



NEOT KEDUMIM,
THE BIBLICAL
LANDSCAPE
RESERVE IN
ISRAEL

Neot Kedumim Shorashim

YEAR END, 2007-2008 / 5768

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Olives and Oil,
Darkness and
Light

Director's
Report

Reservoir Up-
date

Tree Planting

Israel Baseball
League

New Bedford
Presentation

Rabbi Barry
Hartman

Zev Naveh

Lilies, by Pam
Billings

Clergy Circle

Farewell But
Not Goodbye

AFNK News

Olives and Oil, Darkness and Light by Beth Uval

The unripe green olives have turned purple and then black, and are now—just in time for Hanukkah—bursting

with their precious oil. You can take a ripe olive in your hand, squeeze it gently—at a safe distance from your friends—and the oil will come squirting out.

Olives and their oil are the current theme at Neot Kedumim. At *Hatzrot HaYitzhar*, a special "oil

industry" area on the Hill of the Menorah, visitors who are willing to get their hands dirty can produce oil by the earliest methods. First you pick the ripest, juiciest olives you can find. Then you pound your olives with a stone till they release their oil. Gathering your crushed olives in a cloth, you twist and

squeeze until the oil drips into a bottle. Voilà—you have produced the real thing.



Olives ready to be picked and their oil transformed into light

If you pour a little of your oil into a clay lamp, put in a wick, and light it, you will be producing light as it was done in earliest times. *Yitzhar*, one of the prevalent biblical terms for oil, comes from the Hebrew root meaning "light."

It is precisely at the peak of the light-producing olive harvest that we

celebrate the Holiday of Light. Just when the days are shortest and the nights are darkest (Hanukkah comes at the end of the Hebrew

month, the waning of the moon), we add light every night. At the dark of the sun and the dark of the moon, we overcome darkness and create

light—as the light of faith in the hearts of the Maccabees sustained their fight against the darkness of oppression.

Fortunate that we are, we know that the shortest day of the year means that daylight will

Continued page 3

Report From Neot Kedumim's Executive Director

Dear Paula,

Lately, my daily work at Neot Kedumim has revolved around dealing with various Israeli government offices and ministries, including but not limited to the Israel Land Administration, Planning and Building Committee, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Tourism.

Unfortunately, as time passes

the bureaucratic obstacles become more complex. Obtaining possession of any official document requires much effort, and takes me away from my work at Neot Kedumim.

There are some successes that I can report to you. On the Ministry of Tourism's recent visit, they were very supportive of Neot Kedumim and its potential as a tourist attraction. Accordingly, the Ministry

intends to provide assistance with travel agents and tour operators. The Ministry has approved an amount of approximately 125 thousand dollars for this year. They have indicated that this amount will be increased over the coming years.

All the best,
Shlomo



Shlomo Teitelbaum, Executive Director of Neot Kedumim, with a giant etrog (citron)



2000



2006



2007

The deterioration of NK's reservoirs. Help is on the way!



Young Date Palms

Update On Our Reservoir Pools

We have reported in the past about the dangerous condition of NK's 6 reservoir pools. A new cooperative effort has been established between Mekorot (The Israel National Water Company) and Neot Kedumim.

As a result of negotiations following a tour of

Neot Kedumim's 6 reservoir pools, Mekorot has agreed to restore 2 of the pools that were in the worst condition—the Pool of the Shepherds and the Pool of the Willows.

Perhaps just as importantly, Mekorot has agreed to donate the

cost of the maintenance of these reservoirs.

Neot Kedumim is grateful to Mekorot for its generosity, and American Friends of Neot Kedumim is grateful to Shlomo Teitelbaum for negotiating the arrangements that led to helping to solve this crisis.

Tree Planting From January Through August, 2007

"Every seven years, biblical law forbids sowing and harvesting the grain fields, and pruning and harvesting the grapevines. Each household harvests only the bare minimum that they need to survive, and the rest is left for the hungry and even for the wild animals.

'Behind this is an important idea: 'The land is Mine.' We human beings do not own the land. According to biblical law, land is

leased, not sold permanently. We are tenants, stewards." ¹

During this *shmitta* (sabbatical) year, tree planting is forbidden by Jewish law. However, much planting was done in anticipation of the *shmitta*. For example, 2,621 trees were planted by tourists over a period of six months in 2007.

