

**The Yizraelite – No 2136 Date: 8.12.23**

**Kibbutz Yizrael**

**Edi-torial.** Can I change the subject just for once? Please! Many Anglo-Saxons are addicted to this most wonderful word game. I cannot begin my day without doing my **WORDLE**. It wakes me up and gets my brain moving. It drives the nightmares out of my head and replaces them with a sense of self-esteem and wellbeing (Till I make the mistake of listening to the news) So if you do not do “WORDLE”, do yourself a favour and Google “The New York Times Wordle” and begin your voyage of discovery. One game a day. That is all you can play. From midnight every night the new word is on- line.

I have played 621 games, never missed a day. Nor will you, trust me.

Have a good week

**Young Generation Committee Update**

Update about our folks in the young generation!

Congratulations to Adam Abramovich on his enlistment to the IDF this week. May your enlistment be smooth and meaningful, and return home safely!

Message: Monica Brustein

**To the Wonderful Members of Kibbutz Yizrael,**

Thank you very much to all the members who have volunteered so far for kitchen duty and serving dinner to the displaced families hosted with us on recent Saturday suppers:

We would be happy to have more volunteers. You can contact me or Eyal Tirosh. The volunteering hours are between 18:00-19:45 on Saturdays. There are always two volunteers assigned with two of the hosted families.

*Message by: Keren Stamper-Kagan*

**Thank you from the Bottom of our Hearts for Hosting Us.**

Thank you for the warmth, care, for opening your home and your hearts to us, and allowing us to experience a part of your lovely kibbutz during this challenging time.

Special thanks to Keren and Eyal, who took care of us from the moment we arrived - there is no one like you!!

You are welcome to visit us on Brur-Chail when quieter days return. 💜

From us, the Lax family - Ella, Niv, Adar, and Peleg

Another **Thank You**

We would like to express our gratitude for including our children in the "Ner HaGilboa" school

First of all, thanks to the director of the education department in the regional council, Ayelet Rahmian and the Gilboa department of education, who quickly got involved in the integration of our children. You welcomed us with open arms and made sure that the children returned to their routine as soon as possible, after they had not been in an organised setting for about a month. You managed to help them to return and fulfill their academic abilities and social life.

We feel and see your commitment and efforts to provide emotional, social and academic support.

Thanks to the principal, Avivit, who took us in, with great willingness and desire to help.

Thanks to the student advisor, Ma’ayan, who welcomed us and made us feel safe and is always available for a relaxing and genuine heartfelt conversation.

Thank you to the teachers who welcomed our children with a smile and made sure that the children fitted in, received equipment and books and most importantly, made sure that they have friends both in class and during breaks.

Our children returned to being calm and happy from the moment they entered the school gates and that says everything and dispels all our concerns as parents.

Finally, thanks to all the school staff: the professional teachers, the assistants, the “security chief” and of course the guards and soldiers who are guarding our children.

And the biggest and most important thank you of all goes to the children of Gan Ner School and their parents, who welcomed our children with love, naturally and with a lot of joy and made the children part of the school community.

We do not take it for granted

Thank you for everything,

From the parents and children of the "Iron Swords" evacuees

**Community Management Report**

**December 3, 2023**

**Present:** Erez Peleg, Talia Arad, Inbal Adler, Maor Persai, Ilana Peleg, Shlomo Levi, Limor Griman, Yifat Segal, Stas Gavrilov, Kineret Govrin, Yifat Assaf
**Absent:** Tamir Blass, Ishai Levi

1. **Work Plans of Service Branches** Various service branches presented their achievements in meeting the goals of 2023, the lessons learned, and their work plans for 2024, including budget requests. Presentations were given by Guy Arad - Building Branch, Itzik Shechter and Adi Laviv - Food Branch, Tami Pen and Netta Cohen - Kolbo, Erez Peleg - Security.
2. Liora Kamilian - Clothing Branch and Alon Reuven – Electricity Branch, were unable to attend.

Next week, the managers of the social branches will present their summaries for 2023 and work plans with budget requests for 2024.

1. **Salaries for Young Generation, Community Employees (Invited: Branch Managers in the Community, Attended: Adi G-I, Liora Kamilian, Noga Harpaz, and Ranit Levi on behalf of the Young Generation Committee)**

In June of this year, it was decided to apply the "employee track" to the young generation in community branches as well. Central branches felt the need to clarify whether the hourly rate in community branches should be uniform or different for each branch, and what is the correct tariff in community branches.

