

The Yizraelite – No Date:

Kibbutz Yizrael

Cyber Copy

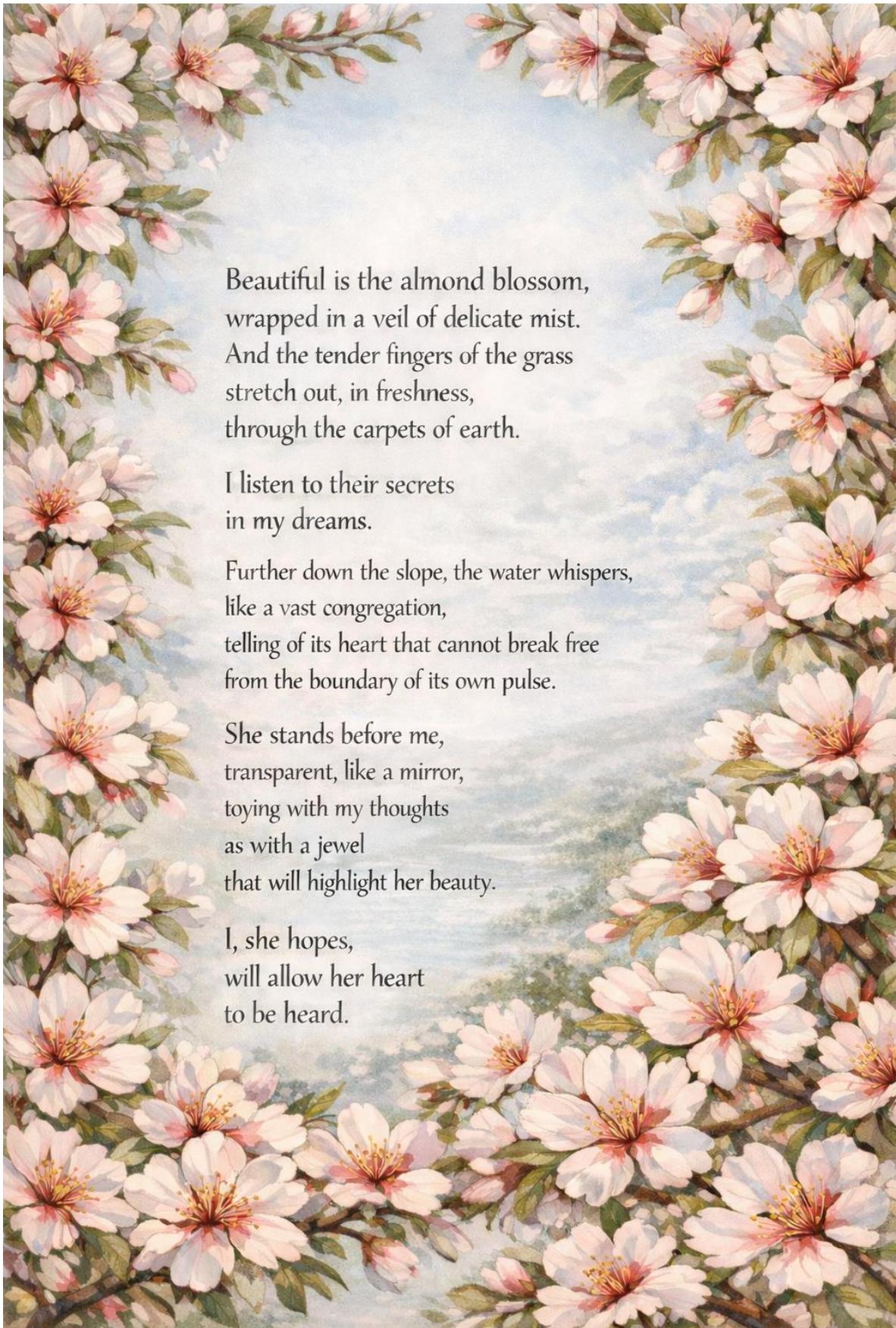
Edi-torial: Just in case you missed the changes at the end of all The Yizraelites:

Disclaimer 1: 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.

Two editions of the Yizraelite: We publish two editions. The “Cyber” edition will have more colour photos and occasionally longer articles. The “Hard copy” is printed in black and white and therefore there is no point in printing colour photos. The hard copy is distributed at the beginning of the following week, therefore adverts for events that have already taken place do not appear in the hard copy. Even if you prefer reading the hard copy, we encourage you to scroll through the internet version over the weekend.

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.*



Beautiful is the almond blossom,
wrapped in a veil of delicate mist.
And the tender fingers of the grass
stretch out, in freshness,
through the carpets of earth.

I listen to their secrets
in my dreams.

