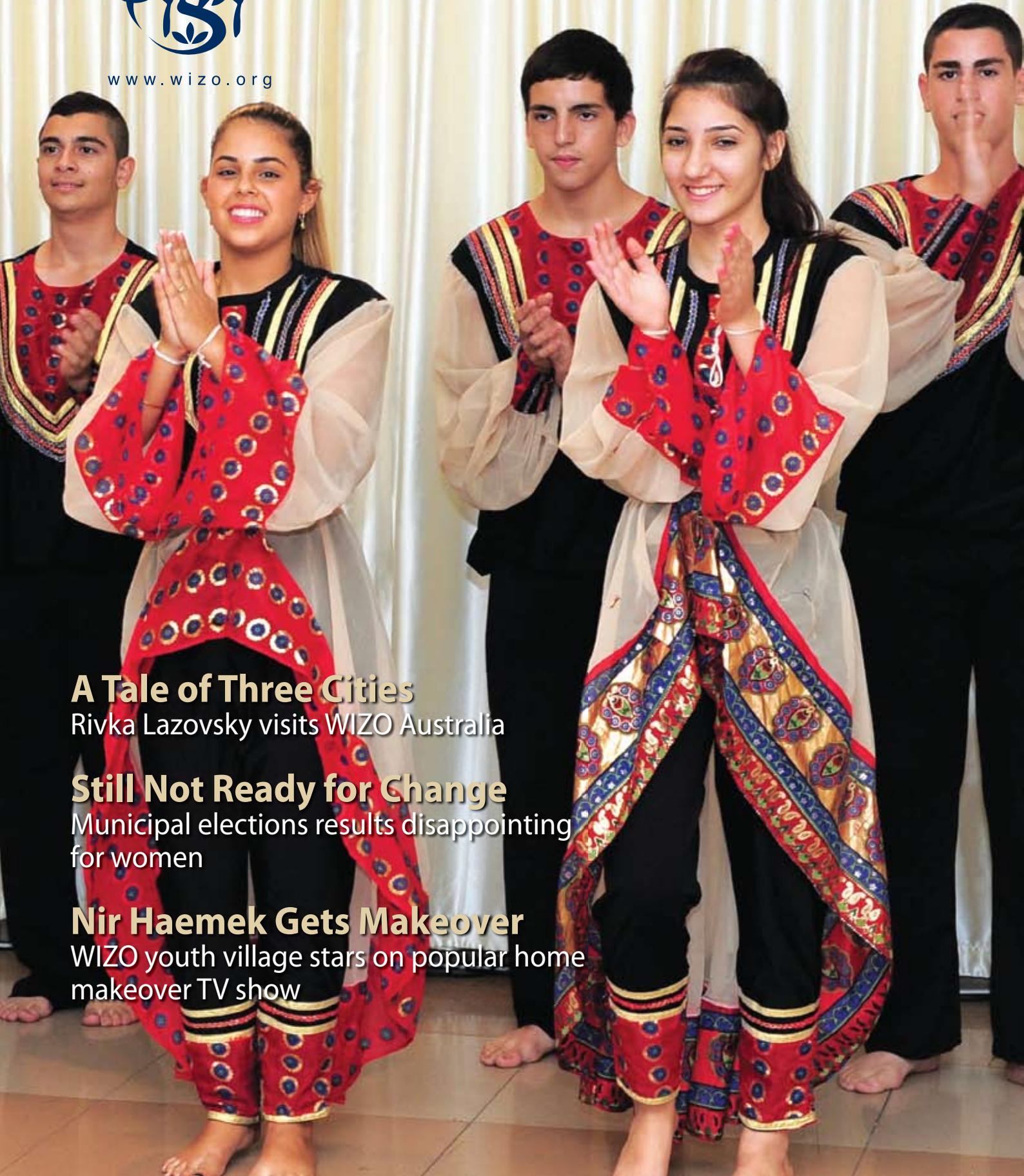


# WIZO Review



www.wizo.org

Winter 2013/2014 ■ No. 333



## **A Tale of Three Cities**

Rivka Lazovsky visits WIZO Australia

## **Still Not Ready for Change**

Municipal elections results disappointing for women

## **Nir Haemek Gets Makeover**

WIZO youth village stars on popular home makeover TV show



Dear Chaverot,

As usual our magazine is full of fascinating news and information for you about 'what's been happening at WIZO' these past few months.

First up, starting on **page 6** we have a comprehensive report of our chairperson, Rivka Lazovsky's visit to WIZO Australia, where she found devoted and dedicated

members to WIZO and the State of Israel.

In this issue, we have features on two of our schools – but for very different reasons. Read about the International Youth Award Scheme at WIZO Nachlat Yehuda on **page 10** and the excitement of the pupils at WIZO Nir Ha'emek (**page 16**) when a TV film crew came to the school to design and refurbish two after-school club-rooms.

Our interview in this issue (**page 12**), features Marla Dan, president of Canadian Hadassah WIZO. Read how Marla started in WIZO – “bring a chair or sit on the floor” – and how, under her leadership CHW is facing today's challenges.

In a comprehensive article (**page 14**), on the recent municipal elections in Israel, Sima Borkovski reveals how Israel is 'still not ready for change'. Despite intensive campaigning and a record number of women candidates, the results show that now there are even less women represented on local councils than previously.

Our Organization and Tourism Division section (**starting on page 19**) features some fascinating visits to some of our

projects and an article by Rolene Marks about social workers from Holland and S. Africa who visited WIZO projects to learn and copy 'how WIZO does it!'

Dynamic Aviv held their annual international seminar in October. Wonderful ideas, plans and programmes evolved from these wonderful young women. Read all about them on **page 22**.

Two thousand and thirteen was a bumper year for renovations to WIZO projects. Thanks to wonderful donors 'around the world' many of our facilities have had major 'facelifts'. See what has been done starting on **page 26**.

WIZO in Israel offers a kaleidoscope of what's been going on around the country. Take a peek from **page 30**. Most exciting is the first prize for the national '48-hour' film contest won by our Kagan Community Centre. The film goes forward to the international competition in New Orleans this coming April. Watch this space!

As usual, WIZO Around the World showcases what our wonderful chaverot do every day, every week, every month. We are so proud of you.

**Look at the back cover!** This may sound strange, but over and over again we meet sometimes quite veteran WIZO members who do not know the scope of WIZO's work. So take a look at our 'business card' – I am sure you will all be surprised – and impressed!

*Ingrid*

Ingrid Rockberger  
Editor

There will be a full report of World WIZO Chairperson Rivka Lazovsky's visit to WIZO Mexico in the next issue of WIZO Review.



# WILL YOU BE IN ISRAEL FOR PESACH?

## JOIN US ON THURSDAY APRIL 24TH

### FOR AN EXCITING DAY TOUR

We will be visiting a multi-purpose day care centre in the Tel Aviv area and WIZO Gan VeNof Gardening and Landscape Technology Youth Village

For full details contact your Federation office or  
World WIZO Organization and Tourism Division

Tel: 972-3-6923819, Fax: 972-3-6923820, email: [wizo@wizo.org](mailto:wizo@wizo.org)



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Cover photo by Kfir Sivan: WIZO Nachlat Yehuda Song and Dance Troupe entertain attendees at the International Women Leaders' Conference.

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## World WIZO Executive Presidents or Chairpersons of Federations

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	Gail Perl
	Raquel Lapchik de Szwedzki
	Ena Rotkopf

## President's Desk



Two thousand and thirteen is behind us and it was not an easy year. Last month, Nelson Mandela, Madiba - one of the greatest men in recent history, passed away. His legacy to us all of reconciliation, peace, hope and dignity, also includes the sentence: 'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world' - which is also the core of our WIZO essence.

Here in Israel, the Arab Spring left our neighbours unstable and frustrated; the situation is volatile. Our brave IDF soldiers continue to defend Israel and protect us day in, day out. The Iranian threat seems to have been curbed a little but still exists, as does our struggle to destroy underground tunnels and to stop the smuggling of weapons into the Gaza Strip.

Although its economy is stable, Israel continues to lag behind other developed countries in its level of poverty and income gaps. Israel's national deficit was enormous - resulting in a 1% increase in VAT and budget cuts across the board, a rise in the high cost of living and affordable housing. Small businesses all over the country are struggling and jobs are being axed. In addition, official reports state that there are 442,200 poor families in Israel, a total of 1,838,600 poor people, of whom 860,900 are children.

We can only hope that in 2014 the government will prioritize and address serious social issues pertaining to education, health, the shrinking middle class and the growing social and economic gap between sectors in society.

The Jewish world saw anti-Semitism, BDS and the de-legitimization of Israel rise in a number of countries, both in the number of incidents and the severity of the attacks. More and more incidents target members of the community and not just buildings. As an integral part of the Jewish world, any attack on the Diaspora is an attack on WIZO members wherever they are, and therefore, WIZO continues to combat anti-Semitism in all its forms and to serve as ambassadors of good will and public diplomacy in our respective countries.

The Zionist movement too has seen brighter days, and today faces very serious challenges: to ensure the future of a connected, committed, global Jewish people with a strong Israel as its centre; to address the issues of the shrinking and aging donor base and fundraising core; to engage and maintain volunteers; and of course the increase in inter-marriage and assimilation. WIZO, as a social Zionist voluntary movement, faces exactly the same challenges and must find solutions sooner rather than later.

How does all this affect WIZO? More and more poor families are having to compromise on their children's education. This means that there is more demand for WIZO services than we are able to provide, but the national budget cuts, reduction in national and municipal grants, a decline in local income from families of service recipients and a decline in fundraising, make our work that much harder.

You, my dear chaverot, are full partners to all our commitments and achievements. As some of your countries are still recovering from the economic crisis, I commend all your hard work and efforts to fulfill your commitments and in some cases, go above and beyond for the people and society in Israel.

Boasting our WIZO unity, we will ensure the future and continuation of our beloved movement by encouraging others to join us, by nurturing the new generation and leadership; by touching and changing the lives of those who turn to us for help.

WIZO - forever seeking the next challenge on the horizon.

Affectionately,

*Tova Ben-Dov*

Tova Ben-Dov  
President World WIZO

# Chairperson's Column



Dear Chaverot,

**T**his edition of the WIZO Review will reach you at the Meeting of Representatives that is being held at the Hilton Hotel in Tel Aviv, from 19th-23rd January 2014.

The year 2013 that has flown past has been a very special one for me. Last year I shared my vision for the movement with you, and throughout the course of the year, we have been proceeding according to that vision. It has not been easy, there were ups and downs, but slowly a picture is beginning to emerge, and that picture shows that the vision is becoming a reality.

My vision was captured in the words, 'We Care, We Share, We Dare', and it is the 'daring' that is beginning to pay out dividends. We are finally having a glimpse of a movement that is not weighed down by a large deficit.

It is the 'caring' and 'sharing' that makes it possible to realize our dreams. I have recently travelled on two missions at different ends of the globe, to WIZO Australia and to WIZO Mexico. Two federations, speaking different languages, so far from each other, yet each doing wonderful work for WIZO and the people of Israel - both beating with the same heartbeat: the WIZO heartbeat.

In both countries, I was thrilled to be able to play a role in the WIZO saga of each federation. I saw the enormous prestige and admiration with which WIZO is held, in both Australia and Mexico. WIZO is a household word in each Jewish community. The leadership of our WIZO federations is considered a vital component of the Jewish leadership in the communities. Our leaders are both influential and wise with WIZO enjoying high status.

In Australia, I was privileged to help launch 'The School of Life' campaign for the renovations of the school buildings in WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim Boarding School. When I saw the enthusiasm with which our WIZO chaverot are working on behalf of this unique school, I felt that each child in WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim has an extra 'mother' who is caring for their every need from so far away. A 'mother' by proxy, who really loves them, and wants to see each one of them succeed, just as if they were her own children. I am full of admiration for your untiring efforts and I want to express my appreciation on behalf of the children in the school.

In Mexico, I was invited to attend the Sixth Congress of WIZO Mexico. Here, too, I felt the positive energy, the high level and the contagious enthusiasm of the members of this vivacious federation, who are doing amazing, creative and comprehensive work.

The Congress coincided with the Guadalajara International Book Fair, the most prestigious book fair in Latin America, which, this year, chose the State of Israel as the guest of honour - a great tribute to our country. I cannot describe my overwhelming sense of pride at seeing our Israeli flag flying side by side with the flag of Mexico at this prestigious event and listening to our President Shimon Peres and President Enrique Pena Nieto of Mexico, strengthening the ties between the two countries.

I saw both of these missions as an opportunity to describe WIZO's work in Israel, and to support the members of the federations and their efforts for our beloved State of Israel, through WIZO.

Dear WIZO chaverot from around the world: Over the past year, we have worked together in harmony, all aspiring towards the same goals. I am proud of you, and I am proud of our partnership.

**Thousands of candles can be lit from a single candle,  
and the life of the candle will not be shortened.  
Happiness never decreases by being shared.**

With warm WIZO regards,

*Rivka Lazovsky*

Prof. Rivka Lazovsky  
Chairperson  
World WIZO Executive

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**Tova Ben-Dov**

Hon. Life Presidents

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Beit Heuss

**Chairperson: Saya Malkin**

The Next Generation

**Chairperson: Sylvie Pelossof**

Special Projects

**Tricia Schwitzer**



# A Tale of Three Cities

***World WIZO Chairperson Rivka Lazovsky visits Australia to experience first-hand what WIZO means for the busy women standing behind the industrious Australian federation***

Zohar Friedman

It was the middle of July, and the chaverot of WIZO Australia were abuzz with excitement. Three important things were imminent: the women were about to begin their 23<sup>rd</sup> Triennial Conference in Sydney, at the conference they were going to launch their 'WIZO School of Life' fundraising campaign, and guest of honour Professor Rivka Lazovsky, Chairperson of World WIZO, was making the long trip from Israel to Australia. Rivka was to deliver the keynote address, as well as the leadership session and support WIZO Australia in achieving its goals, which included motivating and inspiring members as well as equipping them with the tools to face both new and old challenges.

Rivka left Israel some 10 days after the death of her mother, Anita Jamitovksy z"l, who had been head of the Latin American Department in World WIZO. Cancelling the mission to Australia was not an option: Rivka knew that the chaverot in Australia, who had been preparing for her visit for months, would have been disappointed. She also knew that her mother would have wanted her to go – and indeed felt her mother's role model, enthusiasm and love for WIZO were with her throughout.

Rivka's visit proved to be an excellent opportunity to see the inner workings of the very industrious Australian federation, to appreciate its committed and enlightened leadership, to meet the local Australian Jewish community, and perhaps most importantly, to glean insight into what WIZO means for the Jewish community at large, but especially for the women standing behind the busy federation.

With the Australian Jewish community of around 120,000 people, WIZO Australia numbers nearly 5,000 members total and has branches in five different states. The Australian chaverot hold their conference every three years, and this time approximately 80 chaverot from Australia and two from New Zealand attended.

## **The 23rd Triennial Conference - Sidney**

Delivering the opening address, WIZO Australia President Gilla Liberman inspired the gathered chaverot: "We touch the lives of one in four Israelis and we are vital to the social welfare system of the country. From the young children, who attend our 180 day care centres, to the elderly, WIZO



*Rivka surrounded by the girls at the Korsunski Mt Carmel School, Perth*



*(l to r) Gilla Liberman, Marianne van der Pooten receiving her Lifetime Achievement Award, Rose Fekete (Marianne's daughter), Rivka Lazovsky*

is there. Our core business is 'people.' What could be more important than that? A million Israelis rely on us, and it is not a responsibility that I, for one, can shirk."

Later on in the evening, in her keynote address, Rivka delivered a comprehensive report on WIZO's work and the current situation in Israel. She introduced the 'WIZO Tapestry,' which was 'designed' 93 years ago in 1920 and is continually updated by WIZO members throughout the world. Rivka also underscored the fact that "there is no fundraising without 'friend-raising' in WIZO," and encouraged the federation to clarify its mission and vision, to cultivate a sense of belonging, to recruit new members, and to empower its leaders.

The next morning, Rivka and Gilla Liberman launched the federation's 'The WIZO School of Life' campaign, a two-year fundraising project for the renovation of the school buildings of WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim Boarding School in Haifa, the federation's flagship project. WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim is a specialized residential therapeutic school for children who suffer from behavioural or emotional problems. Most of the children come from highly dysfunctional families and have been removed from their homes by court order, while others were on the verge of engaging in criminal activity. Rivka was delighted that WIZO Australia had adopted World WIZO's theme for their campaign: **WIZO in an Era of Change: We Care, We Share, We Dare.**

Further to the launch of the campaign, the conference also showcased the federation's spirit of collaboration, with sessions called: 'Let's Talk: An Exchange of Ideas,' 'What Makes WIZO Special to You?', a session with Dr. Denise Meyerson on 'Dealing with Donor Maintenance and Team Building,' and a special Aviv session called, 'Why are Avivs so Important to the WIZO Movement?'

With the conference's emphasis on recruiting new members, the Avivs gave a special presentation on 'A Fresh Approach,' presenting fresh ideas on membership recruitment and

retention. Some of their ideas for involving the younger generations included creating a WIZO trivia game, a WIZO Internet site for children and a book on Ahuzat Yeladim for teenagers. Other ideas included designing events that appeal to younger women, such as day trips and mothers' days. Aviv members also emphasized the importance of using social media and technology. Addressing the Aviv members, Professor Lazovsky encouraged them: "You are the future. You speak the new language and have new tools. You bring creative and up-to-date ideas. Without you, the next generation, we have no future leadership". Accordingly, the leadership session dealt with ways of enhancing WIZO's leaders.

The last session of the conference was particularly productive. After Rivka's presentation of the WIZO funding model, a lively discussion was held about all the funding-related aims and challenges.

This year's conference was also particularly meaningful as 99-year-old dedicated WIZO member Marianne van der Pooten was awarded WIZO Australia's first Lifetime Achievement Award. In addition, Honorary Life Membership was awarded to outstanding members of the different states' branches.

"It was a very productive, intensive, thought-provoking and well organized conference. Kol Hakavod to Gilla Liberman, to the Executive, and to all those who were involved in the preparation and running of the conference," summarized Rivka.

