Sderot and Gaza Border Communities
WIZO Salutes and Supports the Educators

Beit Heuss
An Island of Tranquility

Ada Yonath
Israel’s Nobel Prize Laureate
Dear Readers,

In this, the first issue of WIZO Review in the new decade, I hope you find the articles interesting, informative and useful to you in your WIZO work.

Of the utmost importance are the messages from our president and chairperson on pages 4 and 5 – they pull no punches when they tell you about the conditions WIZO and Israel are facing.

Our Up Front section starts on page 6, highlighting some of the openings and dedications of new projects. A special section (page 8) covers the opening of the upgraded staff rooms in the Negev, as mentioned in our president’s article. I must confess I wrote this from a personal point of view, as I was so moved by the event.

There are so many social problems in Israel, resulting from economic circumstances and the security situation. Read how courses at Beit Heuss give people the tools to cope with their everyday problems (page 10).

Many of you are familiar with the bright, smiling faces of Lili, Orna, Janine and Saya when you travel round the country with WIZO. On pages 14-15, they tell you how important it is to come and visit.

A coincidence flows through pages 16, 17 and 18. See how two separate stories of two young Jewish heroines from World War II come together in the pages of WIZO Review 2010, nearly 65 years later.

WIZO was founded on Zionism. On page 19, in today’s atmosphere of anti-Zionism, Brenda Katten outlines the importance of the ‘Z’ in WIZO.

It is always interesting to interview a WIZO president, to hear her personal WIZO story, and the situation of the Jewish community in her country. In this issue, we feature Italy’s Roberta Nahum, a proud Roman (page 20.)

World WIZO was abuzz with the International Aviv Seminar in November. (page 23) It is wonderful to see these dynamic young women so devoted to WIZO – and they were so thrilled by their experience here.

Nine citizens of our little country, only 61 years old, have been recipients of Nobel Prizes; how proud we were in December to see Israel’s first woman Laureate, Ada Yonath receive the prize for chemistry. Read a profile of Ada on page 27.

On pages 28-29, the Organization and Education Department gives you some vital tips on recruitment.

Starting on page 30, we highlight some WIZO events here in Israel: a wonderful gala concert and moving events to mark the International Day of Violence for Women. A special feature (page 32) highlights the personal contribution of Karen Gillerman-Harel to give the women in one of our battered women’s shelters hope for the future through photography.

And last, but by no means least, WIZO Around the World (or WATW for short), starting on page 37. All I can say is that we are always overwhelmed when your reports come into the office and we see what wonderful work you are doing. Kol Hakavod!

We are always delighted to receive your feedback; this magazine is for you, our members. Please tell us what type of articles you would like to see in the future. You can contact us by email – wreview@wizo.org or by a letter to the address on the Contents page.

Ingrid Rockberger
Editor

Raanana Symphonette Orchestra conducted by Gil Shochat at WIZO Israel Gala Evening (see article on page 31)
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Dear Chaverot,

This time last year, we were in the midst of the Cast Lead Campaign to bring peace and tranquility to the residents of Sderot and the Gaza Belt. Although our southern border is quieter, and fewer missiles have fallen, the physical, emotional and psychological scars carried by the residents will take much longer to heal.

We can all be very proud of the "WIZO Supports the Educational Staff of Sderot and the Gaza Belt" campaign. In 2008, its first phase saw the educational staff and their families spending peaceful weekends in WIZO youth villages. In 2009, WIZO renovated staff rooms in the Eshkol and Sha’ar HaNegev local authority schools – turning them into more relaxing havens for the school staff. 2009 also saw the conversion of the WIZO Margaret Thatcher Day Care Centre into the WIZO Open House for Children, Parents and Educational Staff. It is also very satisfying to see the deepening of the bond between WIZO and the residents in the area developing into additional WIZO activities.

The past year saw the world recovering from the first global economic crisis, although it will take longer for the public at large to emerge from the recession. People were more cautious with their money this year and you, our federations found fundraising much harder, yet continued with more determination than ever – doing whatever you could, and many with success. Here at headquarters we took difficult measures to meet our commitments. We all pray that 2010 will be a more beneficial year.

This year, there were unprecedented attacks on Israel by the UN and the EU, but Am Israel remains steadfast and defiant against anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism, for we know that justice is on our side and we believe in the path we have to take.

I believe that strengthening the bond with our chaverot in the federations, instilling the WIZO pride in them and encouraging them in their work is of the utmost importance; therefore, 2009 was a very international year for your president and included her attendance at: the Annual ECWF General Meeting and the Meeting of the European WIZO Presidents that took place in Rome; the XII Latino Americano WIZO Congress that took place in Panama; the 33rd Conference of WIZO South Africa during which Mrs. Yvonne Jawitz was elected president; and the 20th Triennial WIZO Brazil Federation Conference during which Mrs. Helena Oksenberg Kelner was elected president.

I also headed the WIZO delegation to the formal and informal events of the Durban II Conference, where our delegation was able to connect with the other participants of different ages and languages, as we all stood united and proud against all who would attack Israel, Judaism or Zionism, and I participated in WIZO events in England, Norway, Switzerland, Italy, Argentina and Uruguay as well as women’s international conferences.

I was given the privilege to represent WIZO at the opening ceremony of the 18th Maccabiah and WIZO was a full partner in the historic changes in the relationship between the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency.

2010 will see WIZO celebrate its 90th anniversary – a little older, a lot wiser, a motivated, dynamic and vibrant movement with an ongoing mission - to make a difference to the lives of those who need us, to preserve the past, provide for the present and guarantee the future by turning Zionist ideology and dreams into reality. Each and every one of you is a full partner in everything we are and every accomplishment we reach.

Helena Glaser,
President,
World WIZO
Dear Chaverot,

When you read these words, many of you will be with us at the 2010 Meeting of Representatives. I so look forward to meeting you and sharing with you all our fears, hopes, pride and achievements over the last year.

We are living in a difficult financial period, which is affecting us all globally. We in WIZO are also feeling the vibes in our economic situation, which are forcing us to make decisions that have severe repercussions for many people, as much as we try to minimize the damage.

The 2008 poverty report brought us no comfort. Some 420,100 families, or 1,651,300 Israelis, were living below the poverty line, including 783,600 children and 22.7% of our senior citizens. Many families have been seriously hurt by the economic crisis, due to redundancies or by significant salary reductions, and suddenly also find themselves living below the poverty line. We, in WIZO, have to cope with the reality of the situation as it affects our day-to-day work, in an environment where parents are struggling to meet the basic needs of their children, and they turn to WIZO, which has earned the reputation of being a savior to many people in times of stress.

We continue to work according to our WIZO vision, and believe in providing long-term solutions. We encourage people to help themselves, so that they can break out of the cycle of poverty. We give them empowerment courses, thus increasing their self-confidence, we provide vocational courses for women, we educate our children so that they graduate from our WIZO schools and youth villages with skills that allow them to proudly take their place in society and to adapt to all the challenges that life will present to them. We fight for the enforcement of laws to empower women, immigrants and single families, so that they are better equipped to look forward to the future.

Everything that we have done up to now, everything that we hope to fulfill in the future, is reliant upon one important fact - the input of our faithful and devoted chaverot in our federations around the world. Yes, it is a huge responsibility, but it is one that we dare not fail, for in this responsibility lies the future of the Jewish people.

I know that you will not fail us, for within each and every one of us is the WIZO spirit, which has manifested itself in our work over the last 90 years. We are not a fleeting phenomenon, we are an integral part of Israeli society, and in being part of the WIZO sisterhood, each one of us has found a special place in which we have learned from one another, supported one another, grown into better people and we have helped to break through the glass ceiling. In short – the show must go on!

Tova Ben-Dov
Chairperson, World WIZO Executive

As we were going to press, with deep regret, we heard of the passing of Bruce Rappaport, one of WIZO’s devoted donors. An obituary honoring his memory is on page 36.
Mrs. Shirley Lowy visits her House of Dreams

When the House of Dreams in WIZO’s Ahuzat Yeladim School (sponsored by WIZO Australia) was opened last May during the school’s 70th anniversary celebrations, major donor Shirley Lowy, after whose family the house is named, was unable to be present. However, on a recent visit to Israel, Mrs. Lowy was thrilled to attend a ‘re-opening’ in her honor. Ahuzat Yeladim Principal Yossi Saragossi accompanied Mrs. Lowy around the school campus and told her about the school’s history and many success stories relating to pupils who have attended the school. Mrs. Lowy was very moved to see the children at their studies and activities and heard from Mr. Saragossi how many of them are from the most high-risk homes, and how, due to the wonderful work at the school, many of the children are able to attend the army and become successful members of Israeli society. For Mrs. Lowy, seeing the completed House of Dreams was a dream come true.

World WIZO Executive Chairperson Tova Ben Dov and World WIZO Fundraising Chairperson Esther Mor were also present.

WIZO France Expresses Solidarity

A 30-strong group of women from WIZO France, led by their president Joelle Lezmi, recently came on what has become an annual solidarity mission to Israel. The group visited various French projects as well as touring the country and visiting the Knesset. They were particularly excited to be at the opening of the renovated day care center at Ganei Tikva (see next page)
Renovated Day Care Center in Ganei Tikva

A generous legacy from Mme Mathilde Nahmias Hassid from WIZO France, enabled the WIZO Ganei Tikva day care center established in 1972 to undergo a complete makeover. Members of Mathilde’s family were present at the festive inauguration, as were members of a large contingent from WIZO France who were on a solidarity tour of Israel. Renovations included upgrading and modernizing the outside play areas and purchasing new equipment for the yard outside and new toys and furniture inside. Some of the 77 children who attend the day care center daily delighted the guests with a warm WIZO welcome. Carrying out the wishes of Mathilde were her nephews Philippe Halfin and Salvator Levi. World WIZO President Helena Glaser presented Greta Halfin with a WIZO pin. Additional funds from the legacy have allowed extensive renovations to be carried out at the Magen Avraham WIZO Day Care Center in Jaffa, where the family also visited. Both day care centers are named ‘Casa Matilda.’

Cornerstone laid for new WIZO Center in Hadera

As a result of a letter sent two years ago by Hadera mayor Haim Avitan to immediate past president of WIZO Brazil, Sarita Schaffel, funds have been raised by a group of donors in Brazil to build a new women’s center in Hadera. At the cornerstone laying ceremony attended by the mayor, World WIZO and WIZO Israel executive members, WIZO Hadera Chairperson Ruth Lapidor and Chairperson of the WIZO Hadera Ophira Navon group, Avitan stated: “It is always exciting to lay a cornerstone, and to lay a cornerstone for an organization which, in itself, is the cornerstone of the city of Hadera, is even more exciting.”

First Mishpachton at WIZO Nir Ha’emek

On December 30th 2009 Frida and Alberto Deller of Quito, Ecuador were honored by their daughter Helen Deller through her generosity and dedication of WIZO Nir Haemek’s first “Mishpachton” / Family Unit. This marvelous and newly renovated addition to the youth village is the ultimate in residential care for the sixteen children at risk aged eight to eighteen who will soon reside in this modern and bright setting.
December 21st and December 29th 2009 were both ‘one of those days’ – one of those high-emotion WIZO days.

One of those days when I know why I came to live in Israel from London nearly 29 years ago. One of those days when I think to myself how can I portray a day like this to the chaverot around the world? One of those days when I am so proud to be part of this small but special, and much maligned little country, and so, so proud to be an active WIZO member.

Visiting Sha’ar Hanegev

When the kassams were falling – and they still do, but not as much, we often heard on the radio: a kassam fell in the area of Sha’ar Hanegev – or the Eshkol region. Now we were going right there.

On December 21st, together with Helena Glaser, Tova Ben Dov, Yochy Feller, members of World and Israel WIZO Executives, and staff members from the Education and Early Age Divisions, I traveled south from Tel Aviv to Sderot and Sha’ar HaNegev, the areas of Israel that have suffered eight years of continuous bombardment of kassam rockets from nearby Gaza.

‘Down south’? – It sounds a long way. But it isn’t. Less that one hour from World WIZO Headquarters in central Tel Aviv.

We went to officially open eight staff rooms, which WIZO has upgraded, in schools of the Sha’ar Hanegev area, and the opening of the converted Margaret Thatcher Day Care Centre in Sderot, thanks to the generosity of our chaverot around the world, a result of the special ‘Sderot Campaign’ launched by our president Helena Glaser in 2008.

‘Listen to the sound of the children playing outside’

It was a beautiful, warm sunny day, and as we arrived at the Sha’ar Hanegev school complex, it was break time. Children were playing happily and noisily in the yard between the school buildings. As the official ceremonies began, Head of the Sha’ar Hanegev Regional Council, Alon Schuster, whose grandmother was active in WIZO in Argentina in the 1930s said to us, “Be quiet for a minute, listen to the sound of the children playing outside – that is the most wonderful sound you can ever hear.”

Only in the year since Operation Cast Lead, can the children play outside. He said that every one of the 600+ children who attend the school (from first to 12th grade) know exactly where every kassam rocket has fallen.

Speaking directly to the teachers, Helena said, “You are on the front line, you have to calm the children in times of emergency, when, at the same time you are worrying about your own families. You are truly ‘the heroines of the south.’”

Addressing the guests on behalf of the teachers, elementary school headmistress Anat Regev remarked that the festival of Chanukah had just finished, but ‘today, at this ceremony, I feel a continuation of the festival, the light we see all around us, the light and energy of women’s leadership and contributions to the community. WIZO is the only organization that thought about us.’

WIZO Israel chairperson Yochy Feller outlined many of the voluntary activities of WIZO, which give support, enrichment and empowerment to women, and suggested that we should start some of these activities in this Negev community.

The Sha’ar Hanegev school was originally established some 50 years ago, but was completely rebuilt a year ago, with all the...
walls and windows reinforced to enable the children to remain in their classrooms should an alarm sound. Previously only a few classrooms were reinforced and, panic-stricken, children had to run from one building to another – in 15 seconds!

WIZO has provided furniture and facilities to enable the teachers to relax in pleasant surroundings during the periods when they are not teaching.

In the staff room of the senior school, a building that is soon to be rebuilt and fortified, once again we felt humbled when we heard the grateful thanks of the teachers – most of all for thinking of them. With a voice shaking with emotion, high school head Arie Rothstein, admitting he was emotional, said – no one 'from afar' comes to visit us, no one wants to come further south than Ashkelon. We did not hear from any organization in the country, until we had the phone call from WIZO. I want to thank you, not only for what you have done for us, but just the fact that you have come here to show your identification and support.

Next stop Sderot

Next stop, more emotion – this time at the official opening of the converted Margaret Thatcher Day Care Centre from Sderot Mayor David Buskila, who thanked WIZO profusely for the new center. He praised the strength and work of WIZO as a women's organization, adding that ‘WIZO is an organization of little words, but big deeds.'

Called 'The Open House', the center will provide psychological help for parents and children who are traumatized by the security situation, providing them with tools to improve and ultimately overcome their problems. In addition, a pedagogic center will provide training for professionals in early age education. The building has been completely refurbished and extra security rooms have been added.

Going further south

A week later, we set out yet again, this time traveling way past Sderot to the Eshkol region, where WIZO has refurbished four staff rooms. Showing us round another new reinforced school, only 4.7 kilometers from the Gaza border, Council Head Haim Yellin – who also proudly told us his grandmother was a WIZO member in Argentina – pointed out the concrete shelters scattered around the grounds – because, when the school was built, they had to think of safety precautions for when the children were outside. He stressed the warm and lasting contact with WIZO, and again, emotionally, conveyed to us what this project means to all the educators.

