


The Yizraelite – No 2193 Date: 31.1.25

Kibbutz Yizrael

Reut's Editorial:  On one hand, there is joy and relief over the return of the hostages. On the other hand, we are anticipating the return of hostages in coffins. We worry about the uncertainty surrounding the return of young male hostages, (including soldiers) for whom there is not even an agreement yet. We must not relax until everyone is returned. Our thoughts also are turn to those who fought on that fateful day and were killed, and to those who died during the entire period afterward, hoping that the hostages would be found but who did not live to see their return.



Congratulations to Shira and Niv Segal on the birth of their daughter, and to grandparents Nir and Yifat Segal, and Uncle Naveh. Congratulations to the entire Segal family and Shira's family. Wishing you an abundance of goodness, joy, health, and lots and lots of love.

Booking Meeting Rooms on Kehilanet

From now on, it is possible to book through Kehilanet, the meeting room and the conference room located **in the sports hall**.

Submitted by: Erez Peleg

Room	07:00 - 08:00	08:00 - 09:00	09:00 - 10:00	10:00 - 11:00	11:00 - 12:00
Meeting Room	Booked	Booked	Booked	Booked	Booked
Conference Room	Booked	Booked	Booked	Booked	Booked

Upcoming Asefa and Economic Council Monday, 3/2/2025, 20:00

Asefa Agenda

1. Internal audit report on the Planning and Infrastructure sector. Invited: Uri Greenberg
2. Appointment of positions - Proposal from the selection team to appoint **Noga Harpaz** as the Education Cluster Director
3. Committee appointments -
 - o Audit Committee - Shai Witelson to head the committee
 - o Environmental Quality Committee - Tamar Sankar (Coordinator), Alit Haviv Gilad, Amos Shemi, Paul Zelas, Axel Levin, Nitzan Feldman, Ella Cohen - continuing members, Noga Shapira - new member

Economic Council - will be directly following the Asefa.

Agenda - Presentation of goals and budget for the Holdings Corporation for 2025.



THANK YOU! We returned from a special trip to the Negev, and as the saying goes: 'We returned tired but happy.' Many wonderful people made this successful vacation possible; Navot and Ofir arranged the vehicles, Yoni and Amir for providing camping equipment, Itzik and Adi for the excellent food supplies, Ohad for his willingness to help, and all the others who enable us, as kibbutz members, to pursue our various hobbies.

With many thanks, Oz Eisner and Hanan Shaliv.



Community Management Meeting Summary January 26, 2025

Participants: Ilana Peleg, Erez Peleg, Talia Arad, Yifat Segal, Yishai Levi, Kinneret Govrin, Stas Gavrilov, Shlomo Levi, Tamir Blass, Limor Griman.

1. Community Budget for 2025

After approving the profit key, the community is expected to receive 16.7 million NIS in 2025, allocated for both the current budget and investments. Due to reduced funding sources and rising costs such as VAT increases, water, energy, and insurance,

we intend to present a budget framework similar to 2024's execution. This requires minimising investments in public buildings, consumer spending, and infrastructure, while focusing on completing the strategic goal of the construction plan in the northern neighbourhood, aiming to finish 22 units by the end of 2026.

Additionally, due to the demographic crisis and our inability to absorb enough working-age members until construction is completed, the community budget is in a deficit between income and expenses. At the end of the work plan submissions for 2025, there was a budget request gap of about 7 million NIS.

After intensive work across all sectors, we managed to reduce community expenses by approximately 3.5 million NIS through staff reductions and changes in work plans. Each sector cut costs and, and there were also layoffs.

Maor and Erez met several times with the advisory team for community management, which includes Artzi Sanker, Ron Cohen, and Ariel Dolinko. The team's position is that we need to reduce community expenses and reach a situation where the community operates on its income without increasing the amount drawn from the profit key funds.

To allocate the necessary amount for building the first 22 units over the next two years, while leaving room to repay loans in the coming years and continue accumulating for future construction, we aim to support the current budget in a reasonable manner.

Several proposals for cuts and savings were presented to the community management. Here are the discussed and approved proposals:

1. **Higher Education Committee** - Budget cut of 150,000 NIS, meaning less members going out to study in the next school year (October 2025).

2. **Clothing Branch** - Savings of about 150,000 NIS through a reduction of 1.5 million in labour costs, meaning longer wait times for clean laundry. (Thank God. My cupboards are full. Let the laundry store some of it – Ed) Also, considering a fee for excessive laundry (instead of cutting back on labour costs, they will have to hire someone to weigh clothes? – Ed).

3. **Vehicle Sector** - Additional income of 85,000 NIS by raising the price per kilometre for members by 7 agorot and increasing the charge for a company vehicle to 375 NIS per month (up from 350 NIS).

4. **Education** - Reduction of the extracurricular budget by 20,000 NIS, with a monthly reimbursement for children rising to 400 NIS starting September 2025.

Additionally, other ideas were discussed but not approved:

1. Cancelling evening meals once or twice a week - estimated savings of 30,000-60,000 NIS. It was noted that the social cost of closing the dining room for evening meals might outweigh the financial savings, and it is not appropriate to initiate a partial change in the food sector while considering a comprehensive approach.

2. Closing the "Or B'Givah" Day Centre for the elderly - currently open five mornings a week and one afternoon. An average of about 10 members and parents attend the

centre, which has high operating costs. The potential savings from closing the day centre stand at 45,000 NIS.