After the conference ended, Rivka spent some additional days in Sydney during which she met with several local WIZO groups and had a special meeting with donors for the campaign. She also attended a beautiful Shabbat service at the Central Synagogue in Sidney, where the rabbi personally welcomed her.

Throughout her stay in Sydney, Rivka was especially impressed by WIZO's high-profile in the local community, the level of coordination with the local and Jewish media, as well as WIZO Australia's constant presence on social media,



*Rivka participating in a team-building workshop*





(l to r) Gilla Liberman, Rivka Lazovsky, Anne Topelberg OAM (Past President Western Australia), Ruth Topelberg

like Facebook and YouTube, and its continuous activity and contact with all of its members through these channels. Her visit was widely announced in the media and while in Sidney, Rivka was interviewed by Niza Lowenstein for the radio and by the I-wire Internet newspaper.

## On to Melbourne...

Rivka continued to WIZO Melbourne, where there are about 2,000 members. On her first evening in the city, she attended a farewell event for the outgoing Israeli Ambassador to Australia, Yuval Rotem. In addition to WIZO representatives, more than 200 leaders of other organizations were present as well as some non-Jewish politicians. There, she saw first-hand the deeply rooted Zionist and Jewish culture among the local Jewish community and its lively and committed leadership.

As she continued acquainting herself with Melbourne, Rivka also met with members of the over 20 WIZO groups in Victoria. She was also invited to the Shabbat service in the Israeli Synagogue, 'Our Centre', where the Rabbi and his wife welcomed her warmly. They give Hebrew and Jewish instruction to those who cannot afford the costly local Jewish schools for their children. Rivka was keynote speaker at a major Melbourne community event, where she presented WIZO's work. She also had the pleasure of appearing on the popular TV show 'The Shtick' with local Australian Jewish personality Henry Greener.

## And finally: Perth

Wrapping up her intensive trip, the last city Rivka visited was Perth. Although Perth is home to a smaller Jewish community, Rivka

was glad she made the visit and had the opportunity to meet the WIZO members, and personally witness the warmth and strong sense of Zionism within the community.

On her first evening in the city, she attended the local WIZO State Council Meeting where she was impressed by the smaller but no less industrious WIZO branch.

One of the highlights of Rivka's stop in Perth was her visit to the Korsunski Mount Carmel School. There, Rachel Barrett, who interned in World WIZO's Fundraising Division last year, assured Rivka that she would launch an Aviv group in the high school – and to Rivka's delight, several girls have already signed up to date. On her last evening in Perth, Rivka had the pleasure of attending a community event with over 80 people, including local leaders and politicians, one of whom told Rivka of his desire to open a boarding school like WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim in Perth, emphasizing the fact that Ahuzat Yeladim is indeed a unique educational model worth imitating.

## Conclusions

Throughout her trip, Rivka gleaned much insight into the Australian federation and the chaverot had the opportunity to share with her directly their achievements, challenges, dreams and expectations. These facts stressed even more why it is important that World WIZO Executive members travel abroad to see the federations in action and work with them. With some chaverot unable to visit Israel and WIZO projects themselves, she also saw the importance of providing chaverot abroad with an extensive picture of the organization's diverse work, and inspire them to continue being committed to WIZO and Israel. She was highly impressed by the quality of WIZO Australia's leadership and membership, their devotion and the high status of WIZO in the Jewish community as well as outside it. Mostly, Rivka saw the importance of maintaining and strengthening the connections between the larger WIZO family. Ultimately, collaboration, idea-exchange and fostering connections are what keep WIZO strong and are what will ensure WIZO's future.



(l to r) Ronny Bogner (Past President WIZO Australia), Rivka Lazovsky, Gloria Newhouse (President New South Wales), Jo Gostin (Past President WIZO Australia)



## WIZO mourns the loss of two veteran WIZO leaders

### Anita Jamitovsky-Rooz

Anita Jamitovsky-Rooz z"l was a dedicated WIZO leader and mother of World WIZO chairperson Rivka Lazovsky. Anita was born in Vienna, Austria in 1923; in 1939, she fled Nazi-occupied Austria for Uruguay with her family.



Anita's mother was active in WIZO Austria, and Anita followed in her footsteps in Uruguay, first joining Young WIZO and then opening the country's first Aviv group. Anita served in a variety of leadership positions, culminating in being elected as president in 1963, a position in which she outstandingly served for many years. In 1973, Anita and her husband immigrated to Israel, where she was elected chairperson of the World WIZO Latin American Department, and chairperson of the Aliya Department in 1974.

While serving as a WIZO leader, Anita had the honour of representing World WIZO on the JNF Board of Directors and was the only woman nominated by then Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to serve on the Horev Committee, a group tasked with studying the problems of aliya and absorption. She also had the distinction of serving in leadership capacities with Hanoar Hazioni and the World Zionist Organization.

As an ardent advocate for aliya, Anita helped form new WIZO Latin American immigrant groups. She edited the international Revista WIZO Spanish language magazine, which she sent to all the Spanish-speaking federations, and the famous "Letters from Israel". In these letters she shared meaningful WIZO and Israeli events in a personal, direct and emotive tone.

At her funeral, she was eulogized by World WIZO Honorary Life President Raya Jaglom, members of her family and a representative of the WIZO Latin American groups, who described how Anita personally welcomed every Latin American WIZO immigrant and assisted them in their absorption. Anita's grandchildren stressed their close and special relationship with their 'savta'. "We were friends", concluded her granddaughter.

### Ruth Tekoah

Ruth Tekoah z"l, who passed away ten days before her 90th birthday, first became involved with WIZO as a teenager in her country of birth, Romania, when she joined a Young WIZO group. In 1940, she made aliya. Ruth went on to spend the next years of her life working in a variety of positions including the French Consulate in Tel Aviv and the Israel Foreign Ministry, as well as helping set up the Israeli Legation in the Netherlands in 1950-51.



In 1951, Ruth married Yosef Tekoah, an Israeli diplomat who was working at the Israel Foreign Ministry as a legal advisor. Ruth accompanied her husband on diplomatic posts in a variety of countries, including ambassadorships in Brazil, the U.S.S.R. and to the UN in New York City from 1968-75.

After returning to Israel in 1975, Ruth re-immersed herself in WIZO. In 1980, she was elected Chairperson of WIZO Jerusalem and later Chairperson of the Public Affairs Department of the World WIZO Executive. In 1984, Ruth was elected as Chairperson of WIZO Israel, and in 1992, Treasurer of World WIZO. Throughout her WIZO career, Ruth participated in official visits to federations all over the world.

Ruth's illustrious career also included work with the UN and various women's organizations. In 1978 she was elected a member of the Presidium of the Council of Women's Organizations in Israel, and a year later, in cooperation with its chairperson, she organized the first World Conference of Women leaders in Jerusalem in preparation for the UN Conference of the Decade of Women. Later, in 1985, as a member of the Israel Government delegation she attended the UN Mid-decade Women's Conference in Copenhagen and served as chairperson of WIZO's delegation to the UN End of the Decade Women's Conference in Nairobi.

Ruth is remembered by her family and friends as a devoted and inspiring mother and grandmother, who nurtured the values of independence, responsibility for our fellow man and hard work in her children and grandchildren. Speaking at the funeral, Ruth's family remembered her for teaching "us all to love Israel and to accept one another despite differences in opinion and perspectives."

# WIZO Students

## Face the Challenges of the Israel Youth Award

*Students from the WIZO Nachlat Youth Village describe their experiences participating in the International Youth Award project, especially with 'Sderot Young Leaders'*

Zohar Friedman

Although WIZO Nachlat Yehuda Youth Village is located nearly in the heart of Rishon LeZion, Israel's fourth largest city, one wouldn't know it by visiting. With the smell of cows from the village's dairy heavy in the air and a group of peacocks strutting around the campus, the village is like an oasis from the busy city life just five minutes away. For Nachlat's boarding school student population, the village is not only an escape from the city, but a refuge from the stormy home lives that often characterize these students' backgrounds.

Helly Samara, who has worked as the live-in counsellor for eleventh grade boarding school students for the past three years, can usually be found during after school hours surrounded by her students, some in need of a simple hug, others in need of advice or emotional support.

Sitting outside on a brisk autumn day, Helly explains Nachlat's dual-responsibility to its boarding school students: not only must it provide these students with a solid education, it must raise them into solid citizens. Helly explains that this means filling after school hours with meaningful, character building activities that provide structure, discipline and connection building.

For Helly, who sleeps at the youth village and spends nearly every day with her group of 11<sup>th</sup> graders, WIZO's decision to implement the International Youth Award (IYA) in all of its youth villages has provided that much-needed support.

### International Youth Award

Moshe Bitman, Educational Advisor to the World WIZO Education Division, was instrumental in implementing the IYA programme some six years ago, which is known as the Israel Youth Award within Israel. "The programme is ideal for our boarding school students because it contains many different components that can address the diverse needs of our students."

There are three tracks – bronze, silver and gold, each one with increased challenges and commitments. According to

the track they are undertaking, students must complete the following components of the programme at varying weekly hourly minimums:

- Voluntary service activity for the benefit of the community
- An 'adventurous journey' in nature
- Skill development towards a personal interest or practical goal
- Physical recreation activities performed regularly
- (Gold level only) Residential project to broaden experience through living and working with others, over a period of five consecutive days

With highly individual teenagers participating, as Bitman explained, the various elements of the programme impact students differently.

### 'Sderot Young Leaders' leadership seminar

Lian, a 15-year-old from Eilat, screams 'leadership potential.' She sits up straight, she speaks enigmatically and makes lots of eye contact. One would be hard pressed to guess that she arrived at Nachlat with a history of disruptive behaviour and poor performance at school.

When asked what she most likes about the youth award, Lian immediately mentions leadership training. Last year, she had the opportunity to participate in a very special seminar hosted by WIZO in conjunction with a group called 'Sderot Young Leaders'. The group was founded by teenagers who grew up traumatized by the near-constant barrage of Gaza rockets that terrorized the southern Israeli town. Instead of succumbing to fear or sitting around idly, these teenagers decided to take action, catalyse change and lead their fellow youth forward to a better future.

Moshe Bitman, impressed by the autonomous and independent nature of the Sderot Young Leaders, invited



several graduates of the group to come and lead a seminar at the WIZO Nir Haemek Youth Village, which was attended by students from several WIZO schools.

The seminar's main goal was developing the next generation of youth leadership. Students learned to speak before an audience, to plan and implement programmes for their peers, and to use certain professional computer programmes for media and communication.

At the onset of the seminar, participants were divided into groups of two, and by the end, each group led an activity for the other seminar attendees, where they received feedback and constructive criticism. At the end, Lian received a prestigious Certificate of Leadership. While Lian always had confidence, the seminar helped her channel that strength into the ability to speak in front of others, to present herself to a group and to get others to listen to her.

Over the summer, Lian put her training to use. She worked at Nachlat as a counsellor at the school's summer camp, where she was in charge of a group of 20 boys – not an easy feat by any stretch of the imagination.

## Attachment to Sarit

Sarit, a 16-year-old from Gadera, is quite different from Lian. Reserved in nature, she has a streak of stubbornness and a strong, no-nonsense personality. She has a tendency to answer a question with a challenging rebuttal. When the



*Daniel behind the girls. (front l to r) Lian, Opal, Sarit*

other students speak enthusiastically, Sarit crosses her arms over her chest and slouches in her seat.

That is, until she talks about the volunteer portion of her International Youth Award experience, through which she attends a weekly dance class with autistic students. One of the children, Alon, formed an attachment to Sarit, and refuses to dance with any of the other volunteers, a fact that causes Sarit's entire face and posture to soften and makes her crack a shy, embarrassed smile. Some weeks, she says, she has tests and schoolwork and she would rather

not spend the afternoon volunteering when she could be studying. But the thought of Alon waiting for her pushes her to stick to her commitment week after week.

As a typical teenager, Sarit cannot exactly formulate the words to express what this experience has taught her and given her – but Helly can. And the lessons are innumerable: accountability, giving back to the community, time management, keeping commitments, social consciousness, and awareness of the needs of others. But Sarit doesn't want to talk about that. She wants to talk about Alon, and how he's too shy to dance with any of the other volunteers.

## Wilderness project

While volunteering may have struck a chord with Sarit, the wilderness project – not so much. While other Nachlat students rave about the fun they had on their Passover overnight trip to the Gilboa, Sarit makes a face and remembers only the mosquitos. But Daniel, a 16-year-old eleventh grader and his classmate, Opal, remember it differently.

Daniel, Opal and 27 other Nachlat students spent four days and three nights braving the elements. They hiked 50 kilometres, cooked their own meals and slept in tents.

Daniel, who has a natural aptitude for athletics, remembers racing up the trails ahead of the others. He also remembers the opportunity to meet students from all walks of life on the trip, including Arabs, Druze, Bedouin and Christian students. In the beginning, he recalls his initial apprehension, stating that "we didn't hear such great things about some of those people." By the end of the trip, working together helped the diverse group of participants to form friendships and connections. Daniel tells the story as though it were an action movie: racing up mountains, meeting amazing new friends and conquering the elements.

Here, however, as teenagers frequently do, Daniel maybe be recalling the trip through rose-tinted glasses. According to Helly, it was no picnic. She recalls how both she and the students had to cope with many different challenges. It wasn't just mosquitos – on the last night, it began to rain. The students were crying, their clothes were wet, and they were weighed down with wet belongings. Somehow, they hiked the last leg of the stretch back. "Because they overcame the challenge, they remember it differently, they remember it well," Helly explains. "But at the time, they were all crying, they wanted to go home. That was the real test, that was when the real challenge began."

## It takes a village

For those charged with educating and caring for boarding school students residing at WIZO youth villages across Israel, the expression 'it takes a village to raise a child' rings close to home. Sometimes, however, it takes more than that – more than even the entire village and its devoted staff of educators and caretakers. Sometimes, it takes a little outside help, which is exactly what the International Youth Award programme has been for educators like Helly and Moshe, and for the hundreds of WIZO boarding school students who have reaped its benefits.

# "CHW has been my personal MBA"

***Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW) President Marla Dan describes how she has benefitted from CHW and how the organization is addressing contemporary challenges***

Ingrid Rockberger

Marla Dan describes how she began with CHW: "Bring your own chair or sit on the floor. That was the reality of our chapter, Tamid, when I first joined CHW Toronto in 1988. I had just moved to the city as a single young woman, and I was working full-time. I wanted to meet like-minded Jewish women, and so I joined a CHW chapter that was just starting - a group of young women, living in small apartments. Over the years, we have watched each other get engaged, marry, buy houses, have children...and we're still together 25 years later. We all remain close friends."



## **Marla's Zionism**

Marla grew up in Edmonton, Alberta, in a traditional home. Both her parents were born in Canada and were very involved with the Jewish community. Her father served as the president of their synagogue and her mother was president of the synagogue's sisterhood and was active in CHW Edmonton.

Marla's first visit to Israel was in 1979 as a 16-year-old on a United Synagogue Youth programme. "On that first trip I didn't know what to appreciate. As a teenager, I treated the visit as an opportunity to get away.

"I only realized the significance of my visit to Israel after returning to Canada. Some months later, I was sitting in my history class, we were studying World War II, and throughout the lessons, the teacher made no mention of the Holocaust. Having recently visited Yad Vashem, the Holocaust was very fresh in my mind. We were being taught the reasons for the War and Canada's invaluable role; the Holocaust was bypassed entirely. I remonstrated with the teacher and said 'I can't sit in your class if you are not speaking the truth!' This is when Israel impacted me for the first time.

"I believe it is essential for young people to visit Israel with their peers and to see it in a different light. Today, Zionism

has a different meaning to the younger generation because they do not know a world without Israel. When they visit, they see a modern state, modern schools, similar to their home environment. Israel has a totally different meaning for them than for the founders - we have to recognize that."

Marla's second visit to Israel was in 1993, when she and her husband Aubrey participated in the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CHW. Having been involved with CHW for five years at this point, this was their first opportunity to see the projects they were supporting. "I certainly became more involved and committed after that (and so did my husband!). You must visit Israel to see the impact of your support. CHW has organized a number of missions to Israel, which include men, because it is very important that all of our donors see the tangible results that come through their dedication and time spent 'working' for CHW.

## **About CHW**

"CHW is a Canadian registered charity affiliated with both WIZO and Hadassah International. Within WIZO, we support six day care centres, two youth villages - Hadassim and Nahalal - the Neri Bloomfield College of Design, along with youth centres, two community centres, and a hotline. Outside of our WIZO and Hadassah affiliations, CHW also has commitments to the Assaf Harofeh Medical Centre and the CHW Netanya Technological High School. Coincidentally, one of our day care centres is at Assaf Harofeh Medical Centre. CHW carries out fundraising activities in order to meet all of our commitments. At CHW, we help children, we improve healthcare, and we support women. That has been our mission since we were founded in 1917."

CHW has chapters all across Canada; in the larger cities, there are many chapters, in some smaller cities, just one. All chapters have fundraising events throughout the year to support each of CHW's commitments to Children, Healthcare, and Women.

## **Membership**

CHW is constantly seeking new ways to attract and retain members. Marla says, "We have learned that in order to retain members, we need to find an individual niche for **them**. We must listen to how much time they are prepared to give us and match them with a rewarding activity or role



within the organization. We recognize the gratification of belonging, contributing and seeing results. We see that when our members visit CHW's projects in Israel and make the connection at an early stage in their involvement, they are more likely to remain committed and engaged for the long-term."

## 21st century technology

"Because communication and keeping in touch is vital to our fundraising efforts, we rely on various tools to speak and interact with our supporters and also to govern effectively. For example, as members of our board of directors live all over Canada we regularly schedule conference calls in addition to our three face-to-face meetings a year. The organization as a whole uses social media to share our mission and updates about our projects. We use Facebook, Twitter and our blog for this purpose. We have recently developed a LinkedIn company page as well. We send monthly *Staying Connected*, as well as quarterly CHW National President's *Personal Touch* e-newsletters to our members and supporters.

"Our website is also a cornerstone of our communications framework, through which our donors are able to give online and immediately receive a thank you along with their tax receipt. Many of our chapters have also been using our Peer-to-Peer platform for their fundraising efforts. We have been quick to embrace technology as we have seen significant results from this investment. Today, our members and donors want to know exactly where their money is going; transparency is vital, and technology allows us to do this!"

