



The Yizraelite – No 2168 Date: 26.7.24

Kibbutz Yizrael

Edi-torial: Another sad week for all of us... besides Bibi. He had the time of his life. Not a bad speech Bibi. I give you **7/10. There is room for improvement!**



Congratulations to Shai and Shalev on their marriage.

Congratulations to Yarden Naor and Dotan Savir, to Ben and Mai, to Savta Rachel Grossman, and to the whole family.

Congratulations to Shalev's entire family.

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



Asefa Report - 22.7.24

Present: 45 members in the moadon and additional members on Zoom and Channel 900.

At the beginning of the meeting, Nitzan Feldman tabled a question to Erez Peleg, the community manager. A response will be given at the next meeting.

Nitzan's Question: After 9 months of war, when we know that the war is here to stay with us for a long time, and the front is expanding and essentially, the entire country is a front, when UAVs are landing wherever they please, not necessarily near the border, I would like to know if and what has been done regarding the protection of all members' homes that do not have a safe room? It should be remembered that a significant number of those without safe rooms are elderly members for whom running to a shelter, even if it is close, and going down a flight of stairs (even running) is not at all relevant for them and could also be a risk.

1. Recommendation of the search committee of Limor Griman for the position of Kibbutz Secretary Mazkira:

Limor presented her candidacy to the asefa. Her statement was sent in a separate message in Kehilanet. Kinneret presented the recommendation on behalf of the search committee. Additional remarks were made by the community management and several members in praise of Limor and recommended her for the role. The chairman of the asefa added words of blessing and thanks to Yifat, who has completed six years in the role of Mazkira.

2. Rochele Matalon's candidacy for the management of the "Outside Workers" Branch

Rochele presented her candidacy to the asefa. Kinneret presented on behalf of the community manager and herself the process, their recommendation for Rochele for the position. Peter added his warm support.

Uri Gilad and Shlomo Cohen on behalf of the Asefa Committee.

Stop Press: Both candidates were duly elected in the ballot 25.7.24. We wish them both all the best – Edi-Tor



HR Updates - Call for Public Representative for the Management Committee

Adi Ilan Goldstein must end her role as a public representative in the management committee due to Elad Ilan's entry. Elad will replace Avner Alterlevi as the representative of the Reserve Fund. Thank you to Adi and Avner for their participation in the management committee and the time they dedicated to the role.

Members can suggest names of other members or propose themselves. There will be a check of the candidates' willingness to run for the position, and afterward, the full list of candidate names along with their "I believe" statements will be presented at the Asefa.

The member who receives the most votes will be chosen as the public representative on the management committee. If two or more members receive the same number of votes, a second round will be held between them. Members of the audit committee and their spouses, members of the management committee and their relatives (siblings, spouses, parents, and children), and members of the community management and Holdings Board are not eligible for candidacy.

The management committee is responsible for managing the kibbutz's policy and strategic issues, including overseeing the work of the subordinate managements to whom powers were delegated from the management committee. Management committee meetings are held once a month for 4 hours during daytime hours. The term of office: 4 years.

Candidacies can be submitted from 28.7.24 to 11.8.2024 via the designated survey form on the Kehilanel. All applications will be collected, candidates will be asked about their willingness to run, and the list will be published publicly, as is, without filtering and sorting. Subsequently, the candidate list will be presented at the asefa, and the selection will take place by ballot.

Kinneret Govrin



Update on Members' Work in Maytronics

On 14.7.2024, a meeting was held with kibbutz members regarding work in Maytronics. About 50 members attended. A respectful dialogue ensued. Various issues were raised, such as the complexity of factory-kibbutz relations over the years, the dilemmas and implications of being an owner-employee versus being an employee like the others measured by the same standards, the need for a kibbutz representative to provide support during difficult times, the concern for continued members' work in the company, the gradual decline in the number of members working in the company over the years, and the difficulty in being accepted and integrated into the company.

