Dear Chaverot,

Although it is only a few short months since the last issue of WIZO Review, so much seems to have happened – in WIZO, in Israel, in the world…

I hope you will enjoy the wide variety of articles and information in this magazine.

We feature another of our outstanding schools – WIZO Nir Ha’emek. It is hard to put into words the wonders of this school and the effect it has on its pupils – children who recognize what their probable fate would be had they not had the opportunity to attend this special school. Read Sima Borkovski’s article starting on page 8.

In today’s environment-conscious world, recycling and ‘vintage’ are the buzz words. WIZO Israel branches make a vast amount of money each year from the sale of second-hand clothes with stores open every day and special bazaars and sales – including their major publicity event at Tel Aviv’s Arlosoroff Station. Reading from page 12 you will see how one woman’s trash is indeed another’s treasure!

Where does your money go? On pages 16-17 the Fundraising Division showcases some of the renovations carried out this year thanks to your donations, and on page 20 we feature one of our special donors.

World WIZO Aviv Representative Laurienne Baitz brings a fresh and dynamic way of ‘reporting’ on the Aviv Seminar (pages 18-19). She surely has ignited us all with her infectious enthusiasm and commitment!

Since the EGM, the Organization and Tourism Division has got to work with new ideas and plenty more plans in the pipeline. Read about the successful Succot tour day (page 21) and how some youth in Israel permanently volunteer at WIZO projects. And don’t forget to consider the special WIZO tour in March (see page 7) and, if you are in Israel for Pesach, join another tour day (details below).

Our WIZO in Israel section (pages 26-30) highlights some of the many events and activities on the WIZO calendar, and we end, as usual with our WIZO Around the World – our look at our world – and this time we are delighted to receive entries from WIZO Hungary and WIZO Jamaica.

Before signing off, an additional note about the article on Neve WIZO in our previous issue: one of the houses was donated by Gabriel Moscona of WIZO Mexico in the name of Raquel y Gabriel Moscona. In addition, the Romano Fund from Mexico supports many special activities for the children.

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy and peaceful 2013.

Ingrid Rockberger

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President’s Desk

Dear Chaverot,

A year has gone by since the 2012 EGM where I was elected President of World WIZO and as I write this, we are on the eve of the 2013 MOR. Again we gather from all over the world to celebrate our sisterhood; to exchange opinions; to share problems that face us all and seek solutions; to gain strength from our togetherness and acquire additional tools to assist in the continuance of our blessed work – that you, our Federations are full partners to.

As President of World WIZO, I represent our movement and organization on National Institutes, in various social forums and before government, local authorities and agencies. WIZO enjoys high esteem and hence, the expectations from our movement are high, and so are the demands, and the demands on WIZO grow all the time.

Therefore, we concentrate on the future - the children, their education and welfare, and I would like to look back on some of last year’s highlights.

As of 2012, WIZO day care centres (DCCs), schools and youth villages now maintain a healthy nutrition regime, to enable the children and youth to be healthy and strong in body and in mind.

In answer to the growing demand, we concentrate on opening new DCCs to absorb more and more babies, toddlers and children to enable them to receive the best education. In our WIZO schools and youth villages, we provide general education combined with agricultural and technological studies in full compliance with the principles I launched in the Education Campaign eight years ago. Our students are the citizens of tomorrow and it is WIZO’s obligation to provide them with equal opportunities and the best education possible, tailor fitted for each student and including Jewish and Zionist values.

These values led us to launch the Emergency Relief Fund during the “Pillar of Defence Campaign” in November so that WIZO will be able to provide physical, psychological and emotional safety and security for our children and their families living in the South of Israel, I want to thank every one of you for your wholehearted response to our appeal.

We must also cultivate and nurture the future leadership and younger generation of our movement, so they will be able to carry the WIZO torch forward; to rebrand WIZO’s image, increase membership, empower our movement; and spread our WIZO message and pride to new audiences through modern technology and networking. We must involve our WIZO husbands whose support is so valuable, and the youth who share an affinity with Israel through Jewish education and youth groups.

The fate of the Jewish nation in Israel is linked with that of the Jewish people in the Diaspora. The iron clad bond between us has never been stronger. We may speak different languages, have different cultures and mentalities – but we share one God, one religion, one heritage, one heart.

Like the columns of the Parthenon, WIZO supports the State of Israel at all times. As chaverot of WIZO it is our duty to serve as ambassadors of good will and public diplomacy and show the global public the caring and compassionate Israel we know; showcase how our doctors, scientists physicists and educators are making the world a better place.

As chaverot of WIZO, we can bring about a positive change. I have every confidence in you. Have faith in yourselves.

Affectionately,

Tova Ben-Dov
President
World WIZO
Dear Chaverot,

This edition of the WIZO Review is timed to coincide with the Meeting of Representatives that is being held at the Hilton Hotel in Tel Aviv, from the 13th-17th January, 2013.

The Meeting of Representatives is the time of the year when all Chairpersons of our WIZO federations, spread across the globe, have the opportunity to meet, share views, listen to important key speakers, visit our institutions and leave with ideas and increased motivation. During the MOR, whilst different tongues are heard, everyone speaks the same language, the WIZO language.

It has been a year filled with ups and downs since the last MOR. We are still trying to recover from the recent Pillar of Defence operation. As soon as conflict broke out in Israel, we began working on a Relief Fund in order to provide for extra costs that become essential during times of crisis. Each WIZO Division that was affected by the hostilities during the operation, and prior to the operation, drew up their own needs and many of our federations have already answered the call. Whereas there is a ceasefire in place, we do not know if the situation will remain quiet for long, the needs are ongoing, and we need to be prepared for whatever the future brings on this front.

Fortunately, there were also ‘ups’ during the course of the year. I am pleased to report that after many years in which we have been operating under the shadow of budgets with deficits, for the first time in many years we have reached a balanced budget, of which I am very proud.

It has not been easy, and we will continue to provide the WIZO services that Israeli society has come to rely upon, with our belt tightened. But without a balanced budget we cannot move forward, nor can we deal with the changing needs that we, in Israel, have to face, both on a personal level and on the State level.

The whole world is trying to cope with the financial crisis which seemingly has no end in sight. Together with this, and perhaps, due to this, anti-Semitism in the world is reaching new heights, some say scarly similar to the anti-Semitism that was felt in Europe in the early nineteen thirties. But something very significant has changed since that dark period in our history - we now have a Jewish State, which will protect every Jew, wherever he or she may be. This miracle, however, brings with it an awareness of the need to keep our Jewish State strong, to nurture it, to protect its resilience and to support its needs. The needs of the State of Israel are ultimately the needs of each and every one of us. Every Jewish community, wherever it may be, from Russia to Latin America, from Norway to Australia, needs Israel as its centre for the Jewish people, and as a safe harbour.

Being active in WIZO gives each and every one of us the privilege to empower our Jewish State and we embrace this privilege with both hands. Our annual Meeting of Representatives is our opportunity to make our plans for the future, in an era of change, to put our priorities in the right order and to take our place in writing the history of Israel.

As is the slogan of the 2013 Meeting of Representatives, we are in WIZO because ‘We Care, We Share and We Dare’.

Prof. Rivka Lazovsky
Chairperson
World WIZO Executive
After the south of the country was continually bombarded with rockets from Gaza, the Israeli government decided ‘enough is enough’

Ingrid Rockberger

Since the beginning of 2012 approximately 800 rockets and mortar shells have been fired from Gaza into southern Israel. The barrage intensified over the weekend of November 10th-11th with 120 rockets being fired within a few days. It was then that the Israeli government felt it had to act. As its spokespeople rhetorically asked over the international media “What government would put up with one million of its citizens being attacked like this?” Immediately the campaign was underway, all educational facilities in the south of the country were closed and residents were recommended only to leave their homes if strictly necessary. Most spent their time in the ‘safe rooms’ in their homes, thus reducing many possible injuries and fatalities.

WIZO springs into action

WIZO provided food for the children normally attending its day care centres who rely on the centre for their main hot meal of the day. Social workers were sent to assist traumatized staff and parents – and many WIZO chaverot in the north and centre of Israel opened their homes to their southern sisters.

Only one day care centre allowed to open

There was only one day care centre in the whole of the southern region which was allowed to open, and that was the WIZO day care centre in Ashkelon’s Barzilai Hospital. The day care centre serves the hospital staff and remaining open enabled them to carry out their vital work. In addition, the day care centre accepted some children of security staff who could not leave their children at home. “We have children of all ages together – from babies to four-year olds – and we do everything with them in the shelter, and it is not easy,” stated Yifat Bashur, the day care centre director, “we are open from seven in the morning until late in the afternoon.” Asked how the children coped with the unusual situation, she replied, “the staff do everything they can to keep the children occupied; we give them lots of big hugs and envelop them with love, all to help make them feel secure.” The home front command would not even allow WIZO’s reinforced day care centre in Sderot to open as there were fears of injuries from rockets as the parents were taking their children to and from the centre.

Once again, WIZO was able to make a meaningful contribution to the country in time of war.

Although the Hebrew name for the campaign came straight from the Bible (Amud Anan- Pillar of Cloud), the official translation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is Pillar of Defence.

The Israeli government named the campaign against Hamas in Gaza from the verses in the Bible from Exodus XIII and XIV, when the children of Israel were leaving Egypt with the Egyptian army in hot pursuit behind them. “And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; that they might go by day and by night.” The Egyptian army was gaining ground, so the Lord placed the pillar of cloud between the Children of Israel and the Egyptians thus defending them from the Egyptians as they could not see through the thick cloud.
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WIZO Nir Ha'emek School and Youth Village provides a last chance for many students who have dropped out of the regular Israeli school system

Sima Borkovski

When Esti Cohen, the principal of WIZO Nir Ha'emek School (sponsored by WIZO Argentina and WIZO USA) speaks about her students, it is just like a mother talking about her own children's successes.

A girl called Nofar

Esti relates the most interesting stories, like the one about a girl called Nofar who arrived at the school gates as a last resort, when she realized she had no home and no regular school would accept her. Nofar discovered, like many other teenagers in her situation, that when all the doors seem closed, there is one door that is always open. Against all odds, at the very last minute, when the chances for success are so low and even your own family turns against you, the doors of WIZO Nir Ha'emek are always open for those who have no other place to go. In return Nofar did everything in her powers to justify this trust. “She became part of the student council, worked during her holidays and helped whenever and wherever help was needed. As a soldier in the army she returned to the village at weekends and when she was on leave, as this was the only place she could call home.”

Nofar: “After I came to live here I became very involved in the school's activities. I volunteered for the school's students' council, MDA (Magen David Adom), and for the civil defence. Wherever I volunteered I felt that I was getting more in return, especially with the children of the families that stayed here during the second Lebanese war in 2006. It was great to see them laugh. Because of my intense involvement with so many activities, everybody here knows me. I believe that no child is naturally bad, but there are some that just feel bad and do not fit into regular society. I see myself as a success story. I graduated with a matriculation certificate and finished all my exams successfully. I feel lucky that Yossi Goshen (the previous principal of Nir Ha'emek) was prepared to accept me with my grades and background. There is no other place in the world where I could accomplish such achievements. The person I am today is a product of Nir Ha'emek,” she claims with pride.

My only property was a towel and a blanket

For Mel, a tall and handsome student in his last year, Nir Ha'emek was also a last resort after his parents turned their back on him and he found himself homeless one day. Mel came to Israel with his parents from the Former Soviet Union when he was a child. His parents believed in tough
education and sent him to a military boarding school. However when he was about 17 he had an argument with his mother, following which she threw him out of the house and he found himself literally ‘homeless’.

