

## The Yizraelite – No 2195 Date: 13.2.25

### Kibbutz Yizrael

**Reut's Editorial:** In the late 1990s, a film titled "The Truman Show" was released, starring Jim Carrey as Truman, who, since infancy, is the protagonist of a reality series about his life. Truman lives, unbeknownst to him, inside a television studio, and he is the only one who doesn't know this. All the other characters in the series are actors. and everything that happens to him is actually staged. President Trump's statement that Hamas must release all hostages at once, because they cannot be left in Gaza in their current state, made me wonder whether Trump thinks he is starring in a film like "The Truman Show," treating the population of the Middle East as a mere backdrop. Or perhaps we should be optimistic and conclude that this is just how the world operates, and all we need is a decisive character to tell Hamas they must release all hostages and then leave Gaza. Within a few years, or even months (if the construction progresses at the pace of the initial row homes in our northern neighbourhood is anything to go by?), we could soon, all be sipping Martinis on the Gaza Riviera beaches.

### Congratulations to Stav and Aviv Melman

on the birth of their son.

grandson to the late Vered Halevi, Ofir and Galit,

great-grandson for Nitza and Eilon Halevi.

Congratulations to the Halevi family and Aviv's family.

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



**We share in the sorrow of Yossi Mor and family  
at the passing of his mother, Marion Morris,  
may her memory be a blessing.  
May you know no more sorrow.  
Beit Yizrael.**

**Open Meeting for Members  
Regarding the Approval of the 2025 Budget**

**Monday, February 17, 2025, 8:00 PM**

At the meeting, we will present the budget preparation process and discuss the decisions made by the Community Management. Additionally, Maor will present the financial aspect, which is how the assets and liabilities of Yizrael are managed.

This is an opportunity for members to ask questions, receive explanations, and express their opinions.

We look forward to seeing you,

The Community Management

(If you are as confused as I am, you need to be there – Ed)

**T**



**Thank You from the Meir Family**



About two weeks ago, we moved into our new and renovated home. Like with all the other houses we've managed to move into since arriving in Yizrael, we feel that in this house (the old gym) everything possible was done to meet our needs in the best way possible. We want to thank everyone who was part of the project, those who conceived and tailored the plan, the construction teams, and the housing committee who were responsible for the project, design, and execution. A special thanks to Navot,

who travelled with us to help with the move from Eilon. We appreciate everyone who has offered assistance and who will help us along the way.

We'd also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the hospitality period, which started as a forced evacuation, and while it's come to an end, we never really left. To Karen Kagan and Eyal Tirosh for their welcoming attention to our needs from the very first moment. To all those members and families of the kibbutz who vacated their homes for our hospitality: Ron Granot, Shira Levy, Aviva and David Beutler. To Yifat and Navot Assaf, who embraced us independently long before our integration. And of course, to the entire Yizrael community, who has done everything to make us feel welcome and at home.

Omer, Shachar, Shir, Shimrit, and Dagan Meir.



## **Community Management Summary - February 9, 2025**

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

### **1. Information and Miscellaneous**

Erez updated on an initiative by the cooperative headquarters in the region to encourage each of the cooperative kibbutzim to gather at the Hostages Square to express support.

Various ideas were discussed for activities at the square and for involving community members, including the idea of combining it with a tour in the surrounding areas—at the Nova site and in the kibbutzim.

Members interested in helping with the organisation or suggesting ideas are invited to contact Erez or Limor.

### **2. Changes and Additions to the Care Procedure (Guest: Inbal Adler, Senior Citizens Coordinator)**

The care procedure was discussed and approved by the Community Management in January 2024.

The topics of care and aging are sensitive and charged for everyone, especially for those approaching this stage in life and fearing the future. The discussion on this subject is not easy and requires decisions that are sometimes uncomfortable to make.

In the Community Management, we understand that we must do this to provide officials with tools to act in the future.

The procedure is missing references to two topics that were not ready for decision at that time and are now up for discussion.

**A. Adapting members' apartments** when a member reaches the stage where care is needed.

A proposal was presented that defines the different needs in adapting a home for a person with continuous care needs, the process for determining what needs to be done, responsibility for execution, and funding.

The updated procedure will also address situations where a member requiring care, lives in a home that is not accessible.

Another reference is to the situation where a caregiver—foreign worker—needs to receive a room in the house (as per state laws). Therefore, it is important that all homes in the kibbutz are built with at least three rooms (that can be converted into a single bedroom if necessary) or there should be an option to close off a room with drywall (קירות גבס)

A review was conducted throughout the kibbutz and it was found that in most neighbourhoods, this is already the case. The review needs to be completed accurately in all homes before making a decision on the procedure.

**B. The situation where a member leaves their apartment for an extended period due to health / care issues**

In such cases, it is necessary to consider how long the apartment is reserved for them even if they do not live there, and what adjustments are made to their personal budget. During the discussion, it was defined that the extended period of leaving home is three months or more.

Regarding housing, it was emphasised that it is important to keep the apartment available for the member for a period of time sufficient to indicate that their health situation is not expected to change. There was a discussion about whether this duration should be 6, 9, or 12 months.

The community management's proposal is that one year after the date a person leaves their home due to health / care requirement reasons and does not return, it can be said that the situation is unlikely to change, and the apartment should return to the kibbutz's management.

Regarding the personal allowance, it was mentioned in the discussion that there is a need to adjust the allowance to the new situation—electricity, water, and communication according to the number of residents in the home and reducing the personal allowance.

