WIZO Around the World

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Special Supplement, Winter 2017
Argentina

OSFA-WIZO recently held a variety of events: a conference discussing BDS featured a lecture by Dr. Fiumara and was moderated by Dr. Knoblowitz. The federation held a special event to bid farewell to Mrs. Dorit Shavit, the former Ambassador of Israel in Argentina, and a group of prospective WIZO chaverot from the local Talpiot Jewish school prepared gifts for a New Year sale.

For the fourth consecutive year, OSFA-WIZO organized the “Night of the Amateurs,” at which musicians, singers, stand-up comedians and dancers come to display their talents.

The president of the Argentine Federation, Nicole Kovalivker, had the pleasure of meeting with chaverot from the magnificent province of San Juan.

Photo Argentina 1: Chela Katz, Vice President of OSFA-WIZO with Dr. Fiumara

Australia

Western Australia

Every year, the 10th grade students of the Carmel School have the wonderful opportunity to visit Israel. In 2016, the group visited the WIZO day care centre at The Rebecca Sieff Centre for the Family, Jerusalem, and had a great time learning a little about WIZO and interacting with the children.

Photo Australia 1: Olivia Walters, one of the Carmel School pupils at the WIZO day care centre with Dalia Gantz (World WIZO Deputy Chairperson of Organization and Tourism)

Sydney

WIZO Ilana and WIZO Aviva jointly held the annual Melbourne Cup Lunch at the Jewish Centre. Following the race, a crowd of over 70 guests enjoyed lunch and spent the afternoon playing bridge and mahjong.

At the most recent WIZO Aviva movie night the crowd enjoyed refreshments and then settled in to watch the latest Woody Allen film, “Café Society,” a part of the Jewish International Film Festival. Money raised will go to the new residential facility in Be’er Sheva, “Makom BaLev,” a new project for WIZO Australia.

Photo Australia 2: Clara Broide, OSFA-WIZO Chairperson, Mrs Dorit Shavit, Clara Gersberg, OSFA-WIZO Honorary President

Photo Argentina 3: Mirta and Dani Fuks, the OSFA-WIZO AVIV representative, with local volunteer girls

Photo Argentina 4: Nicole Kovalivker with the chaverot from San Juan

Photo Argentina 2
welfare issues in Israel impact national security.

Photo Australia 2: Paulette Cherny, Moshe Ya’alon, Anat Vidor

Photo Australia 3: Anita Fisher, Karen Bognar and Rony Bognar

In the golden years of their lives, the WIZO NSW matriarchs deserve acknowledgement and gratitude for their generosity and tireless contribution to Israel. For Rosh Hashanah, WIZO, with the support of its wonderful volunteers, got to say thank you with their “Honey Cake Mitzvah.” Cakes were delivered together with the WIZO Every Woman Magazine 2016 in beautiful cake boxes, which brought smiles and joy to their recipients.

Photo Australia 4: The young generation delivering honey cake to the golden agers (see next page).

Queensland

WIZO Queensland celebrated its 80th anniversary with a wonderful luncheon attended by an excess of 100 community members and WIZO supporters. Evelyn Charles, President of WIZO Queensland, spoke about the commitment of members over the eight decades and some of her amazing predecessors. In 2016, WIZO membership in Queensland grew to 238 members. Linda Briner, a past president of WIZO Queensland gave a presentation on the history of the movement. WIZO Queensland is fortunate to have WIZO Kesher, a group of wonderful and dedicated non-Jewish ladies whose commitment and love for Israel and WIZO is truly humbling. The event’s guest speaker was Paulette Cherny, President of WIZO Australia. An appeal was launched at the luncheon for the renovation of the kitchen at the WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim Boarding School, which is sponsored by WIZO Australia. A highlight of the afternoon was the presentation of the Rebecca Sieff Award to three tirelessly committed ladies: Evelyn Charles, Betty Dykes and Rose Toms.

Photo Australia 5: Rebecca Sieff Award Recipients 2016: Evelyn Charles, Betty Dykes and Rose Toms with Paulette Cherny President WIZO Australia

Victoria

Controversial Australian political commentator, Andrew Bolt was guest speaker at a WIZO Victoria breakfast. Over 300 people attended, coming together from across the community. Sylvia Green, President of WIZO Victoria addressed the audience showcasing WIZO’s work, and in particular spoke about WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim, WIZO Australia’s flagship project. An appeal was made for “Sponsor A Child” and a short video was shown. Andrew Bolt
discussed a number of issues regarding Judaism and the wider community, Israel and even the US presidential election. WIZO Victoria participated in a crowd funding campaign in cooperation with “Charidy,” an online platform with various social media forums. The goal was to raise $100,000 AUD in just 24 hours. Sylvia Green, President of WIZO Victoria, spearheaded the campaign, which surpassed the target! The proceeds went towards educational programmes at WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim.

