

WIZO Review



www.wizo.org

Fall 2009 ■ No. 322



Ahuzat Yeladim
Celebrating 70 years

WIZO's Day Care Centers
Caring for the Environment

Latin American Congress
Successes and Challenges

*Shana
Tova*



Women's International Zionist Organization
for an Improved Israeli Society

You Are WIZO's Future... Let's Get Together!

WIZO Aviv International Seminar

November 15 – 19, 2009, Tel Aviv, Israel

Come join young WIZO members from 50 federations worldwide!

Participate in workshops on:

Membership Recruitment, Organization, and Fundraising

Hear top-level speakers on:

Israel Today

Women's Leadership

Jewish Education

Visit WIZO Projects

Tour Jerusalem

Leadership Training

For young WIZO members **up to age 45**

YOU BRING A SUITCASE - WE'LL PROVIDE THE REST



For further information and registration,
contact the head office of your local WIZO Federation

Editor: Ingrid Rockberger

Assistant Editor: Tricia Schwitzer

Editorial Board: Helena Glaser, Tova Ben Dov, Yochy Feller, Zipi Amiri, Esther Mor, Sylvie Pelosof, Briana Simon

Graphic Design: StudioMooza.com

Photos: Lilach Bar Zion, Allon Borkovski, Israel Sun, Sharna Kingsley, Mydas Photography, John Rifkin, Ingrid Rockberger, Ulrike Schuettler, Yuval Tebol

Published by World WIZO Publicity and Communications Department

Fall 2009 ■ No. 322 ■ www.wizo.org

Rebecca Sieff WIZO Center,
38 David Hamelech Blvd.,
Tel Aviv, Israel
Tel: 03-6923805 Fax: 03-6923801
Internet: www.wizo.org
E-mail: wreview@wizo.org

Cover photo: Children in WIZO's Bruce and Ruth Rappaport reinforced day care center in Sderot celebrate the New Year.



Contents

- 04 President's Desk**
- 05 Chairperson's Column**
- 06 Up Front**
- 10 The 18th Maccabiah**
WIZO members participate
- 12 WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim @70**
The School Where Lives are Turned Around
- 17 "WIZO is my Passion"**
Jo Gostin, president of WIZO Australia, describes how she deals with today's challenges to her community
- 20 WIZO Day Care Centers Go Green**
A look at how WIZO day care centers are leading the way in protecting the Environment
- 24 Profile of Hassida Danai**
Not only chairperson of the Early Age Division, but a volunteer policewoman
- 25 When Did You Last Look at the WIZO Website?**
A 'guided tour' of www.wizo.org
- 26 A Moment from History**
A letter found in the archival papers of Chief Rabbi Herzog of Palestine revives details of Evelyn Chenkin's post World War II mission to rescue Jewish children
- 28 The True Face of Israel**
Rolene Marks from S. Africa, WIZO's young representative to the WZO General Council, describes how she 'sees Israel.'
- 29 Aviv Now**
A heartfelt message from Vicky Fidanque, and a call for Aviv members to attend the Aviv seminar in November
- 30 Facing Challenges, Sharing Triumphs**
South American chaverot hold meaningful workshops and discussions, and seriously socialize at the 12th Latin American WIZO Congress
- 32 WIZO and the Internet**
Jenny Cohen-Khallas gives guidelines on how to make the Internet work for WIZO Federations
- 34 WIZO in Israel**
- 36 WIZO Around the World**

CHANGE OF ADDRESS. To make sure you don't miss a copy of **WIZO REVIEW**, please let us know if you change your address - by sending us your address label or sending an email if possible quoting the number on your address label to wrdistlist@gmail.com, giving us your full mailing address including postcode.

President's Desk



Dear Chavera,

A traditional New Year blessing is: **תחל שנה וברכותיה - תכלה שנה וקללותיה** - which means: May the old year and its tribulations end, may a new year and its blessings begin. This blessing summarizes how the majority of us feel. It was a grueling year.

The year since last Rosh Hashana has been dominated by the global economic crisis, the "Cast Lead" campaign and an increase in Anti-Semitism in all its forms.

The collapse of mortgage and investment banks in the US and the dramatic drop in share prices on the US stock exchanges led to a financial and economic meltdown. It had a significant effect on global, national, social, community and individual levels. Currently, world leaders are beginning to speak about the light at the end of the tunnel and there are indications that Israel too will emerge from the recession in 2010.

Israel launched operation "Cast Lead" with the sole goal of bringing about a fundamental improvement in the security situation of the residents of the southern part of the country, and as they put it – they are enjoying the tranquillity for as long as it will last.

There was a notable increase in Anti-Semitism peaking with the unsubstantiated article that appeared in the Swedish paper "Aftonbladet". We may be living in the 21st century but this article takes us back to the dark ages and to papers such as the Protocols of the Elders of Zion.

But not only challenges faced the people of Israel in 5769: Israel held its general elections and the 18th Maccabiah took place. Israel also continued to be a leader in the fields of medicine, science, physics, technology, communications and the development of desert agriculture. This past year also saw the Durban Review Conference become a mere shadow of its 2001 predecessor.

The new Jewish Year Taf-Shin-Ein (5770 – **תשי"ע**) is symbolized by the letter Ein (**ע**) – the first letter of many 'opposites' in Hebrew: poverty & prosperity (**עוני ועושר**), punishment & pleasure (**עונש ועונג**) and values (**ערכים**).

A recent poll showed that the majority of the Israeli public sees the decline in personal values as the reason for the rise in major and heinous crimes in 5769, prompting the Government to call for heavier prison sentences. More disturbing is the increase of alcohol abuse and anti-social behaviour amongst our youth. It would be easy to blame the current financial and social situation, but the public blames the education system and parental leniency. Accordingly, the Ministry of Education has issued new guidelines to combat bullies and schoolyard violence, and parents are being called upon to take more responsibility where their children are concerned, or be penalized with or in lieu of their children.

Jewish values have guided and sustained the Jewish people for 5770 years and they will continue to do so in the future. Since it was founded, WIZO has been instilling Jewish values in our children and youth and providing them with the tools and skills necessary for them to become efficient, law abiding & responsible members of society. WIZO constantly adapts its programs to suit the changing reality in which we live, while its core goals remain the same, thus linking us with our founding mothers.

This year will see World WIZO proudly celebrating its 90th anniversary in true WIZO style and tradition.

I cannot end my letter without a prayer from all of us for the safe return of abducted IDF soldier Gilad Shalit.

So looking to the future with hope, I wish every WIZO chavera and her family, Shana Tova, Gmar Hatima Tova and Succoth Sameach and may Taf-Shin-Ein be the beginning of a happier and better era for Am Israel and Eretz Israel.

Yours sincerely

Helena Glaser

Helena Glaser

Visit our website: www.wizo.org

WORLD WIZO EXECUTIVE

Helena Glaser,
President

Raya Jaglom,
Hon. Life President

Michal Modai,
Hon. Life President

Tova Ben-Dov,
Chairperson of the Executive,

Yochy Feller,
Chairperson WIZO Israel

Atara Ilani,
Treasurer

Ruth Rubinstein,
Chairperson Education Division

Hassida Danai,
Chairperson Early Age Division

Esther Mor,
Chairperson Fundraising
Department

Sylvie Pelossof,
Chairperson Organization &
Education Department

Ora Baharaff,
Chairperson Building &
Maintenance, &
Property Divisions

Zipi Amiri,
Chairperson Publicity &

Communications Department

Celia Michonik,
Chairperson Public Affairs &
NGO Department

Brenda Katten,
Chairperson Public Relations
Department

Lili Peyser,
Chairperson Tourist
Department

Riki Cohen,
Chairperson Parents Home

Nurit Pollack,
Chairperson Beit Heuss

Deputies:

Janine Gelly,
Deputy Chairperson
Tourist Department

Saya Malkin
Special Projects
Tourist Department

Ingrid Rockberger,
Deputy Chairperson Publicity &
Communications Department,
Managing Editor WIZO Review

Chairperson's Column



My Dear Chaverot,

As I write this column just before Rosh Hashana we reflect on the past difficult year, but with hope and optimism in our hearts we look forward to the future.

A little over a year ago, an economic tsunami washed over the whole world, and we in WIZO are still fighting to keep our heads above water. We have been forced to drastically cut our expenses, and to dismiss members of WIZO's staff - neither are easy. We continued to share the pain of Noam and Aviva Shalit, who are desperate to bring Gilad home, and we have continued to follow, with alarm, the nuclear build up in Iran, and a world that seems to isolate itself from the threat.

But for our pupils, our children, our future generation, the WIZO year was filled with successes as we gave hope, through education, to those who otherwise would have had a less than promising future. Thousands of WIZO graduates, on applying for jobs, when asked if they have **Bagrut** (matriculation), thanks to WIZO they could proudly say 'Yes'.

Exactly 70 years to the day since the outbreak of World War Two, in 1939, and the subsequent murder of 1,500,000 Jewish children in the Nazi death camps, on the 1st September 2009, 1,500,000 confident, laughing children, started the new school year in Israel, of which 14,000 entered the doors of WIZO's day care centers, schools and youth villages. This is our reply to those who plot and plan for our downfall.

This year, we look forward to the 90th anniversary of the founding of WIZO. Ninety years ago we were helping new mothers to raise their children in the atmosphere of poverty that existed at that time. Since those days we have continued

to fight for better conditions for women through legislation, by helping women who face violence, by giving women the tools which they need to join the workforce and so become independent, and even to attain managerial positions, by holding courses and enrichment programs, by caring for their children so that they are able to contribute to the family budget. We are continuing to help women break through the glass ceiling. We have grown into a monumental movement, one that has forged an ongoing partnership between the State of Israel and Jewish women throughout the world.

As we prepare for the year ahead, we vow to embrace every challenge and will strive to continue the WIZO vision: to provide for the welfare of infants, children, youth, women and the elderly, which is as pertinent today as it was 90 years ago. May we all continue with our WIZO work, surrounded by supportive families, in peace, health and prosperity.

Just five days before Rosh Hashana, the people of Israel were devastated to hear of the death, in an Air Force training accident, of Assaf Ramon, eldest son of the late Ilan Ramon Israel's first astronaut, who was killed when the Columbia space shuttle reentered the earth's atmosphere in February 2003. Assaf had recently graduated as the most outstanding cadet in his pilot training course, and we had all followed his progress as he walked in his father's footsteps, reliving his father's Zionist dream.

The WIZO family mourns the death of a young, promising pilot and his dreams, which will now be unfulfilled, and we extend our sincere and profound condolences to the Ramon family.

Fondly,

Tova Ben Dov

Tova Ben Dov, Chairperson
World WIZO Executive

BY VIRTUE OF THEIR OFFICE AS PRESIDENTS OR CHAIRPERSONS OF FEDERATION

Argentina Amalia Polack
Australia Jo Gostin
Austria Dr. Hava Bugajer
Belgium & Luxembourg Ingrid Bolmut
Bolivia Liliana Szwedzszarf
Brazil Sarita Schaffel
Bulgaria Marina Nanjova
Canada Marla Dan
Chile Susy Baron
Colombia Sara Mekler
Costa Rica Anita Ligator
Lisa Davidovich
Curacao Yael Ackerman
Czech Republic Zuzana Vesela

Denmark Dorrit Raiter
Dom. Republic Helen Kopel
Estonia Revekka Blumberg
Finland Eva Bensky
France Joelle Lezmi
Germany Rachel Singer
Gibraltar Julie Massias
Greece Flora Mihael
Guatemala Soly Berkowitz
Holland Joyce Y. Numann - Durlacher
Honduras Yaeli Zylberman
Hong Kong Ayala Klapholz
Riki Shemesh
Hungary Eva Lancz

India Yael Jhirad
Israel Yochy Feller
Italy Roberta Nahum
Jamaica Jennifer (McAdam) Lim
Japan Sarah Hyams
Latvia Hana Finkelstein
Lithuania Rachel Kostanian
Mexico Rackel Alfille
New Zealand Lorna Orbell
Norway Janne Jaffe Hesstvedt
Panama Estela Faskha
Paraguay Tosca Ismajovich
Peru Michelle Lumbroso
Liliana Lemor
Portugal Dr. Elizabeth Kahn

Serbia Gina Karadzic
Singapore S. J. Khafi
South Africa Lorraine Rosmarin
Spain Natalie Dodo
Sweden Gila Bornstein
Switzerland Anne Argi
United Kingdom Loraine Warren
United States Evelyn Sommer
Mercedes Ivcher
Uruguay Laura Rozenbaum
Venezuela Ena Rotkop

WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim celebrates 70th anniversary

Emotions ran high at the celebrations of WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim's 70th birthday event held in May and coinciding with a special mission of WIZO Australia members and donors to officially open the 'House of Dreams'. School Director Yossi Saragossi somehow managed to contact hundreds of past staff and students of the school to attend. 'Children' now in their 40s, 50s and 60s excitedly compared fading black and white photographs and eagerly tried to find themselves amongst the special photo exhibit. Special guest was Australian Ambassador to Israel James Larsen, who remarked: "All of us have an interest in sharing and contributing to the future, and as all of us would recognize, children are the future. The investment that we make today in an institution which takes kids and gives them a better life, and gives them a future, that is an investment which really makes a difference to this country and to the world that we live in... The work that is done [here] is so touching, so moving and makes such a difference."



Tova Ben Dov and Australian Ambassador James Larsen looking at one of the 'year graduation' pictures

(See full feature article on Ahuzat Yeladim and interview with WIZO Australia President Jo Gostin on pages 12-19)



Outside the renovated center: Buky Chass, Jo Gostin, Helena Glaser, Tova Ben Dov with members of the Australian delegation and children from the center.

Opening of renovated Kfar Saba Youth Club

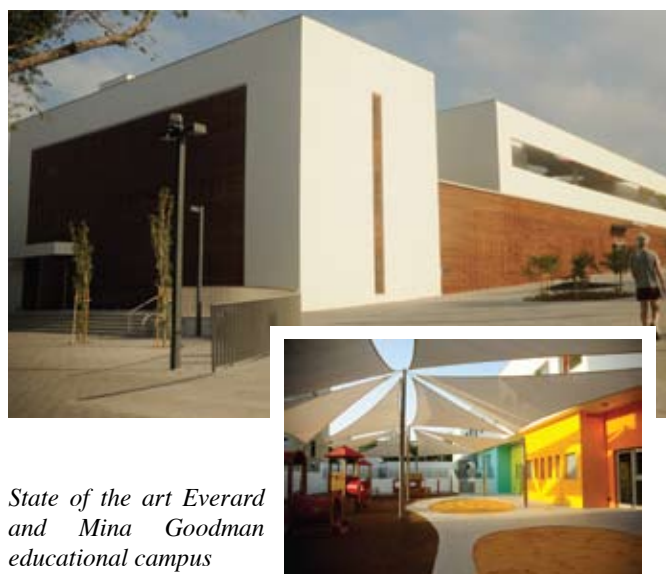
Two days after the excitement of the event at Ahuzat Yeladim, the Australian delegation and members of the World WIZO Executive attended the opening of the renovated WIZO youth center in Kfar Saba, this too a project of WIZO Australia. Shavuot was in the air as the bus-load of Aussies was greeted by children from the center dressed in white and offering 'first fruits' to the guests. The renovation of this center was a joint project of WIZO and the Kfar Saba Municipality. Deputy Mayor Buky Chass expressed his appreciation to WIZO for its help in assisting the children of this low-income neighborhood. The club will provide numerous after-school activities for the children.



Unique Educational Campus Opens in Tel Aviv

Just after the new school year started at the beginning of September, this unique educational complex in the name of Everard and Mina Goodman of the UK was opened in Tel Aviv. Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv Rabbi Meir Lau fixed the mezuzot and guests were addressed by Education Minister Gideon Sa'ar, himself a Tel Aviv resident, Tel Aviv-Yafo Mayor Ron Huldai, and World WIZO Chairperson Tova Ben Dov.

This unique pre-school campus, which was made possible thanks to a most generous donation by the Goodmans, is a joint project of the Tel Aviv Municipality and WIZO, and houses some 220 children ranging in age from six months to 6 years old. WIZO is responsible for the three day care classes and the Tel Aviv Municipality for the four kindergarten classes.



State of the art Everard and Mina Goodman educational campus



(l to r) Michele Vogel, Loraine Warren, Everard Goodman, Ron Huldai, Mina Goodman, Tova Ben Dov and Gideon Sa'ar

The building has been uniquely constructed from environmentally friendly materials and with great emphasis on energy preservation. The educational emphasis will be on art, science and music.

Present at the ceremony were Everard and Mina Goodman, their daughter Susanne and son David, other members of their family and friends, President of World WIZO Helena Glaser, Chairman of the World WIZO Executive Tova Ben Dov and members of the World WIZO Executive. WIZO.uk President Michele Vogel and Chairman Loraine Warren flew in especially for the occasion. Everard and Mina Goodman are well known throughout Israel for their philanthropy, which includes support of several hospitals and Bar Ilan University, where the faculty of life sciences is named for them. This is their first WIZO project.