## The next generation

One area of focus at CHW is to continue being relevant for the next generation. Marla shares that many women of today have limited time available for involvement. "While these women may attend an event that interests them, they aren't at the point of being able to commit 'to becoming a member.' In Canada there is tremendous competition; and many local causes attract them."

"If you are looking for future leaders – but you tell them it might take 15-25 years to get there – they are not interested. If these women are devoting the time to your mission, they need to be able to contribute and make a meaningful impact **now!** In the last number of years, with the modernizing of our governance system, we have shortened terms of office in order to allow women to move into leadership roles much faster than was done in the past. We also focus on the small details like arranging evening meetings, in order to accommodate women that are working and can't attend during the day."

## Personal growth

In order to address contemporary needs, CHW has implemented a unique mentor/mentee programme that encourages future leaders and provides an opportunity for significant engagement. The programme initially began with CHW Toronto, and was so successful that it is now offered nation-wide. As needs vary across the country, each CHW chapter can adapt the programme to suit the local community. Usually, a new member (mentee) is paired with



*(l to r) Marla Dan, Israel Consul General DJ Schneeweiss, CHW National Executive Director Alina Ianson*

a more senior member (mentor). They meet regularly and the mentor shares her knowledge about the organization with the mentee. Together, they set a goal for the new member, which can be from chairing a fundraising event to working on a membership campaign. They meet one on one and also as a larger group with other mentors/mentees to discuss various topics, such as what would it take for one of them to feel confident to chair a fundraising event or what they would need to develop public speaking/leadership skills.

The aim is to show the women the opportunities in the organization as more time becomes available to them – **from a volunteer and a leadership perspective**. Marla describes herself as an example: "I started as a member of a CHW Toronto chapter, then held many leadership positions locally and nationally. Leadership training gave me the confidence to be the World WIZO Executive Aviv Representative, which gave me an international viewpoint."

## In reflection

"When I joined CHW in 1988, I did not think for a minute that I would be the Toronto president, let alone the national president. I became involved because I wanted to meet women and be a part of the Jewish community. CHW provided this opportunity. I believed in all aspects of the organization – its mission, projects, local activities and ultimately, Israel.

"Over time, CHW has given me the opportunity to get to know the most amazing women. I have developed a myriad of skills through key training sessions. My involvement has given me tremendous confidence in my abilities as a speaker. When I began with CHW, I held chapter meetings in my home. I would blush deeply, and was incredibly nervous addressing a small group of women. Today, I can speak to a hundred different women at a time. Through my involvement with CHW, I have completed my personal MBA!"

# Still Not Ready for Change

***Riding the wave of success of the record-breaking 50 new female MKs who were elected to the 19th Knesset, expectations were high ahead of local municipal and regional council elections. The results, however, did not match the fever of anticipation***

Sima Borkovski

While women's representation in local politics has always been troublingly low in Israel, no one could predict that after the October 22nd municipal elections, the picture would become even bleaker. Prior to these elections, less than 2.5% of mayors and regional council heads were women. However, the latest election results show that female representation dropped in nearly all cities. In Jerusalem, the numbers of female city council representatives fell from eight to just four out of 31 total members; in Petach Tikva, four female council members dropped to a mere one.

## The public is not yet ready for a change

"Unfortunately, it seems that the Israeli public is not ready to make a real change," says Michal Yudin, Chairperson of WePower (Women's Electoral Power), a women's organization that seeks to advance women's representation in decision-making and elected leadership positions.

The election was as promising as it was in the end dismaying: while a record number of 43 women ran in October's elections – four times the number of women running in the 2008 municipal elections – only three women were elected. Miriam Fireberg was re-elected for her fourth term as mayor of Netanya, Lizzy Delaricha was elected as head of the Ganei Tikva Regional Council and Ye'ela Mecklis is the new mayor of Yahud-Monsun, elected in a second-round runoff.

The defeat was particularly disappointing for a number of reasons. Not only did each of the 43 candidates hold impressive records of public service and launch thorough election campaigns, but the public had been thoroughly primed to vote for change. Ahead of elections, WIZO paired up with WePower to launch an extensive public awareness campaign on changing the existing status quo by electing female candidates.

## A cynical public

According to Yudin, some of these losses reflect the deep cynicism of the Israeli public. Pointing to incumbent male candidates who won despite facing corruption charges, Yudin says, "Apparently many people are ready to accept norms of corruption in their local municipalities.

"We have a problem of integrity and credibility when some of the incumbent mayors were re-elected in spite of the fact they have been accused of corruption and are due to stand trial. But it doesn't have to be that way. A municipality can be managed without corruption," Yudin asserts.

According to Yudin, who has the support of female MKs Aliza Lavie and Meirav Michaeli, part of the problem lies in the fact that there are no mayoral term limits. "I believe that the only way to break this glass ceiling is through legislation that will restrict the mayoral terms of office and open the way for new people. The law should also ban lists that refuse to include female representation," Yudin states, adding that she is not ready to let "a group of rascals take over the local elections in Israel."

MK Aliza Lavie (Yesh Atid) chimed her consensus on the need for change, stating, "we have grown accustomed to the situation in which all the power is still in the hands of men. It is natural for people to elect men as heads of their municipalities."

## Women should support women

In Kfar Yona, two women, Shosh Kachlon and Meital Yitzhaki-Toledano ran for the office of mayor trying to defeat incumbent Effi Dere'i, who has headed the municipality for 35 years. Kidron, in her 50s, was the more experienced candidate, with a career of 12 years in the army as a commanding officer and extensive experience working voluntarily for the welfare of the Kfar Yona community. Kidron approached Yitzhaki-Toledano to combine their campaigns, but she refused and competed against her.

Lizzy Delaricha







*Ofra Barak on the campaign trail*



*(l to r) Michal Yudin, Shosh Kachlon, Tali Mahal from KEN, Ramat Hasharon candidate Nurit Avner*

Despite the support Kachlon had received throughout her campaign from the citizens of Kfar Yona, Effi Dere'i was elected once again - but only by a few votes. If the two women had joined forces, Kachlon would to-day be mayor of Kfar Yona.

Speaking on Israel radio, MK Meirav Michaeli (Labor) called on her fellow female MKs to take on the responsibility of advancing women: "There is still a great gap that we need to attend to and it is the duty of women who made it to the Israeli Parliament."

Yudin, however, sees the solution in the hands of ordinary women - namely, female voters. "When women support women and vote for them, they succeed. The results of the current elections stem from a combination of low voter turnout coupled with the fact that female candidates were not supported by female voters," Yudin explains.

In spite of the disappointing results, Yudin is not discouraged and WePower will continue to empower female candidates by giving them the tools and knowledge they need in order to run a municipality.

"Candidates go through courses in our designated schools in Tel Aviv and in Be'er Sheva. They learn how to manage a municipality budget, how to work with volunteers and solicit donations and are basically exposed to all kinds of useful information. Hundreds of women have already taken our courses."

## The importance of experience

Lizzy Delaricha, newly elected mayor of Ganei Tikvah, believes that the more experience a candidate has, the better her chances are to be elected, regardless of gender issues. "I was part of the city council and had years of experience with many achievements to my name, so I began my campaign with the support of 50% of the voters," Delaricha explains.

However, with the public more willing to vote for male candidates than female, how can female candidates obtain that needed experience required to win elections? Perhaps the answer lies in Yudin's original assertion, that women must support women.

With an understanding of the importance of collaborating with and receiving the support of other female politicians,

Delaricha readily asserts she will certainly look to her more senior female peers for advice and idea-exchange. "I believe that women bring different qualities to the office as mayors; they are more efficient, more sensitive and can pay attention to little details.

## Time for women to step forward

Although the majority of municipal races have already been called, some are still active. One such election includes the race for mayor in the regional council of Emek Hefer, where Ofra Barak is running against the incumbent mayor, Ranni Idan. In an interesting twist of fate, it was actually Barak who helped Idan secure the office back in 2006, when she headed his election campaign and was subsequently appointed as general manager of the council. However, after witnessing the way that the Emek Hefer Regional Council was run under Idan, Barak decided to step forward and cast her own name for the office.

When asked about advancing women in politics, Barak also points to voter turnout as a large obstacle. "People should realize that in order to make a change they must vote in the local elections. Once voter turnout increases, women will get a better chance to be elected," she says.

Barak is a competitive candidate, a woman of action and achievement. Most importantly, Barak's belief in promoting women is not mere lip service - she has already surrounded herself with a team of talented and capable women to help her achieve her goals. "In order for women to make a difference they must step forward and lead," Barak says with enthusiasm.

## The larger race

The path to advancing women in local and national politics has been the classic two steps forward, one step back: after a record number of female MKs and female municipal candidates, the public slipped back into its complacency and cynicism and voted - or did not vote at all - to maintain unequal representation. As many dismayed but hopeful activists explained, change cannot and will not happen overnight. And so, while the majority of municipal races closed in October with disappointing results, the larger race for mobilizing female voters, reforming public opinion and advancing women in leadership positions from local youth councils to the Knesset wages on.

# WIZO Youth Village Nir Ha'emek Gets a Makeover on National TV

*Popular Israeli home makeover television show remodels the clubrooms of WIZO Nir Ha'emek dormitory*

Text and photos Zohar Friedman

Kirill is excited. Upstairs, a camera crew is filming nationally beloved designer Moshik Galamin renovate two of the clubrooms in *his* dormitory at the WIZO Nir Ha'emek Youth Village for the popular Israeli Channel 2 TV show, 'We've Come to Makeover Your Home.' While busy rinsing paintbrushes downstairs in the courtyard, Kirill tells me how he is one of a mere handful of students who were selected to assist the crew. While the students' appearance makes for more colourful television, for the participants, helping out is a fun and meaningful experience and gives them a sense of direct involvement in the renovation of the dormitory – their home.

## A quiet place to speak

To discuss the project, I asked Kirill if there's a quiet place we can speak. Like someone showing off his personal home, Kirill leads me over to the youth village's new ecological garden, where he shows me all of the herbs they've been growing. "Are you allowed to use these?" I ask, brushing past an enormous sage plant. "Of course," Kirill says grinning, as though my question was slightly absurd, "we take them for tea – it's allowed, encouraged. My favorite is Melissa," he says, plucking off a few leaves of a short, vibrantly green plant that smells strongly of lemon.

We sit in a small gazebo and begin to talk; more than detailing his excitement over helping the crew – for whom he has nothing but lavish praise – Kirill can't stop explaining how much Nir Ha'emek means to him. His journey to the youth village is both sad and common among the school's dormitory student population. After struggling at the school in his hometown and suffering from problems at home, it was decided that Kirill needed to leave home and attend a boarding school. After visiting several facilities, WIZO Nir Ha'emek quickly outshone the other options. Now in his third year at the village, Kirill gushes, **"This place is more than a home, these people are more than my family. My friends here are more than brothers."**

## Dormitory renovation

Kirill, who stayed at Nir Ha'emek over the summer, describes the larger renovation of the dormitory, which was financed through a generous donation from WIZO Florida, along

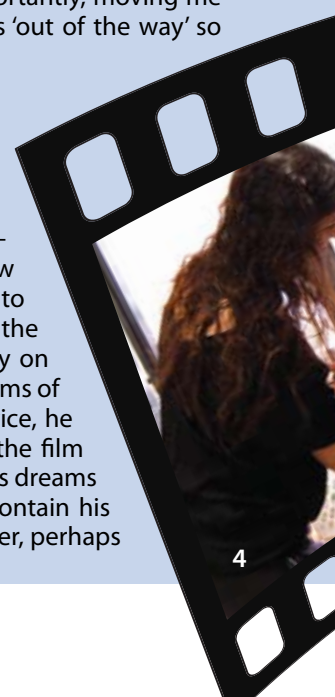
with the club rooms featured on the television show. According to Kirill, the dormitory was gutted. "Only the bones remained," Kirill says, who I am learning has a flair for storytelling. "Seriously, only the bare structure, the skeleton." After the general building was refurbished and renovated, only the clubhouses remained in dire need of a makeover. Enter Moshik Galamin and his – "amazing, wonderful, funny, top-notch" (according to Kirill) – crew.

## Action!

Back at the dormitory, I am greeted by an atmosphere of industry and hard work. Upstairs, World WIZO Chairperson Professor Rivka Lazovsky is getting her makeup done. WIZO USA Co-President Jana Falic has just arrived, who alongside Rivka will make an appearance on the show assisting Moshik with some of the design projects. Separately, Rivka will be interviewed on WIZO's work and goals, while Jana will be interviewed from the perspective of a donor – on what it means to see the goal of her fundraising – the remodelling of the dormitory – come to fruition. Meanwhile, however, the crew is busy scuttling around, shuffling up and down the stairs between the two clubhouses, painting refrigerators, touching up bright orange and green accent walls in the club rooms, trimming corkboards with bright patterns, choosing throw pillows and most importantly, moving me and a handful of WIZO representatives 'out of the way' so that we don't enter in to the shot.

## Students helping

In an effort to comply, I go back downstairs, where I find several student-participants who are busy painting a table, as well as a few non-participants who can't resist the draw of a little celebrity and the chance to be photographed. Mor – who lives at the dormitory alongside Kirill – is currently on cloud nine. A budding singer, with dreams of becoming a pilot during his army service, he tells me that he just had a chat with the film crew, who encouraged him to follow his dreams no matter what. While Kirill couldn't contain his excitement, Mor plays it a little bit cooler, perhaps







absorbing a little bit of the confidence of the professional film crew. Still, both boys agree, the renovation of the clubrooms will give the students a warm space to study, bond and relax after a long day of school. Kirill, with his flair for drama, chimes in that before the renovation he would rather go hang out in the bathroom.

### An Ethiopian speaking Russian!

Momentarily, two beautiful Ethiopian girls join us, one of whom astonishes us all by speaking to Jana Falic's mother – our guest of honour – in fluent Russian, something she learned from her Russian brother-in-law. Yossi, a 12<sup>th</sup> grader, looks on slightly jealously at all the commotion and admits that he wishes he were in 9<sup>th</sup> grade like Kirill, not only so that he could hang out at the club house, but also, so he wouldn't have to leave Nir Ha'emek next year. Kirill also wants to go back in time to 8<sup>th</sup> grade, so that he can have two more years in the refurbished dormitory with the new clubhouses, not just one.

The more we talk, the more I realize that Nir Ha'emek isn't just 'like' Mor and Kirill's home, it **is** their home, and all the

pride and ownership that the boys and their friends feel for the village isn't misappropriated, it's perfectly appropriate.

### The film crew compliments...

We leave the dormitory teeming with activity. After a two-day stay at the village, Moshik and his film crew will soon be wrapping things up to return to the Center, where they will edit their footage and produce a television episode for illustrious Channel 2. In the meantime, between shooing us out of the way, the crew pays Nir Ha'emek a small compliment: surrounded by the horses and cows of the village, away from the noise of the city, provided with sleeping accommodations and breakfast, lunch and dinner, snacks, drinks and coffee, the crew can't remember the last time they slept or ate so well.

**(Editor's Note: The show aired on Israel TV Channel 2 in two parts – providing wonderful publicity for the school and WIZO).**



1 and 7 - Students helping the TV team with the makeover  
2 - Kirill in his quiet corner  
3 - The Russian-speaking Ethiopian student

4 - Rivka being prepared for "Action"  
5 - Serious filming  
6 - Rivka and Jana Falic assisting Moshik in decorating the club rooms



## A Nurturing Environment: The Ivcher Dormitory

When a teenager comes from a house that is not a home, WIZO is there for them: children from broken homes, children of parents who suffer from alcohol or narcotics abuse, or just children whose families have reached hardships, and need a helping hand. WIZO believes that it has the obligation of providing them with a supportive environment that nurtures their potential, empowers them and—if need be—rehabilitates. These dormitories become their home away from home.

For both their emotional and physical wellbeing, this home should be the warmest place for these children to thrive. A corner they can call their own, to think, study and just be kids. It should be where they lay their heads comfortably, dreaming of a better tomorrow.

Thanks to a generous gift, enabled by WIZO Florida, the Mercedes and Manny Ivcher Dormitory in the WIZO Nir HaEmek Youth Village was renovated over the summer, and has become exactly that.

Home to 60 pupils from the seventh, eighth and ninth grades in 24 rooms, this three-storey, 960 square-metre building has been transformed into the most beautiful and welcoming facility.

WIZO would like to thank WIZO USA, WIZO Florida, and especially Mercedes Ivcher and Rosita Retelny for their role in acquiring the funds for this renovation, and Jana Falic for her leadership.



*"After" the renovations – the newly designed and refurbished club-rooms featured on the TV show*



## WIZO: A Light unto Social Workers

*Foreign social welfare organizations and social workers are inspired by the Israeli welfare system and WIZO*

Rolene Marks

"There is something different, something inspirational about the Israeli welfare system and the role that WIZO plays," says Evelyn from the Netherlands.

Travelling with a delegation of Dutch social workers from the social welfare organization, Fier – which provides treatment to domestic violence victims – Evelyn and her colleagues had come to Israel to learn from WIZO. While these women make up only one group of visitors to Israel and WIZO, they represent a larger trend: namely, foreign social welfare organizations and workers looking to WIZO and the Israeli welfare system as a role model and an inspiration.

### Empowerment and education

The Dutch social workers were especially impressed by the emphasis Israel places on empowering and educating domestic violence victims. As Fier representatives Linda Terpstra and Anke van Dijke explained, "[In The Netherlands] we put a lot of effort in education, but the focus on learning a profession and gaining qualifications does not get the attention it needs. The aid provided in the Netherlands focuses on problems and how to deal with them, while in Israel we see an emphasis on both [solving the immediate problem] and focusing on the future."

### Shelters for women and children

The group was also impressed by another cutting-edge practice in battered women's shelters, whereby children residing with their mothers maintain contact with their fathers. Eventually, in an effort to prepare the mothers for a future where they will realistically have to have contact with the father of their children, the mothers are taught communication skills and strategies.

"After four months [at the shelter], the mother communicates with the father by herself after having been trained by a social worker. The aim is to support the mothers in helping the children have a relationship with their father. If the mother one day hopes to live independently, she must be equipped to handle the interaction between the father and the children. She begins building the foundation in the shelter," explained Linda and Anke.

