

The Yizraelite – No 2251 Date: 7.4.26

Kibbutz Yizrael - Cyber Edition

Reut's Editorial: Today, by the civil calendar, my son turned eighteen.

Eighteen years ago, on a Monday, the second of Nisan, he was born at midday, and I looked at a beautiful baby, and another eighteen years stretched before me like eternity.

Each year, in the Passover edition of *Haaretz*, a short story is published in the literary supplement, chosen from those submitted since Hanukkah. The story that won this year's competition is "*Connecticut*," by Tal Kleinfeld. It tells of a mother who comes to visit her son at the staging area of the unit in which he serves, just before he enters Gaza.

On the surface, under the pretext of "I need a cup of coffee, let's just stop at a petrol station," she drives with him to Ben Gurion Airport and puts him on a plane to Connecticut. On a deeper level, spoiler alert, the mother loses her grip on reality.

And we, granddaughters of grandparents who were the last survivors of families destroyed in the Holocaust, mothers to their great-grandchildren, who were fortunate to be born in a state established so that such a catastrophe would never befall us again, find that instead of rejoicing on the birthdays of our sons and daughters, who are just about to finish school, we are condemned to know that the age of eighteen brings us closer to the day of enlistment.

And this year especially, they will enlist in the army of a state that is meant to be the state of the Jewish people, yet we—those who work, who earn a living, who pay taxes—are increasingly becoming citizens whose children are seen as little more than expendable cannon fodder. Shabbat Shalom. Reut Shaliv

*****8

Good People Along the Way, Truly Good People



This is a true story.

In these turbulent days, when we are all on edge, my Android phone was attacked by viruses that multiplied and took over all its functions. It became impossible to use.

In ordinary times, that would be one thing. But these days, it's a complicated situation.

I looked for someone who could help me. I reached out... but without success.

So, I plucked up courage and set out to the dedicated technician in Afula. By chance, I met a kind woman who asked where I was headed that morning. I told her my sad story. "Try Tamir Lavi, Kobi's son-in-law. He helped me a lot," she said.

I returned home, called Tamir, introduced myself — "Yes, I know you," he said, to my surprise...

I explained the problem. Without hesitation, Tamir replied:

"I think I can help. I'm not available right now, but I'll come to your home shortly."
And indeed, he came.

With prior knowledge and with the help of AI, he removed the viruses, reset, installed, and arranged everything so that the phone would be accessible and usable again. The phone returned to working like new.

At the end of the process, Tamir, like a good teacher, said:

"Now, you try it yourself. Check that you can find everything you need, that everything opens properly without interruptions."

He stayed until it was clear that all obstacles had been removed and everything was accessible.

And an episode that also speaks to the kind of person he is:
While he was working on the phone, the jarring alert from the Home Front Command suddenly sounded — within the next few minutes ... familiar?

With thoughtful sensitivity, Tamir asked:
“Do you want us to stop, and I’ll walk you to the shelter and wait with you at the entrance in case there is an alarm? Or...?”

For those curious — we stayed at home. Tamir continued his work, and no siren followed.

How heartening it is to meet good people, who with patience and a warm spirit are ready to help.

Thank you, Tamir. It was a pleasure to meet you.
May better, calmer days come soon.

Ofra Shelef

Passover Songs Evening with Stass - Ruth Mor



The day after the Seder night, I found myself travelling some 55 years back, to the Passovers of my childhood in Bulawayo. In our home, the Seder was held on both the first and second evenings, because my father would read the Haggadah and sing the story in such a way that everyone wanted to be part of our Seder. I

remember that one year, when we opened the door for Elijah the Prophet, we heard the servants singing the song along with us.

So, when I saw that this year there would be a second evening of singing, I signed up, with Tzafnat’s help... I was so excited I almost ran to the moadon.

When I arrived, Stass was already there, together with members ranging in age from 30 to 90, and the children of the Cohen-Schwartz family, who joined in the music: Nov on clarinet, Kerem on oboe, and Shlomo with storytelling. Anna Gavrilov played the flute, and Avner Alterlevi the accordion, all under Stass’s direction.

