Rising to the Challenge
Aviv girls on a mission

Time is Running Out
Memorializing Holocaust Victims

WIZO is 90
Bnai mitzvah celebrate
Dear Readers,

There is no doubt that all the buzz and talk in the corridors of WIZO Head Office in Tel Aviv is about WIZO's 90th anniversary, and that is also true for our WIZO Review office. We are planning a special 90th anniversary issue of the Review, which will be published towards the end of this year. I was recently in England, where I visited the WIZO.uk archive room on the very top floor of the head office in London. There I found WIZO Review Nos. 1-5. Issue No. 1 dated December 1946 was the first after WWII and was a successor to another WIZO publication: we are on the trail of these earlier publications! One of the most poignant articles in the December 1946 issue is an interview with our founder, Rebecca Sieff, who had spent the previous Rosh Hashana in Displaced Persons camps in Germany…..and how many of us know that survivors of European WIZO federations organized WIZO groups in these camps?

Just leafing through these magazines I could see what wonderful work our predecessors were doing - and we intend to bring you extracts from these publications in the 90th anniversary issue and future issues of the Review. And now, to this issue - Summer 2010. Our president and chairperson both reflect on various aspects of the 90th anniversary (pages 4 and 5). Up Front on pages 6-7 portrays some special visits and 'encounters' which have taken place during the past few months.

In her inimitable fashion, WIZO.uk Chairman Loraine Warren sums up the Meeting of Representatives, which, as usual, was a combination of hard work, tough decision-making and a roller coaster of emotions. (pages 8-13). We continue with our portraits of WIZO presidents on page 14, with a fascinating interview with WIZO Austria's Hava Bugajer, who, as a pediatrician and medical director of a clinic founded by her husband, still finds time for WIZO work and advocacy for Israel.

Aviv - our future - is so dear to us all. Read Vicky's message on page 17, in which she stresses the importance of educating our children about the Holocaust, and on pages 24-29 is an article about a special Yad Vashem project to commemorate the lives of those who perished.

Following Vicky's column, starting on page 18 is a report on the WIZO.uk Aviv Challenge, a wonderful idea, a wonderful success - and something to be emulated by other federations! One of WIZO's aims is empowerment of women, and on pages 22-23 you can read about WIZO's Directors' Course, which gives women the tools to break through that glass ceiling and apply for directorships. In a similar vein is the Organization Department's article on leadership (page 28).

We know from your emails and phone calls that you are thirsty for the little human interest stories that make us feel proud and satisfied about our work, and help you with your activities: many of these stories make the press here in Israel, and on pages 30-31, we give you some examples.

At the end of the magazine on pages 32-35 there is a glimpse of some of the activities of what WIZO is doing here in Israel, including the wonderful Bar/Bat mitzvah ceremony in Jerusalem. As usual, our grand finale is WIZO Around the World, (page 36) where we see all the wonderful work you are doing.

Have a great summer and just wait for the 90th issue!

Ingrid Rockberger
Editor.
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CHANGE OF ADDRESS: to make sure you don’t miss a copy of WIZO Review, please let us know any address changes by email to wrdistlist@gmail.com. Don’t forget to add your full name, mailing address, zip code and country.
Dear Chaverot,

I was privileged to be one of the 120 Jewish leaders invited from around the world to participate in "A Journey in Herzl's Footsteps," organized by the World Zionist Organization. We visited cities significant in the life of this visionary of the Jewish State and the founder of the Zionist Movement: Paris, Vienna, Basel, Budapest and Jerusalem. At each venue, members of the local Jewish community and Zionist Federation took part in the proceedings and events. I would like to share some of the highlights of the mission with you.

The journey's gala event took place in the presence of President Shimon Peres and other dignitaries at the Opera House in Paris. It is hard to describe my feeling of pride as I looked at the Israeli flag flying high above the building and listened to our President delivering a speech in Hebrew. Then we travelled to Basel where I was given the honour of hosting the ceremony that took place at the Basel Casino, venue of the First Zionist Congress and where Herzl declared the "Basel Programme" that "Zionism seeks to establish a home for the Jewish People in Palestine, secured by public law". It was a very moving event, and I began by stating that WIZO will be celebrating its 90th Anniversary this year and that as a Women's International Zionist Organization, we are forever grateful to Theodor Herzl for being a liberal as well as a visionary - as he granted women the equal right to vote at the Zionist Congresses - decades before women were given such a right in general elections anywhere in the world. Although hard to believe, Switzerland was one of the last countries in Europe to grant women the right to vote. I also spoke about WIZO's activities in preparing for and during the Durban II Conference.

In Vienna, I had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Hava Bugajer, President of WIZO Austria, and some of the chaverot, as well as Mrs. Schneider, Austria's Minister of Education, who also attended events within the framework of the journey.

In Budapest, where Theodor Herzl was born, I met with WIZO Hungary President Eva Lancz and chaverot from our Hungarian federation who attended the events at the Dohany Synagogue and the Jewish community centre. The last leg of the mission was to be in Jerusalem on Memorial Day and Independence Day, however, because of the Icelandic ash cloud, we were left stranded in Budapest without knowing when we would get home.

A group of students participating in the mission along with members from the Jewish community in Budapest took upon themselves to put together a Remembrance Day ceremony instead of the official Mount Herzl ceremony that we were not able to attend – and they did us all proud. A one-minute siren was sounded at exactly 7 pm – 8 pm Israel time, which is when the Israeli siren sounded. It was a very moving event and like the whole journey, one that none of us in the group will ever forget. We arrived home after Yom Ha'atzmaut – after being part of an extraordinary once in a lifetime experience – and prouder than ever to be part of the Zionist movement. July marks the beginning of our 90th anniversary celebrations - a very significant milestone for our WIZO movement. Theodor Herzl addressed the meaning of the Land of Israel, the nature of the Jewish State and its society, and Jewish identity. For 90 years WIZO has followed in his footsteps carrying out his blessed work for the advancement of the status of women, the welfare of all sectors of Israeli society and the encouragement of Jewish education in Israel and the Diaspora.

Helena Glaser,
President,
World WIZO
Dear Chaverot,

The days at the beginning of June 2010, which were marked by the Gaza Flotilla crisis, were very difficult ones for Israel and the Jewish people. Now more than ever, we have to use all our inner strength and emotional reserves and unite as one nation with one heart. It is time the world understands that Israel is the only beacon of light in the Middle East; Iran and Turkey, countries that have become more and more extreme, are a threat not only to Israel, but also to Europe and the whole world.

In spite of these threats, we in Israel are continuing… because we have full confidence in the justice of our cause, and every day new facts are coming to light which clearly show that the whole plan of the Flotilla to Gaza bringing humanitarian aid was a trap and an ambush well prepared in advance.

In WIZO, this year we are marking two unique events: one is the 90th anniversary of the establishment of WIZO and the second one is the 150th anniversary of the birth of Theodor Herzl, who envisioned the State of Israel.

Only by living in our own land do we have the privilege to celebrate and commemorate days that are so important to us as a modern, yet ancient people. We in WIZO have added our own special days to the Jewish calendar. Our journey, as World WIZO, began on the 11th July 1920 and our family is spread across the world. The name WIZO is a household word and is highly respected both here and abroad, amongst Jews and non-Jews.

Our founders shared a vision, which is still as pertinent today, as we are still putting into practice what Rebecca Sieff defined at the closing session of the Founding Committee of World WIZO in 1920: education, the status of women, health and welfare services. We have remained loyal to her ideology.

It is hard to enumerate all the ways in which WIZO has impacted on the State of Israel, both prior to and after its establishment. I would say that our work spans from the cradle throughout life, but, in fact, our work begins even before the child is born, when we fight for the rights of the pregnant woman in the workplace, or the woman who wants to have IVF treatment.

Our children, are nurtured, taught Jewish and Zionist values, and prepared for the modern world. Every child who passes through our WIZO doors has an equal chance to succeed as an adult.

For the last 90 years, we have fought for the equality of women, in the home, in the workplace, in society, and through legislation. Our work is far from complete, but thousands of women have been grateful for WIZO’s work on their behalf.

WIZO has adapted itself to every situation in the country, whether it be during times of war or times of peace, during difficult financial periods, or times of social unrest.

We are celebrating this auspicious occasion in a number of ways. A huge bar and batmitzvah celebration at the Kotel (the Western Wall), on the 31st May opened the 90th anniversary celebrations, followed by events and festivities in our schools, day care centres, WIZO family centres, and at the Knesset.

One of our greatest achievements over the last 90 years is the bond that exists between us, Jewish Zionist women separated by miles, yet joined by the heart. We are a close-knit family, and to be a member of the WIZO family means to be a member of a family that reaches every corner of the world. We look forward to the next 90 years, may they be as productive as the first 90 years, and may we all live to rejoice in the fruits of our efforts.

Happy birthday, WIZO!

Affectionately yours,

Tova Ben-Dov,
Chairperson
World WIZO Executive
WIZO's Fundraising Fairy Queen

With these apt words, WIZO.uk chairman Loraine Warren bestowed a special honour on Betty Crystal to mark Betty’s 60 years of service to WIZO. In her address to Betty at WIZO.uk’s bi-annual major fundraising dinner held in London, Loraine said: “Betty is often referred to as the fairy queen of all fundraisers having taught and encouraged generations of WIZO women to follow in her footsteps. There are so many people who have benefitted from her passion for WIZO and whose lives she has influenced and changed for the better.”

Betty Crystal is known throughout the WIZO fundraising world for her innovative and successful fundraising ideas spanning six decades. Born in Calgary, Alberta in Canada, Betty’s WIZO activities started in her hometown. While she and her family lived in Hong Kong from 1979-1986, Betty initiated the Sponsor A Child Campaign, which has been adopted by World WIZO, as one of WIZO’s most successful campaigns, and is now held in many federations around the world under Betty’s guidance. Today, Betty and her husband, Jack, divide their time between their homes in London and Tel Aviv - and in both locations Betty is as busy as ever with her WIZO work.

Our president meets presidents!

It’s always gratifying to see women become presidents of countries and recently Laura Chinchilla was elected as the first female president of Costa Rica. A few years ago when she was vice-president, World WIZO President Helena Glaser had the privilege to meet her when on a mission to Costa Rica, and remembers the meeting well: “I was very impressed by her personality, and commitment to public and social affairs, especially problems and challenges pertaining to women, children and the underprivileged, and her determination to make their lives better.”

Earlier this year Helena had a chance meeting at the Tel Aviv port area with Panama’s President HE Mr Ricardo Martinelli, who was on a state visit to Israel. A member of the president’s entourage recognized Helena and introduced her to him. Helena used the opportunity to thank Mr Martinelli for voting against the Goldstone Report in the UN. In turn, Mr Martinelli expressed his appreciation for the Jewish community in Panama, and said on a future visit to Israel, he would try to include WIZO projects in his itinerary.

WIZO welcomes Mirla

We are very pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs Mirla Gal as World WIZO’s new Director General. Mirla has great experience in security, public & social service and financial matters, and we wish her much success in her new position.
Opening of kitchen at Nahalal

A legacy left to WIZO Holland led to the kitchen in WIZO’s Nahalal Youth Village being totally renovated. Having been told that the kitchen was in danger of being closed down, the Executive of WIZO Holland did not hesitate to earmark the money for its remodelling.

The new kitchen was officially opened during the Meeting of Representatives this past January in the presence of Conference delegates. Special guests were the deputy ambassador to Holland Mr Buffinga and his wife, and former WIZO Holland member Miriam Dunkelgrün, who now lives in Israel.

World WIZO Executive Chairperson Tova Ben-Dov related that the connection between Nahalal and Holland is a long one - the first cows at the school farm in the 1930s were donated by Holland’s Jewish community - and the current cows are their descendants!

Jennifer of Jamaica

An unusual, but very welcome guest to World WIZO head offices was Mrs Jennifer (McAdam) Lim President of WIZO Jamaica. Jennifer shared the origins of the settlement of her family in Jamaica and proudly displayed a family tree, which traced her lineage back to Spain. While on her visit to Israel, Jennifer met with Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Huldai and lunched with her old friend Honorary World WIZO President Raya Jaglom. Jennifer first met Raya at WIZO’s 50th anniversary celebrations and later, when she participated in the World WIZO mission to Poland in 1989. In the past, WIZO Jamaica held extremely successful fashion shows and luncheons, and although dormant of late, Jennifer plans to revive the federation with activities for new young people.

An action-packed tour for WIZO Florida

Executive members of WIZO Florida were in Israel recently for the inauguration by retiring WIZO USA Co-PresidentMrs Mercedes Ivcher and her husband Menachem of a state-of-the-art learning dairy at WIZO Nir Ha’emek Youth Village to enhance milk production at the agricultural school. Rabbi Shimon Rozenberg, whose daughter rebbetzin Rivki Holtzburg was tragically killed in the Mumbai terror attack affixed the Mezzuzah. The delegation also visited WIZO Miami-sponsored projects in Rishon Lezion, Afula and the Palmachim Air Force Base. At Ramat Gan’s Miami Beach Community Centre, incoming WIZO USA Co-President Jana Falic unveiled a plaque dedicating the new third floor of the centre donated by the Falic family. At the centre, which is the heart of the community in Ramat Gan, the visitors, which included Jana Falic and her granddaughter, Judith Groisman, Anita Friedman, Perla Weinberg, Mercedes Ivcher, Beverley Kopolovitz and Linda Cohen, were accompanied by World WIZO Chairperson Tova Ben-Dov and members of the Executive. They enjoyed a ballet performance by five to seven year olds. Whilst in Israel, the delegation met with Israel’s Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu and participated in Jerusalem Day events.
United for a Better WIZO Future

Under this slogan, and faced with a budget-slashing emergency plan, representatives from over 30 federations attended WIZO’s Meeting of Representatives in January. On the last evening, Loraine Warren, chairman of WIZO.uk summed up the hectic few days

Every day we are bombarded with hundreds of symbols, brands and logos. This morning, with the end of the MOR in sight, I logged on to check my e-mails and there, blinking at me, in the corner of the screen were the four little coloured flags of the Microsoft emblem. I was transfixed. It will never be just Microsoft to me again. It will always make me remember Maya, the brave young woman who told us the story of an abusive husband, who destroyed her self esteem and her confidence. But who picked her up off the floor at her darkest moment? We did, WIZO did, and the Microsoft computer-programming course was the challenge that she needed to lift herself out of the downward spiral that was her life.

Just one woman, and just one story from the six thousand pleas to the WIZO call hotline, another vital service under the threat of dramatic cutbacks needed to balance the budget. And what is the reality of these cutbacks? Our dedicated leader, Tova Ben-Dov, who is competently following the footsteps of so many generations of talented hard working chairmen, did not hesitate to tell it like it is. Only with the implementation of an emergency plan throughout 2010, an estimated 20,000,000 shekels sliced from the budget can put us back on course.

