niversary Around the World
Dear Readers,

We thought long and hard about what to put into this special 90th anniversary edition of WIZO Review. At 90 years young, we want to look forward, but at the same time, remember the past. And we decided to do both – but in an unusual way. In this issue, WIZO chaverot speak – both historically and currently.

Amongst some old issues of WIZO Review, there are some first-hand accounts of the very first days of WIZO. And it was quite amazing how some of those articles blended in with what we were planning. The magazine from 1960, marking WIZO’s 40th anniversary, is a wealth of original experiences – with articles written by the very women who were there at the beginning.

Everyone in Israel and our friends around the world will remember this past Chanukah by the fierce blaze which destroyed great swathes of the Carmel Forest. On page 6, I write about the World WIZO Executive solidarity visit to Ahuzat Yeladim School and our WIZO branches in the Druze villages on the slopes of the Carmel.

We are honoured that President Peres, sends a special greeting to WIZO on page 7.

Our chairperson and president express their own special feelings at this time on pages 8 and 9.

Up Front (pages 10-14) showcases some recent openings and dedications of day care and women’s centres, and we also feature two federations – Holland and the UK – whose leaders brought groups of their chaverot to see their projects.

Dialogue with Our Daughters (pages 16-21) shows how much WIZO runs in the veins of so many Jewish families around the world. We were overwhelmed by your response to our request for material for this feature. Thank you!

WIZO is 90 years young, and so are many many WIZO chaverot around the globe. There is no doubt that being an active WIZO member keeps you young! How do you fit 90+ years in a short paragraph? Of course you can’t – but we wanted to give you a glimpse of our wonderful senior members. We were thrilled to receive so many wonderful anecdotes of our chaverot in their nineties (pages 22-25).

Our Aviv section, on pages 26-29 – starts with Aviv representative to the World WIZO Executive, Vicky Fidanque reflecting on WIZO’s great founders and calling on the younger generation to take up the torch. We have our report on this year’s Aviv International Seminar – and three previous representatives to the World WIZO Executive talk about how WIZO has and does influence their lives.

Once again our 40th anniversary edition comes up trumps for us! Founder of WIZO and first president Rebecca Sieff looks back over the first 40 years (page 32) – and WIZO Review Assistant Editor Tricia Schwitzer writes an imaginary letter to Rebecca – and asks ‘How have we done?’ (page 33).

The article on pages 34-35 features a new project about to start in WIZO’s schools: teaching the students about WIZO. Based on a worldwide popular game, this was the brainchild of World WIZO’s Education Division Chairperson, Ruth Rubinstein.

WIZO.uk chairman Loraine Warren is the subject of our Interview (pages 36-37) for this issue. Loraine tells us how proud she is to be part of the WIZO family and how fulfilling a career it can be.

We all are so proud of our WIZO husbands – how they support us! Read (on page 38) what an anonymous Canadian WIZO husband says in WIZO Review December 1946 – he belongs to the Loyal Order of WIZO Husbands.

History was made in June 2010, when World WIZO President Helena Glaser was elected chairperson of the World Zionist Council. We trace the history of WIZO and the World Zionist Organization on pages 40-41.

On page 43, featuring Lady Beryl Steinberg of WIZO.uk, we show appreciation to our donors – where would we be without you?

Continuing with our series on World WIZO departments, on page 44 we focus on the Organization and Education Department, followed by an article on WIZO’s first days in Tel Aviv in the 1920s and a first-hand account of one of the teachers who, with Hannah Maisel Shochat, gave the first cooking courses in the workers’ kitchen.

WIZO in Israel (page 50) features some of the recent WIZO events in Israel, including details of pupils from some of our schools achieving the silver category in the Israel Youth Award Scheme.

On page 57, we have an enthralling article from the ‘First Pupil at Nahalal’ – where we find out what really happened to the two cows donated by WIZO Holland in the 1920s!

We end, as usual, with WIZO around the World (pages 58-75) where you share with us what you are doing: your enthusiastic and devoted contributions to our great movement.

We hope you enjoy reading this magazine as much as we have enjoyed producing it.

Ingrid Rockberger
Editor.
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WIZO – Helping is in our NATURE

Under this slogan, members of the World WIZO Executive led by Helena Glaser and Tova Ben Dov, made a solidarity visit to the Carmel area to see where WIZO could be of help

Ingrid Rockberger

As always, WIZO was quick to respond to crises in the country, and as always, we were overwhelmed by the concern of our chaverot abroad. The charismatic and devoted principal of WIZO’s Ahuzat Yeladim School in Haifa, Yossi Saragossi, described the events of two very difficult days during Chanukah – the festival of lights……but these ‘lights’ were not the positive kind.

“The fire broke out on Thursday December 2nd, the first day of Chanukah. All the children were in the school, as the Chanukah holiday was due to start on the Sunday. All our off-duty staff came back to be with us – I did not have to phone one of them, they all just appeared – which meant they left their own families. Although the fire was not that close, the children could see the flames, and felt the smoke; some had difficulty breathing. They were very frightened. We had buses standing by all night to evacuate them – and decided on Friday morning to send them all home. After our voluntary evacuation, there were a few children left, and members of our staff took them to their own homes.”

Like a nuclear cloud
Shulamit Baransky, the social worker in charge of the therapeutical services in the school added that the feeling in Haifa was worse than during the 2nd Lebanon war: “The smoke cloud hovering over the city looked like a nuclear cloud, it was a truly surrealistic sight – and the noise of all the planes going overhead was very frightening. Some parents were in great stress and came to collect their children; those children whose parents did not come were in greater stress. Afterwards, we spoke to each child individually to determine how they were coping, and these meetings are still continuing”.

Three of the children spoke of their experiences. They had all been very frightened, seeing the flames and inhaling the smoke – and these feelings have not left them. They all said how Yossi and their group leaders had calmed them down. WIZO will give the school every assistance to treat the children for post-trauma.

Help at the Druze villages
At the WIZO branches in the Druze villages of Osafiya and Dalat-el-Carmel, the charismatic branch chairwomen, Samira Assam and Ada Carmel and some of their chaverot described the traumatic time they had experienced. Samira said it was as if their back garden was burning; everyone was trying to help, but they felt they had been caught out and unprepared for such a disaster. The smell of the smoke, the dust and the chemicals used to douse the fire will remain in their memories for many years.

We asked how WIZO could help them – and their request came from their youth – who have asked for courses in first aid, firefighting and general disaster procedures – so any time in the future there is a crisis or emergency, they will know what to do.

Black skeletons
We took the route back to Tel Aviv via the Bet Oren road, which went right through the burnt area, and how our hearts bled to see the devastation: what were once beautiful green trees were standing like stark black skeletons reaching up to the clear blue skies. The irony was that a few days later there were terrific storms and heavy rainfall all over Israel – one week too late.
Jerusalem, 14th September, 2010

Mrs. Helena Glaser
President
World WIZO
Women’s International Zionist Organization

Dear WIZO Chaverot,

It gives me pleasure to extend warm congratulations on the occasion of the celebration of World WIZO’s 90th anniversary.

The Women’s International Zionist Organization has been a model of dedication, commitment, love and volunteerism since its inception. WIZO is active in practically every sector of our society with a view to making it a better place.

I wish to thank you all for your hard work and unflagging devotion, and wish you every success on the occasion of this milestone celebration. Your success is ours, and may you continue to instill the Jewish and Zionist values of Rebecca Sieff’s legacy in the generations to come.

Shimon Peres

[Signature]
Dear Chaverot,

World WIZO is celebrating its 90th Anniversary. What a great achievement, what a monumental milestone! Mazal Tov to each and every one of you.

During its whole existence, WIZO has carried out its traditional tasks with responsibility and in full compliance with its core goals and values as set forth by our visionary Founding Leaders. Following in their footsteps, World WIZO is creative, innovative and a pioneer - an agent of change in Israel and in the international arena.

At the same time World WIZO has always been able to support Am Israel and Eretz Israel in times of national crisis and emergency. The Mount Carmel Fire was such a time. As always, World WIZO helps where it can be most efficient and therefore, we are working on a comprehensive programme to provide long term aid and solutions to our WIZO service recipients and our WIZO chaverot in the Druze community residing in the Carmel region, who were traumatized and affected by the fire.

I am sure you will agree with the contents of the e-mail I received from Lorraine Rosmarin, past president of WIZO South Africa: “Whereas we were all so devastated by the destruction and trauma caused by the recent fires, I wish to acknowledge, and commend, the swiftness with which WIZO has reacted, and acted, to deal with the various problems that arose as a result thereof, culminating in the “WIZO is lighting the road to hope on the Carmel Mountain slope” campaign to raise funds. Once again you have shown to the Jewish world (including Israel) the extent of WIZO’S caring, of its efficiency, of its relevance and, most of all, of its reliability, particularly in times of need.”

In recognition of its exceptional work, two years ago the State of Israel bestowed the prestigious Israel Prize on our movement, and I am delighted that the highlight of our 90th Anniversary celebrations will take place in the Israeli Parliament – the Knesset.

WIZO has always regarded legislation as one of the tools to advance the Status of Women and indeed, Rachel Kagan - Chairperson of WIZO Israel was WIZO’s representative in the 1st Knesset. She was one of the two women to sign the Declaration of Independence and instrumental in the phrasing and passing of the Family and Equal rights for Women’s Act in 1951. Continuing her good work, WIZO Israel is active in initiating and promoting legislation to benefit women in particular and society in general.

The 2011 MOR participants will be guests of a Knesset Plenum where the Speaker of the House will congratulate WIZO on 90 years of blessed activities. Then under the auspices of MK Zipi Livni the Head of the Opposition, a discussion will be held on the topic: To What Extent Does Legislation Advance Women in the Fields of Health, Labour and Society?

As a women’s social organization, WIZO is able to help thousands of service recipients every day, but through initiating, promoting and supporting legislation, we are potentially in the position to help the whole of society. However, is legislation in itself sufficient to reach the desired results? Is there more we can do? This is a complex issue and one worthy of both the event and the venue.

World WIZO can only carry out its work thanks to its driving force – its volunteers all over the world. To all of you I say thank you, Kol HaCavod, well done.

World WIZO will continue to realize Zionist women’s love for Am Israel & Eretz Israel by preserving the past, providing for the present and guaranteeing the future.

World WIZO is 90 years young and still ready for new challenges.

Helena Glaser, President, World WIZO

Visit our website: www.wizo.org
My Dear Chaverot,

As I write this column we are in the aftermath of the tragic fire in the north of the country. Our hearts and prayers go out to the families of the 43 victims of the fire, and we mourn for our beautiful countryside, and all the greenery, which is now scorched beyond recognition. Thank you for all your kind enquiries during that difficult time. WIZO offered shelter and clothes in our youth villages to any of the evacuees who needed assistance. Once again we were ready to open our hearts and our doors during a time of need.

Whilst the financial crisis is causing us much anxiety, today, as we celebrate our 90th anniversary, it is the time to look back at our history and put our understandable worries into perspective.

Today, our State of Israel is just 62 years old. As many of the more ‘enlightened’ countries around the world are trying to fathom out where they have gone wrong over the last few years, the economic hierarchy here is holding its head up high. We still have a strong economy despite fighting wars, defending our towns and cities, and absorbing new immigrants, often with little or no education, into a mainstream society.

I don’t have the answer, maybe it is just one of the miracles in this country that we take for granted, or could it be that throughout the last 90 years, through thick and thin, through war and peace, through depression and plenty, Israel has had a hidden formula - WIZO – which has risen to every occasion and met every social challenge that the State has encountered since it was declared.

WIZO – with its devoted Jewish women volunteers, from across the globe and in Israel, has advanced the status of Jewish women and improved society in Israel, through its 60 branches and hundreds of projects, while enriching the beauty of this moment.

As a people we have survived for thousands of years, but most of the institutions that have sustained us have also been swept away by time. As we mark the 90th anniversary of WIZO, which is so crucial to Jewish independence and our Jewish state, we can look back in pride and even wonderment. Yes, it is hard to get through tough times, but I know that we will work together to surmount our present challenges. We will overcome the financial difficulties, simply because we have no alternative. This, after all, is at the core of our WIZO strength. The future, the education and the security of Israel, fostering Jewish identity, are not luxuries that we can do without; they are necessities.

We have played, and are continuing to play a huge role in Jewish destiny, and I pray that with your help and increased efforts, no financial crisis will keep us back. Let us enjoy the beauty of this moment.

Happy Birthday WIZO!

Fondly,

Tova Ben-Dov,
Chairperson
World WIZO Executive

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**BY VIRTUE OF THEIR OFFICE AS PRESIDENTS OR CHAIRPERSONS OF FEDERATION**

- **Argentina**: Amalia Polack
- **Australia**: Gilla Liberman
- **Austria**: Dr. Hava Bugajer
- **Belgium & Luxembourg**: Ingrid Bolmut
- **Bolivia**: Anita Bursztyn
- **Brazil**: Helena Kelner
- **Bulgaria**: Marina Nanjova
- **Canada**: Marla Dan
- **Chile**: Susy Baron
- **Colombia**: Sara Meikler
- **Costa Rica**: Anita Ligator
- **Czech Republic**: Zuzana Vesela
- **Denmark**: Dorrit Raiser
- **Dominican Republic**: Helen Kopel
- **Estonia**: Revecka Blumberg
- **Finland**: Pirko-Lisa Schulman
- **France**: Joelle Lezmi
- **Germany**: Rachel Singer
- **Gibraltar**: Julie Massias
- **Greece**: Heather Nahmias
- **Guatemala**: Soly Berkowitz
- **Holland**: Joyce Y. Numann - Durlacher
- **Honduras**: Yaeli Zylberman
- **Hong Kong**: Daphna Peyster
- **Hungary**: Eva Lancz
- **India**: Yael Jhirad
- **Israel**: Yochy Feller
- **Italy**: Roberta Nahum
- **Jamaica**: Jennifer (McAdam) Lim
- **Japan**: Sarah Hyams
- **Latvia**: Hana Finkelstein
- **Lithuania**: Rachel Kostanian
- **Luxembourg**: Ingrid Bolmut
- **México**: Racel Afflile
- **New Zealand**: Lorna Orbell
- **Norway**: Janne Jaffe Hestvettd
- **Panama**: Estela Faskha
- **Paraguay**: Tosca Ismajovich
- **Peru**: Michelle Lumbroso
- **Poland**: Liliana Lemor
- **Portugal**: Tatiana Mendes
- **Russia**: Yevgeny Magder
- **South Africa**: Yvonne Davel
- **Spain**: Natalie Dodo
- **Sweden**: Suzann Sznadjerman
- **Switzerland**: Anne Argo
- **United Kingdom**: Orna Shabtay
- **United States**: Jana Falic
- **Uruguay**: Laura Rozenbaum
- **Venezuela**: Ena Rotkopf
- **Vietnam**: Gina Karadzic
- **Vietnam**: S. J. Khafi
- **Yemen**: Yvonne Jawitz
- **Zimbabwe**: Natalie Dodo
- **Zimbabwe**: Suzann Sznadjerman
- **Zimbabwe**: Anne Argo
- **Zimbabwe**: Orna Shabtay
- **Zimbabwe**: Jana Falic
- **Zimbabwe**: Laura Rozenbaum
- **Zimbabwe**: Ena Rotkopf
WIZO Continuity in Ness Ziona

Three generations of Ness Ziona WIZO volunteers attended the cornerstone-laying ceremony of the new branch and day care centre – a purpose-built one-storey building of 1000 square metres. A joint project of world WIZO and the Ness Ziona municipality, the new building, as described by architect Mordey Salamon “is a unique building made up of stone and glass and is divided into two – a separate unit for a day care centre for 80 children and one for the WIZO branch, which will include a ‘warm home’ for Girls at Risk.

WIZO Israel chairperson Yochy Feller outlined the history of the Ness Ziona branch, which was built by WIZO’s founders in 1933. It originally served as a baby welfare clinic and in 1937 it operated a summer camp for underweight children. In 1940 WIZO Ness Ziona was given an area of land in the centre of the village, where it provided agricultural training. WIZO helped poor families purchase hen coops and opened a cheap clothing warehouse. For many years devoted WIZO volunteers organized many programmes for underprivileged members of society in a small old building.

First WIZO Day Care Centre in Or Akiva

WIZO recently opened its 174th day care centre in Israel and its first in Or Akiva in the name of the late Rita Gehl, who left a legacy in her will for a day care centre. Or Akiva, with 20,000 inhabitants, bordering on Caesarea is a rapidly growing and developing town, which is attracting many young families.

With great emotion, Mayor Simcha Yosipov said that the opening of a day care centre is more meaningful than the opening of any other public institution, “as it is here that the education and the journey of each child begins.”

Rita Gehl was originally an immigrant from England and was a member of Herzlia Pituach WIZO when both World WIZO Honorary President Michal Modai and World WIZO Chairperson Tova Ben Dov were active in the branch. Tova spoke emotionally about Rita, who came from a disadvantaged background. One of nine children, she won a scholarship to study but her father insisted she went out to work to help support the family. Later in life, when she became well established she gave many donations for educational scholarships to help other needy children on the path which she could not take.

A surprise at the opening ceremony was a huge birthday cake to celebrate WIZO’s 90th birthday and Or Akiva’s 60th.
Best wishes to WIZO on its 90th anniversary
New WIZO branch in Modi’in

Forty percent of the population of Israel’s relatively ‘new town’ of Modi’in situated off the highway between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, are children. The town of 175,000 residents already has four WIZO day care centres, with a fifth on the way, and with great excitement, the cornerstone-laying ceremony for a new building for the WIZO branch took place. The land for the new centre was given to WIZO by the municipality, and generous WIZO philanthropists from Australia Tom and Rae Mandell have donated the money for the new centre, which will bear their name.

The WIZO branch in Modi’in has been operating from a small pre-fabricated building for over 12 years, but despite this, the devoted volunteers have provided a wide range of services for the population. The new centre will have, amongst other projects, a legal advice bureau, activities for senior citizens, programmes for girls at risk and single parent families.

In his speech, Modi’in mayor Chaim Bibas was full of praise for the WIZO volunteers in the city.

...and a new day care centre

During a private visit to Israel, Hanna Paltiel, former chairperson of Norway’s WIZO Trondheim, and her daughter Lise, visited the WIZO Adolf Bekker Day Care Centre in Modi’in. The new day care centre in Modi’in will honour the memory of the late Adolf Bekker and the love and commitment of the chaverot of WIZO Trondheim.

In the framework of the “World WIZO supporting the educational staff of Sderot” campaign, the WIZO Margaret Thatcher Day Care Centre was converted to the ‘Open House – WIZO Centre for the Benefit of the Children, Parents and Educational Staff of Sderot’. A generous donation by WIZO chavera Fanny Cohen-Kohn contributed substantially to the conversion. As she was unable to attend the official inauguration last year, the World WIZO Executive paid tribute to Fanny Cohen Kohn during her visit to Israel in November 2010. An accomplished businesswoman, and not one to rest on her laurels, Fanny Cohen Kohn is now involved in another prestigious WIZO project - the WIZO Day Care Centre that is being built on the Ben Gurion University Campus.
Remembering Terry

Many WIZO leaders who attended the 2009 Meeting of Representatives remember the smiling, warm and dedicated personality of Terry Schwartzfeld, who had been recently elected president of Canadian Hadassah WIZO. It was with the greatest shock that news came through some two months later of her sudden death, caused by a brutal attack while on holiday in Barbados with her family.

Terry always had a soft spot for the CHW Ottawa Day Care Centre in Acco, in northern Israel. The centre was badly in need of renovation, and, following her death CHW and Terry’s family and friends raised funds to completely renovate and refurbish the centre, and to change the name to “The Terry Schwartzfeld Ottawa Day Care Centre”.

Emotions ran high at the dedication ceremony, where some 50 friends and family members, including her little grandson Ben, gathered to honour Terry’s memory. Her sister, Audrey, described Terry as a “doer, a giver, an accomplished cook, sportswoman, a woman of great energy, enthusiasm and style. Terry’s husband, Steve presented the manager of the centre with a hand-made wall hanging and “Tastes and Tales of Terry Schwartzfeld” – a cookbook of Terry’s photos, anecdotes and favourite recipes, which was produced to raise funds for the centre.

With love from Sandy

Close family members accompanied Past President of Canadian Hadassah WIZO Sandy Martin and her husband Larry at the dedication of the renovated WIZO Alberta Day Care Centre in the Morasha area of Ramat Hasharon.

Choking with emotion, Sandy thanked her husband for his continued support during her many years of WIZO volunteering.

The day care centre has been operating for 40 years and accommodates children from the age of six months to three years. The ‘aging’ building was completely renovated and modernized including a new kitchen, bathrooms and an outside play area.

The toddlers gave the appreciative guests a rousing WIZO welcome. Delicious refreshments were provided by the kitchen staff under the direction of Suzy, the resident cook, and some of the guests even asked her for the recipes!

World WIZO President Helena Glaser and Chairperson of the Executive Tova Ben Dov both spoke of Sandy’s dedication to WIZO, and that of her parents who were major donors to WIZO Hadassim.

Chairperson of WIZO’s Early Age Division Hassida Danai outlined the programmes that take place at the centre including close involvement with the families of the children who attend, and the local community.
YOU VISIT US

We hate to keep using the same cliché – seeing is believing – but we know that “seeing” is the only way our members around the world begin to understand what WIZO is and does. Many federation presidents bring groups of their members to visit the country and WIZO projects. There is no doubt that every group participant is overwhelmed by the experience.

WIZO Holland Celebrates

Led by WIZO Holland President Joyce Numann, 32 WIZO Holland members including some husbands, celebrated WIZO's 90th anniversary with a special mission to Israel. Mission participants were a mixture of frequent visitors to Israel and some ‘first-timers.' Not wasting a minute, the group covered much of the country. One of the highlights was a visit to the Eshkol region of Israel, situated in the Negev, which has been subject to many rocket attacks from Gaza. WIZO Holland sponsors some youth movement activities in the area to bolster the self-confidence of the youngsters, and help them cope with the obvious stresses living in that part of the country.

While in that area, a visit was made to the unique WIZO rocket-proof Bruce and Ruth Rappaport day care centre in Sderot.

Another project sponsored by WIZO Holland is the community centre in Afula, where the group dedicated a plaque in memory of Eva Cohen Paraira. Family and friends of Eva joined the group especially for this occasion.

At the Jesse Cohen Day Care Centre in Holon, the group witnessed the unique WIZO Wizz Kids computer project, and going north, participants were duly impressed by WIZO's amazing Ahuzat Yeladim School for teenagers at high risk.

The tour was completed by a visit to the WIZO Nachlat Yehuda Youth Village to meet with the school’s entertainment troupe that travelled a month later to Holland to give performances at the Dutch Federation's World WIZO 90th anniversary celebrations. One of the WIZO husbands, a sabra, was so deeply moved by these youngsters that he decided to accompany them during their stay in Holland.