South Australia

WIZO Tikvah held a very successful luncheon at the home of Secretary Merrilyn Ades.

WIZO Ilana held a luncheon using recipes from the “Monday Morning Cooking Club,” a book of recipes from young and old members of the Australian Jewish Community, the proceeds of which benefit WIZO.

Austria

In September, WIZO Austria organized a marvelous “Sponsor A Child” evening event with three wonderful young opera singers from Israel: Shai Terry, Tom Cohen and Yael Hune, who presented an impressive repertoire of opera arias and Israeli songs. WIZO Austria was delighted to have World WIZO Chairperson Prof. Rivka Lazovsky as the honorary keynote speaker for this special occasion. Following her passionate speech she honoured WIZO Austria President Dr. Hava Bugajer with the prestigious “Rebecca Sieff Award.” In addition, WIZO chava Rita Dauber, one of the outstanding “pillars” of WIZO Austria for many years, received the “Woman of Valour Award.”

Among the honourable guests were H.E. Ambassador to Israel Talya Lador Fresher, the President of the Austrian Jewish Community, Oskar Deutsch, and a dear friend and supporter of WIZO, Silvia Friedrich, representing the City of Vienna in her function as Deputy Head of Chief Executive Office - European and International Affairs of the City of Vienna. The City of Vienna hosted WIZO for this event and provided one of its most beautiful reception halls. WIZO Austria is most grateful for this excellent and wonderful close cooperation.

Photo: Austria 1: Shai Terry, Tom Cohen, Dr. Hava Bugajer, H.E. Ambassador to Israel Talya Lador-Fresher, Prof. Rivka Lazovsky, Yael Hune with her parents
Belgium

In October, WIZO Brussels held a musical recital, “Jewish Cabaret of the 1900s” given by Joelle Strauss.

*Photo Belgium 1:* Joelle Strauss playing the violin

Earlier, in September, WIZO Brussels organized an event attended by 200 guests, featuring the entertaining show of Nathalie Penning, followed by a beautiful buffet dessert.

WIZO Liège hosted a gala evening in the newly renovated Musée Boverie, showing the recently opened exhibition “21 Rue la Boetie,” based on the book of the same name written by Anne Sinclair, a well-known French journalist, the title being the address of her grandfather, Paul Rosenberg’s Parisian art gallery. Rosenberg was a famous art dealer, agent and friend of renowned painters, such as Picasso, Braque, Matisse, Leger, who fled Nazi Germany for New York. During the evening organized by WIZO Liège, an auction was held, where three magnificent original silk screen paintings of Andy Warhol were sold.

*Photo Belgium 2:* The WIZO Liege museum gala event

Brazil

In 2016 WIZO Brazil celebrated its 90th anniversary, with events across the country.

*Photo Brazil 1:* WIZO Minas Gerais
*Photo Brazil 2:* WIZO Rio de Janeiro

WIZO Brazil recently launched a festive issue of its annual magazine in commemoration of the 90th anniversary of the founding of the federation. A special report in the issue told the story of how Brazilian WIZO chaverot attended the Paralympic Games in 2016 in order to cheer for Moran Samuel, the inspiring Israeli athlete who won a bronze medal, and whom they had met at the WIZO EGM in January 2016.

*Photo Brazil 3:* The 90th anniversary issue of the WIZO Brazil magazine
*Photo Brazil 4:* WIZO Brazil Executive with Israeli Paralympic athlete Moran Samuel displaying her bronze medal

WIZO Brazil traditionally celebrates the holiday of Sukkot with gatherings in the sukkah.

*Photo Brazil 5:* WIZO Brazil members in the sukkah

WIZO Brazil went all out for its “Children’s Day” events. WIZO members across the country dedicated a day to helping less privileged children and youth. Volunteers of the Tzehirot Group in WIZO São Paulo held a party for kids assisted by the Integrated Multidisciplinary Assistance Program (AMA), at the local Samaritan Hospital. The party featured a performance of the AMA Children’s Choir, storytelling by Perla Mosseri, as well as snacks and
gifts. The AMA is a programme carried out in partnership with the Municipal Health Department of the Municipality of São Paulo, and serves regional children and adolescents up to 14 years of age.

