

WIZO Review



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Summer 2013 ■ No. 332

From Violence to Redemption

WIZO Israel's hotline helps violent men

Memories of WIZO Rhodesia (Zimbabwe)

A veteran member reminisces

Early Childhood Education Crisis

Severe shortage of day care centres





Dear Chaverot,

Although this issue is called 'Summer 2013', it really covers spring, summer and autumn – therefore we have a bumper issue, packed full of interesting and informative articles and items about WIZO.

Although it was way back in January, we have a comprehensive report on the Meeting of Representatives, which is the time when our leaders from around the world convene to discuss the problems and issues facing the organization. **(Page 10)**

Sima Borkovski gives an in-depth account of the varied work of WIZO Israel's Division for the Status of Women. Amongst other projects, read about the innovative hot line for abusive men. **(Page 16)**

It is always fascinating to know how different federations around the world function and how they face today's world and problems within their communities. This issue is no exception – read how the Panama federation under the leadership of Estela Faskha catches the young girls early! **(Page 20)**

We always love to hear from veteran members who have memories from the early days of their federation or, as we have this time, memories of a closed federation – in this case Rhodesia. Read the fascinating account of the Rhodesian federation sent in by Shulamit Kagan – now residing in South Africa. **(Page 22)**

When WIZO members visit Israel and want to visit projects, everyone wants to visit a day care centre to see our 'WIZO babies'. Babies and toddlers in WIZO's care are the lucky ones. There is a severe shortage of day care centres in Israel, and WIZO cannot keep up with the demand. Read about the situation **on page 24**.

Aviv Aviv Aviv! Our future. Laurienne Baitz, our Aviv representative to the World WIZO Executive went on a 'Turbo Tour of Europe' in the spring, **IGNITING and MOTIVATING** young women to commit to WIZO. See her report and her **call to all young members to come to the International Aviv Seminar in Tel Aviv in October. (Page 28)**

WIZO in Israel **(starting on page 34)** is jam-packed with events which have occurred, and national and international awards and prizes achieved by our WIZO young people in our schools and youth centres. We have good reason to be proud!

Last but not least of course – WIZO Around the World **(from page 42)** – just see what our chaverot do!

As we were going to press, we were most saddened to hear of the death of Anita Jamitovsky, former president of WIZO Uruguay, mother of our World WIZO Executive Chairperson. We wish Rivka and her family sincere condolences from us all. A full obituary will be in the next magazine.

Ingrid

Ingrid Rockberger

In July, World WIZO Chairperson Professor Rivka Lazovksy went on an extensive mission to WIZO Australia – a full report will appear in the next issue of the magazine.



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Cover photo: Police cadets from WIZO Nir Ha' Emek School at the Meeting of Representatives, January 2013. Photographer Kfir Sivan

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President's Desk



Dear Chaverot,

As I write this, here in Israel, we are in the middle of summer. It is hot and sizzling in more ways than one, and Israel is a relative island of sanity amidst a tense and chaotic region.

The bloody civil war in Syria continues and while stray rockets and artillery continue to land on our side of the border, more and more Syrian casualties are being sent to our hospitals for medical help. What other nation do you know that would render such aid to its "enemies"?

Pride in their history and culture and despair from the economic situation led the people of the Arabic Republic of Egypt (its full name) to reject the attempts of the Muslim Brotherhood to force Islam religious laws upon them, and they took their protest to the streets, again.

The IDF is monitoring the situation on all our borders very carefully, and especially the effect the decline in the status of the Muslim Brotherhood has on Hamas, Hezbollah, the Palestinian Authority and our other neighbours. Muslim extremists continue to fire missiles from Sinai on Israel's South. The coming months will be crucial to the whole region.

On the home front, children and youth are enjoying their summer vacation. This gives WIZO the opportunity to carry out renovations that are needed, and to summarize the previous school year that has been exceptional. Our schools and youth villages have proven yet again that they are the best – winning prestigious prizes and awards and setting the standards higher than before.

I am especially proud that the "Chess Clubs" that I initiated have taken root in all our WIZO youth villages and we even held a WIZO chess tournament [Ed:see report on page 36]. More and more youth are joining in this new extra-curricular activity and are showing great promise. Who knows, we may be nurturing a world class chess master!

These achievements are amazing when taking into account the effect of the global economic situation on Israel's national budget and the allocations to education. It also affects fundraising that has seen better days in the past. We understand the problems you are facing and appreciate all your efforts to try to maintain the same levels of annual commitment as before. ***Kol Ha'kavod to all of you and our donors for their continuous support.***

Because WIZO presented a balanced budget this year, all WIZO divisions had to streamline their respective budgets, and stricter control and supervision measures were implemented. Hopefully next year's budget will allow us to re-open projects that could not be operated in 2013 due to lack of funds.

In July we celebrated WIZO's birthday – 93 and still going strong, thanks to all of you, our dedicated and committed WIZO chaverot.

I pray that WIZO and its Federations worldwide go from strength to strength, and continue to touch the lives of those in need by making the impossible – possible; by providing a passport to the future through education and empowerment; by creating a new and better tomorrow, by turning dreams and aspirations into reality, by giving HOPE.

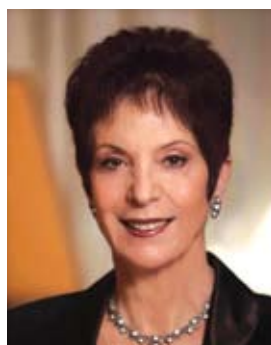
The High Holidays come early this year – all in the month of September. We can count our blessings and in spite of global tribulations, we can be proud that WIZO continues to be a leading social force in Israel. Thank you for your continuous commitment and support. ***Your share in all WIZO was, in all WIZO is and in all WIZO will be.***

I wish you all a happy, healthy and good new year.

Affectionately,

Tova Ben-Dov
President World WIZO

Chairperson's Column



Dear WIZO Chaverot,

A new WIZO year is beginning and the atmosphere is exciting.

The parents of 14,000 children are putting their most treasured possession in our capable WIZO hands, our WIZO day care centres. They know that they will be the recipients of not just an all-round education, but they will enjoy the special personal touch that each WIZO member of staff gives to every child who comes under our WIZO wing.

Over 17,000 women, adolescent girls, single mothers and children will be empowered and enriched with basic values such as Zionism, Israeli heritage, values of tolerance and democracy, coping with the various cycles of life, and much more.

Over 5,200 students will begin their new year in our eight WIZO schools and youth villages. WIZO caters for every student, whether they have special needs and fall into the special education category, or they are pupils who are destined to lead the country, invent lifesaving technologies or heal the sick.

In WIZO's schools and youth villages, every child has the opportunity to excel.

Our students receive a host of prizes and awards. We are very proud of each one of our WIZO graduates, many of whom have overcome many obstacles such as poverty, insecurity and family problems, in order to pave their way to a promising future in our Jewish State.

Through thick and thin, war and peace, poverty and plenty, WIZO continues to believe that education is the 'passport' for all these children to a happy future. An educated person makes the correct choices in life. An educated person gives back to society. An educated person passes on the importance of education to his children, thus breaking the cycle of poverty.

Our WIZO curriculum does not only cover mathematics and English. We infuse each child, each pupil and each student with the pride that we all share for the State of Israel and its people. It is this pride that shines in their eyes when they don the Israel Defence Force uniform for the first time.

It is this pride that gives the State of Israel its resilience on the battle field.

Their love of their country is a beacon of light for the Jewish people wherever they are in the world. Their love of their country is the strength of the Jewish people wherever they may be.

I wish every child in our WIZO facilities and every one of you, in our WIZO federations around the world, a successful year, a year in which we all embrace every opportunity for the benefit of a better tomorrow.

I would like to close with the words of Benjamin Disraeli, the only Jewish Prime Minister of England, who lived from 1804-1881.

**'Upon the education of the people of this country,
the fate of this country depends.'**

With warm regards.

Rivka Lazovsky

Prof. Rivka Lazovsky
Chairperson
World WIZO Executive

World WIZO Executive Resident in Israel

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WIZO Opens 180th Day Care Centre

"Thank you, WIZO, for giving me the opportunity to build such a beautiful place to support the people of the Negev. I am a WIZO woman, WIZO is in my blood, once a WIZO woman, always a WIZO woman." With these emotional words, Fanny Cohen Kahn responded to World WIZO's Honorary President Helena Glaser's speech of appreciation.

The occasion was the opening of WIZO's 180th day care centre, Beit Fanny, made possible by the generous donation of long time WIZO Venezuela member and major WIZO donor Fanny Cohen Kahn. The centre, WIZO's tenth in Beersheva, is situated adjacent to the campus of Ben Gurion University of the Negev, to serve staff and students.

Beit Fanny is a joint project of World WIZO and Ben Gurion University, and is fortified against Grad and Kassam rockets. Over 100 children from age six months to three years will benefit from the finest facilities and pedagogical education. The educational programme is being devised



Fanny Cohen Kahn in the day care centre which bears her name

by WIZO and Ben Gurion University researchers in the field of child development.

Present at the opening, amongst others, were Fanny's family and friends, World WIZO Honorary President Helena Glaser, World WIZO President Tova Ben-Dov, Chairperson of the World WIZO Executive, Professor Rivka Lazovsky, Ben Gurion University President Rivka Carmi, and members of the University's Board of Governors.

Named for Michal Modai

Longtime WIZO donor Ruth Rappaport announced that the new WIZO day care centre she is donating on the campus of Haifa's Rambam Hospital will be named for World WIZO's late president Michal Modai.

Ruth made the announcement at the launch of the new children's hospital she is financing on the same campus. The occasion was also marked by a celebration for her 89th birthday, which she attended together with family members, friends and numerous dignitaries including Israel's Minister of Health Yael German.

After the ceremony, accompanied by World WIZO President Tova Ben-Dov and World WIZO Early Age Division Chairperson Hassida Danai, Mrs. Rappaport and her guests visited the WIZO day care centre bearing her name in the Ramat Alon neighbourhood of Haifa.

Hassida Danai congratulated the visitors saying: "We devote many efforts to the subject of healthy nutrition and conduct many workshops with the parents and the children at our day care centres. I want to personally thank Mrs. Rappaport for her many investments and special relationship with our day care centres."



(l to r) Hassida Danai, Ruth Rappaport, Tova Ben-Dov visiting the Rappaport Day Care Centre in Haifa

In Memory of Cyril

"Grandpa, I miss you, this room is for you." Nick Glancy brought tears to the eyes of guests at the opening of the Cyril C. Niman Snooker and Games Room at the WIZO Rebecca Sieff Centre for the Family Vocational School.

A disused shelter has been transformed into a snooker and games room in loving memory of Cyril Niman, father of World WIZO Fundraising Division Deputy Chairperson Trisher Schwitzer. Following a visit to Israel, Cyril had been so impressed with WIZO's work that he decided to sponsor a project for Israel's future generation.

Unfortunately, he died shortly after his visit but thanks to a generous donation by his wife, Leila, his wish was fulfilled. Cyril was a man of vision, a successful entrepreneur and a man who believed in encouraging youth.

Present at the moving ceremony were Leila, grandsons Nick and Richard Glancy, Tricia, her husband Avi, family members and friends, and many members of the World WIZO Executive.



Leila Niman (centre) with Tricia Schwitzer, Nick and Richard, Tova Ben-Dov, Professor Rivka Lazovsky at the opening of the Cyril Niman Snooker and Games Room

Ecological Garden Opened in WIZO Nir Ha'emek

It started over a cup of coffee. World WIZO Chairperson Professor Rivka Lazovsky chatted with the daughter of her childhood friend, President of Keren Kayemet Uruguay Nadine Hakas in Uruguay, the birthplace of both women, when Nadine casually suggested, "Rivka, maybe we can do something together." Rivka readily agreed.

The partnership – an ecological garden at WIZO Nir Ha'emek Youth Village - would come to fruition two years later, thanks in part to the generosity of former WIZO Uruguay President Laura Rozenbaum and her family, ardent WIZO and Israel supporters.

Guests travelled from far and wide for the moving inauguration ceremony. The garden will function as an education centre for environmental and ecological studies, and will raise awareness on the importance of preserving the environment and conserving natural resources.

During the ceremony, WIZO USA Co-President Jana Falic announced WIZO USA's commitment to renovate one of the dormitories at WIZO Nir Ha'Emek, which will be in the name of Mercedes and Manny Ivcher.

Guests in attendance included World WIZO President Tova Ben-Dov, World WIZO Chairperson Professor Rivka Lazovsky, members of the World WIZO Executive, MK Shaul Mofaz, who is a graduate of WIZO Nahalal Youth Village, Afula Mayor Avi Elkabetz, Gilboa Regional Council Head Danny Atar and Honorary Consul of Uruguay in Israel Avraham Mamon.



A view of the ecological garden



(l to r) Ora Baharaff (representing KKL Israel), Nadine Hakas, Professor Rivka Lazovsky, Tova Ben-Dov, Avraham Mamon

German Minister Visits WIZO Day Care Centre

While on an official visit to Israel, German Justice Minister of Hesse Jorg Uwe Hann visited WIZO's Nahmias Hassin Multipurpose Day Care Centre in Jaffa.

The visit came about through the minister's connections with WIZO Germany's president Diana Schnabel and his deep interest in the issue of integration.

Minister Hann was joined by World WIZO Chairperson Professor Rivka Lazovsky, Early Age Division Chairperson Hassida Danai, Publicity and Communications Chairperson Zipi Amiri and WIZO Germany President Diana Schnabel's husband, Jacky, who was in Israel at the time.



(standing l to r) Jacky Schnabel, Zipi Amiri. (seated l to r) Professor Rivka Lazovsky, Minister Hann, Hassida Danai at the Jaffa day care centre

The Hassin Day Care Centre prides itself on serving both Jewish and Arab children in a communal atmosphere, in both Hebrew and Arabic. As Professor Lazovsky put it, "We do not see ourselves as simply a babysitting service, but as providers of an education and therapeutic framework from children aged six months to three years, reducing their educational gaps so that they begin school on the same level as their peers. To WIZO, it does not matter if a child is Jewish or Arab, Christian or Muslim: they all have the same basic needs and receive the same loving care."

British Ambassador's Wife Visits Rebecca Sieff Centre

Well known for her activities for the benefit of society in Israel, Celia Gould, wife of British Ambassador to Israel Matthew Gould, visited the Rebecca Sieff Centre for the Family in Jerusalem. Mrs. Gould had shown great interest in WIZO's activities and had requested a visit to one of the projects.

Accompanied by World WIZO President Tova Ben-Dov, Gould toured the centre, which offers a wide range of activities for children, youth, women and families. The highlight of the visit for Gould was observing the many activities taking place at the centre: babies and toddlers learning music and rhythm, a vocational hairdressing school and a youth cooking trends class in one of the centre's modern, teaching kitchens.

Mrs. Gould was so impressed with the young chefs that she announced her intention to invite them to demonstrate their abilities at an upcoming function at the ambassador's residence!



Celia Gould (r) with Tova Ben-Dov visiting the Rebecca Sieff Centre for the Family

From Generation to Generation

At a moving ceremony, Alexander Gruenwald, founder of the Mary Bendet Foundation unveiled a plaque in Mary's name in the lobby of WIZO's Rebecca Sieff House in Tel Aviv. Mary Bendet, a childhood friend of Mr. Gruenwald, lost her battle with cancer at the tender age of 28. Mr. Gruenwald established a foundation in her name, and together with his wife Nirit, a dedicated member of WIZO Switzerland, the Gruenwalds sponsor many WIZO projects.

Some months later, the Gruenwalds were in Israel again, this time accompanied by their three young daughters. Having recently celebrated Pesach, the line in the hagaddah 'and you shall tell your child' had special significance for the Gruenwalds and they decided to take the children on a visit to the latest project sponsored by the foundation. The WIZO multipurpose day care centre in Kiriath Moshe, Rehovot, is one of Israel's most impoverished neighbourhoods and has a high percentage of Ethiopian immigrants.

Having heard so much about the generosity of their parents, the girls decided to bring some of their toys and give them to the less fortunate children in the day care centre. There were smiles and excitement all round as the girls gave the toys to the children – many of whom had to be convinced that they could take them home.

"I am speechless," said Ella Nachum Amitay, the day care centre director, "Many of these children have nothing at



(l to r) Professor Rivka Lazovsky, Alexander Gruenwald, Tova Ben-Dov at the unveiling of the Mary Bendet plaque



The Gruenwald children distributing toys in the day care centre

home, hardly even dinner. Toys? This is so much more than anything they have ever experienced."

Viva Italia!

Decorated with Italian and Israeli flags, the lobby of World WIZO Headquarters in Tel Aviv was transformed into, 'a corner of Italy,' to celebrate and honour the support of the Italian Embassy, which, for the past ten years has sponsored many prestigious fundraising events for WIZO.

Organized by World WIZO Fundraising Chairperson Esther Mor, His Excellency Ambassador Francesco Maria Talo and his wife, Ornella unveiled a dedication plaque in the lobby, and were presented with a commemorative certificate and WIZO pins.

The ambassador said he was overwhelmed by the honour, which should really go to his predecessors, and he would be sure to inform them. He added that now it is his turn, and he feels committed to continue the tradition. He sees WIZO as 'bringing a ray of light into the lives of many people, and helping women, children and the weaker elements of society is the best way to improve all society.'



(l to r) Ambassador Talo, Esther Mor, Professor Rivka Lazovsky, Ornella Talo at the award ceremony

More details about most of the items in Up Front can be found on the World WIZO website in the 'News Archive' section at www.wizo.org



We Care, We Share, We Dare

This was the motto for World WIZO's 2013 MOR: representatives from all over the world came to Israel to debate and discuss future work plans

The slogan for this year's Meeting of Representatives, the first organized by newly elected Chairperson of the Executive, Professor Rivka Lazovsky, was: **"WIZO in an era of change: We Care, We Share, We Dare"**. Following the changes so apparent in this year's MOR, many federations around the world have adopted this slogan for their own campaigns and functions.

At the MOR, the first evening took the form of a 'Meet and Greet' session. Delegates were warmly welcomed into the hall by a guard of honour formed by participants in WIZO Nir Ha'Emek's police cadet programme. Federation presidents introduced themselves and their federations bringing their greetings in an informal but informative manner.

Another innovation was the presentation of the 2013 work plans by the chairperson of each division, devoted volunteers who work day and night for the good of WIZO. The 'Sharing WIZO' session gave federations the opportunity to share with their colleagues many of their most successful and innovative ideas for 'fundraising and friendraising.

The touring day took on a new historic dimension, aimed to emphasize the enormous contribution of WIZO to our state, from experiencing the declaration of Israel's independence right where it happened in Independence Hall, 65 years ago, to visiting the home of one of WIZO's founders, Vera Weizmann, in the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot. There we experienced the beginnings of WIZO through her eyes, and visited the beautiful WIZO day care centre, a tribute to early age education and to how far we have come in making the visions of our founders into reality.

Excellent, top calibre speakers were carefully chosen to give the chaverot an extensive overview of various aspects of the situation in Israel today.

As is traditional, Jill Shaw, the chairperson of WIZO UK, our mother federation, gives a full and comprehensive report of the MOR...

This is the first time I have had the honour of delivering the summary of the MOR following my election as Chairman of WIZOUk in May last year. I am acutely aware of the shoes into which I am stepping and I can only hope that I do justice to what has been a memorable few days. For my part, I feel the weight of our history on my shoulders knowing the great respect in which our Federation, the mother Federation is held by World WIZO, for which we thank you. However, we feel a mutual respect for all the Federations, which together make such a unique organisation.