The educational staff at Neot Kedumim have put tremendous effort into the development pro-

grams for teaching *shmitta* both to students and visitors from abroad. They have set up a hothouse for growing agricultural plants which are in keeping with these special and complex laws. A display of agricultural tools and facilities has been created to demonstrate the *Mishna* writings on the subject.

¹ *Beth Uval, Tu B'Shvat Hagaddah, Published by Neot Kedumim and available through AFNK*

Israel's "Boys of Summer" at Neot Kedumim



The entire Israel Baseball League (IBL), including players, coaches and management, attended and partici-

pated in a tree planting ceremony at Neot Kedumim on Tuesday, August 14. Larry Baras, founder of the IBL, spoke at the ceremony.

IBL players, who hail from Israel, the United States, Canada, Dominican Republic, Colombia, Australia, and Japan, participated in ceremony which symbolized the

planting of the "roots" of professional baseball in the soil of the land of Israel. The event was hosted by Keren Kayemet L'Yisrael.



Photos:
Far Left: Planting the roots of baseball in Israel
Left: On NK's Wedding Trail-Israel's love affair with baseball begins!
Above: The Israel Baseball League at NK



All photos by Flash 90

Olives and Oil, continued

start increasing. But imagine the terror of the early humans who saw the light disappearing and didn't know it would come back. A legend recorded in the Talmud (Avoda Zara 8a) has Adam watching in dread as the light decreased daily, and then, when the reversal came at the moment of greatest dismay, learning that "this is the way of the world."

The cycles of ebbing and

growing light in nature evoke similar cycles in human life and human history. Just when things seem worst, they can start getting better. Like the olives that yield their oil just when the days are darkest, the means often inhere in Creation that is "very good" (Genesis 1:31).

From the olive orchards of Neot Kedumim, we

send wishes for a year of light, goodness, and hope for all.



During Shmitta (the Sabbatical year), olives are crushed with a bodeida—a special "family size" press permitted by Jewish law.

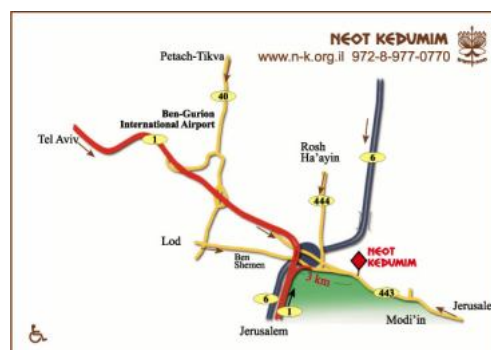


A "Place For the Sake of the Nation"

Since we reinstated the publication of our newsletter, we have gained many new friends, some of whom are unfamiliar with the location of Neot Kedumim.

Our location, on 625 handicapped- and stroller-accessible acres be-

tween Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, is easily reached by car or taxi. We are located along Highway 443, close to the city of Modiin. We hope that the next time you are in Israel, you will visit Neot Kedumim, and we would be happy to help you make your visit a truly memorable experience.



Neot Kedumim—15 minutes from the airport

Make-A-Wish Foundation Visits Neot Kedumim

The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Israel (*Mishalet Lev, in Hebrew*) contacted Neot Kedumim regarding the request of a 9-year old European child with cancer whose wish was to visit Israel. She spe-

cifically hoped to spend Sukkot in Jerusalem. Make-A-Wish contacted Neot Kedumim, which was honored to host this special family.

Presentation in New Bedford, MA

On Sunday morning, April 22, AFNK president Paula Tobenfeld spoke about Neot Kedumim at a synagogue in New Bedford, MA. The event represented a first for AFNK, and something rather unusual in the greater American Jewish community.

The writer of the letter, excerpted below, is an Orthodox rabbi who encouraged his congregants at Ahavath Achim Synagogue to attend the presentation at the local Conservative synagogue, Tifereth Israel Congregation, which was sponsored by the local Jewish Federation.

The result was a generous donation for Neot Kedumim from the Federation,

additional new NK friends from the two synagogues, and the possibility of a mission to Israel organized by the Orthodox rabbi.

