



14th March 2012 (070)

What's New... In WIZO ?



Dear Chaverot,

Once again the South of the country is sitting in shelters as rockets are being fired across from Gaza. WIZO Day Care Centers are closed according to instructions from the Home Guard, and we are nervously eyeing the situation and praying that the situation will calm down.

This What's New in WIZO, is larger than usual, since it will be the last one that I will be sending before Pesach and despite the recent hostilities we have much to be grateful for since last Pesach. We have enjoyed the best rainfall - a cause for celebration in Israel which has seen the water line in the Kinneret severely depleted due to lack of rain over the years. What a pleasure to see the rivers and streams gushing with water and the greenery that is all around. Already flowers are carpeting previously barren hills. **This year, our prayers for rain were answered.**

For the last five years, many of us left a chair vacant at our family Seder symbolizing the ongoing saga of Gilad Shalit, who was kidnapped and held in a Hamas prison. This year, the Shalit family will be celebrating Pesach together. **This year our prayers for Gilad were answered.**

Hag Sameach to the Whole House of Israel. May all our prayers be answered.



To mark **International Woman's Day, on 8th March**, WIZO organized a special event at the Knesset in conjunction with the Committee for the Advancement of the Status of Women chaired by Member of Knesset Tzipi Hotovelev.

The most offensive and degrading advertisement towards women was announced at the event as well as the firms behind the advertisements who were branded with the stigma of sexist advertisers.

The 'award' was given to the **FIX** marketers of bras, which was judged as having crossed over the line by using young girls in their campaign, and presenting the body of the woman as a sexual object.

A discussion was led by Meirav Michaeli on the subject of the exclusion, distortion and debasement of women in reality shows and in advertising.

The phenomenon calling for **the Exclusion of Women** in the public arena has grown recently and we are witnessing more and more cases in which men and women are being separated. In the Haredi community the separation between men and women is not new, but when this demand is being made in the general public arena, such as busses, billboards, or in army ceremonies, bordering on threats, fear tactics and insults towards women and young girls, **Israeli society must take a stand.**

Israel, as a democratic State, is based on a mainstream society, acceptable to all, with equality for all groups and denominations. **Excluding women from the public arena goes against equality, the right for respect, and the right of freedom of religion.**





WIZO Early Age Division

'Nutrition - This year's theme in the WIZO Day Care Centers:

A **Nutrition Kit** has been completed for WIZO Day Care Centers relating to a number of angles involved in **Nutrition** - educational angles, cultures, health, safety, and others. The kit has taken over a year to produce, with input from supervisors in the Day Care Centers, Directors, Caregivers and Cooks, a sort of 'bible' of nutrition for Day Care Centers, which can be handed down from generation to generation.

The publication of the kit will be celebrated in a ceremony to be held at the WIZO Day Care Center in Makor Haim, on 21st March.

Cutting the Ribbon:

In honor of Tu B'Shvat, the New Year for trees, the ribbon was cut celebrating the inauguration of the new exterior of the WIZO Day Care Centre in Ra'anana.. WIZO has operated this DCC for over 40 years and it provides services for 55 toddlers from the ages of three months to three years. The Ra'anana Municipality invested in the landscaping of the front yard that includes an ecological garden where the toddlers and children can plant flowers, herbs and vegetables.

Flowers were planted in the new garden in honor of Tu B'Shvat.



Day Care Center and More.....

Many Day Care Centers are now offering the 'Day Care Center and More' project which offers, 'additional chances for improvement', including art and music enrichment, ecological activities, and others.



At present 59 Day Care Centers are taking part in the project and others are waiting to join. We recently held a Seminar Day to explain the project, and the extras that it provides for the children in the Day Care Center.

High Demand for New Day Care Centers

The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor, which is responsible for the Day Care Centers in Israel, is being inundated with requests to build, and renovate Day Care Centers across the country, The high demand is due to the outcome of the Trachtenburg Report, and the new policy to provide free education for children of an early age, thus increasing requests for registration in registered Day Care Centers.

