

## The Yizraelite – No 2180 Date: 1.11.2024

### Kibbutz Yizrael

#### Reut's Editorial



After the war began, there was a lecture by Professor Yoram Yuval on Zoom for the Maytronics employees, where he said that it is important, despite and precisely because of the situation, to plan a vacation. So, we travelled south and slept in a tent in an area where there was sometimes no cellular reception, and I fulfilled an old dream – to walk with my children the Nachal Azgad Ashalim trail on a day less cold than the day I walked it on a community trip a few years ago. I patiently waited for my children to grow up so that we could hike there together. I enjoyed the peace and quiet of the Dead Sea area, in the Arava, there was no fear of hearing "booms" from shelling. I took a deep breath and was glad that there was a region in the country that remained calm, despite everything.

But then I was rudely reminded that everywhere, even on vacation, one cannot escape the reality of the war. The sad news of the death of Shmuel Harari in southern Lebanon arrived on the evening of the holiday's end. Shmuel, the smiling one, who worked in Dalton and on Yizrael. Over the past year Shmuel was almost always in the reserves whenever I wanted to schedule a meeting with him. And then his photograph appeared under the headline "released for publication". With his beard and helmet, he was hard to recognise. Maybe, I hoped against hope, it's not him..... But when I saw he was from Tsfat it became impossible to think that the familiar smile belonged to someone else.

Shmuel made aliya alone from the United States, at the age of eighteen. He married Anna, an immigrant from France. He is survived by his wife, two sons and a little daughter who is not yet two years old.

Shabbat Shalom! Reut Shalev



**Congratulations to Dekel and David Serrano on the birth of their son,  
a brother to Yuval and Omer.**

**Congratulations to the entire extended family.**

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



## **Invitation to the Economic Council**

**4/11/2024 - 20:00**

**Summary of the First Half of 2024 - Yizrael Holdings – Part 2:**

Report by Teldor - Invited: Yaron Calder, CEO of Teldor

Report from Other Companies

Limor Griman

## Message from the Excellence Fund

The first meeting of the Excellence Fund took place last week, during which requests for support for the 2023-2024 school year were discussed.

Applicants will receive response letters regarding their requests. Peter Pezaro, a board member of the fund, will coordinate the ongoing management of the fund this year—collecting requests, organising receipts, and handling reimbursements.

From now on, the fund also has an email address:

metzuyanut@yizrael.com

Best wishes for a year of progress and excellence.

Limor Griman



**Thank You!!!!... At the End of the Month of Tishrei**



Tal Wolfson-Darom, Cultural Director

The month of Tishrei has come to an end. As every year - we celebrated the New Year, fasted on Yom Kippur, and celebrated in the Sukkah. This year, we also added another event - the anniversary of the disaster on October 7th. And how does one commemorate an event still ongoing?

**I want to thank all the holiday and event teams for the time and effort invested in thinking, planning, and executing the many events.** (For names, see Hebrew Newsletter – Ed)

We hope and pray for a speedy end to the war and the return of everyone to their homes - hostages, soldiers, and evacuees.

When that happens, we will truly have a good year!!!



**A Word of Thanks from the Rosh Hashanah Team for 5785**

During the summer, we gathered to plan Rosh Hashanah.

We didn't know what would happen - we hoped for a ceasefire, for a deal to bring back the hostages. It was unclear what the national and communal mood would be. We formulated a holiday plan, the guiding principle of which was being together as a community with collective activities.

Within the guidelines of the Home Front Command, we made a few adjustments, and we carried out the plans to the best of our ability:

- An opening event with quizzes, films for all from the new first grade up, and a summary of the year.
- An evening of hopeful songs led by the in-house band and local singers
- A communal mission game.
- Creative activities for Rosh Hashanah

We hope that the participants in the various activities enjoyed them and gained strength from being together. **Your enjoyment is our reward!**

We want to thank everyone who supported and helped. (For names, see Hebrew Newsletter – Ed)

- Thanks to all the volunteers who helped implement the plans.
- To the wonderful youngsters who helped with the mission game - Raz Griman, Roi Sadur, Idan Friedman, Ido Sharoni, Uriah and Ami Blass.

Especially – and despite being part of the team – we want to specially mention the young girls, Reut Mor, Ariel Sadur, and Alma Brauman who brought a youthful spirit, creativity, and dedication to the team – you were amazing!

Rosh Hashanah Team – Guy Dashevsky, Idit Halevi, Tal Darom, Zohar Assaf, AdvaLifshitz, Alma Brauman, Reut Mor, Ariel Sadur, Eyal Tirosh, and Nir Baor.



## **Community Management Meeting Summary**

**October 27, 2024**

Participants: Ilana Peleg, Erez Peleg, Talia Arad, Yifat Segal, Kinneret Govrin, Shlomo Cohen, Tamir Blass, Limor Griman.