For more details, see the WIZO website:
www.wizo.org >Media>News Archive

KKL Scholarships aid ex-shelter women to a new beginning

After spending time in the warmth and security of a women's shelter, the next step is starting life anew in the outside world. For most women and their children this means adapting to being a single-parent family. For 15 women who had been resident in the WIZO shelter for battered women in Jerusalem, their return to the community was aided by scholarships from Keren Kayemet through the Foundation of the late Faye Leah Jacobson in England.

The grants awarded to the families were used for summer camps for the children and the purchase of essential supplies for the coming school year.

At a ceremony in WIZO House Tel Aviv, World WIZO President Helena Glaser emphasized that, "we in WIZO look after 'our' women long after they leave the shelter, and give them love and warmth. These scholarships are essential to them – may we see more initiatives such as this."

KKL Chairman Effi Shtenzler reiterated "Whenever Keren Kayemet is asked to help and cooperate with WIZO we do so with a willing heart."



Helena Glaser and Effi Shtenzler with the Award certificate



Lizi Doron (l) and Roberta Nahum with Lizi's WIZO book in the background

Two Meet Over a Book

It was only when her daughter had to do her "Family Roots" project like every Israeli child that Israeli author Lizi Doron had to confront her past. Until that time, she had always taken her Holocaust-survivor mother's words literally: "I belong to the past, and you, Lizi, belong to the future." When Lizi's daughter first started asking her details about her grandparents – about whom Lizi knew nothing, she instructed her daughter to answer all the questions with one word: Holocaust. Soon, Lizi realized that this was not the answer, and she took leave from her university position to research and write her

book: *Why Did You Not Come Before the War?* On October 19th Doron will receive WIZO Italy's prestigious literary prize in the name of Adelina Della Pergola for this book. The prize is awarded to authors or books which expose the Italian public to the Jewish people and Jewish culture. Prize-winning books are first of all selected by a panel of judges, and WIZO Italy members make the final choice.

This past summer, on one of her frequent visits to Israel, WIZO Italy President Roberta Nahum had an emotional and fascinating meeting with Lizi Doron, where the two discussed Judaism, literature and family roots.

For more details, see the WIZO website: www.wizo.org >Media>News Archive

From Generation to Generation

One of the many visitors to WIZO Hadassim School and Youth Village this summer was Brent Martin and his fiancée, Miriam Aronowicz. Brent is the son of Sandy Martin, the former Canadian Hadassah WIZO President. This visit in particular had a special meaning. The Film and Broadcasting Center at the school is named after Sandy Martin's father, Ted Soskin, a pioneer in Canadian broadcasting. His career spanned from the 1940s through the early 1980s. Fast-forward two generations and his grandson Brent is now studying at the American Film Institute in Los Angeles. While still in film school, Brent directed *My Grandfather's Voice*, a documentary about the grandfather he never knew. The film has won many awards in film festivals across Canada. Both Brent and Miriam were very impressed and moved by their visit to Hadassim, and plan to return in the near future.



Brent and Miriam in front of the School of Broadcasting, Hadassim



Tova Ben Dov (l) with Lord and Lady Steinberg

New Dining Room at WIZO Nahalal

It is not often that donors are surprised at inauguration ceremonies! But that is just what happened to Lord and Lady Steinberg of the UK when they went to open the newly renovated dining room at WIZO Nahalal School and Youth Village for which they had made a generous donation.

Before 'cutting the ribbon' at the dining room, the Steinbergs, their family and friends, and other guests went to the school synagogue where their entrance was accompanied by hassidic

music played by three pupils of the school. When the Ark was opened, the Steinbergs were amazed to see a sefer torah with a beautifully embroidered cover in the names of their late parents, a surprise planned and organized by World WIZO chairperson Tova Ben Dov, who knew of their devotion to the Jewish religion.

In an emotional speech, Lord Steinberg expressed his gratitude to Tova and said how thrilled he and his wife, Beryl were to see the sefer torah in their parents' names, and that they don't see tzedaka as charity but as justice, a way of giving justice to the people of Israel.

Thai Study Group Visit to the State of Israel

A Member of the Thai Parliament, diplomats from the Foreign Office, the Vice-President of Bangkok University, a deputy managing editor and journalists from major national newspapers spent five action filled days visiting Israel – for the majority a first time experience.

One of their visits was to WIZO's **Bruce and Ruth Rappaport Day Care Center** in Sderot where they received briefings from World WIZO's Tourist Department chairperson, Lily Peyser and Public Relations' chairperson, Brenda Katten. All the participants were deeply impressed with the facilities provided by WIZO. To quote Member of Parliament Mr. Anucha Burapachaisri *"We would love to have these kinds of facilities to offer families in our country – perhaps we can learn from you?"*

This day care center, the only one built to withstand Kassam rocket attacks, has become a must on the agenda of numerous visiting delegations. It has proven to be an important vehicle for conveying the reality and challenges confronting Israelis citizens living within "rocket range" of Gaza.



The Thai delegation with Brenda Katten and Lily Peyser

Maccabiah



World WIZO President Helena Glaser leading out the flag bearers

This summer, for three weeks in July, the whole country took on a sportive, carnival atmosphere. Called by some 'the Jewish Olympics', the 18th (Chai) Maccabiah took place with over 7000 athletes from over 50 countries competing in some 30 sports. For those coming from abroad it was a wonderful opportunity to meet up with fellow young Jews.

And WIZO was in the picture too! Some of the WIZO schools housed some of the young athletes following months of meetings between WIZO and Maccabi officials to ensure that all necessities were provided for – from laundry facilities to the correct type of food.

World WIZO President Helena Glaser was one of the nine prominent Israeli public figures honored to carry the Israeli flag into the arena on the opening night.

Many WIZO members and their families from all over the world participated in the Games – here are just some of them:



From the UK

Wearing their WIZO.uk sponsored training shirts, the British Open Ladies soccer team spent an emotional couple of hours between their training sessions and matches at WIZO's Ahuzat Yeladim residential school in Haifa. Ahuzat Yeladim's charismatic head Yossi Saragossi gave the squad an in-depth talk on the school and the specially devised individual program for each pupil, followed by a tour of the school's facilities.



UK ladies soccer team wearing their WIZO.uk training shirts



Alex with his Team World medal

Alex Gold, grandson of Margaret Gold, for whom the WIZO music center in Tiberias is named, was the sole UK representative in the senior judo tournament. Although he did not win a medal in the individual event, he was part of the bronze-medal winning 'Team World', a team comprising of Dutch, Brazilian, German, Australian, and Canadian competitors – and Alex!



Finland

Hela and Ella Mishaël, daughters of Paivi Mishaël, longtime Executive member of WIZO Finland participated in track and field events and together won 5 medals – 3 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze. While the girls were busy winning medals mother Paivi went with WIZO Finland president Eva Bensky to visit the newly renovated Finnish-sponsored day care center in Herzlia. And that isn't all for Finland! Eva's son Jonathan participated in the Junior Gold competition, and her husband Leo-Dan is vice-president of the Maccabi Union!



Medal-winning sisters Hela and Ella Mishaël with the Finnish ambassador at his residence



Switzerland

Swiss WIZO President Anne Argi's two children John and Marion were part of the Swiss golf team. Aside from the thrill of participating Marion told WIZO Review what a wonderful experience they had – meeting people from other countries and joining in many of the tours and special entertainment evenings planned for them. "Everything was organized for us to have the best two weeks we could ever have thought of!"



The Swiss golf team – Marion (front center) and John (back right)



USA

This summer was the second time that Jessica Retelny, granddaughter of WIZO USA Vice President Rosita Retelny competed in the Maccabiah. In 2005 she was a medallist in the 100-meter dash and a gold medallist in the 4x400 meter relay. This year Jessica was one of the silver-medal USA 4x100 meter relay team, coming in second behind Israel. Jessica's cousin, Talia and aunt Lily also competed. Jessica comes from a committed Zionist and WIZO family. She described this year's Maccabiah as "an amazing opportunity and an experience that I will never forget, and the memories will be with me throughout my life."



Jessica and coach Alex Smolka



Germany

These are just some of the WIZO Germany family members who participated in the Games:

Soccer: Alexander Faktor son of WIZO Frankfurt Executive member Nicole Faktor, Jonas Schnabel son of WIZO Germany Vice President Diana Schnabel, Mayer and Emanuel Schultz

Tennis: Steve Martin (bronze medal), son of WIZO Frankfurt Executive member Linda Martin, Lara Schultz, Anael Licht daughter of WIZO Germany Executive member Orli Licht...and not forgetting the husbands who participated in the Futsal competition: Jacky Endzweig, Alon Mayer and Ali Zucker.



Jonas Schnabel (r) and Mayer Schultz

WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim

Where Lives Are Turned Around

As the WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim School marks its 70th anniversary this year, graduates from the 1940s as well as children who are currently attending the school say the same thing: "Ahuzat Yeladim changed my life." The same response is heard from people, decade after decade, whose childhood was shaped by Ahuzat Yeladim, and who are happier, more successful adults thanks to this residential WIZO school

Cliff Savren

Modest Beginnings

Israel, which didn't even exist as an independent state, has been totally transformed since Ahuzat Yeladim was founded in 1939, and the school has developed with it, responding to the changing needs of some of Israel's most needy young people. The school, which is sponsored by WIZO Australia, had modest beginnings when a group of tents was pitched on a commanding slope of Mount Carmel overlooking Haifa. It initially served as a summer camp for needy immigrant children. In 1940, the first dormitory was established there as a home for European Jewish refugee children fleeing the Nazis. The children had survived the wreck of the ship "Patria" that year in Haifa harbor. The school also took in children whose fathers were drafted into the British army during the Second World War.

Within a decade, the State of Israel was born. As the city of Haifa has crept up the hill and around the school campus at the end of the Carmel mountain range, WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim has remained in the forefront in meeting the needs of young people at risk. Today WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim School is a specialized residential therapeutic educational facility for children from the age of 12 to 18 who suffer from behavioral or emotional problems, and who need intensive care and supervision.

Intensive Individualized Support

Some of the children have been removed from their homes by court order, and many come from highly dysfunctional

families; some were about to drop out of other institutions when they were admitted to Ahuzat Yeladim, and others were at high risk of engaging in criminal activity. A large number of the students are immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

As a school for children who simply cannot function in a regular school setting, Ahuzat Yeladim gives its students a last chance to turn their lives around through individualized support and counseling. In addition to educators, the school staff is composed of social workers, therapists, including art therapists (in drama, movement, music, etc.), psychologists, and psychiatrists. The school currently serves nearly 100 students. They live on the school campus and are referred to Ahuzat Yeladim from towns and villages throughout Israel.

WIZO Australia:

"This Amazing Project of Ours"

"We at WIZO Australia have always known the importance of WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim, and understand the difference it can make in the lives of the students who are referred to the school," said Jo Gostin, President of WIZO Australia, who attended the school's 70th anniversary commemoration in May. "This was made even clearer to us all," she noted, "when nearly 300 graduates of the school attended the 70th birthday celebration this year. Seeing the emotion and joy they felt, hearing first-hand that their lives would have not been the same if they had not been at the school, and referring to the school as their 'home' has further reinforced our pride and commitment to this amazing project of ours."



Former pupils share their experiences

Among the children now at the school, their stories are as individual as the children themselves. There is Ruth, who told an interviewer about how her mother worked until late into the evening. Ruth was unsupervised and became a juvenile delinquent of the first order. She says that she spent some of her time stealing bicycles and breaking into apartments. But when she was 14 years old, she was referred to WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim and, in her words, "everything changed. All my bad habits disappeared." She makes it sound easy in the telling, but it required determination on her part, and intensive support from Ahuzat Yeladim's staff.

Ahuzat Yeladim's Director: "We don't cut any corners"

Therapy at the school takes many forms, as social workers, psychologists and therapists specializing in art, drama, music and dance help the children work out the trauma, neglect and sometimes even abuse from their pasts. "We don't cut any corners," says the director of WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim, Yossi Saragossi, who has spent his entire 27-year professional career at the school. "And," he added, "we don't let the students cut any corners either." Jo Gostin: "I cannot begin to describe WIZO Australia's gratitude to Yossi Saragossi and his wonderful staff at the school. The love and care they provide to each and every one of the children is something that no amount of money can buy."

For many children, WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim represents the first stable "home" that they have ever had. Sarah, for example,

was the victim of her father's alcoholism. When he got drunk, he would hit her and her mother. He later raped her. He is currently serving a long jail term. And then there is Yael, whose mother died when she was a year old. Her father was incapable of caring for her and her four sisters, so she was put up for adoption. She had a very difficult time reconciling with her past and at a young age began stealing. She has turned her life around at Ahuzat Yeladim. In starkly philosophical tones, Yael said: "Ultimately, I realized that I didn't have to steal to have things and I didn't need to have things to be happy."

Australian Donors Transform the School's Facilities

Many generous donors from Australia have recently enabled the school to transform the physical face of the school campus, providing enhanced therapeutic, educational and recreational facilities for the children. Last year, for example, in the presence of the Australian ambassador in Israel, the Tom and Rae Mandel Basketball Court was dedicated. It was built due to the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Mandel themselves. The court not only gives the children at the school a wonderful setting for recreation, but because it has a roof, it can be used for school assemblies during inclement weather. At another location at the school, a band shell has been added to the school's outdoor stage, vastly enhancing the aesthetics and acoustics. The band shell was funded through a major donation from Eva Grunstein of Australia. WIZO Australia has also made dormitory renovation a priority, and its other recent major construction >

Milestone Anniversary

- > project, the "House of Dreams", has just been completed. The building features workshop facilities, classrooms and even a student snack bar. Thanks to donors from around Australia, the "House of Dreams" is no longer a dream but a reality.

"The physical changes are amazing and makes us all feel so proud," says Jo. "More importantly," she points out, "we know and understand the reason why we have worked so hard to make these changes. The important factor is not the buildings, but the fact that the children at the school deserve the best standard of life we can provide. The physical environment coupled with the psychological support will, we hope, help the healing process and give the children a chance to take their rightful place in society. The relationship between our donors and the school has been heightened tremendously by the physical changes we have made. They feel a personal connection to the children and the school."

Success Stories

Among the many success stories at the school, there is Kobi, who, in his own words "got into drugs and then got deeper and deeper into trouble." He says that WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim taught him two things: "How to behave and how not to behave." And then there is David, whose family came to Israel in the 1991 airlift of Ethiopian immigrants called Operation Solomon. "I was a trouble-maker from the start," he admitted. "The change came when I was 16 and came to Ahuzat Yeladim.

It was just what I needed." In a measure of his ultimate break with his past, David will begin serving in the Israel Defense Forces in November. Army service is an important milestone in the lives of most Israelis. It is also frequently a stepping-stone to professional success. The administration of WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim therefore makes it a priority do everything possible to have the army accept its graduates, despite their problematic past histories.

"I was a trouble-maker from the start," he admitted. "The change came when I was 16 and came to Ahuzat Yeladim. It was just what I needed."

One of the secrets of the success of WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim is the intensive and highly specialized staff attention that the school provides. Each child has a personal treatment plan. The staff is always available to support the children as they themselves attempt to turn their lives around. And on the academic level, classes at Ahuzat Yeladim are very small, usually around six children per classroom. Next year, WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim will be expanding the age range that it serves, having been chosen by the government to open a residential facility to provide a home for younger children, from ages seven through 12.



Haifa Mayor Shabtai Levi, fixing the mezuzah



Planting a tree at the inauguration



Summer camp for needy immigrant children in the 1940s



Guests arriving for the inauguration



Participants in Ahuzat Yeladim's Apprentices Program 1960

Psychiatric Facilities

Many children arrive at the school with severe psychiatric problems. To meet their needs, WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim opened a special dorm with medical support staff which includes a nurse and the regular services of a psychiatrist. The post-hospitalization unit, as it is called, is home to 31 children, some of whom come to the facility straight from psychiatric hospitals. For others, their admission to Ahuzat Yeladim is instead of hospitalization.

Most children at WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim return to their families on alternating weekends. Even when they do go home, Yossi Saragossi or another staff member contact them over the weekend to ensure that everything is all right. But some cannot go home, a reflection of how troubled the home life of so many of them has been. A weekend at home would pose too many risks. In order to make these children's Shabbat special, too, WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim developed a special dorm, Shabbat House, open to the children on weekends and holidays, so that they also get a break from their regular weekly routines. The need for the facility was brought home in a poignant manner when, several years ago, a student felt left out to see his friends going home when it was too risky to allow him to spend unsupervised time with his family. In an attempt to convince himself and his friends that he too had somewhere different to spend Shabbat, he insisted on packing a suitcase and taking the bus to the Haifa central bus station, only to return to the school for the weekend. Since then, the Shabbat

House was established to give every student at the school a special Shabbat experience.

Security Challenges

Although WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim may have had its origins in the initial flow of child war refugees from Hitler's Europe, the school has also been affected by Israel's subsequent security challenges. Haifa was not immune from the wave of terrorism that hit Israel in the early years of this decade. Among the targets was Maxim's, a restaurant along the Haifa waterfront >



Class of yesteryear

Milestone Anniversary

At the 70th anniversary celebrations



School Principal Yossi Saragossi addressing the Australian delegation



Now I must be here somewhere...