Tough emergency measures
When the going gets tough, the tough get on with the job and Tova did not flinch from the desperately difficult decisions that she had to make, which impacted on the lives of so many families. Tova told us how she has delicately steered the WIZO ship through stormy seas, and calmer waters are now on the horizon.

By her side, throughout these difficult decision-making processes was our Director General, Haim Zamorsky, whose contribution to World WIZO, throughout the last 20 years, is immeasurable. A new chapter is opening for him and all of us wish him all the best for the future.

New Treasurer
After a nine-month gestation period, a new treasurer was born. Atara Ilani is a fast learner and she was soon accomplished in addition, and an expert at subtraction, a talent which came into play during this second year of a two-year efficiency plan. Atara told us that the WIZO federations’ income accounted for 67% of WIZO’s participation in the budget. She urged every federation to remit each shekel as soon as possible to help with the cash flow. A treasurer’s job is complex and demanding and we congratulate you on your new appointment and feel sure that you are the right person for this job.

We also acknowledge Telma Neri and her Audit Committee, who grapple with the Amuta rules and have successfully implemented 84% of all finance division decisions.

WIZO’s rich history
A rich history and continuity makes WIZO what it is today,
and no MOR would be the same without the gracious company of Honorary Presidents, Mrs Raya Jaglom and Mrs Michal Modai. Mrs Jaglom, on behalf of the delegates, I commend your campaign initiative to keep children of foreign workers born in Israel, here with their families. It is indeed a worthy cause.

Mrs Modai, your fund’s sponsorship for Dudi, the student from Ahuzat Yeladim, which enabled him to be part of the March of the Living in Poland, is so worthwhile, and I do not believe that there was a dry eye in the house as his headmaster, Yossi, translated the story of this problematic and rebellious child whose life has been transformed by a volunteering programme with special needs children. Another success story from this outstanding WIZO facility in Haifa.

Every federation establishes a special bond with its own projects. The touring day was, as always, the highlight of this conference. State of the art buildings and facilities such as Kadima and Nahalal continue to evolve as hubs in their own regions and deliver world-class services to the local residents. We spent several marvellous hours watching youngsters in action in the southern Tel Aviv area, where the population benefits from wide ranging services and programmes at centres sponsored by Mexico, Switzerland and Italy.

Team tourist, Lily, Janine, Orna and Saya, you did it again. Efficient as ever, with a smile, you count us all out - and you count us all back, and the numbers come out right every time. I realise now that you must be graduates of the ‘Firsts Steps in Mathematics’ scheme explained to us by the two professors on Wednesday afternoon.

Inward looking and to the Future
Helena Glaser is our president with boundless energy, vision and commitment. She urged us to take a long and objective look at our movement as our 90th anniversary approaches. The many missions that Helena has undertaken to every corner of the globe have given her the opportunity to see the federations in action. Helena acknowledges that WIZO faces enormous problems, emanating from the lack of in-depth and comprehensive dialogue between World WIZO and the federations regarding the core WIZO issues and the future of our movement. Only with these frank conversations will we all gain a better understanding of the enormous financial commitments that World WIZO has to cover, as well as the challenges and obstacles facing WIZO.

Helena continued with her hope and plan that World WIZO must invest in the WIZO federations across the world and furnish them with professional tools and skills to upgrade marketing, fundraising, communications and membership. Our WIZO volunteers, both here in Israel and across the world are at the heart of our movement, and everything must be done on their behalf to ensure that we serve them in the best and most efficient manner.
World WIZO’s 90th Anniversary can become a springboard for special fundraising initiatives, and the Anniversary Fund is the best place to start.

The important challenge that we take on is to seek out young women to take on leadership roles. I desperately hope to see an Aviv member next year as a fully contributing member of the World WIZO Executive.

WIZO Israel

WIZO Israel is at the sharp end of our work. Yochy Feller, Chairperson of WIZO Israel, presented her proposal for three international working groups, with a vision of WIZO towards its centennial. The dialogue will include participants from Israel and the Diaspora and focus on a renewed WIZO vision and its realisation, a financial recovery plan and worldwide anniversary celebrations.

WIZO Israel braces itself for the effects of the drastic budget cutbacks. It is easy to say, and it is easy to write, it is not so easy to implement. Only yesterday we sat and listened to the stories of those brave and dignified women who opened their hearts and souls to us – innocent victims like Coral, Malvan and Rachel, who have all been helped to escape from a cycle of violence and from the stigma of an ‘at risk’ family. WIZO is a shield in hard times, and what price do you put on this shield? I do not have an answer. But what we all have now, are marvellous up to date ideas on how to raise that money, so that WIZO can continue to be that shield.

Kudos to the Fundraising Department. The fundraising session was exactly what we have been requesting for so many years. We can all go back to our federations and kick start our fundraising endeavours with new enthusiasm. Well done Esther and your team of Mickey, Annette, Monique and Maly. Please keep those succinct and meticulous proposals coming. Please package them in a modern, donor friendly way and you can rest assured that we will do our best to reel those donors in.

And here we must acknowledge Helena’s tenacity in securing a $4,000,000 legacy from WIZO in Norway.

Communication and publicity

Communication with our members and supporters is a priority. I commend the work of Ingrid and Tricia on an excellent WIZO Review. We are looking forward to an e-news in the not too distant future. The website is gradually reaching its full potential. Let’s all blog and twitter ourselves firmly into the hi-tech age.

The Publicity Department efficiently run by Zipi, Nurit and Anat, does a first class job in keeping us informed. We look forward to a wonderful campaign from you for the 90th Anniversary.

Celia Michonik works tirelessly in the vital arena of public affairs and NGO departments, not an easy brief. However, her comprehensive reports are invaluable to us as we endeavour to combat the growing threat of anti-Semitism.

Education - these are our children

On behalf of all the delegates of the MOR it is my pleasure and privilege to pay tribute to the first class directors in our WIZO schools and youth villages. Together, with their...
dedicated teams, they deliver outstanding levels of services and we can see the children flourish and bloom under their guidance. Just when you thought that you had heard every educational quotation in the book, here is mine. "These are the children who most need a safe place to learn, a place to heal, to build a better future and a place just to be children". Every child has the right to an education.

Hassida Danai, Chairperson of the Early Age Division, eloquently talked us through the vital work of her enormous division. Re-organisation and changes in structure, necessitated by budget limitations have taken place. However the introduction of pilot schemes in 11 centres in partnership with parents, which include linguistics, story telling and music therapy are creating new revenue streams and, if the plan is successful, which I am sure it will be, the model will be rolled out to a further 25 centres.

Ruthie Rubinstein, Chairperson of the Education Division, reminded us that WIZO's education network gives all our students the opportunity to reach their own full potential and to realise their abilities. WIZO continues to teach and prepare every pupil to have the confidence to confront life's challenges and obstacles. To quote Tova 'Our children are trying to live a normal life, often in an abnormal situation'.

Membership is the key
Sylvie Pelossof, Chairperson of the Organisation and Education Division, chaired an excellent final session. Most of you know my view that as a membership-based organisation this department should at least have the word 'membership in its title. Many countries contributed with worthwhile suggestions on important and useful schemes for searching out, nurturing and retaining members. Keep it personal, use every tool available to you, embrace new technology and never lose sight of the fact that every member must be valued. We should endeavour to go that extra mile to make sure that every one of our members feels special. Remember, one day she might leave us a legacy. Vicky, our fabulous Aviv representative, linked to us through technology, applauded the recent Aviv Seminar and urged federations to sponsor Aviv girls to attend in the future. We all know that one visit to one of our projects is worth a thousand words. The seven Aviv girls from the UK who attend this seminar last November, have not stopped talking and spreading the word since they returned. The investment was worth every penny to us.

Sylvie, your team is doing a great job; our thanks to Ahuva, Briana and Rachel. Keep up the good work.

It is impossible for me to mention each and every one who makes up the hard working team here both volunteer and professional - but each of you is fully valued and appreciated.
Meeting of Representatives

The MOR is always privileged to be addressed by first class speakers and Ehud Ya'ari lived up to our expectations as he talked us through the chilling prospects facing Israel as Iran inches towards the nuclear red line and creates nuclear devices. He outlined Palestinian options for the future: he suggested ‘put statehood first, peace later.’

The MOR gives many groups the opportunity to meet informally, and meaningful discussions have taken place between the European federations, the Latin American federations and the past presidents.

I am proud to be a WIZO volunteer and I know you are as well. We are proud to work alongside so many dedicated WIZO women. We are proud that the doors of our projects will always be open to everyone who needs us and no one will be turned away.

I am proud that we are able to take a woman who has been battered and bruised, not only by her partner, but by life itself, and help her and her family on the right road. We can be proud of Israel, a tiny country which is making unparalleled contributions to the world of science and technology, and at this very moment, we are very proud of the lives being saved in our Israeli field hospitals in Haiti.

Israel has always been a symbol of triumph, hope and faith. Tonight, whatever lies ahead, we are reinforcing our pledge to support Israel and WIZO and hope and pray that from now on we will be united for a better WIZO future.

The granddaughter of Rebecca Sieff proudly shows off her late grandmother’s watch

At Beit Italia, girls in their native national costume with World WIZO President Helena Glaser

(I to r) Aviva Jalkanen, WIZO Finland Vice-President, Eva Bensky, Past President WIZO Finland, Dorrit Reiter, President WIZO Denmark, Helena Glaser, Esther Mor, Roberta Nahum, President WIZO Italy, Hannah Elroy-Choc, Sylvie Pelosi-sof, Tova Ben-Dov, enjoying an evening reception
World WIZO Aviv Representative Vicky Fidanque sent the following message to the MOR by video link

Hello everybody!

I can’t believe a year has passed since I started representing the Aviv groups... and that reminds me that time flies... So we have to live every minute to the fullest and the best of our lives.

For all of us it is important to express our needs in the organization. Some of the needs are common in some of the Aviv groups and some differ depending from which Federation we come from. To be able to grow as an organization and ensure the mission of WIZO, I would like to mention the ideas and/or statements that we discussed during the Aviv seminar:

- The Aviv group will always be the youngest group of girls starting their independent life. In most cases, they are starting their first job, others have just gotten married and some are still in college. Some will not be able to contribute the same fees as the older groups. We think that if we take this into consideration and create special [membership] fees for the Aviv members we could potentially attract a larger group of members and even more participation.

- Succession planning needs to be an important element of our strategy. We must foster increased involvement of the younger generation with the current leaders of today.

I have learned that attending the WIZO Aviv congress in Israel is essential to understand the impact that WIZO achieves and how it gives opportunities to so many people. We must give more importance to enable delegates to attend the Aviv Seminar; federations must understand the impact of having a delegate attend and for her to take back the WIZO feeling. We must draft ideal candidates and when necessary sponsor the expenses of their trip to Israel.

- The WIZO Latin American Congress is held every four years in a different country, and last year, the 12th, was held in Panama. For the first time in history in a Latin American Congress we held a one-day Aviv session, which included workshops and presentations. This was a true learning and sharing experience, where we were able to express our doubts, explain the challenges we face, and talk of the successes we are capable of achieving. I am sure that adding an Aviv session in the internal congresses that some of the federations around the world have, would be a great opportunity for Aviv groups to become more enriched and motivated.

There is a saying that goes: behind every great man there is a great woman. We all know that! I’ve heard Helena saying many times: behind every WIZO woman there is a great man.

And I think, and please remember, that behind every WIZO woman there is another WIZO woman, looking up to her, waiting to be as great as she is.

BECAUSE YOU BELIEVED IN ME

When Eden Harel won the coveted role of MTV VJ at the tender age of 18, she was catapulted into a world of fame and glamour, hosting shows such as MTV Select, The Dance Chart, The European Top 20 and the Miss World Pageant, but life for the fresh-faced ingénue was not always so charmed. Addressing delegates at the World WIZO Meeting of Representatives in January, she explained:

“I arrived at WIZO Hadassim School (sponsored by Canadian Hadassah WIZO) when I was 11 years old. I was terrified. My parents had divorced when I was two years old. My mother had no money and with three children to raise, I guess she had no choice [but to send me to the boarding school]. I always had my dreams. One day, I went to the headmaster at Hadassim and told him that I wanted to be a dancer. "OK," he said, we will try and raise the funds to send you to learn how to dance. WIZO Canada sponsored me and I studied dance for a few years until sadly I had problems with my knees. I was heartbroken when the doctor told me I must stop dancing. So again, I went to the headmaster and told him I wanted to study photography. He said "OK we will try to raise the money for you to do that.”

Once again, WIZO Canada sponsored me and I studied in Tel Aviv. But everything I studied had a reason. I had to come back and teach the younger children. If it was dance, I had to teach the little girls how to dance, and then with my photography studies, I came back and taught the children how to take good photos. For me, that was a lesson for life; when you get something good, you must share it. If God gives you a gift, don’t just keep it for yourself, share it with everyone.

After I left Hadassim I became a model, then I went to MTV and was there five years. I co-hosted Miss World and I did some big things out in the world. I tried to bring some pride to Israel as best I could and when I finished MTV after five years I came back to Israel. I felt it was time to share my life and today I am married with two children. I try and get all my family involved in voluntary work. We host events, we help children, and I work with refugees in Israel. I work with children because I believe that these children can be just like me one day - a success story. It does not follow that just because you have a rough background you are going to end up as a drug addict or something similar, but that could easily have been my story. But thank God - and thanks to you, because you believed in me and donated money so I could fulfill my dreams, and turned them into reality. So when you raise money for the children of Israel, think of me. It is because of you that I am standing here today. It is because of you that I am a success.”
The Many Hats of Hava Bugajer

Dr Hava Bugajer wears many hats in her role as president of WIZO Austria. Quite the political animal, she is a firm believer in social justice and does not let an opportunity pass her by in her mission to advocate on behalf of Israel.

Tricia Schwitzer

You were born in Israel, Hava, how did you come to settle in Vienna?
It was at the end of 1970, after I graduated as a medical doctor, I chose to do six months of paid research in my specialty in Switzerland. Prior to starting my research I travelled to Vienna where I met my future husband, Richard. His proposal was most unusual: he took me to see an apartment, which I thought was far too big for him. He said, ‘it’s not just for me - it’s for us!’ I wanted to get married in Israel with all my family around me but I had to finish my research. Richard suggested that we had a civil marriage in Vienna and then later marry with a rabbi in Israel, but what would my mother say? He replied, ‘well, we just won’t tell her.’

After a civil marriage in Vienna and a two-day honeymoon in Rome, we then flew to Israel. On the plane we took off our wedding rings and when we arrived my mother said to Richard, ‘You go to the hotel; Hava is coming home with us.’ We did not dare tell her that we were actually married.

