



The Yizraelite – No 2197 Date: 28.2.25

Kibbutz Yizrael

Edi-torial: While we are all consumed by remorse and sorrow, there are those in power, who are taking advantage of our situation and redefining our homeland. Please make an effort to read “The (almost) Back Page”

See too, Jules Feldman’s column “Delving in the Archives”. It made me feel really nostalgic. Please see it in colour on the computer or on your cellphone, even if you receive the “Hard copy”!

Reut’s Editorial:  About two weeks ago, at a meeting organised by Yonatan Witelson, with Dr. Ron Golan, who explained about the impact on the health of the hostages, Dr. Ami Hai Har-Even, who spoke about mental health issues in Israel, and is the nephew of Oded Lifshitz, who’s body had not yet been returned. Dr. Har-Even said that today we know that in order to cope with the great sadness and despair, it is very important to keep busy. Any small activity so long as we do something. Therefore, I want to express my gratitude here to those who got me up doing something, despite the weather and the mud, despite the deep sadness. It felt a bit strange to think about a festival. It was decided to hold an event, the situation notwithstanding. The 'Mini Almond Festival' got us up and moving towards the blossoming almond trees, to a social gathering, a moment of beauty, in the midst of our deep sorrow over the return to burial of a mother and her two small children, with red hair, who were kidnapped to Gaza on October 7th. 

Limor is Going on Vacation ✈️

Between March 2-11, 2025, I will be on vacation.

For any (urgent) matters, please contact Erez

Limor Griman ✈️



Congratulations to Tal and Moran Havshush

on the birth of their daughter,

a sister to Niv,

granddaughter to Amnon (may he rest in peace) and Pnina Havshush.

Congratulations to the entire Havshush family and Moran's family.

Wishing you an abundance of joy, health, and lots and lots of love.



This Is Who We Are

Permanent Exhibition at the Veterans' Hut



Photos of the veterans from the exhibition which was on display during the Agricultural Festival in the Moadon, have been transferred to a permanent home in the Founding Fathers' hut (Tzrif Harishonim). The photos were beautifully hung by our own Yaniv Shapira, and we would like to thank him—well done !

You are invited to come and take a look .

Rochele Matalon and Noga Harpaz, on behalf of the Veterans Documentation Team.



   **Gift for Passover**   

To the Community / Holdings / Agriculture

In preparation for Passover 2025, we are organising holiday gifts. This year you can choose between gifts or vouchers for various chain stores.

Those who preferred to receive a cash credit in their allowance last holiday and wish to do so again this time do not need to notify us; they are already on the list.

Please inform us by Sunday, March 2nd, (only if you wish to change your selection from the previous time).

On Sunday, March 2nd, a link will be sent via SMS from the gift website.

Feel free to reach out to us, if you have any questions or concerns. We will be happy to help.

Best regards,

Kinneret Govrin, Danit Duvdevani-Kirshberg, and Hedva Shaharabani



To the Organizers of the "Almond Festival"



A huge thank you to everyone who worked hard, organised, and helped make the festival a wonderful celebration! After the recent rains, it was the perfect opportunity to go out, meet, and enjoy the beautiful blossoms and special atmosphere together.

Thanks to everyone who didn't give up, "voted with their feet," and showed up. Special thanks to Ohad for helping with the vehicles and to Navot for stepping in to drive the tractor. You definitely enhanced the experience.

And to the food branch team—thank you for the delicious cakes and for not giving up on the "shenanigans".

We're already looking forward to next year! Yifat Segal – Culture Cluster Coordinator.



Management Committee Meeting Summary - 19.2.25

Participants: Jeremy Perling, Elad Ilan, Idan Zelas, Sigal Hadar, Tzachi Tzfadia, Limor Griman.

1. Discussion and approval of the community budget for 2025 - Invited: Erez Peleg, Maor Persai.

Maor Persai and Erez Peleg presented the Community Management's proposed budget for 2025. This proposal follows extensive discussions within the Community Management and takes into account the comments from the economic advisory team. Clarifications, questions, and comments were made regarding both the budget proposal and its presentation to the Economic Council. The budget was approved to be brought for discussion and approval at the Economic Council. (See Economic Council report in the edition – Ed)

2. Approval of Local Committee Budget

As part of its function as the local management committee, the Management committee must approve its budget which was done according to the decision from previous years which is to equal the regional council's participation and no more. At this stage, the amount of participation from the regional council is still unknown.

4. Appeal by Yonatan Orozco regarding Community Manager's Decision

Invited: Yonatan Orozco and Erez Peleg.

Yonatan presented his position in detail (See "I Care" in last week's Yizraelite – Ed). Erez's response was provided in writing and further explained to the Management Committee. The Management Committee finds that the issue is complex, involving decisions made many years ago, and the committee members do not have the ability, knowledge, or experience to delve into the matter. Therefore, the management committee's decision is to refer the examination of the issue to an external party with knowledge and experience in construction and familiarity with collective kibbutzim. After examining the issue, the findings will be published to the public. That party will also determine how their work will be charged between the parties involved.