Sunday January 13th

The air was full of anticipation as we filed into the 'Meet and Greet' session on Sunday evening, between lines of police cadets from WIZO Nir Ha'emek School. What followed was a warm and convivial night of music and dance from the students of Nir Ha'emek interspersed with an introduction from each Federation present. The evening's comperes were pretty brunette Tamarali from South Africa, a graduate of WIZO Hadassim, and tall, striking 16-year-old Diana, a WIZO Nahalal Na'aleh student from the Ukraine, who is taking part in the Naaleh Technion project.

Monday January 14th

Singers from the WIZO Nachlat Yehuda School entertained us harmoniously before the business of the day commenced in earnest.

Honorary President, **Helena Glaser** reviewed the best and worst of 2012. On the 'worst' list were the world's economic problems, increasing poverty levels in Israel, security concerns following the Arab spring and the lingering effects of the rocket attacks from Gaza on children in Israel.

On the 'best' side was the efficacy of the Iron Dome defence against the rocket attacks, the rain that has filled Kinneret and the promise of a new reinforced day care centre on the campus of the University of Be'ersheva.

Helena has been most active in wider Zionist forums, in particular ensuring that history records the important role of women in furthering the Zionist dream.

Tova Ben-Dov, our President, reiterated Golda Meir's words that 'Pessimism is a luxury that the Jewish people cannot afford.' She thanked the federations for their quick response to the Emergency Relief Fund following the Pillar of Defence Campaign to restore peace and quiet to the southern area of Israel in November last year. The funds are being used to help families and in particular children psychologically and emotionally recover from the lingering effects of this difficult period.

But what we should focus on is the blossoming WIZO tree: our day care centres, community centres, schools and youth villages; our volunteers who are unpaid heroines and the nurturing of younger leadership. The successful International Aviv seminar had 40 participants from 12 countries.



Professor Dan Shechtman emphasizes a point during his presentation

WIZO Nir Ha'emek police cadets greet MOR delegates on the first night. In this photo – WIZO Australia President Gilla Liberman



WIZO's myriad activities

Our Chairperson **Professor Rivka Lazovsky's** masterful survey of WIZO's activities was most impressive. She quoted Albert Schweitzer who said, 'Success is not the key to happiness; happiness is the key to success. If you like what you are doing then you will succeed.' We all identified with Rivka's words: 'We can truly say that we love what we are doing...therefore we can only succeed...even if there are challenges on the way, because we love Israel and WIZO... and Israel certainly needs WIZO!'

She reminded us that Israel is seriously affected by the world's economic uncertainties. We applauded the balanced budget for the year and hope that it will come to fruition in actual figures by the end of this year.

We received an expansive survey of each division's activities and successes in 2012. Rivka thanked her team of division heads, the professional team and WIZO Israel, whose volunteers are at the forefront of so many of WIZO's activities within local communities.

Rivka encouraged the federations to attract new members in the knowledge that Jewish women can find satisfaction, empowerment and self-expression in WIZO, a movement that provides a base for women to grow, make their voices heard and attain leadership positions.

What an honour it was to hear **Professor Dan Shechtman**, the 2011 Nobel Prize winner for Chemistry, speak on 'Technological Entrepreneurship, a Key to World Peace and Prosperity'. He said that we must develop human ingenuity and that this can be done with:

- The provision of good education systems and laws to ensure that children attend school
- Good engineering and science education
- Government support
- Free market economy
- No corruption



An emotional moment. Delegates sing Hatikvah in Independence Hall

He believes that everything can be taught at an early age, including reading as soon as a child starts to speak; he himself has taught science to nursery age children.

WIZO Israel has taken some of Prof Shechtman's suggestions on board and has established in WIZO Neve Sha'anani a Society of Friends to encourage girls to study science, engineering and technology.

The afternoon commenced with two heartening testimonies from graduates of **Israel's Youth Award Scheme**:

Sixteen year old Ben, a gold awardee of the scheme from WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim Boarding School, whose experience volunteering helped him change from a boy with severe educational and behavioural problems to a model pupil at the school.

Daniella, now a soldier in the Military Police, felt that WIZO Hadassim Youth Village had been her second home, and after volunteering had taken a women's leadership course in the army. How proud and happy she was to be part of WIZO.

Finance matters

Atari Ilani, World WIZO Treasurer, then presented the **2013 Budget** in a clear and detailed manner and on which further discussion took place later in the week. Vigilance and care will be taken throughout the year with constant monitoring to ensure that the promised balanced budget will be achieved.

Thelma Neri followed with the annual Audit Report.

Gila Oshrat, Chair of WIZO Israel, drew much admiration for her survey of the WIZO branches' activities throughout Israel. The enormous number and variety of programmes

initiated by the branches and mostly operated by volunteers is wonderful. They touch the most vulnerable of Israeli society. The profit from the wide network of second hand clothing shops helps to fund these services.

Late into the evening, after a very long day of business, over 20 Federations gave widely varied and fascinating reports on their activities and fundraising initiatives and ideas. What a worthwhile few hours!

Tuesday January 15th

We spent Tuesday on a history tour from independence in 1948 to the scientific advances of 2013. At **Independence Hall** in Rothschild Boulevard in Tel Aviv we had the most moving visit, culminating in listening to Ben Gurion utter the Declaration of Independence of the Jewish State of Israel, followed by our singing the Hatikvah with tears in our eyes.

What selfless dedication the foster parents at **Neve WIZO**, Herzlia demonstrated to us as they described how they came to this most successful project. [Editor's note: See WIZO Review No. 330, Autumn 2012 p8 for a feature article on this project] A tasty lunch at the **Posnansky WIZO Centre** in the heart of Rehovot was accompanied by the enthusiastic, newly formed branch choir and a full explanation of the wide range of branch activities.

Visiting the Weizmann Institute

Visiting the beautiful 1930s home of Chaim and Vera Weizmann on the campus of the **Weizmann Institute** was very special. For us it was a reminder of the integral part Vera played in the establishment of WIZO in 1920 together with her close friends and colleagues, Rebecca Sieff and Edith Eder. The WIZO day care centre on campus was pristine

and an enormous bonus for women working and studying at the Institute. This was clearly explained to us by three female academics who are battling to reach the highest levels as scientists in their various fields. Providing excellent pre-school childcare on site gives them the maximum opportunity to work effectively and advance themselves successfully.

Wednesday January 16th

Wednesday morning's proceedings commenced with 18-year-old Keren's story of being a student at WIZO Hadassim, a school she joined after arriving in Israel with her mother nine years ago. She loved her home in one of the dormitories, received an excellent education including music and art and had learnt a great deal from participating in the Israel Youth Award Scheme with its focus on volunteering. Following Keren, we had the opportunity to question the lay and professional finance team on issues relating to the 2013 budget. Each division then gave us insights into their work plans for 2013.

Membership and Fundraising

Janine Gelley, Chairperson of the Organisation and Tourism Division introduced the Membership session. There



"Getting to know you!" WIZO South Africa President Tamar Lazarus with children at the WIZO day care centre at the Weizmann Institute



Listening intently to Yardena Nof, director of Neve WIZO

had already been indications from several Federations of the difficulties they are experiencing in attracting new members, particularly of a younger age.

The keynote speaker was **Avi Armoni**, a resource development consultant, who kept us spellbound with his analysis of the problems. He drew three circles, which all interlinked: WIZO's Mission (which was most relevant and should not change), Environment (which was likely to alter depending on community demographics) and Capacity (for instance the more members, the more money). We must remember that people give to people for people.

He did feel that WIZO's branding was not in tune with the quality of the organisation. We should invest in social media, place less emphasis on direct mail and increase telemarketing to re-engage with lapsed donors. We have to improve our networking and use our contacts.

Esther Mor, Chairperson of the Fundraising Division, opened the afternoon Fundraising session. A great deal was packed into a short period of time which meant that some of the invited experts did not have enough time to impart some valuable advice. This was most evident when **Philippe Weil** and **Stephen Donshik** addressed us. They both had vast experience in fundraising but we only gleaned a small



Photo of Vera Weizmann on her desk at her home on the campus of the Weizmann Institute

amount from them in the allotted time.

Amongst topics discussed were how to engage with the children of previous donors who do not feel the same affiliation and how to attract today's philanthropists by finding out what interests them and tailoring our proposals accordingly. Prospective donors may be confused today because Israel prospers in so many fields.

However, we shouldn't forget that whilst the father may be the family president, the mother is the CEO, the Chief Emotional Officer!

Israel update

When we attend the MOR, we need to hear how Israel's government sees its position in the world and we could not have had two better experts to clarify the situation today than **Rafael Barak**, Director General of the Foreign Ministry, who spoke about 'Israel in the International Arena' and **Arthur Koll**, Deputy Director General of the Media and Public Affairs Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who addressed us on 'WIZO Chaverot as Ambassadors of Israel.'

Mr. Barak gave us rather a gloomy survey of various aspects of the current difficult era, where there is no one, particular, super power and there are constantly changing coalitions. Mr. Koll stressed that whilst traditional media still exists, world opinion is more often formed via social media where Israel must be present but we can all play our part too, simply by turning on the computer.

For those of us who have been in WIZO for a considerable period, that evening's programme in memory of former



Lea Zinder (in red suit) with panel of 'Remarkable Women'

WIZO President the late Michal Modai, who passed away barely a year ago, was especially moving.

We were also sad to note that revered Honorary Life President, **Raya Jaglom** was unable to attend the MOR due to ill health.

Thursday January 17th

The final half day's programme included **Laurienne Baitz**, the Aviv Representative to the World WIZO Executive, who gave a stimulating and dynamic presentation 'Uniting and Igniting Avivs around the World'.

Professor David Passig speculated on 'The Future of the State of Israel and World Jewry in 2050.' It was a fascinating and optimistic insight into the next generation and beyond.

For some of us, strategic planning for the next five years is hard enough!

To conclude, we listened attentively to an outstanding panel of 'Remarkable Women who have broken through the Glass Ceiling' in the fields of sport, religious issues concerning women, Ethiopian affairs, women in the army and the sciences. We learned of their dogged determination to succeed. They set the seal on an exciting and stimulating five days.

As Rivka said in her opening address:

We came to WIZO because we Care.

We discovered our strengths and learned to Share.

The sky's our limit because we Dare.



(l to r) Rafael Barak, Professor Rivka Lazovsky, Arthur Koll

The WIZO family mourns the death of two long-time WIZO volunteers and leaders

Ruth Rubinstein



Former World WIZO Executive member and Education Department Head Ruth Rubinstein passed away after a long illness. Ruth, who was born in Tel Aviv, discovered her passion for education when she served as a Hebrew teacher for new immigrants during her army service, kindling what would become a decades-long career in education and Hebrew instruction. Over the course of 1968 to 2002, Ruth managed

four different Hebrew ulpanim (language instruction schools), and in 1989 the Foreign Ministry honoured her with the distinction of participating in a mission to launch an ulpan in Moscow.

After retiring from a 35-year career in adult education at the Education Ministry, Ruth began her WIZO career and served as chairperson for WIZO Tel Aviv's Cultural Department from 2002-2003. In 2004, she was elected as chairperson of the World WIZO Education Department, where she felt she could contribute the most. "During my years in the Education Department, it was so rewarding to witness how our WIZO education system improved the lives of underprivileged youths and changed their future prospects," Ruth noted when retiring from the position after eight years of exceptional leadership. "WIZO remains part of you even after you leave."

At Ruth's funeral, World WIZO President Tova Ben-Dov addressed gathered friends and family in the name of WIZO: "One can say that a person who truly lives in life doesn't truly die in death, as each of us carries their memory—as we carry the memory of our Ruti with us. Through her many good deeds and her love, Ruti earned herself a good name, a name that will stay with us always. Here, a light went out and in heaven a new star was lit. Ruti, my dear, be our advocate in heaven and don't forget us."

Freda Raphael



Life-long WIZO chavera Freda Raphael was an Honorary Life Member of the World WIZO Executive and a recipient of the Rebecca Sieff Award. Both Zionism and WIZO were in Freda's blood from an early age: raised in a Zionist family in Cape Town, South Africa, Freda's mother was one of the first chairpersons of WIZO B'nai Zion. In 1948, Freda followed in her mother's footsteps and joined B'nai Zion; by 1963, she

was elected chairperson of the Association. Several years later, she continued her exemplary service as chairperson of the Western Province, Women's Zionist Committee, and held the office until 1973.

In 1975, Freda achieved her life-long dream of making aliyah. Already fluent in Hebrew, she adjusted easily to her new life, and within her first year in Israel, she involved herself with WIZO; she served as chairperson of the Advisory Board of the Mothercraft Training Centre, a WIZO South Africa project that trained student nurses and housed baby and toddler welfare cases. In 1982 she joined the World WIZO Executive as the liaison between the Executive and Beit Heuss, a WIZO Germany project that started as a respite holiday home for mothers with large families. Thanks to her hard work, Beit Heuss developed into a very important project, highly valued by the Social Welfare Ministry. In 1992, Freda was made a World WIZO Honorary Life Member and was appointed to the World WIZO Control Committee. Freda's friends and family remember her as a courageous woman, an ardent Zionist, a gracious hostess, a talented bridge player and a brilliant speaker. She is survived by two sons, Michael and David, four grandchildren and a great granddaughter.

From Violence to Redemption

WIZO Israel's Status of Women Division works in many spheres to improve the status of women in Israeli society – and now turns its attention to the violent men

Sima Borkovski

"I had anger piling up inside me and I turned it against my family instead of resolving it. In a way, men get some sort of legitimacy from society to be violent – a father is expected to punish his children, and sometimes men are allowed to believe that they can behave violently towards their wives and it will be excused," explains Nati, a middle-aged volunteer at the hotline for violent men in Jerusalem. Nati wishes to share the story of his own recovery from domestic violence with other abusive men – not as the victim but as the abuser.

In an effort to help make other men understand that there is "no excuse for violence" and that they - not their wives -

are the "ones with the problem," Nati is taking part in a new WIZO Israel Status of Women Division hotline for violent men. The special campaign is unique in that it is geared at tackling domestic violence by addressing the abusive side of the equation - the men. The telephone hotline - the first of its kind - provides violent men with the chance to confront their own problems and end the cycle of abuse.

Helping the women by helping the men

"An abusive man is usually someone with a weak personality who can communicate only through violence and cannot handle his temper. The hotline we operate is very special because it allows abusive men to confront their weaknesses

and admit the fact they have a problem and they need to resolve it," explains Nurit Kaufman, the division's Director of Violence in the Family. She further explains that the hotline does not come in place of outreach and services for the abused women themselves, but as a creative supplement to WIZO-operated shelters and projects. "A hotline for men helps women, as we must pay attention not only to the victims but to their abusers. It's not that WIZO has decided to neglect the women, but rather to help them by providing professional help to the men."

Baruchi Bursteis, a young and enthusiastic social worker who operates the hotline, is confident about the project's early signs of success: "The line has been in operation for several months now and we've gotten many calls despite our very small advertising budget. I believe this project has great potential to change the way that the issue of domestic violence is handled. This is the first time that these men – who are regarded as 'monsters' – finally get a chance to speak and get professional help."

Baruchi attributes the early success of the hotline to the fact that until now, abusive men have had "no one they could turn to and get help," which exacerbates the prevalent issue of denial in domestic violence. "Denial is part of the problem, and it's not so easy for these men to admit they have a problem. They are afraid to be judged and tend to blame their surroundings or wives for their violence. Our duty is to listen to them with empathy, but also to connect them with the underlying reasons that trigger their violence."

Echoing Baruchi's underlying assumptions, Nati explains his own journey from an abusive husband to an activist against domestic violence: "When I realized I had a problem, I started attending a WIZO support group for violent men. I discovered my ability to influence people and I saw that other members of the group saw me as a leader. I wanted to try to make a difference in other men's lives and help them understand the damage they inflict on their families. I always remind myself how bad it used to be and how glad I am that I found the strength to change my ways. I promised myself that no matter what happens I'm not letting myself get angry and I developed techniques to control it."

Once Nati committed to changing his life and taking responsibility for his problems, his relationship with his wife and

children profoundly improved. "I have peace and quiet and also the support of my family. I realize now that I should have made the change much earlier and I therefore believe that education against domestic violence should start in school. The bottom line is that every man is capable of making the decision to stop the violence once he realizes that he is the one with the problem." Nati also has advice for the women: "There is no excuse for violence. Don't tolerate violence. If it happens more than twice put an end to it and don't accept it."

Hugging the women, helping the police

The hotline is only one of the Status of Women Division's many initiatives and projects to curb the rate of domestic violence in Israel. In addition to addressing the aggressive element of the domestic violence equation, the division also runs an impressive volunteer initiative in Ramat Gan – started in 1994 – to help the victims of domestic violence press charges against their abusive husbands.

Women coming forward to file charges of domestic violence tend to be extremely vulnerable and desperate for support. Volunteers are assigned to police stations one night a week, where they guide and support victims through the process of pressing charges, as well as help the police conduct their often-delicate investigations.

Publicity poster for WIZO's hotline for abusive men. Translation: I saw what my father did and I swore I wouldn't be like him. Come out of the shadows. Call the hotline for men caught in the cycle of domestic violence.

**"ראיתי את אבא שלי ונשבעתי
שלא אהיה כמוהו.
צא מהצל."**

**פנה לקו לגברים במעגל
האלימות במשפחה**

1-800-393904
<https://www.facebook.com/MenHelpLine>



As Nechama Kling, a dedicated volunteer, explains, “We are a great help not only to the women, but to the police as we can question the women in a friendlier manner. For example, we put our hands on their shoulders and touch them, a thing that a police investigator is not permitted to do. In this way, we can help them gather more evidence in the case and press charges against the violent man.”

Nechama discusses the project while on a bus to Eilat for a trip she and her fellow volunteers were invited to take by the police – a token of appreciation for their work. Before engaging in the delicate work, Nechama describes the extensive training volunteers undergo. “Before we began, we took a course on police protocol and rules, work methods and ways to identify a battered woman. A woman who suffers from violence is usually very submissive and believes that she deserves to be treated this way. We have to explain their rights to them.”

From the police station to the court room

Reflecting on the importance of her work, Nechama recalls a young woman she helped escape from prostitution. “She married at a very young age - she was sixteen and already pregnant; her boyfriend was 19. She brought three children into the world, but when the family suffered financial difficulties, her husband forced her to prostitute herself on the weekends. It was her mother who came to us and said that she is worried her daughter – that she keeps losing weight and she’s worried that her husband is abusing her. When I spoke to the woman herself, she revealed what her husband forced her to do. We helped her divorce him.”

Further to helping the woman secure a divorce, WIZO volunteers also fought on behalf of the woman at court to ensure that she would retain custody of her children. Since the victim was regarded as a prostitute in the eyes of the court, welfare authorities were liable to place her children in foster care. “We managed to change her life completely and she went on to recover and build an entirely new life for herself and for her children,” Nechama recalls proudly.

Empowering women

The Status of Women Division’s work is not limited to protecting women from violence, but also actively

empowering women of all ages and from all walks of life. Fanny Fleishman, a fiery young social worker who heads the Women’s Leadership section of the division, asserts that “empowering women is a war that needs to be fought in all possible arenas.” According to Fanny, women craving leadership training have no further to look than WIZO, which provides a wide variety of leadership development courses to women throughout Israel.

One such initiative is a leadership course for 16- 17-year-old girls, which the division has launched in cooperation with the Education Ministry. According to Fanny, the courses “encourage potential leaders and expose girls to feminist ideas and activities for the community. These courses provide the girls with tools to develop assertiveness and help make them aware of social issues that are important to women.” While the courses first and foremost provide leadership training for girls, Fleishman also notes the courses’ secondary benefits of exposing girls to WIZO itself, acquainting the girls with WIZO as a “vibrant, dynamic organization” and helping make WIZO relevant to the next generation. “We hope that these young girls will join WIZO in the future.”

