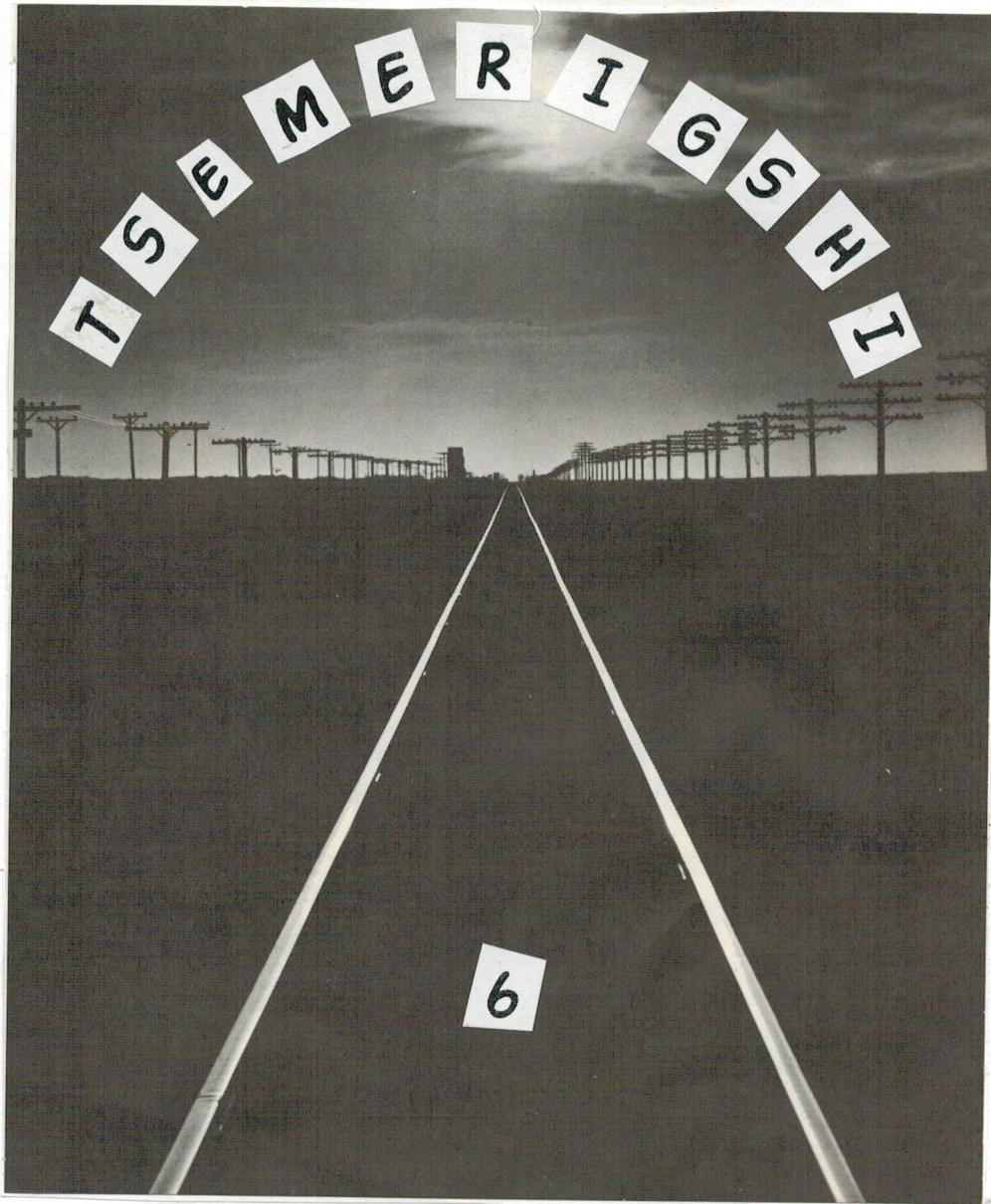


T S E M E R I G S H I

6



# INTRODUCTION

Its spring and many changes and events have occurred in my life

since the events depicted in the last issue of Tsemerigshi.

The hiatus is largely due to changes that were very emotionally and time consuming.

I did write a bit but kept wanting my writing/drawing to depict my life perfectly,

but zines like maps do not show the full route life took in order to get where I am, but only landmarks.