WIZO Brazil continued to be busy during October. Members of the Chalutzot Group prepared activities with CIPEAMA - Interdisciplinary Centre for Research, Teaching and Attendance, in celebration of Children’s Month. The afternoon was extremely gratifying, both for volunteers and children. The WIZO girls painted the faces of the children, played games, prepared a table of sweets, cake, soft drinks and lollipops. The event was accompanied by the Aviv Department of WIZO Parana, and was the first volunteer activity organised by the Chalutzot group.

Also in October, in another solidarity event promoted by WIZO Rio de Janeiro, chaverot of the Gal Or Group, supported by the activists of the Shamash Group, as well as the completed upgrade to the infrastructure of CHW Hadassim Youth Village.

Guest of Honour, World WIZO President Esther Mor, pointed out that CHW Hadassim will be celebrating its 70th anniversary next year and thanked CHW "for the critical renovations the village has undergone, enabling it to serve as an oasis of education and peace for Israeli youth and a safe haven for those who are fleeing anti-Semitism in their birth countries".

Debbie Eisenberg, newly installed 23rd national president for 2016-2018 is a New York native who has worked as a Genetic Counsellor at McMaster University Medical Centre in Canada. In her inaugural speech, she emphasized, “To ensure CHW’s continued growth, we have to remain relevant to our members, friends, donors, partners and beneficiaries.”

Sandy Martin, Centennial Launch Co-Chair, launched CHW’s 100th birthday year by
presenting a 100-year retrospective of CHW’s illustrious history.

Photo Canada 1: New CHW National President, Debbie Eisenberg

The previous day, at a special tribute gala, more than 150 people gathered in Vancouver to pay tribute to outgoing CHW National President Claudia Goldman, in support of Dormitory Hey at CHW Hadassim Youth Village.

Claudia personally thanked Ze’ev Twito, Director of CHW Hadassim, who was in attendance, for the “magnificence of the project and the loving care that had been put into every detail” Esther Mor, World WIZO President, brought greetings and presented Claudia with the esteemed Rebecca Sieff Award. Roslyn Joseph, Past CHW National Director, announced that Hadassim’s Dormitory Hey will now be named “The Claudia Goldman Dormitory Hey” in recognition of Claudia’s role in vastly improving the living conditions of the facility. The gala, entitled “Changing Lives through Music”, showcased the achievements of two CHW Hadassim graduates, Guy and Yahel, Israeli finalists of “The Voice,” who shared their personal stories of how Hadassim changed their lives and filled the Four Seasons’ ballroom with soulful renditions of classic Israeli folk songs and their own original compositions.

Photo Canada 2: Guy Mensch (right) and Yahel Doron perform at the Tribute Gala

Photo Canada 3: Esther Mor, President World WIZO, presents outgoing CHW National President, Claudia Goldman with the Rebecca Sieff Award

Denmark

WIZO Denmark’s annual bazaar took place on an unusually fine day for the time of year in November. The bazaar was held for the last time in the old Jewish School as by next year the school will be in a more modern building. During the day, loyal and veteran WIZO Denmark members were given awards – celebrating 70 years of WIZO Denmark. Adults and children had a great time at all the stalls, with lots of prizes available to be won. As well as a social success, a substantial sum of money was raised for WIZO projects in Israel.

Photos Denmark 1: All age groups enjoying WIZO Denmark bazaar
Germany

WIZO bazaars were organized across Germany, throughout 2016. The city of Darmstadt took the lead in May: on a beautiful Sunday many WIZO friends gathered at the Darmstadt Jewish community centre to celebrate Mother’s Day and support WIZO by shopping and enjoying homemade cakes and other Jewish delicacies. During November, WIZO Düsseldorf, Hamburg, Hannover, Frankfurt, Stuttgart and Munich all held events which allowed guests to shop for Israeli products and support a good cause. For Düsseldorf and Munich it was their first bazaars in a long time. Hundreds of women had collected clothes, gathered raffle prizes, baked cakes and prepared delicious food to make those special shopping events a great success in their cities and for WIZO Germany.

Gala fundraising events in aid of Sponsor A Child were also held in towns all over Germany. Over 200 international guests attended the gala at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Berlin. A fantastic programme with shows, the Klas Band and an excellent dinner awaited all WIZO friends. Ehud Segev, a great mentalizer from Tel Aviv, impressed the guests with his magical show. The evening was a resounding success with more than 330 sponsorships reflecting the strong ties to Israel and offering encouragement for WIZO Berlin to continue their great work.