We sang the songs we love, remembered those who used to sing them and are no longer with us. Dan Wolpe z’l, will forever be linked with “And Moses Struck the Rock.”

Nitza spoke about her journey from Kiryat Haim into the Haggadah, the connection between Zimra and the Seder night, and the tradition she brought from Beit Hashita. I told about the Seder that travelled with me from Rhodesia to Kibbutz Yizrael, and how



much I longed to sing like my father, only to be gently told, “A singer you are not!” Since then, I sing in the shower and take care of the organisation of the Seder evening in the dining hall.

And of course, no evening would be complete without “Echad Mi Yodea,” led by Nir Assaf and Alma Shorer.

My hope is that we have begun a new tradition, because as wonderful as our traditional Seder in the dining hall is, there are parts we love that, for various reasons, are left out.

Thank you to all those involved.

Chag sameach,
Ruth Mor



On the Yizraelite Exodus from Egypt



Dayenu – Mavis Kaplan

If I could leave my home and be safe,
it would be enough.

If there were games to play and things to do,
it would be enough.

If there was no rain and it wasn't too cloudy,
it would be enough.

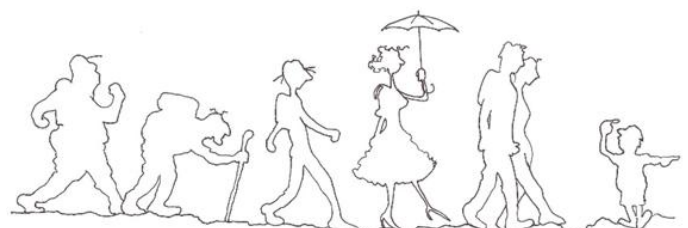
If there were no sirens and no booms,
it would be enough.

Saturday was such a day!!
Children playing with their parents,
it was enough.

Outside, in the sun, I hopped like a frog,
barked like a dog,
searched for locusts,
got a tattoo (my first),
made a picture.

It was enough!

What a great Culture Committee we have!
Dayenu





In every generation, a person is obligated to see themselves as though they personally came out of Egypt (Exodus 13:8).

Community Management Meeting Summary – 29.03.26



Participants:

Erez Peleg, Talia Arad, Yifat Segal, Maor Parsai, Noga Harpaz, Naomi Amit, Shlomo Levi, Tami Penn, Tamir Blass, Limor Griman

Agenda:

1. Updates and General Matters

Erez Peleg, Community Manager, updated on the discussion regarding the hut in the rugby grove, currently used by the carpentry workshop. It was agreed that the future of this hut will be brought for discussion and decision by Community Management.

2. Request from the Absorption Committee to Renew the “First Home in the Homeland” Programme

(Guests: Karen Eilon Brustein, Eviatar Assaf, Uri Gilad – Demography Cluster; Yulia Berman – Jewish Agency)

The “First Home in the Homeland” programme is a joint initiative of the Jewish Agency and the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration, currently operating in 36 kibbutzim across the country. The programme is designed to provide an initial framework for immigrant

families from the moment they arrive in Israel, bringing them directly to a kibbutz for a period of six months to one year.

In recent years, there has been a significant shift in countries of origin: whereas in the past around 80% of immigrants came from Russian-speaking countries, today approximately 80% of applicants come from Western countries such as Canada, the United States, France, and Belgium.

The programme includes:

- Hebrew studies (ulpan): five months of language study to support future professional integration
- Community and educational support: families are absorbed into a supportive community, and children are integrated into the kibbutz education system.
- Funding: families receive an absorption basket covering living, education, and rent for the first six months; from the seventh month, they are eligible for rental assistance of approximately 2,000 NIS per month for two years

The Demography Cluster and the Absorption Committee propose introducing the programme on the kibbutz, beginning with two families from summer 2026.