“At the time I worked in a coffee shop in the evenings, and in the morning I would go to school but obviously my grades deteriorated. All I could get there was a tiny room and they gave me a towel and a blanket. That’s it. Eventually they expelled me because my grades were so bad. I had to find a solution and this is how I came here,” he explains. “The principal asked me to state one reason why they should accept me: ‘All I need is a chance and I will prove myself to you.’ I replied Even though my grades were awful with an average of 49 and the professional staff couldn’t believe that I’d ever be able to make it, I have now passed all my final exams successfully,” he says with pride in his voice.

Not only his grades changed but also his character. From a shy and reserved boy Mel blossomed and made many friends who became his new family. “Now I would like to spend one year as a volunteer in the village and help other children like I was helped. There was always someone here for me. Once I needed to talk to someone at 3am and my madrich (counselor) came around, stayed with me and talked to me until I felt better. Here I learnt the meaning of being a human being, what it means to have feelings and have people care about you.”

The thin line between becoming a criminal and joining the police

One thing that is unique at Nir Ha’emek is its police studies’ unit directed by Superintendent Tiran Gorani. Previously a policeman dealing with juvenile crime, Tiran now makes every effort to prevent his students, some of whom have already been in trouble with the law and have been on the brink of juvenile delinquency, from becoming criminals themselves - and instead he encourages them to join the police force.

Tiran is so committed to helping his students succeed that when two of them needed extra help to pass an exam, he hosted them in his own home, where his daughters tutored them.

Hadass, a graduate student in the police unit explains that it was the best thing that ever happened to her. Of Ethiopian origin, Hadass came to Nir Ha’emek from the town of Rosh HaAyin. “When I came here, my grades sheet was empty. I knew that I had the ability to study but in my home background there was no one to encourage me. I was curious to study criminology and sociology (studied only in
I had the opportunity to join police patrols and we met with an undercover policeman who talked about his job. It was fascinating for me. Tiran is everything to me. He supports me all the way and whenever I fail he is there to pick me up. When this year is over I would like to volunteer for one year before I go to the army so I can help other students like myself to succeed.

(Ed note: Since this article was written, Superintendent Eyal Yehuda has taken over from Superintendent Tiran Gorani.)

Friendship for life

Liraz and Esti are two lovely looking students who met at the village and became best friends. Liraz's family 'adopted' Esti who went through some personal hardships until she found her way to Nir Ha'Emek.

“My mother died when I was only 16. She was sick with cancer and I was the one who took care of her,” Esti recalls. “When I was 17 I dropped out of school and my sister suggested that I register at this school so this is what I did,” she says in a quiet voice. “We are eight children and my older brothers are not living at home. My father was in jail many times, but after my mother passed away he came to live with us. I was looking for a way out of my home and wanted to get away from him. Here I got the chance for a different destiny.”

Liraz’s situation is different to Esti’s as she comes from a normative family with both her father and older sister serving in the police force. It would have been natural for her to join the police academy. However, the reason she joined Nir Ha’Emek boarding school was to improve her grades. “I used to meet with friends all the time instead of being at school, which I hated. I had to come here to change my attitude,” she claims.

“Joining the police class with Tiran as our commander and mentor is the best thing I could have done,” Esti says with a smile. “He is like a father to all of us and will turn the world upside-down for us.”

Help from an Israeli company

The school also enjoys the support of Sapir Plastics, a factory for plastic products situated in Afula that helps both with the dairy project and by giving extra-curricular support to the science and technology students. This cooperation with WIZO Nir Ha’Emek is part of the factory’s endeavours for the benefit of society. The students are invited for educational tours at the plant so they can experience first-hand how a computerized industry operates and put their academic education in electronics and science into practice.

Sapir also supports the dairy at every stage of production. The company developed the electrical systems at the factory together with students from the electronics department. Company employees guided the students through the various stages of industrial production, development of new products, package design and more. Such cooperation is a blessing to the school as it provides the tools needed for success and strengthens its connection with the community in the area.

Editor’s note: This cooperation is one of many between leading Israeli companies and WIZO projects, whereby the companies do not always give financial assistance but provide hands-on expertise, training and mentoring, and donate equipment such as computers and laboratory utensils.
WIZO Nir Ha’emek

Today, over a thousand students study at WIZO Nir Ha’emek School and Youth Village, near Afula in the Jezreel Valley, including 213 dormitory students, all of whom have personal or family difficulties and many of whom are referred to the school by social services. The remainder of the students - from the surrounding area - attend the school on a daily basis. The school invests tremendous resources to enable students reach their full potential, and provide them with a caring environment. Apart from their academic studies, a wide variety of extra-curricular and therapeutic projects take place on campus. In addition to the dairy and police cadet course described above, amongst other activities, the school also offers students a bar-batmitzvah programme, a ‘roots’ trip to Poland, and a dance and singing group, which performs at ceremonies and events both in the school and within the community. Recently the troupe was honoured when they were invited to perform at the International Youth Award gold-medal ceremony held at the residence of British Ambassador, Mr Matthew Gould. Many students from the school (both dormitory and day pupils) participate in the scheme and are achievers at all levels.

Other facilities at the school include the Rohr Family Synagogue, the David R. Kahn Sports Complex, the Marjorie Meltzer Science Centre, a Shabbat home for dormitory students who are unable to go to their own homes for Shabbat, and a graduate house for students who cannot return to their family homes after they graduate from the school. Some students are fortunate enough to reside in one of the Helen Deller family units, where they live with foster parents or youth workers.

Nir Ha’emek is one of WIZO’s network of schools which, with its varied and innovative programmes and projects, coupled with a dedicated team of educators gives Israeli youth who have various personal and educational problems, a second chance to succeed in life.
In WIZO Israel women’s centres across the county, second-hand clothes shops “Bigudiot” are proving to be a top fundraiser. One branch, WIZO Herzlia Pituach, has a monthly bazaar which has become a huge success.

Sima Borkovski

It takes place on the last Tuesday of every month attracting women (and some men) from all over the country looking for good bargains. They arrive early in the morning, waiting patiently in a long queue until the doors open for the WIZO Herzliya Pituach monthly bazaar. The event is organized by the dedicated volunteers of the branch under the leadership and guidance of Sarit Manor, initiator and living spirit behind the bazaar.

It started when Sarit was trying to find ways for the branch to raise more money. “I went to see how second-hand stores work in other WIZO branches, and I decided that we should have a monthly bazaar on a regular day so women would know about it, and we wouldn’t have to invest a lot in advertising. At the beginning, I worked very hard to make the bazaar a regular success. I went to designers and asked them to donate some clothes, and spread the word that we are having a regular clothing sale at our WIZO branch, with all profits going to support our worthy projects. It’s really a matter of good organizational skills and hard team work. Now, each month, the chaverot are thrilled when we raise an average of NIS 25,000 in only five hours! Before we open
the doors, I gather the volunteers in a circle, we hold hands and say out loud Behatzlacha (good luck).

**High quality merchandise**

Since Herzliya Pituach is one of Israel’s wealthiest neighbourhoods, the clothes donated by the residents are mostly high quality and often sport top designer labels.

“We have operated the bazaar for several years now and still feel excited when we see its constant growth,” Manor states with pride. “Women arrive from all over the country since our reputation precedes us and they know they will find good, high quality merchandise here and save a lot of money. We have created a long mailing list and we give everyone a reminder call a few days before each bazaar takes place. Whenever I see a “new face” I try to find out how she heard about the bazaar and add her contact details to the list,” she explains.

**Something for everyone**

A quick glance at the big venue explains its popularity. There is almost nothing you can’t find here: clothes, including shoes, for the whole family, vintage jewellery, household utensils and handbags – where, if you look carefully, you can often find a bag by a top designer. In the yard, at the back of the centre there is a huge stand with toys, books, and sometimes even a baby stroller and other baby equipment.

Though the bazaar is only open for five hours, it takes three weeks of preparation and extreme dedication from some
of the volunteers who spend hours sorting out the good quality items from all the packages donated to the Bigudit.

**All the way from Jerusalem**

For Haya and her mother this is their day out together. “We leave Jerusalem at five in the morning so we arrive when the doors open,” says Haya. “We come here because of the good quality of the merchandise. You won’t find all sorts of second hand junk here and if you have a good eye and know where to look, you cannot fail to find some nice things for yourself. But the most amazing thing here is the warm welcome we always get and personal service. Since they know us and the things that we like, they put things aside, so when we come there are always some ‘surprises’ waiting for us. We never leave empty-handed,” she declares.

Eva, another regular client, calls herself a “bazaar expert” who travels around the world looking for bargains and vintage clothing and says that “what is so unique about this WIZO bazaar is that you can find high quality stuff such as genuine vintage clothes. It’s a really good place to find bargains. Over the years I have developed a sixth sense for bazaars and I buy everything here – for myself as well as for my family,” she says with a smile.

**The bazaar and bigudit are great fundraisers**

The second hand store is part of almost every WIZO branch throughout the country and makes yearly profits of NIS 6 million. According to WIZO’s Dalia Gantz, who is responsible for the stores, the potential is far from being fulfilled. “Most of the stores are operated by volunteers and their customers usually come from low socio-economic backgrounds, so they have to keep the prices low. I visited the branches and was sorry to see that some stores were quite neglected and resembled a warehouse. I advised these branches on how to improve the image of the store, which also helped to increase their income. Paying attention to the aesthetic aspect of the store is very important since it has a great effect on the way potential customers relate to it and whether they will come back to shop there,” explains Gantz.

Gantz believes there is much more work to do in this field and small branches can learn from the way second hand stores are operated in the big WIZO branches. “In WIZO branches in the big cities like Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Haifa and Beer-Sheba the stores work really well and make great profits. I believe it is due to the professional way they are operated. In these independent branches, sometimes there is a paid worker who nurtures connections with suppliers and also organizes bazaars that attract many women and are very profitable.

**Excellent bargains at Herzlia Pituach**

Edna Ronen, Herzlia Pituach branch chair concurs with Gantz: “We have good connections with some of Israel’s most popular women’s and children’s designers, and some individuals; therefore our customers know they can find new and high quality clothes for ridiculous prices. It’s a win-win situation, both for us and for our clients.”

On the day I was there, I noticed a stand packed with wedding and evening dresses from a well-known designer who had recently gone bankrupt. Instead of thousands of shekels, the dresses were being offered at a laughable 200 shekels. “This is an excellent example of some of our connections. Since I knew this merchant I heard of this opportunity and persuaded him to donate these dresses to us,” explains Ronen.

**The importance of the stores**

Gila Oshrat, chairperson of WIZO Israel, also emphasizes the importance of WIZO’s second hand stores as a means of fundraising. “WIZO Israel needs to invest great efforts each year in order to increase its fundraising abilities and compete with other organizations for the willingness of people to donate. Hence, our second hand stores’ network has become crucial in these times as our main fundraising channel. In addition these stores embody the spirit of WIZO – generosity, charity and commitment to the community. People donate these clothes to help the poor and weak segments of our society and hundreds of WIZO volunteers operate the stores and put their heart and soul into this hard work. In addition, the stores give members of the public the opportunity to buy good clothing at bargain prices,” Oshrat declares.
A unique and innovative idea was carried out recently in Tel Aviv as part of a new campaign to draw the public’s attention to the WIZO second hand clothing stores – both as a place to donate unwanted clothes and an alternative place to shop for good-quality, reasonably priced clothing.