Various points were raised in the discussion:

* + Until now, in the grant track, all workers received the same hourly rate, and the difference was based on the number of hours worked.
	+ In Maytronics and Agriculture, each pays differently
	+ While it's true that at least in the first year the salary in the community should be uniform, after a year, a salary scale can be created based on objective factors such as branch experience, responsibility level, etc. (Objective? – Ed)
	+ It is important to have a uniform salary in the community to avoid placing branch managers in complex situations of favouritism or family/social closeness (nepotism), which may create problematic situations and tensions between branches.
	+ On the other hand, a significant part of the idea behind the employee track, besides having social benefits, is that the young members will learn how the "real world" operates.
	+ Even if the hourly pay is lower in the employee track, it provides better conditions, such as sick leave, pension contributions, etc.
	+ Concerns were expressed that people might stay in service branches for a long time, limiting opportunities for other young people entering the workforce.
	+ It is essential that the price per hour is lower than that of Maytronics and Agriculture to incentivise young members to work in these branches.

It was clear that the hourly wage would be above the minimum wage but less than 35 per hour.

**It was decided:**

A. The rate between the branches of the community will be uniform

B. The hourly rate will be 33 NIS

3. "Duvdevan" preschool children's creche.

Duvdevan is the only preschool children's house that does not have reinforced room. The events of the last period prove the need for a protection solution in the children's houses, and the state has even shortened the bureaucratic processes. The existing preschools saved the situation in the current war, and remained open even in a situation of tension. In order to start the process of building a reinforced room, and start the planning, the project needs to be approved by the community's management. A reinforced room is part of the investment plan of 2024, but right now there is a need for a building permit. Later, the project will need the approval of the Economic Council. Right now, the need is to give the green light. The question was asked why not take the opportunity to begin planning a reinforced room for the clinic, which may be used to evacuate the wounded, if necessary, as well as one for the secretariat building, which could used as a medical centre if necessary. These are two extremely essential public buildings in an emergency.

**It was decided:** to start the planning security rooms in the Duvdevan creche, the clinic and a two-story reinforced room in the old secretariat building.

**Approval of investments for the readiness team.**

The emergency response committee recommends a number of investments in equipment within the overall budget, which was approved by the Economic Council. A formal approval of the community management is necessary for these purchases. The cost is about 40,000 shekels. This will be funded by the budget approved by the Economic Council for war expenses. Erez listed the recommended suggestions and their importance. (Not included in the report? - Ed)

**It was unanimously decided: to approve the purchase of the items on the list, which was presented as essential for the standby security team.**

**Assisting other cooperative kibbutzim** - the management of the the cooperative kibbutzim headquarters has founded an ongoing project to assist the cooperative kibbutzim who have had to evacuate. There are five evacuee cooperative kibbutzim: in the south - Zikim, Be’eri and Givim, and in the north - Sassa and Bar-am. Yizrael is to "adopt" Be’eri. This means small gestures of consideration and attention, and it does not come in place of doing or contributing of any kind. The need for the little things came from the kibbutzim themselves, people who have been away from home for two months, and want to feel a sense of partnership. Adi Ilan and Yifat Assaf will coordinate the "adoption" project. Ideas for partnership gestures are welcome!

**Payment Collection from evacuees** - a letter was sent to all our evacuee guests regarding payment. A distinction is made between evacuees on behalf of the state, who receive payment from the state, and those who live a few hundred metres from the border and were not evacuated by the state, and therefore continue to pay as usual, and do not receive payment from the state. For the latter, a discount will be given. Yifat AssafTop of Form

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**General Meeting Report - 4.12.23**

Chairman of the meeting: Shlomo Cohen

Secretary: Eddie Solow

Present: 44 members in the moadon + Zoom

1. **Zivit Nanikashvili - proposal to terminate membership** due to violation of the resolutions of the asefa - correction of a technical error in the number of the section in the wording submitted for approval by the asefa on 6.11.23

Shlomo Cohen read the correct section, section 5 (a) 3, in order to make it clear that this is the section for which it is proposed to exclude Zivit from membership. The technical error in the section number gave the family two additional weeks in which to comply with the asefa's decisions or try to reach a payment arrangement. Since the violation of the resolutions of the asefa continues in the same way, the issue comes up for a vote again with the same reasoning.

