



What's New... In WIZO ?

October, 2012, No.6



Dear Chaverot,

This is the first full working week after almost one month of Jewish holidays which, in turn, came after a long summer vacation. We are back to what can be referred to as "real life." The question that we have to ask ourselves at this point is "How do we relate to the ordinary?"

It does not take us long to realize that our WIZO work is enticing us and cannot wait any longer. We cannot wait to welcome excited tots and children, into our WIZO world, into our inviting Day Care Centers which become hives of activity, nor into our schools and youth villages which become doors to the future. We are eager to provide shelter for those whose days, throughout the course of the year, all relay the same message - the message of fear. We want to put back the sparkle in the eyes of those whose lives have no direction, and are looking for enrichment. Indeed, we, in WIZO, look forward to the 'ordinary' days and months of the year ahead in which we will be given the wonderful opportunity to change lives. The high holidays may be over but now is the time for us to make good on all our resolutions, and to implement our WIZO Tikun Olam.

We embrace the challenges that lie ahead with open arms, with motivation, determination and, hopefully, with wisdom and the understanding of what is expected of us.

With warm regards.

Prof. Rivka Lazovsky
Chairperson,
World WIZO Executive



NEWS RELEASE

At a WIZO dinner held last week, in Miami, where Danny Gillerman, past UN representative for Israel addressed the audience, Jana Falic, Co President of WIZO USA brought in a surprise in the form of Aly Raisman, just 18 years old from Needham, Massachusetts who is a world champion gymnast, and who has become a hero to many when she performed to the tune of Hava Nagila at the recent Olympic Games that were held in London during the summer.

Raisman's mother, Lynn said, "I was talking to our rabbi back home, and he shared a letter that he had gotten from a woman whose mother was a Holocaust survivor, and she was watching the Olympics, and she had no idea that Ally was performing," said Lynn. "When she did perform her floor route to Hava Nagila she said, "Oh, my gosh, I never thought in my lifetime that I would see a Jewish girl performing at the Olympics to Hava Nagila."

After Raisman won her gold, she proudly said that she would have wanted a moment of silence for the 11 Israeli Olympians who were murdered during the 1972 Munich Olympics.

"Being Jewish and having accomplished that at the Olympics, it means more than words can describe.," said Raisman.

Beautiful.



WIZO Early Age Division

The Early Age Division is going through a complicated transition into the new school year as a result of the **new legislation**, which is a direct result of the calls and protests for **social justice** which have filled the streets. Since the government passed a bill which provides for **free education from the age of three**, our WIZO DCC's have received a deluge of new children in this age group, and some private day care givers are closing their businesses. Even before this bill was passed there was a shortage of Day Care Centers. The Early Age Division is carrying out a number of steps to cope with the situation.

Following a request from WIZO, the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor has approved a payment of NIS: 500,000 in order to **train new caregivers for WIZO Day Care Center in the Tel Aviv and central region**. We also operate a similar program in the Jerusalem area which is also from funding from the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor.





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We are completing plans for a course, in partnership with the Ministry of Absorption, to facilitate the absorption of **immigrant children** in our WIZO Day Care Centers in the Beersheba area. This includes specialized training for work with the Ethiopian community.



We welcome a new project which brings students from the **Hebrew University in Jerusalem** into the **WIZO Day Care Centers in Jerusalem**, and we are also preparing a project with the IDF to bring soldiers to work in the DCC's during the last three months of their army service.

We are very proud to announce that we will provide **academic training** to suitable caregivers, where they will have the chance to work towards their first degree in education. This is a wonderful opportunity for them and brings prestige to their work.



WIZO Education Division:

A special event took place in Afula, at the **WIZO Community Center**, sponsored by **WIZO uk and WIZO Holland**. The focus of the day was a **meeting with Arab youth** in Nin to advance the contact between the Israeli and Arab youth. The event was planned by WIZO Holland and Habonim Dror madrichim from Holland.



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Since games are a fantastic way to eliminate differences and get to know each other, the children could become friends instead of enemies. The madrichim and their Habonim Dror groups in Holland worked hard to raise funds for this project. A group of youngsters from Mexico also sited the Center to the pleasure of the local population.



