



**Edi-torial:** This week we cannot boast about brevity. The past few weeks the Alon was shorter than usual because of the High Holidays. This week we make up the deficit. Last week we printed a moving interview with Barry Feldman which appears in this week’s Hebrew Alon. (Which I translated) I added the following words at the end of the article:

The article brought me back to that terrible time. I was a newcomer to the kibbutz, barely speaking Hebrew. Immediately after the Ulpan, the war broke out. We were just before being drafted to Nachal. The recruitment was postponed. On the kibbutz we received a message that Barry was injured and was in a hospital in Safed. We didn't hesitate of course, Aviva and Norman and the late Figgy and I, drove to visit Barry after the work day. On the way there it was still light and somehow, we found the hospital. Barry says that he still remembers the look of shock on our faces when we entered his ward (although we must have tried to hide it. We cheered up after speaking to him, I think, but we didn't dream that a few days later he would be back at the front. Barry probably knew what we couldn't understand then. On the way home it was dark and scary. There was a complete blackout in the country. Not a single lamp was lit. Of course, we got lost. We found ourselves in the middle of an Arab village in complete darkness. I don't know how, but in the end, we found our way home safely.

The shock, which Barry recounts, did not pass so quickly. When he returned home, Barry and I worked together in the sheep branch (I think Elon had been drafted). I too, like that soldier girl in the hospital, heard the horror stories.

I believe that Barry's ability to open up and tell everything allowed him to cope so admirably.

We are proud of you Barry.

**R.I.P.**

**We share in the sorrow of**

**Dima Chernihovsky and family**

**on the passing of his mother**

**Liyodmila Chernihovsky (of blessed memory)**

**May you know no more sorrow**

**Beit Yizrael**

**I Care - Albert Rosilio**

Shalom everyone,

Recently, there has been a rise in the concerning phenomenon of dangerous driving by some members on the kibbutz roads. Warning signs have been placed around the kibbutz, and yet there are members who do not adhere to these warnings.

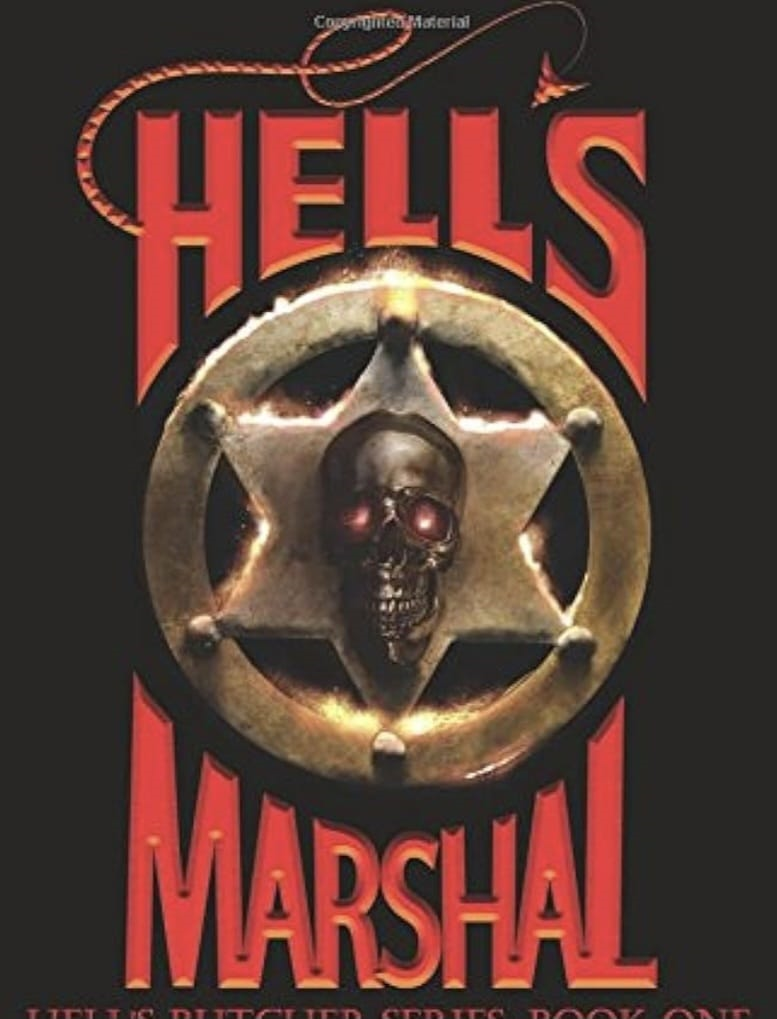
**Are we waiting for a disaster to happen?**

Dear community members, Kibbutz Yizrael is not above the law in this country. I strongly urge everyone traveling within the kibbutz to pay attention to the warning signs (both physical and metaphorical – Ed) and not wait for a disaster to occur.

Drive safely,

Shana Tova, Albert Rosilio

**Hells Marshals – Ofir Grieman**



As of today, we have four marshals in the vehicle fleet with numbers 1, 2, 4, and 5. During working hours, two marshals serve the food and Garden branches, and the others are available during the day. After working hours all four are at the disposal of the kibbutz drivers.

Each marshal has a battery system (not just one battery) that requires continuous charging for 8 consecutive hours. In many cases, the marshals travel at night, and the time for charging is not enough for the morning shift. Therefore, the marshals will enter the charging station between 22:00 and 6:00, and their reservation in the system will be closed. If a driver wants to drive during the charging hours, they need to speak with the vehicle coordinator on the same day in the morning.

It turns out that even a marshal needs a differential... The marshal has a "tendency" to damage steps and large items if not driven carefully! The differential is responsible for stabilizing the wheels. (It seems it breaks when one drives full-speed into walls and other “Large Items” -Ed) The rear carriage among other parts, is often damaged. These accidents and damages pose a risk to the driver, passengers, and pedestrians on the kibbutz pathways. The cost of repairing these accidents costs thousands of ₪ per year.