The guest of honour at WIZO Frankfurt’s gala, Christian Wulff, former President of Germany, highlighted the dedication and involvement of WIZO women worldwide. A record breaking fundraising goal was achieved at the end of the evening, which made Simone Graumann and her team extremely happy.

Frankfurt’s gala was closely followed by WIZO Munich in October. World WIZO President Esther Mor was a charming highlight of the evening alongside great musical entertainment and WIZO awards given out to Munich’s most generous sponsors, among them Gregory Schmerz and Dr. Irving Weissmann.

On November 19, the traditional WIZO ball took place in the beautifully decorated Wolkenburg in Cologne. Many elegant Cologne celebrities enjoyed the great atmosphere, a raffle that offered exquisite prizes including jewellery, tours and art objects.

Trude Simonsohn, born in 1921 in Czechoslovakia, is the first woman ever to be named an honorary citizen of the city of Frankfurt. This award went to a very special woman: an Auschwitz survivor who is tirelessly fighting against oblivion. Since
1975, she has made appearances as a witness and talked about her experiences in Nazi Germany. Trude has been a valued member of WIZO Frankfurt since its establishment in 1958, and was awarded honorary membership in 1998.

Photo Germany 6: The award ceremony for Trude Simonsohn

Besides its annual Bergerstrassenfest, Young WIZO of Frankfurt held a "White Lunch" (named for its white-only dress code) at one of the top restaurants in Frankfurt, "Papa Enj." With great music and sunshine, the numerous guests enjoyed an all-you-can-eat buffet and relaxed until the evening in the informal atmosphere. Kids were treated with face painting, car races, water bombs and ice cube hockey. Later in the year Young WIZO organized a spa brunch, at which 30 women enjoyed a great Israeli buffet lunch while being pampered in the cosmetics studio.

Photo Germany 7: Young WIZO Frankfurt's White Lunch
Photo Germany 8: Young WIZO Frankfurt members enjoying their spa brunch

Greece
WIZO Greece celebrated its 54th birthday in style with a fabulous party where members and guests enjoyed good food, singing and dancing. Recently returned from the annual Meeting of Representatives (MOR) in Tel Aviv, newly elected President of WIZO Greece, Gratciella Bourla, gave an emotional speech about WIZO’s work and showed the chaverot the WIZO films she brought back from Israel. All present were absolutely enthralled and impressed by WIZO’s activities to help the women and children of Israel.

Photo Greece 1: Chaverot celebrating WIZO Greece's 54th birthday

Holland
WIZO Holland is proud to unveil its updated online Judaica gift shop (www.wizogiftshop.com). Work on the refreshed website is still ongoing, and new products are being added to its selection every day. Within a few months, shipping will be available throughout Europe. When in Amsterdam, one can stop by WIZO's brick & mortar shop, which features the largest selection of Jewish gifts in all of Holland.

Photo Holland 1: A screenshot of WIZO Holland's online gift shop (see next page)

Hungary
WIZO Hungary, in December, held a Hanukkah bazaar to raise funds to assist needy members of the community. WIZO Hungary would like to recognize the contribution and legacy of Eva Lancz,
outgoing federation president, who fulfilled the role for ten years with great dedication. The newly elected president is Kate Köves.

Photo Hungary 1: Eva Lancz (l) and Andrea Pinter, Deputy Chairperson, WIZO Hungary

Italy

The Rome branch of ADEI-WIZO held a summer gala concert at the city’s prestigious Sala Umberto Theatre. The show featured international ballet dancers, opera vocalists and actors who entertained nearly 500 guests. The federation was proud to announce at a press conference ahead of the event that the money raised that evening and by the “Keep Them Safe” fundraising campaign would be used for the securing of WIZO day care centres in Israel which are under threat of rocket attacks.

Over 120 guests were present at ADEI-WIZO’s award ceremony of the federation’s 16th Jewish literary prize, the only one of its kind in Italy. The event is in memory of Adelina Della Pergola, and was held at the historical Palazzo Vecchio in Florence. This year’s co-winners were Etgar Keret, for his book, Seven Years of Happiness, and Ayelet Gundan-Goshen for One Night, Markovitch. The “young readers” prize was awarded to Yigal Leykin, for his novel Una Vita Qualunque (an ordinary life). The event began with the greetings of Ester Silvana Israel (President of ADEI-WIZO), Emanuela Servi Di Castro (President ADEI-WIZO Florence) and Maria Modena (President of the Jury Prize), and Sara Funaro, a representative of the Florence Municipality.

