

# WIZOReview

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## Everyone has a special pin story. What's yours?

As part of WIZO's 85th anniversary celebrations, *WIZO Review* invites you, personally, to tell us your "WIZO Pin Story." Was it handed down as a legacy by your mother, were you awarded a pin for your work, did you purchase it at special WIZO conference or occasion?

The WIZO Pin has accompanied us for many decades, and it tells the story of our movement and our members. We want to publish these stories in the framework of a special issue of *WIZO Review*, which will be devoted to 85 years of WIZO activity in Israel and around the Jewish world.

**Stories and photos should be sent to:**  
WIZO Review  
38 King David Blvd.  
Tel-Aviv  
or by e-mail: [Hillels@wizo.org](mailto:Hillels@wizo.org)  
**no later than August 15th, 2005.**



Women's International Zionist Organization  
for an Improved Israeli Society



# WIZOReview

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Cover: "WIZO saves 40,000 youth at risk from a sad fate." - Yossi Naor



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## President's Desk



Jerusalem.

The fact that joy and bereavement, anguish and hope exist in such close proximity remind us of the steep price the Jewish people has paid. It also emphasizes the safe haven the democratic Jewish State and its society represent for Jews all over the world and the task bestowed upon us to safeguard it from all harm.

WIZO, celebrating its 85th Anniversary this year, indeed takes this task seriously, has played a crucial part in working towards a better society in Israel and will continue to do so in the future.

As President of the WIZO movement, I believe that everyone can make a difference for the better. By doing so, we not only contribute to making someone else's life much better, but we improve our own quality of life.

WIZO's 85th Anniversary coincides with one of the State of Israel's most difficult and definitive years. It stands before crucial decisions that will have an impact on the State's security, and on its character and future as a democratic Jewish State. No matter what one's views of the Disengagement are, every Jew is called upon to demonstrate tolerance (*sovlanoof*) and patience (*savlanooft*), and I do not think it is a coincidence that in Hebrew these two words are very similar. As a nation, we must maintain our strength and unity. Notwithstanding we must also remember that, the State and Diaspora must continue to combat

Anti-Semitism and Anti-Israelism wherever and whenever they raise their ugly heads.

In order to do so we must continue to invest in our future, our children, education and new immigrants. Although we are no longer witnessing vast volumes of immigrants coming from all over the world, there are steady numbers arriving every month and indications that another 27,000 Jews will make Aliya in 2005. Over the past few years, there has been a steady increase in Aliya from well-established countries, i.e., North America, Latin America and Western Europe. Many of the immigrants are youngsters that arrive a few years ahead of their families, serve in the army, become integrated into the Israeli society and then help to facilitate their parents' absorption. I would like to mention that there is an increase in Aliya from France, no doubt due to anti-Semitic events there.

The theme of this year's Independence Day was continuity, and WIZO achieves this by furnishing new generations of women, youth and children from all walks of life with the opportunities, methods and tools to better the quality and content of their lives. Continuity is one of the reasons why I initiated a Membership Campaign that was presented at the AGM by the Organization and Education Department. The Campaign was received with great enthusiasm and will be implemented by your Federations in your respective countries. It is also important that while maintaining the WIZO spirit, we teach and guide the younger WIZO members, to continue and develop WIZO's goals and deeds to match the reality in which we live.

In celebrating WIZO's 85th Anniversary we renew our vows as Zionist women to do all in our ability to strengthen the link between the Diaspora and Eretz Israel, to help and improve life for those less fortunate, and to ensure continuance of our great movement and its blessed activities.

*Helena Glaser*

Visit our website: [www.wizo.org](http://www.wizo.org)

### WORLD WIZO EXECUTIVE

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**Raya Jaglom**, Honorary Life President World WIZO  
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**Esther Mor**, Deputy Chairperson, Fundraising Department  
**Nurit Pollack**, Deputy Chairperson, Building Maintenance & Purchasing Division



## Chairperson's Column



This year WIZO has reached a milestone in our history – we are celebrating 85 years since our establishment in 1920 in London by our founding mothers, Rebecca Sieff, Vera Weizmann and Edith Eder. Their dream was to establish a Women's Zionist voluntary organization that would help the needy society of Eretz Israel, then known as Palestine. Today these women would be amazed to see how their dream has come true. WIZO embraces 800 institutions and services, all for the benefit of the society in Israel. We can all be very proud of our achievements during these 85 years.

In 2005 we are also marking the 60th year anniversary of the victory of "justice over evil" against the monstrous Nazi regime, the end of World War II and the liberation of the concentration camps.

Not all is celebration, since 60 years later, a new type of anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism has reared its ugly head in Europe and other parts of the world, to a great degree a product of the vast propaganda machine in the Arab world. Synagogues and Jewish buildings have been desecrated, bombs have been placed near Jewish Schools and verbal abuse and attacks are on the increase. We must be very vigilant to confront this disturbing phenomenon.

Back in WIZO, the Human Resources Department, together with all the members of the Executive, worked very hard to reach an agreement with our employees who number around 5000. A historical agreement has been reached between WIZO's workers' committee, WIZO's management and the Histadrut Labor Federation of Israel. We look forward to a productive and cooperative future.

WIZO is always looking for ways and means to increase its income, to enhance our educational activities and to provide the children and

youth in our care with the best quality education. We have initiated the possibility of generating new income within the existing facilities of WIZO, always keeping within the spirit of WIZO's work. A School for Social Workers is now being operated by WIZO together with the Ministry of Welfare and Industry. WIZO has also won a tender to operate summer camps at the WIZO schools and youth villages, subsidized by the Rashi Sacta Foundation, and we are continuing to seek additional sources of income.

Our schools and youth villages are in the midst of preparations for the end of the year parties, at which the 85th Anniversary of World WIZO will be marked. WIZO schools and youth villages have reached extremely good results and were awarded various prizes during the year. This is certainly something to be very proud of.

On May 17th we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Jerusalem Baby Home which is now called the Rebecca Sieff Family Centre, sponsored by WIZO.uk. This wonderful event was divided into two parts. The morning was for past graduates, employees, volunteers and everyone who has been connected with the Baby Home since its establishment, who came to meet and reminisce, to see photos taken at that time and to wander through the exhibits. A reception took place in the evening, followed by an historic presentation of the cornerstone laying ceremony and a wonderful performance of WIZO children from the WIZO Beit Hakerem Vocational School and from our other schools and youth villages, who sang and danced to the delight of the audience, including several groups of visitors from WIZO.uk and one group from WIZO Australia. It was a very emotional and exciting evening, and the audience showed its appreciation with a great outburst of applause.

I wish you all a very pleasant summer.

*Tora Bendor*

### BY VIRTUE OF THEIR OFFICE AS PRESIDENTS OR CHAIRPERSONS OF FEDERATIONS

Argentina	Amalia Polack	Denmark	Kaja Sarde	Honduras	Yaeli Zylberman	Panama	Yvonne Attie
Australia	Jo Gostin	Dom.		Hong Kong	Vered Nagar	Paraguay	Tosca Ismajovich
Austria	Hava Bugajer	Republic	Helen Kopel		Livnat Ashkenazi	Peru	Michelle Lumbrosa
Belgium & Luxembourg	Ingrid Bolmut	Ecuador	Ruthie Horvath	Hungary	Erzsi Simon		Liliana Lemor
Bolivia	Liliana Szwerdszarf	Estonia	Revekka Blumberg	Israel	Yochy Feller	Portugal	Dr. Elizabeth Kahn
Brazil	Sarita Schaffel	Finland	Eva Bensky	Italy	Ziva Fischer	Singapore	S.J. Khafi
Bulgaria	Marina Nanjova	France	Nathalie		Rosana Rosati	South	Lee Joffe
Canada	Rochelle Levinson		Cohen-Beizermann	Jamaica	Jennifer (McAdam) Lin	Africa	
Chile	Susy Baron	Germany	Rachel Singer	Japan	Sarah Hyams	Spain	Clara Salama
Colombia	Sara Mekler	Gibraltar	Julie Massias	Latvia	Hana Finkelstein	Sweden	Marion Gluckman
Costa Rica	Anita Ligator	Great Britain	Michele Vogel	Lithuania	Rachel Kostanian	Switzerland	Lucie Gideon
	Lisa Davidovich	Greece	May Barki	Mexico	Edith Motola	Uruguay	Gladys Billig
Curacao	Yael Ackerman	Guatemala	Soly Berkowitz	New	Lorna Orbell	USA	Evelyn Sommer
Czech Republic	Zuzana Vesela	Holland	Helen Lion	Zealand		Venezuela	Mercedes Ivcher
				Norway	Janne Jaffe	Zimbabwe	Ena Rotkopf
					Hesstvedt		Rhebe Tatz



Rabbi Shlomo Lipskar hosted the youngsters at the Bal Harbour Shul

# An Unforgettable Visit

The 17 members of the WIZO Nir Haemek song and dance troupe will never forget their visit to WIZO Miami and the warm hospitality. It was a life-changing experience

**Judit Groisman**  
WIZO Florida  
Executive Director





Nir Haemek School and Youth Village Group along with Lillian Tabacnic, Mercedes Ivcher, Rosita Retelny, Judit Groisman, Jana Falic and Norma Quintero

**I**t is with great pride and joy that I write about the visit to Florida of the amazing group of children from WIZO Nir Haemek School and Youth Village (sponsored by WIZO Argentina and WIZO USA). The children were the stars of this year's WIZO Yonit Gala Dinner, held on February 15, 2005. Brought to Miami through the generosity of the Falic family, the group of 17 students delighted the audience with carefully choreographed dances and songs they had prepared for the occasion. The presentation was very professional and deeply moving for all of us who work so hard to contribute to the well being of these very children in Eretz Israel. Jana Falic, WIZO Florida Vice-President, made a powerful appeal that brought about a resounding fundraising success at this most unforgettable evening. Among the attendees were Mercedes Ivcher, WIZO Florida President, Rosita Retelny, WIZO Florida Senior Vice-President, Beverly Koplowitz, WIZO Florida Vice-President, Charlotte and Sami Rohr.

During the rest of their stay, the group experienced a schedule full of interesting and fun-filled activities, organized personally by Jana and Simon Falic, and carried out under the supervision of Executive Director Judit Groisman. They were treated to a trip to Disney World, visited different schools where they performed and exchanged high school experiences with their peers, were taken to various attractions in Miami and shared a beautiful Shabbat dinner with WIZO Florida bubbas Mary Eppel, Regina Brandwayn and WIZO Florida Treasurer Sonja Ingra at the Bal Harbour Shul. Saturday morning services and Shabbat activities completed a very meaningful time for the children. Rabbi Shlomo Lipskar addressed the group of youngsters with warmth and wisdom that filled their hearts with joy and hope. The children have gone back to Israel, but we are sure that they will never forget their time with us. □

## A Dream Come True

I have so much to say about our wonderful flight to Miami, and the unforgettable experiences that we had. I so enjoyed all of the hospitality, the people who welcomed us with open arms, and provided us with everything that we needed, like food, a place to stay and so many other things. Of course we must say thank you to Jana and Judit, both of whom are outstanding women, who knew exactly how to make us happy. For me, they helped me to realize a dream. I always dreamed of flying to Disney World and seeing another world, and now that dream has come true. We also have to thank Chava and Sari from the school, who watched over us. There is so much more I could tell about the trip, and about the good and warm women of Miami.

This trip caused a change in me, that I still find hard to define. In any event, it was great fun, and hopefully I look forward to future trips as well. I'll stop here because I'm running out of paper, and I want to let other students give their impressions.

**Christina David**

## An Experience that Enriched Our Lives

On February 12, 2005, our delegation from WIZO Nir Haemek headed out for the airport in Tel Aviv. Our target – MIAMI – it was like the dream of every man. But for our delegation of youth from the school that we all go to, it was more than just a dream.

We were given a fantastic opportunity to enjoy ourselves, to represent, to see, to get to know, to be loved and also to give. We had ten days that contained all the possible joys. We flew together, experienced the wonderful hospitality of the benefactor and the organizer, who were actually the engine behind the entire special experience, and got to know their families. We experienced the warm hospitality of the members of WIZO Miami throughout our stay, and also visited the Jewish schools and got to know the Jewish youth. So many experiences enriched our lives, and helped turn the dream into a reality.

The main goal of the trip was the really special gala evening. We appeared with six songs in different styles. It was such an exciting event. The magnificent hall, the extraordinary event the type of which we had never before experienced, only served to reinforce our excitement.

And finally: no words can express the thanks we would like to express. It was thanks to Mrs Jana Falic and Mrs. Judit Groisman that we had this rare experience. We also got to know WIZO Miami up close, and learned to understand the meaning of the fact that these wonderful women have chosen to contribute their time and resources to these special goals.

**Tzili Kalifi, Adi Magnedi and Shani Shevach**

Zionism Today



# ZIONISM ON TRIAL

Sixty years after the liberation of Auschwitz, it's very disturbing to discover that there are people, including some prominent European academics, who are questioning Israel's right to exist

**This** year a high-profile debate was held in London about the nature of Zionism today. In many countries and university campuses in the Western world, a background of growing anti-Semitism, criticism of Israeli government policies, criticism of the war in Iraq and the growing power of Islamic fundamentalism has created fertile ground for a delegitimization of Zionism and the right of the State of Israel to exist.

The London debate, based on the motion "Zionism today is the real enemy of the Jews: Yes or No?" was an important intellectual milestone in this process. Former Israeli Foreign Minister Prof. Shlomo Ben-Ami gave a stirring defense of Zionism at the event, and we are reprinting the essence of his remarks.

## Is Zionism Today the Real Enemy of The Jews? No!

*Shlomo Ben-Ami*

The argument that "today" Zionism is a threat to the Jews is a convenient pretext for a wider challenge to the legitimacy of the State of Israel. Zionism was put in the dock by its detractors many years before the current intifada. An earthquake was registered among the Western Intelligentsia when, 30 years after the Holocaust, an infamous UN resolution equating Zionism with racism was passed...

In recent years Israel has faced a political and moral crisis that is circumstantial, not built in or written into its genetic code. It is immersed in a conflict that is solvable between two

competing nationalisms. Europe, which too frequently looks at us with the air of a sanctimonious finger-wagger, knows from experience how bitter such conflicts can become. This is exactly the crux of the matter: the intriguing attitude that turns what may be the reproachable policies of a government into the trigger for a discourse whose underlying meaning is the negation of the right of existence of a state and now of the entire Zionist idea. The vilification of Israel has long superseded what may be defined as legitimate criticism, for it has turned into an international bacchanalia of character assassination.

## Israel Should not be Singled Out

The Holocaust should not give the Jews and Israel any moral immunity from criticism, nor is it proper for Israelis to



conveniently dismiss all and every attack against their reproachable policies as anti-Semitism. But it is likewise indecent that Israel should be treated as a state on probation, and singled out for international criticism in a way that leads eventually to its delegitimization as a state. Those who claim to be good-faith critics of Israel should be the first to lead the outcry against the monstrous absurdity whereby more UN resolutions are devoted to human rights abuses in Israel than to abuses in all other nations of the world combined. They should likewise be more ready to repel obscenities like the writer Jose Saramago's comparison of Jenin to Auschwitz. A fierce urban battle in which 23 Israeli soldiers and 52 Palestinians, many of them terrorists who excelled in blowing up buses and kindergartens, died... has been likened to a death factory where 30,000 Jews were murdered daily. But the good-faith critics kept silent.

