

MS-630: Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler Digital Collection, 1953-1996. Series A: Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 1961-1996.

Box Folder 13 2

Reform communities in Israel, 1984-1995.

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Union of American Hebrew Congregations

PATRON OF HEBREW UNION COLLEGE -- JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION 838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100 CABLES: UNIONUAHC

ALIYAH DESK

Maggie Goldberg Bar-Tura Central Shlicha

MEMORANDUM

FROM:

Maggie Bar-Tura

TO:

Rabbi Alexander Schindler

DATE:

November 5, 1987

I'd like to bring you up to date on the happenings of Garin Arava and the results of the last Kinus. We attracted 24 participants in addition to the Shlichim and guests who included Debbie Schultz from ARZA and Michelle November. Approximately half of the participants are graduates of our long-term programs. All are actively exploring the possibilities of aliyah. The Garin accepted a new member, Zvi Sabin, a grad student at University of Wisconsin who is planning aliyah in the winter of 1989. A new candidate was also accepted Mona Klein, who is finishing her undergraduate work at Kent State this winter. The most exciting result of the Kinus was the establishment of a Reform Aliyah Movement to be known as Tamar (Tnuat Magshimim Reformim). My impression is that Tamar will attract people between the ages of 19-30. The goals of the movement are to facilitate the aliyah of Reform Jews by creating Garinim to Reform Settlements and to create Reform cooperative and communal frameworks for olim to cities. Recruitment for Garin Arava would continue and would be enhanced by the broader appeal of Tamar. Representatives of Garin Galil were guest at the Kinus and I foresee possibilties for participation of Garin Galil in Tamar. A temporary national mazkirut was established which includes representatives of Garin Arava and Garin Galil. The mazkir of Garin Arava will serve as national coordinator.

I am enclosing a copy of the proposed flyer for our next Kinus and hope you share our excitement and cautious optimism about the future of Tamar and Garin Arava.

MBT/dn

July 15, 1987 18 Tammuz 5747

Mr. Howard Creed Makkir, Garin Arava 838 Fifth Avenue New York, N.Y. 10021

Dear Howard:

Thank you for your letter of introduction. I am delighted to welcome you as the New Maskir of Garin Arava. I look forward to meeting you when you are on board full time. For now, let me wish you well in your new responsibilities. It is my fond hope you will find your work in behalf of the Garin to be bery meaningful and fulfilling.

Thank you, too, for sharing with me the copy of the Oconomowoc Platform. It is a fine statement but I do have a problem with section one on Aliyah. It is a bit strong and I would suggest that you consider changing the language from "must make Israel ---". We hope, we believe all Jews should make Israel Central too, but we really cannot be insistent on this matter. Other than that slight point it is a good statement.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



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פֿקיבוצי התנועה פּֿ

July 9, 1987

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

I hope this letter finds you enjoying your summe... e introduce myself. My name is Howard Creed. I am the new Maskir of Garin Arava, replacing Gigi Strom. I am unofficially in and out of the UAHC office this summer and I will start full time in the fall. I am enclosing along with this letter a copy of the Oconomowoc Platform which the Garin penned at our recent June kinus at camp Olin-Sang Ruby. I apologise for the quality of the xeroxing, it was acting up today. The Platform is intended to be a statement of what the Garin stands for and believes in. As such, it was necessarily a compromise document and will probably undergo continuous revision. I would be interested to hear your opinion on this document.

B'shalom

Howard Creed

Hent Cue

Maskir, Garin Arava



THE OCONOMOWOC PLATFORM

I) ALIYA:

All Jews must make Israel central in their lives, viewing aliya as the highest form of Zionist fulfillment and a viable option for themselves as individuals. We therefore will encourage aliya from both free and oppressed nations, and expect all Jews to support Israel actively through visits, education, financial contributions, and encouragement of aliya. Aliya from the World Union for Progressive Judaism and other similarly alligned movements is fundamental to the progressive Israeli society we envision.

II) Social and Economic Justice:

The vision of our prophets must be balanced with modern thought and critical evaluation in order to be the root and backdrop of the nation's soul. The values based on these visions include egalitarianism, religious pluralism, coexistence, and the centrality of community in our everyday lives. We will strive toward these values wherever we live, and work to make them the focus of the Jewish State.

III) Cultural Development:

We recognize the existence of different ethnic, racial, and religious groups within Israeli society, and foster the interests of each while maintaining equality among all, as long as these various creeds do not infringe upon the rights and beliefs of others.

Israel shall act as an open and viable platform for cultural and educational development for all the nation, its institutions on the breaking edge, its artists full of challenge and creativity.

IV) Ritual:

Our Judaism evolves through a process of practice based on study and confrontation of Jewish texts and traditions.

We support institutions of all branches of Judaism which further religious expression. No one of these branches has the exclusive right to determine the validity of other forms of Judaism.

Jewish belief is incompatible with belief in a Messiah already come.

V)NATION/RELIGION

exiled from our homeland we have longed to return both spiritually and physically. Furthermore, we have been considered Jews by ourselves and by others regardless of our degree of religious observance. Without the belief in one Cod and the observance and study of the commandments laid out in the Torah, however, the national ties would soon be weakened. We therefore consider ourselves both a nation and a religion, with both aspects holding equal importance.

February 20, 1986 11 Adar 1 5746

Jill Gronner, Mazkira <u>Garin Ar</u>ava - UAHC 838 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10021

Dear Jill:

Thank you for your letter of February 17 with an up-date on various Garin Arava activities. I've noted the dates for the Kinus in New York this June but even now I can tell you it is highly unlikely that I will be able to be with you. My calendar already has a number of commitments during the period of the Kinus.

In regard to the forthcoming Kinus at Camp Swig, I do hope you have been in touch with some of our West Coast UAHC leaders so that they might have an opportunity to share in your program. You might contact our regional directors, Rabbis Lennard Thal in Los Angeles and Morris Hershman in San Francisco, as well as Joseph Kèèiman, associate treasurer, of Los Angeles and Aaron Greenberg, president of the UAHC's Northern California Council. You can obtain their addresses from a UAHC Board Book. I note you have someone from ARZA speaking to the group, have you invited any ARZA leaders from the area to joon the Kinus for Shabbat? That might be a nice gesture.

With my warm good wishes and kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



February 17, 1986

Rabbi Alexander Schindler President, UAHC 838 Fifth Ave. 9th floor New York, NY 10021

Rabbi Schindler, Shalom,

Another Garin Arava kinus is approaching and it is time once again to inform you of our growth and latest activities.

First of all, I would like to express again our deep appreciation for the time you took to be with us at our kinus in November. Your growing support of Garin Arava has had a profound impact on the mood of Garin Arava, and we are eagerly looking forward to the time when you can join us once again. (For your calendar, our next kinus in New York will take place from June 8th through June 16, 1986.)

The upcoming kinus will be held at Camp Swig from February 27th through March 2nd. In addition to our general discussions on Zionism, religious pluralism, political activism in and from the Arava, personal and technical aspects of making aliya, etc., we will be welcoming Mohammed Darawshi, on tour in the United States, to speak with us on Arab-Jewish coexistence and his experience as an Israeli Arab working within the Israeli system to affect awareness and change. Diane Marcus from ARZA will be speaking with us as well. Furthermore, a group of parents of past and present Garin Arava members from California will be joining us on Shabbat morning in discussion on aliya as it relates to us and our families.

Garin Arava founded a bayit in December that has proved to be very successful, and continues to be the epicentre of Garin Arava activity in New York. Two members, myself included, attended a meeting in Israel of North American garin representatives. We also participated in the kinus of Netzer Olami, where we developed a few very significant new ideas that are being presented at this time to ARZA and the World Union. Both meetings were highly successful, and we were able to come back with exciting new ideas for the garin.

I hope this finds you and your wife well. I hope to see you soon.

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B'vracha,

Jill Gronner, mazkira

Union of American Hebrew Congregations 838 Fifth Ave, New York, NY 10021 (212) 249-0100

January 23, 1987 21 Tevet 5747

Ms. Gigi Strom, Mazkira Garin Arava 838 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10021

Dear Gigi:

As you and members of Garin Arava are about to gather for February's Kinus, I shall be departing for Israel where I will be attending some critical meetings of the Jewish Agency. One of the items on the J.A. agenda is the Reform Grant Request and I need not tell you how very important this matter is to our movement.

Since my presence at the Kinus is not possible, I take the means of this letter to extend my warm good wishes to each and every member of Garin Arava. It is my fond hope your kinus will be meaningful in every way and that the companionship and camaraderie will give a sense of strength and support to the members who will soon be making aliya, even as new members of the Garin are welcomed and begin to participate in the process of preparing for a new life in Israel and on kibbutz.

The theme of the kinus is a fine one and I will be very interested in learning about your discussions:

With best wishes and warm regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



Rabbi Alexander Schindler 838 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10021

Jan. 15, 1987

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

It gives me great pleasure as mazkira of Garin Arava to announce our upcoming kinus, to be held Feb. 12-15 at Camp Swig in Saratoga, CA. If you are available to attend the kinus, we would be honored to have you present. Then theme of the kinus is the nature of commitment: Why make commitments at all, and why to Israel and to kibbutz specifically?

All members of Shlav Shemesh, our largest shlav in several years, are now in Israel, beginning ulpan in Jerusalem with olim from Netzer in England and Australia. We will be paying close attention to how their year goes as we plan Sh'nat Klita for next year. This kinus will be very important to the future of the garin: Shlav Shemesh's aliya cut the number of our members in half, and four of the remaining eight members plan to make aliya this year. You could say we're being killed by our own success. We are not very worried, however; we have several strong candidates coming up for membership and interested new faces jioning us in February.

We always appreciate the support and assistance you and the entire UAHC give the garin and the kibbutzim as we work to build up the Israeli Reform community.

B'shalom, Gigi Strom

cc: Maggie Bar-Tura





Union of American Hebrew Congregations

SERVING REFORM JUDAISM IN NORTH AMERICA

PATRON OF HEBREW UNION COLLEGE-JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION 838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021-7064 (212) 249-0100

One Page Fax

February 16, 1995 16 Adar 1 5755

Shalom Yahelniks:

It's difficult to comprehend that you will be celebrating the special simcha of Yahel's Chai anniversary this Shabbat! How I would love to be with you; alas I must remain in icy, windblown New York City - but my heart is with all of you.

I'll say a special prayer of thanks this Shabbat for bringing Yahel to this moment, for the fact that you have flourished and grown, that peace abides in your area and, that very soon a time of real and enduring peace in the middle east - nay, throughout the world, will come to be.

May the beautiful promise of this marvelous Chai anniversary continue to be fulfilled in the days and year ahead, as Yahel grows from strength to ever greater strength.

Mazal tov and love and kisses to one and all.

Fondly,

Edith J. Miller

Assistant to the President

Chairman Melvin Merians President Rabbi Alexander

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler Honorary Chairpersons

Matthew H. Ross Donald S. Day Charles J. Rothschild, Jr.

Immediate Past Chairman Allan B. Goldman

Vice Chairpersons
Jan Epstein
Mark C. Levy
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Vice Presidents Rabbi Daniel B. Syme Rabbi Eric H. Yoffie

Honorary Treasurer Howard M. Wilkoff

Treasurer Jerome H. Somers

Associate Treasurer
Alan Belinkoff

Secretary B. J. Tanenbaum, Jr.

Assistant Secretary Judge David S. Davidson

Counsel Han. Solomon H. Friend P.S. Had a terrific meeting with Ron and am so pleased to have the Yahel video and the beautiful volume Desert's Edge. But best of all was seeing pictures of the beautiful, sparkling, happy faces of some of Yahel's best products-your kids! One could eat them up - each and everyone.





RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER • UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
PRESIDENT 838 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10021-7064 (212)249-0100

October 24, 1994 19 Heshvan 5755

Lori Stark Kibbutz Yahel Doar Na Eilot 88850 Israel

Dear Lori:

As Rabbi Schindler is still in Israel, I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your fax and the copy of the letter to President and Mrs. Clinton. Isn't it amazing how great minds work - - as soon as I heard that the signing with Jordan was to take place in the Arava Valley, I suggested that it be at Yahel!

When I fax Alex in Israel, I will tell him of your letter and certainly indicate the invitation to stop by and visit Yahel. He will undoubtedly be attending the signing, but none of us have any idea of what Wednesday's schedule is.

I was glad to hear that it has been a good season and can almost taste the pomelos!

My fondest regards to you and Nancy and your families.

Fondly,

Edith J. Miller Assistant to the President

KIBBUTZ YAHEL

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UNITED KIBBUTZ MOVEMENT THE MOVEMENT FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

DOAR NA 61LOT 88850 TEL 059-74920 ISRAEL TUX 7792 ARDOM IL FAX: (972)59 72969

October 23, 1994 ""ת בחשון תשנ"ה

Rabbi Alexander Schindler Union of American Hebrew Congregations 838 Fifth Avenue New York, New York 10021

Fax: 001-212-570-0895

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

Shalom! Following this note please find a copy of a letter I sent today by fax to the White House. We'd be thrilled if there was any way to encourage any of the dignitaries who will be attending the ceremonies on Wednesday to stop by and visit Yahel. Of course, you personally are ALWAYS welcome...

Hope to see you soon and we thank you for your time!

Warm Regards,

Lori Stark Kibbutz Yahel

P.S. Please relay warm regards to Edie from Nancy and I!

KIBBUTZ YAHEL

UNITED HIBBUTZ MOVEMENT THE MOVEMENT FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM October 23, 1994

י"ת בחשון תשנ"ה

DOAA NA ELOT 88850 TEL 059-74990 ISAHEL TLX: 7792 APDOM IL FAX (972)59 72969

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President and Mrs. Bill Clinton The White House Washington, D.C.

Dear President and Mrs. Clinton,

My name is Lori Stark and I am a dual American/Israeli citizen living in southern Israel, in the Arava Valley near Eilat - directly on the border with Jordan. My home is Kibbutz Yahel, one of ten kibbutzim in the southern Arava, and the first agricultural community to be established as a joint effort between the Israeli kibbutz movement, and the Reform Jewish Movement. We are a young kibbutz (almost 18 years old), committed to building a secure and financially independent community for ourselves and our children based on the ideology of kibbutz combined with the values of Reform Judaism.

Building our home inside the "green line" was an important factor in choosing the site for Yahel, and ironically, our fields (and primary means of livelihood) were an issue of negotiation in the peace talks. It is important for me to stress that while we waited with baited breath as to our future, the members of Kibbutz Yahel fully believe in and support the peace process - even if it meant personal sacrifices for us. We are not radicals or fanatics, but believe in compromise and reality.

I would like to take this opportunity, in the name of all the members of Kibbutz Yahel, to extend to you and your guests a personal invitation to visit our kibbutz at your convenience during your coming visit to the Middle East. We are located close to the new border crossing between Israel and Jordan, and since you will be "in the neighborhood" we would very much like to welcome you to our home. We'll be happy to show you around Israel's most unique society - kibbutz.

On a personal note, please accept a simple but sincere thank you for your role in ensuring a safe and real peace for the people of Israel. I cannot adequately express the feeling of joy and excitement that we feel when our neighbors from Jordan smile and wave to us from across the border. With peace on the horizon, our future and more importantly that of our children, couldn't be brighter.

Looking forward to welcoming you to our home!

Shalom, Lori Stark Kibbutz Yahel

Rabbi Richard Hirsch, World Union for Progressive Judasim Rabbi Alexandler Schindler, Union of American Hebrew Congregations Rabbi David Saperstein, Religious Action Center, Washington, D.C.

MEMORANDUM

Two Page Fax

November 28, 1994 25 KIslev 5755

From: Edie Miller

To: Lori Stark

Shalom - just a note to wish you and all of the Yahelniks a bright and happy Hanukkah. The sunset over the mountains sounds gorgeous..and it's nice to know of the Shalom's coming your way....alevay it lasts and becomes a for real peace all over the Middle East!

Love to all.





RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
PRESIDENT 838 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10021-7064 (212)249-0100

November 28, 1994 25 Kisley 5755

Lori Stark Kibbutz Yahel Doar Na Eilot 88850 Israel

Dear Lori:

I was so pleased to receive your letter and to learn that the members of Kibbutz Yahel had honored Rabbi Steve Schafer during his recent visit to Israel. It was absolutely fitting to dedicate the weekend which began the celebration of your "Chai" birthday by honoring Steve and Nina and declaring them honorary life members of Kibbutz Yahel.

I am, of course, sharing all of this material with Aron Hirt-Manheimer for it should be noted in Reform Judaism. I will also send a copy to ARZA and Rabbi Allan Smith so that he and others of our Youth Division are aware of this wonderful tribute to Steve and Nina.

I hope all is well with you and wish you and your family and all of the members of Yahel a very happy Chanukah.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

MA'AYAN B'MIDBAR THE CENTER FOR DESERT TOURISM

Kibbutz Yahel D.N. Elot 88850

Tel: (07) 357968

(07) 357911

Fax: (07) 357051

DATE: November 27, 1994

כ"ד בכסלו תשנ"ה

FACSIMILE TRANSACTION

To: Rabbi Alex Schindler

Union of American Hebrew Congregations

838 Fifth Avenue

New York, NY 10021 - 7064

Fax Number:

Number of Pages: C + 2

Fax: 001 - 212 - 570 - 0895

MESSAGE:

Shalom Edie,

Thanks for passing on the enclosed to Rabbi Schindler. And a second thank you for you last letter, I appreciated hearing from you! It's an amazing feeling to watch the sun set creating such a beautifully red view of the "Edom Mountains" and to know that they're no longer "enemy territory" but now we can view the kibbutz from the other side! The Jordanian soldiers no longer just drive by, but stop and wave and yell out "Shalom!' when we're in the fields!

Have a Wonderful Chanukkah!

Much love,

LORI STARK
MA'AYAN B'MIDBAR

File: C:\QTX - 1994:0012





RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER • UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
PRESIDENT 838 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10021-7064 (212)249-0100

November 28, 1994 25 Kislev 5755

Lori Stark Kibbutz Yahel Doar Na Eilot 88850 Israel

Dear Lori:

I was so pleased to receive your letter and to learn that the members of Kibbutz Yahel had honored Rabbi Steve Schafer during his recent visit to Israel. It was absolutely fitting to dedicate the weekend which began the celebration of your "Chai" birthday by honoring Steve and Nina and declaring them honorary life members of Kibbutz Yahel.

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Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

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KIBBUTZ YAHEL

UNITED KIBBUTZ MOVEMENT THE MOVEMENT FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

DOAR NA ELLOT 88850 TEL: 07-357911 TLX: 7792 ARDOM IL. FAX: (972)7-357051

November 27, 1994 כ"ד בכסלו תשנ"ה

Rabbi Alexander Schindler Union of American Hebrew Congregations 838 Fifth Avenue New York, New York 10021 USA

Fax: 001-212-570-0895

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

Shalom! During your recent visit to Yahel this past February, we discussed how the members of Kibbutz Yahel could show Rabbi Steve Schafer our support, gratitude and love. I'm happy to tell you that while Steve was in Israel in October, he and his son Zak spent a few days (including Shabbat) here. The members of Yahel decided to dedicate the weekend to beginning celebrations of our "Chai" birthday, in honoring Steve and Nina with "Honorary Life Membership."

We would be very grateful to you if you would see to it that the enclosed "Press Release" is passed on to the appropriate publication, preferably "Reform Judaism Magazine." Sue Fishkoff, their Israeli correspondent, was at Yahel last week and suggested that if "Reform Judaism" needs her input on the subject (or re-editing), she'd be happy to help. She also suggested the "Spotlight" section, mentioning the deadline for the next issue is only a few days away, on December 1st. If "Reform Judaism" can't publicize the article, perhaps it should be forwarded to Rabbi Ammi Hirsch, for publication in the ARZA Newsletter. (Please feel free to edit as necessary, good intentions don't necessarily make me a professional writer!)

We feel very strongly, as I'm sure you do, that the whole movement should be aware of the incredible work both Steve and Nina did for so many years, as well as our gratitude to them.

Thanks so much. I hope we'll be able to welcome you again soon to Yahel, please know that our home is always open to you and your family. With very best wishes for a Happy Channukah from all of us!

חג שמח!!

Lori Stark

KIBBUTZ YAHEL

UNITED KIBBUTZ MOVEMENT THE MOVEMENT FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDRISM

DOAR NA EILOT 88850 TEL: 07-357911 TLX: 7792 ARDOM IL. FAX: (972)7-357051

PRESS RELEASE 1/12/94

KIBBUTZ YAHEL PRESENTS HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP TO RABBI STEPHEN AND NINA SCHAFER

Kibbutz Yahel, Israeli's first Reform kibbutz, opened official celebrations of it's "Chai" year by honoring Rabbi Stephen and Nina Schafer. Dedicated in November of 1976 by leaders of the Reform Movement from the USA and Israel the kibbutz is currently celebrating it's "Chai" (eighteenth) birthday.

Rabbi Stephen Schafer, former Director of the UAHC Youth Division, was a primary force in the conception and establishment of Kibbutz Yahel. Both Steve and Nina were responsible for the creation of "Garin Arava," the American settlement group to the Reform Kibbutzim, Yahel and Lotan, as well as being a driving force behind the organization of North American financial support for the kibbutzim. The Schafers were also instrumental in the establishment of "Har Chalutz," the Reform community in the Galilee.

During a moving presentation ceremony in the kibbutz synagogue, Idit Usha, the General Secretary of Yahel, expressed the feelings of all the members of the kibbutz, "What could be more symbolic during our "Chai" year than to extend honorary membership to the couple who did so much to give us "Chayim!" The only other Honorary Life Members of Kibbutz Yahel, Rabbi Allen and Susie Levine, were also present at the ceremony.

Today Kibbutz Yahel is home to a population of over 200, including 75 children. The cosmopolitan nature of our first Reform kibbutz is reflected in the fact that its members come from ten different countries; Israel, USA, South Africa, England, France, Mexico, Argentina, Morocco, Rumania, and Armenia. The kibbutz produces dates, pomello, melons, watermelons, onions, peppers. Yahel takes pride in its ,250 cow dairy, as well as its new desert aquaculture project - fish ponds. Yahel's educational seminar center, "Ma'ayan B'Midbar," a project of the Women of Reform Judaism (N.F.T.S.), annually hosts many thousands of Israeli high school students, in addition to NFTY high school and university students, and congregations from the Reform Movement from all over the world. A visit to Kibbutz Yahel is warm and uplifting experience. Arrangements can be made through travel agents, or through direct contact with the kibbutz: "Ma'ayan B'Midbar"

Kibbutz Yahel D.N. Eilot 88850 Tel: 072-7-357968 Fax: 072-7-357051

Submitted by Fori Stark Kibbutz Yahel

Mrs. Mi 82 Sull West Or

September 29, 1994 24 Tishri 5755

Mrs. Miriam S. Puder 82 Sullivan Drive West Orange, NJ 07052

Dear Mrs. Puder:

The 1978 financial records of the UAHC and ARZA are warehoused and we simply cannot get to them. We <u>do</u> know that your gift was received and transferred and a plaque was placed in the original library at Kibbutz Yahel.

There is really nothing more I can do in this connection. It is between you and the members of Yahel. In the early days of Kibbutz Yahel's creation, the Union acted as a recipient of funds. We did not retain them, they were immediately transferred.

Unfortunately, as has been explained to you, over the years the library had to be relocated for various reasons. Somehow, the plaque was lost and everyone concerned has expressed great dismay and the Kibbutz has sought to correct the matter.

I much regret your inability to understand that a grievous error was made, it was certainly not planned. In good faith a plaque in memory of your beloved mother was made up in 1978 and now the members of the Kibbutz have promised to have a new plaque made up and placed in their library.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc: Rabbi Ammiel Hirsch Rabbi Barry H. Greene Kibbutz Yahel Mil our problem so de file wes

Miriam S. Puder

82 Sullivan Drive

West Orange, NJ 07052

Phone: 201-325-2967 FAX.....201-325-6903

Und follow a

September 20, 1994.

Rabbi Alexander Schindler

Union of American Hebrew Congregations

838 Fifth Avenue

New York, NY 10021

Subject: \$5,000 donation in memory of Elisabeth Moyer Schoenberger.

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

I am in receipt of your letter of August 23, 1994 in which you state the Union of American Hebrew Congregations has no authority over Kibbutz Yahel and you only transferred funds to them through the office of Rabbi Schafer, former director of Youth Activities for the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

You must understand that we are not trying to lay blame nor are we unforgiving people. We are also aware, that in the scheme of important matters and concerns, our problem is small. You must also be aware, however, that we feel that we have every right to ask for validation and verification of what happened to our \$5,000 donation in memory of Elisabeth Moyer Schoenberger. As of now, we have a receipt stating that the Union of American Hebrew Congregations had received our check for \$5,000. Since that is all we have and all that we know, we are asking that you give us proof, with Xeroxed validation, that the monies were transmitted to, and received by, Kibbutz Yahel. It is important that we be provided with a verified and validated trail of where the money went and how it was used.

In the meantime, we reiterate that we wish NO action be taken to install a plaque in my mother's memory. It was supposed to have been done in 1978. Sixteen years later, upon finding out that nothing was done, we do not want action taken before we have been provided with the verified information that we have requested.

Mirian Ruder

We await the information that we feel entitled to receive.

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Ammiel Hirsch, Kibbutz Yahel

cc:

Treasurer Hillel Tobias and Maskir Elad Lending, Kibbutz Yahel Rabbi Allan Levine, Union of American Hebrew Congregations

Miriam S. Puder 82 Sullivan Drive West Orange, NJ 07052

Phone: 201-325-2967 FAX.....201-325-6903

September 20, 1994

Maskir Elad Lending and Treasurer Hillel Tobias Kibbutz Yahel Dear Na Eilot 88850 Israel

Dear Maskir Lending and Treasurer Tobias:

I am in receipt of your letter of August 22, 1994, and am most sensitive to the difficulties of establishing a Kibbutz life and of the very hard lives that the members of Kibbutz Yahel have led. Also please know that we, the family of Elisabeth Moyer Schoenberger, are compassionate and forgiving human beings.

We feel, however, that it is important to pursue just what happened to our donation given in 1978 in memory of Elisabeth Moyer Schoenberger. We wish to be provided with validated proof that the monies we gave to Kibbutz Yahel, for establishing an agricultural library in my mother's memory, were indeed received and so used. As of now we have only a receipt that the \$5,000 was received at UAHC by Rabbi Stephen Schafer on March 28, 1978. What happened to the \$5,000? Did Kibbutz Yahel receive the money? If so, please provide us with a copy of the dated receipt. Additionally, how was the \$5,000 spent? You say that there was a small library, first in a bomb shelter and then in a small room. You also infer that there was a plaque at some time. According to my daughter's information, based on her visit with her Israeli friend to Kibbutz Yahel in July 1994, there was never an agricultural library and never a plaque.

We hope you understand that, after 16 years, where no memorial was established in my mother's memory, we insist on receiving validated proof that the monies were received and how they were expended.

Until such proof and validation is provided, you are to do nothing at this time to provide the plaque which was to be originally established. You may not now put up a memorial to my mother without our explicit consent, and such will not be forthcoming until you have satisfied us with the verified information requested.

We await hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

do.

Rabbi Alexander Schindler

Union of American Hebrew Congregations 838 Fifth Ave.

New York, NY 10021

Rabbi Allan Levine
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Ave.
New York, NY 10021

Rabbi Richard Hirsch, Director World Union for Progressive Judaism 13 King David St. Jerusalem 92141, Israel ! Kakee

Good letter

August 23, 1994 16 Elul 5754

Ms. Miriam S. Puder 82 Sullivan Drive West Orange, NJ 07052

Dear Ms. Puder:

Once again I must reiterate my distress at the situation regarding your gift to Kibbutz Yahel. I must also explain that the Union has no authority over the Kibbutz for we did no more than provide counsel and assistance to a group of young people determined to organize a liberal kibbutz. The UAHC made no financial commitment nor were we ever involved in their fundraising campaign.

Your contribution was to Kibbutz Yahel and while the funds may have been transferred to them through the office of Rabbi Schafer, former director of Youth Activities for the UAHC, the Union itself was not involved in their fund raising efforts in any way. Thus, as you can appreciate, there is nothing I can do to gain the return of your gift for it is beyond my purview to arrange for such a procedure.

My communication to Rabbi Hirsch of ARZA and to the members of the Kibbutz was by way of urging them to make certain they handled with dignity and dispatch a matter over which I have authority. It is my fond hope this unfortunate situation will be brought to a mutually acceptable solution.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M Schindler

cc: Rabbi H. Barry Greene Rabbi Ammiel Hirsch Kibbutz Yahel 10:21 0000 RICHARD K. PUDER 201-325-2967

fated to Ams 3/19

ack Smitty what Miriam S. Puder we should do about 82 Sullivan Drive

West Orange, NJ 07052

Phone: 201-325-2967 FAX.....201-325-6903

August 18, 1994

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, President Union of American Hebrew Congregations 838 Fifth Ave. New York, NY 10021-7064

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

I have just received your letter dated August 11, 1994, having been away on vacation when it arrived, and I am greatly distressed with its contents.

On August 6th I sent you by FAX and also by mail my instructions as to what it is that I wish to have done. I stated that I do NOT want any further action to rectify the lack of follow through of our donation of \$5,000 in my mother's memory. I stated that "you are hereby instructed to do nothing until we have further information as to what happened to our monies and where they went"; "...do not try to correct something which is not correctable".

We do NOT want a plaque. It is too late, after sixteen years. We have no accounting for how our contribution was spent. There was NO record of any agricultural library established by these funds nor was there any knowledge of the donation at the Kibbutz.

There is but one and only one resolution to this horrendous "violation of trust", and that is simply stated: please see to it that our \$5,000 donation is immediately returned to us.

Awaiting your immediate reply,

Sincerely yours, mirian Pudan

Rabbi Stephen Schaffer CC:

> Rabbi Allan Levine Rabbi Allan Smith

Maskir Elad Lending and Treasurer Hillel Tobias-Kibbutz Yahel

Rabbi Barry Greene



838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021-7064 TEL: (212) 249-0100, FAX: (212) 517-7968

ASSOCIATION OF REFORM ZIONISTS OF AMERICA An Affiliate of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations

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TO: RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER

FROM:

RABBI AMMIEL HIRSCH Amm

DATE:

August 18, 1994

RE:

Puder Plaque

I spoke with our colleague Barry Greene and have been in communication with Kibbutz Yahel. The kibbutz obviously lost the plaque but has committed to making a new one. They have also apologized in writing to the Puder family. With regard to compensation (with or without interest), clearly the kibbutz is not in a position to refund any money. Barry indicated to me that the family is rather difficult, and that with appropriate apologies and the making of a new plaque, they would be placated.

When the plaque is complete, the kibbutz will be in communication with Ms. Puder. You and others have already communicated with the family. Barry thinks that this is sufficient. I agree.

AH:dg

August 11, 1994 4 Elul 57754

From: Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

To: Rabbi Ammiel Hirsch

cc: Rabbi Allen L. Smith

RE; PLAQUE OF PUDER FAMILY AT KIBBUTZ YAHEL

I am sharing the enclosed correspondence with you so that you can follow up and make certain this matter is resolved. I do want to know what transpires so please keep me posted.

You may be able to get more details from Smitty so please discuss with him. Since Steve Schaffer and Allan Levine are no longer in the picture this has to be dealt with from this end!

I'll tell Mrs. Puder we are looking into this matter.

Thanks.

August 11, 1994 4 Elul 5754

Miriam S. Puder 82 Sullivan Drive West Orange, NJ 07052

Dear Ms. Puder:

Your recent correspondence with Kibbutz Yahel has caused me great distress for I can feel your pain over the loss of the special placque honoring the memory of your beloved mother. I know there are no words that I or any of the Kibbutz members can offer which will alleviate your anguish but I assure you I will make certain the plaque is replaced and given the special place of honor which it deserves.

Rabbis Schaffer and Levine are both retired and now out of the picture in regard to this matter. I have, however, shared your letter with the director of ARZA, a major supporter of Kibbutz Yahel, and instructed him to make certain the situation is corrected quickly. I will, of course, monitor the situation to make certain it is handled with dignity and dispatch. I will keep you informed.

With warm good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc: Rabbi H. Barry Greene Rabbi Ammiel Hirsch Rabbi Allan L. Smith Kibbutz Yahel

Miriam S. Puder 82 Sullivan Drive West Orange, NJ 07052

Phone: 201-325-2967 FAX.....201-325-6903

August 6, 1994

Rabbi Stephen Schaffer
Rabbi Allan Levine
Rabbi Allan Smith
Rabbi Schindler, President Union of American Hebrew Congregation
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10021

Re: My FAX 8/6/94 to Kibbutz Yahel

Enclosed please find a copy of the FAX sent this evening to Kibbutz Yahel, which is self explanatory. I request that you see to it that my instructions in the enclosed FAX are carried out.

Sincerely yours,

miriam Puder

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HIBBUTZ YAHEL

UNITED KIBBUTZ MOVEMENT THE MOVEMENT FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM DOAR NA EILOT 88850 TEL: 972-7-357911 TLX: 7792 ARDOM IL. FAX: 972-7-357051

1st August 1994 כדי באב תשנייד

Dear Mrs. Puder.

re: Your recent visit to Kibbutz Yahel

I wish to apologise for the incident which occured on your arrival at our Kibbutz.

Unfortunately you caught me on my Shabbat day and I was unprepared for the embarrasment caused by the plaque in your mother's name having gone astray.

We will correct the situation as soon as possible and want you to know that we are grateful for your generosity and participation in this pioneering venture which is Kibbutz Yahel.

Once again, my sincere apologies.

Elad Lending Mazkir

KIBBUTZ YAHEL

UNITED HIBBUTZ MOVEMENT THE MOVEMENT FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

DOAR NA EILOT 88850 TEL: 972-7-357911 TLX: 7792 ARDOM IL. FAX: 972-7-357051

1st August 1994 כד באב תשמייד

Mrs Miriam S. Puder 82 Sullivan Drive West Orange NJ 07052 USA

Dear Mrs Puder

I hope that you are well and had a safe trip home. There are people at Yahel that remember your generous donation of \$5,000 as this facilitated the begining of our agricultural library.

The Library was moved several times during the first years of the Kibbutz until the permanent building was built in 1987. It had moved from an empty apartment to a bomb shelter, then on to the vacant kindergarden building and back to the bomb shelter. Please be reminded that your donation was one that helped this New pioneering settlement tremendously. During the first years of a pioneering settlement such as ours, buildings are at short supply and often perform more that one function. It is clear that amongst the many moves the plaque in honour of your mother was mislaid. We apologise for the anguish which this caused you on your recent visit to Yahel.

We shall immediately make a plaque according to your original request and we hope that this will be a fitting and honourable way to remember you mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Moyer Schoenberger, and recognize the generous donation you made to our Kibbutz.