A Wife’s Mission of Memory
Richard was born in Poland - a Holocaust child. His entire family perished in the Shoah but he was liberated from Auschwitz. Sadly, he passed away in 1998. For about ten years he wrote his memoirs, as he wanted our son to know what happened in those dark days. When he died I had his story published in German, English and Hebrew. I wrote the foreword to the book and embarked on a series of book tours in the US and Canada, including lectures at the Washington Holocaust Museum, the Wiesenthal Centre in Los Angeles and colleges and university in Montreal. The book, My Shadow Life, means the world to me.

I was a very busy paediatric doctor on call day and night at the University Hospital and although I paid my dues to WIZO, I was not an active member. Richard was the medical director of the clinic that I am in charge of now. When he became sick I was just doing paediatrics but then I took on his specialty of rehabilitation and became his deputy director. When Richard died, I took over the clinic.

We have one son aged 30. He studied law in London and got his Masters in political science at Aberystwyth University in Wales. He works in publishing in Vienna.

How did your involvement with WIZO begin?
My active involvement began after my husband died. I was asked by (then) World WIZO President Michal Modai to host a dinner for the Sponsor a Child evening with Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Huldai as guest speaker. It was Rita Dauber who
suggested I ran for president. She has always been behind me in my WIZO work but it was unthinkable. I was so busy with the clinics, the patients, Richard's book and book tours. When Brenda Katten (then World WIZO Public Affairs Department chair) came on shlichut to Vienna we were talking about how WIZO needed to change its image to appeal to today’s professional young women who have so many qualities to offer the organization. Brenda tried very hard to convince me to take on the role of president, and although I told her how busy I was, she was very persuasive. In January 2004 I came to Israel to take part in the EGM, and was so impressed with what I saw, that I felt I had to reconsider my decision. Immediately after my return to Vienna, I stood for and was elected as President of WIZO Austria.

You are not only the president of WIZO Austria, you are also WIZO’s NGO representative to the UN in Vienna and Vice President of the European Council of WIZO Federations (ECWF). You certainly are a master of multitasking. Only some of the 400 - 500 chaverot who pay membership fees are active, so it has fallen on me to take on multiple roles. I am the president, charged with the task of fund raising for WIZO Austria's three projects. Whenever I am in Israel I make a point of visiting our projects (I visit Israel several times a year to see my mother and my brother who is a member of the Tel Aviv University Board of Directors).

WIZO, as a recognized NGO, has representation at the United Nations in Vienna. I attend the UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York once a year and in Vienna I attend meetings on human rights, the Committee on Ageing, and the Committee on the Status of Women. To all these meetings, I take three young WIZO chaverot who have been accredited by the UN: Viola, Petra and Karin. It is very important, as these young women who were not active in WIZO have found something that interests them. They are doing something political so if we can attract these women to WIZO others will follow. One young woman that I met said, 'WIZO? No, that does not interest me,' but I told her about the many political things we do and now she is curious. I put her on my mailing list and she receives information that interests her and slowly and surely she is warming to WIZO.

Israel Advocacy in the UN
Last year, I invited a speaker to the UN Commission on the Status of Women in Vienna from Israel’s Sheba Medical Centre. Her talk on gender medicine was very well received by the entire UN community. One doctor attending from Nigeria told me that she did not realize that Israel does such wonderful work and so in this way we are able to make people aware of Israel’s valuable contribution to medicine. This raises Israel’s profile in the international community and is a crucial part of my WIZO work.

Tell me about the Jewish community in Austria
Attitudes towards Israel are very mixed. Some members of the community have holiday homes and children or grandchildren in Israel so they are supportive of Israel. But there are also those within our own community who are ambivalent. I may attend a gathering of Jewish women, and there will be those who ask, ‘why do we need WIZO? What interest do we have in Israel?’ We are privileged to count amongst our friends, President of the Austrian Parliament, Barbara Prammer.

What are the main challenges facing WIZO in Austria?
Assimilation is a problem among the secular Jews and of course, there is anti-Israeli sentiment. The only way to combat this is to inform, and to define the people’s identity with Israel, to give them something tangible and to make them feel they are doing something for Israel. You cannot start with fundraising; you have to start with the political. The fundraising will follow.

You are a great advocate for WIZO and for Israel. How do you raise awareness?
When Ehud Ya’ari was the guest speaker at an event, we invited young people to come and listen to him. I insisted that we only charged them a small amount. Similarly, when Miri Eisen spoke at a fundraiser it was important for me that the young people should listen. It is not all about fundraising. It is equally important to educate. These speakers brought Israel to Vienna. With young people, we must always remember that even if they do not have the...
money now, we must get them interested and cultivate them so that when they do have the money, perhaps in 20 years’ time, they will give. We don’t make friends by just asking for money, we must be patient. WIZO is not only a friendship organization to raise money. We have to raise friends before we raise funds.

In the framework of ECWF, we held a demonstration when Khatami (the fifth president of the Islamic Republic of Iran) came to Austria. It was uplifting to see our chaverot standing alongside our students frantically waving Israeli flags outside the Iranian Embassy. Our youngsters did not realize that WIZO was so ‘cool’ and it brought WIZO down to grassroots.

I attend many lectures on Israel and not just friendly ones. Some people are so vehemently against Israel that you will never convince them so I ask questions of the audience so they can sense the animosity of the speakers. Then they will realize what Israel is up against. I recall one meeting of women journalists; a journalist from Gaza was talking about the appalling things Israel was doing to the Gazan population and I asked if she had also reported on the rocket that struck the children’s shelter in Sderot. I pointed out that, thankfully, Israel builds shelters to protect its children. She had been very eloquent and convincing in her argument until I contested her and then she showed her true colours of hatred. I only go to the debates where I think I can do some good. Some are so extreme that I do not dignify them with my presence.

How does your WIZO work fit in with your professional life and do you ever relax?

Of course, I am still working; I have my patients to look after and clinics on Wednesdays. The rest of my time is devoted to the various aspects of my WIZO work. Almost every day I go to the gym and I jog for an hour. That is my ‘me’ time and it is most therapeutic.

Could you ever envisage life without WIZO?

I completed one term and I asked the younger members if I should retire. They said, ‘No, Hava, give us more time. We are not ready.’ But I won’t stick to the chair when I see we have the right people to take over. Of course, I will always help out. I was offered the position of president of the NGO Committee of the Status of Women at the UN in Vienna but I told them, I cannot - I am the president of WIZO Austria and on the executive of ECWF. They asked me would I agree to it if I were not president. I said I would think it over.

With leaders such as Hava advocating on behalf of the people of Israel under the WIZO banner, legitimacy on the international platform is assured and an informed voice speaks for us all.
Recently, we concluded the Passover holidays, followed by the solemn days of Yom Hashoa (Holocaust Day), Yom Hazikaron (Remembrance Day for Israel’s fallen) and celebrations for Yom Ha’atzmaut (Independence Day). In Israel, the celebrations and the remembrances of these dates seem to go together, and are imbued in the lives of everyone, socially, educationally and governmentally like in any country. As a Jewish state, these dates are part of Israel’s religious and State history.

In the Diaspora, often we do not have the additional support of community or country institutions or policies; therefore we should always bear in mind the importance of passing to the next generations, not only our religion and our traditions, but also the millennial history of our people. It has always been like this, for from the beginning of Jewish history, no matter in which country Jews lived, or from which country they might have been expelled, Jews naturally assumed the responsibility of transmitting their religion and traditions from generation to generation. Over and over again, this has been so, a people that preserved its Jewishness in the best of times and in the most adverse of times.

Yom Hashoa can be called ‘history’, but really, it is ‘very recent history’. Some of us were part of this terrible chapter; some are second and third generation survivors. Years are going by and every day there are less and less witnesses of what happened. Soon they will all be gone, and it will be up to the following generations to take up the torch and make the strength of their testimonies live on through the education we give our children. We must keep ourselves updated, be vigilant of what is happening around us, and remind ourselves and those near us what happened in the 1940s. As WIZO women, mothers and grandmothers, this is another very significant and responsible way that we can support Israel.

On Yom Ha’atzmaut Israel celebrated 62 years of independence. This same year, WIZO celebrates 90 years of existence. From the founders of our organization to our present members in the hundreds of thousands we can proudly say we have succeeded in transmitting the WIZO vision. I believe this is a great moment to appreciate and cherish the work that each member does, and encourage us all to continue our work to ensure the future of the State of Israel, and the strength and effectiveness of our organization. Working for WIZO is working for our organization, for our future generations, and for all Am Israel.

Kol Hakavod to all members.

Vicky Fidanque
Aviv Representative to the
World WIZO Executive

SCENES FROM THE WIZO AVIV CHALLENGE
See full report next page
Tricia Schwitzer

WIZO.uk’s Chairman Loraine Warren came up with this pioneering idea some three years ago: to send Aviv members for five days to Israel to volunteer in WIZO.uk’s flagship project, the Rebecca Sieff Centre in Beit Hakerem, Jerusalem. There, the ‘challengers’ would carry out a whole range of physical tasks and would also have the opportunity to visit other WIZO projects. Could she make it happen? Well, as Herzl famously said, ‘If you will it, it is no dream’ and Loraine Warren willed it.

The groundwork for such an undertaking was painstaking. A massive group effort over a long period of time between WIZO.uk Aviv, World WIZO Education and Organization Department and Kobi Hillel, director of the Rebecca Sieff Centre, was needed to implement such an ambitious operation. As a continuous stream of emails and itineraries electronically whizzed between Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and London, the 18 participants were already penning their appeal letters to friends and colleagues to raise the sponsorship needed to qualify for participation using web-based networking sites and school gate chat. And while arrangements were well underway on the WIZO front, household situations had to be addressed too. Husbands were quickly trained to become domestic gods for a week and mothers, mothers-in-law and friends were called upon for their support in keeping their families afloat.

Threatened by a Cloudy Sky

Just one week before departure, calamity struck when a cloud of volcanic dust from Iceland drifted menacingly over the skies of London grounding all flights in and out of the UK and it looked like the Challenge would be called off. Disappointment and frustration reigned as our intrepid challengers checked newscasts and weather reports for an exasperating ‘will we/ won’t we’ six days. But finally, airborne and relieved, the women were Israel-bound for five action-packed days. It was to be an experience that will remain in their memories and hearts forever.

I joined the women on the fourth day of the Challenge, meeting them early in the morning at their basic but perfectly comfortable lodgings at WIZO Germany-sponsored Beit Heuss in Herzliya Pituach, where they had been made very welcome by chairperson Nurit Pollack and director Cheli Yechiely, who explained that the hostel was set up in 1967 and serves as a sanctuary of calm, providing respite for vulnerable individuals. Over a hearty breakfast, the challengers told me what they had been doing.

They had split into groups: the first group had cleared an area of rocks and weeds, painted railings and garden benches in bright colours and converted an old slide into what will become a beautiful flower display to create a therapeutic garden - a tranquil place for the children to learn about the cycle of life and to be at one with nature. It was a gratifying moment (one of many) when they saw the fruits of their labour as children and their therapists came to visit the garden. The second group began the huge task of painting a mural which spanned 20 metres over three storeys. The mural, comprising of whimsical families, animals, trees and flowers based on a popular Israeli cartoon, had been drawn by the Rebecca Sieff Centre’s very creative security guard, Shimon Kontaj from Uzbekistan who had worked at the centre for just a year.

Quite the charmer, Shimon said, “I have always thought that women work better than men. These ladies prove that theory. They are very talented; they work fast and with great pride. It is a pleasure to work with them. It’s good to know that there are people in the world who give with all their heart. These women certainly do.”

A Challenging Agenda

World WIZO’s Education and Organization Department and Tourist Department had organized an excellent program that included a visit to the Kotel in Jerusalem and dinner and a concert at the WIZO.uk-sponsored Suzy and Freddie Bradfield Centre in Pisgat Ze’ev. Challenge participants were greeted by the director of the Rebecca Sieff Centre, Kobi Hillel, who explained the many functions of the centre and briefed them on their duties. In the Leila Wynbourne ‘salon’ Israel’s top stylists of tomorrow who train at the vocational centre were only too delighted to have some new heads on which to practice, giving some of the women a well-earned wash and blow. They had also visited the Phoebe Leon Welcome Centre,

Rising to the Challenge

This was not a jaunt for shrinking violets or princesses. French manicures were sure to chip, sky-high heels would certainly sink into the mud and designer denim would not take the strain. But participants in the WIZO Aviv Challenge were well aware of this. They knew they would not be bronzing their bodies on the Tel Aviv shoreline or posing at beach side cafes. They were on a mission. It would be demanding, tough and taxing. It was the WIZO Aviv Challenge.
a safe haven for over 80 children half of whom are considered to be at risk at home. A happy couple of hours of arts and crafts were also spent with a group of five year olds in the day care centre who clamoured to show off their English skills.

WIZO.uk Chairman Loraine Warren had flown into Tel Aviv the previous evening to join the Aviv women for the final two days of the Challenge. On arrival at the centre, our day began at the new therapeutic garden where the challengers were proud to point out their handiwork. We then visited the WIZO Shelter where women come to seek refuge from abusive husbands or partners. The staff and social workers go to great lengths to keep them and their children safe in a secure environment where the woman learn to value themselves, gradually gaining the confidence to re-take control of their lives. We watched a class of adorable four-year-old children learn about the chemistry of fire ahead of the Lag B’Omer holiday, then it was time to dip paintbrushes into bright orange paint and make pictures of bonfires, Our challengers could not resist dipping their hands in too, stamping their handprints on the back of each other’s tee shirts, much to the delight of the children.

Rebekka Palmieri from Frankfurt, the only non-British challenger, told me, "I am so happy to be with the British Participant from Hale, Cheshire, Suzanne Showman (photo below) had written on facebook for all her friends to see:

This is THE most wonderful thing I have ever done. It is truly inspirational and awe inspiring. I am at a place here where your money will be spent on vital equipment to help babies, children and women, Jews and Arabs alike. Israel is so not a racist state as the media would have us believe. Thanks again to all my incredible supporters.

WIZO is so appreciative. Her sentiments were echoed by the entire group.
women. Rachel Singer (WIZO Germany President) wanted me to come on the Challenge. I am so glad that I did. It is so meaningful to be staying at our project, Beit Heuss. I cannot begin to tell you how impressed I am. I really hope that Aviv in Germany will emulate this.”

Plastering over the cracks
Back outside in the sunshine, we found ourselves facing a crumbling wall which, maths teacher and handyman Dudi explained, needed plastering. World WIZO Chairperson Tova Ben Dov was quick to jump on the stepladder wielding the scraper to demonstrate to the challengers that no task was too difficult for a WIZO woman. She was joined by Loraine Warren and some of the challengers who scraped meticulously at the wall, deftly filling in the cracks with plaster. After lunch, where Tova regaled participants with anecdotes from her days as an Aviv chavera, we split into two groups. While some challengers continued painting with anecdotes from her days as an Aviv chavera, we split into two groups. While some challengers continued painting the mural, I joined the others in the garden where we built a Taboon (outside oven) from the rocks cleared from the garden and cement. Centre director, Kobi, very kindly looked after our wedding and engagement rings while we plunged our bare hands into the cement mix to knead it like dough. When we asked him to give us back our jewellery, he pretended they were no longer in his pocket, joking that he had sold them to raise much needed funds for WIZO!