### **Agenda:**

#### **1. Proposal from the ad hoc team regarding Friday eve meals and Kabbalat Shabbat**

In May 2024, a survey was conducted on the subject of Friday evening meals in the dining room. The results were inconclusive, indicating that the community is divided among various options, and work is needed to find a viable compromise. In on September 8, 2024, it was decided to establish an ad hoc team to examine alternatives

and solutions. The team met twice, considered ideas from other cooperative kibbutzim, and formulated a new proposal that combines a Kabbalat Shabbat ceremony in the dining room with a self-service meal immediately afterwards. The proposal considered various issues such as preventing waste, the work of toranim, early registration, and seating arrangements.

The proposal was presented to the community management, emphasizing that it is a proposed two-month pilot that will be evaluated and improved accordingly.

There was significant emphasis on the implementation process of the change, which will take time, requiring patience and perseverance.

The community management commends the work done and approves the start of the pilot according to the presented timeline.

(The detailed proposal for Friday dinners is presented below. No point in looking...it is not there...in both languages – Ed)

## **2. Presentation of the work plan for the construction branch for 2025**

Erez Peleg updated regarding the process of presenting work plans and formulating the community budget for 2025.

Unlike last year, Niv Hermoni, the economist, is preparing estimates for implementation at the end of 2024, while simultaneously preparing a draft budget for 2025, which will be updated as we progress with the process.

Guy Arad presented the work plan for the construction branch and its budgetary implications. A discussion took place regarding the present income recording method of the branch, and it was stated that the budgetary implications need to be refined and clarified, taking into account the various factors influencing the sector's revenues.

## **3. Request for reconsideration of two sections in the wedding procedure.**

The wedding policy was approved by the community management on September 22, 2024. A request was received from Reut Shaliv to rediscuss two sections.

The first section pertains to a child of a member where one parent is not a kibbutz member. The approved policy allows such a child to receive a full wedding package if the member parent has 15 years or more of membership.

Reut argued that the wording of this section advantages cases where one parent is a member and the other is a resident, and there is no reason to allocate the same budget to someone whose one parent chose to be a resident. The wording should be changed to "one parent is a member and the other does not reside in the kibbutz."

In the discussion, it was stated that it is not clear how this specifically encourages the issue of residency, and the living situation of the non-member parent is not significant, whether they live in the kibbutz or elsewhere in the country or the world. Additionally, even if only one parent is a member, the child who grew up here is entitled to receive a wedding package like other kibbutz children.

The second question for rediscussion, relates to the wording of a statement regarding the insurance that service providers are required to have when the wedding takes place in the kibbutz. The claim is that the wording is convoluted and unclear.

In the discussion, it was stated that the wording is correct concerning the insurance issue and that the terms used are appropriate.

However, it was agreed to refine the wording as follows: "A provider without insurance approval, not authorised by the kibbutz's insurance officer, will not be allowed to provide services on kibbutz premises."

At the end of the discussion, a vote was held regarding the two issues.

**Decision:**

Change to the section regarding the wedding package for children of one resident parent - (vote: in favour - 1, against - 5, abstentions - 2). **The appeal was not accepted.**

Change to the wording of the insurance section - **The appeal was approved** (vote: in favour - 8, against - 0, abstentions - 0).

Summarised by: Limor Griman.

## Invitation to the Community Management Meeting

**Date: Sun 3/11/2024, 17:30**

**Agenda:**

- Absorption of evacuees
- Presentation of work plans and budget for 2025

# The Proposal - A New Combined Model for Friday and Festival Evening Meals

Below is a new model that combines the communal Kabbalat Shabbat in the dining room, followed by an innovative and independent way of taking food.

How will it work?

**1. Registration:** No change. If a number of families want to sit together, **ONE** member of the group will do the registering. If you forget to register in time, it is your responsibility to find a place to sit at one of the tables reserved for “Forgot to register” people without the involvement of the branch management.

**2. The Kabbalat Shabbat ceremony:** Upgraded content together with the traditional content. (Readings from the New Testament??? - Ed)

An attempt will be made to include new participants and improve the sound system.

**3. The Meal Itself:** Soup will be served to the tables – no change.

Fish, Vegetarian and vegan - Self-service from a central distribution point.

Main dish – reps from each table will prepare the food trays for their table.

Tables with small children will be first in the queue

## Notes Regarding the Role of the Servers:

- **Serving Staff** - Their roles will change but their work load will not increase, and there will be no need to increase the number of servers:

- Serving soup to tables
- Manning a fish/vegetarian/vegan station at the diet cart
- After the ceremony - operating three distribution stations:
  - a) Central area near the hot food wagons
  - b) Vegetable market area
  - c) Entrance area to the dishwashing room
- Cleaning and tidying up after the meal.
- **Kitchen Staff** - Cooking shifts similar to self-serving, without arranging trays
- **Dishwashing Staff** - No changes

