A Leader’s Dreams
Meet WIZO’s New President

NY Young Leadership
Millenials Make Their Mark
Table of Contents
Summer 2016 / No. 339

ON THE COVER
WIZO Gan VeNof students celebrating their bar & bat mitzvahs in Jerusalem

A Leader’s Dreams
08

President’s & Chairman’s Columns
05

Round & About
06

Childhood Interrupted
22

Fundraising Division
25

I Had to do Something to Help the Jewish People
26

Aviv
27

EGM
12

Organization & Tourism Division
29
Dear Chaverot

We are delighted to present the newly designed WIZO Review – we have spent many hours working on it and hope you enjoy the new ‘fresher’ look. We would love to receive your feedback at wreview@wizo.org.

Those who were unable to attend the EGM in January missed an action-packed few days full of emotion, fun and hard work. We give you a glimpse on pages 12-15. At this conference we elected a new WIZO president – Esther Mor. Read about her ‘dreams for the future’ on pages 8-11.

Like all organizations, we are concerned about our future generation – but we don’t have to worry when we read about the dynamic young women who comprise the New York Young Leadership Group (pages 16-17) and our new Aviv representative Erica Sauberman (page 27).

The Organization & Tourism Division is also looking to the future and is launching an exciting new programme entitled “Caring for Our Future”. Read all about it on pages 30-31.

Our feature articles in this issue cover a range of subjects, which show the diversity of WIZO: see how WIZO Pardes Katz Chairperson Rachel Mangoli created a warm community centre for Ethiopian children with a minimal budget and “chutzpah”. (pages 18-19).

World WIZO’s Early Age Division is in the forefront of early age development in Israel and is always creating new programmes for our network of daycare centres. Learn about one of them on pages 20-21.

A resident of WIZO’s senior citizens’ home, the poignant story of Eva Burstein will touch your heart. After traumatic experiences in her childhood hometown of Vienna, Eva escaped to England on the Kindertransport (pages 22-23).

A visit to Yad Vashem many years ago completely overwhelmed Betty Dykes, a non-Jewish visitor from Australia. Determined to help Israel and the Jewish people, Betty found WIZO – read her story on page 26.

These are just some of the treats waiting for you in this edition of WIZO Review. ENJOY!

Ingrid Rockberger
Editor

Come, see and experience the WIZO magic!

Seeing is Believing - We encourage you all to visit our projects and support WIZO’s vision and mission.

World WIZO Executive Resident in Israel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>President</th>
<th>Chairperson, WIZO Israel</th>
<th>Human Resources Division</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Esther Mor</td>
<td>Gila Oshrat</td>
<td>Chairperson: Tirtza Rubinsky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hon. Life Presidents</td>
<td>Building &amp; Maintenance Division</td>
<td>Information Technology Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raya Jaglom</td>
<td>Chairperson: Nili Amit</td>
<td>Chairperson: Israela Titelboim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helena Glaser</td>
<td>Early Age Division</td>
<td>Organization &amp; Tourism Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tova Ben-Dov</td>
<td>Chairperson: Aviv Blumenthal</td>
<td>Chairperson: Janine Gelley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chairperson of the Executive</td>
<td>Education Division</td>
<td>Deputy: Dalia Ganz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof. Rivka Lazovsky</td>
<td>Chairperson: Dr Carmela Dekel</td>
<td>Property, Purchasing &amp; Insurance Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Fundraising Division</td>
<td>Chairperson: Batsheva Schwartz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gila Cohen</td>
<td>Chairperson: Anita Friedman</td>
<td>Publicity &amp; Communications Division</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Beit Heuss
Chairperson: Saya Malkin
Parents Home
Chairperson: Rikki Cohen
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Rolene Marks
Special Projects
Tricia Schwitzer
President’s Desk

Dear Friends,

This is my first WIZO Review column since becoming President of World WIZO.

I see my main role as representing WIZO in the national and international arenas. My aim is to make WIZO the most talked about organization in the Jewish world in the best possible way. We have a lot to be proud of, so let’s boast about it.

I have already attended the Jewish Agency Board of Governors, the Enlarged Executive Meeting of WZO & the Special Plenary Assembly of the World Jewish Congress in Argentina. I have also visited WIZO OSFA-Argentina, WIZO Australia and have attended meetings with other women’s organizations in Israel.

I have been received with the utmost respect and warmth at every venue. WIZO is held in the highest esteem for its social, legislative and educational work. In addition, WIZO is also applauded for its activities to instil Jewish and Zionist values in its students; its preservation of our Jewish religion, tradition and legacy and for strengthening our Jewish and Zionist identities.

We have recently marked four of the most important events in our calendar: Pesach, Holocaust Remembrance Day, Remembrance Day for the Fallen Soldiers of Israel and Victims of Terrorism and Independence Day. These special days are a reminder of our nation’s long struggle to be a free people in our homeland. They remind us of the price we have to pay and that joy and pain are intertwined in our very being.

On the eve of its 96th anniversary, WIZO projects, programmes and services are still very much in demand. Together, we will continue our sacred work for the benefit of those who need us.

Warm wishes,

Esther Mor
President, World WIZO

Chairperson’s Column

Dear Chaverot,

United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt, once said: “We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future”.

This year’s summer break has only just begun for thousands of children from our institutions. Many of them will return to WIZO next year to resume their studies, and some, who are taking their final year exams, will soon join the IDF and protect our country.

As one of Israel’s leading educational organizations, WIZO bears an immense responsibility for its children. As an educator, I have always felt strongly about providing children in Israel with top-class education. It is the only way to prepare them for the future.

WIZO has and will continue to advocate for quality but affordable education that will allow mothers of children of all ages to return to work.

Recently, after years of the Israeli Government failing to fulfil its responsibility to the early-age sector, we took action and pleaded for a new agreement. After long negotiations we succeeded in securing a better agreement and created a joint task force with representatives of the Finance and Economy Ministries, WIZO and the other organizations that operate supervised day care centres. This task force will review key issues for maintaining and developing the Early Age Sector.

We are determined to continue providing the care, support and education needed to prepare our children for the future.

We at WIZO are fully devoted to this noble mission. With the deep WIZO values of Zionism, care and volunteerism, we will continue to educate each of our children and youth to fulfil their potential and build a better and more resilient State of Israel.

With warmest wishes,

Prof. Rivka Lazovsky
Chairperson, World WIZO Executive

World WIZO Executive Presidents or Chairpersons of Federations

| Argentina | Nicole Kovalver
| Australia | Paulette Cherry
| Austria | Dr. Hava Bugajer
| Belgium & Luxembourg | Varda Cywie, Nathalie Miodownik, Isabelle Steinkalik
| Bolivia | Liliana Swersdszaf
| Brazil | Silene Balassiano
| Bulgaria | Marina Nanjova
| Canada | Claudia Goldman
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| Costa Rica | Anita Ligator, Lisa Davidovich
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| Guatemala | Ruth Sibony Azulay
| Holland | Joyce Y. Numann - Durlacher
| Honduras | Yaeli Zylberman
| Hong Kong | Shani Brownstein, Marissa Raccah
| Hungary | Eva Lancz
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| Jamaica | Jennifer (McAdam) Lim
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| Uruguay | Sara Laks Trachtenberg
| Venezuela | Ena Rotkopf
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SUMMER 2016 | WIZO REVIEW
In February, representatives of WIZO UK landed in Israel with the six winners of the 2016 WIZO UK Commitment Awards, for a week-long trip in Israel. The awards initiative, now in its second year, recognizes individuals who address the needs of others through social activism. Each year, the general public sends in nominations for the awards process and a committee of judges selects winners in six categories (social betterment, education, diversity & tolerance, media, environmental innovation and high-tech). As a prize, the six award winners are taken on a tour of Israel, giving them a look at the country through the lens of WIZO. The trip also affords the award winners, who are not necessarily Jewish, to get a first-hand look at Israel, its natural beauty, technological innovation and diversity - a look behind the headlines and a response to the growing phenomenon of anti-Israel de-legitimization propaganda in Britain and around the world.

This year’s award winners included activists in the fields of education, interfaith dialogue, water conservation, learning disabilities and more. Also among the award winners was John Ware, a BBC-affiliated investigative journalist. They toured a selection of WIZO women’s shelters, day care facilities and community centres – some of which receive financial support from British WIZO donors.

British Ambassador to Israel, Mr David Quarry, came to WIZO CHW Hadassim Youth Village to attend the bronze and silver award ceremony for almost 200 students from five WIZO youth villages: WIZO CHW Hadassim, WIZO Nahalal, WIZO Nachlat Yehuda, WIZO Gan Ve’Nof and WIZO Nir HaEmek.

Prior to the award ceremony, the ambassador, accompanied by Chairperson of the World WIZO Executive, Prof Rivka Lazovsky, Moshe Bitman and others planted the first trees in the “International Youth Award Grove” in the grounds of Hadassim.

Students displayed some of the activities they have been doing towards the award, including sports and music.

In her address, Prof Lazovsky said that the International Award is most fitting for WIZO because it shares WIZO’s core values: volunteering, inspiring and aspiring. The programme enables pupils to discover their strengths, talents and abilities. Prof Lazovsky assured them, “If you want to achieve something, you can; you can fulfill all your dreams with the help of WIZO and the Youth Award.”

Ambassador Quarry expressed how honoured he is to be involved in this programme and remarked, “This is the first tree I have planted in Israel! The Duke of Edinburgh, today aged 94, says that this is the best thing he has done, and today, the International Youth Award takes place in 144 countries across the globe.” The ambassador gave a special welcome to representatives of the Ministry of Education who were present, as this year the ministry has recognized the official organization of the International Youth Award in Israel, which will enable it to expand its activities.

Among others who attended the ceremony were the Head of the Local Authority of Even Yehuda, Avi Harari, Director the International Youth Award, Israel Yossi Friedman, Director of the World WIZO Education Division Dr Michal Rotem and Nili Amit, Ingrid Rockberger and Batsheva Schwartz from the World WIZO Executive.
Remembering Rolande

Tearful and emotional tributes were given for Rolande Zajfen, a long-time WIZO member and donor of WIZO France at the dedication of the WIZO Rolande Zajfen Daycare Centre in Sderot, which received a much-needed renovation and missile-proofing.

Rolande’s husband Paul organized a delegation of approximately 40 French WIZO members, donors, family members and friends to travel from France for the dedication.

Presiding over the event was Prof. Rivka Lazovsky, Chairperson of the World WIZO Executive, with Joelle Lezmi, President of WIZO France and Alon Davidi, Mayor of Sderot in attendance.

The proceeds from the 2016 WIZO France golf tournament have already been earmarked for the building of an additional classroom at the daycare centre.

The Zajfen’s family members and friends were so moved by the experience that during the bus ride back to Tel Aviv, they began spontaneously pulling Euro and shekel notes from their wallets and purses, to donate to WIZO. The day ended with a completely unexpected donation of NIS 10,000.

WIZO Florida 2016 Mission to Israel

At the end of May, several leaders of WIZO Florida brought WIZO members, donors and friends to Israel. The goal of the mission, in the words of WIZO USA Co-President Jana Falic, was not only to expose the group to WIZO’s work and impact but also to, “Make our friends fall in love with Israel again. If one loves Israel, one can’t help but love WIZO.” The group, also led by WIZO USA Co-Founding President Mercedes Ivcher, and WIZO USA Vice Presidents Judit Groisman and Ruth Benoliel, visited WIZO USA projects including the Ivcher Daycare Centre in Tel Aviv, the Falic Family Daycare Centre in Maale Adumim, and WIZO Nachlat Yehuda Youth Village, which the federation is newly sponsoring. The visitors also enjoyed a delicious meal at Jerusalem’s Waldof Astoria hotel, partially prepared by culinary students from WIZO Beit HaKerem, as well as a final dinner at a rooftop Tel Aviv restaurant.
A Leader’s Dreams: Interview with Esther Mor

In an in-depth interview with WIZO Review’s assistant editor, WIZO’s newly elected president reveals her personal history, her commitment to WIZO and plans for her term of office

David Sarna Galdi

**What was your first experience with WIZO?**

My first contact with WIZO was in India. I remember serving tea for a group of WIZO ladies that my mother hosted in our home. Then, later, in the 1970s I was a member of a WIZO chapter in Milan. But my first real active work for WIZO started in the 1980s, here in Israel.

