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Reform communities in Israel, 1984-1995.

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Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

October 2, 1985

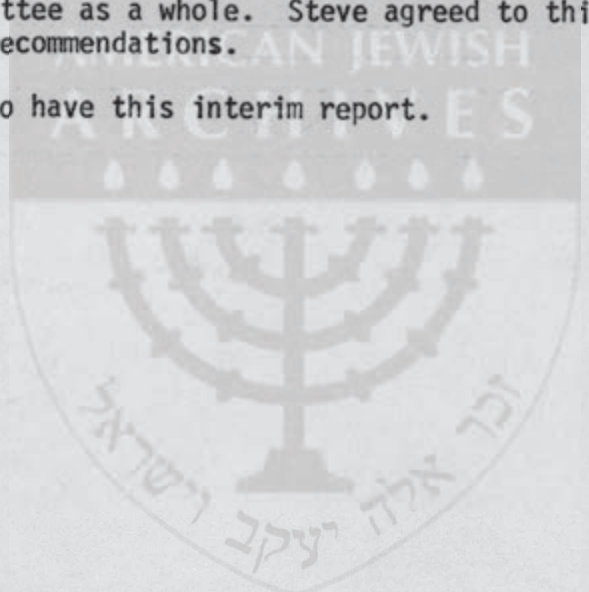
Charles J. Rothschild, Jr.

Yachiel

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~~ 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~~ ought 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.



Union of American Hebrew Congregations

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



גרעין גליל להר חלוץ
GARIN GALIL TO HAR HALUTZ

Oded Lewensohn
Shaliach

עודד לבנסון
שליח

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



גרעין גליל להר חלוץ
GARIN GALIL TO HAR HALUTZ

Oded Lewensohn
Shaliach

עודד לעזסון
שליח

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,

Oded Lewensohn

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.**

To: Oded Lewensohn, ALIYAH DESK, 838 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10021

I am interested in learning more about Garin Galil and Har Halutz.

Names _____

Address _____

Phone (home) _____ (work) _____

Ages _____ Children's ages _____

Occupations _____

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

Yahel

18
CJR

From one of the
Yahel Milman
blouse son
died
Seadyah Maximon
Box 348
10 552 Migdal 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

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-sufficient "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 stretched 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 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 all 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 ~~them~~ 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 oftentimes. 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 cemetery, 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 "kibbutznik". 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 pressure-sensitive 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).

OF THE PARENTS' CHOICE.
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 YAHIEL

UNITED KIBBUTZ MOVEMENT
THE MOVEMENT FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

DOAR NA EILOT 88850
TEL 059-74220 ISRAEL

Date June 28, 1985

Mr. Charles Schayer
35 Eodora Street
Denver, Colorado 80220

cc
CGR

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 Schechter 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 cassettes 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 biennial participants and professional exhibit in lobby to be erected and manned for duration of biennial.

KIBBUTZ YAHIEL

UNITED KIBBUTZ MOVEMENT
THE MOVEMENT FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

DOAR NA EILOT 88850
TEL 059-74220 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 biennial 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.

Sincerely,



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

KIBBUTZ YAHIEL

UNITED KIBBUTZ MOVEMENT
THE MOVEMENT FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

DOAR NA EILOT 88850
TEL 059-74220 ISRAEL

Projects presently under investigation

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

Projects examined and found to be unsuitable

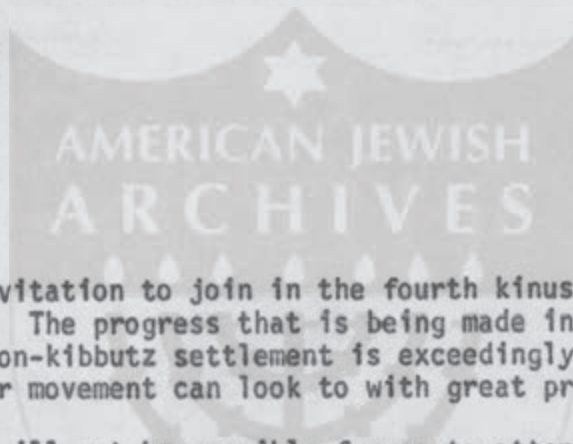
<u>Date</u>	<u>Project</u>
1/85	electronic trim for boilers
* 1/85	p.v.c. window frame extrusions
2/85	purchase of local pharmaceutical factory
* 3/85	precision screw machining
3/85	silicon processing
* 3/85	chemical processing for specific eye operation material
* 3/85	powderless surgical gloves - non-sterile
	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	vegetable snacks
4/85	applications of microwave technology in the food industry