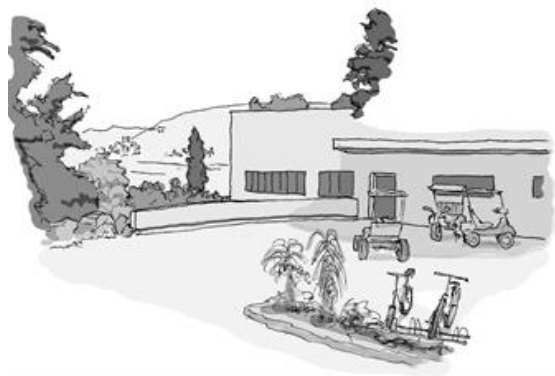
## **The Proposal - Additional Notes:**

- The topic will be refined and discussed more in-depth with team leaders, especially during the pilot period, to ensure understanding of the new method and full cooperation.
- The dining room will be visually divided into sections, so each table will know where to go to get food.
- Trays of various sizes will be used, allowing both large and small families to take food comfortably and as needed. (Less waste- Ed)
- Food distribution for those eating at home will take place on Friday mornings, as done previously with served meals.
- The new format is proposed for a trial and pilot period of no less than two months, understanding that it takes time to implement changes to long-standing traditions. After one month, there will be an interim summary for adjustments, as needed.
- There may be slight operational changes during the meal even during the pilot. These changes will be communicated systematically through various communication channels.
- We request the public's assistance and patience. Without cooperation, nothing will work...
- Throughout the trial period, team members will be available to answer questions, provide information and receive feedback.

## **Friday Eve Meal Team:**

Adi Laviv, Itzik Shechter, Tal Wolfson-Darom, Yifat Segal, Stas Gavrilov, Erez Peleg, Limor Griman.

(Thank you to the team... And good luck to all of us – Ed)





## **Asefa Summary - 28.10.2024**

35 members participated in the moadon and via Zoom.

Asefa Chairperson: Shlomo Cohen

**Agenda:** Proposal from the Management Committee and the Management of the Economic Council to change the composition of the Economic Council.

The organisational structure approved two years ago continues to be updated, and at this stage, we seek to organise and clarify the structure of the Economic Council.

The Economic Council is defined as the equivalent of the asefa. This is also stated in the new regulations approved in a ballot vote about a year ago awaiting approval from the Registrar of Associations. In the meantime, upon the recommendation of the attorney overseeing the process, we can operate according to the new regulations that were approved, since they are an agreement between the members.

The proposal to regulate the composition of the Economic Council was brought to discussion in the Management Committee and was approved by it, as well as being discussed in the H.R. Management.

Jeremy Perling, Chair of the Management Committee, presented a document outlining the differences between the current situation and the new proposal.

### **Key differences:**

- Members of the Economic Council will come from the bodies to which they were elected i.e. the Management Committee, the Community Management, the Reserve Fund, and the Holdings Management. Public representatives will also be added.
- All members of the council will be those elected by the asefa to their positions.
- If a body fails to meet its full quota (for example, because some of the officeholders are employees who cannot be members of the Economic Council), the numbers will be filled by additional public representatives.
- The responsibility for nominating public representatives for the Economic Council lies with the Committee for Appointing Committees. (Va'adat Iyush Va'adot)

**VOTE:** At the end of the discussion, a vote was held via Kehilanet on the proposal to change the composition of the Economic Council. 69 members participated in the vote. 49 members voted in favour of the proposal, 14 members opposed, and 6 abstained.

**The change in the composition of the Economic Council was approved.**

Elected Body	Number of representatives
Management Committee	5
Holdings Executive	6
Community management	6
Community fund (Keren Miluim)	2
Outgoing Holdings President	1
Public Representatives	10
Council Chairpersons	2
Total	32



## From Erez's Desk



### 1. The Northern Neighbourhood – The building is underway – Halleluyah!

The construction project of the northern neighbourhood officially began last Sunday. The contractor's offices have been set up on site, a fence has been erected to delineate the work area, and preparations for marking the foundations before drilling have commenced.

Executing Contractor: Hani Darowsha

Management and Supervision: Witman Project Management

Wishing us success.

### 2. Safety First

Last time, I wrote about the risks caused by parking along the paths in the kibbutz. (*On my path, your requests fell on deaf ears – Ed*) This time, I want to highlight a different



aspect of the same issue – parking on the sidewalks. Parking vehicles on the sidewalks, is even more dangerous than parking on or beside the paths. In such cases, in addition to blocking the line of vision and endangering pedestrians, the parked vehicle forces pedestrians to step down from the sidewalk onto the road. It is important to note that those using the sidewalks include elderly individuals with mobility difficulties and parents with strollers and

infants, and stepping down onto the path poses a risk of tripping and being injured by passing vehicles.

**Bottom line:** Parking is permitted only in designated parking areas, except in exceptional cases with permission, and under no circumstances should vehicles be parked along the paths or on the sidewalks. (Parking on the sidewalks also prevents DOGS FROM DEFECATING THERE, THEREBY PREVENTING THEM FROM EXERCISING THEIR GOD-GIVEN RIGHTS – Ed)

### **3. Project Progress**

- The Northern Neighbourhood: In addition to the start of construction work by the contractor, work has also begun to expand the parking lot opposite the Hod housing complex. The expansion of the parking lot is part of the northern neighbourhood project. At this stage, the landscaping department is conducting pruning and relocating mature trees to facilitate the infrastructure work.