A vote was held through the Kehilanet regarding the wording proposed for the ballot - "Termination of Zivit Nanikashvili’s membership in the kibbutz in accordance with Section 5 (a) 3 of Part B of the kibbutz bylaws, after she violated the provisions of the statutes and the decisions of the assembly and did not cease the violations after being warned by the assembly that her membership would be expected to be terminated

In Favour: 121, against: 0, abstentions: 0

**The wording proposed for the ballot was approved.**

2. **Approval of the kibbutz statutes (Takanon Hakibbutz)**

 Jeremy presented the entire process that has been done on the subject so far:

- Noting rules that are no longer compatible with our lifestyle in the present (Ad Hoc Committee).

- Discussions with Attorney, Omer Cohen, correspondence back and forth.

- Three open meetings, where all members were invited, with attorney Cohen, going over each and every point, and reaching compromises while taking into consideration the wishes of the members and the requirements of the law.

- Completion of the statute by the lawyer.

- Back to the executive committee on 6/9/23, for approval to bring the updated statutes to the asefa for approval.

- Publication of the proposed regulations in Kehilanet for comments and reservations.

- After today's asefa - the regulations including the amendments will be brought to a secret ballot vote. If it is approved in the ballot - it will be forwarded to the registrar of associations for approval. The registrar may not approve all sections. (In which case they will be rediscussed – Ed)

** Uri Gilad proposed an amendment to section 9 which talks about termination of candidacy.** He suggested that the system for termination of candidacy should be the same as the acceptance to candidacy…..made by the executive committee or by any relevant body appointed for this purpose at the asefa (absorption committee + members committee).

There was discussion for and against Uri's proposal.

There was a show of hands vote on Uri's amendment - for: 21, against: 2, **the amendment was accepted.**

 **Uri Gilad raised another amendment on the subject of a deferred council meeting**. In the proposal for the new statutes, it states that an adjourned council meeting will be held after half an hour, if the necessary quorum is lacking at the prescribed time (on condition that a deferred meeting was not prescheduled). If many people stay at home, it is wrong and irresponsible, in Uri’s opinion, to hold an economic council meeting. Choosing a meeting date and time, is the responsibility of the Council Committee.

There was a show of hands vote on Uri's amendment - in favour of the reservation: 16, against: 7. **The amendment was accepted.**

 **Yitzhak Peleg raised an amendment regarding the necessary majority in accepting new members.** In his opinion, the current method should be left as is, and that a minimum number of participants and a mandatory majority of members in favour are needed, to accept a new member. On the other hand, it was said that by the current method, those who do not vote, affect the result and it is immoral that those who do not bother to perform the simple action of voting on Kehilanet should decide on such a significant issue (since not voting is, in effect, a vote "against").

**Vote:** There was a vote by show of hands, on Yitzhak's amendment: in favor of the amendment - 5, against 15. **The reservation was not accepted.**

The finished statutes, including the amendments accepted, will now be forwarded to the lawyer for final scrutiny, and will be published in its entirety in Kehilanet, prior to the ballot.

**The votes on the two issues that came up tonight will be held at the polls on Monday-Tuesday, 11-12/12/2023**

Yifat Assaf

**Why Bother Voting for the New Kibbutz Constitution?**

Next week, the new kibbutz statutes will be voted on, by ballot.

The old statutes were accepted sometime at the end of the 1950s. They might have suited that era, but today they are outdated. For a long time, the kibbutz has not been operating according to all the provisions of its constitution. While key sections that could jeopardize the kibbutz have been amended over the years, the document as a whole is dated, written in archaic language, and sometimes not understandable at all. This is because the constitution is a mishmash of regulations and decisions from different periods.

The management committee took upon itself the difficult and complex task of rewriting the constitution. After a long and exhausting process, a new constitution has been prepared that can serve all of us, kibbutz members and elected representatives, for the coming years.

The constitution was presented in three open meetings, allowing the public to suggest, modify, and influence. Amendments were also considered at the asefa. So, there's nothing to worry about. Of course, the constitution is not perfect and it's not set in stone. There may be changes in the future, but it's important that it passes the ballot with the required majority, as specified by the regulations of the Registrar of Associations, which demand the approval of at least 75% of the attributed majority **and the participation of at least 2/3 of all kibbutz members** in the vote.

**If we don't meet this majority, we'll be stuck with the old statutes. And nobody wants that! Therefore, members, please vote "Yes" in the ballot next week for the approval of the constitution.**

Eddie Solow (In his private capacity)

**Membership Termination + Approval of the Kibbutz Statutes**

A ballot with two votes will be held from Monday, 11/12/23

8:00 a.m. to Tuesday, 12/12/23 at 1:00 p.m.

