

The Yizraelite – No 2249 Date: 20.3.26

Kibbutz Yizrael - Cyber Edition

**Now That the Waters Press with Might
Yehuda Amichai**

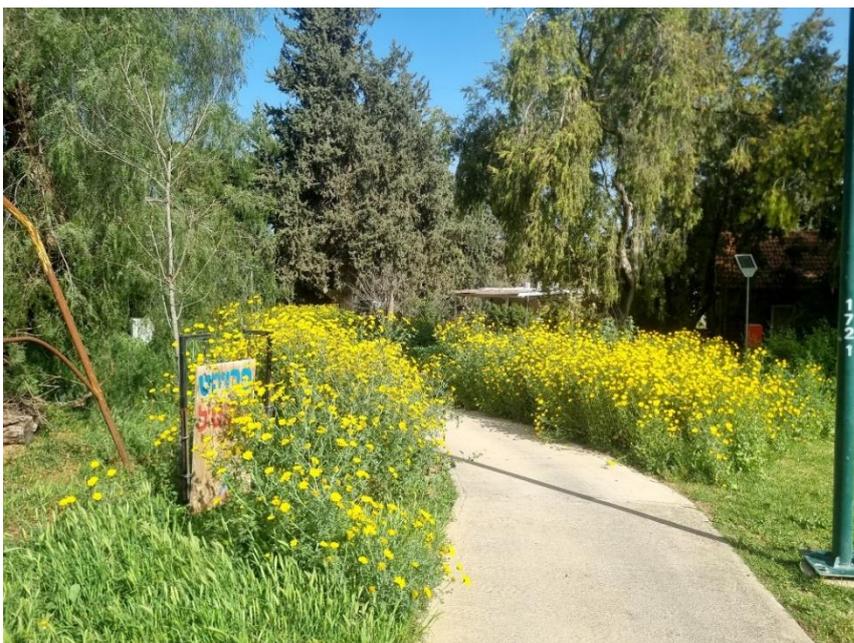
Now that the waters press with might
against the walls of the dams,
now, when the white storks, returning,
turn in mid-sky into squadrons of jet planes,
again we shall feel how strong the ribs are,
and how brave the hot air inside the lungs,
and how much daring is needed to love in the exposed lowland,
when the high dangers arch above,
and how much love is required
to fill the empty vessels
and the clocks that went on counting time,
and how much breath,
a storm of breath,
to sing the little song of spring.



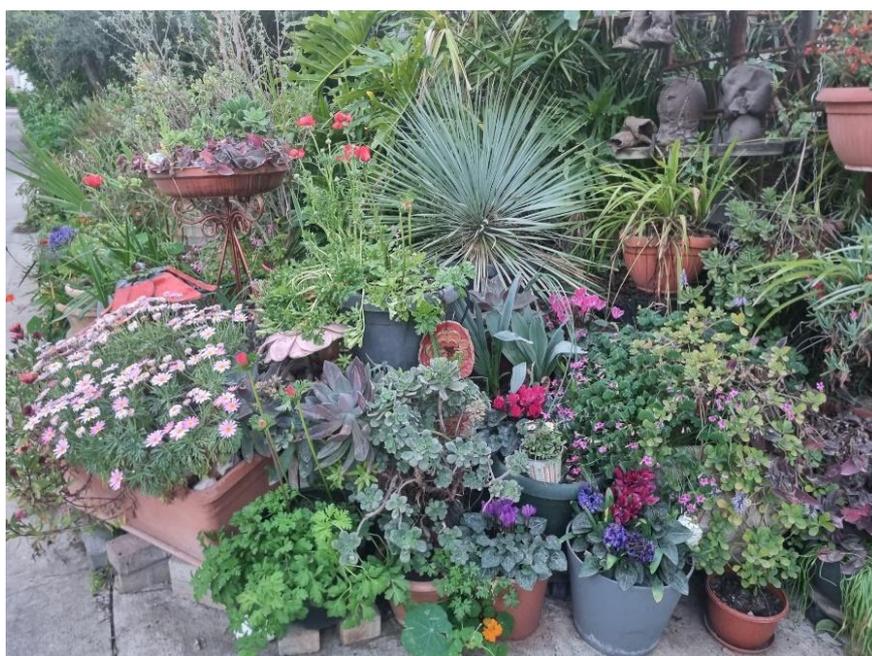
Reut's Editorial: There's a quiet dissonance between the spring unfolding outside, in all its abundance of blossom, and the undercurrent of anxiety we seem almost to have grown used to, the expectation that a siren might sound at any moment.