This is the very first time that such a mishap has occured. Our integrity and the honour of our supporters is of utmost importance to us, after all with out you where would we be ?

I apologise also for the incident which occured on your visit. We shall photograph the plaque once it is in place on our Board and send you copies of the pictures.

I take this opportunity of inviting you to Yahel when you next visit Israel. I'm sure that this time it will be a happy and memorable experience.

We wish you well

Hillel Tobias Treasurer

cc: Rabbi Stephen A. Schafer Rabbi Allan Levine Rabbi Allan Smith

Elad Lending, Kibbutz Yahel

Miriam S. Puder 82 Sullivan Drive West Orange, NJ 07052

Phone: 201-325-2967 FAX.....201-325-6903

August 6, 1994

Attention: Maskir Elad Lending and Treasurer Hillel Tobias-Kibbutz Yahel

Re: Your FAX of August 6, 1994.

Under the circumstances we wish you to take no further action to rectify the lack of having followed through with our donation in my mother's (Elisabeth Moyer Schoenberger) memory sixteen years ago. Mere letters cannot correct what has happened. You are hereby instructed to do nothing until we have further information as to what happened to our monies and where they went. Do not try to gloss over what happened by trying to correct something which is not correctable. We will be in touch with you after we have further information.

Copies of this FAX are going to Rabbi Stephen Schaffer, Rabbi Allan Levine, Rabbi Allan Smith, Rabbi Barry Greene, and Rabbi Schindler, the President of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

The thinking of my family is to have you return our \$5,000.00, perhaps with interest, for all the years we were under the impression that our contribution had been honored with integrity. We wish to find a new charity in whom we can place our faith and trust. You have not earned it.

We will await hearing from you and those others involved with this matter.

Miriam S. Puder, and the family of Elisabeth Moyer Schoenberger.

cc: Rabbi Stephen Schaffer Rabbi Allan Levine

Rabbi Allan Smith

Rabbi Barry Greene

Rabbi Schindler

KIBBUTZ YAHEL

UNITED KIBBUTZ MOVEMENT THE MOVEMENT FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDISM DOAR NA EILOT 88850 TEL: 07-357911 TLX: 7792 ARDOM IL. FAX. (972)7-357051

CC ams

15.8.94 תי אלול תשנייד

Rabbi Ammiel Hirsch A.R.Z.A. Fax: 212-5177968

Dear Ami

re: Donation of Mrs. Mirlam Puder in memory of her Mother

Thank you for helping up to deal with this issue. I enclose copies of correspondence with Mrs. Puder including a reply as of yesterday to hor most recent letter to me.

We will make a plaque as soon as she authorizes it's content, we would not like to make another mistake.

It is worthwhile to read the correspondence betwoon Mrg.
Puder and Rabbi Schafer in the light of what was at Yahel in those days!

I do not have anything else to offer Mrs. Puder except that Ron Bernstein visit her in the fall at her home.

Please advise us as to what to do.

Yours Sincerely,

Hillel Tohias

KIBBUTZ YAHEL

UNITED HIBBUTZ MOVEMENT THE MOVEMENT FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDRISM

DOAR NA EILOT 88850 TEL: 07-357911 TLX: 7792 ARDOM IL. FAX: (972)7-357051

15.8.94 תי אלול תשנייד

Mrs. Miriam S. Puder 82 Sullivan Drive West Orange NJ 07052 U.S.A.

Dear Mrs. Puder,

It is clear to me that you and your family are annoyed, disappointed and angry at what has happened. I know that mere letters cannot correct the situation. I can only hope to give you a more detailed insight as to "where Yahel was" at the time you gave your generous donation of \$5 000 towards an agricultural Library at Yahel.

Yahel was established through the combined efforts of the International Reform Community, the United Kibbutz Movement and the Government of Israel.

In February 1977 the first Settlers arrived on Yahel. At that time there were prefabricated houses, a dining room and an office block all scattered on this desolate wadi mouth in the Arava Desert. This time was momentous for the Reform Movement because Yahel were the first roots the movement was putting down in Israel. Indeed Rabbi Schindler, Rabbi Schafer and Rabbi Levine were at the ground breaking ceremony where a grove was planted by leading members of the Reform Movement. This was barely six months before you had agreed to donate to our cause.

There was no running water for the first nine months. Water was brought in by truck and members showered in a communal shower under the water tower. There was no electricity for the first months until a generator was bought, and a year passed until we were connected to the National Electricity Grid. There were no pathways. The pioneer settlers who were just done with their army training lived out of plastic vegetable containers for their closets, chairs and tables. I can only show you pictures today to impress upon you the distance we have come since those early days.

There is no doubt that the Reform Rabbis and specifically Rabbi Alexander Schindler. Rabbi Stephen Schafer and Rabbi Allan Levine, who had the vision of what the first Reform Settlement in Israel was to be, had to consider the needs of this struggling settlement, not only on a spiritual level but also in the areas of production. The agricultural library is a bridge between these two areas. You saw on your visit that the Library \ Synagogue complex is the spiritual and cultural center of the Kibbutz and in fact it is due to your vision and generosity that we have an agricultural library today. It is said in our Torah that without flour (bread) there is no Torah within yellow we have gift made both these possible for us.

When you gave your contribution to Yahel it was a mere fledgling settlement and for many years, even until 1989 we were in dire financial straits, not being able to make ends meet which caused rapid population turnover and rapidly changing needs. As a result we moved our library from place to place until its permanent home was established. Yahel was frail for many years both socially and financially, but today, as peace is at our doorstep, we hope to become stronger branching into areas of commerce and tourism.

Surely this incident is not indicative of the way we relate to those who support us. We have an ongoing positive relationship with the Rabbis, Congregations and Members of the UAHC including ARZA, the Association of Reform Zionists of America. Our integrity is important to us and so, notwithstanding the fact that this mistake was made, we will correct it.

It is betitting in this month of Elul to apologize for deeds done to others and so in the light of all the above mentioned I apologize in the name of all the members of Yahel, for the fact that the Plaque in the name of your mother Mrs. Elisabeth Moyer Schoenberger had gone astray in the procedure of moving the Library, that we did not know to correct the situation, causing you and yours so much heartache and upset.

We wish to know whether the wording for the plaque should be as follows:

AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY IN MEMORY OF ELISABETH MOYER SCHOENBERGER YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

23.12.1901 - 1.1.1977

If this is suitable to you, we will order it forthwith and send you photographs of the plaque on our Donor's wall.

I am. Yours sincerely

Hillel Tobias

Hellet Johns

Treasurer

cc: Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

Rabbi H. Barry Greene

Rabbi Ammiel Hirsch

Rabbi Allan Smith

Rabbi Allan Levine

Rabbi Steven A. Schafer

Ron Bernstein, Yahel

Elad Lending, Yahel

Yahel Notice board and Newsletter



fated 9/22

RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER • UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
PRESIDENT 838 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10021-7064 (212)249-0100

September 22, 1994 17 Tishri 5755

VIA FAX: one page

Elad Lending Kibbutz Yahel Doar Na Eilot 88850 Israel

Dear Elad:

Thank you for letting me know that there will be a change in leadership of Kibbutz Yahel. It really was a delight to work with you and I agree with you that our relationship was satisfying in every possible way.

Please assure Idit that I will be happy to work with her and that she shouldn't hesitate to contact me if she has any need.

Of course, I reciprocate your good wishes for a happy and a healthy New Year. Both you personally, and the members of Kibbutz Yahel.

In Friendship,

Alexander M. Schindler

KIBBUTZ YAHEL



UNITED KIBBUTZ MOVEMENT THE MOVEMENT FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

DOAR NA EILOT 88850 TEL: 972-7-357911 FAX: 972-7-357051

September 9, 1994 די תשרי תשנייה

Rabbi Alexander Schindler President UAHC 838 Fifth Avenue New York NY 10021 USA

Dear Alexander,

The High Holy Day season signifies endings as well as beginnings. For me it marks the end of my two-year term as Mazkir of Kibbutz Yahel, and the beginning of engineering school. Idit Usha is replacing me as Mazkira, and I am confident that she will continue to develop the warm and productive relationship that I have enjoyed for these past years. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you both personally and on behalf of Kibbutz Yahel for the understanding and caring that you (and by extension your organization) have shown towards Kibbutz Yahel.

I wish you and yours a happy and healthy New Year, and may we go from strength to strength.

Celuc Elad Lending





RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER • UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
PRESIDENT • UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
838 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100

(About of

June 12, 1991 30 Sivan 5751

Rabbi Fred B. Guttman
Reform Congregation Ahavath Chesed
8727 San Jose Boulevard
Jacksonville FL 32217

Dear Fred:

How very good of you to seek to assist our Kibbutzim, Yahel and Lotan, in their efforts to create industry which will help them sustain themselves. I am deeply grateful for your interest and want to assure you that the information on David Marco will be passed along to those members of our Board of Trustees and the UAHC staff who are involved in this critical search. I know they will be pleased to have your suggestion.

If they wish to contact Mr. Marco, may they do so by writing to him in care of Ahavath Chesed? If not, would you be kind enough to give me a mailing address for him.

With repeated thanks for your interest, I am Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

bee Smily Ken T.



June 7, 1991

Founded 1822 REFORM CONGREGATION

AHAVATH CHESED

FRED GUTTMAN, M.H.L. Associate Rabbi

Rabbi Alexander Schindler Executive Director Union of American Hebrew Congregations 838 5th Avenue New York, New York 10021

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

I need your help in trying to facilitate a connection between a congregant of mine, David Marco of Marco Industries, and our Kibbutzim, Yahel and Lotan. Is there someone in the United States that deals with these matters? If so, please pass this letter along to them.

For your information in a nutshell, the story is as follows: Marco Industries produces optical products and could very well be a very good small industry for either one of our Kibbutzim. They have an extensive market in Europe and are looking for some sort of European or Middle East manufacturing and assembly plant for their products.

I look forward to seeing you at the Biennial and please feel free to call me if you deem necessary.

Sincerely,

Fred B. Guttman, M.H.L.

Associate Rabbi

FBG/ijb





RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER • UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
#RESIDENT #38 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100

April 2, 1991 18 Nisan 5751

Mr. Yossie Amiel Kibbutz Yahel Doar Na Eilot 8850 ISRAEL

Dear Yossie:

I hope you have been enjoying a beautiful and sweet Pesach. Please convey my warm good wishes to everyone at Kibbutz Yahel at this festive season.

In regard to your March 11 letter, I am grateful to you for writing about Barbara Binder Kadden and her husband, Rabbi Bruce Kadden. I do, however, want to correct your understanding of the meeting which was held in my office. The possibility of publishing a book about Yahel did not come out of my conversation with the people receiving copies of this letter. I checked with Eric Yoffie, who told me that it was a suggestion he made to the National Association of Temple Educators (NATE) when he met with them. He had a long discussion about books for the movement and one of the ideas was a textbook dealing with our Liberal settlements in Israel.

Be that as it may, the idea will be pursued. Eric is meeting with David Bernstein and representatives of our Department of Jewish Education, Rabbi Howard Bogot, Director, and David Kasakove. Eric will share with them the idea of a book on our settlements and if they feel it has merit, he will also share your suggestion of Barbara and Bruce Kadden as well as the outline for such a publication. Let me assure you that Eric and the other parties involved will be in contact with you concerning any further developments on this proposal.

With warm regards and every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc: Rabbi Eric Yoffie

Mr. Leo Bernstein Mr. Irving Gruber

Mr. Leonard Teitelbaum

Mr. David Bernstein

- 1/ recollection correct- not at your meeting
- $2/\mbox{ eric}$ spoke to nate and suggested text books dealing with our settlements etc.
- 3. eric meeting with david bernstein.kasakove and bogot to discuss will have education dept. respond to proposal eric took cc of letter

VIBBUTZ YAHEL
UNITED KIBBUTZ MOVEMENT

THE MOVEMENT FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

Ede Lie how de de

TEL 059-74220 ISRAEL TLX: 7792 ARDOM IL. Qu

11th March, 1991 25 Adar 5741 [106, 11]MAZ229DOC John Frede

Rabbi Alexander Schindler Rabbi Eric Yoffie UAHC 838 Fifth Avenue New York, N.Y. 10021

Dear Rabbi Schindler.

We understand that one of the suggestions which was raised at your meeting with Leo Bernstein, Irving Gruber, Eric Yoffie, David Bernstein and Len Teitelbaum was the possiblity of publishing a book about Yahel. idea was greeted with a great deal of enthusiasm in discussions at Yahel. It seems an optimal way of presenting Israel, Zionism and Reform Judaism to American Reform youth, through identification with life on a Reform kibbutz.

During the past year, Barbara Binder Kadden and her husband Rabbi Bruce Kadden have been at Yahel with their children in the framework of our "one year program" for families. Bruce and Barbara are professional Jewish educators who have written several books in Jewish Education. Barbara has a Masters of Arts degrees in Jewish Education and Jewish Communal Service from HUC. She co-authored the texts "Jewish History: Moments and Methods" and "Teaching Torah". Bruce, who was ordained at HUC wrote "Choosing Judaism: A Mini-Course on Conversion". Together they wrote "Teaching Mitzvot" and "Ethical Wills: Handing Down our Jewish Heritage". All of their books were published by Alternatives in Religious Education.

When presented with the idea of writing a text book on Yahel, Bruce and Barbara responded positively and began to develop a possible outline for such a book. It seems to us that the coincidence of Bruce and Barbara's educational experience, along with their first-hand knowledge of Yahel have provided an optimal opportunity for creating a book. Enclosed is a preliminary suggestion for such a book.

As we have no previous experience here with producing religious school texts, please advise us if this is a viable proposal and, if so, how to continue to advance the project. Bruce and Barbara expressed willingness to draw up a single chapter as an example of their concept of the book.

Once again I thank you for your on-going support. I look forward to hearing from you concerning this proposal.

B'vracha, Yossie Amiel

CC: Rabbi Eric Yoffie Mr. Leo Bernstein Mr. Irving Gruber Mr. Len Teitelbaum

Mr. David Bernstein

·· KIBBUTZ YAHEL

UNITED KIBBUTZ MOVEMENT THE MOVEMENT FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

DOAR NA EILOT 88850 TEL 059-74220 ISRAEL TLX: 7792 ARDOM IL FAX: (972)59 72969

Proposal for Textbook on Kibbutz Yahel

Target Audience: Grades 4-5-6

Content:

The book would follow the calendar year both agriculturally and Jewishly. It would include the following:

holiday celebrations
life cycle ceremonies
worship/bet knesset
land and geography of Israel near the kibbutz
structure of the kibbutz: how it is run, by whom, etc.
division of labor
work places
child care
schooling
klita

Jews settling at Yabel from different countries/ backgroups

Jews settling at Yahel from differnt countries/ backgrounds role of volunteers

Approach:

Possiblity of using one of the following or open to other suggestions: Convey the story through:

- 1. A series of penpal letters
- 2. A family recording their 1 year stay on kibbutz
- 3. A family going through klita and what they experience
- A child recording thoughts in a diary or just in a narrative form.

Possible Additions:

- Hebrew Component at the end of each chapter words which are relevant to that particular chapter
- 2. Teacher's guide to explain and supplement
- 3. Activity book or activities following each chapter
- 4. Slide series or video presentation

106,11/MAZ231DOC

KIBBUTZ YAHEL

THE MOVEMENT FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

DOAR NA EILOT 88850 TEL 059-74220 ISAAEL TLX: 7792 ARDOM IL FAX: (972)59 72969

February 10,1991

TO:

Rabbi Eric Yoffie Mr. Leo Bernstein Mr. Irving Gruber Mr. David Bernstein

Yossie Amiel, Mazkir Kibbutz Yahel

SUBJECT: Parents Meeting

COPIES: Rabbi Schindler Mr. Len Teitelbaum

We here at Yahel have received the protocal of the parents meeting that was held in Rabbi Schindler's office. We very much appreciate your special efforts on behalf of Kibbutz Yahel at this meeting, your willingness to help, and your concern as parents. I was unable to respond to the meeting as I was in reserve duty up until a few days ago, together with Hillel Tobias. We see importance in the areas which you proposed, points with which you can help us, and in which we'll need help.

In a few words, Yahel today is a different Yahel than a few years ago. The community is more mature, stable, and organized. The results of our communal and economic activities are positive, as are our prospects for growth. The reality that surrounds us today is the harsh reality of Israeli society. The kibbutz movement forces us to be independent, strong and mature. We strongly believe in the success of Yahel. To this end, the members are working very hard and investing great efforts, and we also see results. We will be happy to receive all assistance in order to continue to move forward.

Now for the specific points that were brought up. On the economic side, "Va'adat Meshek" (the Economic Committee) of Kibbutz Yahel will hold a in depth planning meeting discussing the points that were raised by Len Teitelbaum. We will format a proposal and present it as soon as possible. Your requirements of us seem logical and are understood. Amnon, who is presently the "Meracez Meshek" (Economic Coordinator), is now in reserve The war has resulted in there being a lot of reserve duty, and everything during this period is moving along more slowly (understatement!).

On the Educational side, we see great potential in the developing of a multi-level educational program which would create an increased awareness of Reform settlement in Israel. In the long run, this would lead to greater support for Yahel and other settlements, as well as Israel. We will be happy to assist as much as possible in this endeavor.

KIBBUTZ YAHEL

UNITED KIBBUTZ MOVEMENT THE MOVEMENT FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

DOAR NA EILOT 88850 TEL 059-74220 ISAAEL TLX: 7792 ARDOM IL. FAX: (972)59 72969

Our tourist branch, "Ma'ayan B'Midbar" Center for Desert Tourism, is today a rapidly expanding work branch in which we have invested both money and man power. We have expanded our facilities, and have been recently very successful in servicing the general public, as well as groups from the Reform Movement. This branch is now working year round, and we have been receiving many compliments from all ranks of guests. We feel that many more groups from the Reform Movement should be staying with us. We would appreciate your help in this area, directing groups visiting Israel to include Yahel in their itineries. We will be sending you more detailed information and P.R. materials.

Again, I appreciate your initiative that was evident in this meeting, along with your willingness to help.

Regards,

Yossie Amiel

Mazkir, Kibbutz Yahel

MEMORANDUM

Rabbi Alexander Schindler

To Robert M. Koppel

Rabbis Eric Yoffie, Allan Smith

Subject



Date 11/29/89

As far as your query concerning the funds is concerned, you are absolutely right. There has to be a clearly defined structure and it seems to me that on a staff level, Eric Yoffie and Allan Smith are to be involved. As far as lay leadership is concerned, it should be the Mike Rukin Committee that handles this.



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MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 28, 1989

30 Heshvan 5750

TO: Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

FROM: Robert M. Koppel 305

CC: Rabbis Eric Yoffie, Allan Smith

RE: Kibbutz Fund Har Chalutz Fund

I have been faced recently with requests from our two Kibbutzim and Har Chalutz for money from the above referenced funds.

As you know, the funds deposited into these accounts are raised by Kibbutz or Har Chalutz people. The money is held by the UAHC as separate restricted funds. My problem is that I do not have a clear definition of how much financial monitoring I should be exercising regarding these funds.

The argument for <u>laissez faire</u> is that since the money was raised by others for the benefit of Yahel, Lotan or Har Chalutz, if the Kibbutz Fund Committee or Haim Sharett from Har Chalutz requests money, it's ok to respond affirmatively.

The argument for more detailed information is that since the checks are made out to the UAHC and held under our name, that we have a fiduciary responsibility to obtain more information than one line requests for several thousands of dollars. To date I have been requesting additional information and have received complaints from Israel along with most of the data I request.

My request is that I would like a more defined structure from our perspective as to who in Israel is authorized to request funds and also what, if any, UAHC approvals are needed. Who from our program side could give assurance that the money is being spent appropriately?

The alternative is that I could just send them the funds as they request and not ruffle feathers, etc.

The Kibbutz fund has a \$30,000 remaining balance (after having sent \$54,000 to them recently.) The Har Chalutz fund has \$6,000.

KIBBUTZ(YAHEL

UNITED KIBBUTZ MC THE MOVEMENT FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM you had after

DOAR NA EILOT 88850 TEL 059-74220 ISRAEL TLX: 7792 ARDOM IL FAX: (972)59 72969

18th June, 1989

Rabbi Alexander Schindler President U.A.H.C. 838 Fifth Ave New York 10021 U.S.A.

Dear Rabbi Schindler

re: Your help with regard to Yahel's Jewish Agency Settlement Department Development Budget

We were recently informed by the Director of the Settlement Department of the Jewish Agency, Mr. Motke Kostrinsky, that our Development Budget for 1989/1990 has been drastically cut. Our budget for this year will not allow us to build an important shelter for cows that is long overdue, and causing us severe damage in raising our cows. This shelter costs \$30,000.

The Development Budget is an essential part of the turnabout program that the Jewish Agency started for its Kibbutz Settlements - \$49 million Debt write-off over 4 years and \$75 million Development over 4 years.

We urgently request your help in representing us to the Jewish Agency Rural Settlement Department committee on this issue.

We would appreciate meeting with you on your forthcoming visit to Jerusalem to discuss this and other important and pressing matters. We will be in Jerusalem on June 26th. Please inform us of a suitable time to meet.

Thank you

Hillel Tobias

Treasurer

cc: Rabbi Richard Hirsch Rabbi Danny Syme Rabbi Eric Yoffie Maggie Bar-Tura

Hohed

March 8, 1989 1 Adar II 5749

Mr. Leonard Teitelbaum 4 Sharon Lane Holmdel, NJ 07733

and

Rabbi Stephen A. Schafer 16 Leeward Way Cowpet Bay West St. Thomas. USVI 00802

Dear Len and Steve:

All of us in the Reform movement owe the two of you a debt of gratitude! The extensive effort you put into the search for an industry for Yahel was above and beyond the call of duty. The result is one which heartens us all and you both should be pleased.

It've contacted Yahel to urge that they sign the necessary papers and move into setting up the necessary equipment to get started as soon as possible with the new industry. The ball is now in their court and I pray they keep it in play and score!

With heartfelt gratitude for the yeoman work you have done and with fond regards to you and your families, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Opl



RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER • UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
PRESIDENT • UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
838 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100

VIA FAX

March 8, 1989 1 Adar II 5749

TO: Rabbi David Forman
Jerusalem Youth Office, UAHC

I hope you had an uneventful trip home and found everything to be in order and all your gals well.

I just learned that Yahel now has the papers to sign for the production of de-gradable plastic. Please convince the Yahelniks to accept this proposal. Both Schafer and Teitelbaum are convinced that they can make a million a year. It is not 100% of what they sought but it is 95% and nobody gets perfection!

Please do your best!!

Fondest regards -- will see you soon when I caome in for the Prime Minister's Mission.

Cely



From the desk of EDITH J. MILLER

אפרקים /8 Len Teitlebaum called

Yahel has papers to sign for production of de-gradable plastic....it's in their court now... he and steve got 95% of what they wanted - did not get exclusive rights for Yahel.....

if they get off their butts and work they can make over a million a year....

steve s. in n.j. to see son next week and he and Len will meet to go over last details etc. etc.

He did his job ----and as he notes, up to yahel now

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MEMORANDUM

From Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

To Rabbi Daniel B. Syme

Copies Allan B. Goldman, Esq.

Subject

Kithale

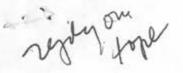
Date February 6, 1989 1 Adar I 5749

Maggie Bar-Tura's proposal for a new Settlements Committee is acceptable, yet allow me to make a number of comments:

- The most urgent need for Yahel is to find an industry. Teitelbaum has made several proposals and I understand that the problem has not been on the side of the Settlements Committee, but on the side of the Kibbutz. It has not been able to get its act together on the acceptance of a particular industry, or because of other red tape problems presented by the regional Israeli Settlements Committee.
- Lotan does not begin to have the problem which Yahel encounters. That particular Kibbutz is well off both financially and in terms of its membership. That difference does tell us something about the divergent nature of our two kibbutzim.
- 3. Maggie Bar-Tura has not been able to do an effective job in stimulating our garinim which provide a resource for those who will ultimately go to our Settlements. She has been content to do general "pro-Zionist Educational work." That may help in the long run, but it doesn't help in the short run. What we really need are sheliachimdrawn from our own membership from Yahel and Lotan as is our present shaliach in San Francisco. Reform Kibbutznicks are in the best position to talk to the sons and daugthers of our congregants.
- 4. I have no objection to the plan that Maggie proposes if it is really going to be of value, but I would like you to talk to Len Teitelbaum and to Steve Schafer to gain their insights before we proceed with the setting up of an elaborate structure.

Thanks.





MEMORANDUM

From

Rabbi Daniel B. Syme

Date Feb. 2, 1989

To

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, Mr. Allan B. Goldman

Copies

Subject

I enclose a proposal for a new Settlements Committee, as submitted by Maggie Bar-Tura.

Would you please review and let me know if/how you'd like to proceed.

Thanks.







Union of American Hebrew Congregations

PATRON OF HEBREW UNION COLLEGE – JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION 838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100 CABLES. UNIONUAHC

ALIYAH DESK

Maggie Goldberg Bar-Tura Central Shircha

January 5, 1989

Proposal for UA HC Settlements Committee

In his address to the UAHC Biennial in Chicago, 1987, Rabbi Alexander Schindler called for the establishment of a UAHC Committee for the Reform settlements in Israel. Since that time, an ad hoc Yahel Industry Search Committee has operated under the joint chairmanship of Leonard Teitelbaum and Rabbi Stephen Schafer. The committee is actively pursuing several possibilities for an industry at Yahel but does not, in its present format, have the ability or the funding to engage in additional activities to promote and strengthen Yahel, Lotan and Har Halutz. The purpose of this paper is to present a proposal for the goals, structure and programming of a Settlements Committee in the spirit of Rabbi Schindler's address.

I. Goals of the Committee

A. Aliyah

- Promotion of and assistance to individual olim and garinim to Yahel, Lotan and Har Halutz through the Reform Aliyah Movement, TaMaR.
- Publicity for aliyah to the settlements and recruitment of potential olim.
- Promotion of educational programming relating to aliyah and the Reform settlements under the auspices of the Department of Religious Education and the Division of Youth Activities.

B. Congregational Programming

 Establishment of regional Israel Committees to sponsor and promote programming relating to Zionism, Israel and the Reform settlements, in coordination with the Department of Religious Education and the Youth Division, and ARZA.

C. Volunteer Programs in Israel

 Promotion of programs of active participation in the building and welfare of the Reform settlements, under the aegis of ARZA, the Youth Division and the Corps of Jewish Service. Programs would include volunteering and extended visits of families and individuals to the settlements.

D. Economic Welfare

- 1. Search for an industry suitable for Kibbutz Yahel
- Promotion of economic development of the Reform settlements vis-a-vis the World Zionist Organization, the Jewish Agency, and the Israeli government.

II. Structure of the Committee

The Settlements Committee will be chaired by a layperson and co-chaired by a rabbi appointed by the CCAR. Members of the Committee will be appointed by the Chairman of the UAHC Board of Trustees. The Committee will be supplemented by the North American representative of the United Kibbutz Movement (Takam) who will sit on the committee ex officio. The central shaliach to the UAHC will serve as a professional to assist the work of the committee.

III. Proposed Programming.

Among the areas in which the committee may choose to be involved are:

- A. Promotion of aliyah and recruitment of people for the Reform settlements under the auspices of the Reform Aliyah Movement, TaMaR. This could include production of brochures, posters, and appropriate materials for promotion of long term and short term programs for singles, families and active retirees at the settlements.
- B. Education on the national, regional and local levels about Reform Zionism, aliyah, contemporary Israel and settlement, for college youth and adults.
- C. Production of a general brochure/pamphlet of Reform activities and institutions in Israel including youth and adult programs for visitors from abroad, programming for Israelis under the auspices of the Reform movement, Reform settlements and congregations, Reform institutions in Israel, and rabbinic and cantorial programs in Israel.
- D. Regional and local programming may include:
 - 1. Ulpanim for spoken Hebrew
 - 2. Adult education series
 - 3. A TaMaR aliyah group
 - Organization of a regional mission and pilot tours to Israel
 - 5. Sponsoring a regional scholar-in-residence from Israel
 - Representation in community-wide forums relating to Israel
 - 7. Celebration of Tu B'shvat as "Reform Settlements Day"

IV. Conclusion

The above proposal attempts to create a Sett'ements Committee as envisioned by Rabbi Schindler, which would coordinate the activities of the movement in support of the Reform settlements in Israel, thus making those efforts more effective. Additionally, the proposal seeks to create a structure which would involve and affect greater numbers of our constituency on all levels, thus enhancing the participation and identification of Reform Jews with the movement's commitment to a strong presence in Israel.



RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER • UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
PRESIDENT 838 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100

November 4, 1988 24 Heshvan 5749

FROM: Edie Miller

TO: David Forman

Has Hadas left Kibbutz Yahel yet? Do you know his whereabouts?

His fax to Alex arrived when he was out of the office and on his return from Israel a "bug" or virus kept Alex away from his desk. Now he's due to go to East Germany for the Krystallnacht commemoration (50th Anniversary) and return a day or two prior to departing for our Board Meeting in Atlanta.

I want Hadas to know he is neither forgotten nor being neglected. Between Alex's absence and the post-election situation re Israel I need not tell you what's doing here! Love to all.

Kibbutz Yahel Industry Search

Kibbutz Yahel, Doar Na Hevel Eilot 88850 Israel Tel:(972) 59-74220 Tlx:7792 ARDOM IL Fax:(972)59-72969

13th October, 1988 By FAX

Rabbi Alexandler Schindler U.A.H.C. 838 Fifth Ave. New York, New York 10021 U.S.A.

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

I am writing to inform you that I have made the painful decision to leave Kibbutz Yahel. I do so with reluctance and with a heavy heart for I greatly cherish the many fond memories and experiences I have enjoyed in pioneering Yahel over the last 11 years. However, I am unable to find peace of mind or soul regarding Yahel's economic future and this creates a great personal dilemna for me, whose burden I can no longer continue to bear.

I want to express my most sincere appreciation and personal gratitude for providing the opportunity to work with you, and for your genuine and continued efforts on behalf of Yahel. I realize that sharing of yourselves and your time is a rich contribution, and I deeply value your generosity. I will always treasure the bonds of friendship and commradary that have been forged between us.

Jonathan Cohen, Economic Manager, will be my replacement in handling the responsibilities associated with the Industry Search. He is a capable and responsible leader, with whom I am sure you will be able to continue your fine efforts.

Sincerely and with my greatest regard,

Hadas

Kibbutz Yahel Industry Search

Kibbutz Yahel, Doar Na Hevel Filot 88850 Israel Tel: (972) 59-74220 Tlx: 7792 ARDOM IL Fax: (972) 59-72969

13th October, 1988 By FAX

Rabbi Alexandler Schindler U.A.H.C. 838 Fifth Ave. New York, New York 10021 U.S.A. till us how to

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

I am writing to inform you that I have made the painful decision to leave Kibbutz_Yahal__I do so with reluctance and with a heavy heart for I greatly cherish the many fond memories and experiences I have enjoyed in pioneering Yahal over the last 11 years. However, I am unable to find peace of mind or soul regarding Yahal's economic future and this creates a great personal dilemma for me, whose burden I can no longer continue to bear.

I want to express my most sincere appreciation and personal gratitude for providing the opportunity to work with you, and for your genuine and continued afforts on behalf of Yahel. I realize that sharing of yourselves and your time is a rich contribution, and I deeply value your generosity. I will always treasure the hunds of friendship and commradary that have been forged between us.

Jonathan Cohen, Economic Manager, will be my replacement in handling the responsibilities associated with the Industry Search. He is a capable and responsible leader, with whom I am sure you will be able to continue your fine efforts.

Sincerely and with my greatest regard,

Hodas

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

October 7, 1988 26 Tishri 5749

Mr. Robert Koppel Rabbi Daniel B. Syme

Contribution to Kubbutz Yahel

In regard to the payment to Kabbutz Yahel in the amount of \$5,000.00, please note this has been approved. While I was not at the meeting, Dan Syme was present and all of the participants in the meeting pleaged a \$5,000.00 contribution to help in the industry search. Dan checked with me and we agreed. We really had no choice. This sum is to be taken from the Contingency Fund.

Thank you.

MEMORANDUM

DATE:

September 30, 1988

19 Tishri 5749

TO:

Rabbis Alexander Schindler, Dan Syme

FROM:

Robert M. Koppel ()

CC:

RE:

Rabbi Steve Schafer

I received a cryptic phone message from Steve Schafer regarding a payment that the Union was going to make to Kibbutz Yahel in the amount of \$5,000. Can either of you fill me in with the details? I don't recall a sum of that magnitude being in the budget.

Thanks.

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me sometime

Rabbi Alexander M. Smhindler Rabbi Eric Y. Yoffie April 25, 1988

47

KIBBUTZ YAHEL

In regard to the need to contact Alan Marcowitz, I would appreciate your drafting something for me to send.

However, before we write to him, perhaps we ought to wait a bit until the latestbusiness possibility is resolved and in which case we might well require startup costs. Len Teitlebaum called with a good report a few days ago and we await further word on the reaction of Yahel.

Let's talk.



838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100

ASSOCIATION OF REFORM ZIONISTS **OFAMERICA**

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Assistant Director Deborah Schultz

FROM: RABBI ERIC H. YOFFIE

TO: RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER

April 21, 1988 DATE:

4 Iyar 5748

Kibbutz Yahel has requested that you call Alan Marcowitz, head of the Jewish Agency Rural Settlement Committee, and ask for the funds to cover the costs of the Yahel Industry search. These funds will then be used to cover the expenses of a Yahel member who will come to the States for six to twelve months, as explained to you by Steve Schafer.

Marcowitz's position is that his committee can fund start-up capital costs for the industry itself, but not for the search. Yahel feels that Marcowitz should be asked to reconsider. They point out that the Agency, in the past, has given grants for industry search activities through a regional mechanism established in the southern Arava. Yahel did not participate in that regional grouping, and therefore, did not receive any of those funds.

I asked Yahel for a memo giving the details that you would require for a call to Marcowitz. The memo is enclosed. Marcowitz's current work numbers are: (414) 274-2604 and (414) 276-5800.

If you would prefer to write a letter rather than calling, let me know, and I will be happy to compose it in your name.

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Kibbutz Yahel Industry Search

Kibbutz Yahel, Doar Na Hevel Eilot 88850 Israel Tel:(972) 59-74220 Tlx:7792 ARDOM IL Fax:(972)59-72969

PAGE 1 OF 1 (INCLUDING TRANSMISSION PAGE) FAX NUMBER N.F.T.Y, NYC__

DATE: 14th April, 1988

TO: ERIC YOFFIE

FROM: HADAS

RE: DISCUSSION POINTS IN PREPARATION OF SCHINDLER TELEPHONE MEETING WITH ALAN MARCOWITZ, HEAD OF RURAL SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE, BD. OF GVRNRS.

