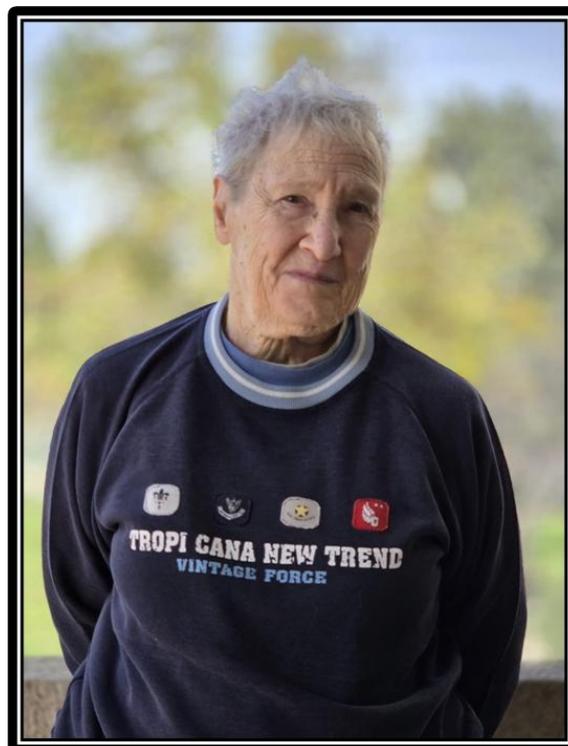


**The Yizraelite – No 2246 Date: 27.02.26**

**Kibbutz Yizrael - Cyber Edition**



**We are sad to announce the passing of  
Rosalind Kotler, of blessed memory  
Our condolences go out to the family in the U.S.**

**Beit Yizrael**



**Reut's Editorial:** This week, Rosalind passed away. I met Rosalind almost every Sunday, when she came to the library to do her weekly shift. Her passing surprised me greatly, because just this past Sunday we spoke as usual. When she sat down at the computer, the screensaver showed a night-time view of Budapest, and Rosalind said she had never been there, nor to several other countries she had never wished to visit because of the Second World War. Although she was from New York, and her entire family was from there, and she had no personal memories of those countries, she never wanted to travel to them, as she told me.

Although Rosalind loved travelling abroad, in recent years she stopped doing so because of her beloved dog, Keshet. She did not want to leave her, in her old age, without her care and supervision. Keshet also appeared in Rosalind's WhatsApp profile picture. The first thought that came to my mind when news of her passing was published on Kehilanet was how fortunate it was that her beloved Keshet, whom she had cared for with such devotion, had passed away before her.

The eulogies from the funeral will be published in next week's newsletter.

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### **Edi-torial:**

On Tuesday, **Rosalind Kotler** passed away. Rosalind was one of our most avid readers. She never missed an opportunity to thank me for "The Yizraelite". She was buried in a very touching ceremony yesterday, Thursday 28.2.26. I will miss Rosalind. Next week we will print the moving obituaries

The magical almond Blossom season s almost over. The bees have done their work. The rain is falling. Now we are hoping for a bumper crop (and good prices). Last week the kibbutz celebrated our annual almond blossom festival on a glorious sunny Shabbat. Everyone is raving about the organisation. Thanks to the team who put together this memorable event. See the beautiful pictures in our supplement at the end of the **Cyber Edition**.  
Shabbat Shalom to you all



## Open Discussion on Changing the Laundry Budgeting Model Monday, 02.03.26 at 20:30, in the moadon

We will present data from the Clothing Branch, the reasons for the proposed change, and outline the proposal for conducting a pilot trial run.

**Open Discussion on Changing the Laundry Budgeting Model**

**Monday, 02.03.26 | 20:30 in the Moadon**

- ✓ Presenting data from the Clothing Branch
- ✓ Reasons for the Proposed Change
- ✓ Outline of the Pilot Proposal



## Thank You – Almond Blossom Festival



This year the sun decided to smile upon us, and the Almond Blossom Festival happened as planned! We would like to thank everyone who helped with the preparations and volunteered during the festival:



To Itzik Shechter and Yaakov Desta from the Food Branch, for their help with food from the kitchen.

To the Field Crops, Dairy, and Landscaping branches for their assistance with vehicles.

To Diana Shorrer for the magical Forest Garden corner.

To Navot Assaf, for the tractor and wagon tour that made

everyone smile.

To Gazit Baran-Levi and Tze'ela Baran-Shkolnik, for the essential help with registration for the tractor rides.

To Kobi Levy and Hannan Shaliv, for the transport arrangements that ensured everyone arrived and returned safely.

To Ido Sharoni and Idan Friedman, for their help with dismantling.

A huge thank you to all of you, and to everyone who came to celebrate with us the beauty of nature in bloom.

Almond Blossom Festival Team: Stella and Akiva Greenberg, Doron Kagan, Eviatar Assaf, Tom Adler, David Sarno, Ziv Hayon, Shira Porat, Eli Friedman, Yoni Brauman, Noa Armoza.

### Experiences from the Almond Blossom Festival 5786 - Amos Shemi

The almond trees may have moved farther away from us physically, but not in our hearts.

This year the amount of blossom was exceptional, thanks to mother nature. A successful combination of perfect weather, peak flowering, and dry ground created an ideal almond blossom festival.

In Japan they celebrate the cherry blossoms, and we have our almond blossoms, (incidentally from the same botanical family). This year's event was a huge success. The festival is held every year, and rightly so.



I hope that the excellent conditions we enjoyed this year will return in the future.

Let me say a good word, as well, for the organisers, who produced such a successful event: activity stations with active participation by the children, craft corners, food, and thoughtful arrangements also for the veteran generation who are not mobile. Well done!