Further down the slope, the water whispers,
like a vast congregation,
telling of its heart that cannot break free
from the boundary of its own pulse.

She stands before me,
transparent, like a mirror,
toying with my thoughts
as with a jewel
that will highlight her beauty.

I, she hopes,
will allow her heart
to be heard.

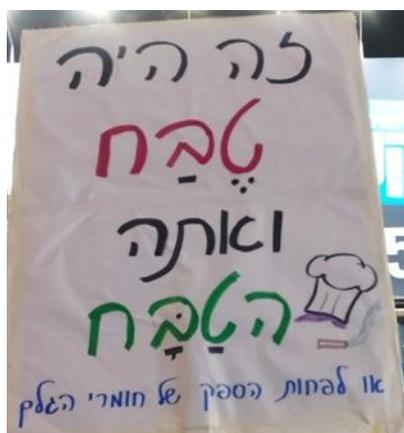
Moran Mor Sarid, of blessed memory,
daughter of Ora and Yisrael

Reut's Editorial: When we studied the Bible at school, we were told that every word in it matters and carries meaning. Anyone who has studied Bible, history and archaeology knows that what we know about life in the past comes from what survived and was preserved. What was made of perishable materials, and what was never written down or documented, was lost.

Today, literacy belongs to a sufficiently large part of humanity, and not only to elites who write. One can assume and hope that what has been taking place in Israel in recent years will be known to future generations from a variety of sources.

The sign below, from last Saturday night's protest in Haifa, refers to attempts to rewrite history. The courage that was shown on the seventh of October, and in the days and months that followed, no one will erase. And no one can erase the governmental failure, blur the steps that delayed the return of hostages and that led to the deaths of hostages and soldiers. Nor will the long reserve duty periods be forgotten by those who served and by their families.

This week, in the night between Tuesday and Wednesday, a void opened in the heart of a family whose son was killed in Gaza by friendly fire. And who knows what will be carried in the heart of the one directly connected to that fire. He does not sit in a government that calls what is happening in Gaza "revival".



The poster says:

"It WAS a massacre and you were the cook."

Or you were, at least, the supplier of the ingredients.

Congratulations to Judy Pezaro, Peter Pezaro and Shlomit Alaluf on the birth of their granddaughter, a daughter to Matan and Moran.



Congratulations to the entire Pezaro family

and to the Weizman family.

May there be an abundance of goodness, joy,

light and health, and so very much love

Community Management

On Sunday 22.02.26 at 17:30 in the meeting room

Agenda:



1. Update regarding the results of the survey in the food branch and decisions on how to proceed.
(Invited: members of the team who examined the matter)
2. Special Needs Committee procedure – first discussion on the topic (Invited: Neta Blass and Tamar Sadur).

Kibbutz Assefa + Reserve Fund Assefa

On Monday, 23.02.26, at 20:00

In the Moadon and on Zoom

Agenda:



1. **Assembly – Committee Appointments:**
 - Keren Stamper Kagan for Chair of the Young Generation Committee – voting will take place on Kehilanet
 - Yitzhak Peleg for Coordinator of the Residents' Committee – voting will take place on Kehilanet
- Kobi Levi as Public Representative to the Demography Cluster – voting will take place at the ballot box
- Nofar Elul and Anat Friedman as members of the Housing Committee
2. **Reserve Fund Assembly – Presentation of the Internal Audit Report on the Reserve Fund**
(Guest: Uri Greenberg, Internal Auditor).

Message from the Absorption Committee



We are preparing to absorb a number of families into the kibbutz this coming summer.

In order to ensure a successful and welcoming absorption process, we are currently forming a team of “adopting” families.

We attach great importance to the personal support of each incoming family by a kibbutz family who can serve as an initial anchor and help them become acquainted with our way of life.

We would greatly appreciate your cooperation.

Families who are interested in serving as adopting families are invited to contact us.

For further details, please contact Eviatar Assaf and Karen Brustein Ayalon

Environmental Committee Updates



On Friday 13.02, a recycling and environmental-awareness happening took place at the children’s community (grades 1-6).

The activity was a joint initiative of the Environmental Quality Committee and the Social Education team, with the aim of raising awareness among the children about environmental education and caring for nature.

The programme began with a short film about plastic recycling. Afterwards, the children divided into mixed-age groups from Grades 1 to 6 and took part in a range of activity stations dedicated to recycling. These included bottle bowling, basketball shooting according to correct sorting of plastic, paper and organic waste, creating decorative items from recycled materials, and more.

It was a truly delightful and very successful day of activity. Heartfelt thanks to the wonderful Year 6 children, to the instructors, and to Ofri Ziv.

May we continue, together, to deepen the foundations of attentive and responsible environmental education.