At the reception and plaque unveiling, Director of the Education Department Yael Adar thanked WIZO once again for thinking of the teachers, for providing them with corners of comfort and relaxation. "It is wonderful to host you here in this new 'safe' staff room", she said, 'in the past when we had visitors, the first thing I did was tell them what to do if there is an alarm: go under the table or stand over there with your hands on your heads'.

Our next visit was to an elementary school where we were so impressed by the caliber of the staff, their devotion to the children and to their work – they did not treat their profession just as a job; they recognized the huge responsibility they had to the children of this special region.

Our last stop was at a temporary religious school where the children – and most of the teachers were from the evacuated Gaza settlements. Once again the headmistress couldn't express her gratitude enough.

As the sun was setting, we started the long journey back to Tel Aviv, tired but with a wonderful sense of well being, that we WIZO women have indeed made a difference.

Postscript

While we were in the Eshkol region we heard two loud booms in the distance; the next day, exactly 24 hours after we were there, I heard on the radio, 'A grad missile was fired from Gaza today. It fell in the Eshkol region on open ground. There were no injuries or damage.' This time I understood. I have seen the 'open ground'.

Helena Glaser and Eshkol Council Head Haim Yellin unveiling WIZO plaque. (Wording on the plaque - the same for all the rooms: This staff room was furnished and equipped with love for the welfare of the educational staff of the school, donated by the WIZO Organization and its federations around the world. December 2009)

Helena Glaser (center), Sha’ar Hanegev high school head Arie Rothstein and teachers in upgraded staff room
 Beit Heuss is an island of sanity for the people who enter its gates, most of whom belong to the weaker sectors of our society. Its location in wealthy Herzliya Pituach, tucked amongst well-maintained villas, is somewhat surreal, considering the fact that most of its guests struggle to make a living. Nonetheless, perhaps such surroundings provide the right setting to help them forget about their daily hardships for several days. The center works in cooperation with WIZO Germany that supports and funds their special projects. The workshops are open to all, but most attendees are from the weak and neglected sectors of the population.

**Seminars for Sderot and Gush Katif Residents…**

The person who pulls the strings and is the architect of the beautifully organized workshops is Cheli Yechiely, director of Beit Heuss. “One of our most important projects was the one we held for residents of Sderot and other communities bordering Gaza who suffered for years from constant rocket attacks. That project was fully funded by WIZO Germany and we were able to offer these traumatized people a few days of quiet and a peaceful atmosphere. The workshops are designed to give their participants tools to help them cope with the problems they face in their lives. We emphasize individual empowerment and strengthening via therapy sessions, role play and anything that can encourage positive thinking. Most importantly, a social worker accompanies all of our activities,” she explains.

**…and Gush Katif Evacuees**

“One of the most powerful seminars was the one we held for youth whose families were evacuated from their homes in Gush Katif during the disengagement. We hosted two groups – Ultra-Orthodox girls and a mixed group of teenagers. The seminars were so successful that eventually the parents of these teenagers arrived as well. These particular seminars were also funded by WIZO Germany with the purpose of helping the Gush Katif evacuee cope with the terrible crisis caused by the disengagement.”

Beit Heuss does not offer an instant remedy to each and every crisis but simply allows the participants a ‘time out’ that lasts between three to five days, during which all their needs are attended to. In addition, each group is provided with a special program of holistic activities for their minds and bodies, which is designed especially for them. “We try to reach a variety of groups from different kinds of communities and social backgrounds: Ultra Orthodox women, wives of prisoners and their husbands, adopting parents, single mothers, mothers of large families with poor socio-economic backgrounds and more. Obviously we work in cooperation with local Welfare Offices but I constantly reach out and market our activities so more people will know about us and about the work we do,” she says.

“This place works like one big family. People who come here should feel ‘embraced’ by every one of our staff. For many of them, it is an opportunity to learn to cope with the terrible crisis caused by the disengagement.”

**Cheli Yechiely, director of Beit Heuss, designs individual courses for weaker members of Israeli society**
our guests, such as mothers of large families, this is a unique opportunity to indulge themselves. Usually, in their everyday lives they are busy caring for their husbands and children but here they can rest and let someone else look after their needs”.

**We All Have Unresolved Issues**
Watching a four-hour guided improvisation session dedicated to the empowerment of mothers from Ashkelon made me realize that every woman can benefit from such an activity. The group was composed of women of all ages—grandmothers, mothers of grown children and young single mothers. The chemistry between them was amazing, as this was their third day together. The activity lasted for several hours during which the women danced, cried and acted out their pains and feelings under the professional guidance of Rimona Lappin.

One of the most powerful moments occurred when Ruth (not her real name) broke out in tears while sharing with the group her unresolved issues with her elderly mother. This was the peak of a simulation game that focused on bringing up one powerful event in the life of two women in the group. Ruth had to direct three important episodes in her life using her mates as human sculptures. In the first ‘sculpture’ she presented herself as a battered woman, in the second she was hugging her children and the third sculpture presented herself with her mother. Her father was not an active participant but an observer. Ruth spoke about her past as a battered woman and the way her children had no respect for her. She went on to describe the change she had gone through after divorcing her husband; all she wanted was her mother’s appreciation and acknowledgement to the progress she had made.

The group could not remain indifferent to the pain of their friend. Moreover, her courage and sincerity encouraged other women to bring up their unresolved issues with their own mothers. It was heartbreaking to witness a grown woman crying about harsh discrimination she had experienced from...
> her mother, who allowed two of her sisters to study while she was deprived of education. Empowered by this workshop, she declared her intention to ‘show her mother’ she is not stupid and is capable of studying, just like her sisters.

"We aim to break the circle of poverty and distress to help these women make a change in their lives," explains Cheli Yechieli. "Beit Heuss is the only place that offers such comprehensive workshops in a holiday atmosphere. The women who come here can regroup themselves and see their problems from a different perspective, and of course share their pain with the rest of the group."

**Six Times in Beit Heuss
- Every Time is Uniquely Different**

Maya and Maddi are two sisters for whom the Beit Heuss experience is not new. Maddi, 39, is here for the sixth time and her younger sister arrives for the third time – both of them enjoy every minute of their stay.

"I am a living image of my mother, a submissive woman who always gave to others without acknowledging her right to get something in return. Throughout the years of my marriage with my violent husband, I was always the suppressed wife. I suffered from low self-esteem and this place gave me the strength to get myself together. I needed someone to listen to me and I found it here," says Maddi.

"I have a daughter and to my great sorrow she imitates my suppressive behavior as well, and I don't want her to make the same mistakes that I have. This workshop taught us how to deal with our own mothers and get to know the mother inside us – the portrait of motherhood we project to our children. This is my sixth visit to this place and every time is uniquely different since I'm at a different stage of my life. I learn a lot in the workshops we are given and most importantly I feel taken care of. The food is great and the staff is wonderful. When I come here I always feel 'at home'. Every one of us has her own bag of sorrows and she gets to unload her burden here," she concludes.

"It is always difficult to leave everything and come here," explains Maya. "I am a single parent and it was hard for me to leave my daughter, though I know she is being looked after. Whenever I come here it is always accompanied by feelings of guilt since I'm taking a vacation and leaving everything behind. However, it's worth every minute because we get so much support here and so many tools that help us deal with our lives back home. During our first evening, we continued to sit and discuss our problems even after the workshop was officially over. No one wanted to leave; we simply sat and shared our stories with each other. Though we have some fun activities as well, the workshops are most important because we are given tools to grow and change our lives. I train my mind to think differently and change my priorities, to place the focus on myself," she declares.
The Most Rewarding Position

Nurit Pollack, a vibrant woman in her 70s did not become a WIZO volunteer after retiring from her day job but actually made WIZO her career.

"Back in the 50s it was not acceptable for a woman to go out to work. When a woman worked it was a sign that her husband could not provide for her," she says.

"But after I felt consumed by boredom I went along to my local WIZO branch and started volunteering; my first position was the chairperson of the Hod HaSharon branch," she recalls.

After years of productive activity as (amongst other positions), chairperson of the Organization Department of WIZO Israel, and deputy chairperson of World WIZO Building Department, Nurit feels she has finally 'found her place' as the chairperson of Beit Heuss. "This is undoubtedly the most rewarding duty I have fulfilled throughout my long career in WIZO. I totally identify with the place and its blessed work. The staff here is wonderful and completely dedicated to all the populations it serves. I am in charge of the financial management of the house and assist with maintaining our relations with the WIZO Federation in Germany. I love to take part in the workshops and feel that my world has been expanded since I'm part of this extraordinary place".

"I live in the 'State of Tel Aviv' and here I get to meet people I would never have met otherwise," she confesses. "For example, ideologically I backed the decision of the disengagement from Gush Katif but when I actually met with the people who had been evacuated from their homes, it affected me. I met with a mother of five children who lost her livelihood in Gush Katif and faces serious financial problems. I came to realize that I have to be more open minded to the things that happen beyond my convenient world. I'm excited to witness the process of change people go through in Beit Heuss – it is nothing less than amazing."

Beit Heuss – The Beginning

WIZO Beit Heuss is named after Prof. Theodor Heuss, the first president of the Republic of West Germany, and opened its gates in 1967 on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

Back in those days, naming a building after a German personality needed special legislation passed by the Israeli Knesset. Then WIZO President Raya Jaglom argued that Theodor Heuss was known for his anti-Nazi views and his support of the Jews. Only after writing a letter to Foreign Minister Abba Eban was the authorization given.

The donation was actually a birthday present to the German president from his wife, who had heard him say on a visit to Israel that a project for the enrichment of the family was needed here. The house was inspired by a similar chain of homes for mothers existing in Germany – *Muttergenesuganswerk* which also donated funds for its opening.

Since its opening, Beit Heuss has served every needy sector of Israeli society. In its early years it provided a rest home for mothers of large families, giving them the only holiday they would ever enjoy in their lives. However, throughout the years its activities expanded and nowadays it provides help for different sectors of society who face a variety of problems: uncertainty, conflicts or crises in their relationships, financial or security problems and more. They can enjoy a few days of relaxed vacation and are provided with tools to deal with their problems.

In 1994 the house was renovated and a second floor was built thanks to a very generous donation of 1 Million DM. The donor was Gunther Rutschke, a German citizen who wanted to express his feelings of solidarity with the Jewish people and contempt with the deeds of Nazi Germany. He called for a declaration from the German Parliament that 'such deeds will never again occur in Germany'.
World WIZO
Tourist Department:
We Will Take You There

Tricia Schwitzer

World WIZO’s Tourist Department handles over 1000 visits a year from conference tour days for hundreds, to an individual WIZO member on holiday in Israel, who wants to visit her Federation’s projects.

"It can be quite challenging when the Swiss and British chaverot are already on the bus and they are pointing to their watches and saying, ‘it's time to go,’ other chaverot are still having breakfast and the Latin Americans are not even out of bed yet!" says World WIZO Tourist Department director Orna Ref, referring to one aspect of her busy work. "Every detail from A – Z, and those that no one else thinks about, is what it takes to make sure that every visit is memorable. I like everything to be 'just so,' but that doesn't always help me when there is a large group of chaverot to get on to the coaches on the morning of a tour day. I have to have a sense of humor too. Orna's efficiency is not lost on department chairperson Lili Peyser who has only praise for her: ‘I have the best team, I am very lucky. Orna is quite a ‘Yekkeh’ (an accurate personality). Things do not just organize themselves. Orna gets them done. She leaves nothing to chance.’ The department handles over 1,000 visits a year including the tour days of all the World WIZO conferences and seminars, visits by federations, missions, groups, donors, non-Jewish friends of WIZO, youth groups, visiting diplomats, politicians, dignitaries and journalists, and others with an interest in the WIZO ethos. Orna puts together the itineraries and no two are ever the same. She personally oversees all bookings, transport, sightseeing, project visits, entertainment and hospitality arrangements, making each schedule tailor-made to suit the profile of the visitors, with special attention given to their individual requirements but always with WIZO clearly in focus.

We Are Your ‘Calling Card’

"It is a shame that there are still some people who do not have a clue about WIZO. They say, what is WIZO? Don't you just have coffee mornings and chat? I tell them, you have to come and see what WIZO does, because seeing really is believing. Recently, a delegation of 30 including three men came from France. We went to visit the French-sponsored single parent family clubhouse in Jaffa, which caters to both Jewish and Arab mothers and their children. It is a well-established model of co-existence. The mothers prepared a delicious buffet for their guests and one of them, a French speaker, insisted on speaking. ‘Thank you,’ she said, ‘for providing us with this most wonderful clubhouse. We..."
are among friends here. We are all so grateful. It was very moving. These women have all suffered their own personal nightmare and this club provides them with the support and company of like-minded women. They wanted to show their gratitude to their guests and were proud to host them. It was very emotional, so much warmth and love – you just had to be there.”

**The Champagne of Our Visit**

“We also visited the WIZO Ganei Tikvah day care center for a wonderful dedication ceremony attended by the family of the donor. They told me it was ‘the champagne of our visit’. Of course, we can write about these things, and send photos so that chaverot can see where the money goes but to actually be there, to interact with the people who benefit, to get down on the floor and play with the children, to hug a baby who, thanks to you, is secure in warm surroundings, well, that is something else entirely. It is the same for all projects. The last time we were in the Hadassim Youth Village, we sat and had dinner with the children. The visitors saw where the children slept at night; they touched, they felt and they connected – and knew their donations were being spent wisely. This is not just publicity, not just a photograph and descriptive words. This is being there. In the Diaspora, you open the newspaper and read such terrible things written about Israel; it’s all so negative and does not instill confidence. But when you come to Israel and see the difference WIZO makes, when you pose for a photo with a smiling, bright-eyed child, you are touching the positive. WIZO shows you that.”

**Of Gifts And Opportunities**

Deputy chairperson Janine Gelley recalls two memorable visits. A family from Australia came to Israel as their daughter wanted to donate her bat mitzvah gift money to the Australian WIZO-sponsored Ahuzat Yeladim School. As the family were sitting listening to one of the students talk about how the school had given him a new beginning, the student looked down and pointed to the daughter’s sneakers, a pair of Converse 705, and said, ‘one day I would like to own a pair of shoes like that.’ The daughter’s stepfather (after checking if it would be appropriate to do so) gave the money to the boy to buy the shoes he wanted, as he was going to Poland for the first time as part of the March of the Living tour. A year later, on Holocaust Remembrance Day, Janine accompanied another group to Ahuzat Yeladim and recognized the boy singing in the show as the one who had gone to Poland. He told Janine that going to Poland had been the most meaningful event in his life. He has since graduated.

Last October, Janine accompanied Barry Levine to Ichpat, a WIZO South Africa-sponsored project for the schooling and rehabilitation of abandoned youngsters in Tel Aviv. Barry’s late wife, Raynor, had left money in her will for the school to buy much-needed equipment. Janine was so overcome with emotion that she could hardly give the introductory speech as she remembered Raynor’s enthusiasm for the project when she last accompanied her there three years ago. During Barry’s visit, a young girl came in to speak to the director. She said she had to leave the school. Her father is a drug addict and she had to go out to work to support him. Janine said, “When you go to the projects you see what happens, the drama unfolds right before your very eyes. The girl feared for her mother as her father is violent and here is WIZO, giving the most under-privileged members of society the tools to learn a trade. The director assured the girl that they would organize food for the family and look for ways to enable her to finish the year with a diploma so that she could get a job.” Two stories – one of a gift and one of an opportunity given.