In more ordinary times, I would be out in the meadow, or wandering down the slope toward the almond trees. This year, with the constant concern about sirens, it is the flowers within the kibbutz that offer small, restorative moments of joy.

Walking along the bend by Gan HaTil, for instance, where a sweep of crown daisies has appeared on both sides of the path, feels like a gift (picture on right). It owes its existence to the inspired decision of the Noi to let what might once have been dismissed as weeds simply grow wildly and abundantly. Even a walk along my own path, in Upper Tzameret, has its quiet beauty. The gardens of



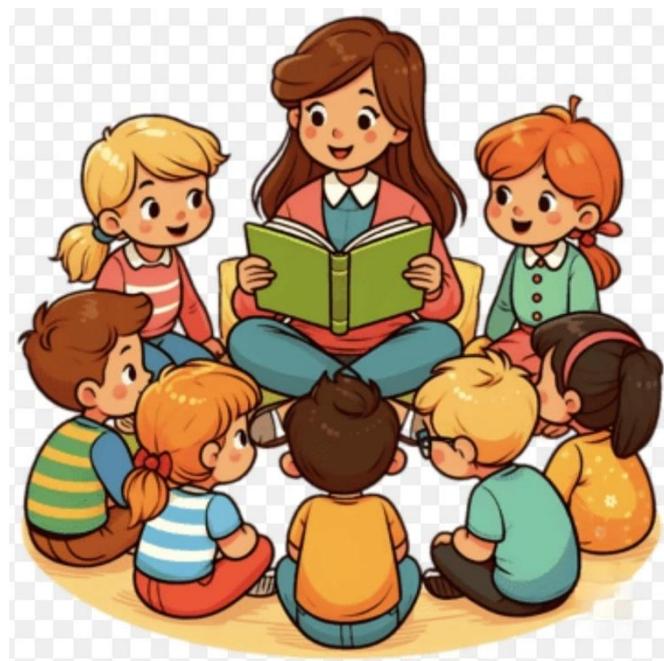
Hamutal Assaf and Naama Peled (below), along with everyone else's pots and plantings, gently remind me to breathe deeply, and to trust that this, too, will pass.