Former pupils comparing old photographs

"It is difficult to put into words," says Jo Gostin, "but visiting, hearing or working for the school raises enormous emotions in everyone I know."

- > that was struck by a suicide bomber killing 21 people and injuring 60 others in October of 2003. In March of that year, another suicide bomber blew himself up on a bus not far from Ahuzat Yeladim, killing 17 passengers and injuring 53. One of the injured was a student at Ahuzat Yeladim who was returning from a work-study job that had been arranged for him at the zoo. Thankfully the student, who is an avid animal lover, has fully recovered from injuries, but while he was in the hospital, his primary request was that his WIZO school bring him his favorite parrot from the Ahuzat Yeladim petting zoo. Although birds are normally not allowed in hospitals, the school and the hospital recognized the therapeutic value of a visit by a feathered friend and the bird became an authorized visitor at the hospital.

The city of Haifa was also a prime target of Hezbollah rockets during the 2006 Lebanon war. Ninety-three rockets fell on the city during the war, killing eleven people. Most of Ahuzat Yeladim's children were on campus attending summer school during the conflict with Lebanon. The school's security shelter and round-the-clock staff provided support during a highly

difficult period for the city of Haifa and for the country as a whole.

Visitors to WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim

Ahuzat Yeladim has become a prime destination for WIZO Australia's members when they visit Israel. "It is difficult to put into words," says Jo Gostin, "but visiting, hearing or working for the school raises enormous emotions in everyone I know."

Returning for the 70th Anniversary

Many of the first children to find a home at Ahuzat Yeladim after its founding in 1939 returned for the 70th anniversary celebrations. Gideon Maron, a war refugee from Poland, initially arrived at the school with his sister in 1941 at the age of eight. He recalled that they lived in tents at that time, but he had no complaints. "It was a good time for me," he recalled. "It prepared me for life. I had no other home." Seventy years after its founding, WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim continues to provide a home to children in need and continues to prepare them for life. ■

Interview with a WIZO President

JO GOSTIN: WIZO is my passion

When the late and legendary comedienne Lucille Ball said, 'if you want something done ask a busy person,' she could have been referring to that dynamic group of women who preside over WIZO federations in 53 countries around the world. One such woman is Jo Gostin, president of WIZO Australia

Tricia Schwitzer

I chatted with Jo at World WIZO headquarters in Tel Aviv. She and her husband Ronnie had made the 14,180 kilometer (8,811 miles) journey from Sydney to Tel Aviv accompanied by a 17-strong delegation, to celebrate the 70th birthday of the Australian Federation's flagship project, WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim.

How did your involvement with WIZO begin?

When I was newly married, a friend telephoned me and asked me if I would be interested in joining a WIZO group for young married women. I said, 'sure, why not?' Her reply was, 'that's great – then you will be the president!' Back then, we had absolutely no idea what WIZO was all about, but we were told that the work we did was extremely important – and so we did it. For the first couple of years I presided over the group then I was asked to join the state executive. In 1989, I became the state president for Victoria, holding that position for eight



years. After a short break from official duties I was elected president of WIZO Australia five years ago. I will be retiring in 2010.

Jo and Ronnie live in Sydney and have been married for 42 years. They have two daughters, Dani and Cassie. Dani and husband Derek Miller have two children, David (8) and Jesse (1). Jo works four days a week as a travel agent and on the fifth day she works in the WIZO office, but it is true to say that she wears her WIZO hat every hour of every day. Recently retired Ronnie jokes that his claim to fame is being 'Jo's husband' but Jo is keen to point out that her husband's support is crucial.

My husband is amazing. None of this would be possible if it were not for his support and patience and that of my daughters, too. They know that WIZO is my passion. In the beginning I was not so involved but as I learned more about what WIZO is all about, that passion grew – and grew! Yes, I >

Interview with a WIZO President



Jo delivers an emotional speech



Jo's daughters, Dani (left) and Cassie

- > work hard and it can be exhausting. Sometimes I run around in circles even when I am sitting down and I have to admit that there are times when I wonder why I am doing it at all but the work we do is so important. It is not a doctrine. It is geared towards the individual. You only have to look at the smiling faces of kids whose lives you have changed for the better to know that. It's hard to explain but it's an amazing feeling. WIZO makes such a difference in the lives of Israelis and the great sense of satisfaction it gives me spurs me on to do more.

Tell me something about the Australian Jewish community.

Australia is a vast country. Communities vary from city to city but on the whole it is a Zionist community, especially in cities like Sydney and Melbourne. Did you know that Melbourne has the highest ratio of Holocaust survivors after Israel? That older generation is enormously active on behalf of Israel, and Jewish youth movements do a first class job in promoting pride in Israel. The community is generous in its donations to Israel but of course there are so many different organizations approaching the same supporters that they are faced with the dilemma whether to support Israel or to donate their money to their local community. Anti-Semitism and intermarriage brings its own challenges but we are very lucky that we have a very supportive Jewish community.

Global anti-Semitism is on the rise. How does this unfortunate trend affect Jews in Australia?

Australians are by nature very relaxed and tolerant so the problem of anti-Semitism is not on the same institutionalized scale as it is in Europe. It does exist but it is borne out of ignorance rather than bigotry. Of course things have changed now. Anti-Israel sentiment in the Muslim community is on the increase. Security alerts have been raised and the Jewish community employs security guards at gatherings and communal events. We are fortunate in that our government generally adopts a pro-Israel stance.

What are the biggest challenges facing WIZO Australia today?

One of the biggest challenges, but one that we are facing head on, is continuity. With knowledge and information we try to ensure that links with WIZO and the people of Israel are forged firmly. We have many active Aviv groups, which work very successfully. We are in constant dialogue with university students and the Zionist youth programs. We run joint programs with the Australian Union of Jewish Students (AUJS). They have visited our projects in the past as part of their Israel program and next year every AUJS schedule whether it is for six weeks or six months, or a volunteer program, will include time spent working in a WIZO Australia project. This way, we hope to instill in the students the knowledge, information and hands-on experience of WIZO. We run WIZO seminars and programs in the Jewish primary schools and have had excellent feedback as pupils take the information home to their parents.

I do believe, however, that the 'New Zionism' needs strengthening because the old order of Zionism based on the Holocaust and suffering is no longer such a valid motivational factor. Of course, Holocaust studies are a crucial part of the Jewish educational system but the focus is shifting. Things are different these days. Young people have grown up with Israel. They know it to be an independent, democratic state.

WIZO makes such a difference in the lives of Israelis and the great sense of satisfaction it gives me spurs me on to do more

So how do you market 'New Zionism' to young Jewish Australians?

We should take pride in Israel and the formidable achievements of the Israeli people. When I speak about Israel I am always very vocal of the fact that we owe Israel a great debt. Because of the Jewish State, we in the Diaspora are able to lead a more open life. It's a hard call but with mounting threats around the world, Israel is our insurance.

You visit Israel quite often. Do you feel that is important for chaverot to visit Israel?

It is vital. There is no greater incentive than to witness first hand all that has been achieved and all that still needs to be done. To travel to Israel from Australia is no joy ride, it is at the very least a 19 hour and not a five hour plane hop and yet chaverot from Australia are keen to come. The World WIZO



Jo and Ronnie Gostin with Australian Ambassador to Israel James Larsen at the Ahuzat Yeladim 70th anniversary celebrations

Tourist Office informed me that we send them the highest number of requests for visits to projects. The service they provide is second to none. I have the greatest admiration for that department.

Every time I come to Israel and visit our projects I see the progress we are making. It is the same when I visit the projects of other WIZO federations. It fills me with such pride and I love the enthusiasm that radiates from the faces of other chaverot that I meet on these trips to Israel. My passion is completely fuelled by these triumphs. I can honestly say (and this is probably my best sales pitch) that as far as I am concerned we have the best product. We, in WIZO, have no reason to apologize for, or explain what we do. We work with individuals, we work for the status of women, for the quality of life of the people under our care and we are not going to stop. I get so passionate when I talk about Ahuzat Yeladim. Every project is special to me. I fill up. It's not territorial.

Results speak for themselves. I adore coming to Israel to see the fruits of our hard labor. It's so heartwarming. You see, it's not just about a building – it's what that building provides. I used to joke that all I wanted to do was to build swimming pools in every one of our projects because my dream is that there should be no need for anything else. Until that dream becomes reality, we will never stop doing what we do.

Jo, next year you will be retiring as president of WIZO Australia. What advice would you give to your successor?

Treat the position seriously but also with a sense of humor. Nobody wants to, or deserves to be belittled or talked down to. You can get the same message across far more effectively with a joke, a laugh and a smile. Make it realistic and not just a lecture. I always tell the younger groups that people will only join if you make it fun. It doesn't change the fact that what we are doing is so vitally important. It just makes it more of a pleasure.

Do you think there is life after WIZO, Jo? Do you have any plans for your retirement?

WIZO has played such a huge part in my life that I will certainly continue to be involved but just not as federal president. Of course I will come to Israel as often as possible. I adore my children and grandchildren but could not just become a full-time grandma. I think deep down I am a lazy person so I really need to keep active. I seem to do more when I am busy!

Jo Gostin certainly makes it fun. But to think of herself as lazy? No, Jo, I don't think so. ■



WIZO Day Care Centers Lead the Way in “Green” Innovations

Nothing is wasted in WIZO's 'green' day care centers; every piece of used paper, cardboard and plastic is recycled

Sima Borkovski

“Our vision for our day care centers is first of all to improve our service and our commitment towards our clients - both parents and children,” says Hassida Danai, Chairperson of the WIZO Early Age Division, whose energy and dynamism belies her diminutive size. “It is important that both children and parents feel ‘at home’ in our centers, and that WIZO will provide all their needs. We

encouraged parents to be part of the process of change that we initiated this year. If we fail to communicate with our ‘clients’ eventually we might lose them,” she states. “Our goal for the coming year is to professionalize our day care centers and provide our care givers with professional training. Our staff is the most precious asset we have and therefore investing in them benefits us all.”



Turning milk cartons into flower pots

The Green Day Care Center

"One of the new initiatives is turning our day care centers Green. We emphasize the importance of recycling materials, electricity and water saving, and of course issues like healthy food and hygiene are all part of the Green way of life," she explains. "From the very beginning WIZO concentrated on child care and education, and was the first to open day care centers for very young children in order to allow their mothers to work outside their homes and support their families. Our educational concept puts the child at the center and therefore we emphasize child enrichment in every possible way. Most importantly, we put an emphasis on expanding the children's educational horizons and musical understanding and developing their co-ordination skills. This coming year we intend to open a musical day care center and another one that will integrate the parents into its daily activities."

It seems that environmental issues are slowly finding their way into more and more WIZO day care centers as many of them try to incorporate Green activities into their daily routine. Even the monthly leaflet of WIZO's Early Age Division publishes a "monthly Green tip".

The Even Yehuda day care center, located in the Sharon area in central Israel, is famous for being Green and eco-friendly thanks to its director, Liat Ribovsky who is known for her keen awareness of environmental issues.

Nothing goes to waste, and Ribovsky's room functions as the center of recycling activity as all the plastic bottles, cans and cardboard boxes find their way there.

"My staff already know that paper and plastic should not be thrown into the bin and what began as a personal quest of mine has become the agenda of our center," Ribovsky states, pointing to the corner of her room where the plastic bottles and cans are stored.

Afterwards she proudly shows me her work folders where packages of cereal boxes function as dividers.

Imaginative Uses of Waste Paper

"There are many ways to save paper. For example, after birthday parties we always collect and save the paper decorations, our children draw on used paper and later on we collect the paper in special bins. I have an agreement with Amnir, a company that recycles paper, and since we have collected large amounts of paper they give us all the paper we need for our activities. So thanks to our recycling activity I managed to reduce our expenses and reached the amount of 1.5 tons of recycled paper," she says with pride. "I also try to re-use every piece of paper like envelopes and packages."

"We try to be creative with our waste and create various activities for the children. For example, bottle corks are sorted out according to size and used in different kinds of games."

A tour of the premises reveals the various and amazingly original ways to use waste for the benefit of the children. Why throw away plastic and tin cans when you can turn them into toys? A hole is pierced in the plastic lids of boxes (that previously contained food) and then the children push wooden sticks through the hole. Another coordination improving activity is created with plastic pipes which are fit into a box and the children place plastic rings one on top of the other. Instead of throwing away old mattresses the material was re-used for the benefit of the children. The mattresses were cut into squares; slits were made on top of them and the children enjoy pushing discs inside them.

"A while ago we received quite a large amount of cardboard boxes so we wrapped them with colorful paper and made building boxes from them. When the boxes are worn out we replace them with new ones. Many of our activities and games are made of recycled materials. Even wrappers from candies and snacks are re-used. We stick them and other kinds of materials onto a large board and the babies can touch and squeeze them," explains Ribovski.

It seems that there is no end to creativity when it comes to creating toys from recycled materials; many of them improve the co-ordination skills of the children. The point is to think before throwing something into the bin where it can be useful to no one.

>



Tel Mond day care center director, Ronit Schachaf-Liran. On the wall a tapestry from recycled material

WIZO Education



Pushing discs in pieces of an old mattress

- > We all know how children love to dress up, but why buy special costumes when you can use old clothes and hats from WIZO's second-hand clothing stores? "Here in the toddlers' class we have a special section where they can play with different kinds of hats. It's both educational and also economic since we didn't have to spend funds purchasing these items."
- In addition to the emphasis on eco-friendly activities, Ribovski pays special attention to the professional training of her staff. "I do my best to give my staff professional training and when I see a talented care-giver I will immediately encourage her to take WIZO's professional care-givers' course. I believe such training gives them better motivation to work and advance themselves," she states.

a change in one's behavior. For example, air-conditioners should be turned off when the children go outside to the yard and of course electricity should be turned off when you leave a room. I constantly try to save electricity and the parents are already used to the fact that our entrance is a bit dim. Gradually my staff became accustomed to my way of thinking and I don't have to keep reminding them to turn off lights. Now I feel that we work in complete cooperation and they even come up to me with ideas of their own," she says.

Shachaf-Liran proudly shows me around the classes where children are engaged with their mid-day activity – outside in the yard and indoors. We see a live presentation of the children's work with recycled materials. None of these games

Save, save, save

Not far from Even Yehuda, at a different day care center located in Tel Mond, similar eco-friendly activities take place. Here as well the Green spirit is the initiative of its director, Ronit Shachaf-Liran.

"I took a Ministry of Environment Protection course by which I am a supervisor and protector of animals and the environment. I can actually find people who throw garbage on the streets," she says. "I felt it was very important to start the change here and turn this day care center into a Green environment. Being Green is not only about recycling but also involves

WIZO Innovations

WIZO operates innovative projects that bring a spirit of change to both children and their parents. These projects are made possible thanks to the generous support of WIZO federations.

WIZO's Parents' Hot Line: Although this project has already been in operation for two years, it is still extremely important. Parents of young children from all over Israel can call this hot line and ask the advice of experts regarding problems they encounter.

First steps in Math: A unique kindergarten project recently opened at the Ramat-Israel day care center in Tel Aviv. Thirty-five children study math and geometry in small groups of four to six children. This program is made possible thanks to the support of the German Federation.

Refuge for early age children: An exclusive program for

children at risk and their parents, encouraging parents' involvement in the process of rehabilitation of the children acknowledging the central place of the parents in their children's lives.

The Green day care center: A new center that has recently opened in Tel Aviv, containing three classes - for children, toddlers and babies. This day care center is part of a new campus presenting a new educational approach. (see page 7)

The musical day care center in Kiryat Gat: Musical education and workshops for the children of this special center is made possible thanks to the generous support of WIZO Holland. The children and the staff enjoy musical education, concerts and music classes. This day care operates as a bridge between the city's residents and its Ethiopian community.

were purchased and all of them were prepared by the staff. But the children don't seem to mind. They love to push all kinds of objects into plastic boxes (that previously contained food), place plastic animals on Plasticine coated trays and engage in various other recycled activities.

Once a week the children enjoy a special activity with various petting animals; organic waste is collected and given to the animals. The leaves that fall on the ground are also being collected into a plastic bag and later used as fertilizer.

Curtains as aprons

"I plan to create a special section in our yard where recycled toys will be made," says Shachaf-Liran. "I try to create awareness about the issue of ecology both among my staff and among the parents. For example, on birthday parties we ask parents not to use disposable plates or polystyrene. Parents also bring us all sorts of materials from their homes that we can re-use instead of throwing them away.

For example, we received a huge carpet from a family that moved out of their apartment. The carpet was cut into squares and they are used as boards. We also took an old curtain, cleaned it and used the fabric as aprons for the children. Even our babies enjoy recycled toys. Different kinds of fabrics were sewn on top of pieces of material and babies crawl on them and feel them."

Eco-friendly behavior is very much part of the center's routine. One can see recycled artifacts in every corner - flowerpots made of empty milk cartons and different kinds of decorations made of recycled materials.

"I feel that the change starts from within and if people start thinking differently they will act upon their thoughts. When I explain to my staff the benefits of being Green I get their full cooperation," concludes Ronit.



