

The Yizraelite – No 2244 Date: 13.2.26

Kibbutz Yizrael

A Place for Worry

Lyrics: Yonatan Geffen

Music: Matti Caspi

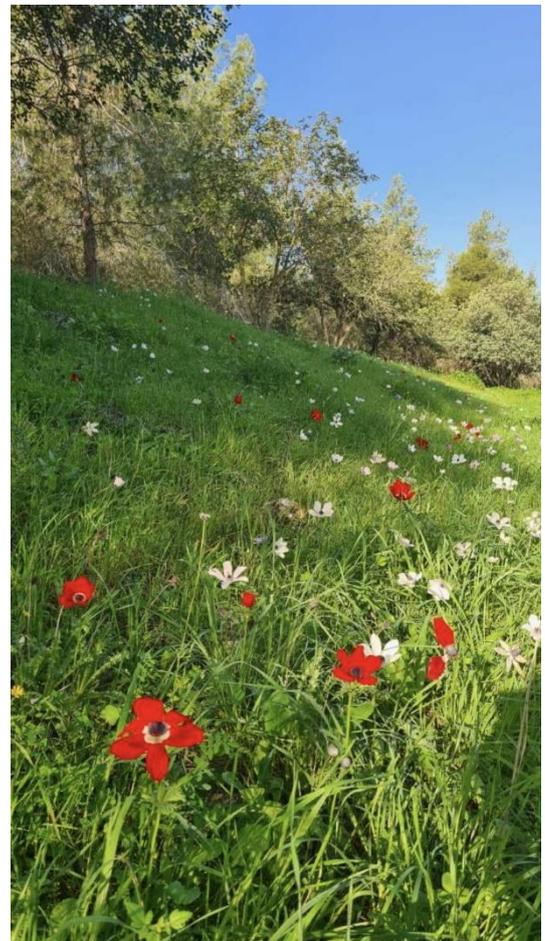
At the edge of the sky and the end of the
desert

There is a distant place filled with
wildflowers.

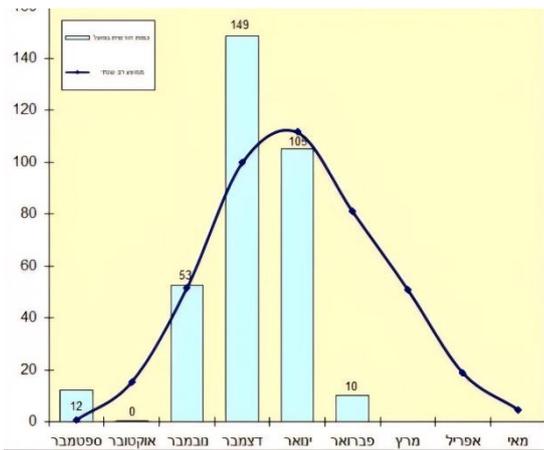
A small place, forlorn and a little mad,
A faraway place, a place for worry.

They say there what will happen,
And think about all that has been.
God sits there and watches,
And guards all that He has created.

It is forbidden to pick the flowers of the
garden,
Forbidden to pick the flowers of the garden,
And He worries, and worries terribly.



(In honour of Matti Caspi who passed away this week – Ed)



Rainfall Table - Winter 2025-2026 - 11.2.26

Rainfall to date: 329 mm

Over the past 7 days 2 mm of rain fell

As compared to the multi-year average to date: 309 mm (+7%)

Month	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	Apr	May
Total	12	0	53	149	105	10			
Average	0.7	15	52	100	112	81	51	19	5

Ohad Ziv



Congratulations to Liora and Shlomo Kamilian

**on the birth of their granddaughter,
a daughter to Or and Bar.**



Great-granddaughter to Rachel and Roger Baruch.

Congratulations to the entire Kamilian, Orozco and Gary families.

Wishing you abundance and goodness, joy, light and good health, and very much love.

PARTNERSHIP HOUSE – Beit Shutfut

- All rooms can be booked a year in advance
- For the three main festivals: Rosh Hashanah, **Pesach** and Shavuot, bookings will be closed one month before the festival.
- Bookings for the above festivals: contact Rahel or Monica
- **Bookings for Pesach will close on March 1st.**
- Price for single room: 120 NIS
- Price for double room: 185 NIS
- Check in: 16:00
- Check out: 11:00

Rahel Piekarski and Monica Brustein

Concerning your Personal Allowance – Maor Parsai

Allowance “Trees” were sent out this week – Please Check the Information sent to you by Email from the Accounts Department

This week, the personal Allowance trees for 2026 were sent by email to all members.

The Allowance tree presents the fixed monthly personal Allowance components, according to: family status, number and ages of children, and the addition for seniority. The purpose of sending this information is to verify the accuracy of the data.

