

May Update

Hi Everyone

The changeover between spring and summer is in the air with one difference this year in that the gardens and vegetation that usually bloom in all their glory are increasingly turning from green to yellow due to water restrictions. As the water piped into Matzuva is both for crop irrigation and household use the first victims of the need to ensure the crops and daily use are the usually pleasant gardens at Matzuva. Most of the fruit orchards will be irrigated with treated water from reservoirs in the area while other fruit orchards will require only fresh water. The government is dragging its feet regarding water allocations for lawns and private use and meanwhile Matzuva has preempted by taking decisions to plan and save water while maintaining its lawns and gardens and avoiding penalties for exceeding allocations.

"The Long and Winding Road" – Anyone viewing Max's great photo album will have seen the work underway on the 5 meter wide two-directional road with a sidewalk stretching from the south of the kibbutz residential area through to the north passing by the swimming pool. The rationale behind the widening of the road is the requirement that infrastructures both of the kibbutz and the Matzuva community village be the same. Other reasons are to afford easier access for vehicles within the kibbutz and road-safety. To solve the reality of a lot of private vehicles on the kibbutz a large number of parking lots have been built to avoid parking on the road. Unfortunately, we are still short of at least another 25 lots to partly solve the parking problem. The road has taken its toll on lawns and greenery and has incurred the wrath of a number of members. One veteran member has written in the kibbutz newsletter lamenting the slicing off of a part of the main lawn (below the moadon) to accommodate a parking lot. Another veteran member, Nechama, has written of an "asphalt jungle" at Matzuva with a slice of the main lawn being taken for parking and quoting Ogden Nash –

The Asphalt Jungle

I think that I shall never see

A billboard lovely as a tree,

In fact unless the billboards fall

I'll never see a tree at all.

(Ogden Nash)

Children's Day at Matzuva – The traditional event for the children at Matzuva took place last weekend. This festival has been celebrated annually for decades and is composed of a festive banquet for the younger generation of the kibbutz followed by a two-day fun fair with many stalls (organized by our new members) and two performances of a theatre production in the auditorium next to the

swimming pool. This year the production was "Alice in Wonderland" produced and directed by Hava Cohen and Jo Samoushi (ex Ulpan) respectively and a large local cast of kibbutz actors. Today, we have 160 kids from the cradle up to 12th grade and still increasing in numbers. As mentioned in earlier updates, there are two renovated kindergartens nearing completion to meet the ever increasing needs.

Matzuva Community Centre – The centre is earmarked to be in the dining room complex and planning is underway. The regional council has given the project its blessing as a regional community centre for the agricultural villages in the northern part of Western Galilee. We are seeking funding from various foundations and donors. It will be planned specifically for activities for both children and senior citizens.

Matzuva Agriculture Ltd. – Eitan Shefer a member of the board of directors at Miluot, the Western Galilee Industries, writes about the agricultural branch at Matzuva as a viable and successful fruit farm with bananas, avocado, persimmon, litchi, citrus and pomegranate plantations and well as our chicken houses. The strategic planning is to map out the growth of the fruit plantations for the coming decade taking into calculations the maximum use of arable land and water distribution.

70 Years Matzuva – As part of the preparations for Matzuva's 70th year celebrations, Ephim Nadav ("The first field-crop farmer") one of our veteran members (91 years old) has talked about the ground breaking (as well as one's back) work in the early 1940's and Shlomo Doron (aged 92) writes of the equally back breaking work in the building of the swimming pool decades ago. A translated version of these items will appear in the next update.

Until then, I wish you all "*Chag Shavuot Sameach*" as the kibbutz celebrates tomorrow the "Festival of the First Fruits" at the olive grove on the lawn to the north of the dining room.

Take Care and have a good weekend
Baruch



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