Encouraging leadership, from girls to grandmothers

In a variety of cities including Haifa, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Beer Sheba, women’s leadership courses are offered to women. “Every woman who wants to become a leader in her community can join,” Fleishman explains. “We’ve developed a wide variety of courses for women of all ages, whether they are soldiers, high school students, young mothers and even grandmothers.”

One of Fleishman’s most successful programmes is the WIZO Directors’ Course, where highly qualified women with management experience are provided with the tools to apply as non-executive directors on company boards.

Despite the wide variety of leadership opportunities offered to women by WIZO, Ettie Borkin, Status of Women Division Chairperson, sees lack of awareness of these programmes as a major hurdle facing the division. “Many women do not know that WIZO has such a variety of courses. Even when we send out information to local WIZO branches, there

still remains work to be done. When I visit these branches, I realize that the women there haven't read about our activities and we need to explain to them all the possibilities that are open to them."

Funding is another hurdle. "We have many projects that we are unable to launch due to lack of funding. For example, even one of our most successful projects, 'An Hour with a Child' [which pairs a volunteer with a child for weekly, one-hour meetings], needs to secure a source of funding for every year. If we had a larger budget, there would be so much more we could do. Our division is staffed with a very dedicated team that devotes hours of their free time for WIZO activities, but there is a limit to what we can do."

Knesset, politics and legislature, public life

In addition to providing outreach and training to advance women in Israeli society, the Status of Women Division also works with the government to ensure that women's issues are also addressed on a legislative and state level. Gila Oshrat, WIZO Israel Chairperson and former head of the Status of Women Division, is proud of WIZO's work in the Knesset.

"Our lobbyist at the Knesset, Sharon Cherkasky, is doing a wonderful job of helping us promote legislation that addresses women's equality issues. In the past, we lobbied against the exclusion of women, and just this year we succeeded in passing two important laws.

The first ensures that women in battered women's shelters who cannot work are given a monthly allowance. The second law establishes that court discussions related to issues of domestic violence will be held behind closed doors so that victims cannot be intimidated by their spouses."

The exclusion of women in the public arena is an issue that has not escaped the notice of the division. The issue has manifested itself in a variety of increasingly alarming contexts. In Jerusalem, public busses refused to feature advertisements of women for fear of ultra-Orthodox vandalism. Some bus lines allowed ultra-Orthodox men to ask women to sit at the back, in accordance with their religious demands for gender segregation. More alarming still, the issue of public exclusion even extended to the IDF itself, where several incidences were reported involving the exclusion of women in order to cater to the needs of ultra-Orthodox soldiers. Oshrat explains, "We keep our antennas up and address every issue of public

life that concerns women, improving women's quality of life and promoting gender equality. WIZO has an important role in leading the protest against the exclusion of women, especially now given the IDF's intention to incorporate ultra-Orthodox soldiers into army units and their refusal to serve alongside women."

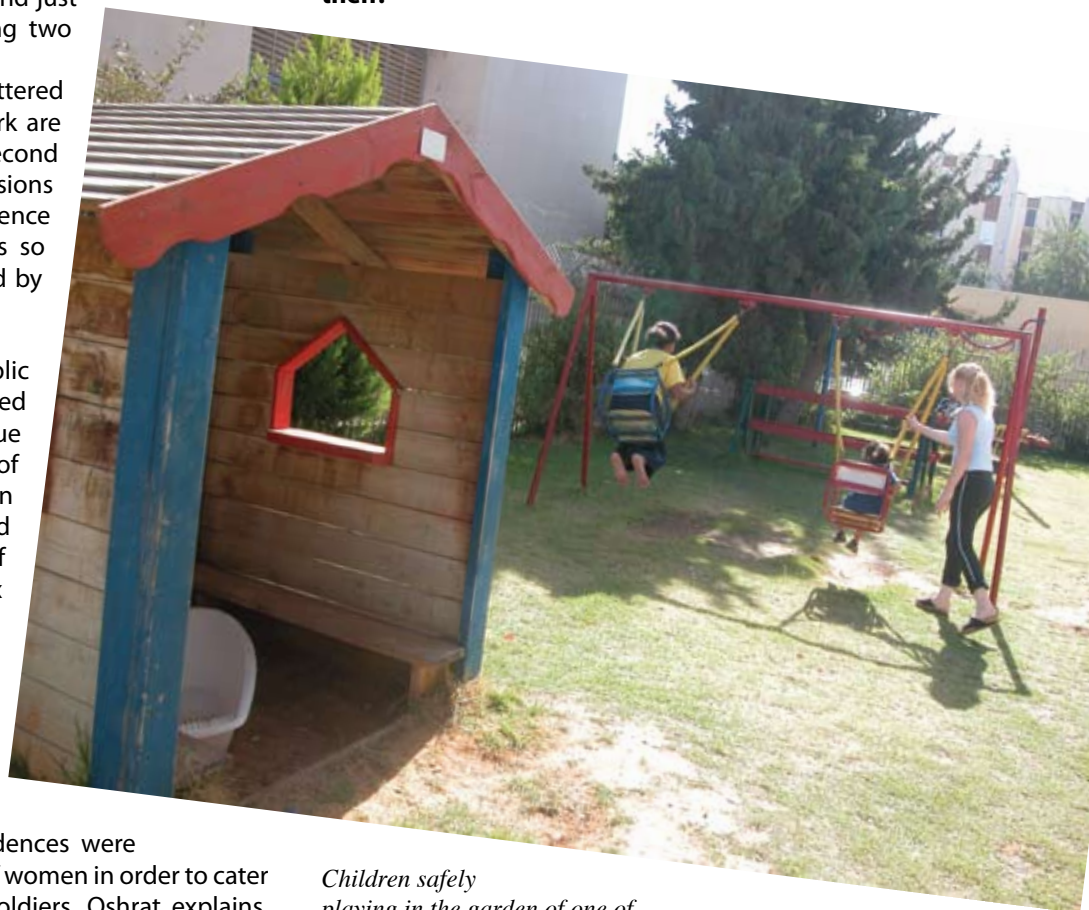
The division also works with political parties to make sure that women are represented on party lists and in leadership positions. "Ahead of the elections this year, WIZO approached all parties in order to remind them of the importance of influencing Israeli society by appointing more women to decision making-positions."

When will the violence end?

Despite the Status of Women Division's efforts, the path towards true gender equality remains uphill. Reports of women murdered by their partners appear in the headlines with alarming consistency. The country responds by expressing shock for a day, but then the alarm fades, leaving way for complacency and lack of outrage.

When asked about how she feels when she reads yet another news headline on yet another woman murdered by her husband, Nurit Kaufman says that she can't help but think of the woman.

What if she had pressed charges against her husband? What if welfare authorities had been involved? What then?



Children safely playing in the garden of one of WIZO's women's shelters



Passion from WIZO

Panama: Estela Faskha

In her third term at the helm of the ever-active and unique WIZO Panama Federation, Estela Faskha describes her passion for WIZO and the role that Israel activism plays in the close-knit Panamanian Jewish community

Rolene Marks

Estela Faskha, President of WIZO Panama, cannot contain her passion for WIZO: her eyes light up and she becomes animated when she begins to speak about the vital role the Panamanian federation plays in the lives of local Jewish women. However, although she is now something of an institution within Panama's Jewish community, Estela did not always call the small Central American country home. Born in Costa Rica, Estela's passion for Jewish communal work was nurtured at an early age. "I learned from my mother," she explains, recalling her mother's active involvement in Jewish communal organizations, including WIZO and *Damas Judias*. By high school, Estela had taken up the helm and served as a *madricha* for the *Ha'noar Ha'tzioni* (Zionist Youth) movement. She met her husband, Saul, at the Federation of Central American Communities Congress, who was there as part of the Panamanian delegation.

Starting afresh in Panama

Following her wedding, the young bride moved with her husband to Panama. "At first," she recalls, "I found the separation from my family a bit difficult because we are so many and we're very close." Faced with the challenge of starting her life anew, WIZO Panama provided Estela with a diversity of women to befriend. "WIZO was one of the things that helped me - it was the best way to meet people, and there I made friendships that last to this day." Further to providing Estela with a social network and the opportunity to do community work, WIZO fuelled another

one of Estela's passions: Israel. Touching briefly on her passion for the Jewish State, Estela traces her "goal, obsession and love for Israel" to realizing the suffering that the Jewish people have historically endured, and more personally, her own family's experience in the Holocaust. "I promised myself I'd do everything possible in my lifetime to perpetuate the continuity of the Jewish people. WIZO turned out to be the best way to do just that," Estela explains.

"Israel for me is the culmination of the Jewish dream - to have our land, to show the world who we are and what we are able to do. Israel strengthens our identity and connects us to our traditions, our pride and our religion."

From the Executive to the Presidency

After serving in various leadership positions in several Panamanian Jewish organizations, Estela found her permanent home when she joined the WIZO Panama Executive in 1998. "From that moment, all my dedication and hard work was - and will remain - WIZO." By 2008, Estela was elected president of WIZO Panama.

Estela attributes her successes as president to her husband and children, who are hugely supportive of her involvement with WIZO. "Being president is a huge challenge and requires complete dedication, which would be impossible without the support of my family, and the invaluable love, wisdom and advice that I always get from my husband, Saul. They understand that there are many late nights and a lot of travelling involved, but they support me all the way."

The Faskha family's support for WIZO extends beyond

standing behind Estela as president: Estela's two daughters, Adriana and Sharon, have served as presidents of the Atid and Noar groups respectively, a source of tremendous honour for Estela.

The unique structure of WIZO Panama

On the subject of groups, Estela is quick to explain that the structure of WIZO Panama is different from other federations. "Our groups are not 20-30 members, but 100-150 members per group, each led by a board of directors, all of whom work under the umbrella of the WIZO Panama Executive." Last year, Estela founded another group, bringing the total number up to eight.

To keep the federation motivated and connected to Israel, Estela places high importance on attending the MOR [Meeting of Representatives], the EGM [Enlarged General Meeting - WIZO International Conference] and the International Aviv [young women] Seminars in Israel. "You have to see it to believe it - that's why several years ago we decided we would send at least two representatives to the International Aviv Seminars. And the results we've had are excellent - our members return motivated; what they bring back to their groups is huge. Almost all have been or are the next group presidents."



Estela, Saul and their grandchildren

Youth outreach

"Once you get the WIZO bug in your blood, it's with you for life," says Estela, touching on the basis of her youth outreach approach. "That's why in Panama we consider it very important to make sure that the girls start hearing about WIZO when they are very young. We start at Bat Mitzvah age when we visit each of the Jewish schools and give the girls and their mothers a small presentation introducing them to WIZO and a WIZO pin."

WIZO Panama's youth outreach extends through high school and is present at every milestone of a young girl's life. "We have the 'WIZO Leadership and Volunteer Program Grace Mizrahi for 11th and 12th grade students. In this programme, WIZO leaders and professionals teach the girls about what WIZO is and what we do. We teach them about leadership and get them involved in the essence of WIZO - our history, what we are doing, who our work impacts. This way, they'll feel the same pride that we feel when we do our work."

"Once the girls near the end of their high school careers, we

revisit the schools and award the Helen Borenstein medal to the girl that best represents WIZO values."

Youth outreach efforts in Panama are extremely successful. One sign of this is the motivation and dedication of the Panama Aviv group, many of whom have made it their goal to become president of WIZO Panama. The Aviv Group is a special source of pride for Estela. "Our young women are particularly attracted to working for WIZO; they are passionate about the projects they sponsor in Israel. "They have done commendable work," she gushes, "they have been the key to our growth."

We have to put a special interest in our continuity, and our continuity is called youth."

The Panamanian Jewish Community

Estela is quick to concede that the success of WIZO Panama's outreach is partly due to Panama's close-knit and active Jewish community. "When people hear about the Jewish community in Panama, they tend to think we're a big community - but we're not. We total about 12,000. I can say that 90% of the houses keep kosher. On Sabbath and holidays, it's normal to see lots of people walking to the synagogues. In addition to this, levels of anti-Semitism are relatively low and Panamanian Jews have enjoyed not only economic success, but also government leadership positions.

Radiating pride, Estela describes the community as "very special" and "very strongly supportive of Israel," two facts which have allowed WIZO to easily find its niche within the larger community. "Since its inception, WIZO Panama has grown and become a significant and relevant force in the life of the Panamanian Jewish community, providing a structure in which Jewish women of all generations work together for the State of Israel," Estela elaborates.

Seeing is believing

Estela firmly believes that one has to visit Israel and witness WIZO Panama's many projects first-hand to fully understand the importance of the federation's work. "It's important for people to see where their contributions go, to see the smile on a child's face or look of relief on the face of someone that you have helped," she explains.

"To work in WIZO is to feel something. You help people who need your help the most. The sense of pride you feel when you see your projects makes the hours of work so worthwhile."



Starting early! Estela surrounded by Panama Bat Mitzvah girls

*Delegates at Rhodesia WIZO Conference 1959.
Far right – Rachel Baron*

Memories of WIZO Rhodesia

Shulamit Kagan, a chavera of WIZO Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) from 1950 through to the mid-1970s, sent her recollections to WIZO Review. Her memories shed light on the former WIZO Rhodesia Federation, the courageous women at its helm, and the Rhodesian Jewish community, which has now all but vanished

I came to Bulawayo in 1950 as a young bride, and before I knew where I was, I was a member of WIZO. I don't remember officially becoming a member; neither do I remember a time when I was not a member. I think that in Bulawayo it was taken for granted that any Jewish woman was automatically a member of WIZO.

The first task that I was supposed to carry out on behalf of WIZO turned out to be a great flop. I was given one pound and told to invest it in such a way as to make as much profit as possible. Well, not only did I not make any money, I lost every penny of my investment. Taking pity on me, my husband replaced my loss and I learned the hard way that making money was not my strong suit.

It would take about ten years before I found my niche. In the meantime, I plodded along with others, taking part in all sorts of WIZO activities.

The busy chaverot of WIZO Rhodesia

WIZO activities! My head spins trying to enumerate them. First and foremost was the Israeli United Appeal pledge. We, members of the committee, approached every WIZO member personally. My late friend and our treasurer for many years, Rose Glickman, prided herself on the fact that there was not a Jewish home in Bulawayo where she did not succeed in getting the lady of the house to sign our pledge. As the money had to be collected, every member of the committee had a list of women from whom to collect. I had 10 members on my list.

Apart from the pledge project, our activities included catering brachot in shul and in other places, cake sales and many other types of sales.

Then, there were the big money spinners. Bulawayo had an annual trade fair, where at one point even Israel exhibited. WIZO ran a tearoom, serving tea and homemade cakes. The members who had kosher homes baked the cakes. It was hard work – the baking, the delivering, the serving, the cleaning and the organization.



Shulamit Kagan

The morning market

The main event of the year was a 'morning market,' which stretched well into the afternoon and sometimes into the evening. In good years, it lasted two days. It used to take place sometime towards the end of the year in the city hall. Our gentile customers used to save money the whole year to buy their Christmas presents in our market. And there was plenty to buy: homemade cakes, sweets, jams, preserves, handmade aprons, handmade children's clothes, second-hand goods and new goods donated by various firms.

All of this took months of preparation, when the women sewed, cooked, preserved, and hardest of all – went schnorrng [Yiddish for begging] from firm to firm, some of whom were gracious, while others not so much.

One year, the theme of the market was 'Around the World in 80 Minutes,' with every branch representing a different country. Our branch represented France. We all donned berets and strutted around our stall in the highest heels possible. We sold perfume (not really French) and junk jewellery that looked like the real thing, but our pièce de résistance was baba-au-rum [a small yeast cake saturated in liquor], baked by one of our members.

I don't remember if we made a profit or how the baba-au-rum tasted, but we certainly had fun – although our feet hurt for days afterwards.

'Let's make Zionists out of workers'

In 1962, Rachel Baron, the president of WIZO Rhodesia, came out with the slogan, 'Let's make Zionists out of workers.' Her idea was simple: while WIZO workers were wonderful, they knew very little about Zionism: unless they knew what they were working for, their enthusiasm would soon wane. With this in mind, she organized a 12-week course for WIZO leaders. Once a week, a sizable group of women spent a whole morning listening to lectures, some of which the women prepared themselves.

Rachel asked me to prepare a lecture on the reciprocal relationship between modern Hebrew literature and Zionism. This stretched into 12 lectures, starting with Pinsker's *Auto-Emancipation* and spanning through to Tchernichovsky. The course was a great success, whetting the women's appetite for more. As a result, we organized a study group on Jewish history as seen through the Bible. We also had a variety of other lectures, all of them without exception on Jewish and Zionist themes.

Annual Bible Day

Once a year, we used to get a directive from WIZO in Israel on the annual Bible Day theme. We organized lectures leading up to Bible Day and at the end of the year we held a culminating function. Three of them have special vividness in my mind.

'Jewish History as Reflected in Vocal Music' saw us discuss chapters from the Psalms, the chants of the Gemara, music from the Ashkenazi, Sephardi and Yemenite Diasporas, as well as modern Israeli songs. For our 'Poetry in the Bible' themed year, Rabbi Prof Rappoport gave an emotional and intellectual lecture in an intimate hall, where members of the community recited poetry and sang songs. The last theme that truly stands out to me is the 'History of Jewish Weddings,' which saw us discuss wedding traditions from biblical to modern times, as well as various Jewish wedding customs, and the different wedding dresses worn throughout the ages in diverse Jewish communities.

It is high time I pay tribute to the three women behind all of these cultural activities, namely Rachel Baron, Saidy Herskowitz and Joyce Amato. I should also note that raising funds was never the goal of this project. In fact, we decided that if we should sustain a loss, it would be covered by the WIZO coffers. How surprised and delighted we were that we managed to make considerable profit due to the popularity of our programmes and the fact that WIZO members catered for free. Similarly, all lecturers and artists volunteered their talents.

Not only Bulawayo

Our activities extended beyond Bulawayo to the small communities in the Bundu, where we combined our outreach work with collecting pledges.

Every now and then, Rachel or Saidy got into their cars and drove to Que-Que, Gatooma, Gwelo, and other small towns. I often went with them. Anyone who thinks she knows what boredom is has not driven miles and miles through the monotonous Rhodesian bush, where you see nothing but

dried-up, wild bushes. I often marvelled at the stamina and dedication of these women.

Upon arrival, after a shower and a substantial meal, we held a meeting with the local women. I used to give my cultural shpiel [sale's pitch] and Rachel used to reduce our hosts to tears of joy or sorrow, depending on what the occasion demanded. (Rachel was very emotional and her emotionality was contagious). On the following morning, we would make our rounds, collecting pledges and other donations.

Public Relations

In addition to turning our workers into Zionists, Rachel embarked on a public relations campaign. She was very active in many gentile welfare organizations, so many doors were opened to her. We invited all women's organizations to our functions; reciprocally, they invited us to speak about Israel at their functions.

Furthermore, Rachel managed to get us invited to the mission schools, which at the time were a mainstay of Black education in Rhodesia. I never ceased to be gratified and amazed by the interest in Israel shown by the pupils and teachers. These pupils must be middle-aged by now. I hope they retained their good will towards us.

WIZO, as well as other Jewish activities, continued well after Rhodesian independence in 1980. However, with the decline in the Jewish population, they've wound down to almost nothing. What a pity!