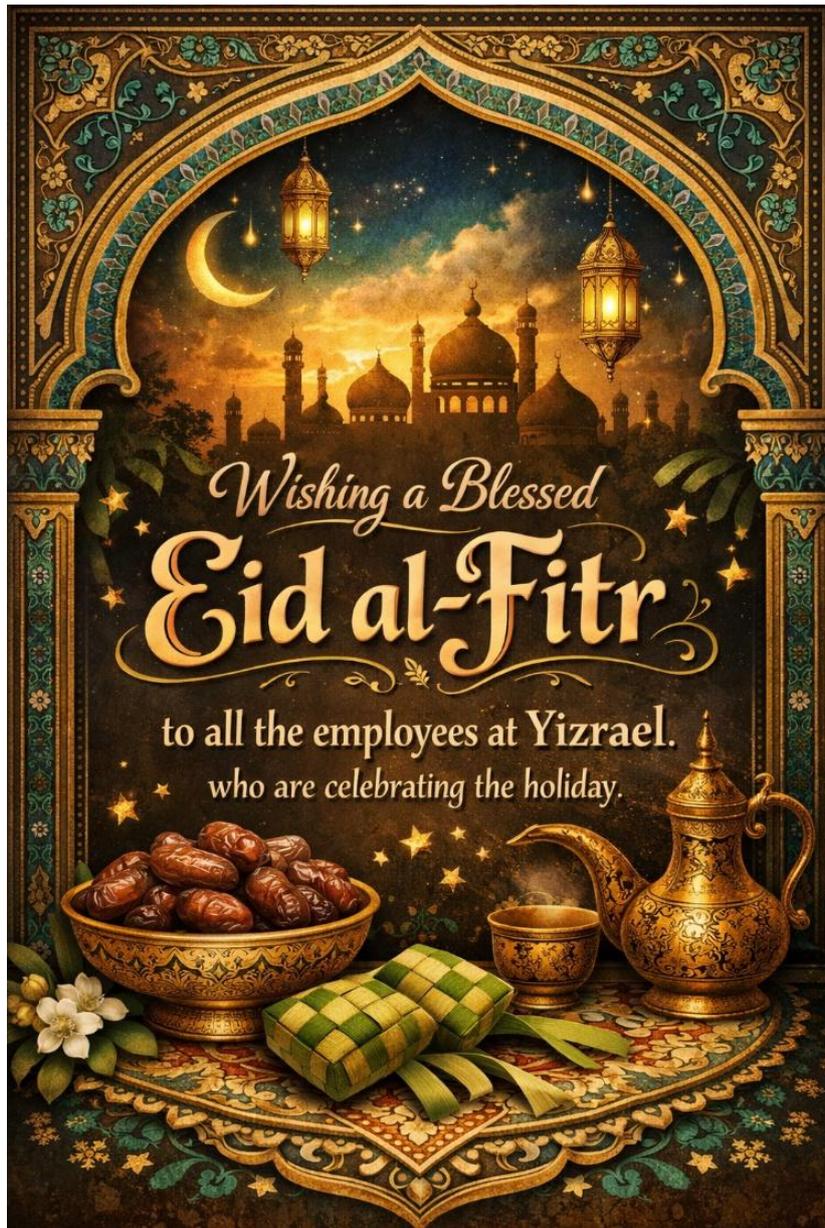


I find myself missing my weekly story hour in the library with the children of Gan Alon. Since “The Lion’s Roar”, I’ve been sending recorded story sessions to Orly Barzak, the kindergarten teacher, for parents to share with the children at home. But for now, there’s still no approval to hold Storytime in the library.

Earlier this week, on Tuesday, I happened to find myself in the bomb shelter in the Hod neighbourhood. Adi Kirshberg and Abigail Wittelson were there too, familiar faces from story hour, handing out cookies to those gathered inside. The shelter was full, much like our own neighbourhood shelter. People of all ages, brought together by circumstance, finding themselves in a kind of social encounter that would likely never have happened otherwise. In our shelter, number 9, I ran into Omer Matalon from Alon kindergarten, and on the pavements too I’ve been meeting more of the children.

We hope to return soon to our story hour in the library, with all the children together again. Until then, the blooming flowers, these chance encounters in the shelter, and the small greetings exchanged along the way, offer moments of warmth and connection within a reality still suspended, waiting for a return to normal life.





Community Management

Sunday, 17:00, Meeting Room

Agenda

1. Food Branch preparations for food distribution for Passover.
2. Omri Fink's request to place a private shelter (Migunit) near his home.



Security Update – The Past Week

Dear friends,

We are now at the end of the third week of Operation Rising Lion, and are adjusting to a certain routine, though it is by no means a desirable one. As of the time of writing, the guidelines remain unchanged. At the same time, toward the end of the week, certain exceptions were introduced regarding the operation of the education systems.

There are several matters that are important for us to update you on and emphasize:

- **Early alerts:** This week we received an update from the Regional Council that, as part of the ongoing efforts to improve and refine the civilian alert system, the Home Front Command is working continuously to reduce the scope of the early warning in relation to the area that will actually receive a siren. This means that fewer residents will now receive an early alert when no siren is expected in their area. As a result, when we do receive an early alert, the likelihood that it will be followed by a siren is now higher than before. Please take note of this.
- **The time between an early alert and a siren:** In recent days, we have seen that the time between the early alert and the siren, (when one does follow), is now less than 10 minutes, **sometimes significantly less.**

In light of this, it is important that we all plan our actions accordingly and avoid taking unnecessary risks. Once an early alert is received, you should move immediately toward the nearest protected space, understanding that it may be only a matter of a very few minutes.