**IAF Flying over Auschwitz**

Saya Malkin, in charge of special projects, has also had some memorable moments where visits have taken on an extra dimension. She recalls one time in 2007, when she accompanied WIZO Australia Past President Nellie Weiss and her husband, David, to the Hatzor Air Base, where David, a Holocaust survivor, happened to see a picture on the wall of the Israeli Air Force flying over the gates of Auschwitz to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day. “We could see how moved he was by this picture so we asked the officer accompanying them for the disc of the photos of the flyover. It turned out that this officer was one of the pilots and he made a special trip to Jerusalem to get the disc just for Mr. Weiss, as he felt so humbled to be in the presence of a survivor. It really was an enchanting moment.”

There have been so many wonderful moments. There will be so many more. Visit Israel and experience the magic of WIZO. See, feel and touch the tangible results of WIZO in action, changing lives for the good. Get to the very heart of the people of Israel. The World WIZO Tourist Department will take you there.
Born in Austria on May 19th 1910, Gerda Weiss (née Eckstein) was the younger of two sisters. Her father had built up a profitable jewelry and watch making business in Vienna and the family also owned a hotel in the mountain ski resort of Semmering. A shrewd and successful man, he showered his family with the trappings of his wealth but he also instilled a sense of purpose in his daughters.

When, in 1932, Gerda gave birth to a baby boy, she lived in an elegant apartment in Vienna with her first husband and the child’s nanny. Gerda sang lullabies to her baby and promised him a world of love. She was not to know that the world she promised would be blemished by hatred. One of Peter’s earliest memories is when he was just five years old; one day he got up from playing with his toys and looked out of the window, from where he saw the synagogue across the street engulfed by flames.

Fleeing and hiding, hiding and fleeing

With a heavy heart, Gerda sent Peter on the Kindertransport to England via Holland. Peter recalls the journey, “it was a gigantic ship, perhaps thousands of children. The Queen of the Netherlands served us hot tea in paper cups... but where were we going? Where was Mama?” In 1939, Gerda and her second husband, Andor, went to Paris from where Gerda traveled to London to collect Peter. They returned to France to be reunited with Andor who had a new job in Paris. Andor Weiss was conscripted into the French Army and sent to serve in North Africa, while Gerda and Peter continued to live in Paris. To escape the advancing German invasion they moved to Brieve La Gaillarde in the Correze region where they remained for about 18 months, during which time Andor, having returned from North Africa, was reunited with his wife and child. As the Germans pushed deeper into France, the local rabbi contacted Gerda and warned her of the imminent round-up of foreign Jews in the town. The family fled to Montabaun in southwestern France, where they hid on a farm for ten months. From there they were taken to the picturesque mountain village of St. Pierre de Chartreuse where many other Jewish families had taken refuge. The mayor of St. Pierre de Chartreuse was supportive, and the villagers kind. However, this respite did not last as France succumbed to German occupation. Gerda and Andor went into hiding and Peter, along with the other Jewish children, was sent via Grenoble to Switzerland on a mission planned by a Jewish resistance group.

Accompanying the 30-strong band of children was a young Jewish woman, Marianne*, charged with the task of getting them safely over the border. The journey was perilous; the children were frightened, hungry and cold. She urged them on. “If I disappear – just keep going. Don’t stop, keep going,” she whispered. Once over the Swiss border and past the barbed wire fences, the children were safe in Switzerland. Peter was placed in the care of a kindly Swiss farming family who looked after him until the Red Cross located his parents and they were reunited in Grenoble.

In July 1945, on his 13th birthday, Peter accompanied by his parents arrived in Palestine.

Marianne* Cohn was caught in May 1944 smuggling Jewish children into Switzerland. Her captors could not prove she was Jewish because she carried forged papers in the name of Marianne Colin. The Germans executed her in 1944. The children caught with her were saved thanks to the help of the mayor of Annemasse, Jean Deffaugt and her colleagues from the Jewish Resistance. The smuggling of children into Switzerland continued until spring 1944. Marianne saved some 1,600 Jewish children.
Excerpts from the speech Gerda Weiss gave to the chaverot of WIZO Haifa in 1945

Dear Ladies,

I thought it might interest you to know how we Zionist women were active in Europe, and how we formed the WIZO group Grenoble after the Liberation.

During the German occupation of France, much work needed doing. We had to provide people living underground with identity cards, food vouchers and money. Saving Jewish children, getting them safely to Switzerland was of paramount importance. This was the responsibility of the Zionist youth, acting under the name of the ‘Mouvement Jeunesse Sioniste’. We used the youth because, having studied at French schools, they spoke with a flawless French accent, and could pose as Frenchmen.

Immediately after the Liberation, the Jews returned to Grenoble from the villages, the mountains and hideouts, and I was among them. Anxious to resume my activities in common with women of a similar attitude I formed the Zionist Women’s Group – WIZO Grenoble. I became the secretary. Soon enough we had 40 members. We met every Shabbat and each week a different speaker discussed Zionism and Aliyah.

Our first obligation was to tend to the sick in hospitals and sanatoriums. They were alone and deserted, unaware of the whereabouts of their families or even if they were still alive. We visited them, bringing whatever food we could buy on the black market, bread in particular. There was never enough bread. We also looked after injured Jewish freedom fighters in the military hospitals. How happy they were when we visited them once a week! We supplied the sick with Zionist newspapers.

We had to root out the children who were left behind on their own when their parents were deported. Many of them were lodged with French peasants, cloistered and hidden. We had to lead them back to the Jewish faith. It was a struggle as some of their temporary foster parents had become emotionally attached to them but we did manage to collect 40 children. We took them to a home where professional educators taught them in accordance with Zionist teaching. WIZO’s task was to inspect this home once a week. The children were vermin-infected and neglected. We worked hard to provide clothing, underwear and shoes. We had to buy soap on the black market to wash them. When it was my turn to inspect the children’s home I was so happy to find them all clean, well-dressed and cheerful. So that they would feel like part of a family we invited them to our own homes for a couple of days. We took them on outings. We made parties at Chanukah and Purim attended by all the children and we gave them little gifts. When the time came for us to part, they wrote letters to us. One young boy frequently started his letters with ‘Dear Mama and Papa.’

Four of these children were on our ship to Eretz Israel. The others, mostly born in France, therefore French citizens, were not allowed to leave. In all the bigger towns, there were similar homes for children. WIZO in Paris, for instance, had to look after over 900. Soon, some of the deported people started to return. Again, we had to provide the necessities of life for the poorest of the poor. Clothing, a roof over their heads – it all had to be provided. Their experiences were so horrific, they were traumatized, and so we had to find a distraction – some entertainment to make them smile again. We threw parties in their honor.

I have given you a small example of the work we did. Even if what we did was not the performance of great deeds, we did our best. I wish to say ‘shalom’ in the name of a small group in France, and trust that the work of all the WIZO groups yielded at least the same success.

Thank you.

Gerda’s elder sister along with her two children perished in the Holocaust. Her parents survived in Palestine. In the winter of 1947, the Weiss family sailed from Palestine to England where they remained. Gerda died in 1988, her husband in 1989. Their son, Peter is an antiques dealer specializing in complicated watches. He is married to Susan and they live in London. They have two sons, Daniel and Jonathan, and three grandchildren.
When you read this story and the one about Gerda Weiss on the previous two pages, you will think that Mila and Marianne must have known each other – they were doing the same work at the same time and the same place – saving Jewish children in World War II. “Not only did they know each other, they were close friends,” says Lili.

Imagine a courageous band of young Jewish people risking their lives during World War II smuggling young Jewish children and babies through occupied France to safety in neutral Switzerland. These youngsters were part of the answer to the Nazis’ determination to annihilate the Jewish people. Mila Racine was one of these brave youngsters. Born in Moscow in 1919, her family immigrated to France in 1925, and settled in Paris, where Mila studied and later founded a young WIZO group. One of her motives was to enable Jewish youngsters to meet and hopefully to ‘avoid intermarriage’.

In a letter written in July 1939, Lili’s mother described one of the events to a friend. “We were at a WIZO ball, and we danced until late at night, it was wonderful and it seemed right, at this time of high tension”.

On the eve of the German occupation in 1940, the family fled to southern France. There Mila joined the Jewish Resistance (Mouvement de la Jeunesse Sioniste), and was active in the area of Annecy. In 1943, while she and her friends were helping a group of children to escape to Switzerland, a crying child alerted a nearby patrol and Mila was captured by the Germans. The child and its mother were shot immediately; Mila was arrested, and initially interned in the Pax prison in Annemasse, where she was tortured, but did not give away any information. After the war, the words Conservez avec l’espérance, toujours le souvenir. (Never lose hope, never forget) were found scrawled on the wall of her prison cell in her handwriting. Eventually she was sent to Matthausen concentration camp, and then on to Ravensbruck. From books written about life in these camps, we learn that Mila was a celebrity as she organized choirs, making prisoners sing their hearts out to keep their spirits up. Ironically Mila Racine, aged 24, was killed in March 1945 by an Allied aerial attack on the railway line on which she was working. In St. Gervais, a ski town in the French Alps, where Mila was based for a time, a special plaque has been placed in memory of Mila Racine. So revered is her memory that the French WIZO magazine is named after her.

WIZO Day Care Center in Mila’s name

“For many years, my grandmother could not believe that Mila would not be coming back,” relates Lili, “and after she died my parents commemorated Mila’s memory by building the Mila Racine Day Care Center. Denise Verney, another member of the young Jewish Resistance and Simone Veil’s* sister, was in Ravensbruck with Mila, and it was she who came and told the family how Mila died. Denise officially opened the day care center in Mila’s name in November 1981, accompanied by a large delegation from WIZO France.

“Hundreds of children have grown up in the center full of laughter and happiness and this is the best way to commemorate her, with the continuation of life. Mila will remain in our memories as a young woman with a beautiful smile and a lovely voice, a young leader who rescued so many children from a bitter fate,” concludes Lili.

*Simone Veil, a concentration camp survivor, qualified as a lawyer after the war and went on to become France’s Minister of Health (1974-79) and first elected president of the European Parliament (1979).
WIZO without the 'Z'?

Just as the letter ‘Z’ is central to our name, Zionism is central to our cause

At the recent Aviv International Seminar some of the delegates express their concerns about the problems they are having with the ‘Z’ in WIZO, therefore WIZO Review asked World WIZO Public Relations Department Chairperson Brenda Katten to define what Zionism means in today’s world, and how to combat the anti-Zionists.

When did the word ‘Zionist’ become unacceptable? Some have even begun to question whether we should remove the ‘Z’ from WIZO. Zionism means to establish a homeland for the Jews in the land of our forefathers. Israel is the Jewish people’s national historic home. We are a people, not just a religion. Zionism is Jewish nationalism.

Definition of Zionism
What does ‘Zion’ mean? The Oxford dictionary defines Zion as ‘Holy hill of Jerusalem’ and simply ‘Jerusalem’. Observant Jews pray towards Jerusalem three times a day. As we open the Ark on Shabbat to remove the Torah in order to read the portion of the week, we sing “For out of Zion came the Torah and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.”

In September 2001, when leading the WIZO delegation to the infamous Durban 1 Conference, I was interviewed by South African TV. The very first question was, “Please define Zionism.” My answer was to quote the African American civil rights leader Martin Luther King’s response to a student who said he did not hate the Jews, he was merely ‘anti-Zionist’: “When people criticize Zionism, they mean Jews…Zionism is nothing less than the dream and ideal of the Jewish people returning to live in their own land...from which they were expelled by the Roman tyrant. And what is anti-Zionist? It is the denial to the Jewish people of a fundamental right that we justly claim for the people of Africa. (Namely a homeland of one’s own)

Over the years there has been an increasingly effective campaign to isolate, delegitimise and dehumanize the one Jewish state. It intensified in 1975 with the passing of the defamatory UN resolution 3379 equating Zionism with racism. Whilst this resolution was rescinded in 1991, it has nevertheless proven to be an effective tool with which to castigate Israel in the international arena, the media and especially on university campuses.

Battle of the Media
Remembering History
One of the most challenging battles with which Israel is confronted is the battle of the word. We are only too conscious of the detrimental effect that media distortion of Israel has – not only on the wider world but also on our own people. This especially rings true of a generation unfamiliar with Jewish history, born into a world where Israel exists but is perceived as just ‘another’ country. It then becomes all too easy to accept the language of the media equating Zionism with all that is negative. We have to go back to the words of Martin Luther King who defined an anti-Zionist as an anti-Semite. For if we remove the ‘Z’ from our name it is tantamount to saying we have no right to our historic home where we are the indigenous people. What then? Our painful history reminds us that when we were in desperate need of a refuge from those who would annihilate us, there was none to be found. We lost six million of our people not only because of Hitler but also because of the passive collaboration of a world whose gates remained firmly closed to those seeking refuge from the Nazis. To quote Robert Frost, the American poet, 'Home is the place that has to take you.'

This year, in which we will be celebrating 90 years since Rebecca Sieff had the incredible foresight to found WIZO, we say clearly and proudly that Israel stands tall amongst the nations. We are an example to the world in the way we successfully integrate immigrants into Israel and these have included some 900,000 Jews expelled from Arab countries. We take in the stranger – the Vietnamese boat people in 1977, and more recently those escaping murder and torture in Darfur and those Africans who come via Egypt, risking death as they endeavor to avoid being shot by the Egyptian border guards as they seek refuge in this Zionist land.

The State of Israel is our insurance. Never again will a persecuted Jew have nowhere to go. Let us remain proud of the ‘Z’ in our name – it is our license to be here.

Know the facts
The most important thing is to be ‘armed’ with the correct facts. Too often we assume that what we hear on the TV or read in the press is correct but, unfortunately, many of today’s print and electronic media journalists either do not know the true facts or very subtly insert their own opinions in their so-called ‘objective’ reporting. Some useful websites for ‘checking the facts’ are: www.honestreporting.com, www.mfa.gov.il, www.middle-east-info.org, www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org - worthwhile to join the AICE mailing list.
First of all, tell us something about your family life
I am married and have three children, who are all grown-up, but none of them are married yet, so unfortunately I am not a grandmother! I did not pursue a professional career because my husband’s job took us around the world. He is a geophysicist, now retired, and was involved in oil exploration. I traveled with him to many interesting countries: Indonesia, Norway, and England, while our ‘home base’ was in Italy – in Rome. All these experiences of different cultures and different mentalities helped shape my personality and provided me with many tools for my future activities.

How did you start in WIZO?
I started with WIZO when we went back to live in Rome in 1986, although it turned out not to be permanently. Although I have a very large family in Rome, I wanted to get involved in the community – and to be more in touch with my Jewishness – I have always been a Zionist and so were my parents – without being very active, but always supporting Israel with fundraising whenever they could. So I got involved with Adei WIZO and took some responsibility right away in the Roman branch, but then after less than four years, we left again and went to the UK to live in London, where we stayed for ten years. I joined a WIZO group in North West London but I never got involved in their activities because the time of their meetings did not suit me, and I really missed my group in Italy. So when I came back to Rome for good in 1999, I was co-opted onto the executive of the Roman branch even though it was mid-term. A little while later I became vice president of the Roman branch and then head of fundraising for all of Italy, first with a co-chair and then alone, then national vice president, and now I am national president and still, by public demand, I am in charge of the fundraising department, and am also a representative of the ECWF [European Council of WIZO Federations]. I am pretty busy, but I enjoy it!
What is the membership of WIZO in Italy today? We have about 3000 members: the two biggest branches are Rome where I live and Milan where our head office is situated. In addition there are another 18 towns, which have their own WIZO group. They range from 200 members to very few. They are all very valuable to us, they all contribute and you never know where a big donation will come from. We received one large legacy from a very small town with very few Jewish people. We are called Adei (Associazione Donne Ebrei d’Italia) WIZO – Association of Jewish Women of Italy. Our association is more than 80 years old – one could say it has always been the guardian of Judaism, especially in the smaller communities because the WIZO ladies organize the kiddush and the children’s parties for the festivals and so they are very important. We do fundraising, cultural activities and organize trips. We have also created a ‘Literary Prize’ of which we are very proud, in order to spread the knowledge of Jewish culture among the Italian public.