### A sense of family in foster homes

Joining the Fier delegation to Israel was South African social worker Belinda Slavin, the director of Oranjia Children's Home in Cape Town, which provides care and social welfare services to children who have been removed from their families by court order.

After visiting Neve WIZO, four foster homes sponsored by WIZO South Africa, Slavin felt equipped to take new tools back to South Africa to improve the lives of the children at



Rolene Marks (l) and former MK Orit Zuaretz

Oranjia. "One of the fundamental differences is that in South Africa the children are separated according to age groups, whereas in Israel they are grouped together in one house. This helps to facilitate a sense of family," said Slavin.

### Human trafficking

The delegation also met with former MK Orit Zuaretz. Zuaretz headed the Knesset Committee on human trafficking and was instrumental in the passing of laws to prevent the ill treatment and trafficking of women.

The Dutch delegation learned that Israel is a world leader in rehabilitating trafficking victims, who attend rehab and reside in a shelter for a year at the expense of the Israeli government. In parallel, Israeli officials work with officials from the source country in order to secure the victims' safe returns. The delegation also learnt about Israel's approach to honour killings, a tragic phenomenon that is growing in Europe.

### WIZO Hadassim: a model institution

At WIZO Hadassim Youth Village, the delegation met with social workers, staff and a former Hadassim pupil, Yael (name changed), who explained how important it was for her to give back to the school that had given her so much. "I wanted to give back and work with children. After experiencing a difficult time after my aliya, Hadassim helped me to find my feet and rediscover myself," Yael explained.

### Final impressions

When asked about their final thoughts on Israel and WIZO, Paul from Fier summed it up by saying that the country is nothing like what he expected and requires a first-hand visit. He described WIZO's high standards and levels of excellence, and how he was inspired by WIZO's projects. Despite the relative wealth and strong Dutch welfare system, Paul felt that WIZO's focus on women and children cannot be matched.

The social services that WIZO provide touch more than just its direct beneficiaries, but function as excellent resources for other organizations around the world.

## Visiting WIZO Projects

**UK bowlers, Christian Zionists from Finland, UK 'Mitzvah Day' Youngsters and WIZO US Co-President celebrating her son's bar mitzvah – all visit WIZO projects**

### UK Maccabi Bowlers 'Bowled Over' by WIZO

After receiving double the number of applicants than expected for his week-long tour of Israel for British Maccabi bowlers, Maccabi GB Vice President Stuart Lustigman decided to plan two rather than one tour. In an effort to plan 'out-of-the-box' tours to enable travellers to see 'other sides of Israel,' Stuart, in collaboration with WIZO Review Editor Ingrid Rockberger and World WIZO Organization and Tourism Division, organized two visits to WIZO projects: WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim Boarding School in Haifa sponsored by WIZO Australia and the Rebecca Sieff Centre for the Family, sponsored by WIZOuk.

At Ahuzat Yeladim, director Yossi Saragossi gave the bowlers a history of the school and explained its mission to give a last chance to at-risk youth who have dropped out of other educational frameworks.

The Rebecca Sieff Centre for the Family had special significance for the British bowlers as it is sponsored by WIZOuk, and indeed some of the participants found the names of relatives and friends on the donors' boards in the entrance. Furthermore, the group included several WIZOuk members who appreciated the unique opportunity to see a flagship WIZO project first-hand. However, regardless of whether the bowlers had

previous connections to WIZO or not, they were all equally impressed by their visit to the vocational high school, and classes at the day care centre. Over lunch, director Kobi Hillel gave an overview of the centre and a charming black and white film was screened, showing how it all began...



*UK bowlers outside the Rebecca Sieff Centre for the Family*

### Finnish Karmel Society Visits Shaviv Day Care Centre

The Karmel Society, a Christian Zionist non-profit organization established in 1949 in Finland, enjoys close collaboration with WIZO Finland. With the motto 'For the Bible and Israel,' these devout Christians are ardent supporters of the Jewish State and hold regular 'Milk and Honey' Jewish culture evenings where they learn a Hebrew song, and a member of the local Jewish community shares a tasty Jewish recipe with them. The proceeds of these evenings are donated to WIZO Finland.

Their visit to the Shaviv Day Care Centre in Herzliya (sponsored by WIZO Finland) was a highlight of their recent tour to Israel. Orna Ref, from the World WIZO Organization and Tourism Division, and originally from Finland, accompanied the visitors and gave them an in-depth overview of WIZO's activities. They had no idea of the extent of WIZO's work for the betterment of Israeli society. The visitors brought gifts for the children including hand-knitted articles and collected money to purchase 35 new baby beds.

The Karmel group enjoyed the visit immensely and were impressed by the warm and generous hospitality and delicious breakfast. The visit succeeded in recruiting new ambassadors for WIZO who feel privileged to share in WIZO's crucial work.



*Members of the Finnish Karmel Society visit the WIZO Shaviv Day Care Centre in Herzliya with Orna Ref (2nd left)*





## Michael Perl's Bar Mitzvah

This past summer, Gail Perl, Co-President of WIZO USA, and her husband, Berndt, celebrated their youngest son Michael's bar mitzvah in Israel. To honour the occasion, a group of 25 family members, friends and several WIZO New York representatives volunteered at the Shoshana & Pinhas Sapir Day Care Centre (sponsored by WIZO Mexico) in Tel Aviv. This centre provides over 70 at-risk children aged six months–three years with a safe haven where they can play, eat and learn. The visitors helped prepare the premises for the school year by cleaning, planting vegetables and flowers, and writing notes to welcome back families from the summer break. Michael, the bar-mitzvah boy, was given the distinct honour of saying his own blessing when replacing the mezuzahs on the doorposts of the centre.

Gail later reported that they screened a montage video at Michael's bar mitzvah party in New York which included a three-minute section devoted to the visit, allowing the over 300 guests in attendance to share in the special day. She is proud that Michael donated all his bar mitzvah gifts to WIZO and urges all chaverot to visit WIZO projects with friends and family, as there is nothing like a first-hand experience.



*Michael Perl's bar mitzvah celebration in Israel*

## UK Gap Year Students Celebrate Mitzvah Day in Israel

Founded in the UK, Mitzvah Day, an annual day of social action by Jewish communities around the world, is based on the Jewish values of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world), *tzedek* (righteousness) and *gemilut chasadim* (acts of loving kindness). Held in November, the day galvanizes participants to invest their time and effort – rather than money – to support charities and build strong communities. WIZOuk, a Mitzvah Day partner, marked the day by inviting students from RSY-Netzer (Zionist Youth Movement for Reform Judaism) and FZY (Federation of Zionist Youth) who are spending their gap year in Israel to volunteer at a WIZO day care centre.

The Jerusalem-based FZY group visited the M. Helen and Nadine de Rothschild Multi-Purpose Day Care Centre (sponsored by WIZO Germany) in Jerusalem where they spent a delightful afternoon interacting with the children, playing football, painting, building, and planting window boxes with the help of parents and children.

Way down south in the Arava desert, participants of the Shnat Netzer leadership training programme volunteered at two WIZO day care centres in Eilat, the Irene Kreitman/



*FZY gap year students volunteer at a WIZO day care centre*

Shirley Porter DCC (sponsored by WIZOuk) and the Ina Kisch Houthakker DCC (sponsored by WIZO Holland). The group enjoyed playing with the children, resurfacing the playground and doing some gardening and maintenance work. They were very grateful to have had the opportunity to be part of such a special experience.

# Aviv

## WIZO Aviv International Seminar 2013

The next generation of WIZO leaders get the perfect mix of inspiration and training to meet the challenges facing their federations at home

***WIZO Review's Assistant Editor Zohar Friedman attends one of the sessions and discusses contemporary challenges with some of the participants***

At the afternoon session called 'Making Volunteering Attractive and Fun' held in a business room at the Tel Aviv Hilton, Aviv Seminar attendees are uncharacteristically quiet. This international group of women is many things: PhD-holders and mums, entrepreneurs and businesswomen, community leaders, and more – but quiet is not one of them.

And so, looking around the quiet room, I realize we've hit a serious note. The theme exceeds how to make volunteering attractive, but touches on something much deeper and sometimes difficult to answer: How can Avivs, who represent the next generation of WIZO leadership abroad, successfully lead their home federations forward? How can Avivs show their friends and neighbours the WIZO they know and love? How can they see their visions for WIZO come to fruition?

Conference attendees have been tasked with solving this problem, and every one of them has committed to personally taking on that responsibility in their federations. These women – many of whom are just starting what will be long careers in WIZO – already represent the spirit of industrious volunteerism and caring that makes WIZO so special. They already exemplify the willingness to give and continue to give to the women and children of Israel that constitutes the backbone of WIZO.

### **Aviv chaverot explain the challenges at home**

Laurienne has a particularly compelling insight into the obstacles facing Avivs. "When WIZO started nearly 100 years' ago, there was no Internet or Facebook. In today's world, we live in a society where marketing and packaging are very important. You can have the best product – which I believe WIZO is – but if you don't have the right packaging, it'll never sell. WIZO", she explains, echoing a common frustration among seminar participants, "has been erroneously branded

as something for the 'older generation'. What can be more relevant and contemporary than the needs of children and women at risk who are just like us?"

Janene Currie, mother of two and a native of Cape Town, chair of the Shorashim Branch and a member of the Cape Town Executive, is not only at her first international WIZO conference, but on her very first trip to Israel. During a short coffee break, Janene tells me that she was shocked at how "at home" she felt in Israel. Her journey with WIZO is as much a journey of taking on a leadership position in WIZO Cape Town as it is about personally defining Zionism for herself. As a person who lists the value of 'tolerance' as central to her world philosophy, Janene explains that she is proud to be involved in a Zionist organization that contributes "to an Israeli state that wants to help all of its citizens, regardless of race, creed or colour."

### **Catching the girls**

In terms of attracting new members (a process that Laurienne refers to as 'friend-raising', a sister-term to 'fund-raising'), Janene sees the problem as similar to the one facing the larger Jewish world, namely that Jewish

*Joining in the art class*





## Laurienne Baitz,

### Aviv Representative to the World WIZO Executive



This WIZO Aviv International Seminar was filled with fabulous innovations responding to the needs and wishes of the Avivs! Like-minded and 'like-hearted' delegates from around the world converged to experience WIZO, ISRAEL and LIFE together.

A full five-day programme had everyone rolling up their sleeves and participating in some of WIZO's day care centres, schools and youth villages around Israel - a first for the Seminar. Visits were highly interactive with delegates and students bonding as they created, cooked, drew, toured, ate and danced together. Outstanding lectures and guest speakers on topics such as Leadership Skills, Israel Advocacy and Empowerment Programmes often took place during the visits at the projects making use of their facilities. These growth sessions were complemented by enlightening visits to historic sights and museums.

communal organizations attend to the needs of youth and college students, but post-graduation, "20-somethings and 30-somethings" are allowed to "fall off the grid." Janene explains that it's at this crucial time when "we need to be catching girls."

Janene's friend, Stacey, a Miami-native based in South Africa who comes to WIZO with years of Jewish World experience, sees the challenge for WIZO Cape Town as one of addressing the needs of their target audience. For Stacey, the challenge involves hosting the right kind of events at the right price bracket for the South African community (not what Janene would term the "fuddy, duddy stuff.") What Stacey finds particularly inspiring about the seminar is the opportunity to glean inspiration and ideas from chaverot from other federations and to adapt them to fit Cape Town.

Stacey's desire to network with chaverot from other federations touches on the strength of the seminar, which is a melting pot for networking, idea-exchange and collaboration. Stacey, who has a knack of connection-building and thinking big, is energized by the prospect of collaborating with the chaverot from WIZO Miami and



*Avivs absorbed in the 'Herzl Experience'*

The opportunity to bond and brainstorm with like-minded 'strangers-to-sisters' from around the world and share ideas was enriching and empowering. Inspirational ideas and plans for World WIZO Aviv's way forward in 2014 were powerful and imaginative.

A workshop held with the delegates blossomed with innovative possibilities that would have young new Aviv members flocking to WIZO around the world as a result of their cutting-edge appeal. Many of the concepts expanded on the fact that WIZO is a caring global 'family' whose members would love to connect and interact with each other thereby adding personal benefit to the list of other great reasons to be a member of WIZO.

These lucky delegates returned to their home countries afterwards as a **united** group, **ignited** by the incredible work WIZO does that they had seen, experienced and felt first hand.

Find out more by visiting our [World WIZO Aviv Facebook site: https://www.facebook.com/pages/World-WIZO-Aviv/](https://www.facebook.com/pages/World-WIZO-Aviv/).



*Learning Ethiopian embroidery*

piggybacking off one of their fundraisers, a WIZO t-shirt sale that she thinks would be successful in South Africa.

Similar to Stacey, Monica and Suzie, two chaverot from Panama, have also been energized (or '**ignited**,' as Laurienne would say) by the seminar. While ideas presented by other federations interest them, they can't stop telling me how much inspiration they drew from visiting the projects, which included the Rebecca Sieff WIZO Centre for the Family in Jerusalem and the WIZO Nir Ha'emek Youth Village. "In Panama, we don't specifically know what we're raising money for," Monica explains, and proceeds to state that from now on, she wants to enrich her event-planning and recruitment efforts with materials on the projects themselves. If Monica gets her way, the Panamanian federation's fundraisers will no longer be focused on the vague goal of generally aiding women and children at-risk in Israel, but will focus on specific projects and show-case specific stories of women and children who have benefitted from Panama's efforts.





*Seminar Delegates pose on the steps of the Herzl Museum, Jerusalem*

## Heading home

On the morning of the last day of the seminar, Aviv participants visit Tel Aviv's Independence Hall, where David Ben Gurion declared independence in 1948 and Israel's Declaration of Independence was signed. Laurienne sums up the meaning of the visit – which holds more meaning for WIZO women than simply documenting the culmination of the Zionist dream, the birth of the modern state of Israel. “We just went to Independence Hall, and these women learned for the first time that there were exactly two women who signed the Declaration of Independence – and one of them was a WIZO woman. That is the calibre of women. Historically, that is WIZO. That is very powerful. The movers and shakers, captains of industry, the best, the most influential – that is WIZO.”



*Busy in the kitchen*



*Training to be DJs*

Closing the seminar, **World WIZO Chairperson Professor Rivka Lazovsky** offers the gathered Avivs some words of advice. “This week, we gave you several things - we gave you knowledge, skills, tools and inspiration, but most importantly, what WIZO gives you is opportunities. If you have a task, you can give expression to your leadership potential and act. It's our responsibility to see that our members have the opportunities to act, and it's your responsibility to see that new WIZO members in your home federations have opportunities. After all, a person becomes generous by doing generous things.”



# Donor Appreciation

## *Ruth Rappaport: A Jewel in the WIZO Crown*

Energetic, righteous and capable – this is how friends, family and colleagues describe Ruth Rappaport. Be it her hard work ethic, vibrant personality, or her sweet and loving heart, Ruth is a true chavera. “Her care, concern and generosity towards WIZO are unique. A lady with a vision and a passion, she is a wonderful example for future generations. Young in spirit and in action, it is always a joy to share some time together,” Anne Argi current president of WIZO Switzerland describes Ruth. This multifaceted woman has a long devoted history for the betterment of Israel and the Jewish people.

Born in Berlin, her father moved the whole family to the British Mandate for Palestine after coming across a copy of Mein Kampf. He bought 14 immigration certificates for his immediate and extended family and for his Jewish employees. Upon arriving in Israel, Ruth and her brother were sent to Ben Shemen Youth Village where she learned Hebrew and experienced life in Israel firsthand. Ruth met her husband, Bruce (z”l), in 1942 and today she is the proud head of a family which includes four daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Due to economic opportunities the family moved to Geneva where they were extremely successful, but they never lost sight of the Zionist cause. Over the years, Ruth and Bruce committed themselves to education, medical research, and social causes in Israel.

Ruth believes in helping others and making the world a better place, specifically in helping children of all ages. The Rappaports sponsor six day care centres including the first rocket-proof day care centre in the Middle East, a beautiful shining beacon of hope for the Sderot community. A seventh day care centre is currently being built under Ruth’s sponsorship close to the Rambam Hospital campus in Haifa, and will be graciously named in honour of Michal Modai (z”l) past President of World WIZO. Ruth’s special bond with teenagers shone through at the recent inauguration of a newly renovated gymnasium at the Nachlat Yehuda Youth Village, where she impressed the students with her basketball skills.

As President of WIZO Geneva, Ruth organized joint events with other Jewish organizations. This allowed donors to contribute only once, making the process easier while minimizing expenses and maximizing income. Lucy Gideon, past president of WIZO Switzerland, a friend of Ruth’s for over 25 years says that “she has never shied away from lending a hand to help others and her ability to do a job both quickly and conscientiously is remarkable. “Without Ruth and her late husband Bruce (z”l), Swiss WIZO would not have become as successful as it is today. We owe her our tremendous gratitude and our thanks for her indefatigable support.”



World WIZO President Tova Ben-Dov, a personal friend of Ruth for over 30 years, describes her friendship with Ruth as “a great privilege. Ruth is an outstanding woman who cares for the needs of the entire Jewish people. She is an inspiration to us all.” Having been recognized as an exceptional woman for her dedication to WIZO, Ruth was elected co-chair of World WIZO’s International Council, a distinguished think tank focused on donor development. This honour recognizes her leadership skills, her ability to motivate people and her integrity.

Ruth describes WIZO as a proud highlight of her life’s work and her eyes sparkle when she describes her activities with WIZO. She sees her donations to WIZO as a perfect culmination of what philanthropy should aim to accomplish in terms of education, art and culture. Her message to her children and family is one of generosity, and she hopes that they will continue the tradition of philanthropy she learned from her parents and shared with her late husband. And yet, despite the many generous donations Ruth has given to the State of Israel and WIZO, Ruth remains modest “You do what you need to do, and you don’t make a big deal about it.”

\*Portions of this article were based on an interview held by Ruth’s biographer with Tova Ben-Dov.

