaiyon could not stop praising the abilities and seriousness we demonstrated in the exercise.

The heads of the neighbourhoods did a great job, from the amusement park in Rishon, or from a car on the way home from a trip in the south, or from the comfort of home. It just shows that our seriousness is our strength. It is clear that during the exercise we improved things and will improve in the future. We learn from our mistakes.

We will continue to prepare exercises and practice; I hope you will continue to cooperate and that way we will all stand firm. (Like a tree that grows by the waterside. WE WILL NOT BE MOVED – Ed)

Peace be with you. Lilach Ron Harpaz

The Asefa Report - 4.3.24

Asefa Chairman - Shlomo Cohen

Asefa Secretary - Uri Gilad

Present - 37 members

On the agenda:

The search team's recommendation for the position of finance manager - another term for Maor Persai Barniv

Maor presented his candidacy and his desire to continue for another term.

Amir Darom read the report of the search team which **unanimously** decided to recommend Maor for another term.

An opportunity was given for opinions from the members. Assael Mor expressed his opposition to the candidate.

Voting will take place via ballot on Wednesday 6.3 + Thursday 7.3 this week.

Breaking News: Maor was re-elected for a further 4 years as Finance Manager.

Economic Council Report - 4.3.2024

Council Chairman - Uri Gilad

Council Secretary - Shlomo Cohen

Present - 25 members

Uri Gilad thanked Kobi Levy who asked to end his membership on the council after many years. His place is taken by Adi Laviv, who was elected a few months ago and was on the waiting list.

1. Investment budget 2024

Niv Harmoni (Economist) presented the performance against the 2023 investment plan, as well as the state of the funds as of the end of 2023.

Erez Peleg presented the investment plan for 2024:

Investments in housing - NIS 18,580 (mainly: northern neighbourhood, building in parents' housing neighbourhood, building in the younger generation neighbourhood).

Investments in infrastructure - NIS 1,061,000 (mainly: for repayment of a loan for the Northern Industrial Road, paths in the centre of the kibbutz and parking for kalnoyot outside the dining room).

Investments in public buildings - 4,053,000 shekels (mainly: planning and progress in the renovation of the kitchen, renovation of temporary apartments and more).

Consumer investments – 500,000 NIS

Purchase of vehicles - 1,000,000 shekels

There was a discussion that dealt with the question of whether it is appropriate to start planning the mazkirut building, or to focus exclusively on planning the kitchen renovation.

A vote was held - should the planning for the renovation of the mazkirut be excluded from the list of investments in public buildings?

With a majority of 15 opponents against 7 supporters, the proposal was dropped.

A vote was held to approve the investment plan as presented:

• Approval of the community's investment plan for 2024, amounting to NIS 24,300,000:

- 16,800,000 for new projects
- 7,500,000 for continuing projects
- Authorization to take loans in the amount of 6,000,000 NIS in 2024:
- 5,500,000 NIS for investments in housing
- 500,000 NIS for the purchase of vehicles

It was decided: by a majority of 23 in favor, and 1 against, the investment plan as presented, including the plan for taking the loans, was approved.

2. Community budget 2024

Jeremy, chairman of the Management Committee, presented a general picture of the situation, according to which the community's income is no longer sufficient to finance the current expenses of the community, and the recommendations of the Management Committee. Below are the main points:

The average age of our population passed 60 as of this year. Not only the income structure has changed, but also the needs. The community does not meet the budget which is built on 80% of current sources and 20% of the sources of past investments. The community needs 30%. This situation is no different from most third generation families in the world, who live off the profits of past investments.

The executive committee concluded that in order to continue our lifestyle, we must allocate more profits to daily expenses... so how do we do this?

We should open the profit key and decide together where to get the money. Such a process takes time.... Hence the committee's proposal for a bridging loan and changing the earnings key. The latter process begins in early 2025. In any case, the main bonus will not be distributed until the end of the year. So, what do we do until then?

It is possible to reduce the expenses by another NIS 4 million by cutting all community budgets, but this is not recommended. The money exists. The distribution key should be different. Suggestions to the Economic council:

• The management committee approves bringing the budget as presented to the Economic Council for approval.

• Our proposal for dealing with the deficit of NIS 4 million is to take a "bridging loan". We recommend to the Economic Council, when opening the key, to adopt a permanent solution to close the gap, with the understanding that our lives have changed. The first step will be to close the bridging loan.

Erez, Maor and Niv presented a summary of the community budget for 2023, the community plan for 2024 and the required budget framework. The necessary budget framework exceeds the amount of revenues by about NIS 5 million.

Erez presented a proposal to establish a team, which will examine the issue of the community's resources, and suggest how the direction can be changed, and ways to increase the community's resources so that they suffice.

Team members - Elad Ilan, Shimon Zelas, Irit Mor, Maor Persai, Niv Harmoni and Erez Peleg.

A discussion was held on the gap between expenses and income, and how this gap can be bridged. Various suggestions were made, such as: to advance the opening of the key.

Regarding the proposal to establish the team, a request was made to have more representation of kibbutz members within the team. Not just 50% as suggested.

The proposals for changing the key method and for examining the formula for transfers from the reserve fund to the community will be reviewed by the team that will be established.

An interim vote was held on Assael Mor's proposal, to recommend to the asefa to open the current key, in order to balance the community's budget. With a majority of 23 opponents against 2 - the proposal was defeated.

Finally, a vote was held on the 2024 budget, and by a majority of 22 in favor and one against, it was decided:

1. To accept the proposal of the executive committee and approve the community budget for 2024 for the amount of: 52,849,000 shekels

2. To establish a team to examine ways to increase the community's resources.

Under Erez Peleg's Responsibility:

Increasing the team by one (kibbutz) member.

Bringing proposals for alternatives to the "key" method for discussion by the team.

Summarised by: Erez Peleg and Yifat Assaf



Community budget

This week, the economic council approved the community's budget and the community's investment plan for 2024. The budget is very challenging and reflects a certain drop in the level of services.

