

The Yizraelite – No 2179 Date: 23.10.24 Simchat Torah.

Kibbutz Yizrael

Reut's Editorial:

Every year around the date of Yom Kippur, a memorial for Dudi Silbovitch and Neil Fried is held on Yizrael. In the years when we were a host family for "Shnaties" from "Habonim Dror," they would attend this memorial, even if they were no longer part of the kibbutz at that time, and despite their young age and did not know Dudi, Neil, or Shaul, who were killed in that war.

Since I started working at the library, I discovered that every year before Yom Kippur, Jenny and Eitan Yudovich come from Australia for a visit. Jenny brings children's books as gifts for the library, and in each book, she writes a dedication in memory of Neil, to whom she was married then, and in memory of Dudi. The current war, which broke out on October 7, 2023, recontextualises the loss and pain from fifty years ago, but also from the hearts that have been seeking the return of the loved ones abducted twelve months ago. Those friends and loved ones lost fifty years ago are not forgotten.



Congratulations on Gal's marriage to Naomi!

Congratulations to the parents, Sigal and Jeremy!

Congratulations to grandparents Michal and Tzvi Sha'anani!

And to the entire Perling and Richardson families!

Asefa and Economic Council

On Monday, October 28, 2024, at 20:00

Asefa Agenda:

Proposal from the Executive Committee and the Community Management for the composition of the Economic Council. See background material in Kehilanet.

Economic Council Agenda

(The meeting will take place immediately following the Asefa)

Summary of the first half of 2024 Yizrael Holdings (Part A)



Pub Management



I am going out to study, and starting November 1, Eyal Tirosh will take over the management of the pub.

You are welcome to reach out to him with any requests or questions.

Anna Abramowitz

Memorial for Dudi Silbowitz and Neil Freed

On Friday, 25.10.24

At 11:00

At the cemetery

We would like to invite you to the memorial for Dudi Silbowitz and Neil Freed, members of Garin Hod, who fell in the Yom Kippur War.

As usual, David Mittelberg will lead the ceremony, which will take place by the graves. If you would like to say a few words at the memorial, read a poem, or contribute ideas, please contact Eddie.

As decided, there will be no memorial lecture or luncheon in the moadon this year.

Eddie Solow: 052-3736240

Jules Feldman: 052-3756308

David Mittelberg: 052-3756230



Thanks, from Zimra



Friends, it will take a long time until I return home, unfortunately... I need a lot of patience, which I usually lack, and I appreciate every wish and greeting.

It is still difficult and painful; I am so far away but so close to you in my heart... I hope the holidays will pass peacefully and quietly... but I am very much looking forward to returning. I already miss you... I love you all and thank everyone who cares about me.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart,

Yours, Zimra



🕯️ Instead of flowers - from the Synagogue 🕯️



As we approach the end of the holiday season of 5785, during a year with a difficult ongoing war, a year of prayers for the return of the captives, we thank all the many members who came to participate in prayers during the holidays at the synagogue—two days of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot.

A special thank you to the members who led the prayers on Yom Kippur, Moshe Kamilian, who read from the Torah, Albert Rosilio, who led the Shacharit prayer, and Shmuel Hollander, who led the Musaf and Mincha prayers.

We will gather on the evening of Simchat Torah for the hakafot on Wednesday evening at 18:00.

Throughout the holiday season, as throughout the year, we recited a prayer for the hostages, and we pray with all the House of Israel that they will return quickly to their families and that the soldiers will return home safely.

Wishing all of Yizrael a better year and good news, for the safety of our soldiers and a speedy recovery for all the injured.

Submitted by: Albert Rosilio and David Mittelberg



A Heartfelt Thank You Regarding the Events on Yizrael

Commemorating October 7 2023. 🕯️

We began with a lecture by Middle Eastern expert Ronen Ben Nahum titled "Now More Than Ever: Peace in the Middle East." Following that, we held a meeting with Shaked Feldman, who shared her inspiring story of assisting the community of Be'eri at the David Hotel at the Dead Sea, starting just a few days after the disaster and continuing for nearly a year.

On the day itself, we held a ceremony, which featured a display of memorial candles representing the number of victims from October 7. Due to Home Front Command guidelines, the lowering of the flag took place in a small ceremony conducted by our youth.

In the main ceremony, we chose to emphasise one community, the Be'eri community, in the hope of capturing something and touching the depth of the tragedy.

In the stairwell gallery, an exhibition by members of Yizrael displaying materials they created in response to the disaster. Additionally, a presentation of testimonies and

stories from the communities was shared with the public through the community network, kehilanet.

The next day, we held a joint viewing of the live broadcast from the families' ceremony.

The main challenge in organising the central event was deciding what not to include in the ceremony... as an endless amount of good, beautiful, moving, and powerful materials were collected during this difficult year, each deserving to be part of the ceremony. We wish to thank all participants in the ceremony, the narrators, singers, musicians, and the sound and lighting team. We especially want to mention Shlomo Cohen, who was called in to save the situation regarding the operation of the screens and did so with patience and professionalism that moved us. We also want to acknowledge the youth group who stepped up to help with everything we asked for, and we asked for quite a lot... You are truly wonderful and a source of pride.

The process was challenging and unprecedented (we had nothing to rely on from previous years). We will document the materials collected, insights, and conclusions for future ceremonies. Thank you for the opportunity to lead the memory of the disaster while also planting seeds of hope within it. We pray for the safe return of the hostages and for all our soldiers to return swiftly, healthy in body and spirit.

"Play, play with dreams
It is I, the dreaming sheep.
Play, for I will believe in man
For I still believe in you.
For my soul still aspires to freedom
I did not sell it for a golden calf
For I will still believe in man
Also in his spirit, the spirit of a fierce one..."

