

## The Yizraelite - No 2159 Date: 24.5.24

#### **Kibbutz Yizrael**

Edi-torial: It's too hard to write editorials these days. I decided that if I can't cheer you up then I will just shut up. Have a better week!

# On the Passing of Michi Gross Kibbutz Obituary - Michael (Michi) Gross

The picture at the entrance to the dining room is the essence of the person who was Michi. A profile picture of a mature man, tired eyes, a mustache of the past, and the mouth, with a half-smile, as if saying quietly and with the well-known humour, which so characterised him: "Hey friend, this is me Michi, the old kibbutznik, the original Michael. I've been through everything, wars, crises and more, but here I am in our

kibbutz dining room. You are with me and I am with you."



Michi was born in February 1936 in Tel Aviv, to a young couple who met in Israel, after they immigrated as passionate Zionists from the countries of Central Europe, which were increasingly closing in on the Jews. Their financial situation was difficult and the family split up. After the father enlisted in the British army and was sent out of the country, Michi and his sister Chava, were sent to several institutions and foster families, where he remained until the end of his high school studies at the "Hadasim" agricultural school. Together with his high school

friends, Michi joined the garin of the United Kibbutz Movement, and settled on the young Kibbutz Yizrael, in 1953.

After the training in the Nahal and a short military service, Michi did a grueling training course, and from there he was sent to serve in several Nahal outposts, including in Givat Rachel near Nitzana. He went to an officers' course and after that he served as the kibbutz's security officer for decades.

With the end of his military service, Michi returned to Yizrael and was sent on our behalf to be a leader in the youth movement. There, as a young and enthusiastic leader, Michi, as a member of the garin, settled the military outpost, Nahal-Oz and there he met Marnina. The young couple chose Yizrael as their home, and they married in the winter of 1957. They lived in one of the huts and soon their first daughter, Shulamit, was born. The second daughter, Sharon, was born 7 years later. Both studied at the local school in the kibbutz and later in the high school in the valley. Shulamit, after living overseas, returned to Yizrael with Shai and their three children, the grandchildren of Marnina and Michi. Recently, with the arrival to the kibbutz of Yonatan, Gal and children, Michi and Marnina got to see four generations of Gross family members on Yizrael.



In the first years, Michi, was sent to work in the sheep branch, and later he worked in the field crops.

Since 1964, for 35 consecutive years, Michi worked as a truck driver in the transport cooperative "Beit Shean Harod". He started as a driver of an antique Mac, diesel truck, which

was used by the American army in the Western Desert in World War II, and ended up driving a huge modern semi-trailer, which transported heavy loads all over the country, from the port of Eilat and Sinai, to Mt Hermon and the port of Beirut, (to

where he transported military equipment during the Lebanon War). It was a challenging and difficult job, but as a lover of trips and challenges, Michi persevered, sometimes twenty hours a day. On some occasions he was also joined by the members of his family, for example Shulamit went down with Michi to the oil fields in Sinai. In 1999, Michi returned home to work on the kibbutz, and joined the veteran's team, which was established as a special department at the Maytronics factory. There he continued to work for years after retirement.

Michi loved the kibbutz and was concerned about its future. He always kept up to date with what was happening in the kibbutz movement and the winds of change and privatisation that have characterised it in recent years. As a person with special life experience, who lived his whole life in a small and modest kibbutz, he knew that even if the situation is calm and stable at the moment, there is no guarantee that it will always be that way.

Michi was privileged to participate in all stages of the development and of Yizrael. From the days of the Palmach, the mud, the wooden huts, the hardships and poverty, until today - modern agriculture, prosperous industry and a busy and active kibbutz.

Michi was a very hardworking man, and worked day and night, believing that work is of supreme value, alongside other values that he walked in the light of, such as fairness, truth, transparency and integrity. He stated his opinions bravely, even when they were



not popular. Michi was a man of books and the written word, and also a man of music - classical music, jazz, songs from the Land of Israel and bands from the days of the founding of the state and the wars.

Marnina, Shulamit, Sharon, your children and grandchildren - Michi's handsome figure, with the twinkle in his eye and the smile hidden behind the mustache - will be missed on the kibbutz paths. Another founder member from Garin Kinneret has been taken from us. We will preserve his legacy and blessed memory.

Beit Yizrael

## Michi, I will Miss You. Marnina.

I am alone at home. I won't have anyone to argue with... and seriously, I won't have anyone to talk to, even if lately you couldn't always answer...