Drive safely - you only live once! Vehicle Committee

Message: Ofir Griman

(I can think of other reasons for driving safely… for instance’ this editor and other innocent pedestrians only live once too – Ed)

**Update on Rotation Duties (TORANUT) September 2023**

The H.R. Administration began to address the rotation duties issue last June. A survey of opinions was conducted, and the responses were diverse. It is evident that the public understands the importance of fulfilling rotation duties and expects order in this matter, which will take into account, the workload and the distribution of the burden among everyone. The committee continues to progress towards organizing the rotation duties and is working on several fronts:

1. **Discussions with non-compliant members:** Kinneret and Noa Armoza, have taken upon themselves to clarify the situation with members who do not fulfill their rotation duties and to examine how to facilitate a full return to the rotation duties cycle.
2. **Examination of rotation duties**: Meetings were held with all rotation duties coordinators, and consideration was given to the need for rotation duties, as well as a redefinition of tasks and rotation duties schedules. Consequently, some rotation duties will be cancelled or modified in terms of duration. Work is also being done regarding the frequency of rotation duties.
3. **Management of the Rotation Duties computer program:** Learning how to use it properly and adapting it to the kibbutz's needs. The objectives remain as defined in previous teams that dealt with this issue:
4. Bringing back as many members as possible to the rotation duties cycle.
5. Achieving as much equal distribution as possible of the rotation duties burden.
6. Assigning only essential rotation duties to reduce the workload.
7. Approval of the rotation duties regulations in a general assembly. We are working simultaneously on all fronts and hope to settle the matter by the end of the year.

We will continue to update you. - Kinneret and the H.R. Administration

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**The following is a synopsis of the four page Financial Council** **report** which follows. I “asked ‘my’ AI App, ChatGPT, to produce a summary for our readers. In my opinion it is an adequate and accurate reflection of the proceedings. Judge for yourselves. I intend doing this each time reports are over a page and a half in length. Please let me know what you think - Ed

**Summary of the Economic Council Meeting on September 18, 2023:**

1. **Garden branch (Noi) Transfer Project Approval:** The Garden branch structure was deemed unsuitable for use in 2016. Preparatory work has been ongoing from 2019 to 2023, and the project is multi-annual but is budgeted annually. The estimated cost for 2023 is 450,000 NIS, and the project might extend into early 2024.

**Discussion Highlights:**

* + Consideration of moving the Garden branch to a different location.
  + Concerns about the high project cost and suggestions for cost reduction.
  + The need for proper communication regarding project details and budget.

**Decision:** Approved for execution with a budget of 450,000 NIS.

1. **Investigation of Incidents (Post Mortem):** A review of two projects (Infrastructure Master Plan and Refrigeration Unit (Old Pasteurizing plant) aimed at improving work processes. Failures were identified, including inadequate budgeting and misunderstandings regarding project scope.

**Recommendations:**

* + Emphasize proper conduct in investments, including written approvals and clear communication.
  + Propose a council recommendation for smaller investments, defining limits and approval processes.

1. **Financial Reports for 2022:** Financial reports for 2022 were presented and discussed. The reports were approved with a majority of 21 in favour and no objections.

**Additional Points:**

* + Commendations were given for organized work in financial reporting and management.
  + The importance of timely budget approval at the beginning of the year was emphasized.

Overall, the meeting discussed ongoing and upcoming projects, reflected on past project implementations, and highlighted the need for effective budget management and project oversight.

**Economic Council Report - September 18, 2023 (Unabridged version)**

Council Chair - Uri Gilad Council Secretary - Vicky Hollander Attendees - 25 council members Agenda:

1. The Garden branch Transfer Project - Approval for Execution
2. Investigation of Incidents (post Mortem))
3. Financial Reports for 2022
4. **The Gardens Transfer Project -** Approval for Execution. Shlomo Levi presented the topic: History: In 2016, the Garden branch structure was inspected by a contractor and found unsuitable for use. Measurements and initial plans were made in 2017. The project was approved by the secretariat in 2018. From 2019 to 2023, preparatory work was carried out at a cost of 282,000 NIS. As can be seen, the project is multi-annual, but has been implemented over the years as several separate projects. We present it here, in retrospect, as an annual project. The project is funded by a public building fund. Key points: As part of investments in public buildings, the project stage for 2023 is estimated at 450,000 NIS. The execution of the project, based on a detailed plan, is estimated at about 500,000 NIS. This stage of the project is scheduled for 2023. The execution may continue into early 2024.

Project Manager: Building Manager - Shlomo Levi. Start and End Date (annual): 2019 to 2023. Source - 2023 Public Building Fund. Total framework (retrospective): 770,000 NIS.

Points discussed in the debate:

* The total cost does not include demolition of the existing building and restoration to its original state.
* The current structure has historical value, and its restoration, if chosen, will be a separate high-cost project.
* Should we reconsider moving the Garden branch to lot 1004?
* The project cost is high. On the other hand, it was mentioned that the original plan was much higher, 1.7 million NIS.
* If the amount was known in advance, the project might not have been approved. That's why we should approve an annual project in advance and not in retrospect.
* Two years ago, we decided to cut back. Not to build on lot 1004, but to do something temporary (the almonds moved to the trailer). In such times, does the community of Kibbutz YIzrael need to invest 500,000 NIS in transferring a communal branch? Can the project be done with a lower budget? This is an opportunity to cut back. There are other more urgent projects. Prioritization is needed. We have no choice. We need to do less. Erez in response - what they are doing there is not "luxury". Maybe we can make cuts (put the caravan on a paved surface and not on foundations). But there are minimum conditions needed. It's a real dilemma. Maybe we can check again if something can be done to reduce costs.
* When we approved the framework, a few months ago, we could have said that we need to think about it again. The arguments presented today should have been heard at the budget approval meeting. I expect these things to come earlier.
* It was suggested not to expand the framework and to stay with 450,000 NIS including demolition.