Passengers who stepped off trains at Tel Aviv’s Arlosoroff Station were surprised to find themselves walking on a fashion-show catwalk, modelling the very clothes they were wearing. Beneath the slogan “Today’s Clothes – Tomorrow’s Collection,” they walked along the ‘red carpet’, applauded by WIZO volunteers and employees.

Check out the short film on youtube: BIGUDIT
Thanks to our Federations, WIZO has provided our children, youth and women state-of-the-art facilities. This is just a glimpse of a few of the renovations made possible by our generous donors in 2012.

Developing WIZO

- **Dora Day Care Centre, Netanya**
  - Sponsored by WIZO uk

- **Cumet Day Care Centre, Modiin**
  - Sponsored by WIZO France

- **Kiriat Motzkin Day Care Centre**
  - Sponsored by WIZO Chile

- **Roger & Francoise Varenne Day Care Centre, Holon**
  - Sponsored by Mary Bendet Foundation and WIZO Switzerland

- **Raya Jaglom Multipurpose Day Care Centre, Tel Aviv**
  - Sponsored by WIZO Australia

- **Chorley Day Care Centre Kfar Saba**
  - Sponsored by WIZO South Africa

- **Dora Day Care Centre, Netanya**
  - Sponsored by WIZO uk
The Aviv members are WIZO’s future and their enthusiasm is the ticket to its success, so I’m on a mission to UNITE & IGNITE the Avivs around the world with each other & with passion!

We were aiming BIG for the Aviv Seminar 2012!

After the seminar I was asked if I achieved my aims and I was thrilled to say YES! (Please read some of the Delegates’ heartfelt affirmations clipped to these two pages). This means the aim to give this Seminar a fresh new face, design a program to IGNITE the imagination of the delegates & to UNITE our magnificent members was a SUCCESS!

We came to the seminar already sisters & friends at a genetic level. We are the original ‘social networkers’! We’re linked by a golden thread of heritage & community that binds us together around the world, no matter who or where we are.

As WIZO Avivs we discovered another reason to love each other!

We were enlightened by expert speakers on a range of topics from ‘The Art of Small Talk’ by Shoshi Gal (International Networking Expert) who taught us above all to SMILE, to Dr Yaniv Levithan (Strategic Consultant) who provided us with crucial tools for psychological cyber warfare!

Understanding the harsh realities of our recipients’ lives by visiting their worlds & having the opportunity to hear their heartbreaking stories was highly emotional. We even experienced the reality of blindness & deafness for just a short while.

We SHARED with each other a whole lot: Our stories, our feelings & our proudest WIZO FUNdraising ideas. ‘FUNdraising’ is the art of raising funds and having a whole lot of fun doing it!

Our enthusiasm was IGNITED by each other’s passion & success stories.

We were not only UNITED by the overwhelming success of our seminar, but our new friendships & sense of commitment was immediately tested by the mobilization of Operation ‘Pillar of Defence’. We experienced 1st hand the fearful sounds of sirens & rocket explosions.

Avivs went home more UNITED & more IGNITED with a powerful resolve to work harder to raise friends & funds for Israel.

Aviv seminar 2012

By Laurienne Baitz
Aviv Representative to the World WIZO Executive

“The Aviv members are WIZO’s future and their enthusiasm is the ticket to its success, so I’m on a mission to UNITE & IGNITE the Avivs around the world with each other & with passion!

We were aiming BIG for the Aviv Seminar 2012!

After the seminar I was asked if I achieved my aims and I was thrilled to say YES! (Please read some of the Delegates’ heartfelt affirmations clipped to these two pages). This means the aim to give this Seminar a fresh new face, design a program to IGNITE the imagination of the delegates & to UNITE our magnificent members was a SUCCESS!

We came to the seminar already sisters & friends at a genetic level. We are the original ‘social networkers’! We’re linked by a golden thread of heritage & community that binds us together around the world, no matter who or where we are.

As WIZO Avivs we discovered another reason to love each other!

We were enlightened by expert speakers on a range of topics from ‘The Art of Small Talk’ by Shoshi Gal (International Networking Expert) who taught us above all to SMILE, to Dr Yaniv Levithan (Strategic Consultant) who provided us with crucial tools for psychological cyber warfare!

Understanding the harsh realities of our recipients’ lives by visiting their worlds & having the opportunity to hear their heartbreaking stories was highly emotional. We even experienced the reality of blindness & deafness for just a short while.

We SHARED with each other a whole lot: Our stories, our feelings & our proudest WIZO FUNdraising ideas. ‘FUNdraising’ is the art of raising funds and having a whole lot of fun doing it!

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Avivs went home more UNITED & more IGNITED with a powerful resolve to work harder to raise friends & funds for Israel.

‘I have shared my amazing WIZO experience with each person I have come into contact with since my return, and today even had one old friend wanting to join and volunteer... I feel so blessed to have 50 WIZO sisters from around the world, and so happy we can all stay connected thanks to Facebook.’

Keren (OZ)

“It’s been an honour and privilege to meet all you wonderful, powerful, passionate women from all over the world, I feel so empowered and enveloped by women with the same goals as me.

Thank you for all your input for sharing caring and spreading the light around the world of what WIZO does in each and every community.

I miss you all already. Thank you for your friendship. I feel I have family all around the world now, someone I can call.

I learned so much from this conference and have taken many of the leadership tools to use already.”

Elayne (South Africa)
“Our seminar was an extraordinary experience. All of us came back home, full of energy: emotions, joy and unfortunately, a taste of the scary reality Israeli people experience in their daily life.

As for me, living in a small town with a tiny and even declining Jewish community, it is very important to know that there are you ladies in South America, Australia, USA, South Africa, Europe who share same values, ideas and experience like me.

The great accomplishment of the seminar is that we created a real group (not only the Facebook group), and I hope we are going to work together in the future. It seems like we have much more in common than we ever thought.”

Vicky (Sweden)

“Since coming back to London, I have been reflecting on our week at the seminar. As I spoke about my experiences with friends and family I noticed that I was telling them how amazing it was, what a fantastic group of people I had met and how much I had learnt, all with a smile on my face.

Thank you for sharing your ideas, teaching me about your communities and your countries and above all your friendship. I hope we can continue to work together and be in touch for many years to come.”

Danielle (UK)

‘We are the Future & the Future is NOW’!

Please ‘LIKE’ us on our very own site

World WIZO Aviv
What was the driver for your involvement in WIZO?

To be honest, I really had no idea what WIZO was when I first agreed to get involved. I was at dinner with Merlis and David Cohen who are friends of my in-laws and Merlis asked me if I wanted to get involved. Apart from wanting to be part of a charitable organisation that raised funds for Israel I thought it would be a good way to meet like-minded women of my age. At that time, in my professional life in property I was mainly surrounded by men from outside the community and because of my hobby, martial arts I didn’t know that many Jewish women.

What have you gained from your involvement in WIZO?

I have gained a huge amount of knowledge about poverty in Israel and the areas of Israeli society not seen by the average holiday-maker on general beach holidays or sightseeing trips in Israel.

I have gained many new friends, and a greater respect for people who spend their free time raising money for others. WIZO has to be singled out as it is not the easiest charity to raise funds for in the UK. Having ‘Women’ and ‘Zionist’ in the name can make life difficult on occasion but then I always like a challenge.

Are there any particular projects which inspire you?

I love the WIZO Hadassim School and Youth Village sponsored by Canadian Hadassah WIZO that I saw on my first ever visit with WIZO. I came out inspired and wishing that all headmasters could be like the headmaster at this outstanding school.

I spent some time at the vocational school at the Rebecca Sieff Centre for the Family during the Aviv Challenge in 2010. We decorated part of the school and helped to renovate a therapeutic garden. During the Challenge we visited many projects. All of them were filled with warm and caring people who were always available to give a hug to anyone who needed it. If only we could have that here in the UK!

Are there any connections with WIZO and your family?

My daughter, Teia, is inspired by the stories I have told her about WIZO and has been involved in several WIZO fashion shows. At the most recent fashion show we walked down the catwalk together which was a truly memorable moment. Teia is always trying to think of new ways to raise funds for WIZO and hopes to join me on the next WIZO Aviv Challenge which I am hoping will include mothers and daughters. We sponsored a Bar and Bat mitzvah programme in Afula the same year as Teia’s bat mitzvah. I know that she was delighted that we helped these underprivileged girls have a meaningful celebration. Teia hopes that one day she will be able to go to Afula to meet the children that she helped.

Ilana has held many positions within WIZOuk including AVIV chair, the WIZO executive and is now involved in the new ‘major giving’ initiative. Her husband David has also been a Trustee of the charity. Ilana is modern and forward thinking. Her attitude to WIZO is so positive and she, along with her friends and family make a big impact on the fundraising success that we have in the UK. We look forward to Ilana’s continued commitment and dynamic leadership within WIZOuk.
Succot Day Tour 2012

A wonderful opportunity to see our projects is to take a day out of your holiday in Israel!

Linda Boxer, Executive Director, WIZOuk

Traditionally, many UK tourists visit Israel for the Chagim, (Pesach and Succot being the most popular times). I have always had a dream that we should arrange a WIZO touring day during one of these periods to give our members a chance to see some of our wonderful projects and "see where the money goes". So, the seeds for the WIZO Succot Tour were planted. I am delighted to report that on October 3rd 2012, 35 Brits, accompanied by our wonderful President Tova Ben Dov, together with Organization and Tourism Division Chair Janine Gelley and Deputy Chair Avital Blumenthal, set off for the day. And what a wonderful day we had.

Dora Day Care Centre

Our first stop was the day care centre in the Dora district of Netanya, where WIZOuk had funded extensive renovations over the summer. I had visited in August with Annette Crandell of the World WIZO Fundraising Department while the work was in progress, climbing over rubble and worrying whether everything would be completed when the children were due to return – only two weeks away.

Two weeks later, with tears in my eyes, I read Annette’s report of the first day of term, when parents saw the new facilities that we had provided for the children who come from deprived, impoverished, crime filled areas – facilities beyond their wildest dreams. Together with the director of the centre and other dedicated staff, Janine explained the daily programmes of the day care centre.

...on to Ahuzat Yeladim

From there, we went to the WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim School in Haifa, where their amazing and dedicated director, Yossi Saragossi, talked about this wonderful school. He explained the challenges that he and his team face caring for the students who live there, all of whom have severe emotional or psychological issues and many of whom come from dysfunctional families. We toured the outstanding facilities and left with awe at what Yossi and his dedicated team achieve.

And finally Atlit...

The trip ended with a visit to the Atlit “Illegal” Immigrant Detention Camp. Built in the 1930s, this had served as a detention centre for those who were apprehended after a struggle with the British authorities whilst attempting to enter Israel. We saw a very moving audio visual simulation of the ordeals they were subjected to on the clandestine ships and on their arrival. We were touched by the carvings of names on the walls of the barracks, so informing family and friends who may have followed their passage.

We all agreed that this was a wonderful and worthwhile day out. I would like to thank Janine, Avital and Orna for having responded to my request and arranging the tour. I also give my heartfelt thanks to Tova, [World WIZO President Tova Ben-Dov] whose presence gave this day an additional element of dignity and importance.
Every year thousands of Jewish teenagers from all over the world spend their gap year in Israel participating in Jewish youth movement programmes. The itineraries are carefully worked out to give these chanichim (youth movement participants) an 'Israel experience' that will stay with them throughout their adult life. It reinforces the link between Jews in the Diaspora and their brothers and sisters in Israel through knowledge, education and identity, and provides participants with the tools to advocate for Israel and the will to advance their Zionism and Jewish identity through forged friendships and shared Jewish values.