**first vote-**

**Termination of Zivit Nanikashvili's membership** in the kibbutz in accordance with Section 5(a)(3) in Part B of the kibbutz statutes, after she violated the provisions of the statutes and the decisions of the asefa and did not cease the violations after being warned by the asefa that she can expect that her membership may be terminated – (for/against/abstain)

**second vote-**

**Acceptance of the (new) kibbutz statutes** proposed by the management committee (for/against/abstain)

According to the existing regulations:

- 60% of all members are required to vote "in favour" (180 members) when cancelling membership.

- When voting on the statutes, at least two-thirds of the members must vote (200 members), and of these, a majority of 75% "in favour" is required to pass a resolution.

Message - Asefa Committee



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**An Update Regarding the Position of Kibbutz Security Chief**

**Erez Peleg and Kinneret Govrin**

At the end of the search process, and after no kibbutz member volunteered to take on the position, we are updating that **Yarden Naor** has agreed to our request and will take on the challenging job.

Yarden will get a handover from Alon Reuven during the month of December and will replace him as of January 1, 2024.

**To Alon** - many thanks, for the dedication, commitment, and great responsibility, both in normal times and in times of emergency and war. You greatly promoted the field of security in the kibbutz and acted professionally. You were the right man at the right time. A big thank you from all of us!

To Yarden - best wishes for success in the position, especially in light of the general situation in the country. You have a lot of important work ahead of you, but with your motivation to do the job and your willingness to learn, we trust you will succeed.

Alon will return to managing the Electricity branch full time. (I am shocked – Ed)

Message: Erez Peleg and Kinneret Govrin

**Summary of the H.R. Management Meeting - 3.12.2023**

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

1. **Duty Shifts** **- appeal against the decision to close the laundry and folding clothes shifts on Shabbat**

Invited: Liora Kamilian, director of the clothing branch.

**Another** discussion was held on the issue of continuing laundry shifts on Shabbat for soldiers and year of service sons and daughters. Liora presented the economic and environmental aspects of operating the laundry system for the very minor use of soldiers and young people during a service year (about 5 or less users on average every week).

In order to improve the shift system and make it easier for the public, an effort is being made to concentrate as many as possible shift workers in the food branch shifts and to operate only those shifts that are necessary. To this end, it was suggested to buy washing machines for individual use instead of providing a duty team.

**Discussion:**

• This small numbers of people who use this service on weekends does not justify the operation of an entire system. The public will get used to it when a change is made.

• There is no standard for the minimum number of people utilising a service, that justifies closing a service branch. The number of users of any service in the kibbutz should not be a consideration for closing a service. (Think about that statement – Ed)

• A service must meet a necessary and essential need and it is not certain that there is justification and logic to use so many members in this case.

• There is a desire to give members as many services as possible, but the economic aspect cannot be ignored.

• Providing an alternative to the public, such as purchasing a washing machine and dryer, will enable the laundry service to be closed on Shabbat.

• We should check the possibility that the pensioners who currently fold the clothes on Shabbat can do the washing too.

• This is a service that caters for the soldiers and part of all the services that the kibbutz has offered until today.

**Decision: to continue the laundry service on Shabbat.** It is Erez and Liora’s responsibility to decide whether to wash with the existing machines or small machines. One laundry shift will be assigned every Shabbat and the folding shift will be discontinued.

Kinneret Govrin

​**From the Desk of the new Duty Manager – Zohar Assaf.**

**A few opening words,**

Firstly - I'm still learning the job and there may be beginner's mistakes, please understand.

Also, starting from January 2024, the software will be replaced. Here too, there will surely be birth pains.

During the next week I will publish the schedule of shifts for the months of January-February 2024,

That's why I really ask that you send me **today** by WhatsApp only (not by phone) special requests and information regarding holidays that you know about in advance.

Towards the end of the month, I will hold an open meeting, to teach the new application and software. In the future I will also personally guide anyone who asks.

Please note – In regard to duty shifts, I am subject to the new procedures accepted by the asefa and to Kinneret Govrin, H.R. Manager.

Regarding guarding the gate, we are still continuing with the volunteering. We commend the volunteer spirit of many good people. The list is posted on the bulletin board, I would appreciate it if you signed up. Please be responsible for changing your shifts if necessary.

There is a new email for everything related to the rotations, please use it toranut@yizrael.com

Apart from the duty rosters, I am replacing Irit Cohen as secretary and I will also be happy to help with printing and copying or any other office work. In this regard, please forward requests to the reception email: reception@yizrael.com

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ortal Zaltsman for the way she did her job providing a very high level of service and thank you for helping me with everything I requested. Also, I would like to thank Tze’ela Baran-Shkolnik for the extensive preparation work she did, for the new software, and of course to Irit Cohen for the years she served us all.