I decided to take a defined portion of time in passover vacation to write this zine and as a letter to my friends.

The writing is retrospective and thus, some of the events that seemed very crucial at the time are not even mentioned here.

At the end of most sections there are questions I would love for you to answer.

you can write me to my home mail or to my email.

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Yael and I have recently started taking steps to unify our separate

lives not only emotionally but also to the outside world-

changing our surnames to a joint one, opening a joint bank account,

having our families finally meet. On Sunday we went to change our

surnames I added her surname and she added mine, it was pretty

emotionally moving for me.

It was a one sided move that was not

discussed with our families, we only informed them of our intentions

It was not easy for them to accept, each side with they're own baggage

For my parents it brought up the sour issue of our intention

not to get married. There's something in taking a different surname

that is to adopt a new identity in a way, and to rip yourself from

the old one, it was a drastic and a liberating move for me.

### Write2Rone1-

How do you picture your life romantic-relationship-wise in the

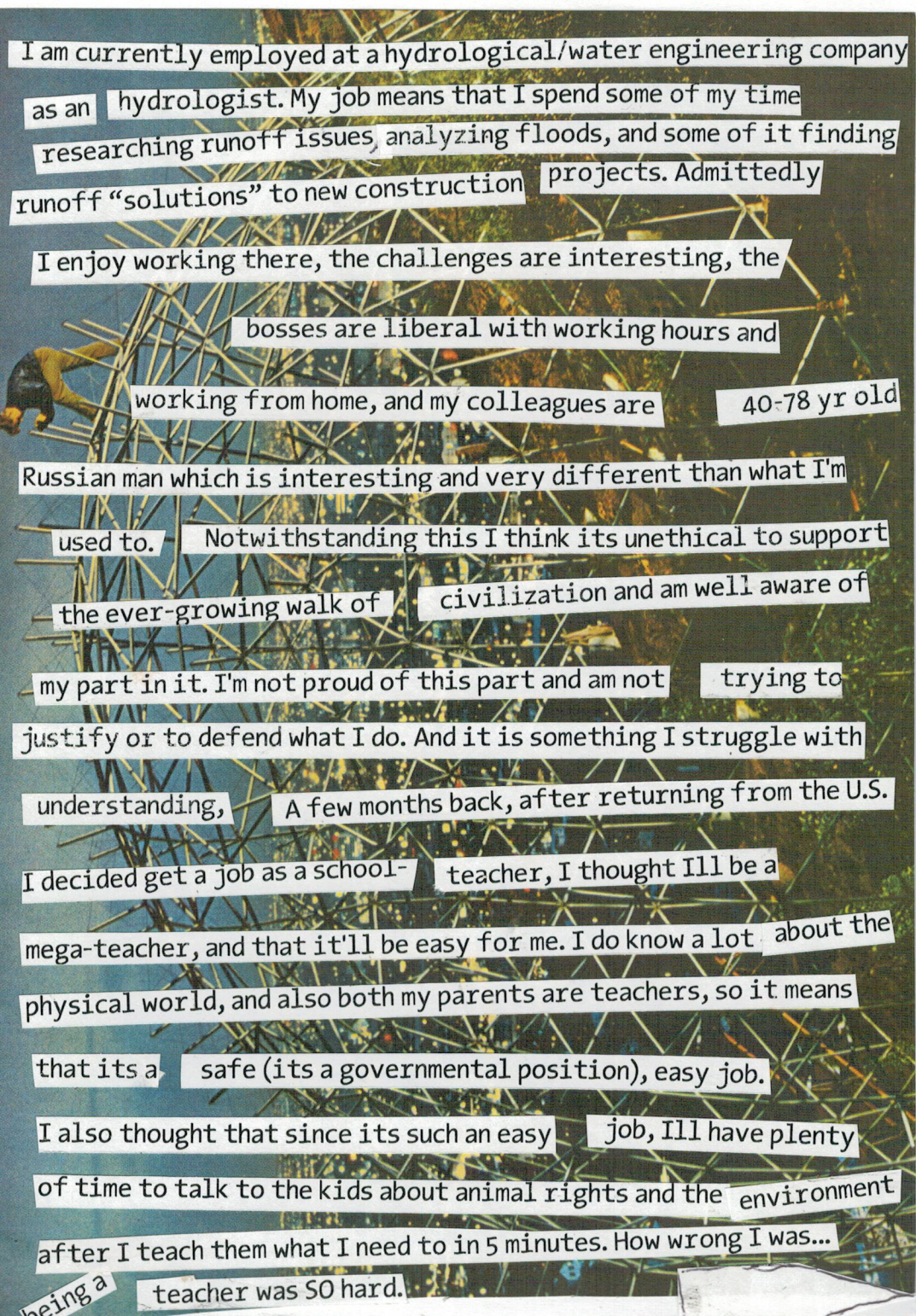
longterm? Would you want one steady relationship/few steady

relationships?/come and go relationships?