**India, Italy, Israel? Where are you from originally? Can you tell me a little about your personal background?**

I will give you the short version of my life story; I have had a very colourful life! I was born in India to Russian Jewish parents who escaped Stalinist Russia on foot, and eventually settled in Bombay via Uzbekistan and Afghanistan. I was raised in Delhi, where we were living when Mahatma Ghandi was assassinated, and Bombay, where my father had a fur export business. These were the years soon after the end of British rule in India, and I lived an idyllic life.

**Did you ever experience anti-Semitism growing up in India?**

Absolutely not. Even at the Irish Catholic school I attended, the nuns were extremely sensitive to the needs and feelings of my two sisters and me, and other Jewish girls who studied there.

After finishing university, I met a young man from Italy who came on a business trip to India. We fell in love and got married soon after. Within a week of getting married, he whisked me off to Italy to start our life together.

**You’ve certainly led an international life.**

It doesn’t end there. Because of my husband’s business, we lived in Japan for seven years as well. My children all grew up speaking Japanese! The truth is that a Jewish lifestyle was very important for me, always. And as my children got older, I couldn’t wait to go back to Italy, in order to make sure that they had a Jewish education and environment.
How did you arrive in Israel?

My husband’s diamond business brought us to Israel on visits, and we always had a yearning to live here. But the really powerful trigger for the move was when my brother-in-law was killed in a terrorist attack. He was one of those killed in September 1974 when a bomb exploded on TWA flight 841, 30 minutes after the plane took off from Athens airport en route to Rome. The plane crashed into the Ionian Sea; all 79 passengers and nine crew members were killed.

That event inspired tremendous Zionism in both of us; we moved to Israel in 1980, and built a house in Savyon.

When did you start your fundraising “career?”

When we moved to Savyon, and my kids were busy with school and lots of extracurricular activities, I wanted to meet young people, socialize. I discovered WIZO, but the women there were much older than me. Also, the language and culture barrier was very difficult for me at the time.

Simultaneously, I also became a member of the International Women’s Club, through which, with other English-speaking women, I travelled all over Israel and really became connected to my new home. I eventually became treasurer, and later president of the IWC.

At that time, I was already friendly with Michal Modai, then president of World WIZO. One evening, together with Michal, I met Celia Michonik, then chairperson of World WIZO fundraising division. A little while later Celia asked me: ‘Esther, why don’t you come to do something with WIZO?’ After thinking about it, I told her, ‘Sure, but only if I can do it in English!’ With the encouragement of Michal, I visited Celia’s office at WIZO headquarters. The place seemed slightly primitive, hectic, and disorganized but full of action and energy. There was something about that energy that was so compelling to me. This was in the year 2000. I committed to come in once a week but wound up coming in every day.

Actually, my first job for WIZO had nothing to do with fundraising. My husband has been a jeweller, and diamond and precious stones dealer all his adult life, and I had been immersed in that world for many years. I was asked by WIZO to design the first donor’s pin since I had some expertise in the field of jewellery. I designed it, and everyone loved it. I went on to design a whole bunch of pins for WIZO, from luxurious pins for top-tier donors, to the basic organization pin with the WIZO logo that was distributed everywhere.

“I was asked by WIZO to design the first ‘donor’s pin’ since I had some expertise in the field of jewellery. I designed it, and everyone loved it.”

So you started out as WIZO’s in-house jewellery designer?

You could say that Eventually Michal felt that I should be doing more. She knew about my work with the International Women’s Club and also knew my group of pretty influential friends in Savyon and Tel Aviv. She asked me to tap into that circle of friends. I got together as many of them as I could with the goal of forming a young, well-connected group of WIZO women.

On May 14th, 2003, I had the first official meeting of ‘Friends of WIZO.’ I decided to put my big house to good use: I started planning luncheons, fashion shows and lectures, all held at my house in Savyon. Slowly, the group grew, attracted more women, and strengthened.

What are some of your most memorable moments as a fundraiser for WIZO?

With ‘Friends of WIZO’ I organized some amazing events. The Chinese Embassy hosted and subsidized an event for me. And, since then, every Italian ambassador has been a true friend and great supporter of me and WIZO. Count Giulio Terzi di Sant’Agata brought the Italian opera soprano Katia Ricciarelli to Tel Aviv to perform for a ‘Friends of WIZO’ event.

With ‘Friends of WIZO’ I organized some amazing events. The Chinese Embassy hosted and subsidized an event for me. And, since then, every Italian ambassador has been a true friend and great supporter of me and WIZO. Count Giulio Terzi di Sant’Agata brought the Italian opera soprano Katia Ricciarelli to Tel Aviv to perform for a ‘Friends of WIZO’ event.
sold 450 tickets to that gorgeous gala from my bed; I was in tremendous pain with a slipped spinal disc. It was a fantastic success. Ambassador Luigi Mattiolo helped me bring Andrea Bocelli to Israel for a concert from which part of the proceeds went to WIZO. The Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS) sponsored three big events at the Tel Aviv Hilton and Tel Aviv Museum of Art, all of which raised a huge amount of money. And Ambassador Sandro di Bernardin specially brought over the famous Italian chamber orchestra I Solisti Veneti to perform at a ‘Friends of WIZO’ fundraiser. Their help was tremendous and these events were unforgettable. I chaired ‘Friends of WIZO’ for ten years during which time we raised over a million dollars.

And when did you finally transition into WIZO administration?

Helena Glaser asked me to be the deputy chairperson of World WIZO’s fundraising division in 2003. In 2008 Tova Ben-Dov appointed me chairperson of the division.

What would you say has made you successful at your work?

Most definitely the personal connections and contacts. That’s where I thrive. The trust I build with people and my good name are the key to my success.

How has the fundraising landscape for a major Jewish organization changed during your years in the field?

The work has become much harder. There used to be a consensus about Israel, a very clear positive image. But times are different today. The world economic situation is not as it was; this makes fundraising work much more difficult.

When you fundraise for WIZO, try to “sell” it, how do you describe the organization and make it stand out?

Firstly, I truly believe that WIZO is doing some of the greatest work in the whole world. What sets WIZO apart are the volunteers. I am speaking about volunteers on all levels: the chairpeople at the top - and the thousands of amazing volunteers in the federations, who give countless hours of their lives, and are so devoted to the cause. They truly believe in the work they do, making a difference in the lives of women and children far away, across oceans. I don’t know of any other organization with such committed and selfless women. They are the strong backbone of WIZO.

Secondly, the work that WIZO does, it does in a specific, detail-oriented way. We don’t simply send money to a project and hope that the work gets done. We have our own people, on the ground, every day. We look after each and every child in our care as if it were one of our own.

If you weren’t a WIZO fundraiser and now, president, what would you be doing?

In my pre-WIZO days I used to play bridge four times a week. So no doubt I would be continuing with that. Who knows, I might’ve been a bridge champion by now! And I would be playing more golf. Now, I can’t picture my life without WIZO. It’s true what they say, that WIZO gets into one’s blood. WIZO has been part of my family through four generations. My mother was involved in WIZO in India. My daughter is a WIZO volunteer in Scarsdale New York, and one of my granddaughters volunteers in a WIZO day care centre.
“I want to climb the rooftops of every city and shout WIZO’s message. It has everything going for it: the work it does is amazing, the people involved are amazing, Israel is amazing.”

Do you have a favourite WIZO project?
That’s like asking about a parent’s favourite child. I must say that every single project has a special place in my heart.

What are your plans for WIZO and your presidency?
I want it to be the best-known Jewish and Zionist organization in the world.

Also, I hope to be WIZO’s roving ambassador and open federations all around the world - in places that people wouldn’t even imagine.

For example, I have recently opened a small WIZO group in Shanghai, consisting of women who are there for short periods of time for business reasons. They are so enthusiastic you can’t imagine! There was a group there in the 1930s, believe it or not, but that closed.

In addition, because of my frequent visits to Hong Kong, I became involved in the Jewish Women’s Association, and for the past eight years they have renewed their support for a WIZO day care centre, which they sponsored some 20 years ago.

A cheque coming to WIZO from every corner of the world?
No. It’s not necessarily about fundraising. I want the movement to exist in every corner of the world. I want women to be gathering, uniting, and strengthening WIZO and Israel together, wherever they live.

That’s my dream. I can’t be 100% sure if I’ll realize it, but every dream I’ve ever had until now, I made sure that it came true. So I’m hopeful.
The 26th World WIZO EGM, held during the last week of January 2016, was a week full of moving, exciting and memorable moments.

Seven hundred WIZO chaverot from 40 different countries (including USA, Australia, UK, Germany, France, Switzerland, Holland, Italy, Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, South Africa and Israel) gathered at the Tel Aviv Hilton in January 2016 for presentations on essential issues on Israeli and Jewish agendas, establishment of WIZO policies and platforms, elections, and more.

The quadrennial event, given the theme of “Women Leading Change” was especially festive since it fell during the year marking 95 years since the founding of WIZO.

Some of the most memorable moments of the conference happened outside the confines of the main hall at the Tel Aviv Hilton, where the conference was based. At the beginning of the week, members of WIZO Aviv, the organization’s younger...
generation of leaders spent a long, energetic night out in Jaffa, eating dinner, listening to live Jewish and Israeli music and participating in a creative teamwork workshop.

The EGM’s opening gala was a wonderful opportunity to hear from the organization’s leaders, outgoing President Tova Ben-Dov and Chairperson of the World WIZO Executive, Prof. Rivka Lazovsky, who welcomed all of the attendees and set the tone for the upcoming days.

**Inspirational speakers**
The panel discussion “WIZO Women as Agents of Change” included three astounding women who spoke to the EGM audience about the revolutions they had created, both personal and public, all connected to WIZO: Shulli Goitein spoke about her experiences in a WIZO women’s shelter and becoming a successful independent jewellery designer; Ghada Kamal spoke about her WIZO work among the Druze women of Daliyat el-Carmel; Fainy Sukenik discussed the painful divorce that shaped her personal life and her work as a WIZO-affiliated social activist empowering ultra-Orthodox women.

Aside from the wide array of interesting discussions, lectures and workshops that made up the week’s events, there were several local leaders, business executives and social activists whose personal stories moved attendees. Moran Samuel, the champion Israeli Paralympic rower delivered a powerful and moving presentation about her life overcoming the adversity of physical handicap, her achievements and her Jewish/Israeli pride. Israel’s Defense Minister, Moshe Ya’alon, gave the WIZO EGM audience a rare insider’s account of the state of Israel’s security at the beginning of 2016, its achievements and the immediate challenges it faces. The accomplished and impressive general manager of Intel Israel, Maxine Fassberg, delivered a highly informative lecture about women in the Israeli workplace and the challenges facing them.

**Touring day**
On Tuesday January 19th WIZO directors, leaders and delegates spread out from Be’er Sheva in the south to Haifa in the north – for a day of touring that brought chaverot from around the world to the grass-roots level of WIZO’s work and gave them a first-hand look at the work the organization is doing in Israel. There was nothing more exciting than meeting an Israeli child or woman that WIZO helps and supports.

The touring day ended on a high note: a Jerusalem evening sponsored by Simon and Jana Falic, including a moving ceremony beside the Western Wall, a visit to the recently excavated tunnels, and a dinner at the Waldof Astoria Hotel, the highlights of which were an address by Miriam Peretz, a bereaved mother, and a rousing concert by Israeli singer Kobi Peretz.