One such value is volunteerism, and it is that spirit of chesed (benevolence) - helping those less fortunate - that has exemplified WIZO from its pioneering days – and as every volunteer will tell you – when you help others, you help yourself. So where better for these wide-eyed chanichim to exercise their chesed than in WIZO projects?

Volunteering at WIZO’s Rebecca Sieff Vocational School

Sarit and her parents immigrated to Israel from Colorado. They live in Modiin and 19-year-old Sarit studies at a midreshet ye’ud (a one-year advanced Jewish studies programme for religious girls incorporating their national service programme) in Jerusalem. Twice a week, she volunteers at the WIZO UK sponsored Rebecca Sieff Vocational School, where she helps youth on a one-to-one basis, with verbal English, reading and writing, providing valuable support to the English teacher.
For the last three months, Kelly Brook and Ally Samakosky on Habonim Dror South Africa's Shnat Hachshara (Shnat) programme have been living in Haifa and volunteering at the WIZO Australia sponsored Ahuzat Yeladim Boarding School where English teacher, Sigal, sang their praises. "The girls have been of great benefit to the students by helping them with basic comprehension, English reading and writing. They have also helped some students with their mathematics."

Kelly explained, "Because many of the children come from difficult backgrounds, it was very productive for us to be there to help both the teacher and the students create a better environment in the classroom. A lot of the kids were very open with us and it was interesting to learn about their backgrounds. We formed some very strong relationships with the students we worked with. To be part of that experience was just amazing."

Ally added, "For me it was really rewarding and engaging at the same time and I could tell that the students were also benefitting from the experience. I really enjoyed getting to know the kids as well as working with Sigal because she really encouraged us and learnt a lot from us too."

Both girls were keen to thank WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim for giving them the opportunity to work with the kids, to help them, to encourage them to want to learn English and to pass their Bagrut (final school exams). "Overall it was a very rewarding experience," they agreed.

Adam Klass and Dean Sossen, also on the Shnat program said "We worked in the sports lessons and carpentry classes at WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim in Haifa. We helped the kids with woodwork and other educational activities provided by the school. It was an amazing experience to know that we had an impact on the kids and created an added element to their lives by working with them three times a week.

...and at WIZO's Helena Kagan Youth Centre

Granddaughters of the late Lady Rebecca Sieff, English teacher Dr Sara Miron and her sister Micaela Zev, are stalwart volunteers at the WIZO UK-sponsored Helena Kagan Centre for Youth and Communications in Jerusalem teaching English.

They and the youth at the centre have benefitted greatly from the assistance of young Jewish men who learn at the Yeshivat Eretz HaTzvi. One of the yeshiva students Josh Moskowitz from the USA explained, "I have found my work at the Kagan Centre incredibly gratifying on multiple levels. I am teaching a young Israeli called Tomer. Not only am I learning Hebrew as fast as Tomer learns English, but I believe I am making an impression on his life’s outlook during his formative years. He is absorbing not only the words and phrases that we discuss, but he is gaining a love of learning that will make the experience even more rewarding for the both of us. I am excited to continue these sessions throughout the remainder of the year."

Joe Boxer, the son of WIZO UK Executive Director Linda Boxer, agreed that there is much to be gained by volunteering, as did fellow Yeshiva students Harry Levene from the UK and Moishe Eisenmann from Holland who are also helping the youth at the Kagan Centre with their English.

For WIZO, engaging Jewish youth from the Diaspora who come to Israel on organized youth group tours adds another facet to the 'seeing is believing' ethos of the World WIZO Organization and Tourism Division and exposes grass roots WIZO to the future leaders of Jewish communities around the world.

One of the volunteers tutoring a pupil at Ahuzat Yeladim
Irene Spanier wore a black and white checkered coat when they knocked on the door of the apartment in Paris where she lived with her grandparents, and yelled out her name: “Irene Spanier, take your clothing and follow us,” the Gestapo officer ordered, before he pushed her onto the truck that would bring her to the Drancy transit camp, known as the “lobby” to Auschwitz. It was July 16th, 1942. Irene was 21 years old.

A chain of fortuitous events: a faked Babinski syndrome, four cans of tomatoes and the courage to face everything -- enabled this woman, now 90 years old, to survive the hell of the 2nd World War. Not only did she elude the Holocaust, as a member of WIZO that managed an underground network for saving children, she helped to save over 300 children who otherwise would have fallen into the hands of the Nazis.

Escape

The first stroke of luck took place when she arrived at Drancy with a high fever and was taken to the clinic. The doctor whispered “When they prick you with a pin on the sole of your foot, lift your big toe.” In this way she faked the symptoms of the Babinski reflex, which is associated with a neurological disorder and was transferred to the Jewish Rothschild Hospital. Her mother managed to bribe a French police official, which enabled Irene to escape. She left the hospital at midnight, and realized that from that moment on she would have to move in the shadows.

A few months later, Juliette Stern of WIZO France made contact with her. “I need a young blonde woman who speaks excellent French and doesn’t look Jewish to help me save the children.”

“The Germans would grab people in the morning to send them to the concentration camp while their children were in school. WIZO would get the names and addresses of those who were arrested in the morning, and would send young women to collect their children,” Irene recounted.

Hiding the Children

From the moment that Stern appealed to her, Irene had a list of the children who had to be hidden. She would travel on the train and escort them to their new homes in the Paris environs. They were cared for by women whose husbands were in the French army and needed the money. WIZO paid the monthly fee of 500 francs for their care.

With time it became necessary to smuggle these children out of the country. “We need you to take 20 passports, and this is dangerous,” Juliette Stern informed her.

With the 20 passports in a small leather sack, Irene was about to get on the train when she saw someone selling cans of tomatoes, and decided to buy four of them. That was the second stroke of luck. As she disembarked from the train a Gestapo officer stopped her and asked her to open her bag but luckily he only saw the cans of tomatoes which had covered the passports. “In this way my life and the lives of the children were saved, and they were able to travel to Switzerland.”

Irene today

This woman, who eluded Auschwitz, who lived in the shadows with a forged identity card for the four years of the occupation of France, does not show signs of her age, nor the hunger or the troubles she suffered. There are no wrinkles or signs that bear witness to pain in her shining face. Perhaps she hides the pain. In some way, maybe she pretends in order to carry on. After all, this ability of hers is what saved her and the 300 children who she succeeded in whisking away from the clutches of the Nazis.

This article was edited by Lisa Moss-Phillips from the 45th World WIZO Bible Day Book “WIZO – The Stories Behind the Story”.

Original material: Victoria Perez Zabala: Irene Spanier, the heroine who saved 300 children from the Nazis, La Nacion September 12, 2010.
FACTS TELL... STORIES SELL

Storytelling - “social-networking tool 1.0 - is the single most powerful communications tool organizations possess”

Lisa Moss-Phillips

The Jews are a storytelling people. From antiquity to the present day, the Jewish people have been referred to as the People of the Book. Jews are also a people of the spoken word and have a rich oral tradition of personal and family stories as well as sacred texts and traditional folktales. Storytelling is a rich part of our Jewish tradition and continues to be an ongoing, effective way of transmitting a cultural heritage and thereby of sharing the values of a people.

The power of storytelling

Nothing stirs the imagination like a great story, making them the ideal tool to make your organization’s mission and message come to life. Studies of human psychology have found that if we are told something through narrative, we are more likely to relate to the message, absorbing it further and remaining engaged from start to finish.

A story can penetrate our imagination, conscience and emotions touching us on a deep personal level. Stories have the amazing dual power to motivate and inspire.

Storytelling works as a perfect promotional tool because stories are easier to remember than facts and figures and people of all ages love a good story. The stories that tug at our heartstrings are those real-life, inspirational and life altering stories about ordinary people doing extraordinary things. They are personal and filled with emotion and drama.

We need to tell stories for everything we do - fundraising, advocacy, recruiting and public relations. In the long run, if we can tell stories that other people remember and retell then we have the world’s oldest form of social media working for us. We need to circulate our powerful, touching stories to a wide audience through as many channels as possible including social media, ads, videos, podcasts and articles.

Become an effective storyteller

When it comes to finding deep, powerful, mission-driven stories, nonprofit organizations have the corporate world beat! Nothing brings to life the needs we address and the work we do as effectively as a compelling story. Each and every WIZO chavera has an arsenal of personal stories that capture – simply, clearly, passionately and authentically the organizational values, mission and vision of our movement. We need to share these powerful stories and connect people with information that can change their lives. Storytelling is the most powerful way to forge that connection and engage others in our cause.

WIZO - a human change agent

Peter F. Drucker (1909 -2005), revered as the father of modern management said “the nonprofit institution is a human change agent. It neither supplies goods nor services. Its product is neither a pair of shoes nor an effective regulation. Their “product” is a child that learns, a youth who grows into a self respecting adult, a changed human life altogether.”

The values of Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) and Tzedakah (charity) are the raison d’etre of our movement and central to all that we do. Change is what WIZO is all about and the work we do to transforms the lives of those less fortunate in Israeli society. Storytelling doesn’t require much creativity; you just need to be ready to spot the good stories that life generates every day. WIZO’s valuable work improving the lives of women and children in Israel is the best narrative of all and makes for a great story. Tell it well, share it with others and watch it get circulated far beyond your small world. This is the magic of great storytelling and an opportunity every organization has right within its own people.

Share your stories – inspire and engage others in your community to join the WIZO sisterhood inviting them to know what we know: the awesome experience of being part of an international movement of women who are mending and changing the world.

Once they understand how wonderful it is to be with like minded women with big hearts it will be like eating candy; you realize how delicious it is and you don’t want to give it up.

Powerful narratives

Finally and most importantly we must remember this: the message alone cannot achieve change. Narratives are a powerful tool but they do not trump action. We may be a people of the oral tradition but we are also a people who said Haasht Unishma. First we shall do then we shall listen. We are a people who put deeds above words. Storytelling means nothing if it is not backed up by compelling experiences and real action. To make change we need to roll up our sleeves, get involved and back up everything we say with action and deeds. We need to provide real opportunities to help transport people from passivity to agency, to help them be creators of their own stories.

Sources:
Helping Ethiopians Integrate

A unique three-day empowerment workshop for 52 Ethiopian families in pleasant vacation surroundings at the Maale Hamisha Vacation Complex in the Jerusalem Hills, was organised by Beit Heuss.

The families all came from the Kiryat Moshe neighbourhood in Rehovot and are under the care of the welfare authorities in a special government programme to strengthen their social integration, their absorption into the workforce and their family bonds. In line with these aspirations the workshop was designed with the added aim of encouraging the participants’ feeling of belonging and security and to connect the children to their Ethiopian roots and instill a sense of pride in their heritage.

Nineteen of the participating families were classified as high risk, families where the parents were largely older when they immigrated to Israel, and therefore experience language difficulties and have found it hard to integrate. They have social and employment problems and find it difficult to adapt to Israeli society, still abiding by Ethiopian family traditions. This causes great problems with their children who speak Hebrew fluently and are integrating with their contemporaries.

These families often possess a history of alcohol abuse, chronic health and mental problems, personal problems regarding violence and money and neglect. They suffer from social isolation and are not even accepted by the other Ethiopian families in the community.