The mural was near completion now. Children and parents passing in the corridor stood gazing wide-eyed in amazement at the loveliness of it. I stood alongside the challengers for the final hour of our working day and painted a candy striped ice cream and lollypop careful to keep my paintbrush inside the lines.

A date with darkness
From the warm and welcoming surroundings of the Rebecca Sieff Centre for the Family we were taken on a sobering journey in Dialogue in the Dark at Holon’s Children’s Museum, where we were led through a pitch-black virtual world with only a walking cane and the guide’s voice to show us the way through the hazards of the city. It was a fascinating but sombre experience which gave us insight into the hardships of blind people.

An Enchanted Village
Spirits were lifted when we arrived at the Swiss WIZO sponsored Nahalat Yehuda Youth Village, home to some 400 teenagers from disadvantaged backgrounds. Cheering students ushered us into the vast dining room, where we enjoyed a delicious dinner and a stupendous show, put on by the singing and dance troupe, consisting of 32 students between the ages of 14 and 18, which has performed for Jewish audiences around the world. There was not a dry eye around the table at the spectacle of dazzling colour and great talent on the stage to rival any Broadway show.

Headmaster Dr Hezi Yossef explained the vision and educational concept, “We develop the students’ skills and create opportunities and frameworks that will expose them to enriching, motivating experiences and ultimate success.”

Leading us on a tour of the campus, a happy group of teenage boys and girls practiced their English as they proudly showed us their rooms, their pride in this ‘enchanted village’ was evident and their affection and respect for their headmaster was a joy to witness.

It was past 10pm when an exhausted but exhilarated group of challengers arrived back to Beit Heuss. On my short drive home, I reflected on a momentous day and was filled with admiration for these Aviv members of the WIZO family who rose to the challenge.

WIZO.uk must be applauded for pioneering this new venture, which serves as an excellent benchmark for other federations to follow.

The 18 participants of the WIZO.uk Aviv Challenge were: Francine Barsam, Madeleine Black, Kelly Jacobson Collins, Amanda Forman, Lauren Goldstone, Ilana Metzger, Nicola Miller, Juliet Moss, Rebekka Palmieri (Germany), Natalie Pearce, Melissa Redbart, Darcie Richman, Danielle Shane, Suzanne Showman, Juliette Stone, Abigail Warren, Emma Yantin & Elisa Ziff.
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The group of women who arrive every Sunday afternoon at the WIZO centre in Kadima, a small village in the Sharon area, to attend the WIZO Directors’ Training Course is quite heterogeneous. It is comprised of women of various ages and professional backgrounds: lawyers, business administrators, Hi-Tech and bank employees and more. However, they all come with one purpose – to gain the knowledge that will enable them to apply for directorial positions so they can make an impact on society and give the feminine voice proper representation. Seventy percent of civil service workers are women but the number of women in high-ranking positions is relatively low.

Women are intimidated by the job

“The WIZO ‘Directors’ Training Course’ is designed for women with a few years of management experience and at least a BA degree. Its objective is to provide its participants with the professional tools needed for the position of a director,” explains Tamar Niv, WIZO’s coordinator of women’s leadership activities. “Once they gain the relevant knowledge it is still up to them to apply for the job, we cannot do that for them,” she adds.

“Women often hesitate to present an application simply because they fear the job might be too demanding. Sometimes they even struggle with the very first stage of filling in the application forms, an area where we do offer help. According to the law of affirmative action, there should be preference for a female applicant over a male one when their qualifications are similar. Nonetheless, not enough women apply. It seems women want to stay away from politics, but if we want our voices to be heard we need to be where decisions are being taken, and boards of directors are one of those places. Women are 51% of the population but they are not represented accordingly; women’s representation on boards of directors stands at 38%, which is still not enough,” declares Niv.

WIZO picks up the gauntlet

“Becoming a director is not something that can be taken for granted,” states Dorit Trichler, coordinator of the directors’ course at Kadima, and the branch chairperson. “In the past, the reason given for not appointing women to such positions was that they did not have the relevant professional skills to be a director. Hence, WIZO picked up the gauntlet and initiated the Directors Training Courses in order to train women and provide them with the exact professional knowledge they need in order to apply for directorships. In order to become a professional director one needs to know how to scrutinize the company’s activities and most importantly how to ask the right questions. During the course, women are taught how to read financial reports, they learn about company law, the responsibilities of directors and more. It is an academic course of 60 hours under the umbrella of Bar Ilan University. Course participants are high quality women, all with academic degrees and most importantly they are very active in their communities,” she states with pride.

“Whoever controls the numbers gains the power”

“I live in Kadima and I found out about the course through an advertisement,” says Bruria Gal, a woman in her 40s who works in a Hi-Tech company. “Although I studied maths I am a complete stranger to the financial terms taught to us, but I enjoy the course very much and the lecturers are simply wonderful. They explain everything so even those who do not have a background in finance or law can understand. I think the course gives an outline of the subject, so we have an idea of what we would need to handle if we apply for such a position. Yet, if you truly want to be a professional director I think you ought to expand your knowledge in these fields. As for myself, I’m doubtful if I will apply for a director’s position,” she says.

Orna Yanovsky, a lawyer, states that ‘whoever controls the numbers gains the power’.

“I feel that the material we learn here is extremely valuable and I’m sure that acquiring such knowledge will be helpful in
my own professional life as a lawyer. Gaining such knowledge is important and effective to any businesswoman. I know that I will definitely benefit from the course even if I don’t make the next move and apply for a directorship. In order to achieve this goal I feel that acquiring the knowledge is not enough and one needs to have personal connections within the organization to obtain such a position.” Although both Bruria and Orna are sceptical about gaining a directorial position following the course, they share the same view about the importance of women in these decision-making processes and their unique contribution. “Women are often insecure and therefore will not arrive unprepared to a board meeting; they learn every subject thoroughly before they make a decision. Women will usually not give their consent to ‘rounding corners’ like men often do,” says Orna. “Women are simply free of ego issues, which makes it easier for them to make their decision based on the information they have without taking irrelevant issues into account. A woman would always seek more details about the subject under discussion, and if she is not familiar with the subject she will ask more questions.”

Excellent Working Tools

When Sari Eldan, a woman in her 50s, joined WIZO’s directors’ course, she had already been a director at Hadera Water Ltd., Hadera Municipality’s water corporation, for three months. “I heard of the course from a friend and joined it together with my colleague Alicia Rubinstein. The course provided us with excellent working tools and made a tremendous contribution to our professional education. After years of work it was nice to take an academic course and be part of a high quality group of women who met once a week to study. Some of the women in our group were former teachers and others had a background in finance, such as myself. I am an economist and as part of my job as director of the Municipality’s incomes and taxes I deal with financial issues. The legal issues we studied were very important; the lecturers were charismatic, spicing the lectures with examples based on their personal experiences. I felt that the reason our lecturer told us about her varied experience was in order to make us realize that women are capable of doing everything they want.

Take the Initiative

Women need to take the initiative and not wait to be promoted. It is true that many of the men who serve as directors get their job through personal contacts, but this shouldn’t stop women from trying. I was asked to be part of the board due to my experience as a director at the municipality and admit that I wouldn’t have been offered the position if I hadn’t already been part of the system. However, I believe that a woman with the right professional background should not be intimidated and apply for such positions,” she states. “Our board is very professional and 50% of it are women – four out of eight. I do feel our decision-making is based on the information we receive and not on any personal grounds. But I know that with other boards the situation is different. In contrast to men, I feel women make their decisions without getting into power fights. I also think women can handle negotiations better than men. It is important that women should be part of decision-making groups, and actually this is what I enjoy mostly in this job. During the course, the issue of personal responsibility as a company director was emphasized and maybe women were intimidated by that. But from my experience being a director is tremendously fulfilling and though there is no financial compensation I do feel rewarded,” she concludes.

Facing the Responsibility

Alicia Rubinstein, Eldan’s colleague, admits that without this course she probably wouldn’t have had the courage to become a director. “Being a member of a board of directors means having a great deal of responsibility. You are asked to make important decisions that require understanding financial and legal issues. The course gave me the specific tools that were necessary and provided me with the basic professional background I needed. Most importantly it gave me the confidence to be a good director. Moreover, it ‘opened our eyes’ to the fact that we can disapprove certain requests, stand by our decisions and ask for clarifications. Beforehand I wasn’t aware of these rights,” she admits. “Such a course should be obligatory for every director in Israel, not only for women. When the course ended I felt a taste for more,” she says.

The directors’ course is now being held for the second year and though many of its graduates do not make the final move and apply for a director’s position it is too soon to judge its effectiveness. Eventually, women will take the practical step and believe in themselves and in their capabilities. In the meantime, such courses that empower women and set them on the path towards management positions are crucial in the struggle to change statistics and place more women in powerful positions.
Time is Running Out

Ingrid Rockberger
"I should like someone to remember that there once lived a person named David Berger"

Extract from the last letter of David Berger written in the Vilna Ghetto 1941

These haunting words are the only ones on the first screen of the Search page for the Central Database of Shoah Victims’ Names on the Yad Vashem website. Your next ‘click’ leads you to the search page itself. These words of David Berger are the essence of this major campaign of Yad Vashem, which started in the 1950s, when 800,000 names of Holocaust victims were collected, and continues until today.

The circular Hall of Names in Yad Vashem, (Israel’s Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem) houses shelves of files, which together hold over 3,000,000 Pages of Testimony, each page representing one victim of the Holocaust. Some pages are filled with many details of the victim, some have a photograph attached. Some have only the scantiest of details, but that page is a permanent testimony to that person; whether they were a child or an adult, they belonged to a family unit, which in turn was part of a Jewish community, decimated or totally destroyed in the Holocaust. However, around half those shelves are empty. They are waiting to be filled -with another three million pages. But time is running out. In approximately another twenty years, all Holocaust survivors will have passed away, and there will be no one left to add pages to the files.

The Campaigns

Over the decades, there were several campaigns both in Israel and Jewish communities abroad to increase the number of pages. In the 1950s, many Holocaust survivors who had arrived in Israel, submitted names of their loved ones while all the names were still fresh in their memories. A Hall of Names was opened in 1968 on Yad Vashem’s campus in Jerusalem, where the original pages were kept in black Remembrance files.

There was another big campaign in the 1970s, one in the 1990s, and now, earlier this year, another mass campaign was launched in Israel (see Box on p. 26).

Database goes online

Between 1984-85, Yad Vashem undertook to microfilm close to the 1.1 million Pages of Testimony that had already been collected, and in 1990 the museum began to gather names from other sources such as camps and ghetto records. These are ongoing collections as more and more World War II records are released.

In 1999 Yad Vashem embarked on an intensive project to computerize more than 1.1 million Pages of Testimony, and in May of that year launched a world-wide media campaign to collect additional Pages of Testimony; by the year 2000 the combined projects had resulted in a database containing close to 2.5 million names.

The most significant change came in November 2004 when the Central Database of Shoah Victims’ Names was launched and uploaded on the Yad Vashem website, enabling people from all over the world to search the material and unlock decades-old mysteries to learn the fate of their loved ones. It also enabled survivors and their families to update existing records and fill out Pages of Testimony online in both English and Hebrew. This milestone triggered a marked increase in the number of Pages of Testimony submitted annually: from an average of 15,000 to 35,000 and more.

Not only form filling

Today, genealogical societies in Israel and abroad and many Jewish communities are partners in the Yad Vashem Names Recovery Project. Here in Israel, volunteers visit senior citizens’ homes and individuals, and patiently sit with survivors and help them fill out the forms. But it is not only form filling. As one of those volunteers, I know only too well how hard it is for them; it is opening a Pandora’s box of memories, many of which have been suppressed deep down in the person’s sub-conscious. For years, they dared not bring these memories to the surface, lest they could not function. But now, as they enter the winter of their lives, they understand how important it is to leave behind a record of their loved ones’ existence.

"I was sure she was dead"

Daniel Avidar (formerly Fajnsztejn) of Kiryat Ono, Israel, last saw his little cousin Masha in the Vilna ghetto when he was nine and she was two. Soon after their arrival, Masha’s mother managed to smuggle her out of the ghetto into the care of her Polish nanny. Most of Danny and Masha’s families perished in the camps.

After the war, Danny and his surviving siblings tried to trace family members, including Masha, but found no one. Danny immigrated to Palestine and in 1957 one of his sisters filled in Pages of Testimony for all their presumably deceased relatives. These pages were filed in the Hall of Names and ‘slept’ for nearly 50 years, until 2006.

Masha’s nanny brought her up and always told her she was Jewish. Renamed Maria, she grew up, married and had children of her own. She always remembered her Jewish
The successful campaign helped bring the importance of names collection to the forefront of public consciousness. Thousands of calls were received during the course of the campaign, and a call center manned by volunteers ensured that Pages of Testimony were sent out as quickly as possible. “Collecting names of Holocaust victims is an ongoing project,” explained Hall of Names Director Alexander Avraham, “but as time goes on, there are fewer survivors, and their memories fade.” According to Avraham, the added element of empathy provided by project volunteers - many of them children of survivors - helps potential submitters access long-buried memories, and eases the emotional difficulties raised by commemoration of their lost loved ones.

Volunteer Linda Gallant described the strong public response to the campaign, and the importance of names collection as “our heritage, our history and ultimately what connects us all.” Eliezer Lev-Yonah, also a volunteer, believes that the act of commemorating family members often provides survivors with a sense of closure: “They really pour out their hearts - for so long they have kept the memories of their loved ones inside; when they finally tell their story it gives them tremendous relief. As for me,” he continues, “I am not helping individuals, I am helping the Jewish people.”

Courtesy Yad Vashem Jerusalem Quarterly Magazine

Cousins Re-unite

Auschwitz survivor Veronica Zer (née Rudast) last saw her second cousin Lili Reiter in 1945 when they returned to Hungary at the end of WWII. The two cousins went their separate ways to rebuild their lives and lost touch with each other. This past summer, at the nursing home where she now lives, Zer, 81, told visiting volunteers of the Yad Vashem Shoah Victims Names Recovery Project, that she wished to fill out Pages of Testimony for her Reiter family cousins. Doing a preliminary search of the database, volunteers discovered that one Livia Prince (formerly Lili Reiter), now living in Toronto, had filled in Pages of Testimony for her family as recently as 2006. At the bottom of each Page of Testimony the submitter fills in his/her own contact details, and here Veronica found Lili’s address. It did not take long to find her phone number and an emotional phone call took place. In November (2009) Livia/Lili flew to Israel to reunite with her long-lost cousin.

