

## *Late January 2010 Update- A new year for trees!*

The Good News is that we've had good rainfalls during December and January and at the time of writing Matzuva has a total of 580 mm of rain so far that is only 20 mm short of last years entire rainfall. Everyone is pleased especially our agricultural branch as well as our nature lovers who are over the moon as dry wadis in our area are flowing once more with water. The Kinneret or Lake Tiberias that supplies most of Israel's water has risen by nearly a meter over the last two months and the Hermon mountain has already a few inches of snow.

### New Year for Trees

All over the country thousands of new trees have been planted on the date of the New Year for Trees. Ulpan members who were at Matzuva in the late eighties and nineties of the last century will remember planting olive trees on the southern side of Matzuva's approach road. Well, they are giving fruit and the olives are picked by kibbutz kids and taken to an olive press at a nearby Arab village and this quality olive oil is sold to finance activities by this age group. One should know that trees are highly valued in Israel and afforestation work is ongoing to compensate for the indiscriminate felling of trees during the Ottoman occupation of Palestine for railway construction prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> World War.

### Matzuva of the Future

The vision for Matzuva during the coming decade is now being formulated and being presented to members and residents of Matzuva in preparation for its presentation to a special general assembly within the coming months. A group of residents along with representatives of the kibbutz committee have been busy over the last few months assisted by Ilan Meyer, a qualified moderator, in formulating the proposed vision. It has dealt with social, demographic and environmental issues as well as formulating a binding bond between the various Matzuva residents both from the kibbutz and the community village. It looks like that there will be a municipal framework and within it an agricultural entity of the kibbutz members who own the economic assets of Matzuva. The blend between the two communities is vital to the future of Matzuva.

### 70 Years Matzuva

During the coming week a special edition of the Kibbutz Newsletter in Hebrew will be published and next Friday we will commemorate the actual founding day of Matzuva 70 years ago with a gala event in the auditorium. 29 founders made the trek from the lower Hanita "Tower and Stockade" to the bare and very rocky hill that we now know as Matzuva of modern times (Matzuva was known as one of the Israelite towns in the district of Tyre during Talmudic times).

Below, a few pictures from the Matzuva archives of the first days at Matzuva 1940:



FIRST DAYS: CLEARING ROCKS ON THE MATZUVA HILL



FIRST DAYS: HARD PHYSICAL WORK ON THE VIRGIN LAND AT MATZUVA



FIRST DAYS: THE WATER URN (WATER BROUGHT IN BY TRUCK FROM NAHARIYA



FIRST DAYS: HOUSING WAS VERY BASIC DURING THE FIRST FEW YEARS AT MATZUVA



DAVID BEN-GURION AT MATZUVA 1947 WARNING THEM OF IMPENDING ISRAELI WAR OF INDEPENDENCE



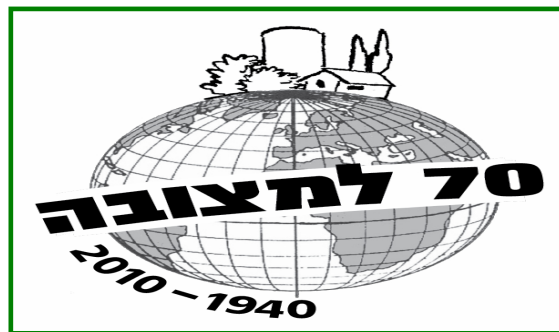
THE MATZUVA WE ALL KNOW TODAY



YOUNG LADIES OF MATZUVA TODAY

Finally,

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



Keep posted and write in to the website

Take care  
Baruch Kadmon,  
Kibbutz Matzuva – January 31, 2010