Other guest speakers during the conference included Gila Gamliel, Minister for the Diaspora and Tourism.
for Social Equality, Knesset Member Manuel Trajtenberg, Manager of Google Education - Israel, Adi Altschuler, former Knesset Member and Senior Fellow of the Jewish People Policy Institute, Dr. Einat Wilf and founder of Israeli heritage brand “Maskit,” Ruth Dayan. One of the highlights of the EGM was welcoming the newly elected members of the organization’s executive committee, and especially the new President, Esther Mor.

The last event on the EGM schedule was a farewell ceremony for the outgoing President of World WIZO, Tova Ben-Dov, who celebrated 51 years of volunteer work for the organization.

All the chaverot from around the world returned to their countries full of motivation and enthusiasm to continue working for their projects and supporting the State of Israel.
"Feminism and Zionism: two revolutions and ideas without which, I would not be the person that I am today."

Dr. Einat Wilf
In 2008, Lauren Abuaf Behfarin and Lauren Tetenbaum Dorman founded WIZO New York Young Leadership, a fundraising group aimed at people younger than the average age of a WIZO donor or volunteer, with the goals of attracting new communities to WIZO and cultivating the next generation of WIZO leaders and members.

Today, that group, which includes members ranging from 18–35 years old and coming from as wide a range of backgrounds and professional industries as New York can offer, make up one of WIZO’s most unique, innovative federation groups. “Young Leadership is creating true excitement in its age group,” says Gail Perl, Co-President of WIZO USA. “They are the future and their involvement is essential to the growth of WIZO USA.”

A modern outlook
What sets Young Leadership apart? From its inception, the group made a determined effort to break free of WIZO’s image as an “older ladies’ organization” and the cookie-cutter charity events common in New York City. Young Leadership concertedly created events that spoke explicitly to young people and their sensibilities. These now include cycling workout sessions, technology industry networking events, wine tastings and an annual basketball tournament, which stands out among WIZO events worldwide, both for its choice of sports and its inclusion of men. The tournament, now in its third year, attracts over 150 players and spectators. All of these events are not only unique and lucrative, but educational as well.

Arielle Krinick and Stephan Sakhai, the group’s current co-chairs, explain the reasoning behind all of this innovation, “Our goal is to educate younger people about WIZO’s core mission. Therefore, we include in every event a short information session on a specific WIZO institution or project. This makes our mission more tangible for people. We always encourage our members and event guests to visit a WIZO project when they’re in Israel, in order to make the whole experience more real. While we are committed to raising money, we first strive to educate and promote Israel to our generation.”

WIZO and the City
The Jewish millennials of New York are invigorating a WIZO federation

David Sarna Galdi
Young people have unique priorities and a proven desire for a certain intimacy as part of their altruism. Therefore, Young Leadership directs the funds it raises to specific projects under the WIZO USA umbrella, as chosen by its board. In terms of numbers, its work is as important and impactful as an entire small national federation. This year’s basketball tournament, when partnered with a matching donor, was able to fund a $100,000 playground renovation at the Meyerhoff Daycare Centre in Rehovot.

Young Leadership doesn’t stop at raising money, it is also on the forefront of pro-Israel diplomacy.

Not only fundraising
Young Leadership doesn’t stop at raising money, it is also on the forefront of pro-Israel diplomacy. At the end of May, 2016, the group took part in an event sponsored by prestigious groups like the Permanent Mission of Israel to the UN, the World Jewish Congress, UIA, Israel Bonds and Stand With Us at the United Nations, discussing and working to combat BDS and other anti-Israel initiatives. This is only one example of the group’s involvement with issues relevant and important to Israel and the local American Jewish community.

New York being what it is, chock-full of Jewish and Israel-related organizations looking for more and more funding, WIZO New York Young Leadership is not without its challenges. “There are many other young leadership committees, all promoting important causes. We are working on building a new platform, a little more intimate, to separate us from the crowd while still attracting young adults to learn about WIZO’s mission,” said Krinick and Sakhai.

It becomes clear that for Young Leadership, creativity and success mean trumping the last successful fundraising event and brainstorming a new, unique, even cooler idea while still conveying the movement’s valuable message.

Coming up on the WIZO New York Young Leadership calendar are a networking “happy hour” event, a Beyonce-themed dance class, challah baking classes and of course, next year’s basketball tournament.
Racheli Mangoli, the Chairperson of WIZO Pardes Katz, is changing lives in real time, despite the difficult reality of her adopted neighbourhood.

David Sarna Galdi

In 2006, after finishing a master’s degree at Tel Aviv University, WIZO volunteer Racheli Mangoli was sitting in her somewhat run-down office space at WIZO’s humble Pardes Katz Community Centre, of which she had recently been made the chairperson. The space, building and surrounding area, filled with garbage and neglected city infrastructure, reflected the sad reality of Pardes Katz, long known as one of Israel’s most difficult neighbourhoods, both in terms of crime and economic depression.

Suddenly, in front of her office, appeared a group of Ethiopian children, who after losing their gathering place at a Bnei Brak youth club where a water pipe had burst, were roaming the streets, barefoot, looking for a place to play. That serendipitous meeting of underprivileged children with a motivated leader led to what is now a wellspring of help for the Israeli kids of Ethiopian descent in the Pardes Katz neighbourhood, thanks to Racheli and WIZO.

Racheli realized a dire and glaring need of the Pardes Katz neighbourhood: activities and support for the children of Ethiopian immigrant families, who were lagging behind educationally and socially, in an economically weak area suffering from a lack of adequate municipal and state services. Through personal initiative, word of mouth marketing, the help of volunteers and sheer resourcefulness, Racheli quickly developed an after-school study programme for 100 local Ethiopian children.

An English lesson at WIZO Pardes Katz
A new space

The programme, which evolved to include English language and mathematics lessons as well as additional enrichment classes, workshops and trips, soon outgrew WIZO’s tiny, outdated facility in the middle of the Pardes Katz marketplace. “The children were doing homework in the kitchen or on the floor,” says Racheli. She found a nearby building that was eventually renovated and inaugurated as a WIZO club in 2011. Today, the wide array of WIZO Pardes Katz programmes include workshops for parents of the children they initially attracted. Local mothers study for driver’s licences and improve their Hebrew language skills. The initiatives have also garnered tremendous support not only from WIZO federations in the UK, Israel and private donors, but also from corporate sponsors like Deloitte Israel, Perigo, Elbit and faith groups like the Christian Friends of Israel.

Aside from and perhaps more important than the technical details of Racheli Mangoli’s Pardes Katz operation, is her own passion and dedication to one of the country’s weakest populations.

Learning Amharic

Racheli spared no expense in becoming attuned to her adopted community’s needs, taking months of courses in Amharic at Tel Aviv University. When asked where she draws the line between her work for WIZO Pardes Katz and her personal life, Racheli answers, “There is no line.” She comes to the aid of the neighbourhood’s Ethiopian Israeli residents with personal, educational, social and family problems, twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. “There’s nobody else here to do these things for them,” she claims, without a hint of self-aggrandizement.

Ten years after that initial meeting between Racheli and the dire reality of her surroundings, Racheli is a recognized star within the ranks of WIZO, thanks to the wonders she has achieved. On International Women’s Day 2016, Prof. Rivka Lazovsky and the WIZO executive committee hosted and honoured Racheli and two other women who had participated in WIZO’s Women’s Leadership Programme and whose social-activist achievements stood out. “I truly thank WIZO for the opportunity I was given: to be the head of a local branch,” said Racheli, at the event. “I had no idea of my own capabilities until I was chosen for the job. Now I am able to move mountains - thanks to what I learned through WIZO. I’ve succeeded in attracting numerous volunteers who work with great dedication in order to help the Ethiopian community’s children. Thanks to WIZO, these kids see the beautiful side of Israeli society.”

Lifetime award

In 2015, at WIZO Israel’s conference, Racheli was given a lifetime achievement award recognizing her dedication and achievements. She has been singled out as both a role-model for other WIZO volunteers, a reflection of WIZO’s values, and an example of what women’s empowerment can produce in Israeli society. Later in the year, on International Women’s Day 2016, Racheli was one of three WIZO-affiliated women who received an award from the Knesset’s Committee on the Status of Women and Gender Equality.
The Pajama Library and WIZO

WIZO recently expanded its collaboration with The Pajama Library, a unique reading initiative started in America and imported to Israel, which brings literacy and Jewish values into the daycare centres and homes of children across Israel.

David Sarna Galdi

A famous public service announcement broadcast in the United States in the 1980s and 1990s let television audiences know that it was “never too late to learn to read.” WIZO and the Pajama Library have proven that it’s never too early. Thanks to the collaboration between WIZO’s Early Age Division and the Pajama Library, a reading initiative begun in the US and adapted for Israel, kindergarten and preschool kids in WIZO institutions around the country are now enjoying specially-published books, listening to the stories contained in them, learning valuable lessons, partaking in topical discussions, creating arts and crafts projects on related themes and bringing the whole package home to their families.

Pajama Library, "Sifriyat Pijama" in Hebrew, is a modified version of a project founded by Harold Grinspoon, a Jewish-American philanthropist, in the United States and then imported to Israel in 2009. In its Israeli, Jewish incarnation, the reading readiness programme aims to instill a life-long love of reading in the youngest Israelis through books of high literary quality, carefully chosen to encourage discussion on values and Jewish heritage.

During the school year, participating WIZO daycare centre children are introduced to eight high-quality children’s books in a specially published Pajama Library/WIZO edition. The books are delivered to classes, where daycare workers read the books and initiate activities thematically based on their stories, reinforcing the values and ideas contained within. Each child is given a copy of the same book to take home, where parents are meant to take advantage of each book’s suggested activities for families and continue discussion and games related to the books.

The Pajama Library offers Israeli children and their families an opportunity to create or enhance a tradition of reading together and enjoying meaningful conversations on Jewish topics. The classroom-to-living room continuity and symbiosis of the Pajama Library project makes it unique - children benefit even more from material presented in both settings.
Pajama Library reached WIZO’s radar as a potential collaborative project after it was launched in 2009 to address both literacy and Jewish values in early education. The programme operates in partnership with the Israeli Ministry of Education, reaching and gifting books to approximately 250,000 children in over 7,000 pre-schools throughout Israel, serving more than 80% of all preschool children in government schools. Many of the recipients of Pajama Library books are from underprivileged families, who might otherwise not be financially able to build a library of books for their children.

At the beginning of the collaboration WIZO provided books for some 700 kindergarten class children in its institutions. Due to the popularity and success of the programme, it was soon expanded to include 5,700 WIZO pre-kindergarten children as well. In 2016, all of the kindergarten classes in WIZO daycare centers will take part in the programme, thanks to a generous donation from WIZO’s American federation. The most recent specially-published book to be distributed as part of WIZO’s expanded collaboration with the Pajama Project is called “Challah for Shabbat.”

Avital Blumenthal, Chairperson of WIZO’s Early Age Division, states, “WIZO’s Early Age Division has for several years now worked to advance initiatives that promote reading in preschools, since it’s one of the ultimate ways to provide every child with an equal opportunity for education and development. Without the donation from WIZO USA, the implementation of this great programme wouldn’t have been possible in so many daycare centres across Israel.”

“This joint project started when one of our donor’s sons decided that he wanted to use the money he received for his bar mitzvah to buy books for children in Israel; we thought that The Grinspoon Foundation would be a great partner,” said Gail Perl, Co-President of WIZO USA. “Reading to and with children has a huge impact on their abilities to communicate and use their imagination. Through this kind of educational project, we realize our greater goal of getting families out of the cycle of poverty. Being part of this collaboration is a huge honour for us.”
Childhood Interrupted

Eva Burstein, a resident of WIZO’s Parents’ Home in Tel Aviv, recalls her escape from Nazi-occupied Austria on the Kindertransport

David Sarna Galdi

Behind the inconspicuous walls of WIZO’s Parents’ Home, an assisted living facility for senior citizens in Tel Aviv, hide many fascinating life stories. One such story is that of Eva Burstein who, as a child, was saved from the Holocaust by the Kindertransport, one of the most amazing chapters in 20th century Jewish history.