Shulamit Kagan

Shulamit Kagan was born in Jerusalem in 1927 to Alte and Moshe Frenkel. By 1929, the family had moved to Hebron and only escaped the bloody Hebron riots after Shulamit's mother, heavily pregnant with her second child, elected to give birth in Jerusalem. Five years later, the family moved to Tel Aviv, which Shulamit still considers her 'home town.' From 1946 to 1948, she experienced a series of personal tragedies, including losing both her parents to illness and her brother in the battle of Ramleh during the War of Independence.

In 1950, Shulamit married a Rhodesian, and the couple settled in Rhodesia, where she gave birth to three children and became deeply involved in WIZO activities. During this time, she managed to complete two degrees—all by correspondence—a BA in Psychology and Classical Hebrew, and an MA in Psychology. Necessitated by a variety of circumstances, Shulamit and her husband moved to South Africa in the 1970s, where she opened a private practice and finally saw her psychology career blossom.

Shulamit helped launch a WIZO group in the retirement home where she now lives, and through cultural events, the group raises money for WIZO's Sponsor A Child programme. Shulamit's husband died six years ago, and while she has retired from practicing psychology, she still engages in a variety of volunteer work, including serving as chairwoman of the Histadrut Ivrit.

Early Childhood Education Crisis

The shortage of day care centres is reaching a boiling point and is liable to cause far-reaching societal problems and destroy the professional lives of working mothers

WIZO and the shortage

"Every year, it gets worse and worse," says **Hassida Danai**, Chairperson of the WIZO Early Age Division. "In Tel Aviv, three or four of our day care centres have huge waiting lists – some of over 100 applicants. Largely, these lists are comprised of working mothers, many of them affiliated with WIZO, to whom we owe priority in admitting their children – but it's impossible to meet the demand. It's simply too great. This is our opportunity to help working mothers, and we can't."

Over the last few years, the speed at which WIZO has been able to open new day care facilities is far from matching the rising demand for WIZO's early childhood education services. Currently, WIZO operates 180 regulated day care centres throughout Israel and serves approximately 14,500 children.

In a large portion of these day care centres, the number of children attempting to enrol far exceeds the number of places available. This imbalance is mainly seen in the centre of the country, especially in Tel Aviv, Modi'in and Jerusalem, where a particularly dramatic spike in the demand for day care centres places has been witnessed, as well as in cities far from the Centre, such as Beer Sheba.

A crisis in early childhood education

In some Israeli cities, the shortage of early childhood education facilities is so severe that for every one child admitted into a day care centre, three are turned away. These numbers are especially troubling in light of research establishing that there is nothing more critical than early childhood education for the healthy development of infants. This brief window of opportunity constitutes the basis for a child's later ability to successfully integrate into the public education system and civil society. Consequently, Israel's extreme shortage of public day care facilities is nothing short of a crisis for society at large, but especially for working mothers, who are often left juggling their careers with finding suitable day care for their infants.

Troubling numbers

According to assessments, there are approximately 600,000 children between the ages of birth and three-years-old in Israel, approximately half of whom attend private day care facilities due to insufficient public facilities. Of these 300,000, only 100,000 are enrolled in regulated and supervised



These are some of the lucky children who attend a WIZO day care centre. Hassida Danai (l) and World WIZO Chairperson Professor Rivka Lazovsky celebrating Pesach earlier this year at the Inez Bernstein Day Care Centre in Tel Aviv

centres. The other 200,000 attend private day care facilities, which in addition to being neither supervised nor regulated, carry high tuition fees that parents must pay out of pocket.

A mother's right to work

The bottom line is that the Israeli education system has failed to adapt to the decades-old reality of mothers joining the workforce. As the cost of living continues to rise, families have come to depend on a two-parent income, which in turn drives an increased need for day care services. However, insufficient day care services put working mothers in a constant tension between the need to work and their will to provide infants and toddlers with quality education. Solutions to the problem so far have been either insufficient or too expensive.

This lack of services constitutes a particularly vicious form of sexism, infringing directly on a woman's right to uninterrupted professional development and advancement while raising children. The shortage has brought about a situation that deprives women of the ability to successfully compete and function in the work force, delivering a crushing blow to any notion of equal opportunity.

[Editor's note: This article was compiled from information provided to WIZO Review by Dr Nomi Moreno, Director of World WIZO Early Age Division, and was edited by WIZO Review Assistant Editor Zohar Friedman]

My Mission to Hungary

World WIZO President Tova Ben-Dov attended the World Jewish Congress in Budapest, where she connected with WIZO Hungary chaverot and stood in solidarity with Hungarian Jewry in the face of rising anti-Semitism

Tova Ben-Dov

This year, I had the honour of travelling to Hungary to participate in the 14th World Jewish Congress (WJC) Plenary, which was held in Budapest this year instead of its traditional location, Jerusalem in order to show solidarity with the Hungarian Jewish community, who have recently experienced a dramatic and disturbing rise in anti-Semitism. Hungarian anti-Semitism is unique and particularly alarming in that the Neo-Nazi Jobbik party is not a fringe movement but an active part of the government.

The atmosphere of hate, protests and anti-Semitism in Hungary is frightening and reminds one of the Nazis' rise to power in Germany. Throughout the Plenary, for our own safety, we were surrounded by security and police personnel. Whenever we went, they went. Israel even sent special Israeli body guards to protect conference attendees. When we visited the local synagogue on Friday evening and Saturday morning, we were forbidden from walking alone: both ahead of us and after us, security personnel hawkishly kept guard over us.

My mission to Hungary had several purposes: First, I represented WIZO at the WJC Plenary. WIZO has had the honour of serving in an executive capacity at the WJC since the 1960s, when former WJC President Nahum Goldman officially invited WIZO, as the first women's Zionist organization, to serve on the WJC Board of Directors. This year, amid WJC restructuring, I was very pleased that WIZO was elected as one of the three international Jewish organizations to serve on the WJC Board of Directors, and in my capacity as President of World WIZO, I will represent WIZO as a WJC Vice President.

Visiting WIZO Hungary

Equally important to participating in the Plenary was my visit to WIZO Hungary. I was delighted to learn more about the federation's activities in Hungary, which include providing important social and cultural programming to keep Hungarian Jewry connected to Judaism and Israel.

Because WIZO is entitled to three voting delegates at WJC Plenaries - the World WIZO President and two local leaders from the WIZO Federation in the hosting country - I was thrilled to invite WIZO Hungary President Eva Lancz and WIZO Hungary Executive member Kate Koves to join me in representing WIZO at the Plenum.

In addition to Eva and Kate, I was joined by Evelyn Sommer,



World WIZO President Tova Ben-Dov representing WIZO at the World Jewish Congress Plenary in Hungary

founder president of WIZO USA, who attended the Plenary in her capacity as Chairman of the North American Section of the WJC; she was accompanied by a number of young WIZO members, who were also there as members of the American delegation, along with Mercedes Ivcher, Co-Founding President of WIZO USA, Joan Kahn, Vice-President WIZO USA and others.

The agenda for the 14th WJC Plenary turned attention to many issues currently of concern to Jews and Jewish communities around the world. The subject of combatting anti-Semitism in Europe took centre-stage, and the Plenary adopted a resolution calling on Hungary "to recognize that Jobbik and its subsidiaries pose a fundamental threat to Hungary's democracy" and that "decisive action ... [should be taken for the] protection of all citizens and residents of this country, in particular vulnerable minorities such as the Roma and the Jews, against threats of violence, racist hate and insults and the denial of the Holocaust."

We were also addressed by Hungarian Prime Minister Victor Orbán, who said that, "anti-Semitism today in Hungary is unacceptable and we will show zero tolerance in regards to it."

At the end of the Plenary, I was proud to stand with World Jewish leaders, WIZO chaverot, and especially Eva and Kate during a moving commemoration of the victims of the Holocaust in Hungary.

I am proud of WIZO's involvement in the WJC and I look forward to continuing to represent you in this important body. I encourage all WIZO federations to maintain and forge relationships with their local WJC branches.

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Donor Appreciation

The Lowy Family

Longstanding supporters and major donors of WIZO Australia

Esther Wakerman

The patriarch, Frank Lowy was born in Czechoslovakia and lived in Budapest, Hungary during World War II. His father Hugo was murdered at Auschwitz Concentration Camp. Trying to make his way to the British Mandated Palestine on the ship "Yagur", Frank was caught by the British and deported to a detention camp in Cyprus, but a few months' later was allowed into Palestine. He attended a small yeshiva school near Qiryat Tivon and eventually joined the Haganah and the Golani Brigade, fighting during the Arab-Israeli War of Independence in the Galilee and Gaza.



Judy and Steven Lowy

In 1952 Frank left Israel and went to Australia, starting a business delivering small goods. Soon after, he created Westfield Development Corporation with a partner and over the next 30 years developed shopping centres across Australia and the U.S. and more recently in New Zealand and the U.K. The company, now known as the Westfield Group was listed on the Australian stock exchange in 1960.

Frank married Shirley and they have three sons all of whom are in the business as well. Peter and Steven manage the Westfield business as joint chief executives, Peter being based in the U.S. and David manages the family's private Investments.

Both businessman and philanthropist

As Frank became successful, he also became a generous philanthropist both to the Jewish community and to the wider community. The family is very well known and very much a part of the business and community landscape of New South Wales. They have a reputation for giving of their time and financial support to a broad range of social and cultural endeavours. Amongst numerous philanthropic projects, the family established The Lowy Institute for International Policy, an independent think tank devoted to foreign affairs and Australia's role in the world. They also

built and established the UNSW Lowy Cancer Research Centre as part of the faculty of Medicine at the University of NSW. Frank's passion for football saw him appointed as the Chairman of the Football Federation of Australia in 2003 and then later to the FIFA board. Through his management, football in Australia has become more popular than ever.

Active WIZO ladies

Shirley Lowy and her two daughters-in-law Judy and Margo are all active WIZO members and the family has supported WIZO NSW fundraising efforts over many years. Through their generosity, we were able to begin the much-needed improvements at WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim, our school for emotionally disturbed children in Haifa, by renovating the Jonas Dormitory and then a few years later building the Lowy House of Dreams. Many WIZO functions have been held in both Shirley and Judy's homes as they completely relate to what WIZO achieves in Israel and the importance of our worldwide movement where we, being the largest welfare organisation in Israel, change the lives of so many every single day.

We in New South Wales are indeed fortunate to have such a supportive and generous family as one of World WIZO's major supporters.

Aviv

Aviv 2013 so far...

Laurienne Baitz,
Aviv representative to the
World WIZO Executive



The MOR (Meeting of Representatives) this year provided me with the opportunity to interact with some of WIZO's most dedicated and concerned presidents from federations around the world. I noted that most of them shared the same difficulties and problems – inspiring and encouraging their Avivs.

THAT'S WHERE I COME IN! My job is 'Unite & Ignite' Avivs around the world.

After my presentation at the MOR, a group of proactive European presidents were sufficiently 'Ignited' to invite me to visit their countries to inspire their Avivs personally and the 'European Turbo Tour' was born! I visited four countries in six days, speaking seven times! Germany, Sweden, Holland and Belgium had me hopping!



Laurienne **IGNITES** young WIZO women across Europe including (above) in Belgium (and below) in Sweden





SWEDEN

"Thank you for visiting Malmo and helping us engage, unite and ignite!" **WIZO Sweden**

"Laurienne, you are a terrific example of the WIZO Aviv movement. It is passionate people like you who stimulate, inspire and keep the torch burning." **Susanne Sznajderman-Rytz, President WIZO Sweden.**



BELGIUM

Laurienne Baitz is charismatic, dynamic, intelligent, sensitive, creative and efficient! Thank you to World WIZO for creating this position and to the Executive for understanding the importance of planting seeds for the longevity of our organization!" **Nathalie, Chairman WIZO Brussels.**



HOLLAND

"Laurienne's ideas and suggestions were thought-provoking and definitely stimulated us to think about how we feel about WIZO Aviv." **Lisa Numann.**

"We were amazed by what you were able to do in such a short time and the energy you filled each and every one of us with! This is exactly what we needed here in Holland." **Joyce Numann, President WIZO Holland.**



GERMANY

"I do not understand where Laurienne gets her energy! She was motivating, inspiring and igniting for the young members and also instructive for us 'oldies but goodies.'" **Diana Schnabel, President WIZO Germany.**

"The point Laurienne made about 'fun-raising' spoke to me personally and caused me to think more about potential WIZO activities." **Lea Vajnorsky.**

"With her open-mindedness and cheerfulness, Laurienne Baitz was able to inspire us within seconds!" **Claudia Schleussner-Samuel**

"WIZO has found an exceptionally charismatic leader in Laurienne!" **Sabine Liebensohn.**

My challenge for this tour was to 'Unite & Ignite' Avivs in their home environments and to offer them solutions and motivation on how to stimulate involvement and commitment to WIZO from their young members. This trip reiterated my belief that WIZO sisters, although diverse in culture, language, heritage and age all still face similar challenges of local community needs, motivation and anti-Semitism whilst retaining a deep connection to their Jewish heritage and love for Israel.

I am truly grateful to the brave WIZO leaders who are doing their best to support the needs of their young members that are different to their own. By giving their Avivs 'wings to fly', they are ensuring continuity of WIZO in their federations and empowering them to proudly build WIZO of the future.

I thank each one for their efforts, encouragement and support and really hope that I made a measurable difference to their federations.

COME TO THE INTERNATIONAL AVIV SEMINAR!

In my ideal world, I would endlessly travel the globe spreading love, inspiration and positive vibes to all Avivs. Unfortunately, reality prohibits this so the next best thing is to have all the Avivs meet in Israel at the International Aviv Seminar!

Of course there are so many great reasons why this is a better solution:

1. Avivs get to meet each other and make so many new **friends**
2. We get to **visit** as many of the WIZO day care centres, youth villages, women's shelters and community centres as we can fit in
3. We get to do some **hands-on** volunteering in the projects
4. Avivs get to **tour** Israel and visit sights we would never have the opportunity to see
5. We **share** our most exciting fundraising and friendraising ideas with each other
6. **Speakers** of the highest calibre address us on a variety of inspirational topics
7. We return home inspired, motivated, educated and **richer** in experience!

I look forward to meeting you all at the
International Aviv Seminar 13-17 October 2013 in Tel Aviv.
Come discover, explore, enjoy...

Post Pesach WIZO Day Tour – April 2013

WIZO chaverot on holiday in Israel for Pesach take the opportunity to visit WIZO projects

Lisa Moss-Phillips

When we think of tradition, the image that comes to mind is the iconic figure of Tevye the milkman, the defender of tradition from Fiddler on the Roof. "Tradition" he proclaims in the opening scene, "without our traditions, our lives would be as shaky as... as... as a fiddler on the roof!" It is because of our traditions that we've kept our balance, stayed grounded and felt closeness with our fellow community members for many, many years.

As important as it is, however, to embrace old traditions, we also need to create new ones. The Organization and Tourism Division adhered to this adage by creating a new tradition, the WIZO day tour. The first tour during Succot 2012 was a great success and the winning formula was repeated immediately after Pesach this year.

This year's group included visitors from Great Britain, Germany and South Africa. They were accompanied by WIZO "minders" Janine Gelley, Chairperson World WIZO Organization and Tourism Division, Tamara Hataav, Division Director, and Linda Boxer, Executive Director WIZO UK.

Rebecca Sieff Centre for the Family

The first stop of the itinerary was a visit to the Rebecca Sieff Centre for the Family, WIZOUK's flagship project in Jerusalem. Formerly the Jerusalem Baby Home, this centre includes WIZO's largest day care centre (housing 290 children), a vocational training school and a shelter for victims of domestic violence.

As it always is, the day care centre was a hive of activity on the day of the tour. Some of the children were constructing colourful projects in the Lego Room; others were mesmerized by a puppet show by one of the caregivers, a lively older lady who has worked at the centre for over 40 years. The visitors were also given the chance to peek into quiet rooms where toddlers were asleep on mattresses on the floor.

Next, the group toured the Vocational Training School and were impressed by the staff's dedication and enthusiasm, and the smiles on the faces of so many children told so much of the story. Here, new hope is given to disadvantaged and at-risk youth who have dropped out of other educational frameworks. In this supportive and therapeutic environment their self-confidence and motivation is restored. By learning lifelong skills and acquiring an education, they have an opportunity to turn their lives around. The group observed classes for the three tracks of instruction offered at the school: Culinary Arts, Hairdressing, Music and Sound Production.



Participants on the Pesach Tour

After the morning's activities, the group assembled for a delicious lunch, during which they heard a very interesting talk by the Director of the Shelter for Battered Women on the facilities and on the counselling and empowerment opportunities given to residents of the shelter.

The visit provided a unique opportunity to see WIZO in action, and to meet the people who are doing the real work at the sharp end of social needs. Without a doubt at the Rebecca Sieff Centre for the Family, love, caring, recreation and stability all come together.

Before heading home, the group visited the Menachem Begin Heritage Centre where they enjoyed a very informative guided tour, gaining insight into the man, his principles and ideals, and his vision of peace for a secure Israel.

Jewish geography

As with any gathering of the tribe, playing "Jewish Geography" is par for the course. During the day, the participants found new acquaintances and discovered common friends around the corner as well as around the world.

Tessa Scher, a chavera from WIZO South Africa brought her husband along so he would have a better understanding of WIZO's work and would be able to appreciate why she devotes so much of her time to WIZO. He thoroughly enjoyed the outing and found it meaningful and instructive. It also opened his eyes as to why WIZO is so important to his wife and he fully supports her in her efforts.

All in all, the participants enjoyed a memorable day, and the Organization and Tourism Division looks forward to seeing many new and familiar faces on the next WIZO day tour which will take place during Succot 2013.

Every Time is Like the First Time

For participants to the Meeting of Representatives, revisiting their Federations' projects re-ignites their enthusiasm

Lisa Moss-Phillips

Despite our fast-paced lives and our intensely technological world, nothing can replace face-to-face interaction. Participants to the annual World WIZO Meeting of Representatives learned just this when they accompanied the Organization and Tourism Division on a tour of projects sponsored by their own federation and were given the opportunity to meet those who are directly impacted by their support and activism.

Special bond with projects

Tamar Lazarus, newly elected president of WIZO South Africa visits Israel regularly. While Israel is renowned for its innovation and ingenuity, the accelerated building and development going on in the country never ceases to amaze her. Her wonder grows even further when it comes to WIZO, as no matter how many times she has visited WIZO projects, she always sees a development, a new idea, a new programme. Visiting her federation's projects was a truly empowering and inspiring experience. She returned home infected by the pride that the staff and volunteers have in being a part of WIZO and armed with the knowledge that the generosity and support of WIZO South Africa is so much appreciated.

Every federation establishes a special bond with its own projects. This was clearly visible during the visit of Dorrit Raiter, president of WIZO Denmark, to the Lotus Day Care Centre in Carmiel. As always, she was welcomed with open arms as the Danish and Israeli flags hung side by side at the entrance to the building. Over the years, Dorrit has forged a close relationship with Michaela Dana, the director of the day care centre and her dedicated staff, and has great admiration for the important work they are doing.

Visits are a privilege

Gilla Liberman, president of WIZO Australia, views her annual visits to the projects sponsored by her federation as a privilege. This year, because of the inclement weather, her trip to Jerusalem proved to be somewhat of an adventure. In contrast to the freezing temperatures outside, she received a warm welcome at the WIZO Aya Dinstein Club for the Golden Age in the Ramat Eshkol neighbourhood of Jerusalem, and was thoroughly impressed by the myriad of activities the centre provides for women and children in the surrounding area. For Gila, every visit is an eye opener and "seeing is believing" is more than an empty slogan. Gilla emphasized, "Seeing our projects helps me inspire our members at home to see the bigger picture, and realize that we are touching lives through our work for WIZO."