Tamar Sanker. Environmental Quality Committee

Notes from the Yizrael Music Academy An Interview with Yaron Yoffe, Graduate Student

The meeting with Yaron is a little different from interviews with seasoned and polished teachers. Yaron has only just completed high school and has already joined part of the teaching staff, thanks to his special talents.



Yaron, tell us – where were you born?

I was born in Nof HaGalil in 2007 and grew up there until the age of 12, when my family decided to move to Afula HaTze'ira.

What is your earliest memory of music?

I have always loved music! At home we sang, and my mother is musical too and plays both piano and guitar. The first instrument I learned was the clarinet, at the age of seven, and Stas was my teacher.

How did you come to us?

Good family friends recommended the "Beit HaMusica".

When did you begin teaching?

I began this year, both in schools and at the Beit HaMusica. Since one of the teachers went on a short maternity leave, I had the opportunity to replace her. In addition, I have one clarinet student of my own. I greatly enjoy teaching!

What is your message to music lovers?

Music is the atom of emotion!!

Which musician influenced you the most?

Honestly, Stas. He is active in many creative circles that provide inspiration and serve as a role model.

Which musical work would you take with you to a desert island?

I would take Tchaikovsky's Sixth Symphony. I find in it the deepest range of emotions, from pain to release and from exuberance to sorrow.

In your view, what is most important when teaching an instrument?

The most important thing is to love children and to have a deep understanding of music. With that, you will be able to teach anyone at any level.

Thank you, Yaron. It was most interesting, and we congratulate you on being accepted into the IDF Orchestra.

Interviewed by Ilana Peleg

(See and hear Yaron Yoffe on YouTube!!! see also ... ירון יופה – Ed)

An Evening with Ghadir Hani in the Moadon – Reut Shaliv

On Tuesday evening, the Moadon filled with men and women who came to hear Ghadir Hani speak. Ghadir Hani is a religious Muslim feminist from Akko who is active in numerous organisations.



Ghadir was a close friend of the late Vivian Silver, who was murdered in her home in Be’eri and was one of the founders of Women Wage Peace. Ghadir shared with us her feelings as an Arab citizen of the State of Israel. I think the word she repeated most often was “challenging.”

In less than an hour, before opening the floor to questions, she described the many initiatives in which she is involved. It was hard to grasp that all this work is carried out by one woman who has chosen to act, to speak, to initiate and to strive for change, rather than by some Marvel-style superhero.

She spoke fluently and clearly about her extensive activism, driven by a deep desire and ambition to improve reality. Only when she addressed the rising number of murders in Arab society did her voice break.

She described the feeling of being an Arab in Israel, shaped by building restrictions, the failure to solve murder cases, and the Nation-State Law, after which Arabic is no longer recognised as an official second language. Today, around 10 percent of murder cases in Arab society are solved, compared to about 60 percent in Jewish society, a decline from 80 percent in previous years. She told of a doctor who was murdered by mistake after substituting for a colleague, and of a mother who waited 17 years to conceive

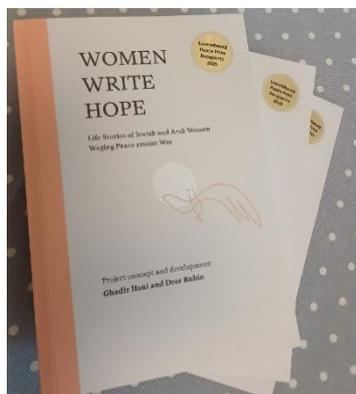
and give birth, only for her son to be killed by mistake. Despite these realities, she continues to act, to meet, and to speak before diverse audiences.

Ghadir wears an embroidered hijab and a pin bearing the number 1325.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325

This refers to the UN resolution adopted in 2000, which determined that women must be included in decision-making centres in security and political discussions during times of conflict.

Among the challenges she described:



- When she joined marchers in a Pride Parade, some assumed she was a Jewish woman disguised as an Arab, because of her fair skin and glasses.
- She meets with settlers. Their discourse is challenging for an Israeli Arab woman, yet in light of current realities in the West Bank, she believes it is important to meet and speak with decent settlers.
- On social media, she responds to people who question the events of 7 October, telling them about her friend Vivian

Silver.