The meeting highlighted the deep emotional connection of the members to the company, the sense of home that for some has been shaken, and the request for protection and support from the kibbutz, as well as the desire for the kibbutz to be more assertive in member recruitment and preventing job terminations. It was also noted that the company has undergone changes over the years, global expansion, growth in the number of employees, and the need to understand that demands are changing and so is the sense of family. The meeting sharpened the problems and challenges, and the need to build trust between the kibbutz and the company that may have been shaken or inadequately addressed over the years. It is important to say that there is an understanding in the kibbutz HR of the sensitivities and complexity of the issue, and the subject will continue to be on the agenda. Considering this, the establishment of an ad hoc team from the company's employees to address the issue will be considered.

Following that meeting, a joint meeting was held with Sharon Goldenberg, CEO of Maytronics, Galit Ginzburg, VP of HR, and Ron Cohen, Holdings Manager (and Maytronics Managing Director – Ed), to present the members' feedback and sentiment.

As a result, it was agreed to establish a kibbutz member employee community to have regular discussions with Sharon and Galit, which will take place at intervals deemed appropriate (monthly/quarterly) where members will receive updates and can ask questions and share concerns. Kinneret, the kibbutz HR manager, will take part in the meetings to maintain involvement and connection between the kibbutz and the company.

In August, there will also be a meeting for all kibbutz members to meet company personnel and get to know the products, with the aim of making the company more accessible and attractive to the members.

This period is complex and requires patience and perseverance. The employees have been updated on several recent decisions aimed at efficiency and cost-saving including closing the company, for all company employees, during the summer holidays.

Thanks to the company employees, thanks to the members who attended the meeting, and to all those who are helping to think about how to improve the situation and increase the number of members working in the company and retain the existing ones.

Members, especially Maytronics employees, are welcome at any time to consult and update with the kibbutz HR and will receive assistance as much as possible.

Kinneret Govrin, HR.



Housing Committee Updates for July 2024

- Lia Cohen has moved into a permanent home, the late Arnie and Peggy's house. We wish her a speedy adjustment and success in her new home.
- Matthew Emerik has moved into a temporary home, (which was previously Lia Cohen's).
- The Laviv and the Shechter families will move in August to temporary homes in the parent housing area (the new houses built opposite the western gate).
- The late Dani Harpaz's house will undergo renovations in the near future, after which Dotan Savir will move into this house as a permanent home.

Reported by: Aviva Beutler, Housing Committee Coordinator.

Someone on the Hill

Interview with Miki Touz and Nava Sloman



Nava: I was born in South Africa and grew up there. My father was an accountant, and my mother had a clothing store. I had one brother, and he also immigrated to Israel at some point and then moved to the United States.

In my youth, I joined the Habonim Dror movement. I married Tolli Sloman in South Africa, and we immigrated to Israel in 1957 as part of a group of people from South Africa, Australia, and England (from my group, only Pnina Omer stayed in the kibbutz). We were twenty years old and spent a year on Kibbutz Ginnegar.

Those were very tough times, especially on Ginnegar. We weren't allowed to visit our children whenever we wanted... and there were all sorts of strict rules... Overall, we didn't know Hebrew, so we had to learn the language too. You would go to the hospital to give birth, and you wouldn't know if you were saying the right thing or not.

We were looking for a place to live, and people came from many kibbutzim to persuade us. We were a group of thirty-something people; we wanted a kibbutz on the border, and we eventually chose Yizrael, which really had no trees or anything... The custom of children sleeping in "Children's" Houses and not in their parent's houses was difficult for us. There were many single people on Yizrael who couldn't understand. They said it would be "the end of Kibbutz Yizrael" if the children slept at home.

Later, when they became parents, it was a different story. I think the issue came to a vote three times, and only on the third time did it pass and the children could be home with their parents at night.

This change caused a new problem; we needed another room. The houses used to have only one room, which served as both the living room and the bedroom. Solving the housing problem took years.

Miki: I grew up in a big city, Johannesburg. We were a very Zionist family. My father was involved with the Zionists in Russia and was very active in South Africa. Every Zionist meeting was always at our house. Every Saturday morning, we would go from house to house with the blue box (of the Jewish National Fund) to collect money. I even remember when they announced the State of Israel. All the Jews came to the city hall, held hands, and danced the hora.