- **Public shelters and safe rooms:** All public safe rooms and shelters must remain open at all times and free of members' private belongings that are unrelated to staying in the shelter. Members who are storing private equipment in the shelters are required to remove it. The synagogue safe room will remain open until the state of emergency has passed.
- **The Seder night:** The Emergency Response Team was asked to address the question of whether the Seder meal would take place in the dining hall. In light of the need for advance preparation by the Food Branch and the holiday team, and the difficulty of mounting such an event at short notice, it was decided that this year the communal Seder will not be held in the dining hall.

We would like to clarify that inviting guests to your home for the Seder night is permitted only if you have room to accommodate them in your household safe room. It is not possible to invite guests from outside the kibbutz on the basis of the public shelters.

Community Management, together with the Food Branch team, will discuss the way in which holiday meal portions will be ordered and distributed. We are confident that, despite our inability to celebrate together as in the past, the Culture Committee will make sure that we will still have a sense of togetherness, albeit in a different form.

- **New Blast shelters:** This week we completed the placement of the three “blast shelters” (Migunit) whose purchase was approved by Community Management. We now have one blast shelter between the clinic and the electrical workshop, which can serve those coming to the clinic, the electrical workshop staff, Or BaGiv’ah, and, of course, passers-by.



An additional blast shelter has been placed near the old secretariat and will serve the bookkeeping and secretariat staff. This shelter, together with the one in the small car park, will also provide cover during transport times for children waiting at the bus stop.

We will continue to monitor the guidelines and will update you regarding any change or development.

Wishing us all quieter and safer days. **Yizrael Emergency Response Team.**

Planning Committee Meeting Summary – 10.02.26

Present: Vicky Hollander, Yehonatan Wittelson, Shlomo Levi, Alita Mor, Benny Sigal, Erez Peleg, Barry Feldman, Axel Levin

Minutes recorded by: Axel Levin

Agenda

1. Residents’ request in Sadot neighbourhood

2. Rugby accommodation
3. Electricity storage
4. Silage pit location
5. Hut in the rugby grove

5) Residents' request in Sadot neighbourhood

Tamir and Neta Blass joined the discussion to present a request on behalf of several families. The upper apartments in Sadot are connected to their gardens only via the main entrance. Some residents requested an additional path for easier access to the “operational” garden area near the storage sheds.

The proposal is for a bridge from the bathroom to the garden, above the rear area of the lower apartments, with the exit positioned above the lower units' back doors.

The committee approved the request under the following conditions:

- Maximum bridge width: 1.5 metres
- Only minimal roofing permitted above the exit door
- A detailed bridge plan, including materials and structural engineer approval (responsibility of applicant)
- A detailed plan for the exit from the house, including structural engineer approval (responsibility of applicant)
- Written consent from the neighbours (responsibility of applicant)
- A signed agreement regarding potential damage to the neighbour's apartment (responsibility of Erez)
- Each bridge requires individual approval by the Planning Committee

2) Rugby accommodation

Idan Zelas joined the meeting to present a sketch for accommodation in the former Noi area. The plan includes relocating containers from the industrial zone to an area designated as “special housing.”

The proposal includes three containers, toilets and showers, and relocation of the existing deck. The plan follows previous guidelines set by the committee regarding building lines, trees, infrastructure, and required distances from existing structures and engineering facilities.

Most trees can be preserved, except for one on the western side.

The committee approved the request under the following conditions:

- Maintain a 1-metre distance from the existing asphalt on the northern side

- Coordinate with the landscaping branch regarding the western tree
- Coordinate with the landscaping branch regarding a leaning tree (whether to retain it)

3) Electricity storage

Jeremy did not attend, having already presented the proposal previously. The plan involves establishing an electricity storage facility (battery system) north of Poultry House 3, near a high-voltage line.

