

JUNE UPDATE

Hi Everyone

Well spring has come and gone and the transition period has arrived with temperatures constantly hovering around 30⁰ Celsius and this is only the start of the summer. Being just beyond the coastal plain we have the added "burden" of humidity but as they say life goes on.

Water: is at a premium and especially with regard to watering lawns. The kibbutz committee sat down to discuss this with Ingrid Ben-Shabbat (ex-Ulpan graduate) who is in charge of the gardens. Ingrid presented her programme for the summer months and it was decided to accept her plan for irrigating public lawns weekly from mid-May and irrigating lawns in front of resident's homes starting mid-June. As mentioned in earlier updates the state of lawns has left us with a lot to desire with a dull yellow/brown instead of the lush green of yesteryear. Our successful agricultural branch is paired together with water allocations for household consumers on the kibbutz. If the kibbutz exceeds the water allowance then the kibbutz pays a higher rate for water and also receives a fine as do our household consumers. Most members try to tend to their gardens and their trees and shrubs but we may be facing a losing battle until the next rains are due to appear in...October!

Swimming pool: The renovated and modified pool has been opened and although it is hired out by private firm Yigal Kanar is the lifeguard and Aryeh David is the maintenance person who also runs the the small kiosk at the entrance. This Friday there is an evening event at the pool and a live disco at the old dining room organized by the younger adult generation. The old Ulpan bomb shelter is now the kibbutz pub (pictures available on Max's photo albums on this website).

Yes Satellite TV: We are now approaching the final stage of linking all the members and residents to the "YES" DBS Satellite Services digital link up. Over 200 households have signed up after voting for a large digital selection (around 70+ channels) or a limited analog selection (13-14 channels). Quite a number of residents have purchased additional services, equipment and channels. It's been a longwinded link-up that has taken nearly 10 weeks to complete.

Matzuva – How do we see the Future: Since the demise of Arigei Matzuva, the kibbutz weaving plant, and it consequently bringing the kibbutz community down with it we can really say today "that the Phoenix has arisen from the flames". The amazing turnaround since 2003 continues and we must look forward and plan for the future and how Matzuva will be the day after we finally return our debt to our debtors. The kibbutz committee and a group of concerned members are now moving together to involve the entire community both on the kibbutz and the Nofey Matzuva community village towards the future. The time schedule is to cover the coming months through to December in which there will be a general meeting to decide on the process, the choosing of a steering committee of Matzuva committee members, the demographic growth committee and additional members. The steering committee will draw up a "Vision for Matzuva" and their suggestions are to be presented to the central committee and the general meetings. This will be followed by work within sub-committees who will detail the subjects to be tackled. Finally, towards the end of

2009 a comprehensive and detailed paper is to be presented and ratified by the general meeting.

Infrastructures: The "*Trans-Matzuva Road*" running from south to north is now finally ready enabling 2-way traffic with a sidewalk (pavement) running its entire length. Street lighting has been installed and parking lots have been constructed along the way going a long way to solving the parking problem at Matzuva but not far enough.

Stage A of "Nofey Matzuva" is nearing completion and as soon as the electricity infrastructure is finally in place residents will start moving into their new homes. This means that quite a few apartments on the kibbutz will become vacant for renting and I've heard that there is a waiting list of about 30 couples all of whom are future residents of "Nofey Matzuva". **Infrastructures for Stage B** which is to the south of the entrance road are well advanced and residents will be taking out government mortgages and should be able to move in within 12-18 months. The former children's farm site is also a hive of activity with houses being built for new kibbutz members.

The Shavuot Celebration at Matzuva marking the "Festival of the First Fruits" that took place at the olive grove on the lawn to the north of the dining room was an outstanding success organized exclusively by Stage A and B residents of Nofey Matzuva. Eitan Sheffer who is a senior advisor to Matzuva's agricultural branch addressed the large gathering on the lawn and detailed the progress of our fruit farm and the chicken runs at Matzuva. We have had a number of good years in the banana, avocado, persimmon, mango, pomegranates and citrus branches. His positive report showed that our agriculture is a major source of covering our debt and will in the future continue to contribute to raising the amounts allocated to pensioners and meeting the kibbutz movement minimum requirements.

After Eitan finished, the kindergartens brought the first fruits followed by a parade of agricultural machinery by the various branches laden with fruit.

The high school kids presented a display of Israeli folk dancing and a new member, Ohad Fliederman, brought a Sefer Torah (Torah Scroll) to be dedicated at Matzuva. It dates back 150 years belonging to his family who came originally from Samerkand in Uzbekistan. The Torah scroll will be henceforth housed at the Matzuva synagogue. No event at Matzuva is without refreshments and everyone was able to sample cheeses and home-made breads as is the tradition during this festival.

Take Care and have a good weekend

Baruch