

***The Hanukah candles no longer burn and all the doughnuts have been devoured and now Christmas and Hogmany celebrations remind us that 2015 has ran its course – We just hope for a better 2016 and wish you well***

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***Hanna Atzmon ח"ה***  
***05.11.1921 – 19.12.2015***

**Hanna** was born in 1921 one of six children in the Neivert family. During her early childhood she grew up in a small village in Slovakia that later became a section of Hungary. The family were Orthodox Jews and she studied at a Orthodox/Hungarian school. When aged 8 the family moved to a town and her father died and she began helping to feed the family. Later she joined a state sports movement called "Sokol" in 1938. The presence of anti-Semitic Hungarians persuaded Hanna to join the "Maccabi Hatzair" movement and in 1939 began training prior to going to Palestine. It was difficult to leave her family as she had to help with their financial difficulties. In Budapest she was active in the Maccabi and there she met her up with Yitzchak her future husband. In 1940 they had to go underground and conditions were such that they were starving. In 1942 they married and continued their work in movement. They helped the many refugees who arrived in Budapest and they did everything possible to save these Jews. In the spring of 1944 the Nazis entered Hungary. The fact that Hanna didn't have particularly Jewish features enabled her to help groups to cross the border into Rumania including her husband Yitzchak. Eventually the couple were reunited in Rumania. They were imprisoned but in November 1944 they boarded the ship Salach-A-Din and sailed via Turkey followed by a train journey to

Lebanon and then to Haifa and the reception camp at Atlit south of Haifa. They spent two years of training at Kfar Maccabi and then decided to settle at Matzuva in 1946 with their eldest son Shauli who was born at Kfar Maccabi. Conditions at Matzuva were then difficult but they were received well. Up to establishment of the State of Israel many Hungarians arrived at Matzuva after being interned in Cyprus. Hanna was full of remorse at leaving her family in Hungary but luckily the family survived the Holocaust and in 1945 joined up with the rest in Israel. In retrospect Hanna later looked back at what she had been through in Europe, the fear and risking her life on a daily basis helping others during the Nazi occupation. She received the "Courage Medal" in 2012 from the Hungarian government for her work in saving Jews during the Holocaust. Hanna became a valued and loved person at Matzuva and she worked at the dairy and later worked in the food sector as a cook, dining room head and in charge of the food store. Later she ran the clothing store and established the kibbutz laundry and worked for 18 years as the person in charge. This was followed by her work in this sphere for the clothing outlet of the kibbutz movement and also as a laundry instructor. Hanna and Yitzchak were proud parents of Dina, Edith and Na'ama. During an interview with Hanna she said "*I was happy with my family and my work and we loved the kibbutz – I have a large family and social friends*". Hanna loved the old kibbutz system but recognized that the changes were necessary in order to cater for the younger generation. The Atzmon family were known for their open house welcoming new families, students and temporary kibbutz guests. Unfortunately, her husband Yitzchak died tragically in 1985/6 in Copenhagen while the couple were on a vacation abroad. During her later years Hanna was a resident at care homes at Kibbutz Evron and later at Kibbutz Shomrat. Her children were always at her side with much love and concern. On the day that Shauli celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday the entire family came see her for the final time before she passed away / the above eulogy was written by Edna Nathans, the editor of the kibbutz newsletter #232 dated 31.12.2015.

On a personal note: As a student at the Institute for Youth Leaders in Jerusalem in 1957/8 our group from the USA, UK, Holland, Australia, South Africa, Canada spent 3 months at Matzuva and I was lucky enough to be a regular guest at the home of Hanna and Yitzchak. They were a lovely couple and to a certain degree were the catalyst for our settling at Matzuva in 1975. Hanna was laid to rest next to her husband Yitzchak at the Matzuva cemetery. May her dear soul rest in everlasting peace!