5. Information and Miscellaneous

a. Update on the Nanikashvili Lawsuit - A hearing was held in January at the district court, resulting in a partial judgment ordering the dismissal of the lawsuit against some defendants: Yifat Assaf, Jeremy Perling, and the Holdings Corporation. The only remaining defendant is Kibbutz Yizrael. Another hearing is scheduled for April 7, 2025.

In a separate procedure at the magistrate's court, eight kibbutz members and an official were sued by the Nanikashvilis for damages amounting to 100,000 NIS for defamation against the plaintiffs (including your trusted, beloved Edi-tor – Ed). All defendants were invited to sign an agreement for collective defense by the kibbutz's attorney.

b. Learning Process of a Team from the Management Committee in Kibbutzim (The team is gathering information regarding the process of changing from a cooperative kibbutz to “Financial independence” just in case – Ed) - The team, which includes Elad Ilan, Idan Zelas, Jeremy Perling, and Limor Griman, has visited two kibbutzim so far - Kibbutz Tzuva and Kibbutz Sha’ar HaGolan. An additional visit is planned for March to Kibbutz Ein HaShofet. The team is gathering their impressions from the visits and will later present them to the Management Committee and the community in an open discussion.

Jeremy Perling and Limor Griman



Asefa Summary - February 24, 2025

Participants: 38 members,

Asefa Chairperson: Shlomo Cohen, Asefa Secretary: Uri Gilad

1. Recommendation to elect Ofri Ziv for Social Education Coordinator

Limor Griman, who also serves as Chair of Education, presented the recommendation on behalf of H.R. management:

Limor described Ofri’s work with our children of various ages

The creativity and originality that characterise Ofri as a graphic designer are also evident in her educational work, along with precision and thoroughness, attention to detail, and delivering the best possible outcomes. Ofri is deeply connected to the values of kibbutz education in general and to our unique system on Yizrael, and she can bring additional value, both ethical and rooted. Ofri has good human relations and open, accessible communication, making her a source of support for parents, children, and teenagers, as well as for the staff under her.

This will be Ofri's first managerial position, and it will require her to learn a lot. She is aware of this and is ready for the challenge. Ofri has the ability to learn quickly and effectively, both in pedagogical and social matters as well as in operational issues required of a system manager. In the pedagogical and social fields, she will continue to

be accompanied by Simona Aloni, the system's advisor for the past three years, and by Limor Grimman as Chair of Education and Kibbutz Secretary. In operational areas, she will receive support from the relevant personnel in H.R., accounting management, and from her colleagues in the education cluster.

H.R. management discussed the complexities arising from the family relationship between Ofri and Noga Harpaz, who has recently been chosen as Chair of Education and will take up her role in September. The Education Cluster operates with a small management team called the Education Forum, which includes five role holders. This forum, which meets weekly, serves as a framework for consultation and support for the managers, and most decisions are made through discussions held there. We believe this addresses the complexities arising from the family relationship.

We hope that Ofri's choice to take on a managerial role in the community will pave the way and signal a direction for additional young members to take on roles and be part of the kibbutz leadership.

Upon her election to the position, Ofri will begin a handover process with Adi Goldstein-Ilan, and starting in April, she will take over the education system.

We wish Ofri success and want to thank Adi Goldstein-Ilan for leading the system over the past six years.

Ofri Ziv rose to speak:

"Good evening, I am Ofri, 39 years old, I grew up and was educated here in the education system, worked in the system during my youth, and in my adult life, I have been a youth guide and house leader. I believe in the system, in the people within it, and in our community. I believe in simple, healthy, creative, and challenging education. I know that there will be many challenges ahead for me and the system, but I also know that I have people I can rely on. I may not have experience in managing educational systems, but I have the willingness and desire to do my best for our home and for our children, to try, and to succeed."

The voting will take place by ballot on Wednesday and Thursday, February 26-27.

2. Presentation of Candidates for Public Representatives on the Management Committee

With the end of the term for three public representatives on the Management Committee, the public is to choose new public representatives in their place.

The candidates who have proposed themselves for the position are: Eviatar Assaf, Uri Gilad, Anna Abramovitch, Dima Tchernichovsky, Momi Cohen, Adi Laviv, and Inbal Pezaro.

Voting will take place by ballot on Wednesday and Thursday, February 26-27. Each voter will choose three candidates. The three candidates who receive the most votes will be elected as public representatives on the Management Committee. If two or more members receive the same number of votes, a runoff will be held among those candidates.

Limor Griman

Breaking News:

Congratulations to Ofri Ziv, who was elected to head “Social Education”.

Congratulations to Eviatar Assaf, Uri Gilad, and Inbal Pezaro who were elected to the Management Committee.



Economic Council Summary - February 24, 2025

Attendees: 21 Council Members

Chairperson: Uri Gilad. Secretary: Shlomo Cohen

1. Community Budget for 2025: Operating and Investment Budget

Erez Peleg, Community Manager, and **Maor Persai**, Financial Manager, presented the proposed community budget as sent in the background material.

Following the budget presentation, several questions and comments were raised:

- **Eddie Solow** inquired about the cuts announced by the Community Management a few weeks ago, which are expected to impact some members financially. Instead he is proposing a general cut across all personal budgets.