We chose to conclude the ceremony with these words by Shaul Tchernichovsky because we believe in the spirit of humanity and dream that peace will come. For us, this text best expresses our feelings during these difficult days more than any other text.

Thank you to the community for your participation and for the warm words.

Team members: Adva Lifshitz, Nitzan R. Feldman, Ofir Griman, Nir Baor, Adi G. Ilan, Yifat Assaf

Submitted by: Yifat Assaf



Summary of the Joint Meeting of the Management Committee and Community Management - 13/10/2024

Participants:

Management Committee Members: Jeremy Perling, Elad Ilan, Natali Zinenko, Tzachi Tzfadia, Doron Kagan, Sigal Hadar.

Community Management Members: Erez Peleg, Limor Griman, Maor Persai Barniv, Kinneret Govrin, Talia Arad, Yifat Segal, Ilana Peleg, Tamir Blass, Shlomo Levi, Stas Gavrilov.

On Sunday, 13/10/24, a festive meeting was held to discuss the demographic strategic goals of Kibbutz Yizrael. This was the first meeting between the two bodies, which have been working concurrently for two years.

Demographic data, prepared by Ishai Levi, were presented, detailing the age distribution in the kibbutz and the rationale for continuing work on this important issue for the community's future.

Group work and brainstorming sessions were conducted to explore the reasons for demographic change and to highlight the challenges ahead.

Reasons for Demographic Change:

- Establishing a young, self-sustaining community that does not rely on past investments.
- Sharing the burden: culture, committees, roles, and duties.
- Preserving a multigenerational community life and mutual enrichment between young and old.
- Maintaining community life.
- Ensuring social diversity among middle-aged members.
- Preserving an independent and high-quality educational system.

Challenges:

- Integrating individuals with professions that meet the strategic needs of the kibbutz.
- Defining criteria for bringing in suitable individuals for the kibbutz's needs.
- Implementing a proper socialisation process for the community as it currently stands.
- Preserving the kibbutz's character.
- Managing the strain on the community infrastructure.
- Integrating our children based on choice.
- Housing for new members.
- Pace of planning and construction processes.

The committees discussed the importance of promoting dialogue on this issue within the community. It was emphasised that a broad process should involve as many

community members as possible, expanding the number of participants through discussion circles and forming working teams on various subjects, in addition to the demographic growth cluster and the absorption and planning committees that are already addressing the implications of demographic changes.

It was decided to establish a steering committee for the joint process of both management bodies.

Committee Members Jeremy Perling, Erez Peleg, Limor Griman, Doron Kagan, Tamir Blass. Ishai Levi will join the committee upon returning from military service.

The meeting concluded with a toast to the new year and best wishes for the members.



Community Management Meeting
Sunday - 27/10/2024, 17:30
Large Board Room

Agenda:

1. Presentation of the work plan and budget for 2025 - Construction Sector
2. Proposal for the Friday meals format by the brainstorming team
3. Request for a re-discussion on the wedding procedure

Summary of Open Discussion on Profit Distribution Key
14.10.2024

Participants: Approximately 30 members

The task facing the Management Committee, Holdings Management, Community Management, and Finance Committee was to coordinate and connect financial resources and capabilities with the desires and needs of the community during years when the global, Israeli, and Yizrael economic situations are less favourable and less stable than in previous years. This instability creates significant difficulties in building and adhering to the required budget. Flexibility is needed between the short-term and long-term, between current uses and investments.

The Chair of the Management Committee, Jeremy Perling, opened the meeting and explained the decision-making process regarding the profit distribution key:

- In this meeting, the Management Committee's proposal will be presented, with opportunities to ask clarifying questions and make minor adjustments.
- In a further open meeting, to be held in about two weeks, larger changes or new proposals can be suggested.
- All proposals and adjustments will be forwarded to the Finance Committee for feasibility checks.
- The Management Committee will discuss the points raised in both meetings and present a structured proposal to the kibbutz asefa around mid-November. As is the custom, background material will be sent for that asefa.
- The goal is to approve the profit distribution key so that it will be in the hands of the Community Management when discussing the 2025 budget.

The Finance Manager, Maor Persai Barniv, presented the Management Committee and Community Management's proposal for the profit distribution key, based on two foundations:

1. The experience gained from operating the key mechanism in recent years.
2. Familiarity with the resources and uses of the kibbutz in the coming years.

The key mechanism determines how sources are calculated and allocated for various uses. We must ensure that the calculation method is consistent with other financial representations, such as financial reports submitted to authorities and cost reports representing ongoing management. For example, we need to ensure that funds allocated for the profit distribution key are not already reserved for other uses, such as business loan repayments.

The forecast for sources in the coming years appears less abundant than in the last four years. (understatement – Ed) Changes in the business mix of Yizrael have not yet fully yielded results, and the transition phase involves a heavy burden of investments and loans. We must plan this period conservatively and cautiously.

In contrast, the forecast for community uses in the coming years is reasonably clear. The main construction project the community will focus on will be building the northern neighbourhood. All arrows point there, both socially and economically. To succeed, we need to concentrate financial and organisational resources, and the management proposal addresses this. The key also defines several new funds that will help us manage and plan important issues.

The key model, as implemented in recent years, has advantages and disadvantages. The purpose of the proposal presented tonight is to address the disadvantages and improve the distribution method.

Main points of the Management Committee's proposal:

- Shortening the key duration to three years (instead of four currently).
- All income from holdings goes first to repay the holdings' loans.
- A multi-year framework in the community to spread the financing of investments (loans) and activities.
- Establishing categories for several funds (funds dealing with construction, funds dealing with pension savings) and granting autonomy to the Community Management and the reserve fund regarding internal distribution among the funds' categories.
- Proposal to distribute 26 million NIS per year according to known needs.
- If profits exceed 26 million, a different distribution model will be presented.