HARD COPY TO BE SEN	_N0	
TRANSMITTED ON	BY	
Ref: TAS 23,12		

Dear Eric:

Pursuant to your request I am enclosing a list of points that should be brought up for discussion with Alan Marcowitz vis-a-vis the Yahel Industry Search.

- 1) A group of capable, successful industrialists and businessmen has been formed within the framework of the Reform Movement's Commission on Reform Settlement for the expressed purpose of assisting Kibbutz Yahel ideltify an industrial enterprise that could be established at Kibbutz Yahel.
- 2) This group needs financing to support the activities required to identify and formulate a preliminary business plan that could be presented to the Rural Industrialization Department of the Jewish Agency.
- 3) The Jewish Agency is not involved in the search for new industrial projects worthy of Agency capital investment, rather acts only upon business plans that have been formulated by an outside initiator. The Jewish Agency and the Kibbutz Movement have yet been able to assist Yahel in identifying a suitable industrial project which might be created at Yahel.
- 4) Supplying viable means of income is the expressed responsiblity of the Rural Settlement Deaprtment in the establishment of new settlements.
- 5) The catch-22 is that the young settlements have no financial resources available to identify new business opportunities, yet financing is available only for projects that are "found" and brought to the Rural Industrialization department.

- 6) In 1984 Kibbutz Yahel in cooperation with Kibbutz Ketura initiated the establishment of a regional search mechanism which would search for industrial business opportunities for kibbutzim in the Southern Arava. (ARDOM TASIYOT). The Hashomer Hatzair Movement decided that its kibbutzim would not be serviced by this group. Kibbutz Yahel did not agree to two stipulations required to join this group;
- A) Distribution of an industrial project would be on a "need be basis, based upon debt", first Gerofit, second Ketura, and third Yahel.
- B) Kibbutz Yahel would not enjoy first right of refusal to projects that were initiated by members of the Reform Movement.
- 7) Sources of funding of Ardom Tasiyot's activities are to the best of our knowledge as follows:
- A) 25.000 N.I.S. (Kibbutz participation; Yotvata, Lotan, Ketura, Gerofit, Shizafon
- B) 25.000 N.I.S. (Kibbutz participation)
- C) \$70.000 (Jewish Agency Grant) c.1986-87
- D) \$80.000 (Jewish Agency Grant) 1987-88

Kibbutz Yahel received a one-time grant of \$10.000 to investigate the Cleveland Sunscreen proposal from Ardom Tasiyot.

- 8) The agency is funding the concept of an industry search through the regional mechanism of Ardom Tasiyot. Due to Yahel's objections as stated above, Yahel does not benefit from this funding.
- 9) We hope that upon representation of our personnel and professional capabilities that Yahel would also become eligible for funding.

MEMORANDUM

From Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

Date March 23, 1988 5 Nisan 5748

To

Rabbi Daniel B. Syme

Copies

Subject



I read the Kibbutz Yahel letter to Steve. I assume that this is the fax you refered to when you suggested that I ought to talk to Alan Marcowitz.

I read and reread the letter and I really don't understand precisely what they expect Alan Marcowitz to do, maybe you can enlighten me.

Alan Marcowitz is the head of the Rural Settlement Committee— a sub-committee of the Jewish Agency Budget Committee— which has attempted to address itself to the problem of the younger kibbutzim. A solution has been proposed, accepted by the committee, confirmed by the Board of Governors. Moreover, the solution was not worked out by the members of the Board of Governors without prior and extensive consultation with the leaders of the World Zionist Organization, as well as with the leaders of the Kizzutz Movement. I doubt very much whether Alan Marcowitz can do anything for Yahel that he is not doing for anyone else. And even if he wanted to do it, he couldn't possibly do it within the strictures of this mandate.

He does have some sums available for developing the income potential of these younger kibbutzim. Is this what the Yahel people would like to tap?

Alan Marcowitz, incidentally, is an extraordinarily capable man and I'm glad that they are inviting him to Yahel. Having Lenny and Steve meet with him, especially the former, prior to this visit is a good idea and I hope that it can be implemented.

So please help me help Yahel because their requests are confusing. As, incidentally, they have always been.



KIBBUTZ YAHEL

UNITED HIBBUTZ MOVEMENT THE MOVEMENT FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

DOAR NA GLOT 88850 TEL. 059-74220 ISRAEL TLX: 7792 ARDOM IL FAX: (972)59 72969

Dote			

PAGE 1 OF 7 (INCLUDING TRANSMISSION PAGE) FAX NUMBER (212) 517-7863

DATE: 11th January, 1988

TO: RABBI STEVE SCHAFER

FROM: HADAS LEVIN

RE: PROJECTS UPDATE, TRIP PROPOSAL, POPULATION CENSUS

CC: RABBI ALEXANDER SCHINDLER, RABBI DICK HIRSCH, RABBI DANNY SYME, RABBI ERIC YOFFIE, RABBI CHUCK KROLOFF, MS. MAGGIE BAR TURA

JAMIE FRIEDMAN, HILLEL TOBIAS, AMI GIPPS

HARD COPY TO BE SENT YES___

TRANSMITTED ON 1-11-88 BY HADAS

Ref: TAS 77.TAS/6.8

Dear Steve:

I have sent you via express mail, due to the many pages, background information on Yahel's present economic situation including cupies of correspondence between the Reform Movement and the Jewish Agency addressing the subject of debt restructuring.

In response to your questions to Hillel of 12/28/87:

1) The Sunscreen Project would have been a very good project for Yahel as well as its American investors. We conducted intensive negotiations with the Cleveland group in August of 1986, and in the course of such the Cleveland group announced that it was no longer interested in pursuing the project. A business plan was written and we had ordered an off the shelf market survey. A great deal of capital for advertising and promotion are required in this branch. Cleveland's business plan called for the capture of 2% of the American market, requiring a promotion budget of \$4,000,000.

In negotiations between Cleveland-Yahel and Dr. Fischer in April 1986, Dr. Fischer announced that he was intending to eventually penetrate his product in the American marketplace which brought an immediate end of negotiations with him.

2) Projects under consideration today:

Manufacture of Kosher Mozarella cheese.

Acquistion of existing bottle cap factory.

Assembly of Reverse Osmosis Handpump.

- 4) Aloe-Vera; extraction and stabilization of Aloe Vera Gel as raw material for the cosmetic and health food industries. (primary market; Japan)
- 5) Test Facility for testing and packaging for IC's (microprocessors)

6) Assembly facility of electric meters, licensor General Electric.

7) Culture of Brine Shrimp.

- 8) Computerized food scale and calorie counter.
- 9) Sub contract to manufacture area carpets.

10) Printing House for the Reform Movement.

Each project is evaluated as to its compatability with Yahel criterion, and its marketability. We are in contact with other parties regarding other proposals but these are not "ripe" at this point in time.

3) The Reverse Osmosis Hand Pump; you specifically inquired as to where this project stands.

In 1983 we were approached by Harlan Jacobs, as a representative of a R.O. membrane manufacturer to develop a hand powered pump incorporating R.O. technology for the desalinaztion of water in emergency powerless situations. After a year of serious attempts at such, in cooperation with engineers of Israeli industry we determined that we could not do so. Filmtec, the membrane manufacturer turned to Wanner Engineering, its pumps supplier to do so and they had the engineering capability and experience to do so. (The process has since been patented) Recovery Engineering was set up as a daughter company to exploit the patent and to produce the handpump. Yahel was offered a licensing agreement for Israel. The primary market under investigation by Recovery is the military. In any case, here in Israel the civilian boating market is miniscule. As this technology is capable of filtering out Nuclear, Bacteriological or Chemically contaminated water this product is of great interest for both the U.S. as well Israeli Armies. We submitted the pump, final proto-type and accompanying specs and test requirements of the U.S. Navy to the IDF approximately 5 months ago. We are in very close touch with them and they are continuing their evaluations. Recovery is unwilling at this point in time to offer Yahel other markets.

4) David Levitt;

I have on various occassions spoke with David about Yahel and our interest in diversifying from agriculture to industry. In most cases Nat Hess has served to bring us together. Our last contact was about 20 months ago regarding the possibility of Yahel producing a tomato packaging material to enable successful tomato imports of crops grown offshore. David informed me that they had chosen the Spanish market and so ended that project.

I hope that these responses answer your specific questions, I would be happy to provide more details should you desire.

Regards,

Hadas

YAHEL POPULATION CENSUS

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1987

Chaverim	42
Chaverot	36
Candidates	8
	4
Absorbees	- 7
Permanent Residents	4
Shnat sherut	5
Garin Kaveh*	8
Garin Or	20
	-
Total	127

Children of Yahel members	43
Children permanent residents	3
Children Shnat Sherut	4
Total Children	50

^{*} Garin Kaveh Males in Army 7

10th January, 1988

Rabbi Steve Schafer 16 Leeward Cawpet Bay West St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands 00802 U.S.A.

Dear Steve:

I feel that it is of the utmost importance for you and Len to visit Yahel at the earliest possible opportunity for the following reasons:

- To enable you to receive an indepth understanding of Yahel's situation vis a vis meetings with persons and agencies responsible for Yahel's economic growth and development.
- To afford you the opportunity to meet the key personnel involved in Yahel's decision making structure and establish a rapport with them.
- To evaluate Yahel's relative advantages and disadvantages vis a vis industry.
- 4) To review and analyze the strategies that have been employed to date in our efforts to industrialize Yahel.
- 5) To review projects that have been evaluated by Yahel and develop a better understanding of Yahel's requirements, capabilities, and limitations.

I would like to suggest the following tentative itinerary;

- Day 1 International flight and local flight directly to Yahel.
- Day 2 Tour of Yahel, Briefing on region, meetings with Kibbutz Personnel.
- Day 3 Tour of Regional Enterprises, Yotvata Dairy, Meeting with regional functionaries. Tour of regional experimental station, and mariculture research institute.
- Day 4 Travel to Tel-Aviv meeting with Mr. Spitzer and United Kibbutz Movement representatives.
- Day 5 Meeting with Jewish Agency, and Ministry of Industry and Commerce.
- Day 6 Summary with Yahel in North. Late night departure.

I suggest that in order to proceed in a manner that will produce tangible results a full understanding and update of the Israel scene is essential and should be undertaken as soon as possible.

The budget for such a trip must be discussed immediately between Yahel and the Reform Movement order to determine how the trip will be financed. I estimate that the budgetary requirements would include:

Air Fare @ \$1,000 Ground transportation and out of Pocket expenses @\$200 Local Transportation Israel Hotels Israel Meals	\$2,000 400 700 400 250
	\$3,750
Total:	

SUGGESTED MEETINGS FOR YAHEL INDUSTRIALIZATION FACT FINDING TOUR

- Economic Manager re: manpower, present production capability, report on regional R&D, Regional enterprise activities, relationship with the Jewish Agency, the Eilot Regional Council, and the Ministry of Housing.
- General Secretary re: relationship with the United Kibbutz Movement, the Reform Movement, internal social update, activites in coordination with the Sociotechnical division of the Kibbutz Industries Association.
- Treasurer re: Yahel's financial situation, future projections, relationship with settlement agencies.
- Absorption coordinator re: present absorption activities, absorption of skilled people, future absorption program.
- 5) Building Manager re: future building activities and requirements.
- 6) Yahel Seminar Center Manager re: update of efforts to further develop Yahel Seminar Center.
- Aloe Vera Project Manager re: project implementation update, business plan review, marketing plan and marketing assistance.
- 8) Industry Search Project Coordinator re: complete review of past efforts and investments, including search strategies, project evaluation process.
- 9) Consulting Industrial Engineer: Yahel has employed the services of Mr. Spitzer for 4 years to assist in the evaluation of project proposals. Spitzer has been ilvolved in setting up dozens of Kibbutz factories over the past 30 years.
- 10) Head of the Regional Council re: regional development, relationship between the region and various government branches and agencies.
- 11) Director of Regional Experimental Station re: attempts to identify new viable agricultural products.
- 12) Director of Regional Enterprises re: update of present activities and future plans.
- 13) Director of the Regional Aquaculture project in Eilat.
- 14) Directors of the Settlement Department of the Jewish Agency.
- 15) Director of Rural Industrialization of the Jewish Agency.
- 16) Director of Rural Industrialization of the the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

THE WAR THE

- 17) Secretary General of the United Kibbutz Movement.
- 18) Economic Manager United Kibbutz Movement.
- 19) Chairman United Kibbutz Movement Industrial Division.
- 20) Head of the Kibbutz Industries Association.

I will contact you in the near future in order that we may further discuss this proposal. Your comments and suggestions are warmly welcomed.

B'Vracha,

Hadas

cc: Jamie Friedman; Economic Manager-Yahel

Hillel Tobias ; Treasurer-Yahel

Ami Gipps; General Secretary-Yahel

	BUTZ YAHEL . HEVEL EILOT AEL	88850
TEI	022-69-24220	972-6

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FACSIMILE SUMMARY S	By July
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FAX TELEPHONE NUMBER WUPJ NYC/ WUPJ Jerusal	em V
TO Rabbi Alexander Schindler and Rabbi Ric	hard Hirsch and Rabbi Eric Yoffie
ATTENTION	U and
FROM Hillel Tobias- Kibbutz Yahel	G. P v
SUBJECT_Debt Restructuring	
NO. OF PAGES (INCL. SUMMARY SHEET) 3	
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Thank You!	
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THIS FAX TRANSMITTED ON: 1/24 12 BY:	9(1)

HIBBUTZ YAHEL UNITED KIBBUTZ MOVEMENT THE MOVEMENT FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDRISM

DOAR NA EILOT 88850 TR. 059-74220 ISRAR. TLX:7792 PRDOM IL FAX: (972)59 72969

30th November, 1987

Rabbi Alexander Schindler President U.A.H.C. 838 Fifth Ave N.Y. 10021 U.S.A.

Rabbi Dick Hirsch Executive Director W.U.P.J. 838 Fifth Ave N.Y. 10021 U.S.A.

Dear Friends,

At a second meeting with the Settlement Department Assistant Director Avraham Dagan (Boda) today, we investigated the solution that Nissim Zvilli presented to you and the following situation became clear:

	DEBT FIGURES PRESENTED & ACCEPTED BY NISSIM ZVILLI 16/11/87	LINKAGE (TO 30/9/0 DATE CHOS FOR TREAT OF ALL S	37 SEN
	\$000's	\$000	3
LONG TERM DEBT	4,785	4,90	2
SHORT TEAM DEBT	1,125	1,15	3
FINANCIAL ASSETS	-880	-90	1
NET DEBT	\$5,030	\$5,15	1
	ORIGINAL FIGURES PRESENTED BY SETTLEMENT DEPT. IN N. ZVILLI'S LETTER 16/11/87	CORRECTEU FIGURES AS RECOMMENDED BY A. DAGAN ON 30/11/87	NECESSARY TREATMENT OF YAHEL'S DEBT
	\$000's	\$000's	\$000's
DEBT WRITE OFF	1,275	1,900	2,154
CONVERSION	1,900	1,900	1,900
HOUSING DEBT	1,100	1,100	1,100
DEBT TREATED	\$4,275	\$4,900	\$5,154

The basic difference between the solution offered by Avraham Dagan and a real solution to our debt problem is NOT based on a difference of opinion as to the accuracy of the numbers, rather on his insistance in calculating the proposed solution according to an arbitrary updating of old numbers from the 30/9/86. This leaves him with figures that are inconsistent with the June 1987 numbers which Nissim Zvilli acknowledged as being accurate in his letter to you of the 16/11/87.

We think that there is room to firmly demand that the Yahel Debt problem be adequately dealt with according to the figures which we presented and which they acknowledged as being accurate.

The difference between what the Jewish Agency is offering and a real solution to the problem is an additional debt write off of \$253,000.

Thank you for your genuine concern and support in this regard.

Yours, sincerely

Hillel Tobias Treasurer

cc: Rabbi Eric Yoffie - A.R.Z.A Meir Azari - Telem Ami Gips Mattityahu Sperber Hadas Levin

KIBBUTZ YAHEL

UNITED KIBBUTZ MOVEMENT THE MOVEMENT FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

DÓAR NA GLOT 88850 TGL 059-74220 ISRAGL TLX:7792 ARDOM IL FAX:(972)59 72969

Date 27.11.87

by FAX

Rabbi Richard Hirsch Executive Director WUPJ 838 Fifth Avenue New York, New York 10021 U.S.A.

Rabbi Alexander Schindler President UAHC 838 Fifth Avenue New York, New York 10021 U.S.A.

Dear Friends:

I met with the Settlement Department Deputy Head Boda and received an explanation of his recommendation for debt restructuring. It is clear to us now that there is some \$800,000 missing from their suggested debt write-off. This is a result of a simple mistake in his calculation. I am to meet him on Monday, 30th November, until which time he is to do homework on the subject. It is clear to me that thereafter we will need to approach Nissim Zvilli explaining the inadequacy of his program and press for a correction of an additional \$800,000 which his colleague omitted.

Thank you for your action and support in this regard.

Yours,

Hillel Tobias

Treasurer

HT:fr

הסוכנות היחודית

המחלקה להתישבות כפרית

HEAD OFFICE P.O.B. 02 JERUSALEM 91290 TEL 201222

THE JEWISH AGENCY

RURAL SETTLEMENT DEPARTMENT

משרד ההנהלה ת"ד 92, ירושלים 1920 טל. 202222

16/11/87

Td: Rabbi Richard Hirsch Hayatt hole!

Rabba A. Schindler exicul 436%

Yahel's financial state

We are aware of Yahel's financial state and the figures you mentioned are correct.

Several months ago, Yahel's state was worse and regular functioning of the kibbutz was practically impossible. Therefore Yahel was advanted the sum of 1 million US\$ in March, on a long term basis and comfortable conditions in order to continue functioning and decrease the buden of interest. And indeed, Yahel's current functioning is regular as planned.

We know that in order to solve the problem, fundamental assistance should be given to settlements, including Yahel, to omit the heavy debts and finances which burden them. For this reason, we are going to propose, in February, to the 806 of the Jewish Agency, to find financial resources which will enable to write off part of the settlements' debts and to converse the other part on a long term basis and low interest (20 years, 4% interest).

. Within such programme, Yahel is included with the following data:

Debt write off -

\$ 1.275 million

conversion 20 years, 4% -

\$ 1.900 million

present housing debt in excellent conditions

\$ 1.100 million

1 olt a 1

\$ 4.275 million

If Yahel's income is taken into account, then the whole debt is covered.

We are sure that such a plan will free the settlements and hope that when the issue is raised for approval, next February , we will receive your full support.

RURAL SETTLEMENT DEPARTMENT

הסוכנות היהודית המחלקה להתישבות כפרית

HEAD OFFICE P U B. 92, JERUBALEM 91290 TEL. 202222

משרד ההנהלה ת"ד 92, ירושלים 91920 טל. 202222

- As soon as a proposal for establishing means of production in Yahel is presented to us, we shall study the detailed plan in accordance with the data provided. Any confirmation for establishing means of production should follow an indepth study of the situation, including the settlement's financial resources. Obviously, we could not allow establishing means of production without the appropriate financial resources (including Jewish Agency's financial aid)
- We appreciate very much your concern and guidance to your settlement. We believe that if we succeed in this plan, Yahel will be freed of its debt very shortly.
- d. Finally I would like to note that any guarantee agreement is subordinated to the BOG of the Jewish Agency's decision as is allocation of further resources for this objective.

Sincerely yours.

Nissim Zvili

cc. Akiva Lewinsky Zv. Barak Yemuda Dekel A. Dagan August 27, 1987 2 Elul 5747

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Lyons 4666 Crayton Road Naples, FL 33940

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Lyons:

Hillel Tobias has told me of your magnificent gift to allow the building of a Day Care Centre at Kibbutz Yahel. For myself and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, as well as the Israel Progressive Movmment, I write to express profound appreciation for this most tangible expression of support. I understand the building is nearing completion and it will undoubtedly be the scene of great activity and joy at the Kibbutz. The child-population is growing the the Kibbutz and the Centre will tryly be a boon to the families of Yahel. You have every right to be pleased and proud of all of your efforts in behalf of the young people of Israel.

I hope one day we will have an opportunity to meet. It would give me great pleasure to express my thanks to you personally. Hillel speaks very highly of you both and, needless to note your devotion to the young people of Israel and the Reform movement is exemplary.

With repeated thanks and best wishes to you and your dear ones for a healthy, happy and fulfilling New Year, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

bcc: Hillel Tobias

August 27, 1987 2 Elul 5747

Mr. Hillel Tobias Kibbutz Yahel Doar Na Eilot 88850 Israel

Dear Hillel:

Enclosed is the letter I have sent to Daniel and Benta Lyons. Thank you for giving me their address so I might express our gratitude.

Thank you, too, for your kind words in regard to the World Zionist Congress election. These are exciting times but there is a tremendous job to be done in the days ahead.

With warm good wishes for a happy, healthy and sweet New Year, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

KIBBUTZ YAHEL

UNITED KIBBUTZ MOVEMENT THE MOVEMENT FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

DOAR NA EILOT 88850 TEL 059-74220 ISRAEL TLX:7792 ARDOM IL FAX:(972)59 75938

16th August, 1987

Rabbi Alexander Schindler President U.A.H.C 838 Fifth Ave New York 10021 U.S.A.

Dear Alex,

I hope that this letter finds both you and Raya in good health.

At our last meeting in Jerusalem I requested that you write a letter to Mr. Daniel and Mrs. Benta Lyons. They have donated \$100,000 for the building of a Day Care Centre, the building of which is now reaching conclusion. Daniel and Benta are members of the Reform Movement and I think they would be very encouraged by a letter from you thanking them for their support in building Yahel and the Reform Movement in Israel. I should mention that in addition to their support of Yahel, they have sponsored the building of a Sports Hall and Computer Centre in Or Akiva, a Development Town near Ceasarea. Their address is: 4666 Crayton Road, Naples, FL 33940.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the support and encouragement you give us. Yeshar Koach on the results of the recent elections to the World Zionist Congress. We believe that the Reform Movement is in the position of translating the electoral achievement to increased involvement and influence in the Jewish Agency and Israel. Our hope is that we gain responsibility for a full department. The settlements wish to be partners in the realization of this goal and hope that we be included in the deliberations and planning prior to the Congress.

Thank you once again.

B'birkat Chaverim

Hillel Tobias

Hellel Johas

KIBBUTZ YAHEL UNITED KIBBUTZ MOVEMENT THE MOVEMENT FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

DOAR NA FILOT 88850 TEL 059-74220 ISAAEL TLX: 7792 ARDOM IL FAX: (972)59 75938

	Dote_		
3rd	August,	1987	

Rabbi Daniel B. Syme Vice-President U.A.H.C 838 5th Avenue N.Y. 10021

Dear Danny,

Thank you for making the very special effort to come to Yahel during your last visit in Israel. We are encouraged by your genuine concern for us and the development of Yahel, not only as a Reform Border Settlement, but as an intergral part of the Progressive Jewish Movement.

I shall deal with three issues in this letter:

- a) A response to the questions you raised about Timna.
- b) Our contact with Avraham Kellman of the J.N.F.
- c) The JNF Grant Proposal.
- d) Small Projects.
- a) Timna Project: I met with the Regional Council Director, Shlomo Tushinsky, who explained to me the details of the Timna Project which includes future Road development, Museum, Restaurant and Change Rooms. The project is being funded by the J.N.F. and developed in conjunction with the Regional Council and Kibbutz Elifaz. I also spoke with Avraham Kellman of the J.N.F. about the project. It is clear that the object of the project is to make Kibbutz Elifaz economically independent. There are to date, 250 000 visitors annually. This added development will draw many more in the coming years. It would appear that the benefit to Kibbutz Yahel and Lotan will be marginal. What is important though, is that there is likely to be another economically successful Kibbutz in the Southern Arava. (Yotvata is the only existing one).
- b) Soon after you left I met with Avraham Kellman. We held a very congenial meeting and established good personal contact. The subjects we dealt with were as follows:
 - The necessity for a plaque in recognition of the Donors.
 - 2. Timna Development.
 - Our specific present requests.
 - Future Development and parameters for "special projects".
 - Intermediate financing of present projects and time table for implementation.
 - Details requested for projects implementation.
- Donors Plaque: It was agreed that the plaque for the development of the area around the library would be placed on our central Donors Board which is on a Central Wall in the Library. It would have a J.N.F. insignia on it and the regular J.N.F. inscription. I requested that the plaques for the other projects be placed on the central Donors Board. Avraham said that they would have to be placed on the projects themselves.

- Timna Project: Avraham explained the Timna Project confirming what I had learnt from Shlomo Tushinsky. In addition, he indicated that the parameters for J.N.F. subsidized activity are flexible if there is a "sponsor" that wants to contribute to a specific project (as in the case of Timna).
- 3. Specific Requests: Avraham had divided our requests into four projects for the purpose of presenting them to potential Donors:
 - Library/Synagogue Landscaping
 - ii) Kiddies corner
 - iii) Kiddies corner
 - iv) Childrens playground.
- 4. Parameters for Special Projects: Avraham explained that as long as the project had a sponser and it was generally within the framework of J.N.F. parameters (and this could include buildings as in the Timna case), he would be prepared to support its' implementation through the J.N.F. I should mention here that this could create the problem of the cart and the horse.
- 5. Intermediate financing and timetable for implementation: Avraham explained that only once the commitments were made and the first donations were contributed would the green light for the implementation be given. He estimated approximately four to six months. I enquired as to the possibility that the J.N.F. provide an early start to the project in order to prevent undue damage to the interior of the Library/Synagogue Avraham agreed to this in principle and said that we should meet on his return from the U.S.A. We also discussed Yahel being the contractors for the implementation of the projects.
- Avraham requested details including Maps, photographs and a Yahel Update, all of which have been forwarded to him by courier mail.
- c) The J.N.F. Grant Proposal: In our letter to Mr. Nachmias of the J.N.F. "Gilat", we requested the following:

i)	Library/Synagogue Landscaping	\$55,000
ii)	Childrens Playground	19,000
iii)	Sand - 5000 cubic metres	9,500
iv)	Nursery and Kindergarten Landscaping	24,000
v)	Benches/ Tables and garbage cans for memorial forest, car park and communal areas	3,500
	TOTAL	\$111,000

After my meeting with Avraham two new issues were raised:

 The Housing Ministry agreed to foot the bill for the Nursery and Kindergarted Landscaping.

ii) The issue of the plaque on the childrens playground was raised at the Yahel General Meeting. Yahel has in the past decided that donations above \$10,000 would be acknowledged on a Donors Board in one place on the Kibbutz - later established as the central wall in the Library Synagogue building. We have negotiated in the past with Donor's for their agreement in our placing their name on this Board of Honor and Gratitude, instead of on the outside of the buildings and projects which they have sponsored.

Yahel members feel that it would be unfitting to now change this decision and have these people exposed to inconsistent policy which would possibly depreciate the value and importance of their gifts.

It would appear from what Avraham has told me that there is no way that the J.N.F. sponsor the childrens playground without a plaque on the project. However, we would appreciate your raising the issue with him as we believe that this Donors Board is indeed a fitting way to honor the Donor. Yahel, on the other hand, will forfeit receiving this necessary gift if there is no way to compromise on the plaque issue.

I should add that all the buildings on the inner ring of the Kibbutz are gifts from the Housing Ministry or other independant donors.

In the event that our appeal to Avraham, which I have written in the attached letter is not acceptable, it is important that the Sand, benches, tables and garbage cans are included in the Library Synagogue project.

d) Small projects: You mentioned during your visit that we should send you a list of small projects for which you might be able to find sponsors who could donate up to \$2,000. Below is a list of projects with their total cost stated in parentheses:

1.	Fitness and exercise equipment	(\$10,000)	
2.	Soccer Field lighting	(\$6,000)	
3.	Soccer Field fencing	(\$5,000)	
4.	Educational equipment for children	(\$10,000)	
	this includes toys, books, Personal computers and media for the childrens houses.		
5.	Sifrei Kodesh - Bibles, Prayerbooks, Mezuzot, Talleisim	(\$3,000)	
6.	Library Operating Budget - Periodicals, Books	(4-1)	
٥.	Xeroxing	(\$5,000)	annually
7.	Professional and technical training courses for members	(\$7,000)	annually

Danny, I know that this letter is somewhat lengthy, however, I have related to your investment in all seriousness. Once again I thank you very much for your concern and wish you behatzlecha in your joint venture with the J.N.F.. If there is anything I can do to be of assistance please do not hesitate to communicate.

B'birkat Chaverim

Apllet Takias

Hillel Tobias

Treasurer - Yahel

cc: Rabbi Alexander Schindler Rabbi Eric Yaffe Rabbi Eliyahu Levine Ami Gips - Yahel David Bernstein - Yahel

. KIBBUTZ YAHEL

UNITED KIBBUTZ MOVEMENT THE MOVEMENT FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

Doar na filot 88850 Tel 059-74220 Israel TLX: 7792 Ardon IL FAX: (972)59 75938

3rd August, 1987

Mr. Avraham Kellman American Section Jewish National Fund Jerusalem.

Dear Avraham

re: Projects for Development by the J.N.F. at Kibbutz Yahel

I would like to thank you for the time and friendship you afforded me at our meeting on the 7-21-87. There are certain issues which I would like to mention that were raised at that meeting and some which are a result of activity "in the field".

- 1. It was agreed that a plaque for the "Library Gardens" would be placed on the central Donors Board in the Library-Synagogue and is to be the size of the rest of the plaques on that same board (approximately 30×16 cm). The Insignia and wording of the J.N.F would be on the plaque. It was explained that plaques for the additional projects would be required to be attached to the projects which we requested.
- 2. The source, extent and detail of the Timna project was explained and that its objective is to establish Kibbutz Elifaz as a viable economic entity. It was mentioned that a similar project was not out of the question at Yahel.
- 3. It was explained that the projects at Yahel were to be divided into four for the purpose of finding donors.
- 4. You requested maps, photographs, surrounding environment and a Yahel update which are attached to this letter.
- 5. It was mentioned that we would talk further about the J.N.F. advancing the Library Garden project on your return from the U.S.A.

And, in the field.....

- 1. The Housing Ministry has agreed to sponsor the development around the nursery and Kindergarten so that we withdraw our request for J.N.F. funding for this project.
- 2. I raised the issue of attaching the plaque to the Childrens' Playground in the General Meeting and a discussion was held on the subject. It was decided that we would have to withdraw our request for J.N.F. funding of the necessary Childrens' Playground as a result of the "attached plaque". We ask that you reconsider our proposal that this donation be given recognition on our central Donors Board.

At the same meeting I was informed by my chaverim that in the past we negotiated with donors to have a plaque in their honor on a central Donors Board. A change in this policy is likely to damage the honor which we have shown them in the event of a visit at Yahel.

In the event that the abovementioned arrangement is not possible, I wish to request that the other sections of our request (namely sand, benches, tables, and garbage cans) be included in the "Library Gardens" development project.

Once again I thank you for the co-operation and support you give us in the development of our Yishuv. If there is anything I can do to facilitate this project, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Hillel Tobias Treasurer – Yahel

cc: Rabbi Alexander Schindler Rabbi Daniel B. Syme Rabbi Eric Yaffe Ami Gips — Yahel David Bernstein _ Yahel

קיבוץ יהל

התנועה הקינוצית המאוחדת התנועה ליהדות מתקדמת

7. חבל אילוח. 88850 טל. 8420 - 71079 - 7320 אילוח. 88850 מל. 10792 אילוח. 1792 אילוח. 1799 פולילים מלוקט: 1794 אילוח. 1799 אילום פולילים מלוס: 1799 - 75938

מארי ארגדסט, 1987

לכבוד מר אברהם קלמן קרן קיימת לישראל

אברהם שלום רב,

הנידון: פרויקטים לפיתוח ע"י קק"ל בקיבוץ יהל

ברצוני להודות לך על הזמן וההתיחסות החמה שהקדשת לי בפגישה במשרדך ב-21/7/87. ישנם כמה נושאים שהיתי רוצה להזכירך שהועלו באותו דיון וכמה שנובעים מהתרחשויות בשטח.

- סוכם ששילוט עבור הפרויקט "פיתוח ספריה-בית כנסת" יהיה על קיר התרומות המרכזי שבספריה-בית כנסת לפי גודל השלטים הנמצאים על הלוח (בערך 10 x 16 ס"מ) עם הסמל ולפי הנוסח של קק"ל.
 הוסבר לי שידרש שילוט סמוך לפרויקטים האחרים שביקשנו.
 בנוסף, שוחחנו על האפשרות שיהל יהיה הקבלן המבצע את הפרויקט.
- 2. הוסבר מקור, היקף ופירוט פיתוח פרק תמנע ושיעדו הוא העברה יִידי קיבוץ אליפז בשלב סופי. פרויקט דומה לא היה פסול עבור יהל.
 - .3 הוסבר שהפרויקטים שלנו חולקו לארבע לצורכי גיוס תרומות עבורם.
- ביקשת מפות ותמונות של הפרויקטים ומקומם בעתיד. בנוסף, עידכון על מצבו של יהל. המידע המצורף למכתב זה.
- 5. הוזכר שיש על מה לדבר כאשר תחזור משליחות באמריקה בנושא מקדמה עבור פיתוח בקירבת הבנין.

וההתרחשויות בשטח.....

- משרד השיכון הסכים לממן פיתוח מסביב לפעוטון והגן/כוללת, כך שסעיף זה יורד ממסגרת בקשתנו.
- 2. העליתי לאסיפה הכללית דרישת הקרן לשילוט סמוך לפרויקט כלשהו. נערך דיון בנושא והוחלט שנאלץ להסיר את בקשתנו למימיון עבור פרויקט מגרש המשחקים הנחוץ לפיתוח ילדינו, עקב הדרישה לשילוט צמוד. אנחנו חוזרים ומבקשים שתשקול שוב את הצעתנו שתרומה זו תקבל שילוט על קיר התרומות המרכזי שבספריה-בית כנסת. למדתי מחברי שבעבר נהלנו משא ומתן עם תורמים ששלט לכבודם יתלה על קיר שלטים מרכזי ושינוי ממדיניות זו עלול לפגוע בכבודם בעת ביקורם ביהל.

במידה והנ"ל לא מתאפשר, ברצוננו לבקש שהסעיפים שנשארים יכללו בתוכנית פיתוח הספריה-בית כנסת. כלומר חול, ספסלים, שולחנות ואשפתונים. שוב אני חוזר ומודה לך על שיתוף הפעולה והתמיכה שאתה נותן לנו בפיתוח ישובנו. במידה ויש דבר כלשהו שאוכל לעזור איתו כדי להקל על מסימתך נא לא להסס ליצור קשר.

בכבוד רב

CN)16.00

הלל טוביאס גזבר - יהל

U.A.H.C. - העתקים: הרב אלקסנדר שינדלר

U.A.H.C. - הרב דניאל סיים

הרב אריק יפה - A.R.Z.A.

