

Hanan Lev (Zal): Hanan, husband to Yael (former Ulpan Director) who passed away a few years ago and father to Tamar, Uri and Orna, passed away last week and was buried at Matzuva.

Hanan was born in Düsseldorf, Germany in 1921 during the time of the Weimar Republic. He joined the Jewish Scout Movement that later became a Zionist movement that later became "Young Maccabi". When Hitler came to power the family decided to leave Germany and in April 1934 the family settled in Amsterdam. He attended a Jewish high school and after a short career in banking he then joined an agricultural training farm. In 1938 he sailed on the "Dora" as an illegal immigrant to the then British mandated Palestine.



EARLY DAYS AT MATZUVA:
Hanan (left) Dan Carmi (right)

He joined the "*Shibolet*" work group at a number of kibbutzim and then joined Matzuva after the group disbanded. At the end of WWII he married Yael in 1945.

At this period Hanan was a watchman in the Matzuva fields where he learnt the customs and language of the local Arabs. During this time Hanan also became acquainted first-hand with his lifetime of love for flora and fauna. He also established relations with the British serving in

the area. His eldest daughter, Tamar, was born in 1947 and some years later Uri and Orna were born. In 1948 he became an emissary of the "Habonim" youth movement in London. In 1955 he completed teaching studies at the Oranim seminary and became the first teacher of the first group of Matzuva kids. Hanan was a through and through educator and was revered by his pupils. He took them on many field trips and held long discussions with them on various subjects. He later became the principal of the area high school followed by running the Bet Berl biological institute. This was short-lived as he was called back to Matzuva to become the kibbutz secretary. Throughout his life he studied and imparted his knowledge. He was a member of a team framework for the teaching of sciences at the Hebrew University. In 1968 he published his "Lexicon of Biological Terms" followed by other publications including "Animals of the field and the Fowl of the Heavens". He worked in the education department of the kibbutz movement and was for many years a member of the staff at Oranim. From 1981 onwards he underwent quite a number of health crises and surgery both in Israel and abroad. He overcame all these and continued to run a weekly biology circle at Matzuva right up to the last week of his life. Last week it became evidently clear that he would not survive the last hospitalization. He was surrounded by his loved ones at the end – leaving 3 children and their families, 9 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren and a mourning Kibbutz Matzuva.

Today is Tu-Bishvat (the Hebrew New Year for Trees). Trees are being planted all over Israel today and many people are making trips into the country especially in our northern region but also down near the Gaza Strip as there are breathtaking fields of red poppies. Of course the warning message on loudspeakers for incoming rockets in the south is "Colour Red" – eerie!

However, I remember that every time I walk or drive up the Matzuva entrance road that the grove of olive trees lining the road were planted by Ulpanists in the early '90's of the last century. Today, kibbutz kids harvest the olives, take the produce to a local olive press and then sell the top quality olive oil.



Blossoming Almond Tree – Matzuva 2/09
Photo by Max Nathans

The "Main Course" Restaurant at Matzuva

"MANA IKARIT" means in Hebrew the "Main Course" →→
Amir the owner and chef says it could also be appropriately be translated as the "Peasant's Portion"

On returning from the Tel Aviv area after seeing our daughter, daughter-in-law and our three grandsons Irene and I decided to check out the new restaurant opened by new members Amir and Noga at the converted, renovated and refurbished former laundry building near the bus stop at our roundabout or circle. Amir is a gourmet chef and plans to open the restaurant on March 1st 2009. Meanwhile they are running-in the restaurant and it's open to Matzuva residents during the month of February.

Quite a number of kibbutz members and others have had meals there during lunch time. They have a fixed business lunch and a a-la-carte menu with a 10% discount during February. The kitchen is spotless and all the equipment is newly purchased. I talked things over with Amir and he told me he learnt his trade at the Dan Carmel hotel in Haifa. The restaurant is very nice with a pleasant ambiance but small



RESTAURANT LOGO

(seating for about 16 customers) However, Amir sees his main business being a take-away service for the many tourists coming to enjoy the delights of Galilee. Anyway, Irene and I had a first-class meal of a tasty salad with olives and fresh hot home-made pitta bread, lemon juice in a jug, a free soft drink followed by grilled chicken in teriyaki sauce with grilled potatoes/chips. I won't tell you how much it cost but it was not dear and very good value. The feedback from other members is also very positive. We wish Amir and Noga every success in their new venture.



Telecommunications

After nearly 3 years of discussions and searching Kibbutz Matzuva members and Nofey Matzuva residents now living as tenants at the kibbutz



finally went and voted by ballot to decide which services providers would upgrade television, telephone and Internet services at Matzuva. Three lively general meetings on the issue were held during January with the various service providers presenting their electronic wares to the Matzuva locals.

The vote showed an overwhelming majority to link up digitally to "Yes" satellite TV and link up with "Bezeq" (the national telephone service) for telephone services and enhanced broadband Internet. In both cases all residents will choose the package most suited to their needs, wishes and pocket. "Yes" will beam digital television via "neighbourhood" satellite dishes to keep the skyline more or less as it is at present. Serving soldiers and kibbutz youngsters not living at home will only pay for the digital converter. Bezeq will connect up to each house and beam in via an external hub.

More about the old dining room and the envisaged Matzuva Community Centre in its place – in the next update.

Until then, on this election day in the democratic State of Israel,
Best wishes and take care

Baruch
Matzuva – 9.2.2009