UK Chairman’s Mission

Tour leaders WIZO.uk Chairman Loraine Warren, and WIZO.uk Honorary Secretary Michelle Pollock with some 40 WIZO.uk members spent a packed week visiting numerous WIZO projects and truly having ‘an Israel experience.' The group went to the very north of the country, visiting the William Kerr Day Care Centre in Kiryat Shemona, followed by a tour of the Golan Heights, which included a visit to Kibbutz Ein Rom where the group saw a very emotional film depicting the kibbutz’s experience during the Yom Kippur War.

Other visits included WIZO’s Ahuzat Yeladim School in Haifa, for teenagers at high risk, the Margaret Gold Music School in Tiberias and the WIZO.uk sponsored women’s centre in Zichron Yaakov. Visiting WIZO.uk’s flagship project The Rebecca Steiff Centre for the Family in Jerusalem, tour members interacted with some of the women in the Centre for Family Violence, and saw how WIZO helps at-risk teenagers with schooling and vocational courses.

Highlights included being hosted at the home of the newly appointed British ambassador to Israel Matthew Gould.

"It was so empowering to see the width and breadth of WIZO’s services and how WIZO touches all aspects of family life," said Wendy Penfold a participant on the tour, "Words that spring to my mind to describe the experience are: inspirational, motivating, humbling and exciting," she added.

Mrs Isabel MacInness, on her first visit to Israel, told WIZO Review: "My first visit to Israel will be one of the most memorable times of my life. As a non-Jew, my admiration of the Jewish people and their country is immense. I feel very humbled by what I have seen. I will return to Scotland with wonderful memories of a very special country and her people, and tell all about it".

WIZO Up Front
Three Generations

With a history of 40 years behind it, Wizo has become part of the life of three generations of Jewish women in many lands. A typical example is the family of Mrs. Emanuel Snowman, who is an Honorary Vice-President of Wizo’s British Federation, and Chairman of its Functions Department, and who recently celebrated her Golden Wedding by opening a Children’s Club at Acre. Mrs Snowman’s daughter is Mrs. Joyce Richtiger, a member of the Executive Council of the British Federation, and an extremely active and leading member of the North West London Society. Mrs. Richtiger’s daughter is Mrs. Barbara Bloom, a very young married who has joined the Wimbledon Society and intends to take an active part in Wizo activities.

All three ladies tell what Wizo has meant to them and what it has done for them, rather than what they have done for Wizo, and their brief impressions given here indicate the important place Wizo occupies in the life of three generations of Jewish women Zionists.

The First Generation

Looking back over the years, I find that from the early days of the Federation of Women Zionists from which Wizo emerged, I realized I was joining a movement where I could give expression to my Zionist aspirations in a practical form. When asking myself what Wizo means to me, I can say with a full heart that it has enriched my life, given me a sense of fulfilment and satisfaction by giving me the opportunity of playing a part, however small, in helping this great movement. Watching, as I have been able to do, the growth and development of our work throughout the years has been an inspiration to me, and I have been enthralled by the wonderful and dedicated women who have led us, above all by Mrs. Rebecca Sieff, who first inspired me with the love and understanding of Eretz Israel. A few months ago, I returned from my third visit to Israel and each time it has served to impress me anew with the magnitude of the work Wizo is doing and which has now become so entwined into the life of the people that it is an integral part of the State.

Harriet Snowman

The Second Generation

I was lucky enough to be born into a family where Zionism was a normal part of life. I have been attending Zionist meetings since my childhood and nearly thirty years ago, Mrs. Willy Samuels and I started the first Zionist Society in the district of Hendon. My own particular Wizo Society has always been North West London – one of the oldest societies in London – of which I am now Vice-Chairman. During 1946, I lived for nearly four months in Palestine – during the time of curfews and other troubles, and during that time the Wizo house in Tel Aviv was broken into and ransacked by the Red Caps (British military police). I went to see it and as I was leaving for England the same week, I took with me an album of photos showing the terrible destruction and havoc that had been caused. I arrived in England just in time to participate in the memorable visit to the House of Commons made by a delegation of 400 women led by Mrs. Rebecca Sieff. I took my album of photographs and spoke to the members of Parliament who received us, telling them what was happening over in Palestine and I think they were genuinely impressed by the photographs.

Joyce Richtiger

The Third Generation

Hearing that I have grown up in an atmosphere of Zionism, to learn something of our great heritage. Zionism is a privilege, not a charity as is too widely felt even in these enlightened days, and it is something that we have no moral right to deprive our children – but these things must very often be learned, and I do feel that Wizo should play a very great part here, particularly among young mothers like myself. I only hope that I will be able to impart something of this to my children, and I look forward to the day when they are a little older and have the time to do considerably more than I do at the moment for my local Society.

Barbara Bloom
Generations

DIALOGUE WITH OUR DAUGHTERS

A passion for WIZO transcends generations. That was the consensus of our recently conducted survey where we posed a series of questions to members who were nourished from birth not only by their mother’s milk – but also with WIZO

AUSTRALIA
Barbel, Rony, Lisa and Karen

Barbel Markowitz is Rony Bognar’s mother. Rony Bognar (Past President WIZO NSW and WIZO Australia) is the mother in law of Lisa Bognar and Karen Bognar (WIZO Kalanit Aviv chaverot).

Who (or what) inspired you to join WIZO?
Barbel Markowitz: I was a member in Poland. When we came to Israel, WIZO Haifa lent me money to buy a sewing machine so I could work. I repaid the loan but never forgot the kindness. When we arrived in Sydney, I immediately joined WIZO. Our group baked and prepared family recipes from Europe for WIZO functions and we forged lifelong friendships.

Rony Bognar: I became ‘hooked’ when my son was just six months old and I was in need of mental stimulation. A friend suggested that I go along to a meeting. The leader and the women, all in their late 20s and 30s, impressed me and I was drawn in by their love of WIZO and Israel.

Lisa Bognar: My inspiration was my mother-in-law, Rony Bognar.

In your work for WIZO, what gives you the most personal satisfaction?
Barbel Markowitz: To see the young girls joining WIZO.
Rony Bognar: To complete a project for disadvantaged students or a programme to advance women fills me with pride. But my greatest satisfaction has been that my two wonderful daughters-in-law have not only joined WIZO but also have become leaders in their own right. In November, they represented WIZO Australia at the Aviv International Seminar in Tel Aviv. What more personal satisfaction could I ask for?

Karen Bognar: Coming from a loving and secure background, I feel duty-bound to give back to those less fortunate. WIZO allows me the privilege of helping and supporting others in a country for which I feel such passion. The international sisterhood that is WIZO appeals to my feminist side. I am empowered by belonging to WIZO. Just look at what a bunch of women can do!

Lisa Bognar: To be able to raise much-needed funds for projects to benefit needy women and children in Israel. As a psychologist and having spent many years working in the Jewish community in Australia and London, I understand the importance of such services. I am also keen to educate Australian women about WIZO.

What skills and qualities do you bring to WIZO?
Karen Bognar: Being part of WIZO involves keeping your focus on the question of why you are working so hard and being thankful to be able to give. When that motivating focus is clear, any woman has the skills and qualities to bring to WIZO: compassion, organisational skills, flexibility in accommodating alternative views, creativity and persistence.

How do you encourage the youngest members to feel part of the ‘WIZO family’?
Rony Bognar: It is important that every member feels valued and feels a connection to the vital work of WIZO; this can only be done through education and, of course, by encouraging members to visit Israel to see our projects. As we always say, seeing is believing!

Do the older members welcome the ideas of younger members?
Lisa Bognar: Yes, I believe they do. I also feel that our younger groups have much to learn from their years of experience.

What are the challenges faced by WIZO in your country?

DIALOGUE WITH OUR DAUGHTERS

A passion for WIZO transcends generations. That was the consensus of our recently conducted survey where we posed a series of questions to members who were nourished from birth not only by their mother’s milk – but also with WIZO

AUSTRALIA
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Do the older members welcome the ideas of younger members?
Lisa Bognar: Yes, I believe they do. I also feel that our younger groups have much to learn from their years of experience.

What are the challenges faced by WIZO in your country?
How can you overcome them?

Karen Bognar: We must increase membership and maintain involvement from the younger groups. Women with young children are short of time and others focus on careers and social lives in preference to voluntary work. We must reach out to potential new members with a warm welcome, exciting functions, and education.

Marianne, Rose and Tiffany

Marianne van der Poorten is Rose Fekete’s mother and grandmother of Tiffany Cohen

Who (or what) influenced you to join WIZO?

Marianne van der Poorten: In 1939 during the war, I joined WIZO in the Netherlands. I quickly understood how crucial WIZO’s services were.

Rose Fekete: On honeymoon in Israel in 1969, my mother encouraged us to visit Ahuzat Yeladim. We were so inspired. In 1973 when my children were just babies, a friend invited me to attend the launching of a new WIZO group. I became committed and involved very quickly.

Tiffany Cohen: When I was just nine years old and again when I was 18, I visited Ahuzat Yeladim. I felt WIZO was very important. The love and enjoyment of WIZO by my mum and grandma inspired me to become a member.

In your work for WIZO, what gives you the most personal satisfaction?

Marianne van der Poorten: Attending conferences, visiting the projects, and seeing the results of my dedication. Since the establishment of the State of Israel, I have requested donations to WIZO in lieu of gifts. This has brought me so much pleasure and friendship.

Rose Fekete: The friendships of like-minded women, the conferences and visiting the projects. The 1989 Aviv Conference ‘From Holocaust to Rebirth’ changed my life. Thank you WIZO and Rachel Limon!

Tiffany Cohen: Being part of a group of young women with the same objective.

What skills and qualities do you bring to WIZO?

Marianne, Rose & Tiffany: We all share the same passion, sincerity and dedication.

Fejga, Golda, Lisa & Natalie

Great grandmother Fejga Konefka is Golda Gross’s mother. Her daughter, Lisa Tenenbaum, (WIZO Victoria President) is the mother of Natalie Cohen.

Who (or what) influenced you to join WIZO?

Lisa Tenenbaum answers all questions: My grandmother, Fejga, is my biggest influence and she is very proud of my involvement. She is still very active at 98 years old!

What are the challenges faced by WIZO in your country? How can you overcome them?

Challenges are everywhere in life — therefore, stand tall, be proud of WIZO and do not be shy to invite friends and family to WIZO events.

Do the older members welcome the ideas of younger members?

Most do, but many will not accept emailed invitations. In a way, they are right – as receiving postal mail seems so much more personal.

WIZO’s future is in the hands of the leaders of tomorrow. What advice would you give them?

Being involved in charity is a feel-good situation. Volunteer work brings you closer to like-minded people. They should keep that in mind and remember there is much to learn from everyone.

UNITED KINGDOM

Trisha, Mandy, Susan & Lara

L-R: Trisha Wall, Lara Bamberger, Susan Bamberger

Trisha Wall’s two daughters are Mandy Reback and Susan Bamberger. Lara Bamberger is Susan’s eldest daughter. They all live in Mill Hill, London.

Who influenced you to join WIZO?

Trisha Wall: Brenda Katten, when she starting Mill Hill Aviv in 1964.

Susan Bamberger: Twenty years ago, two friends of mine, Ilana Metzger & Sharon Boxer, asked me to join ‘WIZO – New Era’, the new committee they were setting up.

Lara Bamberger: My mum, aunty & grandma. They were all very involved for as long as I can remember.

In your work for WIZO, what gives you the most personal satisfaction?

Trisha Wall: Seeing the WIZO projects, seeing the recipients of WIZO services thrive. I am a life member and I have remembered WIZO in my will. That always makes me feel good.

Susan Bamberger: I recently visited a WIZO project in Netanya with my husband and our three daughters, Lara, Amy and Beth, and the beneficial impact WIZO has on people’s lives was plain to see. When Beth was eight years old, she set up a stall with her friends in the school playground selling bits and pieces that they had made to raise funds for WIZO. They were very so proud of themselves.
and so was I. That also keeps me inspired! 

Lara Bamberger: Visiting Israel and seeing WIZO in action. That really spurs me on to try and raise awareness and money for WIZO. 

WIZO’s future is in the hands of the leaders of tomorrow. 

What advice would you give them? 

Trisha Wall: To show commitment by example. Always take an active part in WIZO, such as Jewish Women’s Week and other activities. 

Susan Bamberger: My advice is to be proud of WIZO and get everyone involved from as young an age as possible. 

Lara Bamberger: Visit Israel and see WIZO projects and know that your work and donations benefit the people of Israel. 

USA 
Sarah, Mercedes & Jenny 

L-R: Jenny Ivcher-Klainbaum & Mercedes Ivcher behind Sarah Benarroch 

Sarah Benarroch is the mother of Mercedes Ivcher (WIZO USA Founding President). Jenny Ivcher Kleinbaum is the daughter of Mercedes. 

Mercedes Ivcher: We follow the example of my dear mother, Sarah Benarroch who is a born WIZO leader. Our incentive is to raise as much money as possible for WIZO and to reach out to American women already involved in other Jewish organizations and encourage them to join WIZO to enlarge our ranks. Our older chaverot eagerly welcome the ideas of younger members and welcome them with open arms. We encourage their input and involve them in every aspect, giving them positions so they feel totally involved. I would advise the leaders of tomorrow to visit Israel, to acquaint themselves fully with the magnificent work that WIZO does for the people of Israel, to become involved with love and understanding but they should also be willing to take the advice of their elders. 

MEXICO 
Raquel, Aurora & Raquel 

L-R: Raquel Salame de Mussali, Raquel Sacal de Mussali, Aurora Mussali de Salame 

Raquel Sacal de Mussali is Aurora Mussali de Salame’s mother. Raquel Salame de Mussali is Aurora’s daughter. 

Who (or what) influenced you to join WIZO? 

Aurora Mussali De Salame: Mum was active in WIZO and she instilled in me the importance of volunteering and helping others who are in need. Israel is our representative country and WIZO’s work is crucial to strengthen the Jewish State. WIZO has made me proud and I feel it is my responsibility to teach my children the same example. 

Raquel Salame de Mussali: Since I was a baby, WIZO was part of my life. To know that so many women around the world carry out this noble work is very impressive. Now I am a member of WIZO San Diego and I am happy to contribute in the same spirit that they do. I am walking in the same shoes as my dear grandma and mother. 

What compels you in your WIZO endeavours? 

Raquel Sacal de Mussali: My passion for Eretz Israel is a great factor. Giving my time to help children and women have a better life makes me happy. I am quick to identify the goals and have belonged to WIZO for over 50 years and had the honour of being president over 30 years ago. 

Aurora Mussali De Salame: For 30 years, I have been a member of the Noar Group. WIZO is my ‘university of life’ where I have learned to use the talents within me. I have met wonderful friends who all share the same aspirations. 

Raquel Salame de Mussali: We, as Jewish women, are taught to help and bring joy to those less fortunate. This is our reward. 

What role will you play in WIZO’s future success? 

Raquel Sacal de Mussali: To continue to give my time and effort for WIZO. It is a way of life, of long-term learning and finding good in everyone. 

Aurora Mussali De Salame: I hope I can continue to grow and to give my best to this great organization. With a combined effort, day by day we can continue to make mountains from grains of sand. 

Raquel Salame de Mussali: To continue the work already done by thousands of women before me. As each new generation joins the ranks, we must bring new ideas to reinforce what WIZO has already accomplished. It was once a dream and now it is a reality, it must always be that way.
ISRAEL
Stella, Myra, Valerie, Karen

Myra Gould and her daughter Valerie Fisher are both members of Raanana WIZO English-speaking group. Valerie remembers a time back in Leeds when there were four generations of her family at a WIZO event, the ‘Blue and White Bazaar’. “One year,” recalls Valerie, “we were all there, my grandmother, mother, me and my little daughter Karen, who was a flower girl and presented certificates. My late grandmother, Stella Rosenthal, was a member of the oldest group in Leeds and I was a member of the newest Aviv group.” Myra Gould, aged 82, remembers her mother as being a member of the first WIZO group in Leeds, which was formed after World War II. “I remember before that, my mother and a group of friends sewed baby clothes which were sent to Israel through WIZO. My father was in the tailoring business and provided the ladies with sewing machines. At the bazaars, my mother and her friends always ran the handicrafts stall and made a lot of money. Well into her eighties she was still baking cakes for WIZO!” Neither can imagine their lives without WIZO, as Myra sums it up: “WIZO gave me a love of Israel and when I came on aliya I felt I belonged.”

CHILE
Carmen, Evelyn & Carol

Carmen Contador de Najum is the mother of Evelyn Najum de Czerny. Carol Czerny is Evelyn’s daughter.

Carmen Contador de Najum was invited by her friends to form a Jewish social group with the focus on helping Israel. Her daughter, Evelyn and granddaughter Carol have followed her example. Their personal satisfaction is in the knowledge that they are helping the women and children of Israel through their vital work in WIZO. Being part of the organization has given them a sense of sharing. Their common ground with like-minded women all over the world in the sisterhood of WIZO transcends the age gap. Despite the social and economic challenges facing Chile, and the tragedy of the earthquake, they agree that there is ‘room for everything’ and WIZO plays an important part in the wellbeing of the Jewish community in Chile as well as the people of Israel. Their ethos is solidarity in numbers and young members are encouraged to join and made to feel that their participation is indeed a mitzvah (good deed). New ideas are always welcome in Chile! Carmen’s advice to the leaders of tomorrow would be to prepare emotionally, mentally and physically for the challenges that lay ahead – but to enjoy every moment.

ARGENTINA
Bertha, Paulina & Amalia

OSFA WIZO Argentina President Amalia Polack’s late grandmother Bertha W. de Gerchunoff was a former president of OSFA WIZO Argentina, a position she held for ten years. She created the Latin American Office in Buenos Aires, and was a very active member of the Executive. Amalia’s late mother, Paulina Gerchunoff de Saionz, was also the much-respected president of WIZO Nun in Buenos Aires. Amalia Polack has been re-elected to her current position four times - a testament to the excellent leadership skills learned from her mother and grandmother. The above photo was taken at the very first WIZO meeting where Amalia gave a speech.
WIZO’s Golden Girls

Forget costly anti-aging serums and rejuvenating creams, the secret to eternal youth is a lifetime spent volunteering for WIZO, so say our young-at-heart elders: the sprightly ladies in their nineties who attribute their energy and positive attitude to continued active participation in WIZO. As WIZO turns 90, we applaud these ‘golden girls’ and all WIZO volunteers in their nineties who continue to drink from WIZO’s fountain of youth.

ISRAEL

Raya Jaglom esteemed past president of 26 years is 92 years’ young. Raya immigrated to Israel from Romania in 1939 on a student certificate from the Hebrew University. She first joined WIZO in 1941, as a member of the Tel Aviv branch, but it was after the War of Independence, where she was active in the Haganah, that her WIZO career really began. In 1948, she hosted a tea in her apartment for Rebecca Sieff, who recognised Raya’s leadership qualities and became her mentor. Through her many years of contributions to WIZO, under her own motto ‘to build’, Raya initiated and raised the funds for numerous WIZO day care centres and other projects. She was instrumental in establishing new WIZO federations around the world and reviving some in Eastern Europe. One of her most important goals was to establish WIZO’s representation on the World Zionist Organization with full voting rights, an achievement which involved a change to the WZO constitution. In addition to WIZO, Raya Jaglom contributes to many other philanthropic causes.

Shula Braudo, WIZO Israel Chairman from 1970-1977 is a legend. Born in Russia, she immigrated to Palestine with her family in 1923. She graduated from the Hebrew University, where she studied Philosophy, and was among the founders of ‘Nili’ which helped women escape from Nazi-threatened Europe. Stranded in England during WWII, Shula returned to Israel with her husband as the War of Independence broke out. The couple eventually moved to Savyon where Shula founded the first WIZO group, and was active on the Savyon local council. During her many years of activity for WIZO, Shula initiated many projects concerned with advancing social and humanitarian issues for society in general and advancing the status of women. In January 2010, she was honoured at the Knesset and presented with a lifetime achievement award in the name of WIZO.

AUSTRALIA

Ann Zablud OAM is a WIZO Australia icon. She twinned her 90th birthday celebration with the 90th anniversary of World WIZO at a festive luncheon attended by over 250 WIZO Victoria supporters including many community leaders and parliamentarians. Ann’s children, Peter and Zita, recalled warm childhood memories and spoke of their mother’s dedication to WIZO and other community causes. A beautiful tribute book produced for this occasion raised funds for WIZO Australia projects in Israel.

Gogo Sulan Schueler is Adelaide’s most senior member. Truly, a woman of worth, Gogo is an adored mother, grandmother, great grandmother and valued friend to many, having settled in Australia from London in 1970. Gogo was elected president of WIZO South Australia in 1976, a position she held for eight years. She was also the WIZO South Australia Chairman for Education and is a Life Member of WIZO Australia. For many years, Gogo served as president of the WIZO Henrietta Irwell Carmel group. She received the Rebecca Sieff Award for outstanding service to WIZO South Australia in 1984.

Lisa Frank is 95 years old. Her involvement in WIZO started in South Africa, where she chaired WIZO for many years and led two women’s missions to Israel. In 2000, at the age of 85, she moved to Sydney and immediately joined WIZO Darom and contributes greatly to state council meetings. Lisa is an avid bridge player and is adored by her two daughters, six grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. Chaverot from
South Africa say of Lisa, “Johannesburg’s loss is Sydney’s gain.”

Marianne van der Poorten is 96 and lives in Sydney. Her involvement with WIZO spans 70 years since joining in her native Amsterdam on the eve of WWII. During the Holocaust, Marianne and her husband David were involved in the resistance. Once captured by the Nazis, the resistance provided them with baptism papers, thus ensuring that they were sent to Theresienstadt concentration camp in Czechoslovakia as opposed to Auschwitz. They and their children – who were hidden with a non-Jewish family – managed to survive the war and return to Amsterdam where Marianne rejoined WIZO with renewed determination. Immigrating to Australia in 1951, Marianne joined WIZO NSW and became honorary secretary in the 1960s.

Bessie Krell is also in her nineties. She arrived in Adelaide from Zimbabwe in 1979 following her sons to Australia. Soon after her arrival, she joined WIZO Henrietta Irwell Carmel. Bessie serves on a number of other Zionist and Jewish committees and represents WIZO on the National Council of Women. This fine lady is a long-serving member of WIZO State Council of South Australia and an active member of WIZO for over 70 years.

SOUTH AFRICA

Sylvia Berzack Honorary Life President of WIZO South Africa and life member of the World WIZO Executive has been an active member for 73 years. Sylvia, aged 93, still drives and attends WIZO Council meetings and events and canvasses for the campaign and membership department.