Most of my childhood was spent in the (Habonim) movement; it was the most important thing to us until I married Benny and we immigrated to Israel. We did our training (Hachshara) in Kibbutz Dovrat...

And we waited for a group from Australia to join us. We were few and were supposed to go to the Negev, to Nirim. We slept in a hut on Dovrat, and all night we were itching until we realized it was full of bugs. We slept outside for about two weeks. In Dovrat, they didn't want to start an ulpan, and Shira, who was the secretary, came to visit us and invited us to Yizrael. When we came, there was a pleasant connection with the South Africans. I remember when we arrived, I couldn't live with the brown colour of

the hut, everything was brown. We had two days off, and I told Benny, “I don’t care, we’re buying white paint,” and we painted the hut white. The huts didn’t even have bathrooms or running water. We would shower in the communal shower.

On Yizrael, there were only a few huts and mud everywhere; I remember one tree, which still stands by the dining hall. In winter, I only went out with gumboots. There wasn’t even one path. There was no such thing as an alarm clock; there was a list where you wrote when you needed to wake up, and the guard would go house-to-house to wake people up.

I worked in the vineyards, and we harvested and sent the fruit to the market. Every year, Zimra’s mother would come to help us pack the grapes. We also grew pears, which were always small and not tasty. Then they planted olives and pecans. Later, they decided I should be a mitapelet, so I went to work in the kindergarten, where the children slept in the children’s house. I worked in the kindergarten for years. I loved the work and the children. Despite the difficulties, I thought I had fallen into paradise. I loved being here so much, and the fact that everyone was Jewish; everything was so good for me!

Once a year, the children would go for a holiday to the sea without their parents! The parents were not allowed even to visit.



Nava: The children were six or seven when they went on holiday without their parents... it’s hard to believe today. I lived in a cottage because I had Orit. We thought it was the height of luxury. We had a bathroom and a small kitchen. Miki and I have

been friends since 1958, since she arrived at the kibbutz. Our families grew up here together. When I arrived in Yizrael, you could work in the children's house, in the clothing warehouse, and in the kitchen. I worked in the clothing warehouse, and then I think I moved to the kitchen. The conditions in the kitchen were very tough because everything was cooked over gas, and everything would burn. At the end of the day, after we finished cooking, we had to clean all the dirt.

Miki: There were endless weekly asefot and they absolutely refused to hire outside workers. So, after work, we would go to the orchard to pick fruit (giyusim)

There were no fences; where Bernie's sculptures are now, there were sheep. We would take the children, walk through the village, then go to the spring to swim a bit, and then climb back up. Straight, without a fence...

Nava: We were few people then, sixty plus, and the number was always a bit less because people were leaving. It was a border settlement, and it was very hard. We were on the border with Jenin, and there were constant guard duties, which was very unpleasant, so many people left.

Miki: They used to call Yizrael "the bottomless barrel," people would come in from the top and leave from the bottom.

Nava: And there were always people leaving, and we never got to more than twenty children. So, what do we do? We had to adopt children. I don't know where the children came from. Children who didn't have homes or had only one parent who couldn't support two children, so they sent one to the kibbutz. And there wasn't even a question – do you want to adopt? They came and told us – tomorrow, children are arriving, you, you, and you are adopting children.

Miki: They slept in the children's houses, so there was no question of whether there was room.

Nava: And so I came to adopt two children, there was Chemi Friedman (of blessed memory) and Miriam.

Miki: I had a girl whose parents divorced, and the father didn't agree for the mother to see the girl, so the aunt said – only kibbutz!

After we returned from Shlichut in Cape Town, I saw a painting on fabric, called batik. I got excited by this and started. We bought dye. You just looked at it and the colour would come off, I couldn't touch it, but slowly I learned to print on fabrics. Nava and I worked together, and it went well for us. We started selling. We sold to "Maskit." We

also sewed dresses, and that also went well. We made sandals, which also succeeded. Until one day, someone came with the dirtiest feet imaginable and wanted to try on all the sandals... Then Nava said – I'm done with sandals!