*Baruch Kadmon*



**Welcome to Kibbutz Matzuva**

**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 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**"

*(Many thanks to member **Shai Tzalel**)*

**Matzuva** has always been a border community close to the border with Lebanon since 1940 as is the case with Hanita as well as Rosh Hanikra, Adamit, Eilon and other communities including the town of Shlomi situated between Matzuva and Hanita. The government has recognized that border communities both in the southern and northern peripheries of Israel require assistance in the form of tax reductions in comparison with Tel Aviv and other urban towns in the centre of Israel. Matzuva is one of the 32 communities of the Mateh Asher Regional Council which is situated south of Nahariya. The tax reductions have always been determined by the proximity of communities to the international borders such Hanita, Rosh Hanikra, Eilon and moshavim that lie close to the border fence with Matzuva only 4 kms. south of the border. This time round the government pen pushers have determined that tax relief is based on the distance of the local authority building from the border and not of the communities!! This farcical situation means that the Mateh Asher communities including those on or near the border will receive less tax relief than the city of Nahariya that lays at least 12 kms. south of the northern border.

**Matzuva Agriculture:** With 2016 just round the corner Eitan Sheffer (Kibbutz Ein Hamifratz) is an advisor from the regional agricultural conglomerate Miluot sums up the state of Matzuva Agriculture a few days before 2015 becomes history. It has not been the greatest of years and he sums up the first 10 months of the year. Due to the very cold weather approximately 150 dunam of damaged banana plants were dug up and the mango and avocado orchards were also badly affected. New banana plants were planted but the month of May brought with it very hot and windy weather that badly affected Matzuva's agriculture. Nevertheless, from a professional and economic aspect the season was successful with Matzuva Agriculture avocado being the best orchard in the Western Galilee! The Persimmon and Mango were hit hard while the pomegranate orchard was not affected. This year the fruit will be picked during January and the fruit looks good. However, the pomegranate orchard will only be of average quality as growing them in our region is problematic as the fruit requires a dry environment whereas the Western Galilee tends to be humid.

## **Youth Committee Sums Up 2015**

The Youth Committee comprised of Nili Argalazii, Dolev Niv and Yigal Kanar was supplemented by youngsters Heren and Orian representing the youths. Following the last elections mum Anat Algarishi and Nadav also joined the committee. The liaison from the municipal committee is Yishai Ta. Many of this age group do not temporarily live at Matzuva (army service, studies, work etc.) the committee keeps in contact with the 18-28 age group wherever they may be through Facebook, What's Up and via their parents living on the kibbutz. The committee tries to keep contact through events such as festivals held at the kibbutz such as the soup evening that took place in the afternoon, Children's Day banquet, Rosh Hashana (New Year), a hiking trip on the Carmel Range (Haifa area), a candlelight evening at Hanukah with a Bingo Evening led by maestro Mister Max (Nathans)

**Matzuva Community Committee** held a meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup> 2015 and approved its Budget for 2016 prior to its submission to the Mateh Asher Regional Council. The new children's house (replacing the Savyon House care home) is soon to be completed with the new air-conditioning now being installed. As soon as everything is completed the age grouping of youngsters will be absorbed in the building sited next to the kibbutz clinic.

**Ingrid Ben-Shabbat** (ex-ulpan student at Matzuva) has recently been forced to resign as the head of kibbutz garden team after many years as its head after an unfortunate snake bite. After treatment at the Nahariya hospital has returned to the kibbutz but the doctors and the national insurance authority have determined that she must stop working in gardens for fear of a second and potentially fatal bite. The committee has thanked Ingrid for her work with the rest of the team in making Matzuva a really nice rural kibbutz community. The committee intends to organize a happening to mark the many years that Ingrid headed the garden team. **Micky Koren** will now lead the team and a further person with gardening experience will join the team. The various sport facilities have had improved lighting installed in order to encourage sporting activity in the evening. Finally, the committee once again appeals to drivers to respect the rules of the road and drive carefully especially within old Matzuva with many children daily attending the kindergartens.

**Kibbutz Matzuva Agricultural Society Committee ("Agshach")** This committee is composed of older and relatively new kibbutz members representing Matzuva residents who live in the kibbutz proper. The committee is composed of 5 members 3 older members and 2 newer members Eliran Malul and Shai Tzalel and 3 older members Deganit Benshetrit, Anat Am-ad and Baruch Kadmon. They hold a meeting every Wednesday evening and meet up with the trustee and auditor at a monthly meeting. Most of the physical assets and buildings and especially Matzuva Agriculture belong to the kibbutz members. The committee works closely with Matzuva Community Committee and provides services to the neighborhood community. The committee has recently joined Matzuva with the "Kehilanet" social network enabling all Matzuva residents to receive on-line information via their computers and/or phones. The committee is aware of the difficulties regarding public finances that it is in the hands of the trustee Noam Netzer (Auditor) . Shai Tzalel and Eliran Malul both Agshach committee members have begun to hold weekly meetings with Noam in order to keep tabs on the budget.