Erez responded that, as presented two weeks ago at the asefa discussing the work bonus allocation, the decision to transfer 350,000 NIS from the work bonus to the 2025 budget would prevent the cuts affecting members' expenses. However, one decision would remain in effect: costing of materials used by the hairdresser.

- **Peter Pezaro** addressed the reduction of the Education Committee's budget, stating it would harm members' professional development, which could generate income. Peter proposed reducing personal budgets by about 0.5% (a loss of 20-30 NIS per member per month) to allocate the requested budget to the Education Committee.

- **Asi Mor** discussed the budget allocated for maintaining the rugby field—approximately 250,000 NIS—arguing that it is disproportionate to the contribution of the rugby club to the kibbutz. He suggested that the field could be maintained at a lower cost. Adi Goldstein Ilan joined the discussion, stating that to reduce the budget for field maintenance, revenues from various uses of the field should be paid to the community instead of allowing the rugby club to benefit from them.

Adi also mentioned that for many months, serious attention has not been given to public questions regarding support for associations—specifically rugby and the Music Academy. In a November asefa, answers were promised but have not yet been provided. Adi requested a re-discussion on the support for all associations the community backs.

In response, Erez stated that there is no budget item in the community budget specifically for supporting associations. The item under discussion is for maintaining the “**sports field**” of the kibbutz, a facility and resource in which millions have been invested. Regarding the Music Academy, he said support is reflected only in the rent charged for the use of the building, which is located in the heart of the kibbutz and could not generate higher rental income.

Erez also stated that he would bring answers to the questions raised to the asefa in the near future.

Adi and Asi proposed voting on the community budget without the rugby field maintenance item and conducting a discussion on the matter within a month.

Shlomo Cohen advised council members not to support Adi and Asi's proposal. He expressed regret that Erez promised answers and explanations but did not provide them; however, there are other ways to address this. Members can query in asefot, attend Community Management meetings, or even gather signatures to request discussion at an Asafa on the topic.

After the discussion, votes were held on the two amendments:

- **Peter's amendment:** Reducing personal budgets to increase the Education Committee's budget

In favour - 4, Against - 12. The amendment was not accepted.

- **Adi's amendment:** Voting on the budget without the rugby field maintenance item until a discussion is held

- Vote: In favour - 3, Against - 16. The amendment was not accepted.

After both amendments were not accepted, a vote was held to approve the following items:

1. The **Economic Council approves the allocation of funds from the key according to the distribution for community support and funds.** - In favour: 20, Against: 0

2. The Economic Council approves the community's investment plan totalling 23,153,000 NIS

- In favour: 21, Against: 0

3. The Economic Council approves the amount of credit taken by the community totalling 8,470,000 NIS

- In favour: 22, Against: 0

4. The Economic Council approves the community budget totalling 50,385,000 NIS: In favour: 22,

Summarised by: Limor Griman

H.R. Executive Committee Meeting Summary - 23.2.25

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

1. Outside Workers Procedure

Invited: Members of the Outside Employees Management

A further discussion took place regarding the proposal from the Outside Workers Management to update their procedure. This time, the focus was on short courses and vehicle expenses.

Regarding short courses, it was suggested to reconsider the current restriction that an outside worker can request a course only once every three years.

Discussion Points:

- Since these are professional training sessions and not for personal enrichment, there is no need to limit the number of requests; it should be left to the branch manager's discretion.
- If it concerns job advancement or salary increase, it is inappropriate to prevent attending training.
- The amount of 4,500 NIS per request is high, especially considering the education committee's budget has been reduced this year.
- There is no defined budget ceiling for the training of outsourced workers, which is problematic.

- Trust should be placed in the branch manager to exercise discretion.
- There is a phenomenon of "serial students," so it is important to ensure this outlay leads to increased income. Additionally, public funds should be distributed fairly among members.
- Community and agricultural employees are also allowed to take courses, various training courses, and study days funded by the branch and sometimes supported by H.R.

Conclusion: The training section in the procedure will be rewritten according to the comments raised, and the time limitation for requests will be removed.

Vehicle expenses. A comprehensive review was presented to the management regarding the existing ceiling in the current procedure, which allows up to 20% of vehicle expenses (whether personal or employer-provided) from gross salary. It was agreed that this decision is indeed reasonable and should be maintained.

Whether to allow company vehicles only above the average market salary (as of January '24 – 12,492 NIS).

Discussion Points:

- Providing a company vehicle necessarily reduces the salary, so it is appropriate to allow company vehicles only above a certain salary level.
- Every member should be allowed to receive a company vehicle; however, they would be required to pay the excess if the amount exceeds 20% of their salary.
- In any case, personal participation in the expense should be required from those who incur additional charges in their salary for taking a larger or more expensive vehicle.
- Vehicle expenses for everyone should also be discussed, not just for outside workers.
- The rate of 350 NIS per month has not been updated since 2012 and should be reopened for discussion.
- The issue of work vehicles in Kibbutz Yizrael is sensitive and requires proper handling.

Conclusion: Before finalising the discussion on the vehicle expenses of outside workers, a calculation of vehicle expenses in relation to the income of all members holding a work vehicle will be undertaken.