The Accounts Department team is doing its utmost to ensure that Allowances are calculated accurately in accordance with kibbutz decisions. At the same time, it is aware that occasional mistakes may occur.

Responsibility for identifying errors is shared – between the Accounts Department and the members.

Members who discover errors in the product tree sent to them are asked to notify Esther Ben Bassat by email, no later than Monday, 16.02.26 – accountm5@yizrael.com

Limor Griman and Maor Parsai.

Summary of the Community Management Meeting – 08.02.26



Participants: Erez Peleg, Talia Arad, Yifat Segal, Yishai Levy, Maor Persai, Noga Harpaz, Naomi Amit, Shlomo Levy, Tami Penn, Tamir Blass, Limor Griman

5. Information and Miscellaneous

Community Management was updated that a letter had been sent to the Nanikashvili family informing them of the termination of various services previously provided. This followed the court's dismissal of the family's claim against the kibbutz, which led to the cancellation of the court order requiring continued provision of services after their removal from membership.

As long as the family resides on the kibbutz, the kibbutz will provide (in return for payment for services rendered – Ed) housing, water, and electricity.

All other services will cease, including disconnection from communication infrastructure, food branch services including the option to eat in or take food, after-school education services, which operate privately after 14:00, termination of health insurance payments, and closure of access to cultural and leisure services, including the swimming pool. Branch managers have received instructions accordingly, together with the directive to address only the adults and not involve the children.

Should services continue to be consumed in contradiction to kibbutz decisions, additional courses of action will be considered.

2. Personal Budget During the Absorption Period

Background:

Currently, new members in their first year of absorption receive a budget amounting to approximately 82% of that of a full member with the same family composition, regardless of seniority.

The gap stems primarily from four budget lines that are not granted during the absorption period: holiday allowance, overseas travel, furniture, and furniture wear and tear.

For a family in absorption, this represents a gap of approximately NIS 1,300 per month compared to members.

Candidates transfer their entire salary to the kibbutz and are subject to the same obligations as members. Therefore, it is reasonable that they should receive similar rights.

The proposal is to grant these four budget items from the first day of absorption.

Three implementation options were presented: from the beginning of the year (January '26), mid-year (July '26), or from September '26 with the start of the 2026 absorption cycle.

Discussion points:

- The decision is justified and should therefore be implemented from the beginning of the year.
- Retroactive adjustments are not possible.

Decision:

Community Management approves aligning the personal budget items of candidates with those of full members. The decision will be implemented from the January 2026 budget.

3. Presentation of the Laundry Pilot

(Guests: Liora Kamilian, Head of the Clothing Branch. Guests: Eddie Solow, Shlomo Cohen, Adi Goldstein-Ilan, Tal Darom, Reut Shaliv.)

Background:

In recent years, the laundry has handled approximately 180 to 200 tonnes of laundry annually. This is a very large volume, even compared with other co-operative kibbutzim. The desire to introduce change in the clothing branch stems from a perception of wastefulness in discarded laundry, a wish to reduce costs, the need for better control of the allocated laundry budget, and the understanding that it is more correct and fairer to allocate the laundry budget to all members, including those who wash at home.

The matter has been under discussion for more than a year. Community Management decided to proceed to a pilot following a more detailed presentation of operational conduct.

The current meeting detailed the proposed operating model.

Main elements of the model:

- The model has been designed so that the level of service to members will not be affected. Opening hours for depositing dirty laundry and collecting clean laundry from

lockers will remain as at present.

- Members will receive a designated amount in their personal budget to cover laundry expenses, based on household size.
- Members will be charged monthly for laundry processed by the clothing branch according to the weight of clean laundry. Exceptional items will be priced separately, such as blankets, carpets, and pressed shirts.
- Members will continue to submit laundry as usual.
- Upon collecting clean laundry, the member will place it on a scale and enter their budget number into the computer.
- The system will issue a receipt with a barcode enabling exit door access, similar to self-checkout systems.
- For special populations, such as dairy workers or those requiring nursing care, a higher weight allocation will be examined.

A three-month pilot will take place without actual charging, in order to collect data and streamline the process. Lessons will then be drawn and adjustments made. The proposed model will be brought to the General Assembly for decision.

The cost of required equipment for the change is approximately NIS 7,000.

Discussion points:

- For some members, the move raises concern that this is a first step towards broader privatisation of the kibbutz. It is therefore important to proceed properly and bring the matter to the General Assembly for decision.
- The public has not yet received sufficient information regarding the scale of waste and the reasons for proposing such a solution. Detailed information must be presented before moving forward.
- There is concern that service levels may suffer in the event of computer malfunctions at night or due to technological difficulty for older members.