* - Indicates project proposal received from the Reform Movement

Kibbutz

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



איחוד
ליהדות
מתקדמת
באמריקה

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

Be. NW

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

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,

Oded Lewensohn

Deddi Lewensohn

OL:rs

Kilbreath

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

TEMPLE EMANUEL
MAY AND CHANDLER STREETS
WORCESTER, MASS. 01602
TEL: (617) 755-1257

RABBI STANLEY M. DAVIDS

January 24, 1985

*Acknowledge
I express my
appreciation
for their
efforts.*

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 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 YAHIEL

UNITED KIBBUTZ MOVEMENT
THE MOVEMENT FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

DOAR NA EILOT 88850
TEL 059-74220 ISRAEL

R. Alex Schindler,

Date _____

Here is progress!
These are the best of the lot since the start,
and Jon Kaplow and I will focus primarily
on these for Hadas Trip

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. controlled 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.

Sincerely,

John S. Schechter

John S. Schechter

[Handwritten signature]

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 Aliyah efforts, and without them, recruitment for the three communities we have established in Israel (namely Kibbutz Yahel, Kibbutz Lotan, and Mitzpeh Chalutz) 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 for 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 Ha-bonim 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-

tion of Aliyah? 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 Aliyah.

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 become, 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 correlates movement membership with numbers of schlichim assigned to the movement.

Unfortunately, it has been our experience that 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 Aliyah 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 schlichim. 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 via a visit to programs in Israel by the Jewish Agency and the WZO. The UAHC International Education Department, which is responsible for Shulchan 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 major 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 Shulchan 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 schlichim 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 schlichim-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 chozrei tochniot kinusim.

The 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 the 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

M E S S A G E

R E P L Y

TO [Jan. 22, 1985]

TO: Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
FROM: Rabbi Stephen A. Schafer

[re: letter to Schlichim Committee]

DATE

I feel that compliance with this request is ritual.
I understand from Hank that Dulzin wishes to reduce the schlichim budget and shift budget to recruitment for short and medium term programs. If this is accomplished, the extra budget will be administered by Noar v'Chalutz, i.e. Avram Katz and Menachem Fevivi. I feel certain that the U.A.H.C. will receive as little subsidy as possible from Noar v'Chalutz.

Therefore, the thrust of the letter should be to retain and expand the Movement schlichim for North American movements that have significant high school and college constituencies.

DATE _____

BY _____

SIGNED _____

Form N-873 © The Drawing Board, Inc., Box 505, Dallas, Texas

INSTRUCTIONS TO SENDER:

1. KEEP YELLOW COPY. 2. SEND WHITE AND PINK COPIES WITH CARBON INTACT.

INSTRUCTIONS TO RECEIVER:

1. WRITE REPLY. 2. DETACH STUB, KEEP PINK COPY, RETURN WHITE COPY TO SENDER.

*This please process
letter as per
Schafer
Suggestion
cc to
Steve*

MEMORANDUM

From Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

Date January 7, 1985

To Rabbi Stephen Schafer

Copies

Subject

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.



Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100

Three
F.

for

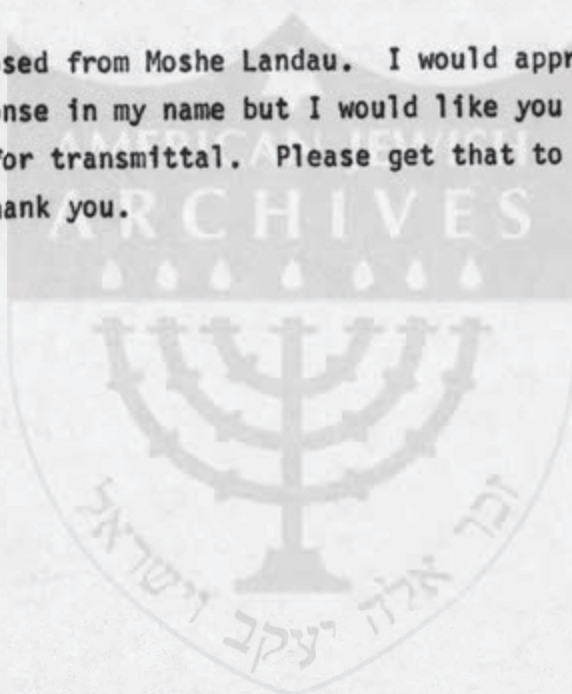


Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

January 7, 1985

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 ~~Mr.~~ 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,