2. Young Generation Work

Invited: Ishai Levi, Ranit Levi

Due to the need for cutbacks in the community and business sectors, there is concern that this will make it difficult for the young people to find work during their "post army" period in the kibbutz. A proposal was brought for ratification by the Young Generation to facilitate the integration of young people into the kibbutz branches during this period. According to the proposal, the hourly rate for work done by a young member will be set at 15 NIS instead of 40 NIS to ease the financial burden on the branch in hiring young people.

For the young people, there would be no change; they would still be required to work for only six months and would receive the same increased budget they would have been entitled to previously. For the sectors, the cost of employing young people would be significantly lower, allowing more freedom in choosing personnel.

Discussion Points:

- The intention of the proposal is to provide young people with a safe place to return to.
- The change could come at the expense of regular members, as the work of young people would become cheaper and more advantageous for the branch.
- It is important to consider the young people and ensure job placement for them after military/national service.
- It is critical to view young people post-service and come to know the kibbutz in another light, as mature individuals standing on their own two feet, so a reduced pricing for their work may not serve the kibbutz's interests.

Decision: The H.R. management approves the Young Generation's proposal, allowing young people to work in the kibbutz for the first six months at a reduced rate across all community and business branches, except for Maytronics, where rates are defined by prior agreement.

Kinneret Govrin

Summary 2024 of the Veteran Population in Kibbutz Yizrael

Demographic Data

The kibbutz has a total of 133 individuals of retirement age.

This population is diverse, with a wide range of abilities and needs .

Members: 113; Residents:20 – (Of these, 51 live alone.)

Age	Residents	Members	Total
Under 70	1	19	20
70-80	4	49	53
80-93	15	45	60
	20	93	133

Structural Changes and Reorganisation

In 2024, a significant change occurred in the organisational structure of the kibbutz, with regards to the senior age group in the kibbutz, with the cancellation of the “Seniors” cluster and its integration under the Health and Welfare cluster. This change aimed to streamline operations, improve services for the seniors, and strengthen connections with all community systems.

Vision and Values of the Team:

-Respect for individuals, especially in old age: through listening, inclusion, and acceptance .

-Recognition of the importance of continuing meaningful lives in old age .

-The kibbutz as a supportive aging community.

Team Goals:

-Adapting to changing needs: health, security, social interaction, alleviating loneliness .

-Maintaining accessibility: linguistic, digital, physical .

-Ensuring continued beneficial integration, involvement, belonging, and relevance within the community and individual lives .

-Support during this new life stage.

Team Members:

-Inbal Adler – Coordinator (part-time)

-Monica Brustein – Operator of “Or B’Givah” (part-time)

-Noa Armoza – Field caregiver and active partner in “Light on the Hill” (full-time) .

-Galia Shemi – Regular volunteer at “Or B’Givah”.

Activities for the Seniors:

Some of our activities during 2024 included :

Retirement: This year, we started a tradition of meeting with members approaching retirement or who have retired, needing to reorganise their lives. Following these meetings, a “Retirement Workshop” was held with Sigal Shifman. The activities around retirement are in full collaboration with H.R.

-Preparing Homes for Winter: Collaboration with the building team and Erez Peleg, Community Manager.

"Excursions and Meetings “Close By”: A series of excursions once a month, including meetings with interesting people and walking routes, based on previous excursions led by Paul Zelas.

Monthly Veteran Get Togethers: Monthly gatherings in the moadon around interesting topics: meetings with kibbutz members, musical gatherings, or topics related to our lives. The meetings include social time around dinner or afternoon tea .

Gardening Work: Collaboration with the older children providing a service to interested veterans in the maintenance of their gardens.

Home Care

A significant part of our work involves providing personal support to members in their homes. This includes foreign caregivers (currently, there are 15 women caregivers and one male caregiver on Yizrael) plus Israeli caregivers. We maintain continuous contact with various caregivers, conducting Hebrew lessons weekly and hosting a monthly caregiver meeting for their welfare and professional advancement .

We typically invite family members for discussions to align expectations and collaboratively build a tailored plan. In this area, we work as a team with Talia Arad, Health and Welfare Manager, to provide appropriate responses for members

according to kibbutz regulations and capabilities, as well as maximizing rights from the National Insurance Institute. Maximizing these rights allows us to receive financial assistance from the state and partial funding for health and care-giving expenses .

This year, a clear procedure regarding personal care and caregiving was published, **(available on Kehilanet)**

Or B’Givah

" Or B’Givah" continues to play a significant role as a community centre, providing not only activities and social interaction but also a sense of belonging and meaning for the older members and residents .

The centre addresses loneliness through social gatherings, and activities tailored to participants’ needs. It also offers accessible options for physiotherapy, occupational therapy, mind-body treatment, and pedicure .

In 2024, "Or B’Givah" continued to establish its status as an important institution in the kibbutz, serving not only the older population but also inviting different generations to participate. This fosters a connection between the older members and the entire community, providing opportunities to remain active, relevant, and healthy both mentally and physically.

Examples of Activities at "Or B’Givah"

- Series of trips that do not entail walking
- Mind games and trivia
- Diverse lectures by kibbutz members
- Meetings with kindergarten children
- Good Film Club
- "Carpentry" – with Noga Harpaz
- Chair exercises with Michal Sha’anan
- Musical meetings with Stas

Goals for "Or B’Givah" for 2025: Adding movement to activities, special summer programmes. Ongoing activities during holidays with the youth and toddlers, local meetings with officials and branch heads, collaboration with another kibbutz in the area, Good Film Club in the evening.