# Developing WIZO

*Thanks to our Federations, WIZO has provided our children, youth and women state-of-the-art facilities. This is just a glimpse of a few of the renovations made possible by our generous donors in 2013*

**Gan Ve'Nof WIZO Gardening & Landscape Technology Youth Village  
Petach Tikva**

*Sponsored by WIZO Switzerland and WIZO Panama*

*Three renovated classrooms sponsored by WIZO Switzerland were built above the indoor amphitheatre, in what was an empty space*

*New classroom*



*Indoor amphitheatre*



**Pilavin Gates Day Care Centre  
Rishon Le Zion**

*Sponsored by WIZO USA*

*Before*



*After*



**Shikun Mizrach  
Day Care Centre  
Rishon Le Zion**  
*Sponsored by  
WIZO Australia*

*Before*



*After*



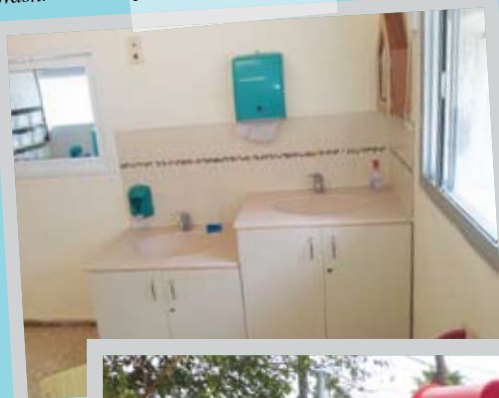
**WIZO Nachlat Yehuda  
Youth Village  
Rishon Le Zion**

*Sponsored by the Mary  
Bendet Foundation and  
WIZO Switzerland  
Music studio renovations  
and donation of string  
and drum instruments*





**Mishulam Saranga Day Care Centre, Kyriat Moshe  
Rehovot**  
Sponsored by the Mary Bendet Foundation and WIZO  
Switzerland  
Washroom and playground after renovations



**"Naaleh" Nahalal  
Youth Village  
Nahalal**  
Renovations by CHW



**Lily and Marcus Sieff Day Care Centre  
Afula**  
Sponsored by WIZO UK

Before



**Shoshana & Pinhas  
Sapir Day Care Centre  
Tel Aviv**  
Sponsored by WIZO  
Mexico



After

# Developing WIZO

## *Eva and Paul Wyler Day Care Centre*

*Nahariya*

*Sponsored by WIZO Switzerland*

*New kitchen and sensory motor room*



## *WIZO Nir Haemek Youth Village*

*Afula*

*Sponsored by WIZO Argentina and WIZO USA*

*Renovations of riding stable*



## *Shuchanat Mishkanot Peer Day Care Centre*

*Hadera*

*Sponsored by WIZO Switzerland*

*Before*



*After*

## *Elsa Bourla Day Care Centre*

*Tel Aviv*

*Sponsored by WIZO France*

*Before*



*After*



**Irene Kreitman/ Shirley Porter Day Care Centre**  
**Eilat**  
 Sponsored by WIZO UK



*Before*



*After*

**Marie Sternberg Day Care Centre**  
**Bat Yam**  
 Sponsored by WIZO Germany



**New Sensory Motor Room**



**New Kitchen**

**Boris Green Day Care Centre**  
**Tel Aviv**  
 Sponsored by WIZO Hong Kong



*Before*



*After*

**WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim Boarding School and Residential Home**  
**Haifa**  
 Sponsored by WIZO Australia  
 Exterior of dining room building



*Before*



*After*



## WIZO Fights Domestic Violence

Every year, November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (**IDEVAW**) is a heavy time at WIZO.

This year, WIZO launched a host of ground-breaking new projects and initiatives, which attracted wide media coverage: TV, radio, newspapers, magazines and Internet.

### The numbers

The numbers of domestic violence incidents in Israel paint a worrisome picture, showing that rather than disappearing, domestic violence is on the rise. In 2013 alone, 19 women were murdered by their partners and 11,000 domestic violence complaints were registered with the police. In total, the estimated domestic violence victim population numbers 200,000.

### Memorial ceremony

With the lobby of the WIZO building lined with four symbolic black coffins with red roses, victims of domestic violence and their families, professionals who work in the field of domestic violence prevention, Knesset members, social workers and WIZO chaverot came to join WIZO's Advancement of Women Division for the annual memorial ceremony. The ceremony included a moving candle lighting service where each of the 19 women who died at the hands of their partners was remembered by name.

### Fixing the court systems

Inspired by similar initiatives around the world, WIZO proposed a special 'One Family, One Judge' initiative in the Knesset, which seeks to launch a single, designated court for domestic violence. As it stands today, domestic violence victims – who are usually terrified to face their abusive partners in any context – must face their abusers in a number of courts (including family, civil and criminal) in order to address the various facets of their case.

The 'One Family, One Judge' initiative would streamline the legal process by integrating all the parties and courts

involved under the supervision of one judge, who would preside over all associated legal concerns, including criminal charges and custody issues.

To help present the model to the Knesset, WIZO invited American judge, Hon. Judy Harris Kluger, Chief of Policy and Planning for New York State's Unified Court System and an instrumental figure in implementing the US version of 'One Family, One Judge.'

### Hotline for violent men

While WIZO's hotline for violent men – a special phone service that encourages violent and potentially violent men to come forward and seek professional help – is revolutionary and first of its kind, launching the hotline has not been without its challenges. These include the financing, and publicizing this free service – getting the word out to abusive and unstable men that there are resources to help them, too.

The Alon Group, one of the largest business groups in Israel, launched a nation-wide effort to raise funds for the hotline in all of its branches across Israel, which include hundreds of grocery stores and retail shops of various kinds. The group also publicized their fundraising efforts in the Israeli media, which had the secondary benefit of getting information about the hotline to men who desperately need its services. Thanks to Alon Group's efforts, not only have funds been raised for the project, but the hotline has experienced a sharp incline in calls.

### A day of fun for victims

Women residing in WIZO's battered women's shelters experienced a day of beauty and pampering at WIZO House in Tel Aviv. The day included manicures and pedicures, as well as individualized style and fashion advice from a famous stylist.

### Next year

Time will be the true test of the innovative new measures that WIZO has taken to tackle all of the variables of the domestic violence equation – the court systems, abusive men, abused women and society at large.



*Michal Arkison (l) head of WIZO Rishon le Zion's legal advice bureau and a friend of one of the victims, lighting a memorial candle with World WIZO Chairperson Rivka Lazovsky*



*(l to r) Hon. Judy Harris Kluger, MK Meirav Michaeli, WIZO Israel Chairperson Gila Oshrat launching One Family One Judge at the Knesset*



## WIZO Israel Opens New Year

Chaverot, branch chairpersons, executive members and WIZO employees and supporters from as far south as Eilat and as far north as Kiryat Shmona gathered at the Cinematheque in Tel Aviv to attend the official opening of the WIZO Israel year. Welcoming the over 300 guests in attendance, WIZO Israel Chairperson Gila Oshrat opened the morning by summarizing WIZO Israel's industrious last year, and urging those in attendance to make the current year just as fruitful and productive. Discussing WIZO Israel's goals for the next year, Oshrat mentioned the importance of keeping volunteers motivated, maintaining WIZO's physical and human resources, recruiting new members – especially the next generation – and improving the connection between the various WIZO branches throughout Israel and the headquarters in Tel Aviv.

Following Oshrat's welcoming address, guests were enlightened with a panel discussion on the plight of refugees in Israel and undocumented migrant women, which triggered a debate among audience members on how best to help these women. Following the discussion, guests viewed a screening of 'Desert Flower,' the film adaptation of Waris Dirie's autobiography, a Somali nomad who underwent female circumcision at three years' old, was sold into marriage aged 13, and later went on to become an American supermodel and the UN spokeswoman against female genital mutilation.

## WIZO's Excellent Employee Awards

Following WIZO tradition, volunteers and employees at WIZO head office in Tel Aviv celebrate the New Year (Rosh Hashana) with a festive event and 'lechaim' at WIZO House. No less traditional are the annual Excellent Employee Awards, which honour the 'best' workers around the country – who have been nominated by their managers and fellow workers.

### The 2013 winners are:



**Chana Dahan**, classroom caretaker at the Inez Bernstein Day Care Centre in Tel Aviv, has been working at WIZO for 23 years. For her, WIZO is much more than an educational system, but a warm home for parents and children. Brimming with warmth and love, Chana's co-workers describe her as one-of-a-kind and parents stand in awe of her energy, passion and devotion.

**Kiti Bitton** is director of the Rosali & Philip Harris Day Care Centre in Zur Shalom, Haifa, and knew from a young age that she wanted to work in education. She has been at WIZO since the age of 19 and knows no greater joy than coming to work every day. While her position is incredibly challenging and demanding, for Kiti, the knowledge that she is impacting a child for the rest of his life is all the motivation she needs.



**Mazal Levi**, the cook at the WIZO Motta Gur Day Care Centre in Rehovot, is known for her loving nature and generous spirit. Mazal has been working at WIZO for the past ten years and sees the day care centre as nothing less than her own home. With parents and children coming to the kitchen every morning to greet her, she draws motivation from seeing empty plates return to the kitchen, and

the knowledge that she is providing the children with all their nutritional needs for the day.



**Merav Kremer** is the central area supervisor of some 60 WIZO branches. Whether it's a fridge that needs replacing or an air conditioner that needs fixing, Merav quickly and efficiently ensures that everything is dealt with as quickly as possible. She draws immense satisfaction from knowing that all branches are functioning properly and serving the needs of the community. Her co-workers describe

her as top-class and a pleasure to work with.



**Sigalit Shiller**, Manpower Coordinator, Human Resources Division, is responsible for tending to the needs of approximately 1000 employees at 45 WIZO day care centres. Sigalit has been working with WIZO for the past 23 years, and her job is to make sure that employees receive all of their benefits and have all of their needs met in an orderly and timely manner. After working at WIZO for nearly half of her life, Sigalit

awes her co-workers by bringing the same tireless energy and enthusiasm to the job that she has had since day one.



**Ruchama Cohen** is the house mother of the WIZO branch in Kiryat Shmona. On the very day she received her WIZO Excellence Award, Ruchama marked yet another important milestone: the completion of 15 years working at WIZO. As WIZO Kiryat Shmona's housemother, Ruchama works tirelessly to maintain a pleasant atmosphere in the branch, to keep it orderly and clean,

and most importantly, to greet all visitors with a smile and a kiss. Ruchama's co-workers describe her as a true, living and breathing embodiment of WIZO values.



**Esther Tal Shachar**, secretary of WIZO Nahariya, has been working with WIZO for the past 18 years. With her hand in nearly every project launched at the busy WIZO Nahariya branch, Esther's co-workers describe her as someone whose generosity and love known no bounds. Esther loves the diversity of her position and considers herself a sort of informal psychologist, giving advice,

answering questions and solving the problems of all who turn to her.



**Shimon Shabtai** is the maintenance coordinator at the WIZO Rebecca Sieff Centre for the Family, Jerusalem. Working for WIZO for the past five years, Shimon prides himself on providing a warm and safe space for the Rebecca Sieff Centre community to enjoy, and is known for treating the upkeep of the centre as though it were his own home. Shimon's co-workers see him as an

integral part of the Centre's ability to launch social projects and to serve the community. Shimon's dedication to his work is rivalled only by his esteem for WIZO, asserting that it is hard "to imagine that Israel would exist without WIZO."

**This year's team award** goes to the staff at the WIZO Haifa Kiriyat Eliezer Day Care Centre.

Staff at the Kiryat Eliezer Day Care Centre spare no effort providing children and parents with a peaceful, homely atmosphere. The day care centre serves a variety of populations and many of the children who attend come from financially struggling and single-parent families. The staff work together like a family, complementing one another's strengths and weaknesses, offering each other support and assistance and working together to best serve the centre's diverse population.

## WIZO Student Wins Physics Medal

WIZO Nahalal Youth Village student Shoham Jacoby brought his family, teachers and the larger WIZO family enormous pride when he won a bronze medal at the 2013 **International Physics Olympiad** in Denmark. Shoham's medal was one of five medals won by the Israeli delegation, which included one gold and three silver. Out of 83 participating countries, the 18-student Israeli delegation finished in 13<sup>th</sup> place, which marks a 12-point jump from last year, when Israel placed 25<sup>th</sup>.

Shoham's English and homeroom teacher Liora Drory explained that his path to academic achievement was not always so straightforward. Liora met Shoham as a brilliant 16-year-old who in addition to "struggling with authority," lacked focus, direction and discipline.

Together with Shoham's parents and Ronit Lavie, his class coordinator, Liora worked with the gifted but sensitive student to direct his attention to subjects that not only filled him with passion but also enabled him to focus.

While Shoham was required to submit regular progress reports to Liora on his independent physics studies, she was quick to emphasize that Shoham required hardly any extra encouragement-rather, "the motivation, initiative, energy and success came from Shoham himself and Shoham alone."

## Tiberias WIZO Music Conservatory in Germany

Twenty-seven students aged 11-18 from the Tiberias WIZO Music Conservatory participated in an exciting trip to Germany, where they gave a special concert in honour of the official inauguration of a Worms city square named after the Israeli city of Tiberias. Accompanied by three staff members from the conservatory, the students were hosted by local families and participated in joint rehearsals with the local Worms Conservatory. The highlight of the trip was the delegation's performance at the official opening ceremony for the square where the musicians delighted the gathered audience with Israeli songs. Moved by the lively music, the audience could not stay still and started



dancing the 'Hora' [a traditional Jewish circle dance]. In addition to this performance, the conservatory also gave another concert together with the Worms Conservatory at an official ceremony with representatives from nearby cities in attendance.

At the end of their official visit to Worms, the delegation stayed on for a few days to tour the surrounding areas and local attractions.



*Tiberias WIZO Music Conservatory Orchestra perform in Worms city square*

## From the Far East to the Middle East

On a visit to Israel from Hong Kong for the Maccabiah Games, Ana Scherer, Shani Brownstein and Ofira Gutman-Berrebi, young leaders of the Jewish Women's Association of Hong Kong, took time out from their busy trip to visit a project near and dear to their hearts, the Boris Green WIZO Day Care Centre in Tel Aviv. After funding a new classroom and a new playground at the centre, the JWA has decided to deepen their involvement with WIZO and take up sponsorship for the entire centre. On their visit, the women learned about the special summer activities offered by the centre, including movement and music classes, water activities and arts and crafts.

The women were also afforded a more intimate perspective on the struggles of Israeli women returning to the workplace after giving birth, an issue WIZO has taken upon its shoulders to address. Ana, who had herself participated and won six medals at the Maccabiah Games, said that as all three women are working mothers, they "highly appreciate the fact that this facility enables women to work outside the home." Explaining their ambitions for the DCC, Shani explained their hopes that the centre would become a focal point for involving the Hong Kong Jewish community in Israel activism. "If they can come and see the kids, and actually contribute their time to the centre, I know their hearts will be there."



*(l-r) DCC Director Sigal Haglili, Ana Scherer, Esther Mor, Ofira Gutman-Berrebi, Shani Brownstein, Early Age Inspector Lisa Obligenarz*

## WIZO Raanana Scholarships Awarded

Koren (17) and Sarit (16), pupils at WIZO Hadassim Youth Village, both come from extremely dysfunctional families with severe economic hardships. However, they have overcome their difficulties and have proved to be excellent pupils at Hadassim with high motivation for a better future.

Fittingly, some light came into their lives on the first day of Chanukah when they were both awarded scholarships from the WIZO Raanana English-speaking Group Fanny Eisenberg Fund for education. Fanny Eisenberg was the founder of the group some 40 years ago, and a well-known educationalist in the town. On her death, her family, together with WIZO, established the fund. Each year, members donate to the fund to celebrate special family events.

This year's award ceremony was held at a coffee morning in WIZO House, Raanana, organized by the group's chairperson, Ruth Slater, and in the presence of Dr Carmela Dekel, Chairperson of World WIZO Education Division, and Riki Kaldes, Chairperson of the Organization and WIZO Centres' Division, WIZO Israel.

Koren lit the first Chanukah candle and children from the music track of the school, under the directorship of Mila Gluzman entertained those present. Carmela Dekel



gave a moving presentation of the work of World WIZO's Education Division, and even veteran WIZO members who were present admitted afterwards they did not know the scope of the Division.

*Ruth Slater presents Fanny Eisenberg awards to Koren and Sarit*



## International Women Leaders' Conference Visits WIZO

To the sounds of 'Hevenu Shalom Aleichem' and spirited applause from the WIZO Nachlat Yehuda Youth Village Song and Dance troupe, delegates of the International Women Leaders' Conference arrived at WIZO House Tel Aviv for a special lunch.

In her capacity as president of the Israel Council of Women's Organizations (CWOI), WIZO Israel chairperson Gila Oshrat hosted and welcomed the delegates, who comprised high-profile women from over 30 different countries, three current women ambassadors to Israel (from Finland, Latvia and Estonia), and government ministers, mayors and United Nations officials. United by the goal of empowerment, advancement and gender equality for women, the conference acted as a platform for women from all over the world, including those from some countries that do not have diplomatic relations, to meet and exchange ideas.

The conference was under the auspices of MASHAV (Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jerusalem), The Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center (MCTC), Haifa, and in cooperation with UN Women and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).



*"Shalom Aleichem!" WIZO Nachlat students welcome the delegates*

## WIZO Kagan Centre Wins 48hr Film Award

The film 'Personal Relations', submitted by WIZO Helena Kagan Community Centre for Youth and Communications in Jerusalem, sponsored by WIZOUk, won first place out of 85 contestants in a nation-wide '48-Hours' film competition, in which film crews must write, shoot and produce films within two days.

As part of the victory, 'Personal Relations' will represent Israel in the international '48 Hours' film competition in New Orleans this March.

The shooting of the film was a whirlwind process. First, through a lottery, the Kagan Centre team was assigned several specifications for the film: the genre 'Zombie', a line that must appear in the movie '*once, things were different*', a character - a teacher called Noam Reuven, and an accessory, - glasses. Then, the crew scrambled to write a script, direct, shoot and edit the nearly eight-minute film.

The spooky film takes place in a local Jerusalem school and follows a new teacher, Nadir, who is immediately instructed to administer colourful pills to the eerily 'zombied-out' students. After Nadir decides to stop feeding the students pills, he learns the hard way that while '*once things were different*', today, only this disturbing modus operandi keeps teachers safe from their students.

