



What's New... In WIZO ?

March 2013, No.8



Dear Chaverot,

It seems like yesterday when I wrote about the opening of the new school year in WIZO's Day Care Centers, schools and youth villages and we are already approaching the Pesach holidays which signals the beginning of the end of the school year, with matriculation examinations drawing closer. Our WIZO work with children is one of our most important missions, and is one of the deepest passions of our WIZO volunteers around the world. Whenever I see our WIZO members from abroad visiting a Day Care Center their eyes positively glow.

Our WIZO schools, youth villages, Day Care Centers and WIZO Centers put great emphasis on our heritage, our history and our customs.

The Jewish year centers around our festivals, and what can be more real, as we tell of the ten plagues that were brought upon Egyptians when the Children of Israel were in Egypt, than to see on the news, each day, the swarm of locusts that are attacking the south of the country, and some of which are even arriving in south Tel Aviv.

Living in Israel is living the Bible.

Prof. Rivka Lazovsky,
Chairperson,
World WIZO Executive



As I write these words there is still no government in Israel. But the final government will bear out the wishes of the electorate.

Despite uprisings and riots, democracy is still eluding our neighboring countries in the Middle East. Tens of thousands have been murdered just kilometers from the Israeli border. UN peacekeepers sent to keep peace between Israel and Syria found themselves kidnapped and thrust into the center of a different war altogether.

Whereas our democracy in Israel may seem to be confusing, it is the only democracy in the Middle East. Over one million Arabs in Israel are enjoying the democratic rights, and have for decades, that other countries are struggling to secure.

The Middle East is now at a fateful crossroad. But the path to freedom and democracy is not paved by elections alone. Democracy is when limits are placed on the power of rules, when judges have to keep to laws and when human rights cannot be crushed by mob rule.

The Palestinians have already seen what is possible. They have begun to build a better life for themselves. The Palestinian economy is strengthening. Palestinian cities look different than they did just a few years ago and now have shopping malls, movie theatres, restaurants and banks. But it may all be temporary so long as a piece of paper linking the Palestinian Authority with Hamas, which openly calls for the abolition of Israel, is on the table.

With Arab, Jewish, Druze, Haredi and Secular representation the new Knesset will pay tribute to the only democracy in the Middle East.

Israel is not what is wrong in the Middle East, Israel is all that is right in the Middle East.



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WIZO Early Age Division

On Thursday, 28th February 2013, the Sderot Municipality, the Gvanim non profit organization and the WIZO movement inaugurated the Division for the Development of the Child in the 'Open House for the Early Age Group' in Sderot.

The Open House for the Early Age was established in 2009 by the Municipality, the Gvanim non profit organization and the WIZO movement in a building that had housed the **Margaret Thatcher WIZO Day Care Center**. Enrichment programs and courses for parents and children are organized in the Open House as well as training courses of educators, and others. **The staff of the Division is made up of a host of professionals including a social worker, developmental psychologist, occupational therapist and physiotherapists.**



Each year the Division cares for approximately 150 early aged children.

The father of one of the children, aged six years, said: 'The relatively early detection of my son's difficulty led to him receiving therapy throughout the years. We were also given parental guidance by a psychologist, which helped us to raise both our son, and our other children. For one year our son was in a special education kindergarten in Sderot, and now **he is about to join the first grade in a regular junior school.** I want to thank you all'.



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Mr. Jorg-Uwe Hahn-Vice Minister President of Hesse, Minister of Justice for Integration and Europe, this week Visited the Mathilde Nahmias Hassid Multipurpose Day Care Center, sponsored by WIZO France. The Minister is in Israel on an official visit, and his tour of the Day Care Center was made possible due to the personal connections that he has with Mrs. Diana Schnabbel, the President of the WIZO Germany, and his deep interest in the issue of integration.

The WIZO Day Care Center in Jaffa nurtures and educates, side by side, ninety children both Jewish and Arab, from the city of Jaffa, and serves as a model for early age education.