It was decided to focus on efficiency and cost reduction at this stage rather than closures.

Additional ideas to be considered in the future:

1. Cancelling or reducing the branch's outing day.
2. Replacing holiday gift vouchers for members with a more modest gift.

In the next meeting, we will continue discussing ways to reduce the community budget to meet our target.

Minutes recorded by: Limor Griman



H.R. Management Meeting Report - 26.1.25

Participants: Irit Shemesh, Peter Pezaro, Shlomo Cohen, Erez Peleg, Limor Griman, Rochele Matalon, Navot Assaf, Kinneret Govrin.

1. Non-Compliance with Work Obligations.

After collecting and summarising the data for 2024, the members of the H.R. management received an overview of the members' work status in terms of job scope. The data reveals that **19 members are not complying with their work obligations**, as they do not reach full-time hours even after making up for absences through the use of vacation and illness allocations. Among them, two members worked less than 70% of a full-time position this year even after "using" sick leave and maximum vacation days. Additionally, there are 13 members who exceeded the utilisation of 48 vacation days in a year, and 5 members who are in deficit of vacation days. According to work procedure, sanctions must be imposed on all members who do not fulfill full-time positions after making up for absences. Furthermore, the management was updated regarding those members who do not regularly complete full-time hours despite making up absences to reach full-time.

Discussion:

- Members should be encouraged to fill full-time positions and rely less on recording absences as a substitute for work.

- Given that there are individuals who do not regularly fulfill full-time positions and manage to compensate through absences, consideration should be given to amending the non-compliance section of the procedure to better serve the purpose and implement sanctions accordingly.
- The financial penalty is not high, and there is a need to reconsider the sum, but the message is more important.
- A procedure should be established regarding those with vacation day deficits.

Decision: To implement the non-compliance clause according to the procedure. All members listed will receive a letter and be fined accordingly. Additionally, letters will be sent to those who do not have full-time positions.

2. Ofri Ziv's Candidacy for Social Education Management Position

Invited: Ofri Ziv

With the conclusion of Adi Ilan Goldstein's role in managing social education after two terms, a call for applications was made, and Ofri proposed her candidacy. According to organisational structure decisions, the search process is conducted by the Education Cluster manager and the H.R. manager and is brought for discussion and recommendation to the H.R. management.

Ofri presented her decision to take on a role in the kibbutz after a few years of professional hiatus. In recent years, she has debated whether to choose graphic design or education, which delayed her decision-making. Ofri has been a youth leader in social education and respects the system. At one point, she worked in youth programmes, but the job did not fit in with her commitments as a parent to young children, leading her to leave the education system and work in the kolbo.

Ofri expressed her desire to connect children to the kibbutz and ensure an active system. She does not intend to make major changes or revolutionise the system.

Two main complexities may arise in the role. The first is that Ofri has children within the system. She stated that she would know how to separate her roles due to her organised nature, which tends to put the system first and foremost. The second complexity is working with Noga Harpaz, her aunt who will be her direct manager. Ofri is not concerned about this, and both she and Noga believe they will have a professional and correct working relationship.

Discussion:

- It is important for the role to be filled by someone from the kibbutz who knows the system and the kibbutz.
- Ofri does not meet all the job requirements, such as education in teaching and experience in leadership processes, but there is an advantage to studying while in the role.
- It is not ideal for relatives to work together, especially when both hold managerial positions that require close collaboration and decision-making. This does not disqualify Ofri from the role, but it must be acknowledged and addressed.
- There are concerns about whether Ofri fully understands the complexities of the role and potential conflicts with members. However, it was stated that she would have support.
- The role will be more complex in the coming years due to the economic situation and the need to reduce personnel.
- There is confidence in Ofri and trust that she can handle the role, bringing to it, good interpersonal relations and seriousness.

Decision: The H.R. management recommends Ofri Ziv for the position of social education manager. The recommendation will be presented at the asefa, and the vote will take place via ballot.



Election of Public Representatives to the Management Committee

Kinneret Govrin – H.R.

Out of approximately 60 members proposed for the position of public representative on the management committee, here are the 7 names of the members interested in standing for election at the ballot. Their names follow, along with their "manifestos." The three members who receive the most votes will be elected as public representatives on the management committee. If two or more members receive the same highest number of votes, a runoff will be held between the candidates who received the most votes. Good luck to everyone!

1 **.Anna Abramowitz:** I believe in cooperation and mutuality. I come to serve the community to the best of my ability.

2. **Eviatar Asaf:** I seek to join the management committee out of a deep sense of commitment to the kibbutz, which is, for me, much more than a place of residence - it is my home in every sense of the word. I believe that the current period presents us with significant challenges and opportunities, and I attach great importance to participating in shaping the vision and strategy of the kibbutz. The combination of a broad system perspective, along with an understanding of our community fabric, will enable me to contribute to informed decision-making that serves the best interests of the entire community. It is important to me to be a partner in the thought and decision-making processes that will shape the future of the kibbutz - both economically and socially. I believe that a delicate balance is required between preserving our core values and adapting wisely to the changing reality, and I would be happy to be part of leading these processes.