### Zionism – A Broad and Democratically Diverse Movement

Zionism is not a religious dogma, for it has always been a broad and democratically diverse movement. A bitter internal struggle has been going on for some time now on the boundaries of the idea. Every study of Israeli public opinion today shows that the overwhelming majority of Israelis assume that the territorial phase of Zionism is over. Nor have its ethical defenses been put to rest. As Justice Itzhak Zamir - not exactly a friend of the policies of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon - has explained, Israel is the only nation whose civilian courts have such a broad jurisdiction on military actions. Israel's Supreme Court ruling on the wall in the West Bank, which forced the government to change the wall's route, is a case in point. Israeli human rights organizations, such as Betselem, which relentlessly draw attention to the moral price of occupation, and independent columnists who force us to look daily at the Palestinian tragedy and into our own share of responsibility for it, are a moral lighthouse for a nation in an always desperately difficult quest for balance between security and ethics. I am equally reinforced in my trust in the sanity of the Zionist idea by what now looks as the political and moral defeat of the settlers' movement in the Gaza Strip.

### Hope for the Future

Now that Abu Mazen (Mahmoud Abbas), the Palestinians' new leader, has finally interrupted his predecessor's compulsive surfing on the waves of death and suicide, a political process has again become a possibility. The former French foreign minister Hubert Vedrine might be right after all: like the French and the Germans we shall also reach a reconciliation, only that it will take us far less time and much less bloodshed than it took these two most civilized nations to settle their differences. □



Prof. Shlomo Ben-Ami speaking at the 22nd World WIZO Conference in January 2000

### Cooperation, Not Boycott

As part of the anti-Israel campaign, Britain's Association of University Teachers (AUT) declared a boycott against cooperation with two Israeli universities, based upon distorted information. A concerted campaign, led by Jewish academics in the UK, backed by academics at Oxford and Cambridge universities, led to a repeal of the resolution. The following joint statement by the Presidents of the Hebrew University and the Palestinian Al-Quds University played a major role in the struggle. Cognizant of the moral leadership universities should provide, especially in already turbulent political contexts, we, the President of Al-Quds University and the President of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, have agreed to insist on continuing to work together in the pursuit of knowledge, for the benefit of our peoples and the promotion of peace and justice in the Middle East. Our position is based upon the belief that it is through cooperation based on mutual respect, rather than through boycotts or discrimination, that our common goals can be achieved. Bridging political gulfs - rather than widening them further apart - between nations and individuals thus becomes an educational duty as well as a functional necessity, requiring exchange and dialogue rather than confrontation and antagonism. Our disaffection with, and condemnation of acts of academic boycotts and discrimination against scholars and institutions, is predicated on the principles of academic freedom, human rights, and equality between nations and among individuals.

We therefore call upon academics here and worldwide to act in support of our mission, as one which might allow for ending our shared tragedy rather than prolonging it.

*Prof. Sari Nusseibeh, President of Al-Quds University*  
*Prof. Menachem Magidor, President of Hebrew University*  
 London, May 19, 2005

***Shlomo Ben-Ami, a professor of history and a former Israeli foreign minister, took part in the Camp David summit meeting and led the Israeli team in the Taba negotiations***

## The First International Membership Campaign



# Join Now!

Local federations have always organized membership campaigns, but this is the first time that WIZO is organizing an international membership campaign. Our goal - at least a 10 percent increase in membership

**Helena Glaser**  
World WIZO  
President

**I**t is no secret that the number of members in most organizations, both in Israel and around the world, has dropped over the years. To assure the future of our movement we have to be a household name among Jewish families throughout the world.

I understand that you are faced with difficulties due to the changing Jewish environment, assimilation, the changing demographics, a growing number of new organizations and an aging Jewish population to name just a few. But these are challenges - and if the continuation of the Jewish people is important to our lives and our future, WIZO, with its efforts to bring about global Zionist Jewish identification, should be the thread that binds Jewish women together across the world. We have assumed the responsibility to fight for women's rights, gender equality and the advancement of women. Our ongoing quest for equal rights for children, pluralism and tolerance in education are all part of our identity as a movement.

### Today More Than Ever

Our work and our volunteers are needed more than ever. That is why it is essential that we encourage many more women to join WIZO. WIZO can offer women from all walks of life great opportunities to add another facet to their multi-faceted lives: Dear chaverot, today more than ever I believe that every Jewish woman, whatever her age or stage in life, can find meaning in being part of the WIZO family.

She may be a young student who can advocate for Israel, the 'other' Israel, the beautiful Israel. She may be a young mother who wants to instill Jewish education in her children and help children in Israel who need a warm and loving home. She may be a successful businesswoman who feels that she can be an agent for change among her people. She may have already brought up her family and now wants to use her spare time to take on a leadership position, or she may be in the golden years of her life, looking back, proud of her achievements, knowing that she has kept the connection to Judaism and Israel alive in her family.

**If you are a leader, a Jewish, Zionist,  
strong and proud woman  
We are expecting you**

### A Unique, Modular Campaign

In the past, many federations have organized membership campaigns that have been quite successful. Some federations have reached an over 10 percent WIZO membership in their communities.

As President of World WIZO I initiated this campaign, and organized it with a group of very talented people from the World WIZO Organization and Education Department, led by dynamic chairperson Sylvie Pelossof, and the Publicity and Information Department. The uniqueness of our new campaign, in addition to the fact that it is the first International

Membership Campaign ever organized by World WIZO, is the fact that the campaign is divided up into five target age groups. Each federation should analyze its strengths and weaknesses according to age ranges. Some federations are strong in the veteran age, but may be weak in the 20+ or the 30-40 age ranges. Our new campaign is based upon a modular structure that enables each federation to focus on specific age groups or on all the age groups if it so chooses. I would also recommend that the federations should focus on a chavera who can serve as the role model and leader for each age group campaign. This creates a motivational factor, and someone that potential new members can identify with.

### Sisterhood of Every Jewish Woman

During this, the first year of my presidency, I have seen the importance and relevance of WIZO as a movement. I have had the honor to be in Australia, Hong Kong, New York, France, Greece and at a meeting of the European Council of WIZO Federations. I have been humbled at seeing your love and the efforts that you are all making for our beloved Israel. I have witnessed the sheer power and size of WIZO in Australia and the way it is involved in every aspect of Jewish life there. And I have witnessed the smallest of groups in Greece, such as Vollus and Larisa, each with a population of only 70 Jews but with no less of a commitment to Israel. We are the link between every Jewish enclave throughout the globe; we bring out the sisterhood in every Jewish woman.

When I come back to Israel, and I see the tangible results of this sisterhood, see the children playing and learning in our projects, see the women enriching themselves in our WIZO clubs, I know that the circle has closed. And in that circle, together with Rennata, Flora and Cynthia now stand Shai, Michal and Gil. This is our movement, it deserves recognition that is reflected in numbers.

### Stand Up and Be Counted

This is the moment to stand up and be counted; this is the moment to show our strength. Each one of you in your federation should repeat the message that was first uttered eighty five years ago when WIZO was founded. Let that message resound in every Jewish community throughout the world.

In 1901, Theodore Herzl wrote a paper entitled 'Women and Zionism'. He wrote, 'What is the role of women in Zionism? I will not say 'nothing'. But what should it be? Perhaps everything. And if we follow the right path towards this aim, it will be'. Today, one hundred and four years later, our vision remains the same.

***If you are a leader, a Jewish, Zionist,  
strong and proud woman  
We are expecting you.***







## Can you make friends in over 50 countries?

My experience at university has made me understand the importance of Israel advocacy. Together with my peers from 50 WIZO Federations worldwide, I am taking part in efforts to counter anti-Israel propaganda. Through WIZO, I can support the State of Israel.

If you are a Jewish woman -  
We've been expecting you

**Did You Know...**  
That WIZO is an international movement of Zionist women, founded in England in 1920. Today, tens of thousands of volunteers are active in 50 Federations worldwide in support of the State of Israel and the welfare of its citizens.

Students and young women are the future of WIZO

## Congratulations on a Professional and Attractive Job: WIZO.uk

Having reviewed the "We're expecting you" new membership campaign materials, we at WIZO.uk want to congratulate all those responsible at World WIZO for creating such a professional and attractive set of tools to help us boost our membership numbers. In particular, we appreciate the way that the campaign has been segmented, in order for us to target the different age groups. The visual material is powerful, although we must ensure that it is always accompanied with a clear 'call to action' when we appeal for new members to join WIZO. What also impressed us was that the professional actress selected to give the narration on the video had an English accent, which makes it much easier for us to communicate with our members and potential members in the UK. The materials have been designed in such a way to make it very easy to adapt, using our own contact details and logo, thereby saving unnecessary duplication and helping us to keep expenditure on marketing production low. Well done World WIZO!

Michele Vogel, Chairperson WIZO.uk

## An Important Campaign: WIZO Italy

We greatly appreciated the material that World WIZO produced for the new Membership Campaign, and are deeply aware of the importance of this specific campaign. We are studying how to promote it in the best and most successful way here in Italy. We think that in order to enable our *chaverot* to benefit to the greatest degree from the campaign, we need to translate both the video and the posters into Italian. Thus if you send us the disk of the "source files" for both the video and the posters, we will be able to work on them and convert them into Italian. Also, please send us quantities of the Membership Bags, Cycles of Life, Brochures, and samples of the other items, which we will adapt into Italian.

Ziva Fischer and Rosana Rosatti,  
Co-Presidents Adei WIZO Italy

### Temporary Membership Card

WIZO \_\_\_\_\_ (Federation)

First name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of membership: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership fee: \_\_\_\_\_ (amount)

A Temporary Membership Card appears in each membership kit



## Can you imagine 1,500,000 children needing you?

I want to raise my children with Jewish values. I want my children to appreciate their roots, to love, to give, and to respect others. Through WIZO, I am also giving Israel's children a better future. I know that my children will be proud of me.

If you are a Zionist woman -  
We've been expecting you

**Did You Know...**  
That of WIZO's 173 day care centers, 12 are multi-purpose, providing quality care for children at risk and support for their families. 14,000 children receive love, special care and education at these WIZO facilities.

Young mothers want to give their children Jewish & Zionist values



## Can you do business and be compassionate at the same time?

My career has taught me that nothing is impossible. WIZO has taught me that everything is possible: the opportunity to meet other women like myself from all over the world, career women looking to make a difference. Together we can contribute, combining our know-how and experience.

If you are a strong woman -  
We've been expecting you

**Did You Know...**  
That with its tens of thousands of volunteers and 5,000 employees, WIZO operates about 800 projects & services for children, youth, women, and the elderly all over Israel.

Women in their prime can assume major responsibilities

## An Effective Upgrading of WIZO's Image and Goals: WIZO Brazil

On March 20th we held our annual nationwide Council Meeting in Rio de Janeiro, to determine, in association with the local Chapters' leadership, WIZO Brazil's working strategy for 2005. The Council Meeting space was ornamented with the posters given to us at the World WIZO Meeting of Representatives in Tel Aviv, so as to call the Brazilian participants' attention to them.

At the opening of the council meeting the importance and impact of WIZO's new membership campaign – We've Been Expecting You – was emphatically stressed. We portrayed WIZO as an institution opened to women of all ages. The showing of the video caused a dazzling impact on those WIZO volunteer members in attendance. Each member related their own stage of life to the image that was revealed before them. The campaign folders were translated into Portuguese, and every participating member was presented with one of the translated press-folders and a copy of the video sent from World WIZO, to enable them to make a critical analysis of the material upon returning to their own chapters. The attendees complimented the graphic excellence of the folders, as well as the effective written message linked to each image.

As a result, we decided to generate a quick survey on the necessary amount of units required to carry out a countrywide campaign.

The enthusiasm of the participating *chaverot* gave us the assurance that undertakings such as this campaign, organized with expertise, by those who are au fait with WIZO ideals and its womanly nature, will result in an effective upgrade of WIZO's image and goals.

Sarita Lea Schaffel, President WIZO Brazil

## The Goal, at least a 10 Percent Increase: WIZO Australia

So far, WIZO Australia has planned a six-week advertising campaign in the *Jewish News* in both Sydney and Melbourne, as well as inclusions in the smaller publications in the other States. We have prepared goals, guidelines and a prototype letter which we will be distributing throughout the various offices. Our campaign is scheduled to begin at the *Yom Ha'atzmaut* functions where we will hand out the pamphlets, and will culminate with a special function welcoming new members. We will also be printing a permanent membership card. As you can see, we are very happy with the material and the concept of the Membership Campaign, which we are confident will bring the desired result of at least a 10 percent increase in membership throughout the country.

Jo Gostin, President WIZO Australia



## Can you see the future while honoring the past?

Sitting with my grandchildren, looking at photo albums... remembering and admiring the women of WIZO who helped establish the State of Israel. My heart fills with pride at the more than 85 years of WIZO's achievements. Now that I am retired, I am full of energy and the desire to work for a better and more just society in Israel. I want to continue to sustain the vision of WIZO's founding mothers.

If you are a proud woman -  
We've been expecting you

**Did You Know...**  
That among the extensive activities that WIZO sponsors to advance the status of women in Israel, there are 4 leadership development centers, legal advice bureaux, three centers for the prevention of violence in the family, 2 shelters for battered women and guidance in the professional advancement of women.

Veteran women can pass on the great experience they have accumulated

Youth at Risk

# EDUCAUTION!

## Still the key to the Future

Without WIZO's help, many of Israel's children at risk would face a very sad, even tragic future

**Tova Ben-Dov**  
World WIZO  
Chairperson





These images of children at risk are featured in WIZO's EduCaution Campaign

**WIZO** was established on July 11, 1920. Already then our founding leaders realized the importance of education.

They knew that the only way to reach the goal of creating a better society and advancing the status of women in Eretz Israel was Education. Today, 85 years later, there is still nothing more important than strengthening and deepening WIZO's involvement in Education.

Education begins at birth. Unfortunately, there are many families who are unable to provide this basic necessity for their children. There are still so many children who are the second and third generation in families suffering from economic, social and cultural distress. WIZO does everything possible to help these children break out of the cycle of poverty and distress. In our Day Care Centers, which cater to children from the age of six months to three years, there are special educational programs which are essential for the children's physical, emotional, cognitive and social development, to prevent social gaps at a later stage.

### Holistic Care of Individuals within the Community

In our WIZO schools and youth villages we provide our students not only with knowledge but also with self confidence and the ability to break out of this cycle. WIZO takes care not only of the

children but of their families, too. Only holistic care of individuals within the community will lead us to the results we aim for. For me, Education equals Security.