Babies feeling different textures



Even Yehuda day care center director, Liat Ribovsky



Containers for recycling batteries

Attentiveness towards children and their parents in the community

The Early Age division believes in the involvement of parents and their participation in the daily activities of their child's day care center. The professional staff participates in workshops where they are given tools to conduct a better dialogue with the children's parents and learns to be attentive to their needs.

Hassida: "I find it extremely important that we work in full cooperation with the parents so they are relaxed leaving their children in our day care centers while they go to work. We need to apply some changes and elevate our services in order to attract parents who look for high standards of education for their children. My vision is that our staff will work in cooperation and full transparency with the parents so they feel that WIZO gives them the best service," she explains. ■



Nothing goes to waste, even greeting cards are re-used



Liat's work folders from recycled cereal boxes

Hassida Danai

An Educationalist and Volunteer Traffic Control Policewoman

Hassida Danai, recently elected Chairperson of the Early Age Division, joined WIZO in January 2008 after a long and successful career in the Ministry of Education, during which she received two Education Ministry prizes

Sima Borkovski



Hassida Danai

Hassida graduated the Beit Berl Academic College of Education with a B.A in special education and art, after which she worked in the Special Education Department of the Ministry of Education for 35 years. She started her career as a teacher, graduating to become a teachers' instructor and was eventually promoted to a regional inspector, responsible for 85 schools and 42 kindergartens.

"During my long career

in the Ministry of Education I developed various educational programs for children with learning disabilities and led the process of their incorporation into society and into the regular education system. I specialized in didactic evaluation and worked with all levels of mentally retarded children, as well as autistic children. I was the first to open classes for children with special needs and also for autistic children," she explains.

"My decision to join WIZO after my retirement was inspired by my love for young children and my willingness to contribute my vast experience to the WIZO enterprises."

Although Danai joined WIZO only a year and a half ago, her history with WIZO goes back a long way, as at the age of three she attended a WIZO day care center in Raanana, the central Israel town where she grew up.

Community Activist

Though her hands are full with her work at WIZO, Danai still finds the time and will to volunteer for the police. "I feel great sorrow when seeing the number of deaths and injuries on the roads today, and if I can contribute my share to prevent road accidents, I am happy to do so. Some drivers have no respect for the traffic laws or for their fellow drivers on the road. As a volunteer for the police I am authorized to stop and even fine them," she says, proudly producing her volunteer card.



Hassida on traffic control

Hassida's family

Hassida's husband, Shimon is head of a family car-hire business, which he runs with one of their sons. Their other son is managing director of one of Israel's car distributors. "We are a car family," laughs Hassida. Both sons are married and Hassida has three grandchildren and one on the way. As well as running his company, her husband too finds time for volunteer work as Chairman of the Board of the Zinman College of Physical Education and Sport Sciences, at Wingate, near Netanya.

The WIZO website A Wonderful Resource for Up-To-Date Information

Ingrid Rockberger

Almost every day, the Publicity Department or the WIZO Review office receive a request from a Federation for some information or story to help them with an upcoming function or publicity material.

As most of you know, we perform nothing short of miracles (we can tell by your appreciative emails!) to provide what you need in the shortest possible time! However, some of the information is readily available on our WIZO website, which is updated almost on a daily basis.

Let's take a look:

At the top of the home page the latest 'big event' happening in WIZO, and messages from our president and chairperson.

Right under the 'main event' you will see **WIZO Milestones** – where decade by decade you will find all the important historical WIZO events linked with the history of Israel.

On the left hand side, accompanied by photographs are short reports on WIZO openings and dedications and inspiring WIZO stories. Here we pay tribute to our wonderful donors.

To the right of the news items are links to **Federation websites** and to the following departments, where you will find contact details for key personnel and other useful information:

Fundraising – latest campaigns and activities

Organization and Education – information on activities and upcoming Aviv and Lapid seminars

WIZO Tours – reading the glowing reports of Federation tours must surely make you want to arrange one of your own – immediately!

Public Relations – read "The Fuller Picture" about Israeli innovations and articles on current affairs in Israel, written by department Head Brenda Katten and international journalists giving a supportive slant to Israel's case – a great resource and help for your hasbara activities.

Public Affairs – Read about the representation of WIZO at all United Nations Conferences and Seminars around the world



on the Status of Women and Human Rights issues. Articles and reports by department Head Celia Michonick are available with one short 'click'!

Aviv – all the latest Aviv news

Now, let's go to the tabs at the top of the page:

About WIZO – WIZO's history and early days, portraits of past presidents, WIZO's vision and mission statement.

WIZO Activities – covers WIZO's work worldwide – glide your mouse over the map, click, and you will find contacts for all WIZO Federations

Our projects – House of Dreams

Join Us – if you are not a WIZO member here's how to join

Donate – various ways of donating – both personally and corporate ideas

Media – all the WIZO publications – online, and video films (which you can order for your federation). The photo gallery is being updated – you will soon be able to download publicity photos.

...and if you want more information on any of these topics, contact the WIZO Publicity Department.

World WIZO Publicity Chairperson Zipi Amiri says: Please remember to check into our WIZO website on a regular basis, and if you have something very interesting or exciting going on in your Federation, let us know and we will be happy to include it on the website.

And for those Hebrew speakers around the world, don't forget to look in at WIZO Israel's own website -www.wizo.org.il - which is also updated regularly with the latest WIZO news in the Israeli media and all the latest projects ■

See the article on pages 32-33, where Jenny Cohen Khallas gives guidelines on how to utilize the Internet for **your** Federation.

Remnants Revived

“Help find the remnants of our people,” was the plea of Chief Rabbi Herzog of Palestine to the British Jewish community in 1946*

Ingrid Rockberger



Evelyn Chenkin 1946

“the hidden children”....little does the Jerusalem researcher know that Evelyn Freedman (now Chenkin) is living just down the road from her in Kibbutz Tzora near Beit Shemesh ...

In the Conference 2000 (No. 290) issue of WIZO Review, I reviewed the recently published book *Gathering the Remnants* by Evelyn Chenkin, Hon.Vice President of WIZO.uk. Evelyn came on *aliya* with her late husband Eric in 1983 to join their two daughters who already lived in Israel.

Turn the clock back 63 years and the young Evelyn Freedman was on a special mission in France, rescuing Jewish children whose parents (or Jewish organizations) had tried to save them when the Nazis invaded France by placing them with Christian families and priests. Many of the parents were never seen again.

After the war, Jewish refugee organizations realized they must try to rescue these children and return them to their Jewish heritage.

Chief Rabbi Herzog of Palestine traveled to England on an urgent mission. He appealed to the Jewish community for funds to “help find the remnants of our people.” British Jewry responded generously, and it was decided that someone should go to France with the money and ‘buy back’ the children. As this was an illegal mission, the ‘somebody’ had to be above suspicion.

Evelyn embarks on her mission

At the time, Evelyn was studying Russian at the London School of Slavonic Studies, and working part-time at the London Beth Din. She was writing out the receipts for those very donations. Looking around their own office, the rabbis’ eyes fell on Evelyn. “Perfect,” they said, and asked Evelyn to go. She agreed, and an alibi was worked out whereby she was ‘studying in Paris’. With only schoolgirl French, never having left England, and with money stuffed ‘who knows where’ she set off. Her contacts in Paris (including French WIZO) provided her with

lists of the children and their last known whereabouts. As she went from town to town, from remote village to remote village, she encountered aggressive French peasants living in primitive conditions. She was refused admittance to convents and often had to run for her life clutching a rescued child. Many of the ‘protectors’ did not want to give up the children; it later became evident that some of them had been exploiting the children ‘as cheap labor’ and wished to continue to do so.

Many of the children didn’t even know they were Jewish, as they had been ‘abandoned’ as babies; others remembered nothing of their former lives. Later, in the safety of Jewish children’s homes, when the Shabbat candles were lit, or *matza* was distributed for *Pesach*, glimmers of recognition passed over the faces of some of the children, as they remembered their previous homes.

With only a short-term tourist visa, and unable to obtain a French identity card, Evelyn had to keep returning to England. Over the next 18 months she crossed the English Channel 26 times, and once was even interrogated by suspicious British police!

Rescue under harsh conditions

Existing on a mere pittance, and suffering from one of the harshest winters of the century, most of the time with barely enough to eat, which affected her health in later life, Evelyn persevered, and managed to rescue numerous children including reuniting brothers and sisters - often under the most touching circumstances.

Most of the time, she lived in fear of being discovered; she only



December 2008: Evelyn lighting chanukiah presented to her by the London Beth Din on the occasion of her marriage September 1948 in appreciation of her work in France.

continued because of the pleas by members of the French communal organizations - most notably Leah Reich of French WIZO, whom Evelyn describes as a ‘true woman of valor’.

Finally in February 1948, Evelyn felt she could do no more, and returned to England. There, she had to suppress all the memories of her illegal mission. At the time, she had only told her best friend what she was really doing - in case she didn’t return. Even her parents did not know.

SECRÉTARIAT I

SAINT-GEORGES (9^e ARR^e)

TÉLÉPHONE : TRUDAINE 92-06

PARIS, LE 7¹² May 1947.

Extracts from the letter written by Evelyn in 1947, on the notepaper of the Commission of Jewish War Orphans 17, rue Saint-George, Paris

Dear Chief Rabbi,

I am writing a report on behalf of Rabbi Swift who has been here again this week in connection with our work.

...the organization of redemption has not been at all easy, but I am glad to say the work is progressing favourably and presenting good results. Many months ago Rabbi Swift came to France to interview the Jewish leaders here, and despite opposition from certain quarters, was able to convene a meeting of various organizations.

As a result of this meeting the *Commission of Jewish War Orphans* was founded – which met regularly to review the situation and pool resources to obtain the best results. The commission engaged volunteers who visited convents and small villages searching for Jewish children still in the hands of non-Jews. Evelyn describes this work:

This work is still continuing and involves innumerable difficulties...a great number of these children have been redeemed and placed in the hands of private orthodox families...others have been found homes in England or have joined their families in America.

A number of Jewish organizations [among them French WIZO] were themselves contributing to gentile families for the maintenance of these orphans, but after a number of visits to these organizations by Rabbi Swift, an agreement was reached that the children be redeemed as speedily as possible, and this is being done.

Evelyn informs Rabbi Herzog that the Commission has been the impetus in the work and she is personally *gratified that many children have now been taken away from non-Jewish hands...*

I would assure you that no stone is being left unturned to rescue a child. Unfortunately so much time was allowed to elapse

between the Liberation and the setting up of the Commission to deal with the work in this country that a tremendous effort has been expended on the redemption of each child. Each case presents difficulties and complications – in many respects legal – which involves complete breaking down of tutelage and legal guardianships, search for relatives and cooperation of authorities, not withstanding the continual fight against these non Jews who have these children – not one has offered understanding or cooperation.

Rabbi Swift has accompanied some of our workers and myself to various villages and non-Jewish homes, and has seen for himself the tremendous difficulties involved.

Evelyn and her team also became involved with placing orphans from Eastern Europe in Jewish homes. She tells Rabbi Herzog “some hundreds have been saved”.

She closes by saying:

All that is left for me to say is that we shall continue this sacred work with all our hearts against whatever odds, and given the opportunity with God's help we shall succeed. ...I shall not lay down arms until all possible can be said to have been done.

Remember Evelyn was only 22 years old at the time!

After she returned to England at the end of her mission, she did not talk about it for many years until, in 1963, one of the rabbis involved at the time, urged her to write down her experiences. It was this manuscript that formed the basis of her book (now out of print) published in 1999.

Many years later an organization was formed of the “hidden children”. Evelyn has located some of those children she rescued and has talked about her mission to numerous WIZO and other groups. Currently a documentary film is being made. ■

Personal Fact File

Soon after her return to England, Evelyn married Eric Chenkin. As a tribute to Leah Reich and the gallant French WIZO women who helped her so much, she soon became involved in WIZO.uk (then the Federation of Women Zionists), where she was active in many departments. She served as FWZ vice-chairman and was eventually appointed an Honorary Vice-President of the Federation.

Her greatest contributions were in the field of child education, and aliya. Professionally, Evelyn was a teacher of classical Hebrew and religious studies, and her children's educational books “Dina and Dov's Adventures in Israel through the Jewish Year” were published and enjoyed by thousands of children.

When Evelyn arrived in Israel, she continued with her WIZO work, serving for many years as Chairman of the Liaison Committee for the English Speaking Groups in Israel.

* Chief Rabbi Yitzhak Halevi Herzog was born in Lomza, Poland, in 1889, moving to the UK with his family in 1898. He served as chief rabbi of Ireland from 1919-1936 and chief rabbi of Palestine from 1936-1948. His son, Chaim, was president of Israel from 1983-1993, and his grandson, Isaac, is currently Israel's Minister of Welfare and Social Affairs.

The True Face of Israel

Rolene Marks from Johannesburg, member of the South Africa Zionist Federation's Media Team Israel and World WIZO's young representative to the World Zionist Organization General Council, shares her views on a recent trip to Israel

I sit at the Jewish Agency General Assembly, taking part in the democratic processes of these hallowed Zionist institutions, where such giants in Jewish history as Herzl, Begin and Meir walked. I am proud to represent that international women's army of tenacious, dynamic and focused Zionist activists who transformed the political and social landscape of Israel even before the state was created and continue doing what they do best, working for an improved Israeli society. It should come as no surprise that it was an energetic circle of WIZO women who danced a rousing 'Hora' at the Zionist General Council evening to celebrate Tel Aviv's 100th birthday.

World media excels at focusing on negatives, ignoring Israel's vibrancy.

In the press, Israel is portrayed as one-dimensional, deeply mired in a conflict that overshadows daily life. World media excels at focusing on negatives, ignoring Israel's vibrancy – that Technicolor masterpiece with color so brilliant that no palette could ever do justice in a constantly unfolding kaleidoscope. But if you really want to get to the heart of the pressing issues, talk to an Israeli taxi driver. Speak to the people: those who made aliyah by choice or who fled persecution from 182 countries worldwide and for whom Israel is home. The country's mood is an ever-changing flux, picking up on external factors that contribute to its state of well-being.

On my last visit in November, the love affair with newly elected President Obama was evident. On this visit, a weary skepticism replaces the former romanticism. In post-**CastLead** Israel, global anti-Semitism, the burgeoning Iranian threat and growing boycott, divestment and sanctions are the battlefields we all need to be fighting on. The global recession and rising anti-Semitism was the focus of much of the discourse in packed sessions at the **Va'ad Hapoel** of the Zionist General Council and the Jewish Agency General Assembly.

Often scorned and accused of racism by those questioning her legitimacy, Israel is far more open than news headlines would have you believe. Those who compare Israel to apartheid South Africa should spend a few hours in the emergency room of any



Rolene Marks visits Theodor Herzl's grave in Jerusalem

Israeli hospital. I accompanied a friend to a Jerusalem hospital and observed how the Hippocratic Oath and the desire to save lives transcend any cultural or racial barrier. I saw an Arab doctor treat a soldier and a cancer-stricken Palestinian man treated by a religious Jewish doctor. It makes no difference if one wears a yarmulke or a keffiyeh. All are treated equally. All are treated - period. This is daily life in Israel. This is physical Zionism.

Israel is never boring. I love it that you can feel exasperation and pride at the same time; that you can reach out and touch your past, present and future. In short – I love Israel!

Where criticism of Israel's own politics is a national sport, debating 'Jewish politics' in Zionist institutions is an art form. It is thrilling to participate in the democratic process and to see the youth actively engaged in this process. This ability to self reflect sets Israel apart from her neighbors. Israelis invite dialogue on any number of topics and they debate with passion.

Israel is never boring. I love it that you can feel exasperation and pride at the same time; that you can reach out and touch your past, present and future. In short – I love Israel! ■

Celebrating Aviv

Vicky's New Year Message

As we welcome the New Year, may I wish all my WIZO friends a year of good health, of happiness, of mitzvot and success in our noble endeavors for WIZO and for better times for those who depend on us for an improved and wholesome life.

Like all of our festivities, Rosh Hashanah is also a reminder of the deep values of faith and family that are the base and strength of our people. So what a perfect time to fill ourselves with renewed hope, faith and strength for everything we plan to do.

The WIZO Latin American Congresses are held every four years in a different country, and this year, the 12th, was held in Panama in honor of Mrs. Vicky B. Nahmad. Although the congress was a huge challenge for all our members, I have to say that it was well worth all the effort and we all came through enriched from the experience.

For three wonderful days we had the unique opportunity to make new friends from Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Uruguay, Venezuela and USA, to share and to learn from one another. Renowned personalities from abroad and from Panama contributed to the educational part of the congress covering a broad scope. The sessions exceeded their assigned time, as the participants were excited and eager to get more and more information from them. Each day finished with a social event full of charm and creativity. One of these was dedicated to honor Mrs. Vicky B. Nahmad, an ex president of WIZO Panama with a long history of WIZO work.