This proposal aligns with what is common in other cooperative kibbutzim we have examined.

The proposed procedure will be published before being brought for discussion at the asefa.



## **Asefa Summary - 10.2.2025**

**Participants:** 41 members

**Asefa Chairperson:** Shlomo Cohen

**Asefa Secretary:** Uri Gilad

### **1. Community Management's Proposal for a New Water Budgeting Model for Members.**

Erez presented the new model and the reasons for the change:

Starting January 2025, the water system in Yizrael will operate as a closed system according to the regulations of the Water Authority of Israel. Water usage rates will be those set by the Water Authority.

Water allocation to homes will be based on the number of people living there – ground-level homes will receive additional allocation for garden irrigation.

Currently, some members save water and receive financial credits for their savings, while others (primarily those with large gardens) are charged for the water in excess of their quota.

With the transition to operating under the regulations and rates of the Water Authority, those who exceed their allocation will pay significantly more. Since the excess is mostly due to garden irrigation, which we want to encourage, we aim to prevent this.

The new model seeks to rectify this situation.

The change is not intended to save money in the community budget. Its goal is to distribute resources more fairly while maintaining Yizrael as a green and well-kept place.

### **Key Points of the Model:**

- Each person in a household will be allocated 5.5 cubic meters of water per month (2 cubic meters above the Water Authority's allocation, 1 cubic meter above the current allocation).

- A household with a single resident will receive 7 cubic meters of water.

- Owners of gardens will continue to receive 22 cubic meters of water each month during the irrigation months.

- Owners of large gardens (over 160 square meters) will receive an additional 5 cubic meters, totaling 27 cubic meters of water.

(Currently, there are 91 gardens classified as large out of 161 private gardens in the kibbutz).

- Each household will be credited based on the meter reading, up to the allocation. Exceeding the allocation will incur charges according to the Water Authority's rates.

- No credit will be given to households that consume less than their allocation.

After the presentation, the discussion was opened for questions and comments. Some welcomed the cessation of credits for water savers, while others expressed concern.

It was suggested to create several budgeting tiers based on garden sizes and to consider second-floor apartments that maintain balcony plants.

The importance of reviewing the decision and its implementation after a few months was noted. Erez responded that it would be appropriate to do so at the end of the irrigation season and committed to this.

At the end of the asafa, a community vote took place.

**Voting Results: In favour of the new model - 60, Against - 51, Abstentions - 15**

## **2. Allocation of Work Bonus Funds for 2024.**

Limor presented the topic and the Community Management's proposal:

For years, we have used money received from Maytronics as a bonus for members' work, along with bonuses received by external employees, for two purposes - an

additional bonus for members and a source for social projects that cannot be funded within the routine budget. Thanks to this decision, we have had the opportunity to enjoy many enjoyable and bonding social activities and to improve our quality of life in various areas throughout the kibbutz. Members have been able to implement unique initiatives that likely would not have been realised without this avenue.

A year ago, we found ourselves in a unique situation, in the midst of a war, and the Community Management requested to use the amount designated for social projects to cover war expenses and host evacuees.

This year, we understand that we are in a different situation than in previous years - a community budget shortfall, due to demographic changes and lower income, alongside a significant reduction in profits from Maytronics, while the war continues, and on the other hand, the importance we see in advancing the construction of the northern neighbourhood. We have less money than we would like - we need every shekel to maintain our daily life and do not have the ability to fund social projects, however worthy they may be.

The original proposal from Community Management was that half of the bonus would be distributed to members and half would be allocated to cover the deficit for 2024. After extensive discussions about the 2025 budget, and after much deliberation on how to align the budget with available resources, we realised that every proposal we brought, aimed at balancing the 2025 budget, adversely affects a certain population of kibbutz members – children's hobby classes, users of kibbutz vehicles, recipients of holiday gifts, users of the hairdressing salon, and more...

**Therefore, we have formulated a new proposal: instead of distributing a work bonus of approximately 1,100 shekels per member, we propose to take the entire amount into the community budget and thus avoid some of the cuts. After a decision is made at the asefa, there will be a discussion in the Community Management about which cuts will be cancelled.**

The proposal from the entire community management for distributing the 790,000 work bonus: A. Allocating 90,000 shekels for war expenses for use if needed. By June 2025, if there is no need for this amount, a discussion will be held regarding its purpose. B. Allocating 350,000 shekels to reduce the community deficit for the year 2024. C. Allocating 350,000 shekels to the community budget for the year 2025.

**Alita Mor presented a private proposal to allocate 350,000 shekels from the work bonus funds for the purchase and connection to a generator for Shikun Sadot.** Alita explained that her proposal came in response to the Community Management's first

proposal to distribute 350,000 shekels as a personal bonus to members. This amount is very similar to the amount needed to connect Shikun Sadot to a generator. Currently, Shikun Sadot is the only housing area not connected to a generator, and during any planned or unplanned power outage, which occurs several times a year, the residents of this suburb suffer long hours without electricity. Over the years, it has been said that we do not have the necessary funds to buy and install a generator, estimated at about 300,000 shekels. Now, as we are about to distribute the work bonus, I request to use the money to equalise conditions between the neighbourhoods of the kibbutz and provide an adequate response to the needs of many families.