Moshe Landau.
Moshe Landau

Chairman of the Committee

Kibbutz Lotan

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

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 infrastructure to enable 80 family units to make a living. 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 established 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,
1993

To: RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER

Lotar

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

AH:dg

Attachment



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

To Whom It May Concern:

Subject: Settlement Budget (Takziv Teken) - Kibbutz Lotan

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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 established 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

Rabbi Alexander Schindler

ע"י רב פירש

פירש אפגוסטין תמו

צבי חסון תל-יביתן

לוי' נוי' תב"ה - ת"א - חו"ל

אז הנפלאה - ערדום

מתתיהו ספנדי - ערדום

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES

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באקדמו שיתח שקיטת אפר
אידיאלית

בבית
אוס

Letter sent by Onat El-Nayan
to Jane Sherman
Re Lothan's financial situation

10/6
ט"ו סיון

Eric - since Alex is away +
Maican can't read this, he asked
that it be forwarded to you to
handle.

J.

KIBBUTZ LOTAN

June 9, 1993

קיבוץ לוטן

United Kibbutz Movement

ב' סיון תשנ"ג

התנועה הקיבוצית המאוחדת

The Movement for Progressive Judaism

התנועה ליהדות מתקדמת

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 (taken) of the five founding kibbutzim of Ardan

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 Eilat 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 new Department it was decided to debit the "taken" 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 "taken" 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 "taken" of the five founders of Ardag against their will.

7792 ARDOM IL 0770 * 07-356827 פקס * 07-356888 '70 * 88855 אילת * ד.נ.

Doar Na Hevel Eilat 88855 Israel * Tel (972) 07-356888 Fax (972) 07-356827 * Tlx 7792 ARDOM IL

POPULATION GROWTH : KIBBUTZ LOTAN 1983 - 1992

	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92
ADULT POPULATION	38	45	4	52	50	46	58	88	80	98
CHILDREN				1	2	4	6	8	9	18
TEMPORARY POPULN. *	25	25	2	21	35	26	21	5	35	28
TOTAL	63	70	7	74	87	76	85	101	124	128

