Tal Mezig- Testimonial

I was introduced to Jaquelin, a 75 year old woman from a Tunisian origin. The Tunisian origin, of which I am familiar with, was our connection – Food, language and traditions. We also love the same Turkish soap opera. We opened her family album and discussed her childhood photographs which served as backdrop to her life stories. Contents about her body image throw me back to my high- school days- It was better in the good old days. I took photographs of her and she dedicated herself to the process in spite of her embarrassment. She was always worried "Did you eat? Did you drink?". We prepared food together.

Yuval Shemesh- Testimonial

I accompanied 2 elderly people in weekly meetings during the year and I had fascinating and interesting moments.

One of them, the late Avi Livne, was a charming man. A pensioner from the Ministry of Education with great optimism and a love for life that impressed me and strengthened me in the meetings...

In addition to his illness, he also suffered from dementia and at every meeting we would repeat and memorize things... In recent times, he was in and out of the hospital until his death. His death was very difficult for me and I continued to accompany his wife after that, until I realized that it was too difficult for me.

With Dov, the second elderly man, a dear 96-year-old man, living on his own, I learned about the old testament and we had many in-depth conversations...in addition he gave me bible lessons and we had many deep conversations. He taught me how to focus and the importance of being focused on life...the guy is as sharp as a razor in recognition and great awareness of life despite of his age... he also had Covid19 and, with great difficulty, recovered from it, and slowly recuperated... we are in touch these days and I would be happy to continue meetings with him next year....

Thanks to my meetings and exposure to the elderly, I discovered new friends, people you come to give and actually receive a lot from. Their lifetime wisdom has great value.

I saw a spark in their eyes at every meeting, and in every phone call I felt enthusiasm and their love for me.

I am grateful for the privilege that the Matanel Foundation opened up to me the world of generosity, giving and exposure to other. The elderly adult whose word, meeting and conversation fills up his world and increases his life bank... Thank you for the privilege.

Illai Vared- Testimonial

Happily, this year I participated in the Perach Zahav- Matanal scholarship, within the framework of which I connected with an elderly man named Avraham, who made my school year much more colorful

and satisfying. Fortunately for me, as if someone knew it was worth getting us together, from the first meeting it was clear that I had a new friend. After the first meeting, it was an amazing feeling to know that during the year, once a week I will have an experience with an elderly person who I feel that the meetings with me do him good and add a fun and positive experience to his life. The feeling is completely mutual.

On the way to our first meeting, I was on the phone with a friend and he wished me luck. I told him that I was curious to know what kind of person I would meet and that I wished he liked chess.

We arranged to meet at his daughters' hat shop on King George Street, close to his house, and to mine, where he arrives on his scooter every Friday morning and the day until the early afternoon.

When I entered the shop I met a smiling, kind old man.

He asked if I was Illai and I said yes.

He said that this is already a good sign because a few months ago he had a new grandson named Illay. I replied that it was really a good sign. For more than an hour we talked non-stop and told each other about ourselves.

He said that one of the things he would be happy to get help with is using the tablet he received as a gift as well as the phone and the computer because he really likes working and tinkering with new devices but he needs guidance. All kinds of actions he can't do and wants me to help him learn.

He prepared a list in advance with actions he tries to perform and fails and we started going through the list. The same goes for our other meetings throughout the year, always starting with a list of points where he needs help.

We opened the tablet and went through the questions he had. Suddenly I saw a chess app that I also play and I said – “I can't believe it, you also play chess on a tablet?”

He said to me “Are you kidding? I play every day.”

We felt very lucky for being liaised to each other.

I told him that I had a spare chess board and that next week I would bring it and leave it in the shop. That's how during the year we met on Fridays at the hat shop, sometimes also on another day at his house. Playing chess, working with the computer, telling stories and passing the time with great fun.

Thanks to Matanel Foundation for this gift.