Questions were asked regarding the future plan for connecting the generator to the neighbourhood, and about the planning for the northern neighbourhood. Erez explained that generators in the kibbutz exist for the purpose of operating public buildings during power outages. The housing areas adjacent to the kibbutz centre are connected to these generators because the generators produce enough power for them too, but the idea is not that every residential house must have a connection to a generator. There are no public buildings in Shikun Sadot, and therefore there is no generator there. There is no principled opposition to connecting Shikun Sadot to their own generator, but the cost is very high. Regarding the northern neighbourhood – since no public buildings are planned there either, a generator is not planned. However, during the construction of the electrical room for the northern neighbourhood, preparations will be made in advance for a generator connection, in case in the future there is money and a decision is made for such a move.

A question was asked about people in medical situations that require a 24-hour electricity connection, and it was stated that there are individual solutions for this and a neighbourhood generator is not necessary.

At the end of the asafa, a vote was held in the community.

**Voting results: Community Management proposal - 69, Alita Mor's proposal - 49, Abstentions – 8**

Reported by: Limor Griman

## CAR SHARING

### **Message from the Outside Workers Management**

We ask outside workers working in the same location, to try and travel together in order to reduce travel expenses. Thank you! - Rochele and Kinneret



## Selection of Director for Kapro and Taldor

With the appointment of Idan Zelas as CEO of Yizrael Holdings, a new director needs to be chosen for the following companies: Kapro and Teldor.

A search team has been established by the Holdings to select the suitable candidate.

Members who wish to present their candidacy (or suggest someone else –Ed) are invited to contact Idan Zelas by February 21, 2025.

You can write to the email: [ceo@yizrael.com](mailto:ceo@yizrael.com)

The board of directors is a legal entity with powers and responsibilities.



### H.R. Management Meeting Summary - February 9, 2025

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

#### **Proposal to update the points system appendix to the Education Procedure (Long Studies)**

Invited: Members of the Higher Education Committee

##### 1. Update on the Criteria for Approving Studies.

**Sarit Laviv**, coordinator of the Education Committee, presented the committee's work regarding proposed changes to the criteria for study approval by the Education Committee. The criteria serve as a working tool for the committee to rank requests as objectively and relevantly as possible and are attached as an appendix to the procedure.

Changes to the criteria include:

- **Age:** Removed from the list of criteria.
- **Cost of Studies:** Consideration based on annual costs rather than total costs.
- **Institution Type:** Lower scoring for private institutions.
- Clarification of criteria regarding the number of years since completing studies and the purpose of the studies.

- Criteria that remain unchanged include years of service in the kibbutz, number of study days per week, repeated requests to the committee, existing education, and the committee's discretion.

- A new criterion for external funding prioritises those participating in social projects or applying for scholarships.

- The committee included a suggestion to provide for studies for retirees, allocating a fixed percentage of the Education Committee's budget for retirees' studies to be shared equally among applicants that year. This idea arose because retirees cannot "compete" (in the points system - Ed) with income-generating requests, thus hindering their ability to pursue studies.

### **Discussion Points:**

- Compliance with work obligations remains a minimum requirement; requests will not be discussed without meeting this condition, as stated in the original education procedure.

- There is disagreement on whether there should be different considerations for those who joined the kibbutz with studies not funded by the kibbutz.

- The threshold scoring for applications needs reevaluation and will be returned to the committee for review.

- The possibility of reinstating points for H.R.'s recommendations on which requests should be discussed as a starting threshold was mentioned.

- A penalty system (in scoring) was added for those who did not complete their study obligations in previous studies

- On one hand, it was suggested that the Education Committee should only deal with income-generating requests, and retirees' studies should not be part of the Education Committee's budget. On the other hand, it was agreed that removing retirees' studies from the Education Committee at this stage is a too far reaching a change and requires further consideration.

**In conclusion**, the members of the H.R. Management expressed their views, and the committee will make the necessary adjustments, with the final version being presented for approval to the H.R. management. Afterwards, the criteria will be published to the public.

## 2. Teachers' Studies - Sabbatical Year

An addition regarding teachers' studies and sabbatical years was included in the education procedure. According to the Education Committee's proposal, teachers will only pursue studies during their sabbatical year (once every seven years) and only if they have an appropriate fund to finance the sabbatical year.

**Conclusion: Corrections will be made based on the comments raised in H.R. management, and the sabbatical year section will be included as an appendix to the education procedure.**

Reported by: Kinneret Govrin



## Update from the Higher Education Committee

Last week, the committee presented to the H.R. Management, an update on its dealings with the subject of sabbatical year for teachers and changes to several criteria in the points table. The table is a tool that helps the committee rank applicants' eligibility as objectively as possible. In the wake of the meeting, revisions will be made by the committee. Following final approval by H.R., we will publish an updated procedure, including an appendix with the criteria table and an appendix on the operation of the Education Committee during teachers' sabbaticals, to ensure full transparency for the public.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, the committee's budget for 2025 has been significantly cut. In the committee meeting at the end of the month, we will discuss the budgetary implications, including the following points:

- The possibility of adding new students beginning studies next year
- The possibility of partial reimbursement or non-reimbursement of travel and per diem expenses for existing students.

Every member still retains the right to submit a request for studies.

Requests must be submitted no later than March 31. The requests will be reviewed during April-May, with the hope of providing responses in June.

Please fill out the form fully and provide the required details, and then send it to the Education Committee's email: [Education@yizrael.com](mailto:Education@yizrael.com). Good luck! **Sarit Laviv**

## Clarification from the Education Cluster

### Joint Management

With the appointment of **Noga Harpaz** as the head of the Education Cluster, there will be a period of joint management—current operations will remain the responsibility of yours truly (Limor), while Noga will be involved in processes and decisions that have an impact.