In mid-February 2010, the Shoah Victims’ Names Recovery Project launched a nationwide radio campaign with Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev issuing a personal call to action to the Israeli public to commemorate the names of any Shoah victims they may remember. In the recorded message aired widely on national radio Shalev reminded the public that to date, Yad Vashem has less than four million names. “Only with your help will we be able to complete our mission,” he implored, and offered the services of project volunteers to anyone requiring assistance in submitting Pages of Testimony.

In November (2009) Livia/Lili flew to Israel to reunite with her long-lost cousin.
Extract from messages broadcast by Eli Wiesel and Simone Veil on November 2004, the day the Names Database went online, and as they filled in Pages of Testimony for their own relatives.

Eli Wiesel:
These pages are very important because they are meaningful. What do we believe in? We believe in names. Therefore we have the same names. I have my grandfather’s name; my son has my father’s name…Every name has a story and all these stories become history…It is important [to fill out the pages], because it creates a link not only with the dead but also with the living and I urge anyone who has access to a computer to use that link…it would create a link within the Jewish people, with families, with cities, with communities and this would bring heightened awareness and a deepened sense of remembrance.

Simone Veil:
This is a way of keeping their memory, knowing that there are many families, which have disappeared completely. This is extremely important for the families, it is extremely important for the historians and I would also say it is also quite essential to fight against those who might be tempted to negate the Shoah’s existence and importance and even the number of the victims; for the moment they have been identified so precisely with photographs and such information, lying is obviously impossible

Editor’s note: We know the WIZO network stretches to the four corners of the earth. If you know of someone who may have survived the Holocaust and you do not know if indeed, they survived or you lost contact with them after the War, please send details to us at wreview@wizo.org and we will publish a “Search for Relatives” column in our next issue.

WIZO Review would like to thank Cynthia Wroclawski and Debbie Berman of the Yad Vashem Shoah Victims’ Names Recovery Project for their help and cooperation in the preparation of this article.

An Appeal to All WIZO Members

Cynthia Wroclawski, Manager of The Shoah Victims’ Names Recovery Project sends this special message: Yad Vashem invites WIZO chapters worldwide to take an active role in recovering the names of Shoah Victims before they are lost FOREVER. To date 3.8 million names have been recorded in the online Central Database of Shoah Victims’ Names; but millions of Holocaust victims still remain unknown. Join volunteer activists worldwide to distribute posters and Pages of Testimony to local Jewish community venues. Visit the website for more information on the Shoah Victims’ Names Recovery Project and for ideas and resources on how to organize a names collection, or contact: names.outreach@yadvashem.org.il
What it takes to be a leader

“A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.”

John C. Maxwell

Leadership is the ability to influence and motivate people, and guide them to a common goal. We, leaders of WIZO, have the privilege and the possibility of influencing women around the globe.

The concept of leadership has occupied countless scientists and philosophers. In this article, we will raise a number of points related to the development of leadership, in order to constantly advance and enrich ourselves.

Good leaders are usually made, not born. If you have the desire and willpower, you can become an effective leader. Good leaders develop through a never-ending process of self-study, education, training, and experience. They are continually working and studying to improve their leadership skills; they are NOT resting on their laurels.

While leadership is learned, the skills and knowledge processed by the leader can be influenced by his or her attributes or traits, such as beliefs, values, ethics, and character. Knowledge and skills contribute directly to the process of leadership, while the other attributes give the leader certain characteristics that make him or her unique.

Boss or Leader?

Although your position as a manager, supervisor or head gives you the authority to accomplish certain tasks and objectives in an organization, this power does not make you a leader; it simply makes you the boss. Leadership differs in that it makes the followers want to achieve high goals. Thus you are assigned leadership through your position; but you display true leadership by influencing people to do great things (Rowe, 2007). The leader does not only spread the message – the leader is the message.

Why Follow?

What makes a person want to follow a leader? People want to be guided by those they respect and who have a clear sense of direction. To gain respect, they must be ethical. A sense of direction is achieved by conveying a strong vision of the future.

When a person is deciding if she respects you as a leader, she does not think about your attributes; rather, she observes what you do so that she can know who you really are. She uses this observation to tell if you are an honorable and trusted leader or a self-serving person who misuses authority to look good and get promoted. Self-serving leaders are not as effective because their followers only obey them, but do not follow them. They succeed in many areas because they present a good image to their seniors at the expense of their followers.

Be, Know, Do

The basis of good leadership is honorable character and selfless service to your organization. In your followers’ eyes, your leadership is everything you do that affects the organization’s objectives and its well-being. Respected leaders concentrate on:

- what they are (such as beliefs and character)
- what they know (such as job, tasks, and human nature)
- what they do (such as implementing, motivating, and providing direction).

If you are a leader who can be trusted, then those around you will grow to respect you. To help you to attain this goal, there is a Leadership Framework to guide you: be, know, do:

BE a professional. This includes being loyal to the organization, performing selfless service, and taking personal responsibility.

BE a person who possesses good character traits, for example honesty, competence, candor, commitment, integrity, courage, straightforwardness, and imagination.

KNOW yourself. Know the strengths and weakness of your character, the extent of your knowledge, and your skills.

KNOW human nature: human needs, emotions, and how people respond to stress.

KNOW your job. Be proficient and be able to train others in their tasks.

KNOW your organization, for example where to go for help, and who the unofficial leaders are.

DO provide direction with regard to goal setting, problem solving, decision-making and planning.

DO implement, communicate, coordinate, supervise, evaluate.

DO motivate. Develop morale and esprit de corps in the organization; train, coach, and counsel your followers.

Principles of Leadership

To help you be, know, and do, follow these eleven principles of leadership:

1. Know yourself and seek self-improvement - Seeking self-improvement means continually strengthening your attributes. This can be accomplished through self-study, formal classes, reflection, and interacting with others.

2. Be technically proficient - As a leader, you must know your job and have a solid familiarity with your followers’ tasks.

3. Seek responsibility and take responsibility for your actions - Search for ways to guide your organization to
new heights. And when things go wrong -- as they always do sooner or later — do not blame others. Analyze the situation, take corrective action, and move on to the next challenge.

4. **Make sound and timely decisions** - Use good problem solving, decision-making and planning tools.

5. **Set the example** - Be a good role model for your followers. They must not only hear what they are expected to do, but also see. (We must become the change we want to see - Mahatma Gandhi)

6. **Know your people and look out for their well-being** - Know human nature and the importance of sincerely caring for your followers.

7. **Keep your followers informed** - Know how to communicate not only with them, but also with seniors and other key people.

8. **Develop a sense of responsibility in your followers** - Help to develop good character traits that will help them carry out their professional responsibilities.

9. **Ensure that tasks are understood, supervised, and accomplished** - Communication is the key to this responsibility.

10. **Train as a team** - Although many so-called leaders call their organization, department, or section a team, they are not really teams. They are just a group of people doing their jobs. By developing team spirit, you will be able to employ your organization, department, or section to its fullest capabilities.

### It's Not All Roses

It is important to be aware of the heavy burden all leaders have to carry. Being a leader is not glamorous. Many people think about the position, but not about the work behind the position. There is very little glory in it. The load of responsibility given to a leader is enormous. On top of that, a leader will sometimes be publicly mocked, blamed, and criticized. So why do individuals take on this role? Some feel that it is simply their duty to do so. There are situations that just lead to someone having to take charge, whether it be because of her superior skill or just plain courage. The person who takes on the yoke is now responsible for the outcome, though most of the work will be done by the followers. To achieve a desirable outcome, a leader must be able to gain the support of her followers. If she can't, then she is ineffective. Below are some additional tips regarding what it takes to be leader:

- **Listen to your group.** You don't need to agree and do all they suggest, but at least consider their points of view. By doing so you will gain much goodwill, for they will feel that there is someone who cares.
- **Don't mind working in the dirt.** When you're afraid to go to certain areas where your people have been, you are already at a disadvantage. Leaders go wherever they have to go to achieve an objective. You are never too big to do the most menial tasks.

**Appoint strong administrators,** preferably stronger than yourself. They will do your will, and are the major cogs driving the entire system. Promote your staff based on loyalty and performance.

**Be 100 percent committed to the organization.** If you're not, why should your people be? When they see someone who only thinks of herself, they will be discouraged. But when they see someone who looks out for the group, and is ready and willing to suffer the consequences of risks taken, they will indeed follow without hesitation.

**Share the rewards.**

- **Enforce strict discipline on yourself.** If there are any doubts about your ability, there will not be complete unity. Be tough on yourself, and your strongest critics will never have anything to complain about.
- **Be a person who is likable.** This does not mean physical appearance as much as it means having a pleasant personality. Don't be afraid to use humor and show humility. Quite simply, people will go with someone they admire.
- **Be prepared for loneliness.** When you're the leader, you will sometimes feel isolated. You may experience bouts of depression occasionally, when you feel that there is no one you can truly consult with. Taking on duties that are unprecedented will do that to you. Your character and emotional control will have to be strong enough to navigate through the mire.
- **Encourage other leaders.** When you see bravery, reward the act. When you see intelligence, reward the attribute. Cultivate potential leaders so that one day you will be able to step down in favor of another who can take your place. The group as a whole will be better for it.

### Great Leadership

What separates the good from the great?

- **Challenge the process** - First, find a process that you believe needs to be improved the most.
- **Inspire a shared vision** - Next, share your vision in words that can be understood by your followers.
- **Enable others to act** - Give them the tools and methods to solve the problem.
- **Model the way** - When the process gets tough, stay involved. A boss tells others what to do; a leader shows that it can be done.
- **Encourage the heart** - Share the glory with your followers’ hearts, while keeping the pain within your own. (Kouzes & Posner, 1987)

WIZO

IN THE NEWS

A digest of media reports in Israel's Hebrew-language newspapers

WIZ Kids learn through the Computer

A new educational program, 'WIZ Kids', piloted in Tel Aviv's WIZO Shapira Multi Purpose Day Care Centre and the WIZO Kanai Hagalil Multipurpose Day Care Centre in Jerusalem introduces pre-school children from underprivileged backgrounds to the world of the computer using software from leading Israeli multi media company, 'Compedia'. Sponsored by WIZO Switzerland, WIZO Italy and Friends of WIZO, the programme is a joint project between the Ministry of Education and the Nitzanim not-for-profit organization. The purpose is to familiarise children from poor areas with the computer at an early age, thereby closing the educational gap between them and children from more comfortable neighbourhoods. Based on social interaction combined with guided instruction, the programme encourages language skills, improves learning abilities and offers a wide range of educational games allowing the child to learn at his own pace. During the course of the year, there will be 60 hours of instruction in each day care centre, held weekly in small groups, for children from the age of three. At the same time, parents will enjoy the experience together with their children. In the future it is expected that the program will be extended to children aged two.

Language, Play and Culture

The WIZO Beit Peru Multipurpose Day Care Centre in Jaffa continues to improve the Hebrew language skills of family members who are unfamiliar with the language, particularly the Ethiopian community. At Beit Peru, situated in an area of high unemployment and ethnic diversity, Muslim Arab children play side by side with children from Ethiopian and veteran Israeli families, many of whom are impoverished. The centre provides an educational and therapeutic environment for children from the age of six months and has started a therapeutic program for Ethiopian mothers and children starting from the toddlers' class, which concentrates on developing play skills and teaching them how to use basic household items. A nurse from the mother and baby clinic gives lectures with simultaneous translation on subjects such as hygiene, nutrition and safety. New programs to help immigrant families adapt to Israeli culture and Hebrew are available and the centre, which serves 80 children and their families, is flexible to the needs of the family. As well as lectures and instruction in the day care centre, art therapy is taught in the pre-kindergarten class and dance therapy for children in the afternoon centre. Children and parents also have the use of the book lending library.

WIZ kids learn computer skills at an early age

Ethiopian immigrant children at Beit Peru
Success in Placing Women Victims of Violence in the Family

In Jerusalem, a unique project for women who have been victims of violence in the family is highly successful: 85% of the women who took part in the project have integrated into the work market. Fifteen women participated in a project, which combined raising self-esteem, empowerment, and the elimination of the threat and fear of violence, and provided them with crucial work skills.

The course included individual meetings with the employment coordinator of the project in order to look for work, interview skills and workshops on self defence. The second course opened in the middle of February, and another two groups are due to begin in the near future.

Different problems in different communities are addressed. The project is operated jointly by the WIZO Centre for the Prevention of Violence in the Family in Jerusalem, the Jerusalem Municipality and the Ministry of Social Welfare.

Chocolate off the menu at WIZO Day Care Centres

In a nationwide drive to give the children of Israel a healthier start in life, WIZO has taken the decision to exchange sweets and chocolates for organic produce in its day care centres. The 15,000 toddlers aged from six months to four years are already beginning the transition from snacking on waffles, cookies and candies to healthier options.

“Currently, we are trying to gradually reduce unhealthy foods from the menu of the children. What once was acceptable is no longer,” explains Vardit Leibovitz, director of administration of the Early Age Division of WIZO. “Thousands of children who learn in our day care centres around the country receive breakfast, lunch and supper every day. Canola oil will take the place of margarine, and snacks and pastries will be replaced with rice and cereals. The directors and cooks in the day care centres are undergoing special training, including lessons in organic nutrition and healthier food. The aim is to remove foods that are non essential to the child’s development, and may even be damaging. At the same time, children learn about correct nutrition and the importance of fruit and vegetables – and it is a lesson that they take home with them as well.”

The Beit Moretzky Garden blooms

An ecological therapeutic garden has taken root in the WIZO Beit Moretzky Multipurpose Day Care Centre in Tel Aviv's impoverished Hatikva area, which serves 85 children, many of whom are at risk. The garden was planned and prepared by deaf 20 year old Paz Sher, during his national service year spent at the centre. Children, parents and staff participate daily, and the ecological garden is developing into a therapeutic garden that helps to develop the children's self confidence and provides them with knowledge about their surroundings.

The garden is looked after by parents and children together with afternoon centre children aged 3 - 6 and staff of the adult centre. Children from the age of two enjoy activities in small groups in the garden. Together with parents and staff, they plant, sow, feed the birds, make compost, and recently have enjoyed their own home-grown spices and strawberries.

Future plans include an ecological bench made from bottles and tires, a sculpture garden from recycled materials and a recycling corner for bottles, paper and used batteries.

The centre's aim is for children to take place in society and function in a normative fashion. The ecological activities will be of great benefit and add to the many enrichment programs already offered.

WIZO provides a safe haven and a new start for victims of violence in the family.
Six hundred Children Celebrate

To the sound of shofars, and with much emotion, some 600 bar and bat mitzvah-age children and their families converged on Jerusalem, Israel’s capital and most holy city, to celebrate their coming of age, thanks to WIZO. This first event to celebrate WIZO’s 90th anniversary was particularly moving. The children were carefully picked from all over the country, children whose families could not afford to give them a celebration for this most important milestone in their lives. Many were welfare cases, children from one-parent families, or children from bereaved families. The event occurred thanks to some very generous sponsors: The Falic family, the Katzman family, Friends of WIZO and donations from federations abroad and individuals.