**Changing of the Guard - Micky Koren** calls it a day! "*After 11½ years I took on this important job of keeping Matzuva and its residents safe. I was accepted into the border police (a section of the Israeli Police) as the Matzuva security coordinator. Besides security issues I was also involved in preventing the theft of machinery and livestock that became quite frequent in rural communities. I was assisted in this sphere by Matzuva member Avi Sisso who is still a volunteer in the border police. Together we organized a security emergency unit of 5 Matzuva members. Two years into the job the Second Lebanese War broke out with a certain number of families moving temporarily to safer residential communities in other centres including kibbutzim. At this time due to the evacuation of young families there were a number of serious*



**Micky Koren (now a civilian)**

*thefts including tractors and other items including break-ins into private houses. An automatic main gate was installed in order to inspect vehicles wishing to enter the kibbutz sometimes round the clock and recently on Saturdays the gate can be opened if the driver is a kibbutz resident who can phone in to a certain coded number. During the night the main gate is manned by two guards and the Jeep patrols the perimeter road at least once an hour. It is also my task to keep the Matzuva community informed of all relevant information concerning security, the 24 security shelters situated across the kibbutz. Today, all housing must contain a bomb-proof security room just in case of need! I wish to thank all who have volunteered and assisted in making Matzuva a safe haven for its citizens. I take this opportunity to wish **Goel** my replacement every success in his new role. I also want to thank all Matzuva residents and wish them well and safe".*

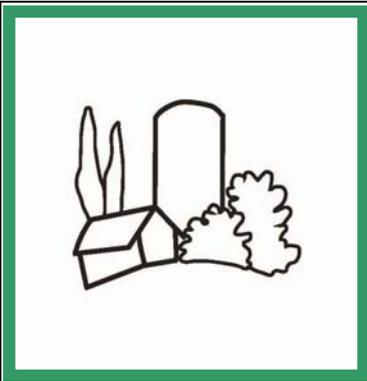


**Nahum Niv and Lift on top of the world!**

**Nachum Niv Retires from Matzuva Agriculture**

*"I arrived at Matzuva in 1984 aged 31. From that day onwards I worked in Matzuva Agriculture most of the time working in the Avocado branch"* Words of wisdom and nostalgia by Nachum!

Nachum we wish to thank you for your work spanning many years and to wish and to wish you every success and enjoyment in your new situation as a pensioner. Nachum never failed to turn up for work along with his special sense of humour. He always listened to his transistor especially sports reports while working and was informative in all aspects of life. He loved to impart his up-to-date info to everyone working beside him. Now after many years the pulse is working overtime and Nachum is no longer around. He always knew that this day would come. The mobile lift that was his work companion in the orchards was a crunch for both Nachum and the machine! The avocado orchards were always spotless in comparison with Matzuva's agricultural neighbours! This was Nachum's "baby" – neighbouring farmers would ask who is the girl with such a lovely handwriting? Nachum is a pedant and everything has to be OK and all the dreams appear in his hand. Now all Nachum has to do is what dreams he wants to achieve. All the Matzuva Agriculture team wish you well/ Eitan Shefer, Director