Many of the activities were designed for the whole family, enabling them to improve communication skills and tighten the bond between siblings and their parents through drama, art, shiatsu, games and outside activities. This is the first time that such a workshop has taken place with such a large and complex group, both for WIZO and for the welfare authorities.

International Day of Violence Against Women

A somber day each year in the WIZO calendar occurs at the end of November when WIZO marks the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. This year was no exception as over 200 WIZO members, supporters, guests and friends crowded into the Tel Aviv Cinematheque.

World WIZO Executive members joined WIZO Israel Chairperson Gila Oshrat and the WIZO Israel Executive for the remembrance ceremony and speakers’ panel. Special guest speaker was Internal Security Minister Yitzchak Aharonovitch, who pledged to create special procedures in his ministry to enforce cases of domestic violence.

Slight reduction in figures

This year’s figures (November to November) revealed that 19 women were murdered by family members, compared to 24 in 2011, a 26% decrease. According to WIZO’s estimates 200,000 women in Israel have suffered from domestic violence in the past year, and 600,000 children have been exposed to it.

“Protection and restraining orders for women victims of violence are life-saving tools, but there are difficulties in their implementation and enforcement,” declared Gila Oshrat. “This lack of enforcement ultimately puts women at risk, and they find themselves alone in front of their violent spouse. There is a need to strengthen
the interactions between all the elements responsible for operating protection orders in order to increase their effectiveness and ensure the safety of the women,” Oshrat added.

New campaign

WIZO has launched a new campaign entitled “Out of the Shadows” aimed at the men – the perpetrators of the violence. Confessions and testimonials of domestic violence are being posted on social media sites. A special hotline has been set up so men can call in and seek professional help if they feel they are getting out of control.

Friends of WIZO is a vibrant group of ex-pats and Israelis living in Israel who are passionate about WIZO and their mission to assist all sectors of Israeli society - wherever there is a need.

Friends of WIZO - Come Rain or Shine

Some 30 Friends of WIZO were hosted admirably by co-chair Betty Crystal at her Tel Aviv home with a delicious brunch prepared by the committee to open their year of excellent fundraising activity. World WIZO Fundraising Division Chair and Friends of WIZO Co-Chair Esther Mor welcomed guests and introduced the talented students from Hadassim who entertained with a medley of songs. Betty surprised all her guests by presenting them with handbag-sized umbrellas generously donated by Fulton Umbrellas of London. Betty said, “We won’t let the rain dampen our spirits. We, Friends of WIZO, are there for WIZO come rain or shine.”

WIZO’s Youth Reach Gold

“We are proud to educate a wonderful generation in whom the values of WIZO and Zionism lie deep in their activities. You are the State of Israel’s next generation of leaders.” With these words World WIZO President Tova Ben-Dov congratulated the first group of pupils from WIZO schools who have achieved the gold award in the International Youth Award Scheme.

The presentations to children from schools all over Israel took place at an impressive event at the home of the British Ambassador Mr Matthew Gould during Succot. WIZO was especially honoured as the WIZO Nir Ha’Emek song and dance troupe had been invited to entertain the guests.

Addressing the young people, Ambassador Gould encouraged them with these words: “The values that you have acquired through participation in the programme will accompany you at all times and we are proud of you for your contribution. You are the most important agents of change in Israeli society.”

The vision of the programme is to provide interest and meaning to the lives of young people, by encouraging active participation and empowerment in four areas: community service, sports, developing hobbies and skills, and undertaking campaigns and challenges.
Aviva Alian is a 61 year old Arab care-giver at the multipurpose day care centre in the Galil which treats children at risk. Each year at registration, parents request that only she take care of their child, and the centre receives countless thank you letters from parents. By no coincidence the children with the most difficult life stories are generally integrated into her group, given her unique ability to immediately sense when something is wrong and respond to their distress with the utmost warmth and professionalism.

Irit Shimon, the mailroom clerk at head office, is a highly efficient, responsible worker who provides service with a pleasant demeanour and a perpetual smile and never refuses to assist anyone who approaches her. Over a period of time, she has replaced her mailroom colleagues and single handedly took on full responsibility for the mailroom and its day to day activities.

Michal Salomon, who works in the Property and Purchasing Division in WIZO head office, is an exceptionally dedicated, efficient and hardworking employee who executes any task given to her swiftly. She possesses exceptional interpersonal skills, providing professional service to all WIZO institutions and regards the treatment of some complex cases with utmost integrity. She is also an outstanding team worker.

Varda Shaflan has worked as a secretary at the WIZO Givatayim Branch for over 30 years assisting 45 chairwomen. She is efficient, practical and responsible, undertaking any task entrusted to her. She treats the branch as her home, arriving each morning extra early to prepare the centre for the day’s events. In the past, she was also responsible for after-school activities and today continues to assist wherever she can. Varda has formed positive relationships with the volunteers, parents and staff who all appreciate her diligence and loyalty. She is described as the “solid rock of WIZO Givatayim”.

In a recent ceremony at WIZO Nir Ha’emek School, over 100 pupils from five WIZO schools received the silver award, and are now moving on to the gold challenges. Presently there are nearly 500 children from WIZO schools who are participating in the scheme.

At a subsequent board meeting of the organization held at WIZO House, Ben Galliziano from WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim described his experiences as part of the scheme and ended with the words: “Thank you WIZO for giving me a chance, and because of that, I am a better person.”
Malka Ganichovsky has served as director of the Centre for the Treatment and Prevention of Violence for many years and is responsible for breakthroughs in treating cases of violence, particularly involving children and youth at risk. She works tirelessly to form partnerships and raise the resources to realize the innovative programs that she initiates. Malka is a role model for other managers in the field and is a praiseworthy representative for WIZO.

Two team prizes were also presented:

One prize was awarded to the four women who run the Shelanu Centre. Director Riki Ben Chayim and her team of two social workers and a secretary raised a project aimed at assisting families of the mentally ill. Within a short period, the institution became a leading centre and its long waiting lists called for its expansion. Riki’s initiative, embodied in her enrichment activities, lectures and seminars, with the assistance of her excellent team, managed to raise awareness amongst the broader population regarding this sensitive issue. Their professionalism and exceptional service also received commendations from the Ministry of Health.

The second team prize was given to the 18-strong veteran team at the Shikun Dora Day Care Centre, which is located in one of the poorest areas of Netanya with many social problems. The staff’s cohesiveness and high motivation have been instrumental in helping them deal with an underprivileged population. They have received many accolades from the Division of Early Childhood for their professionalism, and in meeting all the requests of the Netanya municipality. The teams are happy to take on any project presented to them with full cooperation and responsibility. It is no surprise that the Dora Day Care Centre has gained itself an excellent reputation in the area and is in great demand.

A ‘lehaim’ for Rosh Hashana was also held in the WIZO Parents’ home for the staff, where the shofar was sounded, and all present participated in a rousing sing-song. Delicious refreshments, lovingly prepared by the kitchen staff, were served to all present.

A delightful surprise was the performance by the WIZO Ron choir – a choir which consists of WIZO Tel Aviv golden-agers. World WIZO Chairperson Rivka Lazovsky was in attendance, as was Parents Home Chairperson Riki Cohen, other World WIZO Executive members and World WIZO Director Igal Dekel. The ceremony was compered by the Parents Home manager Mr. Shmulik Sadan. All speakers expressed their appreciation for the hard work and devotion of the staff to the residents of the Parents’ Home.

Finally, house-mother Ahuva Baruch, was awarded the excellent worker award for the Parents’ Home.

Members of a delegation from the political, administrative and educational sector of the State of Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany, listened intently as a resident of WIZO’s women’s shelter in Jerusalem told her story. “Ettie” (not her real name) described how the staff at the centre had helped her get through a very traumatic experience in her life – and thanks to them she ‘got her life back’ and has the strength to continue. Her future plans include studying and returning to the shelter as a staff member to help other women in her situation.
Led by Dr Dietter Schiffman, the group was on their annual education visit and study tour of Israel. Each year has a different theme and this year’s was The Social Situation of Women in Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian Territories – Everyday Life and Claims.

The group was of an extremely high calibre and comprised of teachers, journalists, lawyers, accountants, judges and politicians. The tour is subsidized by the local government and participants explained that it is an honour to be chosen.

World WIZO President Tova Ben-Dov, Chairperson Rivka Lazovsky and WIZO Israel Chairperson Gila Oshrat, described various aspects of WIZO’s work. Also present were WIZO Germany Executive members Jenny Sommer and Lilian Tichauer – Jenny addressed the gathering (in German) and outlined WIZO Germany’s projects in Israel.

Members of the group commented on how impressed they were and how there is much more material for further discussions – and revealed that German society has many similar problems as regards to women.

WIZO Teaches Nutrition to Parents

A new guide issued by WIZO gives parents a comprehensive guide to providing health food for their children.

A survey conducted by WIZO timed with the launch of the guide regarding eating habits of the typical Israeli family, revealed a trend in less family meals less care in providing healthy meals and more junkfood.

The guide includes explanations and recommendations for instilling healthy eating habits and was based on the experience of hundreds of nursery teachers and day care centre managers over the years.

Prof. Rivka Lazovsky, Chairperson of World WIZO explained that parental influence on children’s nutrition in early childhood is more critical than at any other age and has implications with regard to health and children’s attitude to food now and in the future.

The guides are being implemented in WIZO day care centres across the country for the benefit of parents, and will also appear on the WIZO website.

Members of the German delegation listening intently to the WIZO presentations

Nutritious food waiting to be served to children at the Shikun Dora WIZO day care centre in Netanya

Lunchtime at Shikun Dora WIZO day care centre in Netanya

(l-r) Lilian Tichauer, Tova Ben-Dov, Dr Dietter Schiffman, Gila Oshrat, Jenny Sommer
Tamar Lazarus – WIZO South Africa

Tamar Lazarus née Hadani was born in Israel in 1962. She completed her service in the Israel Defense Forces as the sergeant major for the officers’ training course of the women’s corps.

In 1983 while visiting her parents who were in Durban as emissaries for the UIA (United Israel Appeal), Tamar met her husband Ronald. They have three children age 24, 23 and 19.

Tamar is a past chairman of WIZO Durban where she convened several Women’s Biennial Zionist Campaigns. She held the position of editor to the Jewish Community publication Hashalom. She also served on the management committee of the Jewish home for the aged - Beth Shalom, the Council of Kwa Zulu Natal Jewry and the Kwa Zulu Natal Zionist Council.

In 2002 Tamar and her family moved to Cape Town. Tamar is a past chairman of WIZO Cape Town, Past Chairman of Partnership 2Gether and currently is an Executive member of the South African Zionist Federation Cape Council.

Nicole Kovalivker – WIZO Argentina

Nicole Kovalivker was born in Paris in 1951, and some of her earliest memories are of attending WIZO fancy dress parties for Purim.

Soon after the Six Day War in 1967, Nicole, along with her sister, came to Israel as volunteers, and later, after she finished high school she immigrated to Israel, joining her sister Michele. Within two years, Nicole met her husband-to-be Eduardo, who was from Argentina, and they travelled to Buenos Aires to live, where Eduardo’s parents were stalwarts of the community, his mother Teresa (known as Nata) being a devoted and generous WIZO member.

Nicole studied to be an English teacher and taught English literature for 30 years, receiving her MA in Literary Linguistics from Nottingham University. Nicole and Eduardo have three children and (so far!) four grandchildren.