***See our Almond Blossom Supplement at the end of the Cyber Edition - Ed***

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## Summary of the Community Management Meeting - 22.02.26



### Participants:

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

### 1. Food Branch Survey - The Survey that Backfired

Guests: Itzik Shechter and Adi Laviv

One of Community Management's goals for 2025 was to examine the extent to which kibbutz members make use of the Food Branch as a community resource. For this purpose, a team was established and a survey was created to provide detailed qualitative and quantitative data to support decision-making.

Erez reported that an initial review of the survey results revealed a response rate of 120% of the potential participants. This indicates that more than one questionnaire was completed per family, whether unintentionally or deliberately in order to influence the survey results.

It was noted that the team had consciously chosen a survey platform whose advantage was flexibility in survey design, but whose drawback was the inability to prevent additional submissions. This choice ultimately proved to be mistaken. The team had hoped that any duplicate submissions would be negligible, but unfortunately this was not the case.

Given that the survey results are unreliable, the team decided not to proceed with analysing them and returned the matter to Community Management for further decision-making.

The options presented included:

- Conducting a new survey using a less convenient but more reliable platform.
- Abandoning the survey option and discussing the issue directly within Community Management.
- Immediate implementation of a monitoring system, as proposed approximately two years ago.
- Completing the broader community dialogue process before addressing the Food Branch specifically.

**Decision:**

Discussion of the Food Branch will take place only after completion of the community dialogue process and in accordance with the agreements reached through it. The community dialogue process will take place over the coming months.

## **2. Procedure for Kibbutz Members' Children with Special Needs – First Discussion**

Guests: Neta Ratzin Blass, Coordinator of the Special Needs Committee; Tamar Sadur, Welfare Coordinator, Health Cluster

In January 2023, the General Assembly approved the establishment of a Special Needs Committee reporting directly to the Assembly, and approximately two months later the committee began operating.

Two main objectives were defined for the committee:

1. Providing ongoing support for sons and daughters with special needs and their parents.

2. Establishing a Special Needs Fund to ensure long-term security and support, including drafting the fund's governing procedure.

In the years since its establishment, the committee has focussed primarily on the first objective, providing individual responses to families and addressing day-to-day needs. At the same time, the committee undertook a learning process with other kibbutzim and professionals within the Kibbutz Movement regarding the committee's structure, roles, and authorities.

During the development of working methods, it became clear that the committee's composition needed refinement through the inclusion of relevant office holders in order to provide immediate and functional responses to emerging needs. It was also recognised that a formal procedure must address younger members living on Kibbutz Yizrael and in external frameworks, while also planning ahead for older age groups.

The process included participation by managerial and therapeutic role-holders on Kibbutz Yizrael, representatives of the Kibbutz Movement, and consultation with an actuary, legal advisers, and procedures from both cooperative and renewed kibbutzim.

The principles of the procedure were presented to Community Management members, and comments were collected.

A meeting will next be held with parents of children with special needs to present the main principles. After revisions and refinements, the procedure will return for approval by Community Management and the General Assembly.

Community Management members thanked Neta, Tamar, and the entire committee for their dedicated work supporting the children and their families.

**Summary prepared by:**

Erez Peleg and Limor Grimán





## Assembly Summary - 23.02.26

Participants: 32 members  
Assembly Chair: Shlomo Cohen  
Assembly Secretary: Uri Gilad

### Committee Appointments

Hedva Sharabani, Coordinator of the Committee Appointments Committee, presented the candidates for the various committees:

A. Keren Kagan, Coordinator of the Young Generation Committee – the vote took place on Kehilanet at the end of the assembly. Keren was duly elected to head the committee.

B. Yitzhak Peleg, Coordinator of the Residents Committee – the vote took place on Kehilanet at the end of the assembly. Yitzhak was elected to coordinate the committee.

C. Kobi Levy, Public Representative on the Demography Cluster – the vote took place at the ballot box on Wednesday–Thursday, 25–26.02.26. *(Results of ballot: Kobi Levy was elected – Ed)*

D. Nofar Elul and Anat Friedman – additional members of the Housing Committee.

The assembly wished all members success in their respective roles.

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### Summary of the Reserve Fund Management Meeting – 10.2.26

**Present:** Shlomo Levy, David Sharabani, Inbal Pezaro, Idan Zelas, Elad Ilan, Natasha Chernikovsky

**Participating via Zoom:** Raviv Yishai

**Absent:** Omer Cohen

**Invitees:**

Shai Wittelson, Audit Committee

Uri Greenberg, Internal Auditor, presentation of the Internal Auditor's report regarding the Reserve Fund audit

## **Agenda:**

1. Approval of the 2025 Reserve Fund audit report
2. Review of the 2025 Reserve Fund report

## **Decisions:**

1. The Management Committee approves the Reserve Fund audit report.

## **Points Raised in the Discussion:**

1. **Recommendations for improvement and correction based on the 2025 Reserve Fund audit:**
  - a. Amendment of the term length in the Fund Charter to four years.
  - b. Clarification of the Life Fund procedure regarding the addition of 2% plus indexation after age 67 to the member's entire remaining balance in the Life Fund.
  - c. Clarification in the Procedure that must be approved by the Reserve Fund Assembly (and not by the Kibbutz Assembly).
2. **Review of the Reserve Fund report:**

It was recommended to compare the Fund's budget with the situation on other kibbutzim. Costs will be examined through discussions with Reserve Fund managers (subject to their agreement to share information).

Natasha Chernikovsky and Elad Ilan.

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## **Summary of the Reserve Fund Assembly - 23.02.26**

Number of association members present at the assembly: 30.

Assembly Chair: Shlomo Cohen

Assembly Secretary: Uri Gilad

### **Presentation of the Audit Report of the Reserve Fund**

#### **A. General and Financial Overview**

The auditor's overall impression was that the Reserve Fund is managed professionally and responsibly. During 2024, an organisational change was implemented separating fund management (by the Chair) from operational management (by the Treasurer/Operations Manager).

