

Matzuva mourns the passing of yet another of our senior members Rachel Kiri ל"ר. Today only one of our founding members remains at Matzuva, Miriam Mitzna aged 98.

We have a mix of rain and hot weather and the rain once again irrigated the fields. The "Agshach" kibbutz committee is busy in coordinating cooperation with the Matzuva Municipal Committee and also with the Matzuva Trustee. "Children's Day" at Matzuva is in an advanced planning stage and there is to be a traditional "pantomime" production after the gap in 2015.



RACHEL KIRI ל"ר

16.11.1928-18.3.2016 Rachel Kiri – "Throughout the war – I lived the moments...I didn't think about tomorrow – the will to live guided me". Rachel said this during many

interviews of her will to live and determination to survive. She did indeed survive the Holocaust and desire to reach the promised land and raise a family and live a good and full life that eventually became a reality.

Almost 70 years Rachel lived among us at Matzuva! Rachel was born in Hungary in November 1928 and was named Martha the first daughter of her parents Fanny and Mishka (Michael). She grew up in a traditional Jewish family and was an inquisitive child who loved her studies. She even

RACHEL KIRI ל"ר

16.11.1928-18.3.2016

dreamed of becoming a teacher. As a teenager she also earned pocket money helping younger and even older children with their studies. In 1944 Rachel was 15.5 years old when her world changed forever when the Germans invaded Hungary. She related that this was the most awful year of her life when the Germans on motor bikes entered her home town. "I was with a personal tutor who taught me as I was prevented from attending school. The Jews were thrown out of their homes and were put in Ghetto and later put on wagons usually used for livestock and sent to Auswitz-Birkenau concentration camp. The slits on the wagons provided vital fresh air on the journey and a view of the countryside. They underwent terrible conditions at Auswitz". Rachel's health was very poor and when it was decided to close the concentration camp they wanted to leave her there. Rachel went on to say "When Auswitz was evacuated in the spring of 1945 I was ill and full of sores. Nobody thought I could walk but I decided I'm not staying at this camp. I knew that if I remained I would be killed! With the greatest difficulty I marched and lo and behold due to the severe cold my sores froze and healed up. With supreme effort and spirit I survived the infamous "Death March". Rachel eventually returned to Budapest and understood that her parents and family had not survived the Holocaust. She searched for her brother and found him in a children's home of the "Young Maccabi" movement. Rachel was ready to fulfill her dream to learn and become a teacher. However, when she heard that her brother was about to illegally emigrate to Israel she decided to join him. After finding her brother she had no intention of losing him again! She joined on to the youth group who were smuggled into Austria and eventually sailed on a boat (named Latrun) to

Haifa. Even then the journey didn't end as they were interned in camps in Cyprus. In 1947 Rachel arrived in Israel and to Matzuva as part of a youth group. Six years later she met and married Dan who also survived the Holocaust. Three children were born to the couple, Arza, Uri and Ophir. Her dream to become a teacher became a reality and she worked with kindergarten kids and primary school pupils for the next 40 years. Rachel was known as a wise and creative educator and her contribution to the educational program was outstanding and many asked for her help in education. When changes were underway at the kibbutz with the closing of the "study room" Rachel became the librarian and always encouraged kindergarten children to come to the library especially to see her drawing acumen. As the years rolled by and Rachel was no longer mobile she began to attend art lessons at the local rural council center. She would say that "*the number imprinted on my arm was actually a symbol of luck – it determined my fate to work and live without death! The number on my arm determined that I would be sent to work and not to extermination*". She also recalled "During the war I learnt that there is no absolute badness and no absolute goodness. People from whom I expected fair treatment offended me and others considered to be bad helped me!

Rachel and Dan brought up a beautiful and gifted family whom they loved and were very proud of the three children and their partners, ten grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

We will remember you Rachel as a special person, unassuming and talented.
May your memory be blessed /Edna Nathans

Edna: *I was lucky to be in Rachel's company when she painted over a long period of time. I was amazed at her mixture of lines and color a sort of chaos on the page. Slowly during the work process her painting would be beautiful within the chaos of her work. I thought to myself this matched the life story of Rachel who survived the Holocaust and lost her family in the madness and chaos and later brought up a wonderful family.*