The day started in various WIZO centres around the country, where the children gathered with their parents. They all received backpacks containing special hats, t-shirts, gifts and refreshments for the day. The boys were given tefillin and a tallit and the girls candlesticks for Shabbat and a magen-david on a chain. The buses then travelled to Jerusalem where the children were taken on specially guided tours of the city. Everyone came together at the Western Wall, where the boys put on their tefillin for the first time, helped by members of the Western Wall Foundation. Emotions ran high as each boy recited the ‘Shema’, that ancient Jewish prayer.

However, nothing can describe that moment when there was a mass aliya to the Torah: there a special prayer was recited for youth and for the lives of our Israeli soldiers. Following the solemnities, all the attendees were given a meal at the Archeological Gardens, which ended with a rousing rendering of the Hatikvah.

Addressing the children, WIZO Israel Chairperson Yochy Feller, who initiated the event said: ‘This morning, you left your homes as children, now you are adults. You are a powerful force, spread your wings and use that power’. Shmuel Shriki, one of the parents, thanked WIZO Israel for organizing the wonderful day and for the gifts. He concluded by saying, ‘It is through you, in WIZO, that we have equal opportunities, and as parents we will always remember this special day, and know that we have someone to turn to.’

Rabbi Metzger, Chief Rabbi of Israel, addressed the children, “You have spent a day immersed in Judaism, surrounded by old stones, now you are at the Kotel, the core of Judaism, look at the walls behind you and think how many stories they can tell. Thanks to WIZO you have tefillin and candlesticks, don’t put them in the cupboard, let them protect you.”

WIZO Israel’s Plenary

“I must admit that when I entered politics, I did not think of the importance of the advancement of women. But as I became more involved, the issue of the...”
advancement of women is part of who I am. We have to gather, as one body, to stand up for our rights and take on this issue which is so important to us," declared Kadima Party Head and Head of the Opposition Tzipi Livni at WIZO Israel’s annual plenary conference.

The conference was held in the Netanya branch of WIZO, where some 400 WIZO activists from over 60 branches from Kiryat Shemona to Eilat gathered together. Other guests of honour were Netanya Mayor Miriam Feierberg, the Prime Minister’s Advisor on Women’s Affairs, Mrs. Vered Swed, World WIZO President and Chairperson Helena Glaser and Tova Ben-Dov and members of the World WIZO Executive.

WIZO Israel Chairperson Yochy Feller outlined the activities of the Israel Federation during the past year. Some 35,000 WIZO volunteers across the country provide WIZO’s services to approximately 13,500 children, young girls and women at risk. In this year of stringent budget cuts, the work has not been easy but the chaverot have all risen to the challenge. In this, WIZO’s 90th year, Yochy outlined some of WIZO’s landmarks:

1921: WIZO founded the first baby welfare advisory clinic
1927: WIZO opened the first day care centre for the children of working women
1924: WIZO opened its first agricultural school in Nahalal
1928: WIZO started professional training courses for women

The list is endless, as is the list of activities this past year. Some highlights:

Druze Women’s Week, an event to celebrate the first anniversary of the ADI project in Beersheva, an extremely successful project, which is a day centre providing therapy and rehabilitation for teenage girls and young women at high risk. Close to 100 girls are reaping the benefits of this centre. Another most successful and popular programme is the joint WIZO project with Microsoft, Apple and the Ministry of Labour ‘Women Join the Workforce’, where women at risk and from poor socio-economic backgrounds take computer courses which will enable them to enter the workforce and earn a realistic salary – many of these women are single parents, and therefore the sole wage earner in the family. Once again for International Women’s Day, the Israeli Federation held a competition to find the best/worst sexist advertisement in the Israeli media. This year’s ‘winner’ was ‘Fairy Liquid’ soap.

Tova Ben-Dov felt the electricity and woman-power in the hall, and said so! In her speech, she reiterated how hard the year had been, but despite all the difficulties, the WIZO Israel volunteers had managed to advance many of our projects.

Just back from her historic visit with the world’s Zionist leaders to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Theodor Herzl’s birth, Helena Glaser retraced the steps of this great Zionist visionary and exclaimed that ‘being with WIZO Israel is always a cause for festivities!’

At the end of this long but inspiring and enervating day, the chaverot made their way home to the four corners of the country, tired but motivated.
Performance of “Ghetto”

A new production of Yehoshua Sobol’s famous play “Ghetto” by Israel’s Cameri Theatre was the choice of WIZO Israel for a superb gala fundraising performance to mark International Women’s Day. All proceeds from the evening were earmarked for WIZO’s projects for women and children at risk, and on that evening, WIZO Israel chairperson Yochy Feller announced that the new Campaign Chairman is lawyer Gidon Fisher, who is taking over from Haim Katzman, chairman of Gazit Globe, whose company has made a generous donation for WIZO’s 90th anniversary Bar/Bat mitzvah ceremony. The play ‘Ghetto’ has become a classic in Israeli theatre and was inspired by an actual theatre in the Vilna Ghetto, which held performances during the Nazi occupation in WWII. Premiered in 1984, Ghetto has been performed in 66 theatres across the globe, including in London’s National Theatre in 1989.

WIZO Raanana Scholarship Fund Helps WIZO Pupils

Two pupils from WIZO Hadassim School and Youth Village, Slavik Gorianksi and Liza Kochriavchenko, both from the former Soviet Union, were delighted to receive scholarships from the WIZO Raanana English-speaking group’s Fanny Eisenberg Fund, which will enable them to pursue their talents in art. “They have both really blossomed here,” says Zeev Twito, Hadassim director, “but were unable to pay for extra-curricular courses in art, a subject in which they both excel.” The scholarships were presented to the students by Janice Comyns, the fund director, and Ruth Slater, chairperson of Raanana English-speaking group. The Fanny Eisenberg Fund was established some 25 years ago in memory of the group’s founder. Money is raised from the sale of hospitality cards and donations from the 350+ members.

Friends of WIZO – a successful year

Continuing their excellent fundraising events in aid of WIZO, ‘Friends of WIZO’ is going from strength to strength. Under the expert guidance of Esther Mor and Betty Crystal, the group held their annual ‘opening’ at the home of Executive member Valerie Maxwell in Herzliya Pituach. When these ladies meet, it is not only for socializing. They always try to show firsthand ‘what WIZO does’ and this year was no exception. Special guests were pupils from WIZO Hadassim School and Youth Village demonstrating their prize-winning invention of a ‘line of balloons’. This consists of one long piece of balloon ‘material’ with holes punched in it, through which you thread blown-up balloons – to be used for decorating events. Also present were some of the girls from the WIZO.uk ADI project in Beersheva, accompanied by social worker Revital Liraz. One of the girls told the assembled guests that if it were not for WIZO she would surely ‘be on the streets.’
She said she spoke for all the girls when she expressed her appreciation to WIZO. A few months later, the group held a prestigious fundraiser and cultural evening at the home of the Italian Ambassador Luigi Mattiolo and his wife Stefania, both avid supporters of Friends of WIZO. The 100+ guests were delighted to hear musical recitals by Liza Karlinsky and Yulia Istayev, both pupils at the WIZO Tiberias Music Conservatory sponsored by WIZO.uk. WIZO’s child violin prodigy Vicky Gelman also performed for the appreciative audience. An additional welcome and special guest was baritone opera virtuoso Domenico Balzani, who was appearing in Faust at the Israeli Opera House at the time.

Busy Spreading the Word

World WIZO Public Relations Chair Brenda Katten spends much of her ‘WIZO time’ meeting various groups visiting Israel – both Jewish and non-Jewish – and she gives them – in her inimitable and forceful manner – a powerful and concise update of the current situation. Included in these encounters is always a visit to a WIZO project. Recently Brenda spoke to a group of ten high-powered women from the US from the ‘Eisenhower Foundation’. The group was so impressed with WIZO that they want to maintain a link including twinning with some of our projects. Following Brenda’s talk at World WIZO headquarters, the group visited the WIZO Inez Bernstein Day Care Center in nearby Weizmann Street.

Friends Rachel Rado, a former Chairperson of WIZO Cologne and Bernd Dreyer have been celebrating ‘special birthdays’ for the past 15 years by organizing visits to Israel of a group of – predominantly non-Jewish – friends. Recently, Rachel and her husband brought a group of 48 professionals for an eight-day trip, this group being the first to visit a major project of WIZO Germany, the Theodore Blumenfeld House in Kiryat Shmona.

The group was extremely impressed by the facility and the warm welcome they received. Brenda gave them a current update on WIZO and the Israeli political situation. Later in that afternoon one of the participants contacted her, and donated 1000 euros to the project with a promise of more.

WIZO employee leaves all her money to WIZO

She always said WIZO was her family, and when she died in 1974, she continued to work part-time in the Finance Department in the section that deals with the WIZO branches all over the country and the Wills and Bequests Division.

Sofia was a brilliant bookkeeper, and was well known for her sense of humour. Loved by her colleagues, they visited her regularly when she finally moved into sheltered housing.
UNITED KINGDOM

WIZO Teams go Online for the wizo.ukquiz@home

Over 137 teams made up of 1,700 quizzers from across the UK competed in January’s on-line supper quiz. Local WIZO member Renée Aronson hosted the winning team from Oxford. In joint second place were teams from Kingston and Reading. Two WIZO teams from Swansea in Wales each raised £175. Brian and Barbara Nathan devised this year’s quiz with technical support by Nick Levy and Edward Epstein. Proceeds of the quiz in excess of £33,000 provide vocational training for young people at WIZO centres throughout Israel.

Tributes and Memories flow for Leeds WIZO Group

Joyce and Sydney Frazer hosted a tea party given by Leeds WIZO Council to pay tribute to the town’s Henrietta Szold Group, which recently disbanded after 70 successful years. In a letter read out by Liz Jacoby, WIZO.uk chair Loraine Warren congratulated the members on their many years of hard work, dedication and fundraising. Minnie Goldberg, Henrietta Szold group co-chair along with Muriel Carvis said, “We shall always remember the happy and lively years. We did it all for the love of Israel and in return we received love and respect. We remember the fashion shows, the concerts, the revues and teas. We worked hard and made money.” WIZO members including Marianne Lipman and past Leeds Jewish Representative Council Life Vice-President Tim Friedman sent letters of congratulation.

Israeli Avigail sings up a storm at Leeds Chanukah gathering

Israeli teenage singing sensation, 14-year-old Avigail Cohen is no stranger to the spotlight, having received a rapturous reception after her solo performance at the closing ceremony of the 2009 Maccabiah Games. While visiting relatives in Leeds, Avigail sang at a WIZO Chanukah luncheon, where the applause was no less rousing. Some 140 guests waved arms, clapped hands and joined in her medley of Israeli and...
Chanukah songs. Funds raised at the lunch will benefit WIZO Shikma Bet Gan, a multi-purpose day care centre in Ramat Gan.
Avigail launched her professional career in 2006 with her own children’s stage show, which is still showing across Israel.

Forging links at WIZO.uk’s 2010 AGM

WIZO.uk held its Annual General Meeting in March with guest speaker Roger Lyons, chair of the Trade Union Friends of Israel, which promotes Israeli-Palestinian trade union cooperation. Mr Lyons explained to the 100-strong audience that a stable relationship between Palestinian and Israeli economies with good trade links is crucial for the success of the peace process.
Nicky Miller, chair of WIZO.uk Aviv, reported on the formation of two new Aviv groups in London. Helen Reisman, co-honorary treasurer reported that WIZO.uk sent over £2.2 million to Israel, and supporter groups nationwide raised £812,000. Following her appraisal of the financial year, WIZO.uk chair Loraine Warren showed slides of the Phoebe Welcome Leon Multi-Purpose Day Care Centre in Jerusalem, where over three-quarters of the children at the nursery are severely at risk and renovations are urgently needed.

Talia’s Musical Showcase

Singer Talia Welka and friends entertained 150 guests at a musical showcase in aid of Stanmore’s WIZO.uk Shemesh Aviv group, where Talia debuted songs from her new album and performed traditional favourites. Talia’s mother, Alex Welka, hosted the supper and WIZO projects in Israel will benefit from funds raised of over £1,000.

When the Chips go down, winning WIZO takes all

The Bloomsbury Ballroom in central London was the venue for WIZO.uk’s third Casino Night held in March. Over 150 guests put their chips on the roulette tables, raising more than £60,000 towards WIZO projects in Israel.

Young WIZO.uk re-launches in Party style with ‘Meh See Bah’

Young WIZO celebrated its re-launch with an Oriental-style cocktail party at the prestigious London Park Lane nightclub ‘Taman gang’. More than 150 young professionals gathered to enjoy sushi, exotic cocktails and a fantastic atmosphere.
The event raised in excess of £3,000 for the benefit of the Beit Shemesh Day Care Centre in Jerusalem. Young WIZO.uk coordinator Ilana Fox said of the event, “We are extremely proud. This was our first fundraising event of the year. It was great to see such a mix of different crowds creating a fantastic atmosphere.”
LADY AMÉLIE JAKOBOVITS

The WIZO family together with the UK Jewish community mourns the loss of Lady Amélie Jakobovits, aged 81 on 7th May 2010.

Lady Jakobovits, often called the Queen Mother of Anglo-Jewry, was known to the community simply as ‘Lady J’. A vivacious, kind and concerned lady, she supported and was patron of many charities. This was, she said, just a small way of showing her gratitude for her own happy life with her husband, the late Lord Immanuel Jakobovits, Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the British Commonwealth and her six children.

Lady Jakobovits was committed to WIZO’s work in Israel through her support of the WIZO.uk federation for more than 40 years. Her close friend in London, Leila Wynbourne MBE, WIZO.uk honorary president, says: “Amélie was a regular guest speaker at our functions and an inspiration and role model to us all. She was always there for us and our members, sharing our joys and sorrows.”

With her renowned indomitable spirit, Lady Jakobovits continued her work with many of her charities after Immanuel’s death in 1999. She is buried on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, alongside her beloved husband.

CANADA
Team YCHW's e-campaign makes Fundraising easy

YCHW (Young Canadian Hadassah WIZO) used information technology in their month long e-fundraising campaign, yielding excellent results. Prospective donors were able to support WIZO just by visiting the CHW website www.chw.ca and clicking on the ‘donate now’ button. YCHW team members and other would-be fundraisers were asked to register their own fundraising webpage and to email family and friends to support CHW projects in Israel. Social networking sites such as facebook or MySpace were also used to reach more people and attract donors. An image of a thermometer on the fundraising page of each person measured his or her monetary progress. E-fundraising is a cheaper alternative to traditional fundraising and makes good use of the ‘friend-tells-a-friend-tells-another-
friend’ type of communication that is the norm in 21st century web-based social networking.