## **B. Organisational Structure, Charter and Fund Independence**

The auditor identified several shortcomings in the legal and organisational structure of the fund:

Fund independence: The fund's institutions remain dependent on Kibbutz Yizrael, whereas according to the Charter, the fund members (the beneficiaries) should approve its decisions.

Term-of-office discrepancies: The fund Charter defines a three-year term for the Chair and Treasurer, while the kibbutz organisational structure sets a four-year term.

Role duplication: The auditor warned that overlapping roles among certain office holders may create exposure to disputes or cause issues to "fall between the cracks."

Auditor's recommendations: Examine the issue of independence with legal advisers, align the term of office with the Charter, and sharpen role definitions to prevent overlap.

**Response of those audited: The remarks were accepted.** It was noted that approvals currently given by the kibbutz assembly instead of the fund assembly will be corrected in the next Charter update. The organisational structure has already been updated to prevent term discrepancies, and role definitions will be refined in cooperation with Human Resources.

## **C. Financial Reporting and Ongoing Conduct**

The auditor found that the 2024 financial statements were presented only in December 2025. The delay resulted from the use of external bookkeeping services, which have since been replaced by in-house operations.

Recommendation: Ensure approval of financial statements within nine months from the beginning of the financial year.

## **D. Investment Management and Conflict of Interest**

A key issue raised concerned oversight of investment portfolios. In the past, fund managers relied solely on reports from portfolio managers without coordination by an external investment adviser.

Recommendations: The investment adviser should produce semi-annual and annual performance reports. Advisers must sign declarations confirming absence of conflicts of interest, and advisers should be excluded from discussions outside their direct field of expertise.

Response of those audited: An investment adviser now reports quarterly to the management committee, and these reports will also be presented to the assembly. Conflict-of-interest declarations will be arranged with all professional advisers (pension, investment and legal).

#### **E. Life Fund, Privacy Protection and Internal Control**

The auditor found that rights management in the “Life Fund” is maintained in a manual Excel file, creating exposure to data-entry errors as well as information security and privacy risks. In addition, withdrawal requests lacked the signature of fund managers (Chair or Treasurer) and included only the signature of the kibbutz Finance Manager.

Recommendations: Transfer data management to the Priority system and require the Chair’s signature on every redemption request as a key control measure.

Response of those audited: It was stated that the Excel file is stored in a secure cloud environment with restricted access permissions, and that transferring the system to Priority would require complex development.

#### **F. Strategic Vision and Mutual Assistance**

The audit noted that the Reserve Fund focuses mainly on members’ needs, while dependent sons and daughters (with special needs) are addressed primarily through the community budget.

Recommendations: Hold a strategic discussion regarding the fund’s purposes, including establishing designated funds for special needs and long-term care insurance. In addition, within the Mutual Assistance Fund, a structured loan-repayment mechanism should be established and formal response letters issued in PDF format.

Response of those audited: It was agreed to bring the matter for discussion in the kibbutz management committee. It was noted that the fund could potentially manage the entire social security framework, but this would require appropriate procedures and actuarial planning.

#### **G. Pension Issue Summary**

A significant concluding remark was that 80% of the fund’s assets are allocated to pensions, yet this subject was not examined in depth in the current report. The auditor recommended conducting a separate, comprehensive audit of pension management to safeguard members’ future.

Summary prepared by: Elad Ilan.

## From the Desk of the Committee Appointments Committee



The Committee Appointments Committee issues a **call for candidates** inviting members to submit nominations for the following committees:

- Young Generation Committee – two representatives
- Sportiyulim Committee – two representatives
- Mourning Committee – two representatives

Nominations may be submitted to any member of the committee until **12.03.26**.

Kinneret Govrin, Albert Rosilio, Liran Penn, Navot Assaf, Dotan Savir, Shelly Edelstein, Hedva Sharabani

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## Summary of the H.R. Management Meeting - 22.02.26



**Participants:** Peter Pezaro, Navot Assaf, Eddie Solow, Irit Shemesh, Shlomo Cohen, Ilan Sadur, Limor Grimman, Erez Peleg, Rochela Matalon, Kineret Govrin.

### Failure to Meet Work Obligation

A second discussion was held by the Human Resources Management regarding failure to meet the work obligation in 2025, during which data were presented and each case was explained individually. It is important to note that 97.5% of members fully met the work obligation, and a significant improvement is evident in attitudes toward work and livelihood.

Out of 199 members subject to the work obligation, five members did not meet the requirement, either due to insufficient workdays and/or failure to reach the minimum annual employment standard of an 85% position average.

According to the work procedures:

- For insufficient workdays, a fine of up to 10,000 NIS may be imposed.
- For failure to meet the employment standard, the proportional share of the profit bonus will be reduced, **and the year will not be counted toward seniority.**

The members concerned will be informed of Management's decision.

Kineret Govrin.

## Vehicle Committee Update

### Coming soon to the Siddur Rechev (Car booking system):



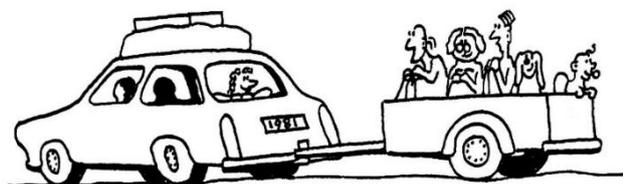
Following the approval of the 2026 budget, two vehicles have been purchased and will be added to the fleet, a large **Hyundai Staria** (No. 19 in the system) and a **Hyundai i20** (No. 57 in the system).

We thank Shlomi Harar, Anton Tal, Navot Assaf, and Moshe Mizrahi for their efforts.

Additional vehicle purchases will be carried out in stages, in accordance with budget limitations.

Drive safely!

