

## Matzuva's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations continue



AN EVENING TO SAVOUR



FOUNDER MEMBER DAN CARMI SHOWS GRANDSON

**Nearly 600** residents of Matzuva packed into the auditorium adjacent to the swimming pool to celebrate Matzuva's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. Since it's founding in 1940 Matzuva has had numerous ups and downs – demographic, social, economic, security.. just name it. While honouring the past with the dwindling number of founder members Matzuva is now very much looking towards the future. However, this was an evening to cherish with our 80+ year old members being the first group on the stage. After the opening greetings by Avia and Uri came the great rotating cube display by the younger generation, a video film produced by Hava Cohen and Liron Levi dedicated to Matzuva was screened with scenes from Day 1 right up to the present (material from the Matzuva archive). Then our guest compère, Sarale Sharon (from Kibbutz Ashdot-Yaacov) took over the stage.



NEW RESIDENTS WITH SARALE



FOUNDER MEMBERS & OVER 80's



MATZUVA GLEE CLUB WITH SARALE

The atmosphere was electric and Sarale who is famous throughout Israel for sing-ins invited nearly half the audience onto the stage – veterans, mothers with babies, nucleus groups, second and third generation kids, etc. This was followed by a sing-in with the lyrics being shown on big screens and folk dancing. Outside the auditorium a booth was set up for refreshments with an amazing array of 70 cakes baked by the ladies of Matzuva. In the "Beytan" building adjacent there was an exhibition of rare photos and artifacts from the early days.



ROTATING CUBES – YOUNGSTERS CELEBRATING MATZUVA'S 70<sup>th</sup> [ALL PHOTOS: Max Nathans]

## Tiyul Matzuva

The following day a lot of residents old and new gathered for an educational tour of Matzuva to visit some of the points linked to the history of Matzuva. The tiyul was organized by Yigal, Haim (from the community village and Ohad (a new member). Due to the numbers the group was split into 3. The first point was the Watch Tower built in the mid-40's and then to the former Children's farm, the former Tobacco Houses (near the northern gate), the "Slick" (hidden firearms prior to the establishment of the State of Israel) at the site of the old clinic, the old Wooden dining room (now the minimarket), the Baby House (when kibbutz kids lived away from their parents), the Water Tower next to the kitchen area, Arigei Matzuva weaving that began as a single hand-loom in the brick building next to the bus stop at the circle, the site of the Communal Showers, the old Dairy, the old Members Club, the Field Crops storeroom (later used as the Jailhouse Rock pub), the Swimming Pool built by members in their spare time in the 1950's and finally the Mushroom Houses (mushroom growing, later the kitchen's freezer rooms). A quiz about the sites was held – no idea who won. At the end of the tour everyone gathered at the moadon (clubhouse) for hot soup and the many cakes that weren't devoured the previous evening. Everyone enjoyed the event that also acquainted our new residents and new members with points of interest at Matzuva.



MEMBERS REMEMBERING DETAILS



THE SOUP KITCHEN CHEFS



FOLLOWING GIDON [PHOTOS: IRENE KADMON]



THE MATZUVA WATER TOWER (NOW & THEN) [PHOTO: MAX NATHANS]



FIRST WEAVING FACTORY 1940's (NEXT TO BUS STOP) [PHOTO: MAX NATHANS]



SOUP FOR ALL THE PEOPLE [PHOTO: IRENE KADMON]

The next tiyul (ramble) will be to some of the surrounding hills and points of significance for Matzuva residents (March 20<sup>th</sup>).

It seems this weekend that everyone in Israel seems to be in fancy dress for the festival of Purim.

For those not of the Jewish persuasion, here's why it's celebrated: The irony of it all is that ancient Persia is Iran of today and we talk about history repeating itself! **Purim** means "lots", and commemorates the deliverance of the Jewish population of the ancient Persian Empire from Haman's plot to annihilate them, as recorded in the Biblical Book of Esther (*Megillat Esther*). According to the story, Haman cast lots to determine the day upon which to exterminate the Jews.

Matzua as always lets it hair down during Purim and everyone has a good time as befits the significance of the occasion.

Here's a selection of some of Max's shots on things!



JUST HEAVEN



WHO ARE THEY?



URI, AVNER & EX-VOLUNTEER SOPHIA & EX-ULPAN SANDI



IN THE MOOD



YES THAT'S LEX & SON ON THE LEFT



THE YOUNGER CROWD HAVE THEIR OWN PARTY

On a sadder note we mourn the passing of Yardena Rona who passed away on the eve of Matzuva's 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

The family asked that the celebration continue as planned.

Yardena (ר"ר) was laid to rest at Matzuva on the following Sunday.



27.2.28 - 11.2.2010

Yardena was born in February 1928 as Camilla Friedman, the fourth of six children of a family who were the only Jews in their home town in Transylvania, Romania. She left school early in order to help out the family and in 1944 went to Budapest and worked for a family that were killed in an air-raid. She then returned at the age of 15 to her town. All the Jews were herded into a large building and forced to wear the yellow star of david. They were then taken on the forced "Death March" with people "dying like flies" – "the march was very very hard" she recalled. When the war ended in 1945 she discovered that all her family had perished.

She joined the "Young Maccabi" youth movement and after 10 months training she sailed to Mandatory Palestine. The voyage was long and life threatening. On the same ship was her future husband Aryeh (Etchi). They were both exiled by the British to a detention camp in Cyprus and luckily met up with the late Sara Cochav from Matzuva who was an emissary at the detention camps. They couple only finally reached Israel at the end of 1947. Yardeni was then pregnant with her eldest Yehudit. After the birth Yardena was sent to Nahariya as there were no facilities at encircled Matzuva. She eventually returned in a supply convoy to Matzuva. Two further children, Ilan and Dorit, were born to Yardena and Aryeh. Yardena worked in the children's kitchen and later at the laundry working there until retirement. Aryeh passed away 10 years ago and that signaled a deterioration in her health and her work in "Amcha" an organization for Holocaust survivors.

A few years later, Yardena went on a "heritage trip" to retread former steps, that was a highlight in her life. During the last year she grew ever weaker and her untimely death was a release from all the pain. Yardena is grieved by her 3 children, 10 grandchild and 1 great-grandchild who were with her to the end.

May her dear soul finally rest in peace.

(obituary written by Edna, editor of the Matzuva Newsletter – translation: Baruch)

***HAPPY ANNIVERSARY MATZUVA – 70 YEARS AND STILL GOING STRONG!***



That's all for now - keep posted and write in to the website

Take care  
Baruch Kadmon,  
Kibbutz Matzuva – February 28, 2010