By helping WIZO to provide the best possible resources for Israeli children from deprived backgrounds, our supporters will enable these young people to take their rightful place in building Israeli society. This is the central message of a new WIZO EduCaution Campaign.

### Helping 40,000 Israeli Youth

The campaign is designed to raise general funds in support of WIZO's schools and youth villages, youth clubs and the entire range of after-school programming which WIZO offers to nearly 40,000 Israeli youth. These projects include drop-out prevention initiatives, specialized civics classes, cultural enrichment programming, therapeutic counseling, programming for new immigrant children and a variety of other programs for youth at risk. Because of the general nature of the campaign, the proceeds will be allocated to each Federation's quota regardless of the nature of projects which they sponsor.

Only quality education, education towards excellence, will bring us back to what the Jewish people used to be: "The People of the Book". Education is the key to a successful future of our children, our citizens and our State. □





Youth at Risk

# EDUCAUTION!

## Facing the Challenge

**Yossi Naor**

Director World WIZO Formal  
and Informal  
Education Department

**Today,** in the State of Israel, there are about 350,000 children who are defined as children at risk.

**These are children who, without the intervention of WIZO and the state authorities, would become a burden on the state, and some of them would even find themselves in the prisons.**

These large numbers were created by the different state priorities. We know that there are security and budgetary problems, but in the past three years there has been a 30 percent reduction in the national education budget. This has to have an impact.

We at WIZO have entered the vacuum created by these cuts, and have assumed responsibility for providing answers to the challenge of children at risk. If we did not help and intervene, what chance do they have of becoming productive citizens when they grow up?

"At Risk" sounds like a very big concept. Of the 350,000 children at risk, 16,000 of them are youth who are totally outside of educational frameworks. In addition, there are tens of thousands of youth who are in a state of "immediate risk," who have various types of family problems, such as abusive parents or parents suffering from alcoholism, which necessitate their being removed from the home. There are also children at a lower risk level who have not successfully integrated into conventional schools because of past deficiencies. Frequently these children have great potential, and if they receive the appropriate boost, they can take advantage of it and become contributing members of Israeli society.

WIZO cares for all of these youth in accordance with their needs

## Providing the Answers

For example, children who leave their homes because their parents can't take care of them, arrive at WIZO frameworks thanks to a court order – at WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim (sponsored by WIZO Australia) or at the WIZO-Hadassah Canada Hadassim School and Youth Village. WIZO provides the necessary answers to their problems. We do this with social workers, psychologists, loving youth counselors, and of course with the significant financial and moral support of the WIZO Federations around the world that support our schools and youth villages.

We have regular live-in dormitory frameworks for children who haven't integrated into any other educational frameworks. As an alternative to roaming the streets, we provide them with an education. Not only do we provide them with a warm and loving home, we also provide them with a school framework in which the studies are geared to individual needs of the students. Most children study in conventional urban schools with 1,200 other students, 75-85 percent of whom come from families that can afford to pay for after-school tutoring. The other 15-25 percent need the type of push that we can give them to succeed. If most students receive an average of one to two hours in a particular subject a week, in our frameworks the children receive two or three times as much time for each subject, and they also receive special individual attention. We identify the student's problems and find answers for them. We work to enable each child to finish with the maximum achievements, according to his or her potential, and to go out into the world with the maximum education possible.

**Here are examples of some of our projects:**

**1) The Ometz (Courage) Project** – Ometz is an acronym in

Hebrew for "Believe in Yourself, Ready to Make an Effort and Looking Forward to Achievements." This project is based upon a small, intimate classroom, with a maximum of ten students. We provide an educator, who serves as both the father and the mother of the students, who accompanies and encourages them throughout the day. These children need constant encouragement, to strengthen their motivation to study. Many of them had reached a point of total despair about themselves – "I'm not capable, can't do it," are typical responses. We also have one teacher for the ten children, compared to the one teacher for 35-40 children in regular city schools. And we also have an assistant teacher. Thus we check, everyday, and every lesson, whether the child has studied, and has digested and internalized the material. There is a test at the end of every day. We see the results, and if the student didn't get an 80 or 90 on the exam, he studies the material again, and again and again, if necessary. Thus we maintain a real-time regulation of his studies. In the regular school system, the children learn and are only tested after one or two months. The students in our project receive constant, daily encouragement. And success breeds success. The student begins to believe that he can do it. Many of the problems stem from a lack of self-confidence, due to past failures. Thus the Ometz project is a wonderful example of what we do for youth at risk. Unfortunately, the Ministry of Education has stopped supporting the project, and WIZO is struggling to maintain it, with the help of the Federations.

**2) The Second Chance Project** – There are children who have completed their studies at our schools and youth villages who lack one or two grades in specific subjects, or have not completed a number of the matriculation exams. We postpone the military service for these children, because we believe that it is very important that the students who finish our educational system should complete it equipped with a general Matriculation Certificate. This is the key to the student's possibility of continuing on to higher education studies or to getting a job. In this day and age, most jobs require a Matriculation Certificate. For example, we are proud of the fact that 86 percent of the students at WIZO Hadassim complete their matriculation exams. The national average is only about 50 percent. Of course, all of this costs a lot of money, and beyond that, love and dedication.

**3) Zero-Drop Out** – We understand that many of our students come from difficult backgrounds, or have undergone traumatic experiences. However, unless there is an unusually extreme situation, under no circumstances do we allow a child to drop out. We don't allow children to leave WIZO. We will provide the individual attention that they need. We will do everything possible to ensure that they succeed in their studies, and in their eventual integration into Israeli society. We meet many graduates, who say that, thanks to WIZO, they have succeeded in life, and that WIZO is their home, and they say that without WIZO, they don't know what would have become of them.

**4) Vacation Home** – Some of our students at WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim don't have a home to go to over the vacations. For them, we have built a special Vacation Home that they go to over the holidays and on weekends when the other kids go to their families. We don't want them to remain in their regular premises, in a situation where most of the beds are empty because the majority of the children have left. The three, four or five children who remain behind move over to the Vacation







## Youth at Risk

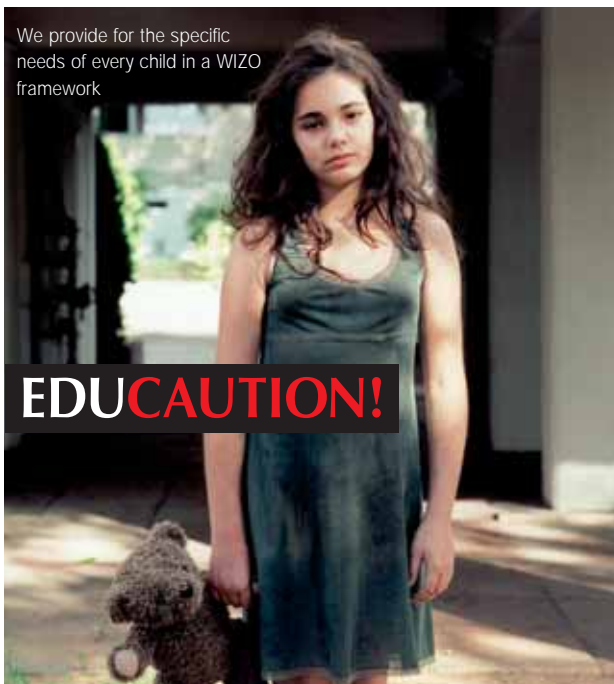
Home to spend the weekend or holiday together. They really feel that it's not just a continuation of their daily lives but a vacation, like a summer camp or a resort, where they get special food and attention, with a delightful, pleasant atmosphere, accompanied by adult supervision. They have a television in the room, a radio and a small library, a real treat that contains all the things they could do if they had a home to go to. This really boosts their morale.

**5) Facing the Community** - Today we also have external students who can be defined as youth at risk. To confront this, have a new project, that is beginning to take shape at the WIZO Nir Haemek High School and Youth Village (sponsored by WIZO USA and WIZO Argentina) called Facing the Community. The philosophy behind this project is to care for the children in our educational framework, but also to care for their families within the context of the community. Our criterion for success here is the degree that we are able to release the children from the boarding school framework to return them to their families. In one family this may take years, in another family months, and in a third family, the child may have to spend all of his educational years at the boarding school. Our goal is to return the child to his community as soon as possible. If there are logistic, or maintenance problems in the home, or problems with younger brothers and sisters, we help out. And if necessary, we also arrange for a social worker to come to the family.

## Ethiopians, Russians and 2nd Generation Poverty

Although youth at risk come from all segments of Israeli society, we should note that many Ethiopian children come from disadvantaged backgrounds. This is due to the difficult socio-economic situation, the lack of employment and also the change in attitude towards parents. Frequently the child has been absorbed more easily into Israeli society than the parents, which leads to a youth rebellion in the family. There are similar problems among the Russian immigrant youth, who don't respond to parental authority at home. There also many single-parent families that came with this wave of immigration.

We provide for the specific needs of every child in a WIZO framework



And this is compounded by drinking and other problems. We also confront problems of a second and third generation to poverty among veteran Israelis, due to past absorption and educational failures.

The only answer to this is – education, education and education. That's the only thing that will extract the children from the cycle of poverty.

We deal with many different areas, to meet the very specific needs of each and every child within the WIZO frameworks, and to provide the answers to these needs. This connects to other WIZO goals such as the struggle against poverty. For example, for the Pessach holiday, we identified more than a thousand children who come from needy families, and we provided all of them with food packages to take to their families for the holiday – flour, oil and other basic foodstuffs, and chocolates as an extra treat. We want to ensure that they have at least the minimum necessary to have a happy holiday. □

### "Rachel's" Story

My name is "Rachel" and I'm studying in the 9th grade in the "Excellence Project" at the WIZO Gardening and Landscape Technology Youth Village, Petach Tikva (sponsored by WIZO Switzerland). Since I had elderly parents, I came on aliya by myself three years ago to spend time with my father who had preceded me. I managed to enjoy one year with him before he died. Since my mother had remained behind in Ethiopia, I found myself very alone, with great emotional pain, without a father or a mother, and of course without any family support, except for my father's sister.

Ever since, I have had to confront the pain of my loneliness, sadness and longing for my father who passed away, and for my mother in Ethiopia. I try, with all my strength, to be strong and to continue in the "Excellence Project." I have been able to do this thanks to the wonderful staff at the youth village, led by Eliezer. Still, the daily reality is hard, and the lack of a close mother figure that most children of my age have, really creates difficulties for me.

That's why I'm writing this letter to request permission and support to enable me to make a visit to my mother back in Ethiopia, to overcome my longing, and to enable me to continue with my path.

With great respect and thanks,

"Rachel" (not her real name)

*The above letter was forwarded to coordinators of WIZO's Anti-Poverty Fund, together with a letter from Eliezer Halevi, Director of the Dormitory at the youth village, who unfortunately recently passed away. "Rachel's" request was fulfilled, with the help of the funds provided by the WIZO Federations, and she has since returned to her studies in the "Excellence Project."*



# Aviv Now

## Aviv's Voice



I am honored to serve as the new Aviv Representative to the World WIZO Executive. Every two years WIZO chooses an Aviv representative from a different part of the world, and now it's Canada's turn. As the Canadian Hadassah-WIZO National Aviv Chair, it is my privilege to have been recommended by our National President, Rochelle Levinson, to serve in this position.

I want to take this opportunity to tell you a little about my involvement with Hadassah-WIZO Canada on both the local and national level. After moving to Toronto from Edmonton in 1988. I joined the, Tamid chapter and have held numerous positions including Treasurer and President. I have served on the Toronto Executive Board for about 15 years in different capacities, including Membership, Leadership, WIZO Services, and Youth Aliyah Youth Services. I have also been General Meetings Chair, WIZO Services Chair, Toronto Convention Chair 2002, Youth Aliyah Youth Services Chair and am now incoming Vice President 2005-2007. For the past five years I've been on the National Board, serving on the Membership Leadership committee and as National Aviv Chair since November 2003.

My first task as National Aviv Chair was to accompany nine Aviv women to the 23rd World WIZO Conference (EGM) in January 2004. What was especially gratifying about this trip was that eight of the Aviv women were in Israel and visiting our projects for the first time. I saw everything through their eyes.

This past October, I had the privilege of chairing our Aviv Conference, held in Montreal attended by 60 women from across Canada. The theme was "Make a Connection - With New Vision". After attending both of these conferences, I can honestly say there is no experience as wonderful as getting to know a group of women who share similar goals and aspirations about our great organization. Together we learned about WIZO, our projects, Israel and ourselves. We learned, laughed, cried, and made new friends. Over the next two years, I hope to make a connection with many of you from all the different Federations. I would love to hear about your successes and concerns so that I can share them with everybody around the world. Please feel free to contact me at marladan@canada.com. I also hope to meet a lot of you during the next two years, and together we will "Make a Connection - With New Vision".

*L'hitraot,  
Marla Dan  
Aviv Representative to the World WIZO Executive*

## Australian National WIZO Aviv Retreat

They were not retreating, but moving ahead! On the weekend of the 19th and 20th of March, WIZO Australia hosted a National WIZO Aviv Retreat for young WIZO women.

Participants from all over Australia attended the Retreat that was held in Melbourne for the first time. Over 70 young and enthusiastic WIZO women converged upon the city to demonstrate their steadfast commitment and passion for WIZO. The Retreat began on the Saturday night with a "girls' party night" at the home of Lisa Farber, Aviv Chairperson, WIZO Australia, where the girls partied the night away and had the opportunity to learn and share ideas in a relaxed social setting. Sunday morning included a series of stimulating talks by several dynamic and interesting people who reinforced the participants' passion for Israel.

The WIZO Aviv Retreat was a resounding success. Upon departure, those who attended were already planning the next Retreat!



Lisa Farber, Michal Saben, Loren Sher, Pam Shapiro, Laurine Kark & Hilary Cohen

Bev Kaplan, Marny Rosen, Di Simons & Kerri Adams



Saturday night party at Lisa Farbers home



Interview - Eva Bensky

# Life in the Land of Nokia

Eva Bensky was an “imported bride”, who came to reinforce the small Finnish Jewish community. Today she’s the energetic president of WIZO Finland

Hillel Schenker

**We** met at the World WIZO Meeting of Representatives in Tel Aviv, to which she had come from the warm Finnish winter – “7 degrees centigrade with green grass outside.” Eva says that “some might call Finland a paradise.” Finland has a small but very active Jewish community, and WIZO is one of the centers of that activity.

*Were you born in Finland, and did you have a Jewish and Zionist education?*

I have lived in Finland now for over 16 years, but I was born in Austria, to Jewish parents from Poland, who came in 1957 to Austria. Thus I was brought up in Vienna, and since there was no Jewish school there at that time, I went to a regular school. However we did have religious lessons with a rabbi and other teachers.

At the age of 19, I spent a year in Israel in the Hebrew University overseas students program in Jerusalem. When I returned to Vienna I began to study languages, but then I worked for six years at my parents’ shop. At that point I met my husband, a Finnish Jew – that’s right, I managed to find one of the few Finnish Jews (laughs). It was 1988, and I moved immediately to Finland.