A request was made to bring several alternatives. On the other hand, it was stated that this is not within the council's mandate; we are only approving the financial aspect and compliance with the framework, and we cannot approve a framework and then retract it. This undermines the planning system.

* Erez: The planning process is lengthy. Initially, the estimation was much higher. In the end, we're talking about building a shelter and moving a caravan. It doesn't matter where we build them. We tried to do what is most suitable with the least amount of money. The Garden branch needs to move because the structure is not suitable. Investment has already been made in the infrastructure. It's a shame not to finish the project. We will strive to minimize the expenditure as much as possible.

**Voting:** Based on the data presented in this presentation, the council approves the 2023 budget for the Garden branch Transfer Project to the amount of 450,000 NIS, including the removal of the old structure and site restoration. The vote was held, with a majority of 16 in favour, 6 against. No abstentions. **The Garden branch transfer project was approved for execution.**

1. Investigation of Incidents (Dead End Post) The purpose of this clause is to conduct an investigation to improve work processes. The learning will be through two cases: an infrastructure master plan project and the refrigeration unit project. The post-mortem process is to analyse cases where the management was not correct, identify the failures, and propose solutions. There is no intention to criticize individuals in roles and/or managers in the community!

A comprehensive case analysis will include three stages: case description, identification of failures, and how to correct them. a. Infrastructure Master Plan Project - Case Description: In the community's 2022 budget, 200,000 NIS were allocated in the Planning Committee's budget for an infrastructure master plan. In the same year, work was done at a cost of 50,000 NIS. Due to cash flow considerations, the amount was required at the beginning of 2023. The remainder, about 150,000 NIS, was initially allocated in the 2023 W. Planning budget, but after further consideration, it was transferred to infrastructure investments as a multi-annual project (100,000 NIS for 2023). A situation arose where the charge for 50,000 NIS in 2023 occurred before the project budget approval (July 2023). The Planning Committee finished 2022 with an almost 200,000 NIS surplus.

Failures: The project budgeting by the Planning Committee was not appropriate - it should have been budgeted in advance in infrastructure investments. It was not clear at the time of submitting the project whether it was an annual/multi-annual project. When approving the project budget in 2023, there was no explanation to the council about the change in the budget source and the expenditure for 2022.

**Correction:** When preparing/transferring a budget - whether by the community or investments, it is necessary to provide an opinion whether the project's execution source matches the project's nature and whether it is an annual/multi-annual project. Additionally, update the project presentation guidelines.

Define the management for the following cases: (to be done later, responsibility - council chair) - an annual project - carried out during a calendar year, an annual project - starting in one year and ending in the following year, a multi-annual project. b. Refrigeration Unit Project - Case Description: In January, the Pasteurizing plant was closed, and it was decided by the food branch managers and the community manager not to use it, but to convert it into a refrigeration unit. The branch managers saw the need and the savings that would come with the completion of the refrigeration unit. They began checking costs with various contractors and explained to the community manager in a meeting what they wanted to do. The community manager approved "to go ahead", with each side understanding the extent of the investment differently: the community manager assumed it was light work costing about 20,000 NIS, while the branch managers directed it to a project of about 120,000 NIS.

Failures: The approval of the project was made orally, and each side understood differently what it was about.

**Correction:** Emphasize proper conduct: investments by branch managers that are not part of the budget must be presented in writing and approved in writing by the community manager.

A letter will be sent to all branch managers to rmind the management every year - the responsibility of the community manager.

**Council Recommendation:** "Investment in a branch, within a small framework, which pays off in a short period - with the approval of the community manager, without the need for council approval." A small framework = 200,000 NIS, a short period = up to 3 years. (To be re-examined later - the responsibility of the community manager).

**In Discussion:** The investigation was conducted with the council committee. There are older cases that we're not dealing with due to lack of time and difficulty in finding materials. If there is a demand, we will deal with it in the future. Uri asked, as we sometimes do, what to do more correctly.

**Project Infrastructure Master Plan:**

* There used to be a mechanism preventing such things, a team with organizational memory, and an ongoing budget team.
* I proposed to the community leadership to establish a new streamlined team: Erez, Maor, two people from the community, and two from the maintenance team, to closely oversee the projects.
* This is an opportunity to discuss a broader issue. About committees ending the year with a surplus and then having it reset in the next year. I believe resetting the budget at the end of the year can prompt the committee to act towards the end of the year to ensure a budget for the next year.
* Commendations were given for the organized work.
* The topic is the continuous budget transfer/investment. The ongoing budget is reset each year. We need to find a model that helps managers adhere to their budgets. Regular Invoicing Project:
* It was asked if a project has a budget when it is initiated. Did this project start with a budget of 20,000 NIS or 120,000 NIS? Maor replied that the current system does not support upfront budget approval. Expenditures are recorded only when invoices arrive. We are implementing a small management portal that requires procurement request approval. It's part of our lessons learned, but it's not integrated into our financial system.
* It was mentioned in the past about a procurement manager in the kibbutz, someone who would coordinate activity with suppliers on a daily basis.
* The failure where branch managers can sign purchase orders without the approval of the community and finance manager needs to be addressed. Maor - currently, there's no signature on purchase orders. There are many things that come to my signature, and I'm not the only signatory. I agree that all branch managers should be reminded that they cannot sign purchase orders over a certain amount. A branch manager who wants to do something that is not routine should get approval. I informed all branch managers on this matter.
* Nothing replaces logic. The correction is to use logic. To put clear and minimal barriers. It needs to be embedded in routine and constant work. How is today's discussion different from passing it to an auditor? Why did we choose to do it here in the council? Perhaps the auditor would have given us different tools. Ori in response - I didn't think about it. The critique here is more specific than what the auditor would do.
* It's a management issue. Our managers sometimes make mistakes, and we need to know that, and see that such things don't happen in the future.
* There are elected managers who need to assert themselves to their subordinates. Everyone in their own way. Some branches need to be more careful with. The community manager will decide if he needs to establish an investment committee. The community manager is also responsible for the mistakes of those subordinate to him.
* Branch managers want to do more, take initiative and promote their ideas. The community manager needs to help them and guide their activity. It cannot be done without approval or if the project is unclear.
* The discussion here arose from the fact that a project was carried out without the approval of the economic council. In our kibbutz, a similar case occurred, leading to a 50 million NIS lawsuit. Controls are important. We need to encourage and approve, but still maintain control.
* One of the most important controls is that the budget is approved at the beginning of the year and not in July. Approval in the middle of the year cancels a significant portion of the controls.

