Neve WIZO
A Special Place for Special People

Nachlat @ 90
WIZO Youth Village Celebrates 90 Years

Dorrit of Denmark
Holding a Community Together
Dear Chaverot,

Most of you reading this will fully know and understand – from experience – how challenging it is to bring up a family in today’s world. Just imagine, when your children have fled the nest, you start again – no, not with a new biological family but becoming foster parents to children who, in their short lives have witnessed or been subject to various types of abuse; with their parents unable to care for them, they are sent, usually by court order, to WIZO’s Neve WIZO foster home. Here, their battered souls are healed and nurtured by loving, replacement parents. It takes a special kind of couple to take on such a challenge – read Avi Obligenarz’s moving article starting on page 8.

World WIZO celebrated 90 years of assisting and enriching the lives of the people of Israel two years ago, and some of our flagship projects have been in existence nearly that long; this summer, wonderful Nachlat Yehuda Youth Village marked 90 years of educating and caring for less fortunate Israeli youth. Read Swiss WIZO President Anne Argi’s personal impressions of the gala event (page 12) followed by an in-depth article about the school including interviews with grateful pupils.

This issue features two personalities: we interview WIZO Denmark President Dorrit Raiter and, in addition to Dorrit’s personal journey to Judaism, discover the challenges of holding together a diminishing Jewish community.

Ninety-seven years young Doreen Guinsberg has a wealth of knowledge about the early days of WIZO. Visiting Palestine for the first time in 1932 aged 18, she attended WIZO’s Ayanot Agricultural School under the legendary Ada Fishman. Read about Doreen’s interesting and varied life and many talents in a profile on pages 22-23.

The Organization and Tourist Division’s section (pages 24-29) features an anecdote about the legendary Dr. Helena Kagan, some thoughts about Jewish Peoplehood and an unusual look at better communication.

The department was particularly busy this summer arranging visits to WIZO projects for groups of Diaspora youth on their Israel tours. Many of the youngsters knew very little or nothing about WIZO – they have now returned to their homes full of enthusiasm from their experience; read Tricia Schwitzer’s WIZO on the Itinerary on pages 24-25.

Our Aviv representative, Laurienne is upping the ante before the upcoming international Aviv seminar in November – as she says – are your bags packed Aviv girls?

As usual we end with glimpses of what is happening in WIZO’s world in Israel and what is happening in WIZO Around the World (WATW).

WIZO Review wishes all our chaverot around the world a happy, healthy and above all, peaceful new year.

Ingrid Rockberger
Editor: Ingrid Rockberger
Editorial Assistant: Denise Machat
Editorial Board: Zipi Amiri, Tova Ben-Dov, Rivka Lazovsky, Hassida Danai, Carmella Dekel, Janine Gelley, Esther Mor, Gila Oshrat, Sylvie Pelossof, Meytal Woolf.
Graphic Design: StudioMooza.com
Photos: Itzick Elharar, Janine Gelley, Ingrid Rockberger, Kfir Sivan, Benny Zubari
Photo at bottom of page 47: Reproduced by courtesy of the Jewish Telegraph Group of Newspapers. www.jewishtelegraph.com
Cover photo: Kfir Meir
Published by World WIZO Publicity and Communications Department

Contents
02 Editorial
04 President’s Desk
05 Chairperson’s Column
06 Up Front
08 A Second Chance in Life
Spotlight on Neve WIZO
12 Nachlat @ 90
WIZO school celebrates and students speak out
17 Donor Appreciation
Mercedes and Menahem Ivcher
18 Holding Together a Small Community
WR interviews Dorrit Raiter, president of WIZO Denmark
21 Awesome Avivs
A Call from Laurienne Baitz to attend the International Aviv Seminar
22 Life on Wheels
Doreen Guinsberg: A true Zionist and WIZO lady
24 WIZO on the Itinerary
Diaspora youth include WIZO projects on their Israel tour
26 ‘The Young Woman Who Claims That She is a Doctor’
An anecdote from the life of Dr. Helena Kagan
27 Sustaining Jewish Peoplehood the WIZO Way
What does Jewish Peoplehood mean to you in today’s world?
28 It’s a Zoo Around Here
New rules for better communication
30 WIZO in Israel
34 New Federation Leaders
35 WIZO around the World

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: to make sure you don’t miss a copy of WIZO Review, please let us know any address changes by email to wreview@wizo.com Don’t forget to add your full name, mailing address, zip code and country.
President’s Desk

Dear Chaverot,

As we celebrate the festivals, let us all wish that the coming year will bring with it winds of hope and rays of sunshine.

The past year was a very intense year in more ways than one. Earthquakes, tsunami waves, landslides, melting icebergs, hurricanes are changing the nature surrounding us. The world continues to struggle with the global economical crisis. Many countries are experiencing recession and others austerity. Several countries in the Euro zone needed bailout packages as their economies came close to collapsing.

But all was not bad. The 2012 London Olympic Games gave us hope that people of different languages and religions can get along, as athletes from all over the world came together to build a better world through sport and to demonstrate the Olympian values of excellence, respect and friendship. It was wonderful to see the solidarity and camaraderie amongst all the athletes.

Here in Israel, the year was dominated by monitoring our neighbours’ ongoing instability as the promise of the Arab Spring is proving disappointing and even nightmarish for the people who fought for democracy. Islamic extremists continue their attack on Israel’s southern region from the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula. The latest attempt ended with Egyptian mortalities prompting the new Egyptian government to take action against the extremists who have turned Sinai – once a tourists’ paradise into a terrorists’ haven. In the North, we are concerned by the horrific systematic genocide that has been taking place in Syria for over a year – while the world still hasn’t intervened. The Iranian threat remains lingering over our heads and dominates our headlines. Security and defense are again taking priority over social matters.

In addition, although Israel’s economy is stable, nevertheless the global recession and austerity is beginning to stifle Israel’s economical growth, causing our government to take prudent measures.

This has led to further cuts in governmental budgets across the board, an increase in taxes and a rise in the cost of living. The gap between the rich and poor grows, as does the number of people requiring our WIZO services.

The global and local events have a profound effect on WIZO. We are well aware of the difficulties federations face in fundraising and we appreciate the enormous efforts being invested to cover annual commitments and earmarked projects. In addition, the cuts to the national budgets will again see WIZO struggling to maintain the high level of education and services that we are used to providing.

On a personal note, as President of World WIZO, I am fully aware of my responsibility – for the decisions taken today will define WIZO tomorrow and the future of our children. WIZO must and will continue to support those who depend on us - no matter what the circumstances or in the words of Golda Meir z”l: “Pessimism is a luxury that no Jew can afford”.

Challenges and hard times are no strangers to WIZO and I am confident that as in the past, with your help, we will all rise to the task, fulfill our commitments and take WIZO to even higher achievements.

I wish each and every one of you, health, happiness and success.

Shana Tova, Gmar Hatima Tova and Moadim Lesimcha.

Affectionately yours,

Tova Ben-Dov, President
Chairperson’s Column

Dear Chaverot,

As the past Jewish year makes way for the new, it is a time for reflection. As I look back on the last year in WIZO - at our accomplishments, at the lives that we have changed, at the influence we have exerted, such as joining the calls for social justice and implementing it - once again I am overwhelmed by the enormity of our WIZO mission. Our sacred mission. Every one of us has a role to play, and every one of us is needed – it seems now more than ever.

The last few months have been a very special journey for me. In January I assumed the office of Chairperson, and as Rosh Hashana approaches I am making my own 'חשבון נפש,' my personal 'soul searching.' I came to office with a vision, which I shared with you in the last edition of the WIZO Review.

The continuing strengthening of the bond between the chaverot in Israel and those in our federations, heads my list of priorities. This bond is essential for the unity and continuity of our movement. Since I took over my new position, I have been doing my utmost in order to cement this bond by increasing accountability and transparency, and I constantly inform, share and consult with our federations about our projects and programmes. I also do my utmost to be attentive and responsive to your needs and I appreciate your positive feedback.

My vision included initiating and implementing new programmes in the strong belief that ‘Whoever falls behind will be left behind!’ I am particularly excited with a new educational, rehabilitation programme that is opening this year which will bring renewed hopes to many of our students, who are part of the 15-20% of the population who are challenged by learning disabilities and attention deficit syndrome for whom every day is an exhaustive struggle. We are joining forces with the Kibbutzim College of Education’s programme for these students. We will take each student on a personal journey – from survival, through healing, to thriving. This new programme touches the core of our WIZO efforts to give each child who comes under our wing an equal chance.

Our WIZO strength, throughout our history, has been our ability to adapt to any situation in Israel, and knowing that anything can be demanded of us at any time. At present, one of our main aims is to balance the budget so that we have more flexibility, and can continue to respond to the changing needs of the society in Israel and of the Jewish people worldwide.

In reference to WIZO’s adaptability to changing circumstances, I cannot ignore the increasing poverty and unemployment statistics in Israel, which will create new demands from WIZO. Nor can I disregard the black clouds that are gathering on the political horizon as we face major threats to our very existence. May our prayers be heard and peace descend upon Israel.

“SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT”.
Psalms 34:14

Prof. Rivka Lazovsky
Chairperson
World WIZO Executive
Come Dance!

The best things in life ‘run in the family’ and so it was when Zalman Lekach, brother of WIZO US Co-President Jana Falic, generously donated the funds needed to refurbish a dance studio at the Miami Beach WIZO Centre in Ramat Gan. This busy centre, active every day from morning until late in the evening provides enrichment courses for the local population including dancing classes for ‘girls’ aged from 6 to 86! The donation was made as part of the celebrations to mark the bnot mitzvah of Zalman’s two daughters, Alice and Tila, who are both keen dancers, and who promised to come and dance at the new studio which bears their name whenever they visit Israel.

At the entrance to the dance studio. (l to r) Mrs Lekach (Jana and Zalman’s mother), Alice, Zalman, Tila, Jana Falic

Beit Heuss Inauguration

Laughter and tears – the full gamut of emotions were evident when a large delegation of chaverot from WIZO Germany, who were in Israel for the Conference in January, inaugurated the renovated rooms in their flagship project Beit Heuss.

After extensive alterations, Beith Heuss is now fully equipped to accommodate the disabled with some rooms and bathrooms having special adjustments.

Each room was ‘donated’ by a family, an ingenious idea by WIZO Germany Past President Rachel Singer, whose own family was among the donors. As plaques were unveiled, attendees told historical anecdotes about the people who were commemorated.

Dr Annette Ackerman (r) and Anael Singer – sister and daughter of Rachel Singer

New Director General Appointed

Igal Dekel has been appointed to the position of Director General of World WIZO, effective immediately. Igal, a former pilot in the Israeli Air Force, served as Director General of the College of Administration in Higher Education from 1998-2003.

For the last eight years he was the Director General of the Levinsky College of Education in Tel Aviv, which has 5,000 students and 500 faculty members. Igal was directly responsible for monetary matters including the presentation and management of the budget, information technology, human resources, marketing, communications and the operation of the premises.

He also worked closely with external bodies such as government offices, the Ministry of Education and the Jewish Agency.

WIZO Review wishes Igal every success in his new position.
The Best Of Israel
With WIZO

SAVE THE DATE! 4-11th March 2013
Join us on a 7 day tour of Israel

With friends from federations around the world
Interesting excursions, tailor-made for you
Zionism from dream to reality
Opportunity to explore WIZO projects

For further details please contact: World WIZO Organization and Tourism Division
Tel: 972-3-6923819, Fax: 972-3-6923820, Email: wizo@wizo.org
"We are creating a new generation of children that will break the cycle, and we encourage them to set high targets. We don't nurture them just so they will be able to give back to society and become normative citizens. We want them to be la crème de la crème and excel in every phase of life. The young adults who graduate from the programme are not only the pride of their foster parents and the dedicated team that raised them, they are the pride of WIZO that gave them a much needed second chance," says Shay Levi, a foster father in the Neve WIZO project.

Neve WIZO is a foster family community consisting of four houses that was established in 1982. Each is home to eight children from about ages three to 18, who were removed from their families due to their parents' inability to raise them.

Court order
Children enter the programme by court order and undergo a process of emotional, psychological and educational evaluations to determine their needs. Every other weekend, the children return to their biological homes for a visit; for those who are unable to return to their homes, Neve WIZO provides substitute hosting families.

"Neve WIZO was designed to empower the kids, to ensure that the children will grow and develop in a caring environment, will excel academically and be accepted into society. I know it sounds pretentious, but we want to change the fate of these children from hopelessness to a promising future where they can become loving and caring parents," explains Yardena Nof, director of Neve WIZO and the supervisor of the out-of-home placement services. This unique project takes place in spacious and well-kept cottages, connected to each other with joining yards. The facility is located in a quiet middle class Herzlia neighbourhood, which ensures that the children will not feel isolated from the general population and enables them to attend regular kindergartens and schools. The atmosphere around the houses, which were donated by WIZO South Africa, is pastoral, similar to that of a kibbutz.

Selection of the foster parents
Each household is led by a veteran married couple who stay in the project on average for five years. Nof indicates that the parent selection process is the hardest mission. It's a gruelling procedure that includes a primary interview with Nof and her staff, additional tests by a diagnostic institute.
and an interview with the candidates’ biological children who are asked why Neve WIZO should hire their parents for the job! “We are looking for people who have proved themselves in raising their own children, and are interested in starting a second chapter in parenthood. They see parenthood as a mission, and have patience and the ability to provide for the children unconditionally. They need to display emotional maturity, empathy and the ability to accept guidelines from a professional team.”

The staff includes a social worker, psychologist, psychiatrist, art therapist and additional experts from the mental health fields, due to various traumas and other painful experiences that the children have encountered in their lives. The programme also includes dental care, speech therapy and other educational therapists based on the children’s needs. The majority of the Neve WIZO children come from broken homes in which drugs, abuse, poverty and mental illness were dominant. As a result, many of the children enter the programme with low self-esteem and insecurity. In the first years of the programme, some of the children tend to steal or display other problematic forms of behaviour.

**Very special people**

**Ariela and Eli Netanel**, a teacher and ex-banker, always fantasized about nurturing and fostering unprivileged children. Over three years ago, the couple, who are parents to two grown children, decided it was time to fulfill their dream. Ariela admits that it took them six months to respond to the ‘foster parents wanted’ ad which was hanging on their refrigerator door.