67 years together is not to be taken lightly. The years don't disappear suddenly without a trace, as if they were never there.... I'll miss you.



I met you when you came from Garin 'Kinarot' to my kibbutz - Nahal Oz, to a work camp, with trainees from the youth movement. I was your liaison on behalf of the kibbutz.

We bonded.

For half a year you came to visit and returned to Yizrael. You refused to live there. You said they were snobs. We argued about which kibbutz we would live on, until my mother decided that it was

easier to get from "The Krayot" to Yizrael than to the far away Nahal Oz.

The rest is history.

I will always miss you. It is very difficult for me now. I will miss you





Our father and grandfather had many good, beautiful, deep, generous, and wise qualities. Self-taught - a great follower of the word and the book. Loved classical, old Israeli music and biblical recitations. He Had extensive knowledge in almost every field of conversation, interwoven with humour with personal additions of wit and refinements. Dad was a patient and tolerant person with us, his daughters and

full of respect for his son-in-law. He knew how to play backgammon and argue for hours about politics. When we returned to live on Yizrael with the boys, he told me at one of our family 'fireside' meals that no matter what happens later, thanks to Shay he has great discussions, grandchildren on the lawn and good meals...

As a grandfather, he got to know, love, cherish and listen for hours to his three grandsons - Jonathan, Roi, and Gal and his granddaughter Gili. As a future great-grandfather, he admired the gentle and talented Yonatan, enjoyed watching Michael Abigail and Libby and regretted that he could no longer play with them on the carpet and on the grass.

In his time, Dad was involved in our community and held key positions in the Yizrael of the first decades. He was a farmer at heart, a labourer for many years, work manager, and a driver at Beit Shean-Harod. After he retired, he worked in Maytronics, until he decided that he had had enough and wanted to be at home on the kibbutz. In his later years, he was frustrated when he felt that he was unable to influence the processes happening in the kibbutz and he preferred to stay at home, especially when his physical and mental health began to deteriorate.

We were blessed with a few beautiful years of deep conversations, a lot of jokes about the past and the present - exchanges of opinions and thoughts, and little fantasies about the future.

In one of the last brief times that Dad was more lucid, I reminded him that when I returned to live in Yizrael, I asked him how it was that he lived for so many years in a small kibbutz and yet managed not to quarrel with anyone except for one incident he



told me about a long time ago? Dad thought for a while... then he smiled wryly and said with great difficulty "How lucky that I don't remember that incident either..."

I want to thank our wonderful mother, for her infinite patience and strength in recent years. To the health system and the clinic and welfare team that has accompanied our father in recent years. And to everyone who enquired after his health and wished him well. Special appreciation and gratitude are reserved for Lito, who was with Dad and with us no matter what. Dearest Lito - we were blessed to have had you with us. We will be eternally grateful.



## **Obituary by Sharon**

It's hard to say goodbye. Beloved father and grandfather, good and benevolent. Next

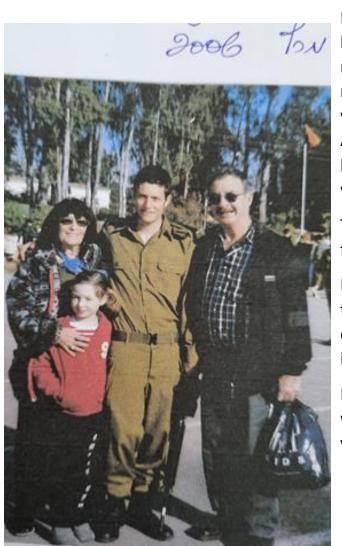
to mom you were always present. Quiet but there.

You gave in a real, physical way, the knowledge that there is someone to rely on to lean on and rest your head on when needed. Witty and funny until the last moments you could talk.

You were a repository of knowledge long before the era of "Dr. Google."

You had a difficult childhood, but you got to build a life with our mother who gives you and all of us, security. A haven and an anchor. You were a wonderful grandfather. When Gal was small, you would park the huge semitrailer on the main road and just

visit Gal who was eagerly waiting for you. You came almost every week on Tuesdays.



In difficult times, such as when Gal was hospitalised for almost a year, you came regularly once a week together with Mum to give me a break and just be there, without many words. Or when I got stuck with the car in Wadi Ara, you arrived with Shulamit. I always say that love is action. And you taught us again and again what love is.