In addition to these jobs, I continue to work part-time, evenings and Saturday shifts at Beit Alfa, in the sheltered housing institution for adults with special needs. That's why I won't always be available, and I prefer any request you make to be via WhatsApp rather than by phone.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in all areas.

Zohar Assaf

**A Message from the Health and Welfare Cluster.**

**New Kalnoit Procedure**

This week, a new procedure will be published in Kehilanet - the Kalnoit (electric scooter) procedure.

This is a process that was initiated about a year ago, at the initiative of Kobi Levy and is now coming to completion.

Today the health and welfare cluster has about 50 scooters. The purpose of the procedure is to redefine the safety, maintenance and personal responsibilities of the users.

The procedure was approved by the Health Council on 20/11/23 and then transferred to the community management on 25/11/23 for approval, where it was accepted.

If no appeal is filed, the procedure will be added to Kehilanet in the 'Regulations and Procedures' folder - in the Health and Welfare tab.

Of course, you can comment or ask for clarification during the coming week, if there are constructive comments, so that we can incorporate them into the procedure.

Talia Arad

Health and Wellbeing Cluster

​**Minutes of the Entrepreneurship and Small Business Committee Meeting 28.11.23**

Present: Irit Mor, Kinneret Govrin, Anna Abramovich, Momi Cohen, Shimon Zelas, Maor Parsai

1. **Professional insurance for Shachaf Halevi Sassi's tattoo clinic**: At the committee meeting on 24/5/2023, we approved Shachaf to open a part-time tattoo clinic, provided we find a suitable place and arrange the insurance issue. Meanwhile, Shachaf continues work from home. Shachaf will start working temporarily in the old costume room (opposite Ron Cohen's office). In the beginning, there will be property insurance and third party insurance. The cost of professional insurance is very high (premium 8000 NIS per year) and usually after two years of experience and obtaining a business license it decreases. The committee decided to add professional insurance from the beginning of the activity despite the high premium.

**2**. **12 month Forecast 2023**: Shimon presented the summary of 9 months and forecast for the whole year 2023 of all businesses. According to the forecast (12 months 2023), the revenues of all businesses will amount to NIS 2.800,000. 9% more than last year's performance. The net profit is decreasing, mainly due to an increase in wages, but the contribution to the kibbutz reaches NIS 1.7 million, an increase of 7% from last year.

**3. Plan for 2024:** Shimon presented the plans of all 23 businesses. All programs include a wage increment of 22.5% "employer's cost". There are several businesses that, according to the 2024 plan, have no profit. Some of them submitted an improved plan. The committee decided to give these a period of 3 months to try to increase the income. We will continue to discuss with each one in an effort to improve their profitability.

**4. Information and miscellaneous**:

 **Alona Granot** requested to be transferred to the care of the outside workers committee. The request was approved.

**Eran Shkolnik** - music: after two years of trying, it was agreed to close his music venture.

**The renovation of the shack for Moran Habshush's pastry shop** - Barry Feldman is carrying out the project. Expected to be completed by the end of December.

**Business insurance** - together with Shai Witelson we checked and updated the insurance of all businesses.

Enlarging the plant nursery's yard – soon the nursery's yard will be expanded and improved at a cost of NIS 31,000.

Shimon Zelas

**From the Sounds of the Music School**

**Virtuoso Festival in Music School**

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On Friday 11/24/23, the traditional virtuoso festival of the Yizrael Gilboa Music School, took place. For those who are hearing about this strange concept for the first time - a virtuoso is a person who excels in the technique of a certain art, or who has a very high ability in a certain field.

The Music School borrowed the concept, and based an outstanding festival on it. The festival elevates the technique in playing to a miracle and presents the best of its students, in a selection of challenging and "virtuoso" pieces.

The day opened with morning workshops for the young students, divided according to their musical instruments - where the musicians displayed their technical abilities.

After that, all the participants gathered for the plenum, which started with joint playing - an orchestra of all the musicians from the Music School, from young to old, from beginners to the most advanced. Everyone together performed the prelude (=opening) "Te Deum" by Marc Antonio Charpentier (or as we know it - the opening of the Eurovision...) which became the anthem of the festival. The plenary continued, with performances by advanced students and selected ensembles. The symphony orchestra concluded the concert, with a moving performance of the song "May the sun pass over me".

At the end of the plenary, the students enjoyed a "musical feast" - a joint lunch with delicacies that each student brought from home. Then the young students dispersed to their homes and the older students stayed for another round of workshops. A total of 120 students participated in the festival this year - well done!!!

