

## Moshav Matityahu

**M**IDWAY BETWEEN Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, in the foothills of the Judean Mountains, lies a unique settlement that will appeal to many olim for its Orthodox American-style community. There is one rav, one shul and sense of unity can be difficult to find in Israel.

Rav Zev Leff provides the moshav with Halkachic leadership, daily shiurim and spiritual guidance. There are community trips, father-son baseball games, community barbeques and family learning sessions.

**History:** Many of the events leading up to the establishment of the Chanukah holiday occurred in the region in which Moshav Matityahu is situated. The graves of Matityahu and other Chashmonaim are nearby. The moshav was initially established in 1981 by 11 families. In 1983 Rav Leff left his synagogue in Miami and assumed leadership of the moshav.



Rav Leff

**Rav Leff:** "I had lived in Miami since I was a child. And even though I'd been a rabbi of a major Young Israel branch for years, believe it or not, I'd never been to Eretz Yisrael. Not even once," Rav Leff recalls. "Ironically, the opportunity to come visit happened just when the shul was passing through a turbulent period, when some of the congregants had openly hinted that I should become more Zionistic."



Kids from Moshav Matityahu

"After returning home, I spoke with Rav Gifter, who had originally sent me to the Young Israel of North Miami. I painted Matityahu as a bleak and dismal place, and Miami as nice and easy. But Rav Gifter told me that if I could make a parnassah in Eretz Yisrael, then that's where the future is. Take the opportunity."

**English shiurim and classes:** There are daily English shiurim for men and weekly shiurim for women.

**Other attractions:** Matityahu has all the advantages of a small town while benefiting from the work opportunities and shopping in the large towns nearby, Modiin and Kiryat Sefer. The community has remained small due to a very selective acceptance policy.

**What the residents have to say:**

"Matityahu is a small warm community. We have one shul and one rav, which is rare in Israel. It made my acclimation to Israel easier because it is a very American community. It is also unique because everyone here is accepting of one another, whether they learn in kollel or work." Meira Hazen, oleh of 11 years from Rohde Island.

"I love living on Moshav Matityahu because the atmosphere of this close knit community is so warm and friendly. We take care of each other and one never feels one has to handle things alone."



View of the park

We are so fortunate to have Rav Leff as our spiritual teacher, to help and guide us as a community, as well as on an individual level." Tracy Rosenstein . 1992 olah from South Africa.

**Community Rav:** Rav Zev Leff, originally from Miami, is one of the top English speaking Torah educators in Israel.

**Population:** 63 families

**Percentage of religious:** 100% (American haredi)

**Percentage of English speakers:** 90%

**Synagogues:** One central synagogue

**Education:** There are a gan and daycare located on the moshav. The majority of elementary school-age children on Matityahu go to cheder, Talmud Torah, or Beis Yakov in Kiryat Sefer and Chashmoniam. High school age children are bused to yeshivot around the country.

**Occupations:** Residents work in a variety of jobs in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Kiryat Sefer and the moshav itself.

Occupations range from accounting, architecture, photography to technical writing. There are many new work opportunities in Kiryat Sefer where some large American companies, such as City Book, have opened branches and are looking for English speaking employees.

A number of men also learn in kollel.

**You can find out more about the moshav at: or contact: Meira Hazen 08-914-4737**