Nicole did not hesitate to follow in her mother-in-law’s footsteps and feels highly privileged and a great responsibility to be president of WIZO Argentina.
AUSTRALIA

Evening of Humour in Perth

The fantastic sound of over 350 people laughing could be heard reverberating from Carmel’s Sylvia and Harry Hoffman Hall, as a seed of an idea planted by one of Australia’s Men of WIZO, Geoff Kaye, was lovingly spun into a fun, sassy night of entertainment by a talented trio: Illana Klevansky, Heather Kur and Roberta Altmuner. Combined with an enthusiastic and talented cast and further enhanced by WIZO Aviva’s super team of sales, marketing and catering, the end result was a thoroughly enjoyable night of good Jewish humour and an excellent fundraiser.

Celebrating Sisterhood

A very successful women’s concert was held in Perth in support of WIZO Western Australia. The excellent choir united with a diverse range of performers who together put on a show that had all present clapping, singing along and having a thoroughly enjoyable time as they celebrated their kinship with Israel and Jewish sisterhood.

WIZO Awareness Week

Each year in New South Wales one week is designated in the community for WIZO Awareness. Organized by Education Chairperson Rose Fekete, this year’s activities were coordinated throughout all the Jewish schools from pre-schools to high schools where children were presented with lectures and videos about WIZO. The children also participated in a mufti day (dressing down day) where they brought a donation for WIZO.

The week where the Torah portion of Chaya Sara is read, is designated as the WIZO Shabbat, where rabbis talk about WIZO in their weekly sermon. This wonderful annual event brings WIZO into the homes, schools and synagogues of the NSW Community.

Seven Melbourne Cup Luncheons

Seven WIZO NSW groups held amazing fundraising luncheons on this Australian annual horseracing day. WIZO Tova and Yachad joined forces and organised a beautiful harbourside lunch with guest speaker, leading Australian designer Josh Goot. WIZO Ayelet invited Israeli author Shifra Horn as their guest speaker and WIZO Darom had their yearly bridge and lunch. All eagerly watched the races before having another glass of champagne! What an enjoyable way to raise money for WIZO in one day.

WIZO around the world
**AUSTRIA**

**Sponsor A Child Event in Vienna City Hall**

WIZO Austria held its “Sponsor A Child” Gala in the beautiful festive City Hall of Vienna, with keynote speaker Ulrich Sahm, a very well-known German publicist. Ulrich gave a vivid and very impressive talk about political changes in the Middle East.

Mrs Sylvia Friederich-Bankl from the City of Vienna hosted the event and addressed the guests on behalf of the Mayor of Vienna, Mr. Häupl. Israel’s Ambassador to Austria, Aviv Shir-On, who sponsored the evening, expressed his and his wife’s commitment to WIZO. Young singers from the Music Academy of Vienna, Ethel Merhaupt (soprano) and Anna Manske (mezzo-soprano) sang Mozart adding their touch of magic to the delightful evening.

**UN Ageing Conference**

Although there was no official Israeli delegation at the UN European Economic Forum five-year meeting on ageing in Vienna this last September, Yaacov Sandler, Director of the Union of Associations for the Elderly in Israel, Ariela Loewenstein from the University of Haifa, and WIZO Austria President Dr. Hava Bugajer, attended.

Many points adopted in the final ministerial paper were suggested by Dr. Bugajer, who stresses how important it is for Israel and WIZO to be represented and gain respect from their high-calibre representatives in these forums. In many cases, The State of Israel and its NGOs face hostility and attempts at exclusion at these conferences.

Topics discussed included promoting active ageing including more flexible work opportunities and life-long education.

**BELGIUM**

**Flowers and Gifts**

Rosh Hashana once again brought all WIZO Belgium’s different divisions together to organize a Flower and Gift programme where numerous chaverot give a hand in taking orders, writing greetings cards and delivering them with flowers and gifts. This initiative has proven to be a successful and meaningful team building fundraiser that has taken on yearly momentum.

**Jazz Duo Perform**

The Belgian WIZO Nana Team organized a lively jazz evening in a private home in Brussels. Two young musicians, a pianist and bass guitarist, entertained a large crowd with an unforgettable musical performance.

**Vintage Sale Fundraiser in Antwerp**

Under the expert hands of Agnes Diamant, Annie Schreiber, Frieda Jeger and Magda Moskovits WIZO Antwerp organized their bi-annual Vintage and Brocante sale. The Sponsor A Child luncheon coordinated by the Bina Committee in Antwerp attracted all the “fine ladies” to their city.

(Please note the images are not captured in the text.)
Salsa Fun

Yahad committee in Antwerp organized a fun salsa session for motivated young women as a means of brightening up their daily routine.

WIZO Belgium Salutes Lea

Known to everyone as Lea, Rose Gutterman, vice-president of WIZO Brussels, is a modest lady with a big heart who deploys tireless efforts to set up and run various events. Recently she organized an informative and constructive conference with an address by internationally renowned Professor Jean-Marie Nogaret of the Bordet Institute, a gynaecologist and surgeon specializing in breast imaging. The conference, attended by several doctors, was hosted in a spacious private residence and followed by a delicious buffet.

BRAZIL

Remembering Suzana Starosta z”l

Chaverot from various WIZO centres across Brazil attended a vibrant conference dedicated to the memory of the late Suzana Starosta z”l. The event was honoured by the presence of the Israeli Ambassador, Rafael Eldad and his wife Batia.

Well known lecturer Ricardo Berkiensztat broached the theme of “The Impoverishment of Israeli Society and the action of WIZO” and journalist Carlos Brickmann lectured on “The Community’s Challenge in the areas of Communication and Politics”. More than 25 Aviv members participated in an interesting and dynamic workshop conducted by psychologist Janice Fischmann. At the conference Helena Kelner was reelected as president; she paid moving tributes to active members Clarinha Novikov, Aviva Avritzer and Helena Grynbaum. A special tribute was paid to much beloved Eva Baumwol, a full-time WIZO volunteer.

WIZO Brasilia Collaborates with Elementary School

The School of Nations Elementary School organized a successful event where each class gave a presentation about a specific country. Under the guidance of WIZO Brasilia chaverot, the class representing the State of Israel built a replica of the Kotel. Two thousand people attended including Ambassador Rafael Eldad and his wife Batia and WIZO Brazil Vice President Sheila Saubermann.

WIZO Paraná Benefit Bazaar

WIZO Paraná in collaboration with the Association of Friends of the Hospital de Clinicas held a benefit bazaar which was attended by all groups of WIZO Paraná and proved to be a great success.
Enthusiastic WIZO Paraná chaverot at the Bazaar

**Succot in WIZO Rio de Janeiro**

WIZO Rio de Janeiro organised two Succot celebrations. The first was a tea party promoted by the Scylla Schneider Centre of Niterói, supported by resident volunteers of the city of Niterói and friends from Rio de Janeiro. Rabbi Ytiel Stauber gave blessings and led a prayer service. At the second event, organized by the Henny Landau Centre, volunteers from several groups observed the mitzvah of having a meal inside a Succah.

Frida Zatz Lochpe (l) is honoured by Sophie Isdra, president of WIZO Rio Grande do Sul

**WIZO São Paulo “Yom Iyun”**

A successful study day was coordinated by WIZO São Paulo’s Cultural Department where chaverot listened to some interesting lectures, which granted an opportunity for engendering more empowerment and community work. The event was further enhanced by the presence of Helena Kelner, president of WIZO Brazil, and by WIZO Brazil Honorary President, Ana Marlene Starec, among other important guests.

Fraternity Fair 2012

Over 700 guests attended WIZO Rio Grande Do Sul’s Fraternity Fair including WIZO Brazil President Helena Kelner, vice-presidents of various WIZO Brazil branches and members from WIZO Rio Grande do Sul groups with their families. The programme included a children’s fashion show, Israeli dancing, bingo, a children’s theatre, and tents selling a variety of products. An emotional tribute was paid to former president Frida Zatz Lochpe, for her innovations and vast contribution to the growth of the chapter.

(1 to r ) Ana Marlene Starec, Geni Rinski, Etcjane Coin, Iza Mansur, Gaby Glasman, Nava Politi, Sulamita Tabacof, Helena Kelner

Sulamita Tabacof addresses the chaverot

(1 to r) Chazan Oren Boljover, Helena Kelner, Lúcia Balassiano, president WIZO Rio de Janeiro, Congresswoman Teresa Bergher

Chaverot from WIZO Rio de Janeiro inside the Succah
Montreal Art Auction

Over 250 people crowded into the Espace Reunion for CHW’s annual art auction, a presence on the Montreal art scene since 1956, with the dual goals of promoting Canadian artists while raising funds for children. Guest of honour was Roy L. Heenan O.C., founding partner of Heenan Blaikie who was introduced by past honorees and organizers of the event, Helen and Jacques Bellefeuille. The event was co-chaired by Sarah Hutman and Lianne Routtenberg with professional auctioneer Neil Horowitz, of Récupération NH Inc. taking the bids! Generous corporate sponsors included Heenan Blaikie LLP (Cocktail Sponsor), Barefoot Wines (wine sponsor), Bench, Stokes, Beyond the Rack and David’s Tea.

Consul General Speaks at CHW

CHW welcomed Israel Consul General DJ Schneeweiss during an evening programme for the National Advisory Board at the Westin Prince Hotel in Toronto. Before giving an update on the current situation in Israel, Consul Schneeweiss shared his grandmother and mother’s connection to the organization. During the Second World War, Consul Schneeweiss’ grandmother found herself in Montreal, seeking safety during times of turmoil in Europe. She became involved with CHW during her short stay and was welcomed and helped by the community.

Born in Australia, DJ Schneeweiss immigrated to Israel in 1987 and has had an illustrious career in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 1994, with postings in England, China and currently in Canada.

52nd CHW London Bazaar

Despite the fact that bazaars are no longer popular fundraising events, CHW London, the last Canadian community to do so, held its 52nd annual bazaar. Committed bazaar volunteers include seniors, some of whom are well into their 90s, who have assisted each year since the bazaar began. Their children, grand-children, and even great-grandchildren now also help with all the different tasks associated with a successful bazaar.

The bazaar also offers a chance for participants to reconnect and to experience some Jewish culture.
CHILE

Joyful “WIZO Friendship Night ”

Chile WIZO groups joined together to share the traditional “Noche de la Amistad”, annual party celebrating their solidarity and commitment to WIZO. “WIZO Woman – our People’s Menorah”, was the theme this year in recognition of extraordinary Jewish women throughout history. Agnes Mannheim, president of WIZO Chile handed the ‘Woman of the Year’ prize to Cata Grossman de Trajtman for her dedication and generosity to WIZO. Prizes were also given to the Kalanioth Group for their unconditional devotion and service to WIZO for 50 years, and to the members of the recently formed Ruth group who, in a short period of time, have organized numerous events showing their true commitment to WIZO.

Study Day for Yamim Noraim

WIZO Chile organized their traditional “Study Day for Yamim Noraim”[The Ten Days of Penitence – between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur] under the title: “Judaism and Plenitude”. Among the guests were Rabbis Daniel Zang from the Sfardic Community, Alejandro Bloch from B’nei Israel Community, Shmuel Szteinhendler from Beit Emunah Community, Eliahu Tamim from Bet Yosef Synagogue of Aish Hatorah and Ishai Libersohn from Chabad Lubavich. Ester Cohen provided lunchtime musical entertainment, accompanied by keyboardist Ariel Toro, after which the chaverot participated in a workshop prepared by Sima Rezepka, Director of the Culture Department.