Baruch: *I always had a good rapport with Dan and Rachel for whom I had the greatest respect. They brought into this world three children Arza, Uri and Ophir. The parents lived a tranquil and full life at Matzuva after all the tribulations and horrors of the Second World War in Europe.*



"Kehilanet" (Community Network) at Matzuva has finally taken off and is rapidly become a source of information for the Matzuva community keeping residents and kibbutz members in the know about how of forthcoming events, reports and notices of Every user has a personal profile and can be a member of various interest groups. The system allows posting events, photos, messages, posts, ads, sending mail and sending SMS's even listing bus times to and from Matzuva/Nahariya (#36 via Kabri and #31 via Shlomi and the coastal road). These days most residents drive cars but veteran members rely on the bus service. Unfortunately, not every car owner is prepared to pick up fellow residents and that is a shame thus making the whole idea of community farcical. Thanks are due to kibbutz member **Shai Tzalel** who initiated our linking up to Kehilanet

Our Kehilanet Logo →→→→



Matzuva Communal Committees met together in order to coordinate steps to make Matzuva an even better place to live at in the beautiful Western Galilee. The two committees, the **Municipal Committee** and the **Agshach (kibbutz agricultural) committee** met together in early January. The Municipal Committee is composed of **residents** in the community neighborhoods (to the south of the app road leading to/from the main gate) and a minority of kibbutz members and is chaired by Ronen Gal (externa The agreement document is not yet entirely ratified with only the matter of the cemetery procedure still to be agreed upon similar to the "moadon" clubhouse team composed of a representative from both of the committees along with a representative of the religion committee. Water infrastructure at Matzuva is managed by Agshach. The Municipal committee is interested in being also involved in order to reduce charges for gardens and homes of residents. Decided to raise the matter with the trustee, Noam Netzer. The Agshach will continue to support the Municipal Committee financially each year and will continue to do so in the coming years. In the future all appeals for financial assistance from various activities must be coordinated and agreed between Agshach and the Municipal Committee. Thus these requests will be handled between the two entities and recorded.

Matzuva Young "Oldies" (50+) This age group has become very active catering for kibbutz members and residents who now have a tailor-made cultural outlet at Matzuva. The age group is active in holding activity evenings at the moadon (clubhouse) and also arranging monthly trips to many places of interest in Israel as well as using the age group activities organized by the Mateh Asher Regional Council who usually organize "tiyulim" (trips) in Israel and in Europe. The trips of the Matzuva 50+ are organized by Orna Zeira and take place monthly usually on Fridays with early starts by bus and returning home just before Shabbat. There is always a tour guide who joins the bus and takes our "oldies" to all sorts of interesting places including a good restaurant lunch for rambblers. The hikes are moderate and suitable for this age group. A number of couples will even be visiting Japan this spring and up until now there have been trips organized by the regional council to the Emerald Isle (all Ireland), Portugal, Italy, the Ardennes and the Black Forest.

Road Works - The entrance to the main circle (bus stops) is a source of worry to all residents and especially parents of young Children. We have the soccer pitch, the basketball court and the tennis courts on the right and new housing on the left without defined borders to the road. We have during the year put in safety barriers at the entrances to the tennis courts and the basketball court and some also separating the soccer pitch from the road.

However, this isn't good enough and the committees have decided to build a sidewalk to the right of the road in order to facilitate a safe approach and access to the sports fields and the main circle as soon as possible with some financial assistance by the Mateh Asher Regional Council.

CHILDREN'S DAY 2016 AT MATZUVA



The younger generation at Matzuva will once again be the focus of our attention when the forthcoming weekend in June will be devoted exclusively to the future generation of our community.

The theatre production (pantomime) will be one of the central attractions to be held at the theatre along with the games and Luna park, the Friday night meal and other attractions for the hundreds of Matzuva kids to enjoy. There will be three live performances of the theatre production with citizens of the Western Galilee also booking seats.

The happening is produced by community members who devote a lot of their spare time in ensuring the weekend of June 17-18 will be full of enjoyable activities for our kids!