- Building in the Young Generation Housing Complex: assessment for project completion– February 2025.

- Parking for Golf Carts in the Dining Hall Area: In the coming days, we will begin construction and arrangement of parking for golf carts in the dining hall area. To reduce congestion, especially during construction, I request that golf cart owners park their vehicles elsewhere **and leave the parking area for those with impaired mobility.** (For instance, outside the Veterans' Hut – Ed)

- We Have Said Goodbye to the Noi (Garden branch) Shed: The shed that served the landscaping department, (which in recent years was classified as a dangerous structure), has been dismantled. The offices of the landscaping department have moved to their new location in the stable area (hence forward to be known as the Noi Complex). After the removal work is completed, the area will be cleaned and covered with mulch.

That's all for now,

Erez Peleg

## **Update from the Noi - 10/24**

October marks the beginning of the transition season for plants, with nights becoming colder and longer, greatly affecting plants and the horticulture sector.

The autumn season is primarily characterised by a slowdown in plant processes. The longer nights and lower temperatures signal the onset of leaf fall. For evergreen plants, metabolism slows down, causing them to grow more slowly, if at all. Soon, the weeds will begin to grow, and the main focus of the branch will be to maintain winter greenery. In certain areas, we will concentrate on reducing weeds, while in others, we will allow them to thrive, creating "clean" and open spaces, while also providing areas for wildlife to hide and thrive.

In terms of irrigation, we have significantly reduced water usage in public gardening and will wait a bit longer before completely shutting off irrigation for this year. As part of the sector's efficiency efforts, we have installed several irrigation systems with remote control, providing us with more options to manage the amount of water used, with the priority being to irrigate based on quantity rather than time. Irrigating by quantity is crucial and is the optimal method for plants. Each plant receives what it needs and no more, helping us grow strong, unspoiled plants.

At the beginning of October, a risk assessment survey of trees was conducted in the kibbutz. This is a survey we had wanted to do in the past but were unable to, and its advancement was expedited following several branches that broke off and fell throughout the kibbutz. (your beloved Edi-tor had a narrow escape when a heavy olive bough only just missed his nose on its plunge earthward) The survey gives us a current overview of the high landscape of the kibbutz, including large trees and those in critical areas. Overall, our trees are in good condition, though there is always room for improvement, which is our goal. We will learn from the survey and take action to prevent accidents.

Recently, we have made significant advancements in the horticulture branch:



First, we have moved to a new area located beneath the community garden. This marks nearly the end of a very long process that began in 2016. The new area is a vast improvement.



The second advancement is the acquisition of an implement called a "mini loader." This is a versatile tool that can be equipped with a variety of attachments. Its purpose is to enhance the efficiency of the branch and make the workers lives easier, primarily focusing on mowing weed areas and clearing debris throughout the kibbutz.

Once again, I want to thank the Noi team, who have been here during challenging times and have given their all for long periods while I was away. My re-acclimatisation period in the branch has been relatively smooth thanks to their help. The kibbutz looks

excellent because of them. Overall, I have only good things to say about them, and I appreciate them greatly.

Hoping for calmer days ahead and for all hostages to return to their families.

On behalf of the Noi,

Shahar Levy, Branch Coordinator (one of the few who does not insist on being called "The Managing Director" Proud of you, Shachar – Edi-Tor)

## **H.R. - Human Resources - Call for Applications**

### **Coordinator of the Committee Appointment Committee**

As Nir Segal's term as Coordinator of the Committee Appointment Committee is coming to an end, we are publishing a call for applications for the position. Anyone who sees themselves as suitable and interested is invited to submit their candidacy to one of the team members by November 14, 2024.

Search Team: Irit Shemesh, Hila Alterlevi, Amir Darom, Nitzan Rivlin-Feldman, Elad Ilan, and Kinneret Govrin.

Submitted by: Kinneret Govrin.

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In memory of Shmuel Harari, of blessed memory. Shmuel worked at Maytronics and fell in battle on the 21st of Tishrei (23.10.24) in southern Lebanon.

The community of Yizrael shares in the deep sorrow of his family and friends and employees of Maytronics. May his memory be blessed. Kehilanet



## **In Memory of Shmuel Harari - a Maytronics employee, who was killed on the eve of Simchat Torah in southern Lebanon.**

**Idan Zelas:** A particularly sad morning at Maytronics. Company employee Shmuel Harari was killed in a battle in Lebanon during the holiday, at the age of 35.

Shmuel worked in the company for about three years. He managed construction projects, building structures and warehouses in Dalton, and in the last year, he was responsible for ensuring the company and its products complied with international standards and regulations.