ADULT POPULATION IN LOTAN

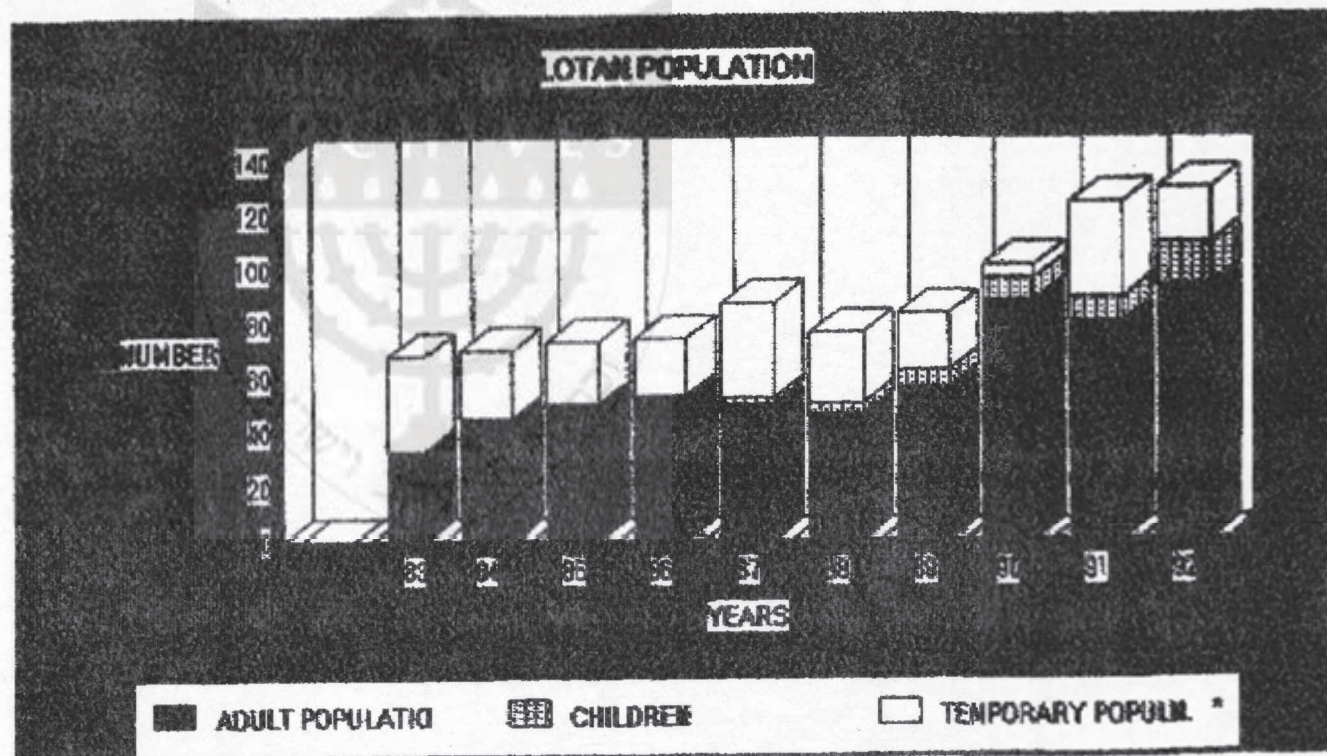
ABSORBED AS
OLIM 48%

ABSORBED AS
ISRAELI CITIZENS 52%

OLIM ABSORBED IN LOTAN BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN :

U.S.A.	22	48%
ARGENTINA	2	4%
ENGLAND	3	18%
AUSTRALIA	4	9%
S. AFRICA	2	4%
C.I.S.	7	16%

TOTAL OLIM 45 100%



* Temporary Population -

meaning mainly youth groups from Zionist youth movements from Israel and Abroad

MEMORANDUM

Koffsky

Date: November 24, 1992 (W)
From: Rabbi Eric Yoffie
To: Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

cc mm DSD
or free

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

COPY

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?

Kibbutz
Lotan

Joan and Norm Rosen
64 Franklin Street
Englewood, N.J. 07631

sent
8/23 To ABG - MH
This is girl
wounded
at Lotan
August 21, 1989
- her
parents
thet m.

Rabbi Schindler,
Dear Friends,

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,

Joan
&
Norm

P.S. Thanks for your lovely note 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

cc:
18 Sept.

TO: SMITTY
FROM: DAVID
RE: LOFAN

A lone 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 Saf. 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 Jerusalem. Both groups were told what happened. Lee and I are going there to give support to the staff and help the kids 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, everyone is absolutely safe. Saf. 27 ends its trip tomorrow and Nefty 23 on Thursday..

SAF - Nat'l Safari group

✓ COPY TO: RABBI ALEXANDER SCHINDLER



RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER • UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
PRESIDENT 838 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

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.

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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

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

Call him

No answer



AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES

Lotan

September 25, 1987
2 Tishri 5748

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

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.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Kibbutz Lotan
D. N. Hevel Eilat
88855
Israel

Rabbi A. Schindler
JHC
38 Fifth Ave
New York, NY

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

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

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

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

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

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

Shana Tova,

N 0116
Ossie Silberstein
Merkezet Meshek

[Signature]
Larry Weinstein
Treasurer

Attn: Rabbi Schindler

Kibbutz Lotan

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 regards from house to house and all good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

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

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES

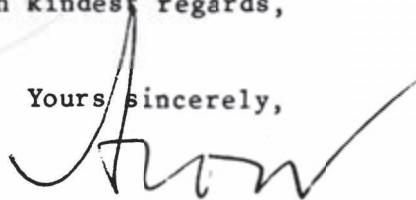
Dear Ron,

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.

3/14

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 Kibbutzim 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 population 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 saag.