I remember we conducted a ceramics class at "Ohel Sarah" near Afula. And then, someone came once and asked if he could buy my stuff, and that's how I started selling ceramics. We had a dentist whose wife also sculpted in ceramics, and they were looking for another girl from the north to join her because she wanted to open a store. I joined, and we were four girls, and we had a very nice store in Haifa.

Nava: In the hut where I work, today, Mirik and I used to provide service to the ladies. Once a year, they could choose what they wanted, a dress or a coat, and we would sew it for them. Each one would get a turn to fulfill her dream. I don't know why the service was stopped. I really loved it and we also repaired clothes. At that time, Hezi started with the "Beged-Chen" store, and I joined her. We worked together – Hezi, me, and Mini Skolnik (of blessed memory). Beged-Chen always succeeded attracting many members and outside customers, but in the end, we neither lost or made money.

Miki: I would print fabrics for Hezi. I worked in the hut, where Naomi's is now, but it was in a different place, lower down. Then they decided to build the road to Yizrael, the first road, and the hut stood in the middle of the path. Amen (of blessed memory) and Tyochke (of blessed memory) I decided they would move the hut to the side so I could continue working there.

Nava: After Beged-Chen closed, I moved into the hut, which is essentially an entrepreneurship. Then Stella joined, and we started sewing children's and baby clothes.

Miki: Miriam Vered, who was in charge of "Dorot B'Gilboa, asked me to conduct a class for painting on tiles. I said I didn't have time because people were ordering, and I was busy painting tiles. But she didn't give up, so I started teaching too...

Miki: People used to come to Yizrael for the studio classes, and later they built "Dorot B'Gilboa," and it moved to where it is today.

Nava: My family—my eldest, Orit, is here on Yizrael; Noga lives in Kfar Saba and is already a grandmother; and Amir lives in Pardes Hanna, where many Yizrael members moved. There is also Miri, who has 4 children and 13 grandchildren in Netza Sereni, and we have a very good relationship. Each one managed in their own way.

Miki: I have two daughters, Orli and Keren. Orli has five children, four daughters who are already grown up, three of whom are in the army, one who has finished, and a

younger son. Keren has two small children, and she really wants to return to Yizrael, but they always say there is no space, so for now she is in Tel Yosef. I also have an extended family here — Arnie, when he was a bachelor, went to South Africa to find a wife and met my sister Peggy (of blessed memory). He knew Peggy from the Hachshara in South Africa.



A bit about my husband, Benny. He came to Israel at the time of the Sinai War, then he went back to South Africa to finish his studies in engineering, and then we got married and came here. First, he worked with sheep, then they wanted to plant the orchard with Itzhak from Ramon, and then he planted the orchard with Derek and Amos, and later planted the almonds. In the meantime, he also built the lower reservoir, and I was very happy because he had a motorcycle with a sidecar! We would go to Afula like that. Later, when we were in South Africa visiting with the girls, a friend of Avrum talked about some pool-cleaning device that seemed very useful and enquired whether we could bring it. So, we went to the family of the guy who invented it, and he gave us one and we brought it here. And then Benny started Maytronics with Hanan Shaliv and Eliyahu Matalon.

Later, in the 1980s, my husband, who was crazy about animals, established the children's farm, and all the children who studied at the school at home did shifts there. He also used to go every year with Michal Sidur to Sidney Ali.

Nava: Tolli was the Mazkir, worked in field crops, in the dairy, and then in the factory. He was also an educator, and people greatly valued his opinion.

I continue to work with Stella in the sewing room three to four hours a day, depending on what's needed until ten a.m. and then I take my swimsuit and join Miki at the pool. We really love the pool.

Miki: Sometimes I paint, sometimes I embroider, and I go to the pool.