עמי גיפס - יהל

דוד ברנשטיין - יהל

HIBBUTZ YAHEL UNITED HIBBUTZ MOVEMENT THE MOVEMENT FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDGISM

DOAR OF ELOT 88850 TEL OSP-74220 ISRAEL

Dote	_			-
		77	-	 700

9th March, 1987

REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF KIBBUTZ YAHEL'S SHORT TERM DEBT:

Report on the development of Kibbutz Yahel's short term debt based on the Audit done by Ilan Smamah, Amnon Wagner and Reuven Greenberg of the Jewish Agency in May 1986, based on information from 31 March 1986. (in thousands of Dollars):

3/86 \$1146	9/86 \$1330	1/87 \$1490
506	587	658
50	100	100
\$1702	\$2017	\$2248
	\$1146 506 50	\$1146 \$1330 506 587 50 100

From the above information it is apparent that a short term debt conversion of \$1,000,000 would not suffice to solve the problem of Yahel's short term debt.

It was agreed at the meeting in Mr. Nissim Zvili's office between representatives of the Jewish Agency, the Reform Movement and Kibbutz Yahel that \$1,000,000 is insufficient to convert Yahel's short term debt and prevent reoccurence of the problem in the short run (as a result of high interest). The whole of the short term debt would be converted. A check will be done on Yahal's economic and social situation.

It should be mentioned that long term debt repayments are actually \$750,000 as a result of additional building since March 1986 and that there are linked long term loans that are at 12% and 13%.

> Hillel Tobias Treasurer

cc: Mr Nissim Zvili - Jewish Agency Mr Yehuda Dekel Mr Eldad Gissim - Jewish Agency - Jawish Agency - Jewish Agency Mr Avigdor Bar Hai - Jewish Agency Mr Amnon Wagner Rabbi Alexander Schindler - U.A.H.C. Rabbi Richard Hirch - W.U.P.J. Rabbi Allan Levine _ U.A.H.C. - Yahel David Bernstein

19/3 Hoday we signed a Sean Contract for 1700 000 NIS = Ilm
as a Nos siene has been no actions action to ken
in regard to reserving the cost of M. S. Herre St.

התשעה ליהדות מתקדמת

ד.ו.חנל אילות. 88850 טל. 97420 - 7070ול-20 : טלקס

- ARDOM IL 7792 ATTN : YAHEL 059-75938

'בקסימיליה:

1987 , YTD 9

דו"ח התפתחות חוב מצר של קיבוע יהל

דו"ח התפתחות חוב קצר של קיבוץ יהל מבוסס על בדיקתם של אילן סממה, אמנון וגנר וראובן גרינברג מה-5/86 על נתונים מסוף 3/67.

באלפי דולרים \$)	3/86	9/86	1/87
וב קצר	81146	\$1330	\$1490
זכויות	806	587	658
הפסד תפעולי והשקעות (ללא ריבית)	50 \$1702	100	100

מהנתונים הנ"ל לומדים שקונוורסיה של ססם,כסס, \$1 לא מספיקה לפתור את הבעיה של חוב הסצר של יהל. סוכם בישיבה במשרדו של ניסים זווילי בין נציגי הסוכנות היהודית, לבין תל"ם וקיבוץ יהל מה-2/87 ש-200,000 לא מספיק לכסות את החוב הקצר ושבטוות הקצר יש להמנע מניפוחו החוזר כתוצאה מריבית גבוה. יש להזביר שהלויות ל-1987 שווים 2000,000 כתוצאה מבניה נוספת ושיש הלוואות לזמן ארוך שהם בריבית גבוה - 12% ו-13%.

> הלל טיביאם גדבר

> > העתקים: מר ניסים זווילי - הסוכנות היהודית - הסוכנות היהודית מר י. דכל - הסוכנות היהודית מר א. גיסים - הסוכנות היהודית מר א. בר-חי - הסוכנות היהודית מר א. וגנר U.A.H.C -א הרב א. שינדלר W. U. P. J -ברב א. הירש U.A.H.C -הרב א. לוין - מרכז משק יהק דוד ברנשטיין

ד.ן.חבל אילות, 88850 Uל. 74220 אילות. 059-71079

ARDOM IL 7792

:טלקס

התנועה הקיבוצית המאוחדת, התנועה ליהדות מתקדמת

ATTN : YAHEL

059-75938

:פקסימיליה

6th March, 1987

Mr. David Nachmias Jewish National Fund Gilat Nursery

Subject: Budget for Development Projects for Kibbutz Yahel.

Reference: Letter of Zeev Kahanov of 11/4/86

Dear Mr. Nachmias:

In regard to our meeting with Mr. Eli Kliger, we were asked to submit requests for development projects for Kibbutz Yahel. Enclosed please find a list of projects that we wish to complete in the coming year. The budgetary requirements are based upon estimations of cost to carry out these projects in the near future.

- Funding of 82,500 NIS (US\$ 52,000) for landscaping and completion of the Library and Synagogue project presently under construction.
- 2) Children's Playground; This project will be carried out by a contractor. Our estimated budgetary requirements are 25,875 NIS (US\$ 16,200). This budget does not include lighting which will require a budget of \$4,900 NIS (US\$ 3,100). We are prepared to begin this project immediately.
- 3) Landscaping Sand; 5,000 cubic meters of landscaping sand for newly established neighborhoods and the Library-Synagogue areas and the Public areas of the Kibbutz. This project could be carried out by the Jewish National Fund or by a contractor. The cost of this project is: 1 cubic meter X 3.45NIS X 5000 cubic meters= 17,250 NIS (US\$ 10,800) We are prepared to embark upon this project immediately.
- 4) Landscaping and Outdoor Facilities for New Nursery School and Kindergarden; Budget required: 39,600 NIS (US\$ 24,750), to be carried out in May 1987.
- 5) Memorial Grove; 4 sets of picnic tables. Budgetary requirements: 322 NIS X 4 = 1288 NIS (US\$ 800.)

ד.ו.חבל אילוח. 88850 טל.74220 על.59-71079

ARDOM IL 7792

:טלקס

התנועה הקיבוצית המאוחדת, התנועה ליהדות מתקדמת

ATTN: YAHEL

059-75938

:פקסימיליה

- 6) Benches for New Neighborhood; 10 benches of the "Tarshis Model" are required. Budget requirement: 287.5 X 10 = 2,875 NIS (US\$ 1,800)
- 7) Refuse Bins: (Tarshis Model) we require 20 receptacles for the new neighbohood, parking lot, memorial grove. Budget requirement: 20 X 103.5 = 2,070 NIS (US\$ 1,300)

The total budgetary allocation that we request for 1987 is 176,408 NIS, (US\$ 110,255).

We look forward to your cooperation and assistance in bringing these projects to fruition.

Sincerely,

Mazkirut Kibbutz Yahel

cc: Mr. Zeev Kahanov, Jewish National Fund

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, Union of American Hebrew Congregations

Rabbi Richard Hirsch, World Union for Progressive Judaism

Rabbi Allan Levine, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Israel

Rabbi Daniel Syme, Union of American Hebrew Congregations

Rabbi Eric Yoffie, ARZA

Mr. Shlomo Tushinsky Hevel Eilot Regional Council

December 23, 1986 21 Kisley 5747

Kibbutz Yahel D.N. Elot 88850 Israel

Dear Chaverim:

Before we turn around Kibbutz Yahel will be celebrating its Bar Mitzvah year; after all your tenth anniversary seems to have come upon us almost overnight! When I think back to the creation of Yahed and recall the wide vistas and views of sandy desert and the windswept barren land of the Arava and then compare it to the reality of today, I cannot but be amazed. Kibbutz Yahel is a proud, living, active oasis of life and growth, applace of green fields and colorful flowers, the voices of happy children ring out over the land, your achievements are many and you have grown to become a wonderful community. And while the struggle to survive and flourish remains, you have really wrought a minor miracle in a relatively brief span of time. All of you have reason to be filled with pride.

Indeed the entire Reform Movement shares your joy on this special anniversary. We take pride in your growth and your accomplishments. We hope you will feel our presence in your midst as you gather together for a Shabbat of prayer and thanksgiving at having reached this milestone. And even as you pause in your simcha to rededicate yourselves to the strengthening of Yahel, we, too, stand ready to continue to support the work of your hands and your hearts in every way possible.

For the Union of American Hebeew Congregations, and for Rhea and me personally, a warm and hearty mazal tov. May the beautiful promise of this tenth anniversary continued to be fulfilled in the days and years ahead.

With warmest regards and every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

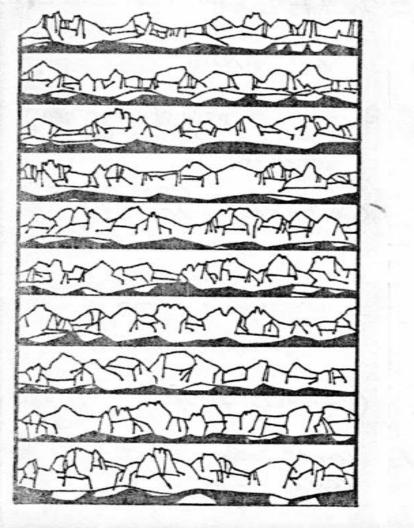
Alexander M. Schindler

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler Mr. Aron Hirt-Manheimer Degember 22, 1986 29 Kislev 5747

We ought to make certain that something appears in Reform Judaism concerning the celebration of Kibbutz Yahel's Tenth Anniversary. The festivities will take place at the Kibbutz on January 30-31, 1987. I don't know how the timing will work out but perhaps you can arrange to receive some pictures or a few written paragraphs from the Kibbutz.

The best way to contact them is through Deddie Lewensohn in our Schlichim's, they have a FAX machine and can easily get a message to our Israel office which will, in turn, contact the Kibbutz and tell them of gour needs.

Thank you.



Figgs 108 12'20 KIDDUTZ YAhelŚ J.N. ELOT 88850 I SRAW AL DULY DULY DIV CRAIL DIX GRAIL you are cordially invited on the occasion of our tenth anniversary our celebration will take place on january 30-31 29 tevet - 1 shevat 'at kibbutz yahel אגם מגבקשים לאשר אג הזדוכם לאפוניג שב לביל הבטיח מקומת לינה if you wish to attend RSVP to lisa at yahel by January 9 (059) 74220, 71079 (059) 74220,71079 ann. HM

Feb. 23, 1985 14 Adar, 5986

Kibbutz Yahel D.N. Eilot, 88850 Israel

Dear Mr. Gerakd Daniel Rabbi Alfred Gottschalk Rabbi Charles Kroloff Rabbi Gunther Plaut Rabbi Alexander Schindler



We at Yahel were disapointed to hear that the prolonged negotiations with the Jewish Agency over the grant proposal appear to be leading nowhere. At the risk of seeming presumptious we would like to contribute both information and some ideas on how we think the Agency could be approached.

The movement here is still, as you know, small and we have yet to organize and define our priorities in order to be most effective. We at Yahel cannot speak for all of the kehillot and projects that exist but, Rn the areas where we are most intensively involved we can say clearly that funds are lacking to build the library/synagogue at Yahel, the library at Lotan and for Tzofei Telem youth centers in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Haifa. Of even greater significance, the operating budgets of Tzofei Telem and Netzer Olami are in continual jeopardy despite the fact the the United Kibbutz Movement funds approximately half of these "Reform Youth Movements."

The groundwork has been laid. The materials have been presented. It's time the Reform Movement took a hard line in worrying about itself in Israel. We believe that we must demonstrate to the Sochnut that we are serious. We do not need to launch a public campaign against the UJA, but rather we should simply isolate six to ten Reform givers who can be convinced to channel their contribution to Israel through the Reform movement and to let the Jewish Agency know that this \$300,000 - \$500,000 is the tip of the iceberg if they insist on not working together with us. It's unfortunate that one has to operate this way, but unless we can demonstrate to them that we mean business they will either continue to delay any response or they will make a symbolic gesture which they will try to convince us to accept as a "foothold in the door." We don't need any more of these "footholds." What we need is ongoing real support for the Reform Movement's capital and operational needs in order to guarantee their successful development and growth. A decision by the Reform Movement to back down now from a confrontation with the Jewish Agency can only be justified if we are willing to take it upon ourselves to fund these projects. Are we ready and capable of making such a committment?

We believe that many of the projects listed in the grant proposal are important not only to increase the "Reform presence" in Israel but in order to create the type of Jewish State that we as Reform Zionists so much want Israel to be. We are still idealistic enough to believe that the creation of Zionist Youth Movements, in Israel and the diaspora, and the development of kibbutz, rural, and urban kehillot, where settlers

MEMORANDUM

Hoed for Aprice for

From

Yoav Peck

Date November 19, 198

To

Rabbi Alexander Schindler

Copies

Yehuda Peleg, Simmy Ziv-El, Stephen Schafer, Eric Yoffie, Dan Syme, Deddi Lewensohn

Subject

Meeting with TAKAM representatives

Alex,

Thank you for the warmth and openness with which you received Foggy and Simmy on Wednesday. TAKAM is truly the Reform Movement's most consistent friend in Israel, and our meeting underlined the importance of maintaining open lines of communication. Here is the summary of our discussion:

1) We agreed that formation of a U.A.H.C. "Settlement Committee" is a good idea. Such a committee would give the Reform Movement in America and the Reform settlements in Israel a permanent tool for maintaining close contact with each other and would enable the settlements to communicate their needs and concerns to representatives of the major arms of the American Movement. You recommended that Eric Yoffie and Dan Syme cooperate in selecting and inviting the chairperson and representatives of the various Reform institutions to join the Settlement Committee, and that Eric should coordinate the committee's meetings. The committee should be composed of one leadership person from each of the following: CCAR, HUC, Youth Division, International Education Department, the Central Shaliach, ARZA, Sisterhood.

This list may need revision. The chairperson will maintain contact with the general secretaries of the three settlements and with the coordinator of the TAKAM-Reform Movement Steering Committee in Israel.

Clearly, the above is a skel ton proposal which needs to be fleshed out. We agreed that the formation of a Steering Committee will facilitate efficient cooperation between the American Movement and the Reform settlements.

- We asked that you intervene with Arye Dulzin, when he is healthy, with regard to unfulfilled W.Z.O. committments to the Reform Movement. You said that you would do whatever you could to have Dulzin issue instructions for payment of back allocations and also for renewal of the one half shlichut that was removed in 1983. (See addendum)
- 3) You expressed willingness to assist the Aliya Desk in raising consciousness in the movement about Israel programs, particularly the long-term programs,



Union of American Hebrew Congregations 838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100 and about Garin Arava and Garin Galil. I will submit material to you for inclusion in the Rabbinic mailings.

enclosure YP:rs Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

October 2, 1985

Charles J. Rothschild, Jr.

I just had a long review session with Steve Schafer and you ought to know that Chuck Schayer's service as chairman of the Kibbutz Industry Search Committee has unfortunately not been too effective. A number of individual members of the Committee have been of great help, viz., Alan Iselin, Manny Rosenthal, and a non-Board member by the name of Rosen from Detroit.

I told Steve that we have one or two choices: We can, at a convenient time, replace Chuck Schayer as Chairman of the Committee or we can keep the committee functioning as is but work with the individuals rather than the Committee as a whole. Steve agreed to think this over and let me know his recommendations.

I thought you baght to have this interim report.

MEMORANDUM

From

Oded Lewensohn

To

Edith Miller

Date 9/17/85

Shalom and Shana Tova:

I am enclosing for you a copy of the final mailings I have sent out to the rabbis and presidents, to inform them about the Aliyah projects of the Reform Movement.





קודר לכינסין Shaliach

29 August, 1985

Dear President:

I am writing to ask your help in raising your congregation's awareness of the opportunities that await them in Israel - specifically at the three Reform Movement's settlements, Kibbutz Yahel, Kibbutz Lotan and Har Chalutz.

Kibbutz Yahel, the first Reform kibbutz in Israel, was established 10 years ago in the Arava. Kibbutz Lotan, the second Reform kibbutz, neighbors Yahel and is now three years old. Both of these kibbutzim are seeking new members, primarily young families and singles.

Har Chalutz, the youngest of the Reform Movement's settlement, is different from the first two, in that it is a free-enterprise village being settled in the beautiful Galil and is intended for couples and families (there is no age limit). Enclosed you will find an outline on Har Chalutz that will update you on its recent progress.

I have sent a letter to your rabbi asking him to speak of Har Chalutz from the pulpit and to print an article about the settlement in your bulletin, however as the president of your temple, there are things you can do. If you have an ARZA or Israel Committee, suggest that it plan an Aliyah program. If you do not have such a committee, consider creating one. Both Garin Arava, which sends olim to the two kibbutzim, and Garin Galil, which sends olim to Har Chalutz, have slide shows which can be used. If there are families who are interested in exploring the possibilities of making Aliyah to Har Chalutz, encourage them to contact this office for more information on Reform Aliyah. Create a chug Aliyah (Aliyah support group) so that they can meet with other similar-minded families. Show these families that their community supports them, show them that you care.

Because you know your community and congregation better than I do, I am turning to you for help. I know that I am placing upon you a great responsibility and I hope you take up this challenge. If I can be of any assistance to you in your programming, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Oded Lewensohn

enclosures



29 August, 1985

Dear Rabbi:

This is a very exciting time in the Reform Jewish community. After years of planning and construction, the first settlers are moving into their homes on Har Chalutz, the first Reform village in Israel. Enclosed is an outline which will update you about Garin Galil, the group that sends American olim to Har Chalutz and about the settlement.

The first two Reform settlements, Kibbutz Yahel and Kibbutz Lotan, are thriving. Kibbutz Yahel was established ten years ago in the Arava. Kibbutz Lotan neighbors Yahel and is now three years old. Both of these kibbutzim, through Garin Arava, are seeking new members, primarily young families and singles.

This letter however, concerns Garin Galil. Inherent in the success of the garin, is the fact that our numbers diminish every time families make Aliyah and therefore we are constantly seeking out new people who are interested in pursuing the possibility of Aliyah to Har Chalutz. Clearly you know your congregation better than we do and it is our sincere hope that as a leader of your community, you will help us spread the word about Har Chalutz.

To this end, may we suggest that you integrate the subject of Har Chalutz into your High Holiday sermons, print articles in your temple bulletin, (feel free to reprint the enclosed article,) post the outline on your bulletin board, and speak to those families who you feel might be interested in this unique opportunity.

As the shaliach to Garin Galil, I would be very happy to come with our slide show as part of an evening on Israel, Aliyah and Har Chalutz, if there are enough families who have indicated to you that they would like to pursue this challenging venture.

In a separate letter to your president, we are encouraging him/her to set up an Israel committee and a chug Aliyah, (Aliyah support group), in order to increase awareness in your congregation about Israel and the role Reform Judaism plays in Israel.

Please refer to me all couples and families (there is no age limit at the settlement) who would like more information on Har Chalutz and send us a copy of your bulletin when our article appears.

If you would like further information on Garin Galil and Har Chalutz, please contact me.

Thank you for your help and interest.

Sincerely, Hel Leensohn

HAR HALUTZ MAY NOT BE A ROSE GARDEN...

NEW APPROACH TO ALIYAH



Garin Galil to Har Halutz invites you to build your home and raise your children in an innovative, free-enterprise community in central Galilee. Twenty of our forty-five families have already made ALIYAH, with more to follow over the next three years. Our first group recently moved up to the site.

Located in a beautiful natural environment with the Sea of Galilee on one side and the Mediterranean on the other, the community offers an egalitarian, pluralistic Jewish lifestyle. Housing loans and entrepreneurial financial encouragement are available, and numerous employment and business opportunities exist in the area. Families and couples who find this pioneering project challenging can send the attached coupon, or **call Oded Lewensohn at (212) 249-0100, ext. 548.**

Names		
Address		
Phone (home)	(work)	
Ages	Children's ages	

BUT IT'S CLOSE

GARIN GALIL TO HAR CHALUTZ

GENERAL INFORMATION

SUMMER 1985

Har Chalutz is a new, free-enterprise community village being built in the Galil. Located a mile and a half (by air) north of Karmiel, overlooking the Beit HaKerem Valley, Har Chalutz offers a magnificent panoramic view. Settlers at Har Chalutz enjoy the beautiful view of the Kinneret (the Sea of Galilee) to the east and the Mediterranean to the west.

Garin Galil to Har Chalutz, the garin which sends American olim to this new settlement, was established in 1983. Today, we have 42 member families and 75 potential member families. 20 families have already made Aliyah and they are starting to settle in at the site after their absorption period in nearby Karmiel. Har Chalutz is planned for 180 families.

There is no age limit to join the garin and presently we have members ranging in age from 23-67, with the average age being 35. At this early stage of settlement, the garin is being limited to married couples and families. In future years, when the community life is more established, singles will also be welcome.

Har Chalutz is one of more than 40 mitzpim being settled in the Galil by the Israeli government. As a free-enterprise community village (kfar kehilati), Har Chalutz offers an exciting option to those considering Aliyah. You can have the comforts of your own home while sharing in the building of a community that has at its core a desire to live in a progressive Jewish environment.

Settlers build their own homes and work at their own jobs in neighboring cities. Har Chalutz members will share in having a kindergarten, synagogue, grocery, infirmary, moadon (lounge), classrooms, and office at the site.

COMMUNITY LIFE

The community life that is being planned at Har Chalutz is one of the most unique and special aspects of joining the garin and the settlement. As befits the Jewish homeland, the settlement will have a Jewish lifestyle. While families decide individually how to observe Jewish practices in their homes, it has been decided (by vote) that all public facilities will be kept kosher/dairy and that members will not drive within the borders of the village on Shabbat. In this way, the practices of both those who are more observant and those who are less observant will be respected. As long as one is considerate of others' practices, Har Chalutz will suit all in a very special way.

HOUSING

When a family first moves to the site, they live in temporary housing units called caravans. The size of the family unit determines whether they will live in a 45 or 60 meter caravan until their permanent homes are built. Additional caravans, as mentioned above, will be in the village as well.

Permanent housing will be built by each individual family according to their needs and financial situation. Unlike the vast majority of the mitzpim which are offering ½ dunam lots per family unit, Har Chalutz's lots are twice the size. A government mortgage of about \$27,000 will be available to each family.

EMPLOYMENT

Livelihood is the responsibility of the settlers. In this region there is great potential for many jobs in the fields of technology, education, industry and business. All of our members in Israel have already found jobs in neighboring cities. Some of these jobs include accounting, teaching, architecture and pediatrics. The Teffen region, of which Har Chalutz is a part, is being hailed as the Silicon Valley of Israel. Clearly for those who have a background in high technology, this is a fantastic opportunity.

By its nature, a community village encourages people to work in the vicinity or to initiate a business or industrial project. Settlers are encouraged to plan new businesses whether they be cooperative or non-cooperative ventures. At the site, 75 dunams of land will be set aside for non-polluting industry, such as computer software, handicrafts, and the like.

A settler who has a business or an industrial project which can provide a livelihood for at least another 2-3 families on the mitzpeh, will be provided with very generous financial assistance by the Israeli government once this business/project has been approved by the Industrial Department of the Jewish Agency.

EDUCATION

Modern educational facilities are available in nearby Misgav. Transportation to school will be provided by the Ministry of Education. There will be a kindergarten at Har Chalutz.

TRANSPORTATION

In spite of Har Chalutz's location, public transportation will be run by Egged. Since the buses will run a couple of times a day, having a car is recommended. Driving times to areas in the Galil are convenient. Karmiel is 15 minutes away, Maalot is 20 minutes, Tveria is 35 minutes, Tzfat is 40 minutes, Nazareth is 45 minutes and Haifa is 55 minutes away. As soon as construction of the road to Har Chalutz is completed, driving times will be substantially reduced.

CONCLUSION

Garin Galil to Har Chalutz is a very special and unique opportunity for couples and families planning Aliyah. Find out more about us by contacting:

Aliyah Desk 838 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10021 (212) 249-0100 x 548

Att: Oded Lewensohn, Shaliach

LOOKING FOR A LIFESTYLE IN ISRAEL? WE'RE LOOKING FOR YOU!

It is an exciting time for the Reform Jewish Community. The Reform Movement's first free-enterprise village, Har Chalutz, is no longer a dream—it's a reality!

This summer, the first settlers moved into their homes on the mountain and are beginning their new lives as Jews in the Jewish homeland.

Har Chalutz is one of more than 40 mitzpim being settled in the Galil by the Israeli government. As a free-enterprise community village (kfar kehilati), Har Chalutz offers an exciting option to those considering Aliyah. You can have the comforts of your own home while sharing in the building of a community that has at its core a desire to live in a progressive Jewish environment.

Har Chalutz is located in a beautiful section of the Galil which offers a magnificent panoramic view of the Kinneret (Sea of Galilee) to the east and the Mediterranean to the west. Today there are 42 member families and 75 potential member families. Har Chalutz is designed for 180 families.

There is no age limit at the settlement, however at this time only couples and families are being accepted. In future years, when the community is more established, singles will also be welcome.

Garin Galil, the group that sends American olim to Har Chalutz, is extending you an invitation to be part of their new community and to raise your children in the Jewish homeland—Israel.

Those of you who would like to pursue the possibility of making Aliyah to Har Chalutz should contact Oded Lewensohn, the shaliach (emissary) for Garin Galil at:

Aliyah Desk 838 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10021

(212) 249-0100 x 548

James !

The plan standy at Haximon
Box 348
10 552 Higdal haEmeq
Israel

A BEACON IN THE DESERT

When the great light of the sky, the sun, is in eclipse, storms of fire known as the corona rage all about the fringes. Yahel is a Hebrew descriptive of that phenomenon.

A couple of miles off, a forbidding russet-red mountain range blocks the rising sun till it is an hour or so above the normal horizon. But the kibbutz people of Yahel are already two hours into their self-appointed task of creating an "oasis" in the desert sand of Israel's Arava.

Geographically speaking, the red mountains lie beyond the border with the kingdom of Jordan. The Arava is a depression, a rift originating in equatorial Africa, continuing through the Red Sea past Yahel to the Dead Sea (the lowest point on dry planet Earth), up the River Jordan, ending in the near-Arctics.

Yahel, with tawny arid mountains on its sunset, is part of the wedge Israel creates between the Egyptian Sinai desert on the west and the Jordanian red range on the east. Barely fifty miles to the south is the cutting edge of the wedge -- Eilat on a blue gulf of the Red Sea. The rest of Israel is north, like biblical BeerSheva; more north, like Jerusalem and TelAviv; or most north, like Haifa, the Galilee, and the Golan Heights (the last, six hours away).

It cannot be reasonably believed that in a desert where even a cactus is an alien, life can be sustained — vegetable or animal. But this "reasonableness" recalls the classic repeated in the engineering academies: "Obviously, since the bee's wingspread is too short, its weight too large, and its power plant too spare, it cannot fly..."

 But the bee does fly; and the desert is made to sustain life.

The first is a miracle of the Creator's alone; the second is a miraculous joint venture of the Creator with Man made in His image.

How else explain the verdant "oasis" that now, in but eight years, thrives and breeds and grows where, for millennia, the scorpions spoke only to the vipers, and the vipers...hissed in the wilderness.

The wilderness is no more what it was. The 50-mile road south to the seashore is dotted with kibbutzim -- eight

17

of them -- of which Kibbutz Yahel is the northernmost. At Yotvata's ripe age of 32, or at Lotan's tender age of two, these kibbutzim are proof of viability in the desert, creating a network of self-sufficeent "oases" and a bulwark of impregnable faits accomplis -- accomplished, irreversible facts -- along the border.

The joint venture includes, one, the obviously abundant sunshine, and the hitherto hidden, half a mile below the sands, aquifer -- a source of brackish water which, while not potable, is splendid for irrigation; and, two, the will to put a shoulder to the knowhow-wheel.

Sun and water; will and knowhow. Divine; human.

It is not every kibbutz that recognizes the "jointness"
of the venture -- either de jure or de facto. But, in common
with some other Israeli kibbutzim, Kibbutz Yahel was established
eight years back (and more years in the preparation) primarily
as a strand in the web of a religious and cultural relationship
between God and the Jewish people on its home ground. (Some
other such strands were streched by organizations as disparate
as the Labor branches of both Orthodox movements -- the
Zionist Mizrahi and the antizionist Agudat Yisrael; and
recently the Conservative movement threw its yarmulke into
the kibbutz ring -- on a Galilee hill.)

Yahel came into being through the efforts of the Reform movement in the US and its counterpart, the Progressive Judaism movement in Israel (to which have been added the considerable efforts of the Jewish Agency, the United Kibbutz Movement, and the Government of Israel). The labels "reform" or "progressive", however, belie the character of the kibbutz.

As an amalgam of some 00% sabra Israelis, 00% yankee
Americans, and 00% members from Europe or the southern
hemisphere, it has in its "town meetings" hammered out
a philosophy not necessarily duplicated anywhere else in
the world, and a ritual to match. Perhaps the most "shocking"
feature of the services at Yahel is the complete absence
of languages other than Hebrew! It must be remembered,
when we attend "Reform" services in any country, it is the
language of that land that prevails; and the language of
Israel is Hebrew...

The tentative success of this "Reform" kibbutz may
be inferred from the establishment, two years ago, of Yahel's
"kissin' cousin" -- nearby Lotan -- which may well chart
its own "Reform" way; but it is probably too soon to

infer more at this juncture.

There are several criteria for the assessment of the viability of a kibbutz over the years:

One is the transiency of the population. There was a time when a "revolving door" would best describe the stability of the kibbutz. People did not really know what to expect of the place, of their companions, or, for that matter, of themselves -- let alone what others expected of them.

Some of the sabras might even be suspected of a degree of cynicism when they opted for kibbutz life as partial defrayal of their compulsory military service on the frontier. Others were chronic misfits. Others yet married out of the kibbutz, or married outsiders who could not fit into the communal society. Some even quit in protest -- five years after joining! -- because the kibbutz was not sufficiently "orthodox" for their preference.

The survivors of the "revolving door" have established deep roots in the community.

The depth of the roots is largely (but of course not totally) measured by the indigenous increase in population: there were no children among the original settlers, eight years ago; but this year will see Yahel's first kindergarten graduation. As of June 1985 there are 00 children of all ages out of a population of 000 women and men -- more than a few of whom were married in the kibbutz, often to fellow members. The latter facet would tend to increase the commitment to the kibbutz.

On the face of it there is an anomaly in the composition of the membership of Kibbutz Yahel. Virtually none (especially those who came on aliya) have had any agricultural background; while many (especially those who came on aliya) have at least one academic degree: anywhere from education to journalism to nursing to business administration to engineering to history to literature to fine arts.

Whence came the adaptation to farming of onions and tomatoes, alfalfa for fodder and melons for export?

Whence the knowhow for a date plantation (65 acres) or a citrus orchard (40 acres)? Whence the skills needed for tending a 10-acre vineyard? But what leaves the observer breathless is the herd of 222 Holsteins that, for starters, need milking three times a day...even by machine, it's a job!

All right, now there is computer technology to manage irrigation; but that won't do for potato salad for 150 people. So the dairy management is computerized; but what of the laundry and its concomitant sorting? Financial affairs are programmed too; but that won't do when the Subaru wagon needs a tune-up, or the John Deere tractor has a flat. to expect To a generation of "do-it-yourselfers" -- as we in the US are wont to be -- it may not be strange that the skills that make up a village economy have not been wanting in Yahel: from menus to plumbing, from carpentry to waterproofing, from electricity to what-have-you. What we marvel at is the unexpected skills such as shinnying up a date palm to wrap the fruit with plastic, guiding desert tours competently, scrubbing a cow's udders before each milking, extrication of auto-crash victims from burning vehicles; or in a reversal of traditional roles, a young woman driving a tractor and a young man rendering tender-loving-care to the two-year-olds in the nursery. The the Property of the tage

The kibbutz buildings include the several nurseries, playschools, and kindergartens where the children spend most of their daytime hours (their supper, sleep, and Sabbath being at home with their families); a kitchen and dining room complex where, besides observance of the traditional (unreform) dietary laws...special menus are prepared for the not-so-few members whose diet is vegetarian or "natural"; a social hall doubling temporarily as a synagogue (with three Scrolls of the Law...which are read from!); secretariat, clinics, laundry, garage, packing house; and, of course, the dwellings themselves -- which are getting "lost" in landscaping of lawns and palms, carissa hedges from southern Africa and Bougainvillea vines from tropical America.

Also, in separate quarters, there's a 120-capacity campus which serves the public -- domestic or from abroad: roundtables or seminars are conducted there at many levels, and the desert tours use it as a base.

The desert brings to mind the broad spectrum of temperature experienced in Yahel, indeed in <u>all</u> of the Arava desert -- from near-frosty nights in winter to midday broils of 120°F in summer. Airconditioning, therefore, is a "must": every room is equipped with a "heat pump" (reversible) unit. On the other hand, the kibbutz has determined that television is neither a "must" nor even socially desirable (save for one in the social hall).

As though most members were not sufficiently active physically -- in the fields, at the barn, among the nursery and kindergarten kids -- basketball and recently-set-up tennis courts help thme work off excess energy (or is it aggressions?). Friday night after services and dinner is the time for folk dancing on the plaza. And what may pass for "luxury" elsewhere is the sine qua non of the desert: a swimming pool that reflects both the tawny mountains to the west and russet-red heights to the east -- almost a mirage.

Not a mirage is the pursuit by kibbutz members of facets of life which some people may label "culture" (after all, "agri-" and "horti-" too are so labelled). Some take a leave of absence for further study; some find their niche in music; others find new horizons in books (old and new), many of which line the shelves of an adequate library in as yet inadequate quarters.

Nor is security a mirage; rather, it is a task for which no hours can suffice, however peaceful the nearby border may seem to be.

The fields of Yahel actually abut the barbed wire of a narrow "no man's land", and within hailing distance, behind another barbed fence, "friendly" troopers of Jordan's army come ofttimes. Yes, they are friendly -- so far. But it is axiomatic that the price of liberty -- ever -- is vigilance.

From the air-raid shelters strategically placed throughout the kibbutz to the dugout positions the army maintains on a neighboring hill; from the doubly-fenced and well-lighted perimeter of Yahel to the walkie-talkie-equipped guards the kibbutz itself posts at night; from the army road patrols to the kibbutz's own specially trained security officer -- vigilance emanates from all. But as though that were the total, every able-bodied man must spend a month of each year in the army reserves...and who is not able-bodied in Yahel?

Only two are not. One, killed in an agricultural accident, was interred elsewhere. Which lit a lamp in Kibbutz Yahel: even though its members were young, death was a necessary concomitant of life. It is an irony that the young man who championed a cemetary, pointing that, traditionally, the foremost criterion of a permanent Jewish: settlement is its establishment of a graveyard, and who led to the fencing off of an "eternal home"...became its first occupant, having fallen to a form of cancer only recently identified in the US and hitherto unknown in Israel.