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 Hanagid 16 רחוב שמואל הנגיד 16
94592 Jerusalem ירושלים 94592 טל. 246195/6

Youth Programs in Israel :

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

תוכניות נוער בישראל

דב גיל'ון
טל. בבית 03-310338
הרב א. לוין
טל. בבית 054-76132
הרב ה. סקירבל
טל. בבית 02-813498
הרב ד. פורמן
טל. בבית 02-424189
הרב ס. שפר
טל. בארה"ב 249-0100 (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

התנועה ליהדות מתקדמת באמריקה
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 Shmuel Hanagid 16 רחוב שמואל הנגיד 16
 94592 Jerusalem טל. 246195/6 94592 ירושלים

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 Tel. at home 03-510338
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 Tel. at home 054-76132
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 Tel. at home 02-813498
 Rabbi D. Forman
 Tel. at home 02-424189
 Rabbi S. Schacter
 Tel. no. U.S.A. (212) 249-0100

12/1/84

חברות נוער בישראל

רב נילאן
 טל. בבית 03-510338
 הרב א. לוי
 טל. בבית 054-76132
 הרב ח. סקיבאל
 טל. בבית 02-813498
 הרב ד. פורמן
 טל. בבית 02-424189
 הרב ס. שחקר
 טל. בארזה 249-0100 (212)

Dear Rabbi Jordan Perlson.

I'm writing this letter from Rabbi A. Levine's office.
 I'm the "גבול" of Kibbutz Lotan which means that
 I am in charge of all the economy of the kibbutz.
 We asked the Ben Gurion University for the rights to produce
 two "Plot Plants" that we want to grow for export
 in our kibbutz.

They asked us for 26000 \$ in order to cover the
 research that was done for them.

Since this money was already given to them
 in the Benefit Dinner that you held on June
 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 Kibbutz in the Arava, is only $\frac{1}{2}$ year
 old & needs great help to start its branches &
 needs of production.

Sincerely yours
 Cheopy Ariel

Kibbutz Lotan, D.N. Gilot.

התנועה ליהדות מתקדמת באמריקה
 UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
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 Rabbi S. Schaler
 Tel. at U.S.A. (212) 249-0100

חובניות נוער בישראל

רב גילגון
 טל. בבית 03-310338
 הרב א. לוין
 טל. בבית 054-76132
 הרב ח. סקיבל
 טל. בבית 02-813498
 הרב ד. פורמן
 טל. בבית 02-424189
 הרב ס. שאלר
 טל. בארצות 249-0100 (212)

12th January, 1984

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 the 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:



אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב

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 continue, 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.

File Contributions Yahel May 1980

Rabbi Jordan Pearson

June 12, 1980.

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".

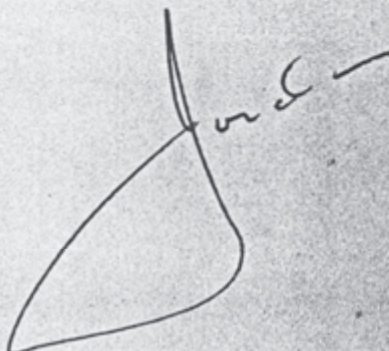
Let me know how you want the letters expressed. I will follow through on them. Do you want to use the Rabbi's Fund as a vehicle which would enable them to get their tax deduction immediately and we would in turn funnel the money through to the UAHC.

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 Sinai, 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 said.

The dinner honoring Rabbi Pearlson will be held at the Beth Tikvah 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-



[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 kilometres from Yeruham.

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 first-hand study of their problems, an immediate and ongoing response to their needs, as well as the educational opportunities they need to adapt to Israeli society.

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 Massachusetts-born 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 unity."

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 took for granted."

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 a lecturer, columnist for the *Toronto Star*, and an occasional radio and television commentator.



NEW O



Mr. and Mrs.

Advice from doctors:

no magical cures,

know medical history

*File Yale Contributions
- Canada*

Rabbi Jordan Pearlson

March 25, 1980.

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.

Fondly,


Rabbi Jordan Pearlson

2nd September, 1980

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

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 should 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.

cc Dr. Yair Magen,
Rabbi Jordan Pearlson.

It looks like the show is ready to go on the road. Thank you for everything.

6th August, 1980

Mr. Yosef 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.