Do you consider yourself monogemic/polyamoric? Why? Does it make

sense in your life? If you are poly-How fluid are your relationships?

Do you have a primary partner?

A construction worker in a yellow jacket and dark pants is seen from behind, working on a dense and intricate network of metal scaffolding. The background is a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The text is overlaid on the image in white boxes with black outlines.

I am currently employed at a hydrological/water engineering company as an hydrologist. My job means that I spend some of my time researching runoff issues, analyzing floods, and some of it finding runoff "solutions" to new construction projects. Admittedly

I enjoy working there, the challenges are interesting, the

bosses are liberal with working hours and

working from home, and my colleagues are

40-78 yr old

Russian man which is interesting and very different than what I'm used to. Notwithstanding this I think its unethical to support

the ever-growing walk of civilization and am well aware of

my part in it. I'm not proud of this part and am not trying to

justify or to defend what I do. And it is something I struggle with

understanding, A few months back, after returning from the U.S.

I decided get a job as a school-teacher, I thought Ill be a

mega-teacher, and that it'll be easy for me. I do know a lot about the

physical world, and also both my parents are teachers, so it means

that its a safe (its a governmental position), easy job.

I also thought that since its such an easy job, Ill have plenty

of time to talk to the kids about animal rights and the environment

after I teach them what I need to in 5 minutes. How wrong I was...

being a teacher was SO hard.

Some of the kids loved me others really disliked me, and thats fine.  
However attending to the the needs of 38 kids at once was just  
too much. Being a teacher means your constantly put in the oppressor  
role, I was constantly forced to be really strict, to put kids  
down, and in the pressure of the system I just couldn't find a way  
to do my own thing. I would finish a day at school overwhelmed with  
feelings and with a horrible headache. I found myself looking  
forward to vacations,  
and knew this is not the way its supposed to be.

I think the pros of doing something your not in complete  
identification with is that  
to rethink to be fluid

I need to adjust  
to keep working on  
changing my surrounding

and to keep being questioned and reminded  
why I do what I do, of the reason  
struggle. but it is a

**Write2ronel**- what is your current dayjob if you have one?  
Write me your thoughts on taking part in current capitalist  
society and being an oppressor.

Activism-wise after I came back from the U.S. I started

a food not bombs chapter with friends, which lasted for 5 months.

It was great but also hard in some respects. It was very time consuming and sometimes emotionally draining. I found that being

the oldest person there (much older than everyone else), I was often forced in a position of "the organizers" although

I didn't really want that position. At some point it became too much and I took a few weeks off, things started falling apart after that some of the people went on tour and never

returned to Haifa. As often happens in small towns, we just didn't have enough people to keep it going, and we all continued to other directions. I was invited by friends to come and join the

work being done by the anti-vivisection society. Since it seemed like a good opportunity to do more for this important cause

and the I like and work will with the others involved, I agreed.

Right now I'm doing a lot of behind the curtain work, but since I miss doing field work I'm planning on getting back into that soon.

**Write2ronel**- What kind of activism are you currently into?

What do you

like/dislike about it?