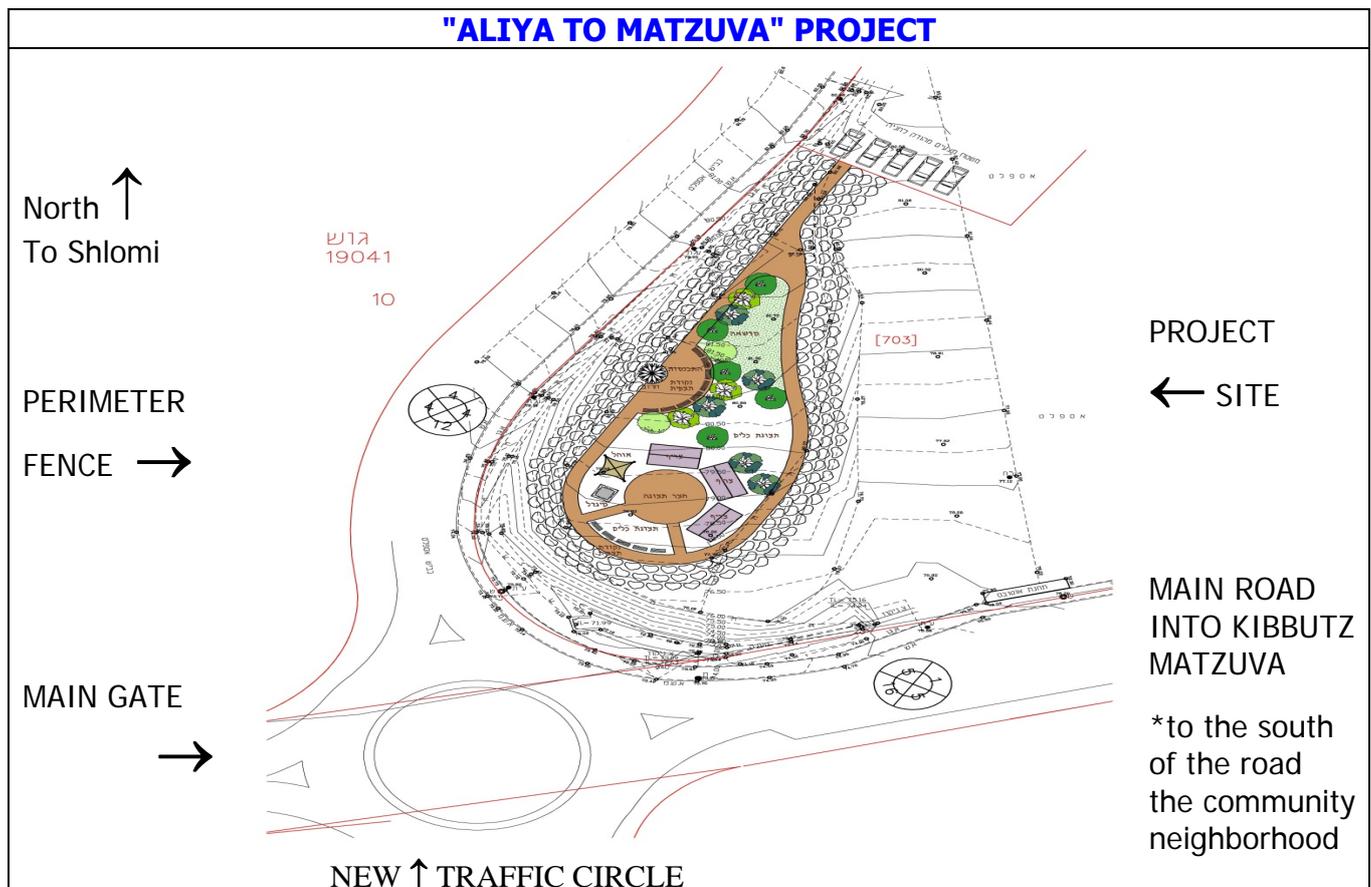
## ***Matzuva Day – 76 Years Old and still going strong***

This year Matzuva Day will be celebrated with various events and The weekend before (29-30 Jan to 5-6 Feb) movies will be shown in the moadon (clubhouse) showing the early days of the kibbutz. The Matzuva Birthday Festival will take place on February 12, 2016 in the dining room at 17:00 hours. There will be a hiking trip during March to the Kibbutz Yifat Museum (provided there are sufficient participants).

## ***New Project at Matzuva – We still need your h-e-l-p !! "A Minature Matzuva" ...but not exactly Madurodam!***

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 75<sup>th</sup> 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



## **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.

*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 - Matzuva, January 7, 2015**



MATZUVA'S 76th YEAR



107 YEARS OF THE KIBBUTZ MOVEMENT

Stop Press:

### Sad News

It is with much sadness we wish to inform you of the passing of **Robert (Bob) Lenhardt ז"ל** who passed away at the age of 55 , on Jan 7, 2016 after a long illness.

Bob was a Matzuva Ulpan student on Course 49 in 1990/91.

If anyone can recall meeting Robert Lenhart during his stay on the Ulpan and would like to add a few words in his memory we would appreciate your input.

May his dear soul rest in everlasting peace.