איחוד
ליהדות
מתקדמות
באמריקה

Memo

YOAV PECK

SHALIACH

יואב פק
שליח

Aliyah & Israel Programs

Jan 13

Edie -

Allan will get to work
on the memo immediately

He didn't have the name
of the President so I called "Frenckof..."
here in NY.

He's Maj. General Shlomo Gazit

Lehitraot

Yoav

Union of American Hebrew Congregations

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

✓
Al Levine

Lota

Bar G. W.

House Plants
for European Market

Trouble Bar G. U
has notes - he requests
"20,000 U.S. for notes
Pressure for Gold - Short
Sight.

1 helper. Alex

✓
see BG. U
w/ny

cc: LARRY
BUSH
TO: Edie Miller
FROM: Debbie Schultz

9/22/87

FROM Dedi about Har Chalutz:

Currently living on the mountain -- 16 families comprising 32 adults & 16 children ranging from $\frac{1}{2}$ 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 writer, 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 or else a seminar center to host adults and teach about Reform Judaism and other topics.

MEMORANDUM

From Maggie Bar-Tura *Maggie*
To Rabbi Alexander Schindler
Copies
Subject Yahel & Lotan Update

Date September 22, 1987

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 to the Arava.
2. Enlistment of professional expertise and resources to develop industry and the seminar center.





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Action Center, Jerusalem

Rabbi Uri Regev

Eric H. Yoffie

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.
2. 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. Kibbutz Yahel: 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. Kibbutz Lotan: I have no details. Hopefully, Maggie will provide.

EHY:dg



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 Times

JERUSALEM, Sept. 16 — The Israeli Cabinet decided today on a package of 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

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 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.

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.

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 indication when those contracts would expire, which will probably not be for several years.

South Africa Informed

Special to The New York Times

CAPE TOWN, Sept. 16 — A Foreign Ministry spokesman in Pretoria confirmed tonight that Israel had informed South Africa of details of the sanctions, but he declined to divulge them.

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

As per Dan's
report from
Israel...

Kelly



גרעין גליל להר חלוץ
GARIN GALIL TO HAR HALUTZ



TABLE OF CONTENTS

A letter from Joel and Barbara Metter	2
Sixth National Kinus Report	3-12
"Young Pioneer's Letter"	13
Har Halutz Update	14-16
"Israel Faces the 21st Century"	21
Garin Galil Roster	23-24



גרעין גליל להר חלוץ
GARIN GALIL TO HAR HALUTZ

Oded Lewensohn
Shaliach

עודד לבנשון
שליח

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,

Oded Lewensohn

Deddi Lewensohn

FROM OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

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 especially 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 from 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

- 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
- 10:00 - 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

- 7:45 - 8:30 Breakfast
- 8:30 - 10:30 "Job Opportunities in the Galilee" — Moshe Shraga, Assistant to the Council of Labor Affairs.
- 10:30 - 12:00 Conclusion
- 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch and final comments
- 1:00 - 2:00 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 her ideas 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 YAHIEL

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 already 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
60's	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 permanent 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 the 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 few 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 money 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.

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 Affairs.

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.

REPORT FROM Israel

Young pioneer's 'letter'

By CARL ALPERT

HAIFA—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 than 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 kindergarten.

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 Karmiel.

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 high-quality life, an unbeatable 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:

1. 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.
3. 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.
9. 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.
11. Established an active relationship with the neighboring Druze village of Kisra, and hosted the elderly leadership of the village at Har Halutz.
12. 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.
17. 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.
20. 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.
2. Completion of our general master plan.
3. Absorbing more families — we must grow!!
4. 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.



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 synonymous 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.
2. 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.
3. 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:

1. 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 difficulties — 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 — This middle age "All-American" family didn't "click" with either the younger mostly "half Israeli" families or with the elderly section. This problem is a result of our being, at the moment, a small group with no middle age core. The solution for this family, as I see it and hope will be achieved, is to open their own social circle and not to be dependent on most of the present families.
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 attitude — "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.

B'yididut, Haim

ISRAEL

FACES THE 21ST CENTURY

HISTORY

The 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 Pharaohs. 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 determined 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.

... 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 imports 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."