1. **Financial Reports 2022:** Maor presented the financial reports for the year 2022. A discussion took place, and remarks and insights were made regarding the report for further consideration. A vote was held, and with a majority of 21 in favour and no objections, the financial reports for 2022 were approved. Anyone interested in seeing the reports is welcome to request them from the secretary.
2. Yifat Asaf. Thanks to Vicky Hollander for transcribing the proceedings.

**From Erez’s Desk - Updates**

Greetings and Happy New Year to all.

**Preparation for 2024:** As we approached the annual budget of 2023, , we decided on a standard procedure to formulate the community budget. At present, branch managers are preparing work plans and budget planning for the next year. The approved plans will be presented to the community management for approval in October. Based on these plans, the community budget for 2024 will be formulated and presented for approval by the Economic Council at the beginning of 2024.

**Simultaneously, we are engaged in ongoing activities:**

* **Building Branch:** After a challenging summer with a shortage of manpower, preparations are complete, and the branch workers are addressing ongoing issues. In addition, roof sealing contractor work has commenced in preparation for winter.
* **Food Branch:** We are progressing with another phase of the kitchen renovations, focusing on the dishwashing area. A new, more efficient dishwasher has been ordered and is expected to be installed in late December/early January. Before its installation, the dishwashing area will undergo comprehensive renovations. Concurrently, together with advancing this project, the branch grapples with the challenging holiday season with a significant lack of professional staff (chefs).
* **Garden Branch:** During this transitional season, efforts are being made to conclude projects carried out by the branch during the summer and prepare for the winter, characterized by the need for extensive pruning and extensive gardening work. The Garden branch also suffers from a shortage of full-time workers. Currently, the work in the branch relies on three permanent garden workers, with the rest being temporary. We are striving to stabilize the situation by securing permanent workers and achieving specialization and better efficiency in the work.
* **Mini Market** The holiday season a time of pressure. Even during this time, we continue to benefit from excellent service.
* **Clothing Branch:** The branch is coping with a steady increase in laundry quantities. We estimate that about 200 tons of laundry will be done in the branch this year, compared to about 180 tons in 2022. (even so, I throw my socks in at 7am and by 14:00 they are waiting for me, impatiently, in my box! – Ed)
* **Security:** **Alon Reuben** announced his desire to conclude his role as the security chief. In the past year, alongside Avichai, the security department was advanced, instilling significant order in work routines, focusing on the efficiency and effectiveness of surveillance. We are very grateful to Alon for his efforts in the past year and are actively seeking a replacement for the role of the security chief.
* **Electrical Branch:** In addition to handling faults promptly, we are exploring ways to save energy and improve the operation of the electrical system.
* **Initiatives and Small Businesses:** We are getting accustomed to operating under the pricing scheme implemented this year, aiming to run businesses based on economic business practices while encouraging economic contribution to the community.
* **(Ehud’s) Workshop:** After being established a year and a half ago, the workshop has become a successful facility with high yields. All this is done in a welcoming and inviting atmosphere, and serves as a social meeting point.

**Infrastructure and Construction:**

* Northern Neighbourhood Infrastructure: Progressing satisfactorily, reaching the stage of detailed planning for each apartment after the completion of the land leveling process.
* **Cottages Neighbourhood:** The project is completee, and the residents moved into their new homes at the beginning of summer.
* **Northern Industrial Road:** The project is complete.
* **Nof Housing Renovation:** The project is complete, and the last residents are in the process of returning to their homes.
* **Construction of a Training Facility (Ninja) + Stone Garden shade and improvement:** Being carried out funded by and under the responsibility of the regional council. The work will be finished within a week.
* **Semi-detached house project in Parents' Neighbourhood:** The building permit is in advanced stages. Good chance that construction will commence later this year.

This is an opportunity to thank all branch managers and workers in the community who strive to provide proper and good service under challenging conditions in a changing economic environment, manpower shortage, within a system whose demands are only increasing. Erez

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**Even chatGPT is not perfect (Yet) This is Chat’s translation of the mini market update: (looks like you guys will still need me for a while – Ed)**

* **הכלבו** – תקופת החגים היא תקופה של מתיחת שרירים בכלבו. גם בתקופה זו אנו ממשיכים ליהנות משירות מיטבי.  
  **The Dog Center:** The holiday season is a period of muscle stretching for the dogs. Even during this time, we continue to benefit from excellent service at the Dog Centre. (Priceless – Ed)

**Updates from the Horticulture Department (Noi)**

**- September 2023**

September has arrived, bringing hints of autumn. The nights are starting to cool down, and for those who wake up early, there is respite from the heat. Perhaps rain will arrive soon. (P.G. – ED)

The temperature changes at night affect the plants, allowing us to shorten the watering times and prepare the plants for winter and the reduction of watering. The plants will react to the changes; some may appear a bit more tired, while others may not show external signs. Nonetheless, beneath the surface, the roots will attempt to deepen and find more water. The more we emphasize proper watering and provide longer watering sessions, the deeper the roots will grow, strengthening the plant. For now, my recommendation to garden owners is to maintain the watering times as they were and gradually start reducing them. This way, you will keep a greener garden until winter. Of course, I can't overemphasize our thanks to those members and residents who send us pictures or alert us to leaks. You help us immensely.