*That’s how you discovered the Finnish Jewish community, and also WIZO?*

Yes. The community is very, very nice, quite tiny, with about 1,200 Jews in Helsinki.

But we have a kindergarten, a school, an old age home and a beautiful synagogue.

I came into contact with WIZO through my husband’s family. One of his cousins was in a WIZO group, she took me there. That’s how I became involved. The ladies were much older than I was, so I switched to a younger group that had just started. I was about 30, and both of my children had already been born.

*Was that an Aviv group?*

It was a kind of Aviv group. In Finland, when you have so few people, you don’t really differentiate between Aviv and regular groups. We are very happy with every young and older Jewish lady who participates in WIZO. We now have two so-called younger groups, but we don’t organize Aviv activities. When we do an event, it’s for everyone, all together.

*As a small community, do they have a strong Jewish identity, do they feel comfortable and secure?*

We live in a very secure part of the world. It’s quiet and pleasant. Our synagogue and school have a security system, but unlike in Central Europe, we don’t have the police standing in front, and nothing bad has happened. For Europe one might call it a paradise. And we don’t feel any direct anti-Semitism.

The identity of the older generation, like my husband’s parents, is very strong. My father-in-law has been working for Keren Hayesod for 45 years, and my husband is currently the chairman. He is also a former European Maccabi chairman. They have all been very active for Israel. When we reach my generation, around 40, things are more difficult, because inter-marriage has reached about 90 percent. It’s very difficult to find Jewish couples, unless you import them like I was imported (laughs). It’s not





Our Christian supporters are very dedicated, really great friends of Israel. When the second intifada broke out, they were the only tourists who continued to come to Israel

easy to find a Jewish partner. However in recent years we also have some Israelis, who moved to Finland and many of their Finnish partners have converted. Their children tend to be brought up Jewish. The Jewish school has a rule that you can send the children there if one of the parents is Jewish and both parents agree to give the children a Jewish upbringing!

*It sounds reminiscent of Rabbi Melchior, who was the Chief Rabbi of Norway and comes from a very tolerant Orthodox tradition. This must reflect the Scandinavian tradition in general.*

You have to be tolerant, otherwise you can't survive. But at the same time I think it's important that the synagogue and the Jewish community keep Orthodox traditions. Otherwise things become too loose. We don't have a Reform or Conservative synagogue, just one Orthodox synagogue. Our rabbi lives in Israel, and he only comes to Finland for the holidays. I believe he was born in Denmark, and also speaks Swedish, but he lives in Jerusalem. About a year and a half ago, the first Lubavitcher rabbi came to Finland with his wife, and they are very active with the younger generation.

*Finnish sounds like a very difficult language.*

It's a challenge.

*Did you meet the challenge?*

Yes, I speak it fluently. You can't live in Finland and not speak the language. But it took me about one and half years until I spoke my first sentence. Today, I speak fluently, but when I start speaking you immediately hear an accent. I make

mistakes, but Finns are very happy if someone speaks their language, so they are always very appreciative. By the way, I also managed to learn to speak Swedish fluently, which is the second official language in Finland.

*How do you survive the Finnish winter?*

Winter is not winter anymore. When I left Finland to come to Israel, we had +7 centigrade, and the grass outside was green. Usually in January it's -20(!), and we have a lot of snow. In December it's very dark, and we have only 5-6 hours of daylight. While in summer it's marvelous, since the sun almost never sets.

*One similarity between Finland and Israel is that almost everyone has a cellular phone. Finland is first in the world, and Israel second.*

Finns are very, very modern. I think there's no home without a computer, or a television. In general, there's a very high standard of living. A cellular phone is just a means. Our son was 6 and our daughter was 8 when they got their first phones. It's not a status symbol, just a part of life.

*Tell us about WIZO in Finland today, its activities, its challenges and its strength within the Jewish community.*

In 2006, WIZO Finland will celebrate its 80th anniversary. We were founded in 1926, and I believe we are one of the oldest WIZO federations in Europe, and probably in the world. WIZO has always been a strong part of community life. There is a yearly WIZO bazaar, with at least 100 people from the community working at the event. It's a tradition that people help at the bazaar. You don't even have to ask them – they come of their own free will. WIZO has a few groups that meet on a

## ← Interview - Eva Bensky



Eva Bensky and WIZO Helsinki Executive member Aviva Jalkanen



Eva and her husband Leo at an evening function

**In 2006, WIZO Finland will celebrate its 80th anniversary. We are one of the oldest WIZO federations in Europe, and probably in the world**

regular, or less regular basis. The board meets quite regularly, we have number of main events during the year – a concert in a synagogue, our annual bazaar and an Israel Day for our sponsors. Our Sponsor A Child members are very special, because a high percentage of them are non-Jewish. The Israeli Ambassador Shemi Tzur and his wife Orit Shemtov, are very supportive of our work, and they hosted our recent Sponsor A Child event. Our supporters greatly appreciated the possibility of being invited to the Ambassador's home.

WIZO Finland has 200 members and that is why our income relies on Finnish Christians, since we couldn't raise the amount of money we are sending to Israel from the Jewish community alone. In general, our Christian supporters are very dedicated, really great friends of Israel. When the second intifada broke out, they were the only tourists who continued to come to Israel.

*200 members is a very high percentage of the Jewish community.*

Yes, and we probably have one of the highest incomes per capita in the WIZO world. We send a substantial amount of money to Israel every year, and are very proud of it. WIZO has a good name in the community, everyone knows about it – but naturally we could do more. You can always improve. New techniques and the Internet have given us the possibility to reach younger Jewish ladies, who probably wouldn't come to our meetings, but have gained an interest in what we do via the Internet.

*Are all of the WIZO activities based in Helsinki?*

We have one main Federation – WIZO Helsinki, and we have a sub-Federation, WIZO Turku. Ilana Laitervo is the president of WIZO Turku, and I believe there are about 100 Jews living in Turku. WIZO Turku has 10 very active board members, who are very nice. They raise funds as we do, with cooking, baking and organizing different events – Sponsor a Child events, etc.

*The bazaar and the Sponsor a Child events are open to both the Jewish and the general community?*

The bazaar is our main event, and we have about 1,000 non-Jewish guests at the bazaar. They come in from the streets. They know about the bazaar and we advertise it in daily newspapers. It's a well-known event, which always happens on the last Sunday of November, and we are open from morning to evening. We sell food, old clothing, books, new items which we

receive as gifts for the bazaar, have a WIZO Israeli shop, It's quite an event.

We have a small cellar where we keep the items that we collect during the course of the year, but otherwise we do everything without the aid of a WIZO office. Personally I do my WIZO work from my husband's company. He always says that Maccabi, Keren Hayesod and WIZO are all very generous, because they allow his company to work in the same building (laughs). He has an import company, bringing in different goods to Finland. That's our WIZO address.

The bazaar itself takes place in a municipal building for social events. We rent the whole first floor for the bazaar, which makes it very easy for people to come in and out. It's about 100 meters from the community center, in the center of town, which makes it very convenient.

*What are the challenges facing WIZO Finland during the coming years?*

The challenge is to get people interested in our work, to tell people what WIZO is really doing. I think that WIZO has maintained a low profile over the years and has never been promoted as the wonderful organization that it is. How many Finns know that WIZO has 800 institutions and services in Israel, and that WIZO plays such an important role in the daily life of so many Israelis? That's a challenge.

And we also have the challenge of collecting money, to get enough funds to ensure that our day care center is in a good condition and that the children there are in good hands. We support the WIZO Shaviv Day Care Center in Herzliya, with over 100 children, which is very beautiful. Due to my initiative, with the help of World WIZO Chairperson Tova Ben-Dov, it was just renovated last year. It's in a 40 year old building which had undergone very few renovations beforehand.

*Is there cooperation between the different WIZO Federations in Scandinavia, and with the new Federations in the Baltic countries?*

We used to have a general Scandinavian WIZO meeting every two or three years, and we also used to have Scandinavian Aviv meetings. This hasn't happened recently, but at the Meeting of Representatives we discussed having a general meeting of all the WIZO Scandinavian colleagues





Grandmother Hanna and children Miriam and Jonathan



Israeli Ambassador Shemi Tzur hosts a Sponsor a Child event at the Embassy



Visiting the Shaviv Day Care Center in Israel



Eva and her mother in Helsinki

in Stockholm in the Fall of 2005.

I know that WIZO Sweden had some meetings with our Baltic *chaverot*, and I feel bad that we in Finland haven't done anything yet with our *chaverot* from WIZO Estonia.

*When you come to Israel for a WIZO conference or a vacation, what does it feel like?*

It feels like home.

The work we're doing for WIZO is very important, and I

particularly appreciate the days when we visit the WIZO projects in the field. We see the people we are helping, the meaning of all our work, what is done with our money and hear all of the WIZO children's success stories. Our day care center is in a very poor part of Herzliya. When we see these children who are from single parent families, problem families, drug abusers, it gives us a wonderful feeling of being able to help. □

## Things You Didn't Know About Me

**Family:** My husband Leo (44) is a well-known businessman. He's very much a Zionist, very active for Maccabi and Keren Hayesod, and is my biggest WIZO fundraiser, something I'm very thankful for. Every WIZO leader should have a personal fundraiser at home! My two wonderful children, our daughter Miriam (15) and son Jonathan (13) who just had his bar-mitzva, also support me in every way. I also have wonderful parents-in-law, and my husband has two brothers and a sister, all of whom live in Finland. My mother still lives in Vienna and my sister and her family made aliyah 10 years ago to Israel.

**Profession:** I learned languages for two years at the university, but my profession became working in my parents' shop, which I would have continued if I hadn't moved to Finland. Learning languages clearly helped me to learn Finnish.

**Books:** Since my mother tongue is German, I read a lot of books in that language. I also read books in English and see movies, like the German film "Goodbye Lenin." I also like British humor, like "The Calendar Girls." I like fiction and recently read "The Kitchen God" by Amy Tan. Right now I'm reading a book about a 13 year old Jewish girl in Hanover Germany in 1967, who describes her family life.

**Hobbies:** I love swimming and skiing. In Finland we always swim indoors, because except for 4 weeks during the summer, it's too cold. And in summer, the whole family also plays golf together. For holidays, we usually go skiing together. Every summer, the family also comes on vacation to Israel, where both my sister and my aunts live. Everyone says – why are you coming in the summer when it's so hot? But as Finns, we enjoy the heat!



Meeting of Representatives

# SETTING THE AGENDA FOR 2005

## Summary of the World WIZO Meeting of Representatives

World WIZO's Meeting of Representatives is like an annual family gathering of distant cousins from around the world, come together to share experiences and make plans for the future. This year there were 150 "cousins" from 23 countries

**Michele Vogel**  
Chairperson  
WIZO.uk

Delegates visiting the tunnel next to  
the Wall in Jerusalem

**The** first morning set a warm and positive tone for the Plenary with greetings from World WIZO Honorary Life Presidents Raya Jaglom and Michal Modai. Mrs Jaglom asked us to remember that WIZO needs not only funds but also Aliyah, while Michal, now Chairperson of the Council of Jewish Women's Organizations in Israel, stressed the increasingly important need for professionalism in these competitive times.

World WIZO President, Helena Glaser, pointed out the three main areas of concern in Israel today: 1) The disengagement and its implication; 2.) Anti-Semitism and 3) Socio-Economic Problems. There are more single parent families and unemployment is at an all time high. Who would have imagined a few years ago that the poverty level in modern Israel would be one of the highest in the western world? Inevitably, it is the children who suffer the most. Chairperson of the World WIZO Executive Tova Ben Dov reinforced this point by saying that one third of the Israeli public feels the greatest threat to Israel's security is the gap between rich and poor, and with major government cuts in the welfare budget the state is doing little to help the weak.

Clearly a strong society is one which looks after its weaker elements.

Tools for Life World WIZO is to be congratulated on its recovery program, making stringent cuts where necessary, in order to use our resources in the most efficient and cost-effective way, and working on a strategic plan to enhance the perception of the scale of our work and thereby enhance our fundraising capability. We were all impressed by the new films and posters prepared for us to use in our campaigns.

Education has always been what we do best and is the key to a better society.

As WIZO Israel Chairperson Yochy Feller said, WIZO provides the Tools for Life. We have recently opened a fourth women's center in the Druse community, we should be proud of our work in building bridges with minorities in Israel.

World WIZO Treasurer Miri Perlis is to be commended on her thorough, detailed and clearly explained presentation of our accounts. Government budget cuts have placed a huge burden

on WIZO. One point four million citizens live below the poverty line i.e. 22.4 percent of the population and almost one third of them are children. As fewer children are able to come to our day care centers and schools it is timely to re-launch our Sponsor A Child Campaign.

I believe that it is vital for us to always tell people that we have a budget of 110 million dollars to emphasize the huge scale of our work here.

## Issues of the Day – Peace and Anti-Semitism

Ehud Yaari, Chief Middle East Commentator for Israel TV's Channel 2, gave us an insight into the situation after the demise of Arafat. Let us hope and pray that Abu Mazen's view that the Intifada was a mistake for the Palestinians and that a two state solution is the only way forward will herald a wind of change.

Brenda Katten, Chair of World WIZO Public Affairs and NGO Department, opened the session on Anti-Semitism. How depressing that as we commemorate 60 years since the liberation of the concentration camps this topic is at the forefront of our concerns. The Presidents of WIZO Australia, Brazil, Canada and Holland are to be congratulated on their interesting analyses of anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism. "Dry Bones" cartoonist Yaakov Kirshen described how humor and cartoons can change people's preconceptions. I was impressed by Peleg Reshef – past chair of the World Union of Jewish Students. Students in the Diaspora have a formidable task in combating anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism on campuses. We should be very proud of our young people who take a firm stand, who sensibly form coalitions with other minorities and support fellow students on other campuses, for these are the educators and the leaders of tomorrow.

Rabbi Michael Melchior, Deputy Minister for Education Culture & Sport, said that anti-Semitism is a societal rather than a Jewish problem - a problem for everyone who cares about democracy, decency, civilization and human rights. We should reach out to Moslem communities and enter into dialogue with moderate Moslems,. He stressed that we must not let anti-Semitism rule

## The International Lapid Seminar

Fran Luborsky, Toronto, Canada

When asked to give my impressions of the International WIZO Lapid Seminar held in conjunction with the Meeting of Representatives, I wondered - where do I start? The schedule was so busy and full that I felt overwhelmed. The advice I was given - write from the heart!

My first thoughts were about all the Jewish communities and WIZO centers around the world that were represented at this seminar - places I never even thought about as having Jewish centers. All the "WIZO Ladies" were very friendly, committed and enthusiastic members of our organization. Their fundraising activities for Israel were of the utmost importance to them. The representative of each country proudly reported about their fundraising events while the rest of us listened intently, hoping to discover new ideas and insights.

A great deal of planning and hard work went into the organization of this seminar. I was amazed at the number of guest speakers and topics covered; and printed material and CD's were available to help us become even better at what we do.

In between lectures and meetings we visited some of the WIZO projects sponsored by WIZO federations. How wonderful to see how our hard work has paid off! The children and communities that are served by these projects have benefited greatly from our support and commitment.