ISRAEL AND ITS NEIGHBORS 1982

	(in \$ billion)			Per Cap- ita In- come (PCI)	Per Capita Expenditure on Military	% PCI Spent on Military
	Internat'l. Reserves (Minus Gold)	Imports (Goods Only)	Exports			
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*	\$206*	9%
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*	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%

* data for latest available year

Faced with an enormous combined Arab arsenal, Israel spends highest percentage of per-capita income on defense in Middle East.

FOREIGN POLICY

From 1949, the new Jewish nation has been kept in a state of war by its neighbors and has been engaged four times in full-scale 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.

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.

A CHANGING MAP:



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."

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 territories 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." (Deuteronomy: 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" × 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.

	NAME		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	I S R A E L
2.	APPLEBAUM	Hal Esti	ON SITE	1984	28 26	Idan	12/85	Mazkir, Har Chalutz Aerobics Teacher	U.S.A. Israel	
3.	AVITAL	Avi Yael	ON SITE	1982	34 25	Maya	1/85	Salesman Education	Israel Holland	
4.	DENTA	Moshe Shlomit	ON SITE		28 26	Elad Expecting	8/83 11/86	Elec. Engineer Community Worker	Israel Israel	
5.	FINE	Bram Nitza	ON SITE	1984	26 26	Ari	9/85	Architect Biology Teacher	S. Africa Israel	
6.	NORTON	Frank Gail	ON SITE	1984	45 45			Self-Employed Self-Employed	U.S.A. U.S.A.	
7.	RYDEN	Ehud Yonat	ON SITE	1985	62 64			Solar Design Artist	U.S.A. U.S.A.	
8.	SILBERMAN	Oscar Esther	ON SITE	1984	62 60			Retired Retired	U.S.A. U.S.A.	
9.	WILSON	Steve Erela	ON SITE	1984	31 28		4/86	Computers Graphic Artist	U.S.A. Israel	
10.	OREN	Daniel Dvora	ON SITE	1975	32 30	Nimrod Amos	8/81 12/85	Tour Guide Ceramic Artist	Argentina Israel	
11.	BURSTEIN	Mordy Chaya	ON SITE	1985	59 60			Contractor Writer/Illustrator	U.S.A. U.S.A.	
12.	SHINDLER	Scott Mira	June 1986	1980 1970	33 28	Lidel Corey	11/82 3/86	Teacher Bank Teller	U.S.A. Russia	
13.	BARACH	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.	
14.	JACOBSON	Donald Christine	September 1986	5/86	36 28	Sam Ben	9/80 7/83	Urban Planning Nurse	U.S.A. Switzerland	
15.	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

16.	METTER	Joel Barbara	March 1987	10/86	38 31			Lawyer Tech. Writer/Editor	U.S.A. U.S.A.	Chicago, IL (312) 951-1014
17.	PERSING	Bruce Sally	March 1987	7/86	38 35	Oren Ilan	7/81 7/84	Carpenter Housewife	U.S.A. U.S.A.	Philadelphia, PA (212) 724-7334
18.	PERSING	Ken Nora	March 1987	7/86	33 36	Ariel Eli	3/79 1/83	Mechanic Housewife	U.S.A. U.S.A.	Philadelphia, PA (215) 724-7334

	NAME		MOVE TO SITE	ALIYAH	AGE	CHILDREN / YR. BORN		OCCUPATION	COUNTRY OF BIRTH	CURRENT ADDRESS
19.	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
20.	MUSE	Michael Carol	June 1987	8/86	29 28	Ilana	4/85	Computers Human Resources	U.S.A. U.S.A.	Brookline, Mass. (617) 738-6540
21.	MELMAN	David Lori	August 1987	3/87	24 24			Computer Scientist Legal Secretary	U.S.A. U.S.A.	Los Angeles, Cal. (213) 826-8072
22.	BLOOMBERG BEINER	Ricky Eudice	August 1987	3/87	27 27	Idit	5/84	Comp. / Jewish Education Special Education Teacher	U.S.A. U.S.A.	Baltimore, MD (301) 486-4249
23.	MENACHEM	Avi Harriet	August 1987	3/87	28 30	Talia	6/84	Computer Technician Executive Secretary	Israel U.S.A.	Chicago, IL (312) 588-7586
24.	SASOON	Mike Lesley	August 1987	1985	32 33	Adam David Chana	8/80 5/82 2/84	Doctoral Student Housewife	England England	Israel
25.	FARCHI HACKE	Dani Robin	1987/88	1/86 4/86	24 25			Student M.B.A.	Israel U.S.A.	Israel