With the beginning of September, the school year has started. In the Horticulture Department, we expanded and took on more young boys and girls to instill work values in as many youngsters as possible. Currently, on Fridays and holidays, 9 boys and girls work in the branch: Moron Levin, Raz Griman, Ido Hadar, Roe Sadur, Ami Blas, Oren Boitler, Chamuda Levin, Nili Cohen, and Ido Friedman. Two boys, Alon Sankar and Ilam Mor, who completed their work this year, made significant contributions to the branch while working since the 8th grade. We wish them much success in their year of social service, each in their respective domains. Additionally, this month we were joined by two volunteers for work, Roni Yemin and Shira Israeli. They will be accompanying us throughout the year and will also contribute significantly to the department.

The short autumn and winter seasons are characterized in the branch by two main tasks: pruning seasonal plants and pruning trees and shrubs. Unlike the summer, where we prune delicately, in the colder seasons, we focus more on deep pruning. Deep pruning involves removing larger amounts of foliage and branches, shaping the shrubs to grow more suitably for us, and aligning the trees for better growth in their surroundings. Therefore, you may see areas that have significantly changed, with shrubs looking bare or noticeably smaller. All of this is part of our plan to enhance and improve the appearance of the kibbutz.

Pruning throughout the kibbutz is done in the most professional manner we can provide. Therefore, please refrain from performing independent pruning in public areas. This harms the trees and makes the department's work doubly hard. In case of problems, please reach out to any of the horticulture department workers, and we will do our utmost to assist.

In the recent Economic Council meeting, a long process spanning years was concluded, and the transfer of the Horticulture Department to a different site was approved. Many thanks to all members and supporters. We promise to make every effort to be deserving of this significant investment.

Of course, I must end with a reminder regarding requests: continue to send them through the Kehilanet, by leaving a message on the department phone, or directly to me.

On behalf of the Horticulture branch, Shahar Levi, coordinator

**Yom Kippur - 1973-2023 - Nitzan Rivlin Feldman**

Last week, I watched "Golda's Diaries" and I admit that I couldn't stop weeping throughout the entire viewing. I tried to understand why I wept. I cried out of anger for the arrogance and recklessness displayed by some of the leaders. For the false sense of security that our security forces had, and yes, primarily for the bitter security failure of those days. “Mr Security”, (Moshe Dayan) the man who stole the credit for the victory, six years previously from Levi Eskol. He paid less than all of them, shifted blame away from himself (onto the Chief of Staff, Dado, among others), and continued to be involved in leading the country. He crossed lines to join Begin's government as Foreign Minister and in retrospect, in doing so, he somewhat absolved himself of some of the blame for the Yom Kippur War in 1973, by bringing, (not by himself), peace with Egypt.

I cried for him too, for his loss of faith at certain stages of the war.

I cried for Golda, elderly, sick, and in pain, and also for the injustice inflicted upon her and the humiliation she likely felt. I cried for her part in the whole ordeal.

I cried from excitement, witnessing her bravery, determination, strength, and resilience in managing the war, for taking responsibility even when she knew she wasn't the sole, and certainly not the primary, culprit. She didn't defend her name and honour, didn't tally her diplomatic and security achievements, and didn't brag about her significant role in the victory. Instead, she took responsibility and resigned.

I cried for the immense and terrible loss of human lives, for the many losses I personally suffered, some of whom I knew and worked with during my military service and in my civilian life.

I cried for us, for the shattering of our hearts and loss of faith and innocence.

The tears I couldn't stop, were also for what has become of this land over the past years, and for the current leadership, which is far from being patriotic, for the embarrassment of how we've reached this point. How we failed to prevent the disaster unfolding upon us in the present.

How were we so absorbed in ourselves, that we didn't see the evil sprouting in our own backyard? We didn't appreciate the depth of its roots of the hatred and the thirst for revenge, growing in substantial parts of our society.

Some of our leaders were so busy with irrelevant power struggles and ego wars that only weakened us. Instead of rallying around our common values, we fragmented into very self-righteous and weak factions. We lost our ability to influence reality and Israeli society.

For all these, I cried, while watching the program.

***Remarks at the Conclusion of the "Kol Nidre" Prayer 2023***

**"Habonim, The Builders" and the Jewish Democratic Home**

**David Mittelberg**

The night of Kol Nidre is a night of anxiety for ourselves, our families, our homes, our community, and our world, and therefore we stand in these awe-filled days, in fear and trembling, before the Creator of the world, feeling the inadequacy of the individual. If a year ago we spoke of external threats - this year, every day, we hear about the fear of the destruction of the home emanating from within, from within the land of Israel and the Jewish people.

I grew up in the pioneering Zionist youth movement "Habonim," where we were taught to build a Jewish, communal, national home - a home for all of the Jewish people. But who are we building this home with? Ourselves alone? No. With all of the Jewish people, including those who are different from us and believe differently in certain aspects of life. A year ago, I quoted from the book of the former Chief Rabbi of England, Rabbi Jonathan Sacks z"l, from his 2002 book "The Dignity of Difference". I won't repeat his words tonight, except to emphasize that what is required of us today is to recognize diversity and respect it, because we are all created in the image of God. If we don't, we will be condemned to endless wars amongst ourselves at a great cost of lives.

Five years later (2007), Rabbi Sacks z”l released another book titled "The Home We Build Together," where he grapples with the question of how we can build a balanced society that encompasses so much diversity. While Rabbi Sacks didn't speak about Israel specifically, but rather about England's multicultural society, there are some insights worth mentioning. According to the Rabbi, there are two ways to make others do what you want:

1. Through force – that is the answer of power or the State.
2. Through payment – that is the answer of the market. Neither of these obliges treating the other with respect and decency. Therefore, Rabbi Sacks suggests a third way, the way of the Covenant - that binds people in a moral relationship where "I" and "you", become "we". The Covenant is politics without power, an economy without self interest, and most importantly, it forces all of us to talk about the ccommon good.