Due to the importance of continuing to manage the cluster, including decision-making, we have appointed Sarit Laviv, a member of the Education Council to take responsibility for convening the Education Council—setting dates, public announcements, summarising discussions, and publishing them in the newsletter.

The agenda of the council and the preparation of discussions will be the responsibility of the Education Forum.

Noga will participate in all discussions of the Education Council and the decisions made therein.

Submitted by: Limor Griman



### Message from the Excellence Fund

The management of the Excellence Fund meets as needed and routinely at least once a quarter. Members are invited to review the fund's procedure to explore the possibility of applying for support from the fund. The procedure can be found on Kehilanet under: Files / Regulations and Procedures / "Excellence Fund – 8.2023"

Anyone wishing to submit a request must fill out the form found on the community platform under:

Forms / One-time / "Request for Support from the Excellence Fund"

The completed form should be sent to the fund at the email address: metzuyanut@yizrael.com. For any questions, please contact Peter, (050-8430674).

Submitted by: Peter Pezaro

# Young Generation Committee Meeting Summary – February 2, 2025

**Participants:** Rotem Kamilian, Yarin Rosilio, Ben Broadhurst, Monica Brustein, Keren Kagan Stamper, Sivan Dashevski, and Ranit Levi.

The committee discussed several key topics:

## **Rooms:**

The expected moves were discussed, along with the occupancy plan for the new rooms and preparations for future housing needs.

## **Community Events:**

This year, the committee will take on the production of the adult Purim celebrations on Yizrael.

## **Collaborations and Initiatives:**

Keren reported progress on two significant projects:

- A successful second meeting with Maytronics was held, focusing on workforce preparation (resume writing, managing LinkedIn profiles, and job interview tips).
- On February 23, a meeting on financial management, aimed at youth, will take place with Irit Mor.

## **The committee defined several plans for the future:**

- Development of a multi-year strategic plan
- Planning a general meeting with the youth community
- Organising an external workshop to formulate the committee's agenda
- Enhancing the Excellence Fund for youth, including publicity and marketing

Additionally, ongoing collaboration with Maytronics and H.R. is planned to explore options for expanding the programme to include additional age groups, developing internship and practicum pathways, and identifying further needs of the students.

Ranit Levi



## **When Bureaucracy Replaces Community – The Journey to Expand Your Home That Became a Struggle**

I am a great believer that a community is built from sharing – the good things and the challenges. Only in this way can we learn, grow and move forward together. Today I want to share with you a personal story that has accompanied me for several years, a story that concerns one of the most sensitive issues for an Israeli family in general and a Jewish family in particular – the home.

About a decade ago, we chose to live in a permanent home in the beautiful Gilboa neighbourhood. Our house, after renovation, was 105 square meters in size – a living room and three bedrooms. That was sufficient then, when we were a young couple with two small children. But the years passed, the family expanded to six people, and overcrowding in the house became a real problem.

In 2019, when we realized that the house was already too small and did not meet our needs, we contacted the community director at the time and asked to add the additional 5 meters to complete the house to 110 square meters, as was customary in the kibbutz. This addition was supposed to give us an additional room – a basic need, not a privilege. A logical, simple request, within the framework of the procedures. But despite all this, our request was not addressed for about four years.

During this period, out of faith in the spirit of the community and out of respect for the kibbutz procedures, I chose not to apply pressure or enter into conflicts, thinking that the system would operate fairly. But the years passed, the coronavirus arrived, personal events joined in, and our request continued to be buried under layers of bureaucracy and neglect. If I had known that my lack of insistence, and the trust I had placed in those in charge, would cost me thousands of shekels and great mental anguish – I would have acted differently.

In 2023, when the distress at home was already unbearable (two teenage boys and two girls who needed privacy and who didn't even have room for a wardrobe), I turned to the kibbutz again, this time not as a requester, but as someone who knew that if they didn't demand, nothing would happen. So I applied pressure, recruited friends to help me promote the issue and made sure they understood that I wouldn't give up.

In 2024, we finally received an answer. But instead of a simple and clear confirmation, as was customary and expected, we were presented with a surprising demand: We were required to pay between 30-50% of the cost of the expansion ourselves, even though it was an expansion to 110?! And even though the house was built with

foundations suitable for expansion, and even though other families were able to expand or build to 120 square meters – without similar conditions. Why are we different? Why don't we deserve it? We didn't get clear answers.

When I realised that there was no fair solution in sight, we were forced to give up on an organised expansion and build a private extension using lightweight construction. Not because that's what I wanted, but because they left me no choice. I realised that if I didn't take care of my children – it simply wouldn't happen.

This choice wasn't easy, it required financial resources from us that we simply didn't have, especially during a time of deep deficit on the kibbutz. It put me under continuous mental stress, when every step against the system felt like a desperate struggle. It showed me that those who don't fight for what they deserve – simply don't get anything.

When I looked for a community management that would support, that would understand, that would act fairly – I received rejections, unreasonable demands and a feeling of helplessness.

This story is not just about my house. It's a story about a sense of disdain, lawlessness, an ongoing struggle, and the need for listening and fairness on the part of the kibbutz management. I am not writing this to accuse, but to enlighten and remind all of us how important it is to pay attention to the needs of the members of the community and how much power we give to the people who run our lives.

