

May 2005

# Ketura Highlights

Volume #35

An English Journal by Parents and  
Members of Ketura

May 2005

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## Ketura Wins Big!

Ketura's Adults and Teens teams won the March 2005 football (soccer) tournament on their local field. The Most Valuable Player Award went to our own high school sophomore Avi Bellman who scored a remarkable number of goals in the three game sweep.

This sports series, played successive afternoons on the Ketura field, is sponsored by the local Moatza or Regional Council.

It is the creation of Mayor Udi Gat, in memory of his friend and deceased Ketura member, "Pini" Lutman.

The atmosphere, though competitive, was friendly, enhanced by a constant flow of nibbles like popcorn and lemonade. After three days of visitors and victories, the circus had to end!

Avi Bellman, when asked his reactions answered, "It was great fun!"

## Notice to our Families and Friends of Ketura

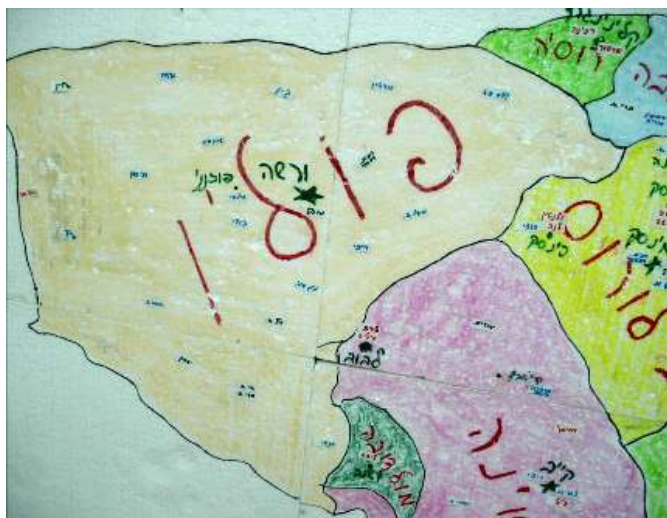
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We are grateful to Mazkirah Daphna Shimshon-Musnikow for agreeing to continue "Ketura Highlights" as an addition to the Kibbutz Web site. It will be available as a PDF file to read online, download to your computer, or print. It will be accessible from the same page as the new Young Children's Web site - <http://ketura.org.il/child.html>

We expect to involve many visiting parents, continuing the creation of Florence Yudkin Z"l whose yahrzeit we marked in March.

Hopefully, all chaverim will join in notifying their families to view this edition in print and mail copies. As the temporary editors, we invite family visitors to submit items for future web-site issues.

## Erev Russi - Russian Roots



Members family origins marked on the map

Russian Roots was the theme of an evening in Ketura with the Russian families, the Na'aleh Group, high school students, and others with eastern European backgrounds.

The dining room was decorated with a very large map of eastern Europe on one wall. On another wall was a display of towels with days of the week in Russian, and photos of many Russian sites.

The room was like a Russian cafe with tables set with caviar, black bread, and blini.

## Business Manager's Report

### **Based on an interview with Irving Kessler**

Roy Kagan assumed this post after 25 years of living on Ketura, and after his recent service as treasurer. A native of Caldwell, New Jersey, he is married and the father of 2 daughters. In a far ranging outline of the kibbutz economic picture, he was upbeat. He notes changes based on planning and timely action, with the goal of stability.

Presentations made:

---Natasha introduced the evening to share the Russian experience

---Moshe Falkof told about the ancestors' working backgrounds

---Artur (Regina's husband) sang and played guitar

---Three Russian high school girls sang Russian folk songs, one in the style of the Beatles

---Chana and David Factor, and Dvorah Frishling sang a Polish drinking song and a Russian lullaby

---Russian movie

It was a most enjoyable evening – a taste of Russia!



Roy Kagan - new Business Manager

## Ardag:

While awaiting fallout from a government report calling to remove the cages from the sea, member kibbutzim are fighting for a stay in application. Meanwhile a number of projects are being pursued.

- ⊙ The development of land based production.
- ⊙ Increasing production at the Ashdod facility, using the Ardag fish hatchery and packing plant..
- ⊙ Cyprus based production

## Algatechnologies

## A Wedding at Ketura

### Irving Slott

From time to time, Joe Slott had been visiting his sister, Marla, and his brother, Bill, and when he and Daniella Topol became a couple, he brought her. She loved the kibbutz and the area and resolved that their wedding would take place on the mountain overlooking the Arava and Ketura. Since Rabbi Michael Cohen would be in residence at Ketura teach-

The algae plant expects growth and diversification down the road. Watch this story!