Recently, I worked with Shmuel on a project dealing with restrictions on importing robots from China to the U.S. Shmuel had an amazing ability to learn a new field quickly and demonstrated expertise and understanding in an area that was new to all of us. In this project, we consulted a lawyer from New York who specialises in the field, and I was amazed when Shmuel who had done thorough research on the subject, corrected the lawyer, who had been working in the field for over 20 years, several times and offered excellent suggestions on the appropriate course of action for us.

The day before Rosh Hashanah, Shmuel informed me that he would not be able to attend a meeting scheduled for that evening with the lawyer from New York, as he received a call-up order to go to Lebanon. That was the last conversation I had with him.

About a month ago, Maytronics held a hackathon competition where various employees dedicated a day to develop new ideas for Maytronics products. Shmuel, who was always creative and very friendly, participated in the competition and developed a unique idea with a small team. At the end of the competition day, Shmuel presented his idea to the panel of judges, combining wisdom with his trademark humour. Afterwards, the judging panel gathered the competition participants and announced that Shmuel's team won the hackathon. The judges asked the winning team to continue developing the idea and present a complete business plan to the company management within a month. Our dear Shmuel will no longer get the chance to build a business plan for the product he invented.

There are many more beautiful stories about Shmuel: about his zest for life, the big smile that lit up every room he entered, and his amazing sense of humour. He was a good friend and an excellent employee. Shmuel immigrated to Israel from New Jersey, where his parents live. He married in Israel. He is survived by his wife and three small children. May his memory be blessed. **Idan Zelas**

**Daniel Hyams-Assaf:** There are those special people who make everyone feel extraordinary. As if they've been waiting their whole life just to meet each person, even during a routine day at the office. Always with a smile, always with genuine presence and care, always ready for good conversation, however brief. Such was Shmuel, this sweet man whose departure from us I still cannot comprehend.



I can't stop thinking about you, you magical soul. You will forever remain in all our hearts.

I took this photo at Maytronics on the day when Shmuel received recognition from my Organisational Development and Learning team and his manager for voluntarily teaching English at the Dalton site - a task completely outside his job description. He approached it the same way he did everything - with thorough preparation and thought, a touch of humour, and with all his heart.

"Where can we find more people like that man..."

איפה ישנם עוד אנשים כמו האיש ההוא"

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**Memorial for Dudi Silbovitch and Neil Fried**

**Friday October 25, 2024**



**Dudi Silbowitz** of blessed memory

**Neil Fried** of blessed memory



On Yom Kippur 1973, Dudi Silbowitz and Neil Fried, members of garin Hod, were called up along with all reservists. They traveled on the same bus as Shaul Efrayim, a member of garin Gilboa, and arrived together at the armoured corps base. They were placed in the same tank and were all killed, along with their tank commander, in western Egypt on Simchat Torah 1973.

A week after Yom Kippur, the kibbutz was set to vote on their membership, along with that of the other garin members. Jenny and Neil were a young couple who had not yet started a family. Dudi and Sandy were about to get married. Since then, and for the past 51 years, a memorial service has been held in their memory on the Friday after Simchat Torah. This year, Jenny planned to come to Israel, but the situation did not allow it. She wrote moving words that were read out at the ceremony. Sandy and Jenny's words are presented below.

Yitzhak Peleg and Nitzan Rivlin Feldman read from the memorial book published by the kibbutz. Philippa Segal and Danny Solow read Jennie's words in English and Hebrew, while David Mittelberg led the prayers, as has been the custom for all these years. Tzafnat Mor videoed the ceremony, Barry Feldman helped clean the area and polished the gravestones, and Einan Grosser handled the sound. Thank you to everyone! The full ceremony is available today on Kehilanet.

Written by: Eddie Solow

## Sandy

### **Memorial Service for Dudi, Neil and Shaul—25.10.2024**

I would like to begin with a thank you to our friends Dudi's and Neil's, Jenny's and mine and to all the chaverim of Kibbutz Yizrael. You have worked and invested in memorialising them for 50 years and you still continue. Apparently, those who remember for 50 years do not stop remembering in the 51<sup>st</sup> year. You have held memorial services every year, including many when I felt incapable of standing in front of that grave or speaking. During all those years, this annual commemoration, remembering them, by you, their friends and ours, has been a source of comfort to me. Thank you.

One might think that the words would finish after 51 years, that it has all been said...but thoughts and words come to me frequently at various moments of my life in all sorts of contexts.

This year, following 7/10/2023, thousands of people have joined our circle of mourning, marked as Simchat Torah by the Jewish people. This year, the entire country

and indeed, the Jewish people were searching to find a way to mark the day and get through this holiday, this Memorial Day. Suddenly Jenny and I were joined by so many on our day of mourning, now a day of mourning for all of our people. Is this comforting to me? It is so, so sad! Fifty-one years and so many wars and now another. This time our children and grandchildren are the soldiers. Following each war are peace talks, negotiations. Why not just skip the war and go straight to the negotiating table?