Jane Levitas was born in London in the same year as World WIZO. As travelling organiser for WIZO South Africa, Jane spread the WIZO word and imparted information on Israel to the remotest parts of the country. Jane is a true Jewish intellectual and a sought after speaker. She edited the excellent ‘News and Views’ in Johannesburg and was chairperson of the hasbara department. She is now a member of Killarney Branch and Chairman of Meier-Szold.

Stella Greenberg at 96 is the oldest active member of WIZO Johannesburg and Killarney Branch. Until recently, she worked in WIZO’s ‘Wize Buys’ second-hand shop. As membership convenor, she is credited with an impressive increase in Killarney’s membership.

Beccy Flekser is 90 years old and continues to fulfil her role as treasurer of the WIZO Elise gift shop. Beccy’s meticulous eye for detail is as keen as ever, ensuring that every cent taken in the gift shop goes to the benefit of WIZO projects in Israel.

Matla Sarkin has brought Jewish history, culture and knowledge to WIZO through the drama group. At 91, actress, beautician and raconteur Matla has been active for over 70 years with the group. The drama group performed at many WIZO functions and events in the wider community.

Jenny Nowitz has devoted herself to the Cyrildene Branch for over 60 years. The enormous playroom at her home has been the venue for many wonderful WIZO events. Jenny has fulfilled many roles in her WIZO work including chairperson, functions convenor and branch treasurer. At 92, Jenny is still as busy as ever in her WIZO endeavours.

Esther Batzofin has strong Zionist roots. Her father was the first chair of the Port Elizabeth Zionist Society in 1901. Esther, 92, originally from Bloemfontein, always found the time to volunteer at the Milpark Branch despite being actively involved in business. On moving to Johannesburg five years ago, she joined the Bramley Branch where she is a valued member.

Lottie Nathan is well known for her successful book sales. She is the founder member of the Parkview-Parkwood Branch and now Waverley. The ever-smiling 90-year-old Lottie has raised a considerable amount of money for WIZO.

Cape Town salutes its seniors
Queenie Sacks (executive member and member of the Bnoth Zion WIZO Cape Town Tomer Group in charge of public relations), Lulu Shar (executive member and member of the Tikvah Branch), Ettie Buch (Tikvah Branch Chair), Roggie Finkelstein (member and treasurer of Liora Branch) and Lily Yankelowitz (Tikvah Branch). These remarkable ladies all received 60 year service awards in 2007.
Mildred Mendelsohn celebrated her 90th birthday recently. Mildred was active on the Andries Pretorius Branch and the Central Executive (Bloemfontein) amongst other Zionist organizations for many years. The mild-mannered and sweet Mildred was a most efficient and popular honorary treasurer of the Bloemfontein League for nearly 30 years until she left for Cape Town in the early 1980s, where she remained active in Bnoth Zion. Bnoth Zion WIZO awarded Mildred the Rebecca Sieff Award for 40 years’ service.

UNITED KINGDOM

Leila Wynbourne has dedicated over sixty years to WIZO. Leila joined her local group in 1946 as a member of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Women’s Zionist Society. In 1962, she joined the Executive of the Federation of Women Zionists under the leadership of Daphne Seiff. Leila went on to hold the position of National Chairman 1973-1981. Her achievements include representing WIZO at the World Jewish Congress for over eight years and the introduction of the Golden Age Club for WIZO.uk. In 2000, she was awarded the MBE (Member of the British Empire). Leila, who recently celebrated her 90th birthday, is an active member of the WIZO.uk Honorary Council.

Lottie Fraser volunteers daily at the restaurant in London’s WIZO House. She joined her local WIZO group in 1946, subsequently volunteering at WIZO House organising conferences in Israel and the UK. Lottie was a member of the WIZO singers who met every Monday morning for over forty years and who performed at concerts and communal events across the UK. In June, Lottie was presented with the Judy Citron Lifetime Achievement Award, which recognizes volunteer excellence in the Jewish charity sector.

CHILE

Renée Cogan was born in Argentina in 1921. After joining WIZO in Santiago de Chile in 1945, she was director of the Organization and Finance Department and one of the founders of the Avodah Centre. She was elected president in 1960. In 1973, she joined the World WIZO Executive and was elected to the position of President of WIZO Chile until 1996. Today, she is an honorary life president and participates in WIZO Chile’s Advisory Council. Renée’s special interest in the relationship between Jewish and non-Jewish communities inspired her to establish and chair the Comité Educacional Femenino Israelita (CEFI) which promotes organized social action. Renée has three sons and five grandchildren.

BRAZIL

Dalila Kruchin was born in 1917 in Rio Grande do Sul. Immediately before her marriage to a Jewish immigrant, she converted to Judaism and her contribution to the local Jewish community has been overwhelming. Dalila considers WIZO an extension of her own home. She says, “People need to dedicate a lot more of their time and efforts to the community. I love WIZO meetings; they provide us with education, information and hasbara.” Dalila has one daughter, two granddaughters and three great grandchildren.

Ida Weisfeld is also very active in the WIZO Rio Grande do Sul Chapter. Ninety-five year German-born Ida held the position of chapter president in the sixties when she succeeded in attracting many young volunteers to her group, which greatly enhanced the image of the movement. The energetic Ida, a committed Zionist, continues to fulfill her regular WIZO duties with charm and grace.

Cotta Levy, charismatic 96 year old Honorary Life President of WIZO Brazil, was honoured at a magnificent party held at the Shaar Hashamaim Synagogue in the city of Belem in the State of Para where WIZO Brazil President Mrs Helena Kelner presented her with a special World WIZO 90th Anniversary commemorative plate. Guests enjoyed a festive lunch organized by Mrs Levy’s daughter Mrs Esther Lucia Steinberg, a member of WIZO Rio de Janeiro Chapter’s Kalaniot group.
Ida Gotlieb, seen here with her daughter and granddaughter, is 99 years young! Ida is the much loved and respected matriarch of WIZO Sao Paulo.

Rachella Naslavsky, WIZO Pernambuco Honorary Life President was born in Poland in 1913 and immigrated to Brazil with her parents and brother. Rachella was the one of the founders of the WIZO Pernambuco Chapter in 1947 and her passion for WIZO is as strong today as it was then. In 1984, chaverot chose her to be the chapter’s honorary life president. She has written and published a book of her memoirs and continues to encourage members to work for WIZO. Rachella has two children, five grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

FINLAND

Sonja Mattsoff was presented with a Sponsor a Child pin at WIZO Helsinki’s 90th anniversary celebration on her 90th birthday. Sonja has been a much loved ‘godmother’ to the children at WIZO Finland’s Shaviv Day Care Centre since 1978.

SWITZERLAND

Margot Brandeis retired from duties as co-president on the WIZO Zurich Board two years ago but attends WIZO events in Zurich regularly. In the summer, she still enjoys a round of golf despite being well into her 90s. Margot joined WIZO 37 years ago after her retirement from business. In her early WIZO days Margot was responsible for textile sales at WIZO bazaars and in later years for her highly successful antique sales and auctions. Over the decades, Margot’s trademark was the 1,300 handwritten notes that she wrote to members acknowledging both happy and sad occasions.

BELGIUM

Dolly Treperman (photo left) and Ida Rosenbaum are hailed as pillars of the organization. With boundless energy, these veteran members can always be depended upon to organize dinners, tea parties, tombolas and fairs and they are always out and about asking people for donations. Their energy and enthusiasm is an example to those even half their age. Long may they continue in their endeavours for WIZO Brussels!

FRANCE

Denise Apelbaum was born in Paris in 1920 and settled in Nîmes after her marriage in 1940. She tirelessly promoted WIZO and was a fervent activist since the beginning of the chapter. In 1990, she became co-president until 2002, since when she has continued to be active. A very popular lady, Denise is endearingly referred to as the ‘ultimate Wizéenne’ by WIZO France chaverot. Denise has a son and daughter, five grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Andree Bellange recently celebrated her 90th birthday. A true Zionist and member of WIZO Montpellier for over 20 years, she is a much-loved chavera who serves as treasurer on the WIZO Montpellier Board, a post she has had for almost six years.

WIZO Sao Paulo President Etejane Hepner Coin said, “An organization can only reach its full potential if it holds its former generations in high esteem.” In WIZO, we do – and we salute these wonderful ladies who built the foundations on which our future stands.
Happy Birthday WIZO!
You are 90...
It is incredible how when we see someone who is 90 years old we think of them as ‘really old’. In WIZO, it is quite the opposite! Here in Panama, as my chaverot and I celebrate WIZO’s 90 years, we cannot help feeling that WIZO is a young organization, with strong principles and perfect in spirit for our age group. The objectives envisioned 90 years ago that set the pathway for the work to be done, are as relevant to us today as they were to the members then.

This is a great moment to remember the admirable Zionist ladies and our first president, Lady Rebecca Sieff, who conceived the idea of the first female Zionist organization founding the Women’s International Zionist Organization on July 11, 1920 in London. From the start, their spirit and sacrifice for the Jewish State that was soon to be declared was unwavering and instrumental. Thanks to their vision the generations of WIZO women that followed, in Israel and in the Diaspora, have each been invaluable links through time to ensure the continuity of our organization with Eretz Israel as our point of unity.

I honour and applaud the work achieved by our previous WIZO leaders! Nine decades may change many things but not our WIZO spirit; every day, dynamic and devoted members in Israel and the Diaspora work to promote the welfare of the children, youth, women and the elderly in Israel, to help new immigrants, and to respond to the needs of our ever changing and growing society. We have evolved in ways to better serve the needs of Israel according to the times in which we live.

This is why, my dear Aviv friends, I want to say that it is so very important to get involved, to participate actively and transmit passionately what we do, and successfully motivate Zionist women all over the world in the WIZO vision. As we hold the hand next to us to work together, we must also stretch out our other hand to the new chaverot who join our ranks. After all, 90 may not be old at all... In WIZO we are forever young. Together we have touched many hearts, professionally and with great kindness. We have held hands tightly in difficult and trying times. We have also shared many success stories together!

Being the Aviv Representative to the World WIZO Executive has been a very unique experience for me. I would like to express my gratitude to Hashem, for giving me the privilege of meeting so many wonderful women from all over the world. May He bless, protect and guide us always.

Vicky Fidanque
Aviv Representative to the World WIZO Executive

MY WIZO

Three previous AVIV representatives to the World WIZO Executive - Marla Dan, Bev Kaplan and Marci Waterman - reflect on various aspects of their involvement and commitment to WIZO

How did you start in WIZO?

Marci: After attending a WIZO fashion show and luncheon, I was so moved by the words of WIZO USA Founding President Evelyn Sommer, that I went right over to Nazee Moinian, the Luncheon Chair and asked how I could get involved. Without missing a beat, Nazee replied, "Why don’t you chair next year’s fashion show?" It was as simple as that!

Bev: My husband, Charles and I immigrated to Sydney, Australia, from Johannesburg, South Africa in 1985. In South Africa I had not become involved in any Zionist organization. In May 1986 a girlfriend asked me to come to a WIZO meeting at her house, where they would be signing letters to send to Natan Sharansky. I went along to this meeting, and came away in awe of what WIZO does. I had ideas that WIZO was an ‘old ladies baking club and that it was made up of raffle sellers’. I had no idea what WIZO’s role was in Israeli society.

Marla: I became involved with Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW) in my mid-twenties, when I moved three thousand kilometres away from my hometown of Edmonton, Alberta to where I reside currently, Toronto, Ontario. Wanting to feel a part of my new community, and having a desire to contribute, I joined CHW. In 1993, as a new CHW member, I went to the CHW National Convention, which was held in Israel. Esther Matlow was the outgoing National President, and Judy Mandleman was taking her place. During the convention, I heard speeches by these two outstanding women as well by Naomi Frankenburg, Honorary National President, and Lily Frank, then National Executive Vice President. All four women blew me away with their dynamism and intelligence. To this day, the depth and
sincerity of their addresses have left a long and lasting impression on me.

A few words about your ‘WIZO career’

Marcia: I jumped into my career at WIZO and kept moving forward. I went from a luncheon attendee to Luncheon Chair to Vice-Chair of WIZO New York to Aviv Representative to the World WIZO Executive to Chair of New York. The one thing that I find is so important is to keep changing your role within the organization to allow new ideas and fresh leadership in to keep WIZO invigorated and vital.

Beverly: After my first meeting I was hooked and I proceeded with a fervent passion to work for WIZO. I held the position of Group President from 1990 – 1995. In 1989 I held the position of Aviv Liaison on WIZO NSW Executive and in this capacity I was given a scholarship to attend the “Holocaust to Rebirth” Aviv Seminar in Poland. This event had a profound influence on my life, as a wife, a mother and a WIZO woman. The values and morals that I learnt about life during that trip were everlasting. It changed the way I viewed the actions of politicians and of ordinary citizens in the world. The experience of visiting places like Madajnek and Treblinka has never left me, even 21 years later. I am now involving myself with the Sydney Jewish Museum, so that I can pass down to future generations the lessons of the Holocaust.

In 2000 I was elected as the Aviv Representative to the World WIZO Executive, a position I held for three years. During that time, I was Aviv Chairperson, both on the WIZO Australia and WIZO NSW Executives. I held these positions for six years. In 2003 I become the Vice President of WIZO NSW and in 2007 I was President of WIZO NSW.

Marla: I have been CHW’s National President since March 2009, having been elected 1st Vice President in November 2008 and finished as CHW Toronto President in June 2009. I have been a proud member of Tamid Chapter in Toronto for 22 years. I have served on the CHW Toronto Board for over 20 years in various capacities, and on the CHW National Board for over nine years, where I was the CHW National Aviv Chair (2003-2005). From 2005-2007, I was appointed as the Aviv Representative to the World WIZO Executive.

Who or what influenced you to devote so much time to WIZO?

Marcia: I am inspired and educated by the women around me who I am so lucky to call my friends. It is their commitment to

Bev: The person who had a major impact on my WIZO life is Marianne van der Poorten. She is a life member of WIZO and a survivor of Theresienstadt concentration camp. Marianne’s zest for life after suffering all life’s adversities is incredible, what a mentor! I admire this 96 year old dignified WIZO lady. To this day she is still involved with WIZO.

Marla: Throughout my CHW leadership experience, three principles have continued to guide me—Zionism, volunteerism, and mentorship. I was raised in a Zionist home and learned quickly from my parents what it meant to be involved. My late mother, Donna Cipin, was a very active grassroots CHW member and one of my mentors. My father, Reuben, has proved to be a mentor as well, as during my youth, beyond his profession as a lawyer, he was also President of the Beth Shalom Synagogue in Edmonton. Today, at 82 he continues to advocate for many different causes. My involvement with CHW continues the tradition of Zionism, volunteerism, and mentorship that my parents fostered in my early years. Whether it has been at the chapter, centre, or national level, it has all been a truly rewarding experience.

What does WIZO mean to you today?

Marcia: The gifts I receive from being involved in WIZO are far greater than what I give. It is said that the most powerful way you influence your children is the way you live your life. My children know that through WIZO, I help people in need. My involvement in WIZO has brought Zionism and Israel into our home and I am truly grateful for that.

Bev: The greatness of WIZO is that women from so many different backgrounds, cultures and abilities come together with a common dream and together go on to achieve great things. WIZO continues to be a part of my life; I have visited Israel in a WIZO capacity seven times in the past ten years and continue to include WIZO in every trip I make to Israel. I always say that to see first-hand what WIZO in Israel does for families in their care is what makes one realize that what we do for WIZO so far away in Australia is truly worthwhile!

Marla: I am reminded of when I visited Israel in 1993. What struck me during my travels at that time, as a CHW member, was how much Israel had changed. It had been 14 years since I had visited Israel as a teenager, and the country had experienced immense growth in all aspects from infrastructure to social and cultural life. Since 1923, with the establishment of our first project, CHW Nahalal Youth Village, before the establishment of the State, and since that significant point in time, CHW has made and will continue to make a difference. We cannot overlook our seemingly small contributions, because in reality they have turned into one big difference that is engrained in the social and economic fabric of Israeli society. CHW is a part of that fabric.
Placing themselves in the expert and very caring hands of ‘Team WIZO’ - the World WIZO Organization and Education Department consisting of Sylvie, Ahuva, Briana and Raquel joined by ‘adopted team member’ World WIZO Tourist Department Vice Chair Janine Gelley, chaverot from 12 countries around the globe gathered at the Tel Aviv Hilton Hotel. The team had devised a programme for them designed to explore, explain and invigorate - a schedule that would maximize every moment of the seminar – and tick all the boxes on a collective WIZO wish list.

A Yearning for Learning

South African delegate Laurienne Baitz called it ‘a yearning for learning’ - and learn they did. Through interactive and entertaining presentations from consultant and trainer, Hamutal Gouri, strategic consultant Dr Ra’anana Gissin, and Ministry of Public Diplomacy and Diaspora Affairs instructor Adi Balderman, delegates became proficient in the art of effective persuasion using analogies and role-play. Speeches by Knesset Member Orit Zuaretz from the Kadima Party (herself an Aviv Seminar graduate) and Nina Shapiro from WIZO Israel’s Family Welfare Division were factual and enlightening and delegates were captivated by charismatic Avraham Infeld’s highly entertaining presentation on contemporary Judaism and Zionism.

World WIZO Public Relations Department Chair Brenda Katten gave a frank but heartfelt overview of the challenges confronting Israel today, Celia Michonik, chair of World WIZO Public Affairs and NGO Department imparted facts on WIZO’s role in the international arena, and World WIZO Fundraising Department Chair Esther Mor provided fundraising ideas. Summing up the seminar at the festive luncheon on the final day, Laurienne eloquently spoke of gifts, not just the trinkets, the T-shirts, the pins, the scarves and key rings but the gifts of imparted knowledge, shared experience and new friendships made and nurtured by each participant of the seminar.

We have seen Miracles

Laurienne said: By peeping through the keyhole into the lives of the people in WIZO programmes, of the recipients of WIZO’s aid and those who have dedicated their lives to help, we have seen miracles. Visiting the WIZO Multi-Purpose Day Care Centre in Tel Aviv’s Shapira neighbourhood, we witnessed the love surrounding needy children at risk, the wonderful facilities available to them and the infinite dedication of the care givers. At the Gina Fromer Shelter for Battered Women in Ashdod we were shaken to our souls by the atrocities suffered by the brave women, and we were overwhelmed by the dedication of the women who take care of them, their children and their needs. In Sderot, the miracle that is the Bruce and Ruth Rappaport Day Care Centre provides safety, support and therapy; we were amazed that a ‘bomb shelter’ could be that superb, positive sunny environment that it is. Visiting the ADI Centre for teenage girls in Beer Sheba brought us face to face with unfortunate girls and women who can now look forward to a more positive future by the endeavours of dedicated staff who are saving lives every single day. We could have been these women. Those girls could be our daughters...

The ‘Wow Factor’ was obvious as tomorrow’s flag-bearers of WIZO ran a gamut of emotion from immense pity and sadness to great joy and pride as they witnessed Israel through the eyes of WIZO. Visiting Jerusalem, these dynamic women, aged between 25 and 45 drank a l’chayim on Mount Herzl, soaked up the atmosphere at the Kotel and marvelled at a sound and light show depicting the history of Israel’s capital. At Yad Vashem, the WIZO Aviv heart ached for those murdered during the darkest period of our history. By sharp contrast, a visit to an IDF air force base underscored Israel’s prime position in technical prowess today, not least in its young, brave (and handsome!) defenders of the State. A dazzling performance from the talented song and dance troupe of the WIZO Nachalat Yehuda Youth Village lifted the spirits even further as delegates enjoyed the show, a delicious dinner, and a tour of the school where students proudly showed them around.

Through her speech, Laurienne echoed the feelings of all the 2010 International Aviv Seminar participants, telling her audience: the last and most important gift is that of new friendship. WIZO is as much about us as it is about the people we help. Our dynamic network of women is its arms, its legs, its heart and soul; the ones who make it possible for WIZO to help those in need. By reinforcing our bonds with each other and strengthening our networks back home, we hold the key to the continuity of WIZO. Now we must take these gifts home and share them with our sisters in our own countries.
The Gift of Caring

Another gift, perhaps the most precious of all – is the attendance of each Aviv participant at the seminar. There is a name for this gift. We call it ‘caring’. Aviv chaverot who care enough to leave home and family and travel miles to participate in the seminar represent a gift beyond jewels. That is Aviv’s gift to WIZO.

On the last day, as Sylvie and Ahuva congratulated all the delegates and presented them with their seminar certificates, WIZO Aviv’s newfound sisters posed for the cameras one last time before farewell hugs turned smiles into tearful goodbyes. I asked them to share a few thoughts with me. They were vociferous in their praise.

Sofia Stawski from Germany: It has been enriching to meet so many friendly, interesting women from different countries who all share a love for WIZO and the people of Israel. The seminar was productive for me and I value the compassionate way it has been organized. We have learned so much, and had lots of fun. We were inspired by the projects. The work carried out by WIZO in Israel, supported by donations from all over the world, is extraordinary. We still lack funds to make further improvements but that is something we are all ready to work on with renewed commitment and strength.

On her first visit to Israel, Colleen Mervis from South Africa told me, I am ‘blown away’ by Israel. How this little country achieves so much and how much WIZO does for the country. It is so inspiring and the seminar has been sensational. WIZO’s umbrella reaches far, thanks to the passionate women who do all this amazing work. For Michelle Nathan also from South Africa, it is her first time at an Aviv seminar. As Oprah Winfrey would say, a real ‘Aha!’ moment. Back home, I was doing the work without really understanding the connection. Now I do, and it is something I will keep with me. It strengthens my commitment to WIZO.

Israeli chavera Enbar Kahan enthused: To be with all these wonderful like-minded women is the best thing ever. Together we are a new force, with a new way of thinking and the ideas we take home from this seminar will help us make changes for the better. Orit Levin, also from Israel agreed wholeheartedly. I am so fulfilled, she told me. To be with women from all over the world who all do great things for Israel. Wow!

Sarah Goldberg from Houston, Texas, explained to me that WIZO was not very well-known in her community so she came to learn more about WIZO to help her in her fundraising effort. She said: After what I have seen, I have the tools to take home in order to raise funds and support the cause. This is my first time at an all-women’s conference and it really has been empowering. It is a sisterhood and we have sisters from all over the world now.

For Carla Fishbach from the USA, seeing how efficiently the projects operate and how wisely the money is spent is crucial: It gives us confidence in our work for WIZO, and the impetus to do more.

WIZO.uk delegates, Israeli-born Esther Levi-Lawrence & Ofra Raphael were extremely impressed: We really enjoyed this seminar. We have seen and done so much. There is a side to WIZO that we just did not realise, its work in the UN and hasbara effort. We recommend the Aviv Seminar to every WIZO chavera. The team was so patient and helpful and we were very impressed.