Photo Italy 1: ADEI-WIZO literary prize event

Jamaica

Long-time WIZO member Evelyn Matalon celebrated her 100th birthday with a garden party surrounded by family, friends and WIZO colleagues. Evelyn is a descendant of a family that has been in Jamaica since the 17th century, and whilst raising her five children from two marriages, including home schooling them, she dedicated much of her time to Girl Guiding. She was the local Guide Commissioner for four decades. This work, along with the major role her husband Isaac (Zaccie) played in public service, made them one of the most beloved couples across the hills and valleys of Jamaica’s rural communities.

Today, Evelyn walks around with her laptop computer, reads without glasses and her intellect is still razor sharp. Recently being interviewed for a television
programme many people from all walks of life reached out to congratulate her achievements and spoke lovingly of her as a person.

Photo Jamaica 1: Jennifer Lim President of WIZO Jamaica celebrating with Evelyn Matalon, who is holding a letter of congratulations she received from World WIZO President Esther Mor

Mexico

WIZO Mexico’s Netzur Group recently held an emotional event called “Jalá Parnasá,” at which 300 women baked challah as a traditional way to ask for financial blessing – forming the dough in the shape of a key, symbolizing income. Eighteen of these special challot were sold, along with special blessings made by Rabbi Raúl Askenazi.

WIZO Mexico held a conference attended by 400 women and addressed by Margarita Zavala, former first lady of Mexico and congresswoman, a successful politician involved in issues of women’s rights. This activity was organized by the Simjá Group and the coordinators of scholarships: Anita Hamui and Mery Rosenfeld.

PHOTO Mexico 1 & 2: The conference with Margarita Zavala

WIZO Mexico’s Promotions Department headed by Mary Bissu, with the support of the Or Jadash Group, organized a conference called “A Successful Woman Knows About Finance,” featuring three financial experts: Jenny Penhos, Director of J. Penhos Advisors, accountant Alejandro Finkler, CEO of Casa de Bolsa Bx+ and accountant Carlos Ponce, DGA de Análisis y Estrategia de Inversión.

To end the celebrations of WIZO Mexico’s 74th anniversary, the federation held a concert with the renowned singer Raphael, a premium event for WIZO members.

As part of an effort to preserve the legacy of WIZO Mexico, the federation’s Dissemination Committee, headed by Lizette Mussali and Raquel Alfille, organized the “Tell me your Story” project, under the initiative of Raquel Preciado. The project consists of recorded interviews of veterans of WIZO Mexico, through which present and future generations can learn about their contributions and histories.

WIZO Mexico’s tourism department, headed by Bella Sacal, organized a fun outing to the Jardines de México, the exhibit of Anish Kapoor and “The Nest” - the second largest aviary in the world.

For the past 20 years, WIZO Mexico has granted an annual scholarship to several schools in the Jewish community, with the goal of allowing underprivileged children to get an education surrounded by tradition. In September, thanks to the altruism of one of WIZO Mexico’s donors, the establishment of a new scholarship
fund was marked by the unveiling of a new sculpture called, “Seeds of the Future,” which was donated by a dear member and extraordinary sculptress. For his continuous support and passion for WIZO’s work, the federation granted deserved recognition to a great friend, engineer David Serur. In the presence of his family, close friends and WIZO members, David was very moved when WIZO Mexico President Mrs. Alegre Smeke emphasized the great support he has provided to the organization. Rina Missali conducted a great interview discussing David’s professional and community history.

Photo Mexico 3: Honouring David Serur

In October, between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, for the second year in a row and thanks to great support from other WIZO federations, the Mexican federation held the “One Day One Tehilim” event at Temple Shaar Lesimjá. A large number of women got together to pray and ask for peace in Mexico, Israel and the entire world. When renovating WIZO Mexico’s headquarters the federation created a special place to be used for building a sukkah. In October, the first WIZO House sukkah was erected for the holiday season. It was unveiled at a festive event organized by Alice Assa, head of the Cultural Committee and presided over by Rabbi Arturo Kanner, who gave an interesting lecture about the holiday of Sukkot.

Photo Mexico 4: WIZO Mexico members in the sukkah

The highlight of WIZO Mexico’s most recent executive meeting was a lecture given by Rabbi Marcelo Rittner, one of several Latin American religious leaders invited by Pope Francis to the Vatican. WIZO Mexico’s Tiferet Group (the newest in the Mexican federation), only established six months ago by newlywed young women, held its first activity - a course about first aid for children and babies. A total of 300 women attended the two-part course.