Comments received for improving the presentation of the topic and accuracy of details for the next meeting:

- Lack of reference to the financing model and loan repayment taken by holdings.
- Lack of reference to the scenario of holdings' profits falling below 26 million.
- Request for managerial flexibility, when profits exceed 26 million, to be presented in advance and established as part of the key approval, to avoid reopening discussions within the three-year period.
- Presentation of a loan mechanism from fund to fund to be pre-approved.
- Lack of a profit distribution key from asset liquidation.
- Lack of reference to fund caps.

Invitation to the Second Public Forum on changes to the Profit Key

Wednesday, October 30, 2024, at 20:30

Updates from Human Resources (H.R.)

Message Regarding the Outside Workers Branch Management:

Peter has completed his role in managing the branch. We thank him very much for all the years of hard dedicated work.

Starting from October 27, all inquiries regarding outside workers should be directed to Rochele Matalon at the same email address. Rochele and I (Kinneret) are working in full cooperation and are holding meetings with the outside workers.

Currently, the Outside Workers Management is updating the procedure, which will be presented to HR management and subsequently to the kibbutz asefa. Best of luck to Rochele!

Message from the Recruitment Team

The HR management is currently discussing the composition of the recruitment team. About three years ago, it was decided to work with a permanent recruitment team, and now this issue is being reconsidered, with various alternatives being weighed. Additionally, Naomi Amit has decided not to join the recruitment team, so until decisions are made regarding the composition of the permanent recruitment team, two ad hoc representatives will join to complete the team's tasks up to the end of the year.

Chairman and Directors for Agriculture

The recruitment team, which includes Hila Alterlevi, Amir Darom, Shimon Zelas, Arnon Matalon, and Kinneret Govrin, is examining a third term for Jeremy Perling as Chairman of Agriculture and is in the process of formulating its recommendation after meeting with Jeremy, directors from the Agriculture Board, role partners, and kibbutz members. Additionally, the team will bring its recommendations regarding directors of the Agriculture Board.

Call for Applications - Educational Cluster Manager

With the initiation of the recruitment process for the Educational Cluster Manager, we are publishing a call to kibbutz members for applications. Anyone who sees themselves as suitable and interested is invited to submit their candidacy to one of the team members by November 6, 2024. The recruitment team includes Irit Shemesh, Hila Alterlevi, Amir Darom, Daniel Hyams Assaf, Neta Blass, and Kinneret Govrin.

Submitted by: Kinneret Govrin.



Summary of the Health Council Meeting - September 29, 2024

Present: Talia, Liran, Tamar, Biff, Aviva, Inbal, Amir, Rotem.

Open Meeting - The public was invited to send in or come to raise issues for discussion in the Health Council. No requests or issues were submitted for discussion by the public.

Setting Goals for 2025:

It is important to define achievable and practically implementable goals within the budget. Several topics were chosen:

- Education and Information Accessibility: Including a regular monthly column in the newsletter by a Health Council member or kibbutz member based on their area of interest, knowledge, personal sharing of health challenges, etc. More lectures in various fields.

-Workshops: Considering subsidised workshops for smoking cessation, healthy food preparation, and weight management.

Transparency Making the health basket accessible (on the kehilanel) in a user-friendly manner according to the relevant field (in work), with regular reminders of members' rights and how to claim them. Encouraging members to exercise their rights.

Personal Responsibility: Emphasising personal responsibility and proactive preventat

ive activities. The system is here to accompany, support, assist, and fund, but the responsibility for a member's health lies with themselves. The clinic is not responsible for the member. Encouraging members to initiate, ask, explore, experiment, and persist.

Physical Activity: Encouraging the population to be active and engage in physical activities. This includes collaboration with the Sports Committee within the community and allowing everyone to choose/continue where they feel comfortable.

Exploring the possibility of providing reimbursements for physical activities ("classes") under the same arrangement as natural medicine, with the option to combine them.

Reducing Sugar Consumption: Focusing in 2025 on the issue of reducing sugar through education and providing alternatives.

Collaborative efforts with the food sector (e.g., requesting to label salads without added sugar, requesting to reduce the display of sweets at the checkout in the shop), and culture - helping to find and implement alternatives to sweet treats).

In a survey conducted among the public last year regarding areas of interest, three topics stood out, in this order:

1. Nutrition and its impact on our health.
2. The effects of stress on our health.
3. Physical activity.

We will strive to address all of these throughout the year.

Submitted by: Talia Arad

Planning Committee Meeting Summary

- September 30, 2024

Attendees: Ofir Griman, Vicky Hollander, Shachar Levi, Shlomo Levi, Alita Mor, Benny Segal, Barry Feldman, Erez Peleg, Axel Levin

Agenda: Continued Residential Planning

1. Northern Neighbourhood Development

Construction of the first homes in the northern neighbourhood has begun. Over the coming years, 30 homes will be built according to a detailed plan subsidised by the Ministry of Housing and Construction. The updated zoning plan approved in 2021 allows for an additional 86 homes in the area. With 34 families expected to be eligible for permanent housing by January 2025, and an annual new member forecast of around 7 families from 2026 to 2030, ongoing residential planning is crucial. To avoid wait times exceeding 8 years for permanent housing, at least 4 homes should be constructed annually starting in 2029. Planning processes may take about four years, necessitating action in 2025 to meet this timeline.

Proposed Timeline:

2025: Select an architect, prepare preliminary plans, and coordinate with the regional council and Ministry of Housing for approvals and budgets.