The WIZO Helena Kagan Centre for Youth and Communications works with the Jerusalem Municipality to foster social leadership among hundreds of Jerusalem youth through media.



*Action! Award –winning film in the making*





## From Me to You

Faced with many situations where parents are not abusive to their children, but are unable to function properly as parents, Judge Avital Chen, who presides over a family court for youth, set up a special project with WIZO and the Jerusalem Municipality.

'From Me to You' assigns experienced mothers (after undergoing a special training course) to work as personal coaches to dysfunctional parents. For many families, this is a 'last chance' before they lose custody of their children.

Mother of five, Rina Amar, was assigned as a coach to a struggling family of seven who had already received a court order to remove their children. The father was a former drug addict who worked temporary jobs while the mother barely worked. They raised their five children in a crowded trailer.

Rina describes her involvement: "I visit them once a week and try to teach the parents to be more patient with the children and work on improving their economic situation. I try to instill in the older girls more hygienic habits and urge them to take responsibility for the order and cleanliness of the house. I know that the family looks forward to visits with me because I bring a different kind of energy into the home."

## Friends of WIZO Creates a Home of Dreams

The adorable toddlers and dedicated care givers of a South Tel Aviv day care centre staged a festive Chanukah concert for their very special 'friends' – the Friends of WIZO – at the group's opening brunch.

This year, the opening brunch was held at the group's very own 'Home of Dreams' - otherwise known as The Friends of WIZO Day Care Centre – where guests were able to tour the centre and see the recent extensive renovations, financed by the group's fundraising efforts.

Friends of WIZO Deputy Chair Gillian Hart introduced World WIZO Early Age Division Chair Hassida Danai to guests. Friends of WIZO Chair Betty Crystal was unable to be present, but in a message read out by her sister, Sylvia Milrod, Betty paid tribute to the committee for their tireless efforts and remarked on the milestone that this opening represents. She said that she hoped that this 'Home of Dreams' would serve as a model to be emulated by other groups.

Friends of WIZO presented each child with a special Chanukah gift and the children surprised each of their guests with a handmade bookmark as a token of their appreciation.

*Friends of WIZO guests and children of the day care centre enjoy Chanukah festivities*





## ARGENTINA

### WIZO Art Exhibition

WIZO Argentina hosted their annual art exhibition where visitors were invited to admire and discuss a variety of paintings and sculptures by recognized Argentinian artists. The federation is especially grateful to curator and artist Nora Recepter who organized the event.



*Nora Recepter (l) with WIZO Argentina President Nicole Kovalivker*

### The Israel Philharmonic

In conjunction with three other organizations, OSFA-WIZO hosted the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra directed by Zubin Mehta at the Colon Theatre. WIZO Argentina Honorary President Amalia Polack did an excellent job in her capacity as the general event coordinator.

### Orchestra Project for Disadvantaged Youth

As part of their social outreach efforts and in order to maintain their place in the larger Argentinian society, WIZO Argentina sponsored a local children's orchestra project for disadvantaged youth. The federation organized a special concert for the orchestra at the Libertad Synagogue in Buenos Aires.



*A children's orchestra for disadvantaged youth performs at the Libertad Synagogue*

### Lunch with the Ambassador

WIZO Argentina hosted their traditional lunch at the home of the Israeli Ambassador to Argentina, Dorit Shavit, who welcomed 60 donors into her home for a delicious meal and an opportunity to learn more about WIZO. Guests were treated to a screening of a video about the Nir Ha'emek Police Academy programme.



*Ambassador Dorit Shavit (l) and WIZO Argentina President Nicole Kovalivker awarding Clara Medvedocky a WIZO brooch*

## AUSTRALIA

### Triennial Conference

For a full report and photos see article on pages 6-8

### Perth

### Netball Championship

Maccabi WA (Western Australia) held its inaugural Mixed Netball Tournament for different youth organizations within the Perth Jewish community. Teams from WIZO, Bnei Akiva, Habonim Dror and AUJS (Australian Union of Jewish Students) came to compete. The competition was conducted round-robin style, with each team playing one another and the top scorers advancing to the final match. Team WIZO beat the favourites, Habonim Dror, in a thrilling 1-point victory to take the title.



*Team WIZO spelling out the word WIZO (l-r) Tamar Willner, Rachel Solomon, Michael Schwartz, Ella Rossanis, Gina Tuch, Rachel Barrett, Gabby Atla*



## Lovebird Fundraiser

WIZO Australia was thoroughly impressed by the Carmel School's fundraising project to purchase four new lovebirds for the Ahuzat Yeladim pet therapy programme. Year 12 students put on a skit based on 'The Bachelor' to promote the fundraiser and sold chocolates and lovebird shaped 'Valentine' cards for Tu B'Av. Three Year 9 students adopted the cause as their *tzedaka* [charity] project and organized a fundraiser raffle.

## Jewish Agency Shabbaton

WIZO Perth sent former World WIZO intern Rachel Barrett to a Jewish Agency three-day shabbaton with a delegation of young Israelis who came to Australia to teach about Zionism, Judaism and Jewish identity. Rachel joined representatives from AUJS, Habonim, Dror and Bnei Akiva to discuss the importance of decision-making in life after school. Within a packed schedule of programmes, discussions, fun and games, Rachel shared her experiences working as a World WIZO intern on the emergency relief initiative for WIZO Hadassim Youth Village.



*Rachel Barrett (second from left) with her "family group" and Israeli delegate, Yaniv Shamir*

## Sidney

## WIZO NSW Gala Spectacular

WIZO hostesses and volunteers welcomed nearly 700 guests to the group's annual major gala fundraiser, which featured a fascinating discussion between former Minister of Internal Security and Shin Bet Director Avi Dichter and former Member of Knesset and Shin Bet Director Ami Ayalon with moderator Robert Goot AM SC. Ayalon and Dichter discussed

the controversy surrounding the Shin Bet documentary *The Gatekeepers*. After the discussion, the audience was treated to a moving video, sound and light presentation about Israel.

*Ami Ayalon (l) and Avi Dichter*

## Awareness Week

Preschools, primary schools and high schools in Sydney celebrated WIZO Awareness Week 2013 by holding multi-day fund collection events for WIZO and distributing freshly-designed activity sheets and fliers. Younger WIZO members Karen Bognar, Lisa Bognar and Heidi Baltineshter took the opportunity to join key WIZO members in speaking at school assemblies. Coordinated and managed by WIZO Executive Member and Education Chairperson Rose Fekete, WIZO Awareness Week culminated with various synagogues holding 'WIZO Shabbat' and the congregation rabbis acknowledging WIZO's wonderful work.



*(l-r) Kasey Collins and Jayden Lederer with Rose Fekete*

## Off to the Races!

WIZO groups across Sydney hosted special Melbourne Cup celebrations, including a social gala card day, a glamorous fashion parade in a private home and fascinating guest speakers. With plenty of food and the spirit of fun, WIZO members and their friends enjoyed watching the race and spending a fantastic day out.



*(l-r) Vivienne Selwyn, guest speaker Dr. Robert Kaplan, Donna Delaere, Rose Fekete, Sara Gresham*



## Victoria

### Avi Dichter

Former Minister of Internal Security and Shin Bet Director Avi Dichter captivated guests at WIZO Victoria's major function. Dichter enlightened everyone with his vast knowledge on the current situation in Israel and Syria.



(l-r) Ilana Chester, Philip Chester, Sylvia Green, Avi Dichter, Ilana Dichter, Paulette Cherny

## AUSTRIA

### Sponsor A Child

Vienna City Hall was once again the prestigious venue for WIZO Austria's annual Sponsor A Child fundraising event. Special guests were Dr Carmela Dekel Chairperson, World WIZO Education Division and President of Germany's Jewish Community, Dr Dieter Grauman, whose wife, Simone, is Vice President WIZO Germany.

WIZO Austria President Dr Hava Bugajer addressed the over 150 guests and stressed the importance of support for the children of the three day care centres sponsored by WIZO Austria. Dr Grauman spoke about the difficulties faced by Israel both from outside and within – and the wonderful work done by WIZO to give at-risk children and youth a chance for a better future.

Soprano opera singer Shira Ben David from Tel Aviv University's Music Academy entertained guests.

Dr Dekel gave a moving presentation about the work of WIZO's education system including the day care centres, schools and youth villages. The next evening Dr Dekel was hosted at the home of Dr Bugajer at a special evening for Young WIZO Austria.



(l to r) Livia Erdösi, Dr Ines Pani, Karin Winter, Rita Dauber, Simone Graumann, Dr Dieter Graumann, Dr Hava Bugajer, Dr Carmela Dekel

### WIZO Austria Intern

Young WIZO Austria member Livia Erdösi felt the only way she could really understand 'what WIZO does' would be to spend some time volunteering at one of WIZO's projects – and that's just what she did! Below are extracts from her experiences:



*"Before I came to volunteer at the WIZO Inez Bernstein Day Care Centre in Tel Aviv, I had been involved in Young WIZO Austria for almost a year. After a few months, I became a WIZO delegate at the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations in Vienna.*

*Even if I felt the strong sense of participating in WIZO, I wanted to see what the organization is doing in the country itself. For this reason, I decided to volunteer in Tel Aviv, so I could get involved more directly.*

*When I first came to the day care centre, I was a bit nervous, because of my lack of Hebrew. Luckily two of my colleagues spoke some English, so the communication became easier. I realised very quickly, that the language wouldn't be a problem in my work with the children – playing, laughing and showing love would be enough for us.*

*I volunteered four days a week until the early afternoon, which gave me enough time to get to know this day care centre and the results of WIZO fundraising better. It amazed me how much joy and love were in the house all the time, regarding the children, the parents, the employees and the director.*

*I also visited the WIZO Raya Jaglom DCC sponsored by WIZO Australia and the WIZO Hadassim Youth Village sponsored by Canada. I was amazed by WIZO Hadassim; one of the 'house-mothers' told us the story of her life, which touched us all: her family background, how living in this village as a child helped her, and the importance for her now to give this help to other children.*

*Looking back I can say that spending this month at the WIZO Inez Bernstein DCC in Tel Aviv was the right decision, as I gained new experiences, met great people, got a better inside view of the work of WIZO and had a lot of fun."*

Livia Erdösi

## Belgium-Luxembourg

### Numerous Activities

The chaverot of WIZO Belgium-Luxembourg have had a busy year, with numerous incredible activities that aided the federation in recruiting new members, building connections to WIZO and raising funds.



Among other activities, the chaverot of Brussels organized museum visits, cooking classes, book club meetings and a theatre evening. WIZO Brussels' Marina Fillenbaum and Danielle Revah, wife of the Israeli Ambassador to Belgium Jacques Revah, together organized a bridge tournament at the Ambassador's residence.

WIZO groups in Brussels, Antwerp and Liege participated in a successful Rosh Hashana flower sale, which saw roses and flower arrangements sold and delivered one day before the holiday.

Meanwhile in Antwerp, the Yachad group participated in 'The Race for the Cure,' a 5 km run/walk. The Yachad group also held a Krav Maga event which also drew a lot of participants. Also in Antwerp, Agnes Diamant and Annie Schreiber worked tirelessly year-round to organize a second-hand sale. Hana Fass of Antwerp and the NanaTeam of Brussels and Emy Tob organized popular museum and private collection visits on a regular basis. The chaverot of Antwerp and Brussels also held a Hanukkah card sale, designed by chavera Sharon Ancho.

In Liege, Maria Edelstein hosted a Yiddish cooking workshop, initiated by the Liege committee. Maria herself hosted the first workshop, which allowed chaverot to mingle and socialize while learning to cook Yiddish delights such as *kreplechs*, *gehakte leiber*, and more.



*Yiddish cooking class in Liege*



*Brussels book club hosted at Mireille Wenric's home*



*Brussels cooking class with Chef Orna Gourary (far left)*



*Antwerp second-hand sale*

## Seminars & Conferences

In addition to entertaining its members, WIZO Antwerp has also been stimulating their members' intellectual curiosity. Raya Wimmer organized two fascinating seminars, the first on 'The Concept of Desire in Philosophy' with Professor J. Sojcher, and the second on 'The Status of Women in Past and Present Judaism' with Professor Dahlia de Macar.

Lea Guttermann, Vice President of WIZO Brussels, and her committee organized a variety of conferences on topics such as anti-Semitism, fashion, marketing, and delinquency, all of which drew a large audience.



*Seminar on 'Desire in Philosophy:' Professor Sojcher (left), Raya Wimmer (centre)*



*Conference on advances in breast cancer research with world famous researcher Jean-Marie Nogaret, MD, PhD: Lee Gutterman (2nd left), Professor Nogaret (2nd right), Ingrid Bolmut (far right), Past President WIZO Belgium-Luxembourg*

## BRAZIL

### French Senate Award

Ana Marlene Starec, Honorary President of WIZO Brazil, Honorary Member of World WIZO and former President of WIZO Rio de Janeiro, received the prestigious *Medalha Vermeille da Societé d'Encouragement au Progrès* award in the French Senate at the Luxembourg Palace. At a solemn ceremony in the palace's Napoleon Room, the award was given in acknowledgement of Ana Marlene's 49 years of dedication to WIZO Brazil and Israel.



*Ana Marlene Starec (2nd left) together with the three other Brazilian awardees*

## Rio Grande do Sul

### Fraternity Fair 2013

WIZO Brazil's Fraternity Fair, the WIZO Rio Grande do Sul's signature event, celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Hosted by WIZO Rio Grande do Sul President Sophia Isdra and FIRS President Dr. Mario Cardone, the event included kiosks with different items for sale, dance performances, plays, parades, shows and a festive lunch.

Another 'Fair' event was a special dinner in honour of Fani Jawetz, who for the past 40 years has been instrumental in organizing the fair. With over 200 guests in attendance, WIZO Brazil President Helena Kelner presented Fani with a WIZO Brazil Diploma for her unwavering commitment and support.



*Fraternity Fair Organizing Committee*



*Helena Kelner presents Fani Jawet with her 'diploma'*

## Rio de Janeiro

### Holocaust Exhibit

The travelling Curitiba Holocaust Museum exhibition, 'Only Children: Childhoods Stolen by the Holocaust' had a powerful impact when it reached Rio de Janeiro. Organized by WIZO Rio, FIERJ, Hillel, WIZO Brazil and the Israeli Consulate in Rio de Janeiro, guests visiting the exhibit included politicians, teachers and diplomats. Twelve hundred schoolchildren from 26 schools are expected to visit the exhibit. WIZO Rio de Janeiro and WIZO Brazil are committed to fulfilling their duty to teach and remember the Holocaust, as well as to promoting Zionism and Judaism in the larger community.





*Public school children attend Holocaust exhibition with Miguel Krigsner, WIZO Rio de Janeiro President Lúcia Balassiano and WIZO Brazil President Helena Kelner*

## Aviv Seminar, Brazil Style

With the goal of training and inspiring Aviv members from across Brazil, WIZO Rio de Janeiro gathered together 50 Avivs for a special 'Yom Iyun' seminar. Organized by Sheila Saubermann, the seminar included a workshop by philosopher Viviane Mosé on women in modern life. Guests in attendance included former WIZO Brazil Presidents Ana Marlene Starec and Sarita Schaffel, and International Aviv Seminar 2012 graduates Erica Saubermann Alem and Sarita Banchik. WIZO Brazil President Helena Kelner thanked the Rio de Janeiro Centre and its President Lúcia Balassiano for the initiative.



*Aviv Chaverot attend the Yom Iyun seminar.*

## São Paulo

### WIZO Brazil Painting and Drawing Contest

Hundreds of Brazilian public schools participated in WIZO Brazil's 2013 Drawing and Painting Brazil-Israel Contest. After all the submissions were judged, an awards ceremony was held at the São Paulo City Hall, where State Secretary for Education Professor Herman Voorwald awarded first-place to student Angélica Yukari Sasajima and her teacher Daniela Cavallaro. As part of their award, the student-teacher pair were presented with a three-day trip to Brasília, where they will be welcomed by the Israeli Ambassador. The ceremony was attended by several authorities from the

State of São Paulo, including the Israeli General Consul Yoel Barnea and the host of the ceremony, CONSCRE President Sergio Serber.



*Herman Voorwald awards 1st place to student Angelica Yukari Sasajima*

### Avivs Host Children's Day Event

WIZO São Paulo's new Aviv group, the 'Zahav Group,' hosted its first ever event, a Children's Day for youngsters, families and friends at the Espaco Patio Duo, where youngsters were treated to storytelling, cupcake classes, music shows, toys, food and drinks. A special *Mazal Tov* goes to event organizers Juliana Tanenbaum, Andrea Mifano, Tatiana Hara, Débora Mifano Zac, Denise Grunenbaum and Jane Fucs.



*Avivs relax for a moment while enjoying the Children's Day entertainment*



## CANADA

### Annual General Meeting 2013

At Canadian Hadassah-WIZO's (CHW) Annual General Meeting in Toronto, National Executive Director Alina Ianson presented her report, followed by the Audited Financial Statement by CA Marla Kurtzman and proposed changes to CHW by-laws by CHW National Secretary Judy Zelikovitz. CHW National President Marla Dan presented the National President's Report, which gave updates about projects and recipients in Israel. CHW National Major Gifts Chair Debbie Eisenberg presented awards to new major donors, including Mildred Sonshine, Roslyn Joseph and Ilse Seetner. Aubrey Dan was also recognized for his generous gift donation in honour of his wife Marla's birthday.

The meeting also included a presentation made by Canadian Young Judea (CYJ) Biluim participants. This past summer, participants from across Canada visited CHW's day care centres in Israel, where they played with the children and participated in fun activities. The students were very grateful for the opportunity to participate in such a trip and to see first-hand how CHW's commitments impact the lives of those who benefit and depend on the federation's programmes.



*CYJ Participants with Marla Dan (2nd from left)*

### Remembering Esther Matlow z"l

Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW) hosted a tribute evening for Honorary National President Esther Matlow. In attendance were many members of the Matlow Family. After a dessert reception, those who knew Esther shared their personal memories. Speakers included CHW National President Marla Dan and Israel Deputy Consul General Irit Stopper. Messages were received from World WIZO President Tova Ben-Dov, and Dr. Avni, Head of the Esther Matlow Ophthalmology Department at Assaf Harofeh Medical Centre.

