



HAPPY HANUKKAH

DEDICATION OF THE MAIN BOMB SHELTER

After its recent renovation, the village's main bomb shelter was dedicated by Carol Ann Schwartz, president of Hadassah Women's Zionist Organization of America, together with Suzie Patt Benvenisti, CEO of Hadassah Offices in Israel; Marcie Natan, past national president and co-chair of Youth Aliyah; and Michele Rubin, co-chair of Youth Aliyah. Einat Reich, chairwoman of the village, and Ami Magen, director of the village, spoke at the dedication ceremony, which was held in the presence of the village's students and the management of HWZOA.



The bomb shelter, which was renovated using money from Hadassah's emergency fund, was dedicated in memory of the village's graduates and family members who were murdered on October 7, 2023. We wish to express our gratitude to everyone who helped to make it happen.

EXPANDING KNOWLEDGE

We began the new year by adding two new majors to our curriculum: educational leadership and biology.

The Major in Educational Leadership

This innovative track, which exists in partnership with the Ministry of Education's Rakafot Program for Educational Leadership and Social Change, combines experiential study with contribution to the community and personal development.



It offers the pupils an opportunity for in-depth study of fascinating fields such as sociology, psychology, social studies, and educational initiatives using diverse teaching methods adapted to each pupil's needs and abilities.

We renovated the leadership classroom thanks to the generous contribution of Norman Javitt in memory of his mother, who established the Mosholu-Gun Hill Group of Hadassah in the Bronx, New York.

The Major in Biology

The school started the major in biology in order to provide the pupils with high-quality preparation for the matriculation examination in science and technology. The village, which invests significant effort in laying the infrastructure for this major, will soon open an up-to-standard innovative laboratory in its technology complex. Study of this major enables graduates to be responsible for their health and their environment, as well as to understand the changes in science and their implications for individuals and society. The graduates will be able to face challenges in the fields of medicine, technology, agriculture, nature conservation, and the environment.

REGENERATION

in the name of our students, staff members, and all visitors to the village, we wish to express our gratitude to the Administration of Rural Education and Youth Aliyah and to Hadassah Women's Zionist Organization of America for their contribution, which enabled us to renovate the Local Informal Education Center.

The Dedication of the Teachers' Room at Hadassah Neurim Youth Village: A Dream Fulfilled

The renovation of the teachers' room was conceived by the village management for the benefit of our most valuable resource: the educational staff.



The complex was designed to address a variety of needs that were raised by the school administration and the teaching staff for work with individuals and groups, with an emphasis on a pleasant and respectful space.

“It was gratifying and exciting to complete the project and thank everyone who participated in the process,” said Yehuda Attias, the school principal. “The new teachers’ room is an expression of our enormous appreciation for our dedicated staff and the work that they do every day.”

In the name of the school administration and the pupils, we would like to say a word to you, our teaching staff and the Administration of Rural Education and Youth Aliyah: Thanks! The idea to renovate the Local Informal Education Center was conceived after leisure-time activity was organized in the central complex at the heart of the village, which includes a youth leadership training room, a dance studio, a radio station, a game room, and a culture hall, in order to bring together the boarding school’s management, staff, psychosocial personnel, and youth staff, who are in charge of a wide variety of these activities. The renovation was completed thanks to the Administration of Rural Education and Youth Aliyah and Hadassah Women’s Zionist Organization of America.

OUR HONORED GUESTS

In September, we were glad to host Maj. Gen. (Res.) Doron Almog, chairman of the Jewish Agency; Amira Aharonoviz, outgoing CEO; Yehuda Stone, incoming CEO; Sam Grundweg, world chairman of Keren Hayesod-United Israel Appeal; Edna Weinstock-Gabay, CEO; Daniel Alaluf, CDO; Dana Zachs, Israeli company unit director; Asaf Shmul youth program director and member of the Israeli company unit; chief of staff to the chairman of the Jewish Agency Stav Herling-Gosher; and Chen Chaimovich, media director.