COLOMBIA

Remembering Sara Mekler (z”l)

“WIZO Colombia Past President Doña Sara (z”l) was never someone for tributes or praise, but possessed a natural spirit of generosity and giving. Her objective was always to see how to help WIZO and Israel and she did it with simplicity. For her family, the community and WIZO, the vacuum is vast. She was always there for us, ready to assist as much as she could, with her great enthusiasm and cheerful demeanour. We are left with so many memories that make up only part of her legacy. Her actions touched our lives. We are left with the most difficult of tasks - that of realizing her aspirations.”

FRANCE

Golf Trophy for Peace

Despite the rain and cold weather, some 50 golfers gathered on the Kemperhof, to participate in WIZO’s 11th ‘Golf Trophy for Peace.’ At the end of the day-long tournament, winners were awarded prizes donated by the numerous sponsors.
Solidarity Events

WIZO France held solidarity functions in both Paris and Nimes. In Paris, the 19th Solidarity Luncheon was held in the presence of His Excellency Yossi Gal, Ambassador of Israel to France. Guest speaker was Serge Moati, writer, journalist and director. Ambassador Gal touched all the guests as he described the situation currently prevailing in Israel. In Nimes, the large number of guests attending the Solidarity Dinner appreciated the detailed and informative speech given by Mr. Barnea Hassid, General Consul of Israel. WIZO France is grateful to WIZO Nimes Chairperson Nicole Illouz for always bringing important local personalities in addition to WIZO members, to the event.

Marseilles Book Fair

WIZO Marseilles held its 14th Book Fair in which 30 writers from Paris, Belgium, Israel and Marseilles accepted the invitation to attend from Josette Guigui, WIZO Marseilles chairperson. A lecture entitled “Obama’s Disaster, Israel and the Reconstruction of the World” was given by Guy Milliere. At the end of the evening, six writers talked about “Algeria, Nostalgia and Memories” in a panel moderated by Elsa Charbit. All proceeds from this successful event, attended by 300 people, were earmarked for funding WIZO day care centres in Israel.

GERMANY

WIZO Gala – One Night for Children

The newly elected WIZO Munich Committee organised a wonderful gala dinner and dance, attended by 180 guests, who enjoyed culinary specialties and energizing dance music. The famous TV presenter Andrea Kiewel moderated the evening and WIZO Germany President Diana Schnabel opened hearts and pockets of the attending guests with her heartfelt speech, describing the hardships of children in Israel’s southern border region.

Sponsor A Child Cologne

Cologne’s Sponsor a Child gala had an ambience of an Academy Award gathering as 250 guests arrived at the red carpet of the Wolkenburg in one of the fanciest locations in Cologne. Popular TV presenter Ralph Morgenstern not only led a magical evening of music and entertainment but also surprised the “girls” of WIZO Cologne with a cake. Keynote speakers WIZO Germany President Diana Schnabel and the Rabbi of Cologne Jaron Engelmeyer played a key role in making this event a successful fundraiser.
Frankfurt Sponsor A Child

Despite initial concerns, WIZO Frankfurt’s Sponsor A Child gala was a great success. Two hundred and fifty guests enjoyed a varied and unique entertainment programme and a delicious dinner in the ballroom of the Frankfurt Hilton.

In her opening address, WIZO Germany President Diana Schnabel, emphasized the importance of supporting WIZO, and reinforced the fact that WIZO takes care of all children, regardless of their race or religion. Jörg-Uwe Hahn, Deputy Prime Minister of Hessen, reiterated Diana Schnabel’s words and stressed Germany’s unique responsibility for Israel. One of the many highlights was the performance of “Adoro”, a music ensemble of five opera singers. Assaf Kacholi, born in Israel and member of Adoro, praised the devotion of WIZO women and expressed how honoured he felt to sing at the WIZO gala.

WIZO Frankfurt Bazaar 2012

Once again the annual WIZO Frankfurt Bazaar lightened up the cold and dark days of November and welcomed its visitors with lots of delicious food, fruit and wine from Israel, clothing for men, women and children, and many other items for sale.

The grand opening began with the welcoming speech of WIZO Germany President Diana Schnabel, who outlined the importance of WIZO Germany’s contribution in supporting Israel and its people. Frankfurt’s Mayor Olaf Cunitz and the Catholic City Dean Dr. Johannes zu Eltz also spoke, and Dr. Dieter Graumann, board member of the Jewish Community, finally handed a cheque as a donation and encouraged all visitors to spend their money to support a good cause.

Young women from the newly formed Young WIZO group served cocktails at the WIZO cocktail bar, and DJ Ilya enhanced the atmosphere with his lively music.

WIZO Holland Literature Prize

WIZO ‘readers’ voted Assad Gavron’s book Hydromania as the 2012 winner of the WIZO Holland Literature Prize. Ninety book lovers attended the prize-winning ceremony in Amsterdam, and 25 book clubs joined WIZO in 2012 – reading at least three of the six carefully preselected books. All authors are Jewish or of Israeli origin which is something unique in Holland.

By supporting this project readers contribute towards scholarships for students in WIZO schools, and at the same time, broaden their own knowledge of literature.

WIZO Hungary Remembers Hanna Szenesh (z”l)

On the anniversary of the death of Hanna Szenesh at the hands of the Nazis, WIZO Hungary held a memorial ceremony at the monument in her name.

Assaf Gavron (l) with Silvia Berladski Baruch, Counsellor for Press, Public and Cultural Affairs Embassy of Israel, The Hague

At the Hanna Szenesh Monument
Nachlat Yehuda Musical Troupe

Young members of the WIZO Nachlat Yehuda’s Dance and Music Troupe were flown into Budapest and were the special guests at the Bálintház Jewish Community Centre where they delighted the audience with a most memorable performance.

Supporting the Community

During the Jewish Holidays and Israeli national holidays, twice or three times a year WIZO Hungary bring gifts to the patients of the Jewish Hospital. In addition to monthly meetings the Hungarian federation also runs a cultural club where various activities are organised.

Fundraising Mission

World WIZO Fundraising Chair Esther Mor visited several cities in Italy including Rome, Milan and Genoa. She was guest of honour and keynote speaker at a spectacular 800-guest Cirque de Soleil event in Milan, held working sessions with the Executive and Aviv in Rome and attended a Sponsor A Child event in Genoa.

Adei WIZO “Under Water”

Delegates to Adei WIZO’s 85th anniversary convention, had to contend with ‘Venice under water’ in order to attend. Venice WIZO chaverot overcame the difficult weather conditions to successfully organise the programme in the prestigious Montefiore Hall, courtesy of the Jewish Community of Venice.

After the business part of the conference WIZO chaverot and friends gathered in the hall to celebrate Adei WIZO’s 85th anniversary which was marked by the publication of a book especially for the occasion.

Adei WIZO Literature Prize 2012

The 2012 Adei WIZO Literature prize was awarded to Vladimir Vertlib for his novel Zwischenstation in a sparkling ceremony in one of Venice’s most prestigious locations.
This annual prize is awarded in the name of Adei WIZO Past President Adelina della Pergola, who created the project.

The aim of the prize is to acquaint people with Jewish literature and non-Jewish writers who write on Jewish subjects. A qualified jury of professional and cultural women selects three 'finalists' from books submitted by Italian publishers. These books are read and the winner selected by Adei WIZO chaverot. There is also a Young Writers’ Award, voted on by students from high schools all over Italy.

JAMAICA

Landmark Lecture Programme

Dr. Adolfo Roitman Curator of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Head of the Shrine of the Book at the Israel Museum, accepted an invitation to be Scholar In Residence under the international programme of the University of Technology (UTech) in Kingston, supported by the fundraising efforts of WIZO Jamaica.

WIZO is extremely grateful to their good friend, businessman and philanthropist James Goren who enlisted his associates to support Dr. Roitman’s historic visit to Jamaica.

The landmark lecture programme presented by Dr. Roitman was not only a major initiative for WIZO and UTech, but the start of a long term relationship between all parties. It is hoped that this will arouse better international understanding of Israel and WIZO, while lending financial support to local initiatives targeting early childhood education.

(1 to r) Tina Spiro, James Goren, WIZO Jamaica President Jennifer Lim, Dr. Adolfo Roitman

MEXICO

Rosh Hashana Project

It was back to work after the summer vacation for the vibrant and ever active WIZO Mexican federation. Several groups immediately began their Rosh Hashana activities. They sold glass baskets filled with kosher candies, boxes containing blessings for the home and various items symbolically used for good luck in a new house as well as personalized envelopes for gifts. The Neshama Group sold cardboard Sukkahs for children to assemble and decorate, while the Or Jadash Group presented the play Mary Poppins in Spanish with a wonderful production and great cast.

Children for Children

The wall at the entrance to WIZO Mexico headquarters is decorated with a huge mosaic tile art-work created by and entitled ‘Children for Children.’ The project was devised by Mely Metta and her committee, who organised the unveiling ceremony in the presence of approximately 70 children, their parents and grandparents. A video film was shown where the children could see how their donations help children in Israel.

Unveiling of ‘Children for Children’ project
WIZO Mexico’s Book Day

Each year, WIZO Mexico celebrates Book Day by selecting an interesting book and having it reviewed by the author or a specialist. This year, instead, WIZO members visited the Investigation and Documentation Centre of the *Kehila Ashkenazi* in Mexico, a professional centre recognized by the U.N. Six months ago the federation sent their historical archives to the Centre with material dating back to the 1940s to be kept for safe keeping and to be classified for professional research.

Project Education - and Family Fun

“Project Education” is WIZO Mexico’s biggest annual activity dedicated to furnish low income public schools. The committee worked tirelessly to set up an event that would take place close to nature and have activities for the whole family. The day began with a long walk, followed by the opening of a grand fair with lots of games, ecological workshops, shows for babies and older children, a make-up station for little girls, exotic animals and many more attractions.

PANAMA

Poker and Black Jack Tournament

*WIZO Atid* held its much anticipated Poker and Black Jack Tournament, which proved a great success, thanks to the participation of 109 poker players and 20 black jack players. The final four poker players received cash prizes. In the Black Jack Tournament, spirits were high, with a final table of four who all left with prizes, including a 48” TV for the outright winner.

SOUTH AFRICA

World WIZO President Tova Ben-Dov’s first mission abroad as president was to South Africa, where she attended various WIZO events around the country (see next page), speaking on various aspects of WIZO’s work. In addition she was interviewed by S. African Jewish newspapers and radio, where she spoke about the current situation in Israel and WIZO’s work with minorities. At the Triennial conference in Johannesburg, Tova participated in a panel discussion on ‘Israel in the Media.’

At the conference, history was made, as Tova saw her daughter Tamar Lazarus elected as president of WIZO South Africa.
34th Triennial Conference

WIZO South Africa held its 34th Triennial Conference in November in Johannesburg. The inter-active workshops, sessions and note-worthy speakers focused on the theme “Facing the Future”. The conference received extensive coverage in the Jewish press and ended on a high with a festive lunch and tributes made to both the outgoing president, Yvonne Jawitz, and the new president Tamar Lazarus. The delegates left with much food for thought brimming with new and exciting ideas for bringing WIZO South Africa into the 21st century.

An Evening with “Bubbles”

On a beautiful Cape Town evening, Bnoth Zion WIZO launched the new book “Bubbles” by Rahla Xenopoulos. This sophisticated affair took place at the chic “Grand on Beach”. The gorgeous “Lady in Red” - author Rahla was introduced by the dynamic Irma Kessler, who thanked the sponsors and outlined the projects that will benefit from this function. Rahla spoke of her research into and her connection with Bubbles Schroeder.