2026: Form a detailed planning team, prepare infrastructure plans, submit request for permits, and select designs for family homes.

2027: Await infrastructure permits and finalise family home designs.

2028: Conduct earthworks and infrastructure work, await building permits, and finalise initial resident plans.

-2029: Begin construction of the first four homes.

2. Evacuation and Reconstruction

The committee discussed the necessity of renewal in the older sections of the kibbutz due to construction quality issues and lack of bomb shelters. Temporary housing must be available for residents during renovations. The committee evaluated types of new housing, including single and multi-story units, and discussed underutilised residential areas. It was agreed that discussions within the kibbutz are essential to plan effectively for future housing needs.

The committee will continue discussions on the number of homes that can be rebuilt in existing neighbourhoods, taking current regulations and conditions into account.

Contact Information:

For inquiries, contact the Planning Committee at planning@yizrael.com or call 052-5012116.

Early Childhood Education

In recent weeks, with changing security guidelines and a general sense of uncertainty, we have found numerous creative solutions, all aimed at one goal – to meet and strengthen each other, create routine and normalcy, spread goodness, and generate joy for everyone.

The many heroes — children, parents, staff, and the community have emerged from their homes, overcoming anxiety and fear. They came together, met, acted, encouraged one another, hugged, celebrated, and found fulfillment.



We gathered in the moadon, with familiar games from the kindergartens, and teams that embraced and supported everyone. We enjoyed relaxing activities in music and movement, led by Stas—the man and the legend—and D’ganit, our movement teacher, who has been with us for a long time.

So many heroes! May we continue to find strength within ourselves, help, give, bring joy, and celebrate!

Wishing for calm days, a swift return of the captives, and safety for all soldiers!

Yael Ouster - Director of Early Childhood Education

Dvar Torah - Kol Nidrei 2024 - David Mittelberg

The night of Kol Nidrei is a night of anxiety, for us, our families, our community and our world. Because of this, we stand at His mercy and compassion, before the Creator of the world, feeling the helplessness of the individual person.

Yes, we do have something to worry about and for what to pray - for the peace of our homes, our families, our kibbutzim, for the speedy return of the captives, for the welfare of our soldiers, and for the whole House of Israel, the people of Israel and the whole world.

But it seems to me that every year another threat looms before us: a climate crisis, the corona epidemic, a world war or the invasion of Ukraine with the threat of nuclear war, the rise of the extreme right and also anti-Semitism.

This year, the enemy's desire to destroy us and the People of Israel's all-out war to defeat them.

I ask for all to stand now for the reading of the Prayer for the

Return of the Hostages and those Missing In Action

May THE ONE who blessed our ancestors Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah; bless, preserve and protect the captives and missing soldiers of the citizens of Israel and the Israel Defense Forces. May God rescue them from captivity and speedily restore them in peace, in the merit of the prayers of this holy congregation who pray for them. May the Holy One, Blessed Be He, show them mercy, increase their strength, remove their pain and send them a recovery of body and spirit; may God return them to the bosom of their families swiftly and soon. And let us say: Amen.

On the seventh of October 2023, the largest massacre of Jews in one day since the Holocaust took place, it was a Pogrom in the Land of Israel. Not an actual Holocaust but an intended Holocaust, this intention was stated by many in the UN and in other places. Many people in Israel knew a person who was murdered in the massacre, kidnapped to Gaza or killed during the fighting and we all got to know many of them this year in the media. I want to dedicate the following short words to the two I knew in person: the late Vivian Silver of blessed memory, who was in the youth movement "Habonim" Canada and came on Aliya in a garin to Kibbutz Gezer and was burned to death in her home in Kibbutz Be'eri and the late Ofir Liebstein of blessed memory from Kibbutz Kfar Aza, Head of the Sha'ar HaNegev Regional Council. He was chairman of the association "Habonim Dror" in Israel where I was a board member. On that terrible morning, he left his house to defend his kibbutz and was among the first to be known to have been killed in combat. Both were people who believed in and worked for peace, each with warm and hopeful ties with Gazan citizens even in their own home.

We have, all together gone through a year of mourning and a continuous war on the front and throughout Israel on the home front; we are all under direct attack, we are grieving in security rooms, in self-defense against incoming missiles, The Radwan in the north and Hamas in the south and the campaign is far from over yet. We are at war against Iran on several fronts, Iran which declared at the UN that it wants and intends to destroy the Jewish state and thus a new phenomenon was born in the Diaspora:

ELIMINATIONIST ANTI ZIONISM

This concept refers to a type of anti-Zionism that not only opposes the existence of the State of Israel but strives for the destruction of the State and the total elimination of the possibility of *self-determination for the Jewish people*.

Among Diaspora Jews in the world, Jews are commanded not to highlight Jewish symbols in public, not to announce in public the addresses of Jewish youth movement camps, and at Jewish community events you must register and then you can get the address of the event; even the locations of demonstrations are sometimes not announced for the safety of the participants. Our life in the entire Jewish world may never be the same again. The anxiety that characterises the Ten Days of Repentance becomes existential for the entire nation. In Australia, which I know well, there are Jewish businesses that have closed in neighbourhoods with a small Jewish population. In the USA, anti-Semitism reared its head in the form of physical attacks, harassment, death threats, vandalism in private homes and businesses, bomb threats to synagogues and even actual fatal attacks on synagogues - all together these make up the emergency routine for diaspora Jewry in the last year. Moreover, the Jews in the liberal professions in general have been alienated in their workplaces and in higher education institutions and professional unions. For example: it was reported in America that therapists announced that they did not want to give referrals to therapists with Zionist connections. Jews who work in the medical profession had to hear colleagues justify the murder and rape of the seventh of October and others claim that Zionism in American medicine is a barrier to equality in health. The result is that American Jews change their behaviour and hide external signs of their Jewish identity and even think twice before revealing their ethnic identity to colleagues. A new generation of Marranos (martyrs who fought against a new Catholicism) has arisen, and it must be emphasised, what is Zionism in the eyes of our enemy? Zionists are simply people who do not want the State of Israel to be dismantled.

