Australia

New South Wales

WIZO New South Wales 2018 MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

Our 2018 ‘I am a WIZO Woman’ membership campaign has been incredibly successful, opening the doors for young adults, teens and children to become part of the WIZO family.

The campaign showcased the commitment and diversity of nine different WIZO women, from fourteen year old, fourth generation WIZO member Saya Oshlack, to North Shore based Karen Pisk, who has been a WIZO member for over forty years. A landing page was set up on our website, displaying each of these WIZO women who explained why they are passionate about WIZO.

Our standard annual membership is $65 and for the first time, young adults were offered a reduced membership of $36 for women under thirty-six and $18 for girls under eighteen. There was an excellent response from existing members who were encouraged to become ‘a real WIZO family’ and sign up their daughters and granddaughters.

Victoria

WIZO Aviv’s Girls Night Out Function

Over sixty women attended WIZO Aviv’s ‘Girl’s Night Out’ on the 8th of February 2018. The women enjoyed the launch of Boho & Co Designer Jewelry who was one of the sponsors of the evening together with Clarke Global Logistics and Shelcom.

All funds raised at the event were directed to Makom BaLev centre for girls at risk. Programs at Makom BaLev include; professional counselling, vocational rehabilitation, individualized support and medical referrals. The girls are given safe housing and hot, nutritious meals.

WIZO Kids Purim Event

On February 25, 2018, WIZO KIDS in conjunction with Hadassah Australia held a Purim function. Over forty WIZO Kids packed 270 Mishloach Manot gift packs for 270 children at the Royal Children’s Hospital and Monash Children’s Hospital. The gift packs included donations as well as purchased items, which were given to sick children to put a smile on their faces and spread the Purim message.

WIZO TEENS Launch

WIZO Victoria was thrilled to announce the launch of its newest group WIZO TEENS on March 4, 2018, made possible by a grant received from Bendigo Community Bank. Forty teenagers from various schools came together to listen to a fellow teenager speak of her recent visit to Ahuzat Yeladim and how the visit affected her.

They then participated in a ‘Cyber Busters’ workshop by Class Act who is one of the largest unfunded Theatre In Education organizations in Australia! Cyber Busters explores all facets
of cyber bullying, a huge issue amongst today’s youth, including; emails, web sites, social networks, chat rooms and text messages. Issues tackled include; How to prevent cyber bullying; Friendship; and Self-Esteem.

WIZO TEENS goals;

• Teaching the Mitzvah of giving; helping our families, our Jewish community and the broader communities
• Including boys and girls
• Educating our teenagers about why we need to support Israel and WIZO projects
• Raising money for youth in Israel

WIZO Victoria Charidy Campaign

On March 6, 2018, WIZO Victoria in conjunction with Charidy once again ran a 16-hour campaign, reaching beyond their initial goal of $100,000 to raise an enormous $119,744. Charidy is a crowd-funding organization, which works with organizations to raise money in a short period of time. WIZO volunteers came in to the office to phone as many people as they could to raise money on the day. Without the help of our amazing volunteers, we would not have been able to raise this money.

Western Australia

International Women’s Day dinner

WIZO WA held its annual International Women’s Day dinner on March 8, 2018. This was an opportunity to highlight what WIZO is doing to uplift and support women in Israel.

Professor Lyn Beazley, Neuroscientist and former Chief Scientist of WA, 2015 WA Australian of the Year and holder of numerous prestigious awards and honours, was the very entertaining guest speaker and delighted the 110 guests. Professor Beazley said WIZO’s 98 years of philanthropy is dear to her heart - volunteering, giving, caring – doing what you can to, give back.

The function was linked to WIZO’s Makom BaLev centre, and guests heard about the very important work being done there for young women living in truly terrible circumstances, without family, without love, and often without hope.

2018 WIZO Walk for International Women’s Day

There was a wonderful turnout for the 2018 WIZO walk for International Women’s Day on March 11, 2018. Sporting purple ribbons, women, children, husbands and dogs walked, cycled, scootered or ran round Lake Monger, Perth in the late afternoon.

This year’s theme was Leave No Woman Behind. WIZO has many programs for women’s empowerment that provide skills, encouragement and help to build confidence to (re) enter the work force and cope with life’s challenges.
Argentina

WIZO Argentina Celebrating International Women’s Day

WIZO Argentina hosted an event in occasion of International Women’s Day, where they invited the iconic Spanish journalist Pilar Rahola. Rahola is a fighter for freedom and follows her ideas with great commitment. She talked about women living in certain parts of the world subject to slavery due to religious and cultural traditions. Rahola fights to ensure equality and decency of life across the globe and believes that each of us should join her in making the world a better place with more civic and social commitment.

Brazil

Rio de Janeiro

Purim Celebrations

WIZO Brazil Chaverot Celebrate International Women’s Day
On Saturday, November 11, 2017, an intimate group of members, donors, volunteers, and affiliates attended the CHW Centennial Gala, in Toronto, in honour of the 100th Birthday of CHW.

The Gala raised a net profit of over $220,000 in support of CHW’s projects and programs. Everyone in attendance had an incredible evening: the food was delicious, the guest speakers were great, and of course, Idan Raichel’s performance was spectacular. It was a night to remember, and the perfect way to celebrate 100 years of CHW!

Following the event, the centrepieces (filled with non-perishable food and art supplies) were donated to Stella’s Place, a mental health center in Toronto for youth, to support young adults recovering from mental health challenges.

We look forward to 100 more years of passionately supporting programs and services for Children, Healthcare, and Women in Israel and Canada.