Proposed framework:

- Housing: two apartments (54 or 76 sqm), equipped with basic furnishings with assistance from the Jewish Agency
- Services: full services including electricity, water, communications, dining hall, and laundry

Costs and funding:

The estimated cost of hosting a family is approximately 11,890 NIS per month (including education and living expenses). The proposal is to charge the families 9,000 NIS per month from their absorption basket. The kibbutz would subsidise approximately 17,340 NIS per family during the first six months.

In the second half-year, after completing the ulpan, families are expected to find employment and pay the full cost according to the “temporary residents” tariff.

After one year, subject to mutual agreement, families may begin a full two-year absorption process on the kibbutz.

Social support:

The project requires recruiting “accompanying families” and volunteers from the kibbutz to support the newcomers’ integration.

Discussion points:

- Several participants emphasised the clear Zionist value of immigrant absorption and its added value for the kibbutz.
- Concern was raised regarding potential financial loss if families do not remain; the Absorption Committee noted that similar risks exist in regular absorption processes.
- An alternative model was presented in which families would pay full costs from the outset and receive a reduction in future absorption fees only if they remain; however, this was seen as financially burdensome and likely to deter participation.
- Concerns were raised about children's integration into the school, particularly if they are not English speakers; it was recommended to focus on English-speaking families with younger children.
- It was noted that moving to a cooperative kibbutz represents a major cultural shift for Western immigrants, requiring clear expectation-setting to reduce the risk of departure.

Decision:

The kibbutz will host two immigrant families in the framework of "First Home in the Homeland" from summer 2026. They will be defined as "temporary residents," subject to the residency procedure. The kibbutz will subsidise the additional cost during the first six months (approximately 35,500 NIS for both families combined).

It was also decided to update the General Meeting regarding the decision and the programme details.

3. Blast Shelters

(Guest: Vicky Hollander, Coordinator of Entrepreneurship and Small Businesses)

Vicky presented a request to install a new blast shelter in the huts area to serve the local enterprises and their clients, including the nursery, sewing workshop, café, and Ziv's initiative. Current options are limited: the cowshed shelter (small and crowded), the "young generation" shelter (requiring a potentially unsafe run), and the shelter near the clothing store/parking area (relatively distant).

Several possible locations were examined, taking into account logistical constraints such as trees, drainage lines, and elevation differences. Two options were presented.

Discussion points:

- A question was raised whether previous shelters were prioritised for essential kibbutz operations, while these enterprises represent a secondary level; others argued that these initiatives are an integral part of kibbutz activity and resilience.
- It was noted that the existing shelter in the parking area is heavily overcrowded (about 24 people in a space intended for 12), and an additional shelter could ease this

burden.

- The need for a broader, systematic approach was emphasised, rather than making decisions under pressure for a single location.

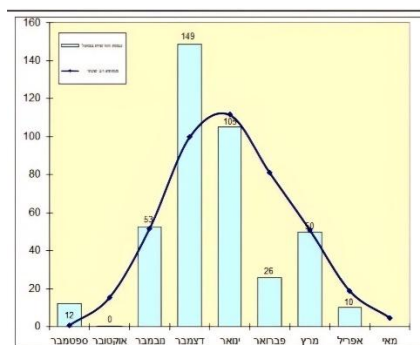
Decision:

A working team will be established (including representatives from the Emergency Response Team, logistics, management, and planning) to conduct a comprehensive mapping of public protection needs, with emphasis on work and leisure areas.

The team will review all relevant sites, define priorities, prepare a mapping report, and present a structured plan to Community Management for further discussion.

The team will not address private residential protection needs.

Reported by: Limor Griman



Rainfall - Winter 2025-2026

Rainfall in the past 7 days – 15mm

Rainfall to date: **405 mm**

As compared to the multi-year average to date: **413 mm (-2%)**

Rainfall Table

Month	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	Apr	May
Total	12	0	53	149	105	23	50	10	
Average	0.7	15	52	100	112	81	51	19	5

Ohad Ziv

My Second Nature – Argentina’s National Bird



Happy Passover greetings from Easter Island, which we reached on Tuesday, 31.03. Our journey began in Buenos Aires, after a complicated route via Eilat, Taba, Sharm el-Sheikh, Istanbul, Madrid and Argentina. In Argentina, great efforts are being made to protect species that were on the brink of extinction due to hunting and the loss of habitat to agriculture and construction. There are many nature reserves there, and the biodiversity is immense. Argentina is home to more than 1,000 species of birds.