Over the years, quite a few members have approached me and asked: "Do you recommend taking an existing house and renovating it?" My answer is clear - check carefully that the house is suitable for your needs now and in the future, because what seems sufficient today may become cramped and restrictive in a few years. Do not wait for answers for more than a week or a month, and if don't receive an answer, do not hesitate to press and demand.

Remember - on a kibbutz, those who do not press, shout and struggle - simply do not get anything ... and pay for it themselves.

And if I thought that an appeal could change anything - I was wrong. Who among you members is aware that our future (and also our pocket) depends on the management's handshake? For every decision or confrontation you make with any official, you may find yourself on the wrong side of the equation?

When a member challenges a decision by an official, he is first required to go through a bureaucratic ordeal:

1- He must appeal to the Management Committee – where the committee members may very well include the same people who made or were involved in the decision he is challenging!

2- Then he must appeal to the entire kibbutz asefa, even if it is a completely personal and private matter?!

3- And only if he has survived all of this, and only if he still feels that he has not been treated fairly, then and only then is he allowed to request external mediation.

In my opinion, this is an entire system designed to wear you down until you give up on yourself.

In the days when we are struggling to prevent a situation in which all power is concentrated in the hands of the government, here on the kibbutz, in practice, the legal coup has already happened.

I invite all of us to read, understand and ask questions about any issue in community management – whether it is your home, renovation, expansion or any other decision that affects your life and to get to know the procedures more deeply. I hope that my journey will help future members and that you will not have to go through what I am going through. Because today it is me – and tomorrow it could be any of you.

Jonathan Orozco



### **Response to Jonathan - Jeremy Perling**

According to the appeal procedure of Kibbutz Yizrael, Yehonatan Orozco has been invited to appeal the decision made regarding him before the Management Committee, which will convene on February 19. The committee does not include individuals who were part of the decision-making process.



### **Call to Action - Nitzan Rivlin Feldman**

#### **Nitzan's Statement to the Asefa**

Dear Kibbutz Members,

For some time now, various teams within the kibbutz movement and protest organisations have been working on an action plan for a day of mobilisation. This involves a more significant protest activity than what has been seen so far, in case the



return of the hostages is not continued. The intention is to escalate the intensity of the actions and to resolve to act decisively. Among other things, a convoy to Jerusalem is planned, including the use of heavy machinery along parts of the route.

Since last Shabbat, and even more so in light of Hamas's announcement this evening (Monday) regarding the freeze on the return of hostages, it seems that such action is increasingly necessary. There is no more time to wait.

Personally, I feel that I cannot stand by and not act more forcefully against the government for the sake of saving all the hostages.

I call upon Yizrael as a kibbutz, and of course to every member, to ask ourselves where we position ourselves in this struggle. Is Yizrael part of this fight, and how will that be expressed operationally?

There are things that every individual in the community can do – participating in demonstrations, operating a stand for the hostages, hanging signs, volunteering for the rehabilitation of communities affected by the war, and engaging in agricultural work, among other things.

However, should the need arise to march on the Knesset and paralyze the state, an individual member cannot act privately, as they will not be able to bring a tractor to a junction or perform any similar action without the approval of the designated authorities. I ask for a social and principled discussion on how Kibbutz Yizrael, as a community, as a society, as part of a movement and the state, sees itself as part of the ongoing struggles that ultimately affect each and every one of us.

How we will do this technically is the second step, if and after we decide that we are part of the struggle. In my opinion, this is a topic that must be prioritised, and it is urgent, as the trigger for action may occur very soon and, in many ways, is already here.

Nitzan Rivlin Feldman



## Notes from the "Music School"



### **"Schubert is the best remedy for loneliness that I know"**

Summary of an article by Jonathan Biss, pianist, published in The New York Times, January 3, 2025.

We live in an era of isolation. The dangerous effects are becoming clear: toxic politics, radicalism, and the fact that most people consider themselves friendless. Yet 200 years ago, before the term "loneliness" entered the lexicon, Franz Schubert lived.

Schubert, one of the greatest composers, understood what it means to be alone. While the technologies of the 21st century connect us, they also distance us from one another. Schubert's music speaks to something timeless: the yearning for connection and the pain of its absence. It gives a voice and then comfort. A colleague of mine points out that Schubert is the musician's best friend.

In recent years, he has truly been my friend. During the COVID-19 pandemic, I had no concerts, and for the first time in decades, I had time to practice the last three sonatas. Before the pandemic, I was immersed in Beethoven's world. The difference between the two: Beethoven grabs you by the throat, while Schubert takes you by the hand. Schubert's vision is epic, yet its fragility is palpable.

Schubert was 31 when he wrote these sonatas. In September 1828, two months later, he died in poverty.

The music is not serene; it is haunted. Schubert, plagued by regrets over a life marked by loneliness, nonetheless struggled to part with it. Loneliness is universal.

Paradoxically, it is a part of the human experience. Schubert knew this, yet his heart remained open, ready to break anew. If you feel lonely, for any reason, I beg you to listen to Schubert. He offers his soul to the listener, without armor or guile. He is our best friend.

Mayda Nechustan, Music School Team

P.S. As a personal addition to the article, I have experienced that the sad and poignant music of Schubert fosters resilience and helps in coping, improving one's mood. As always, I encourage everyone to take advantage of the concerts and recitals at the

Music School to fill themselves with hope and keep a distance from the sadness of the events around us. This week, there are recitals from three excellent musicians. Go!

Translator's note: The original article includes a description of these sonatas, which I have skipped. You can refer to The New York Times website for further exploration of the material.