The Kindertransport (German for “children’s transport”) was a British initiative that rescued approximately 10,000 Jewish children from Nazi-controlled countries by transporting them to the UK without their parents, and placing them in foster homes, hostels, schools and farms. The child-rescue mission was spurred on by the British public and efforts of human rights organizations and made possible by eased British immigration restrictions on certain Jewish refugees. WIZO’s founder, Rebecca Sieff, was personally responsible for funding the rescue of some 1,000 Kindertransport children.

Vienna childhood

Eva Burstein was born in Vienna in 1926. Her father had his own business and her mother was a housewife, caring for Eva, her two siblings and the family’s sunny, pleasant apartment in Vienna’s 3rd district. The Burstein family was Jewish but not religious and comfortably middle-class, enjoying the plentiful culture of early 20th century Vienna. Eva’s childhood was a harmonious combination of education, family and extra-curricular activities like ballet classes and mandolin lessons.
The Anschluss

In March 1938 Hitler’s army invaded and occupied Austria, which capitulated peacefully, accepting Nazi annexation in what was called the Anschluss. Within a few days, Eva’s father was arrested by the Gestapo, imprisoned and eventually sent to Dachau; the inevitable doom for the family and all the Jewish people under Nazi rule quickly became clear. In Mr. Burstein’s absence, his business was confiscated and Eva’s mother was left alone to provide for her three children. She began travelling from embassy to embassy, trying to obtain visas for emigration.

Slowly, restrictions were enacted limiting many aspects of life for Jews in the city of Vienna. One summer day, when Eva and her sister were playing in a park, a group of Hitler Youth teenagers arrived and began harassing them. Eva and her mother soon decided that she would be safer stopping her studies and staying at home.

The Kindertransport

During her search for ways for the family to escape, Eva’s mother heard about the Kindertransport and applied for her children to join the group leaving from Vienna. She faced harsh criticism from friends and family but was selfless and resolute in her desire to get her kids, “as far away from Hitler,” as possible.

On the evening of December 10th 1938, Eva and her siblings packed their suitcases and boarded a train full of unaccompanied children, some as young as three-years-old. Eva recalls parting tearfully from her mother and the nighttime train journey across Europe. Just before crossing the border between Germany and Holland, the train stopped and SS officers boarded to search for hidden jewellery and money.

The train’s next stop, after crossing the border, was markedly different from the first; at a Dutch train station, Red Cross workers fed, clothed and tended to the children. On December 12th the children boarded a cruise ship with first-class service to Dover, England.

Within a few days, Eva’s father was arrested by the Gestapo, imprisoned and eventually sent to Dachau; the inevitable doom for the family and all the Jewish people under Nazi rule quickly became clear.

Home away from home

Upon arrival in England, Eva and the Kindertransport children were taken to summer camp facilities, where they were housed while they were displayed to prospective foster homes and organizations in a process Eva remembers nicknaming, “the slave market.”

Eva and her sister went to live with two different non-Jewish families in northern Yorkshire. Their brother, who had a harder time with placement because he was older - 14 - stayed at the summer camp facility with other older refugee children.

Eva prefers not to discuss her time with her British foster family, only admitting that it was an experience shaped by culture-shock and guilt. Not for a moment did the situation feel “like home.” In 1944, once she had reached 18 years of age, Eva moved to London to volunteer in the British Royal Army, serving as a clerk for the Pay Corps, its financial branch.

War’s end

At war’s end, Eva scoured the lists of survivors’ names posted in London, looking for news of her parents. During the war, her mother had written letters, through which Eva learned that in 1939 her father had returned home and obtained visas to Palestine for him and his wife. However, their emigration was blocked by Austrian tax authorities. By the time he was able to cover the debt, Jewish emigration was already forbidden. Eva’s father was eventually sent to the Buchenwald concentration camp; he died in Auschwitz in 1942. Her mother, when Vienna’s Jewish community was liquidated, was sent to Theresienstadt and then Auschwitz, were she perished. Eva’s last letter from her mother was dated April 5th, 1944.

While searching the survivor lists, Eva met a young man who had served in the Jewish Brigade, a British army unit made up of Jews from Palestine. After a few weeks of courtship, and with a burning desire to leave England and the sorrow of her recent past behind her, Eva married and immigrated with her new husband to Palestine in 1947.

The young couple was living in Tel Aviv when Israel’s War of Independence broke out; married women were called up for service and Eva, because of her English language skills, was sent to work for the Israel Air Force. She spent the war translating and broadcasting communications messages from a subterranean bunker under Tel Aviv’s Rothschild Boulevard.

Today, after a lifetime intertwined with modern Jewish history’s most significant events, Eva lives a quiet life in the WIZO Parents’ Home in Tel Aviv, together with her sister, who has been at her side throughout the amazing journey that is her life.
WE = WIZO Empowers

WE Fight for Women’s Rights.
WE Create Leaders.
WE Volunteer.
WE Save Lives.

For further information and to make online contributions, visit our website: www.wizo.org
Paul Zajfen is a long time, much-admired donor who is, amongst other things, responsible (along with Eliane Sprung) for the annual golf tournament in Paris, now marking its 37th anniversary, that brings in hundreds of thousands of Euros to WIZO every year.

How did you come to be involved with WIZO?

“I love golf and have been playing for many years. I met Eliane and Michel Sprung on a golf course and we quickly became friends. At the time, Eliane was organizing golf tournaments for WIZO at the golf club where she and her husband were members. I had attended quite a number of these events and realized that the number of participants was decreasing. I proposed to Eliane that I would help give a ‘new life’ to the event.”

“That was 30 years ago. We decided to work together and to organize an annual WIZO golf tournament. We started out with 50-80 players and today we have 300 participants, very significant donations and big donors.”

“I recently lost my beloved wife Rolande z’l, who had always been at my side and encouraged my work with WIZO. She herself was active in WIZO Paris for 30 years. She was one of a kind, always concerned about other people and never complaining throughout her three-year battle with cancer. Believe me, she was a hero.”

What does WIZO mean to you?

“For me, first and foremost, WIZO is children. They have to be taken care of, to be raised and educated properly. Israel needs children for its survival; they are the future of the country. I volunteer because of the children.”

What is your connection to Israel?

“In France, I volunteer for a few Jewish organizations apart from WIZO and I have been to Israel many times to volunteer. We, who live in the Diaspora, owe everything to the State of Israel. Israel is our security. I’m proud to say that my grandson made aliyah and lives here with his family. These days, because of the rise of anti-Semitism in France, the Jewish community lives in fear. Jewish parents are afraid and aspire for a better life for their children, thus many French Jews are making aliyah.”

How do you go about fundraising?

“I work from my heart. I have already developed various approaches when I talk to people. I assess the person. I ascertain whether he or she is a mensch. I can usually tell immediately if he or she will donate. Some donors start out very tough at the beginning and eventually open their hearts. I believe that every Jew has the duty to help Israel. You might find it interesting that I have among my donors many non-Jews who don’t hesitate to give when I contact them.”

Editor’s note: WIZO runs a ‘Naale’ programme, sponsored by Canada at CHW Hadassim Youth Village, whereby teenagers from France (and other French speaking children from abroad) attend the school. The current group of youngsters recently received their Israeli identity cards at a moving ceremony at the Knesset.
"I Had to do Something to Help the Jewish People"

Betty Dykes is a testament to the diversity of WIZO volunteers

Ingrid Rockberger

I first met them at a reception for the Australian delegation a few days before the EGM in January, at the home of the Australian ambassador to Israel.

Betty Dykes hails from Nambour, a town well-known for its sugar production and tropical fruits on Queensland’s Sunshine Coast, and her daughter Helen Collen lives in Brisbane, some 100 miles away.

Both ladies are members of WIZO Australia’s Kesher groups – groups of non-Jewish women who are avid supporters of Israel through WIZO.

Why Betty joined WIZO

A few days later, we managed to find some free time during the EGM and Betty told me in detail how she became involved with WIZO. She is a founding member of a group which has been active for 23 years – starting with 15 members, and now numbering around 200.

One of Betty’s friends, Rose Toms, was a member of a Jewish WIZO group in Brisbane, but felt she could create a regional non-Jewish group. Following a visit to Israel in 1992 with her church, Betty decided she wanted to actively support the Jewish state, and became a founding member of a Kesher group.

“When I visited Yad Vashem, I was totally overwhelmed by what I saw; there and then I felt I had to do something to help the Jewish people. When I returned home, I became part of the Kesher group.”

The group has monthly meetings and various activities including sewing quilts for the dormitory students at WIZO Australia’s signature project WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim Boarding School in Haifa.

Crowdfunding success

Betty’s group’s most recent successful project, which she tells me about beaming from ear to ear, was a crowdfunding campaign on Facebook held last year to raise money for rocket-proof shelters for WIZO day care centres. In a very short time, the campaign raised over 50% more than its target. “We’d heard about this method of fundraising and thought, why not give it a shot. We were delighted with the result!”

Helen and Betty were not part of the official Australian delegation for the EGM but, coincidentally were in Israel at the same time. They had come on their own for two weeks – having bought two non-refundable plane tickets. “My husband was not that keen,” says Helen, especially as we are about to move house, but it’s been a great visit – my first to Israel!”

Today Betty is on the Queensland and New South Wales Executive, and keeps busy running a newsletter and keeping in touch with her members. “The personal touch is very important to me; I always send a card for their birthdays, thanking them for their support on behalf of WIZO women and children.”

Ed note: There are also Kesher groups in New Zealand – see WIZO Around the World in this issue. WIZO Australia Past President Gilla Liberman adds: “WIZO is truly blessed to have good friends in Kesher groups in Australia and New Zealand who are steadfast in their support of Israel.”
Introducing Erica

Dear Chaverot,

When I was a kid growing up in Rio de Janeiro, all I knew about WIZO was that it took my mum away from home every other week, and that the women made a lot of noise! As I grew up and became a mum, I found out that something that takes you away from home every other week is to be cherished, and that… well, women are still noisy. But that’s a good thing! It means they are passionate about their cause.

By the time I was 35 I had moved from Rio to Brasilia, Brazil’s capital city, and was helping set up the local WIZO chapter. It was challenging and inspiring enough, but then something happened that completely changed the way I related to WIZO: I attended the International Aviv Seminar in 2012.

Life-changing experience

I really can’t say enough about this experience. I hadn’t been to Israel in 20 years, and visiting was very moving. But seeing Israel through the eyes of WIZO? Finding out that I had sisters all over the world, and that we all cared so much about this tiny land and this amazing people that we would take time away from our families and jobs to be there and see for ourselves what we were doing and what still needed to be done? Saying that it inspired me to come back and spread the word, to fight even harder… true, but it was so much more than that.

I came back home ready to do whatever it took. Our local WIZO grew to three groups and is going strong. When I moved back to Rio I was happy to join an established Aviv group and get to work! A few years later, to make a long story short, I was nominated by my federation for the position of Aviv Representative to the World WIZO Executive, and was very proud to be elected.

I took office in January, at the 26th EGM, and immediately got to work, doing what I believe is the most important part of my job – talking to my chaverot. All of them, from all over the world.

Let’s communicate!

In this day and age, even with all the technology at our disposal, most problems still stem from a lack of communication. Businesses, governments and individuals suffer because of it.

My goal is to be a link between all the Avivals, the Avivs and World WIZO, and generally try to help people communicate more. This can happen in many different ways. For instance, we have set up a Whatsapp group with Aviv representatives from most federations. Last month, the representative from Germany said they were planning a casino night, so the representative from Panama sent her all the artwork they had created for a similar event they had held previously. How many hours of work – and maybe even money – were saved because they talked to each other? And how can we make it easier and routine for this sort of communication to occur?