Welcome to Kibbutz Matzuva

Finally, and it's taken 75 years, you can now see a special sign on the first roundabout when you pass the automatic main gate and the night watchman's hut. Two large local stones proclaim that you have arrived at your destination with the metal sign in painted in black in Hebrew reads

"Established 1940
Kibbutz Matzuva



* Welcome to Kibbutz Matzuva

(Many thanks to member Shai Tzalel)

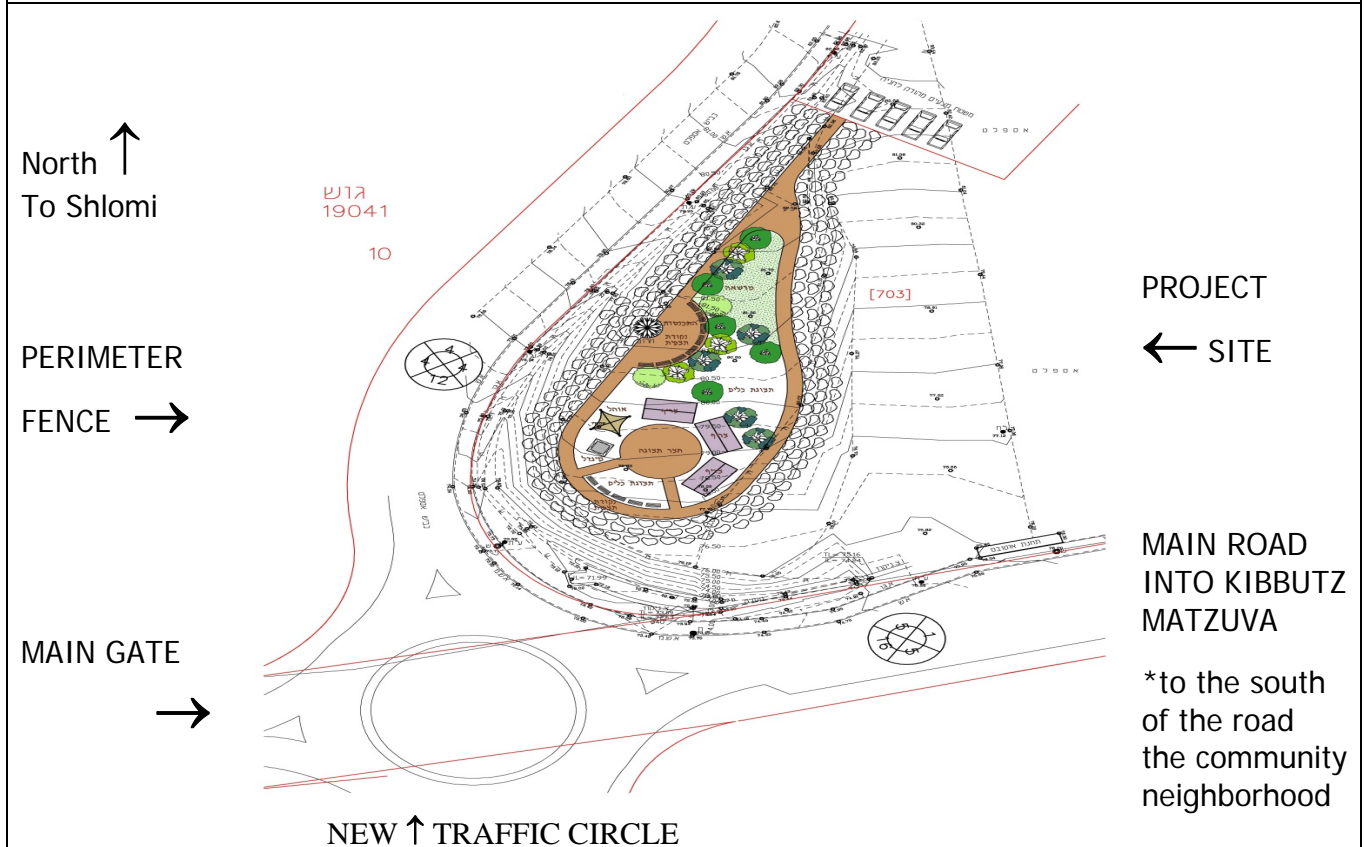
New Project at Matzuva – We still need your h-e-l-p !!