In recent months, in our national discourse, we find, perhaps for the first time, a discussion about the Covenant and the place of the Declaration of Independence as a common foundation for Israeli Jews, with different perspectives, and also between Israeli Jewish and Arab citizens. Moreover, in the Diaspora, local Jews and expatriate Israelis all from various streams of Judaism, seek to renew a shared Covenant that can bridge the differences between them while maintaining mutual respect.

In the public discourse within Israel, the question is asked whether the State of Israel can be both Jewish and Democratic, while in the Diaspora there are Jews (a growing minority) who are asking, is the State of Israel still relevant to their Judaism? Their synagogue - if they go to one, no longer mandates a connection to the State of Israel.

In general, there is a tension between the universal values that we share and the particular values of our Judaism, however this tension is expressed differently in Israel and in the Diaspora. In 2011, I wrote a chapter on education for Jewish Peoplehood, and there I wrote that in the Diaspora this tension manifests itself in intermarriage rates and assimilation that are increasing, whereas here in Israel, I wrote: "In Israel the tension between being universal and being Jewish manifests itself in the tension between being Jewish and being Democratic, …between being Jewish and being Israeli or between staying in Israel and leaving the Nation."

Today, we hear colloquial Hebrew about "re- location", as a proposed strategy or escape from the constitutional crisis imposed upon us by force. All these tensions are a threat not only to the connection between us here in the land of Israel but between ourselves and our brothers and sisters in the Jewish Diaspora, the Jewish People worldwide.

The editor of Haaretz, Aluf Benn, contends that because of Ben-Gurion, the Declaration of Independence includes the words 'Rock of Israel.' I say - it's good that way because it obligates all of us - religious and secular alike, and all citizens of Israel - to establish a covenant that respects the core values of every citizen. Why does the State have to be democratic? Because only in this way can we build a bridge over the troubled waters that are the substantive differences between us.

We have all abandoned the Covenant, we have all enjoyed living in our own little or large piece of Heaven, but now there is no choice: we must establish together, on the basis of a democratic constitution and the heritage of the Jewish people, a covenant that binds all parts of the Jewish people while rejecting any imposition of one way of life over another.

In our kibbutz, in the state of Israel and throughout the Jewish world we must seek the path of inclusion of difference of the other, while honouring the freedom and equality of every person, as all are created in the image of God.

Sacks has called for a "Covenant of Hope," distinguishing between the optimism that believes things will improve, and hope - which is the belief that together we can improve the future. Thus, I interpret our outcry and the struggle against the judicial revolution, in order to prevent the destruction of the home we have built, the only national home for all of us.

I wish all the congregants, their families, all the members of Kibbutz Yizreel, the People of Israel, and the entire Jewish People worldwide,

A Shana Tova and Gmar Hatima Tova.

May we all be inscribed in the book of life

David Mittelberg

**The FOLLOWING ESSAY BY Elad Ilan** holds hope that emerging organizations from the protests will unify around a common democratic-liberal ideology, countering trends of religious indoctrination, Americanization, and external funding influences. These organizations are seen as a potential "active minority" akin to the historical Labour Movement, aiming to influence Israeli society positively, reminiscent of Berl Katznelson's vision of "THE LAW OF HE FEW" and the role of an empowered minority in societal progress.

**The Rise of Populist Right due to the Fragmentation of Israeli Society (Unabridged)**

Hanan Belon's remarks regarding the absence of the "Blue and White" from the ongoing protests have triggered contemplation regarding the disintegration of Israeli society. The early Israeli society was characterized by values ingrained in the youth movements, communities, and parties, which continued into military service and beyond. This cohesion was the foundational strength of young Israel.

In the beginning, Israeli society emphasized social solidarity and mutual assistance, with state institutions like The Histadrut and large cooperatives underscoring these values. Despite the shift towards private capital development in the 1950s, two significant accelerators of societal fragmentation were the Six-Day War and its ensuing economic opportunities and the 1977 revolution with the economic policies of the Likud government. From this point, under the influence of figures like Milton Friedman, Thatcher, and Reagan, Israel also underwent a process of Americanisation. This was reflected in several aspects: the erosion and often destruction of government services for citizens, concerning health, education, transportation, and social services, and a consumer culture prevalent in many parts of Israeli society, adhering to "shoppism."

Simultaneously, workers' organizations and other civic groups weakened. In this extreme reality exacerbated by rising housing prices (linked to population growth and pro-capitalist policies), the average Israeli citizen, despite seemingly living at a high standard of living, fears economic insecurity in the future, including pensions, and struggles to save or assist their children. Although their material standard of living appears high (in terms of product consumption) and they travel abroad (as it's cheaper than vacationing domestically), their ability to provide a high-quality education for their children is declining. They fear relying on the "safety net" of welfare services. This reality pushes certain individuals to act in ethically and legally grey areas to secure their future, especially concerning state and local governance institutions.

For those who could benefit within the current system, such as influential communities like the Haredi public gaining benefits through their political representatives, settler communities accumulating political power and creating a welfare state within the settlements (and at the expense of Likud voters in development towns), and the ruling party distributing jobs and positions through government control and state-owned companies.

For years, the Israeli public hasn't taken to the streets to protest against policies affecting them. The lack of youth movements at the forefront of the current protests, tied to budgetary dependencies on the government, deviates from their original purpose, removing them from any ideological and value-based content. The disillusioned public, though massive in numbers, marches as individuals with their personal priorities, although collectively heading to Jerusalem. They come to demonstrate in an unorganized manner, aligned with each citizen's preferences.