Activities at “Or B’Givah” are supported by many dedicated volunteers. The regular volunteers are Galia Shemi, Hammatal Assaf, Noga Harpaz, Rochele Matalon, Chas Broadhurst, Michal Sha’anan, and Zohar Assaf.

Special thanks to Biff Markham Oren and Aviva Beutler for opening a physiotherapy and occupational therapy room at “Or B’Givah.” The team is open to additional ideas and to people interested in contributing their time for the sake of the older members of the community.

Mobility in Old Age

With aging, many seniors experience a decline in their mobility, including difficulties in driving and going out of the kibbutz. As a result:

- * Organised trips (with financial participation) are arranged for seniors.
- * Efforts are made to assist with transportation for medical needs, relying on family members, volunteers, and sometimes even the staff.
- * There is an ongoing need for volunteers to drive seniors to medical treatments, both in the nearby area and for slightly longer trips.

Challenges and Looking Ahead

In 2024, we managed to expand and strengthen activities for seniors and build a supportive community infrastructure. The goals for 2025 are to work towards an accessible community in various aspects, establish intergenerational activities, and provide responses and connections with the entire senior population in the kibbutz.

An equally important goal is to operate, as much as possible, with outside resources and continue to become more efficient in order to maintain the budget framework, which has been reduced due to the decrease in community resources in 2025.

In conclusion – it is important to emphasise that aging brings many challenges and there is significant variation among seniors. The senior team does a lot... learns, develops, assists, and supports, but cannot replace family.

The personal connection with family members remains the most crucial component in alleviating loneliness and maintaining mental health, which are the central challenges in aging.

Inbal Adler

Correction from the Previous Newsletter – Environment Committee

In the previous newsletter, it was stated that the removal of cardboard is done by the landscaping division and takes about two hours a week, but it actually refers to one workday per week. Additionally, clearing the trash bins also requires about two workdays per week.

Thanks to Shachar, head of the landscaping division, and the dedicated team for their important and significant work in preserving environmental quality.

Tamar Sankar

From the Young Generation Committee

The second meeting with the "Rimonim" in Preparation for the Transition to the Young Generation

Last Sunday, we gathered for a discussion on “optimal money management” with the "Rimonim" (12th graders), as part of the preparation programme for the transition to the Young Generation. The session, led by Irit Mor, addressed important and significant topics for the young people's adult lives.

The conversation opened with the question: "You received 10,000 NIS!!! What are you going to do with the money?" The diverse answers sparked a thought-provoking discussion and led to explanations on essential topics such as expenses versus income, the difference between credit and debit cards, various restrictions on cards, receiving alerts on expenses, and even setting a monthly spending limit.

Irit emphasised the concept of “linked to the index,” which they see on their budget sheet each month but didn't previously understand its significance.

The conversation was invaluable, providing the "Rimonim" with important tools for wise financial management and practical knowledge for life.

A big thank you to Irit Mor for her willingness and for facilitating such a practical, down-to-earth discussion.

I would like to note that the young men and women expressed great interest in the topic, and it was very encouraging to see this.

Looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting. Keren Stamper Kagan

"Ya'akov Agam is in the Subconscious of Israeli Art"

Yaniv Shapira

Curator Yaniv Shapira has renewed the permanent exhibition at the Agam Museum in Rishon L'Tzion, adding a dialogue between the works of the veteran artist and the geometric textile art of Uri Tzaig.

From an article by Hagit Rotem-Peleg in "Portfolio" magazine.

"I have always imagined Ya'kov Agam as someone who resides in the subconscious of Israeli art. We all know him.

Each of us can probably name a work, a square, or a building facade that Agam



created, whether in Israel or abroad. But do we really know him?" This is a good question. The one posing the question is curator Yaniv Shapira, with the opening of the new permanent exhibition he has overseen, along with another exhibition he curated, which brings Agam together with textile artist Uri Tzaig, former head of the textile design department at Shenkar College.

Agam is certainly one of the most recognised artists in the public sphere in Israel, beyond the art circles. The veteran giant, now 97, is among the most important Israeli artists globally. However, he is also one of those marginalised from the local canon—perhaps "thanks" to his phenomenal international success, perhaps related to his different lifestyle and individualistic personality, or perhaps due to his modernist artistic style, which has never spoken in the "language of local art." The question of "do we really know Agam" is taken up by the museum which opened in 2018, dedicated to him and his work in Rishon L'Tzion, his hometown.

"I was invited by Ruti Macabi, director of the Ya'akov Agam Museum, to refresh the permanent exhibition and provide my own interpretation," says Shapira, who comes to the task after years at the helm of the Mishkan L'Omanut Museum in Ein Harod and other projects focusing on Israeli art. "We had many discussions about the role of the museum and its goals for the near and distant future. The case of Ya'kov Agam sparked particular interest for me, precisely because it was not my natural choice of focus".

How has Agam influenced the museum? Was he involved in the preparations for the new exhibition?