Decision:

An open discussion will be held for the public to present the background to the proposal and the proposed model. All data, ideological and economic implications will be presented, and members' questions addressed before proceeding. Members will be given the opportunity to express their views.

Following the open discussion, Community Management will deliberate on whether to proceed with implementation of the pilot.

Minutes prepared by: Erez Peleg and Limor Griman

HR Update: Call for Applications – Cluster Management Positions

As the current terms of **Yifat Segal**, Manager of the **Tapuach Cluster**, and **Yishai Levy**, Manager of the **Demography Cluster**, come to an end in late April 2026, we are issuing a call for applications for these positions.

We note that Yifat and Yishai are interested in continuing for a second term, and the search committee has begun its process.

Members who wish to submit their candidacy, or to express their position on the matter, are invited to contact one of the search committee members by **23.02.26**.

Search committee members: Irit Shemesh, Amir Darom, Yifat Assaf, Yaniv Shapira, Arnon Matalon and Kinneret Govrin.

Role Definition – Manager of the Tapuach Cluster (Culture, Leisure and Community Spirit)

The Tapuach Cluster – Culture, Leisure and Community – seeks to strengthen interpersonal and multi-generational connections within the Yizrael community by creating opportunities for shared activity.

The cluster provides guidance and support to elected office bearers and volunteers, working together on dilemmas and ongoing reflection regarding the cultural character of Kibbutz Yizrael as it exists today and as we would like to see it in the future, while preserving traditions on the one hand and making changes on the other hand.

Role Definition – Manager of the Demography Cluster

The Demography Cluster will formulate the demographic growth policy of the kibbutz and coordinate between the various bodies in order to meet growth targets.

The cluster manager will support the Young Generation Committee and work to strengthen the connection between the younger generation and the kibbutz; the manager will accompany the Absorption Committee throughout the entire process, from screening candidates to their admission to membership; and work with the Housing Committee on all matters relating to the allocation of apartments and their condition.

All of this will be carried out through close cooperation and full coordination between the relevant bodies. *(Further details of the role definitions can be found in the Kibbutz Hierarchy Structure document on Kehilanet – Ed)*

Gardening Branch Updates 02/26

“Tu B’Shvat has arrived, the festival of the trees!”



נוי קיבוץ יזרעאל

What a pleasure it was to celebrate Tu B’shvat with plantings on the kibbutz. True, we did not plant trees this time, yet it was very enjoyable to meet the members who came and to plant together in the Butterfly Garden. Many thanks to the Culture Committee and the Tu B’shvat team for organising the activities.

At this time of year, the end of winter is in sight, hopefully it will continue for as long as possible. With the coming of spring, we discover nature bursting forth. The kibbutz is green and blooming with seasonal plants. The leaves that have fallen from the trees create a magnificent display of autumn colours on the ground and, in general, there is a breathtaking show of colours in the clean air around us.

Tu B’shvat, the festival of the trees, symbolises for me the importance of trees on the kibbutz and throughout the world. Yes, it is a Jewish festival with an emphasis on fruit, but in my view trees themselves are of supreme importance. Around the world, their value has long been recognised, and in Israel too there are initiatives and even a government decision to increase the number of trees in urban public spaces. In our branch, we want to plant as many trees as possible in order to enjoy all their benefits: lowering temperatures, cleaning the air, calming the spirit, adding beauty, and more. Later this year we will plant several trees around the kibbutz, mainly in the Rugby neighbourhood, with the aim of making the plantings a social event for the community. There is something to look forward to.

Over the past few months, in an effort to preserve as many trees as possible, we relocated about 30 fruit trees from the western car park of the Hod neighbourhood to the Gadash Park. In the past month we completed the project and also moved the shade trees, small-leaved elm of the “Reshafim” variety, a few metres to the side in order to enlarge the car park. The purpose of relocating the trees is to preserve what already exists on the kibbutz. Sometimes this costs more, but it is very important that we appreciate what we have before destroying and buying new. Therefore, in cooperation with the Building Dept and the Planning Committee, we decided to relocate the mature trees rather than cut them down.

In January, for one week, we had the opportunity to employ Yoel in the branch. Yoel is a soldier in the Golani Reconnaissance Unit, a new immigrant from India, who needed financial support and was permitted by the army to take time off to help his family.



Kinneret from HR contacted me and together we decided that it was a great mitzvah to help a soldier and new immigrant. Yoel worked with us and enjoyed it greatly, and we were even more impressed and appreciative. Situations like these give us a little perspective on reality and on our own circumstances. We will continue to help and support those who need us as much as we can.