Village chairwoman Einat Reich, village director Ami Magen, and members of the village board took part in the visit, during which we showed how the village has developed in recent years and presented a strategic plan for the next twenty years.

Maj. Gen. (Res.) Doron Almog said, “It is important to continue the Zionist mission and be an anchor for young people from all over Israel and from the Diaspora who need us.”

We hope for calmer times.



TWELFTH-GRADE EDUCATIONAL AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP TRIP

“Knowing how to choose the right moment at the right time and in the right place”

The school’s twelfth-graders set out on a three-day trip to the desert. Along the challenging trails, they stopped for educational and group cohesion activities and worked for the following social organizations:

*The Bigudit second-hand clothing and accessories shop in Mizpe Ramon, which assists the social welfare establishment with its income.

* A public garden, established in memory of a teacher who was killed in a road accident, which grows vegetables, herbs, and fruit trees for the residents to use.

*A community cooperative whose purpose is to lower prices for the residents of Mizpe Ramon.

The twelfth-graders concluded the trip with a visit to Shanti House, where they learned about a lifesaving enterprise for people who love life despite its challenges.

In summing up the trip, the pupils and the staff spoke about the meaningful activities during which they could see how much they had learned about themselves.

We wish to express our gratitude to Nurit Shazar for leading the trip, as well as to the staff of the school and the boarding school. You make us proud!



OUR OUTSTANDING ATHLETES OF 2023

We are proud of the athletes of our youth village, who received recognition for their achievements at a ceremony for outstanding athletes of Emek Hefer in the presence of Mayor Galit Shaul of the Emek Hefer Regional Council.

Congratulations to our amazing athletes:

Ivan Beloshavin
Tihon Kukualin
David Tapuzov
Kamila Michaylova
Valeria Homenko
Egor Kniazev
Lui Tahluni Malaka



ONE ON ONE

In the One on One mentoring project of the Israeli spirit, which has entered its tenth year, 22 twelfth-graders were given a mentor who will accompany them, beginning next year, for the following five years. This project is much more than a mentoring program. It is a meaningful encounter between generations, an opportunity to grow together, and to create deep connections with a lifelong influence.

The mentors are volunteers who are vetted and trained specifically for working with young people. They have guidance and advisory meetings that include the village's staff. The village continues to accompany the program even after the pupils graduate from the twelfth grade, and helps to keep up the connection during more complex times. Many success stories have emerged over the years about strong relationships and great achievements by pupils who participate in the program.

COMMEMORATION OF OCTOBER 7

At 6:29 AM on October 7, 2024, the village marked the first anniversary of the events of October 7, 2023.

Although a year has passed, we are still in the midst of the war, and cannot mark this day without commemorating the graduates and residents of the village who fell in the war: Sgt. Maxim Molchanov, Nitzan Goldenberg, Warrant Officer Alik Pozniakov, Maj. (Res.) Roman Bronstein, Capt. (Res.) Nir Binyamin.

May their memories be blessed.

We pray for the return of the hostages and for the safe return of all members of the defense forces, who protect us on the borders. May the residents of the north soon return to their homes, and may we return to the routine of times of peace.

We marked the first anniversary of October 7 with a week of events in the village. Alongside the ceremony, which was organized by the pupils and the staff, we chose to mark the events from various points of view, including the following:

A quiet room led by the Young Leadership staff that presented the various events and served as a space for discussion and sharing feelings

The making of works of art under the guidance of Nurit Shazar, coordinator of the 11th and 12th grades, entitled Memory and Hope: In Their Deaths, They Bequeathed Us Life

Stories of the rescue of animals from the Gaza periphery told by Sophie, the coordinator of the petting zoo.

Lior, Agam, and Daniel, pupils who live in the north and in the Gaza periphery, were hosted on Tomer Honigman's radio program, Tomer's Parliament, where they shared what they experienced on October 7 and afterward

Interactive films on the topic were screened in the Technological Center's immersive classroom

We express our deepest condolences to the bereaved families, pray for the safe return of our soldiers and rescue personnel, and reiterate our message: Bring them home now!