**Little Tips for Big Emotions - Gaya Sankar**

**"Every individual is a small glimmer, but together are beacon of light"**

This week we marked two months, two whole months, since the day when it seemed that the light went out, when dark forces invaded our lives, cloaking everything in darkness.

And here, the holiday of Hanukkah is upon us, the holiday of light, which comes to illuminate and remind us that, along with the pain, inside each of us resides a special light.

No doubt, darkness is darkness. We are dealing with a terrible reality by all accounts, and within it, it is difficult for us to see how any good can grow in the future, how the light will return.

However, even when we cannot change the external reality, and even when it doesn't always seem that way, we always have our personal choice – how we see things and how to act - whether to turn on our light, or not.

And at first, our light will seem small, insignificant, but just like in the menorah - when a candle is added to a candle, the light intensifies and grows.

What can you do?

At the end of each day of the holiday (and in general), before going to bed, write down for yourself:

1. Three things I am thankful for today

Gratitude "forces" us for a moment to focus on what is there, to observe the bright spots.

This technique has been scientifically proven to have many benefits, including its ability to improve mood, balance feelings of despair, anxiety or depression, and even improve physical health.

2. Plan to do a good deed tomorrow:

A good deed, a good word, a good thought... if every day we add a good deed, we will create a space of light around us that has a good effect and attracts good from our surroundings.

This way we will create a chain of good deeds - each one is a small light, but together, the light overcomes the darkness.

Gaya

**Visitors in Times of War**

Many thanks to Revital Amit for helping to prepare this column

**Shimrit and Dan Meir from Kibbutz Eilon**

**Who we are?** 14-year-old Omer studies with his friends at Beit Ha'Emek (and is not staying on Yizrael), 11-year-old Shahar studies at Beit Alfa with friends from Eilon and has been integrated into kibbutz Yizrael’s tlaton (after school children’s house) from the first day of our arrival. Shir is six years old, studies at Beit Alfa with friends from Eilon and has been integrated into the tlaton since the first day of our arrival.

What do we do on a regular basis?

**Shimrit** is a kindergarten teacher with the Ministry of Education currently working in Ein Harod Ihud with children evacuated from Hanita, Dafna, Kfar Sold and Sderot.

**Dagan** is a mechanical engineer, works in Shlomi at the Tab Medical factory.

**Where were we until we got to Yizrael?** We left on 7.10 fearing that what happened in the south may also happen in the north. We moved between our families in the valley and friends and after two weeks we arrived in Yizrael.

**What do we miss?** Missing routine and home but we are engulfed and receiving a warm and caring reception on Yizrael.

**What do you like about Yizrael?** We are moved every time anew by the thought of the physical and mental well-being of each of us and the unparalleled hospitality. It fills us with strength and makes us forget the difficulties and thoughts about home.



**Ofir Rappaport and Dvir Kaplan from Kibbutz Brur-Chail**

**Who we are?** Our eldest, Dylan, is in third grade at Ner HaGilboa School. Tom is five and a half, in Gan Alon.

**What do we do on a regular basis?** Dvir works at the Tax Authority in Ashkelon and now in Afula.

Ofir is teacher of classical ballet and modern dance. Dance trends, pilates mat and equipment exercise classes. A year ago she opened a studio for exercise using Pilates equipment in Sderot and now it is closed. Here on Yizrael she teaches mat Pilates on Sundays and Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. and on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. You are all welcome to join.

**Where were we until we got to Yizrael?** At the beginning of the fighting, we were in Ein Harod Ihud for 9 days, we stayed in a housing unit of a couple who hosted us royally. After that we moved to a hotel in Haifa with the community from our kibbutz, but very quickly we missed the green spaces of the kibbutz.

**What do we miss?** We miss our friends and families in the kibbutz sitting on the balcony and watching the children play with their friends.

**What do you like about Yizrael?** We are full of gratitude to the lovely Yizrael community that hosts us with a smile and a generous heart. We don’t take that for granted.



**We Have come to Chase away the Darkness**

**Hannuka Programme**

**Thurs 7.12** – 18:00 Candle Lighting in Dining room

**Fri 8.12** 19:00 Festive meal in Dining Room

 21:00 Gal Witelson, Shachaf Halevi & Yaniv Lipschitz in the

 Moadon

**Sun 10.12** Latkas and Chana Zelda

**Mon 11.12** 19:30 Shnitzl-Borshst in the Moadon

**Tue 12.12** Creativity corners in the dining room (Not a good place for

 Vipassana – Ed)

**Wed 13.12** 16:30 Lantern Building in the tent on the dining room upper level.

 17:30 Lamplight march to the upper dam.

