



COVID-19: STORIES FROM AMIGOUR

We are pleased to share with you incredible personal stories from the residents of Amigour, a project we support that provides sheltered housing to the elderly, especially Holocaust survivors, immigrants from the former Soviet Union and others that are unable to afford dignified living. In this time of medical crisis, we are continuing to support the residents and staff by supplying them with critical supplies, especially disinfectant and protective materials.

PHIMA ZILBER

My name is Phima Zilber. I am 82 years old and a Holocaust survivor.

I immigrated to Israel in 1996 from Belarus with my wife Ella. I was in the military for many years before I immigrated to Israel.

Since I moved to Amigour in Bat Yam, I have volunteered to do gardening for the building. The plants are my children. Every morning, every day, every season and even in emergencies like now with the coronavirus epidemic, I get up early to take care of the hundreds of plants that are around the building.

Now, I am also taking care of my health and use gloves and a mask when I am checking on my plants.

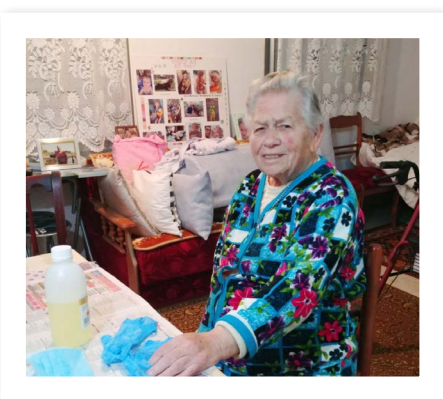
Thanks to Amigour, I have a reason to get up every morning with a smile on my face!



MANIA MENUSIS

My name is Mania Menusis. I'm 85 years old and a Holocaust survivor from Ukraine. I lost my entire family - my parents and brother. I survived the ghetto and made aliyah to Israel in 1991. My only son was killed in a car accident. Since then, I have been by myself, except for one granddaughter who lives far away.

During this epidemic outbreak, I'm uncertain and restless. It's hard for me to be home alone all day. At Amigour, I'm at least able to sit on a bench and talk to friends from a distance. The staff are helping us to relax and keep to the Ministry of Health's regulations.





KAPLKOV GISIA

My name is Kaplkov Gisia and this is my husband Roman. We are both 86 years old.

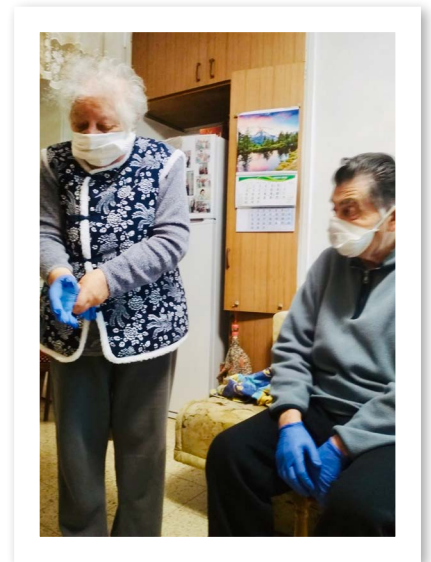
I was born in Russia, in the city of Leningrad. During World War II, I was 6 years old. I have bad memories from that time as a little girl - people dying on the streets, hunger in the stairwells and bombings day and night.

I experience a second horrific event when my only son died at age 8 from heart disease. It happened in December 1972 in Leningrad during the flu epidemic. Many people died at that time, including many children. We couldn't even bury our son (it was impossible to get a coffin).

I have experienced many difficulties in my life.

We immigrated to Israel in 1995. In 1997, Amigour welcomed us with an apartment.

We now live peacefully in our old age. Despite the current coronavirus epidemic, we feel protected and that they care about us. Amigour has been good for us - the situation is unpleasant, but we are not afraid. We are not alone thanks to Amigour and the State of Israel!



HAREL OBA

My name is Harel Oba. I was born in Ethiopia in 1959 and lived there until I was 25 years old. I immigrated with my entire family to Israel after a long journey through Sudan. The Sudanese treated us harshly, and I lost a lot of family there.

Today I have 5 children living in Ashkelon. My brother lives in Be'er Sheva. I haven't seen any of them for over a week. I am very worried about my personal wellbeing and my family's wellbeing. We are trying to cheer each other up over the phone and are being cautious not to visit each other.

Until about a week ago I would go to a social gathering every day. They would provide me with meals there. Now I'm by myself. Although, thanks to Amigour's kind staff, I'm not really alone. They are taking care of me with hot meals, and they make me feel like I am part of something bigger.

There are people at the entrance making sure that strangers aren't entering the building, that the elderly aren't wandering around and helping to make sure that we are all in good health.

Thanks to Amigour, I'm not really alone.

Thank you!