"Agam was involved in the planning process of the museum and met several times



with architect David Nofar. The museum's interior was also partially adapted to the spiral architecture of the Guggenheim in New York (designed by Frank Lloyd Wright), to include a work that was originally exhibited there, as well as the

work 'Jacob's Ladder.' However, in this exhibition, Agam was not involved at all. I had complete freedom to choose the works and apply my curatorial and interpretative perspective. Besides the works that became part of the structure, such as 'The Columns of Lilah'—a work dedicated to his late wife".

Shapira approached the project with curiosity and questions, which led to curatorial decisions. One of the first was to add a timeline that guides visitors with information, milestones, and examples of works from different periods in Agam's long life, ascending the winding path from the ground floor to the upper gallery.

"I wanted to provide museum visitors with a renewed acquaintance with Agam's artistic journey from the start of his career. To see through the works in the permanent exhibition how he developed his artistic language; to get to know his sources of inspiration and his dialogue with the spirit of the times. As I delved into the project and researched the topic, the gap became clearer to me between his artistic enterprise, his artistic success, his significant mark on Western art, and the recognition he has received globally, versus his limited presence in Israeli art—in discourse, research, and exhibitions".

"Through the exhibition, I aimed to tell his story and to allow for a renewed acquaintance with his work for the local art community as well. I see this exhibition as a foundation that will allow for the discovery of Agam's work and from there to explore it, write about it, and present it in various contexts".

Paintings in Motion

Ya'akov Agam was born in 1928, one of seven children in a religious family in Rishon L'Tzion. His father was a rabbi with an interest in Kabbalah, and Agam followed in his footsteps, blending Jewish and spiritual elements in his work throughout his career. As a child, he studied in a cheder but was also drawn to music and art, and at 18, he began studying at the "New Bezalel" under artist Mordechai Ardon.

"Agam had two significant museum exhibitions in Israel, both very early on," says Shapira. "In 1958, he presented 'Painting in Motion: Changing Images' at the Tel Aviv Museum, and in 1973, a major traveling exhibition titled 'Images and Sculptures' reached the Tel Aviv Museum, having been shown at venues like Stedelijk in Amsterdam, the Museum of Modern Art in Paris, and Kunsthalle in Düsseldorf. It was considered a great success in Tel Aviv, despite being presented during the challenging period of the Yom Kippur War. He never had a solo exhibition at the Israel Museum."

How do you explain this?

"There could be several reasons: Agam's personality and the fact that he didn't belong to any local social circles, his artistic career, which primarily took place abroad."

"Agam's art did not engage with the social or political dimensions prevalent in Israel, nor did it focus on representations of landscapes or portraits. Agam addressed contemporary artistic questions and trends, such as kinetic art, art in motion, abstract painting and sculpture, and colour theory. These were difficult to digest within the Israeli art space."

It's hard to say whether the commercial projects he was involved in contributed to or overshadowed his artistic status in the country. These included designing the colour palette for the facade of the Dan Hotel facing the beach and the colour scheme for the Ne'eman Towers in North Tel Aviv. His fountain in Dizengoff Square is perhaps his most famous public work.

What were the challenges in re-curating the permanent collection?

"...working with the existing collection and the challenge of obtaining early works by Agam, most of which are abroad. I decided to 'go with what we have,' being attentive to the qualities of the location and the existing works in the museum's collection. I emphasised sensory experience, large scale, colour, and the spectacle of the space. I added additional elements, mainly early works, smaller pieces, and works on paper—inviting a more intimate encounter and an artistic and intellectual experience."

Geometric Encounter Between Generations

During the work on renewing the permanent display, the temporary exhibition "Ya'akov Agam and Uri Tzaig: Surfaces in Motion" also emerged, showcased in the gallery for changing exhibitions. According to Shapira, the inspiration for the exhibition came from a visit to the Venice Biennale and the consideration of the significant space dedicated to traditional crafts and textile art in contemporary art.



"This exhibition is a kind of continuation and expansion of the permanent display, focusing on Agam's print medium and the encounter with rugs by Uri Tzaig, woven by Bedouin women from the village of Lakia. It creates a dialogue between abstract forms, modes of movement, and observation, turning the viewer into an active participant

in the exhibition. The question of Israeli art occupies me greatly, especially in its interface with international art. Where are the local roots, local identity, and local language found, and where do they weave into international relevance? When can Israeli products interest or be displayed at venues like Tate, Pompidou, MoMA (just examples) and generate interest? The exhibition, in its three parts—the permanent display, the timeline, and the joint exhibition with Tzaig—allows for an exploration of Agam's Israeli, Jewish, and artistic identity."

Sent to the newsletter by Noga Ken-Dror Shapira

P.S. A guided tour of the exhibition is planned with Yaniv before Pesach. Details to follow.