What is the Jewish commitment to the community, in other words are there many Jews in Italy who are not affiliated with the community? There are now, and I recently went to a meeting of the Council of Italian Jewish Communities where the National President represents Adei WIZO – I think we are one of the few organizations outside of the communities which can attend meetings, which is a source of great pride for us and it was very interesting to listen. At that meeting, there was a lot of concern and discussion about the declining number of members of the individual communities.

There is also the fact that Italy has the lowest birth rate in Europe… Exactly. Yes – this national characteristic affects us as well. And also, naturally there is the problem of intermarriage. We live in a society where Jews feel free – it is a very liberal society where there is a lot of mixing and mingling. Even for the parents who send their children to Jewish schools there is no guarantee that in the future, when they go to university, they will not meet somebody non-Jewish.

For those that do intermarry, do the families try to keep them within the Jewish community? They try, and this is one of the things that was mentioned in that meeting: that although according to the Halacha, the son or a daughter of a Jewish woman is always Jewish, in actual fact statistics demonstrate that it is the children of the man who marries outside the faith, who are more likely to remain Jewish than from the mother. This is because in Italian society the man is still the dominant partner - unless you have a very, very strong woman! This also reflects on us, on our work, on our fundraising.

Do some of these non-Jewish wives of Jewish men get involved in WIZO’s work? Yes, we have always had some women who had converted in high positions [in WIZO]. We also have some non-Jewish women, whom we call ‘members’ friends’ – who do not have the right to vote but come and support our functions.

Tell us a little about your own background… My family comes from Rome, going back many, many generations – like most of the Jewish families in Rome. When I meet Jews from all over the world they all have relatives that come from the four corners of the earth. ALL my family comes from Rome, and this is a matter of pride for all we Roman Jews: imagine to have survived in the cradle of Christianity! The Jewish school in Rome opened immediately after the [Second World War], so I could have gone to a Jewish school; I don’t know why, but not everybody felt that it was important to go to a Jewish school, one reason being because the gates of Rome had only been opened in 1870 although it seems a long time… In 1945 the Jews were still mingling mostly with Jewish people, so my father had no fears that my Judaism needed re-enforcing. And he was right. I went to high school and had many non-Jewish friends – but at the end of the day I only mixed in Jewish social circles. So at that time it wasn’t necessary, but things change. I didn’t have a formal Jewish education but all we girls had a bat mitzvah ceremony, for which we studied for one year. We were never very observant but we celebrated all the main festivals and went to synagogue, but we did not keep a kosher home, and needless to say, were not shomrei Shabbat.

What is the situation today? The situation in Italy today, and in Rome in particular, is different. There are many more observant Jews, which is nice, because of the influence of the Jewish school, and because we have a lot of Jews coming from North Africa or from countries in the Middle East, who were, by tradition, much more observant than us, so this means they have
> opened their own synagogues and the number of kosher butchers has increased. There are marriages between Jews of different origins, and this has made many more families observant, and also the new rabbis are stricter than the previous ones – this too is increasing the number of observant Jews. But, of course, there is resistance by some. So I think this might be the reason why some people do not want to belong (be affiliated) to the Jewish community.

Are there different strands of Judaism – Orthodox, Reform etc?
The Reform was not really allowed to come in, but apparently there is a small [Reform] congregation in Milan. But in Rome, the rabbinate is resisting and a few years ago an attempt to organize an open discussion on the various expressions of Judaism was discouraged. My opinion is that although I am not observant, I am very traditional, and I think we are not large enough to have more than one community. I would not like another community in Rome. We already have enough discussions to divide us over various issues: we have to be a united body.

What has been the reaction by the Italian government and the media to the Goldstone Report? Do you see an increase in anti-Semitism in the country?
The Italian Government has chosen to disassociate itself from it and I am very proud of its choice. I cannot say that the media has given a lot of relevance to the result or its implications. I see very little if any increase in anti-Semitism in Italy especially if compared to the rest of Europe.

What are your personal hobbies and interests?
I love reading – I have always had many hobbies but reading has been my favorite since I was a child. I like novels with a historical background – I enjoy those the most. I used to have a great interest in interior design and I attended a very serious and demanding course on that subject. But, as I said earlier, we were traveling so much that I was never able to put to the test either my abilities or my studies in that respect except in the several houses where I have lived – since I have moved 15 times in my life! So that is where I have expressed my flair – and a little bit with my friends. I would now say that all my hobbies have been replaced by WIZO!

What are your personal feelings for Israel, your personal attachment to the country?
Sometimes I feel such a worry and desperation because every day there is a new menace, there is a new reason for some people to hate or criticize Israel, but then in the end we have to remember all the trials, tribulations and challenges the Jewish people have faced for thousands of years. Seeing Israel the way it is now – and only people who come here more than once can see how the country has developed, the quality of the population, the professionalism that everyone uses in every aspect of Israeli life...and also of course all the technical, medical, scientific and cultural successes - tells you that we are ok and in a way we are safe – somehow we will always get through; then I become optimistic.

And your feelings for WIZO, especially now you have been to so many of the projects…
I get my inspiration from WIZO: the dedication, the professionalism of all involved at every level is worth the utmost respect. Their work and their success in achieving even the most daring goals is very encouraging for me.

What about the younger generation? Is there an Aviv movement or are you all together?
There are only a few Aviv groups in the branches (3 or 4). We are trying to form and keep new groups, but it is very difficult for the branches if their membership is very small. We hope that the existing groups will manage to include young members from neighboring towns in their activities. Having said that we sent three girls to the recent Aviv seminar and they returned with such enthusiasm, I am sure they will be more committed than ever before.

What are your plans for the Italian Federation under your presidency? How long is the term of office?
The term is for three years and then I can be re-elected twice more for a total of nine years. First of all I pledged with my chaverot to be more open with the problems the Federation faces, and also in the decisions that I am going to take 1) because it is right in principle, and 2) because it makes it easier for our Federation to continue in the future since, if people are not involved from the beginning, starting from the lowest level, they will never feel totally committed and take responsibility.
I want to involve everyone at all levels and I hope we can create a collective enthusiasm. They tell me that sometimes I am too enthusiastic, so now I have to prove that I am right!
Dear Friends,

We can proudly say that the WIZO Aviv International Seminar that took place in Tel Aviv from the 15th to the 19th of November 2009, attended by 50 members from 12 federations, was a great success. We were all provided with empowerment tools for membership recruitment, fundraising and leadership. We spent a day together touring WIZO projects, enjoying and learning from each other. It is incredible how WIZO never stops impressing us!

It does not matter how many times you have visited Israel and how many seminars you have participated in, WIZO always has new information and opportunities for us to enrich ourselves.

The trips to the Kotel, Yad Vashem, Mount Scopus, The Palmach Museum, and the naval base were moving and inspiring. However, visiting the WIZO projects is what every member must experience to understand the impact that WIZO has in Israel and how it gives equal opportunities to so many people.

For those who have not yet had the opportunity, I guarantee that the time away from your families will be an extraordinary experience that will enrich your lives. Do not miss it!

There are problems all over the world, with poverty, drugs, under age situations, abuse, to name but a few. I am certain you all see them in your home countries. We must continue to help those needy in our communities, but we must also remember to make a conscious effort to support our people in Israel and strengthen our ties between Israel and the Diaspora.

Best wishes,

Vicky Fidanque
Aviv Representative to the World WIZO Executive

Meet today’s modern woman. Poised, confident and passionate about the things she cares about most.

Leaving notes on the refrigerator door and a good supply of ready meals, she kissed her husband and children goodbye and boarded a flight to Tel Aviv. She flew long hours to embrace her other love. For the next five days, she would not be alone; she would never feel more wanted and more needed.

She is just one among the 50 women who took part in the 2009 WIZO International Aviv Seminar: women from all walks of life, different countries, different cultures; but all sharing one common denominator – WIZO. These WIZO Aviv members, women between the ages of 25 and 45, flew in from Australia, Latin America, Canada, India, the United States, South Africa, Europe and the UK to join their Israeli counterparts for five exhilarating and unforgettable days.

Throughout the course of the seminar, there were plenty of tears - of joy, admiration, pride and, inevitably, of sadness. On the tour day, eyes glistened at the sight of the adorable toddlers at play in the cozy environment of the WIZO Switzerland-sponsored WIZO Mishkanot Peer Day Care Center in Hadera and tears welled with pride at the naval base in Haifa. Laying a remembrance wreath at Yad Vashem, chaverot wept for those who perished in the Holocaust. In contrast, there was much to smile about: the young, gifted musicians who entertained so admirably at the WIZO.uk sponsored Margaret Gold Music Center in Tiberias, the splendor of the sun setting over Jerusalem and the reassurance of a silent prayer at the Kotel. The delegates had even more reason to smile when they witnessed firsthand the beneficial impact WIZO makes on the lives of disadvantaged youth at the WIZO Australia-sponsored Ahuzat Yeladim Boarding School.

Aviv, Hebrew for spring, symbolizes the future of WIZO. As spring turns to summer, Aviv chaverot will become the WIZO flag bearers of tomorrow. Just as the delicate young saplings they planted in the Lavi Forest will grow strong and tall for the benefit of the land of Israel, Aviv chaverot will go forward to lead WIZO for the good of its people.

Best wishes,

Vicky Fidanque
Aviv Representative to the World WIZO Executive
Celebrating Aviv

The Tools of the Trade

In the first training session of the seminar, World WIZO Organization and Education Chairperson Sylvie Pelossof discussed the all-important issue of recruiting, retaining and increasing membership, offering a wealth of practical and resourceful ideas for attracting new members and keeping them within the WIZO family.

Consultant and trainer Hamutal Gouri was on hand throughout the seminar, motivating participants to reach for the skies in all that they do. She put the focus squarely on the ‘fun’ in fundraising as World WIZO Fundraising Department Chairperson Esther Mor presented an effective session resulting in much brainstorming as chaverot came up with some excellent ideas. Following this, the various Aviv groups gave short presentations of their most successful fundraising events.

To be informed is to be empowered and solidarity with Israel is a crucial part of the WIZO ethos. World WIZO Public Relations Chairperson Brenda Katten and Israel Foreign Ministry Manager Ido Aharoni laid myths and misconceptions to rest with their powerful presentations on hasbarah and the misrepresentation of Israel, giving chaverot the tools with which to advocate effectively for Israel. The subject of Zionism also featured heavily in Avraham Infeld’s talk on the magic of Jewish education, wherein he entertained chaverot with humorous anecdotes from his own Jewish life and aliyah to Israel and stressed the message that Zionism and Judaism are one and the same.

Light relief came in the form of a session of laughter yoga demonstrated by the charismatic WIZO Israel Aviv member Shifra Arwas who guided chaverot through some seriously hilarious relaxation exercises.

Chaverot listened, captivated by the courage of female high-ranking IDF officers, who explained the significance and challenges of their front line positions in Israel’s defense. These young women received a standing ovation for their bravery, and participants took pride in the knowledge that WIZO gives much support to female combat soldiers.

In the closing session of the seminar, chaverot put on a special all-star performance much to the delight of Aviv Seminar organizers, World WIZO Organization and Education Chairperson Sylvie Pelossof and department director Ahuva Koren.

The four-strong Canadian delegation wowed the crowd with a uniquely WIZO rendition sung to the tune of the Gloria Gaynor song, ‘I will Survive’:

So many WIZO projects scattered far and wide
We visited and learned, and left with such a sense of pride.
Women of such strength, working for a greater cause
Whether from the IDF or raising funds, they did not take a pause.

And now we go back to our home,
Using skills that we have learned here to fundraise on our own.

We’ll change the world we live in, one child at a time.
‘Tikkun olam’ is up to us – it is the mountain we must climb.

The seven UK delegates took The Beatles ‘Yellow Submarine’ tune to new heights, turning it into a WIZO hit with the words:

In the city of Tel Aviv met the delegates of WIZO Aviv.
We all came from near and far, some by plane, some by car.
Fifty women on a mission, with or without their partners’ permission
All here to learn together, to take WIZO experiences home forever.

After rapturous applause, the room fell silent as Rael Elijah from India sang a gentle lilting song about flowers blossoming in spring, but the noise level soon crept up again when the Israeli delegation gave a rousing belly dancing display which ended with all participants holding hands and singing Yachad, anachnu b’yachad, an Israeli song of togetherness.

Throughout the seminar there were hugs, kisses and camaraderie as chaverot connected with each other and Israel under the banner of WIZO – and there were stories, some happy, some sad; all so, so WIZO.

They came from all over the world; they are the world. The future of WIZO is in safe hands. They are the future.
Aviv Girls Speak...
This seminar was an amazing opportunity to meet women from other federations, to see what they do. It opened our eyes to the unfortunate and how lucky the people of Israel are to have WIZO in their lives – and how lucky we are too. (Ravit Gazit-Timor – London)

For Aviv representative to the World WIZO Executive, Vicky Fidanque from Panama, becoming a WIZO member was as natural as having children, When I got married, it was as if written in the Ketuba (Jewish marriage agreement) that WIZO comes with the package. Through WIZO, I have been able to fulfill my need to help others. I have met those wonderful ladies, the elders, who inspire me to do more and to reach higher. We want these women to pass the torch to us, to give us more responsibility, we are conscious of all they have done, and all they have created for us, and for that, we give them our ‘cavod’ (respect).

When you are thousands of miles away, in your home countries, you know where the money goes – but seeing it with your own eyes is quite a different thing. Visiting WIZO projects encourages me to continue – to do even more. All that I have learned I will take home with me and put to good use. (Sharon Overweg – Holland)

We have to spread the word and we have to make it fun. Before we begin to fundraise, we have to ‘friend raise’ – that is the key. (Rael Elijah – India)

For best friends, Leigh Golombick and Heidi Rogers, both aged 25 from Sydney, Australia, this was their very first visit to Israel. Leigh is a senior accountant and Heidi is a textile designer. It has been a life-changing experience, almost surreal. With what we have seen and witnessed, we feel such a connection to WIZO and to Israel. We have learned so much. We want to promote WIZO to our generation and we will. We will go home and tell everyone we meet about our experiences, with passion!

Although both Leigh and Heidi are relative newcomers to the movement, they have formed the third WIZO Aviv group in Australia and are confident that by focusing on Jewish singles as their target market they will not only prevent intermarriage but will achieve their ambitious fundraising goals for WIZO and Israel. For WIZO.uk Aviv Chair Nicky Miller, participating in the WIZO Aviv International Seminar for the first time was quite a revelation. We [the UK delegation] arrived on the ‘red-eye’ at 6 am from London. By 9 am we were on the bus to the Neve WIZO project, which provides children who have been removed from their families by court order with a substitute home and loving surrogate family. When we arrived, it was just like any other Israeli home - a warm atmosphere and a table overflowing with food. The difference here is that the parents are foster parents who look after up to 10 children. Their dedication and kindness was so evident. They work 24/7 to give the children warm and loving surroundings and encourage them to do well at school and to excel in later life.

We have all come away from the seminar with greater insight into WIZO’s work and achievements. We have learned from each other and have had a lot of fun too! This was a most excellently organized seminar.
Ayelet was born in Zicharon Ya'acov, a small town in northern Israel. When she was 14, her father died leaving her mother to bring up five children. "We were five kids, sleeping in one room; we did not have the luxuries my children have now, but we were happy, we played outside a lot. All the neighbors were very kind; they would bring fruit and vegetables grown in the village for us. We only ate meat on shabbat."

