



# What's New... In WIZO ?



January 2013, No.7

Dear Chaverot,

This issue of 'What's New in WIZO' goes out following the Meeting of Representatives that was held in Tel Aviv from the 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> of January. WIZO leaders from thirty five countries came to Israel to take part in the MOR, my first since taking office as Chairperson of the World WIZO Executive last January.

The Meeting of Representatives, under the banner 'We Care, We Share and We Dare', sent out a clear message of 'Women Power' - from tracing the footsteps of one of our founders, Vera Weitzmann, to a panel entitled 'Women as Groundbreakers', in which women pioneers in all spheres spoke about their path to success.

All the federations had an opportunity to introduce themselves and to share the highlights of their work, which was truly inspirational. We were all in awe, of the huge efforts and hard work of our sister federations around the world for the benefit of society and for WIZO.

Everyone has returned home, fully motivated so 'Let the WIZO year begin'.

With warm regards.

Prof. Rivka Lazovsky  
Chairperson,  
World WIZO Executive



### Israelis go to the Polls

On January 22<sup>nd</sup>, over five million Israelis had the opportunity to voice their opinions in the ballot booth during Israeli elections.

The whole country had a festive atmosphere, the harsh winter was interrupted by a hot sunny day, and the celebration of democracy was felt in every corner.

Israel's electoral system, is quite unique and almost every person in the country, with his or her preferences and opinions, can find their views represented in one of the many parties that stands for election.

At 10.00 pm, Israelis gathered around their televisions to listen to the exit polls, which showed several surprises, and a country that is split down the middle ideologically, with everyone sure that they know what is best for the country which they so love.

We, in WIZO, will continue to work hand in hand with any government that is formed, making our voices heard where we think necessary, for the benefit of society in Israel, and the bond with the Jewish people around the world.



### WIZO Early Age Division

### Hiba Program for Children at Risk

According to statistics, one in every six children in Israel is classed as being **'at risk'**. The Early Age Division, aware of the importance of the first three years in every child's life, has formed partnerships with the Joint and the Ministry of the Social Welfare in order to help each of these children to develop throughout the stages of infancy, with professional advanced help, carefully adapted to each individual.

The program includes:

- ✚ Individual guidance for every child in the Day Care Center (given by professionals in various fields)
- ✚ Home instruction for parents and the child, once a week
- ✚ Parent and child participation in group activities, in order to further positive interaction such as: guided play activities, cooking and baking, movement activities, language enrichment.
- ✚ Parental participation in group training.





According to a nutrition survey one of the main questions that parents of early age children asks is:



**'How can I get my child to eat vegetables?'**

This month's nutrition newsletter which is posted by the Early Age Division suggested the following:

- Vegetables should not be disguised or hidden, but presented in an interesting way.
- Be an example to your child; if you eat vegetables he will eat vegetables.
- Enjoy family meals around the table.
- Let your child help with the preparation.
- **DON'T GIVE UP** – It may take several attempts.



**WIZO Education Division:**

**WIZO Hadassim Children and Youth Village, sponsored by Canadian Hadassah WIZO**, launched the opening of a **smart classroom**. This class was donated by **Samsung Israel**. Samsung Israel has established a program which focuses on opening digital classes throughout the country. Hadassim was the first class that Samsung has built and launched. This was a very special ceremony both for Hadassim and Samsung. In fact, **Mr. Tzoai, the CEO of Samsung personally flew into Israel to attend the ceremony.**





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The students were so excited to be receiving this incredible classroom; in fact, most of the children have never been exposed to technology like this before.



On Monday 19 November 2012 a ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the inauguration of **Beit Ruth, a joint project with Tel Aviv-Jaffa Foundation** on the grounds of WIZO Nir Haemek.. **The Beit Ruth Educational and Therapeutic Village is an educational village that will be a home and provide an empowerment program to approximately 200 teenage girls who can no longer live at home with their parents and have no other alternative.** Beit Ruth is their opportunity to break through the cruel cycle of abuse, poverty, and distress that has been an inseparable part of their life so far. The ceremony marked the end of Phase I of the project - 3 houses for 45 teenage girls at r i s k .