- She also responds to those who deny hunger in Gaza. She says that while there have been exaggerated images, hunger does exist. She described how Standing Together organised humanitarian aid to Gaza. Many people donated supplies. When they sought to send in the lorries, invoices were requested, but none existed because everything had been donated. In the end, only part of the aid was allowed through.
- An activist from Gaza who lost his three children saw that people in Israel were holding photographs of children killed in Gaza and asked for photographs of those murdered on 7 October. That moment, when in Gaza people held pictures of Israeli children and in Israel people held pictures of Gazan children, gave Ghadir hope.
- Her work among Bedouin communities in unrecognised villages has included empowering women and accompanying them as they enter the workforce, as well as involvement in a project linking ancient Bedouin knowledge with new technologies.
- She works in a “mixed cities” programme in Akko. Even before 7 October, the project encountered difficulties, and the groups eventually met as two separate forums.
- She is involved in educational initiatives in schools, explaining Jewish holidays to Muslim children and Muslim holidays to Jewish children.
- She described a group of Jewish and Muslim women who engaged in art together last year.
- She meets many groups of young people within a programme called “Judaism and

Islam in the Holy Land.” For Muslim participants, a rabbi explains Judaism; for Jewish participants, she explains Islam.

- In 2023, she organised a “Zikaron BaSalon” event, with half the participants Jewish and half Arab. In her view, it is vital that we all become familiar with one another’s stories. We do not have to accept or agree, but listening and knowing help us to let go.

At the end of the evening, Danielle Heims Assaf asked how one preserves hope. Ghadir replied that she maintains hope through encounters with people like us, through meetings with her friends and family, and through the memory of Vivian. From gatherings of women in various places emerged the book *Women Write Hope*. Under the guidance of Professor Amia Lieblich, women went out to interview and write the stories of 21 women. The book has been published in Hebrew and English, and a recent donation will enable its translation into Arabic. Next week it will be presented at Hebrew Book Week in London.

For those interested: <https://www.womenwritehope.com/>

Thank you to Tamar Sanker for organising the evening.

Written on behalf of the team “We Are All One Human Weave” – Reut Shaliv



Delving into the Archives

The Almond Blossom Festival

On Saturday we will gather in the Almond orchard to celebrate the Almond Blossom Festival.

I would like to extend my thanks to the devoted photographers of Yizrael, who capture every season and every event, granting us a living record of what is and what was.

Over the past few months, Galia has been scanning the albums preserved in the archives. With the help of participants from “Or B’Givah” and others, she has been identifying the people in the photographs and, whenever possible, noting the year and location.



I would like to ask that everyone photographing this year's Almond Festival send their images to the archive, together with the photographer's name, at: archion@yizrael.com

More broadly, I invite members to send photographs from your own collections. If you prefer to bring them for scanning, I will gladly make myself

available.

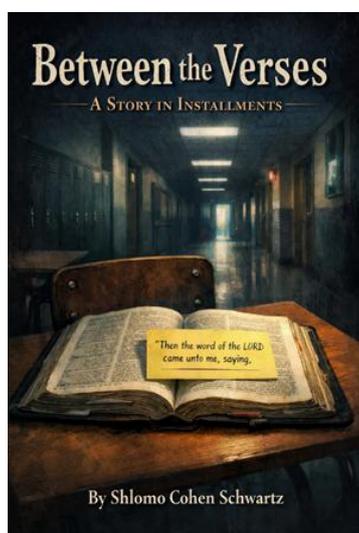


Steve has sent 50 almond photographs, most from 2020 and the remainder from 2025. Here are two photographs from 2020. *See feature. (Page 18 - 21 in the Cyber Edition – Ed)*

Jules Feldman

Between the Verses – A Story in Instalments By Shlomo Cohen Schwartz

Chapter Six: A Closed Meeting



Summary of Previous Chapters:

The staff room has become a tense and suspicious space. The messages continue to appear, precise and deliberate, and the teachers respond with silence and caution. An emergency meeting is called, and Jeremy senses that the confrontation is approaching, even if no one is yet prepared to call it by name.

The meeting was held in the library. A long table, chairs set close together. Everyone arrived on time. That too was a sign. The principal sat at the head of the table, back straight, hands folded. His voice was calm, almost lulling.

“There is a feeling of discomfort in the school,” he said. “Rumours, interpretations, a lack of trust. We need to restore routine.”

No one asked about the source of the rumours. No one requested clarification. Jeremy noticed the small details: the way the principal avoided direct eye contact when he mentioned the staff room. A slight twitch at the corner of his mouth when he said, “There is nothing unusual here.”

“We are all adults,” the principal continued. “We will not be dragged into childish games.”

The word games landed on the table like a stone. Jeremy lifted his head. For a brief moment, the principal looked at him. Not an accusing look. A probing one.

“And if it isn’t a game?” Jeremy asked. The room froze.

“Then what is it?” the principal replied.

“Perhaps an attempt to teach,” Jeremy said. “Perhaps we are not listening.”

Silence. Michal shifted her chair. Ronit cleared her throat. The principal smiled. “Nicely said,” he replied. “But teachers do not come to learn. They are meant to teach.”

