

## The Winds and Rain of March

**Last week** we had over 80 mm of rain in just 4 days but it seems that we are in for the usual long hot spring, summer and autumn seasons with no irrigation for the once beautiful lawns at Matzuva. We've also had very strong winds and unfortunately a number of trees have fallen. There will be an absence of active sprinklers on the lawns because of a dire shortage of water (with harsh penalties) in Israel and our gardening team predict that some lawns will disappear. Up to date we've had 570 mm of rain which is more or less average with the some more expected this month but country wise the situation is really bad.

**Purim.....Purim**: As always all sorts of strange characters appeared on the Matzuva scene this week with all the kids and teachers in fancy dress. Everyone met in front of the moadon on Sunday for a fancy dress competition and the Book of Esther was recited before to the assembly to celebrate the saving of the Jews of Shushan (in Persia/Iran) from annihilation in the 5<sup>th</sup> Century BC. The next evening some yeshiva students and their families



recited from the Book of Esther at the Matzuva Synagogue. Today, Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> – the traditional Purim party will take place at the moadon with free drinks, special costumes and DJ Weizmann all for a mere 20 shekels. Entrance for 18+ and above.



Members consult with the Matzuva civil engineer about the road (Photo: Max Nathans) Meanwhile the road within Matzuva stretching from the south to the north passing below the moadon (clubhouse) is now being widened for 2-way traffic 5 meters wide (with gravel on one side and a pedestrian sidewalk on the other). This is a major upheaval with bushes and trees having to be moved as well as the construction of 2 parking lots per household encroaching existing plots. Heavy earthmoving equipment is presently being used to widen the road as quickly as possible.

**Infrastructures**: The face of Matzuva continues to change both physically and demographically. There are plans for a further 50 housing plots to the west of the perimeter fence and also approval to convert the area of the country lodging opposite the soccer field also for new members.

**Matzuva Committee:** Fanny Cohen, Ada Peterman, Miriam Ne'eman and Shlomo Cohen have completed their stint on the kibbutz committee (deals with community related matters) with Sara Dalfen, Batya Safien, Baruch Kadmon and Nitzan Hirshberg replacing them. Roni Ben-Zion and Yishai Ephroni are continuing their term on the committee. Shlomo will continue to represent Matzuva on the Mateh Asher Regional Council and be a member of the



official appointed committee chaired by the trustee of the court, Dani Ivri that is convened once monthly. We thank Fanny, Ada and Miriam for their work and input in sometimes difficult circumstances.

**Education:** Ronit Dangour (from neighbouring Kibbutz Evron) coordinator of education updates on activities for children at Matzuva.

*"There's a good feeling in the field of education for infants – a lot of activities and continuous developments for this age group. Each toddler placed a sapling in a plant pot that now decorate the entrances to their children's houses during Tu Bishvat (New Year for Trees). A ceremony took place accompanied by dancing, performances and refreshments.*

*A big thank you to our kindergarten "Family Day" was held in all the to see the work of the kindergarten with Limor who holds a educational "Tomer" kindergarten. The "Dekel" children hosted parents at another music teacher. During Purim each fancy dress and heard the Purim story appearing in the Book of Esther.*



*teachers and staff. A kindergartens enabling staff including a session circle once a week at the kindergarten for younger session with Yaeli, the kindergarten celebrated in*

*The renovation of the "Shir" baby house has been completed by the regional council contractor (financed by the Housing Ministry). The building is beautiful and 3 babies from the "Zemer" baby house will join another three babies there with Raya Goldman and Ruti Pelach working at "Shir". That now brings us up to five age levels (buildings) at Matzuva".*

The Matzuva education committee meets regularly and includes both formal and informal education representatives, a parent representative and a member of the kibbutz committee along with Ronit the education coordinator. It covers matters relating to children from the cradle up to 12<sup>th</sup> graders. Residents from stages A and B of *Nofey Matzuva* have signed up children for the coming school year and the children's houses will be full to capacity with no places for children from the area. A further kindergarten is to be completed by 2010 and we will have 170 children in the toddlers age group. With tens of new and young families building at the community village and a potential baby boom there will be need to find solutions and facilitate early education for all children of residents of Matzuva.

**Matzuva 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Preparations:** Although the anniversary falls in 2010 Matzuva is already active with a string of volunteers determined to present a number of events including a movie to commemorate the historic event in 1940. Committees have been set up – a visual committee (coordinator Jackie Meirkewitz [ex-Ulpan]), documentations (Max [ex-Ulpan]), Field-trips (Yigal Kanar), Children’s Day (Chava Cohen), Matzuva Day (?), Festivals (Einav & Ilana Chen [*Nofey Matzuva*, new member], Sports (Inbar Manor), Cultural coordination (Jo Samoushi [ex-Ulpan]).

Other projects are an “Open House” (hosting of old and new members), get-togethers, discussion circles, etc. (coordinator Oshra Abrams) plus a Song Fest, Erev Yom Kippur also coordinated by Oshra. Jackie will organize a “Matzuva Recipe Book”, a museum exhibition presenting the history of Matzuva. There will also be a singing troupe entertaining throughout the celebrations and much more to come. Everything is to be based on local talent. The funding source for the celebrations will be discussed and decided upon shortly.



Photo: Max Nathans

Meanwhile, we have celebrated the **69<sup>th</sup> birthday of Matzuva** with various events with veteran members writing about early days at Matzuva.

**Shlomo Doron** (aged 90+) writes about the tents among olive trees in the 1940’s (in the area of the minimarket). He sees new houses arising like mushrooms after the rain and remembers that once Matzuva was the sole grower of mushrooms in Israel.

The dining room was originally a tin hut, then a wooden one followed by the modern dining room serving four meals a day.



**Hava & Shlomo Doron**  
(Photo: Max Nathans)

Today it lies empty and deserted with a plan to open a community centre there (providing we can raise the necessary funding). Shlomo remembers the laundry at the bus stop that supplied clean washing, darned folded and ironed - that today is a gourmet restaurant. He remembers 7 years without water with members queuing up to shower at the communal showers in a tin hut with the boys looking at the other sex through a crack in the wall. Today, the swimming pool is to be renovated (and eventually relocated) and there is a dire shortage of water in Israel. Shlomo recalls when one would run in the evening to put the kids to sleep in the children’s houses – today the children’s houses are as active as ever but the kids now sleep at

home! The time when there was only one telephone shared with our neighbours at Kibbutz Hanita – now most kids have cell-phones.

There was once a vineyard that was eventually uprooted but he's proud of today's bountiful banana and avocado plantations that Matzuva was the first to plant in the region.

Shlomo recalls the many meetings with members on the kibbutz pathways and today meets only the staff at the clinic or members at the cemetery.

Shlomo finally writes "*Stop all this remembering – enough is enough!*". He hopes that these memories will serve as a basis for a thriving and dynamic community that will absorb new members, raise a lot of kids and create a close-knit community respecting everyone and helping each other.

Congratulations to Matzuva on its 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

Until next time

Have a good weekend and take care

Shalom

Baruch

Matzuva

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