3. **Uri Gilad:** Over the years I have been in the kibbutz, I have combined operational-level activities (mazkirut, absorption committee, economic council, residents' committee...) with strategic-level activities (2030 process, Tzemed cluster, etc.). In my understanding, the two main challenges facing Kibbutz Yizrael in the coming years are:

- a. Demographic growth
- b. Management during the economic crisis

If elected to the position, I would be happy to engage in and promote these issues.

4. **Mommi Cohen** (did not submit)

5. **Adi Laviv:** I believe that the management committee is the strategic engine of our kibbutz. Its role is not only to manage resources, supervise and guide the community management, and make strategic decisions, but also to strengthen the connections within us as a community, nurture the values of fellowship and mutual responsibility on which the kibbutz was founded, and enhance our partnership as members. I see my role as a member of the management committee as a great privilege and a duty to lead our community to a thriving future while preserving the values on which the kibbutz was based and adding my own personal touch. When I think about the future, I envision a community where everyone feels he belongs and is equal. A community where we work together to advance joint projects while respecting our differences. I believe that in order to achieve this vision, we must develop a long-term strategy based on cooperation, open discussion, and listening to all voices in the community. We must also be open to new ideas and changes suited to the spirit of the times while maintaining our unique identity. I bring with me a wide range of managerial tools, from business organisations such as Discount Bank and Rafael, as well as familiarity with the kibbutz

management systems, having served as a committee coordinator in the past, a member of the secretariat, economic council, human resources manager, and currently as the operations manager of the food sector, with the complexities that this role entails.

6. **Inbal Pezaro:** If elected as a public representative, I will strive to bring an objective perspective of all population layers to the table. I have senior parents in the kibbutz, and I am a mother to a young child; I am capable of representing a diverse range of needs and thinking outside the box to make allowances for special cases, while at the same time, I believe in order. The kibbutz and its future are important to me, and this is my main motivation.

7. **Dima Tchernikovsky:** As a public representative, I intend to responsibly and devotedly represent my opinions and those of my fellow kibbutz members, with a desire for greater involvement in community life. I hope to bring to the management committee a calm and rational voice, with dedication and attention to detail, to hear and express a wide range of opinions on various matters on the community's agenda. I submit this candidacy with high motivation to invest thought and depth into every discussion that arises. I believe I have the ability to contribute and influence as a public representative on the committee.



From Erez's Desk



Dilemmas in Preparing the Community Budget for 2025:

The work on the community budget for 2025 presents us with a particularly challenging task. This is due to the numerous price increases in the Israeli economy on one hand, and on the other hand, a decrease of about one million shekels in the community's income from work compared to the income in 2024. Additionally, the funds transferred to the community from the profit key are relatively limited.

The ongoing operations of the community have created, in recent years, an increasing deficit compared to its income. This fact necessitates several simultaneous actions:

1. Significant reduction in community expenses through "efficiency" and a reduction in the services provided in the kibbutz and their quality (the process and dilemmas can be learned from the summary of Community Management meetings).
2. Increasing the amount allocated from the profit key to the community's income in order to achieve a balanced budget.
3. **Increasing the community's income from work.**

The Key to Recovery – Work

The decline in the community's income from work results from two main processes:

1. Too many members are not actually working full-time and are supplementing their work hours by utilizing vacation and sick days. To increase the community's income from work and to maintain a cooperative kibbutz framework, it is crucial for everyone to make an effort to earn a living. The immediate implication is that everyone needs to work at a defined full-time capacity. Additionally, it is important to strive for advancement and to reach as high a salary level as possible.

2. Due to past processes, a lack of available housing, and consequently a significant slowdown in the absorption of new families, we have reached a demographic crisis. This crisis is characterised by a very high percentage of retirees compared to the working-age population. **(It is important to note that there are members of retirement age who continue to work and contribute to the kibbutz's economy, and for that, they deserve appreciation).**

To overcome the demographic crisis, an ambitious strategic goal has been set to absorb about six families each year until 2030. To achieve this goal, it is necessary to provide housing, and therefore, progress must be made on building the northern neighbourhood.

The conclusion drawn is that, on one hand, there needs to be a focused effort and the allocation of sufficient resources for building the northern neighbourhood. On the other hand, additional funds must be allocated to balance the community budget. The hope is that within three years, there will be a recovery in the community's income as a result of the absorption process and improvement in members' employment data.

In light of the above, Community Management is working on a significant reduction of community expenses. The implications will be felt by all of us in a wide range of areas. One can follow the budget preparation process in the summaries of the meetings.

In Conclusion: Kibbutz Yizrael is a strong kibbutz even in these times. To emerge from the challenging period, we need to engage in deep thinking and take significant, immediate steps, both on a public level and in private conduct. Only together can we succeed. Erez Peleg

Public Buildings Team - Meeting Summary

November 27, 2024

Attendees: Hedva Shaharabani, Axel Levin, Shlomo Levi, Aviva Beutler, Limor Griman, Rotem Hillel, Erez Peleg.

Meeting Summary:

1. In the sports hall, vacated by Maytronics, offices/workspaces will be allocated for:

a) The Culture Coordinator's office (Tarbut).

b) Outside Workers Management office

c) Rights Realisation office. (Inbal Pezaro)

d) Shimon Zelas

e) Vicki Hollander (rental)

f) Rafi Baum (business)

g) Oz Eisner (accounting)

h) Vehicle branch including a key room and safety chair storage.

The building will also include a meeting room and an additional conference room.