There was barely a dry eye in the house when Esther's husband Irving and daughters Anne and Ruth presented a heart-warming tribute to her. Following the speeches, Esther's son David presented the documentary film *My Herzl*, which he produced and dedicated to his mother. Directed by his brother-in-law Eli Tal-El, the film focuses on Theodor Herzl, founder of the Zionist movement.



*The Matlow Family*

## CHILE

### Spectacular Fashion Show



The chaverot of WIZO Chile held a fashion show featuring the creations of famous designer Rubén Campos at WIZO headquarters. Mary Teresa Jacobovsky opened the event, while WIZO Chile President Agnes Mannheim delivered the welcoming remarks. Audience members had a wonderful time admiring Campos' incredible works of fashion, made from lovely fabrics and incredible colours.

*Agnes Mannheim with Rubén Campos*

### Annual Grand Bazaar

WIZO Chile's Athid Group held its traditional annual Grand Bazaar, where for three days shoppers were invited to purchase an amazing assortment of clothing, furnishings and decorations.



*Purses for sale at the Grand Bazaar*



## COLOMBIA

### Bat Mitzvah Cooking Class

Unforgettable memories were created and shared at WIZO Bogotá's annual cooking class for bat mitzvah girls, their mothers and grandmothers. Held at the Hebrew Sephardic Community of Bogotá, the event was attended by Rabbi Avi Amsalem and his wife Keren, who gave a talk highlighting the importance of women in Judaism and explained the meaning of each step of Shabbat challah bread preparation. The girls were then treated to a dessert workshop by Myriam and Denise Camhi, who taught them to make and decorate cupcakes.



*Bat Mitzvah cooking class*

## DENMARK

### WIZO Walk

After only its second year, WIZO Denmark's WIZO Walk is well on its way to becoming an annual tradition. Held after the close of the summer holidays, the guilt-free event gave participants the opportunity to catch up with family and friends, get a bit of exercise and fresh air, and enjoy an apple and a free water bottle, the latter provided by the Jewish National Fund, who also sponsored a guide. This year, 90 participants met on the outskirts of Copenhagen close to a small castle built in 1783, Naesseslottet, which is surrounded by the remains of Denmark's first Romantic Garden.



*A site on the WIZO Walk route*

The acclaimed author, historian and journalist Bent Blüdnikow gave a brief and very funny introduction to the history of the garden and the castle before participants walked the incredibly beautiful 5-kilometre route. The KKL-sponsored guide Preben Olesen shared his vast knowledge of the garden and told the history of the small obelisks and memorials along the route and pointed out the many trees still existing from the original garden.

## EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF WIZO FEDERATIONS

### ECWF Meet in Berlin

*How do Jewish people feel about living in Germany after the Holocaust?* This emotive topic was the central theme of the Annual General Meeting of the European Council of WIZO Federations, held this year in Berlin and hosted by WIZO Germany President Diana Schnabel. Thirteen European federations were represented at the conference.

Discussions and presentations revolved around the guilt non-Jewish Germans felt after World War II as they began to discover their parents' past, and the difficulty of the post-war generation of German Jews who often felt embarrassed to say they were from Germany.

The film *Jealous of the Birds*, which deals with the subject of Holocaust survivors returning to live in Germany after the War was screened, and provoked an extended discussion.

Guest speakers included Dr. Elvira Grözinger, who reported about the revival of Jewish life in Berlin from 1990, Marija Salom from Belgrade, who is active in researching and teaching the history of the Balkan Jewish communities, and Bente Kahan from Poland. Bente gave a fascinating report about the renewal of Jewish life in Poland, and recalled the vibrant Polish WIZO federation – which, before the War, was the largest federation in Europe.

The conference was a great success, and reflected both the blossoming Jewish life in Berlin and the rich Jewish history that is reflected at every street corner of the city.

The elected Steering Committee for 2013-14 comprises: Manuele Amar (France), Hava Bugajer (Austria), Irene Goldberg (Switzerland), Harriet Millner-Neuman (Sweden), Hanni Seifert (UK), Dorrit Raiter (Denmark).



*Participants at ECWF Conference*



## GERMANY

### Retirement Centre Get-Together

WIZO Frankfurt hosted a fun get-together at the Jewish Retirement Home of the Frankfurt Jewish Community Centre. In addition to coffee and cake, guests of all ages were treated to a variety of music, including the opportunity to sing along to Hebrew songs with Rabbi Shlomo Raskin. President of WIZO Germany Diana Schnabel thanked all the participants on behalf of WIZO Frankfurt.



*Rabbi Raskin at the Frankfurt Jewish Retirement Home*

### WIZO Bazaar

WIZO Darmstadt held its yearly bazaar at the Darmstadt Jewish Community Centre. WIZO Darmstadt Chairperson Aviva Steinitz officially opened the Bazaar by conducting the Darmstadt Jewish Community Choir in a lovely musical performance, while WIZO Germany President Diana Schnabel, Darmstadt Mayor Jochen Partsch and Chairman of the Darmstadt Jewish Community Moritz Neumann delivered welcoming remarks.

In addition to enjoying a large selection of goods to purchase, bazaar attendees were treated to wines from Israel, Israeli and Russian delicacies, coffee and cake. Musical entertainment included a *Jazz and Modern Classics* concert by clarinetist Irith Gabriely and pianist Peter Przystaniak and Israeli folk dancing from the Juvel Group under the direction of Iris Lazimi. Interested guests were invited to a synagogue tour by Ruth Marx and a guided museum tour by Elizabeth Krimmel.

Proceeds from the bazaar went to the WIZO Germany sponsored Auguste and Robert Meder House for at-risk girls in Eilat.



*The choir of the Darmstadt Jewish Community Choir, conducted by Aviva Steinitz*

### Sponsor A Child Gala

Two hundred and forty guests attended WIZO Frankfurt's Sponsor A Child gala, held in the festively decorated ballroom of the Hilton Hotel. Fifteen-year-old Shay Hamber, winner of *The Voice Kids of Israel* and former WIZO day care centre attendee, charmed the guests with her competition-winning song *Ne Me Quitte Pas*. Andrea Kiewel and Ralph Morgenstern provided entertaining moderation, while WIZO Germany President Diana Schnabel gave the opening remarks and introduced honoured guests, including Israeli Ambassador to Germany Yakov Hadas-Handelsmann, Dr Dieter Graumann, President of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, Daniela Schadt, life partner of Federal President Joachim Gauck, City Treasurer Uwe Becker and Integration Department Head Nargess Eskandari-Grünberg. Diana Schnabel explained the importance of WIZO's work, highlighting the shortage of public kindergartens in Israel, and proudly told guests that out of the some 800 World WIZO projects, 16 of them are funded and supported by WIZO Germany.

Entertainment included a musical programme from Roger Cicero and Shay Hamber, Johnny Klink's classic *Midnight Show* from the Tigerpalast Vaudeville, and an acrobatic performance from a Russian equilibrist and two Italian roller-skaters. The event was a stunning social and financial success and secured over 530 sponsorships.



*Shay Hamber at the Sponsor A Child gala*

## HOLLAND

### WIZO Prize for Literature

WIZO Holland awarded the 2013 WIZO Prize for Literature to Irvin Yalom, author of *The Spinoza Problem*. Yalom was awarded the prize after WIZO book clubs all over Holland read six nominated books and voted his novel the best. At an event attended by over 80 people, Jewish Weekly Head Editor Maurice Swirc announced Yalom as the prize winner. Ronit Palache, a young and talented publisher and presenter, shared a few words on the joys of reading, noting that "a reader is never lonely".

A scholarship in the name of Irvin Yalom will be awarded to Iliya, a Russian student in WIZO Nahalal Youth Village to broaden his cultural horizon in literature and theatre.





(l-r) Translator of *The Spinoza Problem* Miebeth van Horn, President WIZO Holland Joyce Numann Durlacher, Uitgeverij Balans publisher Anneke Willems

## Bubbles & Books

WIZO Literature Prize nominee Robert Vuijsje must have been surprised when he received an email from the 'Bubbles & Books' club, asking him to speak at one of their meetings. Vuijsje readily accepted the invitation to discuss his book *The Best Friend* with club members. After a short round of introductions, 'bubbly' and a few bites of some fabulous dishes (it is a Jewish women's club, after all!), the women discussed *The Best Friend* with the author, asking a wide variety of questions. When the ladies asked the author if there was a link between his personal life and the book, Vuijsje explained that although he does recapture experiences from his daily life, the book is fiction. When asked about his underlying message, Vuijsje replied by saying that he likes to write about how different cultures interact with each other. After a brief photo shoot with the group – and a few more bites of the delicious dishes – the ladies grilled Vuijsje on the subject of his next book, a detail the author was as yet unwilling to share.



Robert Vuijsje with the Bubbles & Books reading group

## HUNGARY

### Generosity for the Community

Ahead of Rosh Hashana at the first Meeting of Members, chaverot of WIZO Hungary decided to financially sponsor a single mother with a disabled, wheelchair-bound son who needs round-the-clock care. With the grandmother living in a Jewish elderly care home, the mother is quite alone in terms of support and cannot work because of her son's needs. In light of this, the generous chaverot decided to support this woman with a regular allowance..

### A Visit to Komarno

Following the High Holydays, WIZO Hungary chaverot embarked on a visit to Komarno, a small town that sits squarely on the Slovakian-Hungarian border, with the town's synagogue located on the Slovakian side of the border. During the Holocaust, the majority of the Jewish population was murdered, but within the last ten years, Jewish life has experienced a resurgence, and the community even has a newspaper and holiday services. The chaverot spent an enjoyable half-day with the local women, where they discussed both the past and hopes for the future. After inviting their new friends to visit them in Hungary, the ladies enjoyed a walk around the town where they saw the local sites and the old architecture.



The Menhaz Synagogue in Komarno

## ITALY

### Zelig for Adei Wizo

Over 800 guests attended the opening event of the social year of the Adeissima Milan branch with entertainment provided by the Zelig Group. Held at the Manzoni Theatre,



the exclusive and elegant meeting was organized by WIZO Milano President Susanna Sciaky. Thanks to Adei WIZO's sponsors and supporters, the evening proved a wonderful social and financial success.



*The Zelig Group*

## Cirque du Soleil

Last year, Adeissima's annual event was a Cirque du Soleil performance also at the Manzoni Theatre in Milan. Esther Mor, World WIZO Fundraising Division Chair, attended as the guest of honour. The fun-filled, extravagant evening helped WIZO Italy gain new friends and supporters and will be sure repeat for years to come.



*(ladies in the centre l-r) Milano Vice Chair Silvia Sabbadini, Milano Chairperson Susanna Sciaky, Esther Mor*

## PANAMA

### World WIZO Honorary President's Mission

Helena Glaser, Honorary President of World WIZO, went on a mission to Panama to help launch the federation's fundraising campaign for the construction of a synagogue at the WIZO Gan VeNof Youth Village (sponsored by WIZO Switzerland and WIZO Panama). Welcomed by Frida Harari, the newly elected president, former president Estela Fashka and members of the Panama Executive, Helena set off on a very intensive visit. To help launch the campaign, she met with various donors, as well as the new community rabbi, Rabbi Shrem of the Shevet Achim synagogue. The campaign was formally launched at a wonderful cocktail party hosted by Frida Harari and her husband.

Helena also had an opportunity to acquaint herself with the larger Panamanian federation and Jewish community. She attended a brunch for new members hosted by Sandra Israel and visited the largest Jewish day school in Panama, the Albert Einstein Jewish School, where she spoke to students about WIZO. At a culminating luncheon for the Sponsor A Child campaign, Helena spoke about children at risk.



*Helena Glaser in Panama (l to r) Sandra Israel, Vicky Fidanque, Helena Glaser, Dora Sasson*

## WIZO Noar

WIZO Noar is the youngest of the eight groups of WIZO Panama. Their membership is mostly comprised of highly motivated high school girls who want to contribute to at-risk children and youth in Israel. Although they operate under the umbrella of WIZO Panama, the young chaverot are extremely independent in the creation of their events. Leaders of the group include Orly Ashkenazi, Sharon Faskha, July Tarazi and Lea Sofer. Below are a sampling of WIZO Noar's activities.

### Mishloah Manot

Wizo Noar sent Mishloah Manot goodie baskets to schoolchildren in Israel. After the chaverot receive a donation for a Mishloah Manot basket, the girls also sent a basket to the donor with a note thanking them for their caring mitzvah. The activity has been going on for the past two years and is sure to become an annual affair!



*Flier for WIZO Noar's Mishloah Manot project*



## Brit Mila Kit

Noar Chaverot have an ongoing fundraising project of providing families with Brit Mila kits upon the birth of their baby boys. In exchange for a donation, the chaverot supply all the necessary things for the mohel in a neatly packaged kit. At the end of the year, after covering all expenses, the chaverot donate all proceeds from the project as a single large donation.



*Brit Mila kit*

## Cupcake Class

WIZO Noar held a three-day cooking course with Chef Nicole Cohen for young girls and their mothers. Participants were taught step-by-step how to decorate cupcakes with rolled fondant, including dying the fondant, cutting it into different shapes and forms and actually decorating the cupcakes. Each participant took home her own box of beautifully decorated cupcakes!



*WIZO Noar's delicious cupcakes*

## SOUTH AFRICA

WIZO South Africa launched a WIZO tzedaka [charity] box campaign to bring the spirit of giving into every South African Jewish home. To engage the community, the chaverot held a contest for children to design the box labels; after the entries flooded in from all over South Africa, a panel of judges had a tough time selecting a winner from each of the three age categories. After much deliberation, the three winners were selected and presented with fantastic prizes.



*Tzedaka box*

## Cape Town

### Yomtov Market

With tables loaded with cakes, biscuits, Yomtov goods and collectibles, BZA WIZO held its annual Yomtov market fundraiser at Sea Point High School. Guests were invited to peruse handcrafts, clothes, kitchenware and new kosher goodies on offer from various outside vendors. Refreshments were set up in a marquee, while the younger guests kept busy on the jumping castle, the climbing frame and at the petting zoo; parents and grandparents seized the opportunity to shop and enjoy the festive atmosphere of the market.



*The bagel biscuit bakers of the WIZO BZA Tomer Branch spend months baking thousands of the popular bagel biscuits for the Yomtov Market*

## Addiction to Recovery

The Emek Branch of BZA WIZO held a successful brunch with guest speaker Clive Sher who spoke on his path from addiction to recovery. Growing up in a home with two addict parents, Sher quickly became an addict himself at a young age. The audience applauded Sher for his honest portrayal of addiction and sharing his painful story.



(l-r) Cheryl Salkinder, Judy Nurek, Brenda Trope, Marilyn Friedland, Alison Cope

## Two Journeys

BZA Cape Town hosted an outstanding inspirational storytelling event called 'The Two Journeys.' Esther Miller told of her challenging journey of self-fulfillment when she converted from conservative Christianity to Orthodox Judaism, while Carol Musikanth told her heart-breaking but ultimately triumphant story of her 19-year-old daughter becoming her son. The two speakers left the packed audience engrossed and inspired.



The Two Journeys' (l-r) Tamar Lazarus and Esther Miller

## DURBAN

### Yomtov Market

Team WIZO had a successful day at the annual WIZO Durban Yomtov Market held at the Durban Jewish Club. This year, WIZO sold out of their beautiful gift presentations, filled with homemade meringues, biscuits, fudge, kichel and an assortment of mouth-watering chocolates. While adults happily shopped up a storm, children were kept busy with

craft activities as well as the nationwide WIZO Tzedakah Box Art Competition. After a scintillating morning, patrons were lured into the tea garden by the aroma of freshly brewed cappuccinos for a delectable ending to the day.



Colleen Mervis (l) with Bev Selikow

## Johannesburg

### Visitor from WIZO Israel

On a private visit to South Africa, WIZO Israel Department of Family Welfare Chairperson Nina Shapira visited WIZO Johannesburg to tell the chaverot about her department, which takes care of 4000 children, 2000 girls and 800 women and single parents yearly. Nina told the chaverot about several exciting new projects, including the TOM workshop to help children of divorced parents cope with family crisis as well as the Bar/Bat Mitzvah event for boys and girls who cannot afford to celebrate this important occasion. The department also runs special projects for girls-at-risk, including 'Warm Home,' which is a safe place where girls come and receive aid, care and support from a licenced social worker. They also run a project called Young Power for girls-at-risk aged 13-15 and 15-20, which consists of weekly empowerment workshops that take place once a week over the course of one or two years in a WIZO centre.

Nina concluded by telling the gathered chaverot: "Our wide range of activities, just a few of which I have spoken about here, could not have been possible without our hundreds of volunteers which are like a 'treasure trove' in Israeli society. WIZO volunteers in our branches are the axis of our activities. The WIZO Israel branches are the strength and power of WIZO Israel."



Nina Shapira speaks to the chaverot of WIZO Johannesburg



## Hot Flash Havoc

Hundreds of women gathered at Theatre on the Square in Sandton for an amazing fundraising event focusing on the much-dreaded topic of menopause. After a delicious breakfast, Dr Eve welcomed guests and gave an introduction to the highly acclaimed and extremely entertaining film *Hot Flash Havoc*. Following the film, guests were treated to a panel discussion with an anti-aging specialist, a dietician/nutritionist, a plastic surgeon, a gynaecologist and a Nia black belt instructor, Avril Joffe, who led the participants in an energetic Nia dance demonstration.



*Guests dance at the Hot Flash Havoc fundraiser*

## 100th Birthday Celebration

With superb entertainment and truly scrumptious food, WIZO Johannesburg celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in style at The World of Yamaha in Sandton. As WIZO supporters and guests arrived, chaverot presented a visual display showcasing WIZO's important work and many beneficiaries. Dynamic MC Dina Diamond opened the evening by welcoming dignitaries and guests to the celebration while Deputy Israeli Ambassador Michael Freeman addressed the crowd and praised WIZO not only for its incredible contribution to Israeli women and children at-risk, but also for its contribution to the State of Israel as a whole. Audience members then travelled down memory lane with a DVD presentation on a 100 years of WIZO Johannesburg.

Entertainment included singers Janice Lurie Baskind and Debbie Fleminger Mizrachi, who entertained the crowd with their amazing vocals, and comedienne Tracey Klass, who kept the audience in hysterics. Finally, while singing 'Happy Birthday,' chaverot brought a gigantic birthday cake on stage to ceremoniously mark Johannesburg's centenary celebration.