A year ago, on 7/10/23, Simchat Torah, the memorial yahrzeit candle alight for Dudi, for the 50<sup>th</sup> time, in our home, my youngest son Natan, called to say that he'd received a call up to the army for the war. He was on his way to us to collect his army uniform. Dudi's memorial candle, in front of me on the table, I prepared granola for my youngest son to take to the army and my thoughts ran to chocolate. Associative thoughts running from war to war.

October 6, 1973, was the date the Yom Kippur war began. Toward evening, Dudi and Neil, and other reservists from the kibbutz, were called to board a bus that was waiting for them outside the dining room. Before leaving, Dudi considered whether to break his fast 2 hours early. I don't recall what he decided. I do remember that I insisted that he take the 3 bars of Cadbury's chocolate, a treasure he'd received from his mother in South Africa. He wanted to leave it to share with me when we celebrated his return from the war. I insisted, "maybe you'll be hungry, maybe it'll take a while for food to be organised. No doubt, your mother will send more when you return." He did take the chocolate, and I like to think that he, Neil and Shaul enjoyed it because there was no sign of it in his bag, which was returned home with his belongings.

On October 6, 1973, Dudi went off to the war toward evening and exactly 51 years later, on October 6, 2024, in the evening, a first son was born to my youngest son Natan who is now in miluim, serving in the current war. Without discussing the significance of these parallel dates with my son, or their meaning to me, he and his partner decided to call their son David. During these dark days of war and remembrance, baby David is lighting up our lives. A new life is beginning. At age 23, on October 6, 1973, when Dudi boarded that bus, it would have been beyond me even to imagine that exactly 51 years later a grandson, bearing his name would be born.

Dudi and Neil, like so many others, got up and went to serve in Miluim because they had to, because they were called, because this place was theirs and needed to be defended. Before boarding the bus, Dudi whispered to me, "I'm afraid". I hugged him tightly and said that we would certainly meet in a few days, that wars are short in this country... and then, he boarded the bus. I've never shared this exchange before. Dudi,

at age 23 would never have wanted anyone to know he was afraid. Today, had he reached our age, I have no doubt that he would have said to his children and grandchildren, "Of course! Everybody's afraid to go off to war! Not everybody returns!" Dudi, Neil and Shaul fought in the war until October 18 when their tank was destroyed by 3 direct hits and the three were killed together.

How do they do it, all the young men and women, so young, and not so young? How do they enlist the strength, all that is required to go out to battle, to put their lives on the line, to be there for extended periods of time, to defend this place and all of us—such young men and older men, women, new immigrants, Druze, Arabs, Bedouin? How do they do it?

And what remains for us to do, all those who returned from this war or that, all those who never went to fight as soldiers? Our task is to do everything, everything, to battle and struggle and work to make Dudi's, Neil's, Shaul's, country, our country, worthy of them and of all of us.

Sandy Birenbaum Aronowitz

## Jenny

Dear All

I write this as a former member of Garin Hod.

Once a member of Kibbutz Yizrael.

And as a young woman who endured the sorrow and collective pain of the Yom Kippur war.

For many years Eitan and I have travelled to Israel from our home in Australia to commemorate and remember the dear souls of Neil Freed and Dudi Silbowitz.

I was married to Neil and remember well that Shabbat the 6th of October 1973.

When buses rolled into the kibbutz and took our young soldiers to war....

As I waved goodbye to Neil never forgetting that moment...

The words of the song echoed in my mind:

*"Where have all the soldiers gone, long time passing?*

*Gone to graveyards everyone.....*

*When will they ever learn, oh when will they ever learn..."*

A year has passed and so much sorrow and pain has been endured by you all.

We in the diaspora have worn our yellow ribbons, adorned our necks with dog tags and marched the streets to echo to the world our unwavering connection with Israel, our Judaism, our family and friends.

While we may be physically distant, our hearts remain close, and we stand with you in your strength and resilience.

We have felt the waves of uncertainty. Your courage is a beacon for all of us, reminding us of the unbreakable bond.

We share in your hope for peace and healing.

May their memories be blessed.

Amen – Jenny Udovich



### **Delving into the Archives**

Thank you to Adi Laviv for transferring to the archives a photo found on the roof of the dining hall.

Who recognises the people in the photo?

We would appreciate information re when the photo was taken and by whom.

Tzafnat: 052-4573448      Jules Feldman: 052-3756308



## Isabel Abroad - Tzafnat Mor

Almost a year has passed since the last time I went abroad. The winds of war blowing, the mandatory budget cuts, and the general atmosphere of despair didn't really contribute to the desire to wander about in various anti-Semitic countries. However, when the family calls and invites one for a trip, culminating in a Liverpool match, I relented and packed my best cheering gear. Thus, we began our journey with a visit to Nico, who was a soldier adopted by Asahel and Irit, a skilled rugby player, and now works in the vineyards in the hills of the picturesque towns of Gizenheim, Yohannesburg, and Rüdeseheim overlooking the Rhine River.