## Keren Kolot

Experience and use-study shows a real potential for expanding a variety of tourist programs. Building has commenced on added rooms, which will double facilities, making it possible to host up to two busloads of tourists.

## Home Aquarium

A new branch, raising fish for home aquariums, will occupy another segment of the former turkey runs. Kibbutz member, Micah Eshchar, is in charge of this new branch.

## Date Orchards

An expected reduction in prices received for dates, is to be balanced by an increase in the annual yields. New date palms are growing in 190 dunam near Kibbutz Elifaz and 100 more dunam are being planted south of the main groves.

I left Roy's office confident that the economic future of the kibbutz remains in good hands.

ing at the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies, they arranged for him to marry them.

Bill Slott found the perfect site, Eagle Mount at the crest of the range accessible from the road to Mitzpeh Ramon. The spot chosen for the wedding is at a spot overlooking the Arava and the Jordanian mountains; it is flat and spacious..

The date was set for Monday, October 18. On Sunday evening a sumptuous barbeque was held in the swimming pool area. Joe had made sure to invite many of his kibbutz friends who would not be at the next day's wedding in addition to the outside guests who had arrived. With steaks and many other choices, with drinks and deserts, a great time was had by all. At 3:45 pm the next afternoon, a bus and van picked up all who were going to the wedding. Daniella's parents, Barbara and Allan Topol, Lois and Irv Slott and Daniella were going in the van, but Joe, dressed in shorts and T-shirt to the astonishment of all, announced that he would on dress on the bus. Earlier some children had gone to the wedding spot and used small stones to outline an aisle to the hupa.

All arrangements for the wedding, parties, housing and food for guests, etc. were by Keren Kolot and were coordinated by Leah Kaymen. There were no courses planned for the critical days, so Keren Kolot housing was ample for outside guests.

A beautiful desert scene typical of the area had been painted by Marla (Slott) Silverman on a very large sheet of silk for the hupa. With everyone dismounted, Joe emerged from the bus wearing a spectacular white gold trimmed *jallabiah* with a matching kipa. With everyone in position, Jeff Rosenzweig began the ceremony in his beautiful tenor. Ruthi Mendelson, the photographer, moved in and around quickly snapping pictures from every angle. Rabbi Cohen spoke beautifully and appropriately. Joe broke the glass which was in an embroidered silk bag to the cheers of all.

With the setting sun illuminating the mountains of Jordan beyond the Arava, it was truly one of the most unique and beautiful weddings everyone present had ever witnessed.

We returned to Ketura to a reception on the lawn and then in the Merkaz. There was singing, hora dancing, and the customary chair lifting. In the Merkaz, Barbara Topol played two beautiful classical piano selections, Joe's niece, Yahav, sang while nephew Tsali accompanied on the guitar. Her sister, Idan, sang while father Bill accompanied on the piano. Then Idan presented a Power Point show tracing the lives of Daniella and Joe in photographs. After the reception, a great dinner, prepared by the kitchen, as was the barbeque, was served in the room which had formerly housed the library. After more music and dancing, at 11pm Marla opened the pool and served as lifeguard. Many guests had a happy and unusual splash and swim.

The celebrations had not ended. On Tuesday the wedding principals and guests enjoyed yachting and swimming in the gulf and dinner at Hakerem in Eilat. The next day, Bill took the guests who were in Israel for the first time on a two day guided tour of the Dead Sea, Ein Gedi and Jerusalem. Since many were Christians, the tour emphasized Christian sights of Jerusalem. They will never forget their first trip to Israel and all will never forget the wedding and celebration.

Credit for success is due to each participant, in particular to Seth Kessler who, as usual, donates his time to efficiently set up and monitor the sound and visual systems and to the staff of Keren Kolot under Leah Kamen's direction which proved itself very capable of managing a wedding, something it had never done.

## Our New Park



Entrance to Gan Malka

The empty, dusty area to the north of the dining room has been transformed into an attractive park. The dedication marker at its eastern entrance reads “Gan Malka – a Living Memorial to a Remarkable Woman, Myra Goss Shimon Goss and JNF-UK”. Mr. Goss, father of Karen Pollack, provided the key financing, while Seth Kessler coordinated

## A note from the Mazkira

We have started a process of strategic planning with the help of an outside advisor. What do we want Ketura to be? Do we want to continue to be a cooperative (shitufi) kibbutz? Do we want to grow and be a larger community? How large? The government no longer provides housing. Do we want to put money aside for building new houses? Who will live in them? Do we want to absorb new members? Do we want the *b'nai meshek* (“sons of the farm” in direct translation) to return to Ketura?

the architects, contractors, and chaverim who developed the concepts and construction efforts last year.