There will also be open workspace stations for various roles that do not have a designated office, as well as for members needing a workspace outside the home.

2. The Education Administration office is currently part of the Zachat structure.

Room 9, currently used by the Music Academy, will be allocated for the Education office instead.

3. The room vacated by the Culture office under the after-school children's house (Tlaton), will be allocated to the Music Academy.

4. The space vacated by the Early Childhood office, next to the offices of Benny Sigal, Shimon Zelas, and Rafi Baum will be allocated as an additional room for the Music Academy.

5. The study room adjacent to the library will be allocated for the establishment of a playroom.

6. The Purim costume storage will be moved from the pioneers' hut to Mali's sewing room, which is located behind the activity centre. Mali will work within the clothing department (laundry).

7. The Boikiz (previous rugby clubhouse/pub) hut will be cleared, and if the development plans for the northern neighbourhood do not require its demolition, it will be allocated for conducting light woodworking classes (without electrical equipment) by Noga Harpaz. The use of the shed will be permitted provided it is approved for use by a construction engineer and will be renovated with the help of

local volunteers at no cost to the kibbutz. The distance from the residential houses in the northern neighbourhood will be examined in cooperation with the residents.



Update from the Housing Committee Correction in the Eligibility Housing List.

In the list of eligibility for permanent housing for the year 2025, which was published last week, an error occurred regarding the eligibility date for Ron Cohen – the correct eligibility date is the year 2027.

Ishai Levy



Updates from the Gardening Branch - January 2025

Unfortunately, very little rain has fallen thus far. Notwithstanding, gardens are green, and the workload in the branch is ongoing. We are continuing with work suited for the winter season, including deep pruning of shrubs, mowing, and weeding where necessary, preparing irrigation systems for the summer season, and soon we will begin shaping young trees.

We strive to plan our various tasks according to the season, focusing on the most precise timing possible for the plants and the overall workload. Each tree, whether young or mature, has its appropriate pruning times:

-**Deciduous trees:** Trees that shed all their foliage and remain bare; they usually awaken from dormancy towards the end of winter. We will prune them just before or at the beginning of their awakening, when most of their energy is directed towards growth.

- **Conditional deciduous trees:** Trees that depend on winter cold intensity; depending on the level of cold, they may enter dormancy or skip it. We will prune these trees at the end of spring or after flowering, to enjoy the beauty of their blooms.

-**Evergreen trees:** Trees that have foliage year-round and shed leaves continuously throughout the year. We aim to prune them from the end of winter to the beginning of spring, when leaf replacement occurs at a slow pace.

Pruning young trees is extremely important. Proper pruning eases the pressure on the tree and allows it to develop optimally. Additionally, pruning young trees will save work and money when the tree matures. Therefore, during February, we will focus on

pruning young trees. Although it might be slightly early for the season, it is the right time for us in terms of workload.

In conclusion, I want to emphasise the issue of garbage bin stations. We are putting in significant efforts to clean and empty them. Please make sure to dispose of items in the designated places: separate cardboard from the waste inside them, and also separate garden waste from clippings. Any mixing of waste gives us unnecessary work, which is unfortunate, as it takes just one minute of your time when you throw away trash.

In the near future, we will implement changes to the garbage bin stations. A formal announcement regarding these changes will be published later.

As of now, we do not have a landline telephone in the noi. Of course, requests can be sent through the Kehilanet, but please do not approach workers in the middle of their work or on the paths. Instead, reach out to me (Shachar) with any requests, questions, or issues.

Hoping for the safe return of all the hostages!

On behalf of the Gardening Branch,

Shachar Levi, Branch Coordinator"



Updates from MATI (Child Treatment and Counseling Coordinator)

Shalom everyone,

One of the fundamental pillars of MATI's role is to see the complete needs of the child (educational, emotional, social, academic). From this perspective, and in order to coordinate the various needs of each child, we would like to clarify the process of interacting with different treatment providers.

Please reach out to Avishag (MATI) with any inquiries related to emotional treatment, paramedical services (developmental physiotherapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy), neurological assessments for attention and concentration issues, private psychiatric assistance, as well as educational support.

We can discuss your child's needs, understand together what is required, and refer you to a professional who has an agreement with Clalit or Clalit Mushlam, as well as provide guidance regarding rights.

For children who have a referral for diagnostic educational/psych didactic evaluation, a letter from the school with a recommendation for the required evaluation must be submitted.

This year, we worked to secure reimbursements from Clalit Mushlam for psychological treatments. It is still possible to submit claims to Clalit Mushlam for treatments in 2024. We will contact the relevant families for this purpose and ask for your cooperation.

As we enter a new year, referrals for 2025 for paramedical treatments (physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy) and treatment by psychologists/clinical social workers must be submitted .

Even if your child had a referral for treatment and you are continuing with the same treatment, the referral must be renewed each year. in most cases you may seek assistance from the clinic staff to renew referrals.

Reminder regarding reimbursement procedure: Receipts for treatments that took place in 2024 can be submitted via email until 10/2/25.

Feel free to contact me by phone, WhatsApp message, or email at mati@yizrael.com.
Wishing for calm and peaceful days,
Avishag Sharoni and the Health Advisory Team



From the Memorial Service for Michal Sadur



My dear mother,
It's been a year since we parted from you. The skies cried, nature screamed, and you gave us a sign that you are in a better place, one without suffering, pain, confusion, frustration, or forgetfulness. The rainbow that appeared after your funeral signified this to us.

