

Some of my memories of Matti

1. I remember an excursion with Matti, Nili, Ada and maybe some of the sons, though I don't remember exactly. Anyway, we were driving out to see the little red anemones that were growing in large numbers in the fields near Ramat Raziel.

Matti was driving, and at one point we turned onto a little dirt track through the fields. It has rained, so it was pretty muddy.

And pretty far in, we got stuck – and I mean really stuck – in the mud!!!

Matti tried for ages to get us out – the rest of us were standing out in the field, also admiring the flowers. Matti tried – and tried – and tried – with no success.

Finally a man came along in his car – possible the person who owned the fields – and with his help, with his car pushing or pulling us, we got out.

Someone – maybe Nili? - commented: When you go for an excursion with Matti, something is bound to occur!

2. It was either Pesach or Rosh haShanah. Whichever, Matti was going to pick me up. I was still living in Kiryat Yearim and had gone down the long hill so it would be easier. And I waited... and waited... and waited. I kept wondering if I should go back up to my room, as I was sure Matti would be trying to phone me. But I thought as soon as I left down below, Matti would come. So I stayed. After 1½ hours, Matti finally came – something had gone wrong with the car. Matti's first comment was: For your next birthday, we're giving you a peplephone (= cell phone). And sure enough. I've had one ever since.

3. My last contact with Matti was less than a month before Matti left us. One of our sisters had died at the age of 104. She was Jewish and Israeli, so many family and friends were coming to the funeral. This was going to be mostly in Hebrew. Some symbols of her life had been placed on the coffin, and these were going to be explained – in English, but we also wanted them to be in Hebrew. I didn't trust my Hebrew to be able to do a translation well, so I asked Matti if he would translate for us. And of course Matti said yes. And he really spent time on it and worked hard.

In that connection I had I think my longest phone call ever with Matti. And I and we were really grateful for his translation.

With these examples of my experiences with Matti, I concluded by saying that with these memories and many others, and way beyond them, I always felt a deep connection with Matti. And I miss him very much. But at the same time, like all of us, I'm very glad he is no longer in such pain.