**Thurs 14.12** Torch Marathon. Ma’ayan, Bar Mitzvah group. Details to

 follow

 19:00 Lighting the 8th candle. Note the time (19:00)

 20:30 Soups and a lecture: The mystical connection between

 Body and soul

**Sun 17.12** Window cleaning in Dining room! (Festival Highlight – Ed)

**Committee members**: Iris Tsushu (Visitor); Eli Friedman; Gali Sharon (Visitor); David Beutler; Dekel Sarano (new family); Hadar Levi-Lavi; Zohar Assaf; Tali Brauman; Yifat Segel; Sheli Edelstein; Sarit Laviv; Tamir Lavi.

**The Kibbutz Movements Remember**

At the meeting of the kibbutz movement, on the 40th day since that Black Sabbath of October 7th - **David Grossman** said the following:

40 days have passed since that Sabbath in which the lives of hundreds of men and women, babies, children and old people were destroyed.

The terrorists of Hamas, drunk with hatred and malice, slaughtered families inside their homes, parents in front of their children, children in front of their parents. Raped, murdered innocent people dancing at a Nova party. Chased after them and shot them with the joy of hunters, or as if they were characters in a computer game.

"Here are our bodies laid out, a long line," wrote Haim Guri in another war - and perhaps this is actually the same war that goes on endlessly - "Here are our bodies laid out, a long line, our faces have been changed. Death is reflected in our eyes."

Indeed, our face has been changed. We won't be what we were again. The things we saw, the horrors we were exposed to, the face of hatred. As if a sinkhole opened in the heart of reality and pulled us into it.

And in contrast, the stories of heroism and sacrifice. The story of the deeds done by human beings for other humans. The unfathomable courage of those who threw their lives away - literally, literally threw their lives away - to save other people. To protect the family, the house, the kibbutz, and often people they didn't know.

Again, and again, men and women risked their lives with indescribable courage. In one moment, in one act, like jumping on a live grenade that was thrown into a shelter, to save the others.

And when they did this, when they threw their souls aside, they shook to the core the conventions of the world we know, a cynical, selfish and utilitarian world.

Since October 7th, I have been thinking a lot about these people. We passed them every day, in the street. Then, suddenly, in one moment, they were launched from the familiar, banal everyday life, to one of the most difficult tests a person has ever faced. A test of life and death.

We came today to tell, to listen, to remember. Turn the state, public "yizkor" into "nizkor".

We will remember a world lost with the loss of our loved ones.

After all, with the loss of each and every one of them, an entire world was lost - and one could say, an entire culture. A personal and private culture, a kind of small civilization of one family; With its private and intimate memories, with its little jokes; With the sensitivities, the subtleties, with the moments of kindness and the inner language that only they understand - and all these were lost.

And it's hard. You must get used to that. Get used to the fact that from now on everything - or almost everything - will come painfully.

That the whole existence will be made binary: either zero or one, is not or is.

And in the inner space these are his laws. We will remember them, our loved ones who are lost to us. When we remember, we give them movement. Because death freezes, petrifies, and in movement there is life.

We will remember the look on their faces, the expressions on their faces, the light on their faces, the flow of life in their body movements, their laughter, their sorrow. We will remember their voices, and the spark of light that was in their eyes. The value we gave to people, to their actions.

And most of all, the heart mourns for the young people who were murdered.

All our lives we will mourn what we did together with them. About the future they could have had, about the abundance of the future. On the small and big pleasures of life. On the joys, and also on the anguish and sorrow: the seal of life, in all its fullness.

And the children, and what they went through and what is happening to them in Hamas captivity. Our beloved children about whom it is almost impossible to talk, because of the sorrow that the soul cannot contain.

And yet it has been said: a child cannot be a hostage. A child cannot be a captive. Whoever makes a child a hostage removes himself from humanity.

Haim Nachman Bialik wrote in "On the Slaughter": "And the blood will fill the abyss! The blood will fill the abysses of darkness."

And we ask, how can we rise up, after being in the abyss of darkness. After we were both in "On the Slaughter" and "The Killing City".

And we also asked: who will we be - what kind of people will we be, what kind of society will we create, on what values will we raise our children from now on, after we rise from the ashes.

And where do you get the strength to stand up again, to build a house, to plow a field, to bring a child into the world, into such a world.