Muriel Eli, General Secretary for WIZO Switzerland visited the Schunat Miskanot Peer Day Care Centre in Hadera. As a member of the Berne chapter that has been supporting this day care centre for many years, her visit was especially moving and gratifying. The building's simple exterior gave no hint of the splendour inside. Brightly coloured paintings adorned the walls creating a warm and homey atmosphere; the entire facility was spotlessly clean and the classrooms organized and well equipped. From the babies to the kindergarten class, the children seemed happy and thriving. Muriel left the visit with a vivid image of the children enveloped by the warmth and love of their caregivers. She was more than pleased to take part in a delicious lunch prepared by a cook who has been an integral and valued member of the staff at the day care centre for nearly 30 years.

These emotional visits reinforce the participants' enthusiasm, passion and belief in the work that they do for WIZO. They come away charged with energy, fired up and with renewed dedication to the goals of the organization, ready to inspire, excite and persuade others to follow their example:

To experience the magic of WIZO is like eating candy - once you have a taste you will be hooked for life.

Visiting Schunat Miskanot Peer Day Care Centre sponsored by WIZO Switzerland. (l - r) Noa, social worker; Muriel Eli, Regina, day care centre supervisor



Inspirational Leadership is Vital for the Future

A leader has to motivate her members; she has to nurture her volunteers to ensure continuity of her federation and the WIZO movement

Tricia Schwitzer

John Quincy Adams, sixth president of the United States, famously said, "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." He uttered those words almost three hundred years ago, but the principle remains wholly pertinent to today's WIZO chaverot who aspire to fill leadership roles within the movement.

A WIZO leader is a strategic thinker, a relationship builder and a collaborative decision maker. She must say it, plan it and do it. Leadership is social influence in which one person creates or catches a vision and enlists the aid and support of others in turning the vision into reality. A good leader gives tools, shares knowledge, and encourages a sense of urgency by effective communication. Through interpersonal sensitivity, she will transmit the idea in such a way that each member of her team feels that their input is not only welcome but also vital to the process. Her task, as leader, is to listen and to quantify, to act and to engage.

Passionate WIZO leaders

It goes without saying that a WIZO leader is a passionate believer in the WIZO ethos; she must be of high integrity, reliable, adaptable and quick-thinking. She must be completely honest, transparent in her interests, and conscientious in her work. She will be open to fresh ideas and ready to embrace the changes that today's challenges and technologies bring. In short, she will not stand still; she will walk forward. She will equip herself with knowledge, the facts and figures pertinent to her locality and to Israel and have a wide understanding of the competition in her sector. Moreover, she will have a keen eye on the progress of her team.

With perhaps the exception of the late Rebecca Sieff, on whose vision WIZO was built, no leader can say that her contribution to the movement is greater than the movement itself. WIZO is the sum total of the actions of all of its chaverot and its professional staff, each with something to learn, something to teach, something to share and something to give. After all, if it were not for her vast army of worker bees doing all the manual labour, how much honey could the queen bee produce? In short, the principal function of the leader is to motivate her chaverot.



Motivation is the key

It is imperative to invest time, patience and trust in developing the talents of WIZO volunteers for leadership roles. Often, good volunteers go unnoticed and stay unmotivated in their positions because they don't have the support to take them to the next level. A leader has the experience and knowledge to motivate the volunteers of today to become the leaders of tomorrow. Volunteers should be encouraged to attend conferences, speaking sessions, and networking events to enable them to acquire leadership tools.

Volunteers need to know that they can be trusted with opportunities to show their worth. When volunteers show initiative, promise and results, they should be praised, thanked and given credit. If they are not appreciated, there is a danger they will become demotivated.

To motivate is to earn the respect of members. Every WIZO leader knows that the growth of the movement lies in the nurturing and encouragement of its members, to convince them of the importance of their work and to inspire them to remain in the movement and - for some - to consider leadership roles.

The Auntie from Metulla

Esther Levit, from Israel's northernmost town Metulla, devoted her life to volunteering, especially for the IDF soldiers who served in northern Israel during the First Lebanon War in 1982. She opened up her home, providing the soldiers with a safe haven, a resting place for quiet conversation, a cup of coffee and a home cooked meal. She was given the nickname "Auntie Esther, the mother of the soldiers."

How it all began...

It all started out small in 1969 when Esther Levit began the project, which earned her the love and affection of literally thousands of soldiers and their families. "They were here guarding us," she said, "those lovely young boys who are now as dear to me as my own family." With no place for them to go to relax from the tensions and routine of military service, Esther Levit organized the women of Metulla and opened a clubhouse for soldiers. Until 1975, it was located on the premises of the WIZO club. When that closed, she moved the entire operation to her own small home, which was open day and night to all soldiers stationed in Metulla.

At the beginning, all that was needed was a functioning teapot, a few cakes in the oven and good spirits, which she never lacked. Afterwards, when she had already received full recognition from generals and even from chiefs of staff, who had enjoyed her hospitality, it became almost an institution. Now she needed small mountains of coffee, a few sacks of flour and trays of eggs because on no evening did Auntie Esther drink coffee alone.

Auntie Esther takes command

Her grandson, Micha Levit, recounts: "In administrative circles, there is an accepted saying that authority is not given, but taken. However, everyone who understands the military ways knows that under military rule - which is built on hierarchy and discipline - there is no room for the implementation of this adage. This was not the case with regard to my grandmother Esther. She took authority upon herself in the realm of discipline without any written ordination or official appointment...according to the best of her understanding and her conscience. And most wondrous of all - no one objected; everyone honoured her and obeyed willingly.

"I remember an incident from the period when the Nahal (Pioneer Fighting Youth) encampment was located in Metulla, and my grandmother had a special relationship with the women soldiers who were accustomed to come to her at all hours, to tell her about their experiences, to pour out their hearts, to confide in her and to ask for her advice. In time, two girls came to her with forlorn looks on their faces. Their appearance worried Grandmother and when she asked them what was bothering them, they told her.

"Being very far away from their homes and families, they had not seen them for a long time and were waiting impatiently for their upcoming leave in order to return home. Now, because of some infraction - insignificant, in their opinion - they were to be punished by being grounded at the camp. The dreamed-of meeting with their families was blown to smithereens!

"My grandmother was overcome with pity for the two 'poor' girls, and with her characteristic drive, decided to do something on the spot in order to 'annul the harsh decree'. Without a moment's hesitation, she went straight to the regiment commander. What took place there in the commander's headquarters - what character the negotiations had, what she said and what he said, if they spoke calmly or raised their voices - all these will remain a 'military' secret. But, the result was clear and unequivocal. The punishment was rescinded and the girls went home, happy."

Esther Levit was the chairperson of WIZO Metulla for many years. In 1977 on Israeli Independence Day she received the Israel Prize for her life's work in volunteering.

This article was taken from the 45th World WIZO Bible Day Book "WIZO - The Stories behind the Story"

Original material:

Ruth Seligman, "Distinguished Women of Israel", Tel Aviv: Education Department, World WIZO, 1979.

Mark Shutzman, "Esther Levit /The Aunt from Metulla", Israel: Mark Shutzman, 1997.





A Midsummer Night's Dream

As the sun set against the backdrop of Tel Aviv's skyline, some three hundred people gathered in the grounds of the Eretz Yisrael Museum just outside Tel Aviv for WIZO Israel's annual major fundraiser.



David Sebba conducts the Raanana Symphonette Orchestra at WIZO Israel's gala fundraiser

Over half a million shekels were raised from attendees at the evening and donations from WIZO Israel's regular and committed supporters – both individual donors and Israel's business community.

Proceeds will go to women and children at risk and WIZO Israel's numerous projects for the benefit of Israel's underprivileged citizens.

A sumptuous buffet dinner was served by celebrity chef Moshe Segev, who volunteered his services, as did compère for the evening, actress Galit Giat.

The Raanana Symphonette Orchestra, under the direction of conductor David Sebba, delighted the audience with their varied musical repertoire, and when they accompanied renowned Israeli singer Kobi Aflalo.

WIZO Israel Chairperson Gila Oshrat announced that Haim Cohen, CEO of Dun and Bradstreet Israel will take over from Attorney Gidon Fisher as WIZO Israel's campaign chairman.

Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Huldai thanked WIZO for its integral role in the education of Tel Aviv's children, emphasizing that the organization plays a major part in the basic network of services to the needy in the town.



(l to r) Prof Rivka Lazovsky, Gila Oshrat, Gidon Fisher, Mayor Ron Huldai, Dafna Fisher, Tova Ben-Dov, Haim Cohen

Mission to Poland

WIZO Israel Chairperson Gila Oshrat led a WIZO Israel delegation to Poland to commemorate both a thousand years of Jewish history in Europe and honour the memory of the once vibrant WIZO Poland Federation, most of

whose members were annihilated with Polish Jewry in the Holocaust. The trip included visits to major Polish cities, the Majdanek and Auschwitz-Birkenau death camps, as well as Jewish synagogues and cemeteries.

Throughout the trip, Gila Oshrat described the former Polish federation's history and its important work after the War until it closed down.

To the surprise of the participants, she shared moving portions of letters that were found in the Zionist Archives in Jerusalem. Highlights from the visit included a service that focused on heroic women during the Holocaust, meeting a member of the 'Righteous among the Nations,' and a visit with the Israeli Ambassador to Poland, Zvi Rav-Ner. The delegation also met with members of the local Jewish community, with whom they discussed the possibility of reviving WIZO Poland.

Summarizing the importance of the Poland mission, Gila Oshrat said, "We returned from Poland as different women. While we came to Poland to honour the memory of the destroyed Jewish communities and the annihilated WIZO federation, the goal of this trip was also to spread the seeds of WIZO in Poland and to ensure that the continuity of the Jewish people will never be broken."



WIZO Israel delegation visiting death camps in Poland



Gila Oshrat (r) with a member of 'The Righteous Among the Nations'

WIZO Israel AGM

Hundreds of WIZO branch chairpersons, executive members, chaverot and volunteers attended the WIZO Israel Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Kibbutz Shefayim, the gathering considered by many as the highlight of yearly activities. After the morning's heart-warming reception, where members from around the country exchanged hugs and smiles, WIZO Israel Chairperson Gila Oshrat officially opened the meeting and welcomed guests. In her opening remarks, Oshrat commended chaverot for their industriousness and activity, their continued generosity and support, their tireless efforts and their steadfastness in the face of the year's many difficult challenges.

Oshrat gave a review of WIZO Israel's yearly activities, which remained impressive despite the budget cuts and a difficult economic climate. WIZO Israel's accomplishments included surpassing its fundraising goals for 2012 as well as recruiting 1562 new members, tallying WIZO's total membership in Israel at over 50,000. Oshrat called for the continued recruitment of the next generation of WIZO chaverot, asserting that these new recruits would be the driving force and lifeblood behind WIZO activities.

Numerous activities

Oshrat was also pleased to report significant developments in a variety of WIZO projects, including expanding the "An Hour with a Child" programme to 13 new branches, providing over 600 children with Bar and Bat Mitzvah ceremonies, and over 1400 women with special training through a joint Microsoft-WIZO women's advancement initiative.

One of the highlights of the AGM was the attendance of Health Minister Yael German, who shared with gathered chaverot that her first steps towards becoming a member of Knesset included enrolling in a WIZO course on women's leadership. The Health Minister also touched on a subject that earned her a place in media headlines—namely, the fact that she employs a female driver. German recounted to enraptured chaverot that after conducting an investigation, she found that there are no female drivers employed by the state's driving service; therefore, to show her support for equality in the workplace, she hired a female driver.

A well-known theatre group portrayed true emotional stories of three women from WIZO branches who had benefitted from WIZO services, and following a fascinating lecture about women's role in the Bible, the conference ended with a rousing communal sing-song led by popular celebrities Rama Messinger and Israel Gurion.



Health Minister Yael German emphasizing a point



At WIZO Israel's AGM: chaverot from all over the country fill the hall

Tourism Ministry Wins WIZO 'Shame Award'

What does it mean to be a woman in 2013? While International Women's Day saw Rabin Square and other locations across Israel fill with lectures, debates and events addressing this important question, the day also bore a particularly scathing mark of shame: for the first time, a government TV commercial 'won' WIZO's annual 'Shame Award' for most sexist advertisement of the year.



Beating out hundreds of other degrading advertisements, the Tourism Ministry's 'Everyone Brings a Friend' advertisement was selected as the most sexist advert of 2012. The contentious commercial features Israeli actress Noa Tishbi lying helplessly in a trim dress while wearing an IDF soldier's helmet; viewers are told to help Tishbi defend Israel, not by fighting, but by bringing tourists. The commercial depicts Tishbi as someone who cannot adequately perform a man's duty – in this case defending Israel – and instead reduces her ability to protect the Jewish state to boosting tourism.

WIZO Israel Chairperson Gila Oshrat slammed the commercial for sending the "outdated message that women's roles in society are limited to traditional norms. In an age of combat women fighters, working just as hard beside their [male] counterparts, this is absolutely appalling."

'Smart' Classroom at Hadassim

WIZO's Hadassim Children and Youth Village was honoured to be the first school to receive a 'smart' classroom as part of Samsung Israel's digital classrooms initiative. Samsung CEO Tzoi personally flew in to Israel to attend a special inauguration ceremony for the high-tech room, where both he and World WIZO Education Division Chair Dr. Carmela Dekel jointly cut the ribbon, officially opening the classroom for student use.

Samsung Israel Marketing Manager Anna Lipnik-Levy described the importance of providing Israeli students with access to cutting-edge technologies, explaining how students would benefit from this "new and exciting platform for their studies," which will equip them with the "technological knowledge that today is becoming standard."

Chess at WIZO Schools

In partnership with the Israel Chess Federation, WIZO launched a new educational chess initiative at its five youth villages. Taught by professionals from the Israel Chess Federation, the project will provide regular chess courses to students from 1st through 12th grade.

The chess project, which came to fruition thanks to the joint efforts of World WIZO President Tova Ben-Dov and Israel Chess Federation Chairperson Moshe Shalev and Director General Almog, was officially launched at the newly renovated WIZO Nir Ha'Emek School and Youth Village auditorium.

Culture and Sports Minister Limor Livnat added her support, hailing the 'game of kings' for aiding the "development of thought processes," as well as "strategic thought, perseverance and self-discipline."

One of the high lights of the ceremony included International Grandmaster Sofia Polgar Kosashvili (a former gold-winning

Chess Olympian) playing chess against twelve excited WIZO students simultaneously.

Following the launch of the chess programme, 44 students from participating WIZO schools were invited to compete in a year-end seven-hour chess tournament. WIZO Hadassim took first place in the tournament, WIZO Nir Ha'Emek came in at a close second, and WIZO Nahalal and WIZO Gan Ve'Nof took third and fourth place respectively.



WIZO students competing at the chess tournament

Awards for WIZO Nahalal

WIZO's Nahalal Youth Village recently won two impressive education awards: the Educational Non-Profit Organization in Israel awarded the school's Academy for Social Leadership the Joyce and Reuven Yehuda Prize for 'autonomic, educational creativity in Israel,' and the school received the award for the 'most outstanding boarding school' from the Ministry of Education's Administration for Rural Education and Youth Aliyah Education.

World WIZO Executive Chairperson Rivka Lazovsky praised WIZO Nahalal at the Yehuda Prize ceremony, expressing her pride that the school was "one of three education institutions awarded this prize for groundbreaking education initiatives." She went on to laud the efforts of Nahalal's staff, complimenting them on their hard work to "develop and strengthen the position of the school through quality education."

WIZO Nahalal also received its due share of praise at the Education Ministry's Youth Aliyah and Rural Education Administration's awards ceremony. In presenting WIZO Nahalal with the award for most outstanding residential boarding school, the judges' committee commented on the youth village's "nurturing educational environment," its "atmosphere of courtesy and mutual respect," and its many social programmes, which "foster values, build self-efficacy, prevent dropouts and increase matriculation."

World WIZO Education Division Director Dr. Michal Rotem extended her deepest congratulations to WIZO Nahalal

Director Doron Hushmend and Boarding School Director David Horesh, as well as their dedicated staff, for their astounding success. "They are building a warm home for students at the boarding school. This award is a personal prize for David Horesh, an educator who has linked his life with youth for whom fate has dealt a cruel blow. His leadership serves as a role model to all his team."



At the Ministry of Education Awards Ceremony: Professor Rivka Lazovsky (l) with Yuval Savion, initiator and coordinator of the Social Leadership programme at WIZO Nahalal

Nahalal Student Overcomes Disability

Despite being stricken with muscular dystrophy, 19-year-old WIZO Nahalal Youth Village student Yuval Shitrit has never allowed her illness to stop her from accomplishing anything she sets her mind to.

One of these achievements includes Yuval joining her classmates on an international trip to Poland, during which the tenacious teenager crossed yet another goal off her list when her classmates elected her to be the student representative to officiate at their graduation ceremony.

Like the other girls in her class, Yuval arrived at the ceremony in a beautiful dress. The crowd was visibly moved as Yuval ascended to the stage on a ramp placed especially to accommodate her wheelchair. "It's fun but sad to graduate," Yuval said afterwards. "I was happy to officiate. I feel like I'm on cloud nine. Throughout the ceremony, I felt the same as everyone else."

Currently, the ambitious Yuval is already mulling over her next goal: to serve in an elite army unit.



Against all the odds - Yuval Shitrit at student graduation ceremony

Child Development Division Opened

WIZO was pleased to partner with the Sderot Municipality and the Gvanim non-profit organization to inaugurate the Child Development Division at the Open House for the Early Age Group Centre in Sderot. Now that the Child Development Division will be operated out of the Open House, Sderot residents will be able to enjoy full early childhood education community services at one location. While the Open House provides enrichment programmes for parents and children, as well as training courses for educators, the Child Development Division provides families with developmental evaluation and therapy services for their children.

Sderot Education Department Director Miriam Sasi touched on the importance of "building up a wholesome generation" in precisely Sderot, the ongoing target of relentless rocket attacks from Gaza. "To be in Sderot is a mission in itself," she said. "The 'House' is a temple of good will, faith and a professional establishment, within an atmosphere of love."

Rounding out Sasi's sentiments, the father of a six-year-old boy under the care of the Child Development Division and a WIZO 'From Risk to Opportunity' programme, described the assistance his family received: "The relatively early detection of my son's difficulty led him to receive therapy throughout the years. We were also given parental guidance by a psychologist, which helped us to raise both our son, and our other children. For one year, our son was in a special education kindergarten in Sderot, combined with a regular kindergarten, and now he is about to join the first grade in a regular elementary school. I want to thank you all."



Children entertaining guests at the opening of the Child Development Division, Sderot. Far right, Anat Lerner, Open House Director, center, Sara Hirshfeld, kindergarten teacher



At the opening of the Child Development Division, Sderot (l to r) Freida Colan, Child Development Division Director, Prof Rivka Lazovsky, Dr Nomi Moreno, Director, World WIZO Early Age Division



Jerusalem Day Concert

The WIZO Parents' Home in Tel Aviv celebrated Jerusalem Day in particular style this year, dazzling its senior residents and their families with a festive concert by the Israel Police Orchestra. Made up of twenty policemen, the orchestra charmed and dazzled Parents' Home residents with a medley of songs about Jerusalem.

The concert was particularly moving for one of the centre's residents, Bella Zetler, 93, who was involved with her husband in underground activities in Jerusalem in 1948. "It is so sad that my husband, who fought his whole life for Jerusalem, could not be here today, with the Israel Police on Jerusalem Day. I was truly blessed to have been here."