Photo Mexico 5: The new Tiferet Group

For its annual meeting with local press and media, WIZO Mexico hosted, at its headquarters, Dr. Jorge Castañeda, a recognized analyst, political scientist and professor from New York University. At the event, attended by some 150 people, Prof. Castañeda’s topic for discussion was, “Contributions of Minorities of the Consolidation of Mexican Democracy” while he also spoke about the challenges facing Mexican society in the age of a Trump-led White House.

Photo Mexico 6: Members of WIZO Mexico with Prof. Castañeda

Panama

In September, Panama’s WIZO Atid held a much-anticipated fashion show...
featuring Venezuelan designer Gionni Straccia’s spring/summer 2017 collection, at the Beth El Community Centre. With the catchy title Passion for Fashion and attended by over 200 women, the event included children’s and youth clothing, a fine jewellery boutique, photo-booth and plenty of gifts.

Photo Panama 1: Fashion designer Gionni Straccia and WIZO Atid President Cecilynn Nassi with the designer’s 2017 collection

Photo Panama 2: WIZO Atid Organizing Committee (l to r): Esther Mugrabi, Aliza Liberman, Esther Davaro, Jessica Vidal, Nora Setton, Cecilynn Nassi, Rina Harel, Belinda Dayan, Adriana Hafeitz, Stella Mizrachi, Etty Perez, Rachell Eisenman

South Africa

The highlight of the WIZO South Africa Main Campaign was 29-year-old Israeli social entrepreneur, educator and activist Adi Altschuler, voted in 2014 as one of Time Magazine’s six future young world leaders.

Altschuler spoke about the two prominent initiatives which she established in Israel: Krembo Wings, the first and only Israeli youth movement for special needs children, which she set up at the age of 16, and Memories @Home, a project in which young people invite Holocaust survivors into their homes on Holocaust Remembrance day and hold discussions on the significance of keeping the Holocaust alive. WIZO audiences country-wide were riveted by her presentations.

Helen Maisels, Vice President of WIZO SA spoke about WIZO’s many programmes in Israel and their high standards.

Photo SA 1: Adi Altschuler with WIZO staff

Cape Town

WIZO AVIV members Cindy Moritz, Debbie Weinstein and Shelley Segal sold Bnoth Zion WIZO diaries, bracelets and other gift items at the group’s annual Yom Tov Market.

Photo SA 2

In August the BZA WIZO & Maccabi Charity Poker Tournament took place, coordinated by Alon Sachs and assisted by Rael Shear. Poker players thoroughly enjoyed the evening walking away with sizeable winnings, a proportion of which they generously gave back to the organizations.

Johannesburg

The ETGAR Branch’s much anticipated annual Garden Day (convened by Helen Maisels-Trisk and Michelle Maserow) had guests visit two exquisite gardens in Westcliff. Guests were treated to a talk by renowned landscaper Patrick Watson, followed by a sumptuous tea.

WIZO Johannesburg’s “Walk for WIZO”
event was held in March (2016) at Huddle Park. Walkers were given T-shirts, and numerous people of all ages joined the walk. There was a great vibe and it was wonderful to see people coming together for Israel.

**Photo SA 3:** Walk for WIZO event

In June the Tzabar Group bought out tickets for Harry Sideropoulos's show "The Whole Megilla - the Oys and Joys of being a Good Shabbat Goy." All present laughed – and cried a little – at the ups and downs of being part of this very special diverse Jewish community.

2016 was an exciting year for Elise Group, with a new logo, stationery and shop. This great WIZO success, which was started and run by the Johannesburg North Branch for over 50 years has been scooped up under the wing of WIZO Johannesburg, as the dedicated Johannesburg Branch hand the torch to the willing and able volunteers and staff.

In October, WIZO Johannesburg held its Rebecca Sieff Awards event, honouring women who have devoted many years volunteering for the welfare of the women and children of Israel. Helen Maisels-Trisk, Vice-President of WIZO SA, spoke about the legacy of Rebecca Sieff. Rabbi Katz spoke about women's roles in Judaism and how the religion honours women. Chaverot Yente Super and Brenda Trope received their 40-year awards and Ziona Rosenthal for 60 years of service. The Linksfield Branch, represented by Belle Berlowitz, was also honoured. WIZO Johannesburg salutes members who have given so many years of unbroken service and dedication to the organization. Ettie Perel and Doreen Malin, who were also due to receive their Rebecca Sieff Awards, were unable to attend. A unique certificate was given to Evelyn Furman, who has been active in WIZO for many years.