Lisa and Karen Bognar from Sydney, daughters-in-law of Rony Bognar, past Federal President of WIZO Australia, said: seeing the projects now as parents, we understand the importance of what we do and why we do it. The level of professionalism and the quality of care that we have seen is truly gratifying. The WIZO warmth is just unique. To see the incredible results of those dollars that we work so hard to raise is rewarding.

We will take this experience back to our federation to inspire other women to become involved.
Happy 90th!

Cyril & Leila

Julian & Sue

Avi & Tricia

Cat

Nick

Rick

we are nimans

the family...
Genesis

By Rebecca D. Sieff, President, World WIZO

In this extract from a special issue of WIZO Review published in 1960 to celebrate WIZO’s 40th anniversary, Rebecca Sieff traces the beginnings and ideals of the WIZO movement, and, on the opposite page, WIZO Review Assistant Editor Tricia Schwitzer reflects on the achievements of WIZO in the ninety years since its birth, and wonders how Rebecca would view the movement today.

If WIZO had never come into existence, the Jewish State would have been established, but it would have looked very different from the advanced, democratic and enlightened Israel of today in which the Jewish nation throughout the world takes such pride. The great Zionist leaders of forty years ago were concerned with politics and policies. It was their wives – Vera Weizmann, Edith Eder, Romana Goodman, Henrietta Irwell, and myself, among others – who saw the need for bringing into the Zionist movement the Jewish women of the world in order to do the real work involved in building up a new country and recreating a healthy nation to live in it. They came to the Palestine of that day – shortly after the Balfour Declaration was issued - and while their husbands occupied themselves with the great issues of the shape and form of the National Home, they confered with the women teachers, social workers, and agricultural pioneers in the country and they studied the practical needs of the Yishuv. They began at the bottom, with the problems of the welfare of children and the psychological liberation and vocational training of women to fit them for productive work and for homemaking and family building in the new era opening up for the Jewish world.

It was out of the dire need for a great international force of women workers, conscious of their duties and responsibilities, in the great hour of national redemption that the decision was taken to call the first international gathering in Zionist history of Jewish women to discuss the part of women in the reconstruction of Palestine. This conference took place on the 11th July, 1920, at the Russell Hotel in London, with delegates present from Great Britain, Germany, Holland and Poland, and guests from South Africa, American Hadassah, Russia and Palestine; and it was here that WIZO came into being.

The targets which we set ourselves are now well-known. They were neither visionary nor theoretical. Our goals were plain: to create social services for the wellbeing of mothers and children, and to raise the living, educational, social and professional standards of women, for the benefit of the family and the country.

Forty years have passed since then, years replete with vicissitudes, heartaches, the ugly horrors of war and Nazi persecution, the heroic struggle for Statehood, the triumph of Israel arms, and the rise and the expansion of the State of Israel. In all these ordeals WIZO has shared, and to these victories and achievements, the women of WIZO Israel and abroad have contributed their full share.

Looking back over the years, I think it may be said that WIZO has never at any time lost sight of the purposes for which it was founded. Many of these purposes have been fulfilled, and in some respects we have even overtaken our own targets. In the world at large, WIZO has been a great unifying factor. Today, 220,000 women are united in it, who are dedicated to the service of Israel, women, who without WIZO might have drifted away from Jewish life. In Israel there are 60,000 women joined in the mission which WIZO membership has imposed upon them.

In terms of concrete results there stands, for all to see, a great chain of agricultural and vocational schools, baby homes, children’s centres and villages, home industries’ shops, mending centres, advisory bureaux, hostels, women’s centres and girls’ clubs.

Today, perhaps the period of new big institutions may be over. The present need would seem to be more for penetrating into the fundamental life of the country by “work in the field,” through the establishment of more and more women’s centres, children’s crèches and youth clubs as the focal point of the entire community. So strong is WIZO now entrenched in the life of Israel, that we enjoy the cooperation not only of other organisations, but of the Government, the Municipalities, the Army and the Police.

Much of our success may be due to WIZO’s non-party character. Not being concerned with the interests of any political party, we have been able to concentrate on basic objects, and in a country where “ideologies” play so important a part, we have been concerned only with ideals.
Dear Becky,

It is human nature to seek the approval of our elders. From that very first crayon drawing that we thrust, wide-eyed, into our mothers’ hands when we skipped out of nursery schools as children to be met with a ‘well done, darling - how clever you are’, such affirmation spurs us on to do more, to reach further and to aim higher. So indulge us please, dear Becky, when we ask you, "How are we doing?"

Through your vision and steadfastness, you bequeathed a legacy of incalculable worth to the women and children of the State of Israel and in so doing, you placed upon the shoulders of your WIZO daughters and granddaughters, the huge responsibility of safekeeping such a precious gift. You entrusted us with the well-being of a nation.

Ninety years ago, when you stood up at the International Women’s Zionist Conference at the Russell Hotel in London, and brought your brainchild into being, could you have known how that first seed would flourish? When you rolled up your sleeves and said, “let the men get on with it and we’ll do the real work,” did you ever stop to analyze the weight of that declaration? No, you just got down and did it.

The Irish dramatist of the 17th century, George Fabricius said, ‘Death comes to all, but great achievements raise a monument, which shall endure until the sun grows old.’ But, dear Becky, the sun will never grow old, and like 250,000 WIZO chaverot in 50 federations around the world, it rises each morning and shines on the State of Israel.

Your legacy, in our hands and those of our daughters and granddaughters, places rainbows over the 52,000 plus children in WIZO’s day care centres, schools and youth villages, educating, nurturing and nourishing. Through a network of some 800 projects and services, WIZO supports, guides and encourages. WIZO affords mothers the opportunity to work knowing their children are in the safest of hands; WIZO gives those women the confidence and the tools to retrain and make their own difference in this world. In your image, thousands of women will not take the word ‘no’ for an answer in the workplace and in the home. WIZO throws its full weight against domestic violence, providing sanctuary and therapy to victims, and campaigns in government circles and on the ground against the inequality of women in the workplace. On a global scale, WIZO, as an NGO, has a powerful voice.

As pertinent as Fabricius’s words are, to call WIZO a monument conjures up visions of an immobile structure. Nothing could be further from the truth. Time, wars and circumstances have left scars that WIZO strives to eradicate from the face of the State of Israel. Progress, economic factors and mass aliyah command a heavy price, which WIZO pays every day, in every way. It constantly renovates, modernizes and re-establishes itself - mobilizing to overcome the challenges. Most importantly, WIZO does not rest on her laurels. You would never have allowed that. The organization you founded 90 years ago moves forever forward, it is in essence a movement.

Waiting to take up the gauntlet are the young and focussed Aviv members, committed Zionists whose passion for the State of Israel is matched by their desire to take WIZO into the future, to further evolve and perpetuate. With the betterment of Israeli society firmly as the goal, a whole generation gap is closed by women all over the world who join hearts with their sisters in Israel to volunteer for WIZO.

So, dear Becky, when we gaze upon your portrait hanging in WIZO headquarters all over the world, can we assume that behind that resolute persona, there lies a smile of approval?

With deep respect and affection,

Tricia Schwitzer
Preparing an educational programme for school students about WIZO was not an easy task because our students tend to associate WIZO with the ladies who come once in a while to visit their schools. They know nothing about the history, heritage and vision of WIZO and my task was to teach them about it in a more visual and interactive manner," explains Dr. Noa Zion, a former principal of WIZO Nahalal Youth Village, and the person behind the WIZO heritage educational programme, which will be launched this April throughout WIZO’s network of schools in honour of WIZO’s 90th anniversary.

"The vision behind the programme belongs to Ruth Rubinstein, chairperson of World WIZO’s Education Division. She felt that students who study at WIZO schools should know something about the organization and its history. Her original aim was for students to remember at least five facts about WIZO, but I believe that with my system they will remember much more," she states.

The new educational programme developed by Dr Zion is designed to give the students some knowledge about the history of the organization represented by these four words: Women’s International Zionist Organization - which are meaningless to most of them. In order to get their attention and make the learning process more enjoyable and effective Dr Zion realized it would have to take the form of a game and be based on active learning.

"Active learning
Children like to be active, and research has also shown that active learning is much more effective than passive learning. When teaching children it is important to activate all five senses. Therefore I have developed a game that will be attractive for the students and will demand their active participation. Another important aspect is the fact that it teaches the students about WIZO through the lives of three important women. One cannot be touched by historical events but can identify with people. Therefore I have taken three women whose life and work represent the values and spirit of WIZO. Each one was given a different colour that represents the nature of their activity. Rebecca Sieff, who is the founder of WIZO, stands for organization, funding and leadership and her colour is red. Hannah Meisel Shochat represents agricultural activity and education for women and her colour is green. Dr Helena Kagan represents helping children and involvement in the community and her colour is yellow. The colour pink represents WIZO’s activities for women in general."

Three remarkable women
One common characteristic of these three remarkable women is their willingness to make personal sacrifices and dedicate themselves to the wellbeing of the community. Looking at the elegant Rebecca Sieff pictured with her fellow WIZO friends in Palestine at the cornerstone ceremony of a WIZO project in 1930 you realize the great gap between the life she could have led and the life she chose for herself. Sieff was born in 1890 in Leeds, England, into a very wealthy family that came to their wealth as the founders of the famous British retailer Marks & Spencer. She could have led a comfortable and carefree life but from a very early age she
was both a Zionist and a feminist and she also had a talent to organize people around her. At the young age of 20 she joins a Jewish women's organization and becomes an active member of the Zionist movement in Britain. Later on she will assist Jewish refugees that fled from Poland during the First World War and eventually establish WIZO in 1920.

Hannah Meisel-Shochat, born in 1883 in Grodna, Russia to a family of 12 children, joins the Zionist movement in her youth and is even elected in 1905 to represent her party at the World Jewish Congress in Basel. Being a Zionist she understands that the connection between the Jewish people and its homeland goes through the land and decides to study agriculture. Meisel-Shochat excels in her studies and achieves her doctorate at the age of 26 but instead of continuing her academic career she chooses to go to Palestine, where she establishes an agricultural farm for women. The third woman represented in the game is Dr Helena Kagan, born in 1888 in Russia. Dr Kagan also chose the interest of the Jewish people over her own. Even though she could have led a successful academic career in research as a doctor she chooses to come to Palestine with her mother and work in horrible conditions in order to help the sick and poor Jewish and non-Jewish residents of Jerusalem.

These three exceptional women were chosen by Dr Zion because their lives are a living example of the values and vision of WIZO – working for the benefit of the community, Zionism and empowerment of women.

Three stages of activity

Before coming up with this programme Dr Zion tried another teaching method – the method of the three dilemmas. The students were given three brochures with each brochure representing a different dilemma and hardship which WIZO women had to tackle - they had to discuss the historical events and the way these dilemmas were solved. However, this method failed since the students didn't remember any of the facts they had learnt at the end of the process. This was the reason for the invention of the game accompanied by two other activities that complement each other.

The students are first introduced to the wide range of WIZO's activities with the help of the "time-line", a learning device developed by Dr Zion. An enlarged time-line starting from 1920, when WIZO was founded, ending in 2010 (and the future) will be spread out on the blackboard and the students will have to place cards with major WIZO events on the time-line. The cards include events such as the establishing of the first child care centre in Jerusalem, the establishment of women's shelters, WIZO's legal bureaus and agricultural courses for women. Each one of the cards is coloured according to the nature of the activity - organization and funding in red, agricultural activities in green, community service and children in yellow and women related activities in pink.

"In this way the students learn all about WIZO's activities and they can also relate it to the historical background. The students are asked to present a question or a theme that can relate to these events. Then another section of the time-line is hung with the missing years previous to the foundation of WIZO and the students need to figure out the reasons and events that led to the establishment of WIZO by Rebecca Sieff.

I have also prepared a personal time-line for each one of the women and when we see what happened in their lives we can understand the development of the organization. For example, Rebecca Sieff was affected by the feminist movement in England that fought for achieving voting rights for women. She was also a Zionist but when she realized that women were not being treated seriously by the Zionist movement she decided to establish an organization for Zionist women that would address issues related to women. Their first initiative was to help the poor women and children who lived in horrible conditions in post-1st World War Palestine.

"The work with the time-line and the personal time-line of the three women teaches the students about WIZO's wide range of activities and the fact that they started from nothing and were always ahead of their time. When WIZO was founded, women had no rights but this organization was always working for the empowerment of women. When Dr Helena Kagan came to Palestine when the Turks were in power, she was not allowed to practice medicine even though she was an excellent doctor. At that time, the Turks did not allow women to study medicine and therefore she couldn't even take the tests to enable her to practice her profession. Despite that fact, she remained in Jerusalem and worked in the worst conditions. Later on, she established the first children's hospital and mother's health care clinics. I feel that when the students learn about the life and endeavours of these three women it will help them identify with the cause of WIZO," concludes Dr Zion.

The game is intended to be the highlight of the day. It is played by three players (or three couples) with each player representing one of the three women. It is similar to the famous Monopoly game, only here every station in the game relates to a different action or enterprise performed by the women. There are surprises, but instead of money the students get 'volunteering hours': Dr Zion is confident that the project will be a success, and the students of WIZO will not only learn about the organization but also enjoy the process and most importantly will remember something - at least five facts.

Editor's note: We will follow the progress of this project and report on its implementation in upcoming issues of WIZO Review.

Personal Time-Line

Personal Time-Line is a learning device developed by Dr Zion. It is a way of introducing students to the wide range of WIZO's activities and their development over time. The time-line is a visual representation of WIZO's history, starting from its establishment in 1920 and extending to the present day. It includes major events and milestones in WIZO's history, such as the founding of WIZO in 1920, the establishment of WIZO's first children's hospital in 1926, and the establishment of WIZO's agricultural courses in 1928.

The time-line is divided into sections, each representing a different decade or period in WIZO's history. Each section includes a series of cards, each representing a major event or achievement in WIZO's history. The cards are arranged in chronological order, with the earliest events at the beginning of the time-line and the most recent events at the end.

The cards are color-coded to represent different categories of WIZO's activities, such as education, health care, social services, and cultural activities. The cards also contain brief descriptions of each event, which students can read and learn from.

The time-line is an interactive learning tool, allowing students to engage with the material and learn about WIZO's history in a fun and engaging way. Dr Zion believes that this approach will help students understand the development of the organization and its impact on Jewish women and their communities.
WR Interview

Proud to be Part of the Worldwide WIZO Family

WIZO tradition has it that the chairman of the ‘mother federation’ wizo.uk, always does the summing up of the annual Meeting of Representatives and the International Conference. In recent years we have been enthralled by the succinct and humorous, yet serious and to the point summations of WIZO.uk’s current chairman Loraine Warren. In this interview, Loraine tells WR about her personal background and how she confronts the challenges facing WIZO.uk in the 21st century

Ingrid Rockberger

Loraine, tell us something about your WIZO career and what made you devote so much time to the organization?

Unusually for people who have held positions of responsibility within WIZO.uk I do not come from a WIZO family; in fact I am the first WIZO member of my family and I joined WIZO for rather selfish reasons initially because 25 years ago, to ensure your children had a place at the WIZO summer camp you had to be a fully paid up member. So I duly paid my 50 pence per child and the rest as they say...is history.

The first WIZO group I belonged to was based in Stanmore (NW London) called Zahava. I then moved to Northwood and was a founder member and Chairman of Cardo WIZO which twenty years ago was a strong and flourishing group which raised significant funds from an enthusiastic membership of 100 young married women. It was at this time that I became the group’s representative on the Aviv Council and from there joined the WIZO.uk Executive serving as co-chairman of fundraising. I was then privileged to serve as Hon Secretary for two outstanding Chairmen, Sarah Glyn and Michele Vogel.

One of the most important factors in a federation is its continuity. How are you attracting the busy young working woman of today to volunteer and stay committed to WIZO and Israel?

It became apparent to the Executive of WIZO.uk that if we were going to attract young women into leadership roles, we would first have to employ a woman who fitted that description and have her devote her time to infuse and recruit like-minded young women. It took us a decade and many attempts to actually find the right person for this difficult job but we think this time we have got it right. We have also taken the decision to sponsor Aviv women to attend the Seminar and be part of the EGM delegation so they can see for themselves the power and enthusiasm that is generated by WIZO women from around the globe. We also have special functions geared to the working woman, such as Business Breakfasts in a central London venue.

How is WIZO.uk using 21st century technology as fundraising and membership recruitment aids?

We endeavour to contact as many of our members as possible by email which obviously is cost saving, quick and easy. We market Aviv and Young WIZO events and sell tickets via facebook, twitter and on line. We have an on line donation facility and we are currently updating and improving our website.

Do you feel it is important for members to visit Israel and see the projects they are supporting? How do you encourage this?

Our WIZO.uk motto is ‘seeing is believing’ and we try to run tours annually aimed at various age groups including a legacy mission, and we also encourage as many people as possible to visit a project when they are visiting Israel.

Many charities organise sponsored events. However, it was my plan to run a sponsored event that not only was a fundraiser, but also gave our younger Aviv members a chance to be “hands on” working and renovating a centre. It took several years for this embryonic idea to come to fruition.
However, I can honestly say, that of everything I have done within WIZO, I am most proud of my Aviv Challenge concept and its success.

In the spring of 2010, 20 UK Aviv women and one representative from WIZO Germany spent five days volunteering at the Rebecca Sieff Centre in Jerusalem. The group also had the opportunity to visit other WIZO projects during their trip. They were hosted by WIZO Germany at their Beit Heuss project, which although is not a five-star hotel, treated the group like royalty and made them feel very special. The response and enthusiasm was amazing and we are already working on The Challenge for 2011.

What is the situation today with the Jewish community in the UK?

The demography of the Jewish community in the UK is changing; the regional communities are dramatically shrinking as the young people gravitate towards London when they finish university. Our loyal WIZO groups in the regions which have been the mainstay of our fundraising for so many decades now struggle with advancing years and diminishing incomes.

How is the community coping with anti-Semitic threats and incidents? Are the intermarriage statistics high?

We are all aware of and alert to anti-Semitism in general and localized anti-Semitic incidents, and there are many community programmes geared particularly to children attending Jewish schools and Jewish students on university and college campuses. There has been a large increase in intermarriage over the past few decades, as in all Jewish communities outside Israel. Generally the Jewish population in the UK is decreasing, due to smaller families, intermarriage and emigration. This of course impacts on our work for WIZO.

Tell us something about your personal background, life before WIZO, your family.

I am proud to be the mother of three great children and the grandma to seven grandchildren aged six and under and I am sure (and hope) that total will rise. I gave up my career as a buyer for a retail chain when my daughter was born and was proud to be a ‘stay at home’ mother and I hope a good ‘company wife’. Fortunately, this situation gave me the flexibility to try several other work ventures but I did not feel truly fulfilled until my WIZO career started. I wish that more women understood how rewarding volunteering can be, especially a WIZO volunteer with its international recognition and opportunities. It is really wonderful to be part of a ‘worldwide family’ of like-minded women.

Is there any message you would like to give the readers of WIZO Review?

People often ask me if I get embarrassed or tired of standing up and asking for money for WIZO.

It is not easy to stand up but what is easy is to know the difference that by doing so can open people’s wallets to donate at every event. I am only the conduit between my members and supporters, and an underprivileged child somewhere in Israel – a child who needs our help.

I have no doubt that the investment we make today in the poorest kids to give them an education and a better life is an investment in Israel’s security and future.

Loraine Warren (l) and Tova Ben Dov become wall plasterers at the 2010 Aviv Challenge

Loraine has hands-on experience in a WIZO day care centre
Out in Sunnyside, where men are men and women belong to WIZO, we males have banded together under the banner of The Loyal Order of WIZO Husbands. We prefer our organization to be known by its initials (L.O.W.H.) for are we not as worthy as the Z.O.C. and the J.N.F?

Inspired by knightly chivalry akin to courtiers of King Arthur, we, of the L.O.W.H., take up the solemn pledge. “Not by look, not by scowl, not by grimace, not by utterance will we keep our worthy spouses from their appointed rounds.”

As I look back at my induction into the L.O.W.H, I recall the day I forgot my treasured fountain pen at home. Many years of association had endeared it to me. I decided to phone home to be sure that only loving hands should care for it.

At 9.15 a.m. I asked my secretary to get my wife on the wire. At 12.30 p.m. she said she had to go out to lunch with her boyfriend. He gets so impatient.

“Wait till he marries you – he’ll learn!” I bellowed.

So, with stout heart I took up the task. The line was constantly busy. I gave up. I knew the reason, of course. WIZO had scheduled a meeting for the following evening. My wife was calling every lady in town to remind her.

At 1.45 p.m. I called the Telegraph Company and dictated a three-word telegram: ‘I give up.’ That should fetch her. Indeed it did. At 3.45 p.m. the anxious, loving voice of my life companion came floating over the wire.

“Darling,” she said, “what is it? Your telegram had me worried. What do you give up?”

“Hope!” I answered with a doleful sigh.

“Hope?” A light note of alarm was creeping into her dulcet voice.

“Hope,” I repeated.

“That reminds me,” said my wife. “I must call Hope Levine. She said she might join if...”

I dialled my home number to apologize. The line was, of course, busy. My beloved, no doubt, was calling Hope Levine.

They might tell me that my language that evening did not befit a gentleman.

That was only a few years ago. Today I am a member of the L.O.W.H., a charter member, if you please.

Mine was not the only case of ‘irritabilitas conjugalis’. The disease had attacked all the Sunnyside husbands of WIZO Wives. It was decided to adopt a psychoanalytical approach to the problem. ‘Cherchez le complexe! The poor men were suffering from submersion of the Ego. How can there be ‘amour’ without ‘amour propre’?

Yet the women went to work. ‘Cherchez le complexe?’ No. ‘Cherchez la femme!’ They first invited us to carry the chairs to the meetings. They needed our brawn. There were not enough chairs at any one home and chair carrying was no task for a woman. Once the chairs were delivered, they had to be returned so one might as well wait and hear what goes on at the meeting. We soon learned what WIZO was doing. Much against our wishes, we became impressed.

When the ‘Epic of WIZO’ was booked for production, several of us undertook to work the lights. What does a mere woman know about electricity? From lights to a part in the play was a short step. We fell for it. The ladies included Jewish current events in the meetings. Who, but a man with wide contacts in important affairs, could properly interpret world news? We were flattered! They wanted our brains as well as our brawn! After the first WIZO Husbands had reviewed the Jewish happenings, the next issue of the Sunnyside News reported the story under the headline:

LOCAL BOY MAKES GOOD.
Plain, ordinary chair-carrier rises to WIZO Current Events Reporter.