"A Minature Matzuva" ...but not exactly Madurodam! → Founder's Hill

This new project called "**Aliya to Matzuva**" is the brainchild of **Nitzan Reuven**. The location is the little hillock to the north of the new circle immediately past the main gate into the kibbutz. The target date is the 75th 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 hut of the fledgling kibbutz including basic agricultural implements of that period. We will publish a more detailed map of the project in the coming updates

"ALIYA TO MATZUVA" PROJECT



Background:

Way back in February 1940 the first settlers left the "Tower and Stockade" Camp at Lower Hanita and crossed the northern border road and began to climb up a hill on the southern side of the northern road and in doing so established Kibbutz Matzuva. This was at that particular time a daring and significant step that determined that the area north of Akko would become in 1948 an integral part of the fledgling State of Israel. This became the Western Galilee region right up to the border with Lebanon ratified by the Rhodes Armistice Pact of 1949. The Matzuva land had been purchased from wealthy Arabs in Beirut and was one of the few Jewish communities north of Akko in the Biblical area of the Tribe of Asher (one of the 12 tribes of Israel).

Conditions were frugal and tough with no water within reach and these young adult pioneers lived in tents with a single shack that served as a dining room and communal center. The initial diet was made up of carobs and olives with water being brought by road from Nahariya. In this sparse environment the first child of Matzuva was born. He was named Nitzan and was the pride of his parents the Reuven Family and the small community. Sadly, Nitzan's father was killed near Akko while on a mission for the Hagana resistance in 1943. At this time Palestine was then under the British Mandate while across the border nearby was the French mandate over Lebanon that during the WW2 was under Vichy control.

Today, Nitzan is in his 70's but still working as a motor mechanic for Matzuva Agriculture. He is married to Tamar who is also a daughter of founder members.

I spoke with Nitzan recently (who is a neighbor of ours) about his aspirations as a proud grandfather. He told me of his dream to ensure that the early days of Matzuva be somehow remembered not solely in words but also in a tangible way for present and future persons of the wider Matzuva Family. I asked Nitzan what idea he had in mind!

He said that we would love to establish a "Miniature Matzuva" depicting physically how Matzuva became a reality in 1940. He subsequently spoke with Noam Netzer the kibbutz trustee who embraced the idea. Nitzan identified a little hillock not far from the main entrance to Matzuva with the kibbutz to the north and the community neighborhoods to the south. At this site a retro of Kibbutz Matzuva 1940 is to be erected as a visitors center attracting visitors to the Western Galilee as well as the hundreds and hundreds of volunteer guests and Ulpan alumni who we hope will make a nostalgic visit to Matzuva and Israel to meet residents and take a walk down Memory Lane.

We need your assistance and generosity to turn Nitzan's dream into a reality that will bring back in most cases pleasant memories of younger days including the kibbutz experience of work, study and camaraderie bringing together young adults from numerous countries and backgrounds.

The project has been recognized and approved by the Mateh Asher Regional Council and the plans have now been submitted for approval. The cost of the project is not finalized at this stage but we will keep you informed when known.

The changes regarding Matzuva are significant with only a handful of senior members still at the kibbutz and it's a time for reflection on how the community has grown and also changed. One of the few is Hava Doron well in her nineties who has recently moved to the Sharon area close to Tel Aviv in order to live in sheltered home and be close to her family of sons and daughters, grandchildren and great grandchildren. With the closing of the Savion House at Matzuva during the last decade there is today hardly any social care and activities for this age group. Thus, the trend has been to find alternative solutions in other kibbutzim and moshavim in the Western Galilee due to the lack of the same facilities at Matzuva. For Hava five years after her husband Shlomo passed away it was a hard decision to move but without doubt the right one. Hava, a former music teacher has a piano installed at her new apartment in the care home and she is close to her family. Shlomo who was a leading member of Matzuva and the kibbutz movement wrote many articles about life on the kibbutz that appeared in the kibbutz newsletter. Shlomo wrote a special article for the 20th birthday of Matzuva – "Who remembers this hill in the early days of Matzuva....did our dreams become a reality? After one year there were a number of huts and tents compared with our gardens of today! We changed the landscape! The "Blossoming Hill" opposite Matzuva was once a "Barren hill". We were the first to grow bananas in the area and among the pioneers of "avocado" groves in Western Galilee. The very fact that we had settled the land as was the case with our neighbors at Kibbutz Hanita and Kibbutz Eilon secured the northern Western Galilee as part of the fledgling state despite being under siege and having our children evacuated during this period. We put Matzuva on the map! We suffered many crises due to a lack of a minimal financial base!

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 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 - Matzava, end March 2016**



MATZUVA'S 76th YEAR



107 YEARS OF THE KIBBUTZ MOVEMENT