To close the gap between the community's income and its expenses, a team was established, whose job it is to examine the reasons for the decrease in income and the

ways to restore the community's ability to manage on income from our work. Team members: Shimon Zelas, Maor Persai, Irit Mor, Elad Ilan, Niv Harmoni (economist) and Erez Peleg.

Guarding at the gate. In view of the need for continuous guarding at the gate and considering the low response to guarding by members, starting next Sunday the guarding at the gate will be carried out by a guard from the company "G1", as is done at night. The guarding by G1 will be done during the week but not on Friday and Saturday.

The role of the guards is to control entrance to the kibbutz and demonstrate a high visibility of security activity.

1. To facilitate the entry of members and residents more quickly, we urge those who travel in private vehicles, without kibbutz identification stickers, to be equipped with entry permit stickers which can be obtained at the secretariat.

2. To save money, we will continue with guarding by members on the weekends (a saving of about NIS 200,000 per year). Those who are willing to volunteer, on Fridays and/or Saturdays should contact Zohar Assaf on WhatsApp for placement according to the hours that suit you.

Please Obey Warning Signs! The road signs placed on the kibbutz roads are for the purpose of improving the level of safety on the roads. They are the result of traffic planning and have the approval of the Ministry of Transport. Unfortunately, amongst some residents and visitors, there is a tendency to disregard traffic signs and traffic rules, putting us in danger. **Be careful and drive according to the traffic rules and signs** (one way, stop, etc.) so as not to cause accidents and, God forbid, injury. At the exit from the southern industrial road, deceleration strips were installed to remind road users that there is a "stop" sign ahead.

Be vigilant, drive carefully!

Paths in the center of the kibbutz: The peak of winter is behind us and next week we will start the project of restoring the paths in the centre of the kibbutz. The project includes infrastructure works along the route of the paths between the Music School circle, past the Founders' Hut, to the granulite plaza, and from there, along the rock garden, to the Eucalyptus intersection. In addition, street lighting will be installed along the length of the path. At the same time, a project will be carried out to make the central part of the stone garden accessible. The work will be carried out in sections so as not to completely block the centre of the kibbutz. Shlomo Levy will notify regarding the relevant closed sections.

The project will be completed before Pesach. (P.G. – Ed)

What's Happening Around the Kibbutz?

Northern neighbourhood: The infrastructure project is nearing completion. The plans for the buildings are in the process of receiving the permit, and during the next month meetings with the architect will be scheduled for the tenants.

The expected start of construction works - July 2024

Building in the young generation neighbourhood: The work has begun! At this stage, the work area is being cleared. In the next two weeks, the work area will be demarcated, and the building contractor will start work.

We hope to finish the construction of the building by the end of October 2024.

Building in the "parents' neighbourhood" (but not for parents – Ed)

The progress of the building erected in the corner of the parents' neighbourhood, in front of the west gate, is evident. The skeleton of the building is already standing and in the next two weeks a roof will be installed, and we will begin installing electricity and plumbing.

Expected completion of the building - end of July 2024

Cat feeding near the dining room: Caring for animals and feeding stray cats is a welcome and important activity. Both the treatment of street cats, which is carried out in an official and recognised manner by Eddie Solow, and the feeding of the cats by Idit Halevi, are designed to monitor and reduce the rate of reproduction of the cats and maintain their health. The cats are fed in less central places in order to make them stay away from the centre of the kibbutz, and especially away from the area of the dining room and the kolbo.

Cat food also attracts rodents and cockroaches (and flies and flees and tics and disease.... Ed) Things that we don't want to see in the centre of the kibbutz. PLEASE STOP FEEDING around the dining room, kolbo and the playgrounds!!! The cats get used to going and getting food further away.

That's all for now. May we know better days.

Erez Peleg





H.R. Management Meeting Summary - 3.3.2024

Participants: Noa Armoza, Rotem Agmon, Nir Segal, Eddie Solow, Shlomo Cohen, Irit Shemesh, Erez Peleg and Kinneret Govrin.

Updating the locating, selecting and terms of office bearers as written in the organisational structure document.

The organisational structure document is periodically updated in order to be as accurate as possible and to assist and guide the management of the kibbutz. The original organisational structure document did not include many details.

Below are the additions and changes that were proposed to be inserted into the organisational structure document:

• Internal auditor -Suggested by the audit committee and confirmed by a vote of the asefa. 5-year term.

• Chairman of agriculture – Suggested by the search team and elected by the Holdings Board. 4-year term.

• **Directors on the agriculture directorate** – suggested by the search team and elected by the Yizrael Holdings Board of Directors. 4-year term.

• Public representatives on the Reserve Fund committee – Suggested by the staffing committee (Va'adat lyush Va'adot) and elected by ballot. 4-year term.

• **Committee coordinators** – Elected in the Asefa. Voting through the Kehilanet. In the past, there was no voting. A report was merely delivered at the asefa by the staffing committee.

• **Committee members** – As in the past- a report at the asefa by the staffing committee.

• Job scopes have been removed from the table.

Decision: It was (unanimously – Ed) decided to include the office bearers that were omitted in the organisational structure document and to correct the typographical errors. The updated document will appear in the H.R. folder in Kehilanet. (See Kehilanet, Takanonim V'Nohalim, Masha)

Reported by: Kinneret Govrin

<u>Corrections</u>

Updating the Price of Water for Home Consumption - Maor Parsai



Drinking water is a precious resource that is in short supply. Therefore, the Water Authority has various regulations, the purpose of which is to encourage moderate consumption, equitable distribution, preferred uses and to enable maintenance and renewal of the water network. These regulations also require the kibbutz, which is defined as a "water supplier", but sometimes there is a gap between the authority's requirements and our way of conducting ourselves. The purpose of the change that will be presented below is to become closer to the requirements of the Water Authority, both so that we are not exposed to sanctions and also because the objective is worthy and important from an economic, social and environmental point of view.