This is how the physical changes in my life

went:

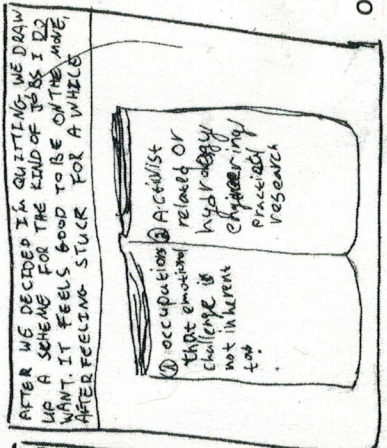
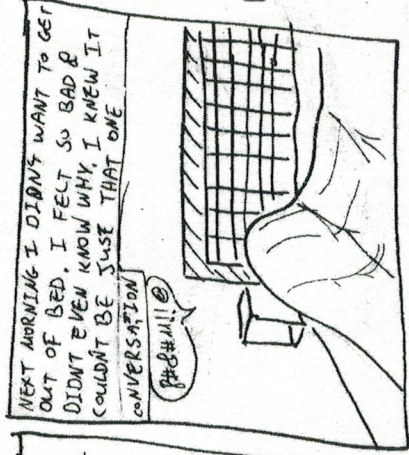
BackFromU.S.-->Moving\_newhouse-->SchoolTeacher-->QuitJob\_NoJob-->Hydrologist++

I-----8month-----1-----3month-----1-----2month-----1-----3month-----1

month ago we adopted a canine companion. I came into  
 a cage in the Haifa dog shelter, and the cutest  
 friendliest pup came running to me licking my face and  
 being all cuddly. We called her Soma. Having a  
 canine companion is sometimes challenging but most of the  
 time is wonderful. There's something about being loved  
 that much by another creature which feels healing.  
 I come home and I cuddle with her in her bed and she  
 licks my face.  
 Having Soma as a companion is also an incentive for me  
 to go outside more. It means that  
 Yael and I have to leave home four times a day.  
 At first it was a chore, but now I really  
 enjoy taking long walks in our area, its a beautiful place  
 with many natural streams and fallows where we can just let  
 soma run around and play with other dogs

**Write2ronel-** do you have an animal  
 companion? Did you ever have one? What are you  
 getting out of that relationship?

So about 7 month ago this happened:



I waited a while but Nora didn't call me back. At first I was upset but than as the time grow longer it became obvious I'm better off, I felt good and once I started my

new job I couldn't even sustain this time consuming friendship. I also understood that I used that friendship as means of escapism from issues that are challenging for me. Once Nora was put aside I confronted my father on several issues



that were making me uncomfortable in our relationship (such as him meddling with the way Yael and I carry ourselves financially).

I also felt that an hiatus from new friendships is in order, and so it was. A few months have past and I started itching

for new people in my life,

Spring has arrived.

Over time The itch became irritating

and I became restless.

Having said that, I knew my schedule is so busy and that I wouldn't have time for that, and also that I tend to use these as means of not dealing with important issues in my life.

One early spring eve I had a long talk with my friend-G

in which she pointed out that since I know that its not in my

best interest to have new people in my life, I should consider not going for that.

A residue from that conversation lingered with me for some days,

which materialized into a new emotional realization

I know so many amazing people already I should put my friendship energies into those people rather than into new people.

I became excited about that. I guess when I start a new exciting

friendship it feels simple, and with older friends there is an accumulated weight to disband.

When I'm meditating and I feel bored, I know my psyche hit a clog

that needs unplugging. If I just keep breathing through it it'll

unplug but

if I'll stop now I'll just hit the same wall next time.

Similarly, with friendships when things get hard and it suddenly

seems as if other new people are more exciting I need to

keep on going through it and it will (and already does) unclog.

I feel really excited about my longtime friends right now.

**Write2ronel** - what dilemmas are you facing in your friendships/relationships these days? How do you act when you

have a new exciting friend? Share your insights with me!

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Its hard to work a full time job, Even when I like the job. Usually, when I'm home from work I only have a few hours before I have to go to sleep to wake up for another day at the office. Its hard because

there are so many things I want to accomplish- to spend time with

Yael, with Soma, with friends, activism, drawing/writing, RC.

I had to pick and chose, to prioritize which Im not good at.

