



5th February, 2012.
(What's New 012- No. 1)

What's New... In WIZO ?



Dear Chaverot,

It is just a few weeks since the Enlarged General Meeting was held at the Hilton Hotel in the presence of over seven hundred participants from all over the world. Everyone was eager for information about what is happening in WIZO, and what is being accomplished thanks to the hard efforts of the chaverot in the federations.

As the new Chairperson of the World WIZO Executive, I am excited to focus about what is new in WIZO, each month. Every one of us plays a part in what appears in these pages, and without you, in our federations, the wonderful things that you will read about, would not be possible.

Of course, what is written here is just the tip of the iceberg. Our work embraces so many aspects of life in Israel, but as you read 'What's New in WIZO' each month, you will gradually build up a picture of this fantastic enterprise called WIZO.

Enjoy.....!



A Graduation Course with a Difference

On February 7th, a graduation ceremony was held for the graduates of the first program to be trained as future Directors in WIZO's Day Care Centers. The program is a joint initiative of the Human Resources Division and Early Age Division, with the aim of training quality candidates, from amongst the caregivers in the Day Care Centers. The candidates are already familiar with WIZO and loyal to WIZO's aims, and the course provides them with the opportunity to study, to develop professionally and to be enriched on a personal level. The training also gives them the opportunity to look forward to advancement, and promotion, in the profession, which they would not have had previously. 18 candidates were found to be suitable for the course, and seven are already working as Directors. Very successfully I may add! This is a wonderful example of how WIZO is empowering women, and ensuring that the Early Age Care Division has suitable Day Care Center Directors in the future. *Truly a win-win situation.*



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WIZO Early Age Division

Every year the **Early Age Division** chooses one theme which will be examined from every angle, in each Day Care Center, throughout the course of the year.

Nutrition:

Food and nutrition plays an important role, and is high on our list of discussions with the parents. **Nutrition** involves many spheres - health, culture, social interaction, and we know that our caregivers play a pivotal role during mealtimes. The WIZO caregivers are, in partnership with the Joint, taking part in training courses around the country. Another training course for the cooks in the Day Care Centers are bringing them up to date with modern dietary trends for children. We are at present completing a **Nutrition Kit** for WIZO Day Care Centers. **Nutrition** in the education system is under inspection in many countries, and it is a challenge to give healthy foods on a restricted budget, but the importance of giving our children a healthy start is of paramount importance.

New Legislation:

The Early Age Division is gearing up for registration for the next school year in the kindergartens (3-4 years). The new **legislation** for free education for the 3-4 year age group is beginning this year, and the government will pay fees for the hours from 7.55-13.20, instead of the parents, but any time after that has to be paid by the parents.



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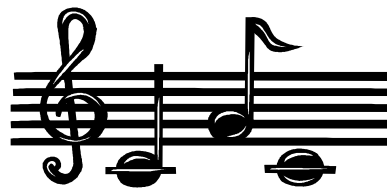


We are expecting a deluge of registrants, and hope that we can accommodate all. WIZO congratulates the government on this decision which will encourage more women to go out to work, thus taking an active role in the livelihood of the family, and contributing to society.

WIZO Education Division:



A Unique, and very Emotional Project 'Music for Holocaust Survivors'



The WIZO Music Center in Maalot, which is sponsored by our WIZO federation in Switzerland, has initiated a **unique** enterprise in Israel, by bringing together over 800 Holocaust survivors, from the Former Soviet Union, and using music as a form of **therapy** to deal with their difficult memories of the Holocaust. The purpose of the program is to help hundreds of Holocaust survivors deal with their memories, in a unique way by allowing them to express their feelings through music.



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Within the framework of the program senior citizens, sick and handicapped, come to the meetings at the Center, in which approximately one hundred people take part. They listen to music, hold discussions with one another under the direction of a social worker, listen to lectures and watch artistic performances, which are mainly played by the musicians of the Music Center and which includes the Municipal Andalusia Orchestra, in which pupils from the Music Center play. **The meetings between the young pupils, and the Holocaust survivors is the highlight of the program.**

WIZO Nahalal, sponsored by Canadian Hadassah WIZO and WIZO uk is reaffirming its belief in the importance of **democracy** by organizing new programs and electing a new student council. The nurse of the youth village is behind a program of activities, in groups, on the issue of healthy lifestyles. 90 pupils have registered for the bronze and silver stage of the Israel Youth Award, which is so very successful in WIZO's schools and youth villages, showing our pupils that they can compete with anyone else, of their age, throughout the world. The ninth grade of **Naaleh** students, who have come to Israel from the Former Soviet Union, without their parents, and who are highly motivated, have started a course of learning at the Haifa Technion.

At the **WIZO Haberer Community Center under the sponsorship of WIZO Switzerland**, a martial arts course is bringing forth new sportsmen who are successful in Europe. This year three students will represent Israel in a competition in Belgium.