After the meeting, when the room had emptied, Jeremy returned to the staff room. Written on the board in red marker were the words:

“I am not a prophet, nor the son of a prophet.”

Beneath, in smaller script:

“The prophet Amos longed for his work in agriculture.”

Jeremy stood before the board for a long time. It was the first time the message had been almost overt. Not a threat. A confession. Someone had lost their way and was trying to return by crooked paths.

That evening, an anonymous question arrived in the school email:

“Principal or managed?”

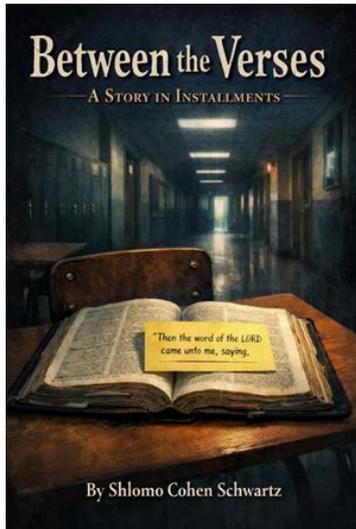
Jeremy closed the computer. The pieces were beginning to connect. Not as legal proof, but as the instinct of a seasoned teacher. He knew who stood opposite him. The question was no longer who, but why.

And for the first time since it all began; he did not feel hunted. He felt ready.

Final chapter next week.

Chat's Biblical Background to this week's installment

Here is the background in the same spirit as before:



In the Book of Jeremiah, the prophet is called while still young:

“Before I formed thee in the belly, I knew thee... I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations” (Jeremiah 1:5).

Jeremiah's task is not comfortable. He stands within his own society yet speaks against its complacency. He warns, questions, exposes false assurances, and insists on truth even when it isolates him. He is accused, mocked, and treated as a troublemaker, not because he seeks conflict, but because he refuses silence.

A central theme in Jeremiah is the tension between appearance and reality. Leaders say, “Peace, peace,” when there is no peace (Jeremiah 6:14). The outward structure of faith remains intact, but inwardly something has decayed. Jeremiah's words cut “between” what is spoken publicly and what is known privately.

There is also the powerful moment in Jeremiah 20:9:

“His word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones... and I could not stay.”

The prophet cannot suppress what he perceives to be true, even when speaking brings consequences.

In the context of this instalment, the teachers' room becoming a charged, watchful space echoes Jeremiah's world: a community outwardly functioning as usual, yet inwardly unsettled. Speech becomes cautious. Silence becomes meaningful. Suspicion grows not from outside enemies but from within the system itself.

Jeremy, like his biblical namesake, finds himself caught between loyalty to the institution and loyalty to truth. And as always in Jeremiah, the real drama lies not in loud confrontation, but in the uncomfortable space between the verses — between what is written, what is spoken, and what is actually meant.

(Only one week to go and all will out... I can't wait. I hope it's not an anticlimax - Ed. For those who missed out, the entire story will be published in the Cyber edition, next week - Ed)



My Second Nature – Mountain Lupine. Rotem Agmon



The mountain lupine (*Lupinus pilosus*) is a plant from the legume family. It is a protected flower, blooming from February to April. As a child, I remember its carpets of blossoms along the roadsides, on the drive north along Route 65.



In recent years it has filled the kibbutz with its beautiful, deep blue bloom. Someone has clearly done good work, in addition to its high germination capacity. In the natural surroundings of the kibbutz, it is absent, so one may reasonably assume that it migrated here with human assistance.

Lovely concentrations can now be seen flowering behind the house of Yael Ben-Shitrit, together with chrysanthemums in Shikun Tzameret, and east of the house of Tamir and Neta Blass in Shikun



Sadot.

Wishing everyone a peaceful Shabbat and an enjoyable Almond Blossom Festival!

Ed's P.S. To "My Second Nature"

- Culinary Use of the lupine — With Important Caution

Unlike some cultivated lupine species, *Lupinus pilosus* is **not traditionally used as food**.

Why not?

All lupines contain **quinolizidine alkaloids**, bitter compounds that can be toxic in significant amounts.



- Traditional edible lupines (such as *Lupinus albus* and *Lupinus luteus*) were specifically selected and processed to reduce bitterness and toxicity.
- Wild species like *Lupinus pilosus* typically contain **much higher alkaloid levels**.
- Eating the raw seeds can cause nausea, dizziness, and more serious poisoning symptoms.

Traditional Edible Lupine (for comparison)

In the Levant and across the Mediterranean, people eat *turmus* (lupine beans) — usually from cultivated white lupine.

Is *Lupinus pilosus* ever used?