Cape Town

World WIZO Bible Day and Rebecca Sieff Awards

Bnoth Zion WIZO Cape Town celebrated the commitment and dedication of members at World WIZO Bible Day where Rebecca Sieff Awards were bestowed on members who have given long service to the Organisation. World WIZO President Tova Ben-Dov was the guest of honour and she spoke with great passion of the work that WIZO does to uplift Israeli society. She detailed the particularly unique projects that are supported and maintained by WIZO South Africa, and commended the membership of BZA WIZO for their loyal support of these immensely valuable facilities. Tova’s positive energy and enthusiasm engaged the audience and allowed everyone who was present to feel the same enthusiasm and pride in the wonderful and vital work done by WIZO in improving the quality of life of Israel’s women and children.

Durban

Reminiscing with Tova

WIZO Durban was also delighted to welcome Tova Ben-Dov and enjoyed the honour and privilege of having her partake in a “Talk & Tea with Tova”. In her fascinating address, Tova highlighted the vital link of Diaspora Jews to their homeland and the essential role that WIZO plays in the lives of the women and children in Israel. “Our bonds are strong – as Jews we share one heritage, one religion and most of all one heart.”

She showcased the South African beneficiaries and complimented the Durban branch on their outstanding contribution.

Johannesburg

Golf Day

WIZO Johannesburg hosted a very successful Golf Day at the Kyalami Golf Course sponsored by Stenhams. Despite the tremendous hailstorm the event was well attended and a good time was had by all.
Poker tournament

WIZO Johannesburg held a very successful poker tournament where the players were treated to a slick evening of fun, run by a professional company. Amazing gifts were given out throughout the evening to lucky players and the winners walked away with an unbelievable array of prizes.

Don’t Worry be Happy

WIZO Johannesburg Forum hosted a morning with the theme of ‘Don’t Worry, Be Happy!’ Rabbi Michael Katz, Director Chabad House and Rabbi of Chabad Illovo, spoke about the importance of happiness in our lives. “We need to go beyond the obvious and look for deeper meanings in order to see the whole picture.”

Wendy Hendler, life coach and Logotherapist, gave essential tips for bringing happiness into one’s daily life. “Remember to breathe through your heart and radiate your love and happiness to others.” Shareen Richter, laughter professor and wellness facilitator, explained how laughter can reverse stress on a physical and emotional level.

An Introduction to Golf

WIZO Switzerland organised its first golf competition which took place at the beautiful Golf Club de Lavaux in Lausanne. Friends joined the 60 players for a dinner after the tournament. Prizes were generously donated by the Hotel Beau Rivage and MGB/Filofax in Lausanne. Giroud Vins offered a well-deserved drink to all the participants. For those who wanted to discover the game of golf, a great ‘introduction to gold’ was offered, and its success is owed to the meticulous organisation by My Golf and Tom Rosenfield.

The generosity of the players and the sponsors will enable WIZO in Israel to open two classes for the WIZKIDS Computer Programme in the coming school year.

Flowers for Rosh Hashana

Well known Zurich florists Marsano created the beautiful flower arrangements for delivery by WIZO Zurich chaverot for their Rosh Hashana Flower Drive. The project was a great success.

SWITZERLAND

Sponsor A Child

Mrs Yaël Bijo hosted a successful Sponsor A Child lunch at her private home which was attended by approximately 50 women. Guest speaker was the well-known Mrs Micheline Brunschwig-Graf, former National Deputy who gave a very interesting speech about education.

Pretoria

WIZO Aviv Reborn

Pretoria WIZO Aviv has been re-born and has its first official committee in three years. Their recent function, Lovely Lovely Life, was a huge success. Artist Mark Simanhoff handed over a painting specially created for WIZO in order to raise funds for the beneficiaries of WIZO projects in Israel.
success and the WIZO Zurich ladies delivered over 800 arrangements!

**Flowers for Rosh Hashana**

**WIZO Geneva Annual Event**

WIZO Geneva held its annual evening event in October. It was the preview of “La R’vue” presented by Philippe Cohen and Gaspar Boesch at the Casino-Theatre. Over 300 spectators applauded to the unforgettable performance of the society gossip group. The satiric comedy show related the political and social life of Geneva society. Cornelia Gurwicz-Fischer, president of WIZO Geneva, thanked the guests for their generosity, which will help ease the lives of children in Israel.

**WIZO La Chaux de Fonds Annual Dinner**

Over 70 people attended the annual dinner of WIZO La Chaux de Fonds, held at the Des Endoits restaurant. A film was screened showing the projects of WIZO Switzerland in Israel and after dinner, the attendees all joined in a dance competition and a lotto game, with many prizes on offer.

**UNITED KINGDOM**

**WIZO Models on the Catwalk**

At a recent WIZO Aviv fashion show, over 100 young women viewed an impressive range of clothes from Miriam Boutique Hampstead, at Justine and Paul Deacon’s beautiful home. As models, styled by Caroline Freedman and Avital Jacobs, descended the sweeping staircase, they were greeted by rousing cheers, partly because they were actually young Aviv women volunteers turned models for the evening.

Stylist Amanda Bernstein followed the show by offering some useful hints and tips on how garments might become more flattering for different body types with the simple addition of accessories or a change of colour. On show were also head turning hats from Rosie Olivia, a bit of sparkle with beautiful jewellery by Lauren Wengrowe and Travel Diamonds and elegant contemporary scarves by Yaelle. Proceeds from this successful fundraiser will go towards supporting the growing number of women and children at risk in Israel.

**Annual Literary Lunch**

At WIZO UK’s annual literary lunch, Giles Coren, food critic for The Times newspaper, was in conversation with Fernando Peire – managing director of The Ivy Restaurant, London. The 180 diners were entertained by Coren who amused the audience with witty anecdotes of his time as a food critic. When asked how he kept so slim he commented, “I don’t eat any carbohydrates and steer clear of desserts.” Impressive funds were raised to support vulnerable children and families at risk in Israel.

**WIZO Geneva Annual Event**

(WIZO Geneva Annual Event)

**WIZO La Chaux de Fonds Annual Dinner**

(WIZO La Chaux de Fonds Annual Dinner)

**UNITED KINGDOM**

**WIZO Models on the Catwalk**

(WIZO Models on the Catwalk)

**Annual Literary Lunch**

(Annual Literary Lunch)
Manchester’s Cooks’ Calendar

Over 130 ladies attended Manchester’s annual Cooks’ Calendar launch at the South Manchester synagogue in Bowdon. Generous opener was Sally Clare; event organizers Dawn Calmonson and Toni Hyams had a wonderful team of helpers, who provided a really delicious salad bar. A very interesting talk was given by Jan Shure and Cyndy Lessing, co-directors of SoSensational, an on-line fashion and accessory company. The calendar, with its sponsorships and sales, together with the Speaker Event, raises worthy funds each year and after almost 40 years is still going strong.

USA

New York

Children for Our Children Fashion Show and Luncheon

Nearly 300 guests joined WIZO New York for their 15th Annual Children for our Children Fashion Show and Luncheon, chaired by Marjorie Harris. The event at The Pierre hotel in New York City was an unquestionable success and raised a significant amount of money and awareness for WIZO’s vital work. The “Israel” themed programme featured 100 children of WIZO members parading down the catwalk in support of children in Israel. This year ‘Teen Chairs’, daughters of board members, helped out with the event.

Exclusive Dinner for WIZO’s Young Leadership

WIZO New York’s Young Leaders’ board members gathered for an exclusive dinner held at the home of Israel’s Consul General, Ambassador Ido Aharoni, where they listened to Mr. Aharoni address the current needs of Israel and the crucial involvement of the next generation, which will provide the success of Israel’s future.

Screening of Yoni’s Story

WIZO New York members gathered at the Simon Wiesenthal Museum of Tolerance for a private screening of “Follow Me: The Yoni Netanyahu Story.” The movie portrays an intimate journey into a young hero’s mind and the narration for this compelling film was drawn from Netanyahu’s own letters and words, which unveil the complex character of this thoroughly modern young hero. The screening was followed by a talk with co-producer, Mark Manson, and the evening was made possible in part by Gail and Berndt Perl and Esther and Meyer Chetrit, and was chaired by Mireille Manocherian and Victoria Sakhai.

MK Orit Zuaretz at NY Luncheon

WIZO New York held a luncheon at the home of Marjorie Harris in honour of Member of Knesset, Orit Zuaretz, who spoke about the status of women in Israel. Janine Gelley, Chairperson of the Organisation and Tourism Division of World WIZO, was also present.
WIZO Long Island Luncheon

Close to 350 women attended WIZO Long Island’s wonderful luncheon in honour of “The Women in Our Lives” at Fresh Meadow Country Club in Great Neck NY. Rabbi Shmuley Boteach was the guest speaker along with Gail Perl who thanked the chairs of the WIZO Long Island chapter for their dedication, and Evelyn Sommer who reported on the Kiriyat Ata renovations achieved by the Long Island Chapter.

Atlanta

WIZO Atlanta Card Game Fundraiser

WIZO Atlanta hosted a very successful Card Game Day at the Bridge Club of Atlanta in Sandy Springs, Georgia. The delicious food was made by members and the event was attended by about 120 participants.

Florida

WIZO Florida Strikes Gold!

WIZO Florida’s 2012 Opening Campaign dinner was an evening no one will ever forget. Sponsored by the Falic family in memory of WIZO USA President Jana Falic’s father Boris Lekah (z”l), keynote speaker was former UN Ambassador to Israel Dan Gillerman.

The big surprise and thrill of the evening was the appearance of US Gymnastics Team Captain Olympic gold medallist Aly Raisman. Her appearance was arranged by South Florida journalist Rosh Lowe, who also compered the evening. Aly Raisman won the hearts and souls of Jews around the world at the 2012 London Olympic Games with her medal winning floor routine to the tune of Hava Nagilla. Aly went on to win two more medals, and later publicly dedicated her medals in memory of the Israeli athletes who were slain at the Munich Olympic Games in 1972.

WIZO Florida awarded Aly the WIZO Shomrei Israel Award which acknowledges those who stand up for Israel and the Jewish people.

Journalist Rosh Lowe was visibly moved, as he later wrote to Jana Falic: “I just really wanted to thank everyone again, I have been on stage my whole life, from Broadway to major market television. I have spoken all over the country. But this week was the most special performance.”

And the final word goes to the indefatigable Jana Falic: “It was a perfect evening, a lot of work by many devoted volunteers. I think it was probably the best event we ever had!”

Los Angeles

WIZO LA Luncheon Fashion Show

WIZO Los Angeles hosted a Luncheon and Fashion Show at a private home co-chaired by Miriam Wizman and Hanna Rubinstein. Nearly 200 guests gathered to enjoy a delicious lunch and beautiful fashion show sponsored by celebrity designer Chagoury Couture. WIZO Los Angeles congratulates the winner of their “Mother of the Year” Award, Alice Wizman. Alice is a great supporter of WIZO -alongside being a mother of 9, grandmother of 28, and great grandmother of 8: a woman to be admired!

Standing: (l to r) Jessica Yadegar, Eleanor Nankin, Hanna Rubinstein, Ruth Davidov, Aline Shomof, Irene Sirebrenik, Haya Zamel, Orly Maciborski

Sitting (l to r) Silvina Grichener, Natalie Wizman, Alice Wizman, Kerin Chroman, Miriam Wizman
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