The only hope at this stage is that various organizations that emerged from these protests (Brothers in Arms, Alternative Builders, and others) will coalesce around a common democratic-liberal denominator, forming a significant force against trends of religious indoctrination in education and the military, against Americanisation, facilitated by the funding from Evangelical Christian organizations (like the "Friendship Fund"), Jewish-American gambling tycoons, and wavering oligarchs (e.g., Adelson, Israel Hayom, Channel 14, and many others). These organizations, one hopes, will be the "active minority" similar to what the Labour Movement was in realizing Zionism. Berl Katznelson wrote about in 1918:

"The doctrine of practical agriculture teaches us THE LAW OF HE FEW.' It is not the materials found in large quantities in the soil that determine the yield but the rare elements, which determine the blessing of the crop. Their presence enables the elements found in large quantities to function. So it is in human society. The majority follows the few… Such a minority needs to be the Israeli worker. So let it be, and we must believe that it will be."

By: Elad Ilan

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**My thoughts on the "The Animal Farm", workshop on Yom Kippur**

**Evening Prepared by Shlomo Cohen:**

**Written by Doron Kagan**

Before I put my thoughts down, I want to clarify that I am writing these lines at 22:26 , approximately 48 hours after the end of the lecture. According to the curve of forgetfulness by Hermann Ebbinghaus, about 42% of the content has been forgotten within just 20 minutes after the lecture. Tomorrow, 67% of the content will be forgotten, leaving only about 21% of the conveyed content remaining, which is actually excellent—it saves me the need to summarize.

Now, let's begin...

The discussion started with Shlomo's insightful description of the beginning of democracy in the Hebrew Bible, in a time when governance was based on a peculiar principle called "balance and constraints" between the prophet, the king and the people... Not to mention that during the biblical period, technology was also advancing in the world. With the help of a "Urim and Thummim" (Oracle) walkie-talkie from Motorola, communication with the divine, was possible. Some say this was Israel's first start-up.

As mentioned, this was just the appetizer, after that, the main course was served—a communal reading of George Orwell's "Animal Farm". The reading was presented to about 60 people of all ages. It was a serious challenge (on an empty stomach, no less).

The shared reading, guided confidently by Shlomo from page to page and paragraph to paragraph, allowed for a fascinating discussion on fundamental questions, such as: Is humanity a parasite on nature, is it merely a consumer and not a creator? If indeed all living beings (humans included) are free, why do we need laws? Do laws enable freedom or create limitations (to that freedom)?

The book describes three types of animals (animals, not humans, of course):

1. The Diligent worker contributing beyond what is required.
2. The worker doing what is expected of him, no more, but also no less.
3. The shirker, who avoids work with various excuses and reasons.

Needless to say, the discussion about these three types of workers led to a captivating conversation, one that touched on a very sensitive nerve.

In parentheses —Shlomo rightly pointed out that using allegory allows us to talk directly about painful and loaded topics, as it happens "over there," not "here" of course. (An idea for organizational management?)

As we continued flipping through the book, we learned about the changes in the behaviour and productivity of the animals when working under a socialist regime and later under a cruel dictatorial regime, each type of regime having its advantages and disadvantages. Another fascinating discussion that will continue for a long time to come.

For dessert, Shlomo served us, a plate of teasers; how one transitions from a democratic regime to a dictatorial one, and all the good that comes with it, along with Shlomo's cream of anecdotes on various topics.

• If all living beings are equal, then why and who should get more? (From each according to his needs? - ED) Or perhaps everyone should receive an equal share? Who defines this and how? • Can we rewrite history? How can we justify and make changes in what is considered clear and known to all?

I refrain from answering all these questions... Yet, anyone who wants an answer is certainly welcome to arrange a conversation with Shlomo over a cup of coffee and cake (not on Yom Kippur, of course).

In conclusion, I want to say thank you to Shlomo for a fascinating encounter that has already become a tradition for Yom Kippur, one that makes one stop, ask questions, and think. Not taken for granted, Shlomo. Thank you!

Written by: Doron Kagan

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**AI Lecture in the Pub – Daniel Hyams**

**Beer and Futurism**

**By Eddie Solow**

Last Thursday, on February 21, 2023, we were all invited to the pub for an evening on a topic that concerns us all - "Artificial Intelligence" (Hence forward AI – ED).

I thought this was an opportunity to expand my knowledge. I realized my understanding of the subject was close to zero, despite using an application called chatGPT for translating The Yizraelite into English. There is no doubt that the application understands much more about me than I understand about it.

I thought there would be at most a few dozen drunks in the place. I couldn't have been more wrong. The place was crowded with a diverse audience—veterans and youngsters, kibbutzniks, and visitors. I could barely find a spot to park my bike among the club-cars, electric cars and motorcycles.

Turns out, I'm not the only one eager to learn about the subject. Daniel opened with a question: how many of those present use AI in their daily lives? A few individuals shared how they use it. A teacher checks assignments, a planner utilizes AI for her work. I bragged about my translating of this weekly - not what I expected.

And then Daniel dropped a bombshell. She mentioned that she had asked some AI application or other, to prepare an introduction for this evening. She left it untouched. She made no changes! She read an amazing address. Smart, engaging, intriguing... without human intervention! I was astonished. Daniel told us there are thousands of websites and AI applications that can assist us in our daily activities. There are about 2500 already, and new ones are added every day. There are websites designed to help us find them. She told us that in her work at Maytronics, she uses AI. Tasks that used to take her hours are done in minutes. This way, she can focus on other human tasks. I was flabbergasted the entire evening!

Then Daniel asked if anyone is planning a trip overseas soon. Someone said they were going to Madrid with a few friends. Within minutes, the computer spat out a great trip plan for the girls for their stay in Madrid, including entertainment, including restaurants, museums, activities, warnings, and everything needed. At a small cost, the site could have also made the reservations too. Amazing! Daniel requested to receive the plan in a table form... and presto - everything was in columns

We saw Daniel trying to draw a cat. Not great! (Sorry, Daniel). One instruction to AI and a beautiful cat came out, exactly what Daniel would have drawn, if she could... I learned that these instructions are called "PROMPTS".