The situation today on Yizrael:

Yizrael bases its calculations on a "historical" rate of NIS 6.67 per cubic meter of water. Agricultural branches pay this price. The rate members are charged is slightly higher than the average price at which we buy water from Mekorot, and the difference does not leave us with enough "profit" for investments, maintenance, and management of the network. Fortunately, we have an infrastructure fund, which from time-to-time finances projects to renew and develop the water network.

The desired situation according to the water authority:

The water rates are determined according to a large number of parameters and are updated once every 6 months. Each resident of the house is entitled to receive 3.5 cubes at a discounted price. Beyond this amount, the price of water increases considerably. The Mekorot company sells water to each kibbutz at two rates, according to the number of people living in the kibbutz. According to the Authority's instructions, the difference between the purchase price and the selling price of the water should be accumulated in a specified fund and even in a separate bank account and be used exclusively for the maintenance of the network.

How to bridge the gap:

We must present the Water Authority with an operating model that meets its requirements, without violating the principles of distribution and allocation of a cooperative kibbutz. According to our proposal, the water branch will purchase the water from Mekorot, and sell it to all branches and to the members at full price, according to the water authority's price list. On average, an increase of NIS 2-3 per cubic metre of water is expected for all consumers. Against this increase, the branches and members will be credited accordingly. The branches will be budgeted directly through the community budget, and the members will be budgeted through the water rate provided in the personal allowance. That is, if today a family is budgeted according to the number of cubes multiplied by a fixed rate, from now on the number of cubes will be multiplied by the appropriate rate formula for each family, according to the number of residents in the house.

To illustrate, let's look at two families. One family consumes below its allowance and the second consumes above the allowance.

(In the Hebrew Newsletter you can see a table with a comparison of two families' water accounts in a certain month under both systems. The family that saved 43 shekels, by using less than their quota, will now save 60 Shekels. The family that paid 21 Shekels in the old system because they used more than their allocation will now pay 34 shekels. (For a greener garden or a longer shower or a better toilet flush – Ed)

It is important to emphasise that there is no change in the water allocation method, but only in the price of the water per cube.

We hope that the new model will encourage the economical conduct of water use, meet the requirements of the law, and allow us to preserve such an essential resource as drinking water. **Members who wish to receive a calculation re their specific situation in the new pricing according to their consumption in 2023, are invited to contact me in accounting or by email at finance@yizrael.com.**

Good luck to everyone,

Maor Parsai, Finance Manager

A New Arrangement for the Consumption of Communication Services - Maor Parsai



For many years we have been enjoying watching Hot's channel package. The kibbutz purchased a uniform broadcast package from Hot and charged the families a uniform amount. Families who wanted to expand the service or the variety of channels paid directly to Hot. In recent years, the world of communication has changed a lot, both in the technological aspect and in the way we consume broadcasts. Smart TVs, streaming services, fibre-optic communication and other factors affect the way we enjoy TV. The difference in personal taste and viewing preferences has a financial ramification, and there is no longer any justification to impose an equal cost on all members, if their content consumption is different. Out of a desire to respond to the differences in personal taste and the economic significance of this difference, we are implementing a new budget arrangement - detailed below.

According to the new arrangement everyone will receive an allowance (taktsiv) will receive NIS 70 per month. The family will be free to decide how to use the money: pay for a Hot package, pay for streaming services of their choice, or not use it at all.

The Hot company adjusted our contract, and from today offers three alternatives.

Provide a will include the basic digital broadcast package and another 6 content packages and will cost NIS 70 per month.

Track B will include track A, plus a premium package and a VOD subscription and will cost NIS 100 per month.

Route C will include Route B and another package of sports channels 5, Charlton 1 and 2, and will cost NIS 145 per month.

In the coming weeks, a Hot representative will hold a meeting on the kibbutz, where she will answer questions and provide clarifications regarding the service and content.

At the same time, the **"Yes"** cable company also decided to submit an attractive offer to members of Yizrael. Today, "Yes" broadcasts on the fiber-optic infrastructure, and there is no need to install antennas, as was required in the past. Therefore, every family can connect to the service via the internet. With "Yes", we also built 3 packages at the same prices as the "Hot" prices. A "Yes" representative will also come to the kibbutz and try to convince members to move from "Hot".

We will take the opportunity to update the list of subscribers in Yizrael. Any private or public building, which is connected to Hot broadcasts, will have to pay for the service, or disconnect from it. This arrangement will allow everyone to watch according to their preferences and will promote economic efficiency for the family and the kibbutz while taking advantage of the kibbutz's advantage as a large institutional consumer. Happy viewing!

Reported by: Maor Parsai

I Care! - Limor Griman

Selling Duty Rosters in General and to Teenagers in Particular

The following is written from my position as a member of a kibbutz, a mother of teenagers and also as someone who has been a partner in leading our education for about two years.

The boys and girls of the youth enter duty roster list in the 10th grade. This does not stem from the adults' need to make it easier for themselves, but rather as an educational act aimed at instilling in our next generation, the future members of the kibbutz, the understanding that a community is built on the partnership of all its members in carrying the burden of community life.

The youth take the behaviour of all the adults in the community as an example, they watch and test us, and shape their scale of values from watching us. They have learned from us that when you are rostered to work and you can't make it, you turn to a friend and ask to swap, and they do this frequently and always help each other. They do this for two reasons, both to help the individual in need and due to their understanding, that not pitching up for rostered duty hurts the community.

Unfortunately, there is a phenomenon in our community of selling rostered shifts to the youth.

When a kibbutz member offers a youngster to replace him for a fee, he turns the shifts into a commodity, which can be priced, and changes its essence as an expression of community responsibility. This conduct harms the socialisation to the values and norms of the kibbutz and harms our educational process.

The rostered shifts are one of the beautiful expressions of the cooperative kibbutz - of partnership, mutual guarantee and social gathering. True, it is also difficult and sometimes not fun, but I believe that even the difficulty can be dealt with and not solved with money.

Submitted by: Limor Griman.

Someone on the Hill

Interview with Berny and Dorit Fink



Hello Berny and Dorit, it's nice to meet you in your artistic home.