The Director of the WIZO Community Center in Afula under the sponsorship of WIZO uk and WIZO Holland, Dudi Muatti, recently returned from a visit to Balfort, in France, where he was invited to the annual bazaar of the community together with his wife, (who is the Chairperson of the WIZO branch in Afula) by the President of the Jewish Community. This year the event is being held under the banner of solidarity with Israel, emphasizing the close contacts between the community and WIZO. Dudu addressed the community speaking about Afula and the WIZO Center, and the work that WIZO undertakes.



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23 members of the Jewish community will visit the WIZO Community Center in Afula from the 5th to the 8th of March, 2012 for the opening of the unique exhibition called 'Hitulei Sefer Torah' (loosely translated as Diapers for the Torah).

(F.Y.I. - The Hitul Sefer Torah, or the 'wimpel' as it is commonly known amongst German Jewry, is a long, linen sash which is used as a binding for the Sefer Torah. The cloth is made from the cloth that was used to swaddle the baby during its brit milah, after which the name of the baby is embroidered on the cloth by the mother, and is then given to the synagogue thus uniting the communal world of the synagogue with the life cycle of the new born. This custom is still observed today amongst many German Jewish communities.)

The WIZO Gan veNof School and Youth Village, sponsored by WIZO Switzerland and WIZO Panama, is enjoying its newly renovated library. The library is being used by the pupils for preparing their homework and for extra lessons.

A delegation from WIZO USA took part in an opening ceremony for the **Menifa** project, for Girls at Risk, in its' new home in the **Rebecca Sieff WIZO Center for the Family under the sponsorship of WIZO uk**, which agreed to housing the project on its third floor. The floor was renovated thanks to a generous donation from the Falic foundation through **Jana Falik**, the Co Chairperson of WIZO USA.

Pupils in the **Police Training Program** at the **WIZO Nir Haemek School and Youth Village, sponsored by WIZO Argentina and WIZO USA**, recently visited the Police Training School in Kiryat Ata, north of Haifa, where they met with top police officers and visited the Museum of the Police. They also heard a lecture on police networking, watching the police in action, and joining police patrols.



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The Cinema Program at **WIZO School and Youth Village, Hadassim, sponsored by Canadian Hadassah WIZO** took part in a course on **film making** in Israel. They took part in workshops on lighting and photography. 10th grade pupils in the Arabic trend took part in a pre army training course, Gadna, . They were highly motivated and left a very positive impression on their hosts. The football team of the school is to play in the finals of the Schools Football League, together with another eleven schools. *We wish them luck.*

Dalia (not her real name) is a pupil at WIZO Nachlat Yehuda, sponsored by WIZO Switzerland. She lives in the south of the country but was expelled from school and was wandering the streets. In order to try and save her from falling into a life of crime she was sent to WIZO Nachlat Yehuda, by court order. Just recently a Judge for Youth has to decide whether Dalia should return to her family or continue to live at WIZO Nachlat Yehuda.

The judge asked Dalia if she wanted to return to her family and Dalia replied, ' I love my mother and father very much, but I also want to stay in WIZO Nachlat Yehuda, where my life is interesting, and I am working with animals. I am frightened that if I go home I will once again roam the streets, smoke and do other things, which I should not do. In the dormitory I am cared for and someone watches over me, and if I do not behave the counselors know how to deal with me.....'

After discussing the case the Judge ruled in favor of the court order, leaving Dalia in the dormitory of WIZO Nachlat Yehuda.



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WIZO Israel



The Division of Family Welfare has opened a number of new groups for women including groups for **Ethiopian women** in Herzliya, Kiryat Haim, and Neve Shaanan. **A group for young mothers**, who have children who are considered to be at risk has opened in Holon. New groups for **single parents** have opened in Hod HaSharon, Carmiel and Jaffa. The Division has begun a new therapeutic program, which combines group meetings with individual therapy for **girls from the Arab sector** in Haifa. As you know Haifa, and the surrounding areas, have a large Arab population and the women are becoming aware of the need for more gender equality.

The Division of Training, Development and Culture in WIZO Israel invited the chaverot who are responsible for the cultural activities in the WIZO branches to a day of activities in the **Eretz Israel Museum in Tel Aviv**. A course was opened for new Chairpersons of WIZO branches and will give them all the information they need for their new positions.

New Legislation:

The Status of Women Division, together with other women's organizations is fighting against new legislation relating to a decision in which Justice Minister Yaakov Ne'eman announced that he accepts the recommendations of the Schnitt Committee, to abolish the 'Tender Years Clause' that grants divorcing mothers automatic custody of children up to age 6.

The Division is also involved in a campaign objecting to army postponement of duty for yeshiva students.



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The Fundraising Division of WIZO Israel sold a large number of gifts at the Enlarged General Meeting. The Division is also formulating a new business program for the WIZO Thrift Shops, in order to increase income in the branches.

I hope that this report has left you a little more informed of what is happening in our WIZO projects and I hope that hearing about all the wonderful things that are going on in the projects, has brought you as much joy as it brings me.

With best regards,

Rivka Lazovsky

Prof. Rivka Lazovsky,
Chairperson,
World WIZO Executive

For additional information please visit our Internet site: www.wizo.org