President Marla visits CHW Centres countrywide

CHW National President Marla Dan, much of the time accompanied by CHW National Executive Director Alina Ianson, attended several special events in CHW centres across Canada. In Marla’s former hometown, Edmonton, they met with a group of 22 young women and were guests at two special luncheons.

At the 2009 CHW Ottawa Opening Council Meeting, Marla shared sad moments with members, recalling that she had taken on the role of national president after the tragic loss of CHW National President, the late Terry Schwarzfeld.

Marla updated chaverot on the CHW Terry Schwarzfeld Ottawa Day Care Centre in Acco, pointing out that $138,000 had been raised to help complete renovations at the centre.

Toby Yan, CHW Honorary Vice President received the new Terry Schwarzfeld Award in recognition of her dedication and commitment to the organization, the broader community, and to Israel. In Saskatoon, Marla and Alina attended CHW Saskatoon’s Annual Campaign Launch Dinner.

In Regina for the CHW Regina Special Luncheon Meeting, members were delighted to have Marla and Alina as their guests and were particularly pleased with the up to date information they received on CHW’s projects in Israel.

Sponsor a Child Concert at Carnegie Hall

Over 200 guests attended WIZO New York’s Sponsor a Child concert at the Weill Recital Hall at New York’s Carnegie Hall. Sima and Morad Ghadamian and WIZO USA Vice-Presidents Caren Constantiner and Mira Sofer and their husbands Dr. Arturo Constantiner and Beny Sofer jointly chaired the event. The program featured performances by 13 young, talented Israeli classical musicians supported by the Ronen Foundation. In her address to the audience, WIZO USA President Evelyn Sommer said, “In order to safeguard a country you need an army but in order to safeguard civilization you need artists. Thank God that Israel has both.” Following the concert, guests enjoyed a beautiful reception hosted by Simone and David Levinson at the Metropolitan Towers.

Chic in Denim at WIZO Long Island Casino Night

In January, WIZO New York’s Long Island chapter held its Denim Chic casino night at Great Neck Synagogue where hundreds of denim-clad guests attended the Tex-Mex themed event, which featured a raffle, silent auction and High Roller Texas Hold
Winning for WIZO at Casino Night 2010

February saw more than 400 guests gather for WIZO’s seventh annual Casino Night at Capitale in New York City. Attendees enjoyed friendly competition and silent and raffle auctions with something special for everyone. Elizabeth and Michael Wilens, Callae Brownstein, Harriet and Steven Croman, Jacqueline and Jordan Rosen, Tanya and Mal Serure, Tanya Zuckerbrot and Glenn Beyer chaired the event. Drazie Ashkenazy, Esther Chetrit and Fortune Dushey chaired the Silent Auction and Raffle Committee.

Educational Series Lecture with Tanya Zuckerbrot

As part of its educational series, WIZO New York introduced author, nutritionist and popular television personality, Tanya Zuckerbrot, to guests at the home of Arlene Stein. In honour of WIZO, Tanya distributed her F-Factor friendly Shabbat recipes together with a copy of her book, ‘The F-Factor Diet: Discover the Secret to Permanent Weight Loss’. Arlene Stein, Mireille Manocherian and Vicki Sakhai serve as co-chairs of this popular lecture series.

FLORIDA

Triumphant Gala Dinner at the Trump

WIZO Florida held its annual Gala Dinner at the Trump International Beach Resort in February where the keynote speaker Newt Gingrich, former speaker of the United States House of Representatives, delivered a rousing address to over 450 guests. WIZOFlorida Vice Presidents Jana Falic and Beverly Koplowitz chaired the event along with gala vice-chair Rebeca Schapiro and gala coordinator Judit Groisman. WIZO Florida President Anita Friedman gave an emotional speech and a video montage produced by event moderator Jerry Levine depicting the history of Israel was shown. Mr Levine, owner of Levine and Co - Creative Television and Film Company, also produced the video presentation introducing the evening’s guests of honour, Jana and Simon Falic, Mercedes and Menahem Ivcher, Evelyn and Dr Samuel Katz, Beverly and Joe Koplowitz, Cherna and Dr Irving Moskowitz, Sisel Klurman, Sandy and Senator Paul Steinberg, Margie and Roberto Szerer, and Lillian and Moises Tabacinic. This glittering gala was certainly the high point on the South Florida social calendar.

SAN FRANCISCO

Empowering Women

WIZOSanFrancisco/BayArea sponsored two special events aimed at increasing
awareness of women’s issues and the empowerment of women. Prof. Marilyn Yalom, senior scholar at the Michelle Clayman Institute for Gender Research at Stanford University, delivered a fascinating lecture to more than 80 women on ‘The History of the Wife’ and other feminist topics. Another event in conjunction with the JCC in Palo Alto and the Israeli House in San Francisco opened with a discussion on women’s rights, women and poverty, and women’s empowerment. San Francisco Bay Area Chapter President, sociologist Dr Galit Rand, moderated the panel. Panellists included a former Miss Israel Illana Shoshan-Diamant, who described her activities for the economic empowerment of women in Israel and Los Angeles, founder of the With You Association (jurist for social justice) Shiri Regev, who presented the issue of women’s rights, poverty and welfare status, and former legal advisor to the Israel Women’s Network, Iftat Matzner-Heruti who discussed women’s rights in the labour market. Writer and marketing consultant Meirav Oz travelled from Israel for the event. She described the unique marketing method used to promote her motivational book One Wrong Move. The event also included a fair highlighting various Silicon Valley businesses.

EUROPE

BELGIUM-LUXEMBOURG

Closing the Book on the 22nd WIZO Brussels Book and Arts Fair

Held at the Hilton Brussels Hotel in February, the WIZO Brussels 22nd Book and Arts Fair surpassed the successes of previous years. The organizing committee comprised of Chantal Henckes, Sarah Wolfowicz, Cily Melcer, Simone Fuchs, Aviva Abelew, Nicole Bulcke, Simone Elbaz, Léa Gutterman, Violette Rosenfeld, Myriam Rozenberg, Rosette Selinger, Monica Sorin, Sylvia Wajdenbaum, Rysia and Norbert Widera, Bertha Simon Zaidenband. Their efforts contributed greatly to the success of the event, as did the generosity of loyal sponsors and donors. WIZO Belgium President Ingrid Bolmut welcomed Mayor of Brussels F. Thielemans, the Consistoire Israelite of Belgium, authors, artists and guests. Ten energetic young helpers, Noah, Yael, Yael B, Alix, Benjamin, Dan, David, Elie, Emmanuel & Nissim, were on their feet for eight hours from morning to evening and took their responsibilities very seriously in ensuring everyone had a good time.

FRANCE

The Grand WIZO Chanukah Sale

Catering to all tastes and budgets, the Grand WIZO Chanukah Sale was the only place to shop for the perfect festive gift. It was service with a smile from the charming WIZO sales ladies who kept the cash tills ringing as a hoard of happy shoppers chose from the fabulous selection of household items, jewellery, Judaica, silverware, designer accessories, chocolates and so much more.
Record attendance at the Strasbourg 25th WIZO Book Fair

Nearly 3,000 guests flocked to the Salon du CIC Est in Strasbourg to meet the ‘Wizéennes’ (charming WIZO chaverot) at this memorable celebration of books where they were able to purchase and discuss books with the authors. Many high profile personalities attended including the Consul General of the Lower Rhine and vice-chairman of the France-Israel Friendship Group in the National Assembly, Armand Jung, and former Israeli Ambassador to France Elie Barnavi.

Leading lights of the literary world, historian Judith Hemmedinger and journalist/writer Olivier Guez, also came to support the function. The highly motivated organising team left no page unturned to ensure the success of this eagerly awaited literary event.

Lighting up the halls of the Hotel de Ville

The stately hall of the Hotel de Ville was the perfect backdrop for the WIZO France Chanukah Dinner Dance. WIZO France President Joelle Lezmi welcomed guests including the Israeli Ambassador to France HE Mr Daniel Shek, Deputy Mayor of Paris Mrs Fatimah Lallemand and rabbi of the Place des Vosges Synagogue Mr Olivier Kauffman, who lit the seventh Chanukah candle. The Kochav Hebraïca Hazkeni Gospel Voices provided melodious entertainment much to the delight of the guests.

Anne : The Musical

In January, WIZO France Southern Suburbs presented a musical tribute to Anne Frank which raised much emotion in the audience. The lyrics and music of the production were by Jean Pierre Hadida, the son of faithful chavera, Jeanine Hadida from the WIZO Aviv Darom branch.

FINLAND

Hearts beat for the Children

On a cold and snowy February evening, WIZO Finland members held their traditional Ladies Dinner sponsored by WIZO Finland Past President Eva Bensky and her husband Leo-Dan at the Jewish Community Centre in Helsinki. In keeping with the Valentine’s theme, each lady received a blinking red heart with the message, ‘let your hearts beat for the children’. Festivities began with beautiful serenades by Kim Harjulin, melodiously accompanied by Eva Jacob. Retiring board members were recognized for their dedicated work for WIZO: Rachel Kleiman, Monika Sjö-Strupinskj and Päivi Mishael and not least Eva Bensky for her devoted service as WIZO Finland President for the past ten years. After 20 years on the executive board, Pirkko-Liisa Schulman was elected as the new president of WIZO Finland.

GERMANY

Going under the Hammer in Berlin

In March, WIZO Berlin held its annual art auction WIZO ART 2010, which took
a variety of goods reported excellent sales, and hungry shoppers enjoyed tasty Israeli and Russian delicacies and coffee and cakes. A highlight of the bazaar was book-signings by authors Rafael Herlich, Doron Kiesel and Bärbel Schäfer. The proceeds of the bazaar benefit the Theodor Heuss Family Therapy Centre in Herzliya.

Fun and Games at the 2010 WIZO Purim Luna Park

Frankfurt’s youngsters donned their finest costumes and gathered at the Ignatz Bubis Community Centre for the 2010 WIZO Purim Luna Park. From ghosts, wizards and witches to queens, princesses, cowgirls and cowboys and everything in between, they came in their hundreds to enjoy all the amusements. In a blaze of colour, they took part in all the games and activities in a fun-filled afternoon. The children howled in laughter at the antics of the crazy clown and hungry appetites devoured the delicious food. Sponsors included Bank Leumi, Graffee, Schieferstein and Nese Bar. The industrious Frankfurt chaverot provided the magic of Purim for Frankfurt’s children to enjoy - and for the benefit of the children of Israel.
Celebrating women in Athens

Some 60 Aviv chaverot braved inclement weather to celebrate International Women’s Day and the 47th anniversary of WIZO Athens at the Jewish Cultural Centre in March.

29th Aviv Conference

In May, World WIZO Chairperson of the Executive Tova Ben-Dov was guest of honour at the 29th Aviv Pan Hellenic Conference held in Thessaloniki. WIZO members from all over Greece converged on the conference, which focused on encouraging the younger generation to play a greater role in WIZO and the Jewish community. Outgoing President of WIZO Greece, Mrs Flora Mihael passed on the ‘Presidential Sceptre’ to incoming president, Mrs Heather Nahmias.

Pesach markets

Prior to the Passover holidays, WIZO Holland held Pesach markets in Enschede, Utrecht and The Hague. The mayor of The Hague, Jozias van Aartsen, opened the market in his city. Over 400 people came to do their Pesach shopping.

Pondering Questions in Utrecht

WIZO Holland Cultural Department marked International Women’s Day in Utrecht with a celebration of women featuring interactive workshops. President of the cultural department, Margaret Mogendorff opened the day and introduced the speakers. WIZO Holland President Joyce Numann-Durlacher spoke on WIZO’s endeavours for women. A workshop called ‘Woman and her Mirror’ focussed on mediation. Another workshop entitled ‘Goddess and Training’ used the example of seven Greek goddesses to pose the question to the audience as to which type of women they belonged to, or if indeed they were a combination of different characters as they went through the various stages of their life. There was much animated feedback from the audience as women pondered the question.

Well-stocked and Open for Business

WIZO Holland is justly proud of its new gift shop in Amsterdam, which reopened in February after major renovations. The new shop is a real treasure trove stocking a wide range of gifts. The shop is hugely popular throughout the wider community and features an excellent webshop link from WIZO Holland’s website at www.wizo.nl where gift orders can also be made online.

Oscarsgate 54 - WIZO’s own Coffee Shop

WIZO Norway President Janne Jaffe Hesstvedt is always ready with a cup
of freshly ground coffee and a slice of homemade cake at her home. In fact, so hospitable is she that the new WIZO café, Oscarsgate 54, is located in the back yard of her lovingly restored house that dates back to 1870 close to the Royal Castle and Israeli Embassy in the beautiful city of Oslo.

The café opened its doors to the public in early February in a blaze of publicity with over 150 guests attending.

As well as the delicious cakes, the most popular of which is Janne’s grandmother’s own recipe apple cake, which visitors can enjoy inside or in the charming garden, locally designed clothing, jewellery, household items and giftware are also on sale. A new addition to the coffee shop is the gallery exhibiting the work of local and international artists.

Janne, herself a keen art collector, is eager to showcase Israeli artists, particularly those with a WIZO background. All income from the coffee shop will benefit WIZO projects in Israel.

Israel's Thelma Yellin School Orchestra performs in Geneva

Under the patronage of HE Mr Ilan Elgar, Israel’s Ambassador to Switzerland and HE Mr Aharon Leshno-Yaar, the Ambassador of Israel to the UN in Geneva, WIZO Geneva presented an inspiring concert by the Thelma Yellin School Orchestra from Israel. Maestro Menahem Nebenhaus directed the gifted young musicians before an audience of 250 guests at the Frank Martin Auditorium. Addressing guests, WIZO Geneva President Cornelia Fischer thanked donors and sponsors and paid tribute to her committee for their efforts. She reminded the audience that WIZO was soon to enter its 90th year of providing love and care to the people of Israel. Guests enjoyed cocktails after the concert.

A festive Purim in Fribourg

WIZO Fribourg’s annual Purim party began with the reading of the Megilat Esther and ended with a specially created Purim quiz, which had guests guessing and rolling around in laughter as they entered into the festive spirit of the ‘who done it’. They also enjoyed the customary pasta dishes and delicious Oznei Haman prepared by WIZO chaverot.