Our Omri Schwartz, Moving Forward - Commemoration Project

Doron Kagan

Shalom everyone,

I think it is important to share a small personal touch of sanity amidst the insanity that has accompanied us recently. This is about a living and breathing commemoration project in the spirit of Lieutenant Omri Schwartz, may his memory be blessed, a

nephew of a good friend of mine, who was killed in combat in Gaza about a year ago. The project was created by Omri's parents and friends, out of a desire to provide a support space for close friends of the fallen. I invite you to read about the project and lend a hand...Doron Kagan

A Bit about Omri, May his Memory be, Blessed and my Request to you on Behalf of his Family

Lieutenant Omri Schwartz was killed in a battle in northern Gaza on December 20, 2023. Days before, he wrote in his diary: "The smile doesn't leave my face... our generation, our turn." Omri was a quiet leader who knew how to connect people and acted out of love for the land and those around him. To continue his path, we established "Our Omri Schwartz, Moving Forward," an organisation that commemorates the values that were important to him: friendship, leadership, and action. The organisation leads two main projects:

"The Group": A support framework for groups of "bereaved friends" who have lost a friend, which will include retreats and workshops for organic groups and community social initiatives in memory of lost friends.

"In Omri's Fields": A natural space for individuals and groups in the fields near Shadmot Dvora, close to the Israel Trail, allowing for connection, therapy, and growth in Omri's spirit.

To implement these projects, I have taken on a personal goal for fundraising, along with many others who have joined, and I invite you to be a partner in this amazing project and help us commemorate Omri and his spirit by clicking the link and making a donation.



<https://www.jgive.com/new/he/ils/donation-targets/143588/about>

Delving in the Archives

The changing urban landscape. Thanks to Ruti Becker for the photos she provided for the archive!

A Greek philosopher Heraclitus said: "You cannot step into the same river twice."

Our urban landscape changes frequently. This newsletter features photos of the sports hall.



Sports hall (old Granary), parking lot, and steam room from 1984.

: "The sports hall"

The building served as a grain warehouse and was then renovated to become a sports hall. Later, it was transferred to the industry sector, first for the cable factory and then for Maytronics offices. Today, it has returned to the community's ownership.



"Above: the water tower with the refet in the background."



Lul HaMeshupatz, The Silo, Lul Ha'aroch & the Water tower

**Mark your calendars:
Cultural Evenings at the Library in March**

Thursday, March 13, 2025, at 20:30

"In Place of Farewell": A literary, musical, and cinematic gathering with Ziv Yonatan
In honour of the centenary of the poet Nathan Yonatan's birth.

Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 20:30

Alphabet Reading for Children with Einav Goldman

A lecture on reading books to children and techniques that will turn written words into
a living and touching story, because our reading can also improve, upgrade, and
receive a new edition.

Tea and cookies - on us, going out in the evening - on you...

New English Books in the Library

Shrines of Gaiety/Kate Atkinson

Small Miracles/Anne Booth

Lady's Guide to Scandal/Sophie Irwin

Book of Two Ways/Jodi Picoult

The Windsor Knot/S.J. Bennett



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The Back Page (Almost) - Dr. Maya Mark

Dr. Maya Mark, Post Doctoral Fellow



Maya Mark was a post-doctoral fellow in the Minerva Center for the Rule of Law under Extreme Conditions in 2016-2018. Maya conducted an interdisciplinary project of law and history which examined the Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance as a case

study for the rule of law under extreme conditions.

Maya obtained her LLB (magna cum laude) and LLM (magna cum laude) from Tel Aviv University.

Her doctoral research, conducted under the guidance of Justice Prof. Daphne Barak-Erez and Prof. Arie Naor, deals with Menachem Begin's world view of law and regime. Maya was an intern at the Supreme Court (the chamber of Justice M. Naor) and a senior clerk for Justice E. Hayut. She is currently a lecturer at The Buchmann Faculty of Law .at Tel Aviv University

Fight or Emigrate???

Millions of Israelis, who only want to live normal lives in a normal country, must now make a decision: will they fight for Israel or emigrate from Israel? But to make this decision, one must internalise that these are the two options available, and that the time for repression, complaints, and passivity has passed.

I see you, and sometimes I see myself too. The disconnection from the news because it's too much to handle, the growing despair, the questions that plague every time we look at our children—what kind of future awaits them in this place. I see people around me going back to what they've done for many years—complaining with friends about the situation on Friday evenings, shrugging their shoulders, fuming about the ultra-Orthodox, repressing, saying “it will be fine,” sinking back into routine. But we can't continue to do this anymore. In fact, the reason we've reached the current situation is that the silent liberal majority spent many lost years thinking they could

afford to ignore “politics,” not realising that one day it would come and trample them with full force.

Indeed, there are countries in the world where a person can avoid the news and not be overly interested in what’s happening. Countries where one can get a degree, build a career, raise children, and after all that, raise his head and discover that the country has remained more or less the same. Not in Israel.

Because during the years that the liberal majority slept, the religious and ultra-Orthodox minority in Israel built its power. Because when you were angry that the ultra-Orthodox do not serve in the army and live at your expense, you didn’t understand that what is even more dangerous and serious than the theft of your tax money is what they are doing with it—they are nurturing religious and political education systems that teach against you, and their graduates vote against you. And in the years when you preferred to ignore that Israel is the only country in the world without borders and thought that the Wild West that grew in the settlements was far from you—the religious right built media outlets, preparatory schools, and entered secular schools and the army, preparing for a regime change that would allow them, along with their ultra-Orthodox partners, to take away freedom, rights, and money from the majority. Now we don’t have another twenty years. Now it’s to be or not to be. If we sink again into despair and indifference, the next time we lift our heads it will be too late. The goals are clear, as they have always been - an immediate halt to funding the political religious education systems, the immediate dismantling of the stipends for yeshiva students, mandatory military or civil service for all, a protected constitution, and defensible permanent borders with international guarantees. If these goals are not achieved, we can get up and leave now because from here it only deteriorates, and fast. The past year was just a soft promo for the future of a religious, undemocratic, economically failing, and internationally isolated Israel. The full-length feature will be much, much worse. A Jewish state or a state of halacha. A democratic state or a religious dictatorship. A thriving economy or destruction. National dignity or international isolation and rejection.