“We consulted a lot with our children, immediate family and friends and were surprised from the positive feedback we received. Instead of telling us ‘are you crazy and why do you want to punish yourself now that you are finally free,’ the majority of the people we spoke to gave us their blessings,” says Ariela Netanel.

Although they went through a long and hard transition, the couple emphasized that the emotional payback was worth it. After a year and a half of ups and downs, the Netanels finally felt at home due the changes they saw in their foster children. “There is no feeling in the world that can be compared to when the kids come home from school and hug you. Every time there is a crisis and the regrets start to kick in, you say to yourself ‘how can I leave this child? Who is going to take care of him? It’s not fair’. When you realize what message you would give these kids by quitting on them, that actually no one wants them, you bite your lips and continue,” explains Eli.

The Netanels’ biological kids also became part of the Neve WIZO family. The couple’s son frequently comes to visit, helps his new brothers and sisters with computer problems and he and his older sister constantly buy them gifts. “Our foster kids are an integral part of our biological children’s life. They treat them like younger siblings, and it is great to see how much they have bonded with them,” adds Ariela.

**Aiming high**

After a long and successful career in the high tech industry, Shay Levi decided it was time to make a change. Getting close to his 50th birthday and their two daughters leaving the family nest for their army service, Shay and his wife Sigal started to look for a place that would allow them to give back to society.

Neve WIZO was the best match for the Levis’ desire, due to its distinctive and intimate setting in the Israeli foster care world. “The programme is limited to 32 children placed in a community within a city that is considered one of the most exclusive in the country. The implication of this is that Neve WIZO children get much more privileges then those within the general welfare system in Israel. If this project was not under WIZO wings, these kids would benefit much less from it.”

Even though the Neve WIZO kids started their lives at a disadvantage compared to their peers, Levi is convinced that their potential is enormous. As a proud foster father of a recent graduate who now serves in an elite unit in the

This photo, and all the others illustrating the article, depicts the children of Neve WIZO enjoying activities and outings like any normal family.
IDF, Shay’s expectation is that all the Neve WIZO kids will do much more with their lives. “I think that each child from our project has the potential for excellence. I am certain that by giving them the right tools, we can push them to achieve much more than just getting married, having children and working. We want these kids to be officers in the army, to be above average and aim high.” While Ariela adds that becoming successful is not enough, it is also important to her that her foster children “will become honest, good and moral adults.”

Levi emphasizes that in order to achieve these goals, Neve WIZO supplies the children with educational, physical, social and other needs, and actually allows them to experience life like regular kids. “We constantly make sure that they will see the world the way it is, and not isolate and raise them in boarding school conditions as is customary in the Israeli welfare system. Our goal is to broaden their horizons by taking the children to museums, day trips and other activities that will expose and prepare them for life outside. We, the foster parents, have the time and the willpower to provide for these children, but we are dependent on the financial support from WIZO.” Nof adds that Neve WIZO is a highly respected and recognized project within the organization and receives much support from the Executive “which acts like our warm, extended family.”

The connection between the foster parents and the children doesn’t end when they turn 18. The foster parents are occasionally invited to their foster children’s weddings, and other celebrations. “We have no intention of replacing the biological parents. We will always be there for them, help and support them so their transition to the outside world will be smoother. It’s a connection for life”, says Eli who along with Ariela keeps close ties with a girl whom they fostered for one year and soon will finish her two-year army service.

The children
At age five and a half, Dana (not her real name) came to Neve WIZO and fell in love with the place after visiting the director’s office which was full of dolls. She asked her mother if she could stay there, not realizing that this would change her life. Twelve years later and after recently graduating high school with honours, the vibrant teenager is thankful for her fortune. One of the hardest obstacles Dana had to deal with was the high turnover of foster parents during her time at Neve WIZO. Her current foster parents, Shay and Sigal are her fifth set of household heads in Neve WIZO. “It’s almost impossible to open your heart every time to new parents, especially in the last year of my stay here. You have to get used to new food, new educational philosophy, new personalities, new home and basically everything new.”

On the other hand, Dana expressed that frequent sibling changes taught her to “open my arms and welcome every new child that joins us since it’s the only way to live with seven other kids around you. The Neve WIZO experience taught me to be a better person, and I know that I would never have been able to succeed in school without it. My mother would never have afforded all the books, private teachers and all the other enormous help I received here. My goal is to build a normal family so my children will not have to endure what I did. I hope one day when I will be a doctor, psychologist or other influential person, to give lectures to disadvantaged children that will strengthen them and give them power to believe in themselves.”

Eden (not real name) who is also Shay and Sigal’s foster daughter, came to Neve WIZO 11 years ago with her brother who was drafted last year. The 18 year old with a big smile, is counting the days to start her army service as a paramedic. “I had to leave the house at a very early age after my parents divorced, so I got used to living in a few worlds at the same time. Besides Neve WIZO, I split my time between my father and mother’s homes and soon I will have another home: the army. But I will always have a warm spot in my heart for this house.”

In her spare time, Eden who also graduated high school with honours, is writing a book with the fitting title To Survive, to inspire underprivileged children based on her life, especially during the Neve WIZO era. “I know that without it, I would
never have become an outstanding student, would not receive the values that I got here and wouldn’t be the same person I am today. I learned here, that the key to success in life is education, therefore I put the effort into studying. Neve WIZO definitely saved our lives. Even though we started life at a disadvantage, Neve WIZO made sure that we feel equal to everybody else and not different."

**Beautiful harmony**

“...the dedication of the staff and the foster parents, enables us to take children that come from harsh backgrounds, and give them all the love, services and everything a child needs in order to develop and flourish," says Hassida Danai, chairperson of the Early Age Division of WIZO.

Danai, who worked for many years as a supervisor in the field of special education, believes that the uniqueness of Neve WIZO is in its setting: a care home rather than a boarding school which allows the staff to work around each child’s needs and weaknesses. “The children at Neve WIZO learn to share things and express themselves within the family unit, things that are much harder to do in a boarding school. There is a beautiful harmony in each Neve WIZO family, which strengthens each child’s self confidence.”

The special nurturing environment encourages the children to approach their foster parents in every matter and problem they encounter, just like in a normative family setting. Danai feels that Neve WIZO provides stability in the lives of children who otherwise would be shuffled from one framework to another. “Neve WIZO gives its kids the feeling that they are equal and they are ‘as good as the next guy’, even though before becoming part of the WIZO family, they went through life without ever getting appreciation and a kind word.”

**Editor’s note:** Neve WIZO was established in 1982 after the old Mothercraft Training Centre (sponsored by WIZO South Africa) in Tel Aviv was closed down in 1981. The MTC was originally a WIZO nurses’ training school and also housed baby and toddler welfare cases. The centre was closed at the request of the Ministry of Welfare who decided that keeping children in a closed institution was detrimental to their development. The children remaining in MTC when it was closed became the first residents of Neve WIZO (also sponsored by WIZO S. Africa). Today, WIZO’s Parents’ Home stands on the site of the MTC.
Dear Friends of WIZO, Dear Chaverot,

I would like to share with you the pride and joy which I experienced on the occasion of the 90th anniversary celebrations of Nachlat Yehuda.

You would not have recognized our village! It was adorned with festive colours, flags and decorations, and in one corner they had set up a playground for the smaller guests.

Music and a very festive atmosphere led us through the paths which were full of pupils, alumni, prams, parents… there were over 2000 visitors!

When we entered through the ‘back door’ we walked by the cows; they were beautifully groomed and in great shape! Then we walked to the little zoo, where we were greeted by the pupils carrying their small pets ranging from guinea pigs and goats to snakes…(the latter not my cup of tea!) Hezy greeted us with his usual warm smile, and although he was so busy he took time to accompany us and show us round.

I actually shed tears when I saw Faina, former star of the dance troupe who was so severely injured during the 2000 Dolphinarium terror attack, we actually feared she could never walk again, run into Helena Glaser’s arms and show her joy and happiness. She is now in the last year of her studies at University and proudly showed us her engagement ring!

This is one of Nachlat Yehuda’s success stories. There are many others…

The dining room hosted an exhibit of photos, some of which Hezy had even managed to retrieve from the National Archives. A real walk through the decades but always the same gleaming faces, full of energy and devoted to the construction of a home for the Jewish people.

It is amazing to see how the village began, real Zionism, which always leaves me full of admiration and pride when I see what a long way we have come! The search for excellence will remain the goal.

After the Exhibit we walked through the school, onto the lawn where a huge dining area had been set up with delicious falafel, sandwiches and an ice cream stand. The official celebration took place outside where a podium had been set up, starting with an impressive 90th and Magen David lighting up the sky in silver fireworks.

After that, an incredible musical laser show reminded us that we are in the country of high-tech and that this must not be forgotten!

We were honoured by the presence of the Minister of Agriculture who gave a very nice speech, followed by Mrs Tova Ben-Dov, our new World WIZO president, Prof. Rivka Lazovsky our chairperson and the three Swiss WIZO presidents: Ruth Dreyfuss, Lucie Gideon and myself. I must acknowledge Lucie’s performance as she delivered her speech in perfect Hebrew!

The singing and dance group was at its best and a violinist added to the beauty of the celebrations.

Hezy gave a word of thanks and fireworks exploded in the sky before we all stood up to sing Hatikva and relish this blessed moment.

My dear Friends of WIZO, Chaverot,

Thanks to you, to your dedication, to your generosity and to your hard work, such wonderful achievements can take place.

Kol HaKavod and thank you for having given me the opportunity to represent you.

Anne Argi, President WIZO Switzerland
WIZO Nachlat Yehuda Celebrates 90 years

1 - Celebrating Shavuot
2 - Emotional reunions
3 - Picture boards of nostalgia
4 - The famous Nachlat song and dance troupe performs
5 - Students and animals celebrate together!

6 - Looking down on the celebrations
7 - Emotional reunions
8 - (1 to r) World WIZO President Tova Ben-Dov, former WIZO Switzerland Presidents Lucie Gideon, Ruth Dreyfuss, former head, WIZO Schools Department Dina Czernobilsky
The road leading to WIZO Nachlat Yehuda Youth Village

Sima Borkovski

Similar to other WIZO educational institutions, Nachlat Yehuda’s history is linked to the history of the Zionist enterprise and the Jewish State. In its early years, the village and school which started as a women’s agricultural training farm, played a central role in absorbing new immigrants and providing them with the kind of education and support that helped them succeed in their lives. Many met their life partners at Nachlat and others found their professional calling. Nowadays, Nachlat Yehuda is still a unique place facing Israel’s ever growing challenges.

The youth village director, Dr. Hezy Yosef describes it as ‘a place where students are treated with empathy and respect.’ “Many of our students come from single-parent families, low-economic backgrounds or suffered some kind of crisis in the past. It is crucial that they succeed here in order to reverse their low self-esteem.” Yosef emphasises that he knows the personal background and family circumstances of every single student in the village. As we talk, a final-year student, who has been summoned to his office because he has been skipping classes, enters the room. Dr. Yosef points to his head. “Do you see this white hair on my head?” he asks the student, who is looking very sheepish. “You are responsible for that,” he says with a smile. After a few words of encouragement, the pupil promises to return to his classes.

Oppportunities to succeed

There are plenty of activities at the school to interest every student and give each one an opportunity to develop and expand their talents, whether as one of the athletes in the artistic gymnastics group, a singer in the choir or a dancer in the dance troupe that performs abroad.

There is also extreme bike riding, music lessons and many other extra-curricular activities. “Basically we ask every student to be involved in a certain activity that suits him because we don’t want them wandering about with nothing to do,” Dr. Yosef clarifies. “We also keep in touch with our graduates and if they need help we are there for them. For example, we had one student that came to us from a broken home. She graduated with success, completing all of her exams, joined the army and now we are funding her higher education,” he says with pride.

No support from the family

A new subject, ‘Jewish culture and heritage,’ became part of the compulsory curriculum at the school this year as part of a new programme initiated by Education Minister Gideon Sa’ar aimed at strengthening the Jewish, Zionist and democratic values among students. Nachlat Yehuda excelled amongst the schools that were part of the trial programme, and in addition, Hofit, an 8th grade student won the third prize at the national quiz where she
competed against 14 students from several schools. Hofit is obviously very proud of her achievement and reveals that it was her aim to follow her older brothers who are very clever and study in a Yeshiva. “I felt I was intrigued by the subject and I simply love to study,” she says with a shy smile. “I learnt quite a lot about life from reading the Mishna. One of the important things was that the key to success is in your own hands,” she states.

Hofit comes from Beit Shemesh, the third of six children (three girls and three boys). The situation in her family is not simple and according to Haim Lesri, the school’s principal and the one who supported Hofit through all the process, she gets no support at home, even the contrary. Her father didn’t even attend the quiz that was held at the Congress Centre in Jerusalem, which distressed her deeply, and her older sister who also studies at Nachlat, was indifferent to her achievement. However, she had the support of her class and the entire village, and of course Haim Lesri, her principal, who was there to hold her hand.

Building self-confidence

“We encounter many such students who have experienced rejection and failure and we have to build up their self-confidence,” explains Lesri. “We do that by organizing many activities at the school in which the students can participate. For example, the ‘OlympNachlat’ games, and many afternoon activities so every child can find a track where he can excel.”

Liran, himself a graduate of Nachlat, and a madrich (guide) at the boarding school, states that he is very involved with his students’ life. “They feel they are free to come at any time and consult with me and I am more available for them than their parents. Some students are intimidated by their parents and I am there to provide them with all the support they need.

“Nowadays, parents work long hours, and children spend considerable time alone in the house without parental guidance. Some students who came here didn’t even have proper table manners since no one had ever taught them how to eat properly. If the option is to spend hours alone at the house in front of the television or the computer, obviously many students prefer to join the village, even though their parents sometimes feel hurt by their decision.”

According to Liran, the students of Nachlat Yehuda are supported in every way and every need they have is fulfilled. Some students who cannot afford glasses or dental treatments get funding from the school and some even get their driving licence paid for in return for doing some work at school.