Director of the WIZO Parents' Home Shmuel Sadan also thanked the Israel Police, not only for "strengthening their bonds with senior citizens by devoting their time to this exciting Jerusalem Day event," but also for "making every effort to prevent violence against the elderly."



Israel Police Orchestra entertaining residents of WIZO's Parents' Home in a festive Jerusalem Day concert

Jerusalem Youth Council Elections

WIZO was proud to participate in this year's Jerusalem's Municipal Student and Youth Council elections, a youth leadership initiative that operates under the sponsorship of the Centre for Youth Leadership in the Haberer Community Centre, sponsored by WIZO Switzerland.

World WIZO Chairperson Professor Rivka Lazovsky visited the elections in Jerusalem, where she was pleased to note that "two thirds of the members of the council are girls... and that three girls have been elected to leading positions on the council." She went on to congratulate the newly-



The new Jerusalem Youth Council – (centre) Prof Rivka Lazovsky, Nir Barkat

elected council and express WIZO's pride at taking "part in developing quality youth leadership in Jerusalem."

Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat also visited the elections, where he imparted words of wisdom to the candidates: "As public representatives, we have a responsibility, and you now have much power in your hands to bring change and to influence the lives of our city's youth. You are the future generation, and it is important that we in the municipality hear your voices and take your views seriously."

The mayor also addressed the newly elected chairman, Idan Levy, personally: "Youth are the oxygen for the future of the city. During the course of your leadership, you will have a lot of power to change and influence the youth in the city. I look forward to working with you and wish you much success."

WIZO First in Film

Eleven-year-old Aharon Engel made WIZO proud when he won the International Animated Film Association (ASIFA) competition for young film makers. Aharon received his animation education and created the film at WIZO's Helena Kagan Community Centre for Youth and Communications, which offers the only educational animation studio of its kind in Israel.

Aharon's film, 'Wild Kids,' beat 103 animated films from 57 different countries, winning best film in the category of adolescent youth. The six-minute film tells Aharon's personal story as a new child who comes to the animation studio and has to cope with his fears and apprehension, as well as the difficulty of acclimatizing – until he is accepted.

Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat congratulated WIZO Kagan Centre Director Yochai Rottenberg and Art Director Max Epstein on their success and thanked them for their development of animation studies and their contributions to the city's children and youth.

The Helena Kagan animation studio addresses society's lack of creativity and deficiency in creating new ideas by providing children the opportunity to learn animation from top class artists. As Epstein puts it, "We do not have teachers and pupils; we have young artists and experienced artists. The teaching artists both teach and learn from the children, their feelings, their dreams. This is the starting point of every one of our films."



Aharon Engel (2nd left) winner of the ASIFA animated film competition

Fashionable Fundraising

Over 100 guests, including businesswomen, diplomats, well known-Israeli personalities and supporters enjoyed Friends of WIZO's 10th Annual Sponsor A Child fashion show and luncheon, which this year featured Gottex's 2013 swimsuit collection.

Friends of WIZO Chairperson Betty Crystal took the opportunity to announce the launch of the group's 10th anniversary fundraising campaign, whose one million shekel goal will fund the renovation of the WIZO Biranit Day Care Centre, situated in a low socio-economic area of south Tel Aviv.

Luncheon guests were joined by World WIZO President Tova Ben-Dov, Executive Chairperson Professor Rivka Lazovsky, and many members of the World WIZO Executive.

Founded in 2004, Friends of WIZO is a lively group of women who raise funds for WIZO through social and cultural events. Tova Ben-Dov described the group as "true philanthropists with Zionist hearts," while Prof Rivka Lazovsky referred to them as "role models for our volunteers around the world." The yearly fashion show is the culmination of tireless work and planning, with special thanks going to WIZO Friends members Sara Yuval and Nurit Gilboa, who promoted and marketed this year's event.

Special thanks also goes to Gottex Swimwear, who in addition to organizing the fashion show, donated 30 bathing suits to girls at risk at WIZO Hadassim Youth Village.



Modelling the latest swimwear at Friends of WIZO fundraiser



Friends of WIZO organizing committee



A Visit to a WIZO Project...

...is worth 3000 euros. This is the amount of money personally raised by WIZO Frankfurt member Liliane Narell on her return home after visiting two WIZO projects with Beit Heuss Chairperson Saya Malkin. Liliane visited both Beit Heuss and the Beit Peru Day Care Centre, whose director is of Ethiopian origin. Liliane was so impressed by what she saw and experienced that she invited some friends to her home, told them about the visit and showed them two short WIZO films, one on Beit Heuss and one on the WIZO summer camp held for Ethiopian families last summer. And the result was...3000 euros!



Liliane Narell (r) with Beit Peru Day Care Centre Director, Herut Zaro

International Good Deeds Day

International Good Deeds Day is marked around the world by citizens helping the less fortunate people in their country – and Israel is no exception. This year, a group of youngsters on an overseas programme in Israel marked the day by painting and brightening up one of WIZO's women's centres. The group was so overwhelmed by their reception at the centre that they wrote a thank you letter to WIZO!

To the WIZO Organization:

We are a group of young people from the USA, Canada and Argentina. We belong to a Community Involvement programme in Kibbutz Kfar Masaryk, [in the north of Israel] Israel Way, Oranim project, which is one of the Jewish Agency Masa groups. We spend five to ten months in Israel getting to know the country, studying Hebrew and getting acquainted with our Jewish heritage.

During Good Deeds Day, we helped paint the walls of the WIZO women's centre in Kiryat Yam [near Haifa]. We knew how important it would be to restore a building where women and children come to create brighter futures for their communities.

The ladies who run the WIZO centre, Ora the chairwoman of the Kiryat Yam branch and Nitza the secretary, blessed us with tallitot and prayer books. We were so thankful for their generosity and they were so grateful for our help. Overall it was a day of generosity and reciprocity.

It has truly been a mitzvah to work with WIZO on Good Deeds Day here in Israel, trying to bring light with the help of a little paint. We would all love to see the WIZO centre in Kiryat Yam prosper.

Thank You WIZO

The Oranim Volunteers.

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ARGENTINA

Active Argentina

WIZO Argentina has had a busy and activity filled year! Highlights from the year include the 'The Magic of Perfume' presentation by WIZO Argentina President Nicole Kovalivker, lunch at the residence of the new Israeli Ambassador to Argentina Dorit Shavit and the annual WIZO-OSFA Congress. In addition, Nicole Kovalivker was one of those honoured to light one of the torches at the Jewish community Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration.



Nicole Kovalivker presents the 'Magic of Perfume'



Lighting the torch in honour of WIZO at Community Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration

AUSTRALIA

Girls' Night Out

Melbourne's dynamic Aviv girls pulled off another fun-filled 'Girls' Night Out' event, the group's annual dancing, dining and fashion extravaganza. This year, 150 guests turned out for a night filled with professional hair and makeup advice, delicious food, African drummers, DJs and henna. At the end of the lively evening, each guest went home with an incredible goodie bag. The memorable night was described by attendees as an evening of pure fun and limitless laughter!



Enjoying the Girls' Night Out (l-r) Hilary Cohen, Giselle Berlinski, Michal Saben, Leanne Lits

New Horizon Club

WIZO New South Wales has launched a unique new fundraising initiative, the New Horizon Club, which allows members to sign up in advance for a series of events throughout the year. The series' inaugural event was a fully booked, exclusive lunch by celebrity chef Mark Best at his restaurant, Marque. Guests enjoyed champagne, a four-course meal and an intimate conversation with Mark about his life. In addition, the esteemed chef honoured the ladies by sharing some of his secret cooking tips.

Other events in the series include courses on Vietnamese cooking, flower-arrangement on a budget and interior design, as well as an engaging breakfast and discussion with a leading psychologist, and even a talk on travelling to Myanmar. All participating speakers and venues generously volunteered their services enabling all proceeds to go directly to WIZO.



New Horizon Club: Chef's Table with celebrity chef Mark Best and WIZO Australia members

WIZO Rachel Lunch

Famous for their wonderful lunches and engaging guest speakers, Sydney's WIZO Rachel's lunch and lecture with distinguished physician Dr. Kerryn Phelps was no exception. The doctor spoke to WIZO members about how to achieve more than just good health, but overall wellness. Guests

were also delighted to hear about WIZO's important work in Israel. The event proved both a social and financial success. Funds raised from the lunch will support the renovation of the kitchen at WIZO Australia's day care centre in Rishon Le Zion.



At the Rachel Luncheon (l to r) Norma Hoffman, Barbara Cohen, Eva Fischl OAM, President WIZO Australia Gilla Liberman

Addicted to Quilt-making

Members of WIZO Queensland and WIZO Western Australia are continuing a fifteen-year tradition – or as one member puts it, an 'addiction' – namely, the making of quilts for children at WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim Boarding School in Haifa. The school, which has a special place in the hearts of all WIZO Australia members and is the federation's flagship project, is a specialized residential therapeutic facility for children who suffer from behavioural or emotional problems. The goal of the project is to provide every child at Ahuzat Yeladim with a personal quilt, a token of comfort that the children will take with them after graduating.



Yossi Saragossi, director of WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim, proudly holds a beautiful quilt

Paying Tribute to Miriam

WIZO South Australia paid tribute to Miriam Millingen, the first Aviv representative to the World WIZO Executive, who stepped down as president of WIZO South Australia this year, for her years of exemplary and devoted service.



(l-r) Miriam Millingen, WIZO Australia President Gilla Liberman, Rob Millingen

AUSTRIA

Important Medical Research

As an active partner in the Austrian Society for Gender Specific Medicine, WIZO was once again very prominent in the 6th annual meeting of the society, held in Vienna.

The main subject of this year's conference was gender specific differences in mental disturbances occurring during childhood and adolescence.

The keynote speaker was Mickie Doron from Bar Ilan University in Israel and a graduate of WIZO Hadassim. Doron spoke about gender aspects in eating disturbances of adolescents in Israel, based on his own experience. The high level of his lecture and his enthusiastic speech was a great source of pride for Israel and for WIZO.

All speakers and attendees agreed that this is a subject which needs much more research as differences in gender specific medicine are apparent from a very early age.

Professor Dr. Jeanette Strametz-Juranek, founder and first president of the society presented WIZO Austria President Dr. Hava Bugajer with an award for her and WIZO's achievements.



(l to r) Rita Dauber (WIZO Austria), Dr. Pamela Rendi-Wagner Chief of the Department for Public Health and Medicine in the Austrian Ministry of Health, Mickie Doron, Dr. Hava Bugajer, Shiraz Doron, medical student and daughter of Mickie Doron



BELGIUM

Belgium

Thanks to dynamic chapter presidents Varda Cywie (Liege) and Isabelle Steinkalik (Brussels), WIZO Belgium has been bursting with activity and energy. Highlights from the busy year include a 'Café Philo' philosophy basics seminar with Professor Emeritus of Philosophy Jacques Sojcher, as well as cooking classes, book clubs and bridge afternoons. The group also attended a variety of educational conferences, including one hosted by the Italian ambassador to Brussels, toured art museums and visited the new Jewish memorial in Kazerne Dossin. Last but certainly not least, the chaverot also held the Antwerp clothing sale, which was a stunning financial and social success.



WIZO Belgium chaverot enjoying a cooking class



Plenty to buy at the WIZO Belgium Antwerp clothing sale

BRAZIL

Council Meeting

Twenty-three chaverot from across Brazil met in Curitiba for the annual WIZO Brazil Council meeting. The atmosphere was friendly and productive, and the council successfully planned a variety of activities for 2013. The chaverot bonded over their commitment to Israel and their shared passion for developing WIZO Brazil.



Chaverot attending WIZO Brazil Council meeting

Honouring Zila Sauer

WIZO Brazil honours the legacy of the late Zilda Sauer, a chavera who embodied the very essence of WIZO. Always on the go, dedicated to the principles of Judaism and Zionism and fearless in the face of life's challenges, WIZO Brazil will sorely miss Zilda's leadership and dedication.



Zilda Sauer (r) with her best friend Clara Novikov

Brasilia

Holocaust Exhibition

Over 11,000 visitors viewed the popular Curitiba Holocaust Museum exhibition 'Just Children: Childhoods Stolen by the Holocaust.' The exhibition was co-sponsored by WIZO Brazil, WIZO Brasilia, the Curitiba Holocaust Museum, the Federal Senate and the Israeli Embassy. Following a well-attended opening event, WIZO Brazil hosted a lunch at the home of chavera Ilana Trombka, where WIZO Brazil President Helena Kelner made a presentation to Curitiba Holocaust Museum Curator Carlos Reiss for his important work, and to Yoram Zalmon, assistant to Senator Flexa Ribeiro, who sponsored the exhibition at the Senate.



At the Curitiba Holocaust Museum Exhibition: (l to r) Carlos Reiss, Helena Grimbaum, Batia Eldad wife of the Israeli Ambassador, Rachel Abitbol Raschkovsky, Helena Kelner, Maria Auxiliadora Buelli, Ilana Trombka, Miguel Krigsner, Érica Saubermann Alem

Israel's 65th Birthday

In partnership with the Brasília Cultural Israel Association, WIZO Brasilia hosted a lively Yom Ha'atzmaut party. The celebration included a visit and speech from journalist Jaime Spitzcovsky, who gave an update on the current situation in Israel. WIZO Brasilia was also happy to welcome Alon Lavi, First Secretary of the Israeli Embassy.

Minas Gerais

Hands-On Chanukah

Children made their own hanukiyot (Chanukah lamps) at WIZO Minas Gerais' lively Chanukah party, while Rabbi Leonardo Alanati enlightened guests with a talk on the significance of the Festival of Lights.

Paraná

Honouring Dedication and Service

WIZO Brazil President Helena Kelner honoured several members of WIZO Paraná for their outstanding dedication to WIZO and Israel. She presented Honorary WIZO Brazil member Helena Grimbaum with flowers, while awarding her husband Samuel a diploma declaring him a WIZO chaver. Alegre Bonfmann, a cherished chavera from Paraná, was presented with a WIZO necklace for many years of commitment to WIZO and Israel.



At the Paraná awards ceremony: (l-r) Helena Grimbaum, Helena Kelner, Alegre Bronfmann, WIZO Paraná President Elisabeth Kulisch

Rio Grande do Sul

Israeli Dancing 101

The innovative WIZO Rio Grande do Sul chapter launched a new project for its members, 'Dancing WIZO'. Every week, chaverot gather together for an evening of Israeli dancing, socialising and fun.



WIZO Rio Grande do Sul members show off their moves at a weekly Israeli dancing class

Rio de Janeiro

Celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut

With their hearts full of emotion and their hands grasping blue and white flags, WIZO Rio de Janeiro celebrated Israel's 65th birthday. The packed Yom Ha'atzmaut event had many highlights, including the singing of both the Brazilian and Israeli national anthems and a movie screening about the chapter's many accomplishments. Community leaders in attendance included Israeli Ambassador to Brazil Rafael Eldad and his wife Batia, the Honorary Rio de Janeiro Consul of Israel Osias Wurman, and Congressman Gerson Bergher and his wife Teresa, as well as FIERJ president Jayme Salim Salomão.



(l-r) WIZO Brazil President Helena Kelner, WIZO Rio de Janeiro President Lúcia Balassiano, Rafael Eldad, Batia Eldad, WIZO Rio de Janeiro Vice President Ruth Cohen, Osias Wurman



São Paulo

Art Contest

In conjunction with the São Paulo Education Department, WIZO São Paulo held a drawing and painting contest with the theme of 'Jerusalem-Brasília, History and the Modern World,' with the winning student and her teacher awarded a three-day trip to Brasília. Batia Eldad, wife of Israel's Ambassador to Brazil, attended the award-giving ceremony, where she thanked participants for their enthusiasm for getting to know Israel, a country small in size but big in potential.



Award giving ceremony at State of São Paulo Legislative Assembly

International Women's Day

WIZO São Paulo celebrated International Women's Day by honouring two WIZO chaverot: Lea Della Casa Mingione, founder of GRAAC, a support group for teenagers and children with cancer, and Rosa Garfinkel, a dedicated WIZO São Paulo activist.



(l-r standing) WIZO Brazil President Helena Kelner, Israeli Ambassador's wife Batia Eldad, Rosa Garfinkel's daughter Stela Blay, Lea Della Casa Mingione, WIZO São Paulo President Iza Mansur, Regina Hamer, WIZO São Paulo directors Margarida Grin, Noemia Hotimsky, Rosa Garfinkel (seated)

Santa Catarina

A Chanukah to Remember

This year, WIZO Santa Catarina celebrated its first Chanukah in the chapter's new WIZO headquarters. With help and participation of local WIZO members and Hashomer Ha'tzair, the Festival of Lights proved to be a fun-filled and meaningful celebration. In a decorated hall, WIZO organized a special Chanukah party for children. The event included music from a choir guided by Ricardo Levi as well as an interactive telling of the Chanukah story. Against the backdrop of dozens of glowing candles, the living and vibrant Judaism of the small Santa Catarina Jewish community was palpable!

CANADA

Annual General Meeting

At Canada Hadassah WIZO's annual general meeting, Executive Director Alina Ianson presented the auditor's financial statement, while National President Marla Dan shared stories on Israeli children whose lives have been changed by CHW's activities. Toronto Atid's Martha Drassinower spoke on taking part in a CHW mini-mission to Israel, where she witnessed first-hand the impact of CHW's work. As Martha shared some of her photographs from the trip, her love of Israel and passion for CHW were palpable to all assembled.



CHW members visit CHW-sponsored Sandy Martin Alberta Day Care Centre. (l to r) Day Care Centre Director Raheli Kokavi, Marla Dan, Alina Ianson, Martha Drassinower, CHW Israel Representative Haley Burkes

Girls Gone Glam

Judging by the success of CHW's Yasmin Chapter's very first Girls Gone Glam fundraising event, the evening of wining, dining and fashion is sure to become a reoccurring affair! The over 150 guests in attendance were invited to bid on a variety of incredible items in a silent auction and to treat themselves to a delicious dessert buffet and wine bar. A roaming photographer, great music and fabulous raffle prizes made it a night to remember.



CHW Glamour Girls! (l-r) Joanna Micner, Rebecca Morris, Jamie Marian, Michelle Sterescu, Erin Walderman, Erica Jacobs, Shari Zimmerman Miller

CHILE

Experience Israel

WIZO Chile hosted a children's educational stand at a community Yom Ha'atzmaut event, where children were invited to experience the different facets of Israeli life—everything from the religiousness of Jerusalem to the communal spirit of the kibbutz.



Children take part in WIZO Chile's 'Experience Israel' stand

Welfare and Happiness

WIZO Chile chaverot attended an enlightening seminar given by Dr. Daniel Martinez on world welfare and happiness, where Dr. Martinez spoke on the importance of promoting these values in public policy and academia.

COLOMBIA

Inaugural Open Bridge Tournament

Over 140 people attended WIZO Colombia's first ever Sara Mekler Open Bridge Tournament, a record for the federation. The bridge tournament included raffles, prizes and an impressive assortment of desserts and teas. The tournament is named in honour of the late WIZO Colombia President Sara Mekler, z"l who will never be forgotten.

Annual Bridge Open

In partnership with the Centro Israelita De Bogota, WIZO Bogota hosted its annual Ana Sredni Bridge Open, made possible by a generous donation from the Sredni family in loving memory of their mother, Ana Sredni z"l. The 102 guests in attendance enjoyed a delicious lunch followed by a stimulating afternoon of playing bridge.