This month we resumed responsibility for the industrial area of the kibbutz. The area has changed considerably since the last time we maintained it and there is now a great deal of landscaping to care for. We will uphold the vision of Noi Yizrael in the industrial zone as well, in order to maintain a green and vibrant kibbutz.

For the benefit of members and residents, there are now two new piles available for your use: a pile of local compost and a pile of shredded pruning mulch. Both are located in the grove near the swimming pool, towards the ninja facilities. This new service was inspired by a request from and in cooperation with the Environmental Quality Committee. Please use them as you wish, and let us know if a particular pile runs out so that we can replenish it.

Spreading compost on the soil enriches it and returns essential nutrients to the ground. Spreading a layer of shredded mulch helps retain soil moisture, makes it harder for weeds to grow, protects irrigation pipes, and in time decomposes and returns to the soil. It is highly recommended to use mulch in gardens.

As always, it is advisable to open a gardening request on Kehilanet or to speak with me directly.

With best wishes to us all,
On behalf of the Gardening Branch,
Shahar Levy

Update from the Higher Education Committee

Submission of Applications for Studies – Academic Year 5787 (2026–2027)



During the month of March, applications may be submitted for long-term studies beginning in September 2026 (Hebrew year 5787).

Please note the following important points:

1. The application form can be found on Kehilinet under: Files → Clusters and Kibbutz Committees → Higher Education Committee.
The form is titled: “Application Form for Study Leave.”
2. The form must be completed in detail and sent by email to the Higher Education Committee at: Education@yizrael.com
3. In the same location on Kehilinet, you can find the new criteria table according to which the committee evaluates applications. This information is important and significant.
4. Applications must be received by email no later than 31.03.26.
5. At any stage, applicants may consult with committee members: Peter Pezaro, Alita Mor, Rotem Agmon, Natalie Zinenko, Revital Zelas, and Sarit Laviv.
6. Applications will be reviewed during April–May. During this time, the committee may invite applicants for an in-depth discussion regarding their request.
7. The decision will be given during May–June.
8. This year, in light of the kibbutz’s economic situation, preference will be given to studies that do not require the loss of many workdays and to programmes that have additional external funding, such as scholarships. In addition, consideration will be given to fields that are needed within the community, which will also receive priority, such as education, accounting, and economics.

Best of luck to all applicants.

Submitted by: Sarit Laviv

“The Paw-sitively Enlightening Corner.”

Meeting of the Dog Ownership Committee – 28.02.26



We held a very interesting meeting in which we tried to understand why the committee was established in the first place, and what its essential purpose is. Without clarifying this, we will not know what our work plan should be.

At present, the committee is occupied solely with sending photos and fines to members, few, it should be noted.

Hardly any members photograph dogs. When a dog is photographed, we exercise discretion and take into account how many times per week or month the dog has been photographed. Again, very, very few dogs roam without a leash, and it is always the same dogs.

The decision that dog owners will be fined 100 NIS each time their dog is photographed is also not relevant, since the same dogs are involved repeatedly. Apparently, the fine is not influencing behaviour, even though that was its original purpose.

So, what should be done? Why are we here? We need to sharpen this for ourselves.

In addition, we have an agreement with the municipal dog catcher, who will arrive here unannounced at various hours of the day and night. The council will fine the owners of stray dogs, a very large sum, so it is advisable to avoid this.

Thank you, and may we continue to be “good children” ...

Irit Cohen, on behalf of the Dog Ownership Committee

From Kehilanet – The dog has been taken

Anat Freiman, the champion, managed to catch the stray dog. With a heavy heart (mine), the catcher took the dog to the municipal dog shelter.

Irit Cohen

(Explanation – For the past week, a large brown stray dog eluded capture but captured the hearts of many of us. I hope he finds his owner – Ed)

Towards the next “Academia at The Bar”:

Investment Principles That Work for Everyone

Thursday | 19.02.26 | 20:30 | Location: The Laundry Pub



In short: Do you think that investing is only for economists or for people glued to the news 24/7? Think again!

Our human brain was not designed for investing, it was designed to survive in the jungle. And that is exactly what trips up most investors.

In this lecture, we will learn how to bypass the “emotional brain”, understand the laws of physics of money, and see how it is possible to build long term financial security without being financial geniuses, simply by following a straightforward and proven strategy.

What Will You Take Away with you from the lecture?

- Peace of mind, knowledge that will help you sleep well, even when market waves are stormy.
- A proven method, where most investors go wrong, how to avoid mistakes and generate solid, long term returns.
- Key concepts, inflation, compound interest, and what the story is with Bitcoin.

Lecturer: Tzach Sassi, kibbutz member, lawyer and economist (MBA).

