

AUGUST AT MATZUVA – AN UPDATE

I'm tempted each month to mention the weather but I'll spare everyone the burden about reading about it by just saying this is the hottest August ever – being a combination of heat and humidity (30°C+ and 50% humidity = about 43°C).

“RAFTSODIA” – Rafting on the Kinneret

This annual event of home-made rafts sailing on the Lake Kinneret (Sea of Galilee) organized by the kibbutz movement was once again graced by the participation of our Matzuva youngsters and a number of accompanying parents and youth leaders.



Orna Sagi, an accompanying mother who works in the kibbutz secretariat writes: It was a moving experience going out with the youngsters for 3 days. Seeing how the youngsters set sail and maneuvered the raft with all hands on board was amazing.

Our kids are special – innovative, cultured and responsible. Naama Cohen, in charge of the Matzuva crew told me when I asked to help – “forget it the youngsters will handle everything”. They were a winning combination working together as one unit. They prepared their own food and did everything necessary and were among the outstanding rafts during this “regatta” . Orna rounded off her story by saying “We can be justly proud of our youngsters!”

GALILEE WEATHER VANES AND “KHAN”

I've mentioned in the past the colourful weather vanes produced by our relatively new members Gali and Kobi Kadosh who live to the north of the dining room. The weather vane workshop is situated to the east of the old Ulpan buildings and housed in an old brick building once used as a building shed. Kobi exhibited his crafts at the Jerusalem fringe crafts festival and now the weather vanes are blowin' in the wind all over the country.



The family's latest venture is the “Galilean Wind Khan” (ancient inn) to attract groups to stay at Matzuva, sleeping outside on mats and attending workshops on social issues, bonding sessions, bike riding, etc. with a capacity of sleeping 150 persons on mattresses. They also rent out 4 one-room apartments to the west of the ulpan campus for older staff of the various groups. We wish them luck with their new venture.

OUR GARDEN TEAM

Meanwhile our team of gardeners led by Ingrid Ben-Shabbat (ex-Ulpan) continue to try and keep Matzuva beautiful and green. Whereas Matzuva was once renowned for its gardens today it's a struggle due to the shortage and high price of water in Israel. Members of the team include Micky Koren, Yehudit Niv and Danny Maccabi (former Ulpanist) as well as Lotem Ne'eman and Ingrid's son, Yoel. Most of Israel's drinking water comes from the Sea of Galilee and it will take a few years before desalinated water in sufficient quantities is produced to supply the country albeit at a higher price.

END OF SUMMER EVENT

One of our kibbutz members asked an interesting question – why do we just celebrate on New Year's Eve and the Purim Fancy-Dress Party? So the idea of a midsummer event was inaugurated in the kibbutz diary of events. Thus, we now have celebrated the "Matzuva by Moonlight" event. It was a well organized event with a small band and a DJ by the strange name of Paprika. All in all it was a successful event and enjoyed by all who participated.

In it's aftermath, there was an exchange in the kibbutz newsletter between a participant and a non-participant. Our oldest member, Shlomo Doron, wrote it was very considerate that we were warned that there would be noise into the early hours of the morning and would we take this into consideration.

"What does one have to do? Close the windows but what does one do in a 55 year old house with windows that don't close hermetically. There was a band playing with the lead sound being of a drummer and I thought maybe I should participate in the party but at my age of 92+ with one leg it might be difficult. I decide to go to bed – I've already seen enough TV and read all the papers – a pornographic movie is not really an option at my age so I stuck earplugs in my ears that actually lessened the noise of the drums. I wanted to be considerate towards those who don't want to sleep but at the same time I need my sleep. It reminded me of the time as a young night watchman when keeping awake was an order to be obeyed! I wish to apologize to those that spoke to me the following morning and I didn't reply to – I didn't hear well because I couldn't unplug the earplugs that were still embedded in my ears".



The organizing participant replied that Shlomo's comments were right and while the younger crowd only wished to enjoy the midsummer party he wishes to sincerely thank all the veteran members for their consideration.

FAREWELL TO SHMUEL NESHER

A farewell evening was held last week for Shmuel Nesher due to leave Matzuva after 70 years. His daughter Penina and her family are leaving to settle in Ashdod and Shmuel will be moving with them.

30 members and family members gathered in the moadon (clubhouse) to wish him well. Participants sat around tables with refreshments and recalled highlights of his life at Matzuva.

Shmuel was a heavy vehicle driver in the British army in World War II and during the infamous "Black Saturday" roundup in 1946 by British troops he was arrested and spent many months in Akko and Latrun jails along with leading members of the Jewish community in Mandatory Palestine. He brought food to Matzuva when the kibbutz was under siege in 1948 and was a civil defence operative for many years. Shmuel was head of the avocado groves and his Swiss hut still stands near the main road.

His artistic talents were well known and his paintings were a reflection of this talent. Among other activities he tended to gardens and the Matzuva cemetery.

Shmuel responded to the greetings by the attending members by recalling many recollections of his life at Matzuva.

Everyone wishes Shmuel well and hopes there will be ongoing contacts with him in the future.

Many thanks for the report of the event submitted by Esther Yiftach-EI (source material provided by the Matzuva archives)



SHLOMO DORON WISHES SHMUEL ALL THE BEST



SHMUEL NESHER'S FAMILY – 4 GENERATIONS

ALL PHOTO CREDITS: MAX NATHANS

Have a good weekend and until the next update – keep well and be in contact.

Best wishes

Baruch

Matzuva – August 2010



MATZUVA'S 70th YEAR



100 YEARS OF THE KIBBUTZ MOVEMENT