Let's start with questions about your backgrounds - year of birth, place of residence, Berny, let's start with you:

I was born in Johannesburg, South Africa in 1942, ... That's where I grew up. We joined the Dror movement at a young age. My leaders were Benny and Micky Touz. At the age of 14 I had already decided that I would become a kibbutznik. When my brother, returned from the Machon in Israel, he brought "Falafel Mix" (the mixture from which you can make the falafel balls). In South Africa there was no falafel..., he brought the records of the Israeli folk duet, "The Dudaim". I heard the records and dreamed of immigrating to Israel. I couldn't wait to finish school. I was at a school like in the Charles Dickens stories. I would get caned on my backside more than once a week. I got so used to it.

Wow, they would really beat you?? Yes, and they had good reason, it's me... But what did you do? What did you get caned for?? (Dorit - why not?!...) Bernie - at the age of 7, when I started school, already in the first week I was fighting with some boy during recess. They took me to the office of the deputy principal, Mr. Brown, and as soon as I entered, he immediately struck me on the cheek, stuck my inner cheek to my teeth, without asking any questions at all. If you told your parents, they would say that the teacher was right. That's how it was then. Dorit - I want to tell a story I heard - Bernie is the second child out of four boys. One of the teachers heard his last name was - Fink, then asked - are you Naty Fink's brother? Bernie proudly says – "yes". Then the teacher says: "come here and then - flick and flick - one for you and one for your brother..." The teacher thought it was funny, the boy thought it was less funny... Bernie - that was the twisted humour of the teachers there. some were such sadists. But I got through all that. I also experienced anti-Semitism. We lived on the border

between the area of a population of poor Afrikaners and rich Jews. In the middle was a large park. When my brother and I would walk through the park on the way to and from school, they would start with us and throw stones at us.

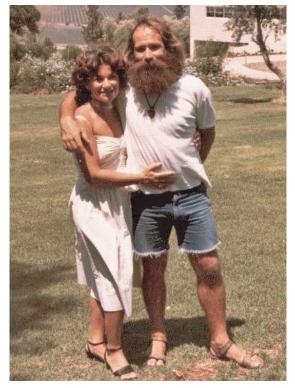
Were you rich? Almost all the Jews in South Africa were rich, but not all. We were among the poorer. **Dorit** - do you know the joke, about what is it like to be white and poor in South Africa? A boy wrote an essay about poverty. He wrote: "There was once a very poor family. The father was poor, the mother was poor, the maid was poor, the cook was poor, the gardener was poor, everyone was terribly poor." **Bernie** - everything is relative of course.

We will move on to you, Dorit. Where were you born? I am a Haifa girl. I was born a year after Berny, in 1943. I'm older than the country. In short, I'm Palestinian... What can I do, then it was called Palestine... My childhood was like the rest of the children of that time. There was austerity in Israel, but we didn't complain because everyone was in the same boat. My parents started from nothing; they came to Israel with nothing but the clothes on their back. They are "Patria" survivors. (The Patria was an immigration ship that sank. It was a British deportation ship on which immigrants from three ships captured in November 1940, off the coast of Israel, were concentrated with the aim of being deported to Mauritius. To delay the deportation, the "Haganah" planted a bomb on the ship while it was docked in the port of Haifa, with the aim of causing minor damage, but the damage was greater than planned, and the ship sank. As a result, more than 208 holocaust survivors drowned). My parents made progress little by little, saving every penny so that I could study in a good school. And that's how I studied at the Reali School in Haifa. I developed antagonism towards the very strict regime. We didn't get beaten, but achievement was a key word. That's why I joined the "blue shirts with the red lace" (Socialist youth movement – Ed) and not the scouts like the other students of the Reali. I joined the "Garin" that settled on Yizrael – "Garin Tsameret".

Where did you live in Haifa? On the Carmel. I have one sister who is much years younger than me. I don't think there was anything special in my childhood. A happy childhood overall. I have stories of mischief at school. I was funny and chatty. In school, we had to stand when the teacher entered, (pupils didn't sit on the stairs like in Ein Harod, and when the teacher arrives, they ask her why she never gets sick...) When the teacher entered the classroom, we would have to stand and wait for him to get onto his podium and only then would we be allowed to sit. There was a physics teacher who didn't like me. Physics didn't like me either and I didn't like physics... so once we were standing when he entered the classroom. He says - good morning, good morning class, Rinot out! (My last name was Rinot). In short, Rinot left the class. He understood that physics and I do not go together. My mother once went to parents' meeting. My father knew how good I was at school. Studies were important to my parents. So, Mum came back from Parents' Day and Dad asked - "Well, how's the girl?" And Mum said, "She's not a bad student," so dad asked, "and what about physics?" So, mother answered - "Hans, eat something." That's how it is with the "Yekes". Hans ate and then mother announced how I was doing in physics - "So, the girl is not Einstein". **Dorit** "nor is she a Tweinstein nor a Dreinstein..." But other than that, I was not a bad student.

So, you arrived on Yizrael with Garin Tsameret.

Our madrich was Volpe (Dan Volpe), may he rest in peace. We were given an option to choose between Hamadiya and Yizrael. We were "Pioneers", (with a big P – Ed) a garin from "good homes" who played at socialism. It was difficult for us to choose. Finally we decided not to go to Hamadiya because there was "HIRED LABOUR" there... Just look at today's dining room on Yizrael! Volpe convinced us to move to Yizrael. It was an open secret that for the first ten years, Yizrael was Like a train station. Groups came and left, until the first Anglo-Saxon Garin arrived in 1958. That brought some kind of stability. We were the first Israeli group after the Anglo-Saxons arrived, and this is what Volpe conveyed to us - that Yizrael needs an Israeli garin. With this intention, we arrived on Yizrael - 50 wild men and women who made such a 'Hoo Ha"- They were waiting for Israelis, so we will show you what Israelis really are. I am not proud about that.