This tragedy put Kibbutz Yahel to a caustic test: there was a young woman by the ailing man's side, and there was their twelve-month-old daughter. The year before, all
three had participated in the joyous adaptation of the Sephardic
custom of Zeved haBat -- the naming of a girl before the
full Sabbath congregation with appropriate prose and poetry
of the parents choice.

Now, on the eve of tragedy, the full congregation demonstrated that Yahel was a family that lent its physical and moral support through three hospitalizations in as many months, members traveling as much as four hours each way so that the patient would never be without company; nursemaids from Yahel attending the unknowing baby girl day and night; generous attention to detail when the final gasp freed the suffering soul of the man who had been the security officer (he had always been "a soldier in the cause of peace"), manager of the vineyard (though he had trained and worked as a newspaperman in the US), volunteer fireman and volunteer chanter of the Haftarah — both on moment's notice.

The kibbutz stood the test not only then, but in the months since, as well -- leaving neither the widow nor the orphan out of the collective family.

while there was once in the history of Israel's kibbutzim (long before there was an "Israel") that an agricultural base sufficed, it no longer is so. Progress has its price, and that price is that a "pastoral idyll" can no longer satisfy the ultimate goals of today's "k*bbutznik". Thus, to the green thumb base a new dimension has been added in most kibbutzim -- industry.

Industry counters many of the drawbacks agriculture presents: one -- the shortage of land and water; two -- the fickleness of the marketplace; three -- the problems of the maturing member (albeit this is not yet a problem in Yahel); four (and foremost!) -- it offers a kibbutz the "magical" quality known as "diversification"...a well-thought-of cushion.

The "industrial revolution" in kibbutz form has taken off in a variety of directions from plastics to pharmaceuticals, from agricultural machinery to bifocal lenses, from guest houses to electronics, from extruded pipe to disposable laboratory equipment, from processed foods to furniture to pressuresensitive tapes...you name it.

But how does a young kibbutz in the Arava desert go about "going industrial"? What of the raw materials? What is the energy requirement? What geographic and logistic considerations exist? What's the need for a product, and what's the competition? And suddenly the problems of financial base, technical knowhow, marketing study, quality control,

and cash flow loom before the young kibbutz. Yahel turns to the Kibbutz Industries Association (of hundreds of kibbutzim -- some fabulously successful, others with only a shell of a plant left of a bankrupt venture).

A single kibbutz, after all, is too small an entity for farflung Research and Development activities...which do not fail to weigh the ecological impact -- considering that its industry is in the "backyard" of the kibbutz! Can the KIA come up with an idea?...and will it be palatable?

Kibbutz Yahel faces the coming "industrial revolution" with both confidence and trepidation, being aware that every rose bush has its thorns, every beehive its sting. But if its members have learned to sort dates, milk cows, and plow the desert sands with degrees of sociology behind them, Yahel people can learn and conquer the new ideas and processes and techniques of the ______ industry.

(Maybe you can fill in that blank?)

TEXT =

Saadyah Maximon is a retired New York typographer who has settled in Migdal haEmeq, Israel, where he is editing the works his father, the late Shalom B. Maximon (one-time Lecturer in Midrash at the Jewish Institute of Religion, and one-time Registrar of the Hebrew Union College) left incomplete a half century ago. His son, the late Jonathan, was the security officer of Kibbutz Yahel.

KIBBUTZ YAHEL

UNITED KIBBUTZ MOVEMENT THE MOVEMENT FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

Doar na filot 88850 Tel 059-74990 Israel

Dote June 28,1985

Mr. Charles Schayer 35 Eodora Street Denver, Colorado 80220

Dear Charles,

Some time has passed since our meeting and I wanted to bring you up to date regarding our progress in finding a suitable factory. During the past several months, we have investigated many proposals that we have received from committee members via Jon Schecter as well as from other sources. I have listed as an appendix the projects and proposals that we have investigated during the past six months. Our investigations and evaluations have been conducted with the full involvement of Mr. Reuven Spitzer, our consulting industrial engineer.

We have invested a considerable amount of time, energy and capital in evaluating a proposal to grow a succulent called aloe-vera and process its gel for use in the cosmetics industry. We have also investigated the production of cosmetic products based on aloe-vera at Kibbutz Yahel. We are presently searching for potential marketing channels for such products.

We have concluded that the marketing element in most projects is most difficult for us to confront and that we are looking for projects that include at least a practical answer for marketing of the initial product.

This past week the economic committee of Yahel decided to intensify our efforts in searching for a viable project suggestion through the Reform Movement. The suggested plan to intensify our search and to promote greater awareness of Yahel's industry search includes the following activities:

7/85 - production of 16 m.m. movie and video casettes depicting life at Yahel and the need for an industry

9/85 - publication of an article for the fall issue of "Reform Judaism" on Yahel and its need for industry written by S. Maximon, father of the late Jonathan Maximon who was a founding member of Yahel

10/85 - screening of movie at plenary session of biennial - distribution of materials to bienniel participants and professional exhibit in lobby to be erected and manned for duration of bienniel.

KIBBUTZ YAHEL

UNITED KIBBUTZ MOVEMENT THE MOVEMENT FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

Doar na filot 88850 Tel 059-74990 Israel

In September my family and myself will be sent by the kibbutz to New York for a period of four months to help organize our efforts in preparation for the bienniel and to continue our investigation in determining the potential of the Reform Movement to provide an answer to Yahel's pressing need for an industry.

I would be most grateful to receive any further suggestions or proposals as to how we might best accomplish our goal and I hope that the committee might organize to exploit my extended presence in the U.S. I might add that we are planning that Mr. Spitzer visit the U.S. in late November in order to help evaluate any project suggestions that might be received by then.

I would like to thank you again for accepting the chairmanship of such a unique and vital group and I would like to ask that you please bring our suggested program to the attention of the committee members.

I look forward to receiving any comments or suggestions that you or the committee might have.

Simcerely,

Hadas Levin

Kibbutz Yahel Industry Search Co-ordinator

cc: Rabbi Alexander Schindler Rabbi Steve Schafer Rabbi Eric Yoffee Mr. Jon Shecter Mr. Hillel Maximon

HL:lg

UNITED KIBBUTZ MOVEMENT THE MOVEMENT FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

DOAR NA EILOT 88850 TEL 059-74220 ISAAEL

Projects presently under investigation

Growing, processing and producing cosmetic products based on the aloe-vera plant
 Water purification - applications of reverse osmosis

technology

Projects examined and found to be unsuitable

Date	Project
1/85	electronic trim for boilers
* 1/85	p.v.c. window frame extrusions
2/85	purchase of local pharmaceutical factory
* 3/85	precision screw machining
3/85	silicon processing
* 3/85	chemical processing for specific eye operation material
* 3/85	powderless surgical gloves - non-sterile medical examination gloves
* 3/85	broom factory
3/85	software programming
* 3/85	mini coolers for infra-red night vision
* 4/85	mist cooling systems for outdoor areas
* 4/85	super-critical extraction of flavors, essences and oils
* 4/85	screw manufacture
* 4/85 4/85	vegetable snacks applications of microwave technology in the food industry

* - Indicates project proposal received from the Reform Movement

Killbuly /

February 4, 1985

Mr. Oded Lewensohn Aliyah Desk UAHC 838 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10021

Dear Deddi:

Thank you for your invitation to join in the fourth kinus of Garin Galil to Har Chalutz. The progress that is being made in regard to the first Reform non-kibbutz settlement is exceedingly wonderful and an achievement our movement can look to with great pride.

Much to my regret it will not be possible for me to attend the April 26-28 kinus. Our Pacific Northwest region of the UAHC will be meeting in Seattle. Washington, that very same weekend and I am scheduled to attend this Regional convention. There is simply no possibility of my changing plans or working out an arrangement which would make it possible for me to attend both of these exciting events. I hope you understand my predicament and I ask that you express my regrets and my warm good wishes to all of the members of the Garin and the attendees at the kinus.

With every good wish and warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



Union of American Hebrew Congregations

PATRON OF HEBREW UNION COLLEGE - JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION 838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100 CABLES: UNIONUAHC

Oded Lewensohn/ ALIYAH DESK

January 30, 1985

Rabbi Alexander Schindler UAHC 838 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10021 Be NW

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

I am happy to announce that Garin Galil to Har Chalutz is preparing for its fourth kinus. I'd like to take this opportunity to invite you to the kinus which will take place the weekend of April 26-28th.

Today, the first Reform non-kibbutz settlement consists of 35 families, 15 of which have already achieved the pinnacle of the Zionist goal - Aliyah. Nine more families are expected to join them in Israel this year.

One of my main goals, in addition to talking people into making Aliyah, is keeping the vitality of Garin Galil in the United States strong and its growth continuous. The problem of growth is happily a constant one, for as we "lose" our members to Israel, we must recruit more people here so that we can continue to exist. We have found that holding kinusim is one of our best recruitment methods.

Though we are suffering from a lack of funds, I have arranged to have our next kinus held at the LaGuardia Marriott with a kosher caterer. The location is most convenient for us as our garin members will be arriving from around the country and the price is comparable to that of the unsatisfactory hotel where we had our last kinus.

I expect this kinus to be of great interest. The fact that the conference falls on Yom HaAtzmaut and that another young garin, Garin Mishol BaGalil, (a mixed religious and non-religious garin), that I am also involved with will be joining us, will add to the excitement of the weekend.

I hope you'll be able to accept our invitation to attend the kinus so that you will be able to meet the members of the first Reform Community Village.

Sincerely yours,

Deddi Lewensohn

Kilberty

February 4, 1985

Rabbi Stanley M. Davids Temple Emanuel May and Chandler Streets Worcester, MA 01602

Dear Stanley:

I've just returned from travels overseas and received your letter of January 24. I was pleased to learn of the support given to Yahel and Lotan by members of Temple Emanuel.

Please express my appreciation to one and all for their continuing devotion and dedication to our movement.

With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

RABBI STANLEY M. DAVIDS

RABBI STANLEY M. DAVIDS

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10021

Dear Alex,

As you know Allan Levine came to our community in
November in order to do what turned out to be a very

As you know Allan Levine came to our community in November in order to do what turned out to be a very successful appeal on behalf of Yahel and Lotan. Because of your deep interest in the Congregation, I thought that I would send you a copy of the thank you letters which went out to each of the donors so that you might take pleasure in the continuing level of support for Reform Institutions which exist here at Temple Emanuel.

Hope all is well. Love to Rhea.

Sincerely

Rabbi Stanley M Davids

SMD/mr



KIBBUTZ YAHEL

UNITED KIBBUTZ MOVEMENT THE MOVEMENT FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

DOAR NA EILOT 88850 TEL 059-74220 ISBAEL

R. Alex	Schindler			
· Here is 1	progress! e He best on Explosi	of the 15	t sine he	start,
and I	on Kaplow a	WIDIN	rill focus po	rinauly
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After three months of building contacts within the UAHC Board of Trustees I am pleased to write that we are pursuing three proposals which are of a higher quality than were earlier ideas. Each offer leans more to the production side than to marketing, and it is for marketing information and contacts that I write you. Already we are researching these offers.

- 1. A Mississippi metal fastener manufacturer volunteers to train four kibbutz members in his factory, help Yahel to purchase and rebuild metal fastener and fabrication equipment, coordinate the shipping and set-up of the machinery at Yahel, and supervise the first weeks of operation. His firm produces a range of products from standard screws and bolts to specialty automotive and construction fasteners. A few years ago this manufacturer successfully did the same development package on a commercial basis with four Mexicans. Can you find contacts for us who can advise about the market for fastener products or have connections in the fastener purchasing world ?
- 2. A New Jersey producer of photovoltaically driven pumps, traffic control systems, and electric supply systems is interested in Yahel becoming a manufacturer of P.V. contolled systems by Yahel buying the technology and machinery to establish a factory (cost 4-5 million), or, that Yahel become the installation/service workers for such systems in Israel. The company just received an order from Saudi Arabia to produce and install the rural area P.V.-powered traffic control systems, and is establishing a world sales network. Yahel could combine with the regional council to establish a joint factory. Do you have contacts within the alternative energy field who can advise us about the uncertainties of the P.V. market ?
- 3. A Pennsylvania hospital supply/electronics company asks that Yahel consider becoming expert in the use of supercritical extraction (SCE) processes for the extraction of fragrance and flavors from crops. They are the most advanced company in this field and have a novel way to extract caffeine from coffee, flavors from fruits, soybean oil from beans without the use of hexane, etc. What contacts in the food extraction or flavor fields have you ? The company is offering us the technology, training, and assistance needed to start a pilot plant.

We are checking out these proposals through our contacts and Engineers for ORT. Hadas Levin of Yahel and Reuven Spitzer - the consulting engineer - will be in the States from Feb. 25 - March 15th. I would like to arrange meetings and factory visits for them related to these three proposals. If you can help us with these focused projects please call Rabbi Steven Schafer's office at 212-249-0100. Jon Kaplow or I will promptly return your call.

Thank you for your interest in Kibbutz Yahel's future. John S. Achelote

Sincerely,

John S. Schechter

Alexy)

January 24, 1985

The Committee on Emissaries National Institutions Building P.O. Box 92 Jerusalem 91920 Israel

Attention: Mr. Dan Kremer, Secretary

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to respond to your request for evaluation of the Schlichut process in North America. My evaluation is based primarily on the experience of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations' (Reform Movement) Shulhan Aliyah which has been functioning for ten years.

In general, the emissaries assigned to the United States by the WZO and the Jewish Agency have accomplished much which redounds to the mutual benefit of both the Israeli and the American Jewish communities. Furthermore, I believe that the process should expand. Schlichim give credibility to all our Aliman efforts, and without them, recruitment for the three communities we have established in Israel (namely Kibbutz Yahel, Kibbutz Lotan, and Mitzpeh Chalute) would have been impossible. My staff and I believe that recruitment for Aliyah is in direct proportion to the number of schlichim who function in our movement.

Clearly, Western Aliyah has diminished to a trickle. It is my impression that the major target 66r Aliyah is young persons. Certainly this is true of the UAHC Shulhan Aliyah program. If indeed the thrust for Aliyah recruitment is directed toward youth, then the assignment of schlichim as presently constituted is obsolete. With few exceptions, the youth constituencies of most Zionist organizations have diminished to almost nothing. The assignment of schlichim, however, is still based primarily on a plan 30 years old. Today one of the major entres to teenagers and college youth is through the Reform and Conservative movements in the United States and Canada. There are approximately 175,000 Reform Jewish youth in the 16-22 year old category. The Reform movement is assigned only two schlichim from Noar v'Chalutz and one from Aliyah.

The position has been taken by some in the WZO that schlichim should be sent mainly to "Classical Zionist Youth Movements." From our reports, eleven Habonim schlichim serve a movement of less than 1000 chanichim. This imbalance is absurd. Should schlichim be sent in large numbers to shriveling youth movements or should they be sent to movements which are steadily opening their doors to Zionization, to encouragement of participation in Israel programs and promo-

The Committee on Emmssaries January 24, 1985 Page -2-

tionoof Allyah? More than ten thousand NFTYites come to weekly youth group activities in twenty-one regions across the nation. The framework through which, say, ten more schlichim could function is thriving, and truly ripe for what a team of schlichim could offer, namely, the Israel-enrichment of programming and the promotion of long and short term programs as well as Allyah.

Because of the small membership in Zionist youth movement, several other movement schlichim turn to the Reform movement with offers to help because they simply do not have enough to do with their time. In some cases, other movement schlichim necome, in effect, community schlichim with the area in which their office is located in order to find meaningful work. On the other hand, the Reform movement is bursting with membership and activity but is unable to offer sufficient "Israeli role models." A study must be accomplished which corrolates movement membership with numbers of schlichim assigned to the movement.

Unfortunately, it has been our experience ahat the assignment of schlichim has been made on the basis of political considerations. It is our firm belief that the assignment of schlichim should be made on the basis of the size of the reservoir from which recruits will be drawn for Allyah and programs in Israel. Also, a factor in the assignment of schlichim should be the backup financial and logistical support which the Movement can and does give to each schaliach. The UAHC has made it a point to give full and positive support to its schlichim.

The independence of each North American Movement should be encouraged vis a vis programs in Israelm by the Jewish Agency and the WZO. The UAHC International Education Department, which is responsible for Shulhan Aliyah, has a very positive relationship with a number of Jewish Agency and WZO Departments, including Education and Culture, Aliyah and Settlement. Unfortunately, Noar v'Chalutz looks upon the UAHC as a competitive travel agent, whereas the UAHC sees itself as a mjaor Jewish educational institution with a priority for programs in Israel and Aliyah. In fulfillment of its goals, the UAHC maintains in Israel a full-time staff of 11 persons as well as offices in the United States and Canada. The number of schlichim presently assigned by Youth and HeChalutz to the Reform movement in North America is two. In the ten year history of the Reform Shulhan Aliyah, Noar v'Chalutz has assigned only eight schlichim to the UAHC. In an effort to partially correct the imbalance, the Aliyah Department has assigned one shaliach to the Reform movement during each of the last three or four years.

Chozrei tochniot programs are extremely important for the Israel program recruitment and should be increased. The Department of Education and Culture is able to subsidize a part-time schallach-mitmach. The UAHC believes the recruitment and administration of these chozrei tochniot schlichim should be accomplished through the Department of Education and Culture. Furthermore, the UAHC urges that subsidies be made available for chozrel tochniot kinusim.

We Committee on Emissaries January 24, 1985 Page -3-

I appreciate the opportunity to share concerns with you. It is my hope you will give serious consideration to eh facts noted herein and to the suggestions made.

With kindest greetings to one and all and every good wish, I am Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc: Rabbi Stephen Schafer

UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

PATRON OF HEBREW UNION COLLEGE - JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION 838 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10021 • (DIAL CODE 212) 249-0100 CABLE ADDRESS: UNIONUAHC

	MESSAGE	REPLY
то	Jan. 22, 1985	DATE
	TO: Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler FROM: Rabbi Stephen A. Schafer	
L	re: letter to Schlichim Committee	
DATE	I feel that compliance with this request is I understand from Hank that Dulzin wishes to	reduce the schlichim budget and
	shift budget to recruitment for short and me accomplished, the extra budget will be admir	nistered by Noar v'Chalutz, i.e.
	Avram Katz and Menachem Revivi. I feel cert as little subsidy as possible from Noar v'Ch	
	Therefore, the thrust of the letter should be	be to retain and expand the Movement
	schlichim for North American movements that college constituencies.	have significant high school and
		his goest on Sier co
		De lu colul egs
BY		SIGNED P 6 CM 0 (2)
Form N-873() The	n Drawing Board, Inc., Bas 505, Daflas, Texas	ac all

INSTRUCTIONS TO RECEIVER!

INSTRUCTIONS TO SENDER:

I. KEEP TELLOW COPY. 2. SEND WHITE AND PINK COPIES WITH CARBON INTACT.



From

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

To

Rabbi Stephen Schafer

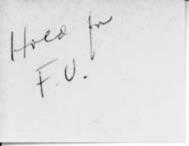
Copies

Subject

Date January 7, 1985

Please note the enclosed from Moshe Landau. I would appreciate your drafting a response in my name but I would like you to give that response to me for transmittal. Please get that to me as soon as possible. Thank you.





Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler Rabbi Stephen Schafer

Please note the enclosed from Moshe Landau. I would appreciate your drafting a response in my name but I would like you to give that response to me for transmittal. Please get that to me as soon as possible. Thank you.



WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION

Office of the Chairman of the Executive

Rabbi Alexander Shindler U.A.H.C. 838 Fifth Avenue New York, N.Y. 10021 U.S.A.

Dear Mrs Rabbi Shindler

The Chairman of the Executive of the World Zionist Organization, has recently appointed a Public Committee consisting of Prof. Sh. Eckstein, Mrs. Ada Feinberg-Sereni, Mr. Yeheskel Flomin, Mr. Mordechai Zipori, Prof. Nathan Rotenstreich and the undersigned, which is to report to the Executive on the system of Emissaries (Shlichim) of the W.Z.O. from Israel to countries of the Diaspora, and to make recommendations on the working of the system and its operation in practice.

We hereby request you to assist the Committee in its work by addressing to it any views that the Organization headed by you, and you personally may have formed on the subject, and any proposals you might wish to make in that regard.

Communications to the Committee should be in the form of a written resume and should reach the Committee not later than 31/1/85. If you so desire, your communication will not receive publicity.

The address of the Committee:

The Committee on Emissaries c/o the Secretary, Mr. Dan Kremer National Institutions Building P.O.Box 92 Jerusalem 91920

Thanking you in advance for your valuable cooperation in this important matter I am,

Yours sincerely,

Noshe Landau.

Chairman of the Committee

Calbal Slan

September 14, 1993 28 Elul 5753

Mr. Edgar Cadden 50 Glade Road Glencoe, IL 60022

Dear Ed:

I am truly sorry I had to stand you up for the Open, but I had no choice. It would have been good to be at the match but even more importantly, I was looking forward to being with you and Edryce for it's always a joy to be in your company. But, you can't complain, you had my best part!

I finally got some of the requested data from Kibbutz Lotan and I do hope it will be helpful to you. Good luck in your efforts and please do keep me posted.

Rhea joins me in the hope that the New Year will be blessed with good health, joy and sweetness for you and Edryce and those you love.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

KIBBUTZ LOTAN

United Kibbutz Movement
The Movement for Progressive Judaism

September 3, 1993 י"ז אלול תשנ"ג התנועה הַקיבוצית המאוחדת התנועה ליהדות מתקדמת

To Whom It May Concern:

Subject: Settlement Budget (Takziv Teken) - Kibbutz Lotan

Established in 1983 by 33 young settlers from Israel and the Diaspora mostly from the Reform movement, Lotan's permanent population today numbers 90 adults and 18 children. Both Israel and the Diaspora (including latterly the C.I.S.) have been sources for this steady increase. Lotan also serves as a center for youth movement programs from Israel and the Diaspora. Graduates of these programs upon reaching their mid-Twenties have been significantly represented among those absorbed and this process shows every sign of continuing in the future.

The traditional policy of the The Jewish Agency's Rural Settlement Department was to provide a settlement budget ("Takziv Teken") for each new settlement whose purpose was to provide an economic intrastructure to enable 50 family units to make a fiving. For this purpose two adults were considered a family unit. When a settlement reached 50 family units it was eligible to get the full "Takziv Teken" for 80 family units. From the mid-Eighties there was a curtailment of these budgets. The few viable settlements established in the early Eighties were disadvantaged in terms of settlement budgets and in particular Lotan, one of the only actively growing settlements in this category, did not receive a settlement budget commensurate with its growth.

Last year it was decided to change the structure of the Rural Settlement Department and to create one Department for both Rural and Urban development. It was decided to budget \$100 million in order to reach a final accounting with all the rural settlements under the aegis of the Jewish Agency. At present Lotan already has close to 50 family units and therefore urgently needs additional "Takziv Teken" in order to ensure the economic base of the current and future population. This means about one million dollars over a period of five years.

It is important to state that we feel that all levels of the new Department (regional and national) appear to be cognizant of Lotan's needs. Concomitant with the Departmental reorganization, a number of committees have been cotablished to reevaluate policy and they are working on allocations. However we are concerned that the pace at which these committees are working is such that in 1994 no monies will be allocated to us within the framework of the "Takziv Teken" settlement budget. That would make it the second straight year that we are being disadvantaged. This would seriously impede our effort to expand our economic base in order to keep up with our growing population. We feel that we have the right and the obligation to request affirmative action by the Jewish Agency in granting us part of our Takziv Teken in the 1994 budget year.

Yours sincerely

Osnat Elnatan

Economic Coordinator, Kibbutz Lotan

MEMORANDUM

From: RABBI AMMIEL HIRSCH

Date: September 17,

RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER

3/00

Alex, attached is a clearer copy of the letter from Osnat Elnatan, which I promised to send you.

AH:dg

Attachment

Just Today

United Kibbutz Movement

The Movement for Progressive Judaism

September 3, 1993 י"ז אלול תשנ"ג

התנועה הקיבוצית המאוחדת התנועה ליהדות מתקדמת

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Yours sincerely

Osnat Elnatan

Economic Coordinator, Kibbutz Lotan

Rabbi Alexander Schindler

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with cityles of adjusting the cityles of adjusting

to Jane Sherman Re Lothan's Financial shuateon

106

Erec - since alex is away + Marian cont read this, he asked - that it be forwarded to you to handle, KIBBUTZ LOTAN

June 9, 1993

קיבוץ לוטן

כ' סיון תשנ"ג

התנועה הקיבוצית המאוחדת

התנועה ליהדות מתקדמה

United Kibbutz Movement

The Movement for Progressive Judaism

To Ms. Jane Sherman FAX - 001-313-851-9388 Dear Jane Sherman

Thank you for the interest that you expressed in our problems in the telephone conversation we had on Monday evening. Further to that conversation I would like to detail the problem of the debt to the Jewish Agency on account of founders' shares in Ardag currently registered against the budget lines (teken) of the five founding Kihhutzim of Ardag

The Problem of the Ardag Founders' Shares: Background

Ardag was founded in 1985 as one of the projects of Ardom, the Company established by the kibbutzim of the Chevel Eilot area to manage economic enterprises for the ten kibbutzim in our area.

In 1989 when it was decided to establish Ardag as a separate enterprise only five of the ten kibbutzim decided to become founding partners. At the time the Jewish Agency decided to leave an option open at least until June 1994 for the other five kibbutzim to Join Ardag as equal partners. This founders' agreement was formulated with the help of the Jewish Agency's lawyer Shabbtai Ben Dov along guidelines set forth by Mr. Alan Markowitz.

The Jewish Agency invested \$3.4 million in Ardag. Within the framework of the establishment of the five founding kibbutzim for the entire sum which was originally to have been divided among ten kibbutzim.

All of the above has resulted in a rather paradoxical situation. The five kibbutzim who have not joined Ardag utilized their Agency budget to invest in other economic branches while still holding on to their option of joining Ardag until June 1994. On the other hand, the five founding kibbutzim are to be disadvantaged by being debited not only for their founders' shares but also for the potential founding shares of those other kibbutzim still sitting on the fence. The five founding kibbutzim need the additional money in their "teken" for additional economic diversification and feel that it is unjust for a double share in Ardag to be forced on them unilaterally by the Agency.

We therefore request that the five additional founding shares of Ardag not be included in the calculation for the remaining "teken" of the five founders of Ardag against their will.

POPULATION GIOWTH: KIBBUTZ LOTAN 1983-1992

	82	84	6	85	87	88	89	90	81	82
ADULT POPULATION	28	45		52	50	46	58	88	100	91
CHILDREN				1	2	4	8	8	9	18
TEMPORARY POPULIN.	25	25	2	21	85	26	21	5	85	2
TOTAL	68	70	3	74	87	76	83	101	124	128

ADULT POPULATION IN LOTAN

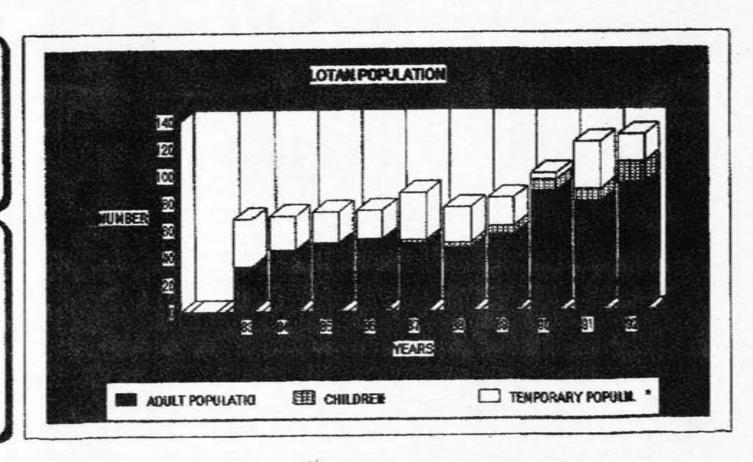
> ABSORBED AS OLIH 48%

ABSORBED AS ISAELI CITIZENS 62%

OLIM ABSORBED IN LOTAN BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:

U.S.A. 22 49%
ARGENTINA 2 4%
ENGLAND \$ 18%
AUSTRALIA 4 9%
S.AFRICA 2 4%
C.I.S. J 16%

TOTAL OLIN 45 100%



Temporary Population -



Collector

composition of the

Date:

November 24, 1992

(4)

From:

Rabbi Eric Yoffie

To:

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

Ammi Hirsch informs me that Yahel and Lotan could be affected in the event of a peace treaty between Jordan and Israel. When he visited the kibbutzim in October, they both told him that all of their fields could be subject to return to Jordan as "minor border changes" in any future agreement between Israel and Jordan. For a variety of reasons, they have decided not to publicize this issue for now.

I have asked Uri Regev for further clarification, and will let you know when I hear from him.

MEMORANDUM

November 12, 1992



FROM: Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

TO: Rabbi Eric Yoffie

COPY: Melvin Merians, Donald Day

Sifting through press reports and materials sent to me by the Israeli Consulate, it appears that there is a border dispute between Israel and Jordan over a 120 square mile area in southern Israel. Both sides agree that this dispute does not represent an insuperable obstacle to an agreement which seems to be emerging between the two parties.

Are our kibbutzim within the disputed territories or are they safely outside this zone?

Joan and Norm Rosen 64 Franklin Street Englewood, N.J. 07631 August 21, 1989 Lever Parlet of Parl

Dear Friends. Schindler,

We have just returned from Israel, still in jet lag, and have come back to an on-going outpouring of calls and notes from so many caring friends and relatives. We're sending you this note to let you all know quickly that Laurie is doing well. She's going about her business fairly normally now and will not have permanent damage. We were able to spend some wonderful days with her in Israel both on the Kibbutz and in Jerusalem.

Thank you for your warm expressions of caring and concern.

Fondly,

Goan #

P.S. Thouler for your lovely reste and your concern.



RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER • UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
PRESIDENT 838 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100

VIA FAX c/o ARDON 011-972-59-759-38

> August 8, 1989 7 AV 5749

Dear Members of Kibbutz Lotan:

The news of last night's attack has just reached me and all of us thank God that everyone is safe and well. I don't know who was injured but was told he, too, is O.K. and I wish him a refuah shlema.

Needless to note your many friends here at the UAHC and ARZA are very distressed by the report. There's little we can do from so far away but please know you are all in our hearts and thoughts.

With affectionate greetings to one and all, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Day offe

ec. 18 Dept.

TO: SMIT IY FROM: DAVID RE: LOFAN

A long terrorist entered the kibbutz around noon-time and took two women hostage, an American volunteer (28 yrs. old) Laurie Lozaine and a garin member of the kibbutz, Osnat Levy. He shot Lozaine, who is described in stable condition, and held Levy. She was held in a machsan near the Tamar fields. After a long negotiation, the army stormed the machsan, killing the terrorist and freeing Levy.

Nefty 23 and 3af. 27 are okay. Nefty 23 stayed at Yahel and Saf. 27 stayed at Almog beach in Eilat. Both groups will be sleeping inside Yahel tonight. Saf. 27 was to have a Beduin tent tonight, but we will try to bring to Yahel the Beduin tent along with the camel rides on the Yahel side of the road tomorrow morning prior to the trip north to Jerusalam. Both groups were told what happened. Lee and I are going there to give support to the staff and help the kide process what happened. Most everyone is calm, but our presence is required.

Now that it is all over, the story is all over the news. I suspect that you'll get phone calls, eveyone is absolutely safe. Saf. 27 ands its trip tomorrow and Nefty 23 on Thursday.

SAF- natil Safari grays

COPY TO: RABBI ALEXANDER SCHINDLER



RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
PRESIDENT B38 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, N Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100

March 24, 1988 6 Nisan 5748

Mr. Nissim Zvili Chairman, Settlement Department The Jewish Agency for Israel P.O.B. 92 Jerusalem 91920, Israel

Dear Nissim:

I have been informed that the building of Lotan's dairy is proceeding nicely. The Reform Movement thanks you and the Settlement Department for allocating the needed resources.

I understand that in order for the dairy to be completed within two years, as was agreed at our meeting in March of 1987, all additional funds must be allocated in the 1988-89 budget. It is of the utmost importance for Lotan that the dairy be completed on schedule. I hope that the Agency will honor its agreement, and I urge you to arrange for the remaining funds to be allocated now.

Thank you for your cooperation. Please inform us of your decision.

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

AMS:dg

RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER • UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
PRESIDENT 838 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100

VIA FAX

August 19, 1987 24 Av 5747

Mr. Nissim Zvili Rural Settlement Dept. The Jewish Agency Jerusalem

Dear Nissim:

Larry Weinstein of Kibbutz Lotan informs me there is a problem in regard to the funds for the Kibbutz dairy. Lotan needs to have the money as quickly as possible and I urge that you use all of your good offices to assist them.

As I understand it, Takam would normally advance the money against the promise that they will be reimbursed by the Agency but the Kibbutz Movement officials have told our people that they can't rely on this promise. Is there any way of reassuring the Takam people or by advancing the sums due to Lotan?

I tried to discuss this with you by telephone but was unable to make contact with you. If you have any questions you can speak to Larry or Osi at Lotan, the number is 059-72065 or 059-76082.

Your help will be much appreciated.

With warm regards and best wishes to you and your dear ones for a healthy, happy and fulfilling New Year, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc: Larry Weinstein

VIA FAX

August 19, 1987 24 Av 5747

Mr. Nissim Zvili Rural Settlement Dept. The Jewish Agency Jerusalem

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Your help will be much appreciated.

With warm regards and best wishes to you and your dear ones for a healthy, happy and fulfilling New Year, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc: Larry Weinstein

Lotan or Osi.//(Tuesday Larry off Kibbutz)

059-72065 or 76082

call Nissim Zivili at Agency

Lotan can't get money from Kibbutz Movement for dairy as they won't accept Agency's promise to repay ---

Agency: 202-309

direct line Zivili

(02) 228793

noaner

Memo

1 Xo

September 25, 1987 2 Tishri 5748

Mr. Akiva Lewinsky P.O. Box 92 91920 Jerusalem Ismael

Dear Akiva:

The members of Kibbutz Lotan have told me of their gratitude to you and I join in expressing appreciation. Your helpfulness in having funds transferred to the Lotan budget for the dairy has made it possible for the members of Lotan to move forward with their plans and for that we are all profoundly grateful.

It is our fond hope that Lotan will be able to meet the time-table for the completion of the dairy as planned. They have a two-year goal and the budget must take this schedule into account next year. We all hope there will be no further problems and that they will indeed be able to move forward and bring this important aspect of the Kibbutz to fruition.

My best wishes to you and all your dear ones for a sweet, happy and healthy New Year. May it be a year of Shalom for our people.

Sincerety,

Alexander M. Schindler

Kibbutz Lotan D. N. Hevel Eilot 88855 Israel

abbi A. Schindler AHC 38 Fifth Ave aw York, NY

ear Rabbi Schindler,

We would like to express our appreciation for all the assistance you see provided during the past several months in relation to the founding Loten's dairy.