I grew up in the sixties and at the conclusion of my term of activism in the pioneer youth movement "Habonim" I founded together with many friends the Radical Zionist Alliance on the University campuses. I meant by radicalism to refer to the fact that a Zionist can be a legitimate player in the world that supports the national liberation of oppressed peoples. It turns out today, that what was radical was the very legitimacy of the use of the self-definition of Zionism. How much have times changed? And they challenge us all.

As the son of Holocaust survivors, I learned that hope is the last to die, and it sustained the survivors in the camps and tortures of that Holocaust. Viktor Frankel, himself a Holocaust survivor, said in a personal interview on his 84th birthday: "Almost everything can be taken from us. Our health, our property, our dignity, our freedom, and also what is dear to us - except for one thing: the freedom to decide how to react to my situation in our life".

Indeed, a revolutionary idea in the Jewish tradition found in both the Torah and the national anthem is hope, nothing is inevitable, people can change, we must bring about the change. And this is what is required of us firstly regarding ourselves, then regarding our people and finally regarding our neighbours.

In the Mussaf prayer *Unetanei Tokef* on Rosh Hashanah and also tomorrow, we recite these fateful sentences:

On Rosh Hashanah it is inscribed, and on Yom Kippur it is sealed.

We then continue to plea together:

How many shall pass away and how many shall be born, who shall live and who shall die, who in good time, and who by an untimely death, who by water and who by fire, who by sword and who by wild beast, who by famine and who by thirst, who by earthquake and who by plague, who by strangulation, who shall have rest and who wander, who shall be at peace and who pursued, who shall be serene and who tormented, who shall become impoverished and who wealthy, who shall be debased, and who exalted. But repentance, prayer and righteousness avert the severity of the decree.

Teshuva - Take responsibility for your actions, Tefillah - consider the world beyond yourself, Tzedaka - give of yourself for the sake of your values for the sake of your people.

A year ago I quoted Rabbi Sacks of blessed memory who called for a Covenant of Hope, distinguishing between optimism that believes things will get better, and hope, which is the belief that together we can improve the future. The Jewish past makes it difficult to be optimistic, but the Alliance of Hope is what promotes our common future and it requires action from each of us.

I draw hope from the unconditional volunteerism of the people of Israel, from the public war of the mothers of the abductees, from the solidarity between all its citizens in times of need, and these give us hope.

May God grant that in this spirit, we will act together, for a better future in the alliance of hope.

I wish all the worshipers, their families, all the members of Kibbutz Yizrael and the entire people of Israel

A New Year, both Healthy and Safe, with all the prisoners and soldiers back home safely.

May you be Inscribed and Sealed in the Book of Life

David Mittelberg

(Thank you, David, for providing the translation. I wish there were more like you – Ed)



Someone on the Hill - Interview with Stella and Akiva Greenberg

The interview took place at the Greenberg family's home in August 2024, interviewer: Rochele Matalon.

Childhood



Akiva: My family is from Durban, a port city in South Africa. I grew up in a Jewish home, but it wasn't religious. My parents were active in the Reform community. We went to synagogue on Friday nights, but we drove there. My father was a customs broker, and my mother didn't work, she worked hard at home. I had one sister who was killed in a car accident after I made Aliyah. I was very active in the youth movement - Habonim. I started as a member and later became a Madrich (leader). I spent a year after finishing high school, on a youth leaders' programme (Machon). We were in Katamon, Jerusalem, and spent five months on kibbutzim - Tzora and Sdeh Nahum. At the end of that year, I returned to Durban and began studying at the university. I don't know what drew me to this country, but I came back on a cargo ship to Eilat. I came with another guy, a native Israeli who had lived a few years in South Africa. We arrived in Eilat and took a bus from Eilat to Haifa because he had family there. In Haifa, I studied in an ulpan for a few months in Bat Galim, where we lived and learned Hebrew.

Stella: Don't forget to mention that you met Josie Katz.

Akiva: I can't remember where... in the ulpan. After finishing the ulpan, I studied agricultural engineering at the Technion for four years and lived in student dorms in Haifa. I had ex South African friends and acquaintances in Haifa. While studying, I also met students from Africa and Asia. I shared a room with a guy from Thailand. After finishing my studies, I travelled in the East and already had a place to go. I visited my friend in Thailand and continued to Japan, where I had an address of some kibbutz in Japan - a commune of people who worked and lived together. That's where my first love for Japan began. After my studies and my trip to the East, I came to live on Yizrael

with the garin. My garin friends who remained on the kibbutz are, Bernie Fink, Zvi Sadur, Henry Baum, and the late Mike Sheidemann.

Stella: I was born in Bulawayo, the second-largest city in Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe. My father came from Romania, and my mother's parents were Romanian. I got the name Stella from one of my aunts. Everyone thought that Stella is Italian and Greek. They didn't understand why I hung out with Jewish girls. I have a brother who lives in Melbourne, and my younger sister lives in London. We had a paradise-like life, a cohesive community, a good childhood; everything was just as it should be. I spent weekends in the Habonim movement; during vacations, we went to camps and seminars. It was clear that one day I would make Aliyah, but my father said - first, you need a profession. I went to South Africa to study fashion design. I worked for four years, and that was it. I bought a ticket to Israel. I planned to go to Arad for an ulpan, when I met a friend who said he was going to Kibbutz Yizrael for the ulpan and that we should come too. I changed my plans and came to Yizrael for the ulpan. Akiva was involved with someone else at that time, so we didn't meet yet. I was in Tel Aviv and worked there, and it was really interesting. Every weekend, I went to Yizrael, and after a year, I convinced my parents that I was settling on the kibbutz. I lived near Akiva; he was already available... and somehow, we started going out.