Argentina’s national bird since 1928 is the Rufous Hornero, a member of the ovenbird family. The remarkable nest it builds is made of mud, which hardens in the sun and becomes strong and solid, resembling a clay oven.



In the attached pictures, you can see the nest above left and the bird itself on the right. The bird is a symbol of diligence and hard work, and its distinctive and impressive nest is testimony to that, which is why it earned the honour of being named the national bird.

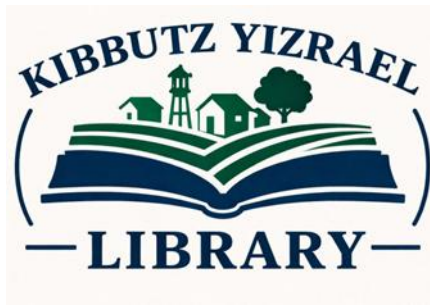
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Its image appears on the 1,000 pesos note, worth a little more than two shekels.

In the next issue I will tell you about Easter Island.

Happy holiday,
Rotem Agmon





New English Books in the Library

The Jefferson Key. Steve Berry

A fast-paced historical thriller in the Cotton Malone series, blending modern espionage with secrets from the early days of the United States. Malone uncovers a hidden link between Thomas Jefferson and a covert intelligence network that may still influence global politics today. The novel mixes real history with conspiracy, creating a suspenseful and entertaining read.

Did I Ever Tell You? Genevieve Kingston

A deeply personal memoir built around letters a mother leaves for her daughter before her death. Through these messages, the author reconstructs her childhood, grief, and the enduring presence of maternal love. It is an intimate and emotional exploration of memory, loss, and the stories that shape who we become.

John Adams. David McCullough

An award-winning biography of America's second president, portraying John Adams as a complex, principled, and often underestimated founding figure. The book follows his role in the American Revolution, his presidency, and his lifelong partnership with Abigail Adams. It is widely praised for its vivid storytelling and depth, winning the Pulitzer Prize for Biography.



The (Almost) Back Page...

Nissan and Nowruz

This year (5786/2026), our New Year and the Persian New Year fell almost on the same day, ours on Thursday, 19.03.26, and theirs the next day, Friday, 20.03.26. And if you are wondering how it is that you did not know about **our New Year**, the answer is simple: according to the calendar handed down to us in the Bible, the month in which the Children of Israel left Egypt, the month that would later be called Nissan, is the first month of the year. Accordingly, the first of Nissan was the New Year. In the Mishnah,

at the opening of Tractate Rosh Hashanah, mention is made of four New Years, among them the first of Nissan, the New Year for kings and festivals, and the first of Tishrei, the New Year for years, sabbatical years and jubilees, for planting and for vegetables.

In Hebrew, the beginning of the year is called *Rosh Hashanah*, because *rosh* is not only “the upper part” (such as the head of the human body or the top of a mountain), but also “the front part” (for example, the head of a fish or the head of a table), and also “the beginning.” Indeed, this is what we read in the Book of Exodus: “This month shall be unto you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you” (Exodus 12:2).

In Hebrew, *Rosh Hashanah*, that is, the first day of the year, is therefore “the beginning of the year,” and so too in Arabic (*Ras al-Sanah*) and in Aramaic (*Reish Shata*). This is not the case in other languages. In European languages, such as English, Italian and Russian, people do not speak of the “beginning of the year” but rather of a “new year,” and so in English people wish one another a Happy New Year. In Russian too, *Novy God* (Новый Год) means “new year.” Chinese also uses this term for the festival (新年, *Xin Nian*, meaning “new year”).