I hope that if you are Aviv, we will meet in November at the next Aviv Seminar, which is going to be the best yet! And if you are not Aviv, please help support an Aviv from your federation so that she can learn and prepare to be one of the leaders of our organization. United we are strong!

Finally, I would like to give you my e-mail address: esauber@gmail.com, and ask that you really feel free to contact me at any time, with any questions, requests, complaints or suggestions. Let’s work together!

Yours, Erica

Erica Saubermann, from Brazil, is the new Aviv representative to the World WIZO Executive
SAVE THE DATE
13-17 November, 2016
WIZO AVIV
International Seminar

Discover
Israel's History, Zionism,
Community Building,
Leadership and Engagement

Explore
the life changing work WIZO
does in its projects across the
country

Connect
with young WIZO women from all over the
world and become part of an incredible
network of committed leaders

Share
your experience and WOW WIZO
moments with your family, friends
and colleagues!

The seminar is intended for WIZO members
up to the age of 45.

To sign up and for more information please contact:
Organization & Tourism Division, World WIZO at wizo@wizo.org or your local WIZO Federation
WIZO Project Site Visits

When it comes to seeing the impact of WIZO on the ground, nothing compares to an up-close look at a project in Israel

Michal Weiss

Site visits offer WIZO’s guests the opportunity to witness first-hand the work that WIZO does around Israel and get an in-depth understanding of how WIZO’s projects operate and the impact they have on their beneficiaries.

Site visits let WIZO members see the results of their volunteer work and fundraising, and motivate them to continue their work. Unique encounters with children, youth, women and dedicated staff will turn an otherwise routine trip into a memorable and emotional experience - one that will make a lasting impression.

Tailor-made trips
WIZO offers tailor-made site visits catering to different audiences:

- Visits to WIZO projects: daycare centres, youth villages, youth clubs and more...
- Bar/Bat mitzvah tours and opportunities for engagement and interaction with youth and children
- Donor visits
- WIZO in the past, present and future – a historical perspective
- Plaque unveiling ceremonies at projects
- Volunteering opportunities

WIZO has a rich and fascinating history which is intertwined with that of the State of Israel and each and every WIZO project has an inspiring story to tell.

Come and see Israel through WIZO’s eyes. Gain a better understanding of the social challenges facing the “start-up” nation; experience first-hand the difference your support makes and touch someone’s life during your journey.

A fortuitous visit
The story of a fortuitous site visit by Mireille M. Manocherian, Vice President of WIZO USA, and her family, perfectly portrays the potential and power of these experiences. Mireille has been involved with WIZO for almost 30 years; her three children were raised with WIZO as a part of their lives. It was only fitting that her youngest child Natalie, who has been modelling for WIZO fashion shows since she was four-years-old, make WIZO part of her bat mitzvah celebrations.

“On one of my visits to WIZO Nir HaEmek Youth Village, (sponsored by WIZO USA and Argentina), I noticed that the media and radio lab were in desperate need of a modern upgrade,” recalls Mireille. “I was very proud when Natalie decided to make this a bat mitzvah goodwill project and donate her gifts to improve the lives of the children at WIZO Nir HaEmek. We had the great privilege of celebrating Natalie’s bat mitzvah on an amazing week-long mother-daughter trip throughout Israel during which we spent a day exploring Nir HaEmek and all the incredible things that the campus has to offer: the garden, cheese factory, sports centre and more. A few months later, we were amazed to see the gorgeous, modern, renovated media centre. Natalie was thrilled to witness how much her gesture had enhanced the lives of the students. One student, named Raz, who had become close to my family, was at the renovated centre to give us a tour and explanation. It was so heartwarming to watch my daughter and Raz connect; it spoke volumes about the beauty of WIZO. I am so proud of my daughter and her choice to involve WIZO in every aspect of her life.”
Who is Responsible for WIZO’s Future?

“Caring for our Future” is an exciting new programme that will build WIZO’s next generation

WIZO can be extremely proud of its illustrious past, as an essential player in the history of the Jewish People and the State of Israel. Since the beginning of the previous century, WIZO has been concerned with the well-being of women and children in Israel.

WIZO’s model of sustainability, based on the creation of federations around the world, has proved to be a powerful one, which engages thousands of women in making a difference for individuals, families, and ultimately - all of Israeli Society.

As WIZO approaches its centennial, it must deal with a world that has changed. In order to continue to be relevant and lead the struggle for social justice in Israeli society, WIZO must adapt and evolve into a movement that not only takes care of its existing members but also engages younger women who will ultimately take up the torch and continue WIZO’s indispensable work for the next 100 years.

This is not an easy task. Veteran organizations tend to maintain the status quo and avoid change. That is not the case with WIZO. WIZO is always exploring...
innovative ways to maintain its relevance and vibrancy, and keep up-to-date with the changing needs of society.

Identify with WIZO
For these reasons, the World WIZO Organization & Tourism Division, as part of a concerted effort to nurture WIZO’s next generation, has developed a programme that will engage the millennial and post-millennial generations: young people between ages 12-28.

We believe that the most important impetus for becoming a WIZO member is the desire to identify with the movement. The term “identification” has cognitive, emotional and behavioural implications, which is why the programme emphasizes these three layers and highlights them throughout the process.

“Caring for Our Future” is a programme designed to reach out to girls and young women (aged 12 and up), and familiarize them with WIZO’s core values, goals and activities in Israel and around the world – with the hope that they will eventually become full-fledged WIZO members in worldwide federations. Programme participants will be able to experience WIZO through hands-on activities tailored for each age group, gaining exposure to WIZO’s ideology and developing a strong sense of organizational identification. The programme will be facilitated mainly (but not only) by active WIZO Aviv members in the federations, and by doing that, we hope to create a meaningful role also for our members up to the age of 45. The programme will even offer the chance to engage in WIZO activities in Israel – as part of a specially-crafted MASA programme containing WIZO values and content.

A four-module programme
The project has four modules, which will introduce a main theme for each age group. Five or six meetings will be held annually to encourage study and reflection in experiential groups as well as some volunteering. Ideally, each participant will take part in all stages of the programme. For this reason, the programme consists of modules which allow participants to join at any point in time.

Below is a brief description of the four stages of the programme:

Phase 1 (age 12-14): Bat Mitzvah
The bat mitzvah module serves as a starting point for the first stage of activities. A group of girls who will be celebrating their bat mitzvah during the year will be invited to take part in the programme which will engage them in activities that build social justice awareness and leadership skills. The WIZO angle at this stage will be that each group will “adopt” a WIZO project in Israel and maintain a close relationship with the project throughout the year.

Phase 2 (age 14-16): Improving the World (tikkun olam)
This stage will encourage girls (in groups) to do hands-on volunteer work in their local communities, accompanied by trained professionals.

Phase 3 (age 16-18): Preparing participants for the MASA WIZO programme in Israel
The MASA programme, which operates in partnership with the Israeli government and the Jewish Agency, is a unique initiative that is designed to encourage young members of Jewish communities around the world to live in Israel for a period of six months to a year. The preparation stage will include familiarising participants with WIZO’s work in Israel, while offering them support in the decision-making process and selecting a programme that fits their needs.

Phase 4 (age 18-28): Taking part in the “MASA WIZO” programme
The MASA WIZO programme will include volunteering at WIZO projects in Israel, with participants being able to choose from a variety of options.

The programme described above will introduce young people, perhaps for the first time, to social situations they have never encountered before. It will teach them how to provide care with dedication, forge a sense of personal responsibility and develop their interpersonal communication skills with different vulnerable groups in society: for example the elderly, physically or mentally challenged. We believe that such an experience will develop their sense of belonging, empathy, care and leadership.

WIZO’s Organization & Tourism Division encourages WIZO chaverot around the world to embark with us on this journey which will hopefully have an immense impact on WIZO’s future and be a step forward in helping to transform this idea into a reality.

For further details, contact the World WIZO Organization & Tourism Division wizo@wizo.org

WIZO’s next generation - in Panama
International Women’s Day 2016

To mark and celebrate International Women’s Day 2016, WIZO Israel launched several exciting and highly relevant initiatives and events.

The Harassing the Nation – Changing the Rules of the Game conference addressed the current wave of sexual harassment incidents involving leading political, military and entertainment figures in Israel. The event’s various panel discussions, including “The Criminal Standard vs. the Ethical Standard,” which discussed the use of social media as a forum for denouncing assailants, featured leading Israeli personalities from the fields of politics, law, entertainment, journalism and more.

“Wear It. Share it.” was a fashionable Women’s Day project launched in collaboration with clothing stores and a chain of shopping centres: a collection of t-shirts designed by Liat Ayoun, featuring empowering messages for women both in English and Hebrew. The collection was accompanied by a video campaign featuring female Israeli celebrities, social leaders and political figures encouraging women to realize their goals and not let outdated stigmas stand in their way. The video campaign appeared on prime-time television. Proceeds from the sale of the t-shirts benefit at-risk and battered women in WIZO projects and institutions.

Gan VeNof Bnei Mitzvot in Jerusalem

In May, 30 students of the 7th grade class at the boarding school of WIZO Gan VeNof Youth Village celebrated their bar & bat mitzvah ceremonies with an unforgettable trip to the Western Wall and the old city of Jerusalem.

The group was greeted at the Western Wall by a troupe of musicians, and was spontaneously joined by a unit of IDF paratroopers. After the moving experience at the wall the students proceeded to a nearby school where they saw a full-size reproduction of the menorah from the ancient holy temple. After lunch in a local restaurant, the group made its way to the iconic Tower of David Museum for a tour and fun activity.

The exciting day was “actually the culmination of a year of events symbolizing the transition from childhood to adulthood, and the accepting of responsibility,” explained Uri Sa’ar, Director of WIZO Gan VeNof. This event is part of a larger, ongoing initiative of WIZO and its institutions, which provides bar & bat mitzvah ceremonies and events to children who, because of difficult familial or economic situations, might not be able to have them otherwise.

Social Values at WIZO Nir HaEmek

At WIZO Nir HaEmek, important values like environmental consciousness and tolerance are alive and well, being not only taught in the classroom but implemented in real life.

The youth village launched a new initiative, which had 10th grade students tilling, fencing-in and irrigating some of the school’s agricultural area, and planting lettuce that had been donated by an agriculturalist whose son attends the school. The lettuce, when ready for harvest, was donated to Afula-area organizations combatting hunger.

As part of another project, 9th grade students held their first meeting with students from the local school in the Arab village of Nāʿura.

Shula Kfir, coordinator for the 9th grade, explained, “These unique meetings allow for our students to make the acquaintance of students from the nearby Arab community.” In the near future there will be more such get-togethers at the youth village and at the school in Nāʿura. The greater goal is to expand these meetings into various routes of communication and collaborative projects, which will include the students’ parents as well.
Young WIZO Chefs Win IDF Competition

Students of the culinary track at the Rebecca Sieff Centre for the Family Inbal Bublil, Elioz Cohen and Tal Luzon were recently placed first in a cookery competition run in conjunction with the IDF.

The competition, named "From Field Ration to Gourmet," was launched by Israel’s Ministry of Education in collaboration with the Israel Defense Forces, and took place at the Tadmor Hotelier School in Herzliya. The programme encourages the students to join the IDF as “young chefs” in its kitchens across Israel. Each participating school was assigned a non-commissioned officer who acted as a professional counsellor and held a year-long dialogue with the culinary students, culminating in the contest.

The students were challenged to create three dishes to be judged: a starter, main course and dessert, using army field rations as their inspiration and source of ingredients.