Life was tough for Ayelet's mother. All she knew was to cook and clean, so she took a job as a cook in a small hotel in the village. When Ayelet, a good student, finished high school, her mother told her, "Education, Education, Education! I don't want you to do physical work like me. I want you to go to university".

At 18, Ayelet was selected from 800 high school students to go to the United States as an 'ambassador of Israel' in an Israeli government sponsored program. She spent six months in Washington State advocating on behalf of Israel. After her army service, her thoughts turned to education. It was her dream to study economics at the Hebrew University, just as her mother wanted for her. She passed the entrance exam, did well at the interview, and was offered a place. "But then I realized, I could not pay for the tuition fees. No chance in the world, and I left the interview feeling crushed and frustrated. It was just so unfair."

A Man's Subject

It was at that moment that she saw a WIZO poster on the wall. It read, WIZO will give you a scholarship if you are studying a man's subject. Although Ayelet had no idea who or what WIZO was, her chosen subject was a 'man's subject' so she applied and WIZO agreed to finance her studies. "I felt like WIZO opened a huge door for me to fulfill my potential and to improve my situation. WIZO made it possible. What did I have to look forward to otherwise - a menial job, get married early and struggle just as my mother had done?"

Aside from her studies, Ayelet worked hard to pay for her dormitory and living expenses. She worked as a cleaner in the mornings and as a security guard at Hadassah Hospital at night. With partial scholarships from both WIZO and the Hebrew University, Ayelet completed her BA in Economy in International Relations, followed by a Master's degree in business administration.

It was at the Hebrew University that Ayelet met her future husband, Gil Erez. They married and had their first child, Roey. With Gil still studying and Ayelet working full time, little Roey needed day care. State-run day care centers operated only until lunchtime and Ayelet could not afford private care for her son. She presented her dilemma to the manager of a WIZO day care center in Jerusalem, although she doubted she would qualify for a place. After all, she was not an abused woman and her baby son was certainly not 'at risk'. To her delight, the manager worked out a minimum payment plan and welcomed Roey to the center, where he attended happily from seven in the morning until four in the afternoon while Ayelet worked.

WIZO Helps Yet Again

Through WIZO, Ayelet was also able to help a friend, who had been a victim of rape by a member of her own family. With nowhere to turn and being too frightened to go the police, she contemplated suicide, confiding this to Ayelet. One day, Ayelet noticed a little sticker on the back of a toilet door in the university, which said, 'If you are stressed, have a problem, if someone is hurting you – or you just need to talk, phone ……'

Ayelet gave the phone number to her friend, who called the number, which turned out to be a WIZO hotline. Later her friend told Ayelet that she now goes twice a week to a WIZO center where psychologists are helping her to get her life back on track and free her from her suicidal tendencies. "Ayelet," she says, "I am telling you, they are all angels there."

"So you see," concludes Ayelet, "we can sit around a table drinking coffee in London or Tel Aviv and it is all very comfortable, but life was not always so easy. WIZO helped me and I like to tell other chaverot my story because I think it strengthens their resolve in the work they do for WIZO."

Ayelet Erez currently lives in London with her husband and four children, Roey (15), Maya (12), Ido (9) and Shira (5). She is a member of WIZO.uk Aviv group, Rotem (the Hebrew speakers' group) and works part time at the British Friends of the Hebrew University. Her husband, Gil Erez, is the Minister for Commercial Affairs at the Israeli Embassy in London. Gil's work also took the Erez family to Sydney, Australia from 1997-2001, where Ayelet was active in Aviv groups.
Nobel Prize

Israeli Woman Scientist Wins Nobel Prize for Chemistry

Her scientific curiosity as a young child and her admiration for Marie Curie led Ada Yonath to a long and successful career as a researcher on ribosomes - the cell's protein factories, culminating in being awarded the Nobel Prize

Israeli scientist Prof. Ada Yonath, 70, has won this year's Nobel Prize in chemistry for her groundbreaking work in the field of ribosomes. During her childhood, her role model was the Polish-French scientist Marie Curie, the pioneer in the field of radioactivity, and who was awarded two Nobel prizes in different scientific fields. Now, fittingly, Yonath has been awarded a Nobel Prize of her own, only the fourth woman to do so, and the first since 1964, when the prize was awarded to Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin of Great Britain. The professor, who is head researcher in the field of structural biology and biochemistry at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, shares her prize with UK scientist Venkatraman Ramakrishnan and American Thomas A. Steitz.

Interest Since Childhood

From trying to see if she could touch the tip of her nose with her tongue as a young child huddled in a Jerusalem bomb shelter during Israel's War of Independence, to accidentally starting a fire while trying to see whether water moves faster than kerosene, Ada Yonath has always been fascinated with how things work. "All my life there were experiments. It was just plain curiosity. Once I broke my arm when I fell into the garden trying to measure the height of our balcony," she says.

Though her parents had little opportunity for education themselves, they were supportive and insightful enough to ensure that their unconventional daughter was given a good academic education - even if it meant taking two buses to get her to a school in another Jerusalem neighborhood. "I never thought about myself being a woman or not when I did science - I was just a human being born into an extremely poor family," says Yonath, whose family moved to Tel Aviv after her father died when Ada was only 10. "We were so poor we didn't even have books."

"Women make up half the population," she says. "I think the population is losing half of the human brain power by not encouraging women to go into the sciences. Women can do great things if they are encouraged to do so." She herself has held a number of postdoctoral positions at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Carnegie Mellon University, among others. She has also won several other prizes for her work, including the Israel Prize, the Wolf Prize, and Columbia University's Louis Gross Horwitz Prize, as well as being the first Israeli to win a lifetime's achievement award from L'Oreal and UNESCO for her vital work identifying how bacteria become resistant to antibiotics; all the while balancing her work, her family life and raising her daughter. "If a woman is happy with what she is doing at home and at work then everybody is happy," Yonath says.

Today, plans to retire are a long way off and she is still working hard, welcoming organized groups into her lab through a program organized by a local high-tech company, El-Op. This program encourages young women to enter scientific fields by giving them a closer look at the scientific life. "I want them to decide for themselves if they want to study science," she says. "I would like women to have the opportunity to do what is interesting to them, to go after their curiosity. And I would like the world to be open to that. I know in many places there is opposition to that."

Prof. Yonath is the Martin S. and Helen Kimmel Professor of Structural Biology. Her research is supported by the Helen and Milton A. Kimmel Center for Biomolecular Structure and Assembly.

Adapted from an article by Judith Sudilovsky, www.israel21c.org

Photograph courtesy of the Weizmann Institute of Science
Recruit and retain

All organizations have a reason to exist and work to do, and having active members is crucial to implementing plans successfully. Organizations often get off to a good start and recruit many people, only to lose them after a few months. Once you have recruited someone, you should work hard to keep them happy and active in the organization.

There is a natural process in organizations where some of your supporters will become members, some of your members will become committed activists, and some of your activists will become leaders. If you want to keep on generating more activists and leaders for the future, you have to have programs to develop members into activists, and activists into leaders.

Big is Beautiful

There are many advantages to having a large number of members. For one thing, the more different types of people you have in your organization, the more representative it is of your target community. This will ensure greater community support for your organization. In addition, members bring skills and experience that they can use to benefit the organization. More members mean that you can do more work as an organization, and make your voice heard. It is also true that the more members you have in your organization, the more varied are the ideas and opinions that are expressed and discussed. This will lead to better decisions being taken.

Who should you recruit as members?

Think carefully about the members you want to recruit. Look at the aims and programs of your organization and the kind of people you need. It is important to focus on people who identify with the aims and objectives of your organization, who support and want to work for your cause. If they have skills and experience that will help your work, or can influence other people and get them to also join the organization, so much the better.

Recruitment strategy

Before you start a recruitment drive, make sure you have a proper strategy in place. You have to be clear about who you want to recruit - your target group. It is necessary to decide on specific goals, such as how many members you want to recruit and what your deadline should be. Decide on the best methods and times for recruitment, and work out an action plan and budget. Look at the human and material resources you have available to use for recruitment. Your recruiters must understand your organization and the interests of the target group, and what they can say to persuade people to join. Different areas, organizations and sectors where you will find potential members must be identified, and a membership system (see above) must be in place.

Recruitment methods

Set up a team

The task of recruitment is enormous. No person can do it alone. A team of people (between 5 - 10) should work on the development of the recruitment plan and its implementation. Other members should also be encouraged to recruit new members whenever they can. Recruiters should be well trained to persuade people to join.

Gather necessary resources for recruitment

It is important for the recruitment team to ensure that before recruitment starts, all resources like recruiter forms, pamphlets, telephone numbers of members that can be contacted for joining, etc are available.

Time recruitment well

Recruitment can happen at any time and should be an ongoing part of your work. But it is an especially good time when you are:

• Doing a membership drive
• Running a campaign on a topical issue
• Holding other public events.

Sectoral work

If you want to recruit through other organizations and sectors, make a list of all the sectors and organizations, the name of a contact person and the telephone numbers where they can be reached when needed. Write to them or meet with them and ask if you can come and address.
one of their meetings or set up recruitment tables at their events.

**Target key people for recruitment**
Your organization will also need additional skills and talents and may want to target specific individuals for recruitment. You could also target someone who has influence over others and will be able to popularize your organization.

Make a list of key individuals in your community whom you would like to have as members and go and visit them individually.

**Door-to-door**
Identify a target area in your community and send recruiters from door-to-door to discuss your organization and to try and persuade people to join.

**Information tables**
Tables staffed by recruiters can be set up in public places like shops, sport events and taxi or bus ranks. You should always have a table at all your own meetings or public events. Make posters and decorate the table so that it attracts attention.

**Personal contacts**
The best recruitment method is through personal contacts. We all know people who share our interests and members should be encouraged to bring their friends to meetings.

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**Meetings and Advertising**
Advertise in local papers and community radio that you are looking for members. Invite them to a public meeting or provide a contact person for them to approach. You can also send letters to individuals or use pamphlets to encourage people to join your organization.

**Keeping members active and involved**
Recruiting members should be only the beginning - if you do not manage your members well, communicate with them and motivate them to work for the organization, you will soon have to recruit more members. You should have a clear plan and process for keeping members involved.

People usually join an organization because they want to do something for their community. But they also want something out of being a member. You should find out what motivates members and make sure you cultivate them so that they stay motivated and involved. Members are usually motivated by:

- Feeling that they are valued by the organization and making a contribution
- Opportunities to learn new skills or get education about issues that interest them
- Working on issues that will improve their lives or the lives of their families and communities
- Feeling part of a team
- Activities that entertain them or add to their social life
- Rewards in terms of status, personal development or access to employment opportunities.

Here are some of the things you should do to keep members motivated and involved:

- Do an introductory induction workshop for all new members so that they understand the organization and its work
- Welcome and introduce all new members at the beginning of each meeting
- Run regular education and development sessions for all members - either as part of regular meetings or in special workshops
- Encourage members to get involved in projects and campaigns
- Give people responsibilities and tasks and team them up with experienced members - they will feel useful and valued
- Thank people and praise them in meetings for work well done
- Structure your meetings so that they are exciting and everyone gets a chance to participate
- Organize social events for members such as picnics, parties and outings
- Leaders should spend time talking with members and getting to know them.

Source:
Education Training Unit (www.etu.org.za).
International Day for Violence Against Women

This year, as every year, WIZO Israel devised a unique and original campaign to mark this sad day, culminating in a mock funeral march through the streets of central Tel Aviv carrying 15 coffins representing the 15 women who have been murdered by their partners in Israel this past year. The march ended in the forecourt of the Tel Aviv Cinematheque where a mourning tent had been erected. Obituary notices, one for each of the women, hung around the walls of the tent, and memorial candles were available for the public to light. WIZO Executive members, volunteers and workers were joined in solidarity by members of the public. Special guests were several members of Knesset, headed by Kadima party leader Tzipi Livni. After a two-minute silence, Livni spoke: “If there was a group of women gathered together and somebody threw a petrol bomb and killed them all, there would be a terribly outcry and reaction from the public. It is no good just saying ‘enough,’ we need legislation to protect our women. The brave women who actually go to the police do not receive enough protection and the courts often give short sentences to the violent partner or even releases them.”

In an emotional visit to one of WIZO’s shelters for battered women, Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu, accompanied by Welfare Minister Isaac Herzog, pledged NIS 3.5 million for shelter renovations. He also said that through the Welfare Ministry the government will pledge a NIS 10,000 ‘exit grant’ for every woman leaving a shelter to help her in her new life. Also present were Members of Knesset Limor Livnat and Gila Gamliel, Tova Ben Dov, Yochy Feller and Gila Oshrat (Chairperson of WIZO Israel’s Advancement of Women Department.)

Addressing women in the shelter, the Prime Minister said he understood the numerous problems facing them after they had left their abusive partners, sought temporary refuge in a shelter, and then began the long journey to a new and normal life. When speaking to the shelter residents, the prime minister addressed two problems: “The first, to get back into the work place and resume a normal life and the second is that whoever threatens you must know he will suffer the consequences. To my sorrow, the phenomenon is much bigger than we thought and there are around 150,000 battered women in the country. This is a large segment of the public, and this is not acceptable to us. We will combat this, not only through shelters, but by other means.”

Mr. Netanyahu took a personal interest in each of the women present, asking her what type of work she used to do, and what her aspirations are for the future. The Prime Minister ended by assuring the women that they are ‘not alone,’ that the government is ‘with you,’ ‘we care about you,’ and “we will help you.” Both the Prime Minister and Minister Herzog thanked WIZO for the truly “holy” work the organization does.
On a balmy November evening, the Opera House in Tel Aviv was filled with WIZO members and supporters, including some of Israel’s most prestigious business people. The occasion was WIZO Israel’s annual gala fundraising event. The crowds were drawn to the theme of the evening ‘Wilensky Meets Amadeus’ – an encounter between two classics – Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and Polish/Israeli composer Moshe Wilensky.

The audience was enthralled by the music of the Raanana Symphonette Orchestra, conducted by renowned pianist and conductor Gil Shochat. Special guest was WIZO’s own prodigy violinist Vicky Gelman, 12, a graduate of WIZO’s Margaret Gold Music School in Tiberias, who delighted the audience with her playing, especially a rendering of The Flight of the Bumble Bee, accompanied on the piano by Gil Shochat. Popular singer Nurit Galron and young opera singer Sivan Goldman added a special dimension to this special evening.

Compère Sharon Kidron quoted author Moshe Lilienblum when she said, ‘Hope is the shining sunlight of humanity. WIZO is the hope for thousands of children and families at risk.’ In her address, WIZO Israel Chairperson Yochy Feller profusely thanked the audience for its support at a time when there is so much competition for donations, and paid a special tribute to WIZO’s vast network of volunteers who devote their lives to helping the weaker sections of Israeli society.

An additional exciting feature was an exhibition of photos in the foyer from a seminar conducted by Karen Gillerman-Harel for women in one of WIZO’s battered women’s shelters. The theme of the photographs was ‘Photographs of Hope’, intertwined with the theme of the evening – ‘Hope’ for women and children at risk. Karen, a successful international professional photographer was inspired by a seminar she attended about ‘Art and Identity’, called Memories of the Future, which she then conducted with the women in the shelter. (See pages 32-33 for more on the Seminar, the women and the photographs)

Yochy Feller and WIZO Israel Fundraising Chairperson Ilana Katzir made a special presentation of one of the photographs to Haim Katzman, Chairman of Gazit Globe, and his wife Shulamit, in recognition of their generous support to WIZO causes.