Vehicle Committee  
Message: Ofir Griman



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### Interview with Roi Mizrahi on working at Maytronics, his love of education, and life in general - Zohar Asaf

**Zohar:** Hi Roi, it's a pleasure to meet you. Tell me a little about yourself. First of all, what did you do in the army?

**Roi:** I enlisted in September 2022. I served as a teacher-soldier. I was assigned as a teacher-soldier at Kannot Youth Village, between Gedera and Ashdod. After a year in



the role, I was accepted as a commander on a training course. I began commanding on 08.10.23, and because of the situation we had to lead the team via Zoom. It was an intense, overwhelming, and difficult month. In fact, the first time I actually met my soldiers was at the graduation ceremony. It was a very challenging period. Afterwards I returned to my boarding school and completed my service there. It was absolutely perfect!

**Zohar:** What did you teach at the boarding school?

**Roi:** A teacher-soldier in boarding schools does not really teach. The role is more connected to informal education and preparation for army service. You become part of the teenagers' daily schedule and accompany them over three years. I was with them from 9th to 11th grade, and they were the sweetest!

**Zohar:** What characterises the youth there?

**Roi:** It's an educational youth village. Most of them are not at-risk youth, but rather young people who prefer not to live at home. Sometimes there are financial difficulties at home or strained relationships between parents. I was there with them, accompanying them through informal education, and, for me, it was truly perfect. I was discharged in April last year and stayed on working with them until the end of the school year. At the beginning of July I started working at Maytronics.

**Zohar:** What do you do at Maytronics?

**Roi:** I work in production, in the cable department, and have been there for more than half a year.

**Zohar:** Do they treat you well at Maytronics?

**Roi:** Overall, yes. I come to work and do my job.

**Zohar:** Would you recommend that kibbutz members who return home work at Maytronics?

**Roi:** Yes. First of all, it is recognised as preferred work, and there are many varied positions at Maytronics.

**Zohar:** Are you happy you decided to work at Maytronics?

**Roi:** By and large, yes. It is very different from what I knew before. I always worked in educational roles, youth villages and in the kindergartens on Yizrael. But this is a good change for me.

**Zohar:** Today do you combine education and Maytronics?

**Roi:** Yes. I work at the factory, and two or three times a week I serve as youth coordinator in Nurit, responsible for educational activities and accompanying the participants.

**Zohar:** What is Yizrael for you? What do you remember from your childhood on Yizrael?

**Roi:** It is my home. The children's houses, the holidays, the events, the sense of sharing, the togetherness. In the children's education system, we spent a lot of time together during the Covid period, and it was really wonderful. Today it feels a bit different.

**Zohar:** What do you like to do in your free time?

**Roi:** I take a lot of walks around the kibbutz. It gives me time with myself and a chance to clear my head. I also really enjoy spending time with people I love.

**Zohar:** Where do you see yourself in a few years?

**Roi:** I want to try living in the centre of the country. During my army service I stepped outside the kibbutz bubble and met many people from central Israel. I have friends from Rehovot, Jerusalem, and other places. Suddenly I realised there are lives beyond the kibbutz. I grew up here, so I want to experience living in a city as well.

**Zohar:** What is your dream job?

**Roi:** My aspiration is to manage something like welfare after-school programmes, or a large educational framework, maybe a network of youth centres, something connected to informal education.

**Zohar:** Is there an additional message you would like to share?

**Roi:** My advice is to try things, experience life, and get to know different worlds. I planned to return after the army and work in early childhood education. I never imagined Maytronics would be one of the options. I think it's important to come with an open mind and never say never. If you had asked me a year ago, I would have said I would never work at Maytronics. And here I am at Maytronics, and everything is good. So just go with the flow and keep an open mind.

**Zohar:** Thank you, Roi. You are a lovely person, pleasant, polite, and content with your lot. It is always a pleasure speaking with you.

## My Second Nature — Wood Pigeon



The Wood Pigeon is very common in Europe and a rare winter visitor in Israel, with only a few documented nesting records in recent years. Until last week, it had not been seen or recorded here, on Kibbutz Yizrael.

From the birds' perspective, spring has already arrived. Barn Swallows can now be seen in the skies (more about them in the next *My Second Nature*), and Crested Cuckoos have already arrived, waiting to lay their eggs in crow nests. Both species reached the area this week.



Soon, during the month of March, wintering species such as the White Wagtail and the European Robin will depart, while additional migratory and nesting species will arrive.

The Wood Pigeons, named for the white marking around their necks, gather in flocks at this time of year before returning to Europe. They have chosen the KKL grove beneath the Noi plantings as a staging site. Around 200 individuals were counted in total.

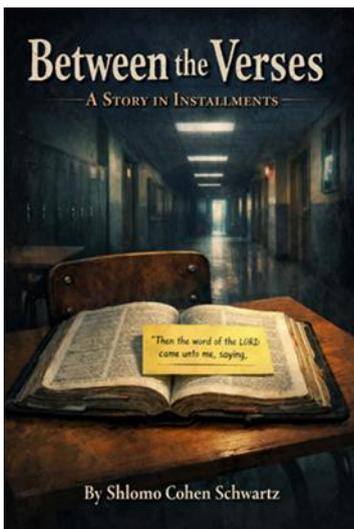
At the time of writing, the pigeons are still here but are expected to leave soon. Who knows, perhaps they will choose to remain and nest, and perhaps not. We will be happy to welcome them again next winter. Shabbat Shalom,  
Rotem Agmon



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## **Between the Verses – A Story in Instalments** by Shlomo Cohen-Schwartz

### **Chapter Seven - The Final Instalment: The Prophecy That Was Never Written**



#### **Summary of previous chapters:**

Jeremy, a Bible teacher, discovers a series of sophisticated messages and pranks in the teachers' room. At first, he suspects the students, but gradually realises that an adult within the system is responsible. A staff meeting and the increasingly open messages almost expose the truth: someone who holds power has grown bored with it. Suspicion converges on one figure, the principal.