There is **no well-documented culinary tradition** of using *Lupinus pilosus* in Israel or neighbouring regions. It is valued for:

- Wildflower displays
- Nitrogen fixation in soils
- Ecological importance



Foraging experts do **not recommend** using wild lupines like *Lupinus pilosus* for food

Photo-ed



Activity Programme from 22–26 February 2026

Each day from 08:30 to 12:00 — coffee, cake, conversation and table games.

Day	Time	Activity
Sunday 22.02	07:00	Walk with Shlomit and Peter
Monday	08:00	Pedicure with Limor Muallem
	09:00	Sweet Morning with Noa and Monica
	10:00	Work day at Orba
Tuesday	09:30	Art of Painting with Chas Broadhurst
Wednesday	10:00	On the Paths of the Kibbutz
	17:15	Chair Exercise with Michal Shaanan
Thursday	10:00	Film with Galia Shemi

ENGLISH IS FUN with Rahel

Bloopers abound in all types of classrooms. Take these from English papers

-

- The bowels are a, e, i, o, u, and sometimes w and y.
- A passive verb is when the subject is the sufferer, as in "I am loved."
- In *Great Expectations*, Miss Havisham puts herself into conclusion.
- At the end of *The Awakening*, Edna thinks only of herself. Her suicide is selfish because she leaves all who care about her behind.

Students often revise history beyond recognition...

- The Gorgons had long snakes in their hair. They looked like women, only more horrible.
- The divine wind protected Japan by sinking the fleet of invading Mongrels.
- During the years 1933 - 38, there were domestic problems at home as well as abroad.
- The President of the United States, in having foreign affairs, has to have the consent of the Senate.
- The difference between a king and a president is that a king is the son of his father, but a president isn't.

And even the science and health classrooms are not immune from verbal schoolishness....

- To collect sulphur, hold a deacon over a flame in a test tube.
- Three kinds of blood vessels are arteries, vanes and caterpillars.
- A fossil is an extinct animal. The older it is, the more extinct it is.
- The human brain is more intelligent than the beast because the human brain has more convulsions.
- Artificial insemination is when the farmer does it to the cow and not the bull.
- To be a good nurse you should be absolutely sterile.
- When you breathe, you inspire. When you do not breathe you expire.
- Many women believe that an alcoholic binge will have no ill effects on the unborn fetus, but that is a large misconception.

Students offer penetrating glimpses into the obvious - and the not-so-obvious....

- Rural life is lived mostly in the country.
- *Heredity means that if your grandfather didn't have any children, then your father probably wouldn't have any, and neither would you, probably.*
- Last year many lives were caused by accidents.
- Abstinence is a good thing if practiced in moderation.
- The amount of education you have determines your loot in life.
- Necessity is the mother of convention.
- *Adolescence is the stage between puberty and adultery.*



Directions to the Festival: Exit yellow gate, below the swimming pool. Take a left at the bottom of the snake road. Turn right when you get to the new olive orchard. Walk straight to you get there. *(If you find yourself in Afula, you went too far – Ed)*

From Kehilanet

Dear friends,

There is now also an online edition of the Yizraelite, where I am not limited in the number of photographs or the length of articles. This is in addition to the printed black-and-white edition.

In the coming weeks, I will be publishing stunning spring photographs from Yizrael — exclusively in the online edition of the Yizraelite.