Well, the rest has been easy. The husbands now vie with each other for the privilege of being the WIZO Current Events Reporter. They’ve won us! They’ve tamed us! Peace and love reign again in Sunnyside, as the Men’s Auxiliary of WIZO prepares to carry its important burden... of chairs! All of us now come to meetings; we tender our advice; we no longer explode. And each member of the L.O.W.H., when he takes the pledge of fealty to the organization, repeats the much heralded slogan:

“My only regret is that I have but one wife to give to WIZO!”

The writer of this article, the husband of a member of Canadian Hadassah WIZO, preferred to remain anonymous.
Proud supporters of WIZO

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FOR CONTINUED GOOD WORK WIZO!

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World War II had vastly increased the importance of women, and also of WIZO. Not only did women replace men in many civilian jobs, but complete spheres of activity were handled solely by women. WIZO's role was increasing in a wide range of public duties, and as early as 1946, women of the WIZO Executive in Palestine felt that the time had come for official recognition through representation in the world Zionist movement. Despite numerous appeals and applications, their requests were either ignored or rejected as impracticable. The World Zionist Organization consisted of political parties, and there was nowhere that WIZO could fit into this structure. In an article discussing the 'Evolution of WIZO Concepts' in the WIZO Review of December 1946 Olga Olman writes: “Although the WIZO constitution states that it is to ‘exert effective influence in all the counsels of the World Zionist Organization’, in effect, 26 years after its creation its influence has not attained a status of real consequence. Wherever WIZO is represented, it has no vote. Not being a party, and not having a separate list, its members have no means of direct representation at [World Zionist] Congress; they can only express themselves through the various parties.” Rebecca Sieff continued the battle for many years, until, finally, World Zionist Organization President Nahum Goldmann invited her to attend the Plenary sessions ‘as a representative of British Jewry.’

The fight for voting rights
When, due to ill health, Sieff resigned as WIZO president in 1964, Raya Jaglom, then Chairman of the World WIZO Executive, took up the cudgel and asked then WZO Chairman Moshe Sharet to allow the new WIZO President Rosa Ginosar to take Rebecca's place. Sharet refused, and, as Raya describes in her autobiography, "For me this was not the end of the story but the beginning." Eventually, thanks to Raya, the Constitution of the World Zionist Organization was changed to read: “any Zionist Organization that has not less than 150,000 members, and is active in not less than 20 countries, can be a member of the World Zionist Organization.” Starting with six non-voting seats on the Zionist Congress and a place for Raya on the Zionist Executive as a non-voting member, a position she held for 33 years, Raya continued to pressure and cajole successive World Zionist Organization chairmen until WIZO attained more seats and voting rights on the various Zionist bodies. Since then, the president of World WIZO has always been a member of the Zionist Executive.

Major changes
Current World WIZO President Helena Glaser continues the story and explains the major changes which have recently taken place within the Zionist movement: “The major change that has occurred is that the Jewish Agency and the Zionist Movement [World Zionist Organization] have separated. For many years the chairman of the Jewish Agency was also the chairman of the WZO, likewise the Treasurer and other key positions. Today the Zionist movement has 50% representation in the Jewish Agency Assembly, 30% are the United Jewish Communities and 20% the United Israel Appeal; therefore when they have their assembly 50% are the Zionists and 50% are the ‘others’ - the Jewish organizations and the American Jewish Federations. This was the first time that when the chairman was elected he was elected only for the Zionist movement – this was the first big change.

Democratic representation
Secondly, over the years, other organizations joined and were sitting round the executive table without a right to vote. I thought this was wrong; it was not democratic.

I was instrumental in uniting all the organizations so that each one would have a vote; eventually the Constitution was changed and this was passed in the Zionist Council one year before the Congress. The importance of these meetings is that, sitting around the Executive table are representatives of the entire Jewish world: the political parties, the religious streams and the international Zionist organizations, such as WIZO. The leaders and the officers used to be allocated to members of the Israeli political parties, by party agreement according to their strength in the current Israeli parliament. Appointments for the organizations and other members were allocated by negotiation and agreements that were in
place. WIZO had a special status and a vote, thanks to Raya’s agreements, which the other organizations did not. Later on, Hadassah also received a special status.

WIZO leads the way
In the name of WIZO, I was proud to be able to lead this historical change. At the Congress in June 2010 there were negotiations over positions. The decision was made that we – the organizations – would put forward a candidate for the chairman of the Zionist Council because it is a non-paid position and it is second in line to the Chairman of the Executive. The other organizations decided that I should be the one to stand, as they thought that I had the greatest chance of being elected.

Across the board support
Although I had the unbelievable support of all the organizations, I was convinced I would not be elected because this is normally a political position. However, I thought the process would be a good exercise. There were a few other nominees, but as the parties realized their candidates would probably lose the election because of split votes, one by one they withdrew their nominations. In the end I was elected unanimously.

I must stress that this is the first time that an organization has such an important position. Normally it is a party position or someone from a religious stream, but always by political agreements, and now, for the first time an organization has this position, and the organization is WIZO and it is the first time a woman has been elected.

As I am now chairperson of the General Council and of the Praesidium, Chairperson of the World WIZO Executive Tova Ben Dov was appointed to be a member of the Zionist Executive in my place, and WIZO Israel Chairperson Yochy Feller a member of the Praesidium.

Statutory future women’s representation
The next thing that occurred was that I proposed a resolution that 30% of all delegations to the Congress should be women. The chairman of the Executive said he would put it forward as a proposal from the Executive, which made it much stronger. We voted, and it passed – thanks to the incredible support of the young people, most of who voted in favour. This means that at the next Congress, each delegation will have to have 30% women.

All this has done a tremendous amount for WIZO’s prestige, and I must stress the solidarity of all the other organizations (Hadassah, Naamat, Emunah, Bnai Brith, Maccabi, World Union of Jewish Students (WUJS), the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America (OU) and the Sephardic Movement) was also very significant.

In conclusion I must reiterate how proud I felt to be representing WIZO in bringing about these important changes in the World Zionist Movement.
For 90 years, WIZO has contributed to Israeli society and the Jewish people.

We are proud to be partners with you in our joint efforts to make Israel a better place to live.

Congratulations!

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The sky’s the limit when it comes to the generosity of WIZO’s major donors. We give thanks to the following donors from around the world:

Donor Profile: Lady Beryl Steinberg of Manchester

For many years, Lady Steinberg successfully chaired the Manchester WIZO Council, as well as the North Cheshire WIZO Group. This small yet powerful group has raised substantial funds since its inception. Lady Steinberg has graciously hosted several “Sponsor a Child” Luncheons, a program that provides for children’s needs throughout the year, including food, clothing, and school supplies. Lady Steinberg also has plans to host another WIZO luncheon later this year. Her fantastic and welcoming events attract many guests and are very successful in raising much needed funds for WIZO. WIZO has benefited from the generosity of Lord and Lady Beryl Steinberg of WIZO United Kingdom. Together they have contributed to WIZO projects, the most recent of which was in June 2009: the renovation and refurbishment of WIZO Nahalal’s dining room. Sadly, Lord Steinberg passed away suddenly in November of 2009, and WIZO will be forever grateful for his generosity. His wife, Lady Beryl Steinberg, continues to work fervently for the wellbeing of the women and children of Israel. Lady Steinberg is a powerful advocate for WIZO and a leader in fundraising. Her hard work and dedication to the WIZO family has brought life-changing services and facilities to youth all over Israel. She has always made Israel her priority and continues to be an active member today, and for that WIZO is eternally grateful.
The World WIZO Organization and Education Department is behind every WIZO seminar and conference, and provides educational and membership tools to the federations; here’s a ‘behind the scenes’ look at its work and the personalities in the department

Tricia Schwitzer

When the young Sylvie Pelossof skipped into meetings at WIZO headquarters straight from the tennis courts still wearing her tennis whites, “the older ladies looked me up and down and I could tell they were thinking what could I possibly have to say, but they listened and had the wisdom to allow me to prove myself.” That was back in the 1980s, when Sylvie’s innovative fundraising idea raised eyebrows. “But, they let me handle it, it was a success and that spurred me on to aim even higher.” Moroccan-born Sylvie grew up in Madrid, the daughter of a WIZO volunteer. “I remember those elegant WIZO teas when the ladies brought with them the fanciest cakes that they knew how to bake. Everyone volunteered for WIZO. It was only natural that I, too, would volunteer.”

After spending five years in the USA where Sylvie volunteered for Hadassah, she and her husband, Avi, immigrated to Israel in 1973. Quickly establishing herself as a key player in WIZO’s volunteer efforts, Sylvie rose through the ranks from local group chairperson to WIZO Tel Aviv Fundraising Department chair, where she gained much of her vast experience in organizing large events. After this, she became vice-chairperson of the fundraising department of WIZO Israel. After two terms as World WIZO Tourist Department Chairperson, Sylvie was elected chairperson of World WIZO Organization and Education Department. She is in her second term of office.

Team WIZO

“I am so fortunate to have the best team with Ahuva, Briana and Raquel,” Sylvie told me. Executive Director Ahuva Koren said, “Call us Team WIZO because that is what we are. There is no hierarchy here. We all bring our own qualities to the job but we are not territorial about what we do. Our strength is in organization and we are very resourceful. We provide the federations with whatever they need in order to strengthen their mission both in numbers and in resolve.”

Team WIZO has good rapport with chaverot abroad because Sylvie, Briana and Raquel were all once new immigrants and Ahuva lived for many years in the USA while her husband was working there. It was there that Ahuva first came into contact with WIZO volunteers and has remained firm friends with many of them. Passionate about her work for WIZO, Ahuva, who has two Master’s Degrees, one in Middle Eastern Studies and one in Alternative Dispute Resolution, was once the principal of a junior high school in Tel Aviv. She told me, “We ascribe to the notion that WIZO is a movement, and as such it constantly moves with the times. WIZO must go forward.”

Sylvie introduced Briana Simon as the department’s creative writer. American-born Briana has a Master’s Degree in Creative Writing and volunteers as a medical clown in her spare time. She explained, “We come from different countries, different cultures. Our worldview and viewpoints reflect our background. It is the same for the chaverot in Israel and abroad who are dedicated to WIZO. Both Sylvie and Ahuva have a great affinity with them. “Sylvie is popular wherever she goes, because she empathizes with them, and knows what they need – and she gives it to them. Raquel has been in Israel long enough to understand what goes on here and abroad. We all think differently but work together. Sometimes we disagree, but we agree to disagree and it makes for a productive team.”

Raquel Dar, whose mother is also a WIZO volunteer, emigrated from Uruguay. She has a BA in Sociology, Anthropology and Latin American Studies as well as a
university diploma in translation and interpretation. She also has a special interest in genealogy. The team is fluent in English, French, Spanish, Hebrew and Yiddish.

Membership is the lifeblood of WIZO
The focus of the department is squarely on the 250,000 plus WIZO chaverot in some 50 federations around the world and here in Israel. As Sylvie explained, “We are more than just a link with chaverot; we effectively hold their hands with encouragement and support. We give them the tools to make and maintain new members. We run membership campaigns, assist federations in organizing their own seminars, send out material on various topics and organize speakers and workshops. Membership is the lifeblood of our movement. I believe that at every fundraising, social or cultural event where members come with their friends, those women should be encouraged to sign up. The more members we have, the stronger our voice becomes in global forums. It is essential. In the World Jewish Congress, for example, WIZO’s representation is on a par with that of the major political parties. We have excellent relations with all the federations and are in touch with them constantly. They send us reports on their membership events and we share these with other federations. That way, we learn from one another. The department database is constantly being updated with contact details of the members as well as statistics and structure of all the worldwide federations. The information, which is shared with other departments, is vital to our work.”

Membership and Educational Tools
The department distributes a manual for use in workshops, which can be adapted according to the needs of the federation. There are also two first-rate educational publications available to download from the WIZO website in English, French and Spanish. The Lapid newsletter goes online three times a year, with interesting information on Zionism, Jewish identity, people and places and positive news from Israel as well as membership recruitment tips and tricks. Briana compiles the newsletters, as well as the Bible Day Booklet, and writes excellent guidelines on how to use it. Many federations worldwide use it as the basis for regular meetings and workshops, incorporating its topics such as, ‘The WIZO Landscape: People and Places from Biblical Times to the Present’ and ‘Cycles of Strength: Jewish Customs and the Jewish Life Cycle’ into their educational and cultural curriculum.

Seminars and Conferences
Each year the team organizes WIZO’s Meeting of Representatives (MOR) in January, and two five-day international seminars; the Lapid Seminar running alongside the MOR is for members aged 46 and over, encouraging them to take on leadership positions within their federations, and the Aviv Seminar for WIZO’s younger women which takes place in November. In addition, the department has played a major role in WIZO’s 90th anniversary celebrations. In the planning of these major conventions, no detail is overlooked; there is a contingency plan for everything from A to Z.

Those wonderful Aviv girls
“We spend weeks and weeks preparing for the Aviv Seminars,” says Sylvie. “We move mountains and we work on adrenalin but it is the most satisfying thing we can do. To see those young women who are so passionate about WIZO, who want to give their time and efforts to our movement - to know that we are investing in their Jewishness, their Zionism. It is not just about WIZO, it is more than that. They come and they see WIZO in a different light. Through them, we really are investing in the future. Before and after the Aviv Seminar I am always on a high. It keeps me young and is the best anti-aging treatment a woman can get. I am always mindful of their needs. Aviv girls do not want to be the future of the movement; they want to be the present. We have to give these wonderful young women a chance to prove themselves now, just as I had. Let’s go forward. It’s time for change.” (see Aviv Seminar report on page 28)

Knowledge through education, awareness through communication epitomizes the work of the World WIZO Organization and Education Department whose ethos is woven into the vibrant tapestry of the movement.

“It’s not just about raising funds; it is also about raising awareness. It goes hand in hand, it’s integral and it is crucial,” concludes Sylvie Pelossof.

“Whenever I need a resource, or to be pointed in the right direction; the World WIZO Organization and Education Department always provides that helping hand with so many ideas and so much information – and they organize the most wonderful WIZO Aviv Seminars every year where we always learn something different and special.”

Vicky Fidanque, WIZO Aviv Representative to the World WIZO Executive
Women’s footprints in the sands of Tel Aviv

Painstaking research went into the production of this article, which shows that as early as the 1920s WIZO women were teaching the women of Israel home economics and how to be self-sufficient by growing their own vegetables – in the sand dunes of Tel Aviv

Raquel Dar

Under the surface of 100-year-old Tel Aviv the first footprints of the WIZO movement, which flourished there when the city was in diapers, are concealed. To discover these footprints is no easy task. Ninety years after WIZO’s founding is long enough to look back with yearning at the footprints that we left, at the time when Tel Aviv was a single shack on the beach.

Why Tel Aviv?

Most of the activities of WIZO in Eretz Israel were focused on Tel Aviv, while in Jerusalem and Haifa, branches of another women’s organization (the National Organization) were active. From a total of 155,000 new immigrants who reached the country from 1918, when the British army conquered Eretz Israel until 1934, when Tel Aviv officially became a city - 120,000 (80%) went to the city. Of these, about half chose to live in Tel Aviv. The population of the city grew to 36 times its size in a period of 13 years – a unique phenomenon not only in Eretz Israel, but in the entire world.

How did it all start?

History tells about three women – Rebecca, Vera, and Edith – who toured Eretz Israel in October and November of 1919, and about what they saw and what they decided to do in order to improve the lot of the women and their children. Upon their return to London, Rebecca Sieff and Vera Weizmann met Hannah Maisel-Shochat, who shared her dream of establishing an agricultural school for girls with them. On her return to Eretz Israel, she met Edith Eder (who remained there until 1921) and persuaded her to lend her support.

The pioneers, who arrived at that time at the beginning of the Third Aliyah, ate in the workers’ kitchens, in which the food was neither tasty nor inexpensive. In October 1920, the 'Young Worker' movement turned to Hannah Maisel-Shochat with a request that she manage their kitchen. She agreed, on condition that alongside the kitchen, cooking courses would be opened under her management. With the outbreak of hostilities in Jaffa in 1921, the Young Workers’ Kitchen at 32 Nachlat Benyamin Street was the only one that was operative.
Nachlat Benyamin Street was the main street of the neighbourhood of the same name, established in 1911. A year later, the neighbourhood became part of Tel Aviv and as a result, its growth accelerated. During the first years after the First World War, gardens that had been planted in front of homes were uprooted, stores and workshops were constructed, and the street became the main commercial thoroughfare of the city. The street, since it was long and straight, was used for ceremonies and other events.

**WIZO’s first cooking courses**

The large number of diners who ate at the kitchen interfered with the implementation of the cooking courses. At Hannah’s initiative, WIZO established an additional kitchen in which, alongside the kitchen, cooking courses also took place. The temporary kitchen consisted of two large tents, a large shack that served as a dining room, and a small shed that was a storeroom for supplies. Along with the workers, honoured personages dined there such as Chaim and Vera Weizmann, Chaim Nahman Bialik, and A.D. Gordon. The students from both cooking courses lived in a building rented by WIZO from the beginning of 1922, a house with 15 rooms at 12 Allenby Street. They also took academic courses in the building. Later it became the Balfouria Hotel. In May 1923, with the opening of the Hostel (see below), the temporary kitchen was closed. In 1927, when the continued existence of the workers’ kitchen on Nachlat Benyamin Street was in danger, Henrietta Irwell, the representative of WIZO London’s Executive Committee in Eretz Israel, purchased the kitchen and it became the sole property of WIZO.

**School for Home Economics and Agriculture**

Hannah Maisel-Shochat fulfilled her desire to develop courses and work in the spheres of agriculture when on January 1, 1922 WIZO purchased a plot of seven and a half dunams (nearly two acres) of land for the building of a ‘Hostel’ near the Chlenov neighbourhood in Tel Aviv – today’s Ha’Aliyah Street. WIZO’s original plan changed, and instead of building a hostel for new immigrant women, a ‘School for Home Economics and Agriculture’ was constructed. In February 1923 the lovely two-storey house was dedicated. It included dormitory rooms, a kitchen, a laundry, a guest room and all the necessary accessories for the study of home economics. The ancient palm trees were preserved, and they can be seen to this day. In front of the building a flower garden was planted, and in the back a rather large area remained for studies in the “yard farming” sector of agriculture: vegetable gardens, chicken coops and beehives. Not too many years passed before conditions changed. The hostel at 26 Ha’Aliyah Street, which had been surrounded by orchards, found itself in the heart of a bustling commercial district. In 1935, WIZO transferred the institution to the Nachlat Yitzhak neighbourhood.

Chlenov was a workers’ district that was built starting in 1922 along Hagdud Ha’ivri and Peretz Streets, on the site of an Arab orchard that had been neglected during the First World War and was sold to Jews after the war. In its western
came to the conclusion that WIZO activities in Eretz Israel and Anita Müller Cohen, a member of WIZO Austria. They Henrietta Irwell, member of the Executive in WIZO in London, the establishment of an organization in Eretz Israel were known as the “National Organization”. Those who initiated on a personal basis. Only in 1927 did WIZO women in Eretz Allenby Street. The activity was unorganized and took place established by Fanny Ginsberg and met in her apartment In Tel Aviv there was a WIZO group active from 1921 that was Organization sponsored by WIZO New Zealand.

The Tipat Halav (Well Baby Clinic)
The idea of Tipat Halav (Well Baby Clinic; literally, a Drop of Milk), which was accepted throughout the world, was raised by the Zionist Organization. WIZO sent two British nurses on a three-month course, and at its end the nurses were sent to the Neveh Shalem neighbourhood in Tel Aviv where in 1922 WIZO’s first Tipat Halav center was opened. The Neveh Shalem neighbourhood was built in 1890, three years after Neveh Tzedek. It was one of Tel Aviv’s first neighbourhoods. During the same period, neighbourhoods were built in order to ‘come out from behind the walls’, as in Jerusalem. This was proof that it was possible to establish districts at some distance from the city, inexpensively and with comfortable payment conditions. Neveh Shalem is located southwest of Neveh Tzedek, between Barnett and Chelouche Streets.

The population of the district was composed of women from the old Jewish settlement who had no knowledge of the rules of modern hygiene, which brought about a high infant mortality rate; and of young women from the new Jewish settlement who had difficulties with motherhood. Tipat Halav became the address for assistance. It was necessary to gain the trust of the mothers from the old Jewish settlement, who avoided visiting the center. When they did agree to come, they would generally listen to the doctor, but they would laugh at the nurses, who were young and had no children.

Even so, Tipat Halav was so successful that the City of Tel Aviv decided to establish an additional center in Nordiya, a new district that was built in the wake of the riots in Jaffa in May 1921 for the refugees who had fled to Tel Aviv. This was a district of private homes on property bought by the Jewish National Fund south and west of what is now Dizengoff Centre. Many other refugees, who could not purchase homes, settled in wooden and tin shacks in the area adjacent to the neighbourhood. The Tipat Halav center was called Nordiya, or New Zealand Centre, and was sponsored by WIZO New Zealand.

The gardens were planted alongside the shacks of the unemployed, surrounded by the sands of Tel Aviv. The Training Department supplied the instruction, the seeds, the fertilizer, fertile soil and even small long-term loans for covering initial expenses. In spite of all this, the instructors encountered reservations and scorn: “Nothing will grow on shifting sands, and you can’t convince us.” When they won the trust of a few women, sections of sand around each shack were fenced off (generally using empty tin cans) and fertile black soil was spread on the sand. Two instructors went out three times a week to visit the gardens that were part of the project. Within a year, the roving instructors had succeeded in planting more than one hundred gardens in the city. The average size of a garden was 110 square meters. In 1928 the produce of the gardens was displayed in an exhibition that aroused attention and admiration throughout the country. The great advantage of the gardens became crystal clear in 1929, when Arab suppliers boycotted Jewish stores. The new gardens became the sole source of fresh produce.

Z. David wrote in Davar newspaper on June 7, 1928:

“A mixture of a little motivation, water and fertilizer with a pinch of help and instruction can cause even the sands of Tel Aviv to bear not only non-fruit bearing trees on its streets, and flowers in the yards of its wealthy citizens, but also the precious tomato, the radish and the pepper, spinach and lettuce, watermelon and squash.

“And one ingredient of this wonderful mixture – in my opinion – is available in quantity: the motivation of the women and children in particular.

“...In my visit to the exhibition of vegetables from the gardens of Tel Aviv run by WIZO, the rest of the ingredients of this mixture were found – the assistance and the instruction of WIZO – and behold, from the yellow sands of the sea all this good and plentiful produce has grown.”

section single-storey stone houses were built, while the eastern section consisted entirely of shacks. It should be noted that in 1922, about a quarter of the residents of Tel Aviv lived in about 750 shacks and tents (A number of the original houses in the neighbourhood that have been preserved are located at 15 and 17 Chlenov Street).