We asked AI to draw paintings in the style of the masters. The results were astonishing (of course).

We heard how AI already saves lives in the medical field, interpreting various medical tests (MRI etc) in real-time, something a human would need hours to perform this way determining the priority order of treatment. (And thus lives are saved)

We discussed the many dangers inherent in the system. What can I say, I decided to let younger and more intelligent people than me, worry about it. I'll use it as much as possible!

In short, in one evening, a new world opened up to me, all thanks to Daniel Hyams Assaf. You're amazing! Daniel, you promised to help anyone who turns to you... What do they say? Be cautious about what you offer. You'll be hearing from me soon.

A thousand thanks to you, Daniel, and to all the organizers.

And now I'm going to ask ChatGPT to improve this article!

Written by: Eddie Solow. Translated by ChatGPT (Any mistakes are the responsibility of AI. The jokes are mine! – Ed)



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**Transition season energy - Prices and times - Jeremy Perling**

Autumn officially started this week?!

The transition season has begun, autumn did arrive on the 22nd/23rd of September, but there is still no drop in heat levels, an El Nino year!! But electricity rates do go down.

**Hours and electricity rates transition season until the winter rates in December**

**Sunday to Thursday**

Peak - between the hours of 17:00 - 22:00

Intermediate - none

Low - all other hours

**Friday, Saturday and holiday evenings** - all hours - low

**On Saturdays and holidays** - all hours – low

**Low voltage kWh cost without VAT**

Winter - peak: 0.8604 NIS \ peak: 0.0 NIS \ low: 0.2802 NIS

Summer - peak: 1.229 NIS, \ peak 0.0 NIS \ low: 0.3258 NIS

**Transition season - peak: 0.3123 NIS \ high: 0.0 NIS \ low: 0.2726 NIS**

**In short: Between the hours of 17:00 - 22:00 on week days electricity is expensive!**

**Reminder!**

The solar boilers are powered by the sun until the end of September. After that, gradually, the solar boilers will use electricity, to complete the "work of the sun".

If the sun does not heat the water enough, you can turn on the boiler manually for half an hour. Remember to turn off after half an hour...! Otherwise... you will find out only at the end of the month, when you receive the electricity bill that you didn't remember.

This is the time to think about heating in the winter - maybe buy a radiator on sale, before the price increases when it will really be cold! Check that all exterior doors and windows close securely.

Winter Time 2023 **Daylight Saving Time will end on Sunday, October 29, 2023, at 02:00** AM - then you will get your sleep back... 219 days of "Daylight Saving Time"...

On the day of the start of winter time (on the night between Saturday and Sunday), the clock must be set back one hour, from 02:00 to 01:00 and we will gain another hour of sleep.

Those who have a Shabbat clock - the time must be changed according to winter time and the clock activations according to the operating times of "Low" and "High".

Enjoy pleasant weather until the cold of winter.

Jeremy Perling, Energy Commissioner

May we all have a year in which renewable energy will be at the forefront of our minds.

The alternatives are not encouraging -

Our dependence on electricity will be with us for many more years and will increase.

**English is Fun - with Rahel**

**WHO’D LOVE A PLATYPUS**?

He looks suspiciously like a beaver in a duck costume (or vice versa). He’s got a name that sounds like he is a friend of Socrates or Aesop.

INTERESTING THINGS ABOUT THE PLATYPUS

* A small shy animal inhabiting streams and lakes.
* His real name is *Ornithorhynchus anatinus.*
* He has one of the most waterproof coats in the world.
* He spends up to 12 hours a day in water as cold as 0.0 degrees.
* The female poops and reproduces out of the same orifice.
* Female platypus can lay up to three eggs in a burrow on land, from which the young hatch, and are reared on mother’s milk.
* He has a spur on his foot that is venomous enough to kill a dog.
* When first sightings of the platypus were reported back to Europe, they thought it was a hoax.
* He growls like a puppy when in danger.

**MOTHERS OF INVENTION**

Here are two women you may never heard of, but who may have affected your life.

Mother of Invention: Kate Cleason, a New York architect in the 1920’s.

The invention: TRACT HOUSING

After watching engines being put together on a Cadillac assembly line, Gleason decided to try using mass production techniques to build affordable housing for soldiers who had returned from World War I. Her first development was “Concrest” a 100-unit concrete housing project. Its six-room homes sold for $4,000 each.

The invention: CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

One afternoon, Ruth Wakefield, owner of the Toll House Inn and restaurant in Whitman, Massachusetts, USA, in the l930’s. One afternoon she was baking a batch of “chocolate butter drop” cookies for her restaurant. She decided to smash a semisweet cholate bar into tiny chunks and dump the pieces into the batter, rather than take time to melt the bar first. She figured the chunks would melt into the batter in the oven, and the cookies would be indistinguishable from her regular ones. She was wrong – and her customers loved the difference. Today Americans consume more than 78,000,000 kilograms of chocolate chip cookies every year.

**THE DEVIL’S DICTIONARY**

....a caustic set of definition for otherwise harmless words, written by Ambrose Bierce, one of the most famous newspaper columnists of the late 1880’s.

ABSTAINER: A weak person who yields to the temptation of denying himself a pleasure.

ALONE: In bad company.

BEQUEATH: To generously give to another that which can no longer be denied to somebody.

CONSULT: To seek another’s approval of a course already decided on.

DEPRAVED: The moral condition of a gentleman who holds the opposite opinion.

DIVORCE: A resumption of diplomatic relations and rectification of boundaries.

…………..MORE NEXT WEEK

**P.S. from Ed**

In the light of the length and seriousness of the Alon, I decided to postpone till next week the printing of Stas’s interesting article on the role and contribution of music to our lives

Chag Sameach

Translated and edited by Eddie Solow

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