A sense of togetherness

Vered Sabhat has been at Nachlat for three years. She came from Kfar Saba where she didn’t study at all. Since she has been at Nachlat, her attitude towards studying has changed completely. “This school is amazing; since I have been here, I have learnt a lot about true friendship. Our teachers don’t treat us as numbers, they really care. If, for example, I fail a test my teacher calls me and gives me all the help I need to pass that test. This year I joined the choir and it feels great being able to represent the school.” Her friend, Nathalie adds that there is an atmosphere of ‘togetherness’ at the school as everyone feels responsible for each other.

I meet Almog Zuk, a graduate student, at the studio where the village’s dance troupe is rehearsing. Almog is a great example of a child that simply thrived thanks to opportunities he was given at Nachlat.

“Before I came here I was a ‘nobody’. As a child who didn’t speak until he was four years old I was a kind of ‘wallpaper’ in class. Neither the other students nor the teachers paid any attention to me,” he recalls. “My parents heard of this place and decided to send me here and I feel that this was...
the best thing they ever did for me. For three years I was an external student and then I decided to move in to the village. I auditioned for the dance troupe as a joke since I didn’t believe I would be accepted. It started as a one-month trial and lasted till now. It was here I developed my musical skills and started a band, and now we perform in the village and in other places. I can’t say that I have a natural gift or special talent. My greatest gift is that I have the willingness to learn and here I was given all the opportunities to learn and practice my abilities,’ he says with a smile.

Liran reveals to me that everyone at the village knows and appreciates Almog. “In any other place he would have been completely ignored but here he is a true success.”

**Twin success**

Meitar and her twin sister came to Nachlat all the way from Dimona. They are the youngest in a family of 11 children and it was obvious for them that their mother, who is a single parent after she divorced their father, wouldn’t be able to support them. “In the beginning I used to cry a lot. I didn’t fit in and it was rather difficult. It was good that we had each other,” Meitar recalls. “But as time went by, both of us got used to this place and now we see it as our home. Everything I lacked in Dimona I found here. I joined the dance troupe and I have already been abroad several times and represented the school. Nothing makes me feel more proud,” she states. “When we go home for a visit we can’t wait to come back, since our lives here are much better than the life we could have had at home. When I meet my neighbourhood friends I can tell the kind of progress I have made. The school has made me very independent and sure of myself and my capabilities,” she concludes.

**Just reading the experiences of these pupils and how grateful they are to WIZO Nachlat Yehuda is a wonderful testimonial to this very special school.**
As one of the founders of WIZO Florida, founding president and former co-president of WIZO USA, Mercedes Ivcher is the perfect image of what a true WIZO woman is all about. She is a living example that true leadership is the unique ability to take an idea and transform it from vision to action: literally improving hundreds of women and children’s lives in Israel. The following article is a snapshot of the tremendous impact that Mercedes has had on the WIZO family.

Mercedes inherited her passion and love for the WIZO mission from her mother Sarah Cohen Benarroch z”l. Encouraging the next generation

Through passing on this love for WIZO to her daughter, Jenny Klainbaum and four grandchildren, Mercedes has trained two new generations of WIZO women. Through this, she has become a model of philanthropy to her family and the community at large. Recognizing the generation gap in many of the WIZO branches, Mercedes took a leading role in ensuring that WIZO remained relevant and important to younger women, their mothers and grandmothers. While serving as WIZO Florida president, Mercedes established 15 different chapters. One of these chapters included young university students, and had over 800 members. Many students from various universities made new friends and even met their soul mates at chapter events.

Mercedes and Menahem Ivcher of WIZO USA

Mercedes’s support

Mercedes impressive list of achievements and contributions would not have been possible without the on-going support of her husband Menahem. They have contributed countless times to WIZO USA, including donating the office of WIZO Florida. Mercedes and Menahem have been honoured by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, The Tel Aviv Museum, and the municipalities of Hadera and Sderot. Mercedes has received numerous awards from World WIZO, Uruguay, Argentina, Venezuela and USA. Her generosity and service was honoured with the Joseph Handleman Light of Philanthropy Award and the Rebecca Sieff Lifetime Achievement Award. Mercedes has also been the recipient of the key to the City of Bal Harbour and of many other proclamations including the cities of Miami and Miami Beach.

A well-known Chinese proverb says “Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.” Nothing could be truer of the Menahem and Mercedes Ivcher Dairy Factory which was officially opened in May 2012 at the WIZO Nir Haemek Youth Village sponsored by WIZO USA and WIZO Argentina. Just as the Rambam teaches us that the highest level of charity is to teach someone a trade so that they are no longer dependent on others, this initiative helps youth learn a new skill. Proceeds from sales of the dairy products benefit the Nir Haemek Youth Village. The ‘Beit Sarah Shabbat House’ a home for disadvantaged children was an additional gift to WIZO Nir Haemek in loving memory of Mercedes’ mother. The Ivcher’s investment in the future of young Israeli lives provides a unique opportunity for youth to reach their full potential.

New project: Help4Israel

Currently, Mercedes is working on a very ambitious and innovative television campaign called ‘Help4Israel. This initiative aims to raise funds to build rocket-proof shelters for WIZO day care centres and schools across Israel. This new project pays tribute to the fresh spirit and attitude that Mercedes applies to her generous work at WIZO – where no challenge is too great and no stone is left unturned if it could somehow benefit the people of Israel. By exploring these new avenues of philanthropy for this worthy cause, Mercedes has shown once again why she is a true WIZO heroine.
Holding Together a Small Community

Dorrit Raiter, president of WIZO Denmark works hard to keep the ever-shrinking Danish Jewish community committed to Israel and WIZO

Ingrid Rockberger

Dorrit Raiter, president of WIZO Denmark, was not born Jewish, but has Jewish ancestry. From an early age she inexplicably felt a connection to Judaism. "When I was 14 years old, and started studying for my confirmation, I had many conversations with my father. I started asking numerous questions about Christianity and Judaism. My father told me about our Jewish ancestry and his experiences in World War II, when he ran away to Sweden and became a member of the Danish Brigade [a unit of Danish soldiers being trained in Sweden to liberate Denmark from German occupation]. When he told me what had happened to the Jews during the war, I became more and more interested in where this attitude came from and started reading about Judaism.

"A few years later, when I was 21, I decided to go to Israel and see what this country is all about. I volunteered on Kibbutz Revivim in the Negev, where I studied Hebrew for six months at the kibbutz ulpan. I had a wonderful time, but eventually decided I had to go home to think things through. I had a dilemma for some years. My parents were very supportive and just let me go my own way and decide for myself. Eventually, when I was in my forties I decided to convert, and I did so, having an orthodox conversion. By then I had been married to an Israeli; he was not religious, and did not mind whether I converted or not, but more and more I felt that was what I wanted to do.

My WIZO connection

Until that point, I had no connection with the Jewish community. I knew about WIZO and felt a good idea would be to get involved with a Jewish women’s organization. I was a regular member for several years, became a member of the Executive about 11 years ago, and president six years ago. WIZO is one of the largest Jewish organizations in Denmark, with around 500 members. We have many non-Jewish members – some whose fathers are Jewish, but they did not convert, or non-Jewish women who are married to Jewish men. They are great supporters of Israel but do not want to commit from a religious aspect. We also have a number of non-Jewish supporters, who support us on a regular basis.

Do you have any children?

I have a daughter, who went to a kibbutz after she finished high school. She very much wanted to stay in Israel, but university tuition is very expensive, whereas in Denmark it is free. So we decided she should come back and at least get her BA in Denmark. And of course she met someone, and got married in Denmark to someone not Jewish. Nevertheless I am fortunate to have two wonderful grandchildren, Mira and Atle. They are now eight and five years old.
How is WIZO Denmark involved in the general community?

In WIZO Denmark, our main goal is of course fundraising for Israel. There is no question about that but we also act like a Jewish women’s movement. We are a member of the Women’s Council in Denmark. This is an umbrella organization for many different kinds of women’s organizations in Denmark.

Does the Women’s Council deal with women’s rights in Denmark? What is the situation with women in Denmark?

Officially it deals with equal rights between the two sexes. Compared to many other countries we are very close to equality. At present, less than half of our members of parliament are women, but we do have our first woman prime minister. To give an example of equality – maternity leave (on full pay) is available for both men and women. For example, a woman can take leave at first, after which the father can take over. Statistics show that more and more men are sharing maternity leave with their partners. Some of the many issues on the agenda of the Council are: More women on the boards of private and public companies, the fight against using women as sex objects in advertising and the fight against prostitution and trafficking.

Culturally, we still lack equality when it comes to men’s and women’s participation in seminars or conferences, to be paid out of the family budget. For example, if we organize a WIZO seminar, the fee must not be too high, whereas if a man’s organization arranges an expensive seminar, it is acceptable for the expense to come from the family budget.

How are you attracting women, particularly the younger women to WIZO?

It is very very difficult. Many of the young Jewish women have a picture of WIZO as their grandmother’s organization, and it is hard to change this image. We are trying to have two or three executive members in their 40s and their task, amongst others, is to get the younger generation involved or at least the women who are 35 and up. After a successful brunch for the younger women in spring 2011, we succeeded in forming three groups of young women in their twenties and thirties – some of them with small children. We are keeping track of them, and so far they are functioning. It is not so easy for this generation, because ‘equality of the sexes’ also means the women have to think about a career – and this is worldwide, not only in Denmark. However, we are planning to send two of them to the Aviv Seminar in Tel Aviv this November.

We have to be ‘selling’ an attractive product. We entice women to come by telling them to join us for a pleasant few hours, and support Israel at the same time. I particularly stress these two points for our annual bazaar: “Come and have a good family day out, meet friends you haven’t seen for a long time and contribute to Israel.” So far, it seems to be working.

We don’t have ‘big donors’ as some other federations do, but we have people who donate their homes each year for specific events like a bridge tournament and for special occasions like a Nordic WIZO seminar. We also have a big annual bazaar with a raffle and there are some people who always buy a large amount of raffle tickets.

How much do you use modern technology?

We have a website, www.wizo.dk, which we want to modernise, hopefully by not spending too much money, and we are on Facebook.

Obviously it is very important for WIZO members to come to Israel and visit the projects. Does this give your members motivation?

Visiting projects hasn’t been a tradition so far, but during the past year more people are asking me if they can visit the day care centre we support when they are visiting Israel. So far we have the one day care centre [Lotus in Carmiel], but are now thinking of taking on something else for the Aviv members, maybe take part in someone else’s project. It will be important to find something with which the younger
women can identify, for example young people in distress or with drug problems.

Do you find that WIZO is important to your members because this is their connection to Israel?

Some are so dedicated to Israel that they can think of nothing else but supporting Israel. However, unfortunately more and more people are saying that now Israel has existed for 64 years, and it should have a welfare system which takes care of those in need. I explain to these people that because Israel is under attack all the time, a huge amount of the annual budget has to go on defending the country. But I am asking myself how long this argument will be understood, and I am happy to add that WIZO besides supporting people in need also presses the government in resource allocation.

Is there anti-Semitism in Denmark?

It is hard to say. On the surface there is no anti-Semitism. There are Jews in every position - in the media, politics, in businesses, no doubt about that. And I do believe that the majority of Danes are not anti-Semites in the classical sense of the word. But there are people who have a tendency to hold the Jews responsible for what they do not like about Israel, an attitude based on lack of knowledge of the history of Israel. So they say "we are not anti-Semites but we are anti-Zionists," and they see Israel as the 'occupier' of Palestinian land. I have seen that this view can lead to blame the Jews worldwide including the Danish Jews, for the lack of a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians and for the poverty among the Palestinians. It seems to me that they think it all started in 1967 as they do not know the history of the division of the Middle East among the victors of World War I, the Balfour Declaration in 1917, the UN resolution in 1947 and the War of Independence in 1948. And they do not know of all the initiatives taken by the Israelis to educate and support the Palestinians in developing their future state. Here, we in WIZO together with other Jewish organizations have a job to do.

What size is the Jewish community in Denmark?

We are a small community of roughly 5-6000 people, but only about 2000 are registered with the community. Most are concentrated in Copenhagen where we have the only (Orthodox) synagogue with a rabbi. We also have a progressive community that started about ten years ago with about 100 members. They have a service once a month, given by a rabbi who comes especially to Denmark. Also Chabad is very active, led by a most friendly and sympathetic rabbi and his wife. Besides inviting at least 50 people every week for Shabbat meals, they run educational courses for both adults and children throughout the year. Now and then, WIZO Denmark collaborates with them on relevant projects.

How do you see the Jewish community of Denmark in say two generations?

I hope I am not right, but I am not sure there will be one.

Already today, many people who are observant immigrate either to Israel or other countries. It is too difficult for them to stay in Denmark – and others are assimilated. So it leaves a small group behind. I hope this development will change.

What is the makeup of the Jewish community? Are there a lot of Holocaust survivors?

Yes, many are Holocaust survivors, mostly from Poland and other Eastern European countries; therefore we have an aging community with too few young members. We have a beautiful, fairly new centre, where we try to hold all kinds of events to attract new members of all ages. We also have a beautiful parents’ home, a school and kindergarten within the community.

Denmark has a special World War II history. Although Denmark was occupied by the Nazis in 1940, the community was not persecuted at first. However, towards the end of 1943, the Jews were scheduled to be deported. A rescue operation by the Danish Resistance ferried most of the Jews to safety in Sweden. The Germans only managed to seize some 500, who were sent to Theresienstadt. Most survived and returned to Denmark after the War, as did most of those who went to Sweden. In some cases where a mother and child were in Sweden and the father in Theresienstadt it was hard for them to adjust after the war, as it was for the children who had to be left behind when the parents had to flee.

When not busy with WIZO, what do you do?

I work in the Danish Ministry of Business and Growth. We deal with adjusting legislation to help the development of small businesses, and also help them to be more 'green' and environmentally conscious, which helps them obtain funding. ‘Green’ is the buzzword these days! We also encourage partnerships with private businesses and public authorities. This is essential to develop trade. In fact, some of my colleagues came to Israel a few years ago to attend a seminar on this subject.

To conclude?

