

Mid-May 2011 Update from Matzuva

How the time flies especially when looking at one's grandchildren with our oldest girl scheduled to be drafted into the I.D.F. in less than two years. I've always philosophized that now is the time of the young adults – I'm sure most ex-Ulpanists and volunteer guests will agree when looking back at their time at Matzuva.

This month takes us from remembering the Holocaust in WWII to remembering the 25,000 plus that died in battle or were victims of terrorism against innocent citizens in hostile acts and to finally marking the establishment of the Jewish State of Israel 63 years ago. The transition is swift from despair and sorrow to joy and pride at the only true democracy in this troubled part of the world.

□ **Holocaust Remembrance Day** – Each year Holocaust Day is marked in Israel and in many countries and especially in Israel. We are now left with "Fragments from Memory – the face behind the documents, the objects and the photographs" The 6 that signifies the 6 million and the candles that remember the victims of this crime against humanity.



We are now left with "*Fragments from Memory – the face behind the documents, the objects and the photographs*" The "6" constructed with chains signifies the 6 million and with the candles we remember the victims of this crime against humanity.

Photos by Max Nathans



THE YOUNGER GENERATION ALSO REMEMBER



Remembrance Day for Israel's Fallen: Just a week after Holocaust Day, the day before Israel's Independence Day is a solemn time when we remember the sacrifice of those that gave their lives defending Israel's right to exist. At a ceremony in the memorial garden north of the swimming pool attended by many residents of Matzuva we remembered the sacrifice of Matzuva residents:



Irvine Reuven – Founder member of Matzuva – died in 1943 in the line of duty in the Hagana prior to the establishment of the State of Israel – aged 29.



Yossi Wexler – Holocaust survivor – died during reserve duty in the I.D.F. aged 38



Haim Gefen –died in action during the 6–Day War in Sinai, aged 25



Yaron Givati – died in action during the Yom Kippur War in Sinai, aged 20.



Amir Ben-Moshe – died in action during the Yom Kippur War in Sinai, aged 20.



Eshel Ben-Moshe – died in 1996 in a skirmish with terrorists in Lebanon while defending the northern border of Israel.

MAY THEY REST IN EVERLASTING PEACE

ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION AT MATZUVA

Once again the soccer field was filled with families celebrated the State's 63rd birthday. The fact that it had to be held on the soccer field was a reflection of our resurgent community now numbering in excess of 700 souls with many more in the pipeline.

The flags, singing, the children and the refreshment stalls plus the pyrotechnics. The day itself is generally celebrated with barbecues in parks and beauty spots in our little country.



CELEBRATING ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE DAY AT MATZUVA – Photos: Max Nathans

❑ ELECTION FEVER AT MATZUVA

No it's not a general election but an election of kibbutz members onto the Vaad Memuneh (Nominated Committee). Last week there were no less than 15 candidates vying for the 5 seats for kibbutz members. This committee is made up also by the Trustee of the court Danny Ivri, Noam Netzer, the Special Manager, the manager of the agricultural branch and who is also the representative of Miluot the regional economic complex, a representative of the kibbutz movement and the deputy mayor of the regional council. Having been on this committee for the last two years I can assure everyone it's no joy ride or ego trip. This committee will continue until the kibbutz finally becomes financially independent once again at the end of 2012. I assume that the interest for action is geared towards the kibbutz moving towards independence and beyond.

As the criteria for this ballot was the election of 5 representatives all of whom would need to gain over 50% of the vote. The result showed that only 3 members passed the 50% and a revote will take place this coming Thursday and Friday with the highest 9 members vying for these 5 seats.

May the best be elected in the hope that there will be representation of both the older and younger elements of our community.



So now we move towards the annual traditional Children's Day at Matzuva – a 2-day event next week with many new elements for the kids to enjoy. This year's pantomime production is the "Lion King" that is to take place outdoors for the first time in the tennis court area.

Intensive preparations by many residents are underway and it promises to be the usual sell-out.



...Here's hoping it doesn't rain over that weekend!!

Besides this big annual event... this weekend bonfires will be lit all over Israel for the "Lag B'Omer" celebrating the 33rd day of the wheat harvesting count between Passover and Shavuot. At Matzuva it's bonfires and marshmallows while at the Galilee village of Meiron, where the revered Shammai and his disciples lived and studied in the 1st Century, will host thousands of observant Jews visiting the tomb of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai.

CARMEL-AGREXCO AWARD 2011 FOR OUTSTANDING FARMERS AWARDED TO JOHNNY A'JEMI HEAD OF THE KIBBUTZ MATZUVA AGRICULTURAL BRANCH

Johnny hails from the Druze village of Yanuch and is a son of the A'jemi Family that has a long connection with Matzuva. With the passing of Yosele Goren (ז"ל) he took over the running of the agricultural branch of 25 workers growing a wide variety of fruits. Johnny has received the "Fruit" award especially for the avocado plantation that has along with other fruits attained both quantitative and qualitative excellence. Congratulations to Johnny and his team made up of Druze, Jews, Arabs and Thais – a fine example of cooperation and co-existence.

JUST A SHORT RAIN CHECK....after a May deluge just over a week ago...a total of 843 mm. of rain this year – it's crazy but very welcome exceeding last year's rainfall by about 180 mm.

As always, we look forward to receiving any comments, contributions you may have to the message board, picture galleries and guest book.

Until the next update – keep well and be in contact.

Best wishes
Baruch
Matzuva – May 2011



MATZUVA'S 71th YEAR



101 YEARS OF THE KIBBUTZ MOVEMENT