First ever Aviv session

For the first time in history we held a one-day Aviv session, which included workshops and presentations by Sylvie Pelossof, Daniel Segre, Marcy Waterman, and me. This was a true learning and sharing experience, where we were able to express our doubts, explain the challenges we face, and talk of the successes we are capable of achieving. Sylvie and Danny gave us many new tools, and Marcy was very eloquent when she spoke about her WIZO experience. I had the opportunity to tell my story too, and although we arrived from different backgrounds, be it in English or Spanish, via the USA or Panama, our roads met because we were speaking the same language of love and dedication for our great and giving organization. I spoke about the first WIZO seminar I attended in Israel, which was the Aviv Seminar in 2008 and the impact it had on me. I concluded mentioning the lyrics of a popular Latin melody



Vicky Fidanque, Aviv Representative to the World WIZO Executive

that captured my feeling of the unique experience we were living and didn't want to forget...

"¿Cómo Olvidar lo que Vivimos, Cómo Expresar lo que Sentimos?"

"How can We Forget what We Lived, How can We Express what We Felt?"

Dear Aviv friends, we won't forget and we will never have a problem to express ourselves because it doesn't matter where we come from, we speak a WIZO language of similar and shared feelings.

Soon the next Aviv Seminar will take place in Tel Aviv, from November 15th to 19th. With a common language among us, I really hope we will meet to share and enrich one another.

But time passes fast, too fast, and there is an age limit for participants... after 45 we lose our chance to experience the most wonderful opportunity that WIZO gives us as the younger generation. Please mark your calendars and start getting ready!

Shana Tova Umetuka,
Vicky Fidanque

Aviv girls at the congress



Aviv girls having fun while learning to bond with each other under the supervision of Danny Segre



The more serious side: listening and concentrating

Latin American WIZO Congress Facing challenges, sharing triumphs



Congress delegates outside the synagogue "Shevet Achim" in Panama City

Briana Simon

In May this year, chaverot from across South and Central America gathered in Panama to take part in the 12th Latin American WIZO Congress under the banner of 'Israel, the Diaspora and WIZO –Links in a Chain.'

Delegations from Uruguay, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Colombia, Brazil, Chile and Mexico were joined by representatives from the United States at the congress hosted by WIZO Panama. It was particularly heartwarming to see chaverot from Venezuela, who came despite the difficult political situation there, and from Colombia and Costa Rica. Guests from Israel were World WIZO President Helena Glaser, World WIZO Organization and Education Chairperson Sylvie Pelossof and director of the department Ahuva Koren.

At three separate sessions during the congress, namely 'Working Successfully during an Economic Crisis' and 'Sharing Successful Ideas I and II,' delegates listened attentively as chaverot reported on the challenges facing their federation. These trouble-shooting sessions provided the audience with ideas for future activities and possible solutions for common problems.

Other presentations included: 'The Importance of Jewish

Education in Modern Life,' 'The Effects of the International Financial Crisis in Panama and Latin America,' 'Coping with Anti-Semitism,' 'the UN Women's Rights Committee,' and 'How the Media deals with the Middle East Issue.' World WIZO President Helena Glaser spoke of her experiences at Durban II and WIZO.

More professionalism

As more and more federations see the necessity to engage professionals to maximize their promotion and fundraising skills and increase their professionalism, organizational consultant Danny Segre was invited to conduct workshops on fundraising and membership under the heading of 'Inspiring People to Superior Performance.' Mr. Segre, who speaks fluent Spanish, also conducted a workshop for younger members, which was attended by 100 Aviv members, 20 of them from abroad, including many 17-year old pupils from the local Jewish school. Clearly fascinated by his presentation, the schoolgirls requested and were given permission to attend the congress on the following day.



Chaverot hard at work

The future of WIZO in caring and capable hands

It was particularly heartening to observe Aviv members' participation in all sessions. In the WIZO Aviv workshop, 'Listening to Aviv's Voice' presented by Aviv representative to World WIZO Vicky Lynn Fidanque from Panama and her predecessor Marci Waterman from the United States, it was evident that the future of WIZO is in caring and capable hands. These bright, young women eloquently motivated their audience with a clear Zionist message inspiring their peers to join them. Some of the Aviv members at the congress, encouraged by such enthusiasm, took advantage of the opportunity to register for the 2009 WIZO Aviv International Seminar, which will take place in Israel in November.

Growing up in the WIZO crib

A number of 12th graders from the local Jewish School shared their experiences of 'growing up in a WIZO crib' much to the delight of the assembled chaverot. In recent years, WIZO Panama has forged valuable links with young girls at the school preparing for their Bat Mitzva, by introducing them to WIZO and forming a close relationship with them: the objective being to cultivate the girls' identity with, and involvement in WIZO. At the end of the 12th grade, WIZO Panama bestows a 'WIZO Award' to the student who has demonstrated the greatest involvement in WIZO. Some of these girls had received special permission to assist during the congress and the enthusiasm and excitement of these young 'chaverot of tomorrow' was an inspiration to all.

Hasbara and hospitality

Zvi Yehezkeili, Middle East and Arab affairs correspondent of Israel's Channel 10 News brought delegates up to speed with his informative lectures on the situation in the Middle East. He also addressed a class of 17 year-old boys at the Jewish School. In press conferences convened by the Israeli Embassy in Panama City assisted by WIZO Panama, Panama-

based reporters from all over the world interviewed Zvi. His leveled response to questioning proved him to be an excellent ambassador of hasbara for Israel.

Aside from the formalities of the congress, WIZO Panama extended warm hospitality to all participants in a well-executed series of social events. Sandra and Shmuel Israel hosted a Shabbat dinner with a warm family atmosphere, and Betty and Ike Btsh invited delegates to an elegant reception in their home. In addition, all the delegates enjoyed a fascinating sightseeing tour of Panama City. At a grand gala dinner, the comedy, 'Behind a Great WIZO Woman – there is always a Great Man,' was a huge success as chaverot found humor in familiar circumstances. Indeed, this was a fitting tribute to the WIZO Panama husbands who were applauded for their invaluable and consistent support. Their openhearted and open-pocketed generosity was evident, not least for the substantial number of diamond, gold and silver WIZO pins sold.

Nothing left to chance

The chaverot of WIZO Panama led by President Estela Faskha left nothing to chance. Their outstanding organizational skills resulted in a wonderful congress. From the small, yet charming welcome gifts that awaited delegates in their hotel rooms, to the warm hospitality shown by WIZO Panama to their Pan-American counterparts, to the quality and relevance of the workshops and speakers, this was a congress par excellence. It was the result of months of preparations that brought together old friends and new blood and proved once again that WIZO's strength is in its members, and in the strong links they forge with one another – and Israel.



(l to r) Helena Glaser, Estela Faskha, Vicky Fidanque, Marci Waterman

This article and the one following are from the World WIZO Organization Department's "Lapid" publication, part of which is now being incorporated into WIZO Review. "Lapid" is geared to office holders, leaders and graduates of Lapid and AVIV seminars, and to every chavera who would like to enrich herself regarding subjects connected to organization and education. The complete Lapid publication is on-line on the WIZO website.

WIZO and the Internet: **Getting on the map**

Jenny Cohen-Khallas

A WIZO Federation can obtain and manage these resources by Internet: funding, pro-bono and in-kind resources, information and communications management, social relevance and lobbying, exposure, volunteers, giving and obtaining information, an unending address list, supporters and friends, coalitions and collaborations, and feedback.

Sources on the web to find these resources are varied. They start at Google and include websites, blogs, talk-backs, Internet news sites, banners, social and professional networks and advertising space on Google.

Many of us are unfamiliar with this world, so the following attempts to explain:

Websites

Here are a few categories of websites that can further the aims of your Federation:

- Your Federation should have its own, interactive¹ site that appeals to browsers to engage further, by giving his/her details, offering something or requesting something from the Federation.
- Websites of potential sources of volunteers, supporters and friends, coalitions and collaborations such as Jewish communities, other Jewish organizations, national and regional organizations that deal with WIZO subjects - women's rights or education and welfare of early childhood or youth.
- Websites of funding sources, such as central listings of foundations², local or regional Jewish or non-Jewish communities or businesses that support Israel, or that invest in women's rights, seniors, or education and welfare of early childhood or youth.
- Websites of other organizations that compete with WIZO for potential members.
- Websites of professional organizations having common ground with WIZO on a regional, national or international level, with whom your Federation could collaborate or pool resources.

Internet surfers don't really read. They (we!) gloss over the screen, zap from site to site. Why should anyone linger and absorb the information and invitations on our own site?

Your site should have a look and a text that can be taken in at a glance. The texts should be concise and extremely short, more like headlines than a full text, with letters large enough not to require great concentration. Any full text should be accessible in additional screens, at a click, to those who are

really interested. Most people do not read a full text. Let's be honest and admit that we also rarely read a whole text in a brochure, a pamphlet or a newspaper. We are more likely to skim over headlines, promise to read in depth later and never actually get around to it. So remember that a long text will not be read and will put potential readers off the site. Less is more! Any fault in the site will cause potential readers to abandon the site and go on to the next one, for example if a screen is temporarily disabled or not yet available, such as donating on-line, signing up or volunteering. So the site should be supervised constantly to prevent faults and out-dated information, like an invitation to last year's fundraiser or a report on a mission to Israel that is old news.

Have "buttons" on every screen that invite the browser, with no effort and no risk, to be in contact: for example to contribute, to give his/her opinion on some news item, to sign up for the newsletter, to check out membership, to volunteer, to join a planned mission.

Have a news roller that pinpoints WIZO's relevance to hot issues in the Jewish community, Israel and the world's social agenda. There are always news items, for example on abused women or alienated youth.

It is crucial to declare that any personal information the browser enters on-line, is protected. It is essential to ensure that this is indeed the case, especially regarding on-line donations.



Sponsorship

A website can include sponsor recognition on every screen. This is a win-win situation. Sponsorship funds the upkeep of the website to the standard of perfection that we want and also gives unlimited exposure to the sponsor.

Recruiting and maintaining members on-line

An excellent example of an NGO's recruiting and maintaining members, volunteers and supporters on-line is the Israeli organization, Table-to-Table at www.tabletotable.org.il.

Every screen should have a sizeable button that invites involvement of one kind or another, on-line.

The screen dedicated to membership should present concisely, objectively and exclusively, information on options available for challenging member involvement, both passive and active. It should not employ emotion-filled vocabulary. The facts speak

¹ An interactive site enables the readers and the site manager to exchange correspondence - information, opinions, feedback.

² or "Welcome Europe" Such as "The Foundations Directory"



more strongly to surfers seeking information.

Both members and potential members should be able to click from a headliner update, into a full, though short text reporting on activities that interest them, whether regarding the social aspect of WIZO meetings, fundraising, or educational content in WIZO or the world.

Your contact details should be clear and potential members should give their contact details. Make first contact effortless. Declare absolute discretion with information received.

Fundraising on-line

More and more people donate on-line, rather than by post or by any other traditional means. It is a no-cost time-saver for them and for you. In order to enable fundraising in your site, first research the legal and technical aspects, so that it will work smoothly from the beginning.

Style

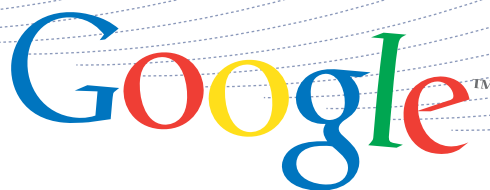
Your website's colors, background, lettering and any moving items on the screen, should aim solely to facilitate easy, quick intake of information and attract the browser in. The name of each screen should speak for itself to any browser who has never encountered WIZO. Each screen should only serve its purpose. For example, the fundraising screen should not include stories of success, history, or emotional descriptions, only the technicalities of fundraising. Remember that your site has several target groups: Members thirsty for updates, potential new members seeking meaningful social challenge, strangers interested in WIZO's subject matter – education and welfare in Israel and women's rights.

Remember to update photos and stories, to retain relevance to current social issues. Don't give visibility only to the top WIZO echelons, but to the youngest and newest also.

Use numbers to show your Federation's success. Don't boast, but show achievements descriptively. Be accountable and enable access to financial information.

Internet-based information and communications management

Information management programs are costly, and require technical support, updating, training sessions and time-consuming installation. Internet-based information and communications management does away with all this. As you know, you can manage your bank accounts and investments yourself today, from home. That is an on-line management system. Such a system makes running a Federation smooth, transparent to staff and members, enables round-the-clock management of projects, donors, tasks, news bulletins, publications, assessment of achievements and progress. An Internet management system eliminates mistakes due to faulty communications – "I said, no she said" arguments! Go into www.altro.co.il to try one out for free.



Blogs, banners, virtual newspapers, talk-backs, social and professional networks, free ad sites, links with other organizations' sites.

Use of all the above enables constant exposure, mostly for free, but consumes time. A Federation requires a volunteer eager to adopt the challenge of being the Internet sleuth, using every opportunity, sometimes even daily, to put in the Federation's contribution to a public discussion on WIZO subjects – the Federation's agenda or women's rights, welfare and education in Israel, youth at risk, early childhood, elderly care. Respectable and positive participation (not negative haranguing) in news item talk-backs (the readers' contribution that appears after an article in an on-line newspaper) reflects positively on the Federation, WIZO and Israel. It can bring new members eager to identify with an organization that is visible, relevant and a worthy participant in today's social issues. Banners (ads in Internet search engines, virtual newspapers and commercial sites) are not gratis, but are useful to significantly increase participation and donations for a specific and short campaign or event.

Including WIZO and the Federation's aims and agendas at every opportunity in on-line networks also enables vast exposure, for example in Twitter, LinkedIn or Facebook.

Reciprocal links between your Federation's site and other organizations' sites are a type of collaboration that serves both sides, showing positive attributes of openness, cooperation and mutuality in both organizations. These are attractive qualities today in an organization that awakens a positive attitude to identifying with it.

To sum up, the Internet is a bottomless well of opportunities for the Federation to attract and maintain members, donors and enjoy constant, positive exposure, keeping it in the relevant public's eye.

Being on the Internet means being on the map.

WIZO in Israel



Education Minister Gideon Sa'ar enjoying his visit to Nachlat Yehuda



Two of the pupils feeding a young calf



Flying for Gilad



Yochy Feller (l) and Helena Glaser, some of the children and their kites

Flying Kites for Gilad Shalit

Every summer, for the past 42 years, in conjunction with the Ministry of Defense WIZO holds a summer camp for some 200 children and young siblings of fallen soldiers or terror victims. However, this year, the Ministry withdrew its funding at the last minute. Determined not to let the children down, WIZO approached the Jewish Agency and the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews run by Rabbi Yehiel Eckstein, both of whom stepped into the breach at the last minute.

Held in WIZO's Nachlat Yehuda School and Youth Village, one of the activities this year, on the initiative of the children themselves, was a "Kite for Gilad" program, where the children made kites depicting the photo of abducted Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, culminating in an air display of their handiwork. On the back of the kites, the children wrote personal messages to Gilad.

Looking After the Animals

Students at WIZO Nachlat Yehuda School and Youth Village gave up their summer vacation to stay on at the school and care for the animals in the school's dairy and petting corner. A welcome visitor was Minister of Education Gideon Sa'ar, who was shown round by school director Dr. Hezi Yosef, who explained the educational values of giving the pupils the responsibility for the welfare of the animals.

WIZO Israel Opens the New Year

The WIZO hall in Tel Aviv headquarters was filled to capacity on the 2nd of September when the new year of activities of WIZO Israel was officially opened by WIZO Israel chairperson Yochy Feller. New Year greetings were given by Helena Glaser and Tova Ben Dov. Helena proudly announced that

in the hall were six previous WIZO Israel chairpersons: Shula Braudo, Michal Modai, Ruth Tekoah, Helena, Thelma Neri and Yochy Feller.

Fifty-five branches were represented from all over the country, with 15 chaverot coming by minibus all the way from Eilat, Israel's southernmost city – which meant leaving home at 4.45 in the morning to arrive on time!

World WIZO President Helena Glaser congratulated Yochy Feller on her achievements, saying that WIZO Israel is the heart and backbone of the movement.

Yochy introduced veteran WIZO Israel chairperson Shula Braudo who spoke to the gathering and explained about the 'Members' Fund' which provides help in the form of loans to WIZO members who are in financial difficulties. Recently the fund has been overwhelmed with requests for help, but with funds dwindling Shula appealed to former World WIZO President Raya Jaglom, who gave a generous donation and is



Making the kites for Gilad



WIZO hall in Tel Aviv packed to capacity at WIZO Israel's new year opening



Chaverot in the grounds of WIZO Herzlia Pituach at WIZO Israel's annual meeting



Yochy Feller and Raya Jaglom announcing that all proceeds from the sale of Raya's autobiography will go to the WIZO Fund



Shula Braudo addressing the chaverot at WIZO Israel's new year opening

donating all proceeds from the Hebrew translation of her autobiography to the fund.

In reviewing the last year, Yochy described the difficulties faced by the branches because of economic cuts and efficiency measures. However, despite this, activities continued, courses were held and funds were raised, with some of the branches even exceeding their quota. One of the highlights of the year was the opening of the re-built WIZO community center in Kadima-Tzoran, situated in the Sharon area. Sixteen new branch chairs attended a course on branch management, and regular meeting are held for executive members of branches to help them with problems and exchange ideas.