Nava: Yizrael today is a beautiful place, there are many people we don't know anymore, the young people who have joined... because when you don't have contact with children and the children's houses, you lose something. The attitude here towards the elderly is very nice, really. I feel very safe here, I feel I don't need my children's help, because here I have security, and I feel good, very good. Only old age comes too quickly.

Miki: The years pass quickly.

Nava: Everything is so complicated, the whole world... even our factory, there's a question mark about what will happen? What will the young people decide? A few years ago, they wanted to sell the factory, and luckily, they didn't, but who knows what will happen? We don't know.

Miki: Let's say the big worry is the state, not the kibbutz.

Nava: The state and the war.

Thank you very much, Miki and Nava, for being so wonderful!

Interviewed and written by: Rochele Matalon

Transcription: Tzafnat Mor

Photography: Einan Grosser

Film Editing: Adva Lipshitz

New English Library Books

My Father's Paradise/Ariel Sabar Echoes/Maeve Binchy

When Heaven and Earth Changed Places/Le Ly Hayslip

Where You Belong/Barbara Taylor Bradford

The Hiding Place/Corrie Ten Boom

Sex & Stravinsky/Barbara Trapido



A Toast to Barry at his Birthday Event by the Pool. Friday 18.7.24

Eddie Solow

Look around at all this beauty. Tell me, have you ever seen such beauty before? And who is responsible for all this? My friend Barry. Seventy years old! Applause!

Who could believe it? My friend Barry is seventy.

THREE SCORE YEARS AND TEN—CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

I have known Barry for many years. Once, in the days of the youth movement in South Africa, Barry was Jules's little brother. Running around between our feet I don't remember much (no wonder... I'm so much older than him).

And then he took a brave and characteristic step. At the end of 12th grade, he left his family and friends and came to Israel, a country he had never visited, to an Ulpan in Kibbutz Yizrael. Who would do such a thing... not me. Anyone who knows Barry knows he has no fear.

At 17, our hero was a soldier. He lied about his age at the recruitment office and enlisted in the IDF.

When I arrived on Yizrael, Barry was already in the tank corp. A real heartthrob. The girls were lining up... and Barry delivered the goods, don't worry. I know what you're thinking... let the envious die... and you're right. We all envied him.

Then the Yom Kippur War broke out. Barry was on the front line. Stories of heroism and loss will be told in the annals of Israel. This is not the place. Barry, barely 18, was injured in the eye. We went to visit him at Poryia Hospital. Without WAZE. (My only heroic act in the story) Barry says he still remembers the look on my face when I entered his room and saw him battered and bandaged. A few days later, Barry moved from the hospital to a recuperation home and then left against the doctors' advice, returned to his unit, fought, and kept us safe all through the freezing winter until his release (did I mention he's fearless?).

For several years, we worked together in the dairy. Two milkings a day, shoulder to shoulder. That's why I know everything about Barry. We didn't hide anything from each other. I don't have much to share, but Barry... oh me, oh my!

Don't worry. I'll keep it short. I was warned by the female organising team not to go over a few minutes. I'm not as brave as Barry. I follow orders.

A few years ago, Barry and I started cycling together. Together, did I say? Barry rides ahead, turns around, and comes back to check that I'm okay, and then continues forward. I feel safe in the knowledge that if I have a problem with my bike, Barry can fix it. There's nothing Barry can't fix. The problem is that the whole kibbutz knows this. The phone rings incessantly. Requests for help. I've never heard him refuse anyone. Imagine the following scene: we're riding up the steepest part of the mountain on bikes. The phone rings. Barry continues to ride. Without slowing down or panting, he apologises for not being on the kibbutz but promises to come as soon as he gets back. Where does he get the wind? Superman is nothing compared to him.

Orli and Adi, I assume you know you have the most devoted father in the world. A word from you and Dad stands at attention. He'll drive to Haifa to buy pizza, drive south to tighten a screw. What a father (but what daughters! No wonder).

One last story... when I turned seventy, Barry rode with me for 70 kilometres. He made me promise that one day I would ride 70 kilometres with him. This was at the end of October. I promised. I didn't realise that Barry was born in July, there is a climate crisis and I have aged since then... Barry, have mercy on me!