I would be delighted if you could send me your photographs 🙏

Edi-tor

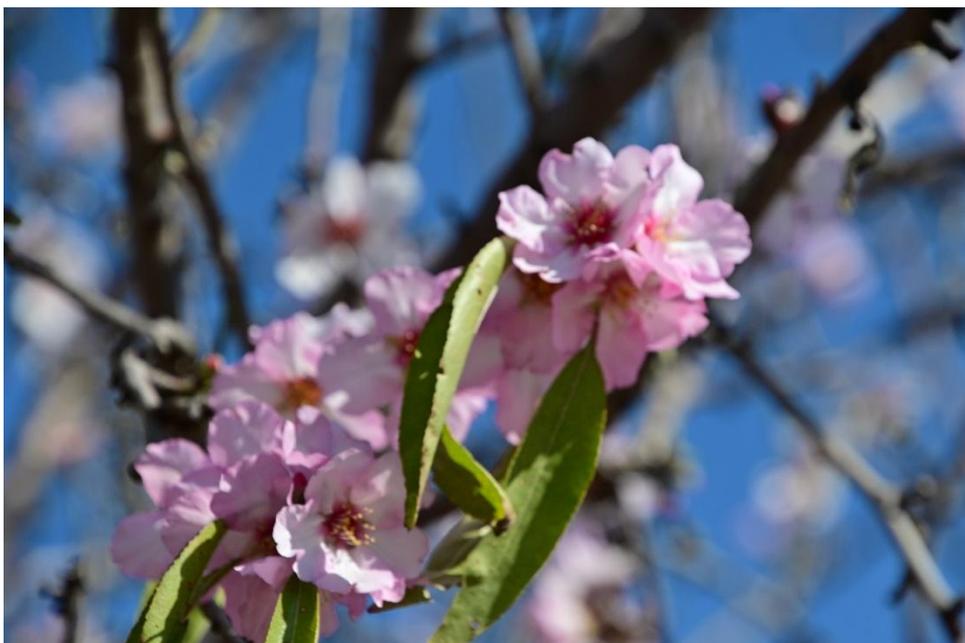
New in The Yizraelite

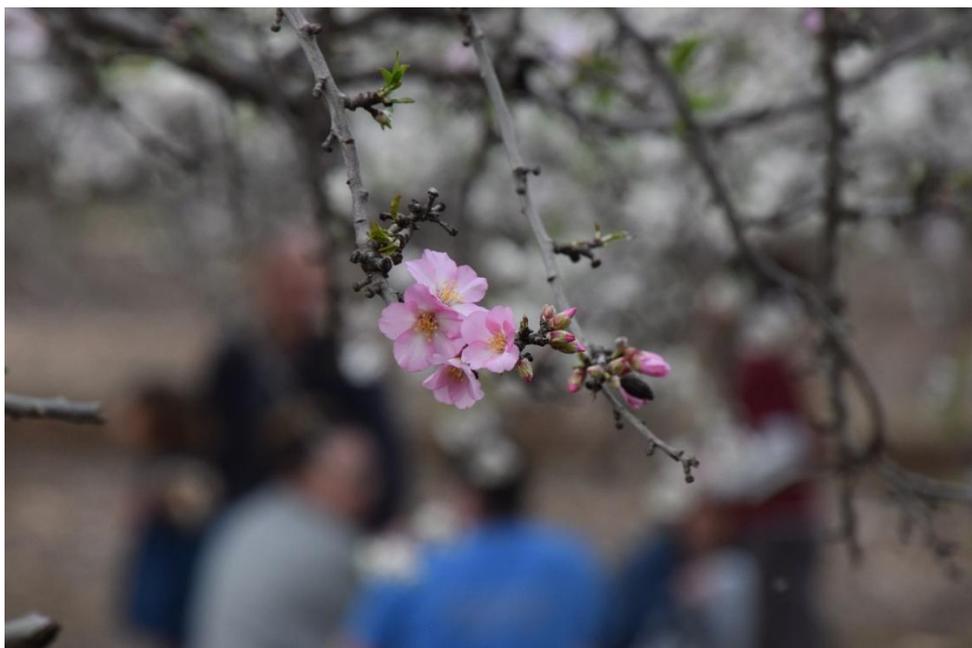
Spring Flowers on Yizrael - 1

Members record the beauty of our spring and the glory of our gardens

Thanks to Steve Blass for his Almond Blossom pics from years gone by. You are all invited to send me your best photos - Ed









Life with Bipolar Disorder



An invitation to meet, watch a short film and talk

Hi, I'm Zohar Maoz.

