

March 2010 Update from Matzuva

Matzuva Vision: One of the significant events during the month was the general assembly meeting held in the moadon (clubhouse) with kibbutz members and residents of the community village participating. The agenda was the presentation of the Matzuva Vision until 2020 after countless meetings of the steering committee during many months of deliberations moderated by Ilan Myer from the Mateh Asher Regional Council. Ilan introduced and screened the audio-visual presentation setting out the proposed path of Matzuva during the coming decade. This included guaranteeing pensions and rights for Matzuva kibbutz members, the rate of demographic and projected development over the decade, the status of the Matzuva community and the recommended forming of a communal municipal association framework of all residents including the kibbutz agricultural association.

The meeting was well attended but was only with a small percentage of the overall adult population and the subsequent ballot on the proposed vision was pretty abysmal. Why? Well the jury is still out on this – apathy, opposition to all or part of the vision, personal reasons?

However, there has been a wealth of activity at Matzuva during the month.

❑ **Welcoming the Sabbath**:

A welcome Matzuva tradition has been revamped and the Friday eve “Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcoming the Sabbath)” ceremony took place in the moadon for the first time in years. The ceremony, well planned by kibbutznik Yigal Kanar and Haim Shraga (from the community village) included lighting the Sabbath candles



blowing and drinking the sweet red wine and breaking-up the traditional Sabbath loaves of bread (distributed by the younger generation). Song sheets were distributed and the gathering of families sang traditional Sabbath songs. At the time of writing the proposed format is to be celebrated once a month to start off with. The moadon was full of families sitting around the tables and the vibes were very positive.

❑ **Veterans Day**: A very successful event in honour of our senior citizens was held at the moadon during the month. A group of second generation and other kibbutz members arranged the event that included a festive lunch, a social meet, background music, a few select speeches and a small gift for all the seniors.



MATZUVA SENIORS LISTEN ATTENTIVELY



TO THE YOUNGER GENERATION'S GREETINGS

❑ **Women's Day:** Approximately 40 Matzuva ladies participated in an enjoyable and surprising experiences of creativity and opportunity. The event was organized by new members Yael Nathans and Inbar Manor and took place at the new arts and hospitality centre (in the former chicken run/building storehouse) created by new members Gali and Kobi Kadosh.



[ALL PHOTO CREDITS – MAX NATHANS]

❑ **Yankele Peterman (ז"ל):** It's now 10 years since Yankele, a former Kibbutz Matzuva general secretary passed away. To commemorate the event and Yankele's life a tiyul (field trip) was organized by the family and attended by tens of members, family and friends who were acquainted with him and his family at various stages during his lifetime. The tiyul on foot began at Kibbutz Gaaton and took us along the meandering wadi that eventually reaches the sea in Nahariya.



DURING THE HIKE IN THE WADI GA'ATON [Photo: Irene Kadmon]

The trip was led by Ezra Segali and after a trek of 2 hours the convoy of cars continued on to our avocado plantation and to "Yankele's Grove" among the avocado trees (Yankele was also once the plantation manager). There a picnic was held prepared by kibbutz friends and the tiyul finally concluded with family members speaking of him in the midst of these enchanting surroundings that were once a chapter in his life.

❑ **Field Trips around Matzuva:** The hikers went out of the kibbutz entrance gate being informed with ongoing explanations by Boaz Ben-Shachar on the fauna and flora all around.

They visited the headstone plaque commemorating the murder of six Israeli citizens in the terrorist incursion from Lebanon at the entrance to Matzuva in 2002. Yigal Kanar who was wounded during the attack spoke about the incident.



YIGAL TELLS HIS STORY OF THE INCIDENT

From there the tiyul continued up "School hill" with explanations about its history, fauna and flora expertly told by Gidon and Ezra Segali. After visiting a natural cave the tiyul reached the old Matzuva cemetery.



Here veteran members, Esther Yiftach-El and Avri Gershon, told the story of the "Night of the Bridges" – On June 16th 1946 43 members of the Palmach army group went out to cut off the road and rail bridges link between Palestine and Lebanon near Achziv.

Guards at the bridges fired at and hit the explosives being carried and consequently blew up 13 fighters. Survivors managed to arrive at Matzuva during the night and Matzuva was raided by British troops the following morning and male kibbutz members were arrested and jailed in Akko and Latrun jails. The remains of the fatalities found were buried in the Matzuva cemetery.

❑ **Internal Communications:** As our Hebrew speaking surfers well know the kibbutz bi-weekly newsletter appears on this website and many others in Israel receive the "Matzuva Alon" on-line in an effort to keep up contacts and save the environment. There is a live information program via the TV but it does not reach everyone on the kibbutz or the community village. This is because it is a land-line. As most residents have computers the

live information pages will be e-mailed to residents to try and keep them informed on-line in addition to the kibbutz notice board at its post office. The use of SMS messages is expensive and is restricted to emergency and security messages.

That's about it for the moment although there is an increasing amount of activities in Matzuva's 70 year and the 100th Anniversary of the Kibbutz Movement.



To all our friends sincere greetings for Passover/Easter.

The main thing is to be healthy, keep on smiling and be in contact.

Best wishes

Baruch

Matzuva – March 2010