I began my presentation by talking about *akhdut* (unity), explaining that it is precisely

this kind of bringing together of people of different belief systems, people from different backgrounds, people from all over the world that has been a hallmark of Neot Kedumim since its inception.

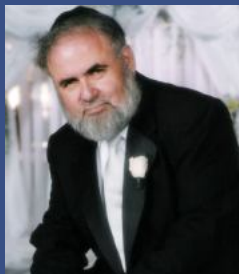
Thank you to all those in New Bedford who made the day a success, particularly AFNK's longtime friends **Irma Wolfe** and **Alice Nussbaum**.

Paula Tobenfeld, President, AFNK



Photo from left: Gordon Wolfe, Wil Herrup (immediate past Exec. Director, Greater New Bedford Jewish Federation), Marilyn Ehrenhaus, Abner Ehrenhaus, Irma Wolfe, Paula Tobenfeld

To bring this fun and informative program to your area, please contact the AFNK office at tikvah4afnk@yahoo.com, or by telephone at (518) 296-8673.



Rabbi Barry Hartman
Spiritual leader, Ahavat
Achim Synagogue

Letter From Rabbi Barry Hartman

Dear Paula,

I wish to commend you for the excellent presentation you delivered for the community's "Yom Ha'Atzmaut" (Israel Independence Day) celebration. It inspired me so much that I would like to put

together a group mission from New Bedford to visit Israel. I will speak with Rabbi Kanter and hopefully this idea will come to fruition. I will keep you informed.

Once again, *Yasher*

Koach (congratulations) on a meaningful presentation. You took the people who attended into the heart of Israel.

With best regards, I remain.

Sincerely,
Barry D. Hartman, Rabbi

What People Are Saying About Us by Dr. Zev Naveh

As a landscape and restoration ecologist I have dealt for more than forty years with research, practice and education in the field of ecological and cultural restoration. I have promoted a holistic and trans-disciplinary approach that can do justice to the need to safeguard and restore the closely interwoven natural and cultural assets of historical landscapes, as part of the precious heritage of all nations for future generations to enjoy. I am therefore very happy and proud of the fact that here in Israel we are endowed with the best example of such a transdisciplinary endeavor, thanks to the impressive achievements of Nogah Hareuveni.

I allow myself to express this judgment because throughout the years I have had the opportunity to visit outstanding restoration and reclamation projects in many countries on all continents. I have seen a great number of cultural monuments which have been suc-

cessfully preserved and restored. There are, however, far fewer examples where the cultural heritage has been successfully restored in its natural surroundings, as an integral part of the landscape in which it evolved and flourished in the past. Nowhere else can we see such an authentic and imaginative, inspiring and enlightening multi-functional cultural and ecological restoration project as Neot Kedumim, which leaves such a deep impression on visitors and has such a far-reaching educational impact. Neot Kedumim preserves the cultural heritage *in its totality*, by reviving in a unique way the archeology, the spiritual and natural history, with all the ethnographic, botanical and zoological aspects of the biblical and post-biblical periods in the Holy Land, the cradle of monotheistic religions and Western civilization.

Thanks to my long-term acquaintance with Nogah Hareuveni,

since our student days at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem... I have had the great privilege of closely following the development of Neot Kedumim. I have witnessed with admiration his total involvement and selfless devotion, his untiring efforts to overcome all obstacles and to create Neot Kedumim out of a barren, almost desolated landscape.

...It gives me great satisfaction that he could fulfill the vision of his parents. This would not have been possible without Nogah Hareuveni's unique combination of thorough knowledge, visionary imagination, and charismatic leadership, and his gift of convincing all those who could support his work, but above all his amazing "down to earth capacity" to realize his plans with the help of able and devoted assistants, following enthusiastically his personal example of total involvement.

Continued on Page 7

"Neot Kedumim preserves the cultural heritage in its totality, by reviving... aspects of the biblical and post-biblical periods..."

About Dr. Zev Naveh

Dr. Zev Naveh was born 1919 in Amsterdam and emigrated to Israel in 1935. He was cofounder and member of Kibbutz Mazuba in Western Galilee, where he worked as a shepherd and cattle breeder.

His academic degrees include a Master of Science in 1950 (Agronomy) and a PhD 1960

(Range Ecology), both from The Hebrew University, Jerusalem.