Inbal, Oz and Tal, the students from WIZO Beit HaKerem, showed real battlefield-spirit and determination and came in first place in all categories of the competition, including the toughest: the award for “the most balanced flavours.” They returned to campus with an impressive trophy. Aside from scholastic pride and a rewarding experience, the contest also produced a cookbook including the schools’ winning recipes.

Students’ Space Competition

Students in the space programme at the CHW Hadassim High School won 2nd place at the annual Ilan Ramon Space Olympics Competition, hosted by the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot. The team from CHW Hadassim won the award for its invention - a special telescope for use in classrooms. Over 400 school classes participated in the first stage of the competition, with only 15 making it to the finals. CHW Hadassim’s space competition team comprised 38 8th and 9th grade students (13 girls and 25 boys).

The study of space at CHW Hadassim includes all of the main subjects of astronomy: the structure of the universe, evolution of stars, the solar system, the role of satellites in the study of earth from space, the Israeli space programme, the storage of information in space, and more.

The project was led, on a volunteer basis, by Dr. Adi Ninio Greenberg, a (reserve) major in the Israeli Air Force, researcher at the cometary laboratory at Tel Aviv University’s Geophysical, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences Department, and an adviser to the Israel Space Agency.
Argentina

Last March, WIZO OSFA Argentina invited new World WIZO President Esther Mor to be its guest in Argentina, coinciding with her attendance at the World Jewish Congress plenary assembly. The delegation of WIZO OSFA Argentina included Nicole Kovalivker, President of WIZO OSFA, Clara Broide, Chairperson of WIZO OSFA, Amalia Pollack, a past president, and Alicia Barmaimon. After the majority of the WJC events were done, the chaverot of Argentina organized several special events for Esther, including a visit to the Colon Theater, a presentation and luncheon at WIZO OSFA headquarters, and Shabbat dinner. At the end of her visit, Esther was the guest of WIZO OSFA President Nicole Kovalivker at a dinner attended by ministers, ambassadors, dignitaries, WIZO donors and WIZO OSFA members. The mission was successful both in creating new bonds between the WIZO executive and WIZO OSFA Argentina but also in explaining the importance and breadth of the federation’s work.

Photo Argentina 1: (l to r) Ms. Dorit Shavit, Ambassador of Israel in Argentina, Esther Mor

Australia

Australia

Perth

WIZO Western Australia celebrated International Women’s Day with the principal and high school girls of the Carmel School. Dr. Ashleigh Lin, an ex-student, told the students about her own life and the choices she had made, urging them to embrace change. Later, a group of WIZO friends walked in the leafy surrounds of an inner city park and enjoyed light refreshments. It reinforced the pride in being WIZO supporters and they left with a gift of WIZO material enforcing the theme of WE = WIZO Empowers.

Sydney

Marianne Van Der Poorten, who has been sharing her birthday with WIZO since the establishment of the State of Israel, celebrated her 102nd birthday in April. This inspiring woman holds WIZO near and dear to her heart, and WIZO’s vital work has always been her passion. On this occasion, over 100 family members and friends joined Marianne to celebrate this milestone!

Over 80 WIZO members attended a WIZO Rachel function in Sydney to honour the universal rights of women and children. The guest speaker, Dr. Eman Sharobeem, enthralled listeners with her inspirational personal journey. For 14 years she endured a violent arranged
marriage and was widowed at age 29 with two young children, and had to overcome incredible adversity on her way to becoming the Chief Executive of the Immigrant Women’s Health Services in Australia.

_Gloria Newhouse’s term of office came to an end at the NSW AGM in March. She has a long history of volunteer work for WIZO, serving as president of WIZO Yaffa and as a dedicated president of WIZO NSW for the past five years. Her passion for the women and children of Israel who depend on WIZO’s care inspired her to utilize her skills as a WIZO president. Gloria was presented with the Rebecca Sieff Award in recognition of her work. Funds were raised in her honour by friends and WIZO members for the Gloria Newhouse Learning Centre at Ahuza Ha’ktana at WIZO Australia’s flagship project WIZO Ahutz Yeladim in Haifa._

_WIZO Victoria celebrated International Women’s Day in March by hosting a morning tea. Guests were entertained by a panel of four speakers: CEO of Ovarian Cancer Victoria, a representative of St. Kilda Mums (an organization that rehomes new and pre-loved baby goods and nursery equipment to families in need), the chair of Unchain My Heart (an advocacy group dealing with _agunot_) and the manager of Winja Ulupna (an Aboriginal women’s shelter supporting women suffering from alcoholism or drug dependency). The morning was so successful and informative that WIZO Victoria has decided to repeat it next year._

_WIZO OSFA Argentina is the oldest WIZO federation in Latin America, founded in 1926._

_In 1935 the first issue of WIZO Review in Spanish was published – Revista Osfa._

_One of the resolutions passed at their 1936 conference was to create “Young WIZO.”_
Austria

Chaverot of WIZO Austria came together to remember Mag.a Barbara Prammer, a former president of the Austrian parliament, an outstanding politician and friend of WIZO who fought for women’s rights. Her death last year was a tragedy for all who knew her. One of her favourite pastimes was attending the opera, and when organizing the memorial event, WIZO collaborated with the current director of the Opera House, Dominique Meyer. Soloists Hila Fahima, Chen Reiss and Boaz Daniel from Israel and Zoryana Kushpler from the Ukraine, accompanied on the piano by Gabor Bartinai, made the event unforgettable. The evening was hosted by the Austrian Federal Bank OENB under the patronage of Doris Bures, President of the Austrian Parliament and honoured by the presence of Gabriele Heinisch-Hosek, Minister of Women’s Affairs and Education and Oskar Deutsch, President of the local Jewish community. Proceeds from the concert went to the mahout project at the Maya Rosenberg School in Rehovoth, launched by WIZO Austria in memory of Barbara Prammer.

Photo Austria 1: Chen Reiss, Gabor Bartinai, Zoryana Kushpler, Hila Fahima, Boaz Daniel at the fundraiser in honour of Mag.a Prammer

Belgium

Brussels

WIZO Brussels recently organized many cultural activities including a recital of classical music with Daniel Blumenthal and Marc Sabbah, and a recital of Yiddish music featuring Joelle Strauss and the Astor Klezmer Trio.

Photo Belgium 1: The Astor Klezmer Trio. Marc Grauwels, Joëlle Strauss, Christophe Delporte

Antwerp

Author Nathalie Skowronek held a lecture entitled “Our Shoah.” The subject, based on her essay La Shoah de Monsieur Durand, speaks about her grandfather’s life in Germany, permanently branded with a Jewish prisoner tattoo number and his impact on her life. The lecture also discussed the last witnesses to the Holocaust and ways to pass down this legacy. The event was kindly hosted by Keke Weberman.

One of the activities offered to the members of WIZO Antwerp is the literary workshop. Six to 12 participants come together five or six times to discuss the books selected by the leader of the group, Sophia Smaja, who is a retired teacher of Latin and Greek, and the organizer, Béatrice Rubinszteijn-Reig. Sophie’s love of literature and her analyses of books enable the participants to discover hidden
facets of the works. The group also takes an interest in Israeli literature, although French translations are relatively scarce. These friendly meetings and discussions end up around the table with coffee and cake.

Brazil

Para

WIZO Belem welcomed a new executive committee at a festive event, electing Roseluz Bemerguy de Souza president and Eliane Bemerguy Alves and Deborah Aben Athat Unger vice presidents.

Photo Para 1: Roseluz Cortés, Eliane Bemerguy, Deborah Unger

Curitiba-Parana

WIZO Curitiba-Parana, including President Sarita Fatuch, executive members and the Aviv group, hosted Luciana Burla Cukierman, President of WIZO Rio de Janeiro. She visited in order to share her experiences from the 26th WIZO EGM in Tel Aviv.

Photo Curitiba 1: Luciana Burla Cukierman with chaverot of WIZO Curitiba-Parana

Minas Gerais

WIZO Minas Gerais organized a wonderful Purim party at the local Jewish congregation.

The recent 22nd WIZO Brazil Conference was named for and honoured Mrs. Esther Carvalho, a past president of WIZO Minas Gerais, a position she held for ten years, working with commitment and dedication. A leading community member, apart from WIZO, Mrs. Carvalho was one of the founders of the Minas Gerais Israeli History Institute and vice-president of the Israeli Federation of Minas Gerais.

Photo Minas Gerais 1: Esther Carvalho (l) with her daughter Elizabeth Bronfen

Federal Facts

Austria

Did you know that…?

✔ Inspired by Dr Theodor Herzl there was a women’s Zionist organisation in Vienna as early as 1903, which affiliated with WIZO in 1921.

✔ In 1934 a WIZO club was established which became the centre of Jewish cultural life in Vienna.

✔ After Hitler invaded Austria in 1938, 135 young girls were saved by certificates obtained by WIZO, which enabled them to travel to Eretz Yisrael and study in WIZO institutions.
**Rio de Janeiro**

Luciana Burla Cukierman and all of WIZO Rio de Janeiro celebrated Passover with the chaverot of the Aviv and Lapidot groups. The WIZO Rio de Janeiro Kalaniot group came up with the creative idea of making and distributing a kit for painting a cover for Passover matzot and the afikoman. Approximately 200 children were given the kit as a gift.

*Photos Rio 1 (on previous page)*

**Sao Paulo**

WIZO Sao Paulo celebrated International Women’s Day 2016 with an event organized by the Chana Szenes Group, attended by more than 300 chaverot with guest speaker Lindamara Rizzo Battistella, Secretary of State for the Rights of Disabled People. Rebecca Rosenberg, president of the group, acted as MC of the event, which began with a lovely breakfast and was followed by a ceremony at the Theatre Anne Frank-Hebraica Sao Paulo Club. Two local artists, Claudio Goldman and Regis Karlic, presented a repertoire of Jewish music. Ida Mansur, President of WIZO Sao Paulo, spoke about the work of the group and complimented the chaverot on a successful event.

*Photo Sao Paulo 1*

The Tzehirot Group organized the WIZO Purim party which included the distribution of fun masks to all attendants and the reading of the megillah.

*Photo Sao Paulo 2*

**Rio Grande do Sul**

WIZO Rio Grande do Sul, in collaboration with the Union Israelita Synagogue and Rabbi Ari Oliszewski, held a bat mitzvah project once again, showing their commitment to Jewish heritage and volunteerism.

*Photo RGDS 1*

**Canada**

Canadian Hadassah-WIZO’s (CHW) board of directors and leadership team gathered for the National Leaders Forum Meeting from April 9-10 at the Sheraton Centre Hotel in downtown Toronto. The highlight of the weekend was the special guest speaker, Niki Raz, an Israeli who was a victim of domestic abuse for many years, until she sought refuge at a WIZO women’s shelter. Her life has since turned around and she now lives happily with her children. It was very gratifying to
attendees to hear a WIZO success story first hand. Another exciting guest of the forum meeting was the Deputy Director of Communications and Advocacy Training at the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, Jordan Kerbel. He shared a lot of wonderful stories and his vast experience, while teaching WIZO chaverot how to become effective media communicators.

Photo Canada 1: Members of CHW Board of Directors and National Leaders Forum with Jordan Kerbel

CHW recently kicked off its latest annual campaign, “Giving Hope, Creating Opportunities,” which focuses on all of CHW’s incredible projects. This year’s motto represents CHW’s goal of providing millions of Israelis with the opportunity to have a brighter future. CHW is very passionate about its latest commitment at CHW Hadassim Children and Youth Village – the renovation of Dormitory Hey. Dormitory Hey houses students who are escaping anti-Semitism in Europe, and with this number on the rise CHW Hadassim needs to take in more children. The beautiful, newly renovated dormitory will now house 30 children. Thanks to CHW’s incredible donors, its goal of creating hope and a positive future for countless children has become a reality.

Photo Canada 2: CHW National Executive Director, Alina Ianson, Niki Raz, CHW National President, Claudia Goldman.