**Photo SA 4:** Rabbi Katz, Andrea Wainer and Helen Maisels Trisk at the awards event

WIZO Johannesburg AVIV hosted, and sold out some 300 tickets to a fabulous "Tribute to Mothers Breakfast" in May at the Sandton Shul. This beautiful event was also a tribute to the dedicated team who worked tirelessly to ensure that this would be a memorable morning for all who attended. With delicious food, stunning decor, special gifts for all, a powerhouse of an MC in Benita Levin, and a unique, inspiring guest speaker in Renchia Droganis of Africology, AVIV certainly achieved their goal.

**Photo SA 5:** Bev Gamsu, Cindy Polakow, Shereen Markowitz, Janice Lebowitz, Tracey Lune, Dina Diamond, Lauren Winterstein

In May, the "WIZO Women Inspired" group held a very successful evening with Clem Sunter, well-known scenario planner and futurologist, on South Africa and the world in 2016 and beyond.
In November, WIZO South Africa council members from all over the country gathered at the beautiful home of Mushe Kirsh, in Johannesburg, for its Enlarged Council Meeting. All the necessary reports were presented and a wonderful address was given by Ayellet Black, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Israel in South Africa. The ECM reflected on the past and planned for the future after a delicious lunch had been served.

For a very small city, Pretoria had a record of over 160 women who came together for the “Need to Knead” WIZO Challah Bake, in spite of severe storm forecasts and heavy rains. Ayellett Black, the new Deputy Ambassador at the Embassy of Israel, gave a short talk on the connection between the history of challah and the State of Israel.

In November WIZO Zurich held its traditional garage sale at the “WIZO Trouvailles” shop in Schwamendingen. This year’s sale attracted many local shoppers and the fundraising results were accordingly satisfying.

Also in November, the WIZO section of La Chaux-de-Fonds organized its traditional charity event at La Ferme Droz-dit-Busset. President of the section, Danièle Golan, succeeded once again in motivating her committee to create a festive evening to the delight of the 60 or so participants who thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Music, games and a lottery helped to create a warm atmosphere and a fun-filled evening for all.

In Lausanne the Marché Cadeaux (a Swiss incarnation of the WIZO Bazaar) has become a traditional gathering in the beautiful setting of the Beau-Rivage Palace. Over 30 stands displayed beautiful gifts, from Judaica to toys, vintage clothing, jewellery, books and home décor. A large buffet prepared by many WIZO members delighted over 100 guests. Thanks to this joint effort of many volunteers, sufficient
funds were raised to finance medical and dental needs in both WIZO Nachlat Yehuda and WIZO Gan VeNof Youth Villages.

Photo Switz 3: WIZO Switzerland’s 2016 Marché Cadeaux

WIZO Geneva’s 2016 Sponsor A Child lunch took place on September 6th at Victoria Nagner’s house. Around 40 ladies attended and enjoyed the idyllic setting.

Photo Switz 4

The WIZO Geneva annual evening took place on November 2nd at the Four Seasons Bergues Hotel. Two hundred guests enjoyed a performance by the Franco-Israeli singer “Amir.”

Photo Switz 5

United Kingdom

WIZO UK’s AGM was held at London’s St. John’s Wood Synagogue. In the last financial year the charity sent a substantial sum to Israel in support of its 100 leading social welfare and educational projects. The Rebecca Sieff Regional Award was presented to WIZO Birmingham, and the individual award to Ruth Jacobs of London. Margaret Fink was presented with the Lily Sieff Award and Josh Cummins (Co-Chair Young WIZO), with the Susi Bradfield Award.

Photo UK 1: Michele Pollock Chairman WIZO UK with Paula Leek & Sonia Venn (WIZO Birmingham), Ruth Jacobs, Margaret Fink, Josh Cummins

WIZO UK’s newest AVIV group, based in Leeds, the “Blanche Dugdale AVIV” group, launched a spectacular vintage coffee morning. The group was set up in memory of Dr. Joyce Frazer by her granddaughter Nicola Smaje-Rosenblum.

Photo UK 2,3: The AVIV group vintage coffee morning in Leeds

Uruguay

WIZO Uruguay is happy to honour Ines Pacciarz de Jawetz, veteran WIZO member, who has been active in WIZO for over 30 years, and even today, over 80 years old, serves as an advisor and mentor to WIZO Uruguay chaverot. Ines was president of WIZO Uruguay from 2000 to 2003. A notary by profession, her specialty is aviation law. She also has a degree in Social Policy, specializing in the integration of children with special needs into the public school system.