He had not planned it. He did not deliver a speech to the staff or summon an official meeting. It happened on an ordinary morning, as a fine rain fell over the courtyard, bringing the smell of wet earth into the school. Jeremy entered the teachers' room and found it empty. On his desk lay a white sheet of paper, folded in two like an invitation. No verse. No hint.

An invitation without a time. Without a place. Without a signature.

Jeremy knew. Not because he had proof, but because proof was no longer necessary. At the end of the school day he walked down the corridor and knocked on the principal's office door. Not loudly. Not hesitantly. The knock of a teacher entering a discussion.

"Yes?"

He opened the door and went in.

The principal sat at his computer; the screen filled with teachers' timetables. He was not surprised. He did not stand. He simply closed the screen slowly.

"I thought you would come," he said.

The room was quiet. Not dramatic. The quiet of the end of a day, not the beginning of a storm. Jeremy sat down without being invited. He took the empty notebook from his bag and placed it on the desk.

"You wanted me to write," he said. "I didn't."

The principal smiled. A tired smile, not a cruel one. "You always doubt," he said. "That is both your blessing and your curse."

He stood and walked to the window. "Do you know what is hardest about being a principal?" he asked. "Everyone sees you as the responsible adult. And no one any longer sees themselves as your student."

Jeremy said nothing. He let the silence work, as in a classroom.

"When I taught," the principal continued, "I would enter a class knowing I had an hour. An hour in which I decided what would happen. Now I have entire days, and nothing moves anywhere. Everything is procedures. Everything routine. Even the disruptions have become predictable."

"So you tried to frighten us," Jeremy said quietly.

"I reminded you," the principal corrected. "I reminded all of you that you are not immune. That you are tested just like your students."

"But you wrote without taking responsibility," Jeremy said. "Without standing behind it."

The principal turned. There was no anger in his eyes, only relief. “I wanted someone to see, and maybe understand,” he said. “Not for everyone to panic.” After a moment he added, “You took it to heart immediately, perhaps because of your name. Because of the prophet.”

Jeremy smiled faintly. “Jeremiah did not play games,” he said. “He spoke truth to people’s faces. And he paid for it.”

Silence. Long. Honest.

“Do you know the difference between you and the students?” Jeremy continued. “They do foolish things because they are testing boundaries. You did it because you forgot you have boundaries.”

The principal leaned against the desk. His hand trembled slightly. “So, what now?” he asked.

“Now,” Jeremy said, “you stop playing at prophecy and go back to being a principal. And if you miss the classroom, go teach a few lessons. Tell them you miss teaching. It’s more frightening, but also more real.”

Outside, the final bell rang. Students passed through the corridor, laughing on their way to the buses. Life continued, unaware of how close it had come to a thin line.

A week later an official notice was issued: The principal was taking a period of leave for renewal. No explanation was written. No public apology was required. The teachers’ room returned to its usual noise, to spilled coffee and small jokes.

But something had changed.

Jeremy returned to a different kind of classroom. Less preaching, more asking. More willing to say, “I’m not sure either.” The students noticed. They always notice. And on the next exam, when someone quoted in the margin a verse about destruction, Jeremy added beneath it in red pen:

“After destruction, there is renewal.”

Because that was the lesson he carried with him: if we truly listen, we can learn how to stop hiding behind titles or roles, and simply be human.

— End —

# The Biblical Background to “Between the Verses”

The serial draws deeply on biblical ideas, imagery, and narrative structure, even though it takes place in a modern school. Its meaning becomes clearer when read against several central biblical themes, especially those connected with prophecy, authority, and moral responsibility.

## 1. Jeremy and the Figure of the Prophet Jeremiah

Although the protagonist is **Jeremy**, the story deliberately echoes the biblical prophet **Jeremiah (Yirmiyahu)** through the similarity of names. This is a literary device rather than an identification.

The biblical Jeremiah is known as:

- a reluctant truth-teller
- a figure who challenges authority while remaining inside the system
- someone burdened by moral awareness rather than personal ambition
- a prophet who speaks plainly and accepts the consequences

Jeremy represents a modern, secular version of this role. He is not a prophet, yet he becomes the person who insists on honesty and responsibility. When he says that “Jeremiah did not play games,” the story contrasts authentic prophecy, which stands openly behind its message, with imitation prophecy that hides behind anonymity.

The question underlying the story becomes: **What happens when authority adopts prophetic methods without prophetic accountability?**

## 2. Prophecy as Moral Diagnosis

In the Hebrew Bible, prophecy is rarely prediction. Its purpose is to expose hidden truths and provoke reflection.

A close parallel appears in the prophet Nathan confronting King David (2 Samuel 12). Nathan first tells a story that allows David to recognise himself before the accusation is revealed.

The mysterious messages in the teachers’ room function in a similar way. They unsettle the community and force self-examination. The difference is decisive: biblical prophets ultimately reveal themselves and accept responsibility. The principal does not, and this moral gap drives the conflict.

## 3. Authority and Boundaries

A recurring biblical principle is that leaders are never above limits:

- King Saul loses legitimacy when he oversteps prophetic boundaries.
- King Uzziah is punished for entering a role that is not his.
- Even Moses faces consequences for crossing a line.

Jeremy's insight — that the principal forgot he has boundaries — echoes this biblical understanding: authority increases responsibility rather than freedom from restraint.

#### **4. Silence as a Biblical Narrative Tool**

Many biblical turning points occur in quiet encounters rather than dramatic confrontations.

Elijah meets God not in wind or fire but in a “still small voice” (1 Kings 19). Recognition scenes in Genesis also unfold through pauses and restrained dialogue.

The calm office conversation mirrors this tradition. The climax is recognition, not exposure — a deeply biblical resolution.