The discussion focused on detailed planning and a revised location. It was also noted that, according to the Economic Council meeting of 02.02.26, the system could be expanded to double its size.

The committee emphasised the preference for a single future-ready site rather than multiple smaller systems.

The current detailed plan includes three containers over approximately 100 square metres, aligned with the lower slope. This orientation would prevent future expansion.

The committee instructs:

- Align the containers parallel to the upper slope to allow future expansion
- Submit a comprehensive plan (up to 200 square metres) for approval

4) Silage pit location

A plan for constructing a silage pit in 2026 was submitted by the Chair of Agriculture. The proposed location deviates from the approved dairy master plan and is outside the current built area.

The requested site is on the eastern side, near existing pits, instead of the planned western side. The area is currently in use (waste concentration container and dog park) and lies approximately 4 metres lower than existing pits.

Construction would require major earthworks, including a retaining wall approximately 8 metres high and 4 metres thick, and reconfiguration or closure of access from the main kibbutz road.

The committee rejected the proposed location due to these implications and lack of feasibility, and instructed that the pit be built according to the approved master plan.

5) Hut in the rugby grove

The committee discussed the former rugby club hut located in the grove. The issue is

sensitive, as the structure is currently in use without coordination with the Public Buildings Team and without review of its statutory status.

While acknowledging the positive activity taking place, the committee clarified that its role concerns planning and statutory matters, not the activity itself.

The discussion should be referred back to the appropriate team responsible for allocating spaces.

From a planning perspective:

- The area is designated as open space under a new zoning plan for the neighbourhood, intended to preserve the grove, with paths, play facilities, and additional tree planting
- The hut and other former structures are not included in the plan, and the land is not designated for buildings

From a statutory perspective:

- The hut has no building permit
- A permit cannot be granted under current planning regulations
- It cannot be approved retroactively (it was not in place prior to 1965)
- The structure cannot be insured

Most other structures in the grove have already been removed, except for the hut and one container. The current situation, where the hut is being used without formal approval, creates difficulty for the committee.

The committee noted that it is not appropriate to designate an area as protected open space and then retain a structure within it.

The discussion will continue at the next meeting. **Contact** Email:

planning@yizrael.com

Phone: 052-5012116

Message from the Search Team – Kinneret Govrin. H.R.

The Search Committee recommends **Yifat Segal** for a second term as head of the Tapuach Cluster, and **Yishai Levy** for a second term as head of the Demography Cluster.

Their candidacies will be presented at the kibbutz assembly. The election will take place by ballot, as customary.

From the Early Childhood Courtyard - Yael Oster 🧡



In the Midst of the “Roar of the Lion” War

It is three weeks since the start of the “Roar of the Lion” war. Three weeks that at times feel like an eternity to everyone.

In the first week, the early childhood system was closed. The children’s houses were closed, but our hearts were not. The teams kept in continuous phone contact with the parents and children, through calls, messages, listening, and encouragement. We tried to remain an anchor, even from a distance.

In the second week, we began, slowly and cautiously, to reopen the children’s houses. It was a small and courageous step, taken in constant coordination with the Home Front Command and the regional council guidelines, a step that made it possible to meet the children in person once again. To look into their eyes. To hear laughter once more inside the kindergarten walls.

And then, on Monday, the very day we reopened, two sirens sounded. It was a live drill, with pounding hearts and racing pulses. We learned a great deal from it: we sharpened procedures, drew conclusions, and above all discovered that we had more strength in us than we had imagined. We reopened again later that week.

This week, the third week of the campaign, we have already opened the kindergartens for two and a half hours at a time, without parents, apart from two or three volunteer parents who remained outside the activity. And for a short while that felt long, we experienced normality. Real normality. Simple, precious normality.

This was possible for several reasons:

The devoted teams, who rallied with all their hearts. Some arrived feeling anxious, yet still chose to come. They chose the children.

Noga Harpaz, who conducted the Alon kindergarten orchestra with great passion and enthusiasm, and with an inspiring inner calm.

The many shinshinim who came to our aid and were simply wonderful.

The parents, for their trust.