Early Years

Stella: In the early years, we lived in wooden huts. Akiva was the "old man" in the huts. When Garin Gilboa arrived, they were a rowdy crowd! And what went on in the public shower...!!! they were around 16-17 years old, and Akiva was already the "old man," 25 years old. Every day he went to shower and got annoyed that they didn't clean up after them, and there were quite a few shouting matches. We got married here in Yizrael. Shimona and Yona were responsible for our wedding. We got married where the stage is under the olive tree. Miki Touz and Bernie Fink had to finish the wall of the old moadon for the event, (Today it is the exercise room - Chader Tnuah). Shimona the bulldozer took care of it.

Our wedding was the first event inside the moadon. Afterwards, we went upstairs for dinner, and of course, everyone was invited. What I remember is that Dorit wrote us a play. I will never forget the horse - I don't remember who the front and back of the horse were, but it was the story of the wedding - who does Akiva love more - the horse or me...???

Work

Akiva: They called me the water man. I managed the water system, both irrigation and a water tower and drinking water. I also worked with Shimona and Dina Weinbaum in the pears. Later, I worked with almonds for many years, until a year or two ago when I retired.

Stella: I did the rounds like everyone else; that was customary back then. I always feared that my time would come, and I would have to work in education because that's how it was. I finally worked in education for four years, and then I went to work in the laundry. I worked in the kitchen, and in the younger generation, a few days a week. Miriam Davidson and I used to open the moadon every Saturday! For maybe three years, we opened every Saturday. There was a soldier responsible for choosing the movie. We had a subscription in Afula, they would bring movies and we would watch them. We had afternoon tea together in the moadon, and then we left the young ones to watch movies. Then I said - enough, I need to find work for my old age. What did I know how to do? Sew, so somehow, I started the sewing room. I am happy there to this day. I sew with Nava in the hut. We have a shop and our clients are also Naomi's and the plant nursery's customers. It's very convenient.

Life Back Then

Stella: It was very, very hard for me to raise the children here; there were rules for everything. I barely knew Hebrew, and the caregivers knew everything. There was no such thing as staying home because the child was sick. We had to bring the children to the children's house, no matter what. What else can I say?

Rochele: Do you remember the days of the school on the kibbutz?

Stella: The teachers were always going crazy with a "theme". Every year there was a "theme", and they worked on it, and it was wow! Those were good years. The kitchen was different too; there were no hired employees, we did everything ourselves. It was very nice.

Parents

Akiva: My parents came for a visit to Israel. It was hard for them to get around, so they bought a car for themselves. They traveled around the country in the car, then came to the kibbutz, and gave the kibbutz the car as a gift. It was the first car on the kibbutz. Amen Becker, may he rest in peace, was the secretary then. He said – "when you come to visit, you will have a car". But of course, a year later they sold the car, and no one remembered it.

Stella: My parents immigrated to the country in the late 1970s; they lived in Haifa. The kibbutz provided a car to visit the parents once a week. We were a group: me, Naomi, and Yitzhak and Ilana Peleg, who would travel to Ilana's father. Jimmy Shapira, may he rest in peace, would go down to the Technion. At some point, in the 1990s, my mother got sick, and they came to live on the kibbutz. They were here for four years; Mom was here for four years and Dad for two years. They allowed me to bring a foreign worker to take care of Mom. There was a community of South African parents then. It was very nice that the kibbutz allowed us this. My parents were very happy here. Dad worked with Amos Shemi in the Amaryllis.

Horses

Akiva: Right after the Six-Day War, horses probably escaped from Jenin. One horse came into our area, and I caught it. I asked around if anyone lost a horse, and no one answered. That's how I started raising horses. That was the first horse on Yizrael. We named him Gingie. All the kids would ride. There were maybe two horses and a foal. They were near the dairy, and I would go up there two or three times a day to feed them and take care of them and that was part of my life until one of the horses died, and that was the end.

Adopted

Stella: "The adopted ones", the members of the various groups. It was like a train station here. Moosli arrived here at 17, I think, before the army. One day, a chubby guy with blonde curls knocked on the door. He said: "I heard you are in charge of the horses. I want you to adopt me". Later, he brought a few more friends from the group, but from each group, we adopted kids, including children from outside; we had Esther Makadi....

Almond Festival

Stella: We managed to visit Japan four times, in all four seasons. The first visit was in spring, in Sakura (a city in Japan, R.S.), during cherry blossom season. It was something out of this world—century-old blossoming trees, and all the Japanese sitting under the trees. I told Akiva, "I've never seen anything like this!" And Akiva said, "What? They're not more beautiful than our almonds."

We returned home and you, Rochele, were the secretary, responsible for the 60th anniversary, and together Akiva and I organised the first Almond Festival. We have been doing it ever since. This year it rained, so we couldn't hold it.

But there is a very big difference—there are no "toranim" in Japan. In Japan, everyone takes their trash home. It's as if no one was ever there. We have the same team year after year, working hours to clean up.

Israel Trail

Stella: Danny Harpaz was crazy about it, and he recruited Paul Zelas, you, Rochele, and Arnon. I think that was the initial group. Nis was our driver, and in time we were joined by: Amos, the late Avinoam, Hanan, Maya, and Eran.