His academic appointments are too numerous to list here, but include Israel's Agricultural Research Institute, University of California at Berkeley, Northern Tanzania as specialist for range and pasture research in Masailand and Mt. Kilimanjaro. He has

served as a visiting professor and guest lecturer in several universities in the USA, Europe, Japan and Australia. In 1965, Dr. Naveh was appointed to Israel's Technion, Faculty of Agricultural Engineering and from 1970-85 with a secondary appointment at the Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning.

He retired in 1988 as Professor Emeritus.

Dr. Naveh has authored over 200 scientific publications; is author and co-author of several Hebrew and English books, including co-authoring the first English monograph on landscape ecology, theory and applications.

Observations on the Cultivation of Lilies, by Pamela Billings



Pamela Billings with lilies. She lives in Oregon outside Silverton, 10 miles east of Salem

In the Christian Bible, as recorded in Matthew 6:28-30 and Luke 12:21, Jesus teaches His disciples while viewing the landscape. He uses lilies to illustrate a spiritual truth, and connects the

Listeners (readers) back to King Solomon's reign: "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?" Mt. 6: 28-30/NIV) These passages suggest to

me that lilies grew volunteer (without intentional planting) in the fields of grass and were awash with glorious colors and patterns.

Almost a millennium before Jesus walked the earth, King Solomon ruled Israel. He may have viewed the land he ruled as a garden, and in his love sonnet, Songs of Songs, revealed the micro-climates within his garden. He used lilies comparatively often in this writing- as if the lily was his favorite flower.

Considering the passages in Song of Songs about lilies, we see they are described as growing in different environments: in valleys (2:1), in wild areas (4:5), "among thorns" (2:2), and in the garden (6:2). The writer used lilies as images to describe the lovers' attributes.

In my garden, I grow many varieties of lilies (*lilium*). Some grow up to six feet tall, carrying their flower clusters high. Many are fragrant enough to perfume an entire garden

with only a few flowers. Some develop a heavy nectar that drips in the heat of the day. Others display bright colors and intense patterns; still others are delicate in form and hue. For most conditions of the micro-climates in my patch of ground, I've found a lily variety that will grow there.

The passages of Scripture I have explored herein, overlaid with the attributes of Lilies, develop into a panoramic view of ancient Israel. The lilies would have presented a feast for the eyes, as well as perfumes that flowed on the breezes to the delight of those who lived in and visited this land that King Solomon ruled.

"Passages of Scripture... develop into a panoramic view of ancient Israel."

Clergy Circle of Neot Kedumim

Forty years ago, Neot Kedumim began operations. Sixty years ago, Israel became an independent nation. It is most appropriate that these related entities are celebrating an important anniversary in 2008/5768. Both Israel and Neot Kedumim share as a core value an emphasis on what unites us—learning and understanding.

In commemoration of these two milestones, Neot Kedumim has created a Clergy Circle of Friends of Neot Kedumim. In keeping with Neot Kedumim's emphasis on

inclusiveness, the Clergy Circle will welcome members of the clergy from all faiths.

The minimum donation for participation in the Clergy Circle is \$250. Money donated for the Clergy Circle will be used to bring classes of students from Israel's poorer communities to Neot Kedumim, thereby spreading Neot Kedumim's message of our shared heritage in the land and landscapes of Israel with populations who would otherwise not be able to come and learn. Last year, Neot Kedumim welcomed approxi-

mately 50,000 students from schools throughout Israel. Your membership in Neot Kedumim's Clergy Circle will bring more students from more schools from more areas in Israel to Neot Kedumim.

When received, the Clergy member or his/her designee will be sent a certificate of membership, suitable for displaying.

We hope that you will add your name to the growing list of religious institutions that understand that the 60th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel and the 40th anniversary of the founding of Neot Kedumim are two

events that are deserving of your support.

To join the Clergy Circle of Neot Kedumim, please check the box on the enclosed Donor Reply Form marked "Membership in Clergy Circle of Neot Kedumim". Thank you.



Farewell But Not Goodbye

One of Neot Kedumim's greatest strengths is its staff. Among these dedicated people are female IDF soldiers, who fulfill their military service (or part of it) at Neot Kedumim. These women bring energy, creativity, and a strong sense of commitment to their work at Neot Kedumim. Often, like Tsuf Horovitz (whose first name means 'nectar' in English), they choose to remain at Neot Kedumim, becoming members of our salaried staff. Recently, Tsuf left Neot Kedumim to resume her education (film school) on a full-time basis. I wanted to share with you her touching farewell letter to Neot Kedumim.