And the children, for the joy, the play, the laughter and the hugs, and for the simple and profound proof that this was the right step, an important and meaningful one.

Within this complex reality, we continue to choose connection, presence and stability.

We all hope that the campaign will end soon, and that we will be able to return to a safe, calm and good routine.

Moving Home “Under Fire” - Tal Wolfson-Drom

Or.... Our Move to the New Neighbourhood, Not Quite What We Had Planned

On Saturday, 28.02.26, we all woke to the siren’s call: “Everybody up! Something might happen! Nothing’s happened yet, but it probably will later on...”, the Home Front Command’s official war trailer ever since “The Iran War, Season One”.



After spending time in the shelter, an hour? maybe it only felt like that, we emerged with

a firm decision: from this very moment, the move to our house in the new neighbourhood begins, where a cosy saferoom is waiting for us!

One phone call to Shlomo Levi, the boss of the neighbourhood, made it clear that he was fully on board with the idea, (Shlomo, many thanks for the cooperation), and off we went, with buckets, rags, brooms, mops and whatever else was needed to clean the house, at least to a level that would make it reasonably habitable for the night.

At first, opinions in the family were still divided: would we only sleep there, and spend the daytime back at home in Tzameret Housing, or were we setting a full move in motion and, as the song says, “Whether for better or for worse, there’s no turning back now”?

We spent the whole of Saturday cleaning, thank you, Gil Hillel, you're a true friend, and that very night we were all sleeping spooned together in our new, reassuring safe room.

The next day, after we moved the sofa and the PlayStation, the hesitation was over, it was clear that this was home now.

The process that began way back in the late days of the coronavirus period, in 2020, had finally come to an end: we had moved into our home in the new neighbourhood!

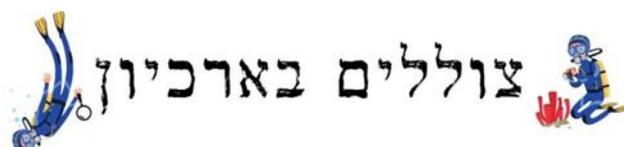
True, not everything is completely finished yet, and there are still repairs, purchases, installations, and so on, but after fourteen and a half years on Kibbutz Yizrael, we are finally, in our permanent home!

At first the neighbourhood was dark at night and quiet by day, but little by little more and more neighbours joined us, and today 5 families, out of 10, are already living here. There are lit verandas now, and friends from whom one can borrow a tomato for the salad.

With the hope that the rest of the neighbours will join us A.S.A.P.

And in closing, I want to write here, with fond longing, to all our partners in "Shelter 8", which is without question the best shelter in the world: despite all the crap of this war, it was always pleasant and enjoyable to be with you. You are wonderful, thank you so much.

Greetings from the Rugby Neighbourhood,



At the end of each Hebrew month, the Alon features a "Memorial Candle" in remembrance of the members and residents who were part of our community and who now rest in peace in our beautiful cemetery, known by many as "the Almonds."

This year, in the month of Adar, we marked ten years since the passing of three members of blessed memory: Ziva Bir, Yossi Piekarski, Ayala Epstein.

“We live on as long as we are remembered.”

We who remember them, remember, and also miss them.

May their memory be a blessing.



Yossi Piekarski 21.10.39 – 29.2.16



Ziva Beer 22.11.33 – 19.2.16



Ayala Epstein 14.7.72 - 29.3.16

(Note: Up to now I have not included the “Memorial Candle” list in the Yizraelite. If anyone would like me to include it, please send me a message or call me – Ed)



My Second Nature | Judas Tree (Klil HaHoresh)

The Judas tree, *Cercis siliquastrum*, is the most elegant of Israel’s native trees. At this time of year, it is covered in thousands of vivid lilac-pink blossoms, and its beauty stands out among the trees of the woodland. A short walk around the kibbutz will bring us face-to-face with this marvellous tree and its dazzling bloom, which is now at its peak. Those in the know have told me that the flowers are edible and make a lovely, refreshing addition to a salad.