Even Natalie and Andrei Zinenko walked a bit, Alona walked a bit. It was truly an extraordinary experience. Highly recommended.

Family



Akiva: We have two children—Tali and Danny. Danny lives near Jerusalem. Danny found a profession for himself—he's a locksmith. He turned a hobby into a profession...

Stella: Tali lives in Tivon after many years in Japan. She was married to a Japanese man, and they have two

children: Noam and Yuka. Tali is a social worker and she became religious. Yuka lives with her, and Noam lives in Elad. The matchmaker found him a match, and his wife is also half Japanese. She is very, very nice. We have one great-grandchild—Yisrael, who will soon be one year old. It was a lesson for us on how to learn to accept everyone, how to get along with everyone, and to maintain the family.



Danny has three children: Aviv is enlisting in a few months, she finished school.

The boys are crazy about what is called motocross, off-road motorcycles. They participate in competitions. Nadav just celebrated his Bar Mitzvah, and Yotam

is fifteen and a half.

We travelled to Africa with Yuka and Aviv; we took them to Zimbabwe. We went to my old house, and it was really an experience for both of them and for me. I hadn't been to Zimbabwe for 40 years.

Two years ago, we were with the boys in Tanzania. That was also an experience, to see what Africa is like.

Yizrael Today

Stella: It's so hard and sad what's happening in the country. We are living in very abnormal times, and it's impossible to escape it even for a moment.

I think that on Yizrael they are making tremendous efforts to continue living as normally as possible—celebrating holidays and more.

Really, I think we are holding ourselves together very well under very difficult conditions.

When I came to the kibbutz in 1969, Dani and Hezi were perhaps in their 40s, and everyone was young. And suddenly, we are not young anymore, and the kibbutz is no longer a young kibbutz, and it's very, very hard to keep losing friends. I remember Idan Dgani, who directed the 75th anniversary celebration, interviewed us and asked what we felt had happened in the last 15 years. I said, "I feel we've lost a lot of friends." And

it's indeed very, very hard to continue, to provide support, and to see people suffering. It's not simple. But that's life, everywhere.

Akiva: In my opinion, the situation is very good for us. Luckily, there is a good factory that provides money to the kibbutz. It allows us to keep the dining hall open three times a day. It's a fully cooperative kibbutz, and we really enjoy that. Right? Things are changing. Today, there are debates about "taking a year off", we debate about every little thing, and suddenly we need to create regulations because we are so many people, and everyone thinks differently, and order needs to be established.

Stella: I am happy that I "grew up" in the kibbutz of that time, and I am very grateful for everything we have. Really, thank you to the young people who work hard for all. I wish everyone a happy holiday - we have a festival this week. And may we know good days, amen! May the hostages come home soon.

Interviewed and edited by Rochele Matalon.



Philo-Sophia - Bra



Following some advice from deep (and I mean deep) inside the security community I have been wearing a bra to bed lately. Until recently I found it very uncomfortable.

How was I supposed to know you don't wear a bra around your waist to support the needy? I just do as I'm told (it's simpler that way). In fact, just between us I didn't even ask why I should wear a bra at all. As I said I go along with she who must be obeyed – I walk the path of least resistance. On reflection I should have been more curious. If I had been I would have worn the bra correctly which would have saved me a great deal of discomfort and I probably wouldn't have picked up the limp.

For sure I wouldn't have had to explain away the bra when I went for a skin cancer check – I was as surprised as Haniyeh was when he found himself in front of seventy-two secondhand virgins...all I got was a second-hand Russian grandmother who doubled as a dermatologist.

Anyway, after the awkward trip to the dermatologist I too wondered why I was wearing a bra to bed. Since I had promised my new Russian friend an answer, I thought I had better find out. A word of advice - be careful what you ask in a public place – in my case a restaurant in the middle of Zarzir.

Over coffee and baklava, I mumbled something about why I would need to wear a bra at night. "You wear a bra at night?" they said loudly enough for about two hundred

and fifty diners (and a group of schoolchildren across the road) to turn their attention to our table. "well, you told me to I retorted".

After about a minute of people sadly shaking their heads (including the children who had crossed the road to hear the conversation a little better) it was explained to me that as usual I hadn't been paying attention. Apparently, it was some sort of joke about being prepared for a missile attack overnight. They then all began talking amongst themselves about my mental state and maybe it was time to get me a minder or in the very least send me to the proctologist for a thorough going over.

A rather good-looking woman about two tables down left her calling card for us on the table – aromatherapist. I tried to quietly slip it into my pocket, but the morality police prevented that from happening.

My good friend Saleh the restaurant owner motioned me over to his spot in the corner. He gave me an encouraging smile and told me not to worry. Evidently, he's been wearing his lucky underwear for quite some time. He hides them from his wife – he strongly believes that if he puts them in the wash his luck will run out. He also warned me to stay away from the aromatherapist.

Having talked to Saleh I started wondering if my adopted bra was lucky like his underwear – I was conflicted – what would happen to me if I threw it away or put it in the washing machine. I was reminded that when I visited my Greek friends back in the old country, I always had to leave through the same door I came in through or I would take all their luck with me.

In the end I decided not to burn, wash or dispose of the offending undergarment. I have hidden it away in the mamad – that way I will be ready for an attack like fifty percent of the population and "keep the luck".

Luckily for us Nasrallah didn't wear a bra to bed. Truth be told, I sent him a WhatsApp telling him to ditch the whole idea after the restaurant fiasco and the rest is history.