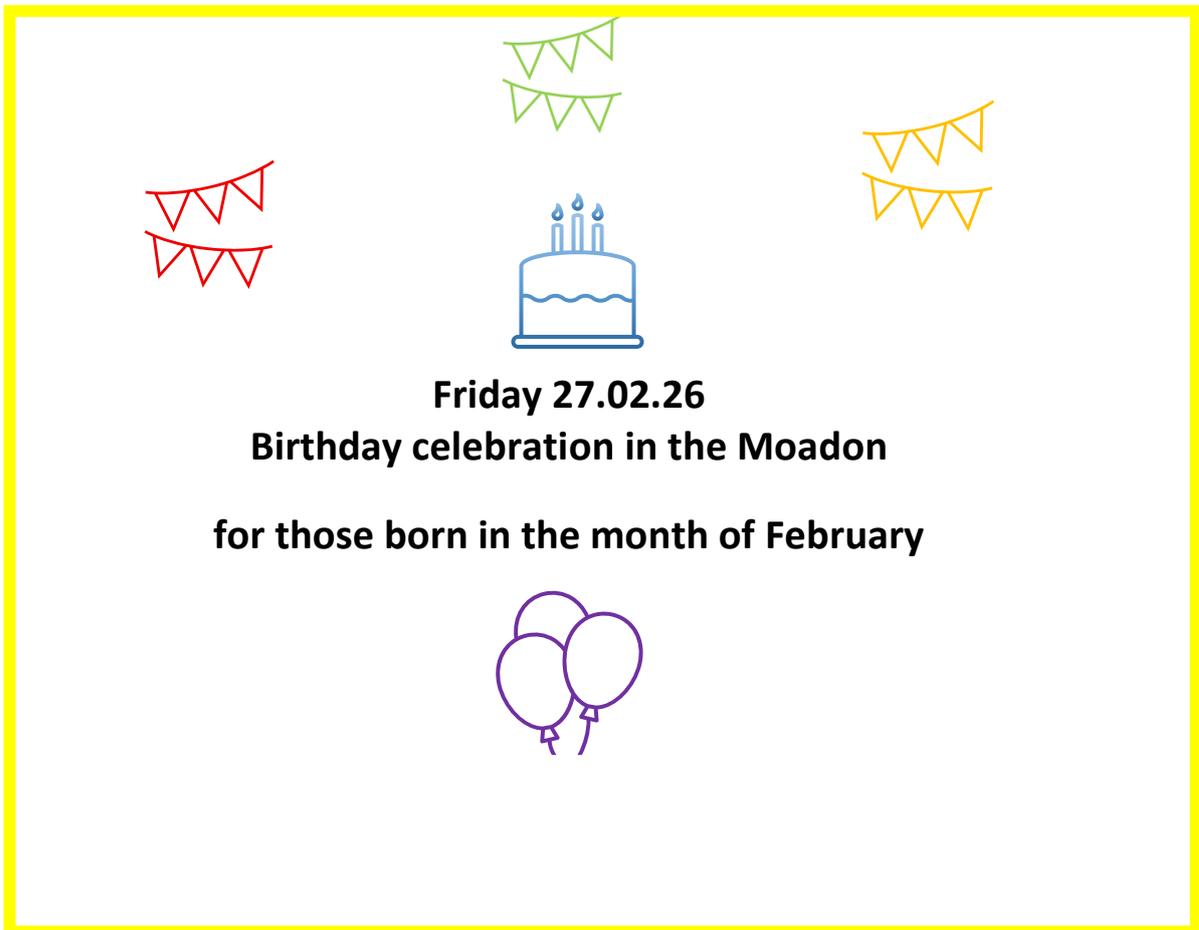
Twenty years ago, at the age of 19, I was diagnosed with bipolar disorder. The ups and downs, the descent into a severe manic episode and a breakdown, deeply affected my life, my understanding and my perception of this phenomenon.

In recent years I have worked as a balance mentor and met with hundreds of young people dealing with emotional crises – with the hope and belief that they too will find balance.

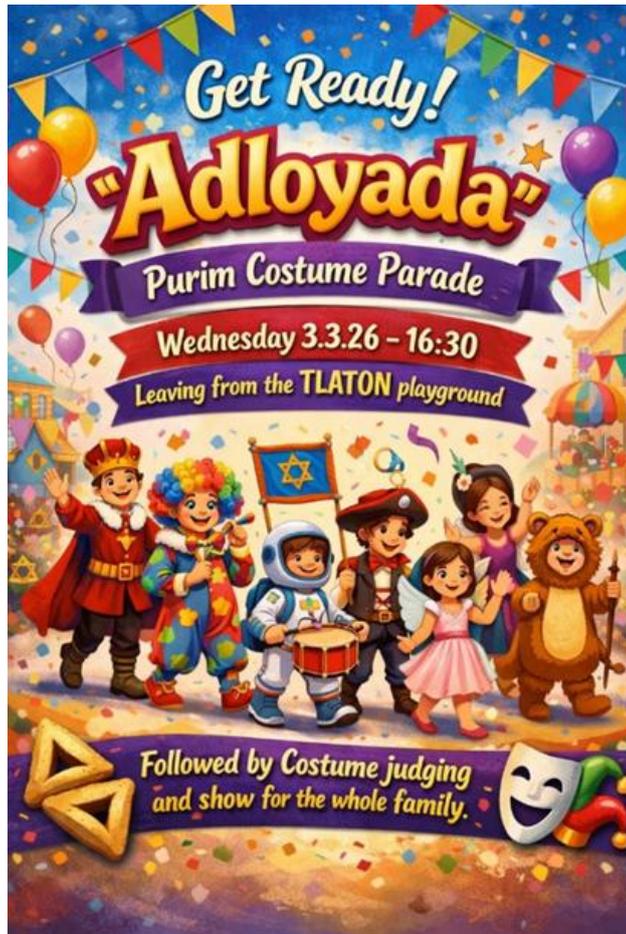
In the meeting I will screen a short film I created about my story. Afterwards, I will share insights that have helped me cope and live better in a complex world.

The meeting will open a direct and unmediated window into the inner world of those close to us.

**Wednesday 25/2/26 at 20:00
Or B’Givah**



**Friday 27.02.26
Birthday celebration in the Moadon
for those born in the month of February**



Credits and more:

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

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