I do my very best to strengthen and bond the community through WIZO and to strengthen the bond between Israel and Denmark. I think it is essential that the Danes – and especially the Danish Jews - know the importance of the WIZO projects in Israel, so I try my best to inform not only the members of WIZO Denmark but also the members of the Danish Jewish community and others about them. By doing this, I hope to succeed in making it clear that besides giving the single mother and her whole family a better daily life, we help improve Israeli society. And I emphasize that the effort and help from volunteers here [in Denmark], is maintained by a warm-hearted and professional organization in Israel based on good relations with the federations worldwide.

WIZO Review takes its hat off to Dorrit. Although not born Jewish, somewhere deep down, her Jewish roots stirred her to identify with her ancestral people, WIZO and the people of Israel.
HELLO
AWESOME AVIVS!

Another quarter of the year has passed & hopefully we are all a whole lot of ‘FUN’draisers & ‘FRIEND’raisers richer!

Do you remember my commitment to UNITE & IGNITE Avivs World Wide?

I’m proud of what I’ve achieved in my first 6 months:

- Increased Social Media Connectivity between Avivs World Wide.
- Improved communication between Avivs & World WIZO
- Establishment of a Facebook dialogue between Aviv leaders World Wide
- Established an Aviv Blog http://lauriennebaitz.wordpress.com
- Conducted a seminar for Tikva Avivs
- Progress with the World WIZO Website overhaul
- New design for International Aviv Seminar (I hope you are attending?!)

Thank you all for your enthusiastic input & increased communication with each other. We are TEAM AVIV & together we are making wonderful things happen around the world!

Please read the ‘Around the World’ pages in the WIZO Review magazine to discover what your chaverot have been up to.

We are gearing up for the

INTERNATIONAL AVIV SEMINAR 2012

EXPERIENCE, LEARN & COMMUNICATE!
We have planned fabulous forums designed for Avivs to
SEE, FEEL & SHARE the WIZO Experience!
You will be IGNITED by SEEING where your funds go and
FEELING an ocean of emotion as you experience WIZO projects 1st hand.
You will be SHARING experiences with
Aviv WIZO Wonder-women from around the world.
We will also learn the art of ‘FUNdraising’ -
That is raising funds and having a whole lot of fun doing it!

Avivs, we are UNITED by sharing more than a common WIZO goal -
We also share a golden thread of heritage & community that binds us together around the world no matter who we are.
We are sisters & friends at a genetic level – the original form of ‘social networking’!

I hope to see you @ the Aviv Seminar!

With love from

Laurienne Baitz

Aviv Representative to the World WIZO Executive
A devoted Zionist from a very young age, Doreen Guinsberg’s life has centred around WIZO

Ingrid Rockberger

Most people, when they retire, seek an easier life. Not so Doreen Guinsberg and her late sister Lynn. A chance meeting with a New Zealander in Caesarea led to them buying his ‘home on wheels’. Then followed more than 20 years of travelling for three months each summer all over Europe, which only came to an end some three years ago when Lynn died aged 97 and Doreen was 94. All is revealed in their book Life with Bondo – Our Cottage on Wheels.

The little brown envelopes

Over the years, occasionally a neat, carefully sealed brown envelope would arrive in the WIZO Review office. Inside would be a fascinating historical article about or relevant to WIZO, either typed or often handwritten in Doreen’s neat hand. Some were printed in the Review. A few months ago I received a phone call from the secretary of WIZO Haifa who told me that Doreen had some WIZO archival material that she would like to give me. As I was unable to drive at the time due to a broken shoulder, my devoted WIZO husband Michael agreed to be my chauffeur to visit Doreen.

Home on the Carmel

As we walked carefully down the steep winding path which leads to her apartment on the Carmel, where she has lived since 1961, we wondered how Doreen managed to negotiate this obvious obstacle. “Not often,” she cheerily told us, as she welcomed us inside. The apartment is like a time warp – quiet and peaceful and surrounded by greenery in the small garden. “We could see the sea at the beginning, explains Doreen,” “but as the area became more built-up we planted some fast-growing trees!” The walls are adorned with Doreen’s charcoal drawings and water-colour paintings, depicting different periods and experiences in her long life.

Early life in South Africa

Doreen’s life has been inextricably entwined with that of WIZO starting with her mother Olga Guinsberg (née Sammel) who was one of the founders of the Women’s Zionist League in South Africa, which later became affiliated to WIZO. Doreen was born in Pretoria, growing up on the family farm in the Orange Free State. The family home was always open to visiting Zionist emissaries, and listening spellbound to these inspiring guests stirred Zionist dreams in Doreen at a very young age.

First trip to Palestine

Ready for adventure, in 1932 aged 18 she set off herself for Palestine. A contact of her parents in South Africa had arranged for her to be enrolled in WIZO’s Ayanot Agricultural School in Ness Ziona. The work was very hard physically and although Doreen loved being there, she soon realized she could not sustain the hardships. A chance meeting at the Levant fair in Tel Aviv led her to a job with an architect for a very small salary. She was often hungry: “I was able to get a hot meal at the mitbach hapo’alim (Workers’ Kitchen) in Tel Aviv for a few piasters a day, otherwise I doubt if I would have survived,” she reminisces. She also worked for a time for a furniture manufacturer in Tel Aviv, which was very useful because in addition to design she learnt how to make furniture. However, that job came to an end and she reluctantly returned to South Africa. World War II broke out, during which her brother was killed in action. Although yearning to return to Palestine Doreen felt she could not leave her family at this time. During the ensuing years in S. Africa, she continued learning design and architecture, and worked as a freelancer.

Working for the Women’s Zionist Council

She finally landed a job with the Women’s Zionist Council (the forerunner of WIZO South Africa), where she worked from 1948-1959 as the Organizer and Liaison Officer for Southern and Central Africa.

During this period she travelled all over this region of Africa – and to Israel on various missions for the Federation. She visited and worked with numerous tiny Jewish communities scattered all over southern Africa, whom she greatly admired.
“these women, although far from the centre of Jewish life, through their activities and devotion to the Zionist cause, united their small communities preserving Jewish identity.”

Upon returning to Africa after her visits to Israel, she toured the communities giving them first-hand accounts of the development and the difficulties facing the new state. “The women were so thirsty for information – and here was I – someone who had actually visited the State of Israel!”

In January 1949, in her official capacity she attended the first World WIZO Conference held in Israel after World WIZO headquarters moved from London to the new State of Israel, and was present at the opening of the first Knesset.

**Last refugee boat from Cyprus**

During this visit, WIZO arranged for her to visit the DP (Displaced Persons) camps in Cyprus. Little did Doreen know when she left for Cyprus that she would soon join the last boatload of refugees who would set sail for a new life in the nascent State of Israel – she emotionally described this experience in a WIZO Review article (Winter 2009 No. 320 p. 38). “I will never forget sailing into Haifa. Israel’s new navy escorted us into the harbour amid the hooting of all the boats in the bay….it seemed that the whole country had come to welcome us. There were crowds everywhere. I had a huge lump in my throat when I saw standing on the dock, behind long tables, the WIZO ladies ready to serve cakes, sandwiches and hot coffee to Israel’s new immigrants.”

**Finally Aliyah**

However, Doreen’s heart and soul were in Israel and she finally made aliyah in 1959, soon followed by her mother. Times were difficult, and she was often unemployed, gaining work on a specific project, but having to seek new work when the project was finished. Eventually, she managed to get a job in the new Institute of Industrial Design, then a department of the Technion. However, the Institute soon moved to Tel Aviv, which found Doreen unemployed yet again. She eventually found work again in Beersheva, where she set up a Building and Architectural Draughting course in a comprehensive high school.

**Teaching at a WIZO school**

A chance school inspection led to her return to Haifa: the inspector was intrigued by her method of teaching – ‘covering the blackboard with plans and technical details meticulously illustrated by many-coloured chalks.’ “I confessed that my system was born of necessity as I knew very little Hebrew at the time, and my pupils, many of whom were new immigrants themselves, knew even less!” The inspector, hearing of Doreen’s qualifications and experience, asked if she would be prepared to return to Haifa as he wanted to establish an interior design course at one of the schools there – which turned out to be none other than WIZO’s Henrietta Irwell High School. So, in 1962, with just 12 pupils Doreen opened the first design course in the school. Eventually Doreen’s department became part of WIZO’s Neri Bloomfield College of Art and Design – and there she worked until retirement!

**Retirement on wheels**

When Doreen’s sister Lynn retired, she too came to live in Israel. The two ladies spent some 20 summers travelling around Europe in their home on wheels, going where their fancy took them and staying for as long or short a time as they desired. Plenty of adventures came their way as they often decided to walk up mountains – ‘just to the next bend in the path’ and many times were caught in inclement weather totally unprepared – no suitable clothing, no food or water…but their indomitable spirits and luck – and the goodwill of strangers – who often became close friends – always came to their rescue!

**More articles**

Reading all the articles Doreen gave me – and she recently told me there are more, is like reading a potted history of WIZO in Africa and WIZO experiences in Israel from the very early days of the State. A prolific painter, writer and poet, some years ago Doreen donated over 30 of her paintings to Swiss WIZO to sell – all proceeds to WIZO of course!

As we walked back up the path, we felt privileged to have met such a charming, modest lady – nearly a century old. This article is just a peep into a long, interesting life devoted to Zionism and the Jewish people.
World WIZO President Tova Ben-Dov said in a recent interview in the WIZO Review, that she wanted to see visits to WIZO projects on the itinerary of every Jewish youth tour to Israel. Little did she know that the wheels were already in motion to make the shidduch between Jewish youth organizations, WIZO federations around the world and projects in Israel. As World WIZO Organization and Tourism Division Chair Janine Gelley explained, “These things take months of planning but we are committed to showcasing WIZO in action. It’s all part of our ‘seeing is believing’ ethos and by active participation, Jewish youth from the Diaspora are touched by that same WIZO magic that has kept their mothers and grandmothers spellbound in their dedication to am Yisrael (the people of Israel). This summer we saw a dramatic increase in the number of Jewish youth groups from abroad visiting WIZO projects.”

Engaging youth – from Canada

Divided into four groups, a 120-strong group of 16 to 18 year old Canadian Young Judeans descended on four Canadian Hadassah WIZO (CHW) sponsored day care centres one morning in July as part of their Biluim Israel tour. Representatives from World WIZO met the Young Judeans at the day care centres and explained the joint mission of CHW and WIZO. This was of great relevance since many members of the group had no previous knowledge of WIZO.

After a briefing by each day care centre director, the visitors joined the children in their morning activities. Differences in age and culture melted away as children used the universal language of play, smiles and laughter as they interacted with each other. Sitting side-by-side, teenagers and toddlers formed a large circle and cajoled each other in the song and mime classes, with the toddlers and their caregivers teaching the young visitors all the moves and grooves.

One of the Young Judeans, on entering the Clara Balinsky Day Care Centre, pointed to a name on the CHW donor board and proclaimed with great pride, “Wow – that’s my aunt!” Such a small occurrence spoke volumes of the importance of the interaction.

Dutch, Mexicans and Germans come along too

A group of Habonim Dror youth leaders from Holland spent a day at the WIZO UK and WIZO Holland sponsored Caroline and Joseph S. Gruss Community Centre and Edersheim/Levenbach Youth Club in Afula. The visit, facilitated by WIZO Holland, brought Jewish Dutch kids closer to their Israeli counterparts for whom the community centre plays a vital part. Language, cultural and ethnic barriers were breached as Dutch and Israelis learned from each other that teenagers, regardless of background, share the same interests.

A group of high school students from the Sephardic School in Mexico also visited the community centre in Afula as part of their trip.
of their Israel tour. They also learned about WIZO’s work in Israel and the centrality of the community centre on the local population. Participating in games with the local youth, they quickly established a great rapport. “Now I know what WIZO is and how much it means to the people of Israel, I feel so involved,” one student was heard to say.

As part of their tour itinerary, a 40-strong group of Jewish students from Germany included a visit to the WIZO Germany-sponsored Theodore Blumenfeld Youth Centre in Kiryat Shmoneh. There, they viewed a film made by the youth at the centre during the time of the second Lebanon War, when the population of Kiryat Shmoneh was in direct line of fire from Katyusha rockets launched from Lebanon. Seeing the facilities of this wonderful youth centre, learning of the challenges faced by residents of Kiryat Shmoneh and building relationships with the youth was a valuable lesson for the German students. More than that, it gave a huge boost to the Israeli youth to know that they have friends around the world – not just those ‘kindhearted aunts’ who donate time and money – but also youngsters just like themselves, to whom they can relate.

Scandinavian hands on deck

A 56-strong group of Scandinavian 17-year olds, members and leaders from Bnei Akiva in Sweden, Norway and Finland were welcomed by WIZO Tourism and Organization Chair Janine Gelley at the WIZO Australia-sponsored Rae & Tom Mandel Family Centre in Modi’in before splitting into four groups and heading off to four day care centres in the vicinity. Bnei Akiva organizers had requested a ‘hands-on volunteering experience’ for their youth and WIZO was happy to oblige. Rigorous work schedules had been prepared for the youngsters. Wasting no time, the students took to their chores: gardening, preparing games, painting cots, scrubbing out the kitchens and tidying toys in preparation for the next school year. The Scandinavian visitors were delighted to play such an active role within the framework of a WIZO day care centre. Likewise, the manager and staff of the day care centre were charmed by the chemistry between the children and their visitors.

And Uruguay too!

Students from Uruguay on their graduation Israel tour joined Israeli students from the WIZO Hadassim Youth Village in a ‘fun day’ of activities, giving them the opportunity to interact, share experiences and compare realities. The visit was sponsored by the Board of the Comprehensive School, and on their return the enthusiastic students expressed their thanks to WIZO Uruguay, World WIZO and the Hadassim students for their warm hospitality.

“Engaging Jewish youth in this way is definitely the way forward,” enthused Janine. It’s the living proof that ‘seeing really is believing.’

Charismatic community centre director Dudu Moatty was troubled that near Afula are three Israeli Arab villages, with not much contact between the Arabs and Jews. Having grown up in the area, Dudu grew up with Arab children ‘and we always visited each other’s homes.’ It was Dudu’s dream to start a project ‘where Arab and Jewish youngsters will get to know each other better and thus create a taste for a better future.’