Much of the garin remains on Yizrael to this day. When we were in training in Ginegar (Hachshara in Hebrew - Ed), there was a guy there named Gabi Rosen, who was the farm manager. He said -"Garin Tsameret, you are all from "good homes". As soon as you are released from the army, you will all leave the kibbutz." We took him up on the bet and he said - "I will come every year after your release, to see how many are left, and I will bring chocolates for those still there". He turned up year after year, and almost went bankrupt because there were a lot of us left here... it cost him a lot of chocolates. Then he stopped coming, and in the 1980's many of our group left the kibbutz.

So how did you meet? Did the two garinim arrive together?

Dorit - The girls arrived on the kibbutz, on what they called "Shalat meuchar". The boys went to advanced parachute training.

Berny - their boys made the mistake of their lives. They went to advanced training but left us to prey on their girls. I was standing on a ladder in the orchard and picking grapefruit, and I see this young girl, full of energy, jumping about and talking, and I said to myself- wow, that's it! Standing on the ladder, I knew she was the one. True love at first sight...

Dorit - "I don't want to say where his gaze was focused..."My version is like this - the boys served for two and a half years and the girls for two years, and after we went to say goodbye to them, when they left for Tel Nof for advanced training, we stood at the train station with tears and handkerchiefs like a Tolstoy drama in "War and Peace", something like that. They left to parachute, and we arrived here for six months of... It was late. The tears hadn't dried on our cheeks yet. We fell into the arms of these South Africans. It was right to absorb two garinim at the same time. There were some 8 couples as a result. Not all of them lasted, but some did:

Dalia and Izzy, Miriam and Derek, we were the first couple. And there were a few more. There were also those who left. By the way, at our wedding, we only had 27 outside guests. It was on the balcony of the old dining room hut.

Your family from Haifa didn't come? My father was a foreign ministry man at that time, and they were in Persia, (Iran). There was a big story with my wedding. My parents were very much against my marrying this brat. I was from "a good home" in the centre of the Carmel and Berny was a real brat. He was a 'beatnik'. Even before the term was invented, he was a hippie. But our love was like wildfire. It couldn't be stopped.

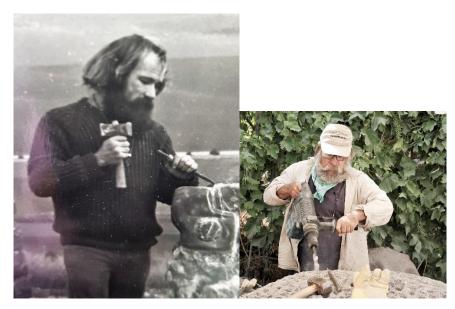
What did you do when your parents objected to the wedding? I almost gave up, but he talked to my mother. She tried to talk us out of it. **Berny** - I wrote to her father - "I'm asking for her hand" and then her mother got on the first plane to stop this from happening. Dorit was already in Jerusalem. She had started studying.

Dorit - It was in Haifa on the Carmel. We were summoned to an interview there. Mother had a discussion with us and said - maybe wait, maybe... I sat and kept silent and suddenly Bernie stood up and in his broken Hebrew said - "Mrs. Rinot, I hear you, but I'm telling you that I intend to marry your daughter". Mum got up and went to the other room. And I said to Berny, "That's it. It's all over for us, we're done". She calls me - "Come here a minute" and I approach the room and she says to me - "Look, I still think you're making a mistake, but one thing I have to say - he has character." (**Dorit**..after 60 years of marriage "character" changed to "stubbornness".)

How long did it take them to get used to the guy? Until Omri was born... That worried my mother until the end of her days, including the last two months when she was here in the nursing home. She was not the typical mother-in-law; I mean, if we had an argument, she would take his side. She was on a journey of atonement all her life. I sometimes had to remind her - "Mum – I am your daughter. One more thing, when Eran told me that he was marrying Aya, I had nothing against it, but when he said that he was going to live in Japan - it hurt me terribly. I cried on her shoulder. My mother told me - "Don't make the same mistake I made". Everyone takes a mistake to the grave with them. Don't stand in their way.

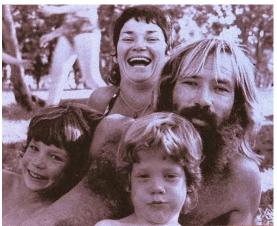
Let's move on to other questions - Berny - your sculpture is well known here on Yizrael, part of our landscape. So, tell me how you got into the field of sculpture? Where are interesting sculptures displayed? Monuments, exhibitions in Israel and abroad?

Firstly, in those days, there was a shortage of working hands on the kibbutz, so I was in charge of the cotton for 10 years. (Cotton harvester operator – Ed). It was impossible to find time, so after work I would paint. I was not yet into sculpture. I never studied art.



The best teachers in the world are books and Leonardo da Vinci, and Picasso and Miro these were my teachers. Once, when I was still working in the cattle fodder branch, I found a log that is now at Izzy's house. I saw the red wood inside, and I said - wow that is beautiful. I made my first sculpture. It was influenced by South African art. I made a group of 4 masks. That was my first sculpture and I haven't looked back since. I learned three dimensionality. To cut a long story short, after two or three years I wanted to get into it seriously. I had no idea how to work with stone. I found a rock in a ploughed field, and brought it home. I said, if I can make a hole from one side to the other, I can do anything I want. I took the wrong tools from the garage. Omri was already 5 years old, I was 26. He sat on my lap. I gave him a hammer too. Within two weeks I made the hole. I realised I could do anything

I wanted and that's how it started. After some time, they agreed to let me go to Jaffa for 3 months to work for the late Matanya Abramson. He was supposed to teach me to sculpt in stone. He was a champion when it came to stone. As I arrived, he said to me - "I'm sorry, I am doing a big exhibition in New York. Take the studio, take the car, have a good time" I was there for 3 months. I made all kinds of things out of plaster. I fantasised that someone would see the work in



plaster and cast it in bronze. That year, 1971, I held my first exhibition in Tel Aviv and on the last day of the exhibition, I sold, two brown paper works from carbon and chalk and a piece from iron for the wall to some engineer. They also wrote about me in the Jerusalem Post newspaper. The kibbutz decided to give me one day a week for my art. That's how it started, then two days, then 3, 4 and I started doing projects here and there. Not that I earned a lot of money, but I managed to keep my head a little above water. Then I asked for a year in Italy in the marble area (in Tuscany). Dorit and the children joined me later. Anyway, I came home and saw that the sheep branch had been closed down. I quickly took a table, put a stone on the table and started working, and that's how I took possession of the place, like a settler in the occupied territories. That is the studio to this day.