The Lapid group also met on their own to discuss the Diaspora, Israel and WIZO. This was definitely the most insightful session for me, where we could speak about our own thoughts on being Jewish and what belonging to WIZO means in our country. I was very proud to be part of this international group of Jewish women discussing matters of importance to us all: our families, Israel and the significance of being Jewish, and grateful to have been chosen to represent my country at this International Lapid Seminar.





## Sderot Day – Facing the Kassam Missiles

The reality of everyday life in Israel was brought home vividly to us during our visit to the southern development town of Sderot. I was asked whether we were nervous about going. My response was that WIZO women are “made of stern stuff” and it was important for us to show our solidarity with the people of Sderot. I humbly admit, that we were driven around in our private bus with a security guard, while the inhabitants of Sderot do not have that luxury. We learned that a former old people's home is now the early warning center for the area, and the alarm when a Kassam missile is first heard allows only 20 seconds to find shelter. The Mayor was unable to give us a briefing as he had gone to the hospital where a 17-year-old girl who protected her brother against a missile lay seriously injured. Regretfully she later died from her injuries. Everyday life in Israel is full of heroes and heroines.

We saw the proximity of the Gaza Strip and smoke from a Kassam in the distance, and we understood the people's fears when we witnessed a demonstration pleading with the government to do more to prevent the missile attacks. The demonstration took place at the Black Arrow Memorial Park, commemorating the 500 Israeli citizens killed and over 1000 injured by Fedayin (infiltrators) between 1948 and 1956.

My bus visited the WIZO Day Care Center in the name of Margaret Thatcher sponsored by WIZO.uk. Eleven of the 86 children were referred by the Ministry of Welfare and seven children have special needs, including autism. Integration is an important feature of most of our day care centers, teaching children to accept and respect difference. Sderot has a 12% unemployment rate and 12,000 of the 22,000 population, are new immigrants. Because of the low economic level and the fear of taking youngsters a long way to school, the municipality approached WIZO to build a new day care center on an available plot of land. We all shared a tremendous sense of excitement at the magnanimous response of Mr & Mrs Rappaport of Switzerland to build that center.

our agenda and prevent us from dealing with the more serious and pressing issues of social justice, education and welfare in Israel today.

## Learning about Legacies

So how can we as WIZO members help bridge the social gap? One of the ways is by encouraging more legacies. Mel Borenstein and Judith Schwedl ion gave us tips to overcome trepidation and reticence in asking for legacies. Research of potential legatees is vital as is building and maintaining a relationship. Our members and supporters will surely desire the continuation of the work to which they have dedicated their lifetime's energies.

Ruth Sotnick, Honorary President of WIZO.uk, gave a brief analysis of the realities of fundraising today. It is vital that we all be ‘on message’ and communicate this message clearly and with confidence. We must cherish and nurture our members and donors and remember that the average donor of today could be the major donor of tomorrow, and particularly those two important words, THANK YOU. Ruth stressed the importance of legacies, “A legacy is your last love letter”.

## Hasbarah = Advocacy

*Hasbarah* (Advocacy) – the word that arouses so much passion and controversy, was dealt with by three superb advocates, David Horovitz, Editor-in-Chief the Jerusalem Post, Daniel Taub, Director of the Law Division of Israel's Foreign Ministry and Brigadier General Ruth Yaron, IDF Chief Spokesperson. Yaron said we are fighting an asymmetric war in which children and (often well-educated) young women are used as weapons. How do we fight terrorists living among civilian populations? She emphasized the huge responsibility of our young soldiers in

preventing terrorists getting through checkpoints to Israeli towns. The moral issues facing the IDF were highlighted by the three speakers – we have to win the war without compromising our Jewish values. Horovitz said it is up to us all to fight in the second battlefield i.e. the world media, to be effective ambassadors for Israel.

Taub said that government spokesmen are often asked questions which they are not in a position to answer, giving the appearance of being evasive. He praised the efforts of WIZO in The Hague during the struggle over the separation fence, saying the battle must also be won in legal, political and academic circles. But we must not define ourselves only in terms of the conflict.

Rafi Mann of Maariv gave us excellent tips on “feeding the media beast” i.e. understanding what is newsworthy and how to ensure that the items we want published have the right components, especially a human angle.

## Rebranding WIZO

Looking to the future, Marcus Fielding, Executive Director of WIZO.uk, outlined our recent research project into how WIZO is perceived among different age groups of members and non-members to enable us to plan for the future and attract a new and younger following. Part of this exercise was a re-branding – changing from British WIZO to WIZO.uk and with a logo more in line with that of World WIZO, underlined with the phrase “Caring for the people of Israel”. We cannot be complacent – changing demography, greater competition, Diaspora populations with more old people than young, all mean we have to rethink our strategies and be more professional in our approach.

Why do we need to do all this? We saw the answer at an





1. Setting policy for 2005
2. At the gala evening at the WIZO-Hadassah Canada Hadassim School and Youth Village
3. Getting a history lesson in Jerusalem

### Babysitter for the Minister

It was not coincidental that WIZO Denmark President Kaja Sarde was chosen to introduce Deputy Minister MK Rabbi Michael Melchior. As she proudly noted, since both his mother and his grandmother were pillars of WIZO Denmark, Kaja was mobilized to baby-sit for the young Michael. And now she found herself introducing him as a guest speaker at a World WIZO Meeting of Representatives. Rabbi Melchoir said that WIZO shaped his Jewish and Zionist identity. And he added: "When you invited me to speak at the last World WIZO Conference I was in the hospital and unable to come. I feel that I am now forever fated to atone for that, by coming to speak whenever you call on me."

entertaining and uplifting evening at the WIZO Hadassah-Canada Hadassim School and Youth Village: so we can fund increasing numbers of youngsters who can benefit from our schools. World WIZO's Department of Organization & Education chaired by Sylvie Pelossof, ably supports all of us with programs, materials and information for our campaigns – in short, the tools for our work. It is marvelous to have a newsletter on the web with stories and features to help inform younger women about WIZO. Perhaps this will be the way forward for Lapid.

### "We've Been Expecting You"

The excellent campaign for recruiting new members entitled "We've been expecting you" driven by Helena Glaser, produced by Irit, Elad and the Publicity Department with their first class materials, should greatly enhance our membership drives. Our members need to feel and be involved said Daniel Segre, an organizational consultant. They need to be knowledgeable and active participants sharing responsibilities. He stressed the importance of nurturing successors and being able to delegate through a shared vision and purpose.

Our fabulous fundraising team Celia Michonik, Esther Mor and "fairy godmother" Betty Crystal, gave us great ideas for original

fundraising opportunities around the world. They have produced excellent new Sponsor A Child material and a film. The sharing of successful ideas is so important, since fundraising is the lifeblood of our organization.

Since its inception WIZO has been synonymous with improving the status of women. Yehudit Plotkin, Head of the Status of Women Department in the Prime Minister's office, praised WIZO's impact in effecting social change for women. She singled out our empowerment courses for leadership as a pathway for personal growth, not only for oneself, but for the benefit of others. We heard heartrending personal stories from women whose lives have been transformed by WIZO. Though their experiences were different, the words that were common to them all were new-found self-respect, dignity and a feeling that they had found their place in the world and could move forward with hope for the future. Sharon said that "by helping one woman you have helped my whole family".

Last year WIZO federations raised \$18.5 million, a \$1.4 million increase. Let us aim that by this time next year we will top \$20 million. We returned from the marvelous four days with renewed energy, purpose and fresh ideas and pray that next year we will meet again in a peaceful and more prosperous Israel. □

In Memory

# Yedida Lahav

## (1912-2005)

### An Irreplaceable Friend

Yedida Lahav was an extraordinary woman. A seventh-generation Jerusalemite, she was totally dedicated to Zionism, WIZO, Israeli society and just plain people, even into her 90s



## I met

my Yedida (which means friend in Hebrew) 25 years ago when I was referred to her for help in

organizing a day of entertainment for women soldiers at the base where I was a Women's Corps officer. It was love at first sight, and the relationship that began then only grew stronger and stronger until her death at the age of 92.

Her parents could not have chosen a more appropriate name; it suited her belief that one had to be a good listener and provide support for everyone in need.

### Dedicated to the Individual Soldier

With the help of her many friends, she established rest and recreation clubs for male soldiers, hairdressing salons for female soldiers, help in acquiring decent dishes and silverware for the army camp where I served, and many other things besides.

Yedida, a true friend of my entire family, taught me what it means to help others out of love for humanity, and I hope I will be able to do a fraction of what she did during her long life.

All this and much more enabled Yedida to be a happy person. With each visit I encountered a glowing happy woman, someone who saw the half full glass rather than the half empty one, someone who loved the State more than anything else.

### Still Active at 90

On her 90th birthday, WIZO Tel Aviv held a moving celebration in her honor. At the time, I was in Poland, a Shaliach (Emissary) for

the Ministry of Defense, and I came especially in order to participate in the party. As the event drew near we wondered what to give Yedida, and my husband and I immediately thought of establishing a fund in her name for the needy.

### Making a Difference with WIZO

Yedida and WIZO were one, she never missed a single meeting, even when her eyesight grew dim. It was important to her to participate in meetings, in activities and to make a difference.

It was important to her that I be involved in WIZO, and I was appointed, with her encouragement, to be the Chairperson of the World WIZO Publicity Department.. Regretfully, the timing was inappropriate and I had to resign from the position. On her deathbed, Yedida asked me to return to WIZO in the future and I see this as a command that I will try to fulfill.

### Farewell, Dear Friend

It makes me very sad that Yedida is no longer with us. Yedida was my closest and best friend; she is irreplaceable.

Yedida, I promise to follow in your footsteps although it will be difficult to maintain your pace. You were and always will be a perfect example for me.

Rest in peace, dear woman. May there be many more like you in the world...

*With love and kisses*

*Your friend, Adi Bershadsky*

### Yedida Lahav – Daughter of Jerusalem

In 1997, Yedida published her memoirs, "Yedida – Daughter of Jerusalem." A seventh-generation Jerusalemite, Yedida wrote the book to celebrate the 3,000th anniversary of the city. Her mother was the grand-daughter of Chief Rabbi Meir Panigel, and she recounted memories of the city, going back to the expulsion of her family from Spain and their arrival in Jerusalem via Europe and Turkey.

She also told the story of her deep involvement with WIZO over the years, her many WIZO missions to Jewish communities around the world, and her voluntary activities for the IDF.

When told that WIZO was organizing a special party in honor of her 90th birthday Yedida said, "Please do it very modestly. I wish to request that no presents or flowers be brought to me, but instead that a donation be given to WIZO, earmarked for needy children."

In an article published in *Haaretz* about Yedida, World WIZO Honorary Life President Michal Modai says that "there was no area related to Israeli society, the environment and concern for the welfare of Israeli soldiers that was foreign to Yedida. She worked for all of these causes with great energy and enthusiasm, and made a special effort to involve young women in WIZO activities."

In appreciation for her over 50 years of activity for WIZO, and her continued dedicated work for the quality of life and education for both Jews and Arabs, Yedida Lahav was made a Distinguished Citizen of Tel Aviv in 2003.

# WIZO in Israel

## The (WIZO) Tourists are Coming!

Recently, three different WIZO groups, two from WIZO.uk that came to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Rebecca Sieff Family Centre and a group from WIZO Australia that came for an unprecedented tour, were hosted by the World WIZO Tourism Department. Altogether there were 85 people in the three groups. This was an unprecedented number of WIZO tourists at one time, and it was quite a challenge for the department to coordinate their itineraries.

For the two British groups, the celebrations at the WIZO Family Centre in Jerusalem were clearly the highlight of their visit. The Australians also participated in the festive evening. All of the groups also visited the new, moving Holocaust Museum at Yad Vashem.

### Life Liner Legacy Tour

The group from WIZO.uk led by Past President Ruth Sotnick arrived on the eve of Independence Day, and in the spirit of the occasion, visited the Palmach Museum in Ramat Aviv. Afterwards they were welcomed at Department Chairperson Lili Peyser's home for a holiday lunch, joined by members of the World WIZO Executive, including President Helena Glaser and Chairperson Tova Ben-Dov, and we arranged a special concert for them that evening in their hotel. They visited the southern region WIZO Battered Women's Shelter where the residents shared their life stories, and the Bedouin town of Rahat where one of the Bedouin women had graduated from WIZO's empowerment course for women. They also visited the WIZO center in Be'erSheva and the Tel Nof army base which has a project sponsored by WIZO.uk.

We hope this will become an annual event.

### Versatile and Balanced Tour

The second WIZO.uk group was led by Chairman Michele Vogel and Honorary Secretary Loraine Warren, and had a very versatile and balanced tour. They saw WIZO day care centers, youth villages, the WIZO Rainbow House center in Haifa, the WIZO Academy for Design and Teacher Training and much more. They had a very interesting tour along Separation Barrier, where they received very informative explanations from an IDF spokesperson. They visited the Eileen Platt WIZO Center in Ramat Gan, where they and the Australian group heard a talk by Mani Ansar, the director of the Helena Glaser Center for Treatment of Domestic Violence. They also had a wonderful visit to the WIZO Nachlat Yehuda School and Youth Village (sponsored by WIZO Switzerland), where the renowned song and dance troupe performed for them. On the last day they went north to Afula and visited the Lilly and Marcus Sieff Multi-Purpose Day Care Center and the Gruss Community Center, and had a lovely lunch at Beit Gavriel on the Sea of Galilee. The highlight of



WIZO Australia Chairperson Jo Gostin (left) with her *chaverot* present the handmade quilts

the day was visiting the Margaret Gold Music Center in Tiberias, where they heard a wonderful concert by the youth orchestra. The tour ended with a delicious barbeque dinner on the roof of the Carlton Hotel.



WIZO.uk Chairman Michele Vogel (left) with the UK group at the 50th anniversary celebration

### Unprecedented Australian Group

The Australian group came for eight wonderful days. They opened their tour with a private dinner at their hotel, with a special DJ. At the WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim Boarding School (sponsored by WIZO Australia) they brought over 40 beautiful hand-made quilts that were presented to the school director. The group was welcomed one evening at the home of Department Deputy Chairperson Janine Gelley, where they enjoyed food and music. They joined the British groups at the festivities in Beit Hakerem, Tiberias and Ramat Gan, visited the Hatzor Air Force Base and were invited to a reception at the Australian ambassador's home. They also had an exciting day at Neve WIZO in Herzliya and at the WIZO Nir Haemek School and Youth Village (sponsored by WIZO USA and WIZO Argentina).. The last day of their visit was spent in Jerusalem, where they visited Yad Vashem, the Rebecca Sieff Family Center, the Wall and its tunnels. The tour concluded with a dinner at an exquisite Moroccan restaurant in Jerusalem. This was the first time that such a large group from WIZO Australia had come to visit Israel and WIZO.

It was a thrilling ten days, with a wonderful atmosphere, people meeting each other, visiting WIZO projects and getting a general taste of Israel today. The Tourist Department was privileged and honored to have all of these groups as our guests, and look forward to many more such tours.