Establishment of the Zionist Women’s Organization
In Tel Aviv there was a WIZO group active from 1921 that was established by Fanny Ginsberg and met in her apartment at 91 Allenby Street, as well as in another apartment at 51 Allenby Street. The activity was unorganized and took place on a personal basis. Only in 1927 did WIZO women in Eretz Israel become officially organized within the framework known as the “National Organization”. Those who initiated the establishment of an organization in Eretz Israel were Henrietta Irwell, member of the Executive in WIZO in London, and Anita Müller Cohen, a member of WIZO Austria. They came to the conclusion that WIZO activities in Eretz Israel had to be more independent, and that responsibility had to be shared regarding decisions made abroad.

On February 10th, 1927, the foundation was laid for the national organization of WIZO at the Palatin Hotel at the corner of Ahad Ha’am and Nachlat Benyamin Streets. Two hundred women participated in the event in the famous hotel that was established in 1925. The edifice, designed by the architect Alexander Baerwald, was built in a special style based on Islamic architecture, and was considered the most central, innovative and splendid hotel in the city.

Nothing will grow on shifting sands
The National Organization (WIZO) wanted to extend agricultural education to the general public. With this end in mind, Anna Jaffe, Rozia Yevnin and Freda Meyerov established the Training Department for Home Economics and Kitchen Gardening in 1927. The first instructors of the department, who were graduates of the School for Home Economics and Agriculture, trained women to set up vegetable gardens. During the years of economic crisis, which began soon after the Fourth Aliyah (1924 – 1928) that brought penniless immigrants from Poland to Eretz Israel, the gardens were the answer to nutritional needs.

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The Department of Organization and Education
“In 1920…”

Following on from the article on the previous three pages, in the WIZO Review celebrating WIZO’s 40th anniversary, Miriam de Leeuw-Gerzon recalls the first cooking courses she gave with Hannah Maisel Shochat in Nachlat Benyamin Street in Tel Aviv.

It seems more like a hundred than forty years ago that there was a shortage of almost everything in Israel – vegetables, meat, milk, butter and fruit. Another serious lack was interest on the part of girls in any form of housekeeping. The girls in those days wanted to emulate the young men in what they regarded as real pioneering – like ploughing and road-building. It was in these not very promising circumstances that Hannah Maisel and I began to give the first cooking courses in the workers’ kitchen in Nachlat Benyamin Street, Tel Aviv.

Riots in Tel Aviv

In 1921, riots broke out in Jaffa, and the Mayor of Tel Aviv, Meir Dizengoff, came to see us to ask whether we would be able to feed a thousand Jewish inhabitants of Jaffa who had had to flee Tel Aviv. With the help of our pupils we gathered together every wash bowl and container we could find, scoured them thoroughly, and set about in the courtyard behind our kitchen to cook meals for these thousand refugees.

Expanding ‘the kitchen’

Every day ships arrived with new Jewish immigrants, and the queue waiting for meals got longer and longer. It was impossible to cope with them all in our narrow kitchen, so we set up a hut and tents on the deserted seafront, not far from what is the now the foot of Allenby Road. We cooked our food in petrol tins over a charcoal fire or a primus stove. We enlisted more girls to enter our courses, and in 1921 opened a kitchen in Petach Tikva where we were helped by the H.N.I. (Later the Wizo Israel Federation), notably with the cooperation of the later Mrs. Eder. We spread further afield, to places where roads were being built.

Cooking for 300

One day we arrived with a group of ten girls at Borochov Quarter, outside Tel Aviv. We set up our tent on the hill and began cooking outside for 300 men. At that time there was no money to pay the workers, so they received vouchers instead, which they could cash later, they hoped. A day’s work was paid for then at the rate of 17 piastres a day, and even that not in cash. We charged them 10 piastres a day for three meals. At first we lived in a rented room on the seashore, but later we moved to Allenby Road where the first hostel was established. Here the late Esther Rozoff gave her first lessons in housekeeping and even in beekeeping.

The Wizo Hostel

Then Wizo built us a hostel in Tslenov Quarter, where, besides housekeeping, we taught hygiene, cooking, nutrition, laundering, weaving, vegetable growing, poultry raising, and beekeeping. Our first weaving looms were given us by a new immigrant who brought them from Roumania, and it was she who taught weaving.

Such were the origins of what eventually developed into the Anna Jaffe Vocational School in Nachlat Yitzhak.
Ninety years to the day – July 11th 2010 - World WIZO celebrated the organization’s 90th birthday – and what better place to start the celebrations than one of WIZO’s day care centres in the working class Hatikvah district of Tel Aviv, where members of the World WIZO and WIZO Israel Executives gathered at the WIZO Simone Berr Porge Day Care Centre (sponsored by WIZO France). Special guests were WIZO USA Co-president Jana Falic and Vice-President Anita Friedman and Yael Huldai, wife of Tel Aviv mayor Ron Huldai.

Etty, a mother of four and grandmother of 13, all of whom have benefitted from the services of the day care centre, could not speak highly enough of the centre director, Edna Rofeh. “Edna is the best, the children are in the finest hands,” exclaimed Etty.

All present enjoyed the special Israeli breakfast prepared by the staff, and the birthday cake.

The action then moved over to World WIZO headquarters - Rebecca Sieff Centre in Tel Aviv, where all the staff and volunteers gathered for yet another celebration and yet another cake – generously donated by the Hilton Tel Aviv.

In both locations our WIZO toddlers energetically sang ‘Happy Birthday WIZO’.

…and with WIZO Israel

Earlier this year the Israel WIZO federation was hosted at the Knesset for a special event to mark WIZO’s 90th anniversary. Volunteers from all over the country were present at a special session under the auspices of Member of Knesset and Deputy Minister for the Advancement of Women, Young People and Students Gila Gamliel. During the proceedings a special certificate was awarded to Shula Braudo, past chairperson of WIZO Israel, and herself a nonagenarian, in recognition of her many years of volunteering.

Moderator Gila Oshrat, Chairperson of WIZO Israel’s Department for the Advancement for the Status of Women, outlined the history of WIZO activism in initiating and promoting legislation in the Knesset to help women, starting from Rachel Kagan who was the only woman member of Knesset elected via a women-only party, to the present day.
On a not-so-hot, but still very warm November day, the group had their annual opening of activities hosted by member and supporter Karen Abramson. Co-chairperson Esther Mor announced that the group has in total raised 2.5 million shekels including over 200,000 for Sponsor a Child. Plans for the coming year include a reception at the home of the Italian Ambassador in February, and the annual Sponsor a Child lunch next May, this year to be hosted by Lady Beryl Steinberg. Members are also being taken on a tour of WIZO’s projects.

The highlight of the morning was the presence of the team from WIZO Hadassim School, who recently won first prize in the National Young Entrepreneurs’ Competition. Each of the children described how being at WIZO Hadassim has helped them in their troubled lives and given them hope for the future. Their award-winning invention is called the ‘Atiphone’ and is a cell phone accessory. Attached to your phone, the cute rubber ball conceals a hermetically sealed, reusable plastic bag in which to place your phone for protection when you are at the pool or beach.

Approximately 100 ladies braved the unusually searing heat of June 1st for Friends of WIZO’s seventh annual Sponsor a Child Luncheon, this year held in the home of Ruth and Harvey Cohen in Herzlia Pituach. The garden looked exquisite with a lavender and white colour scheme; beautiful flower arrangements donated from a wedding the previous night, adorned the tables. Guests were entertained by a fashion show donated by well-known Israeli designer Yaron Minkowski. An extra highlight – and fundraiser – was a raffle prize for one week’s stay at the luxurious Il Sogno (The Dream) resort in Tuscany, Italy, donated by owner Contessa Rebecca Isabella Van Ritter Da Feretto, who was present at the luncheon to draw the winning ticket. Sponsor a Child pins were awarded to Pearl Lazarus, Eve Wyler and Gloria Green.
WIZO’s silver youth

The hall in WIZO head office, Tel Aviv, buzzed with excitement as almost 70 pupils from some of WIZO’s schools, gathered to receive their silver awards gained from participating in the Israel Youth Award Programme. Over 90 children should have been presented with the award that day, but those who were not present, were serving in the army, that in itself an achievement for children from WIZO’s schools, children who would have otherwise dropped out of society. The Israel Youth Award programme is an offshoot of the UK Duke of Edinburgh’s Award scheme which is now international. To pass all three stages, bronze, silver and gold, the children undertake a series of challenges, including sport, volunteering in the community and cultivating a hobby. Special guest was the newly appointed British ambassador to Israel Mr. Matthew Gould, who addressed the pupils by saying that one of his most enjoyable ‘duties’ as ambassador is being involved in the youth scheme. Addressing the children he said, “These awards are very special, and create a link between Israel and the United Kingdom. You are learning various skills, self-discipline, team work – many things which you would not otherwise have learned and experienced. You are a fantastic group of young Israelis; with children like you, Israel has a bright future. You can use these awards as a step to becoming the people you want to become and build Israel into the country you want it to become.”

Three of the children described their experiences while doing the scheme, stressing how hard it was for them, but with the encouragement and support of their teachers and friends, they completed all the challenges. The pupils now embark on the gold award and face even tougher challenges.

Entertainment was provided by WIZO’s own violinist Vicky Gellman and the dance troupe of WIZO Nir Ha’emek School.

SHULAMIT HILLEL

Honorary Life Member of World WIZO and past Chairperson of the Schools and Youth Villages Department, Shulamit Hillel died recently. A second generation WIZO volunteer, Shula had a degree in education, and served in the Haganah. She was a leader in the Israel scout movement and an instructor in youth clubs and summer camps. She also worked in the WIZO day care centre on Bograshov Street in Tel Aviv, where her mother had been active since 1929. After a long teaching career, she was elected in 1973, to the World WIZO Executive in charge of the Department of Agricultural and Vocational Schools and Hadassim Youth Village, a position in which she served until 1986. Shula was a fervent Zionist and worked ceaselessly for a better education for ‘her’ WIZO children, especially those ‘at risk’ children living in the school dormitories.
Succot is a wonderful time in Israel; children are on holiday from school and many companies are closed – which makes it a unique family time. There are numerous activities and festivals for the family all over the country. This year, thousands of people flocked to Beit Hatefutsoth – the Museum of the Diaspora outside Tel Aviv, which, together with the Ministry of Public Diplomacy and Diaspora Affairs held a wonderful family festival, focusing on Jewish roots and culture. One of the highlights was a true ‘succa-fest’ with succot from many countries and organizations – including WIZO of course. The WIZO succah was festooned in blue and white, while just outside the succah was a handicrafts table where children could make decorations for the succah and enjoy themselves blowing up and playing with WIZO balloons. Meanwhile, their parents were inside the succah finding out about WIZO. Over 15,000 people visited the festival over a three-day period.
International Day of Violence Against Women

As every year, the Israel WIZO federation marked this sombre day in dramatic fashion which captured wide media attention – both in the newspapers and on TV and radio. A protest and mourning tent was erected in the forecourt of the Tel Aviv museum. Around the walls were 19 death notices commemorating the 19 women who have been murdered this past year. Symbolic coffins were placed in the forecourt of WIZO House and carried to the museum, accompanied some of the way by 15 motor bike riders belonging to the Suzuki Burgman Israel Club. Members of this club participate in many national campaigns and expressed the wish to support WIZO in other endeavours. They formed a powerful guard of honour next to the coffins in front of the museum.

The moving and emotional ceremony was attended by Minister of Welfare and Social Services Isaac Herzog, Leader of the Opposition Tzipi Livni, and several Knesset members. To date in 2010, 19 women have been murdered, the majority of them by men they knew: husband, partner or family members. In the first ten months of the year over 13,000 new cases of domestic violence were reported. Gila Oshrat, chairperson of WIZO Israel’s Department of Advancement of the Status of Women said that family violence is not a problem of women in society; it is a problem of society. She pointed out that violence in the family is prevalent in every strata of society: Jews, Arabs, Druze, Beduin, young, old, religious, secular and at every economic level. Tzipi Livni stressed that certain terminology should be erased from our lexicon: murder for romantic reasons and murder for family honour. “There is no romance in death, and there is no honour in murder,” she stressed.
Road safety prize for WIZO Nir ha’Emek

WIZO Nir Ha’Emek is already the recipient of many individual and school prizes, and the school recently added another award to its collection – when they received the Minister of Transport prize for Excellence in Teaching Road Safety. Everyone in Israel is horrified at the high number of people killed and injured on the roads each year, and many organizations have programmes to increase road awareness. The staff at WIZO Nir’HaEmek are determined that their pupils will leave the school with the best tools possible to make them safe and responsible drivers. The course includes lessons on the rules of the road, road awareness, the importance of consideration for others on the road and the value of life.

Summer Camps for All

One of the summer rituals for Israeli children is the summer camp, where the children enjoy a myriad of educational and recreational activities. But not all parents can afford these camps for their children, especially if they are a single-parent family, or bereaved.

This is where WIZO steps in, and this year was no exception. Ever since the Six Day War in 1967, in partnership with the Ministry of Defence, the Insurance Institute and Ministry of Welfare, WIZO Israel has operated a summer camp in one of its youth villages for the children and siblings of fallen soldiers. Recently, children from single-parent homes and children from families who were victims of terrorist attacks, also participated.

This summer the camp took place in the Nachlat Yehuda Youth Village. Many of the children, aged between 6 and 14, attend every year, together with their siblings. One set of triplets now aged 15 attended the camp every year for eight years and they are now volunteering – showing their appreciation for what WIZO did for them. This year, the camp also included children of women living in WIZO’s Women’s shelters.

WIZO Israel’s Fashion Fundraiser

Departing from their usual venue at WIZO House, Tel Aviv, this year’s WIZO Israel’s winter fashion sale and bazaar took place in a central venue at the Tel Aviv Port. Thousands of people, including many celebrities, attended the event and purchased new and nearly-new clothes. Many items, donated by well-known Israeli designers, were eagerly snapped up.

Scenes from the Aviv Seminar

Israeli delegates

Testing the toys in Sderot

Lunch time in Sderot

Meeting students at Nachlat Yehuda

Laying a wreath at Yad Vashem

South African Solidarity at the Kotel
Time to pass the baton

Many immigrants to Israel who have been active in WIZO in their home countries join WIZO groups conducted in their mother tongue when they first come to Israel. This way, they remain in WIZO and new friends help them integrate. The years pass quickly, and as Evelyn Chenkin Honorary Vice-president of WIZO.UK writes below, the time eventually comes to ‘hang up your WIZO boots.’

We came from all over the English-speaking world at an age when most women were thinking of retiring from public life. We arrived in a new country with a different culture, language, climate, leaving behind family, lifelong friends and memories.

Did we sit down and take life easy, enjoying the sunshine and our leisure? No! We turned once again to take up a challenge – WIZO was in our blood and we knew that we still had the ability to offer our help and experience. We didn’t speak Hebrew; we were not familiar with the Israel Federation. Where do we find a place for ourselves? We were a stoic group of women, our childhood and teenage years coloured by World War II. I remember my mother holding her WIZO meeting in our shelter while the bombs were falling.

We were the generation that witnessed the creation of the Jewish State, supported it through all its traumas and wars. For us, in the Diaspora, Israel had been the centrality of our lives. I came on aliyah in 1983 from Britain. My late husband Eric and I went to live as parents on our daughter’s kibbutz, where there was no telephone and a bus in and out of the kibbutz once a day at 6am and 2pm.

I felt the need to join my WIZO colleagues in Israel. My nearest town was Rehovot, so with the help of WIZO Israel, in 1984 I decided to form a group of English speakers in Rehovot. With the help of a letter to the Jerusalem Post, 60 women, some former members of WIZO, attended the first meeting. I was delighted! A former WIZO chairman from London offered to chair a group, and a committee was formed on the spot.

From then onwards, to this day, 26 years later we became colleagues and friends, helping each other through the good times and bad. We raised funds, sponsored a daycare center of 70 underprivileged children. We had many social and cultural events, and liaised for many years with other English speaking groups around the country. We could see the work of our labour at first hand. We had a wonderful devoted chairman and committee. We had fulfilled our dream – to live in Israel and volunteer for WIZO.

It is time for us to let go. Time for the younger women to take over. We are no longer able to arrange functions and raise funds. It is time to do a little less caring, and be cared for a little more. We are not leaving WIZO – that’s a lifelong commitment, WIZO was, WIZO is, WIZO will be.

It is time to pay tribute to these gallant women and hope that future generations will give equally of themselves helping the more unfortunate of our community. Happily many of our English speaking groups are still thriving, enriched by new membership. We wish them many fruitful years to come.

Editor’s note: For many years, Evelyn was the coordinator of the English speaking groups of WIZO in Israel.

Marcia Wayburne (l) chairman, and Evelyn Chenkin president of WIZO Rehovot English-speaking group
Recollections of the First Pupil at Nahalal

‘Ahuva’ describes the early days of Nahalal, the physical hardships, and yet the determination and the hope for a better future

I first came to Nahalal in March 1923. Hannah Maisel, the supreme general of agricultural training for girls in Israel, had just set up her new school. It was early spring and the days were beautiful. I was bursting with energy and eager to work. The moshav of Nahalal was in its bare beginnings, and where our school was to stand were only clods of earth, hard as iron. At first I lived with a veteran member of the moshav in a decayed hut without windows. A day or two later, we were allotted another hut transferred to us from the Wizo Hostel in Tel Aviv, which had to serve us as both kitchen and dining room. I put it up with the help of workers from Nahalal, for I was still alone. Our hut had no floor, and through the cracks where the walls touched the ground, jackals could easily slip in, so I began to carry baskets of earth to stop up the holes.

Starting the tree nursery
Before Passover two more girls arrived from Warsaw, both students, with no idea of physical work. They settled down with me in the small hut. Our first task was making boxes for the tree nursery where Hannah taught us to set young plants. Then we began to dig the beds to which they were to be transferred. By now it was midsummer and the ground was as dry as stone. We had to cut through the crust with hoes. In the meantime more girls had arrived and we were given tents which we pitched near the tree nursery. We had mosquito nets, but it was a lost cause in the face of the swarms of flies, fleas, and mosquitoes, even though we soaked our floor mats in kerosene every day.

Water shortage
Later that year, Hannah went abroad to attend the Wizo conference, and we were without water. Every day we ran to Eliezer Yaffe, who was on the water supply committee. He made an arrangement with the settlers of the moshav to close all their taps from nine in the evening so that the water could rise in our pipes too, for our school was set on higher ground than theirs. Unfortunately the settlers kept forgetting to turn off their taps, so all night long we were kept waiting for water, and could not get to bed before daybreak. Even then it did not come. Again we ran to Eliezer, and implored him to keep our nursery going until Hannah returned. It was decided that the watchman should check the taps at night. After that two girls would water the nursery in turn every night by the light of lanterns.

Our kitchen burns down…and thieves strike
During that summer we worked sixteen hours a day without a break. One day, as we were accompanying our carrier who was driving our mules back, we saw smoke rising in the distance in the vicinity of our school. We drove our mules as fast as we could. But it was too late. The hut was ablaze, and all our new kitchen appliances which we had just received from German Wizo were in cinders. The fire had started from the oven, and if we had not been so short of water it might easily have been extinguished in time. Another night, thieves broke into our cowshed and wounded our watchman in the yard of a settler, next to the school. We spent many sleepless nights after that helping to keep watch.

Cows from Holland
We were overjoyed to receive as a present for our school from Dutch Wizo, two cows, thanks to the efforts of Miriam Gerzon. To honour her, we called one cow Miriam and the other Stavit (Autumnal). We already had a poultry yard, a kitchen garden and some cornfields, and now we had two cows. Alas, twelve days later, Stavit fell ill and died. I hardly ever left the shed during her illness. I nursed her like a sick child but all in vain. Her death was an irreparable loss for us. We were both grief-stricken and ashamed, for we had lost her before we had even had time to thank the donors. Sorrow followed sorrow, for despite all our care, the second cow, Miriam, was found to suffer from abortus.

Memories…
My memories are filled with heartache but with great sweetness too. For it was out of all our tribulations that the splendid Agricultural School of Nahalal as we know it today, the pride of the whole country, has slowly developed and grown, by the side of the young saplings that we planted almost forty years ago.
ARGENTINA

Music and Solidarity at Miraflores

Staunch WIZO supporters Mr and Mrs Carlos Abolsky hosted a ‘Music and Solidarity’ event at their delightful Miraflores home where guests enjoyed an elegant luncheon and a performance by renowned Argentinian violin soloist Rafael Gintoli and his strings orchestra playing ‘The Four Seasons’.

Retiro at the Palais Rouge

The talented young musicians of the Retiro Orchestra impressed guests with their superb concert featuring the works of various composers. The afternoon ‘Music and Solidarity’ event was held at the prestigious Palais Rouge banqueting hall in Buenos Aires owned by WIZO supporter Dr Hector Kassir who has donated the use of the hall many times for WIZO events.

Café Concert Comedy

Laughter was in abundance at WIZO headquarters one night in September when ‘The Comedian and the Pianist’ took to the stage. Performed by multi-talented singer, artist and painter Sonia Kovalivker with a torrent of jokes by well-known comedian Rudy Chernicof, WIZO friends enjoyed a very amusing evening.

Australia

In Memory of Teresa

OSFA WIZO’s former vice-President, the late Teresa Kovalivker, was honoured at a ceremony attended by her sons, grandsons and members of the Kovalivker family. Teresa, wife of the late León Kovalivker was known for her generosity, devotion and perpetual smile. At the ceremony, OSFA WIZO President Mrs Amalia Polack spoke warmly of Teresa. OSFA WIZO vice-President Estela Vilamowski presented her video of Teresa’s last years of valuable WIZO work. During the ceremony, Teresa’s son Marcos announced the refurbishment of a day care centre in memory of his mother. World WIZO Public Affairs and NGO Chair Celia Michonik’s heartfelt letter was read out, typifying the high regard and affection of Teresa’s friends on the World WIZO Executive. Teresa’s daughter-in-law Nicolle Kovalivker read an emotive poem devoted to the memory of her late mother-in-law.

A Wealth of Art

OSFA WIZO Chair Ruth Stecher together with curator Nora Reperter welcomed guests and artists to the ever-popular annual art exhibition in August. The highlight of the exhibition was a display of spectacular pictures by celebrated contemporary plastic artist Marcelo Cofone. This year, as every year, the competition exceeded expectations with some 200 works of outstanding quality.