Thank you and Mum, may she have a long life, for the home you gave us.

I too want to thank Lito, who came to you more than two years ago, and helped you with such dedication. And also, to all the concerned people in the kibbutz who supported us.

It's hard for me to say goodbye. You were a wonderful father and grandfather and I love you very much.

## **Obituary from the Grandchildren**

Our dear and beloved grandfather.

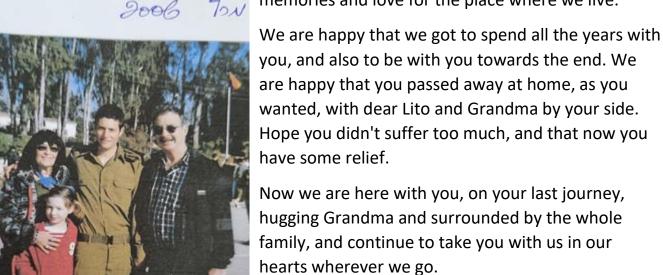
We are very sad to say goodbye to you, and hope that you are now resting and doing well, wherever you are.

You were always a good, funny, goofy grandpa, who told a lot of jokes, "Grandpa Michi" jokes, and sang us songs and drove everyone crazy... We loved being with you so much, talking to you, hearing stories and telling you our own.

You always made us feel welcome and loved, you were always interested in us and what we were doing.

Thanks to your stories about the land of Israel, and the kibbutz, we have so many

memories and love for the place where we live.



Grandpa, you gave us a lot of memories and gifts, and we just want to say thank you.

Love you, and already miss you.

The grandchildren - Jonathan, Gal, Roi and Gili



We mourn the passing of:

Asher Hel

Father of Moran Kuperman

May you know no more sorrow

Beit Yizrael

#### Shavuot on Yizrael

In order for us to be able to organise in an optimal way, we ask you to register for the holiday events.

The registration form will be published on Kehilanet and in the WhatsApp group "Cultural Updates"

Those who need help filling out the form should contact -

Tal Wolfson Darom - 052-3754326

11.6.24 Tuesday, the eve of Shavuot - 5:30-8:30 p.m. – "Haklayada" Agriculture Festival

\*On this evening, the self-service holiday meal will be served in the dining room, registration is for festival only, there is no registration for the meal (if there was registration for the meal, there would be no reason for the Haklayada festival registration)

12.6.24 Wednesday, Shavuot holiday - 17:30 - the holiday ceremony in the field

On behalf of the Shavuot team - Tal Wolfson-Darom

\*Want to join the WhatsApp group and receive all the messages about cultural events there? – Send me a message



## **Community Management Meeting Summary - 14.5.2024**

Present: Erez Peleg, Talia Arad, Yifat Segal, Shlomo Levy, Tamir Blas, Limor Griman, Kinneret Govrin, Ishai Levy, Maor Parsai, Yifat Assaf

1. Promoting the absorption of displaced families - continued

The issue has been under consideration for several months, and now returns to the community management for a final discussion before approval at the asefa. The topic includes references to: integration into the Yizrael absorption program, housing options, times and costs, financing options, programme stages. Uri Gilad and Ishai Levy presented the topic:

The demographic plan of Kibbutz Yizrael assumes that until the construction of the northern neighbourhood, no apartments will become available for absorption. In accordance with this, the absorption committee aims to return to regular absorption (4-6 families per year) from 2026 onwards. The proposed programme for the absorption of evacuees is based on the following principles:

- a) The plans for absorption after the completion of the northern neighbourhood will remain as is.
- b) Those who are accepted among the evacuees will meet the same criteria of the admissions committee, the same selection and payment conditions.

The number of people admitted per year will be according to the kibbutz's decision. Housing options:

As we all know, in recent years, the bottleneck in the absorption of families was the issue of housing. The situation is not expected to change until the construction of the new neighbourhood is completed.

#### Suggestion:

- Renovation of the Zachat building including the gym and adapting it for living quarters for two evacuee families
- Bringing in Caravillas

Regarding the renovation of the Zachat - the decision to renovate the building and return it to the use of education was made a long time ago, but in light of the war it was put on hold in order to house evacuees there. In light of this, education had to do without this building for the past year even though the need existed. The Education Council accepts the change of plan and the housing of evacuees there until the beginning of 2029 when there will be an expected need for 3 after-school centres Regarding the Caravillas - the area in question is the old gardening branch building. The numbers and options were presented.

