The Old-Timer reached the respectable old age of nearly 100. There is much similarity between his long life and that of our ancient sage, Hillel (c.110 BCE-10 CE). The Old-Timer belonged to the generation of Kibbutz Nir David that I call the Sages because we went to them for guidance. And yet, as the story goes, he had difficulty being accepted as a member of the kibbutz back in the 1930s because of his old age. During hours of companionship when the laboratory staff would sit around with a glass of wine and a pot of fish seasoned by Shmuel, the Old-Timer would tell us tales of his early days at Kfar Uriah and hard work at the salt plant in Atlit. There were many who thought, seemed, and were in fact older than you, Shmuel, but you looked upon them with a smile from your venerable position of experience and years. Shmuel, my dear Old-Timer, that’s why I loved you.

I was surprised in 1967 when Shmuel, at the age of 58, told me he considered me his successor as director of the Central Fish Laboratory in Kibbutz Nir David. To this day I do not understand why he made such a choice. I worked as his assistant for seven years, during which he nurtured my career making no concessions. For the first six months I worked in Kibbutz Nir David’s fish farm because, in his opinion, one cannot become a decent fish pathologist without first experiencing and thoroughly understanding the field work. Today I know he was right.
In those days, research on *Prymnesium parvum* was reaching its end and fishpond water quality issues were becoming a major aquaculture constraint. Shmuel wisely established close cooperation with Prof. Moshe Shilo, head of the Microbial Ecology department of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, who not only mentored the laboratory’s activities and staff but also became a close family friend. Even in those early days, Shmuel understood the importance of maintaining contact with other research institutes in Israel and abroad with which he exchanged information and publications.

Shmuel was the founding editor of the only Israeli aquaculture journal published in English, *Bamidgeh*, now known as *The Israeli Journal of Aquaculture - Bamidgeh* (IJA). He edited the journal single-handedly until 1988 when Jaap van Rijn took over. Shmuel was unable, however, even at the age of 80, to retire from his beloved progeny. He continued to be involved in policy-making and distribution of the journal until Dan Mires became editor in 2001. Shmuel established one of the best professional libraries in Israel and annexed it to his laboratory. Many international publications were acquired by the library on a journal exchange basis. In addition, the library maintained continual and close relations with international organizations such as FAO, EIFAC/COPRAC, and EAFP.

Under Shmuel’s guidance and leadership, the laboratory collaborated with the late Moshe Lahav and the late Dr. Ilan Paperna on important research projects on fish parasites and diseases, and conducted projects on fishpond ecology under the guidance of the late Prof. Moshe Shilo and with the support of the Fish Breeders Association. Because of its projects, the Nir David laboratory became a vital field unit that gained international recognition.

In 1970, Prof. Moshe Shilo encouraged me to continue my Ph.D. studies. My academic studies gave me the opportunity to meet scientists of the academic world and attend international conventions and meetings together with Shmuel. In spite of being a rare autodidact, Shmuel participated in debates and asked provocative questions. With all my academic education and titles, I could not understand how he did that.

After retirement in 1984, Shmuel continued to work as a regular team member of the laboratory and as editor of the IJA. He participated as an active member of various professional committees where his opinion was always highly valued. My first difference with Shmuel was when I suggested we replace our two old Olivetti typewriters with a computer. Although initially reluctant, he did not stop using his computer till his very last day.

Shmuel’s energies were incredible. After driving hundreds of work-related kilometers, he could still read and comprehend complex theoretical matter. He began to slow down only at age 89 when, for his sake, I had to limit his driving, a decision that greatly upset him. When he was 90, I was obliged to notify him that he would no longer receive a salary but would be welcome to continue working in the laboratory on a voluntary basis as long as he wished. I hope he understood that these two very difficult decisions were made with all the care, love, and friendship I felt for him.

In 2002 it was my turn to retire. From then on, my relationship with Shmuel became that of two old retired friends.

Shmuel, my friend, my partner, my mentor, may you rest in peace.

Dr. Itzhak Bejerano