In Memory of Teresa

OSFA WIZO’s former vice-President, the late Teresa Kovalivker, was honoured at a ceremony attended by her sons, grandsons and members of the Kovalivker family. Teresa, wife of the late León Kovalivker was known for her generosity, devotion and perpetual smile. At the ceremony, OSFA WIZO President Mrs Amalia Polack spoke warmly of Teresa. OSFA WIZO vice-President Estela Vilamowski presented her video of Teresa’s last years of valuable WIZO work. During the ceremony, Teresa’s son Marcos announced the refurbishment of a day care centre in memory of his mother. World WIZO Public Affairs and NGO Chair Celia Michonik’s heartfelt letter was read out, typifying the high regard and affection of Teresa’s friends on the World WIZO Executive. Teresa’s daughter-in-law Nicolle Kovalivker read an emotive poem devoted to the memory of her late mother-in-law.

Changing of the Guards

WIZO Australia’s 22nd Triennial Conference held in Melbourne last June marked the end of Jo Gostin’s successful six years as president of WIZO Australia and saw the election of Gilla Liberman. At a dinner held in celebration of Jo’s presidency attended by communal leaders, members of the community and WIZO supporters, World WIZO President Helena Glaser presented an inspiring keynote speech and video tributes from Tova Ben Dov, chairperson of World WIZO and Yossi Saragossi, headmaster of WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim School praised Jo for her devotion to WIZO. WIZO Australia past President Rony Bognar presented Jo with a plaque for the
Women of Worth

At a glittering cocktail function, the Lord Mayor of Perth, Mrs Lisa Scaffidi, launched the book, ‘Women of Worth – A History of WIZO in Western Australia’. Researched over many years by its authors Miriam Landau and Louise Hoffman, the book chronicles the history of WIZO in Western Australia from its origins in 1937. Among those attending the cocktail launch were Western Australia Governor’s wife Mrs Julie Michael and a number of parliamentarians recently returned from a visit to Israel, where they had visited WIZO Australia’s flagship project, Ahuzat Yeladim School. The children and grandchildren of the founding women of WIZO, and sponsors of the book were also present.

Knitted with Love

Long-standing member of WIZO Victoria’s Amit Group, Rachel Vivat has lovingly crocheted over 100 blankets for the children in various WIZO Australia projects in Israel. Her dedication to WIZO does not stop there; she also knitted some 45 scarves for the boys of Ahuzat Yeladim to ensure they keep warm during Israel’s cold winter months.

Yossi and Nimrod thank Donors

Director of WIZO Australia’s Ahuzat Yeladim School in Haifa Yossi Saragossi and past pupil Nimrod Arbel visited Australia to personally thank Australian donors for their generosity to Ahuzat Yeladim and their ongoing donations towards new facilities at the school. This was a great opportunity for WIZO Australia to introduce Yossi to its members. Yossi and Nimrod who is now an officer serving in the IDF, visited Perth, Queensland, Melbourne, Adelaide and Sydney. Audiences across Australia were moved by Yossi’s obvious passion and dedication to this very special boarding school. Nimrod spoke of his youth before attending Ahuzat Yeladim and the tremendous effect that four years at the school had on him, changing his life for the better and affording him with opportunities he would never have imagined.

Hava wins Herzl Prize

The Zionist Federation of Austria chose Jerusalem Day to honour WIZO Austria President Dr Hava Bugajer with the 2010 Theodor Herzl Prize, which recognizes outstanding contribution in Israel advocacy and Zionism. Presenting the
award, Mr Norbert Gang described Hava as an ambassador of Zionism who changed the image of WIZO Austria from a fundraising organisation to a remarkable political instrument with a very worthy cause. At the emotional ceremony, the modest Hava thanked her team for their work and said, “John F. Kennedy phrased it well when he said Israel is there for us – everyday!”

Israel’s Ambassador to Austria, His Excellency Aviv Shir-On congratulated Hava on her award and said, “Dear Hava, my wish for your future is to always be like Jerusalem, namely beautiful, attractive and with a great significance for many people!”

Hava is the first women to receive this prestigious accolade.

Young WIZO Reborn

WIZO Austria celebrated World WIZO’s 90th anniversary in October with a festive evening hosted by the Governor of the National Bank of Austria Prof. Dr Ewald Nowotny and his wife Dr Ingrid Nowotny, president of the Association of Business and Professional Woman in Austria. Patrons for the evening were Israel’s Ambassador to Austria, HE Aviv Shir-On and his wife Arnona. Guest speakers were Israel’s Minister of Education Mr Gideon Sa’ar and Dr Michel Friedman from Germany. Quoting the adage that, ‘men think and women act’, Dr Friedman was witty in his appraisal of the WIZO woman. Master of Ceremonies for the evening was WIZO Aviv President Sharon Nuni-Turkof.

WIZO Austria President Dr Hava Bugajer presented Sonia Kato from Vienna with a ‘Woman of Valour’ pin for her sponsorship of two playgrounds in a WIZO Austria project in Rehovot.

A fitting tribute to the 90-year-old WIZO was the introduction of the new group, ‘Young WIZO’. Headed by Daphne Frucht, this energetic and enthusiastic group of single young women in their twenties will ensure the movement stays forever young.

BELGIUM - LUXEMBOURG

Michel Jonasz wows Audience

In honour of World WIZO’s 90th anniversary, WIZO Art Aviv presented a gala performance featuring the celebrated French composer-songwriter, singer and actor Michel Jonasz in a poignant play entitled ‘Abraham’. Michel Jonasz infused much emotion and humour into the role of his grandfather, Abraham, a Hungarian Jew who lived in Poland before vanishing with his family in the Holocaust. A capacity crowd attended the gala event and special guest of the evening was World WIZO Public Affairs and NGO Department Chairperson, Mrs Celia Michonik.

Tiradentes Medal for Sarita

Last June, WIZO Brazil Federation Past President Mrs Sarita Lea Schaffel was awarded the Tiradentes Medal and Certificate. State Alderman Dr Gerson Bergher presented this most important honour granted by Rio de Janeiro State House of Representatives. Accepting the accolade, Sarita paid tribute to World WIZO and the friendship of chaverot all over the world. WIZO Brazil President Mrs Helena Kelner commended Sarita on her well-deserved honour. Honorary Consul of Israel in Rio de Janeiro Mr Osias Wurman, the Federal Alderman Mr Marcelo Itagiba, city council representative Mrs Teresa Bergher and Mrs Lea Lozinsky President of the
Israelite Federation of the State of Rio de Janeiro also paid glowing tributes. At an elegant cocktail reception following the ceremony, guests raised their glasses to toast World WIZO on its milestone birthday and cut the festive birthday cake. Guests also enjoyed a performance of Israeli songs by the Varda Usiglio choir led by Mauro Perelman.

Welcome Aviv Yachad
WIZO Rio’s Educational Department welcomes new Aviv group Yachad into the WIZO family. These enthusiastic young women can rely on more experienced members to guide them. The focus of WIZO Rio is to strengthen the future of WIZO by drawing young members into the movement.

Three Special Ladies
WIZO Parana Division paid tribute to three outstanding women as part of its World WIZO 90th anniversary celebrations. Mrs Marisa Del Claro, President of the Parana Association for Supporting Children Carrying the Neoplasia Disease, Mrs Noemia Zugman President of ABICHAI Israelite Association and WIZO Brazil Honorary Life Member Vera Sclair Sasson. WIZO Brazil Federation President Mrs Helena Kelner, who traveled to Curitiba to attend the celebration, paid tribute to Vera Sasson on behalf of the WIZO Brazil Executive. She presented her with a plaque in honour of World WIZO’s 90th anniversary and spoke warmly of Vera’s merits. An Israeli dance troupe provided entertainment and guests enjoyed a tasty colonial coffee buffet.

Bible Day Triumph
For the very first time, every group in the three sub-centres of WIZO Rio Chapter participated in the 44th annual Bible Day organized by the Educational and Organization Department. The theme for 2010 suggested by World WIZO’s Organization and Education Department was ‘Friendship’. All groups were involved in this hugely popular and educational event.

Sarita heads FIERJ
World WIZO extends congratulations to Sarita Lea Schaffel, newly elected president of FIERJ (the Israelite Federation of the State of Rio de Janeiro), the official federation of the Jewish community of Rio de Janeiro. Sarita
Helping the Hospital

WIZO Santa Catarina chaverot donated sterile items collected for Celso Ramos Public Hospital located at the State Capital’s Florianopolis, which provides free treatment and care to many disadvantaged people who come from rural areas.

Sukkah Delight

Rio Grande do Sul Chapter’s Kassow Group built a beautiful sukkah providing chaverot and the wider Jewish community with a pleasant and proper setting in which to enjoy their Sukkoth meals.

Para lauds Chaverot

WIZO Para welcomed WIZO Brazil Federation Honorary Life President Mrs Ana Marlene Starec and Executive Institutional Relations Coordinator Mrs Nelly Starec (photo below) to an elegant luncheon at the Shaar Hashamaim Synagogue launching World WIZO 90th anniversary celebration at the chapter. Against this festive backdrop, WIZO Para President Dr Esther Benchimol Barros and Mrs Mary Banchaia were presented with a plaque marking WIZO’s anniversary in appreciation of their love and dedication to WIZO Brazil.

Projecting the Future

WIZO Brazil’s nationwide Aviv Lapid Seminar took place in Curitiba in October, hosted admirably by WIZO Parana under the leadership of Mrs Lucia Brener and attended by 150 volunteers from Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, Pernambuco, Sao Paulo, Parana, Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul. Present at the opening of the seminar were WIZO Brazil President Mrs Helena Kelner and Honorary Consul of Israel in the State of Rio de Janeiro Dr Osias Wurman. The three-day seminar provided chaverot with an opportunity to listen, learn and forge new friendships, while reinforcing their Jewish values and commitment to WIZO. Workshops included WIZO Brazil Federation vice-President Mrs Shelia Saubermann’s motivating pro-active focus on volunteering and delegates participated in panel discussions. Past President Mrs Sarita Schaffel’s presentation, ‘Projecting the Future’ discussed the idea that continuity of WIZO lies in rethinking the present while treasuring the past and planning the future.

On the final day of the seminar, 220 guests assembled at the Israelite Centre of Parana to listen to guest speakers Dr Osias Wurman and Mr Caio Blinder of the New York broadcast program, ‘The Manhattan Connection’. Former Governor of the State of Parana Mr Jaime Lerner and engineer Mauricio Schuman discussed the worrisome trend of increasing anti-Semitism, rising assimilation and malevolent anti-Israeli sentiment.

Diploma for a Diplomat

During the WIZO Aviv Lapid Seminar, Mrs Helena Kelner presented a special diploma marking World WIZO’s 90th anniversary to Dr Osias Wurman, Honorary Consul of Israel in the State of Rio de Janeiro recognizing WIZO’s devotion to the State of Israel.

Aviv Graduates Speak

In the framework of the seminar, WIZO International Aviv Graduates Suzane Cusnir from Rio de Janeiro and Iza Mansur from Sao Paulo spoke of workshops they had attended at the 2009 World WIZO Aviv International Seminar in Israel. Both revealed their worthwhile experiences and played a video highlighting some of the WIZO Israel projects, focusing on the Maya Rosenberg WIZO Municipal Technological High School in Rehovot.

Tenors delight Toronto

It was an evening to remember when Canada Hadassah WIZO (CHW) National President Marla Dan and her husband Aubrey together with Anna and Leslie Dan hosted a reception and concert at Anna and Leslie’s beautiful home for 75 major donors and supporters of CHW Toronto, featuring the unique blend of classical and contemporary music of the Canadian Tenors. The Dan family warmly welcomed guests to the breathtaking performance by the four young men with the stirring voices - a gift from Marla and Aubrey Dan to the benefactors of CHW Toronto to thank them for their generosity and loyalty. During the evening, Marla shared her commitment and passion for CHW and encouraged those
present to continue their support. On the photo below the Canadian Tenors Victor Micallef, Clifton Murray, Remigio Pereira, and Fraser Walters are standing behind (L-R): Ellen Ostofsky, Sheryl Simon, Sarah Granatowicz, Elynna Latosky, Maria Dan; Marlene Richardson and Sharon Pollock.

CHILE

Chocolate Fun

As is the tradition during the winter school vacation, WIZO Chile held courses for children where they artfully created chocolate bonbons under the watchful eye of teacher Monica Greve. Dressed in their colourful aprons, these budding confectioners prepared an assortment of chocolate fancies using fruits, candies, icing and fondue, assisted by WIZO volunteers. At the end of the course, each child received a WIZO certificate.

Dudu Fisher in Concert

In the magnificent surroundings of the Circulo Israelita Synagogue in Santiago, celebrated Israeli singer and cantor Dudu Fisher starred in a gala concert marking 90 years of World WIZO and 85 years of WIZO in Chile. Among the 820 plus guests who enjoyed the superb vocals of Dudu Fisher and the ambience of the festive evening were Interior Minister Mr Rodrigo Hinzpeter and his wife, Israel's Ambassador to Chile HE Mr David Dadonn and his wife as well as the British Ambassador to Chile HE Mr Jon Benjamin. WIZO Chile President Susy Baron welcomed the audience, thanking them for their support and presented a certificate to the Israeli Ambassador confirming WIZO’s continued commitment to the welfare of the State of Israel on World WIZO’s 90th anniversary. Generous supporters to WIZO Chile, Mr Otto Zeman, Mr Leonardo Farkas and his wife Betina, Mrs Temy Kreutzberger and Mr David Feuerstein, were also honoured with a certificate.

In Solidarity with Pichidegua

WIZO as a member organization of the NGO CEPAL (La Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe) joined forces with other organizations in ‘Operation Solidarity’ in the town of Pichidegua, a region of Chile affected by last year’s devastating earthquake. Vicky Arueste organized a Laughter Yoga Workshop and Gabriela Britzmann organized an Art Therapy Workshop. Both activities were enthusiastically received and well attended, and earned commendation for WIZO from other organizations.
COLOMBIA

Cooking with Kids

WIZO Aviv (Bogotá) held a cookery evening for young children in May. Forty children up to the age ten took part in the event, baking biscuits and pizza, bringing their mothers along to assist them in the kitchen. This new Aviv group, young married women from all over Colombia, has demonstrated a great willingness to continue the wonderful work of WIZO in support of WIZO projects in Israel. The new board is comprised of president Mara Guber, vice-President Bela Akerman, treasurer Melanie Himmelstern, secretary Tammy Abramzon. Assistants are Alice Burman, Sandra Silverwasser, Janine Neuman, Dorette Sasson, Dorita Mildenberg and Gianna Grimberg.

Best Ever Bazaar

Under the banner of World WIZO’s 90th anniversary, the WIZO Bogotá Annual Bazaar was a runaway success, with a live band entertaining some 800 guests who flocked to enjoy all the fun of a very festive day. Visitors browsed 56 stands, picking up bargains from an impressive array of Israeli handicrafts, jewellery and fancy goods and enjoyed a tasty kosher lunch at the Cafe Capulsky with delicious desserts donated by the community. Aviv chaverot kept a watchful eye over 120 children who frolicked on the bouncy farm, train and took part in many other activities, offering them cotton candy, popcorn and ice cream. Bogotá chaverot were delighted with the results of the special 90th anniversary bazaar, hailing it as their best yet.

A Colourful Year

Members in Costa Rica were delighted to receive a beautiful desk calendar, which was inserted into their monthly Hayom magazine. Bearing the ‘WIZO 90’ emblem, this colourful and practical gift commemorates 90 years of World WIZO and features a painting by talented member Jacky Boruchowicz, whose art is often used in WIZO Costa Rica’s various greeting cards.

THANKING SPONSORS

The generous sponsors of WIZO Finland enjoyed a reception at the residence of HE Avi Granot, the Israeli Ambassador to Finland. Ambassador Granot spoke of WIZO’s crucial work

FINLAND

At WIZO House, chaverot with Dudu Fisher (standing behind Mr David Feuerstein)
in Israel and thanked sponsors for their ongoing support of Israel and the WIZO Finland Shaviv Day Care Centre. WIZO Finland President Pirkko-Liisa Schulman spoke of the importance of WIZO at 90 not only in Israel, but also for Jewish people in the Diaspora. WIZO Finland secretary Taija Swansström’s daughters entertained with a musical performance.

Students from Finland’s Mikkeli University of Applied Science, Elisa Suominen and Esa Tuokko spoke of their practical training at WIZO Nir Ha’emek Youth Village as part of their studies. They shared reminiscences and even sang in Hebrew to the delight of those present. Their teacher, Maija-Sisko Kauppila outlined student exchange initiatives with WIZO educational facilities in Israel. Each board member brought with her a delicious cake, which Embassy cooks served to the 100 plus guests, some of whom had travelled several hours to attend this enjoyable event in Helsinki.

Celebrating Women

Influential women in the fields of medicine, medical research, industry, technology and mathematics gathered for a Women’s Day Conference organized by WIZO France, themed ‘Women and Science.’ Dr Odile Cohen-Hagueuauer, coordinator of Clinigene, Marie Sophie Pawlak, president of Elles Bougent, Véronique Chauveau, vice-President of the Women and Mathematics Association and Doctor of Social Psychology Joelle Allouche-Benayoun debated topical issues at the meeting. WIZO France President Joelle Lezmi opened the event.

Teeing off at Fourqueux

Players vied for top prize in the Fourqueux Golf Trophy, hailed as one of WIZO France’s finest annual events. Organizers Eliane Sprung and Paul Zajfen, staunch supporters of WIZO, put on a wonderful event where many golfers participated in the Stableford Competition. Players and guests enjoyed an open bar, cocktail party and raffle.

A Gift for Life

Jazz musician Michel Jonasz wowed an appreciative audience at a concert at the Showcase Theatre in Paris when he sang exclusively for WIZO. Guests enjoyed a superb buffet after Michel’s dazzling performance with proceeds dedicated to the Atidim teaching project, ‘Education: A gift for Life.’

Annual Gala

At the annual gala of the Jaffa Negev Group from the region of Champigny La Varenne, a celebration of 90 years of WIZO opened with hearty renditions of Hatikva and La Marseilleise by the children resplendent in their WIZOT-shirts. President of WIZO France Joelle Lezmi summarized WIZO’s achievements and its ongoing endeavours for the people of Israel for the many guests who included adviser to the Israeli Embassy Shlomo Morgan, Mayor of St. Maur Pragnol Henry and Rabbi Benjamin Guez. Song and dance crowned the festive atmosphere of this moving event.

Enjoying the day at Fourqueux

L-R: Maija-Sisko Kauppila, Elisa Suominen, Pirkko-Liisa Schulman, HE Avi Granot, Esa Tuokko

Celebrating Women

FRANCE

L-R: Peguy Levy, Ambassador Daniel Shek, Regine, Joelle Lezmi, WIZO France Events Chair Nadine Feingold, president of the Consistory of France Joel Mergui

Teeing off at Fourqueux

Eliane Sprung and Paul Zajfen
Solidarity Lunch
The 17th WIZO France Solidarity Lunch was held in the elegant Salons Hoche with the attendance of many personalities in arts and politics. These included former minister and president of the France-Israel Association Nicole Guedj, the artiste Regine, and Israel’s Ambassador to France HE Mr Daniel Shek. This year’s event was dedicated to the project ‘Education: The Gift for Life.’

57th Book Festival
More than 70 writers gathered in the magnificent chambers of Mairie de Lavallois to promote their literary works at WIZO France’s 57th Book Fair. Present at the fair were WIZO France’s French literary prizewinner Alain Fleischer and WIZO 2010 prize winner in the Israeli section, Naomi Ragen. Lectures were given on topics related to recent literary publications including ‘Literature and Cinema’ by Nathalie Rheims and Tobie Nathan’s ‘Who Killed Arlosoroff?’

Winning Writers
The WIZO France 32nd Literary Award winners Alain Fleischer (WIZO France literary prize) and Naomi Ragen (WIZO 2010 prize) were delighted to accept their awards, in the form of statuettes sculptured by Hedva Ser, presented to them at an elegant cocktail evening at the home of Laurianne Boucris, President of the WIZO France Reading Group. Those present included Ziv Nevo Kulman, the cultural counselor at the Israeli Embassy in France and WIZO France President Joelle Lezmi. The esteemed writers discussed their works with an enthusiastic audience and all appreciated a delicious buffet.

A Big Heart Acts
Opening her speech with these words, WIZO Germany President Rachel Singer welcomed some 300 guests to an outstanding evening in September at the Frankfurt Hilton to celebrate World WIZO’s 90th anniversary. Guests of honour included the Mayor of Frankfurt Dr h.c. Petra Roth, Israeli Ambassador to Germany HE Yoram Ben Zeev and German Ambassador to Israel HE Dr Harald Kindermann who all lauded WIZO’s crucial contribution to the betterment of Israeli society. Celebrity presenter Andrea Klewel acted as master of ceremonies with her usual finesse and guests enjoyed a delicious dinner. The talented violinist Vicky Gelman, who studied at the WIZO music school in Tiberias, mesmerized the audience with a virtuoso performance. Star guest Sharon Brown and her band gave a lively performance of Yiddish and Sephardic music, after which all eyes were on the Tiger Palace acrobatic troupe’s amazing feats. Resulting from this wonderful event, 500 children are guaranteed places at WIZO day care centres in Israel for one year.

Crime Scenes & Klezmer
An appreciative audience of 120 guests attended WIZO Frankfurt’s benefit evening last June at the Frankfurt InterContinental Hotel, which featured crime writer Peter Probst, who read passages from his gripping book, ‘Blind Spots’ and answered questions from the audience. The book tells the tale of lethal road rage against Jewish youths against the backdrop of neo-Nazi Munich. Michael Bocksrichter’s clarinet performance of Yiddish, Klezmer and tango tunes brought a light touch to the evening, which was efficiently compered by Bärbel Schäfer. This was the second such benefit hosted generously by the Frankfurt InterContinental Hotel. WIZO Germany President Rachel Singer presented the director of the hotel, Thomas Hilberath, with a WIZO pin in recognition of his continued support.

L-R: Frankfurt Mayor Dr h.c. P. Roth, Mrs I. Ben-Zeev, Ambassador Y. Ben-Zeev and Rachel Singer

L-R: Tannie Cabrera and Mikhail Kaniskin, captivated everyone with their renowned first soloists from Berlin’s Royal Ballet, Elisa Rosenkranz, and Jaqueline Donig, who studied at the WIZO music school in Tiberias, once again mesmerized the audience with her wonderful talent, and internationally the power of WIZO women and stressed the importance of charity in the Jewish religion.

L-R: Nadine Feingold, Yvette Sebbag, Daniele Kriegel, Angela Assouline

L-R: Ziv Nevo Kulman, Naomi Ragen, Laurianne Boucris, Alain Fleischer, Joelle Lezmi

Peter Probst and Bärbel Schäfer
Coffee with Dr Ruth

Even the men turned up to hear Dr Ruth Westheimer when she joined WIZO Frankfurt chaveroq for coffee and cake on an October afternoon. The petite 82-year-old world famous sex therapist did not disappoint as she discussed life, love and sex in her uniquely cheeky yet charming way, signing copies of her new book - Mythen der Liebe for the delighted gathering.