*(Born in Warsaw in 1910, Moshe Wilensky immigrated to Israel in 1932. Over the years Israel’s leading singers performed his greatest hits, which have become Israeli classics. He wrote more than 1000 songs and melodies, and received the Israel Prize in 1983 for his contribution to Hebrew music.)
"My children are fourth generation WIZO," proudly exclaims artistic photographer Karen Gillerman-Harel. "My paternal grandmother established the first 'home group' in Tel Aviv; my mother, Janice, was deputy chairperson of WIZO Israel Fundraising Department and the Tourist Department; as children my brother and I donated clothes and toys to WIZO, and now my children have attended a WIZO day care center!" One could add that her father, Danny (previous Israeli ambassador to the UN) is very much an honorary and honored WIZO member. Whenever he speaks to a WIZO audience, his warmth and passion for the organization shine through.

The spirit of volunteerism also shines through Karen, who volunteers and gives her time and talent to many not-for-profit organizations. She has studied photography both in London and New York, and gradually over the years she has found her 'photographic niche,' wherein her photographs always deal with hope, optimism and continuity.

It was this theme that she tried to portray to the women in one of WIZO's battered women's shelters, in a special seminar she conducted for them. Karen explains the concept and how she transmitted it to her 'pupils': "The aim of the course was to give them hope, to show that you can follow your heart, believe in yourself, have ambitions and passions and fulfill them, and one way to achieve this is through art and photography. I talked about the symbolism of the words, which defined them: love, freedom, fear, passion and curiosity. I asked them to try to recall positive sentences that they had heard as children, to re-think what they tell their own children, how to build up their confidence."

Cameras for the project were donated by Karat-Newpan, an importer of photographic equipment. Karen relates how, at first, she thought she would give the women the cameras 'ready to shoot,' but then decided to give them the unopened boxes and teach them how to charge the batteries, put in the memory cards – to learn how to use the camera from the beginning, including all the different functions. "They were so excited to receive these cameras, it was wonderful to watch them. It took a while for me to earn their trust and to break the ice, but soon they related to the whole concept, it gave them something they had never thought about. Something lit up inside them. I gave them the opportunity to photograph whatever they wanted, whatever interested them. They said they wanted to photograph the atmosphere in the shelter. The girls mentioned what a beautiful, amazing place it is, how rich with flowers, trees and plants. They felt that the shelter enabled them to flourish and grow like the flowers around them; that is why there are so many photos of flowers and greenery."

I really salute the women who had the courage to leave their homes, all types of women: young, older, some with children, some without and from all sorts of backgrounds," concludes Karen.
PHOTOGRAPHS OF HOPE
WIZO's Excellent Employees 2009

Elected by their colleagues, every year WIZO honors and recognizes its outstanding employees. When told of their award, of course all the workers were pleased but each and every one emphasized how much they love their work and how devoted they are to WIZO.

Shula Cameri is responsible for the cleaning staff at WIZO Nir Haemek Youth Village, where she has been working for 14 years. Shula says she immediately felt at home at the school and remarks on the wonderful sense of family she experiences. She is especially attached to the children in the dormitory ‘maybe because they are living without their families.’ Shula makes a special effort to chat to the children and greet them with her warm smile; they confide in her and tell her some of their problems although she emphasizes that she is careful not to interfere.

She approaches her job with diligence and care and has created a devoted working team. Her approach to her daily tasks is always to be optimistic, and she offers the following tip: ‘Make sure that there is a bond between your staff workers. When everyone works as a team, all unexpected problems can be overcome.’

Ludmilia (Racheli) Zuzin is a kindergarten teacher in WIZO Maccabim in Rehovot, and is a classic example of how to persist and to succeed. She began her work as an educator 20 years ago as a teacher in the Ukraine. When she immigrated to Israel in the nineties, she was unable to find work in her profession. She has since graduated from being a cook’s assistant to a director of WIZO day care center with two degrees in early education.

She attributes her career success from the experience she has gained from the children, the parents and the professional and supportive atmosphere provided by WIZO. Racheli believes very strongly in cooperation between all those involved in the educational process enabling each child to recognize his/her own qualities, and at the same time being tolerant of different people, and democratically accepting different cultures. Racheli was one of the winners of the national Excellent Employees Competition, and received an award from President Shimon Peres.

Roni Mizrachi is sports coordinator at WIZO Beit Italia in Jaffa, where he was born and still lives. Mizrachi, who was a football player for Tel Aviv’s Hapoel football team, responded to a request from seven young children from Ethiopian backgrounds to give them some football training. The seven quickly grew to 120 children aged from 10-16 – both Jewish and Arab. Through his intensive work, training and devotion to these children, many from difficult backgrounds, Mizrachi has shown them through sport that they can live happily together and be tolerant of each other. When problems arise, Roni sits down with the children and teaches them that everything can be solved by talking, not violence. Advises Roni: ‘Everyone should learn to live together. That is my work - sport is the bridge.’

Victor Dagan is an agricultural counselor at WIZO Nahalal Youth Village. He is a devoted worker who never looks at the clock and sets a personal example to staff and pupils alike. His work is with students who have been rejected from many other educational networks. ‘Their counselors say that when they are with me, they come back tired but happy.’ In these times, in which agriculture is losing its prominence, Dagan adds, ‘There is no doubt that agriculture has changed. It is more sophisticated, demands more knowledge and computerization. The pupils come here, work in the orchards, smell and taste the produce, and are happy.’ Dagan combines the agricultural studies with environmental awareness. He also organizes many educational outings, ‘This is a different generation, they hardly go outside. But I see it is
good for the students to be out of the classroom and expend some of their energy outside.

Behira Hasson is the secretary at the WIZO branch in Herzliya. After a career in the army she began to work in one of WIZO's legal advice bureaux, where she has been a volunteer for 13 years. Recognizing her talents as a good organizer she was asked to take over as secretary of the branch. ‘I get such satisfaction from my work,’ says Behira. ‘My work is like a mission.’ She is so enthusiastic that she co-opts her family to help too – ‘persuading’ her husband to build shelves for the WIZO clothing store. She tells everyone who comes to the WIZO Herzliya office or to donate clothes all about WIZO’s activities and contribution to the community, hoping to recruit them too. Behira emphasizes that a secretary of a WIZO branch, has to project a positive image of the branch, welcome all who enter the door – and act as a one-man publicity campaign. She is involved in all the branch activities and is an organizer ‘par excellence’.

Sophie Zapps, the director of the WIZO Branches Division in the Finance Department, started work in the department in 1977, a year after emigrating from Lithuania. From the start, Sophie showed her positive attitude to work, which she has instilled in her fellow workers and expects a high level of accuracy and commitment from them. She emphasizes the help her WIZO colleagues gave her as a new immigrant, which resulted in her calling WIZO ‘my second home.’ She attended various courses to help her in her work, as by profession she was an economist (which also helps in what she does today!) Now, she has major responsibilities in the Finance Department, and even after more than 30 years, still works with abundant energy. Her attitude to work is that it ‘is an investment, I do not work in automatic mode, everyone has ups and downs, but it is important to keep smiling.’

Magi Matistablov, who emigrated from Georgia in 1992, is a carer in the Givat Zeev WIZO Day Care Center. She is another devoted WIZO worker who puts much more into her daily tasks than her job demands. She is greatly appreciated by both children and parents. Although trained in ‘furniture technology,’ she was enthralled by the sight of the babies in the WIZO day care center next to her new home, and eventually plucked up courage to apply for a job there. Since then she has been a permanent staff member in the babies’ class caring for children aged 4-10 months old. Magi loves her job, seeing and aiding the development of the children in that first crucial year of life. The children love her, and even when they have moved into the next class, they seek her out and greet her with a big smile and a hug. On being told of the award, Maggie reacted by saying, ‘I do not work in order to be given a prize. I receive my prizes every day – happy children and parents. They give me my energy and motivation.’

And the Team Prize goes to: The staff of the WIZO Tamarim Day Care Center, Eilat. The parents never stop complimenting and appreciating this devoted team of 14 women on the love and care they give their children. Former center director Kinneret Arad, who now works at another WIZO day care center in the town, proposed the team for several reasons, one of which was how they ran the center so well last year, when she was absent due to illness for several months. ‘They are a truly excellent team, they are always giving of themselves, they go home at night thinking about the day care center, and they are ready to do anything in order to improve it. They are always discussing how they can work in a better fashion with the children and improve the surroundings. It is ‘women’s power’ at its best. The feminine input is felt in all the work, which is done with love and creativity.’ What more can one add?
In Memoriam
Bruce Rappaport z”l

‘There was a deserving man, who is no more…and the music of his life has been cut short’
(Haim Nachman Bialik)

This sentence came into my mind when I heard of the passing of Bruce Rappaport, z”l. Although his health had deteriorated over the years, up until his final moments he wanted to contribute, to help; giving was one of his raisons d’etre. Not one person, nor organization, which appealed to him for help, left with empty hands. But all was done with humility and when he was congratulated for his generosity he was known to say, ‘I am just G-d’s treasurer’. Bruce Rappaport was a loyal and caring friend, a family man who loved, and was loved, by both his close and extended family. His wife, Ruth, may she have a long and healthy life, was the jewel in his crown.

He was a committed Jew, Israeli, Zionist and a loyal supporter of WIZO. He was the first person to contribute to the WIZO Security Campaign in 2002, he built day care centers in his city, Haifa, and Jerusalem, and the first rocket proof day care center in Israel, in Sderot, which was under constant rocket fire. He always kept his promises, continually giving to WIZO, in Switzerland, where he lived, and to WIZO in Israel, generous donations to the Tel Aviv Museum, hospitals, the Medical School in Haifa, and endless other causes for security. Every time Bruce was asked, he gave.

Each and every one of us will remember Bruce in their own way, ‘When one lives fully in life, his life does not end with his death’. His generous deeds will remain with us, in our thoughts and in our memories.

Our hearts and prayers are with Ruth and the whole family.

Tova Ben Dov,
Chairperson,
World WIZO Executive
Art Tea at the Mansion House

In September, the Mansion House hosted 230 WIZO.uk supporters at an Art Tea. Guest speaker was Lady Wendy Levene, wife of the former Lord Mayor of London, Lord Levene of Portsoken. Guests viewed the Harold Samuel Art Collection of 17th century Dutch paintings and listened to a short lecture by Vivien Knight, curator of the Guildhall Art Gallery. Tea was served in the Egyptian Room and there was a raffle. The four sponsoring hosts for the event, June Kenton (Rigby & Peller), Shirley Levinson (WIZO.uk Executive), Odette Dreyfuss and Suzanne Perlman, were presented with haggodot. The event raised £14,000 towards The New Year Appeal for Children at Risk who attend WIZO projects in Israel.

Inter-Community Netball Tournament – a first for WIZO.uk

Seven teams competed at the first WIZO.uk Inter-Community Netball tournament at Immanuel College in Bushey, north London last summer. The winning team comprised mainly of South Africans living in London.

Law Commentator addresses Leeds Blue & White Dinner

The UK’s best-known law commentator Joshua Rozenberg addressed 230 guests at the Reuben Vincent Hall in the Etz Chaim Synagogue at Leeds WIZO 2009 Annual Blue & White Dinner. Mr. Rozenberg who worked for the BBC for 15 years told the audience that while the BBC is not exactly anti-Semitic, it has certainly become more critical of Israel over the years. Present at the dinner were Lord Mayor of Leeds Cllr. Judith Elliot and WIZO.uk Chairman Loraine Warren. She told guests, “I am proud that the doors of our projects will be open to everyone who needs them. We turn no one away. I am proud of Israel.” Barbara and Jerry Danon opened the event; guests of honor were Linda and Martin Lee. The sum of £25,000 was raised for WIZO.uk projects in Israel.

Zahava Lunch hosts Society Designer

Fashion designer David Sassoon has been dressing royalty, film stars and the aristocracy for over half a century. Mr. Sassoon was guest speaker at a WIZO Zahava luncheon in October, where he presented a slide show of the company’s designs through the decades to an audience of 80 guests and signed copies of his new book, The Glamour of Bellville Sassoon.

Ten months on: Madoff - the more we know, the less we know

That was the title of a JCWIZOnet business breakfast presentation at the London headquarters of bhi (Bank Hapoalim BM) on the Madoff scandal that not only shook the world’s financial markets but scarred many investors and institutions for life. Mark Berman, a former SEC and London Stock Exchange lawyer and recognized expert on international financial services regulations, provided further insight into this extraordinary
affair, explaining how Bernard Madoff used a computer, a series of bank accounts and fictitious documents to orchestrate one of the biggest frauds in financial history. The fraud was disguised to fool investors, regulators and others for years. It was exposed when, in December 2008, redemptions requests greatly in excess of available cash forced Madoff to confess.

Caro’s Art of Cookery makes appetizing viewing

WIZO House opened its doors as an art gallery for the Art of Cookery exhibition last October when 200 guests viewed paintings by renowned artist Bettina Caro and her students at the Caro Academy of Art. Shemesh Aviv hosted this inspiring event in conjunction with the artists who also produced 100 limited edition recipe books with hand painted covers featuring favorite recipes and prints of their paintings. The recipe books sold out in the first minutes of the exhibition. Over £4,000 was raised to benefit WIZO projects in Israel.

Lord Leonard Steinberg

The WIZO family, together with the UK Jewish community mourns the sudden and untimely death of Lord Leonard Steinberg, a true friend of Israel and WIZO and a Patron of WIZO.uk. Lord Steinberg’s wife, Beryl, is an honorary vice president of WIZO.uk.

Born in Belfast, Northern Ireland in 1936, he was the grandson of immigrants from Riga who fled from persecution in the early years of the 20th century. Lord Steinberg took over the family business when his father died in 1954. From small beginnings he created a huge betting and gaming empire.

Lord Steinberg was a great philanthropist donating to many charities both in Israel and the UK. He was also a great supporter of the Conservative party, serving as deputy treasurer from 1994-2004, after which he became a Tory life peer, taking the title Lord Steinberg of Belfast. In 2009, when he and his wife generously funded the refurbished dining room at WIZO’s school in Nahalal, World WIZO Chairperson Tova Ben Dov surprised the Steinbergs by presenting them with a sefer torah in the school synagogue in memory of their late parents.

Amongst tributes to Lord Steinberg was that of David Cameron, leader of the British Conservative party: "Leonard was a popular and active member of the House of Lords and a good friend to the Conservative Party. He regularly offered me his sage advice and words of wisdom, which were always gratefully received." The UK’s Chief Rabbi, Lord Sacks, also paid tribute, stating: "He was also a great philanthropist, a supporter of countless educational and welfare causes in Britain and Israel."

Lord Steinberg is survived by his wife, Beryl, children Lynne and Jonathan and six grandchildren. According to his wishes, he was buried on the Mount of Olives, Jerusalem, in his beloved Israel. He will be sadly missed by all his WIZO friends both in the UK and in Israel.
Literary Lunch with Michael Palin

British comedian, actor, travel writer and TV presenter Michael Palin, best known for his appearance in the BBC’s cult comedy ‘Monty Python’ was the guest speaker at WIZO.uk’s second literary lunch held in November at London’s St. John’s Wood United Synagogue.


Angela Landau chaired the literary lunch committee of Miriam Borchard, Linda Glancy and Elizabeth Parlons.

The event was hosted thanks to the generosity of Hermione Allen, Susan Cresswell, Eileen Jacobs and Anne Jacobson with raffle prizes donated by a number of leading companies. The event raised an impressive £35,000.

Accolade for Canadian Hadassah WIZO

In November, the Canadian Zionist Federation awarded the 2009 Jerusalem Prize to Canadian Hadassah WIZO (CHW). The Canadian Federation shares the prize with other admirable organizations such as Emunah Canada and Na’amat Canada, as well as Mr. Amos Sochaczewski. In her acceptance speech, CHW National President Marla Dan said, "Since our earliest efforts in Israel, its infrastructure has improved greatly. The social, educational, and cultural life of Israelis has been enhanced. In good times and bad, CHW’s help has been steadfast. Like our Zionist sisters in other organizations, we have helped bit by bit to shape the future of Israel. Even the smallest contributions have made a difference that is engrained in the social and economic fabric of Israeli society. CHW is a part of that fabric."