#### **5. Destruction Followed by Renewal**

The closing idea — “After destruction, there is renewal” — reflects one of the central messages of the Book of Jeremiah itself. Biblical prophecy combines warning with hope:

- destruction exposes failure
- renewal becomes possible through change

Jeremy's red-pen comment transforms judgment into learning, echoing Jeremiah's promise of restoration after crisis.

#### **6. The Meaning of the Unwritten Prophecy**

The title “*The Prophecy That Was Never Written*” reflects a biblical notion that not every prophetic moment becomes scripture. Sometimes the purpose of prophecy is fulfilled once people change their behaviour.

In this story, the true prophecy is the conversation itself. Because recognition occurs, public scandal becomes unnecessary. Repentance quietly cancels the need for punishment — a recurring biblical idea.

#### **In essence**

The serial adapts biblical structure to a contemporary setting:

- Prophet figure → Jeremy, the questioning teacher
- King/authority → the principal
- Prophetic sign → anonymous messages
- Rebuke → private confrontation
- Judgment → withdrawal and reflection
- Consolation → renewed teaching

Like many biblical narratives, the story ends not with triumph or defeat, but with transformation — the rediscovery of humanity beneath titles and roles.

**Edi-tor**: I asked ChatGPT one final question:

**ChatGPT**: Possibly, but it is **not explicit**, and the story works deliberately on more than one level.

Here are the main reasons readers might *sense* a political allusion, alongside reasons it may simply remain a universal institutional parable.

### **Why it can feel like an allusion to current Israeli leadership**

#### **1. Power growing detached from purpose**

The principal describes boredom, routine, and loss of meaning after gaining authority. That echoes a common public criticism of long-serving political leadership, not only in Israel but in many countries, where leaders are seen as maintaining control while losing connection to original ideals.

#### **2. Testing boundaries instead of leading**

Jeremy's key line, that the principal "forgot you have boundaries," mirrors political discourse about leaders pushing institutional limits or norms rather than modelling restraint.

#### **3. No public apology, quiet leave**

The resolution, renewal leave without explanation, resembles the ambiguity often surrounding political accountability, where consequences occur but responsibility is not openly acknowledged.

#### **4. Prophecy metaphor**

The contrast between a true prophet (who speaks openly and pays a price) and someone *playing at prophecy* can read as commentary on leaders who claim historical or moral destiny without accepting personal cost.

### **Why it may *not* be a specific political allegory**

#### **1. The setting is strictly educational**

Everything unfolds within a school, a classic literary device for exploring authority, hierarchy, and ethics in a contained environment.

**2. Universal institutional theme**

The story fits equally well as a reflection on:

- o school leadership,
- o kibbutz governance,
- o organisational bureaucracy,
- o academia,
- o or any system where authority becomes procedural.

**3. Psychological rather than political focus**

The emotional centre is personal fatigue and longing for meaning, not ideology or policy.

**Most likely reading**

The story functions as a **parable about power and responsibility**, intentionally open enough that readers can project contemporary realities onto it. A reader living in Israel today may naturally hear political echoes, but the text never anchors itself to a specific leader or event.

**In literary terms, it operates as allegorical ambiguity: it invites recognition without naming its target.**

*Thank you, Shlomo, for this intriguing and thought-provoking serial. Next week we will post a link to the whole story - Ed.*

\*\*\*\*\*8

**New in the Library**

The library staff is saddened by the passing of our librarian,  
 Rosalind Kotler,  
 who arrived every Sunday afternoon and opened the library with a smile and  
 warmth.

**New English Books – Reut Shaliv**

**1. Memorial Days – Geraldine Brooks**

A deeply personal memoir in which Geraldine Brooks reflects on grief, memory, and the rituals of mourning after the sudden loss of her husband, writer Tony Horwitz. Blending travel, reflection, and emotional honesty, the book explores how remembrance reshapes identity and love over time.

## 2. Winter Garden – Kristin Hannah



A family drama set between contemporary America and wartime Leningrad, where two sisters uncover their mother’s hidden past through a haunting fairy tale she finally agrees to tell. The novel weaves themes of survival, trauma, and reconciliation across generations.

## 3. I’m Glad My Mom Died – Jennette McCurdy

A candid and darkly humorous memoir by former child actor Jennette McCurdy about growing up under intense parental pressure and the emotional cost of fame. With striking honesty, she examines control, eating disorders, and the difficult path toward independence and healing.

## 4. The Enchanted April – Elizabeth von Arnim

A gentle, uplifting classic about four very different English women who escape their ordinary lives by renting a castle in Italy for a month. In the warmth of Spring and beauty of the Italian landscape, each discovers renewal, friendship, and unexpected personal transformation.

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## Energy Costs - The Transition Season Towards Summer



The transition season has finally begun. Spring starts on the 20th–21st of the month, with a drop in cold temperatures and also in electricity tariffs, after a short but expensive winter.

### TOU (Time-of-Use) Hours and Electricity Tariffs

Valid until the summer tariff period begins, for approximately four months.

#### Sunday–Thursday

Peak: 17:00–22:00

Off-peak: all other hours

#### Friday evenings and holiday eves

All hours: off-peak

#### Saturdays and holidays

All hours: off-peak

## Electricity Cost per kWh (low voltage, excluding VAT)

### **Winter:**

Peak: ₪0.8628 | Off-peak: ₪0.3040

### **Summer:**

Peak: ₪1.3313 | Off-peak: ₪0.3367

### **Transition:**

Peak: ₪0.3304 | Off-peak: ₪0.2965

### **Reminder**

Those who have Shabbat timers operating the water heater should adjust the operating hours according to the off-peak times. Check that the clock is correctly set, and please remind the younger generation as well.

Solar water heaters will still operate using electricity until the end of April. Gradually, they will rely more on solar energy to complete the heating process. From May onwards, solar heaters will operate solely on solar power.