*WIZO Johannesburg 100th birthday celebration event*

## Wellness Day

Lizette Jooste from Discovery Health Services gave an informative and interesting talk at the WIZO Forum Wellness Day. Jooste outlined the latest research on factors that impact health and gave participants advice on small, incremental changes they can make to improve health and longevity.

The forum, hosted by Elaine Smith of the WIZO Johannesburg Forum Committee, also included health care professionals conducting wellness assessments of the participants, checking their blood pressure, cholesterol, body mass index and various other health indicators. The forum ended with two lucky winners receiving prizes and a delicious, nutritious tea for all.



*WIZO Forum and Discovery Health Wellness Day*

## Chesed Project

Grade Four pupils from the Yeshiva College Primary School launched a successful pre-Rosh Hashana chesed project, selling packets of serviettes to their teachers, families and community members in order to support children at a WIZO day care centre in Jerusalem. Assisted by their teachers and school social worker Yohni Spruch, the students' hard work resulted in a significant donation to WIZO Johannesburg.



*Grade Four pupils of the Yeshiva College Primary School*

## WIZO Pays Tribute

WIZO Johannesburg held its annual culminating function at Inyoni Creek, where honoured members received awards. Chairman WIZO Johannesburg Nava Gonen gave the welcoming address, after which guests watched a DVD presentation on a 100 years of WIZO Johannesburg. Annette Price and Marcia Parness were appointed Joint Honorary Life Presidents for their life-long commitment and dedication to WIZO. Lorraine Rosmarin and Lee Joffe were appointed as additional Joint Honorary Life Vice-Presidents together with Mushe Kirsh for their vital contributions to WIZO South Africa. WIZO South Africa President Tamar Lazarus presented the prestigious Rebecca Sieff awards for service and commitment to a number of chaverot: Zee Bergman, Wendy Roth, Sheila Bogatie and Lorraine Shein received the award for 40 years of service; Joyce Chodos-Kruger, Elaine Smith, Jane Levitas and Zelia Abramson received the award for 50 years service; and Annette Price received the award for 60 years of service. The event ended with entertainment from Eileen Wainer, the singing of the Hatikvah and a delicious tea.



*(l-r) Annette Price, Tamar Lazarus, Marcia Parness*

## Port Elizabeth

### 90th Birthday

A large crowd gathered in celebration of WIZO Port Elizabeth's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Guests were invited to a nostalgic review of the group's 90 years of activities and industry and to enjoy entertainment from comedienne Tracy Klass. The chaverot of Port Elizabeth were particularly honoured by the attendance of WIZO South Africa President Tamar Lazarus, who joined Port Elizabeth for an evening of good food, laughter and fun.



*(l-r) Val Cohen, Tamar Lazarus, Tracy Klass, Laura Charlewood, Merle Katz, Iris Bendel*

## Pretoria

### Vision Boards

Pretoria bat mitzvah girls joined WIZO Johannesburg's Nadia Jacobs and Andrea Wainer for a morning of vision board crafting. A vision board is a constructive means of encouraging goal-setting and reflection through the use of pictures and words from magazines and media; the final product reflects a girl's vision, future desires and dreams. The girls also learned about a special project that WIZO runs in Israel for their peer group, where underprivileged children are given the chance to both study Judaism and have a bar/bat mitzvah celebration.



*(l-r) Menucha Fox, Elki Sarchi, Shevi Sarchi, Nechama Fox, Jenna Myers, Sasha Matusowski, Danielle Yochanan*



## UNITED KINGDOM

### Flower Demonstration

Shemesh Aviv held a flower demonstration and lunch at the lovely home of Gloria Besser, who together with Brenda Saffer treated the flower enthusiasts to a delicious lunch. Denise Eagell and Zoe Bulkeley from 'My Flowers' captivated participants with a wonderful demonstration of two different arrangements, which were then raffled off at the end of the event. One of the lucky winners was WIZO Aviv chairman Ronit Ribak Madari.



*Flower Girls (l to r) Suzanne Osen, Zoe, Denise, Ronit Ribak Madari, Gloria Besser, Michelle Levin, Brenda Saffer*

### Darom Calendar Launch

A capacity crowd of over 140 guests attended the annual WIZO Darom Calendar launch in Manchester. With Anthony Cotton of Coronation Street as the guest speaker, the event was a wonderful financial and social success.



*At WIZO Darom Calendar launch (l-r) Fran Showman, Dawn Calmonson, Toni Hyams, Anthony Cotton, Liz Taylor, Michelle Kingsley*

### WIZO Commitment Award Reception with the Ambassador

Israeli Ambassador to the UK Daniel Taub hosted a reception at his residence in honour of the WIZO Commitment

Awards finalists. The special initiative recognizes individuals, organizations or corporations that make significant contributions in the fields of entrepreneurship, corporate social responsibility, women in the workplace and commitment to Israel. In his address, Ambassador Taub complimented the initiative and highlighted the opportunity it has given to thank both individuals and companies who give back to the wider community. The ambassador went on to say, "We salute all that WIZO does in Israel, in particular the 800 social welfare projects which serve vulnerable families from all strands of Israeli society, regardless of religion or race, building a stronger Israel," adding that he was "greatly impressed with the variety and diversity of the finalists, representing corporates, small businesses and individuals."

The winners of the awards were presented with their prizes at WIZOuk's fundraising dinner (see below). They will travel to Israel in 2014 to meet their counterparts in Israel and visit WIZO's leading social welfare projects.



*Commitment Award finalists with Ambassador Daniel Taub (centre), to his right, WIZOuk Chairperson Jill Shaw*

### Israeli Cooking Extravaganza

Three hundred and sixty guests enjoyed a very special fundraiser dinner held by WIZOuk at the Montcalm Hotel in London. The capacity crowd was treated to dinner and entertainment by attendees at two of WIZOuk-sponsored projects in Israel. Assisting with the dinner preparation were graduate chefs from WIZO's Rebecca Sieff vocational training school in Jerusalem: Khaled Tawafra an Israeli Arab, who overcame severe ADHD and dyslexia to become a successful young chef, Yaniv Gur-Arye a former member of the Israeli army who founded a cookery school and Eliezer Kimyagrov an immigrant from Tajikistan, now head sous chef at Rokach73, a popular Tel Aviv restaurant.

The chefs delighted guests with a variety of Israeli dishes, and musical entertainment was provided by students of another WIZOuk project, the Tiberias WIZO Music Conservatory.

In addition to a delicious dinner, British newsreader and television presenter Natasha Kaplinsky compered the evening, including a Q&A session with IT entrepreneur and philanthropist Dame Stephanie Shirley, who arrived in England as a child on the Kindertransport.

On the following evening, the busy ladies of WIZOuk worked with the visiting chefs to host another dinner, this time a special culinary 'Taste of Israel' evening for local journalists. Members of the press and local bloggers were exposed to the rich Israeli and Middle Eastern cuisine and culture.



(l-r) Khaled Tawafra, Yaniv Gur-Arye, Eliezer Kimyagrov

## USA

### Florida

#### Opening Campaign Launch

WIZO Florida launched the 2013-14 year with a special opening campaign dinner featuring Israeli Ambassador to the United States Dr. Michael Oren. WIZO Florida Chairperson Ruthy Benoliel opened the programme with inspiring words on the hard work of local volunteers over the past year and WIZO Florida's fundraising successes, which have enabled renovation of the new Mercedes & Menahem Ivcher dormitory. WIZO USA Co-President Jana Falic spoke passionately about the daily sacrifices that Israeli mothers make, an appeal which left the audience visibly moved. In the same evening, WIZO USA Founding President Mercedes Ivcher, WIZO USA Vice President Rosita Retelny, and WIZO Florida board members presented Lillian Tabacinic and Evelyn Katz with a special street sign in memory of their beloved parents, Charlotte and Sami Rohr. The new street sign will soon grace the main road leading up to the Rohr Family Synagogue at Nir Haemek!

The evening was sponsored by the Falic Family Foundation in memory of Seymon Deutsch z"l, Fima Falic z"l and Boris Lekach z"l, three beloved family members who made unique contributions to Jewish lives throughout the world. WIZO Florida Chair Ruthy Benoliel and WIZO Florida Vice-Chair Lillian Tabacinic presented a beautiful award to the Falic Family Foundation for their extraordinary vision, leadership, and commitment to WIZO Florida.



Opening Campaign 2013 (l-r) Ruthy Benoliel, Debbie Falic, Jana Falic, Tila Levi, Simon Falic, Lillian Tabacinic, Rosh Lowe

#### Record-Breaking Bee Sweet Campaign

WIZO Florida's Yachad chapter celebrated a record-breaking year of fundraising and outreach, reaching 1700 homes and surpassing expected fundraising targets. Under the leadership of Chapter Chair Joana Kirsch, and Bee Sweet Co-chairs Yvette Woldenberg and Carla Fischbach, a committee of nearly 25 women worked tirelessly throughout the year to create exquisitely packaged Rosh Hashana gifts and to hand-deliver them in time for the new year.



Volunteers pack gifts for Yachad Bee Sweet Campaign

#### Healthy & Chic Cooking Event

WIZO Florida's Simcha chapter hosted a 'Healthy & Chic' cooking event at the home of internationally-renowned Mexican chef, Adela Etcharren. Simcha Chapter Chair Carol Fischzang, Vice Chair Gaby Brecher, Fundraising Chair Vicky Ghitis, and Secretary Amy Costo organized the evening of delicious, healthy, and beautiful food, prepared under Chef Adela's guidance.



Simcha working committee

#### Miami Chapter Runs its Annual Dinnerless Campaign

As part of one of WIZO Florida's favourite campaigns, 'Dinnerless Chanukah Campaign,' event chairs, Linda Ackerman, Rosita Greenberg, WIZO Florida Vice-Treasurer Sara Elneave, and Vice Chairs Eva Rimsky and Rebeca



Schapiro worked throughout the summer with several teams of WIZO Miami volunteers to pack and mail boxes of delicious Godiva chocolates to thousands of participants.



*Packing chocolates for the Dinnerless Dinner campaign (l-r) Linda Ackerman, Sara Elnecave, Regina Kassab, Rebeca Schapiro, Rosita Greenberg, Raquel Ostroviesk*

## Community Bat Mitzvah

WIZO Florida was thrilled to have 40 bat mitzvah girls complete the Community Bat Mitzvah programme on a high note with a year of incredible fundraising success. Under the leadership of Jenny Ivcher, Stephanie Esquenazi, Yvette Woldenberg and Carla Fischbach, WIZO Florida is already going strong for 2014 with a new group of 37 bat mitzvah girls.



*WIZO Florida Bat Mitzvah participants*

## Girls Gone Glam

WIZO Florida held a wonderful 'Girls Gone Glam' member appreciation event to show its chaverot how much their support means. Held at Neiman Marcus with ten fabulous gifts in locked-in-glass treasure boxes, WIZO members were invited to attend for free. Best of all, the event garnered the membership of 20 new girls, helping ensure the next generation of WIZO Florida!



*Florida chaverot at the Girls Gone Glam member appreciation event*

## Ropes Course Team Building

WIZO Florida held a fun team-building challenge for two of its groups, Ilanit Tikva and YONIT. In a fun, playful setting, the chaverot worked together on building teamwork, cooperation, camaraderie and trust. These skills will assist the chaverot to achieve their common goal: to be the voice for women and children in Israel.



*WIZO Florida chaverot at ropes course team building workshop*

## Los Angeles

### Annual Gala Dinner

Two hundred WIZO members and their spouses attended WIZO LA'S annual gala dinner at the Beverly Hills Four Seasons Hotel. Led by WIZO LA Co-Chairs Hanna Rubinstein and Miriam Wizman, the evening focused on domestic violence in Israel and the new beginnings that WIZO provides for battered women. Domestic violence victim Taylor Armstrong, from the cast of the *Real Housewives of Beverly Hills*, gave the keynote speech and was touched by the fact that WIZO members all over the world work to help battered women in Israel. Dr Estela Sneider, an American television and radio personality, was the event honouree.



*(l-r) Sabrina Zamel, Miriam Wizman, Taylor Armstrong, Estela Sneider*

## The Jewish Women's Conference

For the first time, WIZO LA participated in the Jewish Women's Conference of Southern California alongside over 300 women from local and international women's organizations. Held at UCLA (University of California Los Angeles) and organized by the National Council of Jewish Women in Los Angeles, the full-day conference focused on educating, empowering and inspiring women. The morning and afternoon panels were dedicated to sessions on educating and empowering women and communities. Various panel discussions included issues such as the contemporary challenges and goals of Jewish women's organizations in California, women in Israeli politics, and women and California policy. WIZO LA was represented on the panels by Miriam Wizman, WIZO LA Co-Chairman, and Ahuva Koren, WIZO USA Consultant.



*WIZO Representatives Debby Amir (l) and Ahuva Koren at the Jewish Women's Conference of Southern California*

## New York

### Monday Morning Cooking Club

Over 30 women gathered at the home of WIZO New York Board Member Debbie August for a lovely breakfast with Merelyn Chalmers, Natanya Eskin and Lisa Goldberg, three of the authors of WIZO Australia's cookbook, *Monday Morning Cooking Club*. The chaverot were honoured to hear the stories behind the food, the recipes, and the sisterhood that together makeup the cookbook. New York board members Esther Chetrit, Mireille Manocherian, Marcy Sakhai and Victoria Sakhai baked delicious treats using recipes from the book for guests and the authors to taste test. Everyone went home with a copy of the beautiful cookbook and their sweet tooth satisfied.

Among attendees were WIZO USA Founding President Evelyn Sommer, Co-President of WIZO USA Gail Perl and WIZO NY board members. Special guests were WIZO Australia's Diana Symons with her young daughters.



*(l-r) Cookbook authors Merelyn Chalmers, Natanya Eskin, Lisa Goldberg*

### Bake-A-Mitzvah

Twenty-five bat mitzvah girls gathered at the home of Executive Board Member Esther Chetrit to bake goodies to be sold during the NYC Marathon. While most of the girls were daughters of WIZO board members, many other girls who had heard about WIZO from their peers participated. Mitzvah Programme Chair, Leslie Dezer Salmon and her daughter Eliana along with new board member and marathon runner Lizzie Domansky (who was there with her children Olivia and David) organized a fun filled afternoon of baking and decorating delicious treats with the help of new board member and baker, Rachel Shnay. The group also held a Hanukkah mitzvah project.



*Bat Mitzvah girls at Bake-a-Mitzvah fundraiser*

### Exposing an Anti-Israel Lie

Close to a 100 people gathered at the home of New York Executive Board Member Mireille Manocherian, for a thought provoking conversation with French media analyst Philippe Karsenty. In September of 2000, Karsenty dared to question the legitimacy of the story of 12-year old Muhammad al-



Dura, a boy allegedly killed by Israeli fire in the Gaza Strip. French state television aired footage of a boy cowering in fear beside his father, and claimed that he was intentionally killed by Israel Defence Forces. The hoax fueled violence and suicide attacks against Jewish targets, and bolstered the anti-Israel propaganda machine.



*A thought provoking conversation on the anti-Israel media bias with Phillippe Karsenty*

## Spin for WIZO

Forty-nine spinners participated in a charity ride for WIZO at FlyWheel Sports. Each participant raised funds through their friends and families and the person who raised the most was honoured by WIZO and presented with a reward for their selfless efforts. The spinner with the highest score was also awarded a prize.



*Spinners at the WIZO charity ride*

## URUGUAY

### Numerous Activities

Since its founding 80 years ago, the committed chaverot of WIZO Uruguay have consistently held a variety of creative cultural and social activities. These activities include enrichment events with prominent speakers on topics such as Israel, Hasbara, literature and the Bible, organized by the Culture and Tradition Committee.

WIZO Uruguay celebrated Bible Day this year by dedicating the day to the federation's former president, Anita Jamitovsky z"l, whose memory and teachings have remained in members' hearts and minds, and in the memory of Rabbi Dr Fritz Winter z"l, who spoke at WIZO's Bible Day for decades.

The Shoshanim Group held a festive Shavuot celebration with music and fun. Over Rosh Hashana, the group continued its annual tradition of selling different types of gifts in honour of the holiday.

The Koach and Jerusalem Aviv Groups held a garage sale with new and used items. The Koach Group also held an event for younger women on self image, called 'Because a Picture is Worth a Thousand Words: Self Image,' with Debbie Goldfarb.

Other events included the Golda Meir Aviv Group's historic tour of the Jewish community in Uruguay, the Kineret Group's bridge tournament, the Chai Group's visit to the première of the play *Scenes from a Marriage*, and the Tikva Group hosted a colourful Sukkot celebration. The Atid Group held a Hanukkah celebration featuring a fashion show with famous designer Carolina Papadupolos.



*Raquel Lapchik Szwedzki with Atid Group President Mery Berger*



*Atid Group fashion show*



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# WIZO *Facts and Figures*

**50 FEDERATIONS WORLDWIDE**  
**250,000 MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS**

- **14,000 children** (3 months – 3 years) in more than 180 day care centres
- **220 children** in 19 multi-purpose day care centres (open until 7pm)
- **2,000 children** (6-9 years) attend after-school programmes
- **166 children** (6-18 years) live in WIZO foster homes
- **32 children** (4-18 years) In four Neve WIZO homes, therapeutic residences
- **5,220 youth** (12-18 years) attend eight WIZO schools and youth villages
- **1,060 at-risk youth** (12-18 years) live in the youth villages' dormitories
- **27 centres** cater for 380 teenage girls at risk
- **30 subsidized legal advice bureaus** service thousands of women annually
- **80 women and 100 children** at two WIZO battered women's shelters
- **5,340 women** participate in back-to-work programmes
- **4,500 single** mothers in 86 groups participate in special activities for single parent families
- **10,000 women** participate in enrichment and empowerment programmes at WIZO centres
- **WIZO early age hotline** (only one in Israel) to tackle parenting difficulties
- **WIZO hotline for abusive men**
- **Treatment and support centres** for families of the mentally ill
- **Support groups** for the elderly
- **Support and integration programmes** for new immigrants
- **45 second-hand stores**

and more...