A full, bright rainbow and the silence. The silence that followed made it clear to me that it was over.

I miss you so much. I miss calling you Mom, hugging you, smelling your scent, and rolling with laughter until the tears flowed. To see and hear you enjoying and savouring the food I prepared because you always praised and complimented me. I miss that so deeply. There's a huge void. We continue with our daily routine, living our lives. We are here, wrapping our arms around Dad and taking care of each other. I feel sad. I love you always and forever.

Ayelet Wilder



More Notes from Music Academy



To Stas Gavrilov, the Music House team, wonderful teachers and musicians. A few days have passed since the musical ensembles concert. I am still holding onto the experience and feeling energised. There is no need to elaborate on Stas's words about the quality of the playing: "musicians of excellent level." However, I would like to share my feelings after a dialogue I had with myself: to leave my warm house or stay home?

Fortunately, "to go out" won. From the moment the concert began, and the first ensemble took the stage to perform Grieg's works, until the evening's end, including the spontaneous finale of the flute and saxophone, I felt my heart expanding, the feeling of pleasure intensifying, and the smile on my face growing; pure enjoyment. My eyes darted from the musicians to the group of students and teachers standing in the corner of the kitchenette, swaying to the music, clapping, cheering, and encouraging... a truly special group. I was impressed by the students' guidance, their togetherness and enjoyment, the uplifting mood, and the enthusiasm that also captivated me. I loved the duet of the drummers: it was wonderful including the segment played by the bass guitar and drums, which is not my preferred style, but I so enjoyed. I felt that I was granted an experience that provided me with a period of grace, exactly what the soul and mind need, especially these days. I was amazed, excited, and energised (I only regretted that my grandchildren are not part of this experience). A huge thank you to all of you. As always, I am grateful and blessed to have you, Stas, and thanks to you. Without you, Yizrael would not be my Yizrael.

May good and sane days come to us, and may everyone return home quickly and safely.

Ofra Shelef

ChatGPT Summary: Interview with Marnina Gross, December 2024 –

Interviewed and written by: Rochele Matalon

Brief Summary of Marnina Gross's Life Story: (The complete interview follows)

Marnina Gross was born in 1937 in Kiryat Haim, a socialist community in Israel, to Polish immigrant parents who were active in the Haganah. Her childhood involved smuggling weapons for the organisation. After Israel's establishment, her father worked at the Electric Company, and her mother was a homemaker involved in community activities.

As a young adult, Marnina joined the army and was part of the founding group of Nachal Oz. She later met Michi, who was part of a work group, and they eventually moved to Yizrael together. Their early life in Yizrael was filled with communal living and vibrant social activities. Marnina worked in various jobs, including working as an armourer and in the clothing warehouse, and also working in the kindergarten.

Marnina experienced challenges in attaining motherhood, particularly with her first daughter, Shulamit, who was born prematurely. Balancing work and family, she advocated for a nurturing environment for her children. After she had children, she held several jobs, including working at the store and a sewing workshop, eventually becoming a dressmaker.

Volunteering was a significant part of her life, especially in the maternity ward in Afula hospital, where she served for 30 years. Marnina lost her husband Michi after 67 years of marriage, which has left her adjusting to life alone.

Marnina has two daughters, four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. She maintains close family ties, regularly communicating with her children and grandchildren, and cherishes her role as a matriarch in her family.



Someone on the Hill - Interview with Marnina Gross, December 2024 –

Interviewed and written by: Rochele Matalon

Childhood and Family

I was born in 1937 in Kiryat Haim, which was then a distinctly socialist community. My



parents were pioneers who immigrated from Poland. After they married in 1935, they packed as if going on vacation and arrived in Italy, where there was a ship bound for Palestine. Upon arriving in the country, they had to decide where to go. My mother had a cousin in Kiryat Haim. Just then, the cousin built a block house and let them live in the shack he had lived in before. My father was in the "Haganah." The Haganah sent him to work at a British military base located at the end of our street. Weapons were smuggled from there, and sometimes we children, the kids of those who worked there, were used. We passed through without being checked. This is how we transferred various parts of weapons to the Haganah. After the

establishment of the state, my father began working at the Electric Company.

Gradually, he was promoted and became a manager. My mother was a homemaker, but she was also active in the Haganah. When we were children; I remember that sometimes my father would be home, and my mother would disappear for a while. I am the eldest; I had a sister and a brother who passed away a few years ago.

The Movement, the Army, and Nachal Oz

I began my activity in the movement "Hanoar Haoved", but it didn't quite work out there, so we all moved to the United Movement. Everyone went for "realization" (settling on a kibbutz). Those who left their kibbutz snuck back and didn't show their faces for a month or two; it was a great shame. Nitzan Feldman's father, Ben Ami, was our leader. They established a group called Netiv Sade. Ben Ami took us to kibbutz Gesher for training, and we spent a year there. That's where I got to know him and, of course, Nitzan when she was a child. At 17, I was already in the army. At first, we were in 902, called the Negev Brigade. I was sent to Nitzana to be responsible for the Nachal soldiers. The group I belonged to from Kiryat Haim came to establish Nachal Oz. I had the privilege of being one of the founders of Nachal Oz. By the way, Nachal Oz was called "Nachal Soldiers Facing Gaza." That was the name of the outpost. Later, we changed it to Nachal Oz. Someone insisted on "Oz," saying we are brave. Initially, I worked in the fields where we had carrots. Rows upon rows of carrots. Huge amounts!