CHW Montreal Annual Art Auction

Canadian Hadassah WIZO Montreal honored internationally renowned artist Yehouda Chaki at an art auction held in October at Espace Reunion in Montreal. A selection of highly sought after Canadian art by over 45 artists was auctioned at the evening by well-known Montreal antique dealer, Morris Zimelstern of Coachhouse Antiques. Master of ceremonies was Abe Gonshor, well-known performer in the Yiddish Theatre and director of development for the Saidye Bronfman Center for the Performing Arts in Montreal.

The high point of the live auction was a magnificent painting by Yehouda Chaki - *Spring Landscape 8224-A*. The profits from the auction go towards CHW’s emergency appeal to carry out much-needed renovations at CHW day care centers in Israel.

To date, thanks to funds raised across Canada, renovations have been completed at four out of the six CHW day care centers. CHW Montreal supports the Clara Balinsky Day Care Center, named in memory of a dedicated and committed past national president and ardent Zionist. This day care center, situated at Assaf Harofeh Medical Center, provides vital quality childcare for the staff, while they work to save lives at the hospital.
CHW Vancouver Fall Membership Luncheon

Last October, Vancouver Hadassah-WIZO held its annual opening luncheon, which kicked off the programming year for CHW Vancouver. Many veteran CHW chaverot attended along with a number of new faces to find out about fundraisers and events planned for the coming year. Long serving, hardworking members who have belonged to Hadassah-WIZO for half a century or more were honored. Vancouver Co-Presidents Bonnie Belzberg and Sandy Chernoff called upon each member in attendance to accept a beautiful rose formally expressing CHW’s respect and gratitude towards its chaverot and their unstinting efforts. CHW National Executive Board honorary council member Sylvia Cristall also made a presentation to recognize the major donors of the past year.

The lunch featured award-winning investigative reporter Daphne Brahman who spoke about the town of Bountiful in Southern British Columbia, now infamous for its Mormon breakaway sect that engages in polygamy. Ms Brahman, who has recently published a book on this topic, told the gathering about the Bountiful community and its treatment of women, children and the men who are not awarded wives. Ms Brahman shed light on truly disturbing facts but her vigor and drive to expose abuses of women’s rights was encouraging.

USA

Florida

Recognition Dinner honors VIP Donors

Led by President Anita Friedman, WIZO Florida honored loyal donors at its annual Recognition Dinner last October held at the Aventura Turnberry Jewish Center. The guest speaker was Juval Aviv, renowned counter-terrorism expert and former bodyguard of Golda Meir. WIZO Florida Vice-President Beverly Koplowitz and head of fundraising Ruthy Benioliel chaired the evening. The splendid dinner was a fitting tribute to distinguished donors who are members of the King David Society, Generation to Generation, Society of Raya, Wall of Life, Guardians of Life, Forever Brooch, First Steps and Beginners. WIZO USA Co-President Mercedes Ivcier presented VIP donors with their awards. A special award was also presented to the big-hearted bar mitzvah boys who donated their bar mitzvah money to WIZO. Roberto Szerer introduced them and gave a heartfelt speech about the importance of their bar mitzvah. Jana Falic delivered an emotional appeal, which elicited a generous response, helping WIZO to raise over $200,000.

New York

Levant East sees Young Leadership profits grow

The Young Leadership’s Annual Fall Event took place last September at the super hip eatery, Levant East at the Hotel on Rivington in New York’s Lower East Side. Nearly 400 of New York City’s young Jewish professionals attended to show their support for WIZO. Despite the challenging economic climate, this year’s event held on the eve of Rosh Hashana raised more than any previous fall event.
**EUROPE**

**AUSTRIA**

Miri brings wise words to Vienna’s Sponsor A Child

The newly renovated Palais in Vienna was the perfect backdrop for WIZO Austria’s 2009 Sponsor A Child evening attended by WIZO Austria executive and friends, community members, Israeli Ambassador Dan Ashbel and his wife Zahava, as well as the president of the Austrian Jewish community Dr. Ariel Muzicant and his wife Judith. Special guest from Israel was Colonel Miri Eisen, former media advisor to the Israeli prime minister, who began her speech by sharing her emotions on being in Vienna. She said that the future of Israel is in the hands of the children. Providing a stable and secure environment for them in a positive society is the guarantee for a more peaceful future for Israel. Miri Eisen’s speech included a hard-hitting yet timely reminder of the dimensions of violence, of the threat from neighboring countries and the vitriolic verbal violence against Israel occurring globally, which must be fought in every arena. It was a message not lost on the chaverot of WIZO Austria who advocate tirelessly on behalf of Israel.

**FINLAND**

Thanking Sponsors at the Ambassador’s Residence

Israel’s Ambassador to Finland, Avi Granot hosted the generous sponsors of WIZO Finland at his residence in Helsinki last September. In his welcome speech, Ambassador Granot spoke of the vital role of WIZO in Israeli society and thanked the sponsors for their support of Israel. WIZO Finland President Eva Bensky told the gathering about her trip to the Maccabiah Games and her visit to WIZO Finland’s project, the Shaviv day care center in Herzlia. Eva Jacob playing the accordion, together with her son Daniel Shaul playing the oboe, entertained the guests with traditional Jewish music. Each WIZO Finland chavera brought delicious cakes for the embassy cook to serve to over 100 guests. Some had traveled long distances to Helsinki and the beautifully laid buffet table was greatly appreciated.

**FINLAND**

Past President of WIZO Finland dies

Past President of WIZO Finland, Synnöve Isakson-Dikstein died recently. She had lived in Israel for many years, where she was an active WIZO member and, as an Honorary Life Member of World WIZO, regularly attended the Meetings of Representatives, where she was happy to re-connect with her former colleagues. Synnöve was a great Zionist with much love for Israel and WIZO. All WIZO chaverot express sincere condolences to her family.
Standing firm in Nîmes

More than 100 people attended the Solidarity Dinner in Nîmes, where guest of honor Mr. Philippe Karsenty captivated the audience with his detailed and dramatic account and video presentation of the Al-Dura incident, in which it was alleged that Israeli bullets killed a Palestinian boy but it was later revealed that the incident had actually been staged. WIZO France President Mrs. Joelle Lezmi was present at the dinner as well as Mrs. Josette Guigui, president of WIZO Marseille together with her husband. The chairpersons of all the local branches attended. Deputy Mayor of Nîmes Mr. Burgoa and his wife were also present. As always, Vatel Nîmes catered the event to perfection and many guests were truly generous in their solidarity and support of WIZO and its vital role in Israeli society.

Knowledge on the horizon with the OFEK Program

The OFEK (horizon) program initiated by WIZO France’s Hasbara (information) Department is an efficient, concise and interactive training program designed to combat disinformation and ignorance - the vanguard of anti-Zionism. The first lecture presented by Frédéric Encel, Phd in geopolitics was entitled, ‘Zionism, its beginnings, its failures and its vision’. The issues were debated with an audience, which included many young people. The second event was a very well attended amiable and thought-provoking dinner and debate addressing events in Israel, anti-Semitism and the Arab world.

WIZO France 56th Book Fair

More than 65 writers gathered at the Salon Etoile Saint-Honoré in Paris to autograph their latest books during WIZO France’s 56th Book Fair. Among them were the recipients of the WIZO France 2009 Literary Prize, French writer Claude Lanzmann for his book, Le lièvre de Patagonie and Israeli writer Savyon Liebrecht for Un toit pour la nuit.

GERMANY

One Night for Children in Frankfurt

At a Sponsor A Child fundraising event, the WIZO Germany Branches organized a gala dinner for 150 guests at the Hotel Marienbad in Frankfurt. Hosted by Mr. Daniel Mark, the event also featured a musical performance by a band and a spectacular firework display. The proceeds of the evening benefited the children’s homes in the East German city of Magdeburg and Luckau. Mr. Mark expressed his gratitude to all those who supported the event and affirmed the commitment of his branch to continue its support of WIZO’s efforts in the region.
gala held last September at the Hilton Frankfurt Hotel, 300 guests dug deep into their pockets to ensure that the babies and children of Israel are cared for in the warm WIZO tradition. Sponsorship costs €500 and ensures a place for one year for an Israeli child at one of WIZO’s 170 day care centers throughout Israel. There, the child (aged between six months and four years) receives love, attention, pre-school education and a good cooked meal. WIZO Germany President Rachel Singer explained that regrettably, sometimes the hot meal provided by the WIZO day care center is the only nourishment the child receives. During her heartfelt speech, Mrs. Singer was thrilled to see the progress of the Sponsor A Child donations, which were tracked ‘in real time’ on the overhead digital display.

Guest of honor was WIZO friend Christina Rau, wife of the former Federal President of Germany Johannes Rau. WIZO stalwart Dr. Gitta Guttmann was named ‘Woman of the Year’. The eloquent Thomas Rice and the soul and blues singer Joan Faulkner provided entertainment. The master of ceremonies for the evening was TV personality Andrea Kiewel, co-hosted by Susanne Merry. At the end of the evening, the overhead digital display flashed the final figure of 580 – the number of sponsorships taken up by the generous Frankfurt donors.

And in Berlin too
In Berlin, the 180 guests who attended a Sponsor A Child fundraiser at the Hilton Berlin hosted by Mr. Ronald van Weezel, director of the hotel and formerly resident manager of the Hilton Tel Aviv, were overwhelming in their generosity. Despite the current economic downturn, a staggering 300 sponsorships were taken up at the superb event ably organized by WIZO Berlin. Ms. Susan Sidaropoulos, a well-known television actress, moderated the evening, introducing a spectacular Tango performance by Tango Kudamm with Deborah Gutman and Constantin Rueger. After a splendid dinner, guests danced the night away to the sounds of Tromjamproject in what was an exceedingly enjoyable and memorable night.

ITALY
Adieissima Forever
The Milan Auditorium resonated to the distinctive sound of the Idan Raichel Project last October when the Israeli band played to a 700-strong audience. The Idan Raichel Project, which burst onto the Israeli music scene in 2002, played a heady mix of African, Latin American, Caribbean and Middle Eastern music. Guests could hardly contain their enthusiasm for such a sophisticated production and spectacular live show and applauded wildly. Rabbi Abib and Rabbi Laras attended, as did many leading lights in the Milan Jewish community.

At an elegant reception attended by all, Susanna Sciaki, president of Adei WIZO Milan, introduced guest of honor World WIZO Fundraising Department Chairperson Mrs. Esther Mor who made an emotional plea on behalf of the women and children of Israel. Mrs. Mor presented a ‘Woman of Valor’ pin to chavera Zita Arditi and a ‘Chai’ pin to Aviv President Evelina Gabbai. Adei WIZO assisted by Aviv chaverot organized this outstanding event.

Adei WIZO Literary Award in memory of Adelina Della Pergola
The imposing Chamber of Commerce in Trieste provided the perfect setting
for the 2009 Adei WIZO Literary Awards held last October organized by Patricia Ottolenghi and Laura Wofsi. The first prize went to Lizzie Doron for her book, Why did you not come before the war? The second prize went to David Grossman, who was not present at the ceremony. Boris Zaidman received the third prize. Heading the guest list at the event named in memory of a much loved past Adei WIZO leader were World WIZO Fundraising Department Chairperson Mrs. Esther Mor, president of Adei WIZO Mrs. Roberta Nahum and Adei WIZO Trieste co-presidents Marina Sagues and Liora Misan Zeira. Presidents from 20 branches of Adei WIZO throughout Italy and many high profile sponsors also attended. The awards were followed by dinner at the Jolly Hotel in Trieste.

SWITZERLAND
Flowers galore from the Marsano Store
On the eve of Rosh Hashana, WIZO Zurich chaverot delivered no less than 750 magnificent floral arrangements and bouquets to WIZO Zurich. The Rosh Hashana orders placed via WIZO yields good profits for the Swiss Federation and is an excellent public relations exercise.

Cellists delight in Fribourg
Last November, a trio of gifted young cellists from Fribourg’s Music Conservatory played to a delighted audience at the home of Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Lévy, organized by WIZO Fribourg. After a short address given by WIZO Switzerland President Anne Argi, guests enjoyed a light supper provided by WIZO chaverot.

An Interview with Metin Arditi in Lausanne
At an event organized by WIZO Lausanne in collaboration with LICRA (Ligue Internationale Contre le Racisme et l’Antisémitisme), more than 200 people watched media specialist Mr. Jean-Philippe Rapp interview the guest of honor, eminent writer and philanthropist Metin Arditi on his new book, Loin des bras. Mr. Arditi, a nuclear engineer and founding president of the Arditi Foundation was born in Turkey and lives in Geneva. In her welcome speech at the event held on the evening of November 9, WIZO Switzerland President Anne Argi reminded the audience that it was the 71st anniversary of Kristallnacht, and on the exact same date in 1989 the Berlin Wall came down. In her address, Mrs. Argi noted the distinctions between the two periods in history and told the gathering that WIZO transcends all barriers in the care and education of the people of Israel. The evening concluded with cocktails.

Enjoying dinner in La Chaux de Fond
Seventy people enjoyed an excellent dinner at Restaurant des Endroits last November, when WIZO La Chaux de Fond held its annual event. A recital of klezmer music, and a lotto offering great prizes added to the ambiance and ensured a winning combination for WIZO.
French singer Gilbert Montagné wows Geneva Audience

In Geneva, WIZO joined forces with Maccabi and Karen Kayemet L’Israel for an annual gala with a concert at the Theatre du Leman featuring celebrated French singer Gilbert Montagné and his orchestra. The 250-strong audience did not hold back in showing their appreciation for the blind singer/musician’s talent. The applause was almost deafening as they shouted for more.

Argentina loves you, Mr. President

Fifty WIZO chaverot were among the 6,000 members of the Jewish community who fervently applauded President Shimon Peres after he delivered a rousing speech at the Luna Park Theater in Buenos Aires.

Standing Room Only at the Gran Rex Theater

Buenos Aires City’s Gran Rex Theater has seen many outstanding performances but none quite as memorable as the two performances given by the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Zubin Mehta. The orchestra played Beethoven’s Seventh Symphony on the first night and Mahler’s Ninth Symphony on the second night. Both nights were a total sell-out. Music lovers and long-time supporters Mr. & Mrs. Carlos Abolsky brought the orchestra to Argentina, choosing OSFA WIZO together with two other organizations to benefit from the proceeds.

Art Exhibition exceeds all expectations

When OSFA WIZO Chairman Ruth Stetcher collaborated with local artist and curator Nora Recepter to organize an art exhibition she was overwhelmed by the response as high profile artists clamored to exhibit their work. For three days, WIZO headquarters was transformed into a gallery displaying a rich selection of drawings, paintings and sculptures. Over 100 visitors came to admire works of art by well-known artists with many people eagerly handing over their cash to buy the paintings. OSFA WIZO was delighted with the takings and this highly profitable first time event is set to become an annual fixture.