## **Commune 7 - The the Year of Service at Kibbutz Yizrael** **Many members ask us, "What are eleven young volunteers doing here?"**

Ori Ayalon-Brustein

Although our year of service on our kibbutz is already in its seventh year, we feel it's important to share the diverse and meaningful activities of these wonderful young men and women, which change slightly each year.

**Who are they?** Adva from Gan Shmuel, Or from Jerusalem, Eliya from Nir Oz, Yuval from Afek, Ya'ara from Zichron Yaakov, Ofri from Pardes Hanna, Eyal from Mazkeret Batya, Itamar from Alonei Abba, Hadar from Kfar Monash, Amit from Rehovot, and Tom from Tzuba.



### **Where do the young volunteers serve?**

- **Beit Ruth** - This organisation supports at-risk girls. It operates the Beit Ruth village, which is the largest therapeutic village for girls at risk in Israel, and is located in Afula. Here, the girls receive not just shelter but also a homely atmosphere. We visit this framework twice a week for woodworking and field cooking activities. A significant and fascinating bond develops between the

girls and the volunteers. Amit shares: "The main goal is to create a connection with the girls. At first, it took me time to understand how to work with them appropriately without making them uncomfortable, but I learned how to have good conversations and build friendships." Ya'ara adds: "There's a friendly connection because of our similar ages. We prepare items together that serve them, which gives the girls a lot of satisfaction and joy. I feel we set a good personal example." The work at Beit Ruth is challenging, as it's complex to know what to say, how to behave, and how to respond to comments. As the relationship deepens, I feel they have entered my heart, and I have entered theirs."

- **Ak'im Israel** - The goal of this organization is to make Israeli society a better place for people with intellectual disabilities and their families. The volunteers run two workshops - gardening and woodworking. The unique house is located in Prazon. The volunteers work at a nursery with the members there: planting, maintaining beds (which they prepare together), and making pots for sale. They also create personal connections with the members. Adva shares: "I managed to talk to someone who could hardly get words out; I feel like I'm opening up to a whole world I didn't know, to people with disabilities, and that's very meaningful for me." Tom adds: "I feel I'm forming a close personal connection with the members at Akim; I feel significant there when I hear from them how much I help them. Every time I don't show up, they ask where I was and tell me I was missed." Or shares: "The work at Akim is very slow and unique, different from anything I've known; they are very enthusiastic, and I enjoy pushing them to their limits and seeing how much they enjoy it."
- **Breathing Space** - A new organization that emerged from recognizing the challenges faced by combat veterans and their families and the lack of services in our area. Yuval reports: "We started this year, and our goal is to work with the children of these families in agriculture and woodworking classes. Right now, we are mainly building infrastructure. I really enjoy going there, and I feel like I'm building something amazing that can really help the children and their families." Hadar, who also volunteers there, adds: "Our mission is to nurture the place and work with the children of combat veterans in woodworking and the garden. I feel a great sense of meaning and satisfaction from my help in nurturing the place."
- **Gardens for the Elderly in the Valley** - Once a week, the volunteers, led by David Beutler, meet with elderly people in the kibbutzim and moshavim nearby. "We bring them elevated planters that are easy for them to plant and take care of without having to bend down, which is more difficult for them. We fill the planter with soil, compost, and seedlings." Itamar shares: "The meeting is always accompanied by cake and coffee, where we listen to their

stories and share about ourselves and our activities. It's very interesting to listen to them; they love to talk about the area and the establishment of the nearby kibbutzim and moshavim."

- **Schools** - In this field, the aim is to meet with students and create personal connections through agriculture and woodworking activities. Most activities focus on engaging with the land in various gardens: planting, weeding, irrigation care, and more. Additionally, we work together on simple woodworking projects using diverse tools, building with mud and cement, recycling, and more. Agriculture and craftsmanship serve as means to foster personal connections and provide students with an opportunity for self-expression outside the classroom setting. The volunteers receive guidance and emotional, educational, and professional support from our team on how to work optimally with the students.
- **Yad L'Chamisha**: A public elementary school where volunteers have been working for seven years and consistently receive praise and appreciation for their efforts. At "Yad L'Chamisha," volunteers work with students in grades 3-6. The children come from regular classes, inclusion groups, special education, and communication classes. Ya'ara explains: "It's very moving to see how they engage in work that is unconventional for them, how they try and sometimes succeed, and sometimes not. They eagerly anticipate these lessons. The work is diverse for the students, and I enjoy seeing the significance it brings, especially for special education and communication class students." Or shares: "Over time, I've felt more and more significant. The children hug me and look forward to seeing me, which is very moving and joyful."
- **Shvilim B'Gilboa**: An elementary school for special education that serves students from the regional and other settlements in the area. The school features small classes tailored to the students' needs. This is our second-year volunteering there. Two volunteers work with very small groups of students. The students are very eager for the arrival of the volunteers who instruct them in agricultural and woodworking activities. The work is more continuous, and the very personal connections between the students and the volunteers strengthen significantly throughout the year. Ofri shares about the volunteering: "It's very moving to see the significance it brings to the students and their growing sense of capability over time. The personal connection between us is very strong, and I truly enjoy it. I am genuinely excited to work with them every time."
- **Emek Harod**: The secondary school where most of the students from grades 7-12 from our kibbutz are enrolled. The school has an initiative center and, below it, a well-equipped workshop and agricultural plots. For the first time, two

volunteers are working there, primarily with middle school students. The goals are similar, but the interactions vary according to age and the students' characteristics. The work is done in small groups, and students are selected based on the educational staff's advice. Eyal shares: "We receive groups of up to six children and provide education through agriculture and woodworking. We want the children to learn to work with their hands, disconnect a bit from screens, and take a break from the 'regular' classes. The children come to lessons happily and ask us to stay with them and do additional lessons beyond the curriculum. It's important to note that these are children who initially did not engage with the soil or tools and did not enjoy coming, and today they really love it."