Sponsor a Child

WIZO Berlin’s Sponsor a Child fundraiser was held at the Berlin Hilton where hotel director Ronald Van Weezel laid on culinary delights for the 150 guests who gathered to honour World WIZO’s 90th anniversary. WIZO Germany President Rachel Singer gave a heartfelt welcome speech and WIZO Berlin President Michal Gelerman moderated the evening with flair. Israeli Ambassador to Germany, Yoram Ben Zeev, paid a warm tribute to WIZO and Lala Susskind, president of the Berlin Jewish Community and Lifetime Honorary WIZO Germany President thanked chaveroq for their hard work and time. Berlin Chabad Lubavitch Rabbi Yehuda Teichtal praised the power of WIZO women and stressed the importance of charity in the Jewish religion.

Minu Barati-Fischer, the lovely wife of Germany’s former Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, was the ‘lucky charm’ of the evening as she drew 25 winning raffle tickets. WIZO’s child prodigy, violinist Vicky Gelman, once again mesmerized the audience with her wonderful talent, and internationally renowned first soloists from Berlin’s Royal Ballet, Elisa Cabrera and Mikhail Kaniskin, captivated everyone with their performance. The tempo took on a festive beat with music provided by the Trojam Project band.

Reinforcing Ties in Athens

His Excellency Ambassador Ali Yahya graciously received members of WIZO Greece at the Israeli Embassy in Athens and accepted a diploma reinforcing WIZO’s ties with Israel on the movement’s 90th anniversary. Ambassador Yahya recalled with affection that his very first meeting with the Jewish community as Israel’s Ambassador to Greece was at a WIZO Aviv event some four years ago.

Sunshine Celebration

In the middle of Guatemala’s rainy season, the sun came out for World WIZO’s 90th anniversary celebrations as 150 guests gathered at the community centre to enjoy a festive luncheon prepared by board members. WIZO Guatemala President Soly Berkowitz presented a certificate in tribute to Israel’s Ambassador to Guatemala HE Eli Lopez as children played outside in the garden on a rare dry day in July. Ambassador Lopez complimented Soly on her leadership, presenting her with a plaque for 13 years of service as president of WIZO Guatemala and Rabbi Daniel Sason spoke with great sincerity. The lively mariachi band added to the family atmosphere so typical of Guatemala WIZO events. It was the perfect way to celebrate WIZO’s birthday.
Dance Troupe Delights

The Swiss-sponsored WIZO Nachlat Yehuda School Song and Dance Troupe have impressed audiences all over the world and their performance in Hungary was no exception. Some 200 guests, young and old were dazzled by the talents of the youngsters who put on a stunning show for WIZO Hungary at Balint House, the Jewish Community Centre in Budapest. School principal Dr Hezi Yosef introduced the troupe, spoke about Nachlat Yehuda Youth Village, and praised World WIZO for its crucial role in giving the children of Israel the tools to realize their potential. Among those present were past Chief Rabbi of Hungary Dr Josef Schweizer and many local Jewish community leaders. After the performance, a delicious supper was served and the chaverot of WIZO Hungary elicited promises from Dr Hezi that he would bring his talented pupils back to Hungary for a repeat performance.

Reinforcing Ties in Mumbai

It was a proud moment when WIZO India President Yael Jhirad presented Israel’s Consul General in India Orna Sagiv with a certificate affirming WIZO’s commitment to the people of Israel on World WIZO’s 90th anniversary. Consul General Orna Sagiv, herself an honorary WIZO India member, complimented WIZO on its crucial efforts and shared her vision for peace in the region.

WIZO India is the youngest of the World WIZO federations, just three years old, although the Jewish community in India is two thousand years old. Consul General Orna Sagiv conveyed her greetings to the WIZO chaverot on this joyous occasion and expressed her wish that “World WIZO will continue to strengthen Jewish Women in Israel and in the Diaspora.” WIZO chaverot joined in the celebration at the Israeli Consulate in Mumbai where everyone took pride in the video of World WIZO’s very moving 2010 Bar Mitzvah celebration. Remona Divekar proposed the vote of thanks.

Rita rocks Milan

To the delight of the 650 guests present at the Adeissima 2010 fundraising gala, Israeli singer Rita, known as the wild spirited diva of Israeli music, hit the high notes with her band creating a truly magical atmosphere. Held at the Smeraldo Theatre in Milan, Adeissima 2010, celebrating World WIZO’s 90th anniversary was dedicated to the memory of devoted Adei WIZO Past National President Berta Sinai, who spent her life tirelessly working for the WIZO cause and who died a few years ago. Susanna Sciaky, president of Adei WIZO Milan introduced special guest and good friend, World WIZO Fundraising Chair Esther Mor who had come from Israel to launch the fundraising effort for the benefit of the women and children of Israel.
Rome hails Noa

The Rome branch of Adei WIZO celebrated the 90th anniversary of World WIZO with a spectacular fundraising event in October, which was the talk of the town. Held at the prestigious Auditorium Della Musica, a concert featuring renowned Israel singer Noa (Achinoam Nini) attracted a record audience of some 850 WIZO friends and admirers of the singer who included some Neapolitan tunes in her repertoire of Israeli songs. There was much media interest in Noa, resulting in added favourable publicity for Adei WIZO. Among the dignitaries attending the concert were the President of the Roman Jewish Community and his wife, religious leaders and Professor Amira Meir, wife of the Israeli Ambassador to Italy. Guest of honour World WIZO Fundraising Department Chairperson Esther Mor painted a dramatic picture of projects in Israel through her emotive words and thanked the Italian Federation for their wonderful support.

Celebrating Mexico

Celebrating Mexico’s bicentennial Independence Day, members and guests enjoyed a traditional Mexican breakfast at WIZO headquarters organized by Cultural Committee President Rebeca Marcos. Chaverot entered into the patriotic spirit by dancing and singing customary Mexican tunes.

A History of Colours

The closing ceremony of ‘WIZO in the Bicentennial, A History of Colours’ took place in a large venue with the participation of over 2,000 visitors over three days of festivities. Six pavilions housed many attractions including three art exhibitions: Bicentennial Pop, Mexico and its Feelings and A Look at Jewish Migration to Mexico. The children’s pavilion featured a carnival, handicrafts, and amusing activities. The Bicentennial Plaza featured Mexican folk art and the teen-age pavilion was a fun place for young people to sing, dance and play games. For food enthusiasts, there were delicious dishes with a Mexican and international flavour and cooking demonstrations by famous chefs, aptly named ‘Smells and Flavours of Mexico’. Various shows played at the show pavilion, and there was a big raffle with a host of excellent prizes.

Members of the public and local dignitaries were generous in support of this extravaganza. Its excellent organization and success is the culmination of months of hard work by the Project Education Campaign Committee headed by Shula Shrem.

Education, Education

In August, middle school children in the community received WIZO Mexico scholarships at the annual two-week scholarship fair, coordinated by chaverot Anita Hamui and Dalia Merikansky. The scholarships enable pupils to continue their Jewish studies, learning about their roots and traditions. As part of the activities for Rosh Hashana, residents of the Eishel Retirement Home created ceramic objets d’art, which were included with the scholarship gift certificates. For Rosh Hashana, groups sold gifts, such as prosperity trees, specialty chocolates and tea boxes conveying festive wishes. Chaverot visit local schools regularly. On one such visit, they presented a talk on ‘How I build my Life’ - a subject that touches on home and hygiene, the fulfillment of the soul and how to accept weaknesses and strengths in order to become better educators and better parents. They also opened the Language Laboratory in a local high school.
Introducing Neshama

WIZO Mexico recognizes its future as being in its young groups and it proudly welcomes its newest group to the WIZO family. The Neshama Group, comprised of 15 newlywed young and enthusiastic women, ensures longevity of the movement.

Fun and Games

The Simja Group once again presented an incredible Luna Park, where more than 3,000 youngsters and children enjoyed all the fun of the fair. The bowling tournament organized by the Javerut Group was, as in previous years, very well supported with fun for all the family.

Honouring Past Presidents

WIZO Panama honoured their past presidents at a glittering evening celebrating World WIZO's special birthday. The former 'history makers' of WIZO Panama who planted the seeds of Zionism and shared their love for Israel with each new generation were thrilled to receive an 'I was President' award to mark their valuable contribution. Israel’s Ambassador to Panama HE Mr Yoed Magen was presented with a certificate underlining WIZO’s commitment to the State of Israel and the welfare of its citizens. Guests were roused by the stirring sounds of famed Israeli singer Einat Sarouf’s medley of Israeli folk songs, as well as Latin and modern Israeli music in a fittingly festive celebration.

Bride of the Year

Johannesburg’s WIZO Aviv Shaffa Bride of the Year competition attracts candidates from all over South Africa. Being beautiful is not enough: winning brides have to be smart too. At the grand finals, over 180 guests enjoyed dinner and entertainment at the Great Romances themed evening where comedians Al Prodgers and Don Packett provided the fun. The panel of judges, among them makeup artists Jose and Penny Rose, South Africa Zionist Federation head of PR and long time WIZO member Bev Goldman, Isabel Smith of People Magazine, Jared Orlin of You Magazine and Don Packett, quizzed candidates on women’s issues and WIZO. This fun-filled event is one of the most prestigious of all WIZO Johannesburg’s fundraisers with proceeds earmarked for WIZO South Africa’s Neve WIZO project and Estee Lauder Breast Cancer Awareness. First runner up was Kerri-Ann Girun and second runner up was Taryn Winer. The winning bride was Cindy Liebowitz.
Indian Star

Weaving her Mumbai magic in South Africa, WIZO India President Yael Jhirad travelled to South Africa to launch the WIZO South Africa Biennial Fundraising Campaign. Addressing chaverot, she won many hearts with her warmth and passion for WIZO and women’s rights. Whilst in South Africa, Yael was the star guest at a sari demonstration with WIZO Johannesburg Aviv members who eagerly draped themselves in an array of colourful silks.

Celebrating all over Switzerland

In celebration of WIZO’s 90th, over 250 guests enjoyed a performance by the talented song and dance troupe of the Nachlat Yehuda Youth Village sponsored by the Swiss Federation, which was held at the new Jewish Community Centre in Zurich with the participation of guest of honour, World WIZO Chair Tova Ben Dov. Also present were WIZO Switzerland President Anne Argi and WIZO Switzerland Past President Lucie Gideon. The troupe, accompanied by school principal Dr Hezi Josef, also delighted an appreciative audience in Basel. The Swiss Federation are rightly proud of the extremely talented youth who make up the troupe.

WIZO’s Promise

WIZO South Africa President Yvonne Jawitz presented a special certificate in honour of World WIZO's 90th anniversary to the Israeli Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Yaakov Finkelstein (photo below) reinforcing WIZO’s ties with Israel.

Sponsor A Child

World WIZO Fundraising Department Chair, Esther Mor was guest of honour at the Swiss Federation’s Sponsor a Child luncheon held at the delightful Zurich home of WIZO Switzerland vice-President Eva Wyler where 45 women enjoyed a lavish luncheon. Among those present were WIZO Switzerland President Anne Argi, Mrs Ziva Elgar, wife of Israel’s Ambassador to Switzerland, Aviva Janson from WIZO Finland and Jenny Sommer from WIZO Germany. Sponsor a Child diamond pins were awarded to Eva Wyler, Anne Argi and Mrs Argi senior (Anne’s mother-in-law). Mrs Angela Guggenheim received a Woman of Valour pin and Prof. Dr Gabriela Riemer was presented with a WIZO Chai pin.
**UNITED KINGDOM**

**Murder Mystery@Home**

Eight Oxford sleuths solved the crime in WIZO.uk’s Murder Mystery@Home online competition, beating 27 other teams from around the UK as they hunted clues in WIZO.uk’s first event of its kind. Approximately £3,500 was raised to support WIZO projects in Israel. Ruth Levy hosted the winning team headed by Oxford WIZO co-chairman Judy Silver.

**Liverpool Daughters’ Brunch**

More than 100 people enjoyed WIZO.uk’s Liverpool Daughters of Zion annual Summer Brunch, held last May at the Childwall home of Adrienne and Alan Harris. Guest speaker was former Labour Minister and former Chairman of Labour Friends of Israel the Right Hon. Jane Kennedy. Jacqueline Berg opened the brunch, which raised over £1,000.

**Summer Brunch in Glasgow**

Glasgow’s Giffnock Synagogue Hall was the venue for the Edith Eder WIZO summer luncheon attended by 160 guests who listened to guest speaker Mark Gardner, head of communications for the Community Security (CST). The CST represents and advises the Anglo-Jewish community on matters of security and anti-Semitism. A brochure and raffle raised funds for WIZO.uk sponsored projects.

**Rebecca Sieff Day**

Incoming British Ambassador to Israel HE Matthew Gould addressed 220 guests at WIZO.uk’s annual Rebecca Sieff Day in July. Ambassador Gould said he was ‘hugely excited’ about his new post. Sharing his vision for Israel, he told guests that his principal job ‘is to build the widest possible links...and to pursue a vision where people in the region will live in peace and prosperity regardless of race or religion.’

Southgate WIZO Chairman and WIZO.uk Honorary Vice President Shirley Levinson was presented with the Lily Sieff Award for her outstanding service to WIZO. This year’s Regional Rebecca Sieff Award went to Renee Woolf, chair of Ziana WIZO in Cardiff and the London Rebecca Sieff Award was presented to Ruth Green, former chair and founder member of WIZO Chamanit, based in Elstree.

**Knocking on Doors for WIZO**

In May, over 1500 women up and down the country knocked on doors in the 63rd Jewish Women’s Week organized by WIZO.uk. The campaign has raised over one million pounds over the last four years in support of more than 12,000 at-risk children attending WIZO centres throughout Israel. The Jewish Women’s Week campaign has been in operation since 1947. At the launch, Jewish Women’s Week Chair Andy Epstein said, “Jewish Women’s Week enables women across our community to come together and demonstrate their support for vulnerable families in Israel. With this year’s focus on children at risk, we hope that community members will give generously to help us provide a brighter and more positive future for the many thousands of children who benefit from WIZO’s services in Israel.”
Boris brings humour to Dinner

London Mayor Boris Johnson provided a humorous insight into politics at WIZO.uk’s Bi-Annual dinner last May at London’s Northumberland House attended by 350 guests. Mr Johnson also paid a warm tribute to Israel and congratulated WIZO on its endeavours. Well-known journalist and Jerusalem correspondent for The New York Times, Isabel Kershner, also treated guests to an insight into Israeli life and politics.

WIZO Executive member Betty Crystal received a special honour for her 60 years in WIZO, wherein she initiated WIZO’s internationally successful Sponsor A Child Campaign and WIZO’s first fundraising newsletter many years ago. Betty co-chairs the Friends of WIZO Committee in Israel.

Funds raised at the evening benefit WIZO.uk projects including the Phoebe Welcome Leon Day Care Centre, which provides support for vulnerable families, single parents and children suffering from poverty or neglect.

Abi’s Cupcakes

North London’s Shemesh Aviv held a cupcake baking demonstration by Abi Warren, (daughter-in-law of WIZO.uk Chairman Loraine Warren), which raised £600 for WIZO.uk projects in Israel. In the photo, committee members L-R: Alex Welka, Gloria Besser, Suzanne Robert, Alison Maurice, Michelle Bamberg, Gila Hartnell, Corrine Chiltern and Diane Moss, show off their cupcakes.

Sponsoring Children

Fifty guests assembled at the Grosvenor Square home of Loren and Steven Kaye for the annual Sponsor A Child luncheon, which raised over £52,000, bringing the total raised to over half a million pounds in the 16 years since its inauguration. Guest speaker Knesset Member Orit Zuaretz gave an illuminating talk on education, social and environmental challenges in Israel. A member of the Kadima party, Orit believes her goals and WIZO’s goals are one and the same. “It’s about the things we believe in: changing society, the empowerment of women, fighting trafficking in women,” she said.

Whilst in the UK, Orit also addressed WIZO.uk supporters at a lunch at WIZO House and a breakfast for Aviv chaverot at the Borehamwood home of Elisa Ziff.

Bridge in the Wood

The charming St John’s Wood London home of ‘WIZO in the Wood’ member Odette Dreyfuss was the venue for a Bridge lunch for 80 guests. Monies raised will fund therapeutic programmes for children at risk who attend WIZO centres in Israel.
Sixth year Jewish school students with WIZO chaverot

Listening to a winner

Howard Jacobson recipient of the prestigious Man Booker Prize 2010 was the guest speaker at a Gan WIZO event at the Finchley Reform Synagogue in London. Over 180 people gathered to hear Mr Jacobson read from his award-winning book, 'The Finkler Question' and share amusing anecdotes of his formative years and writing life. Over £6,000 was raised for WIZO projects in Israel.

Celebrating WIZO’s 90th

The WIZO Uruguay Federation headed by Laura Rozenbaum held a cocktail reception at WIZO headquarters to celebrate WIZO’s 90th anniversary attended by representatives of Jewish organizations, friends and supporters. Israeli Consul Mr Joseph Levy Sfari was presented with a diploma reaffirming WIZO’s ties with Israel. Future celebrations include a luncheon at the residence of HE Mr Dori Goren, Israel’s Ambassador to Uruguay.

USA

Going Forward with Jana and Gail

WIZO USA is proud to introduce its new co-presidents Jana Falic and Gail Perl. Former Vice-President of WIZO USA and WIZO Florida and also a past WIZO USA Aviv Representative to World WIZO, Miami-based Jana is an outstanding donor and passionate about WIZO and the State of Israel. New Yorker Gail Perl is also a true Zionist and major fundraising force. Gail has chaired many highly successful WIZO campaigns, has served as Tri-State WIZO Chair, and has brought a young and vibrant American generation to WIZO.

These dynamic young women bring fresh new ideas to ensure WIZO USA moves ever forward.

NEW YORK

Summer with Style

WIZO New York welcomed the summer in style with Edit’s Summer Kick-Off Party in Southampton, New York. WIZO supporters and co-owners of the high class Edit Boutique, Valerie Feigen and Alissa Emerson, chose WIZO as the charity to support when they donated a portion of the day’s sales as well as three fabulous items for a raffle to benefit WIZO. Among the happy shoppers attending Edit’s for a dose of fashion and philanthropy were Gail Perl, Marci Waterman and Margie Loeb.

Honouring Israel’s Independence

WIZO New Jersey Chapter, under the leadership of co-chairs Ariela Spialter, Bat Sheva Halpern and Sheree Mandelbaum, celebrated Yom Ha’atzmaut at the Wilshire Grand Hotel. Nearly 150 WIZO supporters gathered for an exciting programme featuring a terrific performance by the Re-Vital dance ensemble as well as a raffle and auction chaired by Vera Chapman. Mira Rappaport and Vice-President of WIZO USA Mira Sofer joined the New Jersey Executive Board in organizing this event.

Hasbara WIZO Diffusion

Chaverot visited sixth year students of the two Jewish schools ahead of their Bar/Bat Mitzvot to enlighten them on WIZO’s projects and work with children and youth in Israel. Teachers and students greeted chaverot warmly and were eager to learn about WIZO’s excellent work in Israel. WIZO members presented the girls with an apron and the boys received a pin. The children also received a WIZO recipe for the Sabbath challah and were delighted by their encounter with WIZO.

Gan WIZO committee with Howard Jacobson

L-R: Jackie Siegal, Vicki Sakhai, Mireille Manocherian

URUGUAY

Group Reinforcement

Delegates from all centres participate in fortnightly informal meetings with psychologist Graciela Gancman, who assists chaverot in surmounting some of the challenges associated with organizational voluntary work. These meetings are an excellent opportunity to share ideas and reinforce the chaverot.

Uruguay boasts a new addition: the Simcha Centre – a highly motivated and enthusiastic group of women eager to do great deeds for WIZO.

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Sixth year Jewish school students with WIZO chaverot

L-R: Jonathan Aghravi, Lauren Tetenbaum, Deborah Shnay, Aghravi, Sam Goldberg

L-R: Brittany Yee, Sara Goldberg, Joyce Camhi, Stephanie Grenitz.

WINTER 2010/2011 WIZO REVIEW
Rocking the Runway

New York's Mayor Michael Bloomberg joined some 350 guests at WIZO New York's 13th Annual Children for our Children Fashion Show and Luncheon, themed 'WIZO Rocks the Runway'. The successful show was held last May at the Pierre in New York City where 100 children of WIZO volunteers strutted their stuff to raise funds for Israel's children in need. Event chair Lauren Schor Geller reported on the essential services of WIZO and Marci Waterman, Gail Perl and Evelyn Sommer addressed guests.

Recognising Donors

Over 150 guests attended WIZO Florida's Donors' Recognition Dinner with guest speaker world-renowned author Dr Daniel Gordis. Samuel Falic and Jamie Kleinbaum received special awards for generously donating their Bar Mitzvah gift money to WIZO. Evelyn and Dr Shmuel Katz and their family were presented with a Family Tree Award by Evelyn's sister WIZO Florida vice-President Lilian Tabacinic. Dr Katz also presented his wife with a diamond WIZO Forever brooch for her birthday. The Gold Wall of Life Award was presented to Lisa and Gabriel Groisman. This impressive event was organized under the leadership of WIZO Florida vice-President and Head of Fundraising Ruthy Benoliel. Among those present were WIZO USA Founding President Mercedes Ivcher, vice-Presidents Rosita Retelny and Anita Friedman and the WIZO Florida Board of Directors.

Young Leadership Fall Benefit

A dedicated and committed group of young professionals who support WIZO's crucial work gathered at WIZO New York's Young Leadership Annual Fall Benefit chaired by Lauren Abuaf. More than 150 guests gathered at New York City's Union Square Ballroom where the positive energy in support of the people of Israel was both heart warming and astounding.

Welcome Aviv

Houston WIZO Aviv Chapter held its first board meeting with the participation of President Sara Goldberg, Vice-President Joyce Camhi, Sasha Arch, Rivital Yadin, Brittany Horwitt, and Stephanie Grenitz. The enthusiastic 'new blood' of Houston Aviv chapter is working hard to develop a new WIZO chapter in their community.
With WIZO you can:

* Design a specific Planned Giving Program that meets your personal goals.
* Have the security of knowing that your planned gift will support WIZO in the way you intend.
* Leave a lasting memory with WIZO that helps to ensure Israel’s future generations.
* Enjoy substantial tax savings* today and tomorrow with your planned gift. The greatest benefit, however, lies in knowing that you are supporting WIZO for years to come.

We are prepared to answer any questions about providing for WIZO’s future through wills, insurance policies, family foundations, trusts and annuities.

Please contact your local WIZO Federation to learn more, or to begin your personal Planned Giving Program today!

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* Tax savings will vary depending on the country and specific planned giving program.