If the sun heats the water sufficiently, the boiler can be switched off manually. If solar heating is insufficient, the boiler may be turned on manually for half an hour.

Remember to switch it off after half an hour. Otherwise, you may only discover at the end of the month, when the electricity bill arrives, that you forgot.

As part of Passover cleaning, do not forget to clean the air-conditioner filters. Change the direction of ceiling fans so that they push air downward. Installing a ceiling fan can save up to 15% of cooling or heating energy costs.

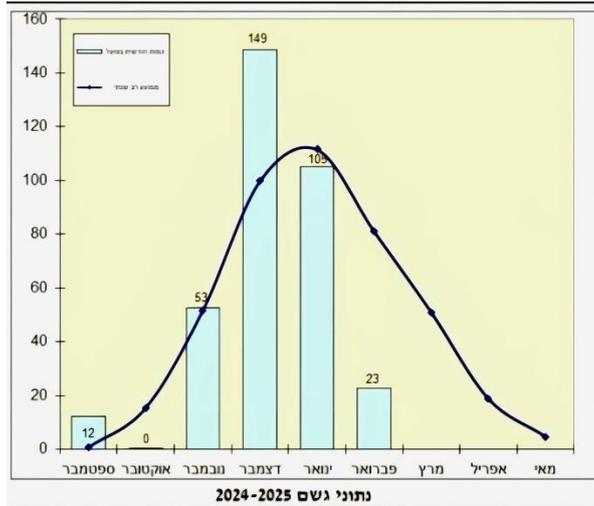
Wishing everyone a pleasant and happy Spring.

### **On Friday, 27 March, we switch to Daylight Saving Time.**

At 02:00 at night, between Thursday and Friday, move the clock forward one hour to 03:00, and sleep one hour less.

**Daylight Saving Time will end on Sunday, 25 October 2026, at 02:00**, when you gain the lost hour back, 219 days of “summer time.”

Jeremy Perling  
Energy Coordinator



## Rainfall Winter 2025-2026

Rainfall in the past 7 days – 9mm

Rainfall to date: **342 mm**

As compared to the multi-year average to date: **350 mm (-2%)**

### Rainfall Table

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

Ohad Ziv

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## Delving into the Archives

On Monday evening, the eve of Purim 5786 will be marked. A happy Purim to all the members of Yizrael and its residents!

There have always been members who invested time and effort in preparing Purim costumes, but I have the impression that in the past far more effort and time were devoted to them.

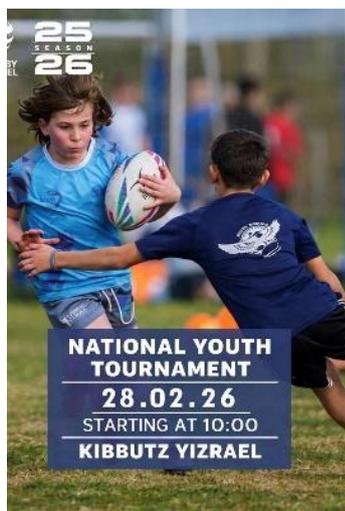
Purim 1968. Eilon Halevi, Chagai Shalhevet and Anton Baran, of blessed memory. Nitsa believes that Hezi Harpaz sewed the costumes (*Who else but Hezi could do it then or now – Ed*). The trio performed and apparently sang. Sadly, it is doubtful that anyone still remembers what they sang. I imagine them performing an operatic piece.



Jules Feldman

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## Rugby on Our Field – This Saturday



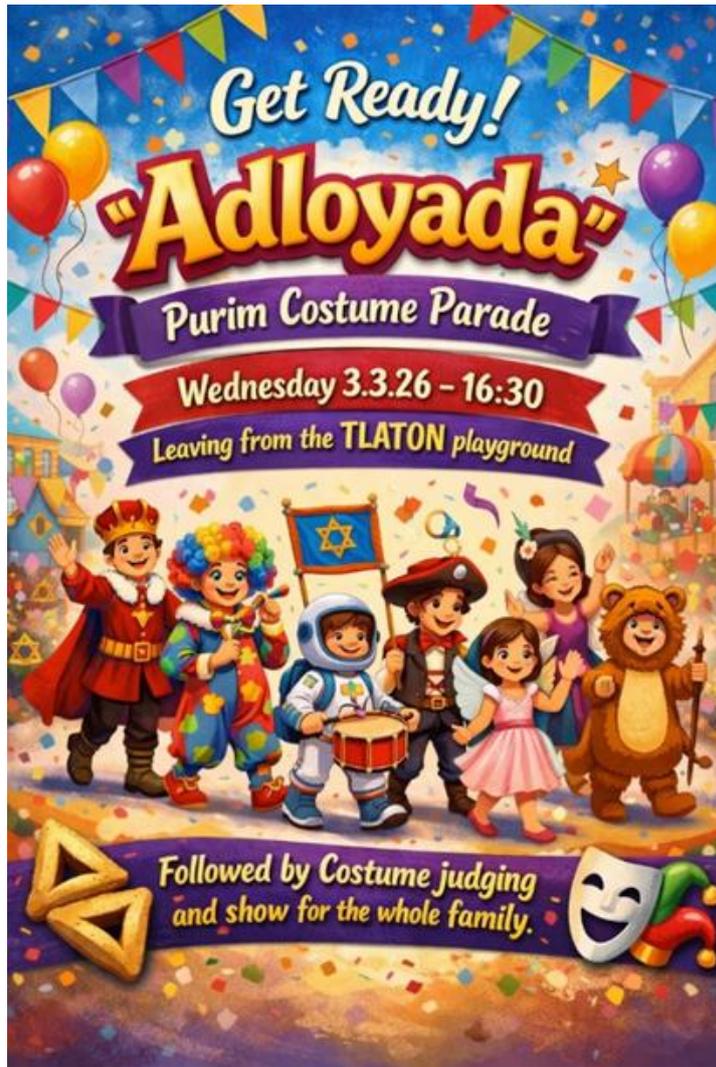
This coming Saturday, starting at 10:00 in the morning, a national rugby tournament for children and youth will take place on the rugby field on Kibbutz Yizrael.