Lucrative Orange Sales and Winning Numbers

WIZO Bern’s home delivery service of oranges, marmalade and honey yielded great results in February. Customers ordered their produce through WIZO and two weeks later, the orange goods were delivered to their doorstep.

and entertaining discussion about the holiday. There was much laughter and revelry as chaverot took part in the guilty pleasures of the dessert buffet after the discussion.
year round Kiddush orders are also taken. The Bern WIZO second-hand shop also reports a lucrative trade and is central to the community. Regular customers often stop by for coffee and cake while they browse through the bargains. Successful sales of citrus fruits and honey were also held in La Chaux-de-Fonds and Zurich. In March, WIZO Zurich circulated their appeal for donations for renovations of the swimming pool at Gan v’Nof, the Swiss WIZO sponsored school in Petah Tikvah. Stakes were high in Lausanne and St Gall as guests competed for the winning lotto numbers in highly profitable Chanukah events in these two Swiss cities.

**INDIA**

**Moments in Mumbai**

WIZO India welcomed patron and Jewish educator Rachel Karen to a festive meeting last December. Rachel told the story of Chanukah and showed chaverot how to make wooden chanukiot (Chanukah candle stands). WIZO India President Yael Jhirad welcomed new members and chaverot enjoyed freshly fried sufganiot (doughnuts) sent by chef Moshe Shek from the celebrated Mumbai eaterie, Moshe’s. Rachel Karen congratulated the mothers and grandmothers who had brought their children with them to the meeting, telling them how important it was to uphold Judaism in the family especially in India where the Jewish population is a mere 4,500 out of over one billion people.

In March, guest speaker Leena Solomon of Madhya Pradesh Tourism spoke on *The Heart of Incredible India*, giving chaverot excellent ideas for their summer vacations. WIZO India took the decision to write to the family of IDF soldier Guy Hever, who has been missing in action since 1997, to express their solidarity and support. With Pesach just around the corner, Chabad Rabbi Levi Rabin, was also on hand to explain to chaverot some useful tips on getting the house chametz-free for Pesach.

**LATIN AMERICA**

**BRAZIL**

**Bringing the Book of Life to Sao Paulo**

WIZO Brazil President Helena Kelner, Vice-president Sheila Saubermann and Aviv Director Silvia Goldstein visited the Sao Paulo Chapter, bringing with them a video originally shown at the World WIZO Lapid Seminar in Tel Aviv. The video, called *The Book of Life* was designed by Sao Paulo Barak Aviv Group as an efficient strategy for the formation of new volunteer groups and the enrolment of new WIZO members. The visitors also met with Sao Paulo Executive where the various group presidents and representatives joined them in a fruitful debate on WIZO and the crucial role it plays not only in Israel but also throughout the Diaspora.

**Celebrating International Women’s Day**

Mrs Dora Silva Cunha Bueno was named as the personality for 2010.
at the WIZO Sao Paulo Chana Szenes Branch’s International Women’s Day event, which took place at Buffet France. Over 400 guests gathered to honour Dora, who is the first woman to preside over the Brazil-Israel Chamber of Commerce, Paulista Institutions Association and the local Rotary Club. Guest speakers Dr Claudio Lottenberg, President of the Brazilian Israelite Confederation and the Albert Einstein hospital, Mr Jayme Blay, President of the Brazil-Israel Chamber of Commerce, Mr Eduardo Barros Pimentel, President of the Rotary Clubs and Etejane Hepner Coin, WIZO Sao Paulo President all paid glowing tributes to Dora, and WIZO Brazil President Mrs Helena Kelner presented her with a silver plaque. She was also presented with a silver plate by Chana Szenes group President Frida Malamud. Rebeca Rosenberg acted as master of ceremonies. Guests were enchanted by the beautiful voices of the Sharsheret Choir and soloist Rafael Zolko’s recital.

An Honour for WIZO Sao Paulo

WIZO Brazil Vice-President and WIZO Sao Paulo Branch President Etejane Hepner Coin is the recipient of the prestigious Woman of Excellence 2010 award, given by the Fraternity Alliance Aca Laurence and the Industry Centre of the State of Sao Paulo. This accolade is presented to women who play an important role through their professional activities and it is one of the most significant awards bestowed by the State of Sao Paulo Government to celebrate International Women’s Day.

Etejane, the daughter of Polish and Lithuanian immigrants, attributes her Jewish humanitarian values to her parents and she explained that these principles have guided her life as an educator for 31 years. She has been a volunteer at WIZO Sao Paulo for 22 years.

Women Make a Difference at WIZO Rio Chapter

More than 300 guests attended WIZO Rio Chapter’s ‘Women who make a Difference’ event in March at the Othon Palace Hotel in celebration of International Women’s Day 2010. Under the direction of master of ceremonies Fernando Reski the tone of the event was certainly one of great joy, emotion and interaction as WIZO Rio paid tribute to those women who serve as role models throughout the course of their life to the benefit of mankind. Among the women who received this impressive title was WIZO Rio president Mrs Suzana Grinspan. Other recipients were paediatrician Dr Meri Baran, Mrs Tania Regina Fuks, head mistress of the TT-Barilan High School, the coiffeuse Esmell, outstanding actress Julia Lemmertz and Fernanda Honorato, the first and only press-card carrying journalist with Down’s Syndrome. Mrs Clarita Paskin led chaverot in song and dance to both Brazilian and Israeli music at this spectacular celebration.
Three times for Para’s Esther

Esther Benchimol Barros has been elected as the new WIZO Para Chapter President for her third term. A dedicated and efficient chavera, last year she was the worthy recipient of the Rebecca Sieff Award.

WIZO Para reports on the Amalek People

At an educational meeting held at the home of Mrs. Cota Aben-Athar, new member of WIZO Para, Tally Regev, wife of shaliach Matan Regev, told members about the Amalek People. The Regevs who currently live in Belem have enhanced the Jewish community in Para with their crucial work with youth and in the Kadima Bnei Akiva Youth Group.

All WIZO sings to Israel

Under this heading, WIZO Chile celebrated Chanukah with a tribute to the late Perla Aron - a former and much missed WIZO Chile honorary chairperson. Before a large gathering, chaverot from the groups Atid, Carmel, Etgar, Ichud, Kalanioth, Maayan, Jai Project, Sara and Shorashim performed a harmonious and joyful medley of Israeli and Jewish songs.

After the Earthquake

On 27th February, Chile was rocked by a devastating 8.8 magnitude earthquake and tsunami, which affected 80% of the country. WIZO Chile along with other Jewish organisations immediately took to the task of collection and distribution of aid, medicine, clothing, construction materials and an ambulance for the devastated coastal town of Curanipe. Selfless chaverot lost no time in attending to the needs of the students at the Republic of Israel School in Santiago, many of whom had lost their homes and were sleeping rough in the streets. With lightning speed, they mobilised supplies, clothing and food and undertook vital repairs to the school.

CHILE

CHILE

Ichud group - WIZO Chile’s youngest branch

WIZO Expo highlights Women’s Artistic Talent

A large audience attended the 2009 WIZO Expo, where over 60 pieces of artwork crafted by 28 members and supporters of WIZO were on display. Among the magnificent exhibits were patchwork, embroidery, painting and glassware. WIZO is committed to increasing women’s role in society and the expo provided the perfect backdrop to bring the artistic prowess of WIZO women to the public. All participants received a WIZO certificate.

An audience with Pilar Rahola

A large audience gathered to see and hear Spanish journalist, writer and former politician Pilar Rahola present her clear vision of global politics, media distortion and the situation in the Middle East. Pilar, who is not Jewish, is a staunch defender of Zionism. WIZO Chile President Susy Baron presented Pilar with a certificate in recognition of her commitment to Zionism.

COSTA RICA

Princes and Princesses dance at the Royal Ball

Costa Rica WIZO’s Aviv group WIZO Jai Sara Rose turned pumpkins into fairytale princesses of WIZO Jai Sara Rose at the Purim Ball

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CHILE

CHILE

Maayan group sing at ‘All WIZO sings to Israel’

COSTA RICA

The fairytale princesses of WIZO Jai Sara Rose at the Purim Ball

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carriages to make sure all the princes and princesses in the land attended the Purim ball in February. The Centro Israelita in Costa Rica was transformed into a fairy tale castle for the festive evening. The Aviv girls hosting the ball were all dressed as princesses and ensured a magical evening for all those attending with great food and many prizes.

COLOMBIA

Learning in the WIZO Kitchen

WIZO Bogota sponsored and organized a series of Jewish cookery classes for the young ladies taking part in the 2010 communal Bat Mitzvot. The culinary and kosher lessons learned in the ‘WIZO kitchen’ will stay with the girls as they make the transition into Jewish womanhood.

MEXICO

Walking through Israel’s White City in Mexico

In November last year, Mexican chaverot were transported to Israel when Eldad Golan, political adviser and press attaché of the Israeli Embassy in Mexico, presented a fascinating audio-visual tour of Tel Aviv. WIZO Mexico headquarters was decorated in blue and white and festooned with Israeli and centenary flags, taking on the guise of Israel's cosmopolitan white city as it celebrated its centenary. Guests were able to take a virtual walking tour of Tel Aviv, meandering on the sea front and strolling down the boulevards.

A Feast of Festivities

The Jayeinu and Esther Szmora groups held a very profitable and spectacular auction of art tables painted by well-known artists. The Lev Group sold over 900 Mishloach Manot for Purim. The Netzer Group sold sufganiot for Chanukah and Ozney Haman for Purim and held activities for Friendship Day. The annual book day was celebrated with a visit to the impressive José Vasconcelos Library in Mexico City.

Debating Challenges

At their regular committee meetings, Mexican chaverot debated the challenges facing the world today in a wide range of subjects from eating disorders to climate change. At their meetings for Chanukah and Purim, the tone was somewhat lighter with miracles and laughter yoga topping the agenda.

Welcoming Olam

WIZO Mexico is pleased to welcome into the fold their 30th group - WIZO Olam. The group was formed on the closing day of the yearlong recruitment campaign, which saw campaign president, Reine Saba make the official presentation to WIZO Mexico. The Olam Group comprises of 18 enthusiastic young ladies of different nationalities with one common goal: to give of themselves to help others in true WIZO fashion.

URUGUAY

Princess Laetitia enchants Chaverot

To celebrate International Women’s Day, charismatic Princess Laetitia d’Arenberg entertained and impressed members of WIZO Uruguay. The
princess, an enterprising woman, shares a passion for volunteerism particularly in the area of rehabilitation of young addicts. Present in the large audience was Mrs Graciela Rompani Pacheco Areco, the wife of the former President of the Republic.

Meeting Mariel
WIZO Israel Director of Family Welfare, Mrs Mariel Huberman, gave an illuminating presentation on projects in Israel and the work of her department to an audience of chaverot who had come from Brazil and Argentina to meet her. During her visit to Uruguay, Mrs Huberman also met with professionals from social, national and political fields who share a common interest in family welfare.

Miss Israel shares her story in Johannesburg
WIZO Johannesburg in conjunction with the South Africa Zionist Federation hosted the beautiful Linor Abargil, former Miss World and Miss Israel, at an event where she courageously shared the shocking story of her rape, highlighting the tragic fact that domestic abuse and rape happens in all communities. Linor was visiting South Africa with Cecilia Peck (daughter of the famous actor, Gregory) and Motti Reif to make a documentary about rape in South Africa.

Drums and vibes with the Israeli Ambassador
WIZO Tzabar and the Israel United Appeal joined forces to put on a fabulous Saturday evening event when the Israeli community met with the Ambassador of Israel in South Africa, HE Mr Dov Segev-Steinberg, in an encounter that was more relaxed than 'official'. Over 150 guests enjoyed a convivial evening when they gathered at the event hosted by Ido and Ilana Reiger where good food, a singsong and Drum Café all added to the riotous atmosphere ensuring a great time was had by all.

World Cup Fever
South Africa has erupted with World Cup Soccer Fever as the country welcomes the biggest sporting event that the country has ever held. Members of WIZO Johannesburg donned their flags, grabbed their vuvuzelas (a metre-long stadium horn popular at Soccer matches) and took to the streets to welcome football enthusiasts from around the world who have flocked to South Africa. The welcoming and
hospitable WIZO ladies were eager to demonstrate their own fancy footwork and joined in the dancing, flag waving and frantic vuvuzela blowing.

NEW ZEALAND

Welcoming Israel’s Ambassador to New Zealand

Derek McDowell, Director of the International Christian Embassy (ICEJ) of Jerusalem and his wife, Ruth, hosted a dinner to welcome HE Yuval Rotem, Israel’s Ambassador to New Zealand and Australia. The dinner brought together a mix of Jewish and Christian communities with a common love of Israel. WIZO New Zealand National President Lorna Henrietta Orbell and past-president Joyce Baker were among the 325 guests. Excellent addresses were heard from HE Yuval Rotem, Derek McDowell and Malcolm Hedding, Executive Director of the ICEJ based in Jerusalem. WIZO New Zealand are blessed to have such good friends as the ICEJ and the Israel Today Prayer Group, Hawes Bay whose members regularly volunteer in Israel, supporting WIZO and the citizens of Israel.

AUSTRALIA

Celebrity Parachute Debate

Over 180 people gathered at the Observatory Function Centre in February for a brunch organized jointly by WIZO South Australia, Jewish Community Services and the Australia-Israel Chamber of Commerce (SA). The panel of celebrity speakers consisted of funeral director David Lloyd, UN Special Envoy for Cyprus Alexander Downer, President-Elect of the Law Council of Australia Alexander Ward and comedian, performer and writer Jean Kittson. WIZO South Australia Co-President Miriam Millingen chaired the organizing committee and Rob Nachum fulfilled the role of a very able and amusing master of ceremonies. At the brunch, the panel was presented with the dilemma of having to choose which of them would receive the only parachute on an Airbus A380 originally bound for Tel Aviv but was fast plummeting from the sky. All the panellists gave plausible reasons as to why they deserved the parachute but it was Jean Kittson’s hilarious wit that earned her the life-saving jump. Sponsors for the event were Neale Realty, Blackwell Funerals and ANZ Trustees, Swisse Vitamins, Hayes Knight and Spotlight.

Amit Group’s Inaugural Fashion Parade

WIZO Victoria’s Israeli Amit group, held a fun-filled afternoon of glamour at its inaugural fashion parade for size 14+ women. The eight models, all Amit members, strutted the catwalk at the lovely home of Yael and Raymond Rothschild. The fashions, which were available for sale at the event, were by ‘Taking Shape’ and there were stalls selling fashion accessories, handbags and hats.
In Honor of WIZO’s 90th Anniversary

Through Your Ongoing and Generous Support
WIZO has Acquired a Reputation of Excellence in
Caring for Israeli Children for the Past 90 Years

Sponsoring a Child in one of WIZO’s
168 Day Care Centres in Israel provides:
- Fully Supervised and Safe Environment
- Hot Meals and Nutritious Snacks
- Music, Story Time, Gymboree and a
  Wide Range of Other Stimulating and
  Enrichment Programs

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Donor Recognition:
- Commemorative Card with a Child’s Picture
- WIZO’s Daycare DVD
- Sponsor a Child Pin

On line Donation at: www.wizo.org
For further information, please contact
World WIZO Fundraising Department at estherm@wizo.org