AHARON YADLIN

Seven decades of extensive public activity have seen Aharon Yadlin, a veteran of the Israeli Labor Movement, combine his love for nature with the vision of making the Negev bloom, all while promoting Israel’s educational system, emphasizing on moral, humanist and Zionist education. Mr. Yadlin has pursued his endeavors unobtrusively, and yet their positive effects continue to resonate in Israeli life today.

Born in Ben Shemen in 1926, Mr. Yadlin is a former five-term Member of Knesset, representing the Mapai, Alignment and Labor parties. He served as Deputy Education Minister between 1965 and 1972, as Education and Culture Minister from 1974 to 1977, and as Chairman of the Knesset’s Education Committee from 1977 to 1979.

During his term as Education Minister, Mr. Yadlin endeavored to modernize the curriculum, acclimate teachers’ training, reduce the gaps in students’ achievements without compromising excellence, and develop external educational frameworks. While in office, Mr. Yadlin further sought to promote an extended school day in development towns and suburbs, and introduced the National School Lunch Program. He founded the ministry’s Curriculum Development Department, as well as science centers in various universities and promoted open dialogue with the teachers’ unions. He leveraged the activities of the Open University, Educational TV and the Center for Educational Technology. Mr. Yadlin encouraged teaching the Arabic language in schools, and founded the Shehala Program for Geography and Social Education and the Perach Tutorial Project.

Prior to being elected to the Knesset, Mr. Yadlin was a guide and training coordinator in the Israeli Scouts, assisting graduates joining the Palmach, and served as Chairman of the Council of Youth Movements in Israel. He was a Professor of Sociology at the Beit Berl Center for Educational and Social Research, and served as its acting director from 1955 to 1957. After resigning his Knesset seat to return to his kibbutz, Mr. Yadlin taught civics and sociology at the Esdel HaNasi youth village in the Negev, while teaching at Beit Berl and in the Kibbutz Movement’s Efi Seminar.

Volunteering in a kibbutz during high school at the Hebrew Reali School in Haifa, Mr. Yadlin decided upon his graduation to become a kibbutz member. He was one of the founding members of Kibbutz Be’eri in the northwestern Negev, which was one of 11 settlements formed after Yom Kippur of 1946. Four years later, for ideological reasons, he moved to Kibbutz Hatzerim near Beersheba, which was also one of the 11 communities formed at the time. It was there that he married his late wife Ada Hachoen z”l and the couple had three sons – Amos, Yoram and Amir. Mr. Yadlin served as Secretary-General of the kibbutz board several times, and with the kibbutz’s blessing, he pursued his studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Following his wife’s passing away, he married Adina Lindeborg of Kibbutz Netzer Sereni. Hatzerim has remained his home to this day.

Mr. Yadlin plays a key role in realizing the vision of developing the Negev. He was one of the founders of the Ben-Gurion University at Sde Boker, the Beersheba Theater and the city’s orchestra. He further contributed to the establishment of the National Center for Education Professionals’ Training in Jewish and Democracy Studies at the Beit Yatziv educational campus in Beersheba, which he currently chairs. Mr. Yadlin is a giant of the Labor and Kibbutz movements, where he served in positions including member of the Histadrut Labor Federation’s Executive Committee, Secretary-General of the Labor Party, Secretary-General of the United Kibbutz Movement and Chairman of the World Zionist Labor Movement. He currently serves as Chairman of the Prime Minister’s Foundation for Creative Work, Chairman of the Bialik Institute, Chairman of the Yad Tabenkin Center, and Vice-Chairman of Ben-Gurion University’s Executive Committee.

Mr. Yadlin has penned numerous articles on politics, social issues, education and the kibbutzim. His book, “The Goal and the Movement,” focuses on Socialism in Israel and worldwide. In recognition of his diverse and extensive public work, Mr. Yadlin was awarded the 2010 Israel Prize for lifetime achievement and exceptional contribution to society and the nation.

As the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya celebrates its 20th anniversary, we wish to acknowledge individuals who have laid the foundation for scientific research, education and the philosophy of the State of Israel, thus contributing to advancing Israel’s position worldwide. In recognition of his life-long efforts to promote moral and ethical education in Israel, and in appreciation of his contribution in transforming the Negev Desert into a prosperous region, Aharon Yadlin is hereby named an Associate Professor of the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya

Prof. Uriel Reichman
President and Founder
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