

LATE-JANUARY 2011 – MATZUVA UPDATE

A NEW YEAR FOR MANKIND & ALSO THE TREES



After all the revelers celebrated the arrival of 2011 it's a time for renewal of forestation in Israel especially in the aftermath of the devastating fire at Carmel National Park with millions of trees being incinerated and the terrible and tragic loss of 44 lives At Matzuva, as is the case every year, we celebrate the New Year For Trees with tree planting ceremonies and activities that take place at pre-kindergartens and pre-school kindergartens explaining the importance and significance of forestation in a once arid country.

This year the plantings to place at the entrance to the new community village "Aleph" at Matzuva (still awaiting a name for the neighborhood). The emphasis this year is on the many toddlers at Matzuva's kindergartens setting down roots for the future.

It's no coincidence but a fact that when the first nucleus group settled at Matzuva in 1940 they were employed in moving rocks and by the Jewish National Fund in planting trees in the immediate area.

Every time I go out of the kibbutz gate one has a reminder that once we had an Ulpan and volunteer guests at Matzuva with the grove of olive trees lining the approach road planted by them nearly twenty years ago and now bearing fruit

CULTURAL COMMITTEE AT MATZUVA: While perusing a recent Matzuva newsletter in Hebrew that appears regularly twice a month I was amazed to read about the community's cultural diary. I'm not a regular contributor or participant in too many events but nevertheless I'm in awe of the amount of activities. Let's be frank, this isn't London's West End or the Big Apple's Broadway but we are only a small community in the peripheral wasteland far distant from Tel Aviv, the city that never sleeps! On analyzing things yes there are quite a number of Jewish and national festivals during the year but if there's just an excuse to do something communal it happens at Matzuva. We have a long tradition of our "Children's Day" with the annual Pantomime theatrical performance, parties round the swimming pool, dances, field trips, "Sylvester" (New Year's Eve), Shavuot "Bringing in the first fruits" with agricultural produce, Purim fancy dress party, Holocaust Day and Israel Independence Day and much much more. The senior citizens club meets every Monday evening with a rich program of events throughout the year.

Already, there is a list of residents enlisted to organize each one of the events for the entire year. I take off my hat to the cultural committee!

In fact the amazing thing is that when there is an active cultural committee which is nearly always the norm the whole community is drawn into events be it as participants, helpers or just looking on – that's the name of the game "Community" and, of course....all this is voluntary. So all the accolades to the cultural committee!

Today's cultural team is comprised of Naama Shachar, Ayala Weizman, Oshra Abrams, Dana Sharon, Keren Chen (a mix of both old and new Matzuva residents)...Hey! Where are the males? Are they just drawers of water?



NEWS FROM THE "BEER CAN" SOCCER STADIUM

Exclusive news from Ori Samoushi, Manager of the Matzuva soccer team

Dear Supporters,

We've just finished the half-way break of the soccer season and it's now up for the regional cup – our home game is to take place at Kibbutz Evron. If we reach the semi-final and perhaps the final it's going to be a long day! If it's raining (please we need the rain! – b.k.) we'll have to make sure everyone knows because maybe the match won't take place.

A week later – The team went for it at the league cup tournament with a depleted team of experienced players. We lost the first match 2:1. In the second match against Kibbutz Ein Hamifratz we played with some players from Kibbutz Shomrat and we dispatched Ein Hamifratz 5:0. This enabled us to reach the semi-final and there we came up against Kibbutz Rosh Hanikra and still with a great shortage of our players we hammered them 4:0 and consequently reached the FINAL!

In the final we played the joint Gaaton/Yehiam team and at the end of the game it was 0:0 and there followed a penalty shoot-out! Their goalkeeper was really on the ball and saved 4 penalty shots and they won.

Anyway, writes Ori "Also second place is good especially with our shortage of players".

This week was a return to the league competition and lo and behold we beat Kibbutz Bet HaEmek....wait for it.....7:0!!!

Thanks to Ori for his regular reports.

It may not be the Emirates or Anfield – it's only a green field below the tennis courts and it's not screened on SKY or ESPN but we always support our team!

ON A MORE SOMBER NOTE:



After a number of years without - the IDF arrived at Matzuva this month and distributed gas masks to residents and others from the surrounding area. Distribution was computerized and each adult and child was fitted out with a mask to take home and hopefully never have to use.

It brings back memories from the Gulf War of 1991 when I was director of the Ulpan at Matzuva. It was a winter ulpan at the time with the vast majority of students being new immigrants coming from the then Soviet Union to Ben-Gurion airport and then directly to Matzuva. There was a real language barrier and most of them initially didn't understand where they had been sent – never mind to a kibbutz just 4 kilometers from the Lebanese border. By January, we had distributed gas masks to all the students and made them aware where to go in case of emergency – the ulpan moadon (bomb shelter opposite). The Katyusha rockets came flying over from the north, the sirens were blaring and it was the task and responsibility of the ulpan staff to see that everyone was wearing his or her mask. I'm sure it must have been especially traumatic for them. What they didn't know and we decided not to

let them know immediately that was there was also a threat of gas warfare at the time and gas masks are intended for this but not so down in a low bomb shelter.

Anyway, like other emergencies it past and all we could think of but never said to them afterwards was "Welcome to Israel!" In retrospect, the million new immigrants from Russia have made an amazing contribution to the country although very few chose to make their homes on kibbutzim – maybe it reminded them too much of the "kolkhoz".



The campaign for the release of Gilad Shalit from captivity is supported by all in the country with the kibbutz Movement being one of its leading organizers and activists. The family of Gilad has been tented opposite the Prime Minister's residence in Jerusalem and the kibbutzim in turn are holding a vigil and Sabbath Eve ceremony with the family every Friday. **Kibbutz Matzuva will be there in Jerusalem on Friday July 15th 2011.**

We all earnestly hope that by that time Gilad will be back with his family at Mitzpeh Hila just twenty minutes drive away to the east of Matzuva and close to the Montfort Crusader castle.

That's all for now – take care and be in contact.

Best wishes

Baruch
Matzuva – January 2011



MATZUVA'S 70th YEAR



100 YEARS OF THE KIBBUTZ MOVEMENT