Aviv Seminar in Sao Paulo

Thirty-five young women attended WIZO Sao Paulo Chapter’s Aviv Seminar led by Aviv department directors Iza Mansur and Helena Nasser. Mrs. Suzana Starosta, immediate past president of WIZO Rio Grande do Sul Chapter welcomed the Aviv chaverot and spoke of the importance of commitment to an organization such as WIZO. Psychoanalyst Maria Antonietta Pezo presented a panel on motivation. The seminar exemplified Aviv’s commitment to continuity of the movement and emphasized the responsibility of young Jewish women in the community.
WIZO Rio Chapter elects new Executive for the Next Triennium

WIZO Rio Chapter’s XV District assembly last August heralded the appointment of their new executive for 2009/2012 with Mrs. Lucia Balassiano being elected president along with the chapter’s three vice-presidents: Eva Baumwol, Rebecca Bergier and Ruth Cohen. The one-day assembly was held at The Plaza Copacabana Hotel. The atmosphere was warm and relaxed as chaverot suggested new working proposals, paid tribute to the former executive and welcomed the newly elected honorary life members before presenting their chapter’s new executive.

Jewish Youth Education in a Changing World

That was the title of WIZO Rio’s 2009 Bible Day event, attended by WIZO Rio members from various groups of ‘Sub Center Ahuva Kestelman’ of WIZO Rio. The annually held Bible Day event featured various topics under the above theme. Among the presenters was Mrs. Maria Heller who is 97 years old and still an active member of a Northeast Brazil (Ceara) State Literary Academy.

Documentary screening prompts challenging debate

A screening of The Forgotten Refugees, a documentary exploring the history, culture, and forced exodus of Middle Eastern and North African Jewish communities in the second half of the 20th century was held at the Therapy Memorial in Recife. The program, organized by WIZO Pernambuco Aviv, which attracted a large audience, was broadcast live. Chavera Miriam Genes introduced Professor Nessim Hamaouim, who provided a clear explanation of the movie that elicited a challenging debate among those present.

Forty Years of Rio Grande do Sul

At a stylish dinner at Hotel Plaza San Rafael, WIZO Rio Grande do Sul groups, Menorah and Golda Meir, celebrated their 40th anniversary. Many important guests from the Porto Alegre community joined in the festivities. The mother-founders, Berta Isdra and Bella Weinstein were present and much feted at the celebrations. The Bror Chail group also marked its 40th anniversary with a festive Kabalat Shabbat welcoming a large number of guests. Chaverot from the three groups were proud to entertain so many friends and family who were pleased to pay tribute and reminisce on their four decades of devotion to WIZO.

A Rosh Hashana Feast at the Israeliite Center

WIZO Parana Aviv Group held an elegant Rosh Hashana dinner at the Parana Israeliite Center. The chapter welcomed close friends Mr. & Mrs. Guelman who now live in Hadera, Israel. (Mrs. Clarinha Guelman is active in WIZO Hadera). Among the notable guests were key representatives of the local community, including among them Mr. & Mrs. Cecilia, Miguel Krigsner and Mr. Saul Zugman. The attending WIZO members were delighted to be reunited with their guests from Israel and WIZO Parana President Mrs. Regina Lucia Brener presented a beautiful bouquet to Mrs. Guelman on behalf of the center.
CHILE

Keeping memory alive is a sacred duty

Last November, on the 71st anniversary of Kristallnacht, which signaled the beginning of the darkest period of history, WIZO Chile President Susy Baron was proud to see the dedication of a magnificent sculpture depicting a mother and child in the Holocaust. The bronze sculpture was crafted by WIZO chavera Leah Rachim who has lived in Chile for more than 40 years. Mr. David Feuerstein, president of the Chilean Society for Yad Vashem, donated the sculpture in memory of his parents and siblings murdered in Auschwitz-Birkenau. WIZO Chile President Susy Baron joined Mr. David Feuerstein, his wife Marysha and family, WIZO chaverot, dignitaries, many community leaders and non-Jewish friends in the dedication ceremony. Yael Hasson delivered poignant messages from Chile's President Michelle Bachelet and World WIZO President Helena Glaser. Clara Ventura sang the hauntingly beautiful song Ponor written in the Vilna Ghetto, and six candles were lit in memory of the six million who perished in those dark times. Survivors, Joseph Feuerstein, Margot Levy, Wolf Yudelevich, Adalberto Klein and David Feuerstein kindled the flames on their behalf and Mrs. Solange Phillips lit a candle for the ‘Righteous among the Nations.’ Ambassadors from their respective countries accompanied the survivors. Ending the ceremony, Mr. David Feuerstein said, “Memory is a crucial weapon in the battle against racism, anti-Semitism and denial. Keeping memory alive is a sacred duty.”

Creating branches, spreading the word

WIZO Chile has created two new branches; one in Iquique, a city 1,800 km from Santiago, with just 15 Jewish families, and the other in Temuco, 670 km from Santiago, with 30 Jewish families. Forty years ago, there was a branch in Temuco, then home to 300 families of Sephardic origin but most of these families migrated to Santiago heralding the end of the WIZO branch. Despite there being a beautiful old synagogue in Temuco, built in 1903, it has no rabbi. However, some of the men in the community officiate on Shabbat, and on holy days the Jewish community of Santiago sends officiators. During Succot, WIZO Chile President Susy Baron, together with Raquel Hasson and Caty Farkas, visited both the Concepcion branch with its 18 chaverot and Temuco. Enlisting the help of Concepcion's Rabbi Kreiman, they put on a full day of activities in these cities, spreading the word of WIZO in their effort to reinforce the Jewish identity of the women living in these small communities far away from Santiago. Despite their small numbers, they showed great interest and enthusiasm.

COLOMBIA

WIZO Bogotá Bazaars just get better and better

As in previous years, the efforts of the hardworking chavero of WIZO Bogotá paid dividends as huge crowds descended upon the Carmel Country Club for the WIZO Bogotá Annual Rosh Hashana Bazaar. Visitors in their hundreds headed for the stands offering an impressive array of Israeli handicrafts, jewelry and fancy goods and they enjoyed a delicious lunch with tempting gateaux and pastries at
Café Kapulsky. There were prizes for all with the grand prize being a beautiful sculpture by Israeli artist David Gerstein. Ignoring the rain, younger visitors played outdoor games while the cash registers rang up good profits for WIZO in support of underprivileged children in Israel. There was a special performance by Beit Halojem - Israeli disabled veterans of the IDF - who danced and acted together in an amazing show. Israeli singer and X Factor winner, Liron Lev who also sang during the course of the afternoon, accompanied them. Over 800 people crowded into the marquee applauded loudly.

GUATEMALA
Good Deeds in Guatemala
WIZO Guatemala kicked off their busy year with a family bingo attended by 150 adults and children who competed not only for the excellent prizes on offer but also for the benefit of WIZO and the people of Israel. Aside from the numerous smaller, more intimate family gatherings that comprise the majority of WIZO Guatemala's activities, memorable events include the Mother’s Day Brunch where executive board secretary Sara Braun was honored for her long service. At the Rebecca Sieff Brunch, honors were bestowed on WIZO Guatemala founder Lilly Heinemann and board member Regina Engelberg and to Ivonne Mishaan who held the position of treasurer under Rosita Luchtan’s presidency. WIZO Guatemala President Soly Berkowitz, active in WIZO for 30 years and the most recent president joined the list of worthy honor recipients. Rosh Hashana saw the annual honey and gift for donations appeal raise good profits and donations were collected in memory of those dear departed in Yizkor (remembrance) before Yom Kippur. WIZO chaverot got busy in the kitchen before the annual Succot Dinner, cooking for 217 guests who enjoyed the ambience of the gaily-decorated succa and the delicious banquet at this most successful festive event.

MEXICO
Honor for Sara
September saw executive members and chaverot join WIZO Mexico President Rackel Alfille, ulpan director Liliana Schwartz and WIZO Mexico Honorary President Emma Adler at an event to honor Sara Greenspun, who has been teaching Hebrew at the Pauline Kovalski Ulpan for fifty years. Rackel Alfille and one of Sara’s daughters spoke of the great contribution Sara has made to Hebrew learning. The evening ended with the screening of a video of Sara’s inspiring journey through WIZO.

Celia Michonik heads WIZO delegation at the UN
Also in September, World WIZO Public Affairs and NGO Department Chairperson Mrs. Celia Michonik traveled to Mexico to participate in the United Nations’ Department of Public Information’s 62nd Annual Conference for Peace and Development, which focused on disarmament. Joining her in the WIZO delegation were members of the WIZO Mexico Federation: Mrs Raquelle Alfille, Lizette Mussalli and Emma Adler. During her time in Mexico, Mrs. Michonik addressed WIZO chaverot on ‘Issues and News from Israel at the United Nations’. 
A New Dawn in Project Education

Chaired by Ms. Shula Shrem, the theme of WIZO Mexico's major 'Project Education' fundraiser for 2009 was 'A New Dawn'. At the impressive opening event, a renowned artiste entertained the large audience. Also present was Mrs. Celia Michonik who was enthusiastic in her praise for the efforts of WIZO Mexico.

Mama Mia and Rosh Hashana sales

Organized by the Or Hadash group, WIZO Mexico together with the Jewish Benevolent Society of Mexico and other organizations in the community presented the hit musical Mama Mia to an appreciative audience.

In a bid to boost profits against the backdrop of a difficult economic climate, chaverot from the various WIZO groups in Mexico did a roaring Rosh Hashana trade selling everything from cookies, orchids, Judaica and festive gifts, bringing much-needed funds for the benefit of WIZO.

Cultural Committee Activities

To celebrate the 199th anniversary of Mexico's independence, the WIZO Mexico Cultural Committee headed by Rebecca Mark served a delicious breakfast with typical Mexican dishes prepared by chaverot and attended by WIZO friends and supporters. Last October, the Cultural Committee in conjunction with the executive of the Sha'arei Tzion Temple celebrated Succoth in the beautifully decorated Succah. Rabbi David Zaed enthralled guests with a heartfelt speech on tolerance and humility.

URUGUAY Activities and more

Chaverot in Uruguay can look back on a satisfactory year filled with cultural, enriching and fundraising activities attracting a large number of participants. Many high profile names in the field of the arts, politics and media have given interesting lectures including Uruguayan political figures Mrs. Lucía Topolansky and Julia Pou de Lacalle. Bargain hunters flocked to the American Fair, organized by the COAJ and Jerusalem centers in Montevideo and Punta del Esta center where the sale of quality second hand goods donated by WIZO chaverot brought in a healthy revenue. The Kinneret center hosted a lunch at the elegant residence of the Ambassador of Israel to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Tel Aviv attended by 80 people. Festive activities include the distribution of the Rosh Hashana gift hampers where chaverot buy good quality merchandise and fill the baskets then decorate them with ribbons and distribute them to the delighted recipients. The Jai, Atid and Shoshanim centers celebrated the Hagim (festivals), with an interesting program enjoyed by members of the public. Countrywide, there were various shows, bridge clubs and fashion shows. Last year saw the birth of two new groups with a third in the pipeline. The Tikva center organized the 'Dreams Come True' project focusing on the elder members of the community, enriching them with good company and outings while the Golda Meir center put the emphasis on the younger members of the community. They organized a 'Seminar for Young Entrepreneurs' with the participation...
of the Beit Scopus Hanoar Movement. The youngsters attended a series of seven debates featuring prominent speakers on marketing, human resources, psychology and motivation, administration and finance, and entrepreneurship.

**SOUTH AFRICA**

WIZO Conference empowers and encourages

For three days in November, South African WIZO chaverot put their lives on hold and gathered at their triennial conference in Johannesburg. WIZO South Africa President Lorraine Rosmarin introduced guest of honor, World WIZO President Helena Glaser who brought the chaverot closer to Israel with her illuminating presentation on the various WIZO projects catering for the needs of Israeli society.

Conference sessions included ‘The Vital Link’ introduced by Ruth Lewis, chairman of Aviv Reshet and ‘Strengthening the Link’ where leadership expert Debbie Edelstein explained that one of the attributes of a successful leader was to listen. In the ‘Business Link’ session, Lorraine presented her report, as did Brenda Levin and Sandra Mindel, co-treasurers of WIZO South Africa.

Marcia Parness, honorary life vice-president, ably chaired the elections, where Yvonne Jawitz was elected president. Newly elected vice presidents are Tamar Lazarus (daughter of World WIZO Chairperson Tova Ben Dov), Lynne Foster and Gertie Feinstein. Barbara Flax, chair of Bnot Zion Association WIZO, introduced ‘Money Link’, which focused on the all-important bottom-line – fundraising. Bev Goldman, head of media, PR and education at the Zionist Federation facilitated the ‘Info Link’ session.

At the gala evening, Helena Glaser spoke of the vision of Zionist women of the past becoming the reality of today and tomorrow through WIZO.

She explained how WIZO’s participation at UN sessions puts the organization on the world stage and the vital role that WIZO plays in the life of every Israeli and she paid a glowing tribute to the chaverot of South Africa for their unwavering support. There were many other sessions, all of which served to educate and strengthen the chaverot in their WIZO work. On the final day of the conference, Molly Jayes, immediate past chair of WIZO Johannesburg introduced the session on ‘Empowerment’ that examined the alarming phenomena of abuse in the family.

The challenges of new immigrants acclimatizing to a new country, financial problems and alcohol abuse all contribute to this demon. WIZO operate some 80 projects to deal with this problem.

After such an all-embracing program, chaverot from all over South Africa returned home empowered and encouraged.

**Bringing Sexy Back**

WIZO Aviv Shaffa marked Women’s Day in a particularly risqué way as women connected with their feminine mystique at an evening filled with fun, frolics and seductive allure with the fabulous Sharon Gordon from Lola Montez.

Sharon Gordon enlightened the chaverot on how to embrace and harness sexuality and reinforced the message that sexual empowerment is all part of being a modern woman.
Grooming the girls
Nothing makes a girl feel more special than a trip to the beauty parlor, so say the chaverot of WIZO Aviv Ilanit group. In October, they organized a day of pampering for a group of 50 teenage girls at the Camelot Day Spa in Johannesburg.
Each of the giggling girls enjoyed a free manicure, talks on beauty, deportment and nutrition and received goody bags.

Books and Brunch in Jo’burg
WIZO Johannesburg hosted three of South Africa’s most popular Jewish writers, Joanne Jowell, Kevin Bloom and Nikki Temkin, at their Books and Brunch event held last August.
The three writers are shining examples of South Africa’s great talent and diversity. Nikki spoke about her book, Chic Jozi, a guide of where to shop, eat and chill in Johannesburg.
Kevin Bloom’s book, Ways of Staying, looks at the challenges facing South Africans. He spoke of being a white, Jewish male in post-Apartheid South Africa in a climate where crime and guilt have an effect on one’s sense of identity.

Joanne Jowell’s spellbinding book, On the Other Side of Shame gives a riveting account of a 17-year old pregnant Jewish girl who is forced to give her child up for adoption. It tells the story of a man’s search for his biological family and the triumph of joy over shame. WIZO Johannesburg succeeded in hosting a morning that could happily rival Oprah Winfrey’s Book Club.

Operation Honey Cake
Just before Rosh Hashana, WIZO NSW Aviv members and their children delivered 250 honey cakes to veteran WIZO members. This is the third year of Operation Honey Cake, providing a sweet reminder that the WIZO family holds its senior WIZO members in great esteem and affection.

Open House on Melbourne Cup Day
The world famous horserace, the Melbourne Cup, held on the first Tuesday of November has such a following that in 1877 Cup Day was declared a public holiday in Melbourne. On that day, it has become a tradition in the NSW Jewish Community for WIZO chaverot to open their homes and host the most exclusive lunches in town, and raise money for Israel. Six events were held last November - each of them a winner!
WIZO’s 90th
Bar and Bat Mitzvah Campaign

In Honor of WIZO’s 90th Anniversary
and through your generous support hundreds of needy children across Israel will have
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Donor Recognition:
- A Personal Thank You Letter from a WIZO Bar/Bat Mitzvah youth
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- WIZO’s Bar/Bat Mitzvah DVD

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