We kicked off the visit with a particularly worthwhile attraction—a stop at the local supermarket “Lidl,” and for a few moments, we even forgot we had come just to buy supplies for a picnic. From there, we continued to a café in a magical castle, and then Nico navigated us through the vineyards to a spot where we stopped for a delicious breakfast. We sipped Nico's wine, admired the beauty and power of nature, and visited the wine stand on the way, where travellers can stop, pay, and take wine for the road.

Joining us was my old friend Anika Friedman (we used to play soccer together in Pardesiya), who now works at the Jewish Museum in Frankfurt. As I breathed the clear air and enjoyed the quiet, it was hard to disconnect from thoughts of home and the war, with every plane in the sky being just a passenger plane and not a fighter. Later, we took a cable car over the vineyards, and I shared my thoughts with Eilam: “Look at all the people here; there is life outside of Israel. They don't have to worry about being close to a safe space and can travel peacefully in the middle of the day without worries.”

The next day we visited a castle on the other side of the Rhine and wandered through the shops of the picturesque town of Rüdeseheim, where I said goodbye to the group and caught a train to Frankfurt. I met Anika again, and together we went to clean the stones of remembrance for the family of Grandpa Eric (my mother's father) outside their home on Friedrichstraße 3, which we had placed during a special and emotional ceremony two and a half years ago. I was very moved to return there and clean the stones, and our family was especially touched to find out that Anika continues to maintain and clean them for us.

In the evening, we celebrated at a special Oktoberfest party hosted by Nico and his friends, and early Friday morning we flew to Liverpool. After a long time away from the city, I was happy to return. It's hard to explain the charm of the beloved, grey port city;

on the other hand, it is undoubtedly the city with the most broken people I have ever met. Homeless everywhere, toothless, drunk, and especially noisy. Far from the image of polite Brits that we were sold as children.

The highlight, for which we had actually gathered, arrived. We split into two groups: a father and daughter for a film about the beloved Paddington, and a particularly anxious and hysterical group for the match of our beloved Liverpool against Chelsea. Before entering the stadium, we had a small and special moment: I stopped to buy match pins, as is my custom, and during a conversation with the friendly vendor, he asked where we were from. After I replied, "Israel," he became very emotional and spoke about how he supports us and how tired he is of injustice, all the nonsense, noise, and war. He was moved to tears, and so was I. The match was tense, difficult but also enjoyable, and although I was mostly on the verge of a heart attack from excitement and a particularly high pulse rate, our players managed to rise to the occasion and win 2-1, thus I maintained a successful streak of 16-0 victories!

At the same time, it was hard to set aside feelings about the club's embarrassing response to the massacre and the neglect of our friends who frequented the stands who were murdered over the past year—an absence of response that led to anger and a deep rift in the Liverpool fan community in the country. I decided to dedicate the regular post after the match, and the victory, to those friends, especially to my friend Roi Munder of blessed memory. I made sure to bring "Sadness" \* to Enfield (Roi loved to follow her and care for her during my travels at home and abroad) to save him a spot in the stands.

Finally, we returned home tired and satisfied, as per the cliché. However, this time, my friends, the return home was harder than usual, making me think if I even wanted to fly to another match soon, as long as the war rages on.

When you walk through a storm

Hold your head up high

And don't be afraid of the dark

At the end of the storm

There's a golden sky

And the sweet silver song of the lark...

Walk on, walk on

With hope in your heart

And you'll never walk alone

You'll never walk alone" Gerry and the Pacemakers

\*\*Even today, more than ever, I pray for the swift return of our brothers and sisters languishing and suffering in Hamas' captivity (may Hamas' name be erased for all eternity.)

**Isabel**  **Written by: Tzafnat Mor**

\*Editor's note: "Sadness" is the character that expresses the emotion of sadness in the film "Inside Out."



**Ismail Gha'ani - Phil-O'sophia**



Ismail Gha'ani, is an Iranian brigadier general and the commander of the Quds Force. As many of you will have heard he went missing for a few days and wild rumours started to circulate about his whereabouts and his health. You needn't have worried he has been staying with me and as you would expect keeping a low profile (I wanted to avoid paying the fee for long-term visitors). As well as being a general he is also an old friend of mine. As a matter of fact, we are the same age.

We met in 1975 when I was passing through Teheran which back then was the gateway to Tel Aviv – at least it was until 1979. The Gha'ani family had a little electrical shop which today would have been selling all manner of electronic equipment – computers, mobile phones and tablets – all things that didn't exist back then.

Back then they had a smattering of pocket calculators, record players, hair driers, cake mixers, electric carving knives, black and white TV's and Motorola pagers that had come onto the market a year earlier. I wanted to buy a little cassette tape recorder to send the odd message home.

Ismail (Izzy as his mother called him) was keen to learn about New Zealand and what my plans were in Israel. I spent a very interesting day with the Gha'ani's including Kubeida Kebab and Gaz for dessert and black coffee with a Montana Gold cigarette.

We stayed in contact over the years and met up in a third country occasionally. Needless to say our friendship didn't remain unnoticed by my friends in Gilot – a rather long prison sentence prevents me from saying too much but I can pass on a couple of interesting titbits.