So, Barry, continue being who you are: generous, wise, dedicated, loving, and a friend. Congratulations, Eddie Solow

Delving into the Archives



Copy of Illustration: "Danny Fetches Soap from the Warehouse"

From a series of illustrations drawn by Moshiko Sinai, from Dani Harpaz's estate.

Reported by: Jules Feldman

Diarize:

A tribute evening to the veterans of Yizrael

Friday, 2.8.24

19:30 at the Moadon

"That's who we are"

Pictures, stories, activities, greetings and thanks

We will be happy to see the whole community as well as generations of

"Kibbutz Children"

Chag HaMeshek

Kibbutz Anniversary Program

This year, due to the situation, we decided to celebrate our communal birthday with a series of events that look inward into our Yizrael community and outward to our Israeli society.

Fri 2.8.24 19:30 - "That's Who We Are"
Opening of the Veterans' Photo Exhibition

Tue 6.8.23 Volunteering

Gan Shmuel 09:00-13:00 Packing parcels for evacuees.

Yizrael Moadon 17:00 – 19:00 - Preparing fund raising bracelets

Wed 7.8.24 Baking

Dining Room 16:00 – 18:00 - Baking for convalescent soldiers

Fri 9.8.24

06:00.... Volunteering in Agriculture (Details to follow)

18:30 - 20:00 Self Service Meal

20:00 On the Stage - 76th Anniversary Ceremony

Sat 10:8.24

16:00 – 20:00 "Happy Pool Happening" Food Stalls and Wares Fair. Stalls selling the produce and wares of Evacuees.

English is Fun - with Rahel

Karl Marx is a historically famous philosopher, but no one ever mentions his sister, Onya, the inventor of the starting pistol....

(this is a terrible one!)

Some of our most popular phrases have a long history, including some that go back to the Middle Ages...

To throw down the gauntlet

The gauntlet was a piece of armour that knights wore to protect their forearms and hands. A gauntlet-wearing knight would challenge a fellow knight or enemy, to a duel by throwing one of his gauntlets on the ground.

By hook or by crook

Records of this phase date back to the 14th century: that a medieval law about collecting firewood allowed peasants to take what they could only cut from dead trees by using their reaper's billhook or a shepherd's crook.

Hue and cry

This phase dates back to 12 century England. Hue comes from the Old French 'huer', which means to shout out. In the Middle Ages, if you saw a crime being committed, you were obliged to raise 'hue' and 'cry', that is to shout and make a noise, to warn the rest of the community, so they could come to pursue and capture the criminal.

A nest egg

By the 14th century the phrase nest egg was used by peasants to explain why they left one egg in the nest when collecting them from hens - it would encourage the chickens to continue laying eggs in the same nest. By the 17th century, this phrase now meant to set aside a sum of money for the future.

A red-letter day

During the 15th century it became customary to mark all feast days and saints' days in red on the ecclesiastical calendar, while other days were in black.

To sink or swim

This refers to the water ordeal, a medieval practice of judging whether a person was innocent or guilty, by casting him or her into a lake. The belief was that water would not accept anyone who had rejected the water of baptism, so if the victim sunk, they were innocent, but if they floated they were guilty.

Chaucer used a similar phrase: "Ye rekke not whether I flete (float) or sink."

.....more next week



Beacon on the Hill

Programme for 28/07/24 – 01/08/24

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

Sunday 28 July

Opening the week with Monica.

09:10 Zoom - Amos Dotan – “Not only Security”

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

Monday 29 July

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

10:00 Brain games and trivia with Galia Shemi

16:00 Or B’Givah is open for coffee and lively conversation

Tuesday 30 July

09:30 Lecture – Rochele Matalon – The Olympics in France

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

Wednesday 31 July

09:30 Nature is Blooming with Hammotal Assaf

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

Thursday 01 August

07:00 Pedicure with Na’ama Baum (by appointment only)

10:00 Noga’s carpentry workshop – “HaNogariah” / movie screening

17:15 Exercises on chairs with Michal Sha’anana

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