HADASSAH NEURIM'S POP-UP BRANCH OF THE GOLDA ICE CREAM CHAIN

We would like to thank Hadassah Women's Zionist Organization of America, together with Youth Aliyah co-chairs Marcie Natan and Michele Rubin, as well as Barbara Goldstein, Hayah Goldlist Eichler, and David Harris of Hadassah Offices in Israel, for the lovely surprise of a cart of Golda Ice Cream for the children of Meir Shfeyah Youth Village and Hadassah Neurim.



WOMEN SCIENTISTS OF THE FUTURE AT HADASSAH NEURIM

The Women Scientists of the Future program for outstanding female students includes tutoring and enrichment in the fields of engineering and the exact sciences, individual and group empowerment activities, and exposure to academia and industry in order to build an infrastructure of women in science and technology. As part of the program, the pupils are given enrichment in mathematics, English, Hebrew, physics, chemistry, electronics, computer science and cybersecurity.

The program also emphasizes practical experimentation and meetings with leading figures in these fields that include lectures, workshops, tours, conducting research and experiments, practical demonstrations, meetings with influential women in science and technology, and a preparatory course for the psychometric examinations. The program will be led by a team of skilled counselors who come from the various locales that participate in the program.



A PERSONAL MOMENT



Elisheva, an eleventh-grader, came from Moshav Yitav in the Jordan Valley when she was in the tenth grade. The oldest of nine siblings, Elisheva works in the Youth Village kennel in addition to bicycling, and is socially involved in the village's various activities. She recently completed a course in cyclist training given by The Spirit of Israel, and leads the Riding with Stars project in the village.

She took the regular course together with adults, studying complex content such as anatomy and taking difficult tests. All of this was possible thanks to Muli, a volunteer from The Spirit of Israel who met with her two to three times per week, and almost daily during the examination period, and studied the test material with her. The important thing here is not the diploma or the test grade, but Elisheva's own sense of competence, what she learned from the process, and her future appetite for success. Congratulations to Muli and the other volunteers who helped along the way – and, of course, to Elisheva herself! ❤️

TOGETHER FOR GENERATIONS

As part of the Together for Generations project, pupils from Hadassah Neurim Youth Village who were part of the delegation to Poland met with Judit Yarden, a Holocaust survivor who lives in the Bayit Bakfar assisted-living facility in Bitan Aharon. Their meeting was moving and meaningful, beyond the power of words to describe. Judit told the story of her late husband Tzvika, who was born Hershele in Lodz, Poland. She explained that his Hebrew name, Zvi, is the translation of his original name, Hirshele, which means “deer” in Yiddish. Young Hirshele had a hard time obeying the rules and restrictions. When he was twelve years old, he was taken from the Lodz Ghetto to Auschwitz, where he remained for a week, and then to Dachau, where he was forced to perform hard labor. He survived by staying in a pit beneath the bodies of people who had been shot to death.

“His life was harder than mine,” Judit told us, wishing to convey the importance of keeping things in perspective. She had lived in the Budapest Ghetto, in a room without a toilet or shower, and surviving the Nazis' decrees was no simple matter. All Jewish homes had to be marked with a yellow badge so that looters would be able to find them easily.

Judit told us toward the end of the meeting that since her generation is dying out, it is important to hear their stories. She expressed her hope that they would enlist in the army in a time of peace, and wished us a meaningful trip to Poland.



FAMILY SHABBAT

We hosted 71 families of pupils in the youth village's younger grades this month. The families spent time with the pupils, held Kabbalat Shabbat services together, enjoyed an evening of disco, and took part in exciting activities such as surfing, soccer, pool sports, and an escape room. We hope you enjoyed the activities as much as we did!



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also at our web
and social media

 [Hadassah_neurim](https://www.instagram.com/Hadassah_neurim)

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