Due to budget cuts, the annual meeting of WIZO Israel was cut from three days to one and was held in the WIZO center at Herzlia Pituach. Despite lack of assistance from the National Insurance Institute, WIZO branches have continued to organize bar and bat mitzvah

ceremonies for children of single parents and for families who cannot afford to celebrate this important milestone in their children's lives.

The ADI project in Beersheva (see WR No.321 page 30) has been a great success and is now being emulated by the new Refuge for Young Women in Eilat, which was opened earlier in the year. This home provides a safe haven for girls who are totally estranged from their families and have been involved with drugs and/or criminal elements: some become pregnant and have even attempted suicide. Rehabilitation courses will hopefully steer these young women to a better and brighter future. Plans for the coming year include: special activities to attract younger women to the movement, the opening of centers to aid couples who are divorcing, in November activities will be held to mark the International Day for Violence against the Elderly. Many events are being planned to mark WIZO's 90th anniversary including a glittering gala at the Tel Aviv

Opera House featuring Gil Shochat, one of Israel's most famous young musicians, the Raanana Symphonette Orchestra and some of Israel's young opera stars. A third trip to Poland is being planned for next spring.

Nahalal Pupils Amongst Top Fighters

Six pupils from WIZO's Nahalal School plus two students from the Sde Yaakov yeshiva recently passed stringent trials for entry into the Reconnaissance Patrol of the General Staff. The fact that both educational institutions are situated in the Jezreel Valley is no accident, according to Eyal Bazar, head of the Jezreel Valley Local Authority. "It is the result of the high quality Zionist and traditional education in the Jezreel Valley... WIZO Nahalal is a leading school in Israel when taking into account the number of its graduates who are in the elitist units of the IDF."



WIZO *around the world*



UK L-R: Miriam Falk, Leila Wynbourne MBE, Ruth Fink at Rebecca Sieff Day event



UK JCWIZONET L-R: WIZO.uk Chairman Loraine Warren, Jewish Chronicle Editor Stephen Pollard, Ruby Wax, Andy Lopata and Saul Zneimer, head of Business Development BHI



UK Volunteers' Seminar: L-R: Alison Rosen (Exec. Director WIZO.uk), Michele Vogel, Leonie Lewis (Director Jewish Volunteer Network), Rosalind Preston OBE (President Jewish Volunteer Network), Elissa Bayer (Investment Manager Charles Stanley), Diana Wolfen (Head of the Changing Direction Consultancy), Samantha Simons (corporate trainer), Nicky Goldman (UJIA Director of Leadership and Development), Vivienne Kesztenbaum (Chairman Emunah), and Marilyn Brummer (Chairman League of Jewish Women)

UNITED KINGDOM

Rebecca Sieff Day honors

Three exceptional WIZO women were honored at this year's Rebecca Sieff Day. WIZO.uk Honorary President Leila Wynbourne MBE received the Lily Sieff Award for her outstanding service to WIZO and Israel. The award, in the name of the late Lady Sieff, life patron and trustee of WIZO.uk and daughter-in-law of Rebecca Sieff, was presented for only the seventh time in the history of WIZO.uk's annual Founder's Day. WIZO.uk Honorary President Ruth Sotnick told the 275 guests at London's Hilton Metropole, 'Leila has led a life giving unstintingly to the community, giving of herself and never wanting anything in return.' She spoke of Leila's 60 years of voluntary work for WIZO and Israel, emphasizing her deep and passionate concern for the welfare of Soviet Jewry. WIZO.uk President Michele Vogel presented the Regional Rebecca Sieff Award to Ruth

Fink for 50 years' service to the WIZO North Cheshire group, of which she was a founder member. The London Rebecca Sieff Award was presented to Miriam Falk, chairman of *WIZO in the Woods* in St. John's Wood, by WIZO.uk Honorary President Gina Monty.

Volunteers' Seminar – a first for WIZO.uk

WIZO.uk held its first seminar for volunteers at WIZO House in London, attended by over 40 guests including speakers from the voluntary sector, members of the WIZO.uk Executive and representatives of Jewish women's organizations in the UK. Speaking at the workshop, WIZO.uk President Michele Vogel said, 'Women have an important voice today and an interest in giving back to the society in which they live. The time we give as volunteers should be viewed as quality time. It is important to make people feel valued, whatever their role.' Rosalind Preston OBE told the audience, 'Volunteering is an opportunity to learn, to progress and to develop. To be a good volunteer you have to be passionate

about the organization, giving up part of your time and energy to the cause.'

JCWIZONET – Business Network Launch

Networking is the way forward – that was the general consensus as WIZO.uk launched the *JCWIZONet* at London's Congress House with 120 guests and representatives of sponsors Bank Hapoalim (BHI), Ahava and bmi. The business network is designed to encourage working men and women to keep in touch, enabling everyone to benefit from the others' business experiences, skills and expertise. Guest speaker comedienne Ruby Wax, whose theme was *Trust in the Workplace*, used extracts from her more successful celebrity interviews and her less satisfactory encounters to illustrate her points on communication. Beatrice Rates, representing Young WIZO under 35s, referred to networking opportunities and the focus of this new facility to respond to the needs of networking across all age groups and both genders. The *JCWIZONet.am* is a series of breakfast meetings for men and women while The *JCWIZONet.pm* events are primarily for women only.



UK L-R: Linda Glancy, Michele Pollock, Joy Wolfe MBE and Elizabeth Parlons at Chairmen's Forum.



UK L-R: Carol Marks (opener), David Sassoon (guest speaker), Ruth Fink (co-chairman), June Coppel (event organizer) and Rae Ingleby (co-chairman)



UK Sponsor A Child lunch L-R: Diana Morgenthau, Revital Liraz, Rosalyn Springer, Jacqueline Gee



UK Moroccan Friday with Young WIZO

Joy addresses the Chairmen's Forum

South Manchester's Joy Wolfe was the guest speaker at the WIZO.uk Chairmen's Forum held at the Marjorie & Arnold Ziff Community Center in Leeds. Elizabeth Parlons, WIZO.uk membership co-chair, congratulated Joy on receiving her MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honors List. Mrs. Wolfe spoke about the current situation in Israel. A number of Leeds and Manchester WIZO groups were represented at the forum as well as WIZO groups from Harrogate and Newcastle.

Sponsor A Child Lunch guests listen to Revital

This year's *Sponsor A Child* Lunch, held at the northwest London home of Linda and Bob Tanner, welcomed 60 guests who raised in excess of £50,000 for disadvantaged and at-risk children in Israel. The guest speaker was Revital Liraz, director of the ADI Project for vulnerable young women at the WIZO Beit Sherman Women's Center, in Beer Sheva. The Beit Sherman center also offers counseling,

training and care to women of all ages. Co-chairs of the lunch were Sarah Glyn and Pamela Crystal.

The Glamour of Bellville Sassoon

North Cheshire WIZO held a June Style Lunch at Cheshire's Bowdon Synagogue with guest speaker society fashion designer David Sassoon, who enchanted the 215 guests with anecdotes of his 50 years in the British fashion industry. Mr. Sassoon donated £5 to WIZO from each copy of his book, *The Glamour of Bellville Sassoon*, sold at the lunch. The event raised approx £9,500 for WIZO projects in Israel.

Young WIZO's Friday Night Dinner with a Moroccan flavor

Young WIZO held a Moroccan-themed Friday night dinner for 165 guests at the Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue in London's Maida Vale. Young WIZO coordinator Vivian Citronenbaum said, 'this was our first-ever Shabbaton dinner

and it was a huge success. The synagogue was decorated with a Moroccan-inspired theme and a relaxed and friendly atmosphere allowed people to mingle and have a wonderful time in the spirit of WIZO. WIZO.uk hope to be holding more Friday night gatherings in the near future.

The Ruth Borchard Collection benefits WIZO

The late Ruth Borchard started collecting British self-portraits in the late 1950s, setting herself a ceiling price of 21 guineas (\$37 at today's exchange rates!) for any one picture. Such bravado did not restrain her from collecting 100 self-portraits of renowned young artists, including those by Raymond Coxon, Ithell Colquhoun, Carel Weight and Anne Redpath. Ruth Borchard's daughter-in-law is Miriam Borchard, vice chairman of WIZO.uk, membership chair and an active member of the WIZO.uk Executive. The collection recently exhibited at London's Kings Place Gallery. A private viewing prior to the three-week exhibition raised funds for WIZO art therapy projects in Israel.

WIZO around the world



CANADA CHW
Montreal Major Gifts Breakfast
L-R: Bella Fox, Rose Milner, Sara Karn, and Sonja Langburt



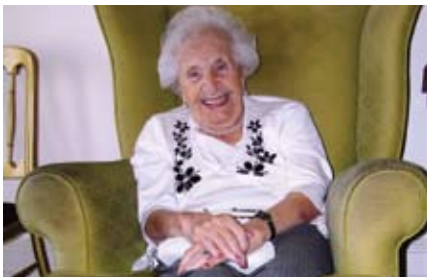
UK L-R: AVIV's Cherry Sholem with Jewish Princess cookbook authors Tracey Fine and Georgie Tarn, WIZO.uk Chairman Loraine Warren and Jackie Kalms, chairman of WIZO.uk Westcliff.



UK L-R: Loraine Warren, Katherine Hallgarten, (daughter of Ruth Borchard), Miriam Borchard at the Borchard Exhibition



CANADA CHW
Montreal Major Gifts Breakfast L-R: Sarah Hutman, Marla Dan, Maxine Sanders & Susan Abramowitz



Fela Kerstein on her 100th birthday

Fondly remembering Fela

Fela Kerstein died on 20th July 2009 aged 101. Believed to be WIZO.uk's oldest member, gracious and indomitable Fela was a loyal and well-informed Zionist. A member of the executive and a life vice president, Fela headed WIZO's education department for several years, organizing and chairing seminars and delivering lectures on Israel and on notable figures in Anglo Jewish and Zionist history. From the earliest days, WIZO, or as it was then, the Federation of Women Zionists, was her life and she was a dedicated and committed member. She is survived by her only daughter, Rosalind Wright, three granddaughters, Candy, Pandora and Miranda, and seven great-grandchildren.

CANADA

CHW Montreal holds Major Donor Breakfast

Canadian Hadassah-WIZO's (CHW) Montreal center honored major donors with a breakfast at Sarah Hutman's stunning penthouse in Le Sanctuaire. Guests enjoyed a lavish buffet and were updated by CHW National President Marla Dan and Montreal Center President Susan Abramowitz. Vered Elron, wife of the Israeli consul general, brought greetings from Israel. Annual Campaign Chair Maxine Sanders thanked the major donors for their steadfast commitment. Marla Dan spoke of her recent visit to CHW projects in Israel. There was not a dry eye in the house as she described the **Yom Hazikaron** (Remembrance Day) commemoration at Nahalal Technical School where students remembered their fallen friends whose names are inscribed on the school's memorial board. The committee of volunteers included Sarah Hutman, Roslyn Joseph, Judith Lifshitz, Miriam Peletz, Marsha Ptack, Maxine

Sanders, Rhonda Schwartz, Carol Seltzer, Alana Shiveck and Harriet Star.

CHW Toronto launches Annual Campaign with Guest Speaker Brigitte Gabriel

CHW Toronto Center welcomed celebrated journalist, author and speaker Brigitte Gabriel to their annual campaign event attended by over 350 guests including 80 patrons at the Canadian Japanese Cultural Center in Toronto. Ms Gabriel, one of the most sought after experts on terrorism in the world, captivated guests with her personal story of growing up in a bomb shelter in Lebanon, and her rescue by Israeli soldiers. Ms Gabriel spoke about the brutality and single mindedness of the radical Islamic regime and the threat posed to Western civilization. A reception of tasty vegetarian fare, donated kosher wine and homemade desserts prepared by CHW chaverot was enjoyed by all those present.



NEW YORK L-R: Nazee Moinian, Mireille Manocherian, Mona Sterling, Gail Perl, Sandra Perl, Sarita Rausnitz, Marci Waterman



CANADA TORONTO L-R: (back row) Marlene Richardson, Jennifer Gotkin, Fran Luborsky, Rachel Walters and Sheryl Simon L-R: (front row) Sarah Granatowicz, Shelley Fine, guest speaker Brigitte Gabriel, Tali Baum, Jacqueline Alloul, and CHW National President Marla Dan



NEW YORK Children modeling WIZO at the fashion show

USA

New York

Eleventh Annual 'Children for our Children' Fashion Show

WIZO New York under the leadership of Gail Perl, Marci Waterman, Mireille Manocherian and Victoria Sakhai, held its 11th Annual *Children for our Children* Fashion Show and Luncheon at the Plaza. Haley and Jason Binn chaired the event. The Benefit Committee chairpersons were Amy Miller Gross, Jennifer Goodman and Allyson Silver Wiener. The journal chairpersons were Allison Rosenfeld and Marcy Sakhai. Samantha Yanks and Aimee Zarabi chaired the auction. The Fashion Show chairs were Fortune Dushey, Mireille Manocherian, Jacqueline Rosen, Victoria Sakhai, and the wonderland chairpersons were Lauren Allaham, Callae Brownstein, and Julianne Wainstein. The fashion show featured 84 gorgeous young models, children of WIZO supporters and friends and the *Hand in Hand* walk by young mothers, grandmothers and babies, was chaired by Lois Block, Sandy Gross, Diane

Lieberman, Carol Miller and Michelle Rosenfeld. Funds raised from the luncheon will help to create a Shabbat House at the WIZO Nir Haemek Youth Village in Afula to provide a wholesome living environment for WIZO boarding school students who would otherwise have no place to go when school is closed on weekends and holidays.

Celebrating Israel New York style

WIZO New York celebrated Israel's 61 years of independence with dinner and dancing at Kellari Taverna. Guests were greeted by WIZO USA President Evelyn Sommer and Vice-President Mira Sofer. Her Excellency Ambassador Professor Gabriela Shalev, permanent representative of Israel to the United Nations presented the official greetings of the State of Israel.

Florida

Volunteers honored for their outstanding dedication

WIZO Florida President Anita Friedman

and Vice-Presidents Jana Falic and Beverly Koplowitz hosted a dinner in recognition of their hardworking and devoted volunteers. Over 70 chaverot attended the event celebrating the achievements of Florida chapters and volunteers. Volunteer of the Year awards went to Jenny Ivcher Klainbaum and Mariana Wiznitzer for their outstanding contribution to the WIZO Community Bat Mitzvah. Vicky Abadi, Sofia Ackerman, Michelle Amselem, Reyna Behar, Diana Bursztyn, Jenny Elbaz, Vicky Ghitis, Lisa Falic Groisman, Audrey Lederman, Susana Levy, and Margie Szerer received Volunteer Recognition awards for Ten Years of Outstanding Dedication to WIZO and the people of Israel.

Honoring mothers and sponsoring children

Over 200 chaverot gathered to honor their mothers, grandmothers and the special women in their lives by sponsoring children at a Mother's Day *Sponsor A Child* Luncheon & Bazaar chaired by Lillian Tabacinic and Raquel di Capua. Guest speakers included Lucette

WIZO around the world



NEW YORK Guests enjoy Israeli dancing at Kellari Taverna



SAN FRANCISCO L-R: (standing) Tally Kaplan, Pazit Rubin, Silvina Kishinevsky, Lior Kogot, Gaby Kasan, Ronit Melamud, Sara Goren, Betty Paz, Smadar Tadmor (seated) Racheli Gal, Evelyn Sommer, Galit Rand and Revital Zohar

FLORIDA L-R: (front row) Mercedes Ivcher, Ruthy Benoliel, Raquel di Capua, Lucette Lagnado, Lillian Tabacinic, Carolyn Hessel, Jana Falic, Tzipporah Marcel. (back row) Keren Edelsburg, Danielle Lifshitz, Rebeca Schapiro, Rosita Retelny, Jeannine Fuhrmann, Beverly Koplowitz, Margie Szerer, Evelyn Faigenblat, Melanie Lencovski, Guitele Pomerantz, Sara Kanarek, Patricia Cohen, Anita Friedman, Jaya and Ariela Zebede

Lagnado, award-winning author of *The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit* and Jewish Book Council director Carolyn Hessel. Lucette Lagnado spoke of her family's life in Egypt and their struggle to immigrate to America while Carolyn Hessel gave insight and perspective into Mrs. Lagnado's personal journey in writing the book. WIZO USA Vice-President Jana Falic made an emotive appeal, which elicited a generous response from chaverot knowing that the money raised will change lives for the better in Israel.

San Francisco

For the benefit of returning soldiers

WIZO San Francisco chaired by Galit Rand, held a board meeting at the home of Ronit Melamud and a fundraising dinner to benefit the Beit Haboger Returning Soldiers Home in Nir Ha'emek. WIZO USA President Evelyn Sommer addressed the audience at the home of Judy and Yossi Perl.