The page describing the Judas tree is taken from the book *Israeli Florilegium*, a highly recommended volume on the plants of the Land of Israel, illustrated by two British artists from Kew Gardens in London, who came to Israel fifty years ago at the invitation of

the Nature Reserves Authority, today the Israel Nature and Parks Authority. The two artists, Mary Grierson and Heather Wood, among Kew’s leading flower painters, painted more than 400 wildflowers that were used in the campaign to save Israel’s wildflowers in the 1970s. These wonderful illustrations were lost for fifty years and were found about two years ago, tucked away in the library of the Israel Nature and Parks Authority.



This special book can be seen in the gardening team room on Yizrael, which also serves as a haven for books on nature and gardening, a collection we hope to build up little by little. If you have books of this kind gathering dust at home, we would be delighted to offer them a place of honour in our library.

Shabbat shalom,
Rotem Agmon

Chat’s Addition: 🌸

Ed: Why is it called the “Judas Tree”?

ChatGPT: The name “**Judas tree**” for *Cercis siliquastrum* comes from a mix of **legend, language, and later misunderstanding.**

1. The Christian legend

According to tradition, Judas Iscariot hanged himself from this very tree after betraying Jesus Christ.

The story says the tree’s flowers turned from white to deep pink or purplish red out of shame.

This is a **myth**, not historical fact, but it strongly influenced the English name.

2. A linguistic twist (probably the real origin)

Many scholars believe the name actually comes from “**tree of Judea**” – referring to the region of Judea where the tree is common.

Over time: “Judea tree” → “Judas tree”



Arts Week on Kibbutz Yizrael

Next week, Kibbutz Yizrael will hold a week of the arts: creativity, music, writing, theatre, and more.



All activities will be led by talented volunteers from the community and will take place near protected spaces.

A full programme will be published on Kehilanet, with details of times, locations, and age suitability for each activity.

Follow the updates on Kehilanet and come along!

"I do not paint a table; I paint the feelings it evokes in me." (Henri Matisse)



SAVE THE DATE

Sat 18.4.26

FAMILY HIKE

FOR ALL AGES

From Givat HaMoreh
to Wadi Geva



From Givat HaMoreh to Wadi Geva

Family Route
3 km

Advanced Walkers'
5 km

SPORTIYULIM COMMITTEE

ENGLISH IS FUN with Rahel

Ancient English words that deserve a comeback...

LETHOLOGICA (Greek origin): The inability to remember a word or a name. ("I've got a case of lethologica - what's his name again?")

FUDGE (18th-century English): To fake or gloss over something; to pretend things are in order. ("He's a master of the fudge.")

ELFLOCK (Old English): Tangled hair, as if knotted by elves. ("Her hair was a mess of elflocks this morning.")

RESPAIR (obsolete English): A return to hope after despair. ("The sun broke through, bringing a sense of respair.")

GROKE (Scots): To stare silently at someone while they are eating. ("Stop groking - it's creepy.")

CRAMBAZZLED (18th-century English): Worn out, exhausted. ("After the hike, we were completely crambazzled.")

CALLIPYGIAN (Greek origin): Having well-shaped buttocks. ("The statue was notably callipygian.")

YESTERFANG (Old English): A meal or catch from the previous day. ("We'll reheat the yesterfang for dinner.")

CURGLAFF (Scots): The shock felt when plunging into cold water. ("The loch gave me a proper curglaff.")

LUNTING (18th-century English): Walking while smoking a pipe. ("Grandad went lunting in the garden.")

SNUDGE (16th-century English): To walk or move in a humble or sneaky manner. ("He snudged into the room, avoiding attention.")

OVERMORROW (obsolete English): The day after tomorrow. ("Let's meet overmorrow instead.")