Orna Ref



# WIZO in Israel

## Jubilee Celebration in Jerusalem

"I am so excited and happy," said Michal Naor, who came with her 22-year-old daughter Meirav to the jubilee celebrations for the WIZO Baby Home, now the Rebecca Sieff WIZO Center for the Family in Bet Hakerem, Jerusalem (sponsored by WIZO.uk) "I have waited so long for this occasion, and came here today with my daughter." Michal and many others like her came to mark the 50th anniversary of the WIZO Baby Home, to get together again with their caregivers, to see the place after so many years and to meet other people who grew up there.

Michal, who has lived all her life in the Gilo neighborhood of Jerusalem and works at the Jerusalem Municipality, had never revisited the place that was her home for four years. Her mother passed away in 1962 a week after Michal was born, and she was brought to the WIZO Baby Home. During those years her father came to visit her often, along with her older sisters, and Michal still had some pictures of the Home. She brought them along with her, and was thrilled to reunite with the women who had taken care of her as a child. Her daughter Meirav watched incredulously. "To see Mother so happy today, and to come with her to the Center where she grew up, is a great experience," she said. Michal



"This evening is dedicated to you, members of WIZO.uk" - Helena Glaser



Yehudit Plaot, who holds a photo of herself as a young child, was reunited with her nanny, Esther Moshel



The event concluded with a rousing performance by WIZO youth troupes

commented that her youngest daughter had attended the WIZO Day Care Center in Gilo, completing a circle for her.

### Large Delegation from WIZO.uk

A large delegation of members from WIZO.uk came to Israel for the 50th anniversary of the WIZO Baby Home. The building was constructed in 1955 with funds from the WIZO Federation of Great Britain and Ireland. The delegation members participated in the planting of trees and toured the Center, which today serves thousands of residents from Jerusalem and the surrounding area. They met with the professional staff which cares for children, youth and women, and received a detailed description of weekly activities at the Center.

Simultaneously, caregivers and former "graduates" met in one of the many rooms of the Center, where they looked enthusiastically at the albums full of historic pictures from the time of their stay in the Home, including the furniture and utensils the caregivers used during that period. World WIZO Chairperson Tova Ben-Dov thanked the participants who came from near and far. "I want to send you back in time to the moment when there were only rocks and



"We are proud of the past, and look forward to the future" - Tova Ben-Dov

stones here, exactly at the place where we are today. Fifty years ago, members of WIZO Great Britain and Ireland felt a strong need to establish a baby home in Jerusalem. Today we are proud of the past and look forward to the future, to another chapter of assistance and support for all those who need WIZO." Tova thanked the professional staff of the Center, especially director Penina Gefen, who had worked around the clock in order to ensure the 50th anniversary celebrations' success.

### Thanks to WIZO.uk

World WIZO President Helena Glaser said that today, when the world is commemorating 60 years since the Allied victory over the Nazi regime, she is proud to be a Jewish woman. "I am especially proud to be part of WIZO -- which Israelis recognize and respect

for the activities it has been involved with for the 85 years since its inception. The Rebecca Sieff WIZO Center for the Family in Jerusalem is an excellent example of this. Over the years, thousands of infants and children have been exposed to social opportunities and studies, and have been reinforced with the attention, dedication, love and happiness that were showered upon them here. This evening is dedicated to you, members of WIZO.uk, for your devotion, dedication, commitment, involvement, and your contribution to Zionism. I want to express this esteem on behalf of the WIZO Federations throughout the world, who share in the joy of the success of this project."

Raya Jaglom, Honorary Life President of World WIZO, spoke with emotion about the establishment of the WIZO Baby Home, and Michele Vogel, Chairman of WIZO.uk gave thanks for the moving event that World WIZO had organized, and thanked all those who had contributed to its success. Chief Rabbi Yonah Metzger, the guest of honor, said that he was happy to close the circle after 50 years and to be present at this event, as the Chief Rabbi at the time, Isaac Halevy Herzog, had been present at the opening ceremony of the WIZO Baby Home. The evening concluded with a rousing performance by the song and dance troupes of the WIZO Nachlat Yehuda School and Youth Village, the community center in WIZO Bet Shemesh, and the students of the WIZO Technical School in Jerusalem.



Ruth Sotnick together with some of the current residents of the Rebecca Sieff WIZO Center for the Family



## WIZO Poll - Level of Financial Independence of Israeli Women

In about 55 percent of the households in Israel, finances are managed by both spouses; however, 66 percent of Israeli women do not read the financial pages of the newspaper.

To mark International Women's Day, WIZO, through the Market Watch Research Institute, a subsidiary of Synovate, conducted a survey to examine the level of financial independence of women in Israel in comparison with women in other parts of the world. More than 4,000 women from nine countries took part in the study.

Reacting to the results Yochi Feller, Chairperson of WIZO Israel, said: "On the day that we mark International Women's Day throughout the world, and examine the extent to which we have progressed in the sphere of social equality, the results of the survey show that Israeli women have come a long way regarding their involvement in the sphere of economics, both for herself and her family, and they hold progressive opinions relative to women in other parts of the world."

"In spite of this, from the survey and also from the reality we are acquainted with as women, it can be seen that there is still room for improvement both in women's attitudes and in their behavior. Israeli women shy away from financial issues. Many still believe that the man with money is the man whose opinion will be respected. They rarely own private property."

"We in WIZO Israel have decided that in the year 2005 we will focus on the issue of financial independence for women, which we see as of primary importance for the advancement of the status of women. In the first stage we will conduct workshops for women all over the country whose objective will be to change the attitudes of women about everything having to do with money, by imparting knowledge and understanding as well as tools for the proper management of family and personal finances."

## 5th Graduating Class of the WIZO School for Women's Political Leadership in Jerusalem

On December 28th, 2004, the 5th graduating class of WIZO's School for Women's Political Leadership in Jerusalem held a special ceremony to mark the occasion. The ceremony was opened by WIZO Jerusalem Chairperson Simi Mor, who greeted MK Etti Livni, Chairperson of the Knesset Committee for the Advancement of the Status of Women, and expressed appreciation for her work for equality for women, and for advancing the amendment to the Municipal Law which requires fair representation for women in municipal companies and corporations. She also greeted the graduates, and said that they were worthy of serving as elected officials, and was convinced that they would succeed in the future. Gila Oshrat, Chairperson of WIZO Israel's Division for the Status of Women in Law and Society and Jewish Agency representatives Paula Edelstein and Dr. Dalia Fisman also greeted the graduates.

MK Etti Livni described her activity as a woman on the Knesset's prestigious Security and Foreign Affairs Committee, and she also referred to incidents of hiring and firing female faculty members at Tel Aviv University. She emphasized that it was necessary to find worthy women who could serve as directors in municipal companies, and in key positions in other public institutions.

Chaviva Alisian, the representative of the graduating class, thanked WIZO and the school's staff for the opportunity given to them to participate in such a stimulating and challenging program. At the end of the ceremony, certificates were given to the 35 graduates, who joined the 160 graduates of the four previous classes. Today, many of those women graduates are serving in key roles as members of the municipal councils, moshav committees, and many other community and public positions.

## New Hotline to Prevent Violence in the Family

In May, 2005, WIZO Israel's Department for the Advancement of the Status of Women inaugurated a new emergency National Hotline for the Prevention of Violence in the Family and for Children at Risk, in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Welfare. "For many years, we operated a national hotline for battered women," says Department director lawyer Bella Cohen, "and the experience we accumulated in this area is the reason why the ministry decided to operate the new hotline together with WIZO." The purpose of the hotline is to provide an address and an initial response for women, men and children who are victims of violence in their families or within

the frameworks they live in. It will provide an attentive ear to the victims who are at risk and who come from all segments of the population. It will also provide information about possible methods of action, which will include the sending of written material containing information about available services. The people staffing the hotline will also act as intermediaries with bodies that deal with these problems within the community, and they will provide concrete answers for the specific problems that are raised.

Sixty women have already volunteered to staff the new hotline and the department is running training courses for them. The hotline will be able to respond to calls in Hebrew, Arabic, Russian and Amharic.





## United Kingdom

### WIZO.uk Golden Fund Attracts Huge Response

In a phenomenal response, £110,000 has been raised for the Golden Anniversary Fund created to mark the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Jerusalem Baby Home, now known as the Rebecca Sieff WIZO Centre for the Family. Proceeds from the appeal will guarantee the continuity of WIZO's innovative educational programmes for 450 young people each day, 120 of whom have special needs.

A Golden Anniversary Book will mark the occasion of the 50th anniversary, in which the names of donors to the fund will be recorded. In addition, donations of £250 or more to the fund will see the donor's name or that of a loved one inscribed on a commemorative board to be displayed at the Rebecca Sieff Centre, thereby establishing a permanent link.

WIZO.uk chairman Michele Vogel says: "I am delighted by the warm and generous response to our Golden Anniversary Fund appeal and for the ongoing support of WIZO.uk's flagship project. The success of this appeal will help us to provide care to those in need for the next 50 years. Caring for the people of Israel is WIZO's purpose and the difference we make each day to the lives of thousands of Israeli citizens is very real."



At the opening of the Jerusalem Baby Home in 1955

### Kids In Their Fashion

AVIV.uk's third Kids 4 Kids children's fashion show in the suburbs of north London in March saw several hundred families and friends watch proudly as 75 youngsters from tots to teenagers paraded on the catwalk in some of the latest gear. Leading fashion-wear shops Rocket and Base were key sponsors, with entertainment from the dance group Kidanza. This year AVIV sold a souvenir DVD of the show to raise funds to provide counselling at WIZO day care centres in Israel for children suffering trauma or neglect. The DVD included facts about WIZO.uk projects and advertisements from companies who supported the event, which raised over £13,500.



At the 3rd Kids 4 Kids fashion show

### Young WIZO.uk Japanese Themed Party Raises £8,200

Young WIZO.uk has done it again. Their February Japanese-themed 'Lost in Translation' party at the prestigious Shumi restaurant in London's Mayfair attracted a fantastic international crowd of 300 guests, who were welcomed by authentic Geisha girls, drank sake and enjoyed sushi served by the Committee members. The event raised over £8,200 that will be sent to help run WIZO.uk's newly rebuilt Helena Kagan Centre for Youth and Communications in Katamon, Jerusalem. This spacious two-storey purpose-built club and community centre



Promotional chopsticks with WIZO.uk ribbons

includes study and computer rooms for children, gym, library, auditorium, disco, radio and TV studios and an all-weather outdoor mini-football pitch.

The original Helena Kagan Youth Club, also sponsored by British WIZO, was housed in a couple of basic buildings (no heating in winter or air-conditioning in summer) but still managed to provide educational, cultural and sports facilities for hundreds of youngsters. It was built in honour of Helena Kagan, a founder of World WIZO, in honour of her 80th birthday in 1969 and was demolished about two and a half years ago.

### Freddie's Fantastic Bar-Mitzvah Gift To WIZO.uk

London schoolboy Freddie Fulton generously donated over £500 of his Bar Mitzvah present money to WIZO's Bar/Bat Mitzvah Campaign. WIZO.uk presented Freddie with a becher



Dancing at the bar-mitzvah



Freddie Fulton



← and a special certificate acknowledging his donation towards a Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebration for five children of single-parent families on welfare in Israel or for new immigrant children, some of whom are orphaned. We look forward to showing Freddie and his family WIZO's work with young people when they next visit Israel.

## WIZO.uk Sends Over £2.8 Million To Israel

WIZO in the UK has reported a significant increase in its income this year, bringing the total to £2,860,109. Finance chairman Myrna Young says: "More than ever before, help was needed to provide extra funds, with one in five Israeli families now classified as living below the poverty line. WIZO.uk is proud that it was able to send over £2.8 million to WIZO in Israel, £1million of which came from our reserves. "Due to Government cutbacks to our projects, the majority of this money was vitally needed to employ staff and to keep needy children in WIZO centres. These extra funds have really made a difference."

"We continue to help keep the doors open to 800 WIZO projects in Israel. In addition, this year we have re-opened the completely rebuilt Helena Kagan Community Centre for Youth and Communications and renovated the kitchen at the Rebecca Sieff WIZO Centre for the Family, both of which are situated in Jerusalem. With the support of WIZO.uk, the non charitable arm of British WIZO, we are delighted to see our membership increasing and, in particular, that many new young WIZO groups have been formed, thereby increasing our future fundraising potential." "We are extremely grateful to our members and supporters for their generosity during the year and we look forward to an even more successful 2005."

## USA

### New York

#### Casino Night

Casino Night 2005, chaired by Haley Lieberman Binn and Cecilia Lempert, took place at the New York hot spot Capitale. The elegant black tie event, organized under the leadership of Chapter Chair Gail Perl, Vice Chairs Wilma Aschendorf and Joyce Misrahi and the entire New York Executive Board, drew 600 guests and included a raffle and a silent auction. It was a memorable and very successful event.

#### Launching Spring Luncheon Campaign

Jackie Siegal, Chair of this year's WIZO New York Spring Children's Fashion Show and Luncheon, invited the chairs of the luncheon committees to a kick-off breakfast in her home to launch the event. Evelyn Sommer, WIZO USA President, Gail Perl, WIZO New York Chair, Celia Michonik, Chairperson of the World WIZO Fundraising Department and Jackie Siegal addressed the guests on WIZO's needs and the importance of their efforts.

#### WIZO Westchester

Under the leadership of Co-Chairs Angela Retelny, Caroline Freidfertig and Rachel Heisler Sheinfeld, WIZO Westchester held a dinner at the home of Carol and Victor Labi. The special guests



At the Casino Night 2005: (l-r) Cecilia Lempert, Joyce Misrahi, Nazee Moinian, Mireille Manocherian, Wilma Aschendorf, Gail Perl, Azita Aghravi and Haley Lieberman Binn



At the the Westchester Event: (l-r) hostess Carol Labi, Rachel Heisler Sheinfeld, Caroline Freidfertig, Janice Gillerman, Ambassador Dan Gillerman, Angela Retelny, Gail Perl and Lisa Sofer



Marci Weiss, Marci S. Waterman and Joyce Misrahi



Cathy and Seymour Zises



WIZO New York Chapter Chair Gail Perl (left) and Mira Sofer, WIZO USA Vice President



Arlene Stein (left) and Liana Silverstein



Daniel and Carolyn Hirsch, Michelle and Josh Lobel



Daryosh and Vicki Sakhai



Jason Binn (left) and Joseph Mionian



were Ambassador Dan Gillerman, Permanent Representative of Israel to the UN, and Janice Gillerman, member of the World WIZO Executive.

The Ambassador presented an informative report on Israel at the United Nations and answered questions afterward. WIZO New York Chair Gail Perl also addressed the young audience.