We had to weed between them. We crawled on all fours. I was also an armourer in Nachal Oz.

Meeting Michi and Arriving in Yizrael

Michi arrived on Yizrael with the Kinarot garin - Shimona, Avinoam, Hanoach, Nitza, Patchi, and Mirik. When Michi came to the kibbutz, he worked in the movement. That's where I met him when he came for a work camp on Nachal Oz where he told me: "Let it be clear, I'm not staying here!" So I said, I'm not going to Yizrael! The parents started to intervene and my mother began explaining to me that she couldn't go to Nachal Oz because if we went, we'd have to walk three kilometers to get there. Somehow, they convinced me, and I came here to Yizrael. It was the end of 1956, after the



Sinai War. Michi lived in a hut, so I came to live with him in his hut. After that, we moved to the "Swedish" huts. Our Swedish hut was the first one opposite the public shower. It was fun. The boys would peek, and we discovered holes every time and would block them up. If we saw an eye, we'd put our finger in front of it. Let them feel - peeking? Feel it! We always met upon the big lawn. Social life in Yizrael was very vibrant, always. In the evenings, there were constant dances in the dining room.

Work on Yizrael

Almost every woman worked in the clothing warehouse or with the children. I worked in the clothing warehouse and in the vegetable garden, with the carrots that were here... The person in charge of the vegetable garden was Tikva, Gavrush's wife. She made our lives miserable - "You eat more than you harvest..." After that, I worked in the clothing warehouse and during that time I got pregnant. For several years, I functioned as an armourer because Michi was the armourer.

Also, because I was a weapons handler in the army, I even have my picture in the IDF diary. I worked with Ben-Dov at the metal factory. We both also did work for the Ministry of Defense, and they made us sign a declaration of confidentiality. It was very strange, but it was because of Ben-Dov, he dragged me into it. After Shulamit was born, I was sent to Beit Berl for three months, where I learned for the first time how to be a caregiver. In the 70's, I studied for two years at Oranim to be a kindergarten teacher. I opened the kindergarten because I saw that the little children, who were admitted to kindergarten at the age of two and a half to three, were overwhelmed there. I decided that at least a year before kindergarten was compulsory. I had a story with Hagar. There was a hole around the kindergarten. She was a two-year-old child! She fell in and tried to get out. Every time she tried to stand up, she bumped her head and screamed. I don't remember who came, grabbed her leg, and pulled her out.

Motherhood and Childrens' Houses

I took a maternity leave of a month and a half - and why?

Because Shulamit was born premature and small. She was born before the eighth month. We never kept children at home; they were always in children's homes. But I couldn't keep running all the time. Before that, there was almost no maternity leave, just a week. After a week the babies were put in children's homes. The mothers would run to feed them. I wanted family sleeping arrangements, but Michi opposed it. "What's wrong with her being there? You're free afterward. If she's at home, you're not free at all; you don't go out in the evenings, we'd be having fun, and you could not come." I said, go have fun... I want her by my side. Shulamit didn't get the chance, she was always in shared sleeping. But Sharon, who was born seven years later, got it. She was two or three when they switched to family sleeping. She lived with us until she reached high school age.



Other Workplaces

After that, I worked at Off HaEmek. It was in Ramat Yishai, at the chicken slaughter house, poor things, it stunk up the whole area. There were smells from the chickens. The kibbutz took over the factory's store. I started working there with Rosa and Yona.



At some point, Yona left us, and then Anton came in. Eventually, he left, and I stayed there with Rosa until the end, until they closed that store. Then Ziva Bir said - you're coming with me to the kolbo. With Ziva, you couldn't argue. I was at the kolbo for a good few years, and when I finished there, I went to the Rupin seminar to study. I studied pattern making, like at Bezalel. And, in the meantime, I learned how to sew. That's how I got into sewing. And when I returned home, I worked at Maytronics

sewing bags for robots. In the early 90's, we started making sandwiches for the workers in the fields and also for outside workers. I would wake up every morning, between two-thirty and three in the morning, go to the kitchen, and we would prepare sandwiches. I remember one day, with Beutler, (may the lord keep him healthy with all his craziness...) in the dining room, at breakfast, he put me on some kind of wagon and shouted - "Queen of the sandwiches! Queen of the sandwiches!" Beutler brought a bit of joy into our lives.

After that, I decided I was going to become a dressmaker. I entered a sewing workshop in one of the huts. At first, I worked with Helen Solow, Eddie's mother. She taught me more than the Rupin seminar and more than anyone. She was a sewing teacher. After

that, Chas's mother came in. She started sewing sock bags that are still around today. Later, Yaffa joined us. I stayed with Yaffa until they closed the workshop. Yaffa and I are good friends, to this day.

Volunteering

I volunteered at Afula hospital in the maternity ward. Because I worked here on the kibbutz, I could only volunteer there in the afternoons. In the morning, I worked on the kibbutz, and at two in the afternoon, they would come to pick me up for the hospital, and at nine pm, the driver would bring me back. The young mothers from the kibbutz enjoyed having me there. I would take their babies out to show their visitors, and many times I would sneak the husbands in. I continued volunteering there for 30 years. At 70, they called me in and said - you can't continue to volunteer here because you can't be insured. You can come to visit; we have no problem with that. And they are actually very nice. Until today, they send me gifts during the holidays.