- **Project Hila** - A programme operating under the auspices of youth advancement units in local authorities. Within this framework, which resembles a children's home from yesteryears in Kibbutz Geva, students learn in a different way. The goal is to help students complete 12 years of education, with some even achieving full matriculation. Two volunteers work with small groups, welcoming students from grades 10 to 12 for agricultural and construction activities as a break from academics. Due to the age proximity and shared topics between the volunteers and the students, very close connections are formed. Eliya shares: "I really love coming to youth advancement. Besides the enjoyment of doing a new project each time that improves their learning environment, like a cool bench or a new garden, I love investing a lot in personal connections with the teens, talking to them, sharing experiences, and ultimately connecting with them beyond the physical work."
- **Rugby in Schools** - Two volunteers lead rugby clubs at "Omerim" and "Yad L'Chamisha" for multiple classes. Hadar, who had no prior connection to rugby before his service year, shares: "I think the children benefit because the lesson is informal, sporty, and delivered by volunteers rather than adults. I really love sports, and if I can combine it with physical education and cooperation among the kids, and in the end, see them happy, it provides a great feeling."
- **Where are the volunteers working this year in the kibbutz?** Over the years, volunteers have worked in various fields, and this year they are working in Rimon Nursery, Tlaton Carmel, Tlaton Tavor, Neurim, the landscaping department, the dairy branch, and the rugby club. Each year, we reconsider and assess where they can work according to the kibbutz's needs, budget and nature of the work. Additionally, the Shinshinim work at the agricultural farm, and on Fridays, several teenagers from the kibbutz join them.

- **Host Families** - The Shinshinim receive a warm home from host families, who often invite them for meals, family events, and integrate them into our community. Over the years, many families have participated, and we are very grateful to them. This year, the following families volunteered: Edelstein, Elul, Asaf (Yotam and Zohar), Axelrod, Blass, Broadhurst (Oren and Mor), Brin-Dolinko, Kagan, Levi (Shahar and Bar), Lifshitz, and Ron.
- The educational team is led by Nachem Levin, who has also worked for many years with the legendary David Beutler. This year, Nir Baor (youth promotion support), Leah Cohen (emotional support), and Ori Ayalon-Brustein (school support) joined. Every year, we think together about what can be added, changed, and adjusted to make the contribution as meaningful as possible. That's all for now.

Submitted by: Ori Ayalon-Brustein

(I had no idea. Thanks Ori. This was an important and overdue article!!! -Ed)

\*\*\*\*\*

## Jezebel Makes Cutbacks

“These are dark days, there’s no denying it” (from: "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows", Part 1).

The gray and scary storm clouds hover above me, it’s cold, rainy, and disgusting outside, and if all this beauty isn’t enough, the cutbacks of the hour have come for me as well; thus, the sword of cutbacks was raised and the head of Isabelle Productions was severed in one swift blow.

Struck with shock and disbelief, I tried to digest the bitter news and gather the jaw that had fallen to the floor, pondering what to do now?

Of course, the first to absorb the blow of the cut is “The Friday Journal,” dear to my heart and to our three loyal viewers, and its fate hangs by a thread, its future shrouded in fog; future and present projects have been put on ice, and what about me, dramatic as I am, you ask?

With no choice, I had to emerge from my shell and scavenge for work in the fields of friends, and indeed there is a positive direction and a plan for the future, hoping that



every shekel that comes from this plan will help convince the decision-makers that it’s possible and desirable to activate us again, after all – we are profitable!

Even young Bob understood the call of the hour, and despite job cuts in the gardening sector, he tightened his belt, stretched his four legs, and nobly volunteered to fill the ranks, as a dog/collaborator/street cleaner; among his many advantages (over and above his abundant cuteness), one can admire his impressive ability to collect litter scattered around

the kibbutz, especially in certain construction areas, but his ability to throw the trash into the bin, still needs work; thus, he swings between an unending emotional eating of wind driven papers on the roads, and trying to drink what looks like remnants of black coffee from discarded disposable cups. Recently, due to the cold and rain, he has improved his weeding and mowing skills gnawing the grass and wild vegetation. So if you need a gardening assistant, Bob would be happy to come and pull out all the pesky weeds for you.

Back to us – Isabelle Productions. Our fate unknown, I convened an urgent meeting with myself and the other voices in my head, and we decided on several proposals for improvement and additional revenue – to catch the first train to Gaza and invest now in the up and coming real estate project of our saviour D. Trump – the glittering Riviera that is set to rise on the shores of Gaza. Some say it’s the most beautiful coastline in the country... Ah, bear with me for a moment – lucrative real estate with priority for beloved kibbutz members at a special price and member discount, luxurious suites with a sea view, and the kibbutz’s coffers filling at a dizzy pace...

Alternatively, we are considering reaching out to a friendly Emirati or Bahraini sheikh with deep pockets, and convincing him to invest in the kibbutzniks sitting on the hill, possessing impressive capabilities in various fields and a local rugby powerhouse on the way to global domination; a win-win deal for both sides.