Phil Adler

Simchat Torah Programme

Wednesday, October 23 - Evening of Simchat Torah

Festive dinner - self-service

In accordance with food branch announcements

7:30 PM – Festive Moadon

8:00 PM – Kabbalat Chag- In the Moadon

Thursday, October 24

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM - Kite Workshop

5:00 PM - "Yellow Kite Festival" - on the rugby field

Prayer Services for the Holiday and the Hakafot of Simchat Torah

will take place in the synagogue this evening, Wednesday:

At 18:00. At 18:15 - Hakafot

Sweets for children guaranteed.

Happy Holiday

Everyone is invited



English is Fun - with Rahel

COURT COMEDIANS:

Q. You say my client had sex with you?

A. Uh-huh.

Q. Tell the jury, is my client circumcised or un-circumcised?

A. I didn't know him that well. I don't think he even goes to church.

Q. Do you know if your daughter has ever been involved in the voodoo occult?

A. We both do.

Q. Voodoo?

A. We do.

Q. You do?

A. Yes, voodoo.

Q. And what is your brother's name?

A. Gerald Gassa, the same name as my last name, but his first is Gerald.

Q. How old is Gerald?

A. He's a year younger than me.

Q. And how old are you?

A. I'm a year older than him.

Q. How far apart are the rungs on the ladder?

A. They're usually about 12 inches to a foot.

Q. Ma'am, you say your husband beat you?

A. Yes, I even went to the hospital.

Q. Well, did you ever give him provocation?

A. (tearfully) He could have had it any time he wanted.

Q. The truth of the matter is that you were not an unbiased, objective witness, isn't it? You too were shot in the whole ordeal?

A. No, sir. I was shot midway between the ordeal and the navel.

Q. Are you qualified to give a urine sample?

A. Yes, I have been qualified since early childhood.

Lawyer: You signed the death certificate?

Pathologist: Yes.

Q. Before you signed the certificate, did you take his pulse?

A. No.

Q. Did you check to see if he was breathing?

A. No.

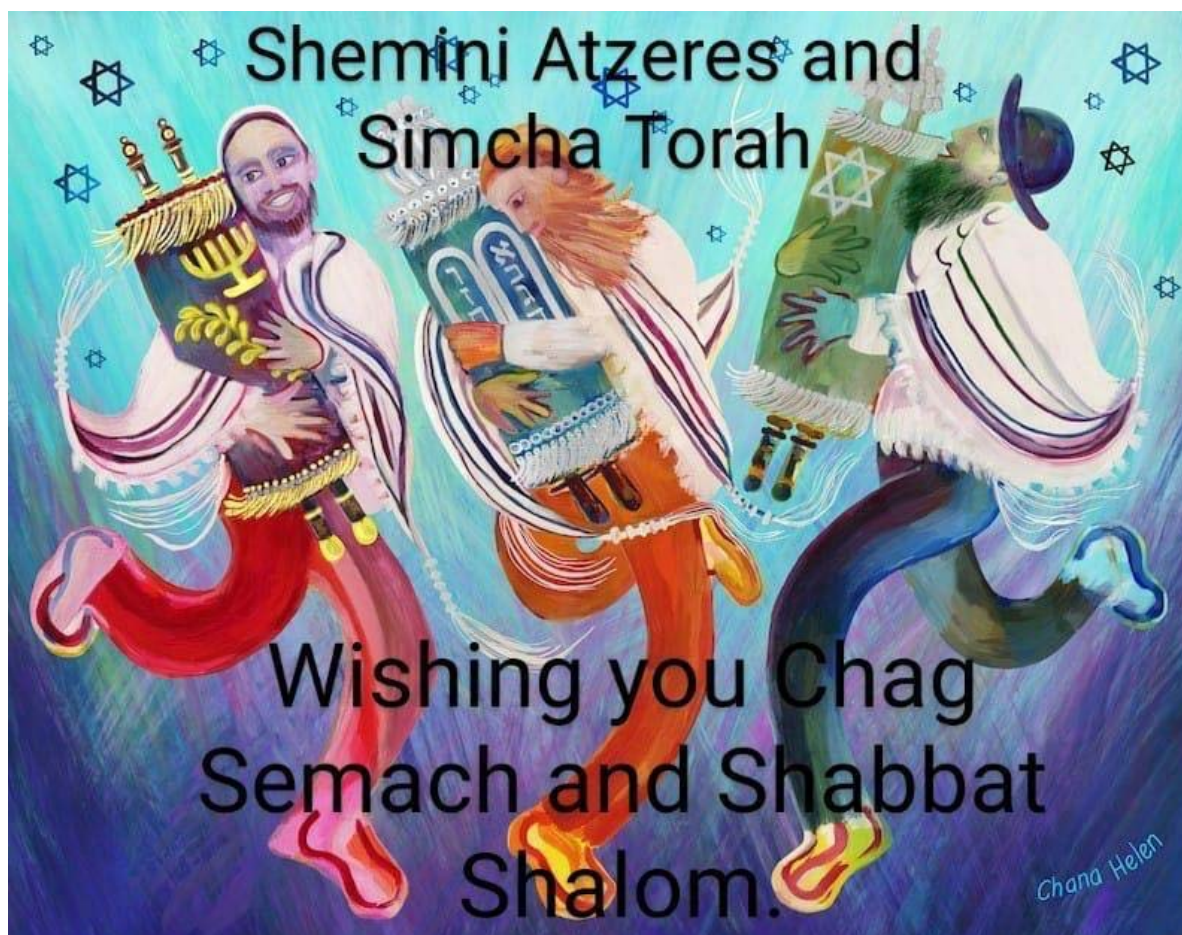
Q. Did you listen for his heartbeat?

A. No.

Q. Well, how could you be sure he was dead?

A. I've got his brain in a jar on my desk, but I guess he could be walking around practicing law somewhere.

.....more next week



Credits:

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

Disclaimer 2: Re “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.