Michi: I lost Michi seven months ago; we were married for 67 years. I still haven't adjusted to being alone. Michi was kind-hearted and a wonderful husband. At first, he was a sergeant major. For many years, he was part of the border police and was an officer. I think he was a major. Among the roles he held in the army, he was the commander of the Hermon outpost. He worked for many years in Beit Shean Harod. He was the one who drove for a living. But on private trips... less so. When I would say to him, "Let's take a car and go on a trip, a small car," he never agreed.



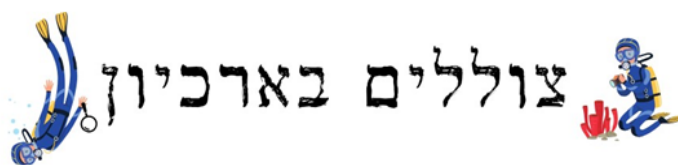
Family

Michi and I have two daughters – Shulamit and Sharon. Four grandchildren – Yonatan, Roi, Gili, and Gal. And three great-grandchildren – Michael, Abigail, and Libi. I make sure to get to the dining room when Michael arrives from school. From time to time, I go to them. Occasionally, they come here because they really love the lawn we have here. I talk to Sharon on the phone every day. And also, with Gal every day on the phone. "What did you do today? Where did you go today? Did you go to the pool? I also went to the pool." Each time he needs to know exactly what I'm doing. And if I tell him, I didn't do anything today, because I didn't feel like it, he says – "Grandma, you have to, you have to go out, you have to go." Gal has a degree in communications and education.



Today

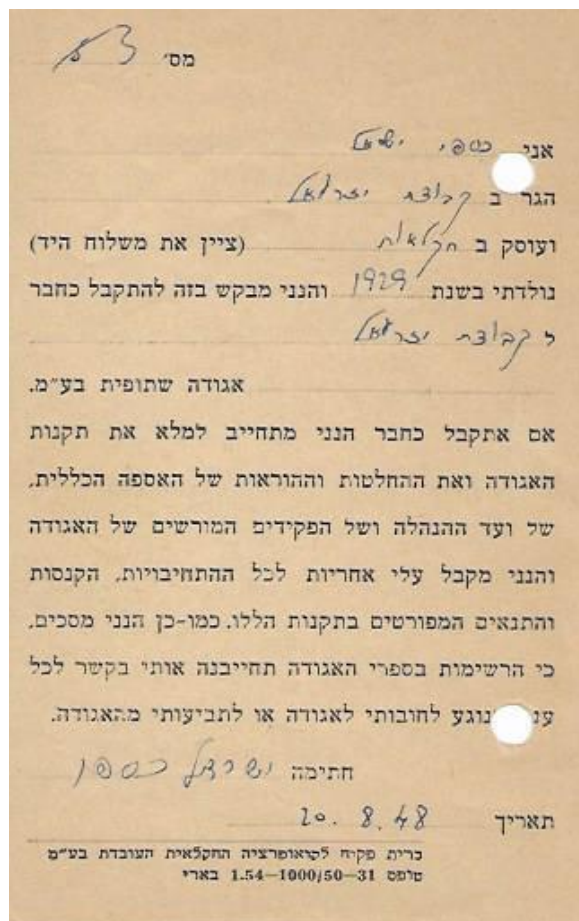
I work in the "Ta'asukon". I spoke with Ehud at the time. And I asked him – do you have something for me to do? I need to get out of the house for a few hours. Whatever you have, whatever you give me, I will do. Today, if I don't come, he worries about me. Apparently, I'm doing good work for him. Sometimes I go to Or B'Givah. If Ilana Shani, Hasida, and Shoshana come, we play Rummy Cube. So, we have a foursome. I also swim in Kfar Yehezkel. Today, I'm less involved on Yizrae. I feel disconnected. At my age, there aren't many friends. Little by little, we're dwindling. But, really, there's no one from my generation to meet. I tell the younger generation to stop being lazy and to work more. And to feel that this is their home, and to maintain the home. That's what you need to do. Do not just take. That's one of the most important things to understand. You also need to give in order to receive. Thank you very much to Marnina – wishing you health and long life. Interviewed and written by: Rochele Matalon



Delving in the Archives

"Among the treasures in the archive, there are several hundred requests for membership. Unfortunately, I did not find the forms of current members or of deceased members, only those of ex members. This form is from August 20, 1948. I assume that on that day, the founders declared themselves as members of the kibbutz. The seal is that of Israel Caspi, known by the nickname Mancho, who arrived on Yizrael with the garin from Ramat Yohanan.

Jules Feldman



New English Books in the Library

Sister's Story/Donatella Di Pietrantonio

The Porcelain Maker/Sarah Freethy

Lady's Guide to Fortune Hunting/Sophie Irwin

Forgotten on Sunday/Valerie Perrin



A

A



A Beautiful Day for Rugby On the Yizrael Field

On Saturday (1.2.25), starting at 10:00, a national rugby tournament for children and youth will take place.

At 15:00, there will be a challenging match for our youth team against a mixed team.

At 17:00, we will watch together on a big screen, the match between the Israeli national team and Andorra.

