Matzuva is a community on an upward trend with children galore and now after many discussions with the Mateh Asher Regional Council Kibbutz Matzuva has decided by a large majority vote to be the site for the opening of an anthroposophy* school for five years with the option of a further two year extension and the intention to build a new and permanent school at Matzuva (* anthroposophia: a system established by the Austrian philosopher Rudolf Steiner that seeks to optimize physical and mental health and well-being).

Apologies for the delay in writing this update. Firstly, Irene and I went on a 9-day cruise on the 3 important rivers of Europe on the Rhine, Main and Danube. The trip began in Amsterdam including a tour of the city and boarding the river boat "Amadeus Princess" that was bound for Budapest. Our group of 18 Israelis was led by a tourist guide who took the group to all the towns to visit until we left the boat at Nuremberg in Germany. Visiting the towns on the way also included learning of the Jewish communities who once lived there until their deportation with the rise of Nazism and WW2. Jewish graveyards are the responsibility of the municipal council of each town/city. All the cuisine was onboard and we enjoyed the various attractions during the evenings including the 42 lock-gates the boat had to cope with during the voyage. Finally, we arrived at Munich by bus and boarded the El-Al flight back to Tel Aviv.

It is with great sadness that we mourn the passing of veteran Matzuva member, Eli Galilee ז"ל on 25th July at Matzuva after a long illness. The funeral took place following the arrival of his daughter Neora on July 26th who arrived from her home in Canada. Neora was for many years the matron of the Matzuva Ulpan.

Eli Galilee was born on August 8th 1930 in Budapest, Hungary. He was then named Laslo the elder child of Sidona and Mano Grossman. His Hebrew name was Eliezer and remained as Eli in later life after joining the Zionist youth movement "Gordonia Maccabi Hatzair". His family kept Jewish traditions. When the German army invaded Hungary in March 1944 the situation of Jews became intolerable and for Eli the realization that he was firstly Jewish rather than Hungarian. When Hungary joined the war on the German side he seldom saw his father who later perished in one of the infamous Death Marches. During the war young Eli along with another Jewish friend found work in a large bakery that enabled them to bring bread to the family and at the same time they were able to hide in the bakery with food and in safety for 5-6 weeks. At the end of the war he was reunited with his mother and sister.

After a few months of assistance by world Jewry and Zionist youth movements Eli began the journey to the British Mandate Palestine with a group of teenagers who also survived the war. This journey took 18 months including crossing many borders in Europe and finally being interned by the British navy to detention camps in Cyprus. In the spring of 1947 they arrived finally in Haifa and after a short period in an absorption compound Eli arrived at Matzuva. Eli wrote of the friendly reception his group received at Matzuva from its senior members. They were surprised by the level...
of my Hebrew during the period of work combined with lessons lasting 18 months. We quickly became absorbed as part of this small community and meanwhile Israel's War of Independence broke out and Eli moved directly to the army reserve and took part in various military courses including an officers course. Eli integrated swiftly into the life of the Matzuva community and over the years served in a number of duties including treasurer, kibbutz secretary, chairman of education and members committees. For a number of years Eli served as the local security officer and was active in training youths from Matzuva and youth movement youngsters in Nahariya. At Matziva Eli met up with the love of his life – Leah. They brought up a fine family of 3 children: Neora, Nitzan and Yoav. With the revolution in Hungary in 1957 his mother finally came to Matzuva to join her family. Eli completed his studies and became a chartered accountant both at Matzuva and at the regional school at Gesher Haziv. This followed many years as the manager of the various fruit orchards of Matzuva. Eli's sharp mind was reflected in his hobbies – excellence in chess as the regional champion and that of the kibbutz movement. He was also a bridge player and loved it.

Above all he enjoyed leisure hours with his grandchildren encouraging them to develop their thinking skills mixed with enjoyment. Eli's children left the kibbutz as adults but the family ties and their devotion to their parents was constant as is the case also with his 10 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. Eli – rest in peace we will always cherish your memory! /Edna Nathans

Children's Day at Matzuva was (as usual) a great success with the tradition of stalls and games, a celebration meal for the hundreds of kids and of course the annual Theatrical Show at the theater near the old ulpan complex. This year the show was named "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" with three performances by the Matzuva theater group and attended by citizens of our region Mateh Asher! Special thanks to the months of décor work by Carol Sisso (ex Ulpan from Scotland) and to production manageress Chava Cohen who has produced similar community productions over the last 30 years. Carol and Chava made the production happen but it also involved kibbutz actors, stage hands and the many volunteers making this event an outstanding success.