He was joined on the visit by a professional team, the Head of Social and Labor Affairs in the Germany Embassy in Tel Aviv, Mrs. Heike Kauls, and Mr. Jacky Schnabbel, the husband of Diana Schnabbel, who is a devoted supporter of his wife's activities and WIZO.

Professor Lazovsky said, 'We do not see ourselves as simply a baby sitting service but this Center, as well as our other WIZO Day Care Centers provides an educational and therapeutical framework for children from the ages of 6 months, reducing their educational gaps so that they begin school on the same standard as their peer group. In this Day Care Center, as in all WIZO Day Care Centers calm serenity greets the children as every morning our staff welcome the children with a kiss and a hug. To WIZO it does not matter if a child is Jewish or Arab, Christian or Moslem they all have the same basic needs, and receive the same loving care.'



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WIZO Education Division:

Although WIZO officially nurtures our students and pupils during the years that they learn in the educational network, **many graduates of our schools and youth villages have no real home to go to after joining the army.** Having lived away from home for many years due to dysfunctional families, they would find themselves with no real home, no real family and no longer with their mentors, who they so relied upon during the period they were in our youth village. Often these graduates do not want to return to the bad influences that they had left behind, and we, in WIZO, certainly do not want to turn our backs on them in their times of need.

We therefore set up **Graduate Homes** for those who are unable to return to their parent's homes after they complete high school due to severe conditions that exist in their families or because they are students who have made Aliya on their own and have no family in Israel. WIZO is committed to caring for these graduates even after they complete high school and have nowhere to live and have no family supportive framework.

I am enclosing two stories of graduates who are still under WIZO's wing, even after completing twelve years of education.



WIZO Nir Haemek:

Home For Graduates



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Tamar lived in the dormitory for girls at risk in WIZO Hadassim, sponsored by Canadian Hadassah WIZO for 3 years. Tamar was referred to Hadassim due to a court order. Her family has complex and severe family problems. Her parents are divorced and they have 5 children plus another 4 children from other relationships. The family has been known to the welfare authorities for more than 15 years. Their socio economic level is very poor. They suffer from health, mental health, neglect and have limited parenting skills. During her 3 years at **WIZO Hadassim**, Tamar volunteered with the children in the dormitories and she herself, underwent therapy, and when she completed the twelfth grade Tamar asked if she could live in "**Beit Haboger**" (the graduate dormitory), because her family could not provide her with material or emotional needs and she wanted to continue her counseling and treatment in WIZO Hadassim.

Dor arrived at WIZO Hadassim at the age of 4 as a result of a court order due to physical and emotional neglect by his mother who was a drug addict. Dor had no contact with his father. Dor has an older sister and has a good relationship with her. Dor is not able to live with his mother. She cannot provide any physical or emotional support to him. **For Dor WIZO Hadassim's graduate dorm "Beit Haboger" is home.**



WIZO Nir Haemek Youth Village, sponsored by WIZO Argentina and WIZO USA educates its students throughout the year to contribute to the community and the environment, and the story of the horse "**Hope**" reflects perhaps more than ever, these positive values



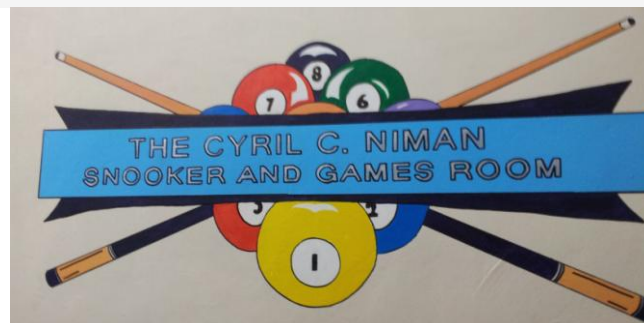
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The horse arrived at Nir Haemek two weeks ago, after the coordinator of the horse riding course was asked to save the horse which was in a severe state of underweight, refusing to eat and there was fear for her life.