On the 27th July, 2012, the WIZO Youth Club in Kiryat Shemona, sponsored by WIZO Germany, was visited by a group of forty visitors from Germany. The visitors heard a review of the activities at the Center and were highly moved by a film which was produced by the youth in the Center about the Second Lebanon War. They asked many questions and showed great interest.



The Director General of WIZO Gan VeNof , Uri Sahar sponsored by WIZO Switzerland, has received an official letter from the State of Israel, Dept. of Education congratulating him, and the staff of the school, on their impressive success this year which is depicted in the increased number of pupils who are eligible for matriculation certificates. Kol Hakavod to the hard working pupils and staff!!



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I am excited to report that the first pupils in WIZO's schools and youth villages, received their **Golden Award** for passing through all the states in the **Israel Youth Award Scheme** which was adopted in our **WIZO Youth Villages** in 2008. The Youth Award Scheme, which was initiated in 1956, by the Duke of Edinburgh and over one hundred countries participate.

As you know, it is not easy to be a young person in Israel today. The social gaps are getting larger, and there are increasing pressures on both the 'haves' and the 'have nots'.



The **Israel Youth Award Scheme**, however, knows no cultural gaps. It gives the pupils an equal chance to join their counterparts, and, through the carefully designed stages in the scheme, to become contributing citizens.

As you know from former updates, for the last six years a Police Academy has been



operating at **WIZO Nir Haemek Youth Village**, sponsored by **WIZO Argentina** and **WIZO USA**. Pupils in the dormitory, under the instruction of Superintendent Tiran Gorani, have been highly successful and highly commended by all those who are involved in the Office for Internal Security. The police academy bid farewell to Superintendent Gorani who will be replaced by Superintendent Eyal Yehuda,



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who served until recently as Superintendent of the Intelligence and Detective Trend in the Police Academy. Superintendent Gorani voiced his respect for the pupils and staff, his educational values, and spoke about his individual assistance to the pupils and staff alike, whenever needed.

A seminar for teacher/soldiers took place at the Haberer Youth Club in Jerusalem which is sponsored by WIZO Switzerland. The topic of the Seminar was 'Leaving the stage of being a pupil and becoming a counselor'.



Before Rosh Hashana the staff of the **WIZO Parent's Home**, with members of the WIZO Executive, gathered for a '**Lechaim**' to the New Year in which the shofar was sounded and the audience took part in a sing song. The audience was delighted to hear the '**WIZO Ron**' choir which is made up of Golden Age WIZO chaverot from around the city. The guests also enjoyed the tasty reception that had

been especially prepared by the kitchen in the Parent's Home.



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WIZO Israel



WIZO Israel opened its new year of activities in all its branches across the country. Their volunteers are full of motivation and ready to take on their new obligations in the coming year, which have been designed to accommodate the needs of the communities in which they live and WIZO plays a role.

In the Tel Aviv and Givatim area alone, WIZO Israel is operating this year, 99 (!) afternoon centers for children after school hours.



A meeting was held between the Director General of the Friends of Toronto and the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women in WIZO Israel to explore the possibility of building and operating a 'rehabilitation village' for women who leave the Shelter for Battered Women.



With the opening of the knowledge that the **begins in junior school**, in our program called, 'A

new school year, and in the **struggle against violence** we have renewed our activities **good hour with a child**, which

is a unique project that WIZO operates to reduce violence in the schools and to improve the atmosphere in the school. About one hundred and fifty WIZO volunteers, who have undergone special training, meet with the children, who have emotional difficulties, every week, giving them support and listening to their troubles, enabling them to cope with their difficulties in a number of ways, thus reducing violent outbursts.



I want to end on a sober note. Channel 2 television news (16.10) showed five hundred pupils from Ashkelon transferring their school books into their new school bags which had been donated to them by an Evangelical organization abroad.

These school bags were specially commissioned to be anti shrapnel, preventing their young bodies from receiving wounds from rocket fall out if a rocket falls near them on their way to school.



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The children were excited to receive their new backpacks but the words of the reporter summed up the thoughts of all the viewers when he said with a sigh,....."Only in Israel could we see such a thing.'

God bless them all.

With best regards,

Rivka Lazovsky

Prof. Rivka Lazovsky,
Chairperson,
World WIZO Executive