To view more photos from the Centennial Gala, please visit CHW on Facebook: @CanadianHadassahWIZO
Chile

From the Heart to the Heart

In October 2017, WIZO Chile organized an exposition followed by a silent auction of 27 ceramic hearts, which were painted by well-known local and international artists, as well as important personalities. These people came, showed their solidarity for WIZO and Israel, and surprised our audience with their creativity and talent.

It is the first time in Chile that an event of this nature was held, and it was led by Ms. Denise Ratinoff, a very well-known auctioneer.

Jamaica

WIZO Jamaica Awards Function

A WIZO awards function in Jamaica was held at the home of Jennifer Lim, President of WIZO Jamaica. Members of the federation joined to applaud the recipients of the awards along with a visitor from Israel. The recipients were: Margaret Henriques Adam, for her selfless service dedicated to children and their positive development, Mr. Paul Matalon, past CEO of the National Education Trust for his dedicated service, and Marie Reynolds and Major Karl Estick who are cantors in the community also received certificates. Special mention was given to Dr. Terry Hall Knight for her involvement in uplifting the surrounding communities while serving on the board for two years.
Panama

WIZO Panama Inaugurated Synagogue at Gan Vanof Youth Village

With immense pride and joy, WIZO Panama inaugurated the Yad Mordechai Synagogue, in memory of Mordechai Max S. Harari Z’L ben Sion and Frida, on February 15, 2018 in the Gan Vanof Youth Village in Petach Tikva. More than 150 guests from Panama attended this joyous ceremony, along with the presence of World WIZO Executives, the chief Rabbi and the Mayor of Petach Tikva. A Sefer Torah was donated, and during the event they culminated the writing of the Torah.

Switzerland

Challah Bake

The Harari family with Professor Rivka Lasovsky

Fanny Cohen, Victoria Fidanque, Bety Brest, Rivka Lasovsky, Estela Faskha, Selma Zalcer, Frida Harari.
Purim Celebration

WIZO Fribourg celebrated Purim with a traditional pasta dinner in the customary convivial atmosphere after the “noise-assisted” reading of the Megillah. As a reward for solving the Purim Riddles, oznei haman was enjoyed and everyone, young and old, had a very nice evening.
USA

Florida

Kosher Food and Wine Miami

On December 13th 2017, over 1,000 guests enjoyed an energized atmosphere at Kosher Food and Wine Miami. This extraordinary four hour cocktail reception took place at the luxurious Turnberry Isle Resort in Aventura and featured music by a renowned DJ, electric vibes and outstanding kosher food and wine. With the continued partnership of IWPA (Israel Wine Producers Association), nearly 30 participating kosher restaurants and caterers were joined by many wineries showcasing hundreds of different wines.

To kick off the Kosher Food and Wine event, an exclusive Kosher Food and Wine VIP Dinner was held at an exquisite mansion in Miami featuring the cuisine of Jerusalem Waldorf Astoria’s Executive Chef Itzik Mizrachi Barak. More than 60 guests enjoyed a menu that any gourmand could only dream of. A private wine tasting complimented each course, culminating in a very exclusive wine auction.

Kosher Food & Wine Miami has grown into the ultimate destination for wine lovers and foodies the world over. It is the latest addition to the global series of premier kosher food and wine tastings with events in New York, Los Angeles, London and Israel. At both the VIP Dinner and the main event, WIZO had large numbers of attendees, thus closing a very successful 2017.

To watch the video of the Kosher Food and Wine Main Event click here: https://vimeo.com/253357443

To watch the video of the Kosher Food and Wine VIP Dinner click here: https://vimeo.com/247897508
WIZO Florida’s Annual Gala Dinner

On January 31, 2018, WIZO Florida’s Annual Gala Dinner was a festive opportunity to celebrate Israel’s 70th anniversary. With over 600 guests, WIZO USA Founding President Mercedes Ivcher was honored for her lifetime achievement to WIZO. The program included spectacular speakers, U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Melech Friedman and Israel’s Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Tzipi Hotovely, and special guests Sorin Hershcu and Yehoram Gaon. The evening was absolutely unforgettable. Florida was successfully able to raise much needed funds for its programs and projects in Israel.
New York

WIZO New York RISING LEADERS

WIZO New York’s newest chapter, Rising Leaders, hosted its kickoff meeting on March 11th attended by fifteen members. Rising Leaders is a group of young professionals dedicated to community building and networking to support WIZO’s programs in Israel. The chapter, chaired by Lauren Behfarin, Arielle Krinick and Lauren Tetenbaum, will focus on building a community and raising awareness of WIZO’s mission. They will host a cooking event on April 25th led by best-selling author and Chef Kim Kushner.

WIZO New York Children for Our Children Fashion Show

Over 300 guests joined WIZO New York for their Annual Children for Our Children Fashion Show and Luncheon, Chaired by Melanie Damaghi. The family event, held at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in New York City on March 11th, raised money and awareness for WIZO’s vital work. The “candy land” themed program featured 100 young children of WIZO members, the younger ones with fathers, walking on the runway in fashions by Zara Kids. All organized through the hard work of the Fashion Show coordinators, Johanna Moghaddam and Lauren Behfarin.

Melanie Damaghi spoke about the critical services WIZO provides to the neediest sector of Israeli society. Lisa Ohebshalom, Chair of WIZO NY, Gail Perl, Co-President of WIZO USA, and Evelyn Sommer, Founding President of WIZO USA, addressed the guests as well. The event culminated in a successful live Passover food appeal led by Bippy Siegal.