The first seed of Dudu’s dream was sown when, after their visit to the Gruss Community Centre, a games event was arranged between the visiting Dutch Habonim youngsters and young boys from the nearby Arab villages. Within no time the youngsters were all having fun together, with no thoughts of their differences.
Dr. Helena Kagan

“In accordance with the proposal of the director of Public Health Services in Jerusalem under the Ottoman regime, I organized my clinic. I hung a sign at the entrance with my name on it and waited for patients. Neither the doctors nor the population took ‘the young woman who claims that she’s a doctor’ as they expressed it, seriously. My clinic remained empty.

The incident that caused an unexpected rise in my income and popularity was the treatment of my first patient, a six year old child from the respected family of Torah scholar Rabbi Yitzchok Shlomo Blau. The child was fatally ill, burning with fever, barely conscious, struggling to breathe. All the doctors in Jerusalem were called to his bedside one by one (never together, since this was not the custom then). Even a non-Jewish doctor was summoned in the attempt to find a cure.

At first, prescriptions were written which were examined by an unlicensed and untrained pharmacist, Zalman Soloveitchik, and he was forced to decide which prescription was the best. Donations were made to a few synagogues and all of the boy’s clothing and possessions were given as presents to the poor.

Six days went by, and the child’s condition worsened. Finally, one of the neighbours, seeing their great despair, took pity on the family and said that actually it wouldn’t hurt if they would call ‘the young woman’ who had just arrived from Switzerland, ‘who claims that she is a doctor’.

I was called to the child’s bedside, and found that he was suffering from lobar pneumonia. Since I was helpless in the face of the many medications that had already been given to him, I gave him a shot of camphor oil and did not leave his side all night. This was the seventh day of his illness, the standard crisis period for lobar pneumonia during the pre-antibiotics era, and the crisis did indeed take place as expected, accompanied by sweating and lowered fever; and overnight I became ‘famous’. This small boy, my first patient, later became Rabbi Amram Blau, one of the leaders of Neturei Karta.

From the diary of Dr. Helena Kagan,”The Voice that Called” (Hebrew translation), Tel Aviv: WIZO and the Liberal College, with the assistance of Bank Leumi, 1982.
Lisa Moss-Phillips

As a French philosopher once stated, the ‘Jews taught the world the art of being a people.’ Indeed, the internal solidarity of the Jewish People as expressed in the concept of *Kol Israel arevim ze laze* (all Jews are responsible for one another), is one of the secrets of Jewish survival. It is, in great measure, the glue that guarantees our internal cohesion despite our differences.

Mordechai Kaplan, a 20th century Jewish thinker and founder of the Reconstructionist movement was the first person to coin the term Jewish Peoplehood. Kaplan’s notion of Peoplehood is a combination of culture, religion, history and values under a Jewish umbrella that gives us a profound feeling of being connected to other Jews.

Embedded in notions of Jewish Peoplehood are strong familial or tribal associations. Rabbi Dr. Donnied Hartman, president of the Shalom Hartman Institute expands on this concept in his broad analysis of *Genesis and Exodus: two models of Jewish Peoplehood*. He suggests that the Genesis and Exodus models present us today with two ways of identifying ourselves as Jews. The Genesis covenant is one of primal identity grounded in family and ethnicity. By contrast, the Exodus covenant is one of content and conduct with the conversation shifting from an individual agenda to the collective consciousness. According to the Exodus model Jewish identity is voluntary and goes beyond a sense of obligation that comes from being part of a family.

The challenge of creating a sense of Jewish solidarity in the 21st century where the prevalent paradigm is that of free choice is not simple. In the given reality of our contemporary world most Jews have multiple and fluid identities. We are part of some national collective identity (American, Israeli etc.) and the place and role of our collective Jewish identity is far less obvious and enduring.

Feelings of connection, mutual responsibility and shared destiny do not develop in the abstract or from slogans. They grow out of real experiences. Abundant research has shown that the way to most significantly impact Jewish identity and the bonds of Peoplehood is by providing people with immersive, meaningful experiences.

Peoplehood is not just a vague and undetermined buzzword in the Jewish world. This concept should serve as a platform for Jews to find meaning beyond simply belonging. It is not enough to be part of an extended family. As Jews we need to be part of an extended family with a vision, a unique mission in the world. Part of that mission involves *tikun olam*, seeking social justice for all people and includes mobilizing Jews in Israel and the Diaspora to take a greater role in nurturing the less fortunate. More of that mission involves nurturing Jewish literacy, Jewish values and Jewish solidarity with Israel and Jews the world over.

WIZO embodies the values of the Jewish collective responsibility. This ancient Jewish value of *tikun olam* is the guiding principle that underlies our mission and was adopted as a major element in the agenda of WIZO since the founding of the movement in 1920.

The concept of Peoplehood was one of our great contributions to humanity; the re-invention of Peoplehood in a way that it remains relevant in the 21st century is a collective global Jewish challenge. WIZO is rising to the challenge. With the ongoing support of its members in Israel and the Diaspora WIZO funds 800 dynamic social welfare and educational projects for the bettering of Israeli society.

By rallying WIZO members to be connected and committed to one another, identified and inspired, responsible with a larger purpose in their lives, we are building the Jewish future, creating a sense of belonging and community and engaging in the bonds of Peoplehood. Deepening the consciousness of Peoplehood must be a priority item on the international Jewish agenda and in doing so we shall focus on what brings us together as opposed to what pulls us apart.

**Sources:**
'It's a Zoo Around Here' – New Rules For Better Communication

An innovative way of considering how to get our message across to different personalities

Lisa Moss-Phillips

One of the biggest challenges we face when communicating is making sure that we get our message across successfully. Individuals often have very different approaches to life and often these differences can lead to conflict and communication problems. While everyone is unique and different, we tend to put people into categories. Personality types provide one way to gain a general understanding of how people make decisions and why they sometimes clash. They help us understand what situations are likely to stress particular people. And they can help us communicate more effectively based on a better understanding of ourselves and how we relate to others.

Through most of human history, it has been assumed that people fall into four basic personality types, or 'temperaments.' This was noted as long ago as 400BC by the great Greek physician Hippocrates who named the four temperaments melancholic, sanguine, choleric, and phlegmatic (after various human body fluids which he believed influenced personality).

Modern personality theories can provide us with useful models of how people approach life. The Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI for short) based on the theories of Carl Jung and the Keirsey Temperament Sorter which categorizes the four temperaments by attaching a patron Greek god to each temperament are currently two of the most popular models.

Nigel Risner, author, television presenter and internationally acclaimed motivational speaker provides a whole new perspective on people and relationships. Forget about the complicated personality analysis. Nigel’s new model for communication which he calls ‘zoo-keeping’ is a more practical approach which gets to the nitty-gritty of both personality and the way people work/think/react and helps us to get the best out of the people we interact with on a daily basis. At the more fun end of the spectrum, Nigel's model places people into four broad personality types: lion, monkey, elephant and dolphin depending on their preferred communication style. He suggests that in order to become effective ‘zookeepers’ in the communications zoo, it is vital that we recognize the various styles of communication that work best for different people and different situations and adapt our own style accordingly, with the result that we get our message across effectively.

Which type of animal are you and what communication style works best for you? Continue reading and all will be revealed.

JOIN US FOR THE LAPID SEMINAR
January 13-17, 2013
Suitable for potential leaders and chaverot over the age of 45 wishing to take on a more active role in their Federation

For further details please contact: World WIZO Organization and Tourism Division
Tel: 972-3-6923819, Fax: 972-3-6923820, Email: wizo@wizo.org
Lions are purposeful and persevering – task and results orientated, efficient and effective, and like to be in charge. They are excellent at making tough decisions and meeting deadlines. People can perceive them as being aggressive, arrogant, stubborn, impatient and uncaring.

*When talking with Lions be brief and focus on the task in hand.*

Elephants are capable, analytical and often more sensitive and vulnerable than they let others see. They are extremely reliable and value clarity, gentleness and quiet. They have difficulty expressing themselves and people can see them as overly formal.

*When talking with Elephants allow them to save face and be prepared for lots of questions about details.*

Dolphins are sensitive, caring, nurturing, supportive, patient and perceptive of others’ emotions. They are excellent at building rapport and are often skilled in handling detail. People can perceive them as being weak or over-emotional. Dolphins like to be included, involved and they need to know that their contribution is valued.

*To communicate properly with a Dolphin you need to show emotion, align yourself with them and show them it’s for a ‘greater good.’*

Monkeys are dynamic, creative, energetic, extrovert, lively and persuasive. Others may see them as noisy, manipulative, aggressive and unreliable. Monkeys like to be liked, they need to be inspired and involved, allowed to share and develop their ideas.

*When talking with monkeys, be enthusiastic, tap into their ideas and give them space to think flexibly and change their minds.*

Understanding other people and their preferences lies at the heart of influencing others and also of crafting messages that are really compelling. Once we appreciate the similarities and differences between people it opens up a whole new way of understanding how communication really works.

**Sources:**
Recognizing the importance of giving children a healthy start, this year WIZO’s Early Age Division decided to make the issue of nutrition its focal theme. The division initiated a countrywide campaign aimed at enhancing children’s meals within WIZO’s chain of day care centres under the challenge of budget restrictions. A nutritional conference was held in Tel Aviv’s HaYarkon Park in May in which participants heard lectures on health and dietary needs of young children and took part in recreational activities. At the close of the event they were handed the new nutritional kit which was compiled over a period of a year and a half by various day care centre directors, supervisors and cooks in cooperation with the Early Age Division. The kit provides day care centre staff with documented guidance on standards and procedures with regards to food handling and preparation, nutrition and child development, suggested menus and weekly food baskets, and educational activities for children aimed at familiarizing them with textures and tastes of fruits and vegetables.

As part of this year’s nutritional campaign, WIZO, in partnership with Joint Israel, has been organizing training courses for both caregivers and cooks around the country. The workshops are designed not only to bring them up to date with the latest dietary recommendations for children, but also to provide caregivers with the essential tools necessary to infuse correct eating habits in young children and learn how to deal with various eating disorders. In all, 3000 day care centre staff members are participating in this extensive programme.

One of the contributors, Dalia Dressler presenting the Nutrition Pack at the Nutrition Conference

Healthy WIZO Children

WIZO Youth Go Bronze

A festive ceremony was held at WIZO Nahalal Youth Village to mark the successful completion of the Bronze stage in the first level of the ‘Israel Youth Award’ programme which is implemented in all of WIZO’s educational institutions. Seventy seven excited students received their International Youth Award certificate and were also presented with a pin. The participants are active in all four Award sections: physical fitness, developing a hobby, participating in challenging outdoor expeditions and volunteerism within the community.

Nahalal students who achieved the Israel Youth Award bronze medal

Tova Ben-Dov, president of World WIZO addressed the students who are continuing on to the next stage of the programme: “The ethic of volunteerism is the guiding force of WIZO… and the fact that you volunteer regularly at old age homes, pediatric hospital wards, prepare food parcels for the needy, cheer up children from disadvantaged populations, accompany handicapped people and many more - shows that you are a wonderful generation – making a great contribution to your country, society and environment.”

The Israel Youth Award is part of an international award programme which began in the UK in 1956 as The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award and operates today in more than 133 countries. It is designed to educate and encourage youth to use their spare time constructively, and contributes to the strengthening of social solidarity and the empowerment of the individual. The vision of the Israel Youth Award is to encourage personal growth and self-discovery through gradual transformation, starting at Bronze Level, moving on to Silver and finally reaching Gold. The Israel Youth Award has been operating in WIZO’s educational institutions for the past five years.
Fundraising Gala

Leading members of Israel's business community, together with hundreds of Israel WIZO donors and supporters attended a sparkling fundraising gala at the home of Chaim and Iris Taib in Kfar Shmaryahu. Proceeds from the event have been earmarked for the benefit of women and children victims of domestic violence, who are being cared for by WIZO.

Pini Cohen, CEO America Israel, Yehuda Levi, Chief CEO HSBC, and businessman Yossi Bar Natan and his wife Nurit, all enthusiastic contributors to the WIZO cause were awarded certificates of appreciation for their efforts.

The focus of this fundraising event, hosted by Sharon Kidon, was a fashion show which included creations by leading fashion designers. Chefs Segev Moshe and Eyal Lavi volunteered their services to prepare the gourmet cuisine for the guests.

Today in Israel, approximately 200,000 women and 600,000 children live under the shadow of violence. Hundreds are being treated in various WIZO facilities, including women's shelters and centres for the prevention of violence and special programmes for at-risk youth. WIZO also operates projects to help women return to independent living.

Adv. Gideon Fisher, chair of the WIZO Israel annual fundraising campaign addressed the audience saying: "For three years I have been involved in the activities of WIZO Israel. The organization takes so many challenges upon itself, including handling the distress of women, girls and children. Physical, verbal or mental violence is harmful, destructive and paralyzing. I cannot remain indifferent to the wonderful compassion of the volunteers who lead these damaged children to a safe haven to save their souls. WIZO needs us in order to succeed, and to save lives. The contribution of each and every one of us gives each one of the victims a chance for a safe future without violence."

WIZO Israel AGM

The WIZO Israel Annual General Meeting was held in mid-May in a rural venue in the heart of Tel Aviv. The plenary was attended by executive members of WIZO branches from across the country and was graced by the presence of World WIZO Honorary President Raya Jaglom, World WIZO President Tova Ben-Dov and World WIZO Chairperson Rivka Lazovsky. Ninety-two year old Raya Jaglom told the audience that "the secret to a long life is volunteerism and being able to give."

MK Dr. Rachel Adatto, who serves as chairperson of the National Council for Women’s Health gave a talk on eating disorders and described her efforts in promoting legislation prohibiting underweight models to appear in commercials also known as the Models Law. Dr. Adatto, who enjoys the support of the WIZO lobby in advancing the bill, called on the WIZO Executive to recruit volunteers who work with teenagers to organize workshops on the subject.

Chairperson of WIZO Israel, Gila Oshrat gave a report of the prolific and versatile activities of WIZO Israel, accrediting its accomplishments to the continuous cooperation between the volunteers, the employees, and the heads of departments and branches. She declared, “Together we will put WIZO on the map.”