Chile

WIZO-CEFI’s Tikva group started its activities for 2016 in March, with the assistance of 13 young student graduates of the “Republic of Israel” network. During the first gathering of this year, attendees reflected not only on the lessons for the holiday of Purim with Tamara Zaidenband, but also discussed the measures needed to combat the effects of climate change. Thus, the Executive Director of WIZO-CEFI, Eugenia Camhi, explained about the types of renewable and non-renewable energy that exist on the planet and the ways that man can contribute to a more sustainable future.

In recognition for her invaluable contribution to culture, integration and social equality, decentralization and promotion of domestic tourism, the Embassy of Israel and WIZO Chile honoured the founder of “Puerto de Ideas,” Chantal Signorio, as the “Outstanding Woman 2016” on International Women’s Day this year.

Photo Chile 1: (l to r) Israeli Ambassador Rafael Eldad, Chantal Signorio, President of WIZO Chile Agnes Mannheim
France

Thirty-seven years ago, a sporty young woman highly committed to WIZO launched the first **Eliane Sprung Golf Cup Tournament** on the greens of Fourqueux. Who could have imagined that this local activity would become one of WIZO France’s flagship events? The 2015 tournament broke all records with 193 attendees and a substantial profit, thanks to the golfers’ generosity and to French artist Patrick Rubinstein who donated a painting for auction. The proceeds allowed WIZO France to complete the total renovation of the WIZO Zajfen Daycare Centre in Sderot.

The WIZO France Golf Cup, co-chaired by Eliane Sprung and Paul Zajfen with a steadfast commitment, has grown over the years. WIZO France sadly mourned the passing of Rolande Zajfen on September 8th, 2015. For the first time in 20 years, her poor health condition didn’t allow her to welcome everybody at the opening breakfast. WIZO France greatly misses Rolande but believes that the laughter and smiles of the children in the Sderot daycare centre are a great tribute to her spirit.

A large delegation of WIZO Aviv members recently had the privilege to enjoy a unique **visit to the Guerlain House** in Paris. Five generations of perfumiers have successively enhanced the collections with their personal touch since the house was founded in 1828 by Pierre-François-Pascal Guerlain.

After a trendy breakfast, the Aviv members set out to discover the fashion and luxury house behind iconic scents like Shalimar, Jicky, L‘Heure Bleue and Eau de Cologne Impériale. 

*Photo France 1*: French chaverot at Guerlain

Germany

**Berlin**

In March, more than 150 ladies attended WIZO Berlin’s “Ladies Fashion Night, Vintage and Show” at the beautiful Löwenpalais. The event took place on International Women’s Day, with proceeds going to the WIZO Neve Ya’akov Daycare Centre in Jerusalem.

The evening began with a fashion show featuring professional models and daughters of WIZO chaverot. Vintage clothing was also on sale. “We are happy to see our satisfied guests and sponsors,” agreed Nicole Schauder-Shani and Sylvia Hagen from WIZO Berlin Executive about the successful event. “This motivates us to organize new projects and come up with new ideas for WIZO.”

*Photo Berlin 1*: WIZO Berlin’s fashion night
Frankfurt

The WIZO Frankfurt team independently organized a wonderful “lunapark” event at the Ignatz Bubis-Community Centre. The lunapark featured numerous attractions, such as a children’s make-up station with glitter tattoos and a lottery. There was plenty of singing and laughter among the children during a costume contest and Rabbi Julian Chaim-Soussan’s Purim quiz.

Photo Frankfurt 1: The lunapark team: S. Stawski, I. Aronovici, G. Uschweaew, A. Milgram, J. Davidovski

WIZO Frankfurt hosted its traditional author’s reading at the InterContinental Hotel in a hall with a wonderful panoramic view over Frankfurt’s skyline. Author Emanuel Bergmann read for the very first time in public from his debut novel “Der Trick” which was a great honour for WIZO. Coincidentally, four years ago, Emanuel’s father, Michel was the guest author at the same event. Mrs. Bärbel Schäfer, as in past years, presided over the event. The event also featured lovely violin music by Henryka Tronek. Proceeds from the evening will go to the WIZO Neve Ya’akov Daycare Centre in Jerusalem.

Munich

The annual family brunch was a great success, thanks to a lovely atmosphere and the delicious food of Käfer’s Restaurant, where grandparents, parents and children spent a wonderful Sunday morning.

Photo Munich 1

Holland

The festive opening of the Olive Trees (“Samen-Leven”) exhibition in February, in the council chamber of the Elburg Museum featured speeches by Josan Meijers, Deputy of the Gelderland Province, Mayor Frans de Langen, Theo van Ledden, Chairman of the Elburg Synagogue Museum, and Joyce Numann, President of WIZO Holland. Students from the local high school presented their collective piece of art, inspired by olive trees. The exhibition continued for five months in different locations across Holland and was very well received, supported by local authorities who gave WIZO the opportunity to share the important work it does in Israel. Visitors to the exhibition were able to leave their own messages of peace and co-existence, inspired by the works of art.

Photo Holland 1: Visitors to the Olive Trees exhibition and their messages
Mexico

At the beginning of the year, WIZO Mexico was proudly represented at the EGM by 86 members, the largest delegation of all. Rosa Saba, the federation’s local tourism director, organized an incredible pre-EGM tour all over Israel, including Mexico’s projects. At the Beit Dagan Daycare Centre a plaque was hung in memory of Mrs. Anita Jamitovsky z”l, a great friend of the Mexican federation. At Beit Sarah, a women’s centre in Kfar Saba, a tree was planted with the mayor. Events also took place at the daycare centre named for Shoshana and Pinhas Sapir, the Roy and Gil Grinberg Therapeutic Centre, and the Rosario Castellanos Daycare Centre in Beer Sheva.

In February, WIZO Mexico celebrated its 75th anniversary with 350 chaverot. A range of Italian, Japanese, Chinese, Mexican, Israeli, Arab, Sephardic and Ashkenazi cuisine was cooked by members.

Photo Mexico 1

World WIZO Chairperson Professor Rivka Lazovsky’s mission to Mexico coincided with several of WIZO Mexico’s important events at the beginning of the year. It was an honour and pleasure for the chaverot to have her attend the federation’s celebrations and milestones.

In March, at a ceremony held at the Mexican Congress, WIZO Mexico was awarded the “Benito Juarez National Citizen Merit Award for 2016”, one of the country’s most prominent awards, which recognizes individuals and groups that work on behalf of the country’s people and society. This was a unique moment in the history of the federation, at which World WIZO Chairperson Prof. Rivka Lazovsky was present.

Photo Mexico 2: The Mexican federation receives the Benito Juarez award at the Mexican Congress.

After nine months of anticipation, in April, WIZO Mexico celebrated the inauguration of its new headquarters. Families, friends, local government representatives and donors gathered to celebrate, together with Prof. Rivka Lazovsky.

Photo Mexico 3: The ribbon-cutting at the new WIZO Mexico building.

In April, Shula Shrem was honoured for her ongoing work at a breakfast attended by her family and members of the Mexican federation. In the same month, WIZO Mexico’s general assembly took place and featured the presentation of the new executive. The meeting also included a report of activities for the period 2015-2016, a year full of accomplishments. After three years of terrific work, Shula Shrem passed on the role of president to Alegre Smeke, who will lead the Mexican federation for the next two years.

Photo Mexico 4: Outgoing President of WIZO Mexico Shula Shrem with new President Alegre Smeke.
New Zealand

The Hawkes Bay WIZO Kesher group from Napier and Hastings happily worked together to fundraise for the daycare centre in Akko. The fundraising event was a coffee and dessert evening with brass music provided by the Spurgeon family, attended by Yosef Livne, the Israeli Ambassador. The WIZO Kesher group maintains its love of Israel, which many of its members have been able to visit.

Panama

WIZO Panama proudly announces the work of the members of WIZO Noar group (18-25 years-old) who in March unveiled one of the most eye-catching activities of the federation: WIZO chocolate bars! The WIZO Noar girls created special kosher chocolate bars with the WIZO emblem embossed in the bar — something both novel and original! Wrapped in each bar was a coupon that gave away one of more than 200 different prizes. In order to win the grand prize, a chocolate-lover had to present four different coupons that spelled out W-I-Z-O. This activity, inspired by Willy Wonka, was a huge hit among the children of the community.

South Africa

South Africa

Cape Town

BZA (Bnoth Zion Association) WIZO’s 114th Annual General Meeting at the Green and Sea Point Sukkah Hall in February was an opportunity for the dedicated and loyal members of BZA to celebrate the organization’s achievements. Co-Chairs Suzanne Luck and Felicity Isserow welcomed guests and reported on the success of this past year’s fundraising efforts and events, including the WIZO South Africa Conference in November 2015. Newly inaugurated WIZO SA President Moonyeen Castle reported enthusiastically on World WIZO’S EGM. Guest speaker Ben Schwartz, National Chairman of the South African Zionist Federation, addressed the meeting and spoke of the responsibilities of the South African Jewish community, the relationship between Israel and the present South African government, the need to deepen the bond between the Jewish community in South Africa and the people of Israel, and the supportive role of Christian civil society.

Photo Cape Town 1: (l to r) Bella Silverman, Moonyeen Castle, Suzanne Luck, Ben Swartz, Felicity Isserow, Barbara Flax
Durban

In February, WIZO Durban proudly hosted its 82nd Annual General Meeting. Amidst the backdrop of an unprecedented increase in global and local anti-Semitism, Mary Kluk (SAJBD) endorsed the vital role of WIZO.

In her fascinating multi-media presentation, Laurienne Baitz gave a glimpse of her whirlwind journey in her capacity as International Aviv Representative to World WIZO.

During her term of office, Laurienne truly 'united and ignited' Avivs around the globe. The WIZO Durban chair remains in the capable hands of the self-styled “trio” of Laurienne Baitz, Michelle Nathan and Colleen Mervis.

The meeting effectively detailed WIZO Durban’s past and forthcoming activities.

Photo Durban 1: WIZO Durban co-chairs and their spouses

Johannesburg

WIZO Johannesburg’s 102nd AGM, held in February, highlighted how active WIZO Johannesburg still is after more than 100 years in the business.

Andrea Wainer, co-chairman, outlined WIZO’s programme of events and projects of 2015, both locally and in Israel. Helen Maisels Trisk, vice-chairman, described how overwhelming January’s World WIZO EGM in Tel Aviv had been, emphasizing how the experience gave her the opportunity to see how WIZO changes lives in Israel.

In February, WIZO Johannesburg’s “Women Inspired” group hosted bestselling-author and international speaker Kate Emmerson, who shared informative and practical life tips including mental and physical “decluttering”.

Photo Johannesburg 2: Members of WIZO Women Inspired

WIZO Tzabar held a wonderful concert in March called “Songs from our beloved Israel,” conducted by Nir Dishon and featuring the Gvanim Group. The concert was a great success, and the venue was filled to capacity.

Photo Johannesburg 3: The Gvanim Group in concert in Johannesburg

The WIZO Forum hosted Heide Block, a trauma orthopedics physiotherapist who made a presentation about the mind-body connection in terms of stress and pain management. The morning featured a vigorous Q&A session as well as a lovely tea.

Sweden

Malmö

WIZO Malmö held an 80th anniversary celebration in March. This small but active local organization celebrated 80 years of
uninterrupted work for WIZO and Israel. At the same time they also celebrated World WIZO’s 95th anniversary. WIZO chaverot from all over Sweden, as well as from Finland and Denmark participated in the festivities, spread throughout a weekend, starting with a Shabbat dinner at the home of Lulu Gellberg, one of WIZO Malmö’s board members.