In the last month, I saw you, the residents of the Gaza border, the residents of the south. Like all the people of Israel, I watched you for long hours on television, day and night. And I thought that for almost your entire life, Israel has been at war or in a violent conflict, one way or another, with its neighbours. And you, you were almost always right on the border and faced confrontation. And you paid a huge price for life there. And yet, the war did not corrupt you. That's how I felt when I saw and heard you speak.

You were and still are honest people. People whose minds and hearts are equal. People who pursue peace, seek good, and often seek to do good for their enemy as well.

We are all about to be tested, are being tested. In some cases, we are already being tested today, in the manifestations of wonderful, creative citizenship. In solidarity that overwhelms all in the massive civil mobilisation, in the way the people of this country are fixing what the state has broken.

And even today, even after everything that has happened, there is some feeling that from here, from this point in time, and together with you, the people of the cities and towns, the kibbutzim and the moshavim, with you, we can build a new and better future.

With you, with your strength, with your courage, we can start again, from the beginning, from the beginning.

Sent by: Yifat Assaf





**Programme for 10/12/23 – 14/12/23**

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

**HAPPY HANNUKAH**

**Sunday 10/12**

Opening the week with Monica.

09:30 Nature is Blooming – Hammutal Assaf

10:00 Ceramics room open with instruction from Ziv Ben Bassat

16:00 A meeting with young women from Malkishua

**Monday 11/12**

O8:00 Pedicure with Limor Mualem (by appointment only)

09:30 The Art of Drawing – Chas Broadhurst

16:00 Open for coffee, cake, and chats

**Tuesday 12/12**

10:00 A meeting with the children from the Grades 1-3 children’s house

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

**Wednesday 13/12**

10:00 Lecture from Rochele Matalon

**Thursday 14/12**

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

10:00 Movie screening with Galia Shemi

17:15 Exercises on chairs with Michal Sha’anan

**English is Fun - with Rahel**

“JEWS: Who Knew?” (by Debbie Jones Thornton)

Taken from the book “JEWS: Who Knew?”

The Nobel Prizes were established in 1895 by Alfred Nobel, a Swedish industrialist and chemist, who invented dynamite, among many other inventions. He left his entire immense fortune to fund the prizes. Nobel died in 1896 and five years later – in 1901 – the first Nobel Prizes were awarded.

Nobel Prizes are awarded annually to individuals and organizations who make outstanding contributions in the fields of chemistry, physics, literature, peace and physiology or medicine.

Each recipient, or “laureate” receives a gold medal, a diploma and nine million Kronor, roughly equivalent to one million US dollars. The awards are presented in Stockholm at an annual ceremony on December 10th, the anniversary of Alfred Nobel’s death.

Between 1901 and 2017, the Nobel Prizes and the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences were awarded 585 times to 923 people and organizations. With some receiving the Nobel Prize more than once, this makes a total of 892 individuals (including 844 men and 48 women) and 24 organizations.

The following statistics are noteworthy. As of 2017, Nobel Prizes have been awarded to 902 individuals, of whom 203 or 22.5% were Jewish, even though as I have indicated**, Jews comprise less than one-half of one percent of the world’s population.**

This means the percentage of Jewish Nobel laureates is about 112.5 times or 250% above average.

Broken down by Nobel Prize category, Jews represent:

in Economics – 40% of the world’s total prize winners

in Physics – 26% of the world’s total

in Physiology or Medicine – 26% of the world’s total

in Chemistry – 20% of the world’s total

in Literature – 13% of the world’s total

In Peace – 8% of the world’s total

I find this to be absolutely amazing!

Many of the names of the 203 Jewish laureates are obscure, although some will be familiar. Among them are:

Albert Einstein of Germany (Physics, 1921) “for his services to theoretical physics, and especially for his discovery of the law of photoelectric effect.”

Boris Pasternak of Russia (Literature, 1958) “for his important achievement both in contemporary lyrical poetry and in the field of the great Russian epic tradition.”

Henry Kissinger of the United States (Peace, 1973) “for the 1973 Paris agreement, intended to bring about a cease-fire in the Vietnam War and a withdrawal of the American forces,” shared with Le Duc Tho of Vietnam.

Elie Wiesel of the United States (Peace, 1986) Chairman of the President’s Commission on the Holocaust.

Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres of Israel (Peace, 1994) “to honour a political act which called for great courage on both sides, and which has opened up opportunities for a new development towards fraternity in the Middle East.”

Bob Dylan of the United States (Literature, 2016), “for having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition.”

 ……………..more next week

**Credits:**

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