TOTAL 1987:

FAMILIES: 10

CHILDREN: 11

26.	PALITI	Yisrael Sharon	1988	8/87	40 36	Adi	1/75	Graphic Design C.P.A.	Israel U.S.A.	Ames, Iowa (515) 233-2743
27.	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
28.	COHEN	Jerry Andrea	1988	9/87	28 24			Industrial Engineer Computer Programmer	U.S.A. U.S.A.	Atlanta, GA (404) 355-9334
29.	SHERMAN	Aryeh Shelly	1988	6/88	40 39	Yaniv Ilan Moshe	4/73 8/75 1/80	Career Counsellor Camp Administrator	U.S.A. U.S.A.	Philadelphia, PA (215) 722-5768

TOTAL 1988:

FAMILIES: 4

CHILDREN: 6

TOTAL END OF 1988:

FAMILIES: 29

CHILDREN: 41

OTHER POTENTIAL FAMILIES:

30.	BEN AMI	Gad Shulamit			46 42	Alan Oren Sigalit	3/65 9/68 8/79	Management Data Processing	Holland Israel	Madison, WI (608) 257-6912
31.	ONHEIBER	Michael Patrice			35 34			Lawyer Health Administrator	U.S.A. U.S.A.	Lake Mills, WI (414) 648-5098
32.	LANDAU	Tsvi Orna			33 30			Design Engineer Dental Student	Israel Israel	
33.	FRIEDLANDER	Maurice Rose		1985	67 62			Retired Retired	U.S.A. U.S.A.	Israel

Brith Sholom Congregation

Jewish Center

no further

3207 STATE STREET

ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA 16508-2892

TELEPHONE: (814) 454-2431

July 15, 1986



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Stefan Berger

Executive Vice President
Laurel Rider

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I. Michael Brown

Shalom

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
Gary L. Atkins

GLA:ns

Har Halutz

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 ~~at that time~~ it 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

TELEPHONE: (814) 454-2431

July 2, 1986



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President
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*Seymour Iskowitz

I. Michael Brown

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 tuv,


Rabbi Gary L. Atkins

GLA:ns

cc: Deddi Lewinsohn

*Lawrence
2
B. Wexler
B. Wexler
Gard*

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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, YAHIEL 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
THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATION

COL 200,000 800,000 1 200,000

15:30 EST

MGMCOMP

cc: Rabbi Schaper
Keddi Lawensohn
* Rabbi Schindler

Gombal

February 27, 1984

Edward P. Pizer, Esq.
Suite 200 Anderson Plaza
100 East Six Forks Road
Raleigh, North Carolina 27609

Dear Mr. Pizer:

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 eventually 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 we will 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:

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 Israel. 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

*we'll do what we can to keep - observing
resources limited and see how far we can go
courses which are many. I
can't push wherever I
can (just to hear
noise)*

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'anana 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

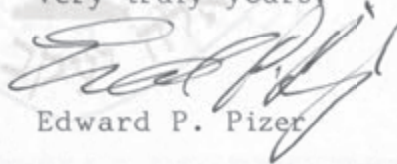
growth as a reformed settlement in the western Galilee. We need a positive statement from the Reformed Movement and from you as the head of the Reform Movement so that we will have the confidence to proceed with the building of this community. Please understand that we are not asking for any money to be spent in Israel but we are asking for seed money to support the organization in this country with its recruitment of new members. 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. It is 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 ideological 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

cc: Rabbi Roland Gittelsohn
Mr. Garard Daniel
Mr. Matti Drobless
Rabbi Steve Schafer
Rabbi Eric Yoffie
Mr. Ra'anah 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**

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- ✂
- ☐ YES We would like to attend the kinus. Please call me with more information.
- ☐ NO We won't be able to attend the kinus, however we are interested in the garin. Please send more information.
- ☐ NO Please take us off your mailing list.

Names _____ Home Phone _____

Address _____

Profession/Husband _____ Wk Phone _____ Birthdate _____

Profession/Wife _____ Wk Phone _____ Birthdate _____

Children's Names and Birthdates _____

Remarks _____