Y' said he likes to think on in each period of his life as an intern

In that period he puts his focus on one thing. Than, on another. It

made sense for me, and so I'm trying to first put energies into

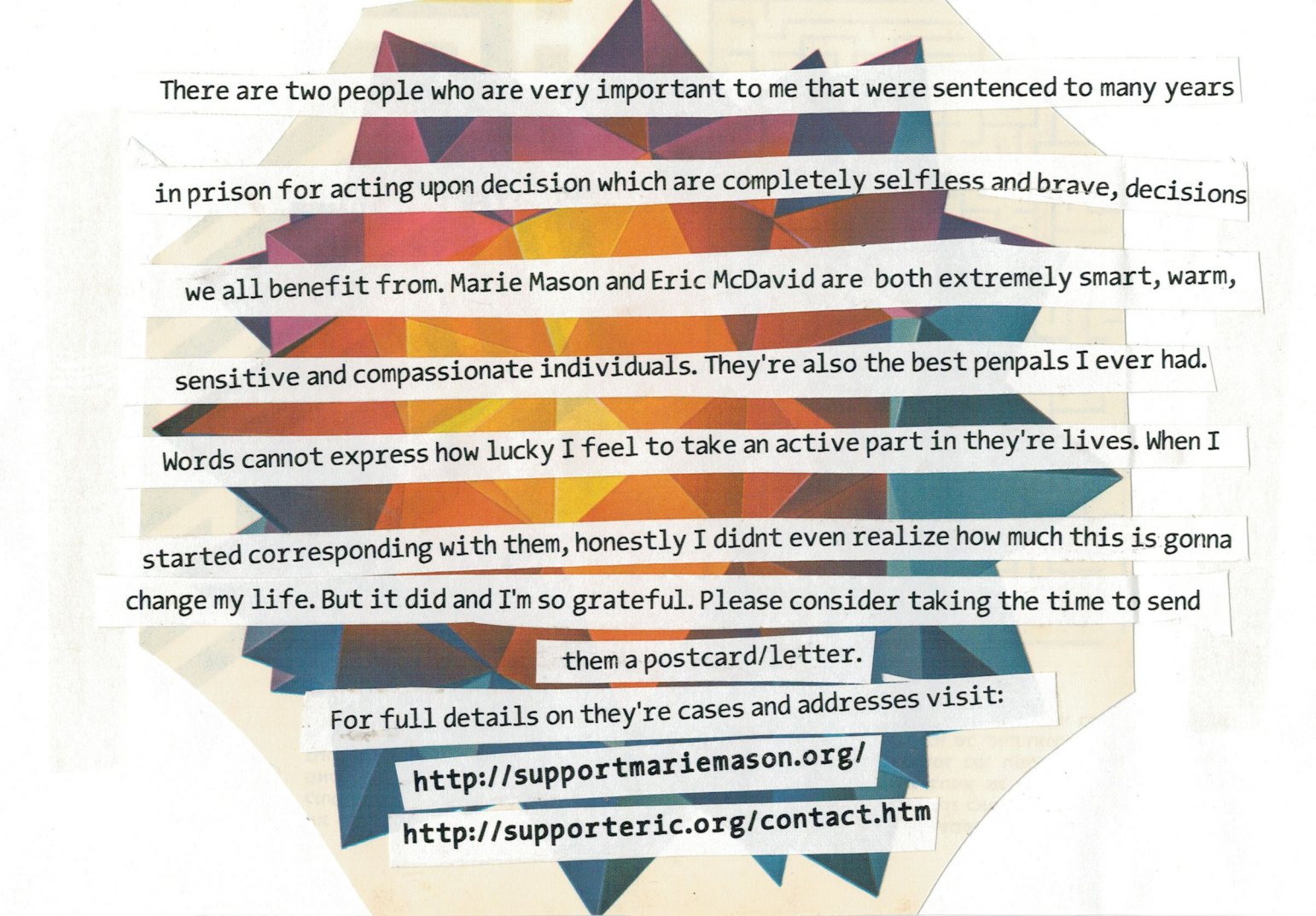
learning my occupation, my relationship with Yael and on Soma, and

for us to stabilize financially, than everything else. So far its

been going well. Its a tool to prioritize and build my life

towards goals I want to achieve. **Write2Ronel** - how do you prioritize

? How do you keep your life well balance when you have less free time?



There are two people who are very important to me that were sentenced to many years

in prison for acting upon decision which are completely selfless and brave, decisions

we all benefit from. Marie Mason and Eric McDavid are both extremely smart, warm,

sensitive and compassionate individuals. They're also the best penpals I ever had.

Words cannot express how lucky I feel to take an active part in they're lives. When I

started corresponding with them, honestly I didnt even realize how much this is gonna  
change my life. But it did and I'm so grateful. Please consider taking the time to send

them a postcard/letter.

For full details on they're cases and addresses visit:

<http://supportmariemason.org/>

<http://supporteric.org/contact.htm>