The highlight was when I won a project at Yad Vashem. There were 99 contestants, and they chose mine! First, I made a model. It had to be anonymous. I displayed it in the dining room foyer. Everyone saw it and I sent it with messengers to Jerusalem. Actually, there is a story here. Arnie Friedman heard that there was a competition to make a monument in Jerusalem at Yad Vashem. I made enquires and participated. One day I was called to the only phone on the kibbutz in the hut outside the old mazkirut. I answer and they ask me - "Are you Berny Fink number 49?" I say yes, this is my laundry number... So, they tell me - you won the project for Yad Vashem, come to Jerusalem. Arnie just passed by and I said to him - "Arnie, I won! I said do you remember?" Arnie immediately enters the dining room and tells everyone that I won. I

entered the dining room and everyone stood up and applauded me. I literally shed tears of joy. It was a huge project. I had 7 months to complete the project. Go do such a huge thing in seven months. I went to Italy, where I met some friends, and we did the work. I said that I'm not leaving Italy without seeing them load it on the ship. The statue was four days on the sea and arrived in Ashdod. Seven semi-trailers were waiting there and brought the statue to Jerusalem. It took nine days from the day the statue left Italy, until it stood in Jerusalem.

Dorit - I would like to add two things. This monument is actually in memory of the partisan fighters. There are six blocks of stone that form the middle of the Star of David. In the middle is a blade.



Bernie also dedicated to his dad who fought in World War II with the Allies. It was a tribute to him. It was also 40 years since the victory over Nazi Germany. Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin unveiled the monument. We have a picture together with him.

What other famous statues do you have? I have made 54 sculptures which stand in public places. In which countries besides Israel? Italy, Canada, China, in Turkey - Erdogan has a statue of mine, a huge statue - 3 meters of marble. While I was making the sculpture there on the Bosphorus in a very prestigious university, Erdogan came and said - "I want this". I mad e friends with some Turks there. When we flew to Japan with Turkish Airlines, I would stop and meet my friends and spend a day, two, three days together in Istanbul. They don't know where my statue is, but I know where it is... with Erdogan. He was the mayor then.

So, do you sell in many countries? It's not that interesting to me... My idea is to bring the whole world here. I'm not that interested in doing the exhibitions in all kinds of places. First of all, they come here and have a cup of tea and get an explanation of what's going on here. This is my world and my life. Oded says that I have a statue in Afula that hundreds of thousands of people pass by. You prepare an exhibition, talk

about it and invest effort. Even if it's in the most fancy venue, it's something fleeting. The statues in the city squares remain and many people are exposed to them.

Dorit, let's talk about your many occupations. You were a teacher, cultural coordinator, and volunteered in the Music School.

I finished 12th grade at the Reali School in Haifa, with a major in Arabic. I thought it was important to teach Arabic here and I planned to continue with it all my life. Things change. When Omri was two years old, I went to study at the university in Haifa, a bachelor's degree in Arabic language and literature with the goal of becoming an Arabic teacher. I needed two classes, that's why I took a second class in English language and literature. Thats life. You decide one thing and something else happens. I taught some Arabic here in Ein Harod. The first group I taught was Hila Alterlevi's matriculation class. Then I went to teach at the Gilboa school in Beit Alfa, where they were more attuned to Arabic teaching. Unfortunately, this educational institution made the Emek Harod school seem like West Point. If the pupils wanted to, they would learn, if not, too bad. They would come to school in their pajamas. I, who was educated at the Reali in Haifa, went crazy there. Then came 1973, the Yom Kippur War. All the teachers were called up to fight. Fay was the English Department Head. She said, with all due respect to the Arabic you teach, I need you as an English teacher. I moved to teach English in Emek Harod and gave up Beit Alfa. I taught English for decades. Even though Arabic was my first love. This is how it turned out. So, I was an English teacher until the school joined with Beit Hashita. One of the conditions of Beit Hashita joining, to my delight, was that they would teach Arabic in Emek Harod. I dusted off all my teaching books and we started teaching Arabic properly in our school. Today we take pride in the fact that many of our students have been accepted into the elite 8200 unit, thanks to their Arabic studies at Emek Harod.

But I remember you coming back from school saying - once again I was in the company of teenagers... it's hard! Did you like it?

Of course I liked it, but it's not easy. Still, I have a lot of funny stories to tell. For example, about a mistake I made (and I made several) ... one of the smart students, (later he became a pilot)... asked - " what is this silent gh in English?" And I forgot what they tell you in teacher training at the university, that not everything you learned at the university you must also pass on to the students, it won't necessarily interest them.. I forgot that and decided to explain. I told them – "it's good question. I'll explain to the class. It is very interesting". I'm rambling on talking about this combination of letters and I see that they are all dozing off under my nose. Then one of the students lifts his hand and asks - " Dorit what happened to the interesting thing you said you

would explain to us?" You can't be angry with youth like them, even when they ask you, "Why are you never sick?"

How many years have I been a teacher? 40 years! Towards the end, I undertook a more administrative role. I was also a form teacher and a 12th grade teacher. One morning, I saw that the classroom was not clean. I asked - "Who is on toranut duty here?" Then a huge, tall strong boy (who later played rugby) stood up and asked - "Me, why, what happened?" I replied - "Don't you see how dirty the class is?" So, he says: "I don't see the dirt. You see it because you're closer to the floor..." Which is true, I suppose. For someone who came from the Reali school, where we had to get up when the teacher entered the classroom, this was refreshing ...