Chairman of WIZO Israel’s Welfare Department Nina Shapiro introduced a panel of women and teenage girls who had been recipients of WIZO’s services and are so grateful that today they are volunteers in some of WIZO’s projects helping other women.
Shoshi Gal gave a lecture entitled Small Talk in which she gave useful tips on how to approach strangers in social and business events in order to forge contacts for the sake of fundraising or recruiting new members.

Following a hearty buffet, Gila presented WIZO certificates to branches that have excelled both in fundraising and recruiting new members.

**Sponsor A Child Italian Style**

Friends of WIZO's annual Sponsor A Child luncheon and fashion show is a fixed date on the social calendar of many members and friends eager to support this worthy cause. This year was no exception and tickets sold out fast when the venue was announced – the magnificent residence of the Italian Ambassador to Israel Luigi Mattiolo and his wife Stefania.

Over 100 guests dined alla italiana and enjoyed a fashion show featuring haute couture designs by Israeli designer Yaron Minkovsky and jewellery designed by Ariella Zalouf.

The event was organized by Friends of WIZO co-chairs Esther Mor and Betty Crystal and their devoted executive members. Among the honoured guests were Eden Goldberger, wife of the Deputy Head of the US Mission and the wife of the Egyptian Ambassador Nahla Reda. Ambassador Mattiolo spoke warmly about his connection with and support of WIZO, and his respect for the organization’s work in assisting those in need. Tova Ben-Dov also greeted and thanked the guests.

Esther Mor sincerely thanked the ambassador and his wife Stefania for hosting the luncheon, Ariella Zalouf for the jewellery, and to designer Yaron Minkovsky who donated one of his striking hats as a raffle prize.

Next year, in honour of their tenth anniversary, the group plans to adopt a WIZO day care centre.

**WIZO Bar-Bat Mitzvah Celebrate**

Every year, many WIZO branches around the country hold special bar-bat mitzvah ceremonies for children whose parents cannot afford to hold a celebration for them. This year was no exception, and here we present some examples of these happy and emotional special WIZO occasions:

**WIZO Petach Tikvah**

Dozens of children from single parent families in Petach Tikvah celebrated their bar-bat mitzvahs in the presence of Mayor Itzik Ohayon as part of the bar-bat mitzvah project of WIZO Petach Tikvah in cooperation with the local municipal welfare department. The children and their families attended the Chabad synagogue in the city where a traditional ceremony was held under the guidance of Rabbi Deitsch.

From there the children were taken to the WIZO Gan VeNof Youth Village where a special celebratory event had been prepared for them by local WIZO volunteers. World WIZO President Tova Ben-Dov greeted the children and pledged that WIZO will continue to stand by them and provide them with tools for a successful future.

**WIZO Jerusalem**

WIZO Jerusalem has continued its tradition of organizing a bar-bat mitzvah celebration for orphans and children of single parents. Now in its 24th year, this festive event was attended by 40 children and their parents who were welcomed at the Knesset by Knesset Speaker Reuven Rivlin.

**WIZO Netanya**

Twenty-six children with their parents congregated at WIZO Netanya before setting off for their big event. They were each handed a bar-bat mitzvah gift before boarding a bus headed for Jerusalem, where they were greeted by musicians who led them in song and dance across the Kotel plaza before being escorted to the synagogue for their special ceremony. This was followed by a festive lunch at the Ramat Rachel hotel together with donors and representatives of WIZO Israel.
WIZO Afula

Children from the Gruss Family Community Centre in Afula also celebrated their bar-bat mitzvahs in Jerusalem where they were taken on a tour of a tefillin production factory. The boys put on tefillin at the Kotel and performed the bar mitzvah ceremony whilst the girls, accompanied by their mothers participated in traditional challah baking. Back at the community centre WIZO put on a festive celebration for the children and their families.

WIZO Haifa

About 40 bar-bat mitzvah boys and girls from all over Haifa and Kiryat Haim, joined by 15 youngsters from WIZO Nir Haemek School, gathered at the Medatech Convention Hall in Haifa along with their parents to receive the well wishes of the municipality. They then boarded the coach to the WIZO Nir Haemek Youth Village where they were greeted by school director Motti Nethaniel. They enjoyed a hearty breakfast as well as an activity packed day which included tasting cheeses made by the school’s dairy production plant and horse riding.

WIZO Holon

Seventeen bar mitzvah boys and 12 bat mitzvah girls from Holon and their families enjoyed a festive trip to Jerusalem. They entered the Old City through the Zion Gate where they were accompanied by the musical ensemble of Liran Levy as they paraded across the Jewish Quarter to the Kotel, where a ceremony took place. They later dined at the Baraca restaurant in Jerusalem where they each received a certificate and a siddur. Liran Levy and his group accompanied the children and their families throughout the day with singing and dancing, creating a happy, joyful atmosphere.

WIZO Ramat Gan

Youngsters of Ramat Gan celebrated their coming of age at the Kotel in Jerusalem to the sound of drums and trumpets. The event included visits to important sites in the Old City, a festive feast and gifts. Among them were a talith for the boys and jewellery for the girls. The children were beaming with happiness as were their parents who had never participated in such an event – a day to remember all their lives!

WIZO Bar-Bat Mitzvah Celebrations
JILL SHAW – Chairman of WIZOuk

Jill Shaw, who was recently elected as the new Chairman of WIZOuk, has WIZO in her blood, starting with her great-grandmother who was encouraged by Rebecca Sieff to start a women’s Zionist Group in Leeds as a forerunner of WIZO.

Her grandmother was actively involved, whilst her mother was Life President of Sheffield WIZO. Both Jill’s late parents, Rosemary and Edward Isaacs, were Honorary Vice-Presidents of WIZOuk.

Jill recalls helping at WIZO bazaars from a very early age, and later headed several WIZOuk departments including Aviv, Education and Finance.

As Chairman, her first few months have been exciting, including the successful visit to the UK of Rivka Lazovsky, World WIZO Chairperson and her own visit to World WIZO for the mini MOR.

Jill is determined to encourage less active members to become more involved at Executive level and to recruit more younger women in an increasingly competitive charitable world. She is determined that the wider Jewish community be better informed about WIZO’s work in Israel and has an improved understanding of how peoples’ lives are transformed by WIZO’s services.

Building a good working relationship with Israel WIZO is also on her agenda, since the UK Federation has a large number of WIZO community centres in their project portfolio. Her enthusiasm and drive will stand her in good stead for the challenges ahead.

ROSANA BARAN – President of WIZO Paraguay

Rosana Baran, who was recently elected as president of WIZO Paraguay, has been active in WIZO since 1993, and comes from a long background of involvement in community services and social causes.

Born in Argentina, Rosana moved to Paraguay with her parents when she was 17, and over the years lived in the US and Brazil, before returning to Paraguay. She graduated with an electronic engineering degree, and later also received an MBA degree in Human Resources.

Rosana and her husband Benjamin have three children, and Rosana has always maintained a traditional Jewish home. She has always been deeply committed to the Jewish community and has been active in various organizations, taking on many responsibilities and managerial roles.

Rosana was recently responsible for organizing a Jerusalem Day event for 200 people, in which the whole Jewish community participated. With this background and qualifications, Rosana is determined to continue WIZO Paraguay’s noble work assisting Israel’s underprivileged population.

WIZO Review congratulates the new WIZO leaders of the UK and Paraguay – and wishes them great success in their new roles.
ARGENTINA

Successful Annual Congress

Over 100 chaverot attended OSFA WIZO Argentina’s annual congress, where they met to discuss important issues. Roberto Alifano, eminent poet and lecturer who was recently a guest of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, captivated the audience with his lecture ‘Jorge Luis Borges and Judaism.’ Beatriz G. Teicher ran an excellent seminar entitled ‘Identity, Engagement and Modernisation of Institutional Work.’

Noemí Gueler, Chela Katz and Nancy Kloner reported on the World WIZO Conference. Members of the Aviv group chose to reflect on the theme of the Holocaust from the viewpoint of young people born after the Second World War who are third generation survivors. Mrs. Nicole Kovalivker was officially elected president and Mrs. Clara Broide chairperson of the Argentinean Federation. The day ended with an elegant dinner at the home of Eduardo and Nicole Kovalivker.

AUSTRALIA

Making a Difference

WIZO Western Australia past-presidents Anne Topelberg OAM and Viv Levin joined young leader and facilitator Rachel Barrett in challenging the 2012 Carmel School Bnot Mitzvah to collaborate and demonstrate how they would creatively use a $10 budget to raise funds for three innovative projects. With fantastic WIZO-themed jingles and some very clever ideas, the girls showed leadership, teamwork and an understanding of what it means to be a responsible and proactive member of the Jewish community. The girls were presented with WIZO gifts and a tzedaka box to start them on their WIZO fundraising endeavours.

An Affair of the Art

A magnificent art exhibition and sale was organized by WIZO Golan’s Debra Majteles. Held at her beautiful home over two days, the exhibition featured exciting works by Western Australian artists that were enjoyed and appreciated by over 400 people. Debra’s amazing energy and drive, with the support of her husband Sol, the girls of WIZO Golan, the fabulous and talented artists and the community ensured a hugely successful event which raised significant funds for WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim.
Lynette celebrates with WIZO

Lynette Ninio has been active in WIZO since 1982 and WIZO Adelaide was delighted and honoured that Lynette chose to celebrate her 70th birthday with WIZO. In addition to WIZO, Lynette has always been actively involved with the general and Jewish communities in Adelaide. When her husband Henri was Lord Mayor of Adelaide she was an outstanding mayoress, hosting many communal functions including some for WIZO when overseas dignitaries visited Adelaide.

In 2011 Lynette received the UPJ Vatik award for her outstanding and long serving volunteerism with the Progressive Judaism movement. A paver on the Road of Hope at WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim will be laid in Lynette’s honour from the donations received from her family and friends.

Brilliant Membership Campaign

Trying to think of an innovative and original membership campaign, WIZO New South Wales came up with a brilliant idea. Their ‘You’re the Voice’ fun WIZO song on youtube sent a message to all the community to join WIZO. The bright pink speech bubble campaign included advertising, text messages, emails, newsletters, competitions and even stickers on every challah bag sold in local supermarkets. To hear the song go to: https://www.wizonsw.org.au/membership

Sidney Avivs go Burlesque

The red velvet curtain going up at a popular nightclub in Sydney heralded a night of bling, boa feathers and burlesque. The 1920s themed evening was a joint function by the New South Wales Aviv groups. The successful evening, including a fantastic cabaret show, was attended by over 300 people who felt as though they had stepped back into the era of The Great Gatsby. In addition to the entry fee, more funds were raised by a raffle and guests were offered private booths for an extra donation. ‘Kol Hakavod Avivs!’

Gender Specific Medicine Conference

Dr. Hava Bugajer, president of WIZO Austria and members of the ECWF (European Council of WIZO Federations), executive were given the honour of speaking about WIZO and its activities at the Conference of Gender Specific Medicine held earlier this year in Vienna which discussed gender specific problems of immigrant women. Austrian Minister for Women’s Affairs Gabriele Heinisch-Hosek, Counselor for Health of Vienna Sonia Wehsely and Member of European Parliament Ulrike Lunacek were among the speakers. MDs, as well as many NGOs attended the conference held under the patronage of President of the Austrian Parliament, Mag. Barbara Prammer in which the ECWF partnered.

Immigrant women often come late to seek medical help because of language barriers, shame or (especially in cases of domestic violence) because their families prevent them from seeking help. Gender sensibility in the health system must be a basis for helping women live without fear. A report given on the activities of the Medical University Vienna in providing medical assistance to opium addicts in Kabul (Afghanistan) pointed out the diverse necessities for gender sensitive medicine.

The returning participation of WIZO (ECWF) in this conference demonstrates the diversity and significance of WIZO’s international work.
BELGIUM

Joint Outing

WIZO chaverot from Brussels, Liege and Antwerp spent the day together visiting the Curtius Museum in Liege to see the prestigious private Judaica collection. Apart from an interesting visit this was a wonderful opportunity for the chaverot to mingle and network.

Day out in Liege

Tea and Cakes

It’s always good to have a cup of tea and ‘Maestro’ Lea Gutterman organized an afternoon tea event in Knokke with guest speaker Dr. Geerinckx who specializes in rejuvenation. Over in Antwerp Katia Stelman opened her home for a tea party, where Raya Wimmer, Jacqueline Kaufman and other chaverot prepared the delicious cakes for this delightful gathering.

BRAZIL

Visit to the Israeli Embassy

WIZO São Paulo received a heart-warming letter from Israeli Ambassador Rafael Eldad following a visit to the embassy of the winning student and her teacher in the WIZO Drawing and Painting Contest of 2011. In the letter, Mr. Eldad stated how much he and his wife Batia appreciated the extraordinary exchange of cultures which occurred as a result of the contest. Visitors, who were warmly welcomed and hosted by WIZO Brasilia president Tamara Socolik and chavera Rachel Abitbol, took part in a Kabalat Shabbat event.

Honoring Raquel Steinberg

WIZO Bahia paid homage to their dear Raquel Steinberg, one of the founders of the Bahia Centre, as she celebrated her 90th birthday. Rachel has been active at WIZO Bahia since its nascent days in 1950 and has worked with non-stop dedication for 62 years radiating her warmth and yiddishkeit across the local community. As we say in Hebrew ‘Ad 120!’

WIZO Rio Award

On behalf of WIZO Rio de Janeiro, chapter president Lúcia Balassiano accepted the prestigious Pedro Ernesto Medal, which was awarded to the chapter at the City Council of Rio de Janeiro during Israel Independence Day celebrations. WIZO Brazil President Helena Kelner was present at the well-attended event, which was sponsored by Congresswoman Teresa Bergher.
WIZO at Rio + 20

Helena Kelner, WIZO Brazil president was honoured to represent World WIZO at the UN Conference Rio+20 in Rio de Janeiro. WIZO was the only Jewish women’s organization in Brazil to be officially invited by the UN to participate in the Women’s Leadership Forum.