Phases - the proposed programme is divided into two phases:

Housing of 2 additional families in the renovated Zachat structure - already during this year (2024)

Housing of 2 more families in Caravillas in the old gardening branch area next year (2025).

\*The start of the implementation of phase B (the Caravillas) is subject to further examination and approval by the community management in about six months from now (end of 2024).

It was unanimously decided: to recommend to the asefa, to approve the absorption of up to four evacuee families and this according to the plan that was presented:

Costs: The renovation of the Zahat building and the gym, already this year (2024) Estimated time schedule 3-4 months, at an estimated cost of 450,000 shekels.

Construction of two Caravillas in the old gardening branch complex to accommodate two more displaced families.

The duration of the implementation of the second stage is 6-8 months at a cost of 860,000 shekels. The financing of the two phases will be from the funds of the absorption fees of the evacuated families.

**Responsibility for execution:** community management and absorption committee.

2. The Education Council's recommendation to cancel the 'Maon Symbol' Limor Griman, Coordinator of the Education Council, presented the council's recommendation to give up the daycare symbol in the children's homes from the ages of birth to three years of age.

The rules regarding the operation of a day care centre for toddlers according to the law are divided into two: obtaining an operating license from the Ministry of Education - an institution symbol and obtaining a recognised day care centre symbol from the Ministry of Labour, for the purpose of tuition refunds. Our three preschool houses are recognised together as one day care centre, with three classes. The advantages of a day care centre symbol: possibility of receiving tuition reimbursements for outside children - attractiveness for outside parents, possibility of receiving tuition reimbursements for kibbutz children, receiving grants for permanent workers, grants for workers in training, possibility of receiving education at the expense of the state. Limor showed that these benefits are not manifested in practice for various reasons. The disadvantages of the daycare symbol: the standard for the number of children in the daycare is determined by the size of the building, which does not match the standard of the kibbutz kindergarten. Owning a daycare symbol, brings us to a situation where we are forced to admit more children than we want. Controlled price the Ministry of Labor determines the controlled price, and this also does not correspond to the prices and conduct of our system. The daycare today has a digital

registration system, which prioritises toddlers according to various criteria and may exclude the kibbutz children from the system.

**Waiver of a daycare centre symbol** - you can immediately give up a daycare centre symbol and avoid all the disadvantages. The symbol of the institution of the Ministry of Education will remain, which means that our houses are recognised and supervised. If we ever want to return the daycare symbol, it is likely that the requirements will be difficult to fulfill and expensive.

It was unanimously decided - to adopt the recommendation of the Board of Education to abolish the daycare symbol in early childhood daycare centres (ages birth to three).

**3. Profit Distribution Key** - open discussion to formulate the perception of the community management regarding the conduct of Key.

Maor presented the management committee's proposal for the manner of conducting the 2025 profit distribution key.

According to the structure of the key proposed by the management committee, with the support of "Holdings" and the finance committee, the key will be for a period of three years, and the community is allocated a fixed amount for each of the three years.

The management of the community is required to recommend the manner of distribution of funds and conduct in the area under the responsibility of the community, which includes, according to the proposal, three sections:

- Bonus for members
- Community budget + community funds
- Reserve fund/ social security

In the discussion: Ofir Griman raised the need to establish a fund for the purchase of vehicles, Nitzan Rivlin Feldman raised the request to examine the establishment of the Second Life Fund and Talia Arad mentioned the need to establish a Special Needs Fund. Questions were asked about the process that has been done so far, as well as about the definition of the mandate limits of the community management in this process.

The discussion was not concluded and will continue at the next meeting. Yifat Assaf

## From the Staffing Committee Desk - 21.5.24

#### 1. Management of the Reserve Fund Committee:

We thank Avner Alterlevi and Moran Kuperman for their years of service on the Reserve Fund Committee and announce the candidacy of 2 new public representatives

#### - David Shaharabani and Idan Zelas

The proposed management composition: Chairman: Elad Ilan (elected), external auditor - Raviv Ishai, external attorney - Omer Cohen, representative of the community management - Shlomo Levy, representative of the management board - Tzachi Tzfadia, David Shaharabani and Idan Zelas.

#### Young generation committee

We thank Shlomo Kamilian, Hedva Shaharabani, Ziv Ben Bassat and Moran Kuperman at the completion of their membership in the Young Generation Committee and suggest **Matan Elul** as a public representative.