While I was drifting in my wild daydreams, reality came back and slapped me in the face, reminding me of my place and situation. The belt tightened, alms for the poor just around the corner. Maybe Yizrael holdings will agree to throw a worn-out coin? Here’s hoping for good news regarding the truly important issues.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Rainfall Winter 2024-2025**

**Rainfall over the past 24 hours: 3 ml**

**Rainfall over the past 7 days 18ml**

**To date: 288 mm**

**As compared to the multi-year average to date: 316mm (-9%)**



**Rainfall Table**

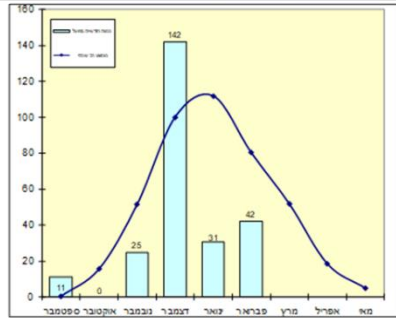
<b>Month</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>42</b>			
<b>Average</b>	<b>0.38</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>5</b>



13/2/2025 **נתוני גשם חורף 2024 - 2025**

מ"מ	3	ב-24 השעת האחרונת (עד 08:00 ירדו -
מ"מ	18	ב-7 ימים האחרונים ירדו

מ"מ	42	מתחילת חודש פברואר 2025 ירדו -
מ"מ	288	מתחילת עונת 2024 - 2025 ירדו -
מ"מ	316	ממוצע רב שנתי - עד היום
	-9%	שיעור מול ממוצע רב שנתי - עד היום



נתוני גשם 2023-2024							
חודש	אפריל	מאי	יוני	יולי	אוגוסט	ספטמבר	אוקטובר
סך הכל	11	0	25	142	31	42	18
ממוצע שנתי	0.38	1.6	5.1	10.0	11.2	8.0	5.2

\*\*\*\*\*

**Save the Date!**



**PURIM PARTY!**

\*\*\*\*\*



**Due to the (much awaited) rains that fell this week, there is a lot of mud in the almond orchard, which will make it difficult to hold the Almond Festival.**

**The festival has been postponed to next Saturday, February 22, 2025.**

**.In the meantime, you are invited to enjoy the stunning blossoms**

**Festival Team**



## Programme for 16/02/25– 20/02/25

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

### **Sunday 16 February**

09:10 Zoom from Dorot B'Gilboa – UNESCO with Naftali Hilger

10:50 Zoom continued – Iran with Naftali Hilger

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

### **Monday 17 February**

08:00 Pedicure – Limor Mualem – by appointment only

09:00 Sweet from the oven with Monica and Noa

09:30 The Art of Drawing with Chas Broadhurst

16:00 Coffee with Monica and Ita

### **Tuesday 18 February**

09:00 A round table discussion with Inbal Adler

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

10:00 Movie screening with Galia

### **Wednesday 19 February**

09:30 Special Art Around the World with Noa Armoza

### **Thursday 20 February**

09:30 “Flora”

09:30 Woodworking with Noga Harpaz – “HaNogariah”

10:00 “I was born here” with Nofar Dolinko

17:00 Veterans evening – A personal account of volunteering and initiative during the war - with Ori Yalovsky (Jenny and Shimon”s grandson

## English is Fun - with Rahel

### LOOPY LABELS: (continued)

- On a can of insect spray: *Kills flies, wasps, mosquitoes, midges and other flying insects. Not tested on animals.*
- On another brand of insect spray: *Kills all kinds of insects. Warning! This spray is harmful to bees.*
- On a box of Band-Aids: *For medical emergencies seek professional help.*
- On an aspirin bottle: *Do not use product if bottle is opened.*
- On an ocean buoy for determining the position of submarines: *Protect from seawater.*
- In a brochure for Healthometer EverWeigh bathroom scales: *The capacity of the scale is 200 kilos. To prevent damage, do not try to weigh more than 200 kilos.*
- On a large folding cardboard sunshade for car windscreens: *Do not attempt to operate the vehicle with sunshade in place.*
- On another sun shield label: *May fade in direct sunlight.*
- On a can of windscreen de-icing spray: *Spray works in freezing temperatures.*
- On a Halloween Batman costume: *This cape does not give the wearer the ability to fly.*
- On a pair of jeans: *Wash and dry separately.*
- On a bathroom scale: *Permanently adjusted.*
- On bottles of Rave Shampoo: *To unclog pump, run under warm water.*

- From the Indigo PC Owners' Manual do's and don'ts: *Do not dangle the mouse by its cable or throw mouse at co-workers.*
- On a box of Toilet Duck bowl cleaner tablets. *Bowl water is not harmful for children or pets. However as standard practice, it is not recommended that pets drink water from the toilet.*
- From a manual on a vehicle with extendable mast: *Warning – do not climb mast when erect.*
- Inside a box of Kool Tie: *Hand rinse in a product that contains no phosphates and is biodegradable for no more than three minutes.*
- On a stir fry pan: *Do not use metal tools for prolonging the life of the pan.*
- On a box of rest-room towel rollers: *Warning improper use may cause injury or death.*

CAN ANYBODY EXPLAIN WHY.... Kiwi International Airlines is named for a bird that can't fly? .....more next week

\*\*\*\*\*

### Credits:

**Editor of Hebrew Newsletter: Reut Shaliv**

Translated and edited by: Eddie Solow - Proofread by: Biff Markham-Oren

Printed by: Danit Duvdevani Kirshberg and Hedva Shaharabani

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

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

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