Important to Know:

The lecture is intended to enrich knowledge and provide tools for thinking. The content does not constitute financial advice or a recommendation to take action. Every household has unique characteristics, and any personal financial decision requires consideration of individual circumstances and, where appropriate, consultation and guidance from a qualified professional.

Tzach Sassi

Moments in Life – An Evening at the Club with Playback Theatre – Irit Cohen

This past Monday we gathered, veterans and anyone who wished to join, at the club, where we watched and took part in the performance “*Moments in Life*” by Playback Theatre in the Valley. Playback theatre is a form of improvisational theatre that involves the audience in the performance, or more accurately, the audience shapes the story itself.

The Third Age team welcomed us warmly with hot, delicious soups, fruit and sweets.

After absorbing a few calories, we sat down to absorb some culture. Dr Shulamit Kitzi, the facilitator and group leader, asked us to define what “family” means. She then invited us to share about our own families, stories from childhood in our family of origin, and stories from our lives today.

As the evening unfolded, we learned that family can resemble a tree or a house, a river, and even a pot of *chamin* filled with many ingredients, bubbling, even gassy (!), and the longer it cooks, the tastier it becomes.

We heard that Michal Shaanan had a very interesting childhood and adolescence in Jerusalem, shaped by war and by her grandparents. Yisrael Mor Sarid was overjoyed to receive his “Bnei Masada” badge, but far less happy that his parents forgot to come and watch him receive it. We learned that Michael Shani was a model father and husband. We discovered that Galia was nicknamed “the flying grandmother,” since all her grandchildren lived abroad, and that the refrigerator in the home of Kora and Henry never quite closes when the grandchildren come to visit. And there were many more charming and moving stories.

The Playback Theatre group performed short scenes based on what we shared, bringing each story to life in an engaging, humorous and touching way. The acting was accompanied by Dan Peled on the organ.

I would sum up the evening as a wonderful, pleasant and enriching success, and offer thanks to the team who care so thoughtfully for both our stomachs and our souls.

Irit Cohen

On behalf of the Third Age Group

Experiences from Tu B'Shvat on Yizrael

This past Saturday, after the excellent brunch, we gathered outside the kolbo. Usually, we come to this spot to enjoy a cold ice cream or a partially healthy snack. This time, we were delighted to find thoughtfully prepared craft stations, mandala drawings, bead-threading activities that exercised the fine motor skills of both adults and children, delicious tea at just the right temperature, and refreshing biscuits.



In addition, with the help of the Gardening Branch, we had the opportunity to plant several seedlings such as silver basket and rue, which will freshen the space, add life, and perhaps even attract beautiful winged visitors to the Butterfly Garden.

Many thanks to the wonderful Tu B'Shvat team and to the Culture Committee. We enjoyed it very much.

It was great fun!
Dan Ailon Brustein

P.S. Congratulations to my uncle, Benny Brustein, on his victory in the Tu B'Shvat Kahoot. I am very proud of you.

Message for the newsletter: Uri Ailon Brustein

My Second Nature – Tu B'Shvat



Last Saturday we marked Tu B'shvat with the renewed planting of the garden opposite the former shared shower building, which today serves as the second-hand shop. The garden is known to all as the "Butterfly Garden."

For a butterfly garden to truly attract these magnificent creatures for everyone's enjoyment, and not remain merely a hopeful idea, it must include several key elements:

Nectar plants (for adult butterflies):

These provide energy-rich food.

Prominent examples in Israel include: Buddleja davidii, lantana, duranta 'Geisha', and candytuft.

Host plants (for caterpillars):

Butterflies lay their eggs on these plants, and the caterpillars feed on them. Common examples:

Rue for the swallowtail, milkweed for the plain tiger, and cruciferous plants such as cabbage or mustard for the whites.

Environmental conditions:

Butterflies require direct sunlight. They are cold-blooded and need warmth in order to fly, as well as areas sheltered from strong wind.