Throughout the morning, the field will be filled with young players from across the country, creating a sporting, competitive and festive atmosphere. All our club teams, from the youngest players through to the youth squads, will take to the field and aim to continue the club's impressive winning streak this season. At the end of the youth tournament (around 15:00), a lower-playoff tournament for senior teams will be held, in which the Yizrael Under-19

team will also participate.

This is a wonderful opportunity for the entire community to come along, cheer from the sidelines, enjoy high-quality sport and support our children and youth who represent Yizrael with great pride. The club's senior team is currently in second place in the league table, with six wins and two losses to Maccabi Tel Aviv. Two more matches remain on Yizrael's home field, on 07.03 (against Majd al-Krum) and 14.03 (against Tel Aviv), before the final match scheduled for 28.03 in Tel Aviv against the league leaders. Later in the season, from April through July, several major events are planned to take place on our field, including an international match against Cyprus, an international rugby sevens tournament, and Maccabiah Games matches.

See you on the grass this Saturday. Idan Zelas





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### Beacon on the Hill

#### Activity Programme

Day and Date	Time	Activity
Sunday 01.03.26	07:00	Walk with Shlomit and Peter
	09:00	Sweet gathering with Noa and Monica
Monday 02.03.26	08:00	Pedicure with Limor Moualem (appointment required)
	10:00	Paths of the Kibbutz
Tuesday 03.03.26	10:00	Preparing hamantaschen with Michal Shaanan
Wednesday 04.03.26	10:00	Mask-making with Noga Shapira
	17:15	Chair exercise with Michal Shaanan
Thursday 05.03.26	09:30	Film with Galia Shemi

## ENGLISH IS FUN with Rahel

The longest English word that can be spelled without repeating any letters is "uncopyrightable".

- GOOSE – GEESE
- NOOSE – NOOSES
- MOOSE – MOOSE
- (English learners honestly never have had a chance.)
  
- The number of people who confuse 'to' and 'too' is amazing two me.
  
- Can February March? No. But April May.
  
- "All together" is written separately. "Separately" is written all together.
  
- **Hired a handy man and gave him a list. When I got home, only 1, 3 and 5 were done. Turns out, he only does odd jobs.**
  
- "Can you tie a knot?"  
"I cannot."  
"So you can knot?"  
"No, I cannot knot."  
"Not knot?"  
"Who's there?"
  
- Incapable = not capable  
Inflammable = flammable  
Invaluable = very valuable

The human brain is a complex organ with the wonderful power of enabling man to find reasons for continuing to believe whatever it is that he wants to believe. VOLTAIRE

## PLEONASM

Pleonasm is the use of more words than necessary to express an idea.

I saw it with my own eyes.                      free gift    close proximity  
end result            true fact            burning fire            added bonus  
final outcome            unexpected surprise                      PIN number  
completely destroyed            future plans            final conclusion  
absolutely necessary                      past history            personal  
opinion  
round circle    safe haven            serious danger            sudden impulse  
ATM machine            empty void            exact replica  
frozen ice            short summary                      tall skyscraper  
tiny speck            unsolved mystery            visible to the eye  
unexpected crisis    .....more next week

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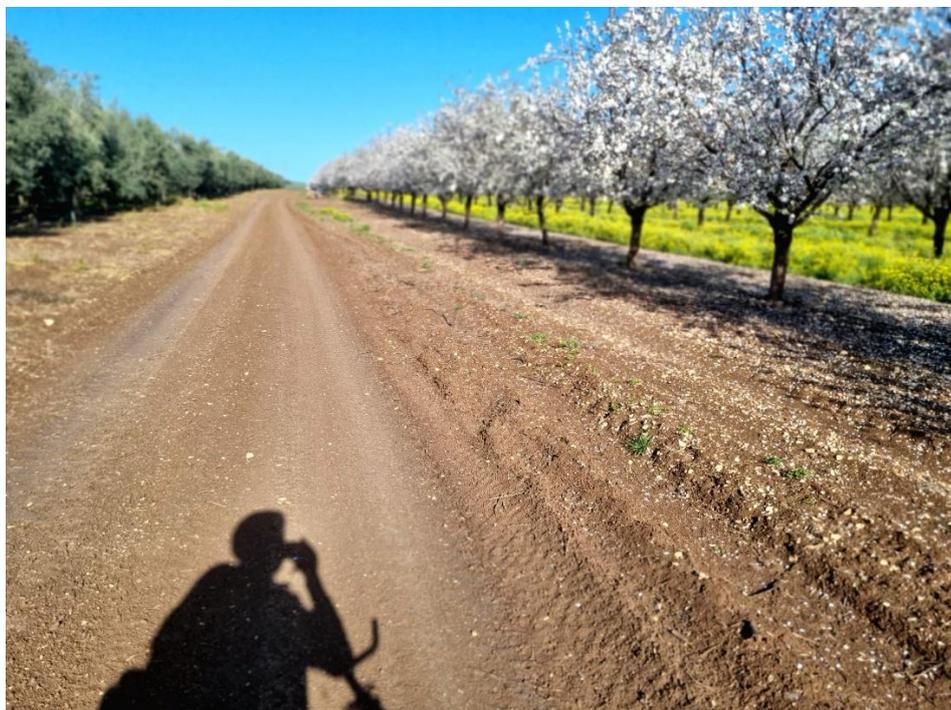
# Annual Almond Blossom Festival Pictorial Supplement

With Thanks to the photographers













## **Credits and More:**

**Editor of Hebrew Newsletter: Reut Shaliv**

**Translator and editor of The Yizraelite: 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.

**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.