The park is a collection of rolling small hills, lit paths, a variety of eye-catching shade trees, and a collection of varied pergolas, that is, wooden posts supporting bamboo covered shades with seating for relaxation.

The eastern border is marked by an attractively finished stone fence to provide an elegant enclosure. Each path, especially at night, invites exploration.

Pergolas during February and March have been used for a cookout, and Kiddush after a Bar and Bat Mitzvah.

Thank you, Shimon Goss!

On the basis of our initial discussions we know that most of us want Ketura to stay the way it is right now. We are interested in maintaining our core values. Despite the broad consensus, seventeen different models for our future development emerged from workshops attended by a majority of the members. At the end of the process we hope to arrive at a single accepted model and an agreed plan for attaining our defined goals.

We now have 130 members. Our two newest members, Dario and Diana, (with their three children) came to Ketura within the framework of *Bayit Rishon Bamoledet* (“first home in the homeland”) from South America. We send 120

pupils to school including 16 naal'eh youth from the former Soviet Union who are on a three year program which will culminate with their graduation from the regional school. We have 34 of our own children in the early childhood program here on Ketura. There are 53 bn'ai meshek who have completed high school and are in various stages of army service, national service, studies, travel, work and all of the possibilities in between.

We still enjoy a warm relationship with Noam, the Israeli Conservative youth movement. Snif (branch) Ketura has weekly activities for our children run by leaders drawn from our older youth. Garin Sneh has joined the army and Garin Keves has returned to us for 4 months.

The Arava Institute for Environmental Studies has 37 students, the largest enrollment since the intifada. The research center continues to develop and the Institute (Machon) is making plans for expansion in a number of spheres.

At the same time, in the region, there is talk of establishing a university in our area. The plans are for a university with 4 sites. Two would be in Eilat. One would be based at what is currently the school of tourism and social studies and functions as a branch of Beer Sheva University. Another would be based at the current Israel Oceanographic and Limnological Research Institute. The remaining two sites are planned for our area. One would be a center for studying desert agriculture based on the current agricultural R&D center at the Regional Council offices. The last site would be for environmental studies at the Arava Institute on Ketura.

We see the potential for real advantages for Ketura in these plans. They certainly fit in with our process of strategic planning.

There is new building going on around the kibbutz. The former turkey runs (lulim) have been converted into workshops and offices. What was formerly a neglected corner of the kibbutz has become highly desirable real estate. Keren Kolot is building 12 additional guestrooms which hopefully be ready for occupancy by the end of the summer. In July we plan to have four extensions added to members' apartment followed by an additional four in September. JNF England has helped us to build a new bus stop which blends in as an extension of Gan Malka.

The regional health center, a new building located next to the regional council offices, has opened. We are still dealing with transportation issues and other transition difficulties but gradually our kibbutz clinic will close down.

See you on your next visit to Ketura. By then you may even have the opportunity of staying in the new guestrooms.

Daphna Shimshon - Musnikow  
Mazkira

# VITAL STATISTICS

## (till May 15, 2005)

### Born

Haviv : Son to Diane and Claude

Idan: Son to Tami and Diego

Sivan: Daughter to Nissan and Tova

Yoav: Son to Ruti and Yoni

Moshe: Son to Aliza and David

### New Members

Diana and Dario Drassman

### In the Army:

Mati Solowey

Hila Rosenzweig

Tal Shein

Sagui Lutman

Gil Harris

Sigal Cohen

Hagi Hofland

Noga Musnikow

Chen Goldstein

Matan Hoffman

Avishag Debowy

Noam Ben Yosef

### Bar/Bat Mitzvah

Bar Segal                      Ben Hofland

Natan Breizblatt              Shani Kagan

Binyamin Rosenzweig        Carmel Lutman

Michael Debowy                Yuval Moosnik

Idan Erez-Slott                Roi Hill-Cohen

Danny Smith (Mala's nephew)

### On Shanat Sherut:

Aviram Morris                Zev Rosental

Liat Hofland

### In College:

Asher Whitman                Levy Solowey

Ayala Pagelson                Avital Nusinow

Einat Harris                    Dafna Falkof

Adam Solowey                Eran Friedman

Binyamin Rosental            Anat Whitman

Yoav Merom                    Nadav Solowey

Lila Pons

### New Civilians:

Gal Yudkin                      Shua Falkof

Zohar Morris                    Thea Pagelson

Tania Pons                        Natasha Michlin

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