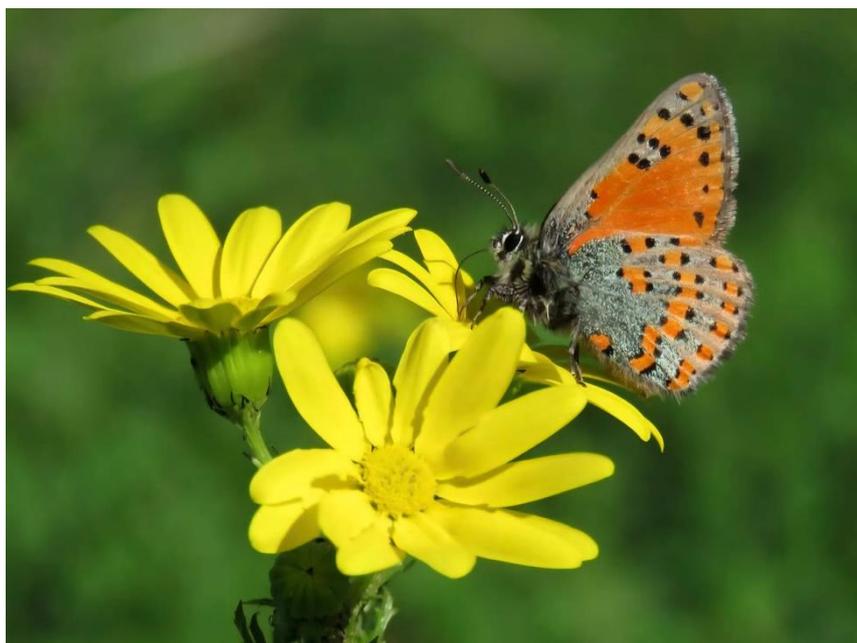
Water and nectar substitutes:

It is recommended to place a shallow dish with a little water and damp sand, or to offer very ripe fruit as bait.

Anyone visiting the Butterfly Garden these days will see that the essential components are in place, and with a little faith, the garden will live up to its name. Needless to say, these conditions may also exist in other gardens around the kibbutz, and throughout the year a pleasing variety of butterfly species can be seen here.

In the meantime, and until that vision is fully realised, I would like to recommend our meadow as a habitat that already contains these elements. Particularly noticeable at present, near “Mitzpe Haruvim,” are several specimens of large-fruited milkvetch:

An impressive plant with beautiful yellow blossoms[®], it serves as the host plant for a rare and striking butterfly known as the Levantine Vernal Copper (*vernal – relating to springtime – Ed*).



The butterfly itself, now emerging from its chrysalises on the milkvetch, may be seen not far from here on Mount Gilboa, near *Ma'ale*

Gilboa, and on Givat HaMoreh, east of the antennas along the ridge. You are welcome to contact me for guidance on how to reach the sites.

Shabbat shalom,
Rotem Agmon



(This “Painter Lady” butterfly landed at my feet on my way back to my office from lunch and demanded to be photographed for the article – Ed)

.....

Between the Verses – A Story in Instalments

by Shlomo Cohen-Schwartz

Chapter Five: The Staff Room as a Battlefield

Summary of previous chapters:

At first, Jeremy suspects a pupil, but his conversation with Ido dismantles that convenient assumption. The messages continue, sharp and deliberate, making it clear that the source is an adult within the system. The staff room itself begins to feel charged, no longer neutral.

The staff room changed without anyone announcing it. No new signs were added, no warnings were issued, yet something in the conduct became more calculated. Teachers spoke quietly. Laughed less. Chairs were dragged carefully, as though any noise might be recorded.

Jeremy sat in his corner and listened. The mathematics teacher blamed “this generation” for its lack of boundaries. The history teacher spoke of burnout. Someone tossed out a joke that we were all “in a testing period”. No one smiled.

On a small board near the kettle, a new list had appeared: "Points for Improvement". No signature, yet everyone assumed it was from the teachers' committee. Among simple items such as "Maintaining cleanliness" appeared the words: "Personal responsibility". Jeremy knew it was no coincidence. It was a way of introducing criticism without standing behind it.

During the long break, an argument erupted. Michal said the management should be involved. Ronit insisted it was better to lower the flames. "It will pass," she said. "Things like this always pass."

"No one is comfortable when they're criticised," Jeremy said, surprised to hear his own voice.

That evening, a message was sent to all the form teachers: Emergency meeting tomorrow. Subject: Educational climate. Signed by the principal. Dry wording, all too familiar. And yet something in it grated. Jeremy read it again and again. Something was missing.

That night he dreamt he was standing in an empty classroom, writing verses on the board, and each time he turned around, someone erased them. Not with shouting. In absolute silence.

In the morning, in the staff room, he found a folded note on his chair. Clear handwriting:

"If you remain silent, someone else will speak."

Jeremy folded the note and slipped it into his pocket. He was no longer looking for random culprits. He was waiting for the moment when someone would slip. Someone would say one sentence too many, in a tone slightly off.

Because if there is one thing we learn from the prophets, it is that not every destruction arrives with noise. Sometimes it begins in a polite meeting around a table, when everyone knows they are not right, and no one says so.

Biblical Background for Chapter 5

For this instalment, the biblical background rests mainly on the figure of the prophet Jeremiah and on a recurring prophetic theme: moral collapse that begins quietly, from within.

5. Jeremiah as the model

The name Jeremy clearly echoes **Jeremiah**, the prophet who lived in the final decades before the destruction of the First Temple in Jerusalem in the 6th century BCE. Jeremiah's central message was not only about impending destruction, but about denial, silence, and internal corruption.