### Brenda Katten in New Jersey

Brenda Katten, Chairperson of World WIZO's NGO and Public Affairs Department and a member of the Israeli Delegation to the sessions of the UN Commission of the Status of Women, addressed the WIZO Chapter in New Jersey, chaired by Ariela Spialter and Bat Sheva Halpern, at the home of Shelly Grossman. Her reports on anti-Semitism at the UN and the work of WIZO were highly motivating to the WIZO members

## Washington

### Washington Too

The WIZO Chapter in Washington D.C., chaired by Marjorie Blumberg, Annette Forseter and Nancy Reed, hosted Brenda Katten, Chair of World WIZO Public Affairs and NGO Dept., at the home of Annette Forester where she presented a stimulating report on Israel, WIZO and the UN.

## Los Angeles

### L.A. Sponsor a Child Dinner



At the Los Angeles Sponsor a Child Event (seated left to right) Shirley Sherman, Ruth Davidov, Evelyn Sommer, Soraya Nazarian and Malka Fogel. (standing left to right) Mirit Rabinowitz, Annie Gross, Orly Maciborski, Kathy Mannheim, Ellie Nankin, Shula Torbat and Nava Marmur

WIZO Los Angeles, under the leadership and guidance of Chapter chairs Louise Collin and Orly Maciborski and Western Region Vice Presidents Malka Fogel and Barbara Limon, held an elegant and hugely successful Sponsor A Child dinner at the Jonathan Club, underwritten in its entirety by the generosity of Soraya and Younes Nazarian.

The keynote speaker was WIZO USA President Evelyn Sommer, who spoke eloquently about WIZO's history and contributions to the State of Israel. Proceeds of the event will enable WIZO to provide scholarships for 120 children in two day care centers sponsored by WIZO Los Angeles. Shula Torbati, the Nazarians' daughter, welcomed everyone, and guest violinists and opera singers entertained.

The Israeli Ambassador to the United States, Daniel Ayalon, was

unable to attend due to diplomatic engagements in the Middle East, but he sent a letter to congratulate the guests on their continued support for WIZO and its activities.

## San Francisco

### From San Francisco to Nativ

WIZO San Francisco, now WIZO Nativ, held several cultural events under the leadership of Betty Paz, Chair Zohara Kagan, Vice Chair Pam Steber, Treasurer former Chair Ronit Melamud Fundraiser, and Nili Tzarnotsky, Editor of the newsletter.

## Florida

### Annual Bat-Mitzvah



WIZO Hanit-Tikva Community Bat Mitzvah

WIZO Hanit-Tikva celebrated its annual Community Bat Mitzvah, headed by its Chairperson Stephanie Esquenazi. Jenny Ivcher Klainbaum and Mariana Wiznitzer, Event Co-Chairpersons along with their wonderful Working Committee, oversaw the five-month period of classes and unforgettable experiences for the 31 beautiful participants. Judaic studies, arts and crafts, visits to orphanages and nursing homes, challah baking and singing are among the topics covered during this truly nurturing and fruitful time. This year the ceremony was held at the Diplomat Hotel where over 900 family members and friends filled the beautifully decorated ballroom. Mercedes Ivcher thanked this energetic chapter of young mothers for bringing so much recognition to WIZO within the South Florida community.

### WIZO Yonit Gala Dinner

This year's WIZO Yonit Gala Dinner 2005, featured the amazing group of children from the WIZO Nir Haemek School and Youth Village (see page 6-7 in this issue). The performance by the extraordinary song and dance troupe was the highlight of event.

The Yonit Gala Dinner was dedicated to honoring Sisel Klurman on her 80th birthday. Dr. Irving and Cherna Moscowitz, Sally and Joseph zlb Handleman and Sandy and Senator Paul Steinberg and Tania and Israel Lapciuc received this year's WIZO Generation to Generation award. Under the dynamic leadership of Lillian Tabacnic, WIZO Yonit hosted





← renowned terrorism expert Steven Emerson who gave a very interesting account of the situation in U.S. college campuses regarding the increasing activity of pro-Palestinian groups.



Shena Falic, Steven Emerson, Samuel Falic, Hana and Simon Falic



Mosies Tabacnic, Steven Emerson and Lillian Tabacnic



Sonja Igra, Sisel Klurman and Jana Falic



Charlotte Rohr and Jana Falic



Steven Emerson and Norma and Luis Quintero



Steven Emerson and Gary Gomol



Israel and Tania Lapciuc, Rosita Greenberg and Judit Groisman



Mercedes Ivcher, Senator Paul and Sandy Steinberg and Rosita Retelny

## Canada

### "Pink Ladies" Present "New York, New York"

The Calgary Hadassah-WIZO Chai Chapter "Pink Ladies" presented a performance of "New York, New York" in support of Women for Women.



Pink Ladies: (l to r) Dorothy Hanson, Joy Feldman, Linda Gurman, Florence Shustack and Arliss Levine-Rempel singing their rendition of a song from the upcoming play "Schmaltz", based on "Grease"

Windsor Hadassah-WIZO held their Annual Luncheon in support of The WIZO Nahalal Community & Comprehensive School (sponsored by Canadian Hadassah-WIZO).



Bruce Elman (right), Dean of Law, University of Windsor, was the guest speaker.

## Europe

### European Council of WIZO Federations



The delegates at the ECWF General Assembly

#### Conseil Européen Des Fédérations Wizo

##### General Assembly 3, April 2005, Newcastle upon Tyne

The ECWF General Assembly was held this year in Newcastle, UK, and delegates came from Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the UK and for the first time from WIZO Hungary.

Ruth Jacobson, a former Rebecca Sieff award recipient and mother in law to the Secretary General, Anne Jacobson, kindly loaned her home for the Welcome Supper. Rosalind Preston gave Ruth a Woman of Valour Pin for her 70 years of service to WIZO.uk. The Bureau and Board meetings took place in the Community Centre on Sunday. President Lien Heijmans-Slager (Holland) and Monique Bouaziz (France) reported on the sessions concerning Women's Rights and Equality that they had attended at the Geneva NGO Beijing + 10 Forum last December. At a workshop on Trafficking, they had been shocked to discover that women were being trafficked from Russian and Central Europe into Israel. Lien also reported about the World WIZO Meeting of Representatives held in January in Tel Aviv. Margitta Neuwald-Golling from Cologne spoke about the many hasbara (advocacy) activities she carries out in Germany, in particular "ILI" – "I Like Israel" day. Daisy Massé reported on WIZO France's partnership with "School Watch," a French association

monitoring and acting against racist, sexist and Anti-Semitic problems in schools, and anti-Semitic and anti-Zionist school books and material. One of our younger delegates, Jill Friedman, spoke about recent disturbing events in Holland following the murder of a Dutch politician.

In the afternoon open session of the General Assembly we were joined by Newcastle WIZO members, who learned about our work at the UN's Commission on the Status of Women and the Council of Europe.

The most moving report was from Maria Handelsmann of Budapest. This was the first time Hungary had been able to send a delegate to an ECWF meeting. There was a lively interchange between participants throughout the Assembly, but sadly tides, planes and trains wait for no (wo)man and so the meeting closed as everyone set off for home.

The next conference will be in Frankfurt on 4/5 December, dedicated to "The Third Millennium – Women at the Forefront of Politics, Economy and Culture"

## Belgium-Luxemburg

### 50th Anniversary of WIZO Luxembourg

Our last Federal Meeting took place in Luxembourg in 2004 and the delegations from Antwerp, Brussels, and Liege were very happy to meet the new elected president of Luxembourg - Joelle Sayagh - wife of the Chief Rabbi of Luxembourg. In her first year, with her young committee, she organized a beautiful dinner in December dedicated to the 50th anniversary of WIZO Luxembourg.

### Brussels – 20th Literature and Arts Day

Ingrid Bolmut and Dolly Milsztajn are proud of the success of our 20th Literature and Arts Day, that took place at the Hilton Hotel in Brussels on March 6th, 2005. In the elegant setting of the Hilton Hotel, we welcomed 30 eminent writers and the many prestigious guests for a luncheon. We were so pleased to welcome more than 2500 visitors on the occasion of this traditional Day that was created 40 years ago! The Tearoom buffet was very successful, and as usual, our WIZO members went beyond themselves to prepare the succulent cakes. We are also grateful that Toyota Europe, Thalys and the ING Bank



(l-r) D. Karayan, Doly Wilsztajn & Nina Mooti



(l-r) Noelle Chatilet, Ingrid Bdmur & Chantal Hencher



(l-r) Rosette Selinger & Baroness Nadine de Rothschild



(l-r) Ingrid Bdmur, Jerome Clement & Chantal Hencher

renewed their financial support.

Many writers sent us thank-you letters, and below is an extract from one of them:

"Everything was there: a warm welcome, as I already said - but I am so pleased to say it again - the place, the perfect organization and an extremely pleasant lunch with hostesses who were prettier than the next. Thank you for taking care of the publication and of the translation from the bottom of my heart."

*Ingrid Bolmut*

## Antwerp

At the beginning of March, we had our yearly Gala Evening featuring the Israeli film "Broken Wings." Later in the month, the Aviv group organized a 3-day Art Fair, which was a great success. In April we showed "The Power of Good" which tells the wonderful story of Sir Nicolas Winton, who saved 600 Jewish children and was present at the evening. In May, we organized the annual Magbit Day, our second-hand clothes sale and a trip to Moscow. In June, we organized our annual tombola (raffle).

## Liege

Liege organized a concert with the "La Monnaie" Orchestra from Brussels in February, and held a market with Israeli products in March.

## Finland

### Dinner with the President



(l to r) Finnish President Tarja Halonen and WIZO Finland President Eva Bensky

I had the honor of being invited, with my husband Leo, to represent WIZO at a traditional Shabbat dinner at the Israeli ambassador's residence in honor of the President of the Republic of Finland, Mrs. Tarja Halonen and her husband Dr. Arajärvi. This is the first time that a Finnish president has ever attended such a dinner.

Ambassador Shemi Tsur and his spouse Mrs. Orit Shem-Tov invited 18 guests to the dinner, included the American Ambassador to Finland Mr. Earl I. Mack and his wife, the Chairman of our Jewish community in Helsinki, Mr. Gideon Bolotowsky and his wife and distinguished guests from the cultural and business scene of Finland.

I was given the great honour to tell the President and Dr. Arajärvi during the dinner about WIZO and WIZO's importance within Israeli society. President Halonen is well known for her support







of women's movements and she appreciated my words about WIZO's important role in working to advance the status of women in Israel, and about what WIZO is doing for the minorities in Israel.

The other guest-speaker was Mrs. Iris Parush, a very interesting professor from Israel. Iris Parush teaches Hebrew Literature at Ben Gurion University of the Negev. She recently won the prestigious Zalman Shazar Prize for Jewish History.

After a delicious dinner we enjoyed coffee and a wonderful musical program. The "Cousingers" sang traditional Hebrew songs and Klezmer music was played for us by the Finnish Klezmer group called "Eva Jacob & Freilach mit Kneidlach". It was a lovely and very enjoyable evening.

Ambassador Tsur made the utmost efforts to promote WIZO, and I thanked him and his wife for their invitation and their continuous support of our movement.

*Eva Bensky, President WIZO Finland*

## Germany

### Lea Rabin's Red Dress



Lea Rabin's red dress attracted media attention

WIZO Berlin women have one thing in common: feet that hurt and a tremendous sleep deficit. Nevertheless, once again, they successfully organized a complex event. This success overrides any hardships and all pain is quickly forgotten.

The WIZO-Berlin Bazaar, an annual event for 35 years, has become a regular institution for the Berlin public and the visitors storm our doors in order to buy the fantastic bargains offered. Every year, the main hall of the Jewish Community Centre and numerous other rooms don't seem adequate enough to accommodate the tremendous variety of stands. A queue of women stands at the jewellery boutique trying to "grab" the newest designs in earrings and bracelets, the cosmetics boutique is a "feast for the eyes" and this year's "bonbon"- the "Elite-Strauss" stand, satisfies many a "sweet tooth". Should any visitor have thought that Austria is the

"Mecca" of sweets, our bazaar proves otherwise. There is also a huge "run" on our art auction, sponsored by Berlin real estate auctioneer Hans-Peter Plettner. The 26 objects from known Berlin artists can't be auctioned off fast enough to meet the demand.

A major highlight, our Lea Rabin fashion show, piques a keen interest in the media. The "red dress", which Lea Rabin wore at an official reception, is a sensation. We owe our thanks to Lea Rabin's daughter, Dalia, for making it possible to bring Lea's memory alive by sending us her clothing for the fashion show.

The bazaar is hardly over and new ideas and plans are already in the making for next year.

*Jutta Prajs, Member of the Board, WIZO-Berlin*

## Greece

### Remembering Greek Jewish Holocaust Victims



*Helena Glaser laying a wreath at the Holocaust Memorial in the name of Israeli women and children*

Jewish citizens were 20 percent of the total population of Thessaloniki when the German occupation began during WW II. They numbered about 50,000 people, and 96 percent of them were deported and exterminated in the Nazi death camps of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

The Greek Parliament declared January 27th to be National Remembrance Day of the Greek Jews, Heroes and Martyrs of the Holocaust, and World WIZO President Helena Glaser was invited to be present at the occasion. She reports that the morning wreath-laying ceremony at the foot of the impressive memorial to the Holocaust victims was extremely moving. Helena laid a wreath on behalf of the women and children of Israel in honor of the 60 years that have passed since the liberation from the death camps. Family members of the victims also lit candles in their memory, symbolizing the continuation of life.

In the evening, another ceremony was held at the Thessaloniki Concert Hall. The participants viewed a photographic exhibition devoted to The Holocaust of the Greek Jews in the foyer, and then heard speeches from Niolaos Tsiartsionis, Minister of





*At the evening ceremony: (l to r) WIZO Greece Past President Flora Mihael, Helena Glaser and three WIZO Greece members*

Macedonia-Thrace, Moises Konstantinis, President of the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece, David Saltiel, President of the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki, and Minister Meir Sheetrit who represented the State of Israel. German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer also participated, coming directly from the 60th Anniversary Auschwitz Liberation ceremony that took place the same day. The moving evening concluded with a piano recital by Ms. Sonia Rubinsky.

## Italy

### 52nd General Meeting of ADEI-WIZO Italy

More than 120 delegates from all over the country attended ADEI-WIZO Italy's 52nd General Meeting in Florence from February 27 to March 1st, 2005. The opening ceremony took place at the Majestic Hotel, and welcoming speeches were given



*At the General Meeting in Florence: (r to l) Ambassador Oded Ben Hur, Ziva Fischer, Evelina Gabbai, Fiamma Nirenstein, Rosana Rosatti and Amos Luzzatto*

by Evelina Gabbai, President of ADEI-WIZO Florence, Ziva Fischer, President ADEI-WIZO, the Chief Rabbi of Florence and the of the local Jewish community.

Ziva Fischer and Rosana Rosatti were elected National Co-Presidents, and all of the other official holders were reelected to their positions.

A gala evening was held at the beautiful Villa Viviani, in the presence of the Israeli Ambassador to the Holy See Oded Ben Hur, the president of the Tuscany region and Amos Luzzatto, President of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities. Well known Israeli-Italian journalist Fiamma Nirenstein presented a detailed analysis of the political situation in Israel.

