

## Experiences Through the Eye of the Camera



I first "met" Zion Sahar on Zoom broadcasts during the coronavirus pandemic. I didn't know him in the '80s and '90s. We met at the many hishtalmuyot (dance workshops) that were customary at the time. Zion's story explains this. After the Corona period, I saw advertisements for Shabbatot Zugot [Shabbat partner dance sessions] that Zion organized in the Jerusalem area. I invited Zion to join as a VIP and to support the continued development of the "Rokdim" website. Since then, we have been in collaboration.

Yaron Meishar, editor



# 5th Anniversary of Shabbat Zugot in Hod HaSharon

Yaron Meishar; Translation by Ruth Goodman

## Zion recalls:

After completing a course for instructors in the 1980s, I danced in the north in Moshav Alma, Moshav Dalton and others, with the help of Sefi Aviv. In 1987, I left Israel unintentionally. I came to England, where I lived for 23 years.

Throughout the years in England, I instructed and led dance sessions in Jewish communities in four districts in the London area, and I even I even got to teach up in the north, in Manchester.

All this was in addition to the private business I founded, which dealt with international shipping. I met my wife in 2000. We married and returned to Israel in 2011.

I started dancing in Ra'anana with Yankel Ziv and later with Elad Shtamer. In 2018, I started dancing at "Shabbatot Zugot", which at the time was a rare commodity. I danced at Beit Zayit, with David Sabag z"l. Six months after he passed away, a number of dancers approached me and asked if I could take his place on those Shabbatot, and so it was.

I started at the Yearim Hotel. From there we moved to Kibbutz Kiryat Anavim with many obstacles along the way. In the end, we arrived at Kibbutz



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Tzora. We danced there for about two and a half years. The Jerusalem Hills region enchanted me, and I think the dancers as well.

On October 7, 2023, when the Gaza war began, the hall in Tzora was taken from me by the Home Front Command. Unfortunately, that ended my romance with this magical area. I couldn't find a similar place in the area and had to look for a hall in Hod HaSharon.

[However,] next month we will have a new hall and I hope to institutionalize Shabbatot Zugot in the Sharon area.

I would like to thank all the wonderful dancers who have accompanied and [continue to] accompany me, have believed and believe in me every step of the way.

Ahhh... And my quiches got a reputation... I absolutely love dancing, love cooking, and most of all, I love leading dance sessions...

All this is in addition to my private business that has existed here in Israel for 10 years: transportation for people with disabilities.

My wife, **Avgar**, is the driving force behind these Shabbatot. She and my children – **Nitzan, Inbal and Avitar**, are responsible for all the logistics on these Shabbatot. My thanks to them!



### Shelly Shaked (an instructor who works with Zion) adds:

I have known Zion for years through dance sessions. In 2020, during the Corona period, I went on a dance weekend that was led by **Talia Buchnik** at a hotel in Tiberias and Zion was one of the dance leaders at this weekend. It turned out that we were both without partners – we danced together and bonded. The chemistry was immediate, the dance connection was great – and since then we have been dancing together regularly.



Until I met Zion, I danced mostly in "regular" sessions and I didn't know "middle generation" [dances from the 1980s to 2000] and nostalgia dances. Zion exposed me to these dances and taught me the beautiful dances from the past.

Naturally, over time, I began to demonstrate with him in his dance sessions and accompany him on Shabbatot and at the various harkadot (dance sessions). Zion brings a taste of times past to his harkadot in his special style - and I have had the privilege of accompanying him on this journey.

In 2023 I completed a course for instructors and, with Zion's support, I teach dance in his beautiful harkada in Kfar Maccabiah and learn as much as possible from him. 🌱

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