Guests play bridge at WIZO Bogota's annual Ana Sredni Bridge Open

Cooking Class

WIZO Bogota was proud to host an intimate mother-daughter cooking class for Bat Mitzvah-aged girls. Participating mother-daughter duos couldn't help but notice the experience and thoughtfulness that Denise Camhi and Sonia Gritz brought to the lesson, as well as the knowledge and tradition shared by Rabbi Avi Amsalem and his wife Keren. WIZO Bogota wishes all Bat Mitzvah girls of 2013 a hearty 'Mazal Tov!'

Traditional WIZO Bazaar

It's hard to say who most enjoyed WIZO Colombia's bazaar: mothers, eager to peruse various stands selling jewellery, clothing and more; children, tugging at their parents to join them on bouncy castles; or fathers, who couldn't help but be delighted at the sight of an exceptional kosher lunch. All were greeted by the infectious smile and charm of WIZO Colombia veteran Mrs. Mariane May, who welcomed guests and sold entrance tickets. With an orchestra playing Colombian music in the background, all guests paused in the festivities to enjoy mouth-watering desserts prepared by WIZO members and supporters.

COSTA RICA

Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration

WIZO Costa Rica President Anita Ligat, Vice President Bertha Ickowicz and chaverot attended the Israeli Embassy's 65th Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration. Children from the local Jewish school and the Escuela De Estado De Israel, an elementary school connected to WIZO Costa Rica, also attended the festivities.



WIZO Costa Rica chaverot pose beside an Israeli Embassy floral arrangement in honour of Yom Ha'atzmaut, (l-r) Bertha Ickowicz, Anita Ligator, Noemy Baruch, Rivka Saban, wife of the Israeli Ambassador

CZECH REPUBLIC

Charity Bazaar

After witnessing the toll Gaza rockets took on southern Israel during Operation Pillar of Defence, WIZO Czech Republic held a charity bazaar to fund rocket protection for these vulnerable Israelis. The bazaar, organized in cooperation with the Czech website www.fler.cz, sold jewellery, toys, accessories and other goods.



WIZO Czech Republic's bazaar in support of southern Israel

DENMARK

Stylish Brunch

Thirty women of all ages attended WIZO Denmark's Stylish Brunch fundraiser, where mother-daughter fashion duo Annette and Yael Freifeldt treated guests to a talk on personal style. Both women have impressive fashion credentials: for the past twenty years, Annette has headed her father Celli Freifeld's high-end tailoring company, whose exclusive clientele include the Danish royals, while Yael has managed

PR for a host of up-and-coming fashion companies. While listening to the Freifeldt's 'Ten Commandments of Good Style,' guests were treated to smushies, a new take on the traditional Danish smørrebrød, and delicious, home-made cupcakes.



Yael Freifeldt, the youngest of three generations of the Freifeldt family, who have influenced Danish fashion and style

FINLAND

Aviv Cocktail Hour

WIZO Finland hosted a pleasant cocktail party to introduce the new Aviv Helsinki group to WIZO in a relaxed atmosphere. As Aviv women are typically at the busiest times of their lives in terms of career and family, Aviv representative Natalie Ref and hostess Sofia Drufva-Nadbornik illustrated how charity and fundraising work can be done on a small budget and with modest time investment. As the evening commenced and Avivs learned how to make a few classic cocktails, the ladies began to ask questions and learn more about WIZO's important work in Israel.



(l-r) Sofia Drufva-Nadbornik, Natalie Ref at the WIZO Aviv Helsinki cocktail party

FRANCE

Casino Evening

WIZO France hosted its unforgettable casino evening at the Hôtel de Ville in Paris, one of the most beautiful French monuments. Guests were invited to play poker, black jack and roulette, while enjoying a delicious dinner and cocktails and listening to disco music from the sixties. The event was dedicated to raising funds for building a sports centre at the WIZO Maya Rosenberg High School in Rehovot.

Esteemed guests included Israeli Ambassador to France Yossi Gall and President of the Consistoire De France Mrs. Joel Mergui. Highlights from the evening included a highstakes lottery, whose first prize was a Citroen C1, a small city car perfect for Paris.



Paris WIZO Aviv members with Joëlle Lezmi, Ambassador Yossi Gal (centre), Director of Bank Hapoalim Eric Chichesporthiche (r)

Tova Offers Help

World WIZO President Tova Ben-Dov acceded to WIZO France President Joelle Lezmi's request to visit Paris to attend an Extraordinary Executive meeting to discuss the re-organization of the federation. President of WIZO Switzerland Anne Argi joined Tova at the well-attended meeting. WIZO France attendees were touched and heartened by the support they received from Tova and WIZO Switzerland during this time of great change.

Reflections of a President

In an interview for WIZO Review, outgoing WIZO France President Joelle Lezmi emphasized that WIZO France is determined to maintain its position in the large WIZO family. Joelle explains some aspects of the federation's re-organisation: their technology and computer systems should be modernized to enable members and branches to communicate with each other more effectively. The new president will have to concentrate on renewing and rejuvenating the membership database. Unfortunately, the 35-45 year age group is not as committed to Israel as the older generation.

Reflecting on her term as president of WIZO France, despite the difficulties, Joelle looks back on great service to the French Jewish community, high values of Judaism and Zionism, a huge amount of work, tremendous happiness and, above all, passion for Israel.

Farewell to Marseilles President

WIZO France's Marseilles group was sad to see Josette Guigui complete her term as Marseilles president, a time which saw the group infused with renewed passion and activity. Highlights from her tenure include a highly successful new membership campaign, a focus on Judaism and Jewish celebrations, successful fundraising efforts, and

the launching of several events that have already become institutions in the Marseilles Jewish Community, such as the book fair, a bridge contest and a solidarity dinner.



Josette Guigui

GERMANY

Lifestyle Boutique

WIZO Frankfurt launched a new fundraising project this year, the WIZO Lifestyle Boutique, a day-long holiday shopping event at the Frankfurt Hilton. Stepping in from the snow, shoppers perused a selection of fantastic items, ranging from chocolates and cashmere scarves to home décor and jewellery. Twenty percent of all proceeds were donated to the renovation of the Marie Sternberg Day Care Centre in Bat Yam.



Sonya Kraus (l) and WIZO Germany Past President Rachel Singer show off the fabulous items for sale at the first-ever WIZO Lifestyle Boutique event

Purim Party

The ever-active mothers of WIZO Frankfurt organized the annual Purim Lunarpark party at the Frankfurt Jewish Community Centre, which had been beautifully decorated for the occasion. As countless lions, princesses and supermen enjoyed themselves jumping rope, bouncing balloons and playing with a clown, parents seized the opportunity to relax and treat themselves to a variety of homemade cakes and goodies.



Children show off their costumes at the WIZO Germany Purim Lunarpark event

First Young WIZO Event

WIZO Frankfurt's Young WIZO group's first event was a bingo night organized by Nathalie Graumann, where women under the age of forty mingled and got to know one another. Among other subjects, the new members brainstormed ideas on how to assist WIZO Frankfurt in fulfilling its commitments to its many projects in Israel. If the vigour of the discussion is any measure of the potential of this new group, we should expect great innovation in the near future!



Young WIZO ladies enjoy drinks at the group's first ever event: (l to r) Nathalie Graumann, Dana Schuster, Natalie Sommer, Julia Pomer, Judith Tesler

Literary Evening

WIZO Frankfurt hosted a 'Love Is All You Need' literary evening at the Frankfurt Intercontinental Hotel. WIZO members and book lovers in attendance listened to humorous anecdotes about married life from authors Amelie Fried and her husband Peter Probst, as well as the songs of Reut, an Israeli singer who attended a WIZO day care centre as a child.

WIZO Germany Vice President Simone Graumann chaired the event, which will help support the Marie Sternberg Day Care Centre in Bat Yam.



Enjoying WIZO Frankfurt's literary event, (l to r) Thomas Hilberath, Rachel Singer, Dr. Michel Friedman, Diana Schnabel, Peter Probst, Amelie Fried, Bärbel Schäfer, Simone Graumann, Dr. Dieter Graumann

Sunday Brunch

Men, women and children from all walks of life enjoyed a gourmet buffet and fantastic desserts at WIZO Munich's Sunday brunch, held at the trendy Kafer restaurant. The brunch constitutes an innovative new fundraising concept, where donors and members are approached in a relaxed, joyful atmosphere. With special entertainment provided for the 38 children who accompanied their parents, the brunch met all expectations and was a great success.



WIZO Munich chaverot enjoying Sunday brunch event

Charity Fashion Show

In partnership with Veronica Pohle, owner of one of the most sought-after boutiques in Berlin, WIZO Berlin held a charity fashion show for Veronica's clients and WIZO friends. WIZO ladies modelled Veronica's fantastic pieces, and all of the proceeds from the show went to the renovation of the Marie Sternberg Day Care Centre in Bat Yam. The event,

organized by veteran WIZO member Tina Adlersztajn, was a social and financial success.



Tina Adlersztajn officiates at WIZO Berlin's charity fashion show

GREECE

Fiftieth Anniversary Party

Over 90 WIZO ladies gathered at the rooftop garden of a lovely seaside hotel near Athens to celebrate both WIZO Greece's 50th anniversary and Purim. The party was a great success, replete with delicious food, music and dancing, as well as a lottery of gifts generously supplied by WIZO members.



WIZO Greece President Heather Nahmias greets guests at the federation's 50th anniversary party

HOLLAND

A Special Achievement

Ella Edersheim, founder and first president of WIZO Holland, was awarded a place in a digital lexicon of 1001 Dutch women who played a vital role in Dutch history. In celebration of this honour, WIZO Holland invited two captivating speakers to their 65th annual meeting to give a talk on the lexicon, with special emphasis on two other Dutch Zionists who made the cut alongside Ella. Fifty people attended the talk and viewed the lexicon exhibition.



Ella Edersheim

HUNGARY

Israeli Independence & Holocaust Remembrance

As Israeli Independence Day and Hungarian Holocaust Memorial Day fell on the same day this year, WIZO Hungary members travelled to the small south-western town of Pécs to observe these holidays with the local Jewish community. After hearing several women share personal World War II stories about their families and the community, WIZO representatives placed stones on two important Holocaust monuments, the 'Sculpture of an Unknown Child,' and the 'Monument of Missing Jews.' WIZO representatives learned that local students demonstrated at the 'Unknown Child' monument against the spike in anti-Semitism recently witnessed in Hungary.



Sculpture of an Unknown Child in the Hungarian town of Pécs

WJC Meeting in Budapest

Because WIZO is entitled to three voting delegates at World Jewish Congress Plenaries - the World WIZO president and two local leaders from the WIZO federation in the host country - at the recent WJC meeting in Hungary, World WIZO President Tov Ben-Dov invited WIZO Hungary President Eva Lancz and WIZO Hungary Executive member Kate Koves to join her in representing WIZO at the Plenum.

In the face of an alarming spike in Hungarian anti-Semitism, the meeting was held in Budapest to show solidarity with Hungary's Jewish community. Tova made it a priority to spend individual time with the WIZO Hungary chaverot, learning their personal stories and the fates of their families during WWII, as well as intimate details of WIZO Hungary's important work in the local Jewish community, the majority of whom are Holocaust survivors and require special care. (Ed. Note – also see article on page 25)



(l-r) Eva Lancz, Tova Ben-Dov, Kate Koves

INDIA

Chaverot Meet Patricia Fine

WIZO India had the privilege of welcoming Patricia Fine, the former mayor of Cape Town from 1993-1995 and the first woman to be elected to the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce in 1984, to India. Mayor Fine had made the journey to India to join WIZO members and the Indian Jewish community to celebrate the first Bene-Israel wedding in Delhi for 50 years. WIZO India members considered themselves lucky to meet with Mayor Fine, and left the visit inspired by her stories, amazed by her leadership and strengthened by her friendship.



(l – r) WIZO India President Yael Jhirad, Mayor Patricia Fine, WIZO Aviv Member Judith Hillel

Movie Night

WIZO India hosted a screening of 'English Vinglish,' a 2012 Indian comedy-drama about an Indian housewife who endures daily slights from her well-educated husband and daughter because of her inability to speak English. The film, directed and written by Gauri Shinde, was well received at its premiere at the 2012 Toronto International Film Festival. WIZO India chaverot found inspiration in the way that a simple housewife was able to overcome challenges, glean insight and motivation from the film.

JAMAICA

Yom Ha'Shoah Service

WIZO Jamaica commemorated Yom Ha'Shoah by holding an intimate memorial service at the Dillsbury House. With tears welling in their eyes, guests lit candles and together whispered, "We light this candle in memory of the martyrs of the Holocaust, each known to You Adonai our God by name." The group also read the poem, 'The Butterfly, Gone Too Soon,' by eleven-year-old Pavel Friedman, written at the

Terezin Camp, where he tragically notes, "Butterflies don't live in here, in the ghetto." In the flickering light of six candles, the group reflected on the importance of cultivating hope for a better tomorrow and love for our fellow man.



WIZO Jamaica hosts a memorial service to commemorate those who died in the Holocaust. In front, 2nd from left WIZO Jamaica President Jennifer Lim

A Portrait of Evelyn

When WIZO Jamaica was established in January 1934, it was only natural that Evelyn Matalon would become one of its founding members. Born in 1916 in the beautiful coastal town of Belfast, Evelyn's father's family were Sephardi Jews who had relocated from Portugal around 1745. Her mother, originally from a village in the Ukraine, arrived in the United States in approximately 1898. When she met Evelyn's father, she decided to move to Jamaica with him.

In 1938, Evelyn met her first husband, Manny Henriques, with whom she had two boys, Ainsley and Richard. In 1946, Evelyn remarried to Zaky Matalon, with whom she had three children, David, Rosalie and Judith. After fifty-two wonderful years, her beloved Zaky passed on, leaving Evelyn to carry on their legacy. Her children's active roles in the Jewish community are a huge source of pride for Evelyn: David and Judith serve respectively as the President of the Board of Directors and Board Member for the local Shaare Shalom synagogue, while Ainsley serves as the Honorary Consul of Israel in Jamaica.



Evelyn Matalon

MEXICO

Annual Membership Campaign

'Because we are different, we are all the same,' was the theme of WIZO Mexico's annual membership campaign, which aimed to unify the diverse group of WIZO Mexico chaverot under the common goal of enlarging and strengthening the federation. Highlights from the event included a lecture by Dr. Martha Lamas, a leading anthropologist who works for both the Mexican Society for Women's Rights and Semillas, an organization that cares for women in the poorest, native communities.



Dr. Marta Lamas (l) and Membership Campaign President Esther Posternak at the WIZO Mexico annual membership campaign

Changing of Presidents

WIZO Mexico bid outgoing president Dr. Diana Kuba goodbye in style by taking her on a three-day trip and throwing her a moving goodbye party. Because Diana is a historian of Mexico, the group took her on a historic tour of Queretaro, the city where the Mexican War of Independence began. A month later, at their annual general assembly meeting, WIZO Mexico welcomed their new president Shulamith Shrem.



Wizo Mexico chaverot with Dr. Diana Kuba at her farewell celebration



New WIZO Mexico President

Born in Mexico City, Shulamith Shrem is married to Tony; they have four children and one baby granddaughter. She founded her WIZO Mexico Netzer group in 1987 and was president of the group from 1995-1997. She was president of WIZO Mexico's membership drive from 2000-2002, launching a special campaign for the younger generation. In 2000-2004, Shula was president of the federation's Sponsor A Child campaign. While in charge of WIZO Mexico's celebration for the bicentenary of Mexico's independence, she also successfully ran WIZO Mexico's Education Project. Shulamith Shrem brings a wealth of WIZO experience to the WIZO Mexico presidency.



New WIZO Mexico President Shulamith Shrem

Commemoration and Celebration

WIZO Mexico hosted moving commemorations and celebrations of Yom Ha'shoah, Yom Ha'atzmaut and Yom Yerushalayim. The group commemorated the Holocaust by inviting the children of survivors to light candles in honour of those who were massacred, followed by a screening of a documentary on Irena Sendler, a Holocaust hero who saved thousands of Jewish children. On Yom Ha'atzmaut, 102 chaverot attended a breakfast hosted by WIZO President Shulamith Shrem at her home. Highlights from the breakfast included the attendance of Yael Ashavit, a political advisor from the Israeli Embassy, while WIZO member Raquel Zetune brought a sefer torah donated specially for women as a symbol of their blessed work.

On Yom Yerushalayim, WIZO Mexico invited Rabbi Arturo

Kanner to speak on the spiritual significance of Israel and its existence. The event included an address from Cultural Committee Director Esther Romano and a poetry recitation from Adela Marcos.

Sponsor A Child

The theme of WIZO Mexico's annual Sponsor A Child event was 'We all smile in the same language.' The evening, organized by Liz Kohab, was a great social and financial success and will certainly succeed in placing smiles on the faces of children in need. Preceding the event, WIZO Mexico chaverot participated in a variety of teambuilding workshops and seminars on effective fundraising and non-profit organization management.

PANAMA

American Idol – WIZO Panama Style!

Emulating the now internationally popular TV talent contest, WIZO Panama's Chai Aviv chapter held its first "WIZO Idol" competition. Forty children aged 8-15 entered the competition, out of whom twelve finalists were chosen. At the final, 1,000 fans, all dressed in different colours according to which finalist they supported, cheered on their favourite.

At the end of the evening, a panel of three qualified judges chose the three winners. A great social and financial success for WIZO!



Cheering fans at the Panama WIZO Idol final

SOUTH AFRICA

Sponsor A Child Golf Day

Participants arriving at the King David Golf Club for Cape Town WIZO Bnoth Zion Association's annual Sponsor A Child Golf Day were greeted with smiles, freebies and assorted fruits and drinks. Local comedian K G Kagiso provided golfers with comic relief, while John Dory served sushi and Pick N Pay supplied WIZO's famous green goodie bags.



WIZO Cape Town chaverot at the annual Sponsor A Child Golf Day

Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebrations

Cape Town WIZO Bnoth Zion's Gilah Branch's smoked salmon bagels were great hits at the Ratanga Junction Theme Park Yom Ha'atzmaut community celebration, while in Johannesburg, WIZO ladies spent a wonderful morning at Inyoni Creek, where hostess Molly Jayes spoke about the centrality of Israel to WIZO members' lives. The event included a screening of a Theodor Herzl film, a song recital by Debbie Fleminger and Janice Lurie, and a lovely tea.



WIZO Johannesburg celebrates Yom Ha'atzmaut



WIZO Cape Town chaverot enjoy a lively Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration: Back Row: (l to r) Sandra Rubin, Ray Joselyn, Brenda Lobel, Ros Lewenson. Front Row: Hazel Berman, Sharon Cane, Adele Saven

WIZO Durban AGM

Because of the heartfelt passion that all chaverot harbour for WIZO, the theme of WIZO Durban's 79th annual general meeting was fittingly, 'Heart.' Highlights from the AGM included a heart to heart with former Durbanite and WIZO South Africa President Tamar Lazarus.



(l-r) Colleen Mervis, Tamar Lazarus, Michelle Nathan, Laurienne Baitz at WIZO Durban AGM

Johannesburg

Jerusalem Day Celebration

WIZO Johannesburg enjoyed a lively Jerusalem Day celebration at the Oxford Shul, where attendees dined on a delicious breakfast and 'shopped at the 'shuk.' Following host Yvonne Jawitz's opening greetings, Rabbi Katz of Chabad gave a moving 'shiur' on the roots of the name Yerushalayim in the Bible, which transported all directly to the unique peace of Jerusalem. The rabbi's talk was followed by musical entertainment from Debbie Fleminger and Janie Laurie Baskind, who succeeded in getting everyone tapping their toes and clapping their hands.