According to **Minister Shalom Simchon, who hold the portfolio for the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor**, 'We see the Day Care Centers as an important tool in the encouragement of women to go out to work, and we are especially encouraging the building of new Day Care Centers for minority groups, in order that Arab women can also join the workforce'.

The Ministry has received **352** requests for new Day Care Centers, which include 303 from local authorities, **49 from organizations who operate Day Care Centers**. It is reckoned that the sum will be in the area of NIS 540,000,000,

WIZO Education Division:



WIZO Hadassim, sponsored by Canadian Hadassah WIZO, hosted 60 pupils from the 'Integral Jewish School' Uruguay, on the 1st February. The pupils were part of the Israel Experience program, and they were joined by the Chairperson of the World WIZO Executive, Prof. Rivka Lazovsky and the President of WIZO Uruguay, Rachel Lapchik de Szwedzki and her husband, who heads the Ashkenazi Jewish community in Uruguay. **Spanish speaking pupils from WIZO Hadassim conducted the ceremony**. The visitors heard about the different courses of study in the school and the different activities in the youth village. They enjoyed a typically Israeli supper and a great time was had by all during a party which included dancing and singing together.



For the fourth year pupils from **WIZO Hadassim** are taking part in a Science Project, which is being held in **Bar Ilan University**. They are part of a group of 180 pupils, from low socio economic backgrounds, who are enriching their knowledge of science in the Science Faculty of the University. They have the privilege of using the most up to date advanced laboratories which increases their knowledge, presents them with challenges and they realize that they, too, have a chance of becoming scientists.

Leonard Klein from Argentina, came to Israel at the age of 5, without a mother, and having no connections with his father. At the age of 13 he was taken in by a foster family. He wanted to join **WIZO Hadassim** specifically because he had heard that WIZO Hadassim has a football activity in partnership with the Betar Tubruk Football Club. He applied and joined WIZO Hadassim in the ninth grade after fulfilling the criteria of the football club.

At the beginning Elliot was uncooperative with the staff of the youth village, but with time he began to settle in taking part in the Israel Youth Award Scheme and practicing his football. The trainer of the football club believed in Elliot's potential and took him as deputy trainer of the 6th and 7th grade team. He became their role model and they looked up to him. Elliot began to contribute to the youth village, he developed on a personal and educational level. His academic results improved and today he is learning in the Ometz class, with an average of 90% in all subjects. He successfully completed his matriculation in the 11th grade, left the football club and was signed on to play in the **Hapoel Raanana Football Team**.

Elliot travels to Raanana for training five days a week, taking part in league games at the weekend. He received a grant for his volunteerism in the community, where he teaches football.

To us he is a star.

WIZO hosts WIZO

The 17th February was a Shabbat in which the pupils of **WIZO Nir Haemek youth village, sponsored by WIZO Argentina and WIZO USA** remained in the school over the weekend, but it was a Shabbat with a difference.

The Nir Haemek youth village hosted the **Song and Dance Troupe of WIZO Nachlat Yehuda, sponsored by WIZO Switzerland**, which is about to celebrate its 90th anniversary. The atmosphere was electric as fifty smiling pupils, from Nachlat Yehuda, danced and sang, in



front of 150 smiling pupils from Nir Haemek. They danced for fifty minutes without a break, in their bright costumes, to their clapping audience.

It is hard to believe that each one of the performers has his, or her, own sad story, but together, they had worked hard in order to make this happy, and positive step in their lives, spreading their joy in all directions, and are emerging **as winners**.

Both WIZO Nir Haemek and WIZO Nachlat Yehuda enjoyed a great weekend. Kol Hadavod on this joint venture.