The stable veterinarian, Dr. Aviv Harnoy, was enlisted to help and the horse received dental care with special equipment. Hope also received vitamins and salts intravenously.. The pupils in the youth village come to visit her often, and gave her words of encouragement, Already, after just two weeks she looks more lively, although she is still underweight but we hope this will change. **Hope is now in the tender care, and has been adopted by, the students in the youth village.**



"Grandpa, I miss you, this room is for you." Nick brought guests to tears at the recent opening ceremony of the **Cyril C. Niman Snooker and Games Room at WIZO Beit Hakerem Vocational School sponsored by WIZO uk..**

The late Cyril C. Niman of Manchester, England was a man of vision, a successful entrepreneur who devoted himself to his family, his community and to Israel. Shortly before his death he visited WIZO together with his wife Leila and their daughter **Tricia Schwitzer, Deputy Chairperson of the Fundraising Division of the World WIZO Executive.**



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Through a generous donation from his wife Leila, and in light of his great love for snooker, the **Cyril C. Niman Snooker and Games Room at WIZO Beit Hakerem Vocational School** was set up in a shelter, decorated with painted murals, which has now been beautifully transformed to provide troubled youth with a healthy outlet for developing responsibility, social skills, and discipline.



Joanne, a student at the school conveyed her heartfelt appreciation to the family for their generosity in assisting children at risk by providing them with "equal opportunities". Bar, who came to the school last year as a truant and introverted girl, entertained the guests with her singing performances throughout the dedication. Not only did she add to the festivity of the program, but proved once again that **youth at risk can overcome their challenges thanks to WIZO and the generosity of our donors.**

WIZO Israel



WIZO Israel's chain of vintage, second hand shops, the '**Bigudiyot**' joined '**Good Deeds Day**' on March 5th by, selling vintage clothing in an event that took place in Rabin Square, in Tel Aviv. Top designers and stylists took part and gave personal advice and tips for the purchase of second hand clothes, along with students.



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All proceeds are dedicated to continuing operations WIZO for the community. In addition, visitors to the site were asked to bring old magazines which will be contributed to women in **WIZO Centers for the Prevention of Violence**.

WIZO Israel handed out its annual badge of shame for sexist advertising on **International Women's Day**, 8th March, and this year the 'trophy' was given to the Israeli Ministry of Tourism.

The offending advertising campaign is the **Ministry's 2012 initiative "Each One Brings One,"** starring Israel model, actress and producer Noa Tishby.

According to WIZO, the campaign, spearheaded by the Israel Government Advertising Agency, sends out an outdated message suggesting that women are incapable of performing "male" tasks, as well as objectifying women as pretty little things restricted to their traditional societal roles.



The advert shows the actress, Gilat Ankori, lying in ambush with a group of Israeli soldiers. Tishby walks up and says to her, "We never asked you to wait in ambush. But there is something you could do - bring a tourist here."

The 'award' was highly publicized in all Israeli media.

On Monday, 11th March, **WIZO Jerusalem celebrated International Women's Day** at the Cinamateque in Jerusalem. **Gavriella Lev** was awarded recognition for her unique work as a producer, and actress in the Jerusalem Theatre and **Rachel Azariya** was awarded recognition for her activities a member of the Jerusalem Council for the protection of pluralism in Jerusalem.

The audience was addressed by **Ariella Persky, Chairperson of WIZO Jerusalem, and Prof. Rivka Lazovsky**, who congratulated WIZO Jerusalem on its wide range of activities for the benefit of the population in Jerusalem.

The greetings and presentation were followed by the screening of the film 'Quartet'.

And finally,





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I wish you, your families, the whole House of Israel and the whole House of WIZO.

חג פסח כשר ושמח

A Happy and Kosher Pesach

Rivka Lazovsky

Prof. Rivka Lazovsky
Chairperson,
World WIZO Executive