Again, and again, Jeremiah stands almost alone. He warns kings, priests and the public that something is deeply wrong in the moral and spiritual life of the nation. Yet the response is not immediate violence, but something subtler: dismissal, minimisation, polite avoidance.

That atmosphere mirrors the staff room in this chapter. No one shouts. No one declares war. But something is eroding.

2. "Peace, peace, when there is no peace"

One of Jeremiah's most famous rebukes is directed at leaders who soothe rather than confront:

"They dress the wound of my people lightly, saying, 'Peace, peace,' when there is no peace."
(Jeremiah 6:14)

In the story, Ronit says, "It will pass. Things like this always pass."

That line strongly echoes the biblical instinct to calm things down instead of facing them. The danger in Jeremiah's world was not only open wrongdoing, but the refusal to acknowledge it.

3. Leadership under scrutiny

Jeremiah sharply criticises shepherds, meaning leaders, who fail in responsibility:

"Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture." (Jeremiah 23:1)

The unsigned board with "Personal responsibility" resembles prophetic critique without ownership. In the Bible, Jeremiah speaks openly and suffers for it. In the staff room, criticism appears anonymously. That contrast deepens the tension. Who is willing to stand behind their words?

4. Destruction without noise

The final line of the instalment reflects a core prophetic insight. The destruction of Jerusalem did not begin with the Babylonian army at the gates. It began decades earlier, with complacency, injustice, erosion of truth, and moral fatigue.

Jeremiah warns that collapse can unfold gradually:

"From the least to the greatest, everyone is greedy for unjust gain... and they do not know how to blush." (Jeremiah 6:13–15)

The silence in Jeremy's dream, the erased verses, the polite emergency meeting, all echo that idea. Not every catastrophe begins with shouting. Sometimes it begins with carefully moved chairs, lowered voices, and things left unsaid.

5. The erased words

The dream of writing verses that are quietly erased recalls another scene from Jeremiah's life. In Jeremiah 36, the prophet's scroll is read before the king. The king cuts it with a knife and burns it piece by piece. The word of warning is literally erased.

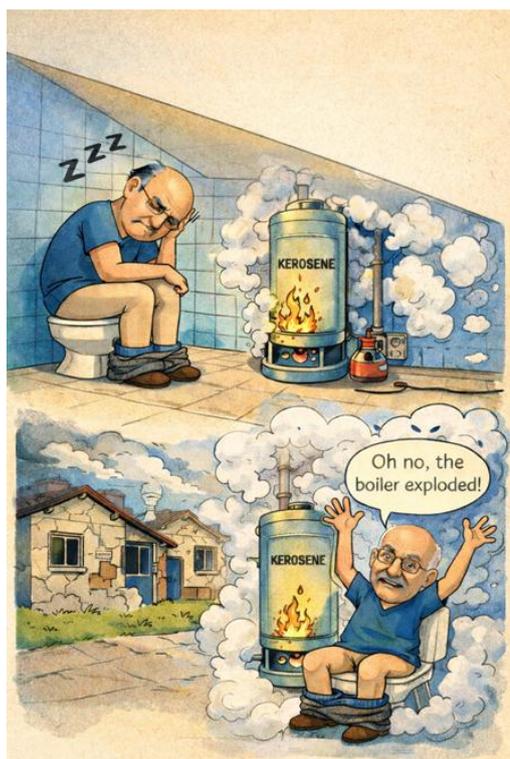
In the story, the erasing happens silently and repeatedly. It is a modern metaphor for resistance to uncomfortable truth.

In short, this instalment draws deeply on the emotional and theological world of the Book of Jeremiah: isolation of the truth-teller, institutional defensiveness, polite denial, and the slow approach of a crisis that everyone senses but no one fully names.



Delving into the Archives

The Cottage Neighbourhood



In the 1950s, three single-storey buildings were constructed on Kibbutz Yizrael, each containing six housing units known as “cottages.” An odd name, since a cottage is usually a two-storey unit. In fact, there was supposedly preparation for a second floor that was never built.

That “preparation” took the form of a slanted wall above the toilet. Anyone who wasn't careful when standing up risked banging their head, and some of us still remember the unpleasant and painful experience.

In the shower there was a kerosene boiler. You had to light it and wait ten to fifteen minutes before the water became hot. Occasionally someone would sit down for a moment while waiting for the water to heat up, fall asleep, and half an hour later wake to the

sound of the boiler exploding and the house filling with steam.



In the 1970s it was a pleasant neighbourhood of young people, with a lively social life. We would meet in the afternoons on the lawn in front of the house, and in the evenings there was often a party on the grass.