Photo Uruguay 1: Ines Pacciarz de Jawetz

WIZO Uruguay honoured the federation’s former federation presidents and leaders in its headquarters, by unveiling a special gallery of portraits.

Photo Uruguay 1: Ines Pacciarz de Jawetz

WIZO Uruguay was honoured to welcome and host Prof. Rivka Lazovsky, Chairperson of World WIZO. While in Uruguay, Rivka’s packed agenda included meetings
with the Ambassador of Israel, Ms Nina Ben Ami and representatives of local Jewish institutions, participation in a Holocaust remembrance event, and a visit to the Yavne Institute, where she used to teach. Rivka was also received by the Uruguayan Commission on Education.

She held motivating meetings and workshops with WIZO presidents, members and AVIV chaverot. These were days of intense and fruitful work, which were a great encouragement to the local WIZO chaverot.

Photo Uruguay 2,3: Prof. Rivka Lazovsky with WIZO Uruguay members

USA
Florida

Two of WIZO Florida’s Aviv chapters, Atid and Nefesh, jointly held a challah bake event, during which, aside from baking, participants learned about the significance of challah in Jewish tradition.

Koach, one of WIZO Florida newest chapters, hosted an exciting evening event at “Escape Room Miami,” a real-life room escape game that is a fun, team-building, brain-busting experience! The event was an opportunity for members to get to know each other and have an amazing time.

WIZO Florida’s annual Opening Campaign Dinner was attended by over 180 guests and featured key note speaker Dennis Prager, who spoke about Israel and the current situation in the Middle East. Two students from WIZO Nachlat Yehuda Youth Village came to the wonderful event and sang songs in English and Hebrew.

Photo Florida 1 (see next page).

The Boca Chai group organized a wonderful flower arrangement workshop led by a professional florist.

Photo Florida 2

The Everyday Hero Campaign, recently launched by WIZO Florida, allows donors to donate on a monthly basis with the freedom to increase, decrease or stop their donation at any time. This is a win-win situation for all involved: donors are in control and WIZO has a more reliable fundraising flow throughout the year.

This year’s Mother’s Day Sponsor A Child luncheon and bazaar honored Margie Szerer, and featured Venezuelan fashion designer Gionni Straccia’s 2017 spring/summer collection.

Photo Florida 3

As every year in September, WIZO Florida, held its “Feed a Family for Rosh Hashana” campaign, which reaches thousands of donors across Florida and raises money that goes directly to providing food and necessities for the needy.

The Yachad chapter ran its annual “Bee Sweet” campaign that raises money
through the sale of holiday or Jewish themed gifts. This year’s Sabbath candlesticks sold out!

One of WIZO Florida’s special interest groups, Aviv, organized a special two-night event with renowned speaker Lori Palatnik - a writer, Jewish educator and founder of the Women’s Renaissance Project, an international initiative that brings thousands of women from all around the world to Israel. Attendees learned about uncovering leadership skills and how to become a true agent of change.

**New York**

WIZO’s Annual “Children for Our Children” fashion show event – paid tribute to the dedication of WIZO members around the globe. The event’s new format, held on a Sunday, so spouses and children could attend, included a spectacular silent auction, grand raffle and an impromptu fundraising appeal by Bippy Siegal that raised a substantial amount for the WIZO Passover Food Campaign. The event chairs, Tanya Zuckerbrot, Victoria Sakhai, Esther Chetrit, and Charlene Khagan were instrumental in the organization and overall success of the event.

**Photo Florida 4:** WIZO Florida Aviv’s Ignite Leader Seminar

**New York**

On Sunday, November 20th, WIZO New York Young Leadership held its annual basketball tournament. Members and friends grouped into teams of three to play one another in a playful, yet competitive tournament.

**New York Photo 4 & 5:** Young men & women at WIZO New York’s annual basketball tournament

This year, WIZO New York, for its first ever Rosh Hashanah gift sales campaign, sold over 400 kippah boxes with two WIZO-branded navy-blue, suede kippot included.
In Israel, **400,000 infants and children** are victims of poverty, neglect, abuse and even violence.

They desperately need our help.

WIZO's network of day care centers, foster care services and battered women’s shelters offer expert care and a loving embrace to thousands of children, every day.

With your help, we can do even more.

**Your gift to Sponsor a Child means a better future for more children.**