Paula Tobenfeld

Dear Neot Kedumim staff,

I didn't part from you as I should have, but that isn't terrible because you'll surely see me here endless times.

Nevertheless, since I won't be here on a regular basis anymore, three times a week, I want to say a few words of summation and gratitude.

I owe my character building years to this place. The two years I spent at Neot Kedumim being a soldier were two wonderful years. In the years to follow NK was my

secure anchor in the world of adults to which I ventured feeling still somewhat a child.

Thanks to all of you for assisting me in unearthing the route to maturity. I feel I grew here alongside the trees.

Love you,
Tsuf



What People Are Saying, *continued*

In conjunction with the International Conference of the Israel Ecological Society in 1990 in Jerusalem, we organized a symposium on ecological and cultural restoration in which prominent restorationists, ecologists and landscape architects participated. The highlight of this symposium was the field workshop in Neot Kedumim. The positive feedback that



Experiencing the cultural heritage of the biblical Holy Land

Nogah received after his guided tour through the various landscape "gardens,"

accompanied by the excellent written explanation of Neot Kedumim's educational activities, was overwhelming. Prof. John Lyle from California, the renowned landscape architect, designer and restorationist, expressed the feelings of all participants when he expressed his admiration for Nogah's achievements and his hope that many more scientists and professionals involved in the design and restoration of cultural heritage would have the opportunity to visit Neot Kedumim, meet Nogah Hareuveni, and become acquainted with his work and books.

In fact, some time ago Nogah asked my advice about organizing an international seminar at Neot Kedumim for scientists, professionals and PhD students, in collaboration with UNESCO, and suggested entitling it: "Experiencing the

natural and cultural heritage of the biblical Holy Land in the restored Judean hills". I found this an excellent idea, and suggested that all the events be documented and distributed in a special film with the same name. Unfortunately, however, because of the severe financial difficulties Neot Kedumim is facing presently, he could not realize this plan. I hope that this will indeed come to pass [in the near future].

Zev Naveh,

Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Lowdermilk Division of Agricultural Engineering, Technion, Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa

American Friends News

Tree Planting By Neot Kedumim Visitors Before Shmitta Year Begins

2,621 trees were planted by tourists over a period of six months in 2007. Since tree planting cannot take place during the shmitta (sabbatical) year in Israel, this planting allows Neot Kedumim to progress with the development of a variety of Reserve areas which most likely would not have taken place otherwise, due to lack of funding.

Tree planting is a meaningful activity for visitors who literally get in touch with the soil of Israel. Once again, we see that friends from around the world are helping to make a difference at Neot Kedumim.

A group of Americans planting at NK. 2,621 trees were planted by tourists over a 6-month period in 2007



American Friends of Neot Kedumim

PO Box 236
Howes Cave
NY 12092 USA

Phone and Fax:
(518) 296-8673

Email: tikvah4afnk@yahoo.com

American Friends of Neot Kedumim, a US 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, supports Neot Kedumim, The Biblical Landscape Reserve In Israel In Honor Of The 5th President Of Israel, Mr. Yitzhak Navon

We're on the web!
www.n-k.org.il

US Tax Code and AFNK

Additional tax incentives for charitable gifts are now available to donors who are seventy-and-a-half or older. The Pension Protection Act of 2006 contains a provision that encourages charitable giving by allowing donations of up to \$100,000 from traditional individual retirement accounts (IRAs) or rollover IRAs without undesirable tax effects. Previously, any amount taken from an IRA had to be reported as taxable income. While it was possible to take a charitable deduction for a gift, its upper limit was 50 percent of an individual's adjusted gross income.

In effect, this resulted in some donors paying more in income taxes than if they had made no gift.

The IRA gift provision enables donors to give while they are living so that they can witness the benefits of their generosity. It is set to **expire at midnight on December 31, 2007, so transactions must be completed by that time.**

To learn more about this opportunity, contact AFNK.



Visitors from Alaska and Singapore:
When it comes to Neot Kedumim, no distance is too far! Have you booked your visit yet?