The children of Matzuva and young visitors enjoyed the side-shows set up for the occasion.

Matzuva celebrated the Festival of Shavuot (Harvest Festival) in the fields surrounding the kibbutz that included the usual presentations by the various agricultural branches displaying their produce being brought in on tractors and other forms of transport.

Eitan Shefer, a member of Kibbutz Kfar Maseryk is the senior director of Matzuva Agriculture representing Milut Regional Industries along with Johnny Adjemi who is the agricultural manager at Matzuva and both attended the Shavuot Festival. Eitan presented an update on the ongoing progress of the various branches of Matzuva Agriculture

Chicken Houses: We completed the third incubation at the end of May with good results.

This was the case also with the previous two incubations and Ori Samushi is among the top ten breeders with outstanding results in the region. The chicken runs are not easy to run and this will be the situation in the coming months due to a market glut.

Fruit Orchards: At the moment things are relatively quiet following the main harvesting of Matzuva bananas and avocado. Prices are good for both these fruits reflecting the professional know how of our workers. We are once again FIRST in the Western Galilee
region with the second placed orchards a long way behind. Our pomegranate grove is under review due to the quality of the fruit and the difficulty we face in attaining the best quality in competition with Egypt and Turkey who market the fruit at a lower price. **Persimmon** – We decided to discontinue growing persimmon as the world demand for this fruit has decreased and prices have divered. As an alternative we have begun to grow and market **mandarin** with an encouraging high yield and a decent income. The other growers in the region lack our expertise and are still finding their way.

**New Project at Matzuva – We still need your h-e-l-p !!**

"**A Miniature Matzuva" ...but not exactly Madurodam!**

This new project renamed "**Founders Hill**" is the brainchild of **Nitzan Reuven**. The location is the little hillock to the north of the new traffic circle immediately after the main gate into the kibbutz. The target date is the 77th Anniversary of the establishment of Matzuva in 1940. The project has been designed by architect Itzik Ben-David, a resident of Matzuva, along with the input of kibbutznik Ezra Segali and the Matzuva Trustee Noam Netzer. The idea is to include replica items such as the security wall around the new settlement, a watch tower, the first bell tents and huts of the fledgling kibbutz including basic agricultural implements of that period.

"**FOUNDER'S HILL**" – **KIBBUTZ MATZUVA**

**History**

Kibbutz Matzuva was established in 1940 by members of the "Young Maccabi" Youth Movement from Germany and Czechoslovakia. This nuclear group was reinforced by young persons from youth groups from Hungary who survived the Holocaust. The intention was to ensure that the hill and its surroundings remain under Jewish control following the purchase of the area from affluent Lebanese land owners in Beirut a year earlier. With the end of the British Mandate in sight in 1947 the U.N. divided-up Mandatory Palestine with the kibbutz finding itself within the area of the proposed Arab state.

The fledgling kibbutz was one of the pioneer textile manufacturers in Israel as well as engaging in agriculture in the Western Galilee and educated it's children to love the emerging state and its citizens.

In 2003 the kibbutz experienced a difficult economic crisis and since has moved towards recovery and emergence from this crisis. The number of resident families has increased through an intensive program of absorption with second-generation kibbutz born and families from urban centers in Israel. This influx has brought in its wake a remarkable rise in the number of Matzuva residents. It has also resulted in new children's houses catering for the younger generation at Matzuva.
Today, the Kibbutz Matzuva community numbers 1,300 residents with the kibbutz running a first class fruit farm as well as a poultry farm. Most of the kibbutz members and residents are employed outside of Matzuva. Matzuva is especially renowned for its cultural life and renewal.

**Our Vision**

The establishment of a **community information center** imparting historical data about the "Tower and Stockade" period when Matzuva was established and how the first settlers lived and worked during the initial years on the barren hill. This vision will become a reality with the establishment of an activity park including a panoramic walkway and visitor's center that will document, present and relate the wonderful stories of the pioneers that settled on this small hill in 1940. The significance of these founders was an ideal in the renaissance of the Israeli society in its historical homeland (Matzuva lies within the Asher region that was one of the 12 tribes of Israel) prior to the establishment of the State of Israel.

The park will center around the story of the establishment of Matzuva during it's infancy. The park will offer visitors guidance with the story of the initial settling on this barren and rock-strewn hill. The facility will be open to visitors offering activities for families during festivals, school holidays and Saturdays and special events.