On Saturday, WIZO Malmö hosted an elaborate Kiddush in honour of its anniversary, followed by a visit to the Malmö Museum and its exhibition about the city’s welcoming of Holocaust survivors. A Saturday evening party featured an elegant setting and equally delicious dinner, where Susanne Sznajderman Rytz, President of WIZO Sweden, acted as toast master of the evening. During the dinner party, Esther Mor delivered a recorded message of congratulations to the federation. Entertainment for the evening was provided by a Jewish stand-up comedian from Stockholm, Ronn Elfors Lipsker, followed by the internationally known music group, Louisa Lyne un di Yiddishe Kapelye, which gave an unforgettable performance of Yiddish music.

WIZO Malmö and its chairperson, Bella Danowsky, hosted the Swedish National WIZO Conference on the following day. The theme of the conference was combatting anti-Semitism in Sweden and Europe with key note speakers MP Birgitta Ohlsson and Ashager Araro from StandWithUs.

South Africa
Did you know that…?

 ✓ There were several women’s Zionist organisations in South Africa in the early 1900s, which were affiliated to the South African Zionist Federation. After some opposition from the SAZF, a separate Women’s Zionist Council was formed in 1932, which later became affiliated to WIZO.

Federation Facts

Switzerland

Bern

More than 70 people attended the Purim party organized by WIZO Bern, after the megillah reading. The event featured a lot of hamantaschen, fruits and snacks.

Photo Bern 1
Geneva

The famous WIZO Geneva Lunch for International Women’s Day took place in March at Hotel de la Paix. More than 80 women attended a gastronomical affair animated by two guest speakers from the UBS Bank who spoke about planning for women’s financial futures. The successful event’s proceeds supported the WIZO Geneva daycare centres in Israel.

WIZO’s Olive Trees exhibition was unveiled as a UNOG (United Nations Office of Geneva) Cultural Event at the Palais des Nations in March with the support of the Permanent Mission of Israel, and the collaboration of WIZO Switzerland. Mrs. Anne Argi, President of WIZO Lausanne, made this wonderful event happen. The exhibition opening – which was attended by 130 diplomats, art lovers and NGO representatives, was also the opportunity to highlight the importance of women’s empowerment, just a week after marking International Women’s Day. In his speech, Ambassador Eviatar Manor, Permanent Representative of Israel to the UN in Geneva, highlighted that much remains to be done to ensure full enjoyment of equal rights, and Francesco Pisano, Chair of the UNOG Cultural Activities Committee, stated that “in many instances, women hold the key to conflict transformation and peace making.”

Photo Geneva 1, Geneva 2: The Olive Trees exhibition in Geneva

Thirty eight ladies and the Israeli ambassador attended the Sponsor A Child Lunch hosted by President of WIZO Switzerland, Eva Wyler for the eighth year in a row. Guests were spoiled with a first class meal prepared by Chef Ariel Porat of the Dan Accadia Hotel in Herzliya. Keynote speaker Esther Schapira, author and commentator for the German TV channels ARD and HR, as well as winner of the Theodor Lessing Award and the Buber-Rosenzweig Medal, introduced the book she had published together with her husband Georg Hafner, “Israel ist an allem schuld” (“It’s all Israel’s fault”). She spoke about the increasing anti-Semitism around the world, often disguised as anti-Zionism.

Photo Geneva 3: Geneva’s Sponsor A Child Lunch

Lausanne

The Olive Trees exhibition, including four of its artists and Daniel Benn, Director of WIZO Afula Community Centre, was presented in Lausanne, at the municipality’s Forum de l’Hotel de Ville in March. The exhibition was inaugurated by Olivier Tosato representing the Lausanne Municipality as well as local religious leaders and over 120 guests. Thanks to the prime location of the exhibition and great media coverage, over 900 people visited the exhibition.
United Kingdom

Loraine Warren, President of WIZO UK, received an OBE (Order of the British Empire) at Buckingham Palace in February, in recognition of her work with WIZO UK on behalf of women and children in Israel.

Gila Gamliel, Israel’s Minister for Social Equality paid a visit to the WIZO UK federation while in London. She spoke about the motivating factors behind her career in Israeli politics and the daily challenges she faces campaigning for equality.

USA

Florida

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WIZO Florida’s annual Gala Walk With Heroes Dinner was blessed to have been able to feature spectacular speakers, Alvaro and Boris Castellanos and Staff Sergeant Brian Mast, along with amazing honourees, Evelyn and Dr. Shmuel Katz, Elie and Marion Wiesel, Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein and WIZO Man of the Year, Sergio Stiberman. It was a wonderful affair with over 350 guests attending and a great financial success!

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Yachad Group’s membership event featured a presentation by Alejandra Llamas, a best-selling author and founder of the MMK Institute approved by The International Coach Federation. She spoke about new ways of parenting, after which a light dinner was enjoyed by all. By the end of the evening there were 16 new members!

The United Kingdom

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Loraine Warren, President of WIZO UK, received an OBE (Order of the British Empire) at Buckingham Palace in February, in recognition of her work with WIZO UK on behalf of women and children in Israel.

Gila Gamliel, Israel’s Minister for Social Equality paid a visit to the WIZO UK federation while in London. She spoke about the motivating factors behind her career in Israeli politics and the daily challenges she faces campaigning for equality.

Photo UK 1: (l to r) Ronit Ribak-Madari, Gila Gamliel, Amit Fraser of the ZE, Rachel Shani of the Israeli Consulate

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Photo Florida 1
The Zorahat Chapter coordinated a spectacular talent show, the WIZO Star, which featured amateur performers of professional ability. There were amazing performances by dance groups, musicians, and singing groups, among others. Judging was done by prominent members of the south Florida community and a grand prize was awarded to the winner. Under the leadership of Shena Dominitz, Valerie Bouzaglo, and Raquel Benasayag, WIZO Star had an incredible turnout and was a huge success. The children who attended the show were thrilled with the carnival and activities before the main event. Everyone truly enjoyed themselves and can’t wait for the next WIZO Star.

WIZO Florida’s 2015 Kosher Food and Wine event in Miami attracted over 800 guests and featured 300 of the finest kosher wines from around the globe, 25 of the best local kosher restaurants, bakeries and caterers. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of Sandra Dunn and the entire working committee, the night was very successful. Under the leadership of WIZO Florida Chairperson, Ruthy Benoliel and the sponsorship of DFA and others, this event far surpassed the previous year’s success.

Carrying over from the success of the Kosher Food and Wine evening, 40 couples gathered for a night of decadence and indulgence for a Masters Dinner prepared exclusively by Master Chef Marcos Gershowitz, from the well-known Angelica restaurant in Israel. The evening raised much-needed funds for WIZO Florida’s projects in Israel.

Each year WIZO Florida’s Simcha Chapter runs a wonderful “Feed a Family for Pesach” campaign. Part of the campaign is a fantastic contest that attracts children aged 8-15, who draw pictures of this project’s theme, with the winner receiving a $50 Visa gift card. The Passover campaign reaches thousands of donors across Florida and raises money that goes directly to providing food and necessities for the needy on the holiday.

**Federation Facts**

**UK**

Did you know that...?

- The UK is the ‘mother federation.’ The Federation of Women Zionists was founded in 1918, and World WIZO was founded in London in 1920 by Rebecca Sieff, Vera Weizmann and Edith Eder.

- The UK federation supports the most WIZO projects around Israel.
Each year the Simcha chapter coordinates an extraordinary fundraising walk-a-thon. This year’s event, with over 200 participants, united families for a day of fun and supporting Israel.

Photo Florida 8

The local WIZO Aviv, under the new leadership of Diana Sragowicz, coordinated a wonderful seminar featuring well-known Lori Palatnik. The seminar was given in two different locations to large crowds of all ages.

WIZO Florida’s Yonit Chapter got together for an evening of art, wine and mingling at the prestigious Kluger and Kaplan Law Firm. Many works of art were sold and many new members were signed up.

WIZO Florida featured “The Honour Diaries,” a seminar given by Raheel Raza, a Muslim woman speaking for women’s rights and fighting for a better world. The event drew a large crowd and put to light many important topics.

Los Angeles

In March, chaverot and members of the community were invited to LA’s Museum of Tolerance for a screening of the documentary film, “Sara of Rhodes,” directed and produced by Dr. Oscar Abeliuk. The film was preceded by an incredible sushi buffet and desserts. WIZO LA Book Club Chairperson Irene Sirebrenik discussed the history of WIZO and co-chair Ana Lia Sater introduced Dr. Oscar Abeliuk, who, after the video and slides, spoke about Jews on the island of Rhodes throughout history, including the Second World War.

New York

In December WIZO New York held its annual Sponsor A Child event at the Jewish Museum honouring Evelyn and Fred Sommer. The event was chaired by Roxana and Bob Tetenbaum, who also co-chaired the first ever WIZO New York’s children fashion show 23 years ago. Roxana and her husband Bob were awarded with a beautiful menorah for their long standing dedication to WIZO presented by WIZO USA Co-President, Gail Perl.

Evelyn Sommer was introduced by her daughter Jackie Siegel who described her
as being a pillar of the WIZO community. In her honour and the realization of her dream, WIZO USA was proud to inaugurate the Fred and Evelyn Sommer Dormitory, a tribute to the Sommers’ tireless work on behalf of the needy in Israel. Evelyn recounted her first visit to WIZO Nir HaEmek Youth Village in 1985 when the roads were unpaved, the children were housed in tents, teachers taught in sheds and meals were served under a leaking roof!

A video was shown, featuring students from the village who shared their personal struggle after experiencing trauma and described how the staff helped make the school into a true home for them.

In February, Lisa Ohebshalom, WIZO New York Vice Chair, hosted a Krav Maga (Israel Defense Forces' martial arts) event with personal trainer and IDF Paratrooper Omri Rachmut. This empowering workshop brought together WIZO mothers and daughters - Omri taught basic skills and self-defense moves that proved to be challenging and fun. WIZO women are a symbol of strength!

In March, WIZO New York’s Young Leadership held a spinning event at Soul Cycle co-chaired by Catherine Aronin and Becky Stein. YL members sweat off calories at Soul Cycle West Village and enjoyed guilt-free fruit pops donated by Chloe’s. “Charity Ride” events are a favourite amongst WIZO YL because they are an opportunity to come together in a fun and exhilarating work-out class, as well as to serve as ambassadors for WIZO and Israel.

Did you know that…?

- As Hadassah was already established in the USA (1912) when WIZO was founded in 1920, Henrietta Szold and Rebecca Sieff came to an agreement that there would only be Hadassah groups in the USA and WIZO could form groups in the rest of the world.
- WIZO USA was established in 1982, following an agreement between Raya Jaglom then president of World WIZO and the late Bernice Tannenbaum then president of Hadassah, that this agreement could be reversed.
- Today, WIZO USA is WIZO’s most dynamic federation with vibrant branches in the New York area, Florida and Los Angeles.
25,000 Children and Babies in Good Hands
- 183 Day Care Centres
- 100 After-school programmes for children of working mothers
- 45 Afternoon Therapeutic and learning centres for children at risk
- 23 Emergency Centres for babies and Children at Risk

100 Programmes for 13,500 Teens
- 2 Vocational Schools for youth who have dropped out of school
- 5 Youth Villages including dormitories for students from dysfunctional families
- 34 Youth Centres
- 19 Empowerment Groups for teenage girls at risk
- 21 Warm Homes and afternoon centres for teenage girls at risk
- 3 Rehabilitation Centres for teenage girls
- 500 Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremonies for underprivileged children

12,665 Women Enjoy a Wide Range of Services and Programmes
- 30 Legal Advice Bureaus
- 2 Shelters for Battered Women
- 22 Centres and over 70 support groups for single-parent families
- 80 groups for Employment Enrichment
- 3 Centres for the Treatment and Prevention and Treatment of Domestic Violence
- 12 Leadership training courses for high-level political and managerial positions
- 70 Women's Empowerment Groups

Community Programmes
- 55 branches across the country
- 30 foreign language groups for immigrants
- 50 second hand clothing stores for the needy
- 1 Retirement Home
- 1 Family Life Enrichment Centre