By contrast, the Persian New Year, which falls on the spring equinox, is called نوروز, pronounced *Nowruz*, and means “new day.” Persian is written in Arabic letters, but it is an Indo-European language, related to languages such as Greek and Latin. *Now*, meaning “new,” is related to Greek *neos* (νέος), Latin *novus*, and English *new*; *ruz* in Persian means “day” or “daylight.”

This year (5786/2026), the “new day” was celebrated in Iran and in other places on 20.03.26, that is, one day after the first of Nissan, our New Year for kings and festivals. A good year to us and to them.

From: The Academy of the Hebrew Language website
Publication date: 29.03.26

Chat's Addition:

Nowruz, the Iranian New Year, has **ancient pagan roots centred on nature, seasonal cycles, and cosmic renewal**.

It began as a **spring equinox festival**, marking the rebirth of life after winter. Early traditions focused on:

- **Nature and fertility** (new growth, renewal)
- **Fire rituals** for purification (still seen in pre-New Year bonfires)

- **Symbolic objects** believed to bring health, prosperity, and protection

It is linked to ancient Indo-Iranian beliefs and was later shaped by Zoroastrianism, which emphasised the triumph of light over darkness.

In short, Nowruz is a **surviving ancient nature festival**, preserving pre-monotheistic ideas about renewal, balance, and the cycle of life.



Ahead of the Independence Day events



Despite the security situation, the holiday team has begun working and planning the events.

Our plans range between great hope for a return to normal routine and the understanding that we need to prepare to hold the activities in line with the current situation and the existing restrictions.

Accordingly, if there is no change in the situation, and we are required to hold the events near protected spaces, the Independence Day events will be open to Yizrael residents only, and it will not be possible to invite guests.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to organise a safe and protected activity for a population that includes guests as well. Thank you for your understanding,
The Holiday Team, Tali Brauman and Yifat Segal

EVE OF HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

Shoah and Heroism

The community will hold a gathering marking:

The Power of the Human Spirit

*The ability to find meaning within darkness
and to choose life*



Date and Time

Monday evening, 13.4
19:45



Location

The moadon or on Zoom
See Kehilanet

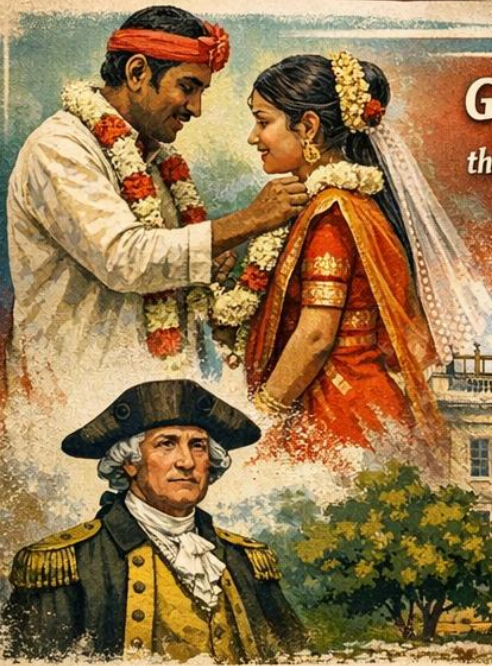
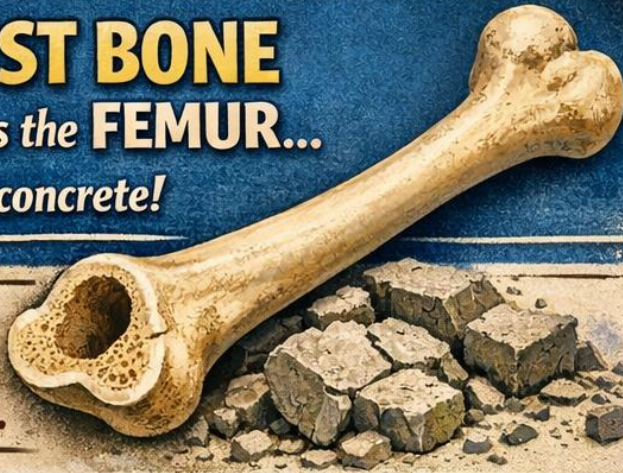
*“Instead of fighting the darkness,
we must amplify the light”*