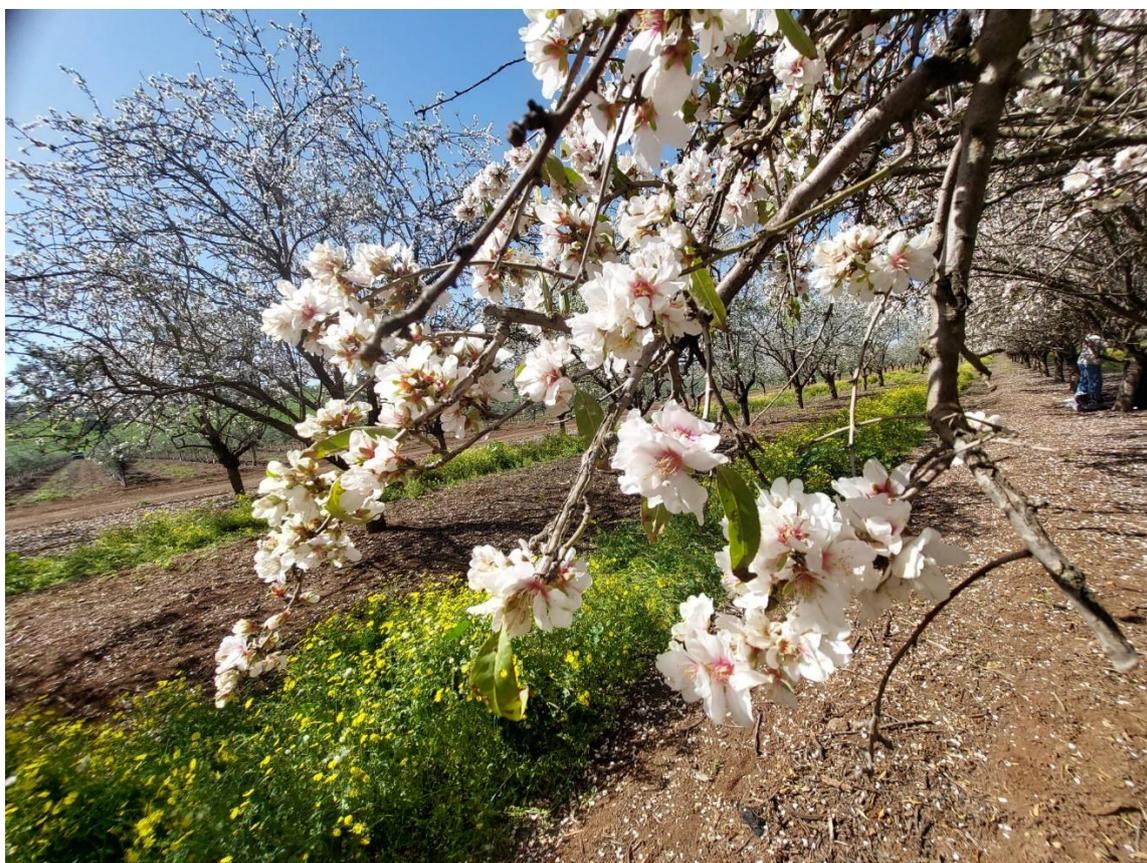
The Telephone Booth

Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone, and his assistant Thomas Watson played an important role in its early development.

A charming story tells that Watson, whose landlady complained about the noise of his calls, improvised a kind of enclosed space by throwing a blanket over furniture — an idea sometimes linked to the later development of the telephone booth. While this anecdote is likely apocryphal, enclosed telephone booths did begin to appear in the 1880s as telephones became more widely used

Yizrael Spring Supplement

Through the Lens of Nitzan Rivlin Feldman













With thanks to Nitzan

(Long after the blazing sun has scorched the earth and the flowers dry up, we will be able to look back and enjoy Nitzan's spring on Yizrael – Ed)



Credits and More:

Editor of Hebrew Newsletter: Reut Shaliv

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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 Editor’s ability to grapple with the subject matter, determine what is included.

Two editions of the Yizraelite. We publish two editions. **The cyber edition** includes more colour photos and occasionally additional long articles. The hard copy is printed in black and white, and therefore there is no point in printing colour photos. We are also limited in length because of printing costs. The hard copy is distributed at the beginning of the following week; therefore, adverts for events that have already taken place over the previous weekend 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, fact-check, and correct the text, but errors may still be overlooked. Be warned.

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