Two graduates of **WIZO Hadassim**, sponsored by **Canadian Hadassah WIZO**, have written many songs for successful artists in Israel over recent years. They are now producing their own song album under the careful eyes of well known Israeli singer, **Aviv Geffen**. In a recent interview with the Israel Television they returned to their roots at **WIZO Hadassim**, '**where it all began**'. **Guy Mentesh** and **Yahel Doron** told of their dreams whilst at **WIZO Hadassim** when, at the age of twelve, they decided that they would one day have their own recording studio. They spoke very positively, in the name of all the students who arrive at youth villages, for the support that they were given whilst at **WIZO Hadassim**.



On the 29<sup>th</sup> November, 12<sup>th</sup> grade pupils from **WIZO Bet Hakerem** sponsored by **WIZO uk** volunteered to help distribute food to the needy in Jerusalem. They packed six hundred food parcels including two challot in each parcel. They all felt they were contributing to society and were surprised at the high demand for basic food products.





### WIZO Israel



Prior to the elections WIZO Israel carried out a survey amongst the public in relation to women in politics and it was revealed that 'Only 7% of the public believes that a female Prime Minister can confront the Iranian threat: over one third believes in a woman for matters regarding social issues and education'.

The survey further revealed that:

- ✚ 40% prefer a male Prime Minister to handle state matters.
- ✚ 77% do not foresee a woman in the post of Defense Minister during the next ten years, 60% do not foresee a woman as head of the Mossad, and one third do not foresee a female Minister of Finance in the near future.
- ✚ Over half of the population do not agree to keeping places for women in the government. Most of the population believes that the family is the cause for women not advancing in politics.



The 25<sup>th</sup> November marked the anniversary of the Elimination of Violence against Women. WIZO held a rally in memory of the victims of violence;

- 19 women were killed in Israel in 2012 - a decrease of 26% from the data in 2011 and 5% Data from 2010
- 200 thousand women suffer domestic violence and 600 thousand children exposed to violence..

**MK Zahava Gal-On said** "combating violence against women and violence in general is one of the most important issues in society today.. One of the main problems is that only 10% of women complain to the police, but the numbers are much higher. Every year we meet here, sitting here and in the end nothing changes. Women continue to be killed just because they are women.

Out of 19 women murdered Jewish six year veteran, four Arab sector, six from Ethiopia, one of the former Soviet Union, one from the Philippines and emission Erythraean.





According to estimates of WIZO Israel 200 000 women suffer violence from their partners and about 600 thousand children are witness to violence.



**I end this newsletter as I began, with the Israeli elections that just took place and I would like to add some interesting facts that emerged:**

**I am pleased to report that this Knesset will have a record number of women. Twenty seven women will take their seats which is 23% of the whole. Whereas we still have a long way to go until we see equal numbers, we are catching up to European countries such as France with 25% and overtaking Britain with only 22% of the Parliament seats being held by women. I am sure that WIZO Israel can take some of the credit after campaigning for more women to stand for election.**

**The new Knesset will also include seven new immigrants from the Former Soviet Union, two Ethiopian immigrants, and one immigrant from the USA. - a tribute to immigrant absorption in Israel.**

**No less than forty nine 'freshmen' are joining this Knesset, 41% of the whole, a testament that the country wants to see change and new blood amongst its decision makers.**



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And despite the fact that there were numerous stories prior to the elections that the Arab population would boycott the elections, voter turnout among the Arab population reached 58% - a respectable number by any standards.

And to end.....



With the proclamation of the State of Israel in 1948, Jewish religious leaders had the incredible opportunity to compose a prayer for the Jewish leaders of a Jewish state:

*"Our Father Who art in Heaven, Protector and Redeemer of Israel, bless Thou the State of Israel which marks the dawn of our deliverance. Shield it beneath the wings of Thy love. Spread over it Thy canopy of peace; send Thy light and Thy truth to its leaders, officers, and counselors, and direct them with Thy good counsel.*

אמנות אבינו מי עדן, מגן, הגואל של ישראל, אתה יברך את מדינת ישראל אשר מסמן שחר " הגאולה שלנו. " מגן זה מתחת כנפי האהבה שלך. מורחים אותו את החופה של שלום; לשלוח את האור ואמת את שלו למנהיגים קצינים, מדריכים, שיכוון אותם עם יועצת טובה שלך.

**Amen!**

With best regards,

Rivka Lazovsky



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*Creating A New Tomorrow*



Prof. Rivka Lazovsky,  
Chairperson,  
World WIZO Executive