We would like to inform you that Akiva Levensky, treasurer of the swish Agency, has ordered funds transferred to Lotan's budget. This ition now makes it possible to put the contract for the "milking - inlor" up for public bidding.

In our opinion it would be worthwhile for you to make contact with the Levensky in order to express our gratitude for his help in overcoming possibly disastrous statemate between the United Kibbutz Movement and me Jewish Agency. In addition, it would be very wise to remind Mr. Evensky that the Reform Movement expects the dairy to be built and impleted within the two-year time schedule, as planned. Next year's indeed must take this into account.

As far as Lotan is concerned, all of the construction plans have been impleted and are in order, allowing the continuation of the construction occass following the completion of the "milking - parlor."

Once again, thank you for everything. From all of us at Kibbutz Itan, to you and your family, we wish you a very happy and healthy New Iar.

Ossie Silberstein Merkezet Meshek Shana Tova,

Larry Meinstein

Treasurer

Attn: Rabbi Schindler

- Abell of our

February 22, 1984

Mr. Aron Chilewich 120 Wall Street New York, NY 10005

Dear Aron:

Thank you for following up on my request. Your letter reached me on my return from Israel. While I was there I chatted with Shlomo Gazit and he told me that Ben Gurion University had determined to grant the reproduction license to our Kibbutz Lotan. I am sure that your intervention was of great help and I am beholden to you because of it.

I did have to promise Shlomo Gazit that I will visit Ben Gurion University the next time I go to Israel but that is not too great a payment to make, is it?

Again, my thanks for your help.

With warm rehards from house to house and all good wishes, I am Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindeer

cc: Matthew H. Ross, Esq. Rabbi Jordan Pearlson

A. CHILEWICH

120 Wall Street New York, NY 10005

February 16, 1984

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, President Union of American Hebrew Congregations 838 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10021

Dear Alex,

I received your letter dated January 23rd, and as soon as I came back from the mourning week, I wrote a letter to Ronald Oelbaum, as per enclosed copy. I have not received a reply as yet, but I hope to hear from him shortly.

I am leaving today for Israel for about 8 - 10 days, and if I do not receive his reply by the time I return, I will phone him to urge him to attend to this matter.

During my visit to Beer Sheba, I naturally will also discuss this matter with the President of the University, Mr. Shlomo Gazit, and will call you upon my return.

With kindest regards, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Aron Chilewich

AC/bb encl.

A. CHILEWICH

120 Wall Street New York, NY 10005

January 27, 1984

Mr. Ronald Oelbaum, President Canadian Associates of the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev 1111 Finch Ave. West Suite 303 Downsview Canada M3J2E5

Dear Ron,

I haven't heard from you lately, and I hope everything with you is going well.

I received, yesterday, the letter from the President of Union of American Hebrew congregations, Rabbi Alexander Schindler, as per enclosed copy, and before going into this matter, I would like to have your opinion.

With this expectation, I remain, with kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

Aron Chilewich

AC/bb encl.

January 23, 1984 Mr. Aron Chilewich 180 East End Avenue New York, NY 10028 Dear Aron: I do not know whether you are still involved at Ben Gurion University ... If you are not, would you please direct me to someone who could be of help to me in this realm. Here is the problem for which I am seeking help and to make life simpler, let me present matters in numerical order: 1/ We have two Reform Jewish Kibbutim in Israel, Yahel which is some seven years old and Lotan which was developed just last year. These Kibbutzim are located in the Arava, not too far from each other. Yahel has families and children, quite a few babies, and the pupulation is now in the range of 25-25 years of age. It started with young people from 21 to 35 -- they have aged! Lotan is filled with younger people and at this point more singles. Both have young people from America and Israel. Both Yahel and Lotan require industry to help them maintain themselves for their agricultural enterprises are seasonal and they find they have available peoplepower and capacity. Yahel is seeking an industrial project to help expand its productivity. Lotan has found a new agricultural enterprise but there is a saaq. 2/ Ben Gurion University developed a research program which Lotan wishes to plug into, it is plant development. However, Ben Gurion University would like to have \$20,000 for the rights for the house plants which Lotan wishes to develop for the European market. Our poor kids simply do not have the required \$20,000. They are a very young and struggling group! 3/ Thanks to one of our Reform congregations in Toronto, Temple Sinai,, some \$300,000 were raised for Ben Gurion University and to honor the rabbi of Temple Sinai the Rabbi Jordan Pearlson Extension Services and Outreach Program Centre was established at the University. Rabbi Pearlson made it a condition of his being "exploited" for Ben Gurion University fund raising that some of the fruitage of this effort be shared with the institutions of Reform Judaism in Israel. What could be better than the University of the Negev assisting a Reform Kibbutz located in the Negev.

Mr. Aron Chilewich January 23, 1984 Page -2-

Here then is the problem: Cannot Ben Gurion University honor the commitment made to Rabbi Pearlson by waiving the \$20,000. requested for the fights for the plants? I feel it is a proper request and I also feel Ben Gurion University would gain from the linkage to this wonderful new kibbutz.

And so my good friend, Aron, can you help me solve this problem? If not, to whom would you direct me? Your assistance in any way would be deeply appreciated, by me, by the Reform movement, and most of all by the wonderful young people who are dedicating their lives to Israel and Kibbutz Lotan.

With all good wishes and warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

bcc: Matthew H. Ross, Esq. Rabbi Jordan Pearlson התנועה ליהדות מתקדמת באמריקה UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS Shmuel Hanegid 16 16 ירושלים 94 592 Jerusalem Tel. 246195/6

Youth Programs in Israel :

תוכניות נוער בישראל

Dov Gil'on
Tel. at home 03-310338
Rabbi A. Levine
Tel. at home 054-76132
Rabbi H. Skirball
Tel. at home 02-813498
Rabbi D. Forman
Tel. at home 02-424189
Rabbi S. Schafer
Tel. no. U.S.A. (212) 249-0100

רב גילאון סל. בבית 38.80 ינ - 05 הרב א. לוין סל. בבית 1874 - 684 סל. בבית 1874 - 20 סל. בבית 1849 - 20 סל. בבית 1874 - 20 סל. בבית 1874 - 20

מל. בארחיב 1000 -244 (212)

15th January, 1984

Rabbi Alexander Schindler UAHC 838: Fifth Avenue New York, N.Y. 10021 USA

Dear Alex,

I can't tell you how pleased and appreciative I am that you are looking into the matter of Lotan and Ben Gurion University. The enclosed is all self-explanatory.

In short approximately \$300,000 was raised in Toronto for Ben Gurion University, for which Reform Kibbutzim were to get some direct benefits.

Kibbutz Lotan wants the rights to grow 2 plants which were researched by the University and for which the University is demanding \$20,000, which is \$20,000 Lotan does not have.

I would think that the publicity of Ben Gurion directly helping Reform Kibbutzim could only assist their fund raising.

Thank loads

Love from home to home.

Always

Allan Levine

התניעה ליהרות מחקרמת באמריקה UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS Shmuel Hanagid 16 בחוב שמואל הנגיד 16

Tel. at home 03 - 51 03 38 Rabbi A. Levine Tel. achome 054 7n132 fishior 11. Skubati 1. at hime 02 - 51 34 98 6 bh D. Formso. Let at home 02 42 41 89 Rabor 3 Scholer Lel. au. U.S.A. (212) 219-0100

12/1/84

חובויים וונד כיסראי

01 11 03 10 maa .50 הרב א. לחן 954 : 78 132 Praz :50 מרב חו סקירבל of. ce'n se se re : 10 הרב ד. פורמן 97. ccon ** 1+ 11 10 תרב כ. כפר UT. EXCE-E 0010- *** (\$11)

Dear Rabbi Jordan Perlson. Im writing this Letter from Rabbi A. Levine's office. I'm the "per word" of Kibbutz Lotan which means that I am incharge of all the economey of the kibbutz. We asked the Ben Gurion University for the rights to pract prudce two "Plot Plants" that we want to grow for export in our hibbutz.

They asked us for 26000 # inorder to cover the

research that was done for them.

Since this money was already Given to them in the Benfit Dinner that you held on June 17th 1980. 17th 1980.

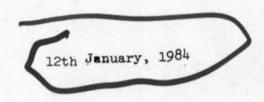
I'm asking you to write them a letter asking them to give us this plants.

Let me just add that Lotan, the second Reform Ribbutz in the Arave, is only to ayear old & needs great help to start its branches a needs of production.

Sincerely yours Choopy Ariel Kibbutz Lotan, D.N. Gilot. התנועה ליהדות מתקדימת באמריקה UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS Shmuel Hanagid 16 16 16 ירושלים 94 592 Jerusalem Tel. 246195/6

Youth Proposes in Israel :

Diev Cercinii
Fell at nome 03 - 31 05 38
Rubbo A. Listinii
Eef 3. Intane 03 - 76 137
Nation 11 Shirbali
Eef 31 Intane 02 - 81 34 98
Rubbi 1) Forman
Ful at home 02 - 42 41 89
Rabbi 5 - Schaler
Ful no 11 S.A. (212) 249-0100



חוכניות נוער כישראל

רב גילאון טל. בבית 103 38 יני - 30 טל. בבית 103 47 - 304 טל. בבית 103 47 - 304 טל. בבית 109 109 - 30 טל. בארה 20 000 - 304 טל. בארה 20 100 - 304

Rabbi Jordan Pearlson Temple Sinai 210 Wilson Toronto Ontario M5M 3B1

Dear Jordy,

Enclosed please find all of the correspondence that I have pertaining to the Rabbi Jordan Pearlson Extension Services and Outreach Program Centre at Ben-Gurion University of hhe Negev. Also enclosed is a letter from Choopy Ariel, the economic manager of Kibbutz Lotan. If you could arrange this matter so that they would receive the plants and not pay \$20,000 which they do not have, then there would be direct results for the Kibbutz and basically you have already given money for the research.

Sussie who is besides me joins me in sending love from home to home.

Always love

Allan

P.S. This matter is of greatest urgency. 'The contact man at Ben-Gurion University is: Arnie Schleissel.

Encs:



Rabbi Jordan Pearlson

Extension Services and Outreach Program Centre at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev BEERSHEVA ISRAEL

Within the framework of the Pearlson Extension and Outreach Services Centre, the University will confinue, expand and initiate in the Negev region, settlements, kibbutzim and development towns such activities as:

Continuing and General Studies Education programs particularly for adults in outlying settlements

The One-To-One Tutorial Program to help disadvantaged children catch up and keep up with their peers and prepare an increasing number of them for eventual higher studies and professional training.

Open houses by University students as a "home away from home" for children from troubled families

Pre-academic preparatory courses for immigrants, demobilized soldiers, and disadvantaged students, helping to keep them off the streets and keep or return them to their schools.

.... College level courses in Shaar Hanegev area.

... Full academic courses for military personnel on active duty.

... Endeavour to bring to the population of the outlying settlements the intellectual and cultural riches of the University.

... Will continue and expand its scientific, research and educational efforts and render all possible counsel and advice on the "greening of the Negev" and generally assist in the development of the material well being of the Negev settlements.

Flo Contributions Yake may June 12, 1980. Rabbi Jordan Pearlson Rabbi Allan Levine, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 16 Shmuel Hanagid St., Jerusalem, Israel. Dear Allan: What a beautiful thing to do! By now you must know from experience what this kind of reassurance means to the worried parents. As you can see, my Nessa is a going concern. I just want to make certain that she remains "going" rather than "real gone". Let me know how you want the letters expressed. I will follow through on them. Do you want to use the Rabbi's Fund as a vehicle which would enable them to get their tax deduction immediately and we would in turn funnel the maney through to the UAHC. All is settling into that change of gear that should see some semblance of sanity after the C.C.A.R. meeting in Pittsburgh. The enclosed clipping should give you some of the evidence you want for indicating our motivation in setting up the extension program. Its relation to Yahel is clearly expressed in the article and will be clearly expressed in my address to the dinner. Jerry joins me in love from home to home. Please stay in touch and let us know what can be done here for you. Love, 210 Wilson Avenue Toronto, Ontario M5M 3B1 (416) 487-4161

-Ben-Gurion U. dinner honoring rabbi will raise funds for education centre

By DAVID BIRKAN

TORONTO-

Next week's Ben-Gurion University dinner in honor of Rabbi Jordan Pearlson, founding rabbi of Temple Sinal, involves him in yet another act of pioneering.

The event will be used as a fund raising focal point for BGU's Extension and Outreach Service Centre in Yeruham - a type of educational facility. long sought by Rabbi Pearlson, who is on the national executive of the Beersheba-based university's Canadian Friends.

Kibbutzniks in the north of Israel can drive to school for their higher education,! Rabbi Pearlson told The Canadian Jewish News. "In the Negev, advanced education has not been that accessible.

'The increasing number of kibbutzim founded in the Negev lately, the influx of personnel for the new military bases there, and the prospect of more immigration make an institution of higher learning in the area a must," he.

The dinner honoring Rabbi Pearlson, will be held at the Beth Tikyah Synagogue - the Temple Sinai's facilities are too small for such an occasion on Tuesday evening, June 17

One of the young communities standing to benefit from the extension centre is Kibbutz Yahel ("Brilliance.") The agri- metres from Yeruham.



[Ben Lechtman photo]

Rabbi Jordan Pearlson is being honored by Ben-Gurion University.

cultural kibbutz, founded several years ago, is made up of about 400 young adults from Reform congregations in Israel, South Africa and the U.S.

"They are working against one of the toughest climates in the world, producing first-rate flowers, dates and figs for the Israeli market and Europe. The extension centre will help keep them on the kibbutz by offering continuing educational opportunities." said Pearlson. Yahel, one of the most southerly of the kibbutzim, is about 100 kilo-

Yeruham, one of Israel's best known development towns, is populated with Jewish immigrants from Russia, Arab countries and India, Siting BGU's extension centre there allows at once for firsthand study of their problems, an immediate and ongoing response to their needs, as well as the educational opportunities they need to adapt to Israeli

Yeruham's strategic position, in the centre of the Negev and at the hub of a core of roads radiating into all corners of the area. makes the extension cen-

tre particularly accessible.

The Negev must be made productive," said Rabbi Pearlson, "With two-thirds of Israel's land area, it has only less than 10% the population. It is still Israel's latest frontier."

The Massachusettsborn rabbi has himself been something of a pioneer. The 40-family group that he came to Toronto to head 26 years ago. "in the mud flats of North York" developed into, after temporary residence in schools and a movie theatre, the 1,400-family congregation of the Temple Sinai.

'We obtained our current site years ago with the help of Alderman Irv Paisley and former MPP Vernon Singer, It was a swamp by the highway. Ducks would swim in it,' he said.

Among the synagogue's claims to social involvement and aesthetics since then were, respectively, the area's first nursery for retarded children and the recently installed textured and stained glass art windows, one of a kind. The synagogue has a resident composer, Ben Steinberg, whose music is known internationally for its Jewish soul and classical form.

The main regret Pearlson expresses in the growth of the Toronto community as a whole is what he describes as its loss of "coherence and

He said: "Toronto has grown from a coherent community in which every Jew knew almost every other Jew to a vast New York-style community in which newer generations have nowhere near the kind of linkages their parents and grandparents

This lack of unity, according to Pearlson, is reflected in the city's religious leadership. "Toronto of 25 years ago did not have those militants who

deliberately build, walls between Jew and Jew. To. maintain a sense of community calls for all rabbis and community leaders to stress the interdependence of Klal Yisrael. Our welfare and education systems were not built exclusively by one group of Jews."

Pearlson is a member of the national religious advisory committee to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, the first rabbi to have served as its chairman. He was the founding rabbi of the national liaison committee of the Canadian Jewish Congress, the Canadian Council of Churches and the Canadian Council of Catholic Bishops.

Pearlson is also national chairman of the Joint Public Relations Committee of Canadian Jewish Congress.

He is well known as lecturer, columnist for the Toronto Star, and anvoc casional radio and tele vision commentator.



Advice from doctors:

no magical cures,

know medical history

File Yale Contributions
Canada

March 25, 1980.

Rabbi Jordan Pearlson

Rabbi Allan Levine, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Shmuel Hanagid 16, Jerusalem, Israel.

Dear Allan:

Your timing could not be worse. On May 21st, we will be dedicating a massive gift of a wall of stained glass from Helen and Joe Berman to the Congregation. Two weeks later I will be honored by Ben Gurion University, who will be implementing a major project I have been pushing on your behalf: the creation in the Negev of an institute for extension studies which I hope will cater directly to the educational opportunities for kibbutzniks -- an area you and I have discussed. It is precisely because of my pressuring the University on your behalf that the dinner was set up. It is, therefore, my suspicion that as far as my name and contacts go, the months of May and June of this year would not be fertile for specific contributions to Yahel; but -- you may just be lucky.

Stay in touch. Jerry joins me in love from home to home.

Be well.

Fandly,

Rabbi Jordan Pearlson

210 Wilson Avenue Toronto, Ontario M5M 3B1 (416) 487-4161

2nd September, 1980

Mazkirut Yahel and Racaz Tarbut Yahel, Kibbutz Yahel, D.N. Eilot.

Chaverim,

As you no doubt know, a significant amount of money was raised in Toronto to honor Rabbi Jordan Pearlson of Temple Sinai which money is to be used for the extention services of the Beersheve university with a clear understanding that part of it was to cover the seminars and studies of interest to the members of Kibbutz Yahel.

I recently spoke to Dr. Yair Magen, assistant to the President of Ben Gurion University, Mr. Takoa, who said that the university is only too anxious to start the program as soon as the money is transferred from Toronto to the university for this purpose. It only requires the initiation of the kibbutz to request such seminars and programs. If the kibbutz is interested, e.g. in a seminar on solar energy in the desert, or whatever it might be, a letter whould be sent to Dr. Magen and the kibbutz and the university will meet together to discuss the program and Yahel will be able to avail itself of that program at Yahel. I suggest you think about what programs and extention services you would like from the university and then contact Dr. Magen by letter and by phone as quickly as possible. I would appreciate a copy of such a letter. For those of you who were at the Leo Baeck School in Haifa, you will remember Dr. Magen as an old friend.

Always.

Rabbi Allan Levine.

co Dr. Yair Magen, Rabbi Jordan Pearlson.

It looks like the showiss ready to go on the road. Thank you for everythis

6th August, 1980

Mr. Yesef Takoa, President, Ben Gurion of the Negev, Beersheva.

Dear Mr. Takoa.

I have this week received a telephone call from Rabbi Jordan Pearlson in whose honor the Rabbi Jordan Pearlson Extension and Outreach Services Center is being established at the Ben Gurion University. Rabbi Pearlson is one of the fathers of Kibbutz Yahel from before its inception and he has told me on numerous occasions when he was discussing this outreach program with the university that this program would somehow benefit the members of Kibbutz Yahel and the kibbutz itself. He has also discussed this matter with Mr. Gordon Echenberg of Montreal. I am enclosing a copy of his letter to Mr. Echenberg. Rabbi Pearlson has asked me to turn to you for a meeting so that we can discuss together the place of Yahel in this entire project. Rabbi Pearlson, in our conversation, asked me to extend to you his kindest personal regards.

Looking forward to meeting with you at the earliest possible occasion.

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Allan Levine.

P.S. I will be in Toronto in September and I would appreciate if we could possibly meet before September 1st.

Enc.

AL/ro

cc Rabbi Jordan Pearlson.



San 13

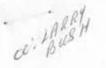
YOAV PECK SHALIACH יואב פק שליח

Aliyah & Israel Programs

Edieallan will get to nork
on the memo immediatel
He didn't Prace the name
of the President so I talled "Friendof..."
here in NY.
He'o Maj. General Shlomo Gazit

Lehitraol

Union of American Hebrew Congregations 838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100 de Levene Brice Tota Laure Clants In European Market Namble Best. He Royalte "Do ovo U.S. for pute. Oresone for Jad - Short U.S. Sugar. 1 Leepfie. Alex out 56.4



TO: Edie Miller FROM: Debbie Schultz

FROM Dedi about Har Chalutz:

Currently living on the mountain -- 16 families comprising 32 adults & 16 children ranging from ½ year to 9 years old. Five babies are expected soon. Those of kindergarten age go to school on the mountain and the 9 year old will probably go to the regional grade school about 20 minutes away -- his family just moved to the mountain so it is unclear as to where he is in school just now.

Four more families are very serious about moving to the mountain in the near future. One family is actually at the site right now but they have not formally made aliyah yet so they must return to the States to pack up and complete the procedure. Three other families are scheduled to move to the mountain by early spring.

Residents work both on and off the site. Those occupations in which people work on the site include architect, carpenter, kindergarten teacher, aerobic teacher, graphic designer, technical wirter, ceramicist, computer engineer, writer/illustrator, artist. Those working off the site include a construction supervisor, a social worker, computer experts, an electronic engineer, a carpenter & an economist.

The residents range from 24 years old to mid 60's. A few are returning Israelis but most are from the diaspora: either the US or South America (Peru & Argentina).

The community is looking to develop an industry on the site in order to absorb more people and to allow the settlement to be more than a bedroom community. Some of the ideas include either a tourist center complete with sports facilities ore else a seminar center to host adults and teach about Reform Judaism and other topics.

MEMORANDUM

From

Maggie Bar-Tura Mangie

Date September 22, 1987

To

Rabbi Alexander Schindler

Copies

Subject

Yahel & Lotan Update

Yahel has approximately 90 adult members, 60% of whom are immigrants mainly from North America (via Garin Arava) and from England, Holland, South Africa, Australia and Italy. The kibbutz also has a group of native Israeli youngsters who are doing part of their army service at Yahel and are counseled by members of Yahel throughout their service. Additionally, the kibbutz hosts groups of Reform youngsters from abroad for periods of several weeks to several months in the framework of long-term Israel programs.

Garin Arava continues to provide a small but steady stream of new members each year with a significant cumulative effect on the kibbutz. Nonetheless, the kibbutz sorely feels the need for additional young families from Israel and abroad. Because of the isolation, the difficult climate and the purely agricultural base of the kibbutz it is extremely difficult to attract them. It is hoped that an industry will provide a challenge for potential members who are not interested in agriculture. Garin Arava is currently attempting to broaden its outreach to interest idealistic young Reform families in the possibility of the community life at Yahel and Lotan.

Lotan: The kibbutz has approximately 40 members, 40% of whom are new immigrants. The kibbutz has a relationship with an Israeli garin of youngsters in the army who spend part of their service on the kibbutz, and it is hoped, will eventually settle at Lotan. The kibbutz also hosts, for periods of up to several months, Reform youth from abroad participating in long-term Israel programs. There is a constant strain on the housing at the kibbutz for such groups and the lack of an industry creates a problem in expanding the economic base and the infrastructure necessary for growth.

Garin Arava sent a shlav last fall to both Yahel and Lotan. This year's shlav is destined for Lotan and next year's shlav (winter 1989) will divide again between the two kibbutzim.

In addition to industry, the development of the seminar center located at Yahel can provide vital spheres for work for potential olim interested in working in academic and educational fields. The resources for packaging and marketing the seminar center beyond the framework of NFTY summer programs which is its current mainstay are lacking.

Further growth and development of the two kibbutzim are dependent on:

- 1. The Reform Movement's encouragement of aliyah of young singles and families
- 2. Enlistment of professional expertise and resources to develop industry and the seminar center.



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ABBI ERICH VOERTE

FROM: RABBI ERIC H. YOFFIE

TO: RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER

DATE: September 22, 1987

28 Elul 5747

Some possible approaches for Biennial talk:

- 1. Our Reform settlers are true pioneers. They could have chosen the comforts of Tel Aviv or the beauty of Jerusalem. Instead, they settled in the desert of the Arava and on a barren hilltop in the Galilee.
- Their settlement choices were dictated by Israel's true settlement priorities -- adding Jewish settlers to the sparsely populated Arava, and maintaining a Jewish majority in the Galilee.
- 3. Having chosen isolated areas in order to serve Israel's needs, our settlers must pay a heavy price. They have had few of the luxuries that we enjoy. Also, the financial assistance that they might otherwise have expected has not been available. The Israeli government put an end to its financial turmoil by heavy budget cuts. The other bodies which traditionally help new settlements the Jewish Agency and the United Kibbutz Movement have also suffered financial crises. These problems are not unique to our settlements the development towns and the moshavim have also been struggling.
- 4. Israel needs rural settlement to maintain its Zionist idealism and pioneering spirit. Equally important, Israeli Reform Judaism needs rural settlement. Our settlements have played a major part in revitalizing our movement in Israel. They have injected youth, fresh ideas, and new energy, and have provided an alternative model of Progressive Jewish life. Also, they have been a bridge between Diaspora Jewry and Israel.

(Continued)

- 5. Har Halutz: Now has about twenty families. Our only adult community. Good growth and excellent spirit. Problem: the families are now living in trailers, and will soon be required to build homes. They will be reluctant to invest in homes unless they are assured that jobs are available in the area. Job opportunities are now scarce. Our goal: to develop a tourist industry and other industries on the mountain.
- 6. <u>Kibbutz Yahel</u>: Total population of about 180 people. Fifty children. Agriculture is successful but cannot support the kibbutz. Seminar center also successful, but it really operates only during the summer months. To support a growing population, the kibbutz must add 7-10 profit-making jobs per year. This can only come from an industry. The kibbutz is looking for an industry that will employ 15-20 people to start, and will grow. The absence of an industry has discouraged the kibbutz, which has lost about fifteen people in the last year.
- 7. <u>Kibbutz Lotan</u>: I have no details. Hopefully, Maggie will provide.

EHY:dg

Dent from the start of the star

ISRAEL APPROVES **CURBS ON PRETORIA**

Action, With Eye to Congress, Affects Trade, Investment, Culture and Tourism .

By THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

Special to The New York Time

JERUSALEM, Sept. 16 — The Israeli Cabinet decided today on a package of sanctions against South Africa that af-

sanctions against South Africa that affect trade, investment, cultural exchanges and tourism, officials said.

The Cabinet decision was made with an eye to next month's scheduled debate on South Africa in Congress, which will review the steps being taken by Western nations, particularly those receiving American military and economic aid, against Pretoria.

Officials said they wanted to make certain that Israel would be perceived as having undertaken the same basic package of sanctions as other leading Western nations, no more and no less.

After today's Cabinet meeting, the South African Ambassador was summoned to the Foreign Ministry and informed of the new sanctions. They will not be officially announced until he has had time to convey them to his Government, a ministry spokesman said.

But Israeli Government figures said the thrust of the Cabinet decision was to freeze all steel imports from South Africa, to ban Government investments in or loans to South Africa, to curtail official visits to South Africa by Israelis and to cease trading in oil products with South Africa.

Use of Ports Is Banned

Use of Ports Is Banned

In addition, the Cabinet decided to re-In addition, the Cabinet decided to reduce all official sports, cultural and scientific exchanges with South Africa, to halt all official Israeli promotions of tourism to South Africa, and to ban the use of Israeli ports as transit stations for shipping of goods to or from South Africa, Cabinet officials said.

The Cabinet also decided to establish a foundation for educational training.

The Cabinet also decided to establish a foundation for educational training for South African blacks or mixed-race people in Israel, the officials said.

While the measures adopted today did not appear to be insignificant, they left untouched the military relationship between the two nations, as well as the regular trading ties.

between the two nations, as well as the regular trading ties.

In the last year Israel imported about \$181.1 million worth of goods from South Africa, mostly coal, and exported about \$54.8 million in products there. Officials said this was a relatively low level of trade, but the Israeli figures do not include military sales.

figures do not include military sales.
On March 18 the Cabinet decided not to renew military sales contracts to South Africa, which are believed to amount to anywhere from \$400 million to \$800 million a year. But it gave no in-dication when those contracts would expire, which will probably not be for several years.

South Africa Informed

Special to The New York Time

CAPE TOWN, Sept. 16 - A Foreign Ministry spokesman in Pretoria con-firmed tonight that Israel had in-formed South Africa of details of the sanctions, but he declined to divulge

"Until the South African Government has had the opportunity to study the measures and the possible effects thereof on bilateral relations, no fur-ther statement will be issued," he said.



NEWSLETTER VI

SPRING 86



TABLE OF CONTENTS

A letter from Joel and Barbara Metter
Sixth National Kinus Report
"Young Pioneer's Letter"
Har Halutz Update
"Israel Faces the 21st Century"
Garin Galil Roster

June 1, 1986

Shalom friends:

Six months after our first settlers "alu lakarka" (moved to the site), Har Halutz is thriving! As you will read, both the number of our families and the development of the site are growing rapidly.

Since our last National Kinus in October, we have had several mini-kinusim throughout the country. I am also happy to report that in March, three of our families went to Israel for a small, but very successful kinus at Har Halutz. You can read Joel and Barbara Metter's reactions to the yishuv on the following page.

Other features to look for in this issue are: a summary of October's kinus, a very recent report from Hal on the progress at Har Halutz, general Israel information, and the Garin Galil roster, which we hope you will use to contact people in your area.

Enclosed with this newsletter is an announcement of Garin Galil's 7th National Kinus, which will take place in October. Please take a few minutes to return the coupon and let us know whether you'll be able to attend. We expect this kinus to be our best one ever, so we hope you'll be there. (We would appreciate your response even if you won't be able to make it.) If you have any questions, please call the office.

Happy Reading!

B'vracha.

Deddi Lewenschn

May 1986

Dear Friends.

We have just returned from our pilot trip to Israel. Our primary purpose in making this trip was to decide where we would like to live when we make Aliyah in October 1986. During our trip, we visited a variety of settlements in different parts of the country. Then, and now, our visit to Har Halutz remains the high point of our trip and a place that we would be both happy and proud to call home.

In analyzing our strong positive reaction to Har Halutz, we identified four factors that we think make Har Halutz a special and exciting place: the physical environment, the people, the community's organization and approach to accomplishing its goals, and the diverse opportunities to earn a living.

Har Halutz's site is breathtakingly beautiful. The panorama from Haifa Bay to Lake Kinneret, with Karmiel in the valley below, is one that we could look at each day and never get tired of or complacent about. The fresh air and beautiful views are truly stimulating.

The people living at Har Halutz, together with the Garin members in the midwest whom we have met, are people we would enjoy having as neighbors and friends. We espoecially like the fact that the community includes people of a variety of ages and talents. A spirit of cooperation and caring exists among the members that is great to see and makes one want to be a part of. All of the families were extremely hospitable to us during our visit and went out of their way to make us feel welcome. We appreciated the effort they made especially since we arrived after only a few hours' notice. Hal Applebaum spent a considerable amount of time with us, showing us around the area and discussing the group's goals and plans, and the current status of projects. After two days, we felt we had a good idea of what Har Halutz is about, its spirit and its future. With this understanding, we feel that we want to be a part of it and to contribute to its success.

The settlement's organization and the planning and execution skills demonstrated by the members are distinctive. It is obvious that a lot of planning and forethought have gone into the establishment of Har Halutz, each phase of its development, and how it should progress in the future. The planning is realistic in its goals and the ability to accomplish those goals. It also appears that potential and actual problems and issues have been thought about, planned for, and solutions proposed, implemented, or in progress.

Lastly we like the flexibility Har Halutz offers us in the economic area. We feel that we will have the opportunity to select fom a number of economic opportunities ranging from relatively traditional jobs in the high tech industry in Karmiel or Tefen, to part time work, to starting a business, either alone or in conjunction with other members of Har Halutz.

We very much look forward to our Aliyah and arrival in Karmiel in October, and becoming members of the Har Halutz soon thereafter.

Joel and Barbara Metter

GARIN GALIL TO HAR HALUTZ'S 6TH NATIONAL KINUS OCTOBER 25-27, 1985

* * AGENDA * *

FRIDAY,	OCTOBER	25
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3:00 - 5:00	Arrival and Registration
5:30 - 6:00	General Orientation
6:00 - 7:00	Kabbalat Shabbat and Oneg Shabbat
7:00 - 8:00	Dinner
8:15 - 9:00	"Who are all these people?" Structured socializing.
9:00 - 10:00	"Why a seed when the tree is already planted?" — Hadas Levin, Kibbutz Yahel.
10:00 - 12:00	Development of the Garin in Israel over the past year. — Hal Applebaum, Mazkir of Har Halutz

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

8:00 -	9:00	Light breakfast
9:00 -	10:00	Tfila
00 -	1:00	Har Halutz, a complete overview — Hal Applebaum.
1:00 -	2:00	Lunch
2:00 -	4:00	Free Time
4:00 -	4:30	Seuda Shlishit (snack)
4:30 -	6:00	"The Current Political Situation in Israel". — Steve Leibowitz, Deputy Director, Israel Government Press Office.
6:00 -	7:00	Rabbi Eric Yoffie and Debbie Schultz from ARZA.
7:00 -	7:15	Havdalah
7:15 -	8:30	Asefa Klalit (General Meeting)
8:30 -	9:30	Dinner
9:30 -		Rikudei Am (Folk Dancing)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

Breakfast
"Job Opportunities in the Galilee" — Moshe Shraga, Assistant to the Council of Labor Affairs.
Conclusion
Lunch and final comments
Shalom VeLihitraot

GARIN GALIL'S SIXTH KINUS REPORT

On Friday, October 25 members and friends of Garin Galil to Har Halutz opened their sixth kinus. For some it was an introduction to the settlement, for others it was a pleasant reunion. Deddi summarized our program for the week-end and then we moved to our "synagogue" to welcome Shabbat. Our service was brief, but even our youngest members participated. The youngest child present piped in with a hearty "Amen" after the blessing over the candles.

Over dinner we began to get acquainted. What really broke the ice though, was called "structured socializing." Deddi seated garin members facing the potential members who were seated in the outer circle. He explained that he would ask a question and give the outer circle 90 seconds to respond, with each member telling his or herideas to their "partner" in the inner circle. Then, the members seated inside would talk for 90 seconds. The questions were provocative: "Why are you making Aliyah?" "Why don't all American Jews go to Israel?" "What are your greatest fears about Aliyah?" "Why does Israel assist new immigrants?" "What do you think about intermarriage and assimilation among American Jews?" After three minutes of exchange, the inner circle moved one chair to the left and started a new question with a new partner. Slowly, we began to meet each other, and to begin conversations that would continue throughout the weekend.

HADAS LEVIN: KIBBUTZ YAHEL

Next on the program was a talk by Hadas Levin of Kibbutz Yahel in the Arava. His topic was "Why a Seed When the Tree is Already Planted?" His message was unequivocal — a garin serves key functions even after the settlement is first established. First, a garin is an Aliyah support group which eases the logistics and provides emotional support for the move. It offers a settlement group a chance to get to know each other better, to develop group problem-solving skills, to clarify the common approach toward conflicts, and to strengthen the ideology that will undergird the settlement.