The composition of the proposed committee: Ranit Levy (coordinator), Ishai Levy (director of Eshkol Hemed (Demographic Committee), David Beutler, Monica Brustein, Keren Kagan, Rotem Kamilian and Matan Elul.

The Committee on Staffing and Committees appeals to the public to suggest names for **public representatives to the Economic Council**. The election will take place with a ballot vote after the presentation of the names at the meeting.

The staffing committee is asking the public to suggest names for **two public** representatives in the entrepreneurship and small business committee.

All appointments will be presented at the asefa.

Submitted by the Staffing Committee and Committees: Kinneret Govrin - HR, Albert Rosilio, Liran Penn, Anat Friedman, Uri Brustein Ayalon, Tzach Sassi and Nir Segal

## **New English Library Books**

Burning Your Boats: Collected Short Stories/Angela Carter

Dune/Frank Herbert

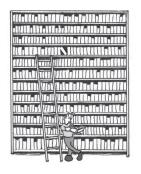
in the Day/Claire Keegan

Balancing Act/Fern Michaels

and Other Love Stories/Moshe Morris

Carousel/Rosamunde Pilcher

The Girl in Times Square/Paulina Simons



So late

Carlton

The



## Isabel Lights the Beacon and does her Duty Shifts

One morning I woke up (well, we all know it was at noon...) to a message with a surprising offer - would I be interested in lighting a torch at the Independence Day eve ceremony?

After rubbing my eyes, I responded in the affirmative and began to prepare; During the day I worked on the videos I was preparing for the ceremony; This work helped me get through this difficult and impossible day - the day of remembrance for the fallen in battle and the victims of hostilities .

Towards the evening, I skipped to the dining room to do my shift duty, and I don't have much to say about it, because most of the time I spent in anticipation of the evening before me.

Then came the exciting moment, they invited Eyal Tirosh and me to the stage to light the beacon in honor of the civil volunteers. When we got on stage, I was so excited I couldn't remember how to walk properly (oh, how embarrassing!). We read and lit the torch, and the ceremony continued...

I felt a strange happiness that they chose me, precisely in this difficult year, and precisely for this beacon. I continued to ponder in my heart - why did they choose me to honour the event and light the beacon. And here, the next stage of the evening has already arrived - when I set my sights on my favourite coffee machine, and headed for my next duty shift - preparing endless cups of coffee for the multitudes of people who came from the ceremony, to try to mark Independence Day with a kind of joy mixed with sadness. I found myself in a difficult situation, where I couldn't find words to describe my feelings and thoughts. I assume that's how many of us felt.

At the end of this special week, on Saturday, I celebrated my birthday - another orbit around the sun on this hard ball, a day in which I allowed myself to drop the protective layers I had wrapped myself in, to get through this hard time and smile, and above all to give thanks for the friends around me.

At the end of the day, after a delicious meal, I lit the candles on my birthday cake. I only had one wish...

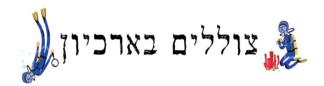
## May they all return home! now 🙏!



Jezebel



## **Delving into the Archives**





### **Ladies Day - Early 1970s**

#### -Left to Right:

Alec Braizblatt; Zorba Orbach; Shimon Zelas; Amen Bekker; Mannie Rosenberg. Michi Gross

From the jubilee book - "Light on the Hill"

Second decade: culture

## An act that begins with a Shabbat trip and ends with a crushed finger

On one bright Saturday, it was decided to go for a trip to Gilboa. It was also agreed that we would return before lunch, so that the children could join in. After they were all on the Bedford, it turned out that one of them had not yet eaten breakfast and there was a delay of half an hour for this... that is, they inquired whether it was possible to take him without breakfast or not.

After it was clarified that there were sandwiches on the truck and there was also someone that the child would agree to eat with, we left the kibbutz in a large convoy. The beginning of the trip was very encouraging. The ascent to the flowering Gilboa gave rise to debates about the types of flowers that grow on it, what is allowed to be picked and what will be punished by chopping off your leg if you dared to pick them. (They didn't mess around in those days – Ed)

We arrived at the foot of Mt Mazar. The children were taken on shoulders and everyone began the ascent. Only Helen, stayed with Talia halfway up and waited for Alec, who "only" needed to turn Bedford around. She was a little worried (because it was taking so long – Ed).