Celebrating Israel’s Independence

WIZO Rio Grande de Sul president Sophie Isdra and several WIZO chaverot took part in an Israel Independence Day event, sponsored by Congressman Valter Nagelstein held at the City Council of Porto Alegre. Other attendees included the Israeli ambassador Rafael Eldad, Mayor Fortunati, the governor’s representative, authorities from the Federal Justice, leaders of Jewish institutions, students of the Brazilian Israeli School and members of the public.

Israel Festival

WIZO Minas Gerais participated in the Israel Festival, which celebrated Israel’s 64 years of independence and Jerusalem Day. Chaverot were delighted when Minas governor, Dr. Antônio Anastasia, stopped at the WIZO stand to taste their pastries and strudel. Local media published several articles complimenting the Israel Festival.

An Irreparable Loss

WIZO Brazil members are still reeling from the impact of losing their unforgettable chavera and friend Suzana Starosta z”l, who for decades applied her special and unique style of volunteer work for WIZO. With a smart and perceptive sense of humour, she lit up every room she entered. Suzana’s admirers ranged from the young Aviv women to veterans. WIZO has lost an irreplaceable activist, a model for current chaverot and an example to future generations of WIZO women.

CANADA

CHW Toronto High Tea

The courtyard of the Windsor Arms Hotel was the scene of the first Sustainers and Major Donors appreciation event. CHW National President Marla Dan, Toronto President Sheryl Simon, and Debbie Eisenberg, National Major Gifts Chair, brought greetings and thanks and reminded guests that it is by virtue of Sustainers that CHW’s projects are well maintained and secure. Its major donors can be counted on to step in and cover the costs of renovations, upgrades and enhancements that make CHW’s daycares, shelters, schools and medical facilities a standout in Israel. Every guest received a handmade bookmark from the children at the Sandy Martin Alberta Day Care Centre in Israel and a long stemmed rose donated by The Rose Emporium. CHW is grateful for the generous support of the afternoon’s sponsors: CHW’s Presenting Sponsor, The Benjamin Group, together with an anonymous donor, Red Coats Moving Solutions and Mosaic Home Care Services.
Saskatoon’s Silver Spoon Dinner
The 22nd Annual Silver Spoon Dinner, attended by over 1000 women, was declared a huge success. Proceeds from Saskatoon’s premiere ‘Women’s Night Out’ went to CHW, Congregation Agudas Israel, The Crisis Nursery (emergency childcare) and Saskatoon Interval House (a safe haven for abused women and their children).

Silver Spoon Dinner Guest speaker, Shannon Tweed (far right) her husband Gene Simmons (far left) and centre – Shaina (l) and Sarah Golaboff (CHW Life Members and Granddaughters of Honorary Board Member Grace Golaboff)

WIZO Chile Children Make Chocolate Treats
As usual during the winter holidays, WIZO Chile offered a chocolate making class for children, taught by Professor Monica Greve. Dressed in their colorful aprons, 32 enthusiastic children prepared various chocolate delicacies, and took part in cake decorating.

The Chocolate Class

Evolution of Beauty Evening
WIZO Chile organized an entertaining women’s evening with celebrated plastic surgeon, Dr. Hector Valdes. Accompanied by his staff, Valdes produced an excellent and educational presentation on The Evolution of Beauty which attracted the attention of a large audience. He informed them of new body and facial treatments, and generously gave away beauty products. WIZO thanked the Kalanioth Group who organized the event, as well as members and partners for their commitment and participation in organizing activities that enables WIZO Chile meet its goals of helping children, youth and women in need.

Dr. Hector Valdes lectures the women at WIZO Chile

Fashion Show Fundraiser
Under the slogan ‘Creating a New Tomorrow for Future Generations’, WIZO Chile headquarters was filled to capacity with members and supporters who all came to enjoy a novel fashion show. The highlight of the event was WIZO members with their daughters, granddaughters and even great-granddaughters parading down the catwalk. In the second part of the evening, the audience was presented with the autumn-winter collections of some of the most famous boutiques in Santiago.

Natacha Lewin and family on the catwalk

(1-r) Rodrigo Guendelman, Agnes Mannheim, president WIZO Chile, organizers of the event: Gaby Schachner, Evelyn Schatloff Barbara Karpaj Herzko, Vivi
COSTA RICA

Costa Rica Comedy

The acclaimed Costa Rican director, Hernán Jiménez, took the stage for a WIZO Costa Rica fundraiser at the Auditorio Meridiano in Escazú. His new show ‘Esto es en serio!’ is essentially a two-hour monologue, concerning such topics as politics, social networks, piracy, television and the human diet. “Stand-up comedy is the hardest thing in the world,” Jiménez said, “there’s nowhere to hide, no movie screen. It’s you and the public, without intermediaries, and that’s a wonderful challenge.” The event was a huge success not only because the tickets sold out a week before the show, but also because the show exceeded the audience’s expectations.

FRANCE

Golf Cup 2012

As in previous years, over 150 people attended the Fourqueux Golf Cup tournament this summer, demonstrating their unwavering enthusiasm and commitment to WIZO. Kudos to organizers Eliane Sprung and Paul Zajfen for their acquired mastery in coordinating such a perfect event. The magnificent buffet and the incomparable raffle made it an unforgettable evening. This year’s guest of honour was Stéphane Freiss, who is well known for his generosity, charm, humour and sensitivity. He did not disappoint the guests who experienced a wide range of emotions during his performance.

Medal Awarded

Josette Guigui, president of WIZO Marseille and professor of literature was designated Officier de l’Ordre des Palmes Académiques in the presence of Senator Mayor Bruno Gilles and Dominique Schmidt, general director of the Michelet High School, where Josette worked for most of her professional life. She was granted the prestigious medal after Mr. Schmidt recounted her brilliant career in the French Ministry of Education as well as Guigui’s remarkable commitment to WIZO.

Josette was accompanied by her husband, children, grandchildren and numerous friends, who attended the event to share in her joy.

Literature Awards

The ‘Literature Awards’ is a long standing tradition, which is held every year at Laurianne Boucris’ home where guests are warmly welcomed in a pleasant atmosphere. This year was particularly emotional when a special award was conferred on French writer Jean Touyarot for his book L’Hôtel des Ombres. Jean Touyarot is the son of a righteous gentile who protected Jews and saved them from Nazi barbarity in the Second World War.

A special award was also handed to Israeli writer Ishai Sarid for his book Le Poète de Gaza which relates to the difficulties faced by the Shin Bet (Israel’s General Security Service) in conducting its investigations, as well as the tensions prevalent in Israeli society due to existential conflict. The WIZO reading committee was captivated by the poetry of this realistic novel. Also in attendance was Laurence Sendrowicz, the book’s translator, and this remarkable evening ended ‘inevitably’ with a sumptuous buffet and cocktails.

Book Festival

Heavy rain did not prevent the 62 writers from attending the Book Festival in the magnificent halls of the Hôtel de Ville at Levallois Perret. This successful event was organized by Jane Zimero and Laurianne Boucris, who warmly welcomed the guests. Some of the writers such as Ariel Sion, Daniel Sibony and Chief Rabbi of France, Gilles Bernheim, lectured to a captivated audience.
(l to r) Mrs. Touyarot, Yvette Sebbag, director of WIZO France, Jean Touyarot, winner of the WIZO Literature Award, Laurianne Boucris, organizer of the event

Gilles Bernheim, Chief Rabbi of France giving a lecture entitled: ‘Do not forget to think about France.’

GERMANY

Darmstadt Bazaar

WIZO Darmstadt held its annual bazaar in May under the auspices of Mayor Jochen Partsch and Mrs Simone Graumann, vice president of WIZO Germany. A rousing performance by the Darmstadt Jewish community choir started the day. WIZO Darmstadt chair Aviva Steinitz welcomed the guests, and greetings were given by the mayor, Simone Graumann and Moritz Neumann, chairman of Darmstadt’s Jewish community.

An interesting selection of jewellery, books, CDs from Israel, Dead Sea cosmetics and second-hand clothes were on sale. Guests also enjoyed Israeli wines and other Israeli and Russian delicacies. Highlights of the day included a fashion show with clothing modelled by members of the Darmstadt Jewish community and a musical performance by the klezmer ensemble from the music school Bad Nauheim. Proceeds went to the WIZO centre for at-risk girls in Eilat.

WIZO Berlin Celebrates Israel Day

Berliners and city guests gathered at Wittenberg Square to join WIZO celebrate Israeltag, celebrating Israel’s 64th birthday. Thirty-three German-Israeli organizations were present providing information about Israel and giving guests a taste of typical foods from the region. Visitors were welcomed by Tal Gat, head of public relations for the Israeli embassy and Jochen Feilcke, chairman of the Germany-Israeli Society.

A Hannover Get Together

A WIZO get-together took place in the banquet hall of the Hannover Liberal Jewish Community, where guests were entertained by the ever-popular community choir. Ruth Borenstein, first chairperson of WIZO Hannover sponsored the refreshments on the occasion of her granddaughter’s wedding in Israel.

Special Film Showing

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of several board members including Rosa Orlean, film producer Jordan Bahat’s grandmother, WIZO Frankfurt was able to screen a very special documentary film.

“Jealous of the Birds is not a story but a life”, according to Grandmother Rosa. By interviewing several survivors including his grandparents, Jordan’s feature-length documentary explores how and why Holocaust survivors continued to live in Germany after the war. After the film’s screening at The Frankfurt Film Museum, an intense discussion ensued generated by the deep emotions caused by the film.

(l-r) Doris Jedlicki, Susi Bahat, Rosa Orlean, WIZO Germany President Diana Schnabel
Frankfurt Football Match

Eighteen football teams took part in the annual WIZO/Maccabi charity football tournament with proceeds divided between the two organizations. Some 700 fans came along to support their teams, the WIZO ladies organized a cake stall and the Jewish Youth Centre provided entertainment for the young children. The event was a great financial success and preparations are already underway for next year!

Divorce Difficulties

‘The Center of Information and Documentation Israel’ (CIDI) and WIZO Holland held a joint event in May when they invited Mrs Michal Waller, chairperson of Mavoi Satum, an organization that assists women who are denied a religious divorce (get) by their husbands, to give a lecture about the legal status of women in Israeli society. An audience of about 40 people learned about the immense complications many women have to face during divorce proceedings. Michal Waller also drew on the similarities between WIZO and Mavoi Satum in fighting for women’s rights and described WIZO’s work in providing legal advice and shelters for women in need.

HOLLAND

MEXICO

Children’s Day Celebrations

Year after year, WIZO Mexico visits the low income schools in Mexico that it supports, to join in the Children’s Day celebrations and to lecture parents on subjects that will be helpful in their children’s education. This year, as a pilot plan, Children’s Day was celebrated with a contest. The 7 and 8 year olds drew pictures of Mexican fruits and flowers, the 9 to 10 year olds each wrote letters to children in Israel and the 11 to 12 year olds wrote letters to Mexico’s candidates for president and mayor expressing their wishes and concerns.

Sadly it was evident from the letters that the children perceived that Israeli children ‘went to war and sacrificed themselves because of their parents.’ This negative image made such an exercise all the more vital as a means to try to change these prejudices. Via organized meetings with WIZO chaverot, the letters of the oldest group were handed to the various candidates for Mexican government positions, who promised to read the letters and try to comply with the children’s petitions. They were also furnished with information regarding WIZO’s work. Prizes were given and the delightful morning ended with music and dances performed by the students.
Olam’s Book of Memories

Among the numerous activities performed in support of WIZO by the dedicated chaverot of the Mexican federation, this year Mexico’s youngest group OLAM completed compilation of its Book of Memories: a beautiful folder-notebook in which each mother wrote the academic story of her child from kindergarten through high school via photographs and anecdotes. All the members of the Olam group participated in the design of this unique book which was warmly received.

Mexico Groups Keeping Busy

The Jayeinu group organized a golf tournament which attracted a vast audience and granted the promise of a fun day out for the whole family. The tournament was also covered by the press giving added exposure to WIZO and the essential work that WIZO Mexico does. The Netzer group organized a magnificent fair for children and the Esther Szmora group, which has been in operation for almost 60 years organized an art exhibit. The Or Jadash group had only a short space of time to put together a concert in which REIK, a popular rock band in Mexico delighted an audience of 750 people, mostly youngsters.

Introducing WIZO Kadima

Last June, WIZO Panama was pleased to form a new group, WIZO Kadima, with 80 members. Its president Alexandra Chreim is a fourth generation WIZO woman. The group’s inauguration was celebrated with an elegant lunch in the house of Tony Hanono, Life Member of World WIZO, where they had the honour and joy of initiating 50 more members. Their first activity was a flower arranging course where all the participants learned how to decorate tables for all kinds of events.

Members of the Jayeinu group

New Kadima Girls participate in flower arranging course

Grooming New Leaders

After many months of hard work WIZO Panama launched the Leadership and Volunteering WIZO Programme named after Mrs. Grace Mizrachi, founding member of WIZO Panama and tireless worker. The programme is designed for girls in the last two years of high school in order to teach them about the very essence of WIZO, its history, its projects and more. In the first session Grace Mizrachi received the Rebecca Sieff Award for her more than 50 years dedicated work in WIZO Panama.

Grace Mizrachi with young girls on the Leadership course

WIZO Panama President
Estela Faskha presents
Grace Mizrachi with the Rebecca Sieff Award
**SOUTH AFRICA**

**Cape Town**

**Galia Albin Launches Campaign**

One of Israel’s leading businesswomen, dynamic and vivacious Galia Albin, initiator of the ‘My Hatikvah’ project was guest speaker at BZA WIZO 2012/2013 Women’s Zionist Campaign launch, held at the Sephardi Hall, Sea Point. Galia spoke of her admiration for WIZO’s work in Israel and she enlightened the audience with her view of the current political situation in Israel.

**The Tivoli Girls**

The Hadar branch visited Highlands House, where the ‘Tivoli Girls’ entertained the residents. The Tivoli Girls are a mother (Rosemary Magid) and daughter (June Heyman) team with guest performer Ettie Flax. The girls go to many care homes to lighten the day of the occupants, and are adored by their audiences.