The garin also ensures following generations for the existing settlement, recruiting new members with needed skills, increasing the settlement's population, infusing fresh ideas and enthusiasm. It can ease the Yishuv's acceptance of new members and provide a Zionist connection in which older Olim can reach out to help more recent arrivals. The garin while still in the States can help guide American Zionists toward Aliyah and publicize the settlement in order to recruit new members. In short, while some of the garin's functions may change once families have established the beginnings of a settlement, the overall importance of an active garin does not decline.

Hadas also spoke about his own settlement, Kibbutz Yahel. Yahel is one of the two Reform kibbutzim in Israel, which are both located in the Arava. Yahel was born from the marriage of two garinim: one Israeli and one American. While this marriage was uneasy at first, the two groups quickly began to mix and, in fact to intermarry. The blending of the two garinim was also advanced by the communal decision that Hebrew would be the language of the kibbutz.

Many Garin Galil members had questions about the mechanics that Yahel employs for group decision making. Hadas advised that while it was impossible to plan and decide everything in advance it was good to address as many of the community's concerns as soon as possible before moving to the site. Hadas also advised us to place more emphasis on process than on specific outcomes. Once we accept the framework for collective decision making he said, we must learn to live with the results in a spirit of compromise and accommodation. While this would be less critical at Har Halutz than on a kibbutz. Hadas felt that such a spirit would be necessary in order to build a lively, successful community. He explained that developing a community was the result of managing creative tension and of responding to human needs and desires in the best way possible. He wished us luck!

GARIN GALIL UPDATE

Presented by Hal Applebaum, Mazkir

Hal began his talk with a reminder of how far Har Halutz had come in the last two years. In September of 1983, at the first kinus of Garin Galil, the idea of a free enterprise village for Americans in the Galilee was just a dream. At that time, Haim Sharett, the settlement's first shaliach, gathered 24 families together to discuss the establishment of a "non-kibbutz" settlement. By the second kinus, eleven more families had joined a very diverse group of people committed to Aliyah within three years and interested in founding an active Jewish free-enterprise settlement. Since those first two kinusim, fifteen of the families have made Aliyah, and most are in the Galilee. Nine families moved to the mountain on September 27, 1985, realizing the dream of building a new community, literally from the ground up.

The nine households aready living in caravans on Har Halutz can be characterized as follows:*

6 families late 20's — early 30's (one Israeli family; five mixed)

1 family in their 40's (American Olim)
2 couples in their 60's (American Olim)

8 American adults, 7 Israelis, 1 each from Scotland, Holland and South Africa,

4 children, 3 on the way (including Hal's first!)

In addition to the nine families already on the site, two more families will move within the next two months, bringing 3 more children to Har Halutz. By December 1985, therefore, there will be eleven families with ten children. Looking down the road a bit further, three or four more families currently living in Karmiel are scheduled to move to the Har in six to eight months.

GENERAL DIRECTION

After introducing us to the population of Har Halutz. Hal proceeded to discuss the general direction that the settlement is taking. He noted that many issues have been raised but not resolved.

The style of the community has not yet solidified giving newcomers a significant opportunity to influence decisions. Hal said that the settlers recognized that not deciding also is a decision, and that the people already on the Har are eager to welcome new arrivals so that the process of community development could continue.

*As this newsletter goes to press in May 1986, there are now 11 families at Har Halutz, with 4 more families expected by the end of the year. These eleven families can be broken down as follows:

20's — 30's 7 couples 40's 1 couple 3 couples

10 American Adults

8 Israeli Adults

1 each from Scotland, Holland, South Africa, and Argentina

8 Children

2 on the way

One decision is clear — Har Halutz will be a Jewish, free-enterprise community village. The village will feature a high level of interaction, cooperation and interdependence. Although collective decision making through the assefa k'lalit (general meeting) will be important, it will have less control over individuals than on kibbutz. The settlement will not provide or guarantee jobs for its members, but will help when it can, and encourage members to establish businesses that will employ other villagers. Where exactly the balance will be struck between the individual and the collective is an open question. The settlers want very much to know how garin members feel about this issue.

As for the Jewishness of the settlement, settlers have begun celebrating Shabbat and holidays together, but many decisions remain to be made. For example, the settlement wants an active Hebrew culture and spiritual life, but the settlers on the Har already feel that they could use guidance from new settlers with Jewish leadership experience. Many of the villagers would be interested in attending more frequent Friday services, for example, but lack the knowledge to lead or teach. This need is already being addressed by inviting outsiders to present "divrei Torah," but the community seeks to further develop its own Jewish resources. In general, though, the settlement has decided that communal meals will be kosher-dairy and that the community's religious life will take place in an atmosphere of sharing tolerance.

Hal emphasized that within the basic framework of "Jewish free-enterprise" community village, many critical issues must still be resolved which will determine the exact character of Har Halutz. The existing settlers have already begun to encounter these issues, and have chosen to make decisions on some, while deferring others. They have had to consider how to delegate community responsibilities with volunteers or with a duty roster. (Nightly guard duty and preparation of Friday night community meals have been 2 issues already dealt with.) Thus a precedent has been set for cooperation and participation by all, important values for Har Halutznikim.

GOVERNANCE/DECISION MAKING

Like a New England town, Har Halutz will be run by a general meeting of residents. Decisions will require a 2/3 majority. Only individuals already living at the settlement may vote, but all garin members in Israel are welcome to attend meetings. Hal has been elected to a two year term as Mazkir (general secretary) meaning that he chairs the meetings and represents Har Halutz in its dealings with outsiders. By-laws are being developed.

Current settlers face the dilemma that they want to grow and live in a communal framework, not just sit in their temporary caravans waiting for more arrivals. Yet, they want input from people who will eventually be living at the settlement. Therefore, they have decided to deter many long-range decisions until a "critical mass" exists on the Har. Hal encouraged us whole heartedly to hurry up to Israel and to the Har so that we could become an integral part of the early day to day decision making.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. - How is daycare being handled?

A. — At the first kinus, it was decided that all settlers, not just parents, would pay for daycare services. Right now, there are too few children on the mountain to justify the expense of a metapelet. Also, the parents have indicated their preference for placing their children in daycare in Karmiel where they can interact with more children. The community decided that for the first year, daycare would be left up to the individual families. When there are more children, the settlement will discuss opening a gan. The question at that point will be what to do if some parents don't want to participate. Also, the community will have to decide whether there is an advantage to having an outsider run the nursery, to providing employment for a settler, which might bring with it social tensions on the yishuv if problems arose.

Q. - What role does the Jewish Agency play at Har Halutz?

A. — The Jewish Agency (Sochnut), built the infrastructure of Har Halutz: the road, utilities, landscaping, raw improvements, etc. It provides the caravans (temporary housing) rent free. Every new settler must be approved by the Jewish Agency before moving to the Har. For people without extended Israel experience, the Sochnut usually requires attendance at an ulpan, most often in the absorption center in Karmiel. Before coming to live in a caravan, each new settler signs a contract with the Sochnut.

Hal felt that the Sochnut has been very helpful to Har Halutz.

Q. - What other outside groups does the settlement deal with?

A. — In addition to the Aliyah and K'litah Department and the new Settlements Department, Har Halutz also has contact with the Misrad Ha'Shikun (Ministry of Construction) and the regional council of settlements in the area.

Q. - What are the physical arrangements in place now at the Har?

A. — Basic utilities — including sewer, water and electricity are working well. Today, there is a packed gravel road leading to the yishuv. The drive to Har Halutz winds up a steep road through Deir El Assad. It is a 15-20 minute trip from Karmiel and plans are underway to pave the road, which will shorten the drive. Twelve large (60 square meters) and eight small (45 square meters) unfurnished caravans are ready for occupancy. Nine of these twenty are already occupied. Six additional caravans have been designated as public spaces. These will serve as a moadon (lounge), offices, infirmary, nursery, classrooms and workshops. A space exists for a grocery, though one has not yet been opened. There are three above ground shelters, which are not expected to be required as Har Halutz is situated about twelve kilometers south of Ma'alot.

As part of the mitzpeh's security measures, a fence was erected around the yishuv. The fence is not one which will keep someone out that wants to get in, but it does establish a boundary. It is actions that will maintain security (primarily for property). Being firm with the local population and showing them that the yishuv protects itself, will help maintain the status quo.

A guarding schedule was worked out to maintain a watch over the settlement from 12 midnight to 5 AM. Allyishuv members have had training with the guns used for guarding, but it was decided that only the men would guard, since the Arab and Druse neighbors might take it as a sign of weakness if they see women guarding. Strict army regulations are followed as to when to use the weapons. Israeli security police inspect from time to time unannounced, in order to check for proper security arrangement. Currently with only nine families and two shifts per night, the guarding is required on an average of one shift every five days. This burden will be eased as more families join the settlement.

In the future the yishuv hopes to have businesses operating on the site as well as the nearby "Tourist Mountain." This will keep the mountain inhabited during the day and provide further security to those at home. Some businesses may be owned cooperatively by the yishuv members (in Israel known as Avodah Shitoofi).

Q. - What are the plans for permanent housing?

A. — Har Halutz has been planned to accommodate 180 one dunam (900 x 600 meters, i.e., ¼ acre) sites. A long battle was fought with the Housing Ministry, which because of its own budgetary constraints wanted the lots to be reduced to ½ dunam sizes. While this could house twice the number of families, it would require leveling the nature features of the Har and building tightly spaced houses with obstructed views.

The final proposal is that the settlers would pay the difference in infrastructure costs between the smaller and larger plots. That is to say that the plot and ½ the infrastructure costs will be free. The remaining infrastructure cost is estimated to be \$5,000-\$7,000 per plot. The Settlements Department is receptive to this idea. At this point, the settlers have agreed to move to the site, finish developing a plan with architect Baruch Allon, and present the plan to the Sochnut and the government for approval. By winter's end these steps will probably be completed and building may begin by Fall 1986 or early 1987.

Hal said that as the temporary housing fills up the "mere presence of more people" will help convince the authorities that Har Halutz is a viable, vital community worth believing in. Rather than waiting for every last detail to be in place, the settlers have decided to move forward and let the momentum of a growing settlement take its course.

If a family decides to leave the yishuv once they are living in their permament house, that house could only be sold to a permanent member. In the future the yishuv may elect to buy the house or help the family find a proper buyer.

Q. - Will there be a building code?

A. — Har Halutznikim want to live in a rural environment where the houses will blend into nature and with each other. There is no requirement that everyone build the same house, but the natural growth on te 2-3 meters on either side of a house should be left unshaven. Also, a committee will review the proposed exterior painting for each house. This is designed to avoid a situation found in other new settlements, where there are individual beautiful houses which have no usual relationship with each other.

Q. - What are the financial costs involved in moving to and living at Har Halutz?

The cost of building a permanent home at Har Halutz can only be estimated at this point. However, Hal estimates that building a nice, small house of 100 square meters (1100 square feet) which would have three bedrooms, two baths, a living room and a kitchen, would probably cost about \$300 per square meter or \$30,000. The \$300 per square meter estimate represents about a 25% decline from a fews years ago as it is currently a buyer's market. The price could be lowered still further by doing some work oneself, building in phases, or working with others to build a group of houses simultaneously.

Har Halutz is part of the "B'nei Betcha" (build your own home) project, in which the amount of mortgage moeny received is not dependent on family size or house size. A couple making Aliyah, or an Israeli married to an oleh/olah, would receive housing rights including a mortgage of \$25,000-\$27,000. Thus, a settler might have to pay \$3,000-\$5,000 in addition to whatever infrastructure cost will be decided on with the government. A second mortgage fund may be created.

A. — First, a car is essential. This can cost anywhere from \$2,000-\$20,000, depending upon individual preference. Immigrant rights mean a 40% decrease in tax on a car. No car financing is available. A new, Opel Escort would cost \$7,300. A 1979-80 used car might run \$3,000 and could be bought without using rights. In this way, rights could be kept for a purchase within three years of a new car, when one's needs were more clear. Insurance is expensive, about \$750 per year.

Second, the settler must consider the costs of assembling and moving major household items, such as furniture and appliances. Hal estimated that with rights, this could cost \$7.000-\$8,000. In his own case, Hal bought a new refrigerator, washer/dryer, stove, microwave oven, and VCR in the US and shipped everything from New York within this budget.

THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN ISRAEL, Steve Leibowitz, Deputy Director Israel Government Press Office

Steve reviewed for us the current state of affairs in Israel. He discussed the economy, politics and the diplomatic challenges facing the country. Economically, the government is finally winning the confidence of the people, by taking the tough measures required to control inflation. Although this has meant that Israelis have had to tighten their belts quite a bit, inflation has been drastically cut. Steve said that the future of the Israeli economy will be found in high-technology and export-related industries.

Also discussed was the strides that the National Unity Government is taking in domestic affairs and security issues.

RABBI ERIC YOFFIE AND DEBBIE SCHULTZ, ARZA

Eric and Debbie spoke briefly about ARZA. ARZA is a grassroots organization. currently involved in eight projects. These projects include support for Garin Galil and Garin Arava (the group that settles at Yahel and Lotan), a gan in Haifa, a Jewish-Arab youth camp, and a project to encourage synagogues to honor members making Aliyah.

In discussing religious observance at the mitzpeh, it was noted that Har Halutznikim as a community will grapple with the question of how to build an active Jewish life at the yishuv. Some of the issues that will be dealt with are: conducting services, celebrating holidays, studying, developing social action projects, educating children, etc. ARZA will help in any way it can, but decisions will be made internally by members of the settlement.

The meeting with Eric and Debbie stimulated an exciting discussion about religion among the kinus participants. Carol Muse, a garin member from Boston, led an energetic brainstorming session where each of us tried to describe what we wanted Jewish life at Har Halutz to be like. Many individuals expressed a strong desire to make the Har a vital Jewish place.

Below are some of the responses that came out of the session:

"RELIGIOUSLY, WHAT ARE THE KEY ELEMENTS IN A PLACE YOU'D LIKE TO LIVE?"

- People open to others' beliefs.
- Study of Jewish History, Philosophy, Religion ...
- Activism of Women in Religious Life.
- Public Ritual.
- Shabbat Poker Game.
- Degree of Participation.
- Commitment to Participate.
- No Organ/Guitar in service.
- Spirit.
- Religious Definition.
- Inclusion of Kids in Religious Life.
- Formation of Tzedakah collective.
- Egalitarianism.
- Personal and communal Growth thru Process.
- Some type of Shabbat (atmosphere, experience)
- Not anti-religious.
- Services in Hebrew.
- Feeling of Joy (not just serious).
- Parshat Hashavua Study (& Religious Study) & How it Relates to Modern Life.
- Non observance of Shabbat.
- Ability to Participate as much or as little as desired.
- Women & Children Participation.
- Kippah and Tallit in Beit Knesset.
- No head covering for Women.
- Formation of Ritual Committee.
- Mixed Seating.
- Liberal Halachic Interpretation.
- Opportunity to learn without Feeling Stupid.
- Daily Minyan.
- Individualism Tolerated.
- Connection With One Another.
- Religious Educator.
- Torah Service.
- Creative Jewish Education for Kids.
- Encouragement of Creative Expression.
- Public Kashrut.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN THE GALILEE Moshe Shraga, Assistant to the Counsel for Labor Affiars.

Moshe Shraga's department in the Israeli Government offices serves Israelis living in America. Through his offices a person can receive information on current job trends, Israeli companies, and how to arrange interviews in Israel. While the office is not officially supposed to work with olim, (which is the Jewish Agency's job) they do try to supply any information that olim may need in planning for job opportunities in Israel.

Mr. Shraga described Karmiel as a "center for job opportunities." In his words, "everybody can find something." This is not to say that everyone will get the red carpet treatment, but if there is an effort put forth in finding employment, success will follow.

At this point the talk was opened up for specific questions.

- Q. Is there pay equality for men and women performing the same job?
- A. In Israel the pay is the same for the same position, however it seems that there are less women at the top of the business structure, perhaps because of the different priorities that men and women have. Because of this, women often do not reach the high positions where the pay is greater.
- Q. Is there age discrimination in Israel? The person asking this question recently inquired about working for a large company where he had worked years earlier. At 64 years of age they would not hire him. What can he do?
- A. Large firms have restrictions built into their corporate structure. A small firm however might not have these limitations and should be consulted.
- Q. What is the demand for workers in the fields of mechanical engineering, pharmaceuticals, marketing, graphic design, semi-conductors and telecommunications?
- A. Of this list, pharmacists, and marketing people are the most needed. Israel is placing its future on high-tech exports. Increasingly, Israel will need people to sell the goods produced inside Israel to the foreign market.

For additional or more in-depth information on job trends or on the prospects of finding jobs in specific professions, contact the office of Labor Affairs.

State of Israel Ministry of Labor Affairs 800 Second Avenue New York, NY 10017

WEEKEND WRAP-UP

On Sunday, sitting in a circle together, we ended the weekend by sharing our impressions of the weekend and the garin. We each had a turn to comment, with Deddi saving his comments for last.

In comparing this kinus with previous kinusim it was agreed that the smaller size and flexible schedule was very enjoyable. It allowed people to sit, talk with and get to know one another. There wasn't pressure to "be somewhere" all the time, only one workshop was conducted at a time. There wasn't the pressure of feeling that you were "missing out" somewhere else.

It was a great help having Hal present. As a member of the yishuv in Israel, a "man in the know" was available to represent the mitzpeh. This provided cohesiveness to the weekend. The Garin Update talk was a major focus for this weekend, allowing participants to get an "insider's view" of life on the mountain.

Some commented that the brainstorming session on "how religion would figure into the settlement" was very interesting and allowed people to find out how others felt. It was suggested that this technique be used again and possibly expanded. It provided participants with a flavor of the group decision-making process. While it would seem logical to carry over the session to the next kinus in order to make some conclusions, in reality each kinus is unique in its makeup and participants — many of whom will already be in Israel and would not be around to argue their points.

The prevailing difficulty with this kinus was the handling of the children. There were ten children—a few of whom were infants. There was no provision made to watch the children or include them in the weekend's events. Parents needed to alternate caring for their children and therefore "missed out" on some of the scheduled activities. One parent who did not bring his children to this kinus but did to the last one felt that it is a benefit to see and meet the entire family. The children need to feel comfortable with their peers and especially older children should be included in adult activities.

The bottom line is that there is a trade off involved. It is a great benefit to meet the entire family unit. This is often the only opportunity the group has to meet a family before it is ready for aliyah. For many participants it is a great pleasure to see how the children relate to one another. But without a competent system of child care worked out, the parents can't just sit back and join in the activities.

Now it was Deddi's turn to comment. He also enjoyed the small size of the group but stressed that it was not planned that way. This is a national conference for the garin and Deddi strives to gather as large a group as possible. It not only means that we are getting the Garin Galil message through, but it allows for better kinus facilities at a lower cost.

Each kinus consists of two basic areas — education and socializing. From kinus to kinus there are bound to be overlapping topics. Variety can be maintained by providing varied formats for the subjects presented.

A new idea for the garin would be to have one of the 1986 kinusim in Israel on Har Halutz. Participants would stay in the empty caravans on the site. It would provide first hand experience with the settlement. Interviews and meetings would be held and if desired, participants could extend their stay in Israel beyond the time for the kinus. The cost of \$550 per person would likely include transportation from New York and full board.

In closing this gathering, two new families were welcomed into the garin; Donald and Christine Jacobson and their sons Ben and Sam, who are planning Aliyah for May of 1986 and Aryeh and Shellie Sherman and their sons Yaniv, Moshe, and Ilan who are planning Aliyah for the summer of 1988.

The final activity for the weekend was lunch. It was a last opportunity to make plans for the coming months in informal circles. We said our farewells to Deddi and Hal, sending our best wishes to our friends living on Har Halutz, securing a place for us all in the Galilee. Until then, letters and mini-kinusim can serve to keep us involved.

Young pioneer's 'letter'

By CARL ALPERT

AIFA—My name is Idan Applebaum, and I am almost 6 months old. I expect to be recorded in history as the first child born in the new mountaintop settlement of Har Chalutz in the Galilee. There are eight other kids here, and we're going to be joined by 14 more in the near future—with their parents, of course.

The grownups here are an interesting mixture: there are 10 Americans, eight Israelis, and one each from Argentina, Scotland, Holland and South Africa. We live in caravans, what you Americans call house trailers, and they're not bad, with electricity, running water and even solar hot-water heaters. Eventually we're going to move to permanent homes up here, but that will take a few years, I guess.

Visitors think we're in a pretty deserted place, isolated. But they're so big city-conscious that they can't appreciate the gorgeous view, the wide open spaces, the fresh air.

We're only 11 families thus far, but more are joining by the end of the year, and 10 more next year. No, this is not a kibbutz. We are a village of private families, each one earning its own livelihood, but all cooperating in the common interest. I know a lot more of what's going on around here then they think. They all speak English, but try to talk Hebrew as often as they can, and I'm learning both languages.

HAR CHALUTZ is a mitzpeh, a mountain settlement, and is different from most others around here in that this is a religious unit. No, nobody has a beard; I didn't say Orthodox, I said religious. They call this Reform, and support comes from the Reform movement in the United States. The prayer book they use at Friday evening services is all in Hebrew—no English. Every family has its own private kitchen and nobody pokes around. But the communal meal which we eat from time to time is all dairy, so that all families can feel at home here. Even secularists are not out of place.

There's a nursery school for us, and soon there'll be a kin-

dergarten.

Almost every family has a car, but a pickup truck goes down to the city of Karmiel every morning, and comes back at the end of the day. Among the grownups there are a couple of engineers, an architect, a few artists, a tour guide, a construction expert, a tennis instructor, teachers, a salesman and a few retired couples. The age range is from 25 to 64. No singles here. There are plenty of jobs in the neighborhood for professionals. We're right near the Tefen industrial and high-technology area, and this is supposed to be an ideal place for creative people as well.

Maybe our most famous member is Haya Burstein, formerly of Hicksville, L.I., who has written a lot of books for children, including "The Jewish Kids Catalogue." Her husband is Mordy, the construction man, who works in Kar-

miel.

I like Ehud and Yonat Ryden, who come from San Francisco. They're supposed to be retired, but she's doing pictures for a new book, and he's always helping out with carpentry. I almost forgot my own folks. Daddy (that's Hal), who comes from Tuscaloosa, Ala., is secretary of the settlement, and that's how I know everything that's going on. Mommy (that's Esti) taught aerobics until I came along.

YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN this place when I first came—just rocks and brambles, but there are already flowers and gardens. They've planted 115 walnut trees, and I can visualize how beautiful this place will be in a few years. The Aharonis have even put up a red-tasseled beach umbrella outside their trailer.

That hill over there is called Tourist Mountain. We're going to build a guest house there and make it a center for conventions, seminars, educational courses, etc. What a great place it will be for week-long retreats, right in the heart of the Galilee, on top of everything.

Har Chalutz is not for everybody. Haim Sharett, our group mentor, says the common characteristics of the folks

living here are love of the Galilee, strong sense of community responsibility, self-confidence, patience, desire to create a new kind of highquality life, an unbeat attitude open doors and no fence to the neighbors.

From what I hear some families did drop out of the preparatory group even before they got to our mountain. Reasons were different

in each case. One family was too delicate to take the rugged life. Another didn't have the social "chemistry" to get along. Another didn't want to move up here until there were at least 35 families.

Things move fast around here. You ain't seen nothing yet. If you come next month, you'll find our new basketball court all paved, you'll see a big "welcome" sign left over from the dedication ceremony we're planning, and the road to the top here will be paved all the way.

The Jewish Week, Inc. May 30, 1986

REPORT FROM THE SETTLEMENT

April, 1986

Dear Garin Galil Members and Friends:

Shalom. I must beg forgiveness for not having written a report in so long. I must admit that while it is not nice to make excuses. I have been so busy the past several months since returning from the States that I do not know where the time has gone.

On a personal note, the thing that has kept me most busy has been the birth of our first child, a son, who was born on December 25. (Wouldn't you know it!) His name is Idan, and he is a fine healthy baby. He and his mother are doing great.

Here in Israel things are going well, and we have good reason to be optimistic over the future at Har Halutz. First of all, we are growing! Family number ten arrived at the beginning of January. Their names are Daniel and Dvora Oren. He is originally from Argentina and works as a tour guide, and she is a ceramic artist originally from Kibbutz Neot Mordechai. They have two children, Nimrod, who is four and a half years old, and Amos, a baby just born last month. We are delighted to have them.

Family number eleven, Mordy and Chaya Burstein joined us at the end of February. Mordy and Chaya are from the original garin — he is a building contractor who is currently supervising a construction project near Karmiel and she is an artist and illustrator.

Besides the eleven families presently at the site, we have three or four other good candidate families who we hope will join us in the spring. Growth is so very important to our settlement. People often talk about the concept of "critical mass" and ask me what I think is critical mass for Har Halutz. Actually, critical mass can be broken down into several areas. Socially, I think that critical mass is reached around twenty families. Up until that point, we operate pretty much as one big family, which has its plusses, as well as its minuses. However, critical mass in terms of municipal services, and our ability to greatly enhance the day-to-day lifestyle of our settlers, will probably occur after we reach about 30 or 35 families. When we have that many families, we should probably be able to open some type of grocery store (either cooperatively or on an individual basis), we will be able to open a full-fledged infirmary, hopefully staffed by a nurse, we will have the ability to establish and operate all the day-care and kindergarden facilities needed. These are the elements which will make life easier for everyone.

Take the issue of the children, for example. At the moment, Har Halutz has eight children (and one more due in early April) whose age breakdown is as follows: one four-year-old, two two-year-olds, one one-year old and four babies. Today, the four-year-old, who is in compulsory kindergarden, travels to Moshav Shorashim, as we do not have enough kindergarden-age children here. The two children age two, for whom kindergarden/nursery school is not compulsory yet, go to nursery schools in Karmiel. The one-year-old and the babies are at home.

We plan to activate our nursery here at Har Halutz starting in September. We are in the process of purchasing and acquiring all the various things we need right now. That nursery will serve the five babies, and possibly the one-year old, as well as any other children who will have joined us by then in that age group. The two two-year olds, together with the four-year old, and anyone else in that age range who joins us, will probably go to a kindergarden/nursery at a neighboring settlement, most like Moshav Shorashim.

The problem we face here is that in order to set up a compulsory education kindergarden — ages 4 and 5 — one must have a minimum of approximately eight to ten children in that age

group. That is what we are working towards, and the best way to accomplish that goal quickly is to bring in more families with children in the 0-5 age group as soon as possible.

We have other good news. The road from Lavon to Har Halutz, 5 kilometers in length is getting paved. After many delays, we finally see the light at the end of the tunnel. The J.N.F. just finished the necessary improvements, and Solel Boneh will start paving next week. We are also bringing in topsoil next week to allow people to start fixing up their yards. Physically, this will give the Yishuv a much nicer appearance.

There are several major projects we are working on right now. First and foremost is to get the nursery established. This takes work not only physically, but organizationally as well. We must purchase all the necessary equipment and install it, we must arrange the outside area around the building, and we must determine how and when the nursery will be operated, payment procedures, etc. We have an education committee which is handling many of the details. Fortunately, we received a very nice donation from the U.S. which was designated for purchase of equipment for the nursery, and this should help to cover most, though not all of the expenses of equipping it. We have also received a budget for our Moadon, or meeting hall, from both the Regional Council and the Absorption Ministry. With this money, we are getting ready to purchase much-needed equipment to set up our club/meeting hall into a nice place not only for the settlers, but to host the many guests and groups who visit the mountain for an hour or two.

Another project that we want to work on this year is our sport court. At the moment we have a cleared area for a combination basketball/volleyball court. But we need to asphalt it, put an acrylic top-cover on it, fence and light it, and purchase the various sport equipment. This is a project that will take at least 25 to 30 thousand dollars, and we are trying to figure out how to do it.

We are also working with Keren Kayemet here in hopes of establishing a recreation area/playground, which would be in immediate proximity to both the kindergarden/nursery and the sport court. This again takes a lot of money, and we are only in the planning stage right now, but with a little luck, we might get something of this nature off the ground by late summer/early fall.

In the short six months that we have been here, these are a few of the things we have done:

- Planted over 100 walnut trees at Tu B'Shvat, which line the entrance to the settlement.
- 2. Installed a drip-irrigation system that serves the walnut trees.
- Had a smashing Chanukiah party, including our traditional Chanukiah of Torches which could be seen for miles.
- 4. Conducted Kabbalat Shabbat services every Friday evening.
- 5. Held a community Shabbat meal at least once a month.
- 6. Held general meetings every two weeks.
- 7. Conducted Mazkirut meetings every Sunday evening.
- 8. Hosted at least eight to ten visiting groups, from Israel and abroad.
- Established active committees which include health, culture, absorption, building, security and constitution.
- 10. Witnessed the birth of four boys, two of which had their Brit at Har Halutz.
- Established an active relationship with the neighboring Druze village of Kisra, and hosted the elderly leadership of the village at Har Halutz.
- Constructed gravel walkways in our public facilities areas.
- 13. Built collapsable tables for our Moadon.
- 14. Purchased various garden tools for the use of the Yishuv members.
- 15. Acquired four dogs and one cat.
- 16. Cleaned our public facilities, on a "Toramut" basis, every week.
- Hosted Rabbi David Forman on two different weekends during which he conducted study-discussion groups.
- 18. Went on a group trip to Nahal Ayoun, near Metulla.
- 19. Installed special fire equipment.
- Furnished a guest caravan which hosts candidates and visitors.

That's not a bad start, considering that on top of all of this, we maintained jobs and "normal" family life. It is certainly an exciting, challenging, exhausting, frustrating, rewarding time. We have many challenges ahead of us that include:

- 1. The construction of walkways in the Moked.
- Completion of our general master plan.
- Absorbing more families we must grow!!
- Designing our permanent public facilities.
- 5. Completion of our short-term projects in the Moked (mentioned above).
- 6. Designing a new brochure for a large-scale recruiting campaign for Reform Jews in Israel. This is currently being done together with the Leo Baeck School in Haifa. We will be sending information packets to all the graduates of Leo Baeck over the last 10 years.

Of all these things, however, the most important is to grow. We anxiously await the Aliya of our garin members from the states. Believe me, we need you! Just from the list above you can get an idea of the magnitude of work that there is at a place like this, and today, only eleven families shoulder the load. No doubt we could accomplish more if we had additional people power!

On that note, I will sign off. We look forward to seeing all of you here soon. Please write if you have any questions. Shalom Ve L'Hitraot.

Hal Applebaum Mazkir, Har Halutz

The EMBLEM of the STATE of ISRAEL

The official emblem of the State, which was adopted in 1949, is the menorah, or candelabrum, the ancient symbol of the Jewish people, in the form seen in relief on the Arch of Titus in Rome. The menorah is surrounded by two olive branches, linked at the bottom by the inscription "Israel" in Hebrew. The olive branches represent the ancient yearning of the Jewish people for peace. The olive branch itself has been synonomous with peace since the dove sent to find dry land brought one back to Noah's Ark (Genesis 8:11).

A letter from Haim Sharett to Sharon and Yisrael Paliti, members of Garin Galil.

Sharon v'Yisrael hayekarim,

Spring 1986

We miss you here and you are greatly needed on the mountain. People of your stamina and fiber could contribute a lot to our shaping up community. The sooner we will reach the "critical mass," which in my opinion is around 30 families, and the sooner we will reinforce our middle age group—the better the chances for our viability and growth. I hope you are progressing, full steam ahead, with your preparations for joining us.

It's almost two years since our garin has started to make Aliyah, and already half a year since we moved up to the mountain. Out of the 14 families who have made their Aliyah through the garin's framework—93% (all but one) have made it to Israel, but only 50% have made it to the mountain, or can be considered real prospects. Can we draw conclusions? Let us try and analyze our performance on the basis of the experience we have accumulated so far.

What are the common characteristics of the people who have made it to the mountain:

- 1. Love of the Galilee terrain.
- Strong sense of community—readiness, willingness and ability to share responsibilities, to provide mutual aid and to contribute time, energy and resources to the community's needs and goals.
- Conviction, self confidence and patience.
- 4. Upbeat attitude, open door and no fence to thy neighbors.

Almost every family who has dropped out has had a different reason for doing so:

- Too delicate The present conditions on the Har were too rough for them.
- 2. Not serious They were not keen on the Garin and the Yishuv in the first place. In the States they were comfortable with the Garin as a social club but in Israel they disconnected themselves. Also, the future capital investment involved in settling on the mountain didn't fit with their "Ma'gi'ah" ("I am entitled to") philosophy of life.
- 3. Basic Aliyah One member of the family was "forced" to make Aliyah and the other, unfortunately, did not have enough common sense to manage economically. Also, their ambiguity about Aliyah and lack of strong social ties with Garin members prevented this family from using the Garin as a support group.
- 4. No social chemistry chemistry
- 5. Too religious Strict and "Halachic" Shabbat observance: no cars, no out of the yishuv activities, no music and dance on Friday night were the desires of this family. They felt most uncomfortable with the Garin's tolerance and "live & let live" philosophy.
- 6. Family problems On a remote location, where mutual aid is maintained not only between families but is essential also among the members of the family—only loving and unified families can survive.
- 7. No risk "You understand that I will never move to the mountain without the assurance of having at least 35 families on the yishuv's waiting list."

I hope the above characterization will help the members of the garin as well as new prospects to judge their chances here on the mountain.

ISRAEL FACES THE 21ST CENTURY

HISTORY

he Bible recounts how,
4,000 years
ago. the
people of
Abraham flourished in the
land now called Israel.
When. during a long
drought, the Jews left for
Egypt, they were enslaved
there by the Pharoahs. Then
Moses, called by God, led
the Jews back to the
"promised land."

The meaning of this religious tradition was burned early into Jewish memory: They were a people of God, and — even in exile — the land of Abraham was theirs forever.

EXILE . . .

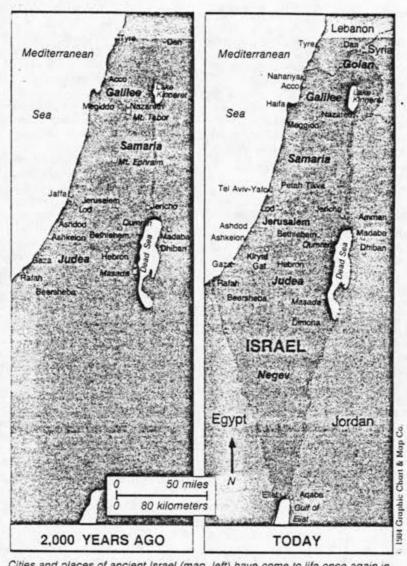
The experience of exile recurred several times in Jewish history. The Babylonians conquered and exiled the Jews for a short period in the 6th century B.C.E. (a Jewish abbreviation for Before the Common Era; B.C.). Five centuries later, Roman armies swept over Judea, and captured Jerusalem. Even the name

of the land was changed - to Palestine.