The WIZO Music Center in Maalot Tarshicha is unique. It serves all the communities in the area, Jewish, Arab, Christian, Druze, and others. The Center has one aim in mind, to provide quality music educational programs, tailored to the needs, and abilities, of each student. Many of these students come from disadvantaged backgrounds, and the WIZO Music Center gives them the opportunity to discover their talents, and follow their potential.



Orian Shukran, a young Jewish boy, and Gadi Abu Saman, a Christian Arab, were in the UK, for their debut performances and captivated audiences wherever they played.

In a recital at the London Jewish Cultural Center, they not only enchanted everyone with their magical notes, but the deep bond that the two young men displayed towards one another was welcome proof as to how two young men from such diverse background, can live, and work together in harmony. Over 150 people in Leeds, in the North of England, took part in a concert at the Vincent Hall. They were interviewed by the BBC.





Chairperson's Office

Creating A New Tomorrow



The finale of their UK tour was their recital at the WIZO UK Dinner for 2012, in the presence of the Israeli Ambassador to the UK, and where a graduate of the WIZO Nachlat Yehuda Youth Village received a standing ovation for her poignant story about her traumatic childhood and how WIZO turned her life around.

Within the framework of the course for counselors/soldiers which is **operated at the Bet WIZO Italia Lev Jaffa Community Center, sponsored by WIZO Italy**, boys and girls took part in a demonstration against discrimination which was held in Tel Aviv. The youth were interviewed for the television.



The WIZO Vocational School in Bet Hakerem, sponsored by WIZO uk, has joined a scheme of the Authority of Education in Jerusalem and has installed waste disposals for newspaper, batteries, tins and plastic containers and bottles. It therefore joins other schools in the city who are making active efforts to protect the environment.

Hadass is a student in the **Police Academy at WIZO Nir Haemek, which is sponsored by WIZO Argentina and WIZO USA**. Some of you will remember Hadass who appeared before the Enlarged General Meeting in January. She moved everyone who was present at that special evening and I would like to share with you some of the activities of the school, in which Hadass is involved. We have just given out report cards, as is customary twice a year.

The report card of Hadass showed an average of 80%, and in four subjects she reached 100%. The teachers in the school are not known for their generous marks. Two and a half years ago no school in the area where Hadass lived (Rosh Haayin) was prepared to accept Hadass. She arrived at WIZO Nir Haemek with huge gaps in her education in many subjects.

By joining the Police Academy in the school she began to take her studies seriously and her marks improved greatly, so much so that she wanted to help others and was a role model for other pupils who were finding difficulty with their studies.



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Hadass is going to be awarded a full matriculation certificate. The efforts that the school has invested in Hadass have paid off - they have looked after her as if she is their own daughter.

We wish Hadass a wonderful future.



I am delighted to tell you about the visit of **Professor Stanley Fischer, the Governor of the Bank of Israel, to WIZO Nachlat Yehuda which is sponsored by WIZO Switzerland.** At his request the visit was kept low key, and no members of the World WIZO Executive were present. Stanley Fischer is a figure who is well known, and respected, throughout the financial world, and he is also a new immigrant 'par excellence'. One hundred pupils crowded in to the lecture hall and were glued to his every word. The Governor spoke to them about the work of the Bank of Israel, he gave them facts and figures about Israel currency and answered all their questions.

The pupils asked him many questions about finance, to which he replied, 'I must admit, that compared to other places where I have spoken to the pupils, you in WIZO Nachlat Yehuda are more open, asking many questions, and showing great interest'.

Dr. Hezi Yosef, the Director General of the Youth Village closed the visit by saying, 'I am very happy that we had the chance to organize this meeting between the pupils and such a senior influence in Israel, It is due to Stanley Fisher that the Israeli economy is enjoying stability'.

Member of Knesset, Shaul Mofaz, a former pupil of the WIZO Nahalal Youth Village, sponsored by WIZO Canada and WIZO uk paid a visit to the boarding school where he spoke with graduates and was filmed for a television program called "People".