(A.D. Gordon)

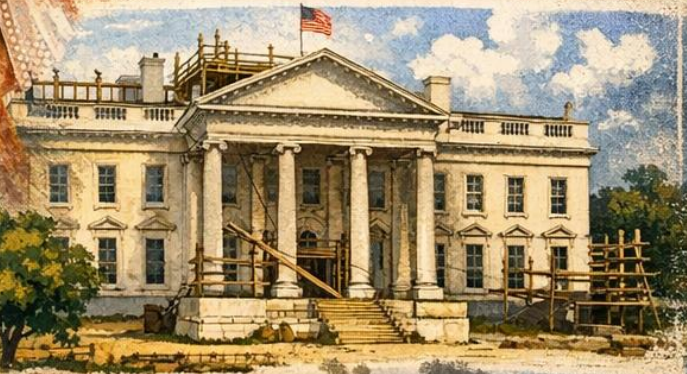


The **STRONGEST BONE**
in the Human Body is the **FEMUR...**
It is even stronger than concrete!

In Southern India, a man
traditionally marries his
Older Sister's Daughter.



George Washington Helped Oversee
the Construction of the White House...
But He Never Lived in It!



The **SHORTEST WAR IN HISTORY**
was between Zanzibar & Britain in 1896...
Zanzibar Surrendered After 38 Minutes!



Yitzhak Peleg

**If You cant go to the Mimouna.....
.....The Mimouna will come to you!**



“They Looked Iranian”:
Security Footage Shows Trump
Negotiating With White House
Patio Umbrellas for Six Hours

THE SHOVEL

ENGLISH IS FUN with Rahel

Some of the greatest puns:

- * I got thrown out of my local park after arranging the squirrels by height. They didn't like me critter sizing.
- * How did I escape Iraq? Iran.
- * You're living, you occupy space and you have mass. You matter.
- * What do you call a snobbish criminal going down the stairs? A condescending con descending.
- * My math teacher called me average. How mean!
- * Why do they call it a 'cheque'? Why not Yugoslavian?
- * I wasn't originally going to get a brain transplant, but then I changed my mind. *
- * So, what if I don't know what apocalypse means? It's not the end of the world.

Abridged classics:

WAR AND PEACE Everyone is sad. It snows

THE GRAPES OF WRATH Farming sucks. Road trip. Road trip sucks.

DON QUIXOTE Guy attacks windmills. Also, he is mad.

THE SUN ALSO RISES Lost generation gets drunk. They're still lost.

MOBY DICK Man v. whale. Whale wins.

ULYSSES Dublin, something, something, something, run-on sentence.

THE ODYSSEY War veteran takes forever to get home then kills everyone.

WUTHERING HEIGHTS A sort of brother-sister fall in love. It's foggy.

WALDEN Man sits outside for two years. Nothing happens.

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT Murderer feels bad. Confesses. Goes to jail. Feels better.

BEOWOLF Hero kills monster. Blah, blah, blah, blah. Dragon kills hero.

DANTE'S INFERNO All hell breaks loose. MORE NEXT WEEK

The Next Newsletter

No Yizraelite this Friday!!!

Note: The next newsletter will be published on Friday 17.4.26

Until Then, peace be with you.



**Newly planted banana grove.
Congratulations to the Agricultural branch!**



Delicious spring flower salad. Ingredients: daisies (Hartzit), common mallow (Hubeza), Judas tree, (klil Hahores) Mustard seed (Hardal) Nasturtium (Cova Nazir) mint, lemon juice. Add any vegetables to taste.



Credits and More:

Editor of Hebrew Newsletter: Reut Shaliv

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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.

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.