EUROPE

AUSTRIA

Gender medicine conference at the UN in Vienna

A high-profile conference on gender sensitive medical care was organized by Dr. Hava Bugajer, president of WIZO Austria and WIZO's NGO representative to the UN in Vienna. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Status of Women chaired by Rosy Weiss from the International Alliance of Women. Dr. Bugajer moderated the four speakers. They were Dr. Amnon Afek, senior lecturer at the Sackler Medical School at Tel Aviv University, Women's Health Commissioner for the City of Vienna Professor Dr. Beate Wimmer-Puchinger, who spoke about breast cancer screening programs in Vienna, Professor Dr. Veronika Fialka-Moser from Vienna's medical university who discussed the needs of women in rehabilitation programs and Vienna's Professor

Jeanette Strametz-Juraneck, a specialist in cardiology who spoke about gender aspects in cardiologic diseases. The conference was well attended by NGOs, personnel from IAEA (International Atomic Energy Commission) and other UN organizations located in Vienna. Aviva Michaeli, wife of the Israeli Ambassador to the UN in Vienna and Malka Giladi, wife of the Israeli economic attaché were among the guests.

Commemorating the liberation of Mauthausen

Earlier this year, Austria's president and leading government officials gathered to commemorate the liberation of the Mauthausen concentration camp in Upper Austria. Before the general ceremony, national commemorations by individual countries were attended by former prisoners, their families and community members. A delegation from WIZO Austria attended the Jewish ceremony in the presence of the Israeli ambassador, His Excellency Dan Ashbel, his wife Zahava, the Israeli economic attaché Yoram Giladi, the chairman of



FRANCE *The big WIZO Purim Lotto*



BELGIUM *L-R: Varda Cywie, Rosine Swiercynski (past president), Sophie Weinblum (president WIZO Liège)*



BELGIUM *Rolling the tombola under the direction of Mr. Jean-Luc Wenric*

the Austrian Jewish community and Jewish organization representatives who were accompanied by a group of Israeli flag waving scouts who had made the journey from Tel Aviv.

BELGIUM-LUXEMBOURG

Antwerp events are always food for thought

The industrious Belgian chaverot presented a series of conferences on interesting subjects, such as *Genetic Decoding* by Aviva Hazan, and a debate on the Jews in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan by WIZO friend Armand Schmidt entitled *Happy as Jews in the Caucasus?* WIZO chef Raya Wimmer gave a vegetarian cooking lesson, which appealed to everyone's taste buds. The book clubs held each year at the home of WIZO Belgium vice-president, Vicky Hollander, continues to delight readers who come to discuss literary works in a relaxed atmosphere. Despite the current economic crisis, the tombola organized by Edith Drabkin and Daniele Piepsz was an outstanding success.

Weekly parental coaching meetings with Talia Stelman-Lowy provide a bridge between the generations and prove to be an invaluable tool in improving communications between parents and their children – and vice versa.

Liège – small but active

This year's annual dinner and tombola draw was kindly hosted by Maria Edelman in her home. The tombola is always popular and this year was no exception as WIZO chaverot kept the drum rolling to end the year on a high note.

FRANCE

WIZO France celebrates Women's Day

'Being a woman in today's world is a man's job' – that was the provocative subject pondered at the very first event organized under the direction of new WIZO France President Joelle Lezmi. WIZO France marked Women's Day in March with an afternoon of reflection and debate at the Palais Bourbon at the

General Assembly. The topic was analyzed by a multi-disciplinary panel comprising of Joelle Lezmi, life coach Stephanie Lahache and Delphine Horvilleur, the wife of the rabbi of the Liberal Jewish Movement of France.

Purim Lotto – another first for WIZO France

The Municipality of the XVI^e arrondissement of Paris donated premises for WIZO to launch a new event – the first big WIZO Purim lotto. In festive spirit, adults and children joined in the fun. Many gifts were handed out and children were mesmerized by the antics of the resident clown. Everyone enjoyed the refreshments buffet, particularly the children who clamored for the candy floss.

Literary Evening at Ambassador's Residence

To mark the launch of the book, *Les Invites*, by the writer Pierre Assouline, WIZO France organized a splendid literary evening at the residence of

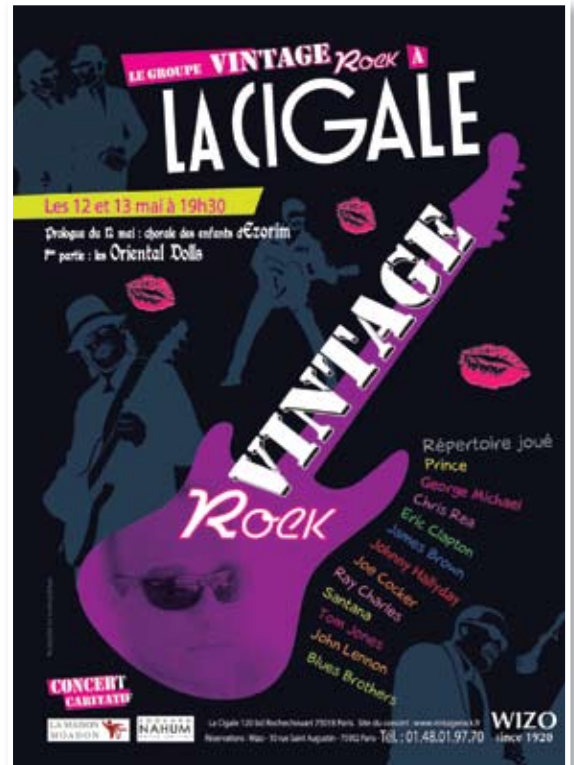
WIZO around the world



FRANCE *HE David Kornbluth addresses the audience. (3rd right) Joelle Lezmi, (2nd right) writer Pierre Assouline*



FRANCE *The grandchildren of Sonia Cohen-Scali lighting the candles surrounded by WIZO France members. (3rd left) Yvette Sebbag and (far right) Joelle Lezmi*



FRANCE *Vintage Rock Concert*

His Excellency Mr. David Kornbluth, Ambassador of Israel to UNESCO, and his wife Ety. Notable figures from the literary world joined WIZO France President Joelle Lezmi, Laurianne Boucris, chairperson of the WIZO Reading Committee, members of the WIZO Reading Committee and WIZO chaverot at this most prestigious event organized by Nadine Feingold.

Twinning towns

To mark the twinning of the town of Saint Maur near Paris with the Israeli town of Ramat Hasharon, the Jaffa Negev branch of WIZO France presented a theater performance of *Avant la Ceremonie* (Before the Ceremony) directed by French Academy member Naim Kattan.

5769 Candles for Peace, lighting the flames of hope

WIZO France President Joelle Lezmi set a challenge for *Yom Ha'atzmaut* (Israel Independence Day) for all the WIZO France groups to light candles in the colors of the Israeli flag on the same day

and at the same time as celebrations in Israel got under way. French chaverot rose to the challenge with their usual accuracy and flair and thousands of little blue and white candles were lit as Israeli songs were sung with gusto. The celebration ended with a stirring rendition of the *Hatikvah*.

Rocking for Rehovot's School of the Second Chance

The choir *Ezorim Children* travelled from Netanya for a very special vintage rock concert, opening the event at Paris's Cigale Theater. The audience was transported back in time to the vibes of the seventies and eighties by the Vintage Rock Band, composed of famous artistes who had played with the likes of Sting, Lionel Ritchie, Celine Dion and Tom Jones. The proceeds of this toe-tapping event will benefit the WIZO Rehovot School, known affectionately as the 'school of the second chance', to buy musical instruments and finance courses.

And a small child will show you the way

The Jewish child, whose role is central to Jewish tradition, should know his heritage and the richness of his history. A lecture-debate held in June discussed this principle and its biblical roots. The panel comprised of WIZO France President Joelle Lezmi, psychoanalyst Joelle Bernheim, Professor of History and Judaism Rosine Cohen and Rabbi Olivier Kaufmann. WIZO members were enriched by the message of their mission as 'conveyors of knowledge, conveyors of memory and conveyors of identity.'

After Work chic and style

WIZO France's brand new Atid branch really hit the high note with their *After Work* gathering in a city center loft. The atmosphere was buzzing with electro-jazz music, laughter and camaraderie as revelers reached their goal of getting WIZO's message across under the slogan of 'let's commit to Israel.'



FRANCE *After Work*

FRANCE L-R: Golf de Fourqueux President M. Refait, Joelle Lezmi, Golf de Fourqueux director M. Pelard, HE Daniel Shek, Eliane Sprung, Michel Sprung, Paul Zajfen and Sophie Sprung



FRANCE Josette Guigui presents author Fabrice Humbert with a statue made by Dora Eskenazi



GERMANY Dina and Leonie Spiegel with their late father's book



GERMANY L-R: Christine Glasner, Barbel Schafer and Prof. Claus Helmer

The WIZO France Golf Tournament 2009

For 31 years, the WIZO France Golf Tournament has been played on the magnificent *Fourqueux* Golf Course. Over 150 keen players took up their clubs to compete for WIZO France Golf Cup 2009, which was organized by Elaine Sprung and Paul Zajfen. WIZO France President Joelle Lezmi and Israeli Ambassador to France His Excellency Daniel Shek were among the participants.

Closing the book in Marseille

In June, the reading committee of the Carmel group in Marseille gathered in the magnificent home of Simon and Annie Amic for their closing evening. The guest of honor was Fabrice Humbert, author of the book, *L'Origine de la Violence*, who was awarded WIZO Marseille's reading committee prize, *Prix Coup de Coeur 2009*. Josette Guigui, chairperson of WIZO Marseille held a discussion with the author about his book. Dora Eskenazi, accomplished artist and devoted WIZO chavera, presented the

author with a statue crafted especially for the event depicting the goddess mother, whose task it is to protect the child from violence.

GERMANY

The favorite Jewish jokes of Paul Spiegel

It was a laugh a minute at WIZO Frankfurt's benefit evening held in May at the Frankfurt Intercontinental Hotel when the late Paul Spiegel's hilarious book, *Jetzt mal Tacheles*, a compilation of the author's favorite Jewish jokes and humor was showcased. Over 120 guests were greeted by Thomas Hilberath, director of the hotel, and listened to readings from the book given by Christine Glasner and Professor Claus Helmer. Paul Spiegel's daughters, Dina and Leonie Spiegel acquainted guests with their father's passion for Jewish humor. Barbel Schafer moderated the proceedings with charm, introducing friends of Mr. Spiegel who spoke in glowing terms of this special man and his extraordinary sense of humor. Paul Spiegel would have certainly seen the funny side of such a gathering in his honor.

Frankfurters flock to Lunapark

The Ignatz Bubis Community Center was gaily decorated for the WIZO Frankfurt's Purim Lunapark and the crowds came along intent on enjoying all the fun of the fair. It was a frenzy of activity with all WIZO chaverot manning the many stalls. Tots tumbled on the bouncy castle in Kiddy Land and children whooshed down the rolling slide one after the other. The brand new bungee jump was a big hit. Brave would-be cowboys tested their skill on the bucking rodeo and there were also numerous stalls for less adventurous participants. These included arts and crafts, face painting, and numerous gaming stalls. Arturo the clown made the crowds howl with laughter and delighted the children with his artfully created balloon art. There were gifts and prizes for all. To satisfy appetites, chaverot served tasty pasta dishes as well as popcorn, cotton candy and mouth-watering patisseries courtesy of the Mayer bakery. Generous sponsors included Baby Glam, Pfüller, Picolino, Tatzelwurm and Mama & Co.

WIZO around the world



GERMANY L-R: Sonya Kraus, Y. Bauschke, E. Gruza

GERMANY

Guests listen to 'Jazz and More' at the WIZO Darmstadt bazaar



GERMANY

Frankfurt L-R: S. Liebensohn-Jammer, G. Uschwaew, N. Bar, M. Wildberger, D. Baum



GERMANY All the fun of the fair with Arturo the Clown

Learning from Sonya the secrets of beauty and seduction

Sonya Kraus, one of the most beautiful women on TV in Germany, introduced her new book, *Body Construction Site*, at the beautiful residence of Sandra and Dr. Florian Janis.

Following a welcome by the hostess, Sonya read from her book and shared her beauty and seduction secrets. After the reading, WIZO Germany President Rachel Singer thanked the author and hosts. The 70 guests enjoyed drinks and a lavish buffet. The proceeds of the evening went to Villa Meder, WIZO Germany's new project in Eilat – a home for young women at risk.

Jazz and more at the Darmstadt bazaar

In May, WIZO Darmstadt presented their annual bazaar at the Darmstadt Jewish Community Center under the auspices of WIZO Germany President Mrs. Rachel Singer and Mrs. Gabriele Zander, chairman of the Evangelical Church and

Israel Circle in Hesse and Nassau. Aviva Steinitz, chairperson of the Darmstadt WIZO group opened the bazaar. Among the offerings were a vast selection of books at the book fair, CDs from Israel, hand-made jewelry and crafts, Dead Sea cosmetics, second-hand clothes, and the ever-popular raffle, as well as Israeli wines, Israeli and Russian delicacies, and refreshments. Everyone enjoyed the concert performance of *Jazz and More* by clarinetist Irith Gabrieli and pianist Peter Przystaniak, and a performance of Israeli folk dancing by the *Yovel* group under the direction of Iris Lazimi. Proceeds of the bazaar will benefit WIZO Germany projects for young women at risk.

HOLLAND

Honorary life presidency for Annelies

During the AGM of the Dutch Federation in May, WIZO Holland Past President Annelies Cohn-Erwteman was unanimously voted honorary life president for her staunch commitment to WIZO.

ITALY

ECWF Meeting held in Rome

In June, the ECWF (European Council of WIZO Federations) meeting was hosted by the Italian Federation in Rome. Delegates from ten European countries participated together with the presidents of the European Federations who held a special meeting on the first day. Welcomed by Adv. Renzo Gattegna, president of the Council of Italian Jewish Communities, the meeting was opened by Italian Federation President Roberta Nahum who gave a historical account of the Italian Federation in the presence of World WIZO President Helena Glaser who had come from Israel to participate. The activities of WIZO and ECWF during the event held in Geneva last April, known as Durban II, topped the agenda. Appreciation was expressed for the lobbying efforts by the Italian Federation in boycotting a UN event in Milan, which was due in no small part to Italian delegate Laura Wofsi in collaboration with *Associazione Amicizia Italia-Israele*.



ITALY L-R: Loraine Warren, Renzo Gattegna, Roberta Nahum and Helena Glaser



GERMANY The book fair



SWITZERLAND L-R:
Dr. Hezi Josef, Mrs.
Laurence Guggenheim,
Mrs. Anne Argi, Mrs.
Francine Nordmann and
Mrs. Muriel Eli



HOLLAND Annelies Cohn-Erwteman (left) and family.
Her husband Barry is seen filming (right)

Motions to continue working for human rights, to influence European political choices in the field of sexism, anti-Semitism, other forms of discrimination and to support Israel's aspirations to peace and security in the international arena were supported unanimously.

Reports of the work carried out by Rama Enav, Monique Bouaziz, Vicky Hollander, Margitta Neuwald-Golling and Hava Bugajer, all WIZO representatives to the United Nations and European Commission, were distributed. After an inspirational talk by well-known Italian MP, journalist, writer and political activist Fiamma Nirenstein entitled, *Being a Jewish Woman, a Journalist and a Politician Fighting for the Jewish People*, the meeting proceeded with the approval of the new constitution and elections. The newly elected Executive Committee of the ECWF is: Hava Bugajer (Austria), Nathalie Cohen-Beizermann (France), Irene Goldberg (Switzerland), Diana Schnabel (Germany) and Michelle Vogel (U.K). In hosting this important and successful event, the Italian Federation was delighted to provide a

cordial environment for their European counterparts.

SWITZERLAND

Dr. Josef brings news of Nachlat to Switzerland

In May, the WIZO Switzerland General Assembly took place in Basel. This year's guest of honor was Dr. Hezi Josef, director of WIZO Switzerland's Nachlat Yehuda School and Youth Village, accompanied by Miss Hines Yad Garov, a former student of the school. The Swiss chaverot were extremely moved by Dr. Josef's expressive presentation. Miss Hines told the assembly how Nachlat Yehuda gave her a fresh new start, empowering her as a successful young woman and enabling her to become an excellent university student.

Lunching in Zurich and Lausanne

In June, Eva Wyler hosted an elegant luncheon in her Zurich home for the annual *Sponsor A Child* event where guest of honor World WIZO President

Helena Glaser gave a rousing speech. Present among the 40 guests were WIZO Switzerland President Anne Argi and Lucie Gideon, past president of WIZO Switzerland. Also in June, Madeleine Schinasi opened her beautiful home in the heights of Lausanne for a lovely summer luncheon attended by WIZO members and friends. WIZO Switzerland was also honored to have Ziva Elgar, wife of the Israeli ambassador to Switzerland present at the luncheon. Funds raised at the event will be devoted to the integration and education of young new immigrants in Israel.

Zurich's new Aviv group hold first event

In July, the newly created WIZO Aviv group presented *Kids for Kids*. Despite this being their very first event, the capable young chaverot wasted no time in making sure that many parents and children joined in the fun. Held at Zurich's ICZ center, this first activity has certainly set the tone for successful future events.