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During the visit, the MK visited the youth village where he milked cows and then continued to the eucalyptus tree which sits right beside the first dorm building in which he resided during his early years at the school.

His father brought the young Shaul Mofaz to the Nahalal youth village in 1962, after exploring a number of youth villages, it was his father who decided that Nahalal would be the right place for his son, and would provide him with best tools for success. Shaul says: "In retrospect, I understand and justify my father in his decision to send me here. It has helped me along my path and actually brought me to where I am today. "

As a final note Shaul stated "**above all else, I am proud to be part of the WIZO family** and to have had the privilege to learn and be educated in a place that yields so many opportunities and helps its youth build their dreams."



WIZO Israel

The **WIZO Israel Advancement of the Status of Women Division** has completed two courses for women who are aiming for high positions on directorates. One course in Nahariya and one in Modiin. A mediation course was held in Kiryat Gat, and the Division has won two tenders for the operation of Shelters for women who are victims of abuse, and their children.

I want to share with you a story that has been unfolding in one of our **Legal Advice Bureaus**, and gives you a glimpse into the work that his being done in these bureaus. Since the case is in the courts, I cannot write their names.



A 33 year old woman, born in Ethiopia, whose biological family was dysfunctional and from the age of 10 lived with an older sister, completed 8 years of schooling and learned cookery.

She met her partner, an Israeli, who visited Ethiopia looking for an Ethiopian wife. He was a policeman in Ofakim. He introduced himself as a divorced father of two children, and she was taken in by his charm and promises. The two married in Ethiopia and when they told her family, they were very angry and cut off all contact with her.

In June 2011 she came to Israel and moved in with him. On arriving in Israel they went to the authorities to organize her papers and she received a work permit.

From the moment she arrived in Israel she was the victim of sexual and verbal violence. Her husband treated her as his property, he was obsessively jealous of her very move, forbade her to leave the house, or to have any contacts outside.

Last October, after a night filled with violence and repeated rape at the hands of her intoxicated husband, and in her eighth month of pregnancy, she escaped to the home of her only relative in Israel, who lived in Jerusalem. The two went to the police station and filed a complaint. **She was sent to the WIZO Shelter in Jerusalem.**

In November 2011, whilst in the Shelter, she gave birth to her daughter, and her husband denied paternity, refusing to see the baby. We are presently demanding paternity and child support from him.

In November the husband went to the population register in Beersheba and reported that he had cut off all contact with her. **She was then presented with a court order, evicting her from Israel within 14 days.**

We have represented her in the courts, with a translator in Amharit, but up to now, the population authorities have not changed their decision.

The Division is doing everything possible to change her status.





WIZO Division of Building and Maintenance.

As part of the streamlining and cutback process which WIZO is undertaking in order to cut costs, WIZO and the Asko Company, is changing all the light fixtures in **WIZO Day Care Centers**. Within this framework, Asko, with the supervision of the Building Division, changed all the light bulbs to T5 light bulbs, which save 40% electricity each hour. As well as the savings in electricity, it also stops air conditioners, or lights, working during times when there is no one in the classrooms. Asko also applied, in the name of WIZO, for a grant from the Ministry of Energy, for carrying out the streamlining, which hopefully will provide extra money. All WIZO Day Care Centers were mapped out, and underwent technical and financial examinations, together with a number of departments, and it was found that by **using funds that have been saved, and at no extra cost**, air conditioners that are over seven years old can be replaced. These air conditioners often break down, and are heavier on electricity than the newer models of Mitsubishi from Japan.

WIZO will pay Asko only from the savings brought about by the savings in the maintenance of the old air conditioners and from savings in electricity.



Once again, I wish you all a Happy Pesach, surrounded by your loved ones, peace in Israel, and success in all our WIZO undertakings.

חג כשר ושמח

With best regards,

Rivka Lazovsky

Prof. Rivka Lazovsky,
Chairperson,
World WIZO Executive