Over time the houses deteriorated until they reached a condition in which it was no longer possible to live in them. Fortunately, Iris Shapira documented their final days. In place of the old cottages, real cottages were built, two-storey homes at last. **Jules Feldman**

Lots to Diarize this week - Ed!!!!!!



Meeting with Ghadir Hani

Ghadir is a social-educational activist who promotes making connections, dialogue and equality in Israeli society.

The meeting addresses building bridges between Jews and Arabs, and empowering women and young people.



Tuesday
17/2/2 at 20:00; in the Moadon

You are invited to the fascinating and powerful lecture of **Ghadir Hani**, a Muslim woman from Acre, who has received numerous awards for her courageous activity, including:

the Israeli Hope Award for Promoting Partnership in Israeli Society for 2020, the Goldberg Prize for 2024, the Luxembourg Prize for 2025, and the Ben-Gurion Award for 2025.



Academia at the Bar
“At the Laundry Pub (“HaMachbesa”)
Thursday 19.02.26,

20:30

Investment Principles That Work for Everyone
Tzach Sassi





**Living with Manic Depression
Invitation to a gathering and screening of the short
film
and a discussion.**

**with Zohar Mizrach (*Born on Moshav Moledet*)
The gathering will take place on Tuesday, 25.02.26,
at 20:00, at Or B'giva.**





Beacon on the Hill

Activity Programme from 15–19 February 2026

Every day from 08:30 to 12:00 coffee, cake, discussion and table games

Day and Date	Time	Activity
Sunday 15.02.26	07:00	Walk with Shlomit and Peter
	09:00	Gathering with coffee, cake, discussion and table games
Monday 16.02.26	08:00	Pedicure with Limor Moalem, booking required
	09:15	Trip to the Wilfrid Israel Museum and coffee
Tuesday 17.02.26	09:30	Lecture and thinking games with Galia Shemi
Wednesday 18.02.26	09:30	Nature in bloom with Hamutal
	17:15	Chair exercises with Michal Shaanan
Thursday 19.02.26	10:00	Film with Galia Shemi

ENGLISH IS FUN with Rahel

AN ANTHOLOGY OF ACCIDENTAL ASSAULTS UPON OUR LANGUAGE

Mark Twain once said, “Man is the only animal that blushes. Or needs to.” He could have added, “The human being is the only animal that truly laughs. Or needs to.”

Laughter stimulates the circulation, energizes the lungs and respiratory system, and provides superb aerobic exercise.

Student bloopers, blunders, fluffs and flubs, goofs and gaffes, boners and boo-boos...students have demonstrated a remarkable facility for mixing up words, and goofing up the simplest of facts.

The results range from the pathetic to the hilarious to the unintentionally insightful.

- *The inhabitants of Moscow are called Mosquitoes.*
- *Having one wife is called monotony.*
- When a man has more than one wife, he is a pigamist.
- A man who marries twice commits bigotry.
- Acrimony is what a man gives his divorced wife.
- Each Thanksgiving it is a tradition in my family to shoot peasants.
- In Nineteenth Century Russia, the pheasants led horrible lives.
- The girl tumbled down the stairs and lay prostitute at the bottom.

(In the margin of the paper, the professor commented, "My dear sir, you must learn to distinguish between a fallen woman and one who has merely slipped.")

- A virgin forest is a place where the hand of man has never set foot.
- *Arabs wear turbines on their heads.*
- When there are no fresh vegetables, you can always get canned.
- It is bad manners to break your bread and roll in your soup.
- The problem with intersexual swimming is that the boys often outstrip the girls.
- A triangle which has an angle of 135 degrees is called an obscene triangle
- The dog ran across the lawn, emitting whelps all the way.
- *A virtuoso is a musician with real high morals.*

- We had a longer holiday than usual this year because the school was closed for altercations.

.....more next week



Credits:

Editor of Hebrew Newsletter: Reut Shaliv

Translator and editor: Eddie Solow (Edi-tor)

Proofreader: Chazz Broadhurst

Office staff: Irit Cohen, Danit Duvdevani Kirshberg and Hedva Shaharabani

Disclaimer: The Edi-tor and translator does his best to provide an accurate reflection of the Hebrew Alon. Please be warned that it is not a direct translation. The original Hebrew text is the official version. This is of particular importance when it comes to decisions and procedures! Not all the material published in the Hebrew newsletter appears in “The Yizraelite”. Considerations of length, readers’ interest and the Edi-tor’s ability to grapple with the subject matter, determine what is included.

Please take into account that we use AI when translating. We proofread, factcheck and correct the texts but errors may be overlooked. Be warned!

Note: The readers are encouraged to submit for inclusion “letters to the editor”, photos and material that does not appear in the Hebrew Alon.