***English Newsletter No. 984 5/1/2021***

***Kibbutz Yizre'el***

***Translated and edited by Fay Drezner***

***Excerpts from “B’Yizre’el” No. 1984 1/1/2021***

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| **TO ALL THOSE IN ISOLATION** (about 100 in number)  We wish you a pleasant period in good health. |

THANKS to Paul Zelas, Amos Shemi and Akiva Greenberg who sorted and recycled 6000 bottles that had been collected by the Shnat Sherut group, in order to claim the deposit refund. In the past the 12th graders did this as one of their projects. Now the Shnat Sherut group has taken responsibility for this. We thank them for their commitment. The Environment Committee

**MANY THANKS** to all those that made the ROCKFOUR SHOW possible.

We dreamt of getting together and having a great time with music, close friends and good food, an opportunity to forget the anxieties of the times, celebrate the New Year and bury the old. This we did at the ROCKFOUR SHOW.

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| TAKE A LOOK at “WORTH A LOOK”  Change of opening hours at this second-hand store  Sunday, Monday and Wednesday 9:00 – 13:00 Friday: 9:30 – 12:00  Winter is here with its winter wardrobe. You are welcome to come and browse. You can make a date to come after hours by calling  Ofra Shapira 052-3756155 |

**MAZKIRUT MEETING 27/12/2020**

1. Yizre’el Mazkirut – Definition of its role as Social Management and Management Committee. The Management Committee is mainly a formal role dealing with proper running of the kibbutz according to rules of the association, keeping the books, checking the budgets, giving official reports to the association etc. The main part of the role of the Mazkirut is its Social Management.

In 2018 the role of the Mazkirut was examined and definitions and decisions were made. On looking at it now, there appears to be matters that were not included.

After a discussion it was decided that an updated document would be presented to the Mazkirut for discussion. This will come about after the suggestions from Yizre’el 2030 have been considered / incorporated.

1. With the third lockdown, the Corona Committee is working to adapt new regulations to our community.

**FROM THE HEAD OF THE FOOD BRANCH**

In our efforts to improve the Food Branch we have taken on the services of Ofir Sharon, financial deputy director of Meshkei Tana to help us analyze the workings of the branch and to build a budget.

We have started working with Na’ama Tal-Shachar, a clinical dietician, to create a nutritional balance in our menus.

We have also made contacts with a number of chefs - advisors of institutional/ big kitchens (hotels, kibbutzim, hi tech companies) for consultation and guidance of the kitchen staff.

So, we have created an external team of advisors to help us. At the same time we are working on creating an internal team of advisors to aid us with different kinds of kibbutz dilemmas related to our way of life.

Recently, the children and the seniors started eating lunch in the dining- room but unfortunately, we had to stop this due to the lockdown.

Hoping for a better year than the previous one.

Itzik Shechter, Head of the Food Branch

**MAZKIRUT - SUMMARY OF SOCIAL SUBJECTS YIZRE’EL2020**

These are the subjects dealt with by the Mazkirut in 43 meetings, taking into account that part of the year was devoted to coping with the Corona pandemic.

* Residency on the kibbutz and its different aspects
* Subjects connected to guidance for individuals
* Subjects connected with the level of the personal budgets and the community budget.
* Formal approval of various nominations, signatories,
* The unifying of the ballot committee and the general meeting committee.
* A large number of meetings devoted to the internal gas station, the vehicle branch, investigations and law suits connected to the subject.
* Definition of a social project
* Social projects being planned

Then coping with the Corona crisis took over a period of time. Once the realization that the Corona was here to stay for a while, the Mazkirut went back to its agenda.

* The closing of the carpentry shop in its present location
* Issues on housing, mapping the available housing
* “Corona gift” for Bnei Meshek not living on the kibbutz
* “Rondo” of public buildings and requests connected to this subject
* A number of meetings dealing with the organizational structure of elements of the kibbutz.
* Interim discussion on the definition of the framework of the Yizre’el 2030 process.
* Approval of the study list for 2020-21
* Issues connected to the management of human resources
* Procedures for tractor licenses
* Inheritance
* The sale of shares
* The use of the State Corona Grant
* Work bonus and social project
* Preferential work
* Absorption rates
* Kehilanet
* Survey of the food branch in Corona times
* Burial procedures
* The vehicle branch
* Budget for widows and widowers
* Allocation key for profits
* Fire stoves
* Presentation of project Yizre’el 2030
* Indemnification for office holders
* Temporary housing for families with 4 children
* Discussion on updating seniority of Bnei Meshek who returned to the kibbutz at a later date.
* Definitionof the role of the Mazkirut as a Management Committee and as a Social Manager

Yifat Assaf

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE WITH THE HOLDINGS ON THE HILL

“Without realizing it, 2019 went by and a new decade awaited us”.

We never conceived the thought that such a difficult and challenging year, the first year of the decade, would be.

Now, a year later, we can modestly say that we coped, we functioned and we met the business goals we set for ourselves.

Thanks to all the workers, the managers and all the supporting groups, we can mark 2020 despite the Corona, as a prosperous business year.

To quote Charles Darwin: “Its not the strongest species that survive, and not the smartest but the ones that react to change the quickest”.