Later I did a master's degree in comparative linguistics, which is actually a fancy word translation. Then I lectured on the subject at various pensioners' clubs the likes of Dorot B'Gilboa. I called it "Yalla bye" because we are the only place in the Middle East, maybe in the whole world, where people say goodbye with "Yalla bye" - Arabic and English. I have a lot of them - and "Achla Private". I collected the things and demonstrated the influences on the spoken language from these two directions. I demonstrated how English, Arabic and slang change the Hebrew language. It was very interesting. I taught it many times in Dorot B'Gilboa and other places.

In recent years you have worked a lot with Stas at the Music School.

True, it was a pleasure, because you are in such a musical and cultural atmosphere while working, it is a real pleasure to work there.

Berny - but once a teacher, always a teacher.

A little about the children and grandchildren.

Dorit. What do you mean... a little? I need a whole day to talk about them... there is Omri who is married to Shlomit with Yahav and Liri, Eran who is married to Aya in Japan and they have Mia who is 24 and Eitan who is 22, (there has never been a Fink that tall... probably from her side). And Oded and Jid with their two lovely girls Yasmin and Hila.

I still want to talk about this special house, almost the whole house is Berny's artwork.

Dorit - "I'm responsible for the dust..." **Berny** - Dorit has a magician's finger - I do all the creations and Dorit points and says – "I want it there".

Dorit - when they say "He did everything and you didn't lift a finger?" I tell them - "Of course I lift a finger. I point and say - this is where I want it..."

But anyway, a little about your creations here - There was no money for expensive materials so anything I would find was gold for me. I used simple raw materials I found - stainless steel, copper, wood. For me the cleanest art is abstract without many interpretations. It emerges without external influences. It suddenly overcomes my thoughts. It's something that happens and there's no explanation, that's the beauty of it, actually.

What do you like most about Yizrael and what would you change?

Berny - There are so many things I love about Yizrael, almost everything. I think there is an excellent composition here that has resulted from the combination of the Anglo-Saxons and the Israelis. A more open society was created here. **Dorit** - I also say, there is an openness about the people here. There is a basic goodness and acceptance of new members.

If you could meet anyone living or dead who would it be?

Dorit - I would like to meet my mother. She passed away 4 years ago and she is with me all the time.

What's the best or worst gift you've ever received?

Dorit - the best gift without a doubt is Berny. **Berny** good answer! I don't want to sound like I'm copying Dorit, but yes, Dorit is the best gift I've ever received.

What is your favourite word or the most hated word?

Dorit - I don't like that children, before they know how to say Abba and Imma, know how to say "I feel like" or mostly "I don't feel like" (Ba li, lo ba li.) It freaks me out. My next hated phrase would be "I'm bored". When I was a child I was not allowed to say that.

What were the best vacations you had? Where in the world?

Berny - we have been to so many places, each one is an adventure. We are simply experts at it, understanding what the other likes. We are less fond of beach or all-inclusive holidays. Until a year ago, Dorit was like a mountain goat. I couldn't keep up. **Dorit** - We liked traveling in Italy the most. But we've also been to other lovely places and mostly to Thailand.

Last question - If a biography were written about your life, what would it be called? **Dorit** 60 years and somemore, together.

Anything else in conclusion? Berny - there are many stories we didn't tell, but I would do it all again and in exactly the same way. I think we did the right thing - do you agree

Dorit? **Dorit** I agree 100%... although I have to say that when you do it at the age of 20 it's a gamble. You don't know how it will turn out... but for us, it turned out well!

Definitely! Thank you very much Dorit and Berny, it was interresting and exciting and pleasant to talk with you and witness a wonderful partnership of more than 60 years. You are very fortunate to have each other.

Interviewed and written by: Zohar Assaf

• The interview will be broadcast this Friday on channel 900 at 17:00



Vouchers for Passover 2024

for Community and Agricultural Workers

On Sunday 10/3/2024 a link will be sent via SMS from the gift site under the name - Kibbutz Yizrael

If you did not receive the message - check your spam messages.

Those who asked to receive a credit in their personal budget instead of a voucher will receive it in the April 2024 budget.

For any questions or concerns - please contact Hedva Sharabani

Little Tips for Big Feelings - Gaya Sankar

International Women's Day

Today we celebrate International Women's Day.

Honestly, I usually don't celebrate this day. To be honest, maybe there is even a part of me that opposed it, after all, why do we need a day to celebrate the strength of a woman, when a woman, by her very nature, is strong every day of the year.

And yet, it is important.

It is important because there was not always such a broad understanding.

It is important because the understanding is still not always broad enough.

It is important because it is an opportunity for us, as women and men, to appreciate the women in our lives.

And it is especially important when it is called "Women's Day" (plural). The women are all together. When we call this day "Woman's Day" (singular) we may miss our responsibility towards each other, the enormous power inherent in being women together.

Women are a huge force. We can generate life within us, give birth, raise a life, lead a career, embrace, love, teach, rejoice, cry, create, be sensitive and strong, both inclusive and powerful, and yes, also cry and break, and get up again. At one with all the women within us.

And a word to the members of the opposite sex. We are really in your favour, it is not for one moment instead of you. On the contrary, together heart to heart.

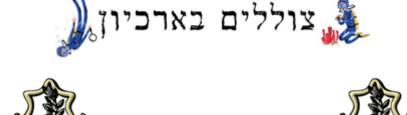
So in honour of this day, I invite you, women and men, to think (you can also write) about a significant woman in your life. Someone special, who influenced your smile in some way. It can also be a young girl. Someone you want to say thank you to.

Let's celebrate together, the light of women in the world.

Shabbat Shalom and much love,

Gaia





A message to our soldiers:

Delving into the Archives

If you need a Balaclava,

Please send a postcard to Zamir.

From the 50th anniversary album "Beacon on the Hill" Third decade: Yom Kippur War.

A letter from Avinoam from the war front:

I received the balaclava with great joy.

A. Because I asked.

B. Because I've been waiting for a hat like this for several years.

I have had three attempts with hats and all unsuccessful.

One narrow and tight, the second with a wide opening and the third sat on me like a dress.

And this one is perfect! Thank you! Avinoam

(Rest in peace Avi. And now our "knitting grandmas" are making hats for a new generation of soldiers in yet another war. May peace come in our time. -Ed)

In what year was the photo marked "Hedva and the children" taken?