The Roman conquest provoked fierce resistance. At the very end, for about two years, almost 1,000 Jews held off the Romans at a fortress on Masada, a mountain top near the Dead Sea. In 73 C.E. (A.D.), just as the Romans completed a huge ramp to the top of the fortress, the Masada Jews killed themselves. It was the last act of a people who refused to be captured, enslaved, or forced to accept Roman paganism.

Under the romans, Jews were forced into exile again. For the next 2,000 years, Muslim Arabs, Seljuk Turks, European Crusaders, and Ottomans followed the Romans as conquerors of Palestine. At times, the land of Abraham was like a deserted battleground.

Toward the end of the 19th century, America's Mark Twain visited Palestine and noted how sad was the view of the practically empty. Holy Land with only a few desert dwellers, a few Jewish communities concentrated in the cities, and very few Arabs.



Cities and places of ancient Israel (map, left) have come to life once again in modern Israel alongside new cities and towns (map, right).

. . AND RETURN

As Twain surveyed the state of affairs in Palestine. Jews throughout the world continued to dream of returning to Jerusalem and the Land of Israel. In the 19th century, European Jews embraced Zionism, a new political movement launched by Theodor Herzl. Zionists sought to "create for Jewish people a homeland in Palestine, secured by public law."

And Jews began to return. By the last quarter of the century, they once again formed the majority in Jerusalem; by 1914, 100,000 had returned to Palestine. Among them were religious Zionists from Arab countries in southwest Asia, where Jews were forced to live as second-class citizens for centuries.

In 1917, the Zionist movement gained world attention and British support in the form of the Balfour Declaration, a promise by Britain "to facilitate the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people." In furtherance of this promise, the League of Nations awarded Palestine as a Mandate to Britain after World War I.

During the next two decades, the British made several proposals for forming both Jewish and Arab states in the region. The Arabs rejected each proposal outright. Jews pressed their return to Zion, especially in the late 1930s, as they watched the beginnings of the Nazi Party's anti-Jewish policies in Europe.

In 1947, Great Britain decided to terminate its mandate over Palestine and brought the matter before the United Nations. On November 29 of that year, the United States and the Soviet Union joined other U.N. members in a 33-to-13 vote for the partition of Palestine (map, last page of this section). Arab states adamantly objected.

On May 14, 1948, David Ben-Gurion proclaimed the new State of Israel. The following day, armies from five Arab states crossed Israel's borders and attacked its 650,000 inhabitants. By December, Jewish forces prevailed, although Egypt's armies remained in Gaza, and Jordan's, in Judea and Samaria. Separate armistices were signed with Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, and Syria in 1949. It would be 30 years before just one of these armistices was replaced by a treaty.

GOVERNMENT

On May 14, 1948. Israel proclaimed in its Declaration of Independence "the natural right of the Jewish people to be master of its own fate, like all other nations, in its own sovereign state . . ." The State of Israel would thereafter "be open for Jewish immigration and for the ingathering of exiles."

This "ingathering" was to bring together Jews who had been living in the midst of a variety of world cultures, Jews who spoke different languages and dialects. At the same time, Israel would remain the home of Muslims and Christians already living there. Israel's founders faced a critical question: How should their state deal with people of different faiths and cultural backgrounds?

The answer, in principle, was signaled in Israel's Declaration of Independence, which promised "complete equality of social and political rights for all inhabitants, irrespective of religion, race, or sex." All would enjoy "freedom of conscience, language, education, and culture." The Jews, who had lost 6 million, or one-third of their people in the Nazi Holocaust, were determiend to protect these freedoms for others.

A GOVERNMENT ...

In addition to guarantees of such rights as freedom of speech, press, and conscience, the people of Israel needed a government. The constitution for their government is not a single document but a set of basic laws that began to be passed in 1958. From these basic laws emerged a parliamentary government consisting of three branches: a legislature (the Knesset), a prime minister and executive cabinet chosen from Knesset members, and a judiciary, Israel has a president, too, but — unlike the U.S. presidency — the office is chiefly for carrying out state ceremonies.

The Knesset, a unicameral (one-house) legislature, is the most powerful branch of government in Israel. Its 120 members, elected by voters 18 years of age and older, enact laws which are generally immune to challenge by the courts. (Israel's Supreme Court can suggest changes in the law.) But the Knesset is also a government body in which compromise and cooperation are particularly essential for the work of government to go on.

There are more than 10 political parties in Israel (ranging in ideology from Communists to conservative-nationalists), and no single party has ever received an absolute majority of the national vote. Thus, the party receiving the highest number of votes is challenged to form a majority coalition with one or more of the smaller parties. Without such a coalition, legislation could come to a standstill.

Israel has a three-tiered judicial system: a Supreme Court; district and magistrates' courts; and special local courts for such matters as juvenile crime. However, each major religious group is allowed its own courts, with full authority in such matters as marriage and divorce — provided women are granted equal status with men.

	(i	n \$ billio	n)			
	Internat'l. Reserves (Minus Gold)	THE STATE OF THE S	Exports Only)	Per Cap- ita In- come (PCI)	Per Capita Expenditure on Military	% PCI Spent on Military
Egypt	.70	9.08	3.12	\$560	\$44*	8%
Iran	15.48*	12.40*	17.61	\$2,160*	\$126*	6%
Iraq	6.82*	19.00*	10.87	\$2,410*	5206*	
-	4747	10.4	-	The Real Property lies	- Commercial Commercia	201
Jordan	.88	3.24	.74	\$1,655*	\$144*	9%
Kuwait	5.91	6.93*	10.89	\$16,605*	\$693*	4%
Lebanon	2.61	3.50*	.90*	\$1.292*	\$101*	9% 4% 8%
Libya	7.06	8.38*	13.95	\$7,289*	-	-
Saudi Arabia	29.55	40.65	79.12	\$13.354*	\$1.862*	14%
Syria	29*	4.03	2.03*	\$1,763*	\$256°	15%

Faced with an enormous combined Arab arsenal, Israel spends highest percentage of per-capita income on defense in Middle East.

FOR EVERYONE

Having promised in 1948 to "foster the development of the country for the benefit of all," Israel's leaders undertook to build a modern nation in a land that was then chiefly agricultural. Their work was sustained by an outpouring of billions of dollars in gifts and aid from around the world, and by the joy Jews felt in having returned again from exile.

Israel achieved its goals rapidly:

 Under a public housing program begun in the early 1950s, an average of 30,000 new units have been built every year for young couples and new immigrants.

 A National Insurance Institute provides a broad range of benefits (both contributory and non-contributory) to all citizens: family allowances, unemployment insurance, etc.

 All children in Israel have free (compulsory) schooling through the secondary level.

 Israel's health-care standards have reduced its infant mortality rate to among the world's lowest. The ratio of Israel's doctors to its population (1 for every 415 persons) is among the world's highest.

Israel has become a modern industrial state in the Middle East.
 Since 1950, it has increased its GNP by about 2,000 percent.

Such achievements are a tribute to the hardworking Jewish immigrants and to their "first-generation" children (called "sabras," for a native cactus with a sweet fruit!). But their achievements lie under the shadow of one unfulfilled goal: the formation of a permanent peace with neighboring Arab states. The cost of struggling for that peace has been dear.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT

Many Israeli exports are the fruit of intense research efforts. National research also focuses on conserving water. (That's not surprising, considering that much of Israel consists of rocky hills or arid deserts.)

Israelis, for example, have perfected a design for drip-irrigation, involving thin tubes that snake above plant roots. Since these tubes release a controlled supply of water, they cut in half the amount of water needed to irrigate crops. Another example of conservation is the National Water Carrier. Built in the 1960s, it pipes water from the Sea of Galilee to the Negev Desert.

In addition to conserving water, Israelis use it uniquely in the production of electricity. At the Ormat Turbines Plant at Ein Bokek on the Dead Sea, heavy water that is five times as salty as the oceans lies trapped by its weight below lighter, ordinary water. After the day's sunlight raises its temperature, this heavy water is piped out, intensely hot. The pipes heat, the heat vaporizes a freon liquid, the vapor turns an electric turbine. Meanwhile, the cooled salt water is piped back to the "solar pond."

SURVIVAL SKILLS

But Israel's imports consistently outweigh its exports. Israel must buy one-fourth of its food and virtually all of its oil on the world market. This trade imbalance resulted in a deficit of \$5 billion in 1983. Such deficits are not the only burden on Israel's economy: The current inflation rate is over 400 percent, while custom duties on some improts reach as high as 350 percent.

One might imagine that the effort to survive such economic difficulties would weaken the spirit of a small nation. The reverse is true. Not far beneath the surface of Israel's modern lifestyle lies a history of survival thousands of years old. It is this that visitors come to realize, beyond all first impressions: Israelis draw their strength from an age-old tradition of "building their land and letting the land build them."

FOREIGN POLICY

rom 1949, the new
Jewish nation has
been kept in a state
of war by its neighbors and has been
engaged four times in fullscale combat with them.

•In October, 1956, Egypt (backed by Soviet aid) nationalized the Suez Canal and blockaded the Straits of Tiran, thus cutting off access to the Israeli port of Eilat. Provoked further by terrorist activity from Egyptian-occupied territory, Israel's forces entered the Gaza Strip and Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, but withdrew at U.S. urging. U.N. "buffer" troops moved between Israel & and its enemies.

•In June 1967, following a series of terrorist attacks on Israel by the recently formed Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), Egypt renewed its naval blockade of the Straits of Tiran. It ordered U.N. peace-keeping troops out of Sinai and threatened a war to wipe out Israel. Jordan subsequently bombarded West Jerusalem and Jewish coastal towns; Syria shelled the Golan Heights.

A CHANGING MAP: 1920 1948 SYRIA Syria French Mediterranean Mandate) Mediterranean Sea Sea Dead PALESTINE Egypt Jordan Mandate Egypt 75 kilometers U.N. Partition SHE I Plan 1947 1967 1984 Syria Haifa Mediterranean Sea Mediterranean Sea Tel Aviv Jerusalem Dead WEST Gaza BANK Jordan Jordan SINAL Egypt PENINSULA PENINSULA 100 miles 100 kilometers

British Mandate (top left). Israel's 1947 partition lines disappeared with 1948 Arab invasion. Israel administered Sinai after 1967; withdrew, 1982.

IMPACT AT HOME

Debate over the extent of Israeli presence in Lebanon and the pace of settlements in Judea and Samaria (the "West Bank") had a surprising impact on Israel's 1984 elections: For the first time, neither of the two major political blocs was able to form a ruling coalition.

What they did, finally, was to introduce an imaginative compromise: both blocs agreed to share the leadership until the next four-year-election. Thus, Prime Minister Shimon Peres (Labor Alignment) began the term in 1984; after two years he will hand over the office to Yitzhak Shamir (Likud bloc), former Prime Minister, now Vice Premier and Foreign Minister.

Despite differences over the implementation of foreign policy. Israelis are united as to its aims. One aim is the continuance of close Israeli-U.S. ties. "The friendship of the American people is very precious to us," said Prime Minister Peres on September 13, 1984. Peres affirmed the vision binding the two nations; a "belief that. . . democracy is not only the finest of systems but also the strongest."

Israel sent its planes and troops against Egypt in the Sinai Desert, against Syria in the Golan Heights, and against Jordan in Judea and Samaria. Successful in its military action, Israel assumed the administration of all these territories as a strategy for self-defense. The U.S. called, in REsolution 242, for Israel's return of territories taken in the 1967 action. But without the secure and recognized boundaries also called for by 242. Israel could not then move on the resolution.

 In 1973, while Jews observed Yom Kippur (the religious Day of Atonement). Egypt and Syria joined in a surprise attack that took a heavy toll in Israeli lives and equipment. The determined Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) eventually turned back the attack.

 In 1982, seeking to end PLO terrorist attacks from bases in Lebanon. Israeli troops entered that country and for a short time were stationed in part of its capital, Beirut. One outcome was the expulsion of PLO members from Beirut and from southern (but not all of) Lebanon. Israeli troops remain temporarily in southern Lebanon for the protection of their own border.

One hopeful note was sounded in this period. In 1979, Israel's Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egypt's President Anwar Sadat signed a peace treaty. Fulfilling a treaty promise, Israeli troops withdrew from the Sinai by 1982.

The Israelis' other aim is peace, one that is secured by:

- direct negotiation with Arab states (not with the PLO) and formal recognition by them of the State of Israel's right to exist;
- recognition that Israel is entitled to security on all its frontiers, including the terrotories it now administers and defends;
- acknowledgment of reunited Jerusalem as Israel's spiritual and political capital — even as Israel sustains the promise in its own Declaration of Independence to "safeguard the Holy Places of all religions."

In a sense, Israelis have no other choice but peace on such terms. For them, peace is the condition for life. And in the Bible, they read: "Choose life that both thou and they seed may live. ... that thou mayest dwell in the land which the Lord swore until thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them." (Deutoronomy: 30: 19-20)



POEMS FROM A PARENT

by Frieda Bursten, San Diego Chapter, APAI*

THEY TELL ME I SHOULD CRY

They tell me I should cry because
you've left,
They tell me I should mourn,
as one bereft
Mourns for a child, in sorrow,
in pain, and grief.

That's what they say, well, that's not my belief.

Of course I miss you. My lot's not to share

Your Shabbat meal, or pat the baby's hair,

Help make the beds or pick up scattered toys,

Or tell big stories to your little boys.

Of course I miss you, and you miss me too,
And this is grief for both of us;
but you
And I both know that you went home:

That being young and bright and free to roam

Far from our fireside, still you chose to go

Back to the Land that we left long ago.

A thousand lives ago we left
in chains,
Driven through mountains,
deserts, coastal plains To any market where a slave
was sold.
And now the circle closes;
free and bold
You walk the lovely land and
make your claim
On ancient promises made in
His name.
They tell me I should cry. Well, yes,
I do But I cry for myself, and not for you.

The Flag of Israel

On October 1948, the Provisional Council of State adopted the blue and white colors with the Shield of David as the flag of Israel. This flag was unfurled on May 11, 1949, at Lake Success in New York, when Israel became the 59th member of the United Nations.

ORIGIN

The design of the Israel flag is the same as that of the Zionist flag which was used at the First Zionist Congress, held in Basle in 1897. A major role in working out this design was played by David Wolfsohn, the distinguished Zionist leader who, in 1905, succeeded Theodor Herzl as president of the World Zionist Organization. Here is Wolfsohn's own account of the birth of the Zionist flag:

"At the behest of our leader Herzl, I came to Basle to make preparations for the Zionist Congress, to assure its success and to avoid any opening for detractors. Among the many problems that occupied me then was one which contained something of the essence of the Jewish problem: What flag would we hang in the Congress Hall? . . . Then an idea struck me. We have a flag—and it is blue and white. The tallit (prayer-shawl) which we wrap ourselves when we pray: that is our symbol. Let us take this tallit from its bag and unroll it before the eyes of Israel and the eyes of all nations. So I ordered a blue and white flag with the Shield of David painted upon it. That is how our national flag, that flew over Congress Hall, came into being. And no one expressed any surprise or asked whence it came, or how".

COLORS

YALE BLUE—in two horizontal stripes and the Shield of David; WHITE—Background.

SPECIFICATIONS

The dimensions of the standard-size flag are 220 cm. by 160 cm. (or $88" \times 64"$). The width is divisible as follows: Starting at the top, 15 cm. (6") white background. The Shield of David, composed of two equilateral triangles, is located in the center of the flag and measures 69 cm. (27.6") from top to bottom.

	NAJ	ar.	MOVE TO SITE	ALIYAH	AGE	CHILDREN /	YR. BORN	OCCUPATION	COUNTRY OF BIRTH	CURRENT ADDRESS
1.	AHARONI	David Karen	ON SITE	1983	28 25	Yael Tal	11/83 3/86	Electronics Kindergarten Teacher	Israel Scotland	11
	APPLEBAUM	Hal Esti	ON SITE	1984	28 26	Idan	12/85	Mazkir, Har Chalutz Aerobics Teacher	U.S.A. Israel	-
	AVITAL	Avi Yael	ON SITE	1982	34 25	Maya	1/85	Salesman Education	Israel Holland	
	DENTA	Moshe Shlomit	ON SITE		28 26	Elad Expecting	8/83 11/86	Elec. Engineer Community Worker	Israel Israel	
	FINE	Bram Nitza	ON SITE	1984	26 26	Ari	9/85	Architect Biology Teacher	S. Africa Israel	S
	NORTON	Frank Gail	ON SITE	1984	45 45			Self-Employed Self-Employed	U.S.A. U.S.A.	
	RYDEN	Ehud Yonat	ON SITE	1985	62 64			Solar Design Artist	U.S.A. U.S.A.	
	SILBERMAN	Oscar Esther	ON SITE	1984	62 60			Retired Retired	U.S.A. U.S.A.	P
	WILSON	Steve Erela	ON SITE	1984	31 28		4/86	Computers Graphic Artist	U.S.A. Israel	
	OREN	Daniel Dvora	ON SITE	1975	32 30	Nimrod Amos	8/81 12/85	Tour Guide Ceramic Artist	Argentina Israel	
	BURSTEIN	Mordy Chaya	ON SITE	1985	59 60			Contractor Writer/Illustrator	U.S.A. U.S.A.	P
	SHINDLER	Scott Mira	June 1986	1980 1970	33 28	Lidel Corey	11/82 3/86	Teacher Bank Teller	U.S.A. Russia	
	BARACII	Micha Karen	September 1986	6/86	30 30	Shoshana Moshe Expecting	2/81 11/84 8/86	Lawyer/Pharmacist Pharmacist	U.S.A. U.S.A.	ta ta
	JACOBSON	Donald Christine	September 1986	5/86	36 28	Sam Ben	9/80 7/83	Urban Planning Nurse	U.S.A. Switzerland	
	ATKINS .	Gary Joyce	October 1986	8/85	39 36	Shoshana Shimshona Renana Oriel Sharona Moshe Ayelet	2/72 11/73 1/75 10/75 10/77 11/79 1/84	Computers Teacher/Artist	U.S.A. U.S.A.	-
	TOTAL BY 12/86:	FAMILIES:	15	CHILDREN:	24					
	METTER	Joel Barbara	March 1987	10/86	38 31			Lawyer Tech. Writer/Editor		icago, IL 12) 951-1014
	PERSING	Bruce Sally	March 1987	7/86	38 35	Oren Han	7/81 7/84	Carpenter Housewife		iladelphia, PA 12) 724-7334
	PERSING	Ken Nora	March 1987	7/86	33 36	Ariel Eli	3/79 1/83	Mechanic Housewife		iladelphia, PA 15) 724-7334

	NAMI	E	MOVE TO SITE	ALIYAH	AGE	CHILDREN /	YR. BORN	OCCUPATION	COUNTRY OF BIRTH	CURRENT ADDRESS
9.	LEVINE	Richard Barbara	March 1987	8/85	36 36	Ariel	4/83	Comp. Acct. Design & Man. Elect. & Comp. Project Man.	U.S.A. U.S.A.	Israel
0.	MUSE	Michael Carol	June 1987	8/86	29 28	Bana	4/85	Computers Human Resources		Brookine, Mass. (617) 738-6540
ı.	MELMAN	David Lori	August 1987	3/87	24 24			Computer Scientist Legal Secretary		Los Angeles, Cal. (213) 826-8072
2	BLOOMBERG BEINER	Ricky Eudice	August 1987	3/87	27 27	ldit	5/84	Comp. / Jewish Education Special Education Teacher	U.S.A. U.S.A.	Baltimore, MD (301) 486-4249
3.	MENACHEM	Avi Harriet	August 1987	3/87	28 30	Talia	6/84	Computer Technician Executive Secretary		Chicago, IL (312) 588-7586
4	SASOON	Mike Lesley	August 1987	1985	32 33	Adam David Chana	8/80 5/82 2/84	Doctoral Student Housewife	England England	Israel
5.	FARCHI HACKE	Dani Robin	1987/88	1/86 4/86	24 25			Student M.B.A.	Israel U.S.A.	Israel
Ī	TOTAL 1987:	FAMILIES:	10	CHILDREN:	11					
6.	PALITI	Yisrael Sharon	1988	8/87	40 36	Adi	1/75	Graphic Design C.P.A.		Ames, Iowa (515) 233-2743
7.	ALBAN	Lewis Heddy	1988	8/87	41 41	Rachel Joseph	10/76 3/78	Psychologist Computer Programmer	U.S.A. U.S.A.	Vineland, NJ (609) 696-8508
8.	COHEN	Jerry Andrea	1988	9/87	28 24			Industrial Engineer Computer Programmer	U.S.A. U.S.A.	Atlanta, GA (404) 355-9334
9.	SHERMAN	Aryeh Shelly	1988	6/88	40 39	Yaniv Ilan Moshe	4/73 8/75 1/80	Career Counsellor Camp Administrator		Philadelphia, PA (215) 722-5768
	TOTAL 1988: TOTAL END OF 1988:	FAMILIES: FAMILIES:	4 29	CHILDREN: CHILDREN:	6 41					
OT	THER POTENTIAL FAMIL	ES:								
0.	BEN AMI	Gad Shulamit			46 42	Alan Oren Sigalit	3/65 9/68 8/79	Management Data Processing		Madison, WI (608) 257-6912
11.	ONHEIBER	Michael Patrice			35 34			Lawyer Health Administrator		Lake Mills, WI (414) 648-5098
2.	LANDAU	Tsvi Orna			33 30			Design Engineer Dental Student	Israel -	
33.	FRIEDLANDER	Maurice Rose		1985	67 62			Retired Retired	U.S.A. U.S.A.	Israel

Brith Sholom Congregation

Jewish Center

3207 STATE STREET

ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA 16508-2892

TELEPHONE: (814) 454-2431

July 15, 1986



Rabbi Gary L. Atkins

President Stefan Berger

Executive Vice President Laurel Rider Finance Vice President Arthur Press Education Vice President Allen Selling Properties Vice President Gerald Cohen Religion Chairman Dr. Joseph Hines

Cemetery Vice President Sam Mayers Secretary

Helene Lechtner Assistant Secretary Linda Dombchik Treasurer

Shirley R. Brown Comptroller Carl Cohen

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, President Union of American Hebrew Congregations 838 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10021

Shalom Rabbi Schindler:

Thanks very much for your letter of July 10; the good news of which I had already heard from Deddie. Needless to say, I am thrilled! I will talk with my wife Thursday and inquire whether the sefer torah has made it to the yishuv. A "small" one is actually best because it should fit into the aron kodesh we donated without any difficulty.

If all my bakashot were answered so readily I would feel like Honi of the Midrash - but I would use the power for peace in Israel and the world - and a cessation of hassling from the "frummies" in Israel.

I'll be back there in five weeks and look forward to meeting you on one of your next visits through the country.

Kol tuv)

Gary L. Atkins

GLA:ns

Rabbi Gary L.

July 10, 1986 3 Tammuz 5746

Rabbi Gary L. Atkins Brith Sholom Congregation 3207 State Street Erie, PA 16508-2892

Dear Gary:

Thank you for your good wishes. I am feeling very much better, indeed I have received permission to return to the office, at least on a part-time basis and it is good to be back at work.

The members of the UAHC mission to Israel were deeply moved by their visit to Har Halutz. It is a very exciting undertaking and all of us of the Movement want to do all we can to be of assistance to the members of the community.

The word has obviously not reached you as yet, but the Yishuv has already received a sefer torah. Arrangements were made through ARZA and I am advised that integrated was sent off to Israel but a week or two ago. It is a small torah but I am told a very good one. I know that it will add to the religious life of the community.

With every good wish and kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Brith Sholom Congregation

Jewish Center

3207 STATE STREET

ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA 16508-2892

July 2, 1986

TELEPHONE: (814) 454-2431



Rabbi Gary L. Atkins

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Rabbi Alexander Schindler, President Union of American Hebrew Congregations 838 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10021

Shalom Rabbi Schindler:

I trust and pray you have had a complete recovery from your attack in Israel. My family and I are members of Garin Galil to Har Halutz. We actually made aliyah last summer, however, I ended up coming back to help out the synagogue here for a year. You may have met my wife, Tova, during your visits to the Har this past year. I look forward to being back "home" in two months with great anticipation. Our daughter was bat mitzvah on the Har last Yom HaAtzmaut.

I am writing to ask your assistance in obtaining a sefer torah for the Yishuv. We have an aron kodesh, services are being regularly held and, although I definitely do not want to be "rabbi" for the settlement, I do hope for a full religious service and life up there. This request is obviously a major item, however, I know there are times that synagogues donate them, or that there are possibilities through the Holocaust collection in London.

I have talked to Deddie about this; I look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your assistance.

Kol tuy,

Rabbi Gary L. Atkins

GLA:ns

cc: Deddi Lewinsohn

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THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATION EXT
547 ODED LAWENSOHN
838 5 AVE
NEW YORK NY 10021

THIS IS A CONFIRMATION COPY OF THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE:

TDMT NEW YORK NY 135/129 10-11 0330P EST INT DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER MINISTER OF CONSTRUCTION MINISTRY OF HOUSING JERUSALEM (ISRAEL)

DISTRESSED YOUR OFFICE NOT FULLFILLING PROMISE TO COVER EXPENSE OF 200,000 DOLLARS TO TOP ASPHALT LAYER OF ROAD TO HAR CHALUTZ, FIRST REFORM KFAR KEHILATI-IN THE GALIL. AS BEN-ABU SUGGESTED WE ARE APPEALING TO EXPERTS COMMITTEE FOR LACK OF TOP LAYER MAKES ACCESS TO ROAD VERY DIFFICULT AND MAKES 800,000 THOUSAND DOLLARS INVESTED BY SOCHNUT ON THE ROAD-BED A WASTE. 1 RAINFALL AND EVERYTHING WILL BE WASHED AWAY AS YOU KNOW, THIS IS THE THIRD REFORM MOVEMENT SETTLEMENT, FOLLOWING OUR KIBBUTZIM, YAHEL AND LOTAN. PLEASE HELP US GROW. AVAIL THE 200,000 THOUSAND DOLLARS PROMISED US-IN ORDER TO COMPLETE ROAD TO HILLTOP SETTLEMENT. THANKS FOR COOPERATION. KOL TOOV RABBI ALEXANDER SCHINDLER PRESIDENT OF

RABBI ALEXANDER SCHINDLER PRESIDENT OF THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATION

COL 200,000 800,000 1 200,000

15:30 EST

MGMCOMP

a: Pathi Schaper reddi Reversohn * Pathi Selinda Hambales Edward P. Pizer, Esq. Suite 200 Anderson Plaza 100 East Six Forks Road Raleigh, North Carolina 27609 Dear Mr. Pizer:

February 27, 1984

Thank you for your gracious letter in regard to Garin Galil and Mitzpeh Har Halutz. I am deeply moved to learn of your involvement in this project and the plans that you and your family have made in regard to making aliyah and evantually taking up residence at Har Halutz. I wish you a warm and hearty mazal tov.

Let me also assure you that all of us of the Reform Movement are eager to continue support of this most worthy project. While I myself will not be at the ARZA Board meeting because of travel plans, which will take me to the other end of our country, I can assure you that I have discussed this project with leaders of ARZA and the Reform Movement and welwill strive to be of support to the degree possible. You must, of course, appreciate that the demands upon us are many, the project which seek funding are numerous and we only wish that we could provide support to the fullest measure. Alas, we must make choices, we must seek to strengthen many, many worthy projects. here and abroad. We do our best.

I have sent a message to the Kinus and I do express my warm good wishes to you and your colleagues in this very meaning venture.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

EDWARD P. PIZER

ATTORNEY AT LAW SUITE 200 ANDERSON PLAZA 100 EAST SIX FORKS ROAD RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA 27609

919-781-7530

February 22, 1984

Rabbi Alexander Schindler Union of American Hebrew Congregations 838 Fifth Avenue New York, New York 10021

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

RD P. PIZER
RNEY AT LAW
ANDERSON PLAZA
SIX FORKS ROAD
RTH CAROLINA 27606

-781-7530

ary 22, 1984

ons

ess my thanks to the Union of American First of all, I want to express my thanks to the Union of American Hebrew Congregations for enabling me to become a member of Garin Galil. I learned of the Garin Galil and Mitzpeh Har Halutz through an article in the Jerusalem Post and subsequently took part in the first Kinus held at Camp Eisner in September of 1983 and also participated in a mission to Har Halutz as a member of the Mishlachat in October of 1983. In addition, my wife and I spent ten days in Israel during the early part of February and I plan to return again for a one week visit during the second week of May. My association with Garin Galil has been very meaningful for me and my family is planning to make Aliyah to Israel in the summer of 1984. Our present plans call for going to Har Halutz in 1987 soon after my 15 year old son finishes high school in the Tel Aviv area.

Incidentally, because I am financially able, I have paid my way to the Kinus and as a member of the Mishlachat without any subsidy from any organization and I will continue to do so.

I realize the full importance of establishing a Mitzpeh at Har Halutz which will hopefully be a beachhead for Jewish religious pluralism in After many years of visiting Israel and reading everything I can get my hands on concerning the subject, I am convinced that one of the great sociological problems facing Israel today is the intolerance for forms of Judaism other than orthodoxy. Personally, I look forward to working in this area as an individual and as a member of Garin Galil.

It seems as though the unofficial position of liaison between Garin Galil and the Jewish Agency has fallen upon me and it is a task that I undertake with great pleasure. Thanks to Haim Sharett and his many personal contacts in Israel, Garin Galil and Har Halutz is quickly becoming a reality. I had occasion to meet with Jewish Agency planners as well Yehudah Deckel and Matti Drobless on my most recent visit and I am informed that all is proceeding according to schedule. Also, I spoke with Moshe Gorelick of Safed who is in charge of the actual implementation of the infrastructure and he informs me that bulldozers are working at the site

and approximately one-fourth of the grading for the long roadway from Kibbutz Lavon to Har Halutz has been completed. We are in contact with the managing director of Teffen Industrial Park which is close to Har Halutz and have received the names of companies that are in the process of locating in this industrial park. I am optimistic that employment will be found for the members of Har Halutz in the immediate area. Also, Ra'anan Weitz has given his blessing to Har Halutz. My perspective is that the Jewish Agency realizes the strategic importance of Jews settling in the western Galilee and considers the establishment of these mitzpim as a high priority in the State of Israel. They are spending over \$600,000 on a new road plus close to \$1,000,000 on the mitzpe infrastructure.

I must confess that I was initially sceptical at the thought of this settlement becoming a reality; however, I have become a believer. I have spoken with several members of Garin Galil and they are in the process of terminating their businesses and making plans to move to Israel this summer. It is anticipated that 15 to 18 families will be in the first wave to settle in Har Halutz. The Garin seems to be gathering force and I anticipate that after we establish our initial foothold the numbers will grow, provided of course, that we have a support organization in the United States which will continue to feed Har Halutz' new families. The present makeup of Garin Galil consists of members with an average age of 30-32 years with all geographical sections of the country represented.

I am aware of the fact that the reform movement has given its blessing to Har Halutz and has picked up some of the office expenses of Haim Sharett during his three years in this country. There seems to be a real problem looming on the horizon concerning financing of the Garin in the United States including the extremely costly Kinusim which are expensive but absolutely essential to the continuity and growth of Garin Galil. Most of the people do not possess the financial ability to pay for air tickets or lodging for these Kinusim which are held 2 or 3 times a year. I am informed that there will be a deficit of approximately \$28,000 for the first year of operation. I have been told the World Union has given Garin Galil \$4,500 in publicity expenses but it has been made clear by its President and Executive Director that there is no additional money available. The Jewish Agency and the WZO through the Aliyah Department and the AZYF provide us with \$75 per participant in the Kinus (35 years of age and under). There is no chance of additional funds from that party.

Rabbi Steve Schafer of the Youth Division carries the major burden of the day to day operations of Garin Galil and he has led the way for the creation of the Garin and its continued existence. Unfortunately, the Youth Division has a limit to its expenditures and is limited by the expenses that it can bear for adult Aliyah activities. Certainly, there are those in the Reform Movement that realize that the life blood of the State of Israel is Aliyah and we think that Aliyah from the United States is of prime importance. We feel that ARZA is our natural sponsor as they are the Zionist order of the Reform Movement. It is my understanding that they have \$40,000 for various Israeli projects but by the time this sum is divided up between all interested parties, the share of our Garin will not be nearly sufficient to keep us as an ongoing entity. It is my opinion that Garin Galil needs \$30,000 to \$40,000 per year for the next 4 years to sustain its

growth as a reformed settlement in the western Galilee. We need a positive statement from the Reformed Movement and from you as the head of the Reform Movement so that we will have the confidence to proceed with the building of this community. Please understand that we are not asking for any money to be spent in Israel but we are asking for seed money to support the organization in this country with its recruitment of new This is Zionism in its purest form and since Har Halutz is established it is not a speculative venture. We have visited many mitzpim and I can assure you that Israelis would gladly settle Har Halutz if we failed.

Har Halutz in Israel will be supported by its members and the Jewish Agency. This has been assured by the proper authorities we have met with in Israel.

I believe that you realize the seriousness of our commitment. unfortunate that you will be unable to attend our Kinus but I hope that you will be able to relay a message of your support to our group. The families are serious about their commitment and every bit of encouragement will serve a definitive purpose in each member knowing he has the support of the Reform Movement. There is no question in my mind that Har Halutz, through Garin Galil, will succeed. The will and the determination is there. My only hope is that the Reform Movement stands behind us to make a positive contribution in continuing to recruit for Aliyah in the United States so that we can secure additional members who will be go to Israel with a religious commitment which is a viable alternative to orthodoxy and secularism.

I hope this to be the spirit of Garin Galil to Har Halutz. To build a settlement without an idealogical base is not our goal. We look forward to Reform Judaism's meaningful participation in this endeavor.

Very truly yours,

Edward P. Pizer

EPP/js

Rabbi Roland Gittelsohn cc: Mr. Garard Daniel Mr. Matti Drobless Rabbi Steve Schafer Rabbi Eric Yoffie Mr. Ra'anan Weitz ARZA Board Members UAHC Shlichim Yoav Peck Zvika Halevi Asher Sandler Haim Sharett Garin Galil Members Garin Galil potential members

In our recently settled, free-enterprise community village, (``Kfar Kehilati''), located in the Central Galilee.

This unique settlement may be the most fulfilling option available for Olim today. High quality living; pluralistic, egalitarian, Jewish lifestyle; excellent schooling, and many job opportunities are just a few of the reasons why you should consider making Har Halutz your home.

If as a couple or family, you find this expression of modern Zionism as exciting as we do, come join us for a national kinus (conference) of Garin Galil, the American Aliyah support group to Har Halutz.

Garin Galil to Har Halutz's 7TH NATIONAL KINUS

October 31st-November 2nd, 1986

at the Hilton Gateway Newark, New Jersey

Travel Subsidies Available

In order to extend you the most personal attention possible, please be kind enough to respond by phone or coupon as soon as possible to: Oded Lewensohn, 838 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10021, (212) 249-0100, x548.

	YES	We would like to atten	nd the kinus. Please co	all me with more information.
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