Updates on Manpower; **Daniel Rozenfeld** joined us in December as the Operational Manager of the Holdings. **Navo Levi** joined the orchard team, **Adi Feldman** returned to the dairy and **Or Nikashvili** joined the field crops team. Unfortunately it was decided in the meantime to freeze the mushroom project, so **Lilach Harpaz** will stay with Maytronics.

Foreign Workers: We have 17 foreign workers from Thailand, 5 work in the dairy, 3 in the orchard and 9 in the field crops. During the year we improved their living conditions. Because there are no flights, they are unable to go back to Thailand and are working here till the opportunity to fly arises.

**A Short Update in the Area of Agriculture**

The Chicken Sheds: Because it was decided to freeze the mushroom project, sheds 1&2 are not in use.

Maytronics moved the maintenance workshop from the sheds of the packing house to the ex-carpentry shop. The area that was vacated went over to the field crops to expand the packing house for vegetables.

The field crops changed the sorting and packaging line and added another refrigerator. The extra area vacated by Maytronics has enabled a better and more efficient process.

Future use of the chicken sheds have still to be decided upon.

The Dairy: In March because of a shortage of milk, it was decided to encourage dairies to produce more milk (above their quota) so we were able to go back to 3 milkings a day. As a result the dairy has made more money than was planned. We have expanded the cowsheds, adding 1,600 sqm.

Gilboa Almonds: The partnership with Bet Alpha was dissolved at the end of 2019. Most of the assets were acquired by Yizre’el.

The Orchards: With the closing of Gilboa Almonds , the orchards have come back to the control of the agricultural corporation run by Adi Ratzin from Geva. We have 1,046 duman of fruit bearing almond trees, 150 dunam of young almond trees and 150 dunam of olive trees for oil.

Almonds: We had a surprisingly good yield of almonds, above the plan, but unfortunately, the market price plummeted by 20% because of the surplus of almonds in California. We are working to improve the profitability of the branch.

Olives: A higher yield in olives (36 ton of oil) than planned. Despite the drop in the price of olive oil, there should be a profit.

Almond Shaker project – “Sela B”emakim” . They “shook” 1,200 dunam of almond trees, and made a profit of 650,000 shekel.

More next week

WHAT WAS DONE AT YIZRE’EL HOLDINGS

Business Fund: We have become active in seeking investments and in 2020 together with “Rikor” from Ein Harod, we acquired the “Netzer” company.

Sale of Shares: Because of the value of Maytronics shares were high we sold 3% of shares and the money from the sales is waiting for the public to decide how it is to be allocated.

Maytronics: Despite and because of the Corona virus, the company is continuing to flourish at an amazing rate and breaking all records.

In 2020 Maytronics bought out our German distributor and made the company a subsidiary.

We completed the extension on the operational storage building, the old carpentry building has become a maintenance workshop, we started 2 more buildings – a two storey production building where the pub used to be, and a two storey office building opposite the gardening office. In 2021 we will develop the area where the garage and metal workshop are today to build a three storey building for technological development. In addition, the company is advancing the production line at Dalton.

Energy Branch: In 2020 we introduced 4 new solar energy systems - on the roof of the cowsheds, on the roof of Maytronics, the chicken sheds and floating on the dam, saving us 1.4 million shekel in 2020.

In 2021 there are plans for additional solar systems.

Garage: We must praise the garage staff for their continued and steady work during this difficult year. Their income should be similar to that of 2019.

More next week

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| ***WANTED***  ***CREATIVE TEAMS and RESOURCEFUL LEADERS***  ***FOR THE COMING FESTIVALS***  ***TU B’SHVAT 28.1.2021***  ***CHILDREN’S PURIM 25.2.2021***  ***Contact Tal Darom - Head of the Festivals Committee*** |

**English is Fun - with Rahel**

(I apologize to my faithful readers – this section should have been printed last week: a gremlin took over…)

Interesting history tidbits that just maybe you didn't know:

In George Washington's day, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms.

Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are 'limbs' therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. "Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg." (Artists know hands and arms are more difficult to paint.)

*In the late 1700's, many houses consisted of a large room with only one chair. Commonly, a long wide board folded down from the wall, and was used for dining. The 'head of the household' always sat in the chair, while everyone else ate sitting on the floor.*

*Occasionally a guest, who was usually a man, would be invited to sit in this chair during a meal. To sit in the chair meant you were important and in charge.*

*They called the one sitting in the chair, the 'chair' man. Today, in business, we use the expression or title "Chairman" or "Chairman of the Board."*

Ladies wore corsets, which would lace up in the front. A proper and dignified woman, as in "straight laced" wore a tightly tied lace.

Incredible as it sounds, men and women took baths only twice a year (May and October). Women kept their hair covered, while men shaved their heads (because of lice and bugs) and wore wigs. Wealthy men could afford good wigs made from wool. They couldn't wash the wigs, so to clean them they would carve out a loaf of bread, put the wig in the shell, and bake it for 30 minutes. The heat would make the wig big and fluffy, hence the term "big wig". Today we often use the term "Here comes the Big Wig" because someone appears to be or is powerful and wealthy.

In the heyday of sailing ships, all war ships and many freighters carried iron cannons. These cannons fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon. However, how to prevent them from rolling about the deck? The best storage method devised was a square-based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem….how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling from under the others.

The solution was a metal plate called a "monkey" with 16 round indentations. However, if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make "brass monkeys".

Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannonballs would come right off the monkey. Thus it was, quite literally, "cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey".

…………….more next week