Jules will be happy to receive an answer to the question: 052-3756308.



From right to left: Talia Arad, Osnat Ronen, Hedva Shaharabani, Adili Volpe, Shlomit Shapira, Adi Shaphir





A Multi-route Trip for all Ages Ramot Menashe Park and Megido Trail on Saturday 16.3.2024

The trip will be divided into four routes:

1. A short walking route leaving at 08:00 - 4 km - Nahal Gahar from Kibbutz Ein HaShofet to Ein Gahar - a route that is all downhill, close to the flowing Nahal Gahar, a shady and magical route.

2. A long hiking trail leaving at 07:30 - 7-8 km from Kibbutz Galed through Ein Nili to Raz Falls - a trail with spectacular flowers and a very easy walk in a beautiful area that is much less known. It ends near Nahal Raz, where we can dip our feet. Attention! There is a river crossing - you should also bring Shoresh sandals.

For both tracks, you should bring walking shoes that are suitable for mud.

3. Bicycle route - departure at 07:30 - about 12 km from Kibbutz Galed to the meeting place in the Menashe Forest. The route is in the field and adapted to those who are skilled cycling in fields. Real great fun with a crazy view!

It is mandatory to bring - a good bicycle suitable for off-road riding, a helmet, water, and shoes.

4. Motor trip for veterans - departure at 09:30 drive to the Wilfrid Israel Museum in Kibbutz Hazorea and from there drive to the meeting place in the Menashe woods. The four routes will meet in the Sower Forest located at the top of Ramot Menashe Park around 12:30 for a communal picnic. We will spend time together with a hot soup, a coffee corner and cake and our traditional pita bread in a Tabun.

Departure for home at 14:00

N.B.! Children up to the age of 18 must come accompanied by their parents only and are not allowed to go on the various routes without a responsible adult.

Sign up in Kehilanet or on the bulletin board according to the different routes.

Cost per participant - NIS 50

Clarification: The trip is defined 0-100 but is not financed. The trip is from the Sportiyulim budget only and therefore includes a nominal charge. Our budget is limited...

It will be fun! Sportiyulim



The Adults Purim Celebrations

Due to the ongoing war situation and the results of the public survey, it was decided that this year we will celebrate the holiday in a slightly different way.

The change was made in an attempt to take into account the diverse feelings and needs of the community.

On Friday 22.3 everyone is invited (from 12th grade and up) for a performance in the Moadon

More details in the next newsletter and other media.

• We are checking the possibility of organising a modest party in the pub, for those who feel that this is what they need.

I hope that by then all the abductees will return to their homes and the war will end and we can all return to a full routine 🙏

Tal Wolfson-Darom and Yifat Segal

English is Fun - with Rahel

GRAMMAR

Subject: Who's adorable?

He wrote: "Your adorable."

I responded with: "No, you're adorable."

Now he thinks I like him, when all I did was point out his grammar mistake!

A. "Cows kill more people than sharks."

B. "I'm surprised cows kill any sharks at all."

Subject: WEIRD If it's sent by ship, then it's a CARGO. If it's sent by road then it's a SHIPMENT.

WORD GEOGRAPHY

Suede:

From: Sweden

Explanation: Gants de Suede in French or "gloves of Sweden".

It was in Sweden that the first leather was buffed to a fine softness, and the French bought the *gants de Suede*. Suede now refers to the buffing processes – not to any particular kind of leather.

Turkey:

From: Turkey

Explanation: Turk means "strength" in Turkish. The turkey bird is a large European fowl named after the country of origin. American colonists mistakenly thought that a big bird they found in the New World was the same animal – so they called it a turkey.

Cheap:

From Cheapside, a market in London.

Explanation: The Old English word was *ceap* (pronounced "keep"), which meant "to sell or barter". Because Cheapside was a major market where people went to barter for low prices, the word gradually took on a new pronunciation ... and meaning.

Coffee:

From Kaffa, Ethiopia

Explanation: According to legend, coffee beans were first discovered in the town of Kaffa. By the 13th Century, the Kaffa beans had travelled, becoming *qahwah* in Arabia, *café* in Europe, and finally *coffee* in the New World.

Denim:

From Nimes, France Explanation: The tough cloth used in jeans was also made in Nimes. It was called *serge de Nimes* later shortened to *di nimes,* which became denim.

Slave:

From Slavonia, Yugoslavia

Explanation: After large parts of Slavonia were subjugated by Europeans in the Middle Ages, a *Slav* became synonomous with someone who lived in servitude. Eventually *Slav* became *Slave*.

Hamburger:

From Hamburg, Germany

Explanation: People in the immigration port city of Hamburg called Hamburgers liked to eat raw meat with salt, pepper and onion-juice seasoning, a treat brought to them via Russia, that we call *steak tartare* today. A boiled version using chopped meat eventually became popular in America.



Programme for 10/03/24 – 14/03/24.

Daily 08:30 – 12:00 – coffee, cake, chats, board games

Sunday 10/03

Opening the week with Monica.

09:10 Zoom Lecture – Music – Dr Motti Adler – Beethoven & Yoni Rechter

10:30 Ceramics room open with instruction from Ziv Ben Bassat

Monday 11/03

08:00 Pedicure with Limor Mualem (by appointment only)

09:30 The Art of Drawing with Chas Broadhurst

16:00 Or B'Givah is open for a get together over coffee.

Tuesday 12/03

10:00 Trivia and thinking games with Galia Shemi

10:30 Ceramics room open with instruction from Ziv Ben Bassat

Wednesday 13/03

09:30 Nature is Blooming with Hammutal

14:00 Ceramics room open with instruction from Ziv Ben Bassat

Thursday 14/03

10:00 Movie screening with Galia Shemi

17:15 Exercises on chairs with Michal Sha'anan

Credits:

Translated and edited by: Eddie Solow

Proofread by: Biff Markham-Oren

Printed by: Zohar Assaf and Hedva Sharabani

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!!!