During the three days of the meeting, chaverot attended a series of very interesting lectures, and had an opportunity to express their opinions about issues connected to our work for Israel and WIZO, while discussing new strategies to achieve our goals. Particular attention was given to the new WIZO Membership Campaign. Daniel Segre held a special communications workshop, which provided new techniques for fundraising.

The meeting closed with a visit to the exceptional "Corridoio Vasariano" (a part of the extraordinary Uffizi Museum). Everyone returned home highly motivated to carry on with our work to achieve WIZO's goals.

*Ziva Fischer and Rosana Rosatti, National Co-Presidents ADEI-WIZO*

## Spain

### Best Sellers and Tomballas

In November 2004, WIZO Barcelona organized, together with the husbands, an event featuring Dr. Mario Javier Saban, a lawyer and a professor at the University of Buenos Aires. Dr. Saban wrote a best seller entitled "Converted Jews" about the Jewish roots of the traditional and oldest Argentine families, which was very well received and attracted a lot of attention. A genealogist and a scholar of the persecution of the Jews during the Spanish and Portugese Inquisition, he is now the secretary of foreign relations for the "Enpesa Judao-Christiana" in Catalonia. His talk was on "The Jewish Sabbath in Christianity: Why the Church moved the Sabbath to Sunday."

At the end of November, an event was organized with Pilar Rahola, a well-known journalist and writer, and in February, an event featuring Dr. Xavier Torrence, a professor of political science at the University of Barcelona. He spoke about the common denominator between Judeophobia and violence against women.

In April, WIZO Barcelona organized an event featuring Patricia Martinez de Vicente, an anthropologist and writer, who spoke about her new book, "Embassy, Mambro's Intelligence," where she describes the story of her father who converted his Pontevedre home into a center where he received Jews persecuted by the Nazis, thus saving many Jews. During the afternoon meal, we held our annual tombala (raffle). The prize was two plane tickets to Israel.



## ← Switzerland

### WIZO Bazaar Zurich – Social Highlight for the Entire Community

After lying unusually silent one Saturday last November, the Zurich trade-show hall exploded into action after nightfall. It was time once again for the WIZO Bazaar, a highlight of the Zurich Jewish social calendar.

Now running for over 40 years, the Bazaar, which takes place every two years, is an eagerly anticipated event attracting many hundreds of visitors of every Jewish religious persuasion. There are around 8,500 Jews in Zurich: at times it feels as if they are all at the Bazaar at the same time, especially in the queue for the (strictly kosher) hamburgers or eyeing the tempting deserts in the equally-kosher dairy restaurant at the other end of the hall.

In addition to the pleasures of meeting and making friends, the WIZO Bazaar offers a dazzling array of attractions for all ages: from ladies' fashions to antique clocks and silver; books in four languages (this is Switzerland!); tombola stands for adults and children; CDs; toys; kosher wine; stationery; Israeli goods; jewellery; Chanukah gifts and much more.

2004 saw the introduction of a new program of entertainment, with magic and storytelling for the younger visitors; klezmer and jazz music for everyone; a whisky lounge; and a student party from midnight until don't-ask-when. Sunday afternoon was particularly lively as proud parents and grandparents packed in to enjoy a finely-choreographed performance of Israeli dancing by the children. The Bazaar not only raises a significant amount for our projects in Israel, but also brings together families from the entire community in a uniquely enjoyable and lively atmosphere. We've already started planning the 2006 event.

## Morocco



Brenda Katten and her advisors in Rabat, Morocco: (l to r) Jahanar Hai, Pakistan, Titiek Suyono, Indonesia, Brenda Katten, Israel & Francioise Barsacq, France

It's not every day that we have an item from Morocco, but Brenda Katten, Chairperson of the World WIZO Public Affairs and NGO Department recently visited the North African country to attend the Executive Meeting of the International Council of Women (ICW). Brenda participated in her capacity as Coordinator for the Standing Committee on Communications. Among the participants were delegates from Lebanon, Algeria, Tunisia and Turkey. World WIZO Honorary Life President Michal Modai represented Israel in her capacity as Chairperson of the National Council of Women in Israel.

## Brazil

### Visiting Sao Paulo

Sarita Schaffel and Teresinha Sandler, President and Vice-President of WIZO Brazil, traveled to Sao Paulo on May 19th to attend a series of productive WIZO working meetings. They met with Etejane Hepner Coin, WIZO Sao Paulo President, and discussed a number of managerial issues, exchanged ideas on the new projects being executed and, appraised the events that had already taken place. The next day, Sarita and Teresinha were welcomed by the new WIZO Sao Paulo Aviv group Barak. They left this meeting very impressed by the group's maturity and organization. Sarita used the opportunity to talk about the link between the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Albert Einstein. Teresinha presented details about WIZO Rio Grande do Sul achievements in the formation of new Aviv groups. They emphasized the importance of enabling the younger members to attend national and international WIZO seminars.

Sarita also met with Frida Lagnado, the Chapter's immediate past President, and now WIZO Brazil Vice-President for Sao Paulo.

### Ana Marlene Starec Mission to Brussels

As WIZO South America Representative for International Forums, Ana Marlene Starec, WIZO Brazil Honorary President & Honorary Life Member of World WIZO, traveled to Brussels in January 2005 to attend a World Jewish Congress Conference. The purpose of the meeting was to elect the new WJC Executive Board, and to determine their goals for the next four years. Mr. Edgar M. Bronfman was reelected the President of the Institution and Rabbi Israel Singer was confirmed as the Chairman of the Board. Ana Marlene reported her pleasure at witnessing the election of Helena Glaser, World WIZO President, as one of the Vice-Presidents of this highly respected international organization, representing both the Jewish women and Israel on the new Executive.



Ana Marlene Starec and other members of the Latin-American delegation with WJC President Mr. Edgar Bronfman and Mr. Israel Singer, Chairman of the WJC Board of Directors

Ana Marlene gave a report on the deliberations of the NGO committee, and said that the rise in anti-Semitism was a major concern at the conference. Four hundred delegates from 80 different countries participated, and she believes that it is of the utmost importance that WIZO Executive members attend such events.

## Costa Rica

### Activities in 2005

In our first meeting in 2005, the Tikva Esther Rosenstock Group honored Isabel Kushner's many years of dedicated work as WIZO Costa Rica's treasurer. She was also involved in organizing and reminding people about the dates of our meetings. During a meeting held at Abela Chernacov's house, we gave Isabel a WIZO pin in appreciation for her dedication.

### Fighting Anti-Semitism

In the framework of our educational activities to mark the Day of the Struggle Against Anti-Semitism held on February 10th, WIZO, together with the *Hasbarah* (Advocacy) Group, organized the premiere showing of the documentary "The Silent Exodus." Among those who attended were Mrs. Edna Ben-Zvi, the wife of Israeli Ambassador to Costa Rica Alexander Ben Zvi, and the Israeli Consul Ahuva Reshef-Spiegel. The documentary, directed by Pierre Rehov, was selected for the International Human Rights Film Festival in Paris, and it explains why and how almost 1,000,000 Jews who lived in Arab countries were forced to leave their homes, were they had lived for centuries, in 1948.

*Anita Ligator, Co-President WIZO Costa Rica*

## Panama

### Flower Workshop

WIZO Hatikva carried out a very successful Flower Workshop in the Interiores Heres, with the participation of 40 *chaverot*. The course was given by Ronaldo Domingo, known in Panama for his great professionalism and creativity. We traveled around the furniture store and did flower decorations for a dining room, an office and a coffee table. This was followed by a workshop, and each participant did her own flower arrangement. The workshop was a great success!!!

## Australia

### WIZO South Australia Celebrates 65 Years

The 65th Annual General Meeting of WIZO South Australia was held on Sunday April 17th with Federal President, Jo Gostin as guest speaker. Over 40 members attended. Mrs Gostin congratulated WIZO SA on producing amazing results for a small community, and for drawing WIZO women together and making WIZO a well-known and respected organization within the Jewish and wider community in



Mandy Nachum, Jo Gostin, Miriam Millingen, Annette Simmons and Merrilyn Ades.



Miriam Millingen, Huguette Hasda and Jo Gostin

Adelaide. She also spoke about her experiences in Israel at the World WIZO AGM.

Australia is now the 7th highest Federation in fundraising worldwide and the commitment of our members is well respected by the World WIZO executive and by other Federations.

Special presentations were made at the AGM to Bessie Krell, Mara Zaks, and Joan Carr.

A special award, presented to a WIZO member who has shown outstanding efforts and dedication to WIZO was initiated this year to honour Gogo Sulan Schueler. This first Gogo Sulan Schueler award was presented to Huguette Hasda of WIZO Tikvah.

### Sincere Tzedaka

When six year old Zac Fleiszig said to his mother, Lana, a WIZO Machar member, that he has too many presents and wants to share his birthday with those children in Israel whom his mother always tells him about, it is "Sincere Tzedakah" (charity).





Words cannot describe the twinkle in Zac's eyes or the happiness and pride radiating from his face when he was presented with a specially designed certificate from Paulette Cherny, President of WIZO Victoria.



(l to r back): Lana Fleiszig, Paulette Cherny  
(Front): Zac Fleiszig holding his certificate on the occasion of his generous donation on his 6th birthday

## New South Wales Big Night Out

The Jewish community in Sydney, Australia is largely concentrated in the Eastern and Northern suburbs of the city, separated by the beautiful Harbour. The WIZO Groups on the North Shore combined for a major fundraising effort called "WIZO's Big Night Out". The evening consisted of an auction followed by a movie preview. The auction was



Happy bidders at the North Shore Auction: (l to r) Brenda Kaplan, Elliot Kaplan and Helen Einstein, whose husband Jeff donated jewellery as auction items

very successful, with big ticket items including artworks and jewellery. The event attracted a large audience, from both sides of the Harbour, and the Groups raised over \$42,000 (Australian dollars) on one evening. A really Big Night Out!

## Western Australia AGM in Perth

WIZO Australia President Jo Gostin made a highly successful weekend visit to Perth in mid-March. Jo helped establish our first WIZO Israeli women's group, met with a large group of the Aviv age group women for a very spirited discussion and enjoyed a health lunch with the women of WIZO Ilana who were planning to travel on WIZO Australia's ISRAEL MISSION in May. Jo also met with State Council members, presenting a vast array of information and ideas from the recent plenary conference in Israel. Jo was also one of the guest speakers at our AGM, as was Anna Levitt, who spoke eloquently about the experience of seeing Israel through young eyes. WA once again showed their



Just two of the large team which planned and organised the North Shore Big Night Out: (l to r) Derryn Tal and Gianna Temple

fundraising abilities, with combined groups fundraising and bequests totaling over \$100,000. *Kol Hakavod* (all honor) to everyone who gives so generously to Israel As current President Vivienne Levin stood down we have a caretaker presidency, with two past Presidents Renee Rosenberg and Esther Schenberg at the helm in the interim.

## South Africa

### WIZO's "Fair Ladies"

Aspiring actresses, all members of WIZO Johannesburg, almost brought the house down at a fundraising function entitled, "My Chair Lady," based on the melodies and lyrics of "My Fair Lady" – the musical which took the world by storm. When being trained for chairmanship the new chairman sang "My brain it's plain is breaking with the strain." Another parody of a well-known song was "Lots of things here for me to do, selling raffles and rummage too... Oh wouldn't it be luv-er-ly." Before long, the meeting had turned into a sing-a-long and the Campaign, "Poverty is Not Only Food" benefited handsomely from the proceedings. Luv-er-ly!

Another successful venture was a weeklong market held at a busy shopping centre. Every woman loves a bargain and some articles quickly sold out, to the delight of the WIZO "salesladies."



Members of the cast of "My Chair Lady"

## Bride of the Year

A glittering finale brought the "Bride of the Year" competition to an exciting culmination. The competition was organised by the Aviv Simcha branch of WIZO Johannesburg and entailed many months of energy and ongoing publicity.

One hundred and ten entrants were initially judged by photographs they submitted. This was followed by an interview session by a panel of independent judges who were responsible for the final judging.

The fundraising was extremely successful as tables for the function were sponsored by business and professional well-wishers as well as individual friends of WIZO.

"Kol Hakavod" to Aviv Simcha and "Mazal Tov" to all the beautiful brides.



The organizers of the Bride of the Year event: (l to r) Kim Gishen; Ilana Markowitz, Chairman, Aviv/Simcha; Yvonne Jawitz, Chairman, WIZO Johannesburg; Shereen Markowitz and Darren Tannenwald (members of Aviv/Simcha Branch of WIZO Johannesburg)

## New Zealand Looking Ahead With Enthusiasm

The Executive and Committee of WIZO New Zealand and our WIZO Coffee Club have had a busy and eventful year. Considering our small population, and the numerous and varied organizations in Auckland, the attendance at our fundraisers has increased, and we are looking ahead with enthusiasm. We always emphasize at all the WIZO functions that we must do everything possible for those in need of our



Lorna Orbell

support in Israel, especially at the day care center that we support in Acre. We are delighted that the children now have new premises.

Fundraisers throughout the year included a World WIZO Bible Day Quiz, with questions taken from the beautifully illustrated WIZO Bible Day book. The Israel Today Group from Hawkes Bay was hosted in Auckland by the WIZO committee for the weekend. In July we honored past New Zealand WIZO presidents, with the participation of President Sue Arons and Treasurer Barbara Clements from WIZO Banot, Wellington. A fun day was held which included Karaoke and a Musical Quiz. Our M.C., Singaporean Entrepreneur William David, kept the audience entertained.

WIZO Auckland journeyed to Hawkes Bay, on the east coast of the central part of the North Island, approximately 6 hours from Auckland, and was hosted by the Israel Today Group and their leader Linda Cook. We greatly value their friendship and support for WIZO. The weekend away was to promote the National Appeal Campaign. After being treated to a superb luncheon by our hosts at one of New Zealand's oldest wineries, I spoke to all in attendance on the Foundations of Zionism and the ongoing struggle against the anti-Semitism which has reawakened throughout the world. The WIZO Petition Against Anti-Semitism will be inserted in the New Zealand Jewish Chronicle, which is distributed nationwide, urging all to sign the petition and to forward it to Tel Aviv.

The aim of our National Appeal Campaign is to boost WIZO numbers, ensure that all are aware of the support that can be given to WIZO and to encourage individuals to make donations and become members. The brochure of the new day care center "Thanking New Zealand" for their support, together with forms for donations, and membership applications, were enclosed with the appeal.

It has been a rewarding year, and an honor to be involved with my Executive and Supportive Committee, among them Joyce Baker, Ray Porath, Rebbie Murray and Joan Lardner-Rivlin who are Honorary Life Members of World WIZO.

*Lorna Orbell, President WIZO New Zealand*



**Jewish**

**Zionist**

**Strong**

**Leading**

**Proud**

**Woman**

# We've been expecting you

We, WIZO women in 50 countries, know that Israeli society is our responsibility.  
We want to bring about a change in the lives of people, of women.  
To make a difference. To lead. To set a new agenda. To dream. To help. We can do it.