And those who choose repression and indifference instead of fighting for home must understand that this time—they are choosing.

Dr. Maya Mark - Policy Researcher in Extreme Situations



Programme for 02/03/25– 06/03/25

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

Sunday 02 February

09:10 Zoom from Dorot B'Gilboa – Around the World – Modern Cairo with Yardena Dagan

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

09:30 Quizzes and Brain Games with Galia

16:00 Coffee with Monica and Ita

Tuesday 04 February

09:00 Holistic treatments with Shlomit Fink – appointments by arrangement with Shlomit

10:00 Movie screening with Galia

Wednesday 05 February

09:30 Nature is Blooming with Hammutal

17:00 Woodworking with Noga Harpaz – “HaNogariah”

Thursday 06 February

09:30 “Flora” and activities for International Women’s Day

09:30 Woodworking with Noga Harpaz – “HaNogariah”

10:00 To be advised

17:15 Chair exercises with Michal Sha’an

Updated and Corrected chart - Physical Activity for the Senior Population

Cut it out and save it!!

DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	PLACE	CONTACT PERSON / TEL
Sunday	17:30	Feldenkrais - Eddie	Tzrif Rishonim	Eddie Solow 052-3756240
Monday	05:45	Feldenkrais - Eddie	Tzrif Rishonim	Eddie Solow 052-3756240
	08:00	Fitness Workout - Eran/Yonatan	Rugby gym	Eran Sapir 052- 4265377
	08:10	Age Preserving Exercises - Yonatan	Rugby gym	Eran Sapir 052-4265377
	17:15	Pilates - Limor	Movement Room	Limor Doron 052- 8440539
Tuesday	17:30	Feldenkrais - Eddie	Tzrif Rishonim	Eddie Solow 052-3756240
Wednesday	08:10	Age Preserving Exercises - Yonatan	Rugby gym	Eran Sapir 052-4265377
	17:15	Pilates - Limor	Movement Room	Limor Doron 052-8440539
Thursday	05:45	Feldenkrais - Eddie	Tzrif Rishonim	Eddie Solow 052-3756240
	08:00	Fitness Workout - Eran/Yonatan	Rugby gym	Eran Sapir 052-4265377
	17:15	Exercises on Chairs - Michal	Or B'Givah	Michal Sha'anana 052-2910733
	17:30	Feldenkrais (Twice on Thursdays) - Eddie	Tzrif Rishonim	Eddie Solow 052-3756240

Reminder: Exercise for your health! The Health Cluster will refund 50% of the costs. (see the health Cluster Procedure or talk to Talya Arad) Ed

English is Fun - with Rahel

English is a language not noted for its logic.... (continued)

- Once he'd gone past the point of no return, there was no going back.
- Publicize your business absolutely free. Send \$6.
- The only difference between me and a madman, is that I am not mad. (Salvador Dali)
- Turn your coins into cash today.

- Ad for answering machine: You may leave messages of any length up to five minutes.
- China is a big country, inhabited by many Chinese. (French president Charles de Gaulle)
- Nobody is consistent consistently.
- Normally, she is pretty normal.
- I think I have an incredible level of credibility.
- I think it is important that the store was founded in 1898 and is still in existence with the same name and customers.
- Consider these numbers from the same year: 91% of clergy were men, 92% of engineers were men, and 90% of men were dentists.
- Last night in the NBA, most of the winning team that played won.
- There are good days, and there are bad days, and this is one of them.
- Weather Forecast by a TV station: Severe thunderstorm watch until 4.30 this afternoon. Stay inside. Do not use electrical appliances. Please stay tuned for further information.
- Late one morning, discussing why the cleaning lady hasn't shown up, Edy says, "She's never this late unless she isn't coming."
- If you can't keep quiet, shut up!
- Go see for yourself why you shouldn't see that film.
- All generalizations are bad
- He made a left turn into wrong-way street.
- She's the same age as I am, but a year older.

- Every single man in that room was married.
- Recent tests conducted by a zoologist prove that grasshoppers hear with their legs. In all cases, the insect hopped when a tuning fork was sounded nearby. There was no reaction to this stimulus, however, when the insects' legs had been removed.

.....more next week

Credits:

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Disclaimer 1: The Edi-tor and translator does his best to provide an accurate reflection of the Hebrew Alon. Please be warned that it is not a direct translation. The original Hebrew text is the official version. This is of particular importance when it comes to decisions and procedures! Not all the material published in the Hebrew newsletter appears in “The Yizraelite”. Considerations of length, readers’ interest and the Edi-tor’s ability to grapple with the subject matter, determine what is included.

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

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