Izzy is a lovely guy, but his IQ is not much greater than his shoe size. As it was, he didn't have anything particular against us so getting him to enlist into the Quds force wasn't too difficult and he became a great source of intel for us. We made sure he rose up through the ranks which wasn't as difficult as you might think. There are approximately five thousand members of the Quds force – about four thousand are Mossad agents, two hundred and fifty are Shabaknikim, another two hundred and fifty are Likud members, and the remaining five hundred are a mix of UNRWA workers, El Jazeera and BBC reporters.

As a matter of fact, it was Izzy's idea to put explosives into the Hizbollah beepers and walkie talkies – his father packed them in the back of their shop in Teheran. His mother was in charge of producing the C4 in the family mixer.

When Izzy had knocked on my door a week ago, I thought it was Daniel Hagari coming over for some more help with one of his announcements – in fact Izzy had shaved off his beard and was wearing contact lenses - without them he looked like Danny's twin brother.

Izzy had bought with him maps and plans of military and missile bases the IDF were planning to hit before the end of daylight saving. I made a couple of suggestions mainly about payloads and fuel consumption.

I thought that Izzy wanted to stay. I told him he was always welcome here and that he should gather up the family and I'd pass him off as an evacuee from the north. He shook his head and told me he preferred the Ayatollah to Bibi, so he'd stay put in Teheran. Phil Adler

## A Liberal Religious Voice – In our Library!!!!



In recent years, 'Religious Zionism' has transformed from a moderate and unifying movement into the name of a party that many religious individuals feel does not represent them. Pasit speaks about this from a personal and vulnerable place. Through her personal story, one can understand how we arrived at this point and what needs to be done to improve the situation.

Pasit expresses a liberal religious voice that is especially worth listening to these days. A meeting with Pasit will take place.....

**In the library - On Thursday, November 7, 2024- At 20:00.**



## **The “Narkis” Barmitzvah Group**

**Invite us all to celebrate the opening of their Barmitzvah Year**

**Friday 20:00**

**In the Moadon**



**Programme for 03/11/24 – 07/11/24**

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

### **Sunday 03 November**

09:10 Zoom with Dorot B'Gilboa – Around the World with Noam Sela

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

### **Monday 04 November**

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

09:00 Sweet from the Oven with Monica and Noa

10:00 Trivia and Brain Games with Galia

16:00 Or B'Givah is open for coffee and lively conversation

### **Tuesday 05 November**

10:00 Movie screening – Galia

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

### **Wednesday 06 November**

09:30 Nature is Blooming with Hammutal Assaf

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

### **Thursday 07 November**

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

09:30 "HaNogariah" with Noga Harpaz

17:15 Exercises on chairs with Michal Sha'anani

## **English is Fun - with Rahel**

### KIDDING AROUND IN CHURCH

"To err is human, to forgive divine," wrote the poet Alexander Pope. But, "To forgive is human, to err, divine." And some of the most divine bloopers drop from the mouths of our innocent young as wholly holy bloopers.

Two daughters had been given parts in a Christmas pageant at their church. At dinner one night, they got into an argument as to who had the most important role. Finally, the ten-year-old said to her younger sister, "Well, you just ask Mum. She'll tell you it's much harder to be a virgin than it is to be an angel."

At the Henry Street Hebrew School, Mr. Goldblatt, the new teacher, finished the day's lesson. It was now time for the usual question period.

“Mr. Goldblatt,” announced little Joey, “there’s something I can’t figure out.”  
“What’s that?”  
“Well according to the Bible, the Children of Israel crossed the Red Sea, right?”  
“Right.”  
“And the Children of Israel beat up the Philistines, right?”  
“Er, right.”  
“And the Children of Israel built the Temple, right?”  
“Again, you are right.”  
“And the Children of Israel fought the Egyptians, and the Children of Israel fought the Romans, and the Children of Israel wuz always doin’ something important, right?”  
“All that is right, too,” agreed Mr. Goldblatt, “So what is your question, Joey?”  
“What I want to know, is this,” demanded Joey, “What were all the grown-ups doing?”

A Sunday School teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six-year-olds. After explaining the commandment to “honour thy father and thy mother” she asked. “Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?”

Without missing a beat, one little boy, the oldest in his family, answered, “Thou shalt not kill.”

After the church service, a little girl told the pastor. “When I grow up, I’m going to give you some money.”

“Well, thank you,” the pastor replied, “but why?”

“Because my daddy says you’re one of the poorest preachers we’ve ever had.”

A couple invited people to dinner. At the table, the mother turned to her six-year-old daughter and said, “Would you like to say the blessing”?

“I wouldn’t know what to say,” she replied.

“Just say what you hear Mummy say” her mother said.

The little girl bowed her head and said, “Dear Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?”

A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took baby Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A young girl answered, “Because they couldn’t get a babysitter.”

.....more next week

## **Credits:**

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**Disclaimer 1:** The Editor 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 Editor's ability to grapple with the subject matter, determine what is included.

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

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