This vision stems back to the vision of the firstborn son of Kibbutz Matzuva, **Nitzan Reuven** that appeared in an edition of "Aleh Giv'a" (the kibbutz newsletter):  
*I thought a lot about how I should present the first days of the fledgling kibbutz in 1940 to future generations*.
During one of my daily morning walks I arrived at the first circle close to the main entrance gate to the kibbutz. I walked past a hillock close by and without a second thought I went up to see this little hill. I walked around among the weeds and the boulders and stones and saw the potential of transforming it into a Visitors Center. As the firstborn son of Matzuva I was perturbed at the lack of knowledge of how this vibrant community among the tens of residents populating it today came about. The wonderful story of the founding pioneers who built the kibbutz community should be known to all at Matzuva and beyond.

I therefore decided to promote a project that would express our recognition of the small band of founders and relate their story of turning this barren hill into a thriving community following in their footsteps. The small hillock near the entrance to the kibbutz would be site of this project and would bear the name of Founders Hill. We will recreate a replica "tower and stockade settlement" with huts and tents similar to the one our parents built.

It was important for me that the efforts of our parents that built a new society from nothing will be told and be seen by all residents and visitors to founders Hill. I involved a number of kibbutz residents in this project with professional know-how (planning, architecture, etc.) and all of them have been happy to voluntarily help in the realization of this project" / Nitzan Reuven

The Plan

The Master Plan of the entire enterprise is in the hands of architect Itzik Ben-David who is a resident of Kibbutz Matzuva.

"Founder's Hill" was until a few years ago situated outside the defined border of residential Matzuva. Due to the building of residential neighborhoods it was also included as a part of the kibbutz overlooking the entrance gate to Matzuva. Quite quickly we realized that the Founders Hill was a gem overlooking a fantastic view of the surrounding area and that it's existence was quite visible to everyone entering the kibbutz. When Nitzan Reuven explained to residents of Matzuva of the need for documentation and commemoration of the beginning of the settlement it became crystal clear that the proposed site was the perfect venue for this project. When the mapping of the hillock was revealed we were faced with the challenge to incorporate a replica of the original courtyard and the constructions built when the pioneers settled there included a watch tower, a surrounding stone wall, work tools and other objects kept in the Matzuva archives.

I recognized the importance of the fantastic beauty spots that afford a marvelous vantage point of the fantastic scenery around Matzuva. With natural growth and an abundance of local natural fauna merging with the regional fauna, the paths and lawns combine to make the Matzuva hill an exciting venue for visitors writes Itzik Ben-David, Matzuva's resident architect.

I also recognized the importance of planning scenic spots that afford views of the beautiful area surrounding Matzuva as well as a variety of local natural flora and fauna. The pathways, lawns are also in the plans affording visitors a beautiful and friendly environment for visitors to the hillock" /Itzik Ben-David

Facilities at the "Founders Hill:

- A park open to the general public with trees, lawns and local garden plants of the Western Galilee.
- Providing a leisure environment for all the family.
• A pioneering study center using displays presentations, photos, buildings, clothing, working agricultural tools, clothing etc. as well as reconstruction of the original huts and the watchtower and surrounding wall. Guides will focus on personal stories and local folklore. Emphasis will be placed on the social and national values demonstrating the pioneering activity as well as emphasis on the connection between the people and the land.
• Lectures and talks by Kibbutz Matzuva veterans.

Plan of the proposed "Founders Hill"
Target Groups:
• The Matzuva Community - Founders Hill will be open to the community who will be a full partner in the project with its own excellent educational and cultural institutions.
• Israeli Tourists – The site will be open to groups and individuals who will pay an entrance fee.
• International Tourists – The site will be open to individuals and groups from the Jewish Agency and other Zionist institutions who will pay an entrance fee.

Estimated Timescale
- Completion of Planning and receipt of Permits
- Infrastructures
- Constructing huts and gardens – work to be implemented by the community.
- Placement of exhibits.
- Running-in process

Timetable for commencing work up to opening of the facility – 1 year

We encourage our alumni and ex-volunteers to revisit Israel and come up to Matzuva.

*** Do you think an ulpan/volunteer reunion could be organized at Matzuva ??? - We need some ulpan/volunteers abroad to co-ordinate with us!

*a similar reunion took place recently at Kibbutz Amiad (a few kilometers north of Lake Tiberias) with over 80 participants from Israel and abroad*

MATZUVA AGRICULTURE
Growing with Love

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

Best wishes to all our readers
Baruch - Matzuva, August 14, 2016

MATZUVA'S 76th YEAR
107 YEARS OF THE KIBBUTZ MOVEMENT