When we returned to the Bedford, we found a strange sight on the Gilboa: a long line of cars standing on the gravel road, with our Bedford blocking their path in a precarious position, half on the road and half perched over the valley a few hundred metres below. Immediately the fleet footed Michi and Uri were dispatched to the kibbutz to bring rescue equipment.

After desperate and lengthy attempts to extricate the vehicle to no avail, it was decided to send the women and the children (plus those who did not eat breakfast) in the direction of the kibbutz. The arduous journey began: the mitaplot at the head and the children following behind like in "The Inn of the Sixth Happiness" (Ben Dov wrote "The Eighth Happiness" but it is a bit late to correct him now – Ed). Then Michi and Uri and the 65 appeared and announced that the Van would take a long time because the keys and Shalom were next to the Bedford with us.

So, the children (more so the parents) broke down and sat collapsed on the side of the road "maybe someone will come to save them".

In the meantime, the resourceful Ilan(L ewis) pulled out the post from the "Border Ahead" sign and the vehicle was rescued with the help of this original crowbar initiative.

We arrived home late, even though we didn't complete most of the route.

Our Thanks to the Ashdot Ya'akov Ichud Kibbutz, for the 'Kelatzaleach'that they inadvertently forgot to take back. (Jules thinks that is Yiddish for sweets... I think he is making it up – Ed))

Yitzhak Ben-Dov, March 1963

(I have many questions about the factual accuracy of the above description. Can anyone remember???? – Ed)

Tzafnat Mor



## Lag Ba'omer

Agricultural Farm (Chava Haklait)

Sun 26.5 16:30

Coffee and Cake



Marshmallow and Campfire

Sundry surprises

We eagerly await you

Commune Six

## English is Fun - with Rahel

FORGOTTEN ENGISH WORDS THAT ARE JUST AS USEFUL TODAY:

Like everything else language changes and evolves over time, especially so in these days of mass communication. What to do about it? Satisfying descriptive, amusing and sometimes bafflingly unnecessary words from ye olde times are listed here.

FUDGE: Pretending to work while actually doing nothing.

(18<sup>th</sup> Century)

DYSANIA: Extreme difficulty getting out of bed in the morning.

(1900's)

ULTRACREPEDARIAN: Someone who gives opinions on subjects they know nothing about.

(19<sup>th</sup> Century)

KAKISTCRACY: Government by the least qualified or worst people.

(19<sup>th</sup> Century)

TWATTLING: Gossiping idly about unimportant things. (16<sup>th</sup> Century) LANSPRESADO: Someone who always conveniently shows up with no money. (18<sup>th</sup> Century) GROKE: Someone who stares at you while you eat, hoping you will share. (Old Scots language) SLUGABED: A person who stays in bed after the usual or proper time to get up. (16<sup>th</sup> Century) FROBLY-MOBLY: Neither well nor unwell. (18th Century) UHTCEARE: Lying awake and worrying about the day ahead. (Old English) PERENDINATE: To put off until the day after tomorrow. (19<sup>th</sup> Century) PHIOGROBILIZED: Having a hangover, but without actually drinking. (19th Century) CALLIPYGIAN: Having beautiful, well-shaped buttocks. (19<sup>th</sup> Century)

.....more next week



Farewell Party
For Yonatan Bassi
On his retirement as Managing Director
Of Maytronics
Wednesday - 29.5.24
In the Moadon
Yonatan promises us... "an optimistic lecture"





## Programme for 26/05/24 - 30/05/24.

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

#### **Sunday 26 May**

Opening the week with Monica.

09:10 Zoom – Moshe Elad – The Yom Kippur War / Kozo Okamoto

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

#### **Monday 27 May**

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

09:30 The Art of Drawing with Chas Broadhurst

16:00 Or B'Givah open for coffee

#### **Tuesday 28 May**

10:00 Games and trivia with Galia Shemi

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

#### Wednesday 29 May

09:30 Nature is Blooming with Hammutal or a lecture by Rochele Matalon

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

#### **Thursday 30 May**

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

10:00 Movie screening with Galia

17:15 Exercises on chairs with Michal Sha'anan



#### **Credits**

Translated and edited by: Eddie Solow

Proofread by: Biff Markham-Oren

Printed by: Zohar Assaf and Hedva Sharabani

**Disclaimer**: 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!!!