**Durban**

**Durban Campaign**

Guest speaker at WIZO Durban’s 2012/2013 Campaign launch was inspirational Linda Menuhin Abdul Aziz. An Iraqi Jewess, Linda fled from Baghdad to Jerusalem, yet not withstanding her difficult journey she rose above her personal tragedy and became a relentless activist for peace and an internationally renowned trilingual journalist. Co-chair WIZO Durban and Aviv Representative to the World WIZO Executive, Laurienne Baitz opened proceedings and endorsed the members’ commitment to the vital lifeline that WIZO gives the people of Israel. With the aid of a thought provoking DVD entitled ‘WIZO Opens Doors’, attendees received a glimpse of some of WIZO’s wonderful work. The campaign was officially launched by Mary Kluk, National Chairperson of the SAJBD. She reiterated the significance of WIZO’s efforts and stressed that, “our future is intrinsically tied up in the sustainability and strength of Israel.”

**Johannesburg**

**Jo’burg Celebrates Jerusalem Day**

Despite the cold weather, a crowd of women congregated at Beyachad to commemorate the re-unification of the eternal Jewish capital city, Jerusalem. The morning was hosted by Nava Gonen, recently elected chairman of WIZO Johannesburg. Chris Eden, national director of Bridges for Peace, spoke about why Jerusalem is more than just a city and the Jewish people are more than just a nation. Hilarious chef and comedienne Gertie Awerbach got everyone rolling with laughter as she told nostalgic stories from her youth. After singing a rousing Hatikvah, the ladies tucked into a delicious Israeli breakfast prepared by members of the WIZO Forum Committee.
Africa Tikkun Christmas Party

WIZO Johannesburg ever mindful of the needs of the many underprivileged children in South Africa holds a Christmas party every year for about 100 children. Amanda Blankfield from Tikkun Afrika handed Nava Gonen (Chairman WIZO Johannesburg) a collage of photos as a “Thank You” for WIZO’s involvement in Africa Tikkun.

Pretoria Holds AGM

Pretoria WIZO members were thrilled that they had the greatest attendance at their AGM since 2005. Guest speaker was dynamic powerhouse and national director of the Jewish Board of Deputies Wendy Kahn, who gave an insightful presentation highlighting the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions’ issues that Israel is confronted with today. The screening of WIZO Opens Doors was instrumental in bringing the Aviv group back to life after five years – and members who had previously not been involved stepped forward to volunteer – all in all a great success!

International Women’s Day in Geneva

More than 60 people attended WIZO Geneva’s International Women’s Day event. Guest of honour was Mrs. Margarida de Sacadura-Lévy who gave a fascinating presentation on The Jews and Portugal, during which her vast knowledge of the subject was evident, as she outlined the unique history of the Jews and Portugal.

Lausanne Sponsor A Child Luncheon

Over 100 ladies attended the traditional Sponsor A Child luncheon held every two years in the beautiful home of Josy Argi in Lausanne. The event included a raffle and fashion show presenting the fall collection of designer Nicole Sakal. Another great financial success for WIZO and the Sponsor A Child programme!
...and Zurich

President of WIZO Zurich and Vice President WIZO Switzerland, Eva Wyler hosted a wonderfully successful luncheon at her home for WIZO Zurich’s fifth Sponsor A Child event. Approximately 50 ladies attended, and the function was enhanced by guest speaker, Israel’s former Ambassador to the UN Danny Gillerman, accompanied by his wife Janice, long-time WIZO activist and supporter. Danny enthralled the audience with a fascinating overview of the situation in Israel and its surrounding countries.

WIZO Zurich Goes Zumba

The big hall of the Zurich Jewish Community Centre ICZ was the scene of a mega zumba dance class as more than 100 women and children took to the floor. It was the first time that Sabina Pernet and Tal Trost Ben Hamo of WIZO-Aviv Zurich organised such an afternoon in support of the WIZO WIZ KIDS programme. The deeply red, smiling faces confirmed that this event was a big success.

ECWF Conference in Stockholm

The European Council of WIZO Federations (ECWF) was hosted this year by WIZO Sweden and its president Susanne Sznajderman-Rytz. WIZO delegates from all over Europe were present including Margitta Neuwald-Golling, the political adviser of WIZO Germany and Rebekka Palmieri, the new representative of ECWF to the European Women’s Lobby.

Irit Dagan, wife of the Israeli Ambassador opened the conference and guest speakers included Birgitta Ohlsson, Swedish Minister of Europe and Katerina Janouš, a publicist and sexologist known as the Swedish ‘Dr. Ruth Westheimer.’ Two panels on the subjects of ‘Modern Jewish Women in a Changing Society’ and ‘How to Focus on Woman’s Health and Form an Opinion’ were moderated by WIZO Denmark President Dorrit Raiter and WIZO Austria President Dr. Hava Bugajer respectively.

Susanne Sznajderman Rytz gave a coaching session on ‘Why and Who for WIZO’, giving an insight into how to choose and give responsibility to leaders.

Socially, a Shabbat dinner was generously hosted by Elise and Jan-Eric Blecher, and the freezing winds did not dampen the spirits of the chaverot as they went on a guided tour of Jewish Stockholm and a ship-board dinner.

Sponsor A Child Lunch Raises Substantial Funds

“...Over one million women in Israel rely on WIZO for support regarding women’s legal rights and issues,” said Rivka Lazovsky on her first visit to the UK as Chairperson of the World WIZO Executive. She explained that, “despite Israel’s forward thinking democracy, women’s issues, particularly around domestic violence and equal opportunities are still behind the times.” She continued: “This year alone six women have been murdered by their partners and last year 24 – this is a frightening statistic.”

Rivka Lazovsky was guest speaker at WIZOuk’s annual Sponsor A Child Lunch held at the home of Joyce and
Edward Misrahi in London. The Sponsor A Child Campaign now in its 18th year, raises funds to support vulnerable children at risk in Israel.

Betty Crystal, Honorary Vice-President WIZOuk, founder of the Sponsor A Child Campaign, now a global appeal, spoke about the key problems of Israel’s disadvantaged children and the innovative ways in which WIZO addresses their complex needs.

Manchester Visit

Rivka Lazovsky also visited Manchester, accompanied by new WIZOuk Chairman Jill Shaw. Over 100 ladies gathered in South Manchester Synagogue to hear Rivka speak. Describing WIZO’s ethos, Rivka stated, “We in WIZO embrace Israel’s society with both arms.” She went on to relate that the WIZO day care centres are so popular because of the dedication and professionalism of the staff, who treat the children in their care as their own. In addition, through its network of youth villages, WIZO gives young students who have difficult and abusive backgrounds another chance in life. “Many of those arriving at our schools come with low self-esteem but leave having achieved great things.” The event was a great success and the chaverot were delighted and honoured to meet the new World WIZO chairperson. Rivka also had fruitful meetings with the WIZOuk executive members and a special evening with Aviv representatives.

Remembering Ettie

The Liverpool WIZO Daughters of Zion enjoyed a coffee morning at the home of Sara and Bernard Michaelson in July, an event held annually in memory of WIZO stalwart Ettie Morron. Hostesses were Jacqueline Berg, Mirrel Boyers, Betty Friend, Ida Powell and Vera Steinberg who is the organiser of this very successful event which has also proved itself a very productive fundraiser.

Grisaro in Conversation

A joint event was hosted by London Accounting and Finance firm BDO Stoy Hayward, WIZOnet and El Al. Yehudit Grisaro, vice-president and head of customer care at El-Al was “in conversation” with Stephen Pollard, editor of The Jewish Chronicle. Grisaro, a former brigadier general in the IDF was instrumental in advancing women’s rights in the army. “Today 90% of roles are available to women,” said Grisaro, “women fulfil most of the key roles and make up an important part of the IDF.”

Farewell to Lottie

WIZOuk mourns one of its most veteran and dedicated volunteers Lottie Frazer who contributed decades of dedicated voluntary work for WIZOuk and other Jewish and Zionist causes. Lottie joined WIZO in 1946, and was involved in the WIZO choir for many years. She was known as a superb
organiser, always ensuring that functions at WIZO House in central London had the famous ‘Lottie touch’.
With a lifetime of voluntary service to charity and to WIZO in particular, Lottie’s dedication knew no bounds. In 2010, she received the Judy Citron Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her voluntary work.
Lottie volunteered until a few months before her death at the age of 94. She is sorely missed by all staff and volunteers at WIZOuk.

Lottie Frazer z”l receiving JVN Award

URUGUAY

Keeping Active
The WIZO chaverot of Uruguay are as usual busy dedicating themselves to organizing events to fundraise for its WIZO projects, including a ‘Concert at the Museum ... music forever’ with a performance of the quintet ‘An Die Musik’ in the Rally Museum of Punta del Este, celebrations for International Women’s Day, Purim, Yom Ha’atzmaut and Shavuot. And if that wasn’t enough, the chaverot organized a theatre performance at WIZO House, a food festival, bingo evening fundraiser, an American fair and raffle!

WIZO Uruguay Hosts Speakers
The Department of Culture organized various events inviting an interesting and diverse array of guest speakers including the rabbi of the Jewish Community of Uruguay Mr. Isaac Fadda, outstanding international journalist, Jana Jerosolimsky, physiologist Geraldine Munoz and Mr. David Telias, director of Jewish Studies at ORT University.

Chaverot enjoying one of the cultural activities

Bar-Bat Mitzvah Project
WIZO chaverot met with bar-bat Mitzvah-age youngsters from Uruguay’s Jewish schools network. They talked about the important work that WIZO does, especially WIZO Israel’s bar-bat mitzvah programme, and screened a video. The youngsters showed great interest in the subject, asked questions and made interesting comments. Each girl received an apron with the WIZO logo which they wore whilst baking challah with their mothers and grandmothers, while the boys received a special keychain.

Joint KKL Project
WIZO Uruguay and KKL have embarked on a joint project with WIZO Nir Ha’emek Youth Village in Afula, to develop an organic garden applying organic gardening techniques focusing on plants that require minimum irrigation. The garden will have a mini amphitheatre for outdoor classes, a pond, a herb and vegetable patch, fruit trees, shrubs and flower beds, pleasant seating areas, paved trails and an irrigation system.

USA

FLORIDA

Sponsor A Child Luncheon
WIZO Florida celebrated its annual Mother’s Day Sponsor A Child Luncheon and Bazaar honouring Rosita Greenberg and Perla Vainberg for their lifelong commitment to WIZO and the welfare of women and children in Israel. The audience joined in a powerful rendition of Hatikva to
celebrate Yom Ha’atzmaut. Over 250 chaverot were present to honour Rosita and Perla, along with their families that had travelled especially to attend the occasion. Under the co-chairmanship of Sara Kanarek and co-vice chairs Bella Benlolo and Corinne Camhi, one of the highlights of this extraordinary event was a fashion show by world-renowned designer Claudia Szerer. Enhancing the function were magnificent flower arrangements, an incredible bazaar and the presence of many friends who are part of the WIZO family. WIZO Florida Fundraising Division’s Ruthy Benoliel made a moving appeal. Thanks to the dynamic leadership of WIZO Florida chairperson Judit Groisman, the event raised an impressive amount.

Art Exhibit

WIZO Florida showcased an unprecedented art exhibit, “Israel - From Biblical Times to the Present”, as part of its Yom Ha’atzmaut celebrations at the MAR-JCC, under the leadership of Event Chairperson Evelyn Faigenblat, JCC Sheliaj Dror Gershoni, Hebraica Chairperson Mindy Hardoon, and WIZO Florida Chairperson Judit Groisman. The exhibit featured 500 pieces of artwork depicting the history of the Jewish people. They were created by children of all ages, from kindergarten through Grade 12, who attend the Word of Faith Christian School. It displayed oils, pastels, charcoal, pen and ink drawings, sculptures, scale models and more. Thousands of people, including students from public and religious schools, took advantage of this unique opportunity. WIZO would like to express its deepest gratitude to the Falic Family, who generously brought this exhibit for the benefit of the South Florida community, in loving memory of Fima Chaim Falic z”l. Their contribution to social awareness and conciliation will be forever cherished.

WIZO Ilanit Tikvah Bat Mitzvah

For the 10th consecutive year, 22 girls participated in the Florida WIZO Community Bat Mitzvah programme. The ceremony followed a yearlong preparation that involved Jewish learning, doing mitzvot for people in the community, and embracing the many responsibilities that a Jewish woman should follow. The Bat Mitzvah girls fulfilled the mitzvah of Bikur Holim by visiting an old-age home, they made blankets for the Chai Lifeline, baked challah and participated in a Shabbaton. Co-Chairs Jenny Klainbaum and Mariana Wiznitzer were overwhelmed by its success which benefits the WIZO Bar and Bat Mitzvah programme for underprivileged children in Israel.
Miami

Art Auction 2012

Over 80 tzedakah (charity-collecting) boxes were auctioned and a substantial amount of money was raised at an unusual event held by WIZO Miami hosted by Rebeca Schapiro assisted by the WIZO Miami chapter committee. Plain wooden boxes were given to various renowned artists who donated their skills and decorated the boxes, each creating a unique piece of art. Organizing this event was not easy, but as always our indefatigable WIZO women were undaunted and produced an unforgettable evening.

Bat Mitzvah girls of the Florida Jewish Community with members of WIZO Florida Executive
LET’S GET TOGETHER!

WIZO AVIV INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR
11 – 15 NOVEMBER 2012 / TEL AVIV, ISRAEL

JOIN WIZO MEMBERS FROM ALL OVER THE GLOBE!

_workflow on
  • Membership Recruitment,
  • Organization  • Fundraising and Hasbara

Top-Level Speakers on
  • Israel Today  • Women’s Leadership

• Visit WIZO Projects
  • Tour Israel  • Learn to Be a Leader
  • Let’s Make a Difference…
  • for WIZO Members _Up to Age 45_

For more information contact:
Organization and Tourism Division
wizo@wizo.org
You hold the key to –
Caring for Babies At-Risk
Sponsor A Child
WIZKIDS Computer Programs
Bar / Bat Mitzvah Program
Opportunities for Women
Planned Giving

Join WIZO in launching this campaign – Donate Now

TO ACTIVATE YOUR KEY
PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL WIZO FEDERATION
OR WORLD WIZO FUNDRAISING DEPARTMENT

World WIZO Fundraising Department
38 David Hamelech Boulevard
Tel Aviv, Israel 64237

For further information and to make online donations
Visit our website: www.wizo.org