(l-r) Yvonne Jawitz, Marion Brivik, Brenda Levin, Molly Jayes, Tamar Lazarus at Johannesburg Jerusalem Day celebration



Special Women Honoured

WIZO Johannesburg held a special function in honour of four women who have made extraordinary contributions to South Africa: Tali Nates for devoting her life to Holocaust education and initiating the installation of the Johannesburg Holocaust Memorial Centre, Lauren Gillis for launching the organization 'Relate,' which supports desperately poor communities through the local and international sales of beautiful beaded bracelets. The group also recognized two women who have made important contributions to medicine: Yael Horowitz, who spearheaded converting an old hospital into a special maternity facility for disadvantaged communities, and Dr. Sue Tager, who has been vital in facilitating the training of new doctors by specialists, thus ensuring the next generation of highly qualified doctors in South Africa.



(l-r) Tali Nates, Lauren Gillis, Yael Horowitz, Sue Tager

Hasbara Event

As there is never any shortage of developments where Israel is concerned, WIZO Johannesburg kick-started their fortnightly 'hasbara' series with an 'Update on Who's Who and What's What in Israel Today.' South African Zionist Federation Chairman Avrom Krengel gave a detailed talk on internal Israeli politics and elections, the worrying situation of Israel's Arab neighbours, and what democratization movements in these fraught countries could mean for both ordinary Arab citizens and the region at large. He also spoke on South African politicians who support the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, and extensive efforts to counteract these policies.



(l-r): Gertie Feinstein, Avrom Krengel, Yvonne Jawitz, Nava Gonen at the WIZO Johannesburg 'hasbara' event

Fashion Show

WIZO Johannesburg's Etgar branch held an exciting 'Fashioning a New Generation' fashion show, where models aged 6-16 were personally trained by Jo Bobrow and Nadia Jacobs. Retailers provided the fashions shown off by these budding models, and generously donated a percentage of the post-show sales to WIZO. The show included song and dance numbers by participants and was a great social and financial success.



Young models showcase fashions at WIZO Johannesburg's 'Fashioning a New Generation' fashion show

SWITZERLAND

WIZO Fribourg Celebrates Chanukah

For the second year, WIZO Fribourg welcomed both visiting Israeli college students from Beit Hinuch and their local Swiss counterparts to their Chanukah celebration. Sixty-six guests attended the lively evening, including Rabbi Lionel Elkaim from Lausanne. The Israeli visitors, who had just arrived for their weeklong Switzerland discovery tour, were grateful to begin their trip in a warm, community environment.



Israeli and Swiss college students light chanukiyot at the WIZO Fribourg Festival of Lights celebration

International Women's Day

WIZO Geneva celebrated International Women's Day by hosting their first ever 'WIZO Ladies' Lunch' at the Hotel de la Paix and presenting Leyla Addler with the WIZO Golden Award for her tremendous generosity and loyalty to WIZO. The event, organized by WIZO Geneva Vice President Fabienne Bernheim, constituted the first time that such an important award was given in Geneva. Leyla was accompanied by her daughter Sharon, her granddaughter Julia, her close friends, WIZO Switzerland President Anne Argi, wife of the Israeli ambassador to Switzerland, Professor Orly Manor, and approximately one hundred other guests.



(l-r) Nicole Ghez, WIZO Geneva President Cornelia Gurwicz-Fischer, Fabienne Bernheim, Stéphanie Benardete, Lucienne Kampel, Julia Nada, Anna Marciano, Mary Orihuela

WIZO Switzerland General Assembly

Over 30 people attended WIZO Switzerland's annual general assembly in Bern, where WIZO Switzerland President Anne Argi gave a complete overview of the federation's activities and highlighted the federation's incredible financial success in spite of the challenging economic climate. Highlights from the lunch included a talk from Smadar Betsalel, a talented lawyer and a graduate of the WIZO Nachlat Yehuda Youth Village, speak about her difficult and painful childhood and her complete turn-around after enrolling at Nachlat Yehuda.



Smadar Betsalel, (l) Anne Argi

UK

Annual General Meeting

Over 200 people attended WIZOUK's Annual General Meeting and Rebecca Sieff Day, where WIZOUK revealed its extraordinary fundraising results of the financial year, despite the challenging economic climate. The achievement owes its success to WIZOUK's many creative fundraising initiatives, which include a Leeds Aviv WIZO Les Misérables screening and a Thai cookery demonstration by Shemesh Aviv. In addition, twins Nathan and Joel Kelion of Pinner, Middlesex, decided, as part of their barmitzvah celebration, to raise funds for WIZOUK by preparing, cooking and washing up a Friday night dinner for their grandparents. Funds raised from these events will benefit WIZOUK's 100 sponsored projects in Israel.



WIZO Aviv Les Mis screening, (l-r) top, Debra Sorkin, Russell Gilmore, Belinda Gilmore, middle Elissa Winston, Debbie Masser, Debbie Cutler, Katie Dante, Deidre Cline, Val Berwinbottom, bottom Jacky Shern, Elaine Yechezkel, Sarah Goldstone



Bar Mitzvah boys Nathan (r) and Joel Kelion raise funds for WIZO in their grandparents' kitchen



Shemesh Aviv Thai Evening fundraiser (l to r) Alex Welka, Brenda Saffer, Cordia Ezekiel, Suzanne Osen, Gloria Besser

Yom Ha'Atzmaut Coffee Morning

While WIZO groups across the UK celebrated Israel's 65th birthday with a series of coffee mornings, the Leeds WIZO Aviva group's celebration proved to be a particularly memorable affair. The Aviv ladies were a bit miffed to find that the Water Utility had decided to do essential road work precisely where the event was to be held. However, as the sympathetic workmen quickly saw that neither a barricade of cones nor temporary traffic lights would prevent Leeds Aviv chaverot from attending the event, they gave special permission to guests to park within the blocked-off area. As a token of thanks, hostess Sue Appelson and other WIZO ladies presented the workers with a box of home-made cupcakes.



WIZO Aviv ladies pose beside the construction work that nearly sabotaged their coffee morning

Outstanding Service Awards

Leeds volunteers Nicky Miller, Natalie Pearce and Elissa Winston were presented with the Susi Bradfield Aviv award for their dedication and involvement in Aviv, a nationwide WIZO group for women aged 30-45. Anita Royston of Harrogate and Sylvia Morris of Southgate were presented with the Rebecca Sieff Award, while Helen Reisman of Wembley received the Lily Sieff Award.



(l-r) WIZO UK Chairman Jill Shaw, Natalie Pearce, Michele Pollock, Helen Reisman, Sylvia Morris, Lady Sacks, Elissa Winston, Gina Monty, Dame Helen Hyde at Outstanding Service Awards event

USA

Atlanta

Tilly's Table

WIZO Atlanta hosted more than 60 ladies at the home of Avril & Stanley Joffe to celebrate the life of long-time WIZO member, Tilly Joffe. Both as a member and chairperson, Tilly's WIZO career spanned over 50 years and saw her work tirelessly for two federations, WIZO South Africa and WIZO USA. Her passion for Israel knew no bounds. Tilly was also known for her love of entertaining and often spoke of making a collection of her famous recipes. To honour her legacy, Lorraine Watkins collected and transcribed the recipes, and even tested them to make sure that they were true to Tilly's originals. The Joffe family published and produced a recipe book and donated all proceeds to Tilly's favourite charity in Israel, The WIZO Kiryat Ata Day Care Centre.



WIZO Atlanta members enjoying a demonstration of Tilly's recipes

Florida

Largest Ever Event

With over 450 guests in attendance, WIZO Florida's 2013 Annual Gala was the chapter's largest ever event. Highlights included a keynote address from former Colombian President Alvaro Uribe and the presentation of WIZO Florida's Charlotte and Sami Rohr Shomrei Israel Award to U.S. Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen for her outstanding support of the State of Israel as Chairwoman of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee. WIZO USA Vice President Judit Groisman was presented with the Joseph Handleman Award for her highly successful tenure as WIZO Florida chairperson.



(l-r) Judit Groisman, WIZO Florida Chairperson Ruthy Benoliel, former Colombian President Alvaro Uribe, WIZO USA Co-President Jana Falic

Driven to Make a Difference

WIZO Florida's Ilanit Tikva Chapter raffled a 2013 Mercedes Benz to raise funds for the chapter's WIZO centres in Israel, thanks to the heartwarming generosity of Sergio and Keila Stiberman of LeaseTrader.com. The 'Fashion-Driven Event,' organized under the direction of WIZO Florida Chairperson Keila Stiberman and hosted by local news personality Glenna Milberg, proved to be a lively evening of philanthropy, fashion and fun. Guests were entertained with an exclusive Neiman Marcus fashion show featuring a sneak preview of the designer's Spring Collection while enjoying cocktails and hors d'oeuvres sponsored by Neiman Marcus of Bal Harbour, Florida. The much-anticipated raffle was of course the highlight of the evening, whose lucky winners were Rebeca and Jacobo Essenfled.



(l to r) Mercedes Benz raffle winners Jacobo and Rebeca Essenfled, Sergio Stiberman, LeaseTrader.com CEO



WIZO Florida Executive: (l to r) Ruthy Benoliel (WIZO Florida Chairperson), Keila Stiberman (Chairperson Ilanit-Tikva and Event Chair), Glenna Milberg (Local10 News Reporter), Mercedes Ivcher (WIZO USA Founding President), Judit Groisman, Anita Friedman and Rosita Retelny (WIZO USA Vice Presidents)

Sponsor A Child

WIZO Florida's annual Sponsor A Child luncheon, attended by over 300 women, had many highlights, including the launch of the chapter's bilingual cookbook, 'From our Kitchen to Yours,' which has been an exceptional fundraising success. The luncheon also featured Brook Goldstein, a pro-Israel advocate and human rights attorney, who stunned guests with her mind-blowing address on the Islamic jihadists' manipulation of the media and the world's hypocrisy about Israel. Two long-time WIZO volunteers, Sara Elneave and Edith Wigoda, were honoured for their hard work, dedication and commitment to WIZO.



Cook Book working committee (l to r) Keila Stiberman, Hanna Dorfzaun, Alicia Rube, Ruthy Benoliel WIZO Florida Chairperson



Los Angeles

'The Last Romanov' at LA Book Club

Writer Dora Levy Mossanen, author of the novel 'The Last Romanov,' a historical fiction covering the final days of Russian's Romanov monarchy was the popular guest speaker at the WIZO Los Angeles Book Club. In addition to enjoying a storm of delicious treats cooked up by WIZO LA board members, attendees were treated to an intimate talk with the author, who shared her own personal story, as well as her inspiration for writing about strong female characters.

The event attracted a large audience of all ages and was a great success both socially and financially.



Event Working Committee including honorees Edith Wigoda standing 3rd from left and Sara Elnecave sitting in front 1st left

Houston

Chocolate Affair

WIZO Houston's third annual Chocolate Affair attracted over 100 people and was both a social and financial success. Guests at the event schmoozed and enjoyed complimentary homemade chocolate confections and a chocolate fondue prepared by the WIZO Host Committee. A small admission fee was charged and a Chinese raffle was held. This year's affair included corporate sponsorships and generous donations from community members and local businesses.

"Through the contribution of our amazing Host Committee comprised of young women of different backgrounds, our event brought together folks from various parts of the community to support our wonderful cause. We are excited that we met our fundraising goal this year, and we look forward to continuing our work in raising funds to support Israel," said an obviously excited Houston WIZO President Sara Coane Goldberg.



WIZO Houston Host Committee Members: (l to r) Sara Coane Goldberg, Karen Nedelman, Batami Baskin, Shayna Finn, Elizabeth Ganak, Sasha Arch, Sarah Kass, Bonnie Morgan Fradkin



Author Dora Levy Mossanen addresses WIZO LA Book Club

Young Professionals' Masquerade Gala

WIZO Los Angeles Young Professionals' debut event – a masquerade gala – was a stunning success. Attended by over 250 young people and ushering in the Purim season, the women donned formal evening gowns and ornate demi-masks, while the men emerged equally dashing in tuxedos and elegant disguises. Those present appreciated the opportunity to network and meet members of the community, but it was their shared passion for WIZO and Israel that pulled them together for a night of philanthropic fun.



WIZO LA members usher in the Purim season with an elegant masquerade gala

Sponsor A Child

WIZO Los Angeles annual Sponsor A Child gala dinner at the SLS Hotel, Beverly Hills, generously sponsored by Mr. & Mrs. Younes & Soraya Nazarian, proved to be a dazzling evening full of delicious food and wonderful entertainment by singer Lea Lapidot & DJ Eyal. Following an elegant dinner, guests were invited to dance the night away. The gala proved to be both a social and financial success, resulting in the sponsorship of over 150 WIZO children.



WIZO Los Angeles Board at Sponsor A Child gala

Mothers' Day Luncheon

WIZO Los Angeles honoured mothers in style at their annual Mothers' Day Luncheon. This year, festivities included a children's fashion show, a lovely marina-side brunch and moving awards ceremony. The highlight of the event was the Designer Children's Fashion Show, sponsored by Gila Leibovitch of Premier Kids. Children between the ages of 3-12 delighted guests as they strutted down the runway in designer clothes. While the children were kept busy with entertainment provided by Juliana Sharoni, their parents enjoyed a peaceful brunch overlooking the marina. To conclude the event, the Mother of the Year award was presented to Eleanor Nankin, who is not only a third-generation WIZO chavera, but a long-time WIZO LA Board member and current treasurer. In a moving presentation of the award, WIZO LA acknowledged the vitality of Ellie's contributions to the chapter's success.



LA Mother's Day Award (l to r) Miriam Wizman, Jennifer Nankin, Jodi Ramirez, Ellie Nankin, Tamara Noriani, Stephanie Goldberg, Hanna Rubinstein

New York

Art and Music for WIZO Children

Over a hundred guests attended WIZO New York's annual Sponsor A Child evening of Art and Music, generously hosted by Lois Robbins and Andrew Zaro. The evening was chaired by Jamie and David Mitchell and co-chaired by WIZO USA Vice-Presidents Caren Constantiner and Mira Sofer with their husbands. The reception included a performance by hostess Lois Robbins, a long-standing WIZO member and an actress best known for her roles in various TV and theatre productions. The performance set the perfect tone for an elegant evening of music, delicious food, and original art work among friends. The guests enjoyed a moving address from Evelyn Sommer, Founding President of WIZO USA, who made a presentation to Joan Kahn for her commitment and dedication to WIZO. Gail Perl, Co-President of WIZO USA and Marci Waterman, Chair of WIZO New York also addressed the gathering.



(l-r) WIZO USA Co-President Gail Perl, Ilene Sands, Lois Robbins



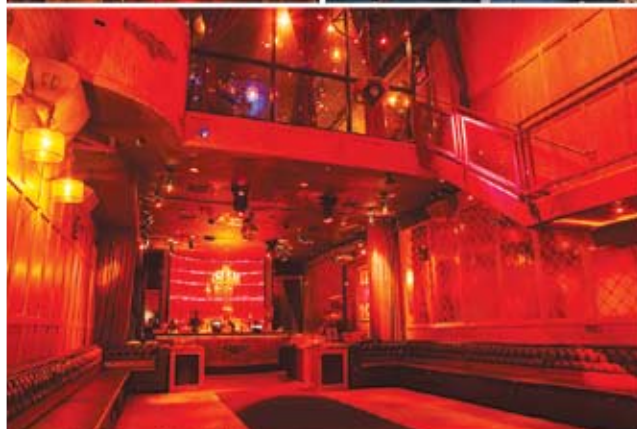
Jamie Mitchell (l) and daughter Eliana

Two NY Yom Ha'atzmaut Events!

For the second year in a row, WIZO New York's Young Leadership Israeli Independence Day party was a smash success! Organized in partnership with the Young Persian Jewish Community Centre and held at New York City's Avenue Night Club, the sold-out party drew nearly 350 young professionals in celebration of Israel's 65th birthday. Some of New York's most up and coming young philanthropists attended the lively evening, setting the stage for the next generation of WIZO supporters. The event's success is



credited in part to the efforts of many of the sponsors and host committee. A portion of the funds raised from the evening were dedicated to sponsoring programming for one of WIZO's Nir HaEmek School's summer day camps.



WIZO New York's Young Leadership celebrate Israel's Independence Day in style

With a backdrop of New York's skyline and to the tune of Israeli music, food and dancing, over 150 guests joined WIZO New York at the Bentley Hotel's Prime Grill to celebrate Israel's 65th Yom Ha'Atzmaut. Co-Chairs Mireille & Robert Manocherian, Lydia & Sami Shalem, Arlette & Rafi Shaya, and Mira & Beny Sofer worked tirelessly to bring friends, family and WIZO supporters together in celebration of the State of Israel and WIZO's important work for the Israeli people. Evelyn Sommer, Founding President of WIZO USA & Gail Perl, Co-President of WIZO USA addressed the guests and honoured the event chairs.



(l to r) Lydia Shalem, Mireille Manocherian, Arlette Shaya, Mira Sofer

Children for Our Children Fashion Show and Luncheon

Over 300 guests joined WIZO New York for their 16th Annual Children for our Children Fashion Show and Luncheon, chaired by Fortune Dushey. The event at The Pierre hotel in New York City brought great awareness for WIZO's critical work in Israel. The "Israel's Yom Ha'Atzmaut" themed programme featured children of WIZO members parading down the runway in their best Brooks Brothers fashions in support of the children in Israel. Fortune spoke about the critical services which WIZO provides to the neediest sector of Israeli society.

Many of WIZO's New York and Long Island board members attended the event with Marci Waterman, Chair of WIZO NY, Gail Perl, Co-President of WIZO USA, Evelyn Sommer, Founding President of WIZO USA, and Ambassador Ido Aharoni, Consul General of Israel in New York, who addressed the guests. In attendance were past Director General of the Nir Ha'Emek Youth Village, Yossi Goshen and wife Naomi, as well as WIZO USA Vice Presidents Caren Constantiner, Mira Sofer, and Joan Kahn who accepted an award on behalf of her granddaughter, Daisy Kahn. Daisy Kahn and Chloe Safra were recognized for their involvement in the WIZO's B'nei Mitzvah Campaign. These young philanthropists chose to donate their gifts to WIZO, and for this were given special awards of honour.



Fortune Dushey, centre, with her two daughters Marcelle Serure (l) and Vivian Dayan

URUGUAY

International Women's Day

WIZO Uruguay hosted a lovely International Women's Day celebration at the home of the federation's president, Rachel Lapchik. The large crowd of chaverot who attended the event were joined by Julia Lacalle Pou, the wife of former President Luis Alberto Lacalle.



WIZO Uruguay chaverot attend an International Women's Day celebration with wife of former President Luis Alberto Lacalle, Julia Lacalle Pou (far right)

Holiday Celebrations

WIZO Uruguay's many groups had a busy year hosting a variety of celebrations and fundraising events. The Kinneret Group held its annual raffle, with the prize of a valuable jewellery piece. The Chai Group hosted a lively Purim celebration with music and dancing, a lovely meal and of course costumes. The Shachar Group organized a festive Yom Ha'atzmaut party, while the Shoshanim Group hosted a Shavuot celebration.



WIZO Uruguay ladies don masks at the Chai Group's Purim party



WIZO Uruguay celebrates Israel's 65th Yom Ha'atzmaut

Bar and Bat Mitzvah

WIZO Uruguay conducted extensive outreach programming for Bar and Bat Mitzvah-aged youths, which included visiting Jewish schools nationwide, explaining WIZO's mission and delivering illustrative materials. The ladies presented a special gift to each of the students: girls received an apron with the WIZO logo, while boys received a WIZO keychain. Girls were also presented with a WIZO Uruguay Youth Partnership Card, a token invitation to one day join WIZO as adults and continue the work forward.



www.wizo.org

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 bureaux** 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...