WIZO around the world



SWITZERLAND Kids for Kids



SWITZERLAND

Zurich's new Aviv group. L-R (back row): Nirit Meron-Grünwald, Avigail Kahn, Hila Kramer, Mira Kranz, Sabina Pernet, Carla Sztutwojner. L-R (front): Tal Trost-Ben Hamo and Lorraine Sirte

ARGENTINA
OSFA-WIZO executive members with the young musicians of the Retiro Orchestra and their donated double basses



INDIA WIZO India Federation members voting at the elections

INDIA

Holocaust remembrance and Candle making

WIZO India chaverot were given a lesson in candle making by Mr. Ramesh Maisheri and his daughter Niral from the Niral Business Institute – Art of Self Employment. The workshop was useful to members who learned techniques for making candles to use for Shabbat and were also told of the benefits of candle making for home enterprise as a business requiring limited space and resources. At the same meeting, members gathered to listen to readings from the book *Frequently Asked Questions on the Holocaust*, and a letter sent by World WIZO President Helena Glaser was read out.

WIZO India President Yael Jhirad represented the WIZO India Federation and Jewish women at the launch of Sadia Shepard's book, *The Girl from Foreign: A Search for Shipwrecked Ancestors, Lost Loves, and a Sense of Home* – at a multi-disciplinary event organized by the American Center in Mumbai.

SMS sends WIZO members to the polls

WIZO India adopted a novel way to ensure that women's voices were heard by sending a text to remind all members to cast their vote in India's parliamentary elections.

LATIN AMERICA

ARGENTINA

In perfect harmony with inner city youth

A WIZO concert given by the Buenos Aires Retiro Orchestra, which delighted the audience with their music, was held in a hall owned by long-time supporter of OSFA WIZO, Mrs. Carlota Meta. The orchestra, made up of over 100 young musicians from the poorest areas of Buenos Aires, is part of a government education program supporting these gifted yet underprivileged youths. Acknowledging such an outstanding

performance, WIZO presented the orchestra with double basses, much to the delight of their conductor. The young orchestra members come from the most deprived part of Buenos Aires City and take their meals with their families in a large hall in a local school. The caring chaverot of OSFA-WIZO have liaised with a rice producer to ensure that they will receive rice and noodles every month as well as a large delivery of warm clothes for the winter months.

Music and Solidarity at Miraflores

One hundred guests gathered to listen to the *Music and Solidarity* noontime concert by the strings and wind section of the Argentina Philharmonic Orchestra held at the lovely home of Mr. and Mrs. Abolsky in Miraflores, after which a delicious luncheon was served. Mr. Abolsky surprised guests by playing a Mozart concerto on his piano with the first violinist of the orchestra in what turned out to be the perfect duet.



ARGENTINA Estela Vilamowski



ARGENTINA OSFA-WIZO President Amalia Polack (center) with ardent WIZO supporters Mr. & Mrs. Carlos Abolsky

BRAZIL Representatives of nine Zionist organizations celebrating Israel's 61st birthday in Sao Paulo



Estela's effective PowerPoint

When recently elected OSFA-WIZO Vice President Estela Vilamowski attended a two-day course four years ago on fundraising topics, she could not have known of the benefits it would bring to WIZO and the people of Israel. Estela, who also heads the press and communications department and fundraising department, has designed and developed a one-hour PowerPoint presentation on fundraising, which she presented to chaverot attending the OSFA-WIZO Congress in May. Estela's presentation was well received and commended as a truly innovative fundraising tool, which can be easily modified or translated for use by all federations in their efforts on behalf of Israel. Email osfa@osfa-wizo.org.ar for more details.

BRAZIL

WIZO Sao Paulo Chapter marks International Women's Day

Alderwoman Mara Gabrilli was honored

at the Chana Szenes WIZO Sao Paulo Chapter Women's Day Ceremony. Mrs. Gabrilli, a paraplegic since the age of 25, has penned several municipal law projects for the benefit of physically disabled citizens. Chavera Rebecca Rosenberg, master of ceremony for the event, welcomed over 400 women who were moved by Mrs. Gabrilli's story. In the presence of government dignitaries, WIZO Sao Paulo President Mrs. Etejane Hepner Coin paid tribute to Mrs. Gabrilli in her quest for equal rights and social justice. President of the Chana Szenes Group Mrs. Regina Hamer presented Mrs. Gabrilli with a silver platter. The melodious voices of the WIZO Sao Paulo *Sharsheret* Choir conducted by Carlos and Sabrina Shalom added to the ambience of this wonderful afternoon.

Organizations come together for Israel's 61st birthday

Nine Jewish/Zionist organizations came together to celebrate Israel's 61st birthday in Sao Paulo under the auspices of the Sao Paulo Israelite Federation. The organizations of B'nai Brith, Emunah, Keren Hayesod, Chaverim

Group, Hebraica Club, UNIBES, CIP's Children Home, NA'AMAT and WIZO Sao Paulo, share common Zionist bonds. Celebrations were interspersed with moments of remembrance, prayers and tributes accompanied by beautiful melodies.

Israel Ambassador's wife mobilizes pop star for major WIZO event

Mrs. Rachel Becher, wife of Israel's Ambassador to Brazil His Excellency Giora Becher, met with Sao Paulo chaverot at a luncheon held at the Club Hebraica. Some time later, WIZO Sao Paulo Vice President Mrs. Nava Shalev Politi was delighted to receive a phone call from Mrs. Rachel Becher offering WIZO the opportunity to present a show by Israeli pop star David D'Or. No one rested in the thirty days that followed as WIZO Sao Paulo and Hebraica Club joined forces to present one of the most outstanding events of the season. Under the auspices of the Israeli Embassy and ELAL airlines, the stupendous David D'Or show took place at the Artur Rubinstein Theater at the Hebraica Club.

WIZO around the world



BRAZIL Folk dancing at WIZO Rio Grande do Sul Fraternity Fair



BRAZIL WIZO Rio chaverot honored by the Israelite Federation of the State of Rio de Janeiro including long-serving chavera Mrs. Lea Pustilnic Lozinsky (4th from left)



BRAZIL The proud Batei Mitzvot with their teacher



BRAZIL L-R: (standing) Sao Paulo's Sulamita Tabacof, Berta Kramer, L-R: (sitting) Geni Rinski, Sarita Rawet, Israeli ambassador's wife Rachel Becher, WIZO Sao Paulo President Etejane Hepner Coin



BRAZIL Parana chaverot Vera Sasson, Sonia Copernick, Edi Balid, Elizabeth Kulish and Sheila Balid

WIZO Parana Chapter's table takes first prize

WIZO Parana won first prize in the Shabbat table exhibition sponsored by the Israeli Center of Parana. The chaverot of WIZO Parana, coordinated by Mrs. Martha Schulman and assisted by Mrs. Regina Morgenstern, presented a most elegant table.

WIZO Rio de Janeiro's new Aviv group Shamash

WIZO Rio de Janeiro chapter's newest Aviv Group, *Shamash*, meets every fortnight, bringing young women together in aid of WIZO. With the support of tireless WIZO Rio Organization Coordinator and WIZO Brazil Honorary Life President Mrs. Ana Marlene Starec, this fresh new group promises great achievements for the future.

Honoring women who make a difference in Rio de Janeiro

Over 300 guests gathered at the elegant

Municipality Palace for this year's celebration of International Women's Day to honor those women who have played significant roles in Rio de Janeiro society. Rio de Janeiro First Lady Mrs. Cristine Paes responsible for the city's welfare, Municipality Education Secretary Mrs. Claudia Costin, renowned actress Mrs. Nicette Bruno, the internationally celebrated singer Mrs. Ithamara Koorax, human rights expert Mrs. Maria Luiza Tucci Carneiro, and Mrs. Tania Holperin, expert in Jewish Education. Mrs. Holperin is also a member of WIZO Rio's Atzma'ut Group.

WIZO Para Chapter celebrates communal Bat Mitzvah ceremony

In June, WIZO Para held a communal Bat Mitzvah ceremony for mature members at the Shaar Hashamaim Synagogue. The Bat Mitzvah 'girls' were Clara Nahon Mendes, Cota Nahon Aben-Athar, Esther Benchimol Barros, Esther Lucia Anijar de Morel, Esther Unger, Helaine Benmuyal, Perola Nahon Benguigui and Sol Ruth

Israel. Moreh Jayme was responsible for tutoring them and at the end of the ceremony he received much praise for his wonderful lessons. A recital of Rambam's *Thirteen Principles of Jewish Faith* concluded this very special occasion.

WIZO Grande do Sul Chapter sees evidence of continuity

WIZO Rio Grande do Sul invited chavera Irene Wolf's 12-year old grandchild to present her vision of Judaism and of the Jewish religious festivities. Her excellent and informative presentation was illustrated with photographs and was met with much enthusiasm as reassuring evidence of the continuity of our faith.

Bravo to Grande do Sul's Fraternity Fair

Capacity crowds flocked to the 2009 WIZO Rio Grande do Sul Fraternity Fair, which opened to a rousing performance by students from the Itamaraty State School

CHILE The audience applaud the young maestro



CHILE L-R: Anita Trajtman, Boris Giltburg and Myriam Stekel



CHILE L-R: Susy Baron, Minister Paulina Urrutia Fernández, and HE Ambassador David Cohen



BRAZIL Shamash, the new Aviv group of WIZO Rio de Janeiro

Band. Crowds visited the numerous stands, shops and art gallery and enjoyed a luncheon of typically delicious Jewish food served in the school stadium. As in previous years, WIZO Grande do Sul honored a long-serving member and this year a glowing tribute was paid to Mrs. Alla Finkelstein for her many years of generous volunteerism. Among the many highlights were the Israeli folk dancing, the sweet sounds of the Jewish School Choir and the children's fashion show.

CHILE

Tribute to Israel concert with the maestro

It was truly a night to remember: WIZO Chile President Mrs. Susy Baron greeted guests and dignitaries and thanked sponsors for their generosity at WIZO Chile's tribute concert honoring 61 wonderful years of Israel. Before introducing the star of the show, Mrs. Baron presented the WIZO prize for *Outstanding Woman of the Year*. This year, the worthy recipient was Mrs.

Paulina Urrutia Fernández, president of the Council of Culture and the Arts, who charmed the audience with her warm words of acceptance, briefly outlining the work of the ministry. The 25-year old eminent Israeli pianist Boris Giltburg took to the stage and gave a recital of the works of Bach, Brahms, Grieg and Liszt, dazzling the crowd with his remarkable talent. His performance elicited shouts of 'bravo' from the audience who refused to let him leave the stage, shouting for more before he played two extra pieces to everyone's delight. The tribute ended with an elegant wine reception before guests headed for home still in awe of the young Israeli pianist.

MEXICO

Motivation, enrichment and education

Mrs. Rackel Alfille was welcomed as the new president at the general assembly in March, following in the exemplary footsteps of former President of WIZO Mexico Mrs. Bahai Zaga.

The *Adopt a Child* campaign led by chavera Zitta Rahmane began with a series of motivational and educational courses for chaverot to ensure their confidence when approaching donors. As a result, members were equipped with all the information required to explain the crucial work carried out in WIZO's day care centers ensuring a bright future for Israel's children. As in previous years, the WIZO Mexico Organization Department headed by Susy Speckman conducted a successful and enriching seminar for chapter presidents designed to sharpen their leadership skills and ensure continuity of the organization. A number of seminars took place under the direction of Susy Braun, such as *The Art of Living Well*, *Develop your Maximum Potential* and *Brain Gym*, which saw proactive parts played by many chaverot. In June, the *Pauline Kovalski Ulpán* directed by Liliana Shwartz concluded its series of conferences on *Women Talking about Women*, which took place over a ten month period where talks were heard by respected women professionals in such fields as economics, architecture, religion, Jewish history and journalism.

WIZO around the world



CHILE L-R: HE Ambassador of Israel to Chile David Cohen, Chilean pianist Roberto Bravo, Israeli pianist Boris Giltburg, Russian pianist Victoria Foust and Minister Paulina Urrutia



SOUTH AFRICA L-R: Colleen Mervis, Michelle Nathan, Debbie Horesh, Lynn Foster and Laurienne Baitz at the Durban cookery demonstration

Mexico's Musical Offerings

The Aviv group presented the pantomime *Snow White* with the participation of local Jewish children who performed for the pupils of Monterrey public schools. The Beersheva group's offering was the annual *Shalom* scholarships and the Raya Jaglom group held a Mother's Day celebration. The Simja group presented *The Sound of Music* and both the Mazal group and Arazim group put on movies. In mentioning just a few of the numerous events presented by the industrious Mexican chaverot, we must certainly say 'sombrosos off to the Mexican chaverot!'

PANAMA

Full house on Bingo Night

WIZO Aviv's Jai group's Bingo Night was held in June in the grand salon of the Hebrew Cultural Center. Around 700 people of all ages came to try their luck for the excellent prizes on offer, which included televisions, all-inclusive trips

to Disney Land, an original painting by a well-known artist, and a holiday cruise. Two local hosts known for their riotous sense of humor added zest to the serious art of checking the numbers as everybody competed for a full house. After dinner, the evening concluded with the famous Bingo Cash, with the profits divided equally between the lucky winner and WIZO.

A full report on WIZO's Latin American Congress held in Panama in May appears on pages 30-31

SOUTH AFRICA

Poker night fun for the Cape Town boys

Thanks to the generosity of Meyer and Tessa Budow, the President Hotel in Bantry Bay provided a perfect venue for Cape Town's Bnoth Zion Association WIZO Aviv's prestigious Poker tournament. The evening also provided good food, great music and lots of fun for all those participating. The dynamic Alon

Sachs had his finger on the pulse of the evening's proceedings ably assisted by Aviv branch chairpersons Raene Levitan and Suzanne Luck. The tournament winner walked away with magnificent prize money plus entry to the All Africa Poker Tournament inclusive of accommodation sponsored by the Piggs Peak Casino valued at R25,000 (approx \$3,120) and private poker lessons from Darren Kramer. There is little doubt that the precedent has been set for what will become a great Bnoth Zion Association WIZO Aviv tradition.

Cookery demonstration in Durban is a recipe for success

WIZO Durban hosted a cookery demonstration by popular domestic goddess, Sharon Glass who showed chaverot and guests how to turn everyday meals into mouthwatering masterpieces with her unique blend of creativity and panache. Sharon also launched two more books in her series, which are fast becoming the culinary bibles for South African women.



SOUTH AFRICA Leemor Berchowitz buying Sharon Glass's culinary bible



AUSTRALIA Maurice Foreman, winning groom from the 1930s

Jo'burgers proclaim that Israel rocks at 61

Café Tel Aviv was the theme for this year's Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations held at the Hod Hall in Johannesburg as WIZO Johannesburg celebrated not only Israel's 61st birthday but also 100 years of Tel Aviv. Tables were decorated in style as befitting the popular café culture of Tel Aviv. Over 100 guests turned out to salute Israel with entertainment provided admirably by singer Debbie Fleminger. Israel rocks at 61 was the title of Rolene Marks's speech lauding Israel's many achievements and the challenges faced by the Jewish State. *(An article by Rolene Marks appears on page 28)*

AUSTRALIA

Melbourne plenary strengthens leaders

In July, WIZO Australia's national leadership gathered in Melbourne for their annual plenary. Over 40 guests

attended the opening dinner held at the Kimberley Gardens. Special guest at the plenary was Dani Segre who, with 25 years of organizational analysis and development experience, was brought to Australia to work with WIZO on challenges confronting the organization. WIZO Federal President Jo Gostin welcomed guests and shared WIZO highlights of the past year. The two-day plenary was devoted to overcoming the challenges facing WIZO, with Dani Segre leading workshop sessions on how to approach potential donors, defining leadership, enlisting new members and motivating volunteers. Serious discussions also took place on the current difficult financial climate and its implications on World WIZO in Israel and fundraising locally. As in previous years, the two days came to a close all too quickly. Nevertheless, delegates left the plenary empowered and equipped to face the challenges head-on.

Perth's Brides & Grooms of Yesteryear

WIZO Western Australia *Brides & Grooms of Yesteryear* united a joyful gathering that enjoyed a delicious champagne high tea at the Jewish Center in Perth. The scene was set as guests walked through the *chuppah* into a reception room themed in a bygone era. Jazz music and a projected slide show featuring wedding photographs of beautiful brides dressed in their finery through the years as far back as 1926 added to the occasion. With over 100 submissions received, the task of the judges was to select the photographs that captured the joy of that special moment in time and that depicted the era. The overall winners were Ruth and Alex Topelberg. The afternoon was not only very entertaining but also raised much needed funds for WIZO Australia's Road of Hope project.

WIZO around the World is edited by Tricia Schwitzer

WIZO's 90th *Anniversary Calendar*

In Honor of WIZO's 90th Anniversary
we are proud to present the WIZO Commemorative Calendar



Calendar Features:

- WIZO Internationally Sponsored Projects in Israel
- 16 month color calendar - September 2009 - December 2010
- All Jewish and Secular Holidays
- Calendar Size: 12.5" X 17.5" (open)
- 31.5 cm X 45 cm (open)



To order your calendars please contact:
World WIZO Fundraising Department at fr_dep@wizo.org