So far, three tournaments have been held in the junior leagues:

- Under 12 – Yizrael is in first place with victories in 3 tournaments.
- Under 14 – Yizrael in second place, behind the mixed team of Mammoths and the Hurricanes from Herzliya.
- Under 16 – Yizrael is in first place with victories in 3 tournaments.
- Under 18 – Yizrael is in first place with victories in 3 tournaments.

Everyone is invited to come and cheer for the teams at the home field!

Hamburgers, drinks, cappuccinos, pleasant winter sun, and a good atmosphere are guaranteed!

In the coming months, we have several rugby events planned for Saturdays. Be prepared!

Idan Zelas



Invitation

An open discussion on the health of the hostages and on our own mental health as individuals and as a community.

Thursday 13.2.23
In the Moadon

Moderated by:
Dr. Ron Golan – Physiologist, Head of Heart Rehabilitation and Sports medicine
&
Dr. Amit Har Even – Psychiatrist & Analyst

Rainfall Winter 2024-2025

Multi-year average to date: 207 mm

As compared to the multi-year average to date: 279mm (-26%)



Rainfall Table

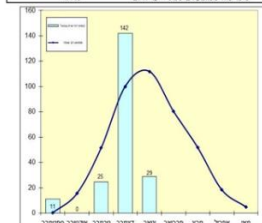
Month	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	Apr	May
Total	11	0	29	142	29				
Average	0.38	16	51	100	112	80	51	18	5

Ohad Ziv

27/1/2025 **נתוני גשם חורף 2024 - 2025**

ב- 24 השעות האחרונות (עד 08:00 ירדו - 0 מ"מ)
ב- 7 ימים האחרונים ירדו - 21 מ"מ

מתחילת חורף ינואר 2024 ירדו - 29 מ"מ
מתחילת עונת 2024 - 2025 ירדו - 207 מ"מ
ממוצע רב שנים - עד היום 279 מ"מ
שינוי מול ממוצע רב שנים - עד היום -26%



חודש	ספטמבר	אוקטובר	נובמבר	דצמבר	ינואר	פברואר	מרץ	אפריל	מאי
2023-2024	11	0	29	142	29	80	51	18	5
2024-2025	0	29	142	29	0	0	0	0	0
ממוצע רב שנים	0.38	16	51	100	112	80	51	18	5



Programme for 02/02/25– 06/02/25

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

Sunday 02 February

09:10 Zoom from Dorot B'Gilboa

17:00 Mandela drawing with Shlomit Fink. Arrange participation directly with Shlomit

Monday 03 February

08:00 Pedicure – Limor Mualem – by appointment only

09:00 Sweet from the oven with Monica and Noa

10:00 Quizzes and brain games with Galia

18:45 A musical experience with Stas Gavrilov

Tuesday 04 February

09:15 A guided tour around Maytronics

17:00 Woodworking with Noga Harpaz – “HaNogariah”

Wednesday 05 February

09:00 Tiyul – no walking involved

17:00 Woodworking with Noga Harpaz – “HaNogariah”

Thursday 06 February

09:30 “Flora”

09:30 Woodworking with Noga Harpaz – “HaNogariah”

10:00 A visit from the children of Ganon Rimon

17:15 Exercises on chairs with Michal Sha'anana

English is Fun - with Rahel

AN AMAZING SENTENCE IN ENGLISH:

"I do not know where family doctors acquired illegibly perplexing handrwriting, nevertheless, extraordinary pharmacuetical intellectuality counterbalancing indecipherability, transcendentalizes intercommunications' incomprehensibleness?"

Reason: This is the sentence where the first word is one letter long, the second word is two letters; the third word is three letters long...the eighth word is eight letters long, and so on...the twentieth word is twenty letters long!

THE TEN PRONOUNCIATIONS OF - OUGH

I **thought** it would
be **rough**
to **plough**
through the
slough (slew)
though it was falling
into the **lough** that
left me **thoroughly**
coughing and
hiccoughing.

Another sentence containing the OUGH words:

"A rough-coated, dough-faced ploughman strode through the streets of Scarborough, coughing and hiccoughing thoughtfully."

FIVE ODDITIES OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

- The two longest words containing only one of the six vowels (including Y) are the 15-letter defenselessness and respectlessness.

- "Forty" is the only number which has its letters in alphabetical order. "One" is the only number with its letters in reverse alphabetical order.
- Bookkeeper is the only word that has three consecutive doubled letters.
- Despite the assertions of a well-known puzzle, modern English does not have three common words ending in -gry. Angry and hungry are the only ones.
- Number one - nine hundred and ninety-nine - you can't find the letter A. (one thousand!)

IT MAKES ME REALLY UNCOMFORTABLE THAT THE WORD AUSTRALIA CONTAINS THREE A'S AND ALL OF THEM ARE PRONOUNCED DIFFERENTLY.

The word ANANAS is in Arabic, Armenian, Danish, Dutch, Esperanto, Finnish, French, German, Georgian, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Hungarian, Icelandic, Italian, Latin, Macedonian, Norwegian, Persian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Swedish and Turkish...BUT in English it is PINEAPPLE

.....more next week



Credits:

Editor of Hebrew Newsletter: Reut Shaliv

Translated and edited by: Eddie Solow

Proofread by: Biff Markham-Oren